

MARCH 31: Two Obama administration officials have reported that the U.S. is unlikely to provide arms to opposition forces. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have both stated their caution on issuing weapons, due to a lack of information on the dynamics and make-up of the rebel forces. Secretary Gates has suggested that, “the United States should stick to offering communications, surveillance and other support, but suggested that the administration had no problem with other countries sending weapons to help the rebels.” Secretary Gates additionally told members of the House Armed Services Committee that, “What the opposition needs as much as anything right now is some training, some command and control, and some organization.” ([New York Times](#))

MARCH 31: Rebels have begun deploying fishing boats to carry medicine and supplies from Benghazi to Misrata in the west. ([LA Times](#))

MARCH 31: The LA Times reports that the rebel effort has begun to fray due to ineffective leadership, a lack of weaponry, decreased morale, and the continued ambush by pro-Qaddafi forces. Some rebels have retreated over 200 miles to Benghazi to regroup, while others have remained at points outside of Ajdabiya. ([LA Times](#))

MARCH 30: A statement on counter-terrorism has been published to the Transitional National Council website, affirming the rebels’ “commitment to the moderate Islamic values, its full rejection to the extremist ideas and its commitment to combating them in all circumstances,” and their “commitment to all measures and sanctions concerning any individual or entity associated with al-Qaeda and Taliban as determined by the Sanctions Committee.” In addition, the statement emphasizes the council’s commitment to “work for the enhancement of the important role played by the United Nations, its committees and its task forces on counter-terrorism with a full cooperation, to join and commit to all international conventions and protocols relating to counter-terrorism.” ([Interim Transitional National Council](#))

MARCH 30: The White House has reported that it is considering options for “all types of assistance” to opposition forces in Libya. The U.S. director of national intelligence, James Clapper, additionally compared the rebel forces to a “pickup basketball team.” Despite the rebels’ pleading for arms, no decision has been made on whether the U.S. will provide weapons assistance. ([Associated Press](#))

MARCH 30: Opposition forces in Derna reported that rebel fighters have been pushed further back towards Ajdabiya. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

MARCH 30: The New York Times reports that CIA operatives have been inserted into Libya to make contacts with the rebels as well as to gather intelligence for coalition air strikes. The media outlet states that, “By meeting with rebel groups, the Americans hope to fill in gaps in understanding who the leaders are of the groups opposed Colonel Qaddafi, and what their allegiances are.” ([New York Times](#))

MARCH 30: Under intense shelling and missile attacks, rebel forces abandoned the oil town of Ras Lanuf on Wednesday, continuing to flee eastward towards Brega and then further to Ajdabiya. A spokesman for the opposition forces, Col. Ahmad Omar Bani, admitted that rebel fighters had “dissolved like snow in the sand,” in Bin Jawad and Ras Lanuf, though he called the retreat a “tactical withdrawal.” He said that rebel forces are still engaged in fighting to the east and the west of Brega. ([New York Times](#))

MARCH 30: A U.S. military official has confirmed U.S. intelligence agencies’ suspicions of “flickers of an al Qaeda presence among Libyan opposition fighters.” In a Senate hearing Tuesday, U.S. Admiral James Stavridis, NATO’s

supreme allied commander in Europe, stated that there may also exist rebel links to Hezbollah. Stavridis said that the U.S. military has commenced an investigation into the dynamics and make-up of the Libyan opposition. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton furthermore said that the “U.S. is still getting to know the rebels.” A former jihadist, Noman Benotman, has also alluded to “freelance jihadists” operating under the control of the interim national council. ([Wall Street Journal](#), [Washington Times](#))

MARCH 30: Libyan rebels have claimed that condoms and Viagra found on pro-Qaddafi forces are proof of a “campaign of rape waged by the Libyan dictator to terrorize male and female opponents.” Doctors speaking under conditions of anonymity have reported rape victims telling hospital personnel that they had been attacked by the regime’s soldiers. ([Washington Times](#))

MARCH 29: Misrata continued to see clashes between rebel and pro-Qaddafi forces. British Foreign Secretary William Hague reported that, “Regime forces have intensified their attacks, driving back opposition forces from ground they had taken in recent days. Misrata also came under heavy attack yesterday, with further loss of civilian life, including children, from mortars, sniper fire and attacks on all sides from regime tanks and personnel carriers.” An official for the Transitional National Council affirmed that, “The front line is fluid right now.” ([CNN](#))

MARCH 29: Rebels have retreated from Bin Jawad in an attempt to dodge rocket fire by pro-Qaddafi forces. The Los Angeles Times reports that at one point, rebels surrendered seventy miles in just four hours. Many of the rebels fled to Ras Lanuf before retreating further eastward. ([Los Angeles Times](#))

MARCH 29: Ahead of the London Conference on Libya, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with the de facto prime minister of the Libyan Transitional National Council, Mahmoud Jibril, in their second meeting in a little more than a week. A senior U.S. official stated that the meeting aimed to give Secretary Clinton a better perspective on how a post-Qaddafi government may function. Jibril also met with U.K. Foreign Secretary William Hague to discuss “priorities for international assistance.” ([Wall Street Journal](#))

MARCH 29: The Libyan Transitional National Council issued a plea for arms at the London Conference on Libya, held on Tuesday. Mahmoud Shammam, the council’s head of media, stated that, “We asked everybody to help us in many ways. One of them is giving our youth some real weapons. If you look to the reports that you have from the streets of Libya or from the cities of Libya you will see that our people have very light arms. You can see that just regular cars are fighting with machine guns. We don’t have arms at all, otherwise we finish Gaddafi in a few days. But we don’t have arms. We ask for the political support more than we are asking for the arms. But if we get both that would be great.” Secretary of State Clinton responded that no decision had been made about arming the rebels, though President Obama has said he has not ruled out the possibility. ([BBC](#), [Guardian](#))

MARCH 29: Government forces continued to block the rebel forces’ westward advance to Sirte. Rebel fighters were repelled east by missile and rocket fire from pro-Qaddafi troops, before retreating to the city of Bin Jawad. The city has seen intense fighting, with one BBC correspondent reporting that the town is no longer controlled by the rebels. It was reported that hundreds of cars have fled east from the town to Ras Lanuf. ([BBC](#), [New York Times](#), [Reuters](#))

MARCH 28: Rebel forces in Benghazi said that they had struck an oil deal with Qatar and have produced about 100,000 barrels of petroleum a day from fields under their control. However, a large buyer of oil products in Europe has declared that, “I am not sure anyone in the oil industry is quite willing to touch it. It’s going to be very difficult to get things going.” The rebels had previously captured all five eastern oil export terminals, which make up two-thirds of Libya’s export capacity. Opposition forces declared that they were in “active discussions” to have sanctions lifted on purchases of crude oil produced in fields under rebel control. ([Washington Post](#), [Reuters](#))

MARCH 28: Fierce fighting continued in Misrata, where a temporary government administration loyal to the opposition's transitional government in Benghazi has been established. However, a resident of Misrata has said that Qaddafi's forces still possess a presence on Tripoli Street and guard the entrances to the city. ([LA Times](#))

MARCH 28: After opposition forces reached a point forty-five miles outside of Qaddafi's hometown of Sirte, their westward advancement was halted by artillery fire from government forces outside the city. ([New York Times](#))

MARCH 28: Qatar became the second nation, following France, to recognize the Provisional Transitional National Council (PTNC) as the "sole legitimate representative" of the Libyan people. At present, the PTNC is a group of 31 members representing the country's major cities and towns. Of the 31 members, only 13 names have been publicly revealed as many members reside in areas still controlled by Qaddafi. ([Sydney Morning Herald](#))

MARCH 28: Libyan state television showed images of wounded men and women in a hospital as well as damaged buildings in Sabha. The station stated that civilians were wounded when bombs struck the city early Monday morning. U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates had previously defended that, "The truth of the matter is we have trouble coming up with proof of any civilian casualties that we have been responsible for. But we do have a lot of intelligence reporting about [Qaddafi] taking the bodies of the people he's killed and putting them at the sites where we've attacked." ([CNN](#))

MARCH 28: Fighting has continued in Nawfaliya, about 110 miles east of Sirte. Opposition forces reported that they had reached a heavily mined road in the area and have been shelled by pro-Qaddafi fighters. ([Al Jazeera](#))

MARCH 28: Opposition forces engaged in clashes with pro-Qaddafi troops sixty miles east of Sirte. General Hamdi Hassi, an opposition commander, declared that, "Sirte will not be easy to take. Now, because of NATO strikes on [the government's] heavy weapons, we're almost fighting with the same weapons." According to Al Jazeera, the opposition's National Council said that it anticipates major clashes to take place in the area around Tripoli, as opposed to Sirte. ([Al Jazeera](#))

MARCH 28: Libya's former ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammed Abdel Rahman Shalgham, claimed that rebel forces have seized Sirte, the hometown of Qaddafi. However, the pronouncement could not be independently verified. ([New York Times](#), [UPI](#))

MARCH 27: Fresh fighting broke out in rebel-held Misrata, where rebels acknowledged that pro-Qaddafi forces had regained ground in areas of the city after days of clashes. A rebel spokesperson admitted, "Part of the city is under rebel control and the other part is under the control of forces loyal to Gaddafi." A local doctor in the city reported that nine people were killed overnight by government snipers and shelling; while a resident stated that twenty four people were injured in mortar attacks by pro-Qaddafi forces. ([Al Jazeera](#))

MARCH 27: After retaking Ajdabiya, rebel forces continued west to Brega, the oil terminal of Ras Lanuf, and the coastal town of Bin Jawad, capturing all three in a move towards Tripoli. The rebels also claimed to possess control of Uqayla on the Mediterranean coast. Faraj Sheydani, a rebel fighter, said that, "There wasn't resistance. There was no one in front of us. There's no fighting." ([New York Times](#), [Telegraph](#), [Washington Post](#), [Washington Times](#))

MARCH 26: Rebel forces retook Ajdabiya, causing pro-Qaddafi forces to retreat for dozens of miles back along the coast. ([New York Times](#))

MARCH 25: Sky News reports that the U.S. has considered the legality of providing a limited supply of weapons to opposition forces. The media outlet reports that, "One of the unintended consequences of United Nations Resolution

1970 was to starve the rebels of the weapons they would need to take on Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. It requires all UN members to ‘immediately take the necessary measures’ to prevent the supply or sale of weapons to the Libyan government - with no exemption for anti-Gaddafi forces.” However, Mark Kornblau, a spokesman for U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Dr. Susan Rice, stated that “Resolutions 1970 and 1973, read together, neither specify nor preclude such an action.” ([Sky News](#))

MARCH 25: A spokesperson for the opposition forces, former Libyan Air Force Colonel Ahmed Omar Bani, has pleaded for more weapons and armaments. He declared, “We are facing cannons, T-72 and T-92 tanks, so what do we need? We need anti-tank weapons, things like that. We are preparing our army now. Before there was no army, from now there is an idea to prepare a new army with new armaments and new morals. We’ve talked with our friends around the world and told them we need help. Not troops or advisers — air strikes are enough. ...Our only foreign expert is Google Earth.” Opposition fighters said they had already requested weapons from various countries, but did not specify which countries they had appealed to. ([NPR](#))

MARCH 25: Opposition forces massed for an attack on the town of Ajdabiya, where they fired artillery at pro-Qaddafi forces. Rebels surrounding Ajdabiya appeared to have set up road blocks on the road leading into the strategically important town. Reuters reports that the rebels additionally possess heavier weaponry than had been seen earlier this week. A spokesman for opposition forces, Mustafa Gheriani, said he expected Ajdabiya to be in rebel control on Friday or Saturday, following overnight British and French air strikes. ([Reuters](#))

MARCH 25: 2,000 worshippers attended Friday prayers outside the rebel headquarters in Benghazi. The imam leading the prayers called for unity with inhabitants of cities engaged in fighting in western Libya, thanked the international coalition for intervening, and declared that the opposition movement would triumph. He affirmed, “The new Libya must be democratic. We do not need a new Gaddafi.” ([Reuters](#))

MARCH 24: A rebel spokesperson, Colonel Ahmed Omar Bani, said that opposition forces in Misrata and Zintan had killed an estimated 120 government soldiers during battles on Thursday. ([Telegraph](#))

MARCH 24: Rebel spokesperson Col. Ahmed Omar Bani, reported that forces loyal to Qaddafi have been in negotiations to surrender. In a news conference, Bani stated, “Some of the Ajdabiya militias have asked to surrender to be left alone and to go back home. We are trying to negotiate with these people in Ajdabiya because we are almost sure that they have lost contact with their headquarters.” Colonel Bani said that the opposition forces have been talking to government troops through an imam in Ajdabiya, who has been serving as a mediator. ([Telegraph](#))

MARCH 24: A chief spokesperson for the opposition has declared that rebel forces are detaining anyone suspected of serving or supporting the Qaddafi regime. Abdelhafed Ghoga, the chief opposition spokesman, referred to the supporters as “people with bloodstained hands” and “enemies of the revolution.” Ghoga warned that any Qaddafi loyalist who does not surrender will face “revolutionary justice.” ([LA Times](#))

MARCH 24: Leaders of the Transitional National Council have declared that they have assisted allied military commanders in Europe in identifying targets for the U.S.-led air assault. Rebel spokesman Ahmed Khalifa stated that, “There is communication between the Provisional National Council and U.N. assembled forces, and we work on letting them know what areas need to be bombarded.” Another rebel spokesman, Mustafa Gheriani, affirmed that, “We tell them of urgent situations in areas where we need help to protect civilians being attacked by the regime’s forces.” ([LA Times](#))

MARCH 24: A local resident of Misrata said pro-Qaddafi snipers firing indiscriminately are the “major problem” in the city. “Gaddafi’s forces have occupied the main street...which stretches from the town centre all the way to the highway and beyond. There are snipers all along the rooftops of that street,” the resident added. ([BBC](#))

MARCH 23: The head of the opposition’s “Feb 17 Martyrs Training Camp” Fawzi Buktif said his forces need military training and assistance from the West. Buktif told reporters “We need Kalashnikovs, stingers, anti-tanks, all types of anti-tanks” in order to push back against forces loyal to Qaddafi towards Tripoli and Sirte. Buktif added that the rebels could fund military assistance purchases through the oil wealth in the eastern part of Libya. ([Reuters](#))

MARCH 23: Former interior minister and current opposition forces leader General Abdul Fatah Younis said rebels in Misrata requested weapons from unnamed countries. Younis added “Misrata is destroyed and they need weapons. We try to send them weapons, but of course they were all light weapons. There were no heavy weapons.” ([CNN](#))

MARCH 23: Transitional National Council spokesman Iman Bughaeus announced that Washington University assistant professor of finance Ali Tarhouni has been named the head of the opposition’s financial committee. Tarhouni received a doctorate from Michigan State University in 1983 and specializes in macroeconomics. ([Reuters](#), [University of Washington](#))

MARCH 23: The Transitional National Council announced the formation of an interim government with Mahmoud Jibril as its prime minister. Jibril previously served as the opposition’s foreign representative and met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on March 14 in Paris. ([Al Jazeera](#), [NYT](#))

MARCH 22: The Transitional National Council said in a statement that it has established the Libyan Oil Company based in Benghazi to oversee oil production and policies and the Central Bank of Benghazi to oversee monetary policies. ([Bloomberg](#))

MARCH 19: Head of the British-Libyan Solidarity Campaign Azeldin al Sharif said rebels mistakenly brought down a rebel fighter jet. ([Reuters](#))

MARCH 18: Rebels assaulted Libyan military positions near the western town of Nalut, which is 35 miles from the Tunisian border. A rebel fighter reported 18 pro-Qaddafi soldiers were captured while the rebels suffered one casualty. ([Reuters](#))

MARCH 17: Rebels fought to hold Ajdabiya, 100 miles south of Benghazi, as pro-Qaddafi forces heavily shelled the city. A witness reported that rebel forces pushed out pro-Qaddafi forces from the city’s southern gate and continued to hold the western gate. Rebel aircraft were used to drive pro-Qaddafi forces from the western gate, marking the first time rebels have used air power. ([USA Today](#))

MARCH 17: Members of the Warfalla and Tarhuna tribes held anti-Qaddafi rallies in Benghazi in a rebuke of Libyan state television reports indicating that they had backed Qaddafi. ([CSM](#))

MARCH 17: Rebel forces surrounded pro-Qaddafi forces in the town of Zueitina, 180 miles south of Benghazi, and continued to resist pro-Qaddafi advances from the outskirts of Benghazi. ([Reuters](#))

MARCH 12: Rebels retreated from the oil town of Ras Lanuf, and moved farther east towards the town of Uqaylah. Opposition Col. Bashir Abdul Qadir told reporters that his forces were forced three kilometers out of Ras Lanuf by bombardments. ([Reuters](#))

MARCH 9: Rebels remained under siege in the town of Zawiya, 30 miles west of Tripoli, from shelling and sniper fire from pro-Qaddafi forces. A rebel leader claimed his fighters were in the main square in Zawiya. ([NYT](#))

MARCH 7: Rebels forces were pushed back from their advance to take Qaddafi's hometown of Surt by ground and airstrikes. They retreated eastwards to Ras Lanuf, 27 miles away from their original position. ([LAT](#))

MARCH 6: Rebel forces in Misrata repelled an assault by pro-Qaddafi forces. One resident reported that rebel forces had captured 20 soldiers and one tank. He added "They came from three sides and managed to enter the town from the west and south but when they reached the center of Misrata the rebels pushed them back." ([Reuters](#)).

MARCH 5: Rebels took the town of Bin Jawad, roughly 93 miles from Qaddafi's hometown of Sirte. ([BBC](#))

MARCH 5: The opposition Interim Transitional National Council held its first meeting in Benghazi. The council said in a statement that "it is the sole representative of all Libya with its different social and political strata and all its geographical sections." Mustafa Abdeljeleel oversees the council and hosted representatives from Batnan, Darna, Qouba, Benghazi, and specific groups including political prisoners and youth and women. ([Interim Transitional National Council](#))