

Authored by Henry Ensher, Alex Della Rocchetta, Reza Jan, Maseh Zarif

MAY 27: Qaddafi forces reportedly heavily shelled the western mountain of Zintan. The rocket fire came from government troop positions east of the town. Anja Wolz, a doctor with “Doctors Without Borders” stationed in Zintan, described “about a hundred [strikes]. I wasn’t counting, but there were four or five rockets every half an hour or 15 minutes.” Wolz reported no casualties from the bombardment. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 27: Lieutenant General Charles Bouchard, commander of the NATO mission in Libya, said Qaddafi forces have been laying land mines in Misrata. Bouchard reported that “a minefield was laid in the Misrata area.” Qaddafi forces have been previously caught laying mines in an effort to limit rebel movements and humanitarian aid coming into the country. Mines were found near Ajdabiya in the east after rebel forces ousted Qaddafi fighters, and NATO recently removed naval mines from Misrata’s harbor laid by Qaddafi forces. ([AFP](#))

MAY 27: Clashes were reported in the western outskirts of Misrata between Qaddafi and rebel forces. Rebel fighter Suleim Al-Faqih, said the fighting began when rebel fighters fired upon government forces attempting to block a road by digging a trench. The government forces reportedly then fell back, and began shelling the city with Grad rocket and mortar fire. Another fighter, Faraj al-Mistiri, described the shelling as “coming from all sides.” Qaddafi forces launched a counterattack from Zlitan, west of Misrata, in an attempt to retake Misrata earlier this week. ([Reuters](#), [Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 27: Russia joined in the international community’s call for Qaddafi to remove himself from power, and offered to facilitate his removal. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said that Qaddafi has “deprived himself of legitimacy with his actions, we should help him leave.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 26: Qaddafi is believed to have invested Libya’s sovereign wealth fund, estimated at \$53 billion, in major US and European financial institutions, according to one report. The report identified Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, HSBC Holdings, and Societe General in helping the Qaddafi regime invest the fund. The investments occurred well before the current sanctions were imposed against Libya. All assets of the Qaddafi family and Libyan government are currently frozen by the European Union and US. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 26: A British government official stated that Qaddafi is avoiding NATO airstrikes by seeking refuge in hospitals, which he knows NATO planners will not target. The official described Qaddafi’s current status as “increasingly paranoid, on the run, and hiding in hospitals by night.” The official added that coordination and communication among Libyan military commanders has become increasingly difficult due to a fear that NATO maybe tapping their phones. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 26: Spain and other EU-member nations reported receiving a cease-fire proposal from Libyan Prime Minister Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi. A Spanish government spokesman said Spain stood by the EU position that the Libyan government must take “certain unspecified steps” before the EU agrees to any cease-fire proposal. US Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes said the proposal was not credible, citing Libya’s failure to comply with previous cease-fire proposals. ([Reuters](#), [Washington Post](#))

MAY 26: Libyan officials floated the idea of retaining Muammar Qaddafi as a figurehead to ensure a transition to democracy. Government spokesman Musa Ibrahim stated that Qaddafi would agree to a “constitution that gives him no

executive powers whatsoever.” Ibrahim added that without Qaddafi in the transition process, civil and tribal warfare would likely ensue. George Joffe, a Libya expert at Cambridge University, contested the idea that Qaddafi would accept a deal that strips him of his power, saying “he either runs things, or he has to be removed.” ([Los Angeles Times](#))

MAY 25: Misrata residents began accusing government forces of kidnapping civilians during the seven-week battle for the city between government and rebel forces. Mahmoud Abaja described Qaddafi forces forcibly removing his two sons from their home in the Kirzas suburb. Tarek Abdel-Hadi, a former Libyan prosecutor tracking those missing from Misrata, estimated that he has collected 1,000 names so far in his efforts. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 25: Muammar Qaddafi is increasingly isolated from communicating with his troops, according to one report. Canadian Brigadier General Richard Blanchette said that Qaddafi “is forced to hide [from NATO air strikes] and so it’s become more and more difficult for him to communicate with his troops and to order attacks on civilians.” ([AFP](#))

MAY 25: The US and Britain renewed calls for Qaddafi to remove himself from power. US President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron issued a joint statement saying the two nations “should be turning up the heat” on Qaddafi. Obama added that “there won’t be a letup in the pressure” on Qaddafi. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 25: South African President Jacob Zuma is reportedly scheduled to meet with Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi next week. A South African official said the objective of Zuma’s visit is to “seek a breakthrough” in the current fighting. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 25: Qaddafi forces have reportedly taken up positions 6 miles from the center of Zintan. The troops are believed to be equipped with tanks, mortars, and Grad rockets. Rebel officials inside Zintan have reported mostly civilian casualties caused by indiscriminate shelling by Qaddafi forces. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 24: Five Africans captured by rebel forces denied being mercenaries hired by the Qaddafi regime. The men described themselves as “laborers” who were forced by Libyan soldiers to fight for the regime. One man said Libyan soldiers told him “if you want to get out [of Libya], you join us, we give you papers and you work for us.” 1.5 million African migrant workers were estimated to be in Libya when the rebellion began. Most are either stranded or have been evacuated. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 24: Muammar Qaddafi’s Bab al-Aziziya compound in Tripoli continued to be struck by NATO warplanes. Libyan officials said the barracks of an army auxiliary unit known as the Popular Guard was struck, allegedly killing three civilians and wounding one hundred and fifty. It was not immediately clear if Qaddafi was at the compound during the airstrikes. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 24: Sources at western oil companies rejected reports that Libyan Oil Minister Shokri Ghanem defected from the regime. These sources confirmed that Ghanem was in Tunisia, but to meet with representatives of oil companies that currently have contracts with the Libyan government. It was not clear if the meeting occurred, but Ghanem was believed to be on assignment to assure the representatives that the Libyan government would honor its current contracts. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 24: A Reuters journalist in Misrata reported light shelling of the western district of Dafniyah by Qaddafi forces. The shelling comes amid a government counteroffensive to retake the city. Rebel fighters said Qaddafi forces were attempting to move in on the city from the west and south. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 23: Two captured Libyan government soldiers stated that they were forced to participate in a systematic campaign

of rape during the battle of Misrata. The soldiers, under rebel guard, claimed they were forced to commit the acts or risk being beaten by superiors. This recent account comes amid allegations made by US and European officials that the Qaddafi regime has actively encouraged its troops to commit rape. ([BBC](#))

MAY 23: Qaddafi reportedly began a counteroffensive after losing the city of Misrata last week to rebel forces. Rebel spokesman Abdelsalam described government troops advancing from the west under the cover of Grad and mortar fire. A column of five tanks and fifty men were reported seen approximately fifteen miles west of Misrata. Rebels in the city say the government counteroffensive was stalled for the time being. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 23: Tunisian Foreign Minister Mouldi Kefi confirmed that Ghanem was staying on a small island off the coast of Tunisia. Kefi could not confirm if Ghanem defected from the Qaddafi regime as has been widely reported. Tunisian officials have denied Ghanem has sought asylum in Tunisia. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 22: Four explosions were reported in the mountain town of Zintan. Residents said the explosions were from Grad rockets fired by Qaddafi troops stationed outside at the town. No casualties were immediately reported. ([CNN](#))

MAY 20: The name of Libyan Oil Minister Shokri Ghanem, who is believed to have defected from the regime, appeared on a passenger manifest for a flight to Austria. Austrian Foreign Ministry spokesman Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal could not confirm whether Ghanem boarded the plane and arrived in Vienna. Libyan officials denied that Ghanem has left Libya. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 20: Anton Hammerl, a photographer who has been missing since April, is believed to be dead. Hammerl was with recently released American journalists James Foley and Clare Morgana Gillis outside Brega when the two were detained. Foley and Gillis stated that Hammerl was shot in the stomach by Qaddafi forces, and did not receive any medical treatment as the two were being detained. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 19: The Libyan government offered rebel forces a conditional proposal to withdraw its troops engaged in cities around the country if rebels did the same, and if NATO ceased its strikes. The regime has repeatedly made and agreed to such proposals only to violate them. The Libyan government released footage of Qaddafi in a meeting, which officials claimed occurred Thursday evening. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 19: A medic from the western mountain town of Zintan reported continued bombardment of rebel positions by government forces. He said that three rebels were killed, and at least one was wounded. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 19: Libyan government spokesman Musa Ibrahim denied that Qaddafi's wife, Sofia, and his daughter, Aisha, fled the country into Tunisia. Ibrahim asserted that the two were in Tripoli. ([AFP](#))

MAY 19: A resident of Ajaylat, 49 miles west of Tripoli, reported a raid by Qaddafi forces. She described Qaddafi soldiers conducting house-to-house searches, looking for at least one male in each household. Hundreds of people, mostly boys and men, were reported missing after Qaddafi forces withdrew from the town in the evening. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 19: Qaddafi forces stationed outside Zintan continued to bombard the town. Residents reported a sustained barrage of Grad and rocket fire coming in east and southeast of the town. The extent of the damage caused by the rocket fire was not immediately reported. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 18: Western mountain towns remained under siege by Qaddafi forces. Residents of Yifran, 75 miles southwest of Tripoli, reported Grad and rocket fire by Qaddafi forces. One rebel said Qaddafi forces were shelling villages located at

the top of the Nafusa mountain range in an effort to capture the high ground. Shelling of the rebel-held Wazin border post forced the closure of the post, and killed seven rebels according to Jaber Naluti, a local volunteer. ([Washington Times](#))

MAY 18: Saifa Qaddafi, wife of Muammar Qaddafi, and their daughter, Aisha, reportedly entered Tunisia according to a Tunisian official. A Tunisian Interior Ministry spokesman denied the report, saying that the women would be arrested in accordance with a UN travel ban on the Qaddafi family. A Libyan opposition member said the two were on Djerba, a small island off of Libya, seeking treatment for Aisha's husband, who has been injured in fighting. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 18: American journalists Clare Morgana Gillis and James Foley, Spanish photographer Manu Brabo, and British journalist Nigel Chandler were released after being detained since April. The four were tried and found guilty of the charge of entering Libya illegally, and given commuted one-year sentences. 15 other journalists are reportedly still missing in Libya. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 18: Qaddafi is reportedly able to receive fuel shipments in spite of international sanctions. An oil tanker from Turkey is expected to arrive at Zawiyah. The General National Maritime Transport Company owns the tanker, the "Cartagena." The company is owned by the Libyan government, and is not currently on the UN sanctions list. The regime is reportedly conducting ship-to-ship transfers at the La Skhira port in Tunisia, with GNMTC involved in at least one shipment. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 18: Tunisia continued to accuse Qaddafi forces of firing rockets across the border into Tunisia. Qaddafi forces are currently attempting to cut off rebel supply lines coming in from Tunisia. The Tunisian government threatened to file a complaint with the UN Security Council if Qaddafi forces failed to cease firing across the border. ([Al-Arabiya](#))

MAY 18: Shokri Ghanem, Libya's top oil official who reportedly defected from the regime yesterday, is believed to be in Tunisia. Tunisian Interior Ministry spokesman Neji Zairi confirmed that Ghanem and his family were seen at a Tunisian resort on Tuesday. Ghanem was described as one of the few Libyan government senior officials who could "speak candidly, and at times openly contradict Muammar Qaddafi." If Ghanem's defection is confirmed, he would be the fifth senior official to have defected from the Qaddafi regime. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 17: Fighting was reported around the city of Misrata despite recent rebel claims that they had complete control of the city. A doctor from Misrata said clashes between Qaddafi and rebel forces occurred around the western and eastern edges of the city. The doctor reported that rebel fighters made up most of the seven casualties reported in the fighting. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 17: The Libyan government announced the release of four journalists who had been detained since April. Government spokesman Musa Ibrahim disclosed the identities of three of the journalists as Americans James Foley and Clare Morgana Gillis, and Spanish photographer Manu Brabo. The fourth journalist is believed to be Anton Hammerl, who disappeared around the same time the other three did. Ibrahim added that the four were presented before an administrative judge on the charge of entering the country illegally. Ibrahim said the four should "go home today or tomorrow at the latest." ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 17: A Libyan government delegation is scheduled to meet with Russian officials to discuss a cease-fire solution to the current fighting in Libya. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov expressed Russia's desire to "see a rapid end to the bloodshed in Libya." Qaddafi has previously accepted and violated separate cease fire agreements negotiated by the UN and African Union. ([Bloomberg](#))

MAY 17: Shokri Ghanem, chairman of the Libyan government-owned National Oil Corporation, has reportedly

defected from the Libyan government. Conflicting reports either have Ghanem out of Libya or joining the rebel National Transitional Council in Benghazi. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 16: Following a statement in which the head of the British military said that NATO airstrikes should include Libyan government infrastructure, Libyan government officials threatened to place civilians around key government sites. Libyan government telecommunications chief Mohammad ben Ayad gave foreign journalists a PowerPoint presentation detailing the extent of the damage caused by NATO airstrikes. One slide estimated the damage at \$1 billion, and another announced that “employees and their families will act as human shields” around government installations. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 16: Pro-Qaddafi forces reportedly attempted to use a small, bomb-laden boat to mine Misrata’s port. One fast boat fled back in the direction of Zlitan as NATO warships intercepted a small boat filled with one ton of explosives and two human mannequins. The attempt represents the third time in three weeks Qaddafi forces have attempted to launch sea-borne attacks against Misrata’s port. The previous two incidents occurred on April 29th, when Qaddafi boats were caught laying mines in the port, and last week when NATO repelled a boat attack. ([AFP](#))

MAY 16: Qaddafi forces have suffered significant losses in the past two days. Qaddafi forces have reportedly been entirely pushed out of the heavily contested city of Misrata. The rebels’ Facebook page showed 200 rebel SUVs and vehicles at the city’s southeastern gate, an area reportedly held by Qaddafi forces. Rebel military spokesman Colonel Ahamd Bani stated that rebel forces defeated two government brigades 12 miles from Zlitan, west of Misrata. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 16: International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo formally sought the arrest warrants for three members of the Qaddafi regime. Muammar Qaddafi, his son Saif al-Islam, and his brother-in-law Abdullah al-Sanousi are accused by Moreno-Ocampo of planning and ordering attacks against peaceful demonstrators. Moreno-Ocampo said he has “direct evidence” that the three men orchestrated the attacks. A three judge panel will decide whether to issue the arrest warrants. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 15: Pressure continued to increase on embattled Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. British General David Richards called for NATO airstrikes to include missions against government infrastructure. Richards believes that such strikes will increase pressure on the Qaddafi regime. The ICC announced that senior Libyan government officials had contacted the Court with information detailing war crimes committed by members of the Qaddafi regime. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 14: Qaddafi released an audio recording that declared “I am still alive.” The statement followed weeks of speculation regarding the Libyan leader’s status, who had not been either seen or heard from since the April 30th NATO airstrike that killed his son, Saif al-Arab. Qaddafi asserted that he “is in a place you cannot reach.” ([Los Angeles Times](#))

MAY 14: The Libyan Government reported that 11 Muslim leaders were killed in a NATO airstrike in the eastern town of Brega. NATO confirmed the strike, but said it was against a command and control bunker. Libyan state television showed bodies being removed from rubble, stating that it was the bodies of the clerics killed in the strike. There was no independent confirmation of this government report. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

MAY 13: According to one report, months of fighting is still predicted in Libya between Qaddafi and rebel forces. Reuters says Intelligence firm Stratfor believes the conflict will continue to be prolonged because Qaddafi “[controls] the core of Western Libya and no one has yet proven able to physically force him out or credibly threaten his grip on power.” Qaddafi also reportedly has billions of dollars worth of foreign currency and precious metals which allows him to pay his troops and hire foreign mercenaries. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 13: International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said he would seek the arrest warrants of three members of the Qaddafi regime on Monday. He did not disclose any names, but it is widely believed two of

the indictments will be against Muammar Qaddafi and his son and National Security Advisor, Saif al-Islam. Moreno-Ocampo stated the specific charges will be murder and persecution, which the Geneva Conventions classify as “crimes against humanity.” Moreno-Ocampo presented his case to the UN Security Council last week, which then ordered the case to the ICC. The referral of the case to the ICC by the Security Council obligates all UN members to arrest those indicted should they flee Libya. ([Washington Post](#))

May 13: Supply lines in the western mountain regions remained under siege by Qaddafi forces stationed throughout the mountain range’s desert plains. The mountain towns are linked by a single road that runs from the Tunisian border to within 93 miles of Tripoli. The road has low sections which leave the road vulnerable to attack from Qaddafi fighters. Residents of the mountain towns described an emerging humanitarian crisis emerging from the siege by Qaddafi troops. ([Reuters](#))

May 12: Libyan officials reported two Libyan reporters and their guide killed in yesterday’s NATO airstrike against Qaddafi’s Bab al Azizia compound in Tripoli. Libyan officials led foreign journalists through the compound, showing a bomb crater near a children’s play ground and administrative buildings reportedly destroyed in the blast. Government spokesman Musa Ibrahim characterized the strike as NATO “billions of dollars [spent] on death.” According to one report, it was believed the target of the strike was a series of underground tunnels and bunkers used by Qaddafi. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 12: Fighting renewed in eastern Libya, where a nearly two month old stalemate has gripped both sides. Residents in Ajdabiya reported three rockets striking the town, but no casualties were reported. Local doctor Ahmed Al-Ignashi said there was heavy fighting was occurring at Brega, west of Ajdabiya, between entrenched government troops outside the town and advancing rebel forces from the east. ([Al-Jazeera](#))

MAY 12: Libyan government officials reported six people killed in an NATO airstrike on Qaddafi’s Bab al Azizia compound in Tripoli. It was not clear the identities of those killed in the strike. The strike occurred hours after Libyan state television aired footage of Qaddafi meeting with eastern Tribal leaders. It is the only known fresh footage of the Libyan leader since the April 30th NATO airstrike that killed his youngest son, Saif al-Arab. ([ABC News](#))

MAY 11: Government forces appeared to have been largely defeated inside Misrata according to reports. Rebel fighters took the heavily contested airport as well as terrain in the south and east, areas where Qaddafi forces have launched strikes against the city’s port. The loss of key terrain within and around the city put Qaddafi’s heavy artillery out of range of Misrata. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 11: American photographers James Foley of GlobalPost.com and Clare Morgana Gillis of The Atlantic and Spanish photographer Manu Brabo, who have all been detained for a month, reportedly met with foreign diplomats in Tripoli. GlobalPost.com CEO Phillip Balboni said that all three photographers were in good health and being treated well. ([AFP](#))

MAY 11: Pro-Qaddafi forces continued their bombardment of Zintan. A rebel spokesman named Abdulrahman reported that 20 to 25 Grad rockets were fired into the town, killing one rebel and wounding three others. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 11: Government forces have abandoned Misrata’s airport to an approaching rebel advance, according to reports. The retreat comes amid major territorial gains made by rebels in Misrata who have reportedly broken government lines in the western area of the city, and have driven as far west as Qaryat az Zurayq, 12 miles west of Misrata. A rebel spokesman named Abdulmolah added that Qaddafi fighters were surrounded by rebel forces in the southern towns of Awjilah and Jalu. ([Al-Jazeera](#), [CNN](#), [Reuters](#))

MAY 11: Libyan officials are reportedly extorting Libyans seeking to flee the country. Libyan officials have ceased attempting to halt the migration, and have instead turned to seeking a profit by charging refugees either cash or their valuable possessions to leave. Libyan officials have not issued a statement about this allegation. The UN reports that at 12,360 people have fled Libya since the rebellion began 12 weeks ago. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

MAY 10: The UN Refugee Agency accused Qaddafi of dangerously overloading boats with refugees in hopes of capsizing the ships. The accusation followed the capsizing of an overloaded ship that may have resulted in the deaths of 600 people. The UN stated that Libyan soldiers are forcing refugees to overload ships. Some believe Qaddafi is making good on his earlier warning that Europe would be “flooded with illegal immigration” after NATO airstrikes first began. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 10: According to one report, International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo will seek the arrest warrants of Muammar Qaddafi, Saif al-Islam Qaddafi, and Libyan Intelligence chief Abdullah Al Senussi. Each man is believed to be charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity. The names of 88 Libyan officials listed for sanctions in UN Resolution 1970 are expected to be added to an ICC arrest list to be released Monday, May 16th. ([Al Arabiya](#))

MAY 10: A government command and control center was struck in Tripoli according to NATO. Residents said one of the buildings struck was used by the military intelligence agency. No casualties have been reported. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 9: Qaddafi forces were repelled in an attack at the town of al-Arbaeen, half way between rebel-held Ajdabiya and Qaddafi-controlled Brega. Rebel commander Hamed al-Hafi reported that seventeen government military vehicles and fifty-seven pro-Qaddafi were killed in the fight. Al-Hafi noted that one of Qaddafi’s sons, Mutassim, commands the government forces in Brega. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 9: Pro-Qaddafi forces were reportedly pushed out of the western side of Misrata, amid an 18 mile advance made by rebels west of the city. Rebel forces said government forces continued to hold the city’s airport and positions to the east and southeast, where Qaddafi forces have launched rocket strikes against the port. The retreating government forces reportedly pulled farther west towards the town of Zlitan. ([BBC](#), [New York Times](#))

MAY 9: Zintan remained under siege by government forces. Rebel fighters at the Tunisian border said the town is surrounded on three sides by government forces. Shelling is described as indiscriminate as shells reportedly landed across the border into Tunisia. No discernable frontline exists with fighting coming as close as within 9 miles of the town on some days. Government forces reportedly use their position in the nearby mountains’ valley to launch mortar and rocket attacks into the towns above them. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 8: Pro-Qaddafi forces on the outskirts of Misrata continue to evade NATO airstrikes by concealing tanks and artillery pieces in civilian areas. Employing a tactic characterized as “shoot and scoot,” Qaddafi fighters will open fire on the city, and then take cover between buildings before rebel forces or NATO warplanes can target the fighters’ positions. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 8: Government forces continued their counter-assault upon the city of Misrata. Three fuel storage tanks were reported destroyed by Qaddafi forces on Saturday, compounding the fuel-shortage crisis in the city. Heavy fighting occurred near Misrata’s airport as government forces holding the facility repelled a rebel attack. ([Los Angeles Times](#), [Reuters UK](#))

MAY 6: Following the expulsion of two Libyan diplomats from Britain, France declared 14 Libyan diplomats “persona non grata.” French government officials did not provide further details on their expulsion. France formally recognized

the transitional government in Benghazi after the rebellion broke out. British Foreign Secretary William Hague said the two diplomats were expelled for “unacceptable behavior.” ([Associated Press](#), [Voice of America](#))

MAY 6: Intense fighting occurred throughout the western mountain region of Libya. Residents of Nalut reported Grad rockets landing at the town’s outskirts. Clashes occurred around the village of Ghezaya, roughly six miles from the Tunisian border. A rebel named Wassim reported “there [were] several dead and injured on both sides.” Rebel spokesman Abdulrahman said Qaddafi forces outside Zintan fired 50 rockets into the town. ([Associated Press](#), [Reuters](#), [Tunisian African Press Agency](#))

MAY 6: Qaddafi hosted hundreds of tribal leaders in Tripoli in an effort to shore up support for his campaign against the current rebellion. George Joffe, a Columbia University professor who has studied Libya, observed that key tribes were missing from the rally, especially the eastern and western Berber tribes, which have been historically hostile to Qaddafi’s rule. Also included among those tribes absent were the southern tribes, which have been neutral since the conflict began. Mansour Khalaf, chief of Libya’s largest tribe, the Warfalla, expressed limited support for the government. Khalaf condemned the uprising, but said he would not contribute armed fighters to Libyan forces fighting the rebels. ([Wall Street Journal](#))

MAY 6: The Libyan government was accused by the human rights watch group, Amnesty International, of illegally using artillery indiscriminately against residential areas in Misrata. The group issued a report detailing strikes by Grad rockets, 155 mm artillery, and cluster munitions which, Amnesty said, “under international humanitarian law, none of these weapons should ever be used in populated residential areas.” The group said such actions were tantamount to war crimes. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 5: Dalia Advisory Ltd, Libya’s London-based broadcasting company, and Lafico Algeria Holdings, an Algeria-based subsidiary of the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company, were imposed with US sanctions. The US has frozen \$34 billion in Libyan government assets to date. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 4: Reports continued to circulate that government troops outside Misrata were preparing to launch a chemical weapons attack upon the town. Rebels reported seeing Libyan troops being issued gas masks. Sources inside Libya claimed that Qaddafi has a secret cache of 9 tons of mustard gas near his hometown of Sirte. ([Washington Times](#))

MAY 5: Libyan government officials claimed that 2,000 tribal chiefs, representing all 850 of Libya’s tribes, gathered for a meeting with Qaddafi. The officials described the gathering a sign of widespread support for Qaddafi. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 5: Government trucks transporting what a rebel spokesman said were helicopters were destroyed in a NATO airstrike near the town of Zintan. The spokesman, called Abdulrahman, said ““NATO destroyed two or three helicopters carried by big trucks.” ([Reuters](#))

MAY 5: International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said he will formally seek the arrest warrants of three members of the Qaddafi regime, down from the five warrants he previously had said he would seek. The charges are likely to be crimes against humanity, specifically the deliberate targeting and killing of Libyan civilians by the Libyan government. Moreno-Ocampo did not provide further details about whom he was seeking charges against, but earlier reports indicated it is likely to be against Qaddafi and members of his inner circle. ([Voice of America](#))

MAY 4: The Libyan government reminded the international community that Libya was the first nation to issue an arrest warrant for the now deceased Al-Qaeda leader, Osama Bin Laden. The statement is similar to previous claims by Libyan officials that the rebel forces are Al-Qaeda fighters and criminal gangs. The opposition government in Benghazi has repeatedly denied any ties with the terrorist group. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 4: Government forces shelled Misrata's port as the Red Star One, a humanitarian aid ship, docked and attempted to evacuate foreign workers. Othman Belbeisi, an official for the International Organization of Migration which charters the Red Star One, said the bombardment began minutes after the ship docked into the port. The shelling follows earlier statements by Libyan officials that government forces would attempt to cut off access to the port. Four people were reported killed from the rocket fire. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 4: Muammar Qaddafi is still believed to be alive according to a senior US intelligence official. CIA Director Leon Panetta said in an interview that "the best intelligence we have is that he's [Qaddafi] still alive." Rumors regarding Qaddafi's status circulated after he had not been seen or heard from since the NATO airstrike last Saturday on his Tripoli compound. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 4: Pro-Qaddafi forces stationed outside Misrata intensified their bombardment of the city's port. Rebel spokesman Gemal Salem reported five dead as well as bombardment of the city's Qasr Ahmed district. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 4: Government forces shelled the town of Zintan. Rebel forces reported approximately 40 Grad rockets landing in the town. A town spokesman, Khaled Aburaqiqa, reported no casualties from the shelling but said six people died in fighting Monday and Tuesday. Aburaqiqa estimated the total death toll to be 100 people since Qaddafi forces besieged the town. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 3: International Criminal Court Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo submitted a report to the UN Security Council stating that he has credible evidence that 500 to 700 Libyan civilians have been targeted and killed by government forces. Moreno-Ocampo's report also raised concerns that opposition groups were arresting and harming sub-Saharan Africans believed to be mercenaries hired by Qaddafi. Moreno-Ocampo stated he will submit a request for arrest warrants in the next few weeks against Qaddafi and members of his regime for crimes against humanity. ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 3: Libyan government officials denied that Qaddafi has personal funds in Swiss bank accounts. The denial followed a report by the Swiss that Qaddafi has potentially illegal assets estimated at nearly \$418 million spread throughout Swiss bank accounts. Libyan Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Kaim stated that any money found was closer \$25 million and was part of the Libyan government's foreign investment portfolio. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 3: Pro-Qaddafi forces continued their sustained bombardment of Misrata's port, preventing aid from entering the city for the fourth straight day. A rebel spokesman named Safieddin also reported additional fighting at the southern and eastern outskirts. ([Guardian](#), [Reuters](#))

MAY 3: Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan joined the growing international call for Qaddafi's ouster from power. Erdogan stated that Qaddafi deliberately ignored the diplomatic options before him, and "chose blood, tears, oppression and attacks on his own people. The thing that needs to be done is Muammar Qaddafi to immediately step down from power that he holds in Libya." Erdogan's statement followed criticisms by the Qaddafi regime and opposition that Turkey was hedging its bets in the conflict by dealing with both sides. ([New York Times](#))

MAY 2: The International Criminal Court's Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo stated he would seek five arrest warrants against certain members of the Qaddafi regime, but did not disclose any names. Moreno-Ocampo alleged that the Qaddafi regime has been indiscriminately detaining and killing civilians. Moreno-Ocampo is expected to brief the Security Council of his findings on Wednesday. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 2: Approximately two thousand people attended the funeral of Qaddafi's youngest son, Saif al-Arab, who was killed in a NATO airstrike over the weekend. Two of Qaddafi's sons, Saif al-Islam and Mohammad, were in attendance. Qaddafi was reportedly not at the funeral, and has not made any public appearances since al-Arab's death. The crowd

chanted “the people want revenge for the martyr” and “revenge, revenge for you, Libya.” ([Washington Post](#))

MAY 2: Government forces continued their assaults on the western mountain region. Government forces reportedly fired Grad rockets into Zintan Monday night. Rebel spokesman Abdulrahman said ten rockets fired from the north of the town. No casualties were reported. Refugees from the besieged town of Yafran described a continuous barrage by Qaddafi forces stationed outside the town. ([Reuters](#), [Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 2: Heavy fighting reportedly continued throughout the western mountain region of Libya. Rebel spokesman Abdulrahman reported that Qaddafi forces were indiscriminately shelling the town of Zintan, and were attempting to “enter the town from three sides: the east, southeast and northeast.” Yifran resident Saleh Aouni reported that “not an hour goes by without shelling” from Qaddafi forces. ([Reuters Africa](#))

MAY 2: Government forces deployed outside the western mountain town of Zintan suffered a loss of 10 to 12 tanks according to rebel spokesman Abdulrahman. He reported that NATO airstrikes struck the eastern area of the town overnight, destroying the tanks stationed at that location. ([Reuters](#))

MAY 2: Rumors circulated throughout Misrata that government forces were preparing to launch chemical weapons into the city. The rumors followed renewed shelling by government forces stationed outside Misrata. Libyan activist Rida al-Montasser reported that Qaddafi forces were being issued gas masks. Qaddafi reportedly gave up his chemical weapons program in 2003, but some believe that he secretly retained some of his stockpile. ([Associated Press](#))

MAY 1: Government forces reportedly bombarded Misrata’s port, killing twelve civilians. Rebel spokesman Ahmed Hassan reported that the shelling began as humanitarian ships were offloading supplies onto the dock. The bombardment followed statements made by the Libyan government two days earlier that the ships were smuggling in weapons for rebel fighters, and that any ship attempting to enter the port would be shelled. No ships were reported struck during the bombardment. ([Reuters Africa](#), [Associated Press](#))

MAY 1: Qaddafi’s youngest son, Saif al-Arab, was killed in a NATO airstrike on Qaddafi’s Bab Azizia compound in Tripoli. Government spokesman Musa Ibrahim reported that Qaddafi “is in good health. He was not harmed.” Three of Qaddafi’s grandchildren were also reported killed in the strike. ([Los Angeles Times](#))