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## • Libya tribal clashes claim 70

Thursday, March 29, 2012

- TRIPOLI, Libya (AFP) — Three days of clashes between tribes in the southern Libyan town of Sabha have killed more than 70 people, Libyan government spokesman Nasser al-Manaa said yesterday.

"It is regrettable that more than 70 people have been killed and more than 150 have been wounded" since Monday in the desert town of Sabha, the spokesman told a news conference in Tripoli.

Local officials said the fighting which is pitting the Toubou tribe against Arab tribes in Sabha had eased, and efforts to secure a truce were underway yesterday, although the Toubou claimed they were facing a "massacre".

"There are still clashes but not as intense," in Sabha, said Abdelmajid Seif al-Nasser, a town official who quit his post on Tuesday from the ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) in protest at the violence.

"The national army and a committee of elders have entered the town in a bid to secure a truce," Nasser, who represented the NTC in Sabha, told AFP

earlier yesterday.

- But Toubou tribesmen said rival Arab tribesmen from Sabha were "surrounding" them in the Tayuri and al-Hijara neighbourhoods and shelling them since the early hours of the morning.

"Al-Hijara is surrounded from all sides. All the Arab (tribes) are against us. They are bombarding us using all sorts of rockets indiscriminately. It is a real massacre," said Karima Jaber, a Sabha airport employee.

Toubou chief Issa Abdel Majid Mansur said earlier this week that 40 members of his tribe had been killed, and accused Libyan authorities of using warplanes and tanks against his community.

Speaking to AFP, Mansur denounced what he said was a plan to "ethnically cleanse" his people, and raised the threat of a separatist bid.

- "We announce the reactivation of the Toubou Front for the Salvation of Libya, an opposition group active under the former regime) to protect the Toubou people from ethnic cleansing," Mansur said.

"If necessary, we will demand international intervention and work towards the creation of a state, as in South Sudan," he said.

Ali al-Dib, a former rebel, said the clashes erupted in the city centre when the Toubou refused to hand over to local authorities one of their men accused of killing a member of the Bussif tribe.

The Toubou are black oasis farmers by tradition who also have connections beyond Libya's borders. They live in southern Libya, northern Chad and in Niger, and have previously denied having separatist ambitions.

The Toubou have also been involved in deadly clashes with another tribe in the Saharan oasis of Kufra, where ethnic groups are locked in a stand-off over smuggling.

[AP Interview: Libya's Leader Admits Instability : NPR](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=149413389)

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=149413389>

## • AP Interview: Libya's Leader Admits Instability

by The Associated Press

- BENGHAZI, Libya *March 26, 2012*
- BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) — Libya's leader acknowledged Monday that his government has failed to act quickly to restore stability, just as at least 20 people were killed in tribal battles in a southern city.
- The deadly clashes underlined the fragile nature of Libya after the fall of longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi. The central government has been unable to impose its authority even in the capital, and Libya is ruled instead by squabbling tribes and militias.

Libya's National Transitional Council chief Mustafa Abdul-Jalil was welcomed as a well-intentioned figure when he took over from Gadhafi last year. Even he agrees now with critics that his government is not providing strong enough leadership.

"I am not satisfied with the performance of the government or the NTC, because it is too slow in making decisions and is weak and lacks confidence in its decision making," Abdul-Jalil told The Associated Press on Monday during a visit to the eastern city of Benghazi.

He said incompetent ministers may be dismissed in the coming months, but he gave no specifics. A 200-member assembly elected in June has the job of appointing new Cabinet ministers.

The NTC leader was in Benghazi to discuss a recent decision by eastern leaders to form their own semiautonomous state, known as Barqa. The state would have its own parliament, police force, courts and capital in Benghazi, the country's second largest city.

Though organizers deny it, the move carries with it the possibility that Libya might break up into at least two states.

- As Abdul-Jalil was visiting the city to try to blunt the repercussions of the decision, the country was facing a variety of other problems.

In the southern city of Sabha, 400 miles (650 kilometers) south of Tripoli, clashes erupted after a man from the Tabu tribe allegedly killed a member of the Abu Seif tribe.

Surgeon Ahmed Ali al-Hefnawi said most of the 20 dead fighters were killed by gunfire. Ahmed al-Hamrouni, a former rebel commander in the city, said the tribes were fighting with automatic rifles and rockets with a range of 10 kilometers (six miles). The tribes were fighting in the city's main streets, and black plumes of smoke could be seen rising from Sabha's airport as well, he said.

According to Hassan Moussa, a Tabu commander, his people were supposed to meet the Abu Seif tribe for reconciliation when they came under attack Monday outside a government building.

Officials said they were investigating, but their government was incapable of stopping the violence.

Sabha, once a bastion of support for Gadhafi, was one of the last cities to fall under rebel control last year. It is also the last major city in Libya's far south and lies on a key road leading to the border with Niger.

- In Benghazi, about 30 people held a sit-in at the main airport, holding up flights to the capital, Tripoli. The protesters were demanding payments from the government for their role in the uprising, saying that some rebel fighters have received pay while others have not.

Along the country's eastern frontier, frustrated local residents said they were still waiting for the government to send border guards. The residents took control of the border crossing and closed it on Saturday, charging that officials and some tribal members were involved in rampant drugs and weapons smuggling.

The residents allowed people to cross Monday.

In Tripoli, officials held another round of meetings with militiamen who have been securing the country's main international airport since August. The militia's commander and many of his men left their posts Sunday, saying they are being forced to work for free, securing government institutions in the absence of a police force or national army — another sign, they say, of the government's failures.

### [Libya's 'non state': Tribal war claims 50 lives — RT](http://rt.com/news/libya-ntc-tribal-wars-621)

<http://rt.com/news/libya-ntc-tribal-wars-621>

- Libya's 'non state': Tribal war claims 50 lives
- Published: 28 March, 2012
- 50 have been killed and dozens injured in Libya as tribal groups are fighting in the country's south. After the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya is left in a condition which some residents call a 'non state'.

The fighting between rival armed militias, ongoing since Sunday, has spilled into the center of Libya's third largest city of Sabha on Tuesday. The country's National Transitional Council initially sent out 300 of its troops to calm the situation but the contingent had to be reinforced two-fold, Reuters said.

However, there are reports that the national army may have retreated from the city. *"We know that they are here to try to solve the problem and not fight,"* Sabha fighter Oweidat al-Hifnawi told the agency. *"There are unconfirmed reports that they have retreated out of the city."*

The fighting resulted in the resignation of an NTC representative to Sabha, Abdulmajid Saif al-Nasser. He said that he was leaving his post as the council proved unable, or unwilling, to curb the violence.

*"I have not seen any reaction from the Council to what is happening now in Sabha. The air force has not been sent out, there was only a plane from the health ministry carrying medicine,"* he said. *"The state is supposed to intervene in these cases but there is no state."*

- The ongoing fighting started after a man from the Tibu tribe allegedly killed a member of the Sabha tribe. The country's Health Ministry confirmed that most of the 50 dead, already killed in the clashes, perished from gunshot and shrapnel wounds. 160 more have been left injured.

The National Transitional Council, which came to power after the ouster of the country's former leader Muammar Gaddafi, is struggling to establish its control over the whole of Libya. The council is trying to persuade tribal militias, busy with fighting over power and resources in the uncontrolled country, to lay down their arms and join national army and police.

The lawlessness Libya has plunged into is the direct result of how the current government came into power, Oxford-based freelance journalist Neil Clark told RT.

*"The main problem is that Libya is awash with arms. And who is to blame for this? It's the Western powers, who gave these arms to the rebels to topple Gaddafi. And now you have different tribal militias all heavily armed. You have got a very weak divided government in*

*Tripoli, which cannot control its territory. You have got a real recipe for anarchy at the moment," he explained.*

*"The main Western news channels are not covering the story the way they are not covering Iraq. In the end of the story Gaddafi is gone, and they are really not interested in reporting what's going on, which is a human rights catastrophe," he added.*

## [Libya struggles to end deadly militia clashes](http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Libya+struggles+deadly+militia+clashes/6369805/story.html)

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# • **Libya struggles to end deadly militia clashes**

## **Troops put themselves between factions as ruling council tries to stop bloodshed**

By TAHA ZARGOUN, Reuters March 28, 2012

- Three days of clashes between rival militias in southern Libya spread to the centre of the country's fourth largest city Sabha on Tuesday despite the deployment of army troops trying to stop the violence which has so far killed nearly 50 people.

Fighting between gunmen from Sabha and those from the Tibu ethnic group had reached the centre of the city, said Ibrahim Misbah, a doctor at the main hospital.

An Interior Ministry official said the army had sent 300 soldiers stationed in southern Libya to help calm the situation on Monday. Another 300 soldiers left Tripoli on Tuesday to assist, he added.

Sabha fighter Oweidat al-Hifnawi said government forces had arrived in Sabha and were "in the middle of the clashes."

The ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) is struggling to assert its authority across Libya, where rival militias and tribal groups are jostling for power and resources after the revolution that ousted Moammar Gadhafi.

- Hampered by a lack of a coherent national army, the NTC has struggled to persuade the many militias who fought Gadhafi to lay down their arms and join the armed forces and police.

Abdulmajid Saif al-Nasser, an NTC representative for Sabha, said he was resigning in protest because he said the Council was not doing enough to stop the violence.

"I have not seen any reaction from the council to what is happening now in Sabha. The air force has not been sent out, there was only a plane from the health ministry carrying medicine," he told Libyan television. "The state is supposed to intervene in these cases ... but there is no state."

Fourteen people were killed on Tuesday and 30 people wounded, Misbah said, giving numbers for the Sabha side. Around 20 people were killed in fighting by Monday, he said.

- Ali Galama, a Tibu representative on the NTC from Murzuq, south of Sabha, said 15 people were killed on the Tibu side and 18 were wounded.

The fighting broke out on Sunday after a Sabha man was killed in a dispute over a car.

A fighter called Hifnawi said the clashes had moved from around the airport to the downtown area. "There are Tibu snipers all over the Sabha city centre and the number of the wounded keeps going up," he said.

Last month, dozens of people were killed in clashes between tribes in the far southeastern province of Al Kufra. Armed forces eventually intervened to stop the fighting.

### [Militia clashes in southern Libya kill nearly 50 | Reuters](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/27/us-libya-clashes-idUSBRE82Q15K20120327?irpc=932)

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- Militia clashes in southern Libya kill nearly 50
- By Taha Zargoun

TRIPOLI | Tue Mar 27, 2012 7:55pm EDT

- (Reuters) - Three days of clashes between rival militias in southern Libya spread to the centre of the country's fourth largest city Sabha on Tuesday despite the deployment of army troops trying to stop the violence which has so far killed nearly 50 people.

The clashes highlight the problems the government faces in imposing its authority following the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi last year.

Fighting between gunmen from Sabha and those from the Tibu ethnic group had reached the centre of the city, said Ibrahim Misbah, a doctor at the main hospital.

- An Interior Ministry official said the army had sent 300 soldiers stationed in southern Libya to help calm the situation on Monday. Another 300 soldiers left Tripoli on Tuesday to assist, he added.

Sabha fighter Oweidat al-Hifnawi said government forces had arrived in Sabha and were "in the middle of the clashes".

"We know that they are here to try to solve the problem and not fight," he said. "There are unconfirmed reports that they have retreated out of the city."

The ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) is struggling to assert its authority across Libya, where rival militias and tribal groups are jostling for power and resources after the revolution that ousted Gaddafi.

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"I have not seen any reaction from the Council to what is happening now in Sabha. The air force has not been sent out, there was only a plane from the health ministry carrying medicine," he told Libyan television. "The state is supposed to intervene in these cases ... but there is no state."

- CLOSE TO 50 PEOPLE KILLED

Fourteen people were killed on Tuesday and 30 people wounded, Misbah said, giving numbers for the Sabha side. Around 20 people were killed in fighting by Monday, he said.

"The hospital crew has been working around the clock since Monday night and the injured keep coming in," he told Reuters.

Ali Galama, a Tibu representative on the NTC from Murzuq, south of Sabha, said 15 people were killed on the Tibu side and 18 were wounded. While he was speaking from Benghazi, he said he was in touch with Tibu in the area by telephone.

The fighting broke out on Sunday after a Sabha man was killed in a dispute over a car.

A fighter called Hifnawi said the clashes had moved from around the airport to the downtown area. "There are Tibu snipers all over the Sabha city centre and the number of the wounded keeps going up," Hifnawi said.

Mousa al-Koni, a Tibu representative on the NTC, said by phone from Tunis that the clashes had escalated after Tibu former fighters tried to steal a car from a member of the Sabha militia. He said a reconciliation committee was being formed to help stop the violence.

Last month, dozens of people were killed in clashes between tribes in the far southeastern province of Al Kufra. Armed forces eventually intervened to stop the fighting, in a rare example of the Tripoli government imposing its authority.

(Writing By Hadeel Al-Shalchi and Marie-Louise Gumuchian, editing by David Stamp)

### [Libyan interim PM confirms capture of Gaddafi's son Saif al-Islam, promises fair trial](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-11/20/c_131257702.htm)

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-11/20/c\\_131257702.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-11/20/c_131257702.htm)

- [Libyan interim PM confirms capture of Gaddafi's son Saif al-Islam, promises fair trial](#)
- [English.news.cn](#) 2011-11-20
- ZINTAN, Libya, Nov. 19 (Xinhua) -- Libyan interim Prime Minister Abdel Rahim el-Keab Saturday confirmed the capture of Saif al-Islam, the second son of late ousted Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, in the south of the country.

Keab also promised a fair trial for Saif al-Islam, who has been on the run for months and is wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity.

"We assure Libyans and the world that Saif al-Islam will receive a fair trial," he said at a televised news conference held in the western Libyan town of Zintan, where Saif al-Islam is being kept in custody.

Keab said Saif al-Islam would be treated well in accordance with international law and the Libyan judicial authorities would communicate with the International Criminal Court to determine where he must be tried.

- "Any cooperation with international institutions is welcome," Keab said, adding Saif's capture marked a "historic" day and the start of a new chapter for the North African nation.

"We are going to show Saif al-Islam who we are -- we are not some armed band, we are freedom-seekers," he said.

Hinting that Saif would be tried in Libya, Keab said the Libyan authorities have the right to try Saif for the crimes he committed to the Libyan people and a special judicial institution would deal with the issue by law.

The interim premier did not give any details on Saif's capture.

Saif was seized in Sebha, a desert town in southern Libya, Bobkar Bobmala, a military

officer of the ruling National Transitional Council (NTC), or the interim government, announced in Tripoli earlier Saturday.

- "This is a historic moment for the new born Libya," said a soldier named Assad Arabi. "He and his father killed so many people, now it's time for them to pay back."

Saif was transferred by plane to Zintan, a city about 100 km southwest of Tripoli.

His seizure came one day before the NTC is expected to announce the list of a new transitional government Sunday. At Tripoli, thousands of residents Saturday took to the streets to celebrate the capture of Saif, waving flags and guns.

Saif has been on the run since forces of the NTC took over Tripoli in late August.

The International Criminal Court in The Hague issued warrants on June 27 against Saif, his father and Abdullah al-Senussi, former intelligence chief in Gaddafi's regime, on charges of crimes against humanity in cracking down on anti-Gaddafi protests.

Muammar Gaddafi and his another son, Mutassim, were captured alive by NTC forces in his hometown Sirte in late October, but both died shortly in murky circumstances.

### [Libya: civil war poised to resume - Telegraph](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/8738642/Libya-civil-war-poised-to-resume.html)

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## • **Libya: civil war poised to resume**

**Libya's civil war was poised to resume as an ultimatum to two key cities to surrender to rebel forces ran out.**

- By [Richard Spencer](#), Ruth Sherlock in Tripoli

8:09PM BST 02 Sep 2011

- Rebel troops were on their way to reinforce front lines near Bani Walid, south of Tripoli, where Saif al-Islam and Mutassim Gaddafi, two of the former dictator's sons, were said to be leading last-ditch defences.

Leaders of the [Libyan](#) rebel National Transitional Council (NTC) have been negotiating with tribal leaders in the town to surrender peacefully.

But *The Daily Telegraph* has been told that a refusal to offer immunity to local Gaddafi volunteers accused of crimes carried out in his name stood in the way of an agreement.

In any case, the 500-600 Gaddafi fighters the rebels believe to be in the town would not be bound by an agreement made by local leaders and Saif al-Islam, along with his father, has issued public statements promising to fight on.

After the last Gaddafi forces fled Tripoli last weekend, led by Gaddafi and at least two of his children who were all spotted in southern Tripoli on Friday of last week, major fighting reached a halt.

- The NTC gave the last three major Gaddafi strongholds, Bani Walid, Sirte on the coast, and Sabha in the southern desert, until today to surrender.

The ultimatum to Sirte, where a major battle has been expected for weeks, was extended to give local leaders more time to persuade their followers to change sides.

That did not apply to Bani Walid, Dr Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, NTC member for the town, said. He believed the rebel forces would be welcomed into the town, adding: "Believe me, the people there are ready to receive us, and we will attack very soon."

On Thursday, Col Abdulrazzaq al-Nadouli, deputy commander of rebel forces in the town of Tarhouna, near the front line, said his troops were just 40 miles from Bani Walid. Rebel forces are also moving on Sirte. They were 30 miles away to the east in Wadi Hawarah, a rebel spokesman said.

Elsewhere, the NTC promised life would start returning to normal from today.