

MAY 27: Speaking at a news conference at the end of the Group of Eight's (G8) annual summit, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said that he still plans to visit the rebel headquarters in Benghazi, preferably along with British Prime Minister David Cameron. Sarkozy said that "It should be a Franco-British initiative, it would be awkward to do it separately. It's still on the table but for various reasons we haven't fixed the date yet." ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 27: On Friday, Libya's former central bank governor, Farhat Omar Bin Guidara, declared that he had defected from the Qaddafi regime and would be joining the rebels. Bin Guidara said that "I left Libya on Feb. 21, and since the beginning of March, I split from the regime. But due to the nature of my work, I made no press statements. I have announced my resignation and now I am supporting the ... interim (rebel) council in providing suitable living conditions in areas that are facing unrest." ([Reuters](#))

MAY 27: Heavy fighting on the outskirts of Misrata has resulted in the deaths of three rebels and sixteen injuries. A rebel fighter, Faraj al Mistiri, said that, "We are being attacked from all sides with rockets, RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) and mortars. They are trying their hardest to get back into Misrata." ([Reuters](#))

MAY 27: Zintan received intense rocket fire from pro-Qaddafi forces positioned to the east of the town. A foreign doctor said that "There must have been about a hundred (strikes). I wasn't counting, but there were four or five rockets every half an hour or 15 minutes," but said that no casualties had yet been reported. The doctor also said that civilians within Zintan were leaving the city to escape the attacks. Amnesty International has also reported that there have been cases of "enforced disappearances," in the area, specifically of young men believed to have been kidnapped by Qaddafi forces. ([Reuters](#), [AFP](#))

MAY 26: The deputy leader of the rebel-led Transitional National Council, Abdel Hafiz Ghoga, told a news conference that a one to two-year transition period would be needed following the potential removal of Colonel Qaddafi. During that time period, opposition leaders would "form a transitional legislative body tasked with writing a constitution, hold a referendum on the charter, form political parties and then hold elections." However, Yousif Sherif, a council member in charge of town councils and culture said that elections should not take more than six months to organize. Sherif also said that no council member would be allowed to stand for election. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 25: In response to President Obama's remarks that Qaddafi should leave power against the threat of an unrelenting military campaign, rebel spokesperson Jalal Gallal stated that Obama's statement was "very positive news. We are on the same wavelength." He declared, "We all are agreed in a vision of a democratic Libya without Gadhafi, his family or any member of his inner circle. We also concur that there will be no foreign troops on the ground. We need the international community, the air cover, until the objective is met, and that we have. It is just going to take a little longer than necessary." ([CBS News](#))

MAY 25: Over the course of the seven-week siege by pro-Qaddafi troops on the rebel-held city of Misrata, over 1,000 men and women have gone missing. Abdel Hadi, a former prosecutor now in charge of the missing persons file, stated that many of the men and women have been "forcibly taken away" by Qaddafi troops, while others may have left to escape the violence. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 25: U.S. oil refiner Tesoro has purchased a shipment of one million barrels of crude oil from the rebels, according to company officials. The oil shipment had originally been bought in early April by Tesoro to run its Hawaii refinery and will arrive in Honolulu around June 7. Meanwhile, oil traders report that a fuel tanker is due to arrive in Benghazi

later this week. Trade sources state that the tanker was booked by trading firm Vitol, but this has not been independently confirmed. ([Reuters Africa](#), [Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 25: Reuters Africa reports on the strategy of rebel forces positioned outside of Zintan. Rebels in Zintan have said that they do not engage in official contact with NATO or military advisers to help coordinate their military strategy on the ground. The media outlet reveals that “spotters on the ground track coordinates of the enemy positions using Google Maps and sent word via Skype to Benghazi, which [passes] the information to NATO advisers in the de facto rebel capital.” ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 25: Rebel forces clashed with Sudanese mercenaries fighting on behalf of Qaddafi near the Libyan border with Sudan. A rebel commander, Ahmed Zway, said that opposition fighters had destroyed a vehicle belonging to the Sudanese mercenaries in clashes about 18 miles west of Kufra. The rebels had surrounded the Sudanese force and attempted to capture six other vehicles mounted with weaponry. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 25: Responding to reports that Italian oil companies have been in talks with the rebels about setting up a new National Oil Company, the Austrian energy group OMV has denied participating in talks with opposition leaders. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 24: A report by the Washington Post details how Libyan rebels “robbed” the Central Bank of Libya in March to pay for the uprising against Colonel Qaddafi. Ali Tarhouni, the rebels’ finance minister, said, “Let me put it this way: We robbed our own bank.” The media outlet describes how rebel leaders drilled a hole into the wall of the bank and hired a locksmith to open the vault inside. In doing so, opposition leaders have turned the Qaddafi government’s money into “the lifeblood of their uprising.” U.S. officials and other countries have failed to address questions about the legality of the rebels’ strategy to acquire state funds. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 24: Jordan has recognized the Transitional National Council as the legitimate representative of the Libyan people. The country plans to appoint an envoy to Benghazi. ([AFP](#))

MAY 24: U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, visited the rebel headquarters in Benghazi on Tuesday and “delivered a formal invitation to the council for the opening of a representation in Washington.” Feltman also declared that the U.S. would be providing the rebels with \$53.5 million in aid for humanitarian needs and \$25 million in non-lethal military supplies. ([AFP](#))

MAY 24: African migrants who were detained by the rebels in Zintan say they were “coerced into the army of [Qaddafi] in the belief they faced an al Qaeda invasion.” The men had been arrested during battles near Zintan on April 15 and May 1. Opposition sources also claimed that Qaddafi has imported mercenaries from Mali and Chad to fight in the conflict. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 23: A rebel spokesperson reported that pro-Qaddafi forces have shelled neighborhoods in the west and south of Misrata. Rebel officials stated that they have pushed government troops fifteen miles from the city center but that Qaddafi troops have been trying to advance from the west. The shelling follows clashes with Qaddafi troops in Dafinia on Sunday, which destroyed a tank. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 22: The European Union’s top foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton visited Libyan rebels in Benghazi and opened an EU office in the city. On her visit, Ashton declared that, “[Qaddafi] must leave and we must have a future for Libya that belongs to the people of Libya and moves forward as they would wish.” U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Jeffrey Feltman also visited Benghazi for dialogue with rebel officials. In his three-day visit, Feltman is scheduled to meet the head of the Transitional National Council, Mustafa Abdel Jalil, as well as other opposition leaders. ([Wall Street Journal](#), [Voice of America](#), [BBC](#))

MAY 22: The New York Times reports that a small fleet of Libyan boats operating outside of Misrata has contributed to the rebels' success in the city. Two dozen fishing vessels, sailing under NATO approval, have been organized into a fleet that has provided Misrata with supplies. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 21: Four French nationals who had been detained by the rebels since May 11 were released to French consular officials at the Egyptian border. The men had been working for a private security company and were accused of spying by the rebels. ([CNN](#), [Washington Post](#))

MAY 21: At least one rebel was killed when rebels clashed with pro-Qaddafi forces in an area between Ajdabiya and an oil town to the west of the city. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 21: In a major offensive by pro-Qaddafi forces in western Libya, a brigade of rebels was deployed to cut off Qaddafi's advance. One rebel was killed and three others injured in the fighting. Meanwhile, Haji Usama, one of Qaddafi's former military commanders, stated that contact has been lost with rebels in Rayayan with the exception of one commander. ([CNN](#))

MAY 21: Libyan rebels have been accused of reprisal attacks, seen as retribution against those once allied with Qaddafi. The Washington Post argues that "such targeting raises questions about the character of the government taking shape in eastern Libya and whether it will follow basic principles of democracy and human rights. Moreover, such acts could further deepen divisions in Libya's tribal society and diminish the sort of reconciliation vital for stability in a [post-Qaddafi] era." The media outlet states that rebel commanders have raided the homes of suspects without court warrants. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 20: The Washington Times reports that opposition forces are creating a list of items they hope Western countries will buy for them, including food and medicine. A rebel spokesperson said "If the U.S. doesn't trust us with our own money, we will provide them [with] lists and they should buy the supplies for us." ([Washington Times](#))

MAY 20: Opposition forces are conferring with Qatari banks about facilitating international money transfers, "a move aimed at recapitalizing banks and boosting the economy through trade." Abdullah Shamiya, a rebel economy chief, said that "Our banking system is paralyzed because of the sanctions. Now we're trying to lift the sanctions on some banks, in order to have them conduct money transfers abroad freely." ([Reuters](#))

MAY 19: Rebel forces have been subjected to constant shelling by government troops in Zintan, resulting in the death of at least one person and six other injuries. The International Medical Corps also reported fighting in Yafrin and declared that the humanitarian situation in the city is deteriorating due to low levels of food and supplies. ([CNN](#))

MAY 19: Libyan rebels responded to President Obama's address on the Middle East on Thursday, calling it "good enough." Jalal Gallal, a spokesperson for the Transitional National Council said that "Overall, the speech was positive for Libya," while opposition leaders said they were satisfied to hear President Obama call their interim government "legitimate and credible." ([CNN](#))

MAY 19: The New York Times reports that even after the recent appointments of new ministers to the Transitional National Council, women now occupy only two of the forty positions in the leadership council. Though a woman had been expected to be named as an education minister, a man ultimately was appointed to the position. Hana el-Galla, the prospective candidate to the position, said "We are having a problem now. In the old regime we didn't have any voice in the economic and political sector. Now, in these two sectors we don't have any presence." ([New York Times](#))

MAY 19: A rebel media official has claimed that opposition forces have launched a television channel, “Libya for the Free,” to promote their fight against pro-Qaddafi troops. The official claimed, “Our goal is to reach the largest number possible of people inside and outside Libya in order to counter [Qaddafi’s] channels which are engaged in psychological and media warfare against the rebels.” However, part of the channel’s transmission is blocked by a regional satellite owned by the Egyptian company Nilesat. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 19: Abdel Hafiz Ghoga, a Libyan opposition leader, said that at least 15,000 people have been killed over the course of the conflict. Ghoga called for NATO to increase their attacks against pro-Qaddafi forces, saying “We hope for greater intervention to protect our people and civilians...As long as there is a threat to civilians, strikes must be intensified against the military machine.” ([Bloomberg](#))

MAY 18: Libyan rebel sources said that pro-Qaddafi forces have shelled villages in the western mountains using Grad missiles and rocket launchers. Medghamas Abu-Zakhar, a rebel in Yafrin, said that government forces were shelling villages at the top of the Nafusa mountain range in an endeavor to gain control of higher ground. ([Washington Times](#))

MAY 18: The economy minister for the rebel-led Transitional National Council, Abdullah Shamiya, has urged the international community to accelerate efforts to transfer promised aid to the rebels. He declared, “Let us use some of our frozen Libyan money to meet our basic needs and to buy commodities, fuel and medicine for our people in the liberated areas.... It’s taking too long. Why? They want to make sure that everything goes according to international law and that’s understandable, but please do it fast.” ([Bloomberg](#))

MAY 18: A spokesperson for the rebels, Mahmud Shammam, has requested that the Transitional National Council be permitted to represent Libya at the June 8 OPEC meeting in Vienna. He stated, “We want to attend, and will study the legal procedure...We still do not know if OPEC will invite us.” ([AFP](#))

MAY 18: Shelling has ceased at the Dehiba-Wazin border crossing, allowing the border to reopen and traffic to pass through. Reuters reports that the “border crossing is a lifeline for rebels on the western front of Libya’s conflict, allowing food, medicine and fuel to reach rebel-held towns on the mountain plateau, and ambulances to take casualties to hospital in Tunisia.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 17: Fighting flared up in Misrata on Tuesday, with seven people wounded in clashes with pro-Qaddafi forces. Meanwhile, rocket attacks by government troops forced Libyan rebels to retreat briefly from a key border crossing. However, opposition forces later regained control of the Dehiba-Wazin crossing amid an offensive that killed three rebels and wounded several more. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 17: Italy has established a group made up of government officials and companies to secure ties with the rebel government in Libya. An Italian newspaper has reported that Italian oil and gas group Eni could potentially meet with Italian bank UniCredit and Libyan rebels in order to discuss the export of Libyan oil to the country. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 17: Rebel oil and finance representative Ali Tarhouni said that the opposition forces’ leadership has set a budget of \$3 billion to spend over the next six months. However, Tarhouni said that the body is still pursuing the cash to finance that amount. He stated, “I’m chasing liquidity, I’m asking for any form that will give us liquidity, a line of credit, loans. So far we haven’t been able to get it.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 17: The rebels’ finance and oil minister, Ali Tarhouni, has reported that the chairman of Libya’s National Oil Corporation (NOC), Shokri Ghanem, has defected from the Qaddafi regime. Tarhouni said, “As far as we know he has left his post, this is as far as we know in the past 24 hours.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 16: A poll conducted by Garyounis University in Benghazi has found that Libyans in rebel-held areas are “split

over whether they would accept foreign troops on their soil.” The poll found that most Libyans would only accept a troop presence in a supporting role. However, 87 percent of the 1,638 people surveyed said that they would accept foreign troops in the country to provide technical advice or military training. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 16: Guma el-Gamaty, a spokesman in Britain for the rebel-led Transitional National Council, expressed support for the International Criminal Court’s plan to seek warrants for Colonel Qaddafi and his son. He declared that it is “a very important step along the way to putting more pressure on [Qaddafi] and his son to leave or face arrest.” ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 16: Libyan rebels claimed that they have driven Qaddafi forces from strategic points located on the outskirts of Misrata. Released photos have revealed more than 200 rebel vehicles stationed at the southeastern gate of Misrata, providing the rebels with tighter control of access points into the city. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 15: Members of the rebel-led Transitional National Council met to create interim legislative and executive bodies for a “post-Qaddafi era.” Mustafa Abdel Jalil, a leader of the TNC, said that the current 31-member council would be expanded and turned into an interim parliament. It was uncertain if the planned alterations to the council came at the request of Western governments who had held meetings with opposition leaders over the past week. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

MAY 15: In weekend battles, rebel forces defeated two brigades of Qaddafi troops based in the city of Zlitan. Colonel Ahmed Bani, a spokesperson for the rebels, said that “In Zlitan, the revolutionaries have forced them [Qaddafi fighters] out of their camps — there were two big brigades — and are on the highway, fighting them.” ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 14: EuroNews reports that Libyan rebels have driven the last of Qaddafi forces from Misrata, following weeks of clashes. Footage attained by the media outlet shows the rebels preparing to make territorial advancements outside of the city to “stem any further attacks by Qaddafi loyalists.” ([EuroNews](#))

MAY 13: Libyan rebel leader Mahmoud Jibril met with national security officials at the White House on Friday. Though the U.S. “[recognized] the council as a ‘legitimate and credible interlocutor of the Libyan people,’” the U.S. did not official recognize the Transitional National Council as the official government of Libya. ([Christian Science Monitor](#))

MAY 13: Ahmed Bani, a rebel military spokesman, has denied reports that a NATO strike has resulted in civilian casualties in Brega. Libyan state television had previously reported that an airstrike hit a religious conference in the city, killing sixteen and injuring forty others. However, Bani has declared that all civilians have left the Brega area. Meanwhile, a doctor in Misrata reported that at least ten people were killed in sporadic shelling in the city on Friday, though rebels retained their control of the airport and civil defense base. ([CNN](#))

MAY 13: Libyan rebel leader Mahmoud Jibril is scheduled to visit the White House on Friday to make a case for U.S. recognition of the rebel-led Transitional National Council. Jibril is scheduled to hold talks with U.S. National Security Adviser Tom Donilon. White House spokesman Jay Carney has indicated that the Obama administration is not yet ready to recognize the council. He said that, “If the question is recognizing the [Transitional National Council] as the official government of Libya, I think that’s premature.” ([AFP](#))

MAY 13: Air force brigadier Ammar Bilqasem, a military attaché at the Libyan embassy in the United Arab Emirates, has quit his post in order to join the rebels. He said, “I announce my split from the regime and my joining and wholehearted support for the February 17 revolution...Victory is near.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 13: The arrival of food aid to cities in western Libya has been delayed due to a fear of attack which “threatens the rebels’ single supply route.” In addition, at least one remote town is blockaded by government troops. A single supply route running near the Tunisian border is exposed at several low sections to the positions of pro-Qaddafi forces, a concern for humanitarian agencies trying to deliver supplies. The World Food Program has said that it is concerned about access to food for people who are isolated due to the fighting. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 12: According to Mahmoud Jibril, a leader of the Libyan opposition council, military advisers from Qatar have helped rebel forces organize themselves. A doctor at a military base in Benghazi said that Qatari trainers have been instructing new recruits in basic infantry training. Rebel officials have said that Qatar is alone in providing military training to the rebels, though Britain, France, and Italy have said that military experts would be sent to work with the rebel army to “improve their military organization structures, communications and logistics.” ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 12: A rebel official has said that “oil fields in eastern Libya are still not secure enough for pumping to resume,” five weeks after a main oil field was attacked by government troops. The new minister for the economy, Abdullah Shamiya, declined to give a date for when oil production might resume. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 12: U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron said that he has asked the Transitional National Council to set up an office in London, amidst a pledge to provide “several million pounds worth of equipment to the police in Benghazi and enhance Britain’s presence in the rebel stronghold.” In a joint press conference with a leader of the council, Mustafa Abdel Jalil, Cameron declared, “We will work with you to ensure the international community increases the economic, diplomatic and military pressure on this bankrupt regime.” ([Bloomberg](#))

MAY 11: The rebels have appointed two new ministers to their Transitional National Council’s executive body. On Wednesday, Abdullah Shamiya was appointed economy minister, while Ahmed Hussein was named minister for the interior and local governance. Shamiya had previously spent years as a political prisoner under Qaddafi, while Hussein has served as a judge. ([Bloomberg](#))

MAY 11: While Libyan rebel leaders arrived in the U.S. to urge the Obama administration for financial assistance, Senator John Kerry has drafted legislation to provide some of the \$34 billion in Libyan assets frozen by the White House to the rebel fighters. Kerry said that “I am currently drafting legislation at the request of the State Department and the administration that will authorize the transfer of available cash assets to the [Libyan Transitional National Council] so that they will have available money. It will not come from an American taxpayer. It will come from Col. Qaddafi himself.” Rebel sources have declared that they are “down to less than two weeks of cash reserves.” ([Wall Street Journal](#), [National Journal](#))

MAY 11: Mahmoud Jibril, a leader of the rebels’ Transitional National Council, was in Washington on Wednesday to ask for quicker action to address the worsening humanitarian situation in the country. He also declared that NATO had “established a line of communication with rebel commanders in Benghazi, enabling it to improve the effectiveness of its strikes.” ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 11: Rebel forces took control of the airport in Misrata after heavy clashes with pro-Qaddafi forces. The rebels also seized weapons and ammunition from the government’s retreating forces. A rebel spokesperson said that five rebels were killed and 105 injured in two days of fighting in the city. Rebels in Misrata are also pushing west toward the nearby city of Zlitan. Meanwhile, rebels in Ajdabiya said that fighting had subsided on Wednesday after they had claimed recent territorial gains. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 11: An AFP correspondent reports that at least two rebels were killed and fifteen were injured near the town of Zintan in the west of the country. The correspondent said that rebel forces came under fire from snipers when they entered the village of Rya Ina, located nine miles east of Zintan. ([AFP](#))

MAY 10: A spokesperson for the U.S. State Department said that the first shipment of non-lethal U.S. military aid for the rebels has arrived in Benghazi. A shipment of 10,000 meals arrived to the port, with batches of medical supplies, boots and protective gear set to arrive in the coming days. The shipment is part of the \$25 million in non-lethal assistance that President Barack Obama had previously authorized for the rebels. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 10: The European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said that an EU office in rebel-held Benghazi will be opened “so that we can move forward on the support we have discussed with the people, to support civil society, [and] to support the interim national council.” A team from the European External Action Service is set to travel to Benghazi to plan for the opening of the technical mission. ([EUObserver](#))

MAY 10: The latest assaults by NATO warplanes appear “to reflect increased cooperation between NATO and the rebel army,” thereby facilitating the rebels in making territorial gains around Misrata. South of the city, fresh fighting was observed in Souk al Arab and at al-Ghiran, near the city’s airport. A witness said that government troops are surrounded by rebel forces and holed up in the airport and local air force academy. Meanwhile, rebels fighting in Brega have been “bogged down for weeks,” unable to take control of the city. ([Reuters Africa](#), [Washington Post](#))

MAY 9: A Libyan opposition newspaper has reported that rebel fighters have been leading an uprising in the suburbs of Tripoli after being supplied with light weapons by defecting security officers. However, a Libyan government official in Tripoli has denied the report, saying, “It’s peaceful out there.” ([Al-Arabiya](#))

MAY 9: In a major battle to the west of Ajdabiya, Libyan rebels killed fifty-seven government soldiers and destroyed seventeen vehicles belonging to pro-Qaddafi forces. The fighting took place on the outskirts of al-Arbaeen, a small town positioned between Ajdabiya and the city of Brega. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 9: Opposition forces made gains against pro-Qaddafi forces in Misrata, after hundreds of rebel fighters broke through one of the front lines and consolidated their position to the west of the city. The rebels have stopped short of the town of Ad Dafnayah, where they have surrounded government troop positions. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 9: United Nations aid chief Valerie Amos said that the delivery of humanitarian supplies to Libya has been delayed because of the way sanctions have been applied on the Qaddafi regime. “The manner in which sanctions are implemented and monitored is causing serious delays in the arrival of commercial goods. So if for any reason commercial supplies coming into the country are not able to come in, then it has an impact on that central distribution system and it has an impact on food stocks across the country.” Amos said the rebel-held east of the country possesses enough food stockpiles to last two months, while the west has adequate supplies for three months. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 9: Opposition leaders convened a meeting of twenty-five local council leaders representing areas of central, western, and southern Libya. The leaders, assembling in the United Arab Emirates, articulated their recognition of the rebel-led Transitional National Council as the sole representative government of Libya. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 9: The rebels have sold \$100 million worth of oil paid for through a Qatari trust fund in U.S. dollars. An oil industry source said that, “So far around 1 million barrels have been sold at \$100 million and the money is used to buy basic commodities like food and other aid.” ([Reuters UK](#), [Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 8: The rebel-held towns of Zintan and Wazin were attacked by pro-Qaddafi troops, forcing inhabitants in the area to flee over the border to Tunisia. Eighty shells fell on the Tunisian side of the border, prompting complaints by the Tunisian government to Libyan officials. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

MAY 8: Saddoun Misurati, an opposition spokesman, said that food and supplies are running low in Misrata due to

government shelling, which has slowed humanitarian deliveries to the Misrata port. Rebel forces and pro-Qaddafi troops engaged in fighting near the airport on Sunday, though there has been no word on casualties. ([Los Angeles Times](#))

MAY 7: A rebel spokesperson said that Italy has agreed to supply the opposition group with weapons. However, officials in Rome have said that only “self-defense material” would be sent to the rebels, ruling out the supply of assault weapons. ([AFP](#))

MAY 7: Jalal Gallal, a rebel spokesperson, said that government forces destroyed three oil tanks in Misrata on Saturday, which may lead to gasoline shortages for vehicles and electricity in the city. Rebel sources have also alleged that a government helicopter adorned with the Red Cross logo had tried to plant mines in the Misrata harbor, though the report is unconfirmed. ([Los Angeles Times](#))

MAY 6: Abdel Hafiz Ghoga, a Libyan opposition leader, said that weapons would arrive in rebel-held areas of Libya within days. Moreover, the rebels plan to utilize funds “pledged for humanitarian and reconstruction needs to buy weapons from the Italian government.” Ghoga said that money requested at the ‘22-nation Libya Contact Group’ meeting in Rome would be used to pay for the weapons. Senior State Department officials have said that the fund created in Rome is for humanitarian and reconstruction needs, not weaponry. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 6: Mahmoud Jibril, a leader of the rebels’ Transitional National Council, has welcomed the aid plan approved by the ‘22-nation Libya Contact Group.’ Jibril had presented plans for a post-Qaddafi Libya to members of the group, who convened in Rome on Thursday. He stated that an interim government would take over day-to-day administration and governance, comprised of “members from the [Transitional National Council], technocrats from the [Qaddafi] regime, senior military and intelligence officers and a supreme court judge.” A constitution would also be written and put to a vote, followed by parliamentary and presidential elections. ([BBC](#))

MAY 5: Pro-Qaddafi forces fired Grad rockets toward the outskirts of Nalut. Rebels near the town say they are preparing for an attempt by pro-government troops to retake a strategic border crossing in the area. Meanwhile, a rebel fighter told Reuters that intense fighting was taking place around the village of Ghezaya. The rebel said that “there are several dead and injured on both sides.” ([Reuters](#), [Associated Press](#))

MAY 5: The Libyan government has condemned U.S. plans to unblock Qaddafi’s frozen assets and give them to the opposition forces. Libya Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Kaim said, “Any use of the frozen assets is like piracy on the high seas. They (the rebels) are not a legal entity. They are not a country. The country is not divided according to a referendum or to a United Nations resolution. This is illegal ... If we stay silent about it, I think we will be living in a jungle.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 5: Hundreds of migrants and injured people that had been evacuated from Misrata reached Benghazi on Thursday. After depositing 180 tons of humanitarian aid in Misrata and picking up the 800 passengers, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) ship docked in Benghazi. A spokesperson for the IOM said that “The IOM hoped to carry out a further evacuation mission but this would depend on the security situation.” ([AFP](#), [Reuters](#))

MAY 5: A rebel spokesman said that Denmark, Spain and the Netherlands had recognized the rebels’ Transitional National Council as the sole representative government of Libya, but officials from those countries have denied it. Danish foreign ministry spokesman Jean Ellermann Kingombe said “We have not taken steps to formally recognise the TNC. There is a willingness to engage [with the TNC] but no formal recognition.” ([Reuters](#), [Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 5: A rebel spokesperson in Zintan has said that government forces have fired around 50 Grad rockets into the town. A refugee fleeing the town said that the pro-Qaddafi forces are “firing from a mountain about 10 km (6 miles) to

the east of Nalut. They are firing Grads.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 5: During the ‘22-nation Libya Contact Group’ talks in Rome, the U.S. and its allies agreed to create a trust fund for the Libyan opposition forces. The Wall Street Journal reports that “the potential \$4.5 billion fund...would be guaranteed, and partially filled, by assets of the [Qaddafi] regime that were frozen by the United Nations and European Union this year.” Kuwait has pledged \$180 million to the fund, while Qatar promised \$400-500 million. The Transitional National Council has said that it needs \$3 billion in order to operate in the coming months. Meanwhile, Secretary Clinton has pledged that the Obama administration will pursue legislation that would allow the Libyan rebels to access some of the assets seized from Qaddafi. ([Wall Street Journal](#), [Reuters](#))

MAY 4: French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said that the upcoming ‘Contact Group’ talks in Rome will focus on obtaining financing for the opposition and facilitating contact with defectors from Qaddafi’s government. Juppe said, “There are a lot of officials from Tripoli who want to talk. We are going to try to coordinate.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 4: Pro-Qaddafi forces shelled Misrata’s Qasr Ahmad district, killing five people, while aid personnel worked to evacuate hundreds of migrants, journalists, and wounded Libyans on a rescue ship docked in the Misrata port. A spokesperson for the International Organization for Migration said that “hundreds of Libyan civilians had also tried to board the ship in desperation to get out of Misrata. But with a limited capacity, the ramp of the boat had to be pulled up so that the ship could pull away from the dock in safety.” ([Reuters](#), [Reuters](#))

MAY 3: Government forces shelled the city of Zintan on Tuesday with more than 40 Grad rockets. The stream of rockets fired from pro-Qaddafi troops caused thousands of people to flee the town to neighboring Tunisia. ([Reuters](#), [International Business Times](#))

MAY 3: On Tuesday, Ali Tarhouni, the rebel finance minister, told reporters that “available funds are sufficient only to keep the rebel zone afloat for three or four weeks ‘at the most.’” He said that on a daily basis anywhere between \$42 million to \$84 million is needed to “run things.” ([Los Angeles Times](#))

MAY 3: The New York Times reports on a “clandestine network of rebel workshops where makeshift weapons have been designed, assembled and pushed out.” Civilian pickup trucks have been converted into armored vehicles, while conventional munitions have been transformed into other types of lethal arms. Besides armored pickup trucks, the workshops have produced caltrops that are designed to puncture the tires of vehicles as well as other modified munitions. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 3: A spokesperson for the rebel fighters has said that fighting has flared in Misrata in the area of Bourouia. The spokesman said, “The [pro-Qaddafi] brigades are trying to enter the Tamina area, east of the city.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 3: Opposition forces have stated that they expect billions of dollars in aid soon from Western governments to “feed and supply their territories in the east and support their campaign against [Qaddafi].” Meanwhile, the Transitional National Council issued a statement which said that revenue generated from oil sales by the Libyan rebels will finance economic and other social services for the Libyan citizens. The statement said, “Public funds will be made transparent and will be used for the betterment of the Libyan people and the development of the country.” However, they said that there are no current plans to resume significant oil exports, as the current priority of the rebels is to ensure that oil installations are first made secure. ([Reuters](#), [UPI](#), [AFP](#))

MAY 2: Pro-Qaddafi forces shelled the rebel-held town of Zintan in western Libya on Monday evening. A rebel spokesperson said that at least 10 Grad rockets landed in the town. He said that they were fired from positions north of Zintan. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 2: Rebel military spokesman Colonel Ahmed Bani offered the Transitional National Council's congratulations of the reported death of Osama Bin Laden. Bani included that the US should also "do the same to Qaddafi." He claimed that Libyan rebels have evidence that al Qaeda have sent fighters to Libya on the side of Qaddafi. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 1: Rebel forces have increased security at eastern oilfields since production halted following strikes by pro-Qaddafi forces in early April. Abdeljalil Mayouf, the information manager for the rebel-held Arabian Gulf Oil Company (Agoco), stated that resumption of oil production depended upon the level of security at the oilfields. The Misra oilfield, described as heavily damaged from strikes in April, is currently being assessed by a technical review team according to Mayouf. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 1: Opposition leaders in Benghazi doubted reports that Qaddafi's youngest son, Saif al-Arab, was killed in a NATO airstrike over the weekend. They claimed that the Libyan government was attempting to ratchet up sympathy among the international community and the Libyan population. ([ABC](#))