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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.

## [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)

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Libya+struggles+deadly+militia+clashes/6369805/story.html>

## • **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)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/27/us-libya-clashes-idUSBRE82Q15K20120327?irpc=932>

- 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.

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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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- 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)

## [BBC News - Battles over Libya's dangerous migrant smuggling routes](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-17481181)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-17481181>

- 23 March 2012

# • **Battles over Libya's dangerous migrant smuggling routes**

By Wyre Davies BBC News, Kufra, Libya

- The town of Kufra in Libya's distant southern desert is a long way from anywhere - historically it was a key trading station and place of rest for travellers between central and northern Africa. It has also long had a reputation for smuggling and in recent years that cargo has increasingly been human beings.

Although there was relatively little fighting in this dusty, run-down town during last year's uprising against Libya's former leader Col Muammar Gaddafi, there have been violent clashes in recent weeks in which more than 100 people have lost their lives.

The fighting has been between local Arab Zwiya groups and the Tabu - black Africans associated with the smuggling trade from Chad and further afield.

- The Tabu have been accused of fomenting violence and instability to keep the border tense and their smuggling routes open.

Perhaps predictably, caught up in the middle are thousands of refugees and economic migrants from sub-Saharan Africa.

Migrants seeking jobs and a better life or fleeing violence in their home countries have often moved through Libya and used Kufra as a staging point.

But the new Libyan government says the situation along its southern border is becoming unmanageable.

To be more exact the concerns and complaints come from local officials in the Kufra region - there is no sense of any central authority here in the desert, and that is part of the problem.

Robbed by traffickers

- At an old abandoned police station in the centre of Kufra we found more than 800 African refugees and migrants. They were mainly men but some women also from Somalia, Chad, Sudan and beyond.

Most of the men I spoke to had paid large sums of money to unscrupulous traffickers to facilitate the long journey across the desert. Many, like one young man from Somalia had then been robbed of everything he had left.

"It was a really long, difficult journey," he told me as he sat, crammed in the dusty

courtyard, shoulder to shoulder with hundreds of others.

"Near the border [with Chad] we were held and beaten for many days. Everything we had was taken from us."

The refugees say they are being well looked after by the local council in Kufra.

- Conditions are basic and cramped but a large pot of pasta and vegetables, cooking on the open fire, suggested they were being fed and given basic shelter.

Although a small number of aid workers from the International Committee of the Red Cross come and go to check on the condition of the refugees, local officials say it is not enough.

Ali Abdulrahim is the new Libyan government's security chief in Kufra. His sparse office overlooks the courtyard crowded with quiet, stoical but almost expressionless migrants.

"We need much more help from the aid agencies, but these people cannot stay here," says Mr Abdulrahim.

"We have to do something about our open borders."

- Desperate measures

Local officials and Arab (Zwia) fighters say that armed men, often coming from Chad, are hiding in among the migrants and trying to penetrate Libyan territory, keeping the smuggling trade going.

- At one checkpoint outside the city I saw a truck with assorted rifles and machine guns that, soldiers said, had been confiscated from African migrants.

Sub-Saharanans are often accused in Libya of being paid fighters. Most, including the vast majority of people we came across, had nothing whatsoever to do with the fighting. They were clearly frightened and desperate people.

With little evidence of a co-ordinated approach to the problem from a non-existent central authority in distant Tripoli, the local official showed me the new, desperate, approach to containing the crisis.

"This is how we're going to keep the refugees out," says Mr Abdulrahim, showing me a small mountain of old, wrecked cars some already loaded into trucks.

The plan was simple - but almost certainly unworkable. A 150km (93 mile) "barrier" along part of Libya's border with Chad, five metres high and made from nothing but old cars.

Desperate times bring desperate measures.

## Amnesty International | Working to Protect Human Rights

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/region/libya/report-2011>

- Libya
- Head of state

Mu'ammarr al-Gaddafi

Head of government

al-Baghdadi Ali al-Mahmoudi

Death penalty

retentionist

Population

6.5 million

Life expectancy

74.5 years

Under-5 mortality (m/f)

20/19 per 1,000

Adult literacy

88.4 per cent

- The authorities restricted rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly and repressed virtually all dissent. Hundreds of prisoners continued to be arbitrarily detained on security grounds, including some who had been acquitted by courts or had completed prison sentences, although releases were reported. Foreign nationals suspected of entering Libya irregularly were subject to indefinite detention and ill-treatment; they included refugees and asylum-seekers. At least 18 executions were reported. The government failed to disclose the findings of an investigation into an incident at Abu Salim Prison in 1996 when hundreds of inmates were alleged to have been killed by security forces, and took no action to provide justice for victims of gross human rights violations committed in the 1970s-1990s.

## • **Background**

In May, Libya was elected to the UN Human Rights Council and in November to the board of a new UN body established to promote the rights of women. Also in November, Libya's human rights record was assessed under the UN Universal Periodic Review; the government rejected recommendations calling for the death penalty not to be applicable to "offences" related to freedom of expression, and to disclose the names of victims killed in Abu Salim Prison in Tripoli. A planned visit to Libya by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention did not take place and the government did not accede to a request to visit by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture.

Negotiations between the EU and Libya on a Framework Agreement continued. Following a visit by EU Commissioners in October, the EU and Libya agreed a joint "co-operation agenda" on controlling migration.

Swiss businessmen Rachid Hamdani and Max Goeldi were released in February and June respectively and permitted to leave Libya. Both had been detained on politically

motivated charges and banned from travel following a diplomatic row between Libya and Switzerland over the arrest in Geneva in 2008 of a son of Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Gaddafi.

In December, the Gaddafi Development Foundation, headed by Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi, a son of the Libyan leader, announced that it will no longer address human rights concerns.

- **Repression of dissent**

The government maintained strict curbs on freedom of expression, association and assembly, and government critics faced arrest and risked prosecution under laws criminalizing peaceful dissent, including the Penal Code and Law 71 of 1972. These prescribe severe punishments – including the death penalty – for activities that amount to no more than the peaceful exercise of freedom of expression and association. Some prisoners were released.

- On 8 March, Abdelnasser al-Rabbasi was released early from a 15-year prison sentence imposed for “undermining the prestige of the Leader of the Revolution” after he sent an email to the Arab Times newspaper held to be critical of the Libyan leader. He had been held since January 2003.
- On 14 April, Jamal el-Haji was released after the State Security Court acquitted him of insulting the judiciary. He had been arrested in December 2009 after making an official complaint about ill-treatment when he was detained from February 2007 to March 2009.

The media was heavily restricted and largely state-controlled, although privately owned newspapers associated with Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi continued to express some criticism of state corruption and inefficiency.

On 21 January, the privately owned daily newspapers Oea and Cyrene announced that they would only publish online. Oea later reported that the suspension of its print version was a result of “a story which later proved to be true”. While Oea’s weekly supplement went back to print in July, the Secretary of the General People’s Committee (the Prime Minister) ordered its suspension in November following the publication of an opinion piece alleging government incompetence and corruption.

- - On 16 February, four employees of the “Good Evening Benghazi” radio programme were arrested, a day after the show was cancelled. Muftah al-Kibaili, Suleiman al-Kibaili, Khaled Ali and Ahmed Al-Maksabi were released the next day. The programme had a reputation for reporting on “sensitive” political issues.
  - On 6 November, 22 journalists of the Libya Press Agency, affiliated with Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi, were arrested several days after the authorities suspended Oea’s weekly supplement; they were quickly released following the intervention of the Libyan leader.

In December, the Libya Press Agency announced its decision to close its offices in Libya due to “security harassment”.



- **Counter-terror and security**

In January, the Secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice told the People's Congress that over 300 individuals remained imprisoned without any legal basis. In response, Mu'ammarr al-Gaddafi described them as "terrorists" and said they should not be released, but two months later over 200 prisoners were freed under a framework of "reconciliation" between the state and those suspected of security-related offences. They were said to have included 80 detainees who had been cleared by the courts or completed their sentences. On 31 August, 37 more prisoners were released, including members of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) and Abu Sufian Ibrahim Ahmed Hamuda, a former Guantánamo Bay detainee returned to Libya by the US authorities in 2007. The government said it would compensate financially those who had been detained without any legal basis, but offered no other forms of redress.

- In August, the authorities released Mahmoud Mohamed Aboushima; he had spent over five years in detention although the High Court cleared him of charges of belonging to the LIFG in July 2007.

- More than 200 people continued to be arbitrarily detained, including suspected members of armed Islamist groups and others suspected of committing "offences against the state". Some had been cleared by the courts or had completed their prison sentences; others were serving prison terms imposed after unfair trials.

- Mahmud Hamed Matar continued to serve a sentence of life imprisonment imposed after an unfair trial. He had been detained for 12 years before being tried and sentenced in February 2002 on security-related charges. Although a civilian, he was tried before a military court.
- Jalal al-Din 'Uthman Bashir remained in Abu Salim Prison. He was arrested in September 1995 and held incommunicado until 1999, when he was tried before the People's Court, convicted of supporting the LIFG and sentenced to life imprisonment. His case was reviewed in 2006 after the abolition of the notoriously unfair People's Court and his sentence was reduced to 10 years' imprisonment. 2010 was his 15th year in detention.

- **Impunity**

The government disclosed no information about the official investigation said to have been held into the Abu Salim Prison killings in June 1996, when the security forces allegedly killed up to 1,200 inmates. In Benghazi, victims' families continued to be pressured by the authorities to accept financial compensation and renounce their rights to truth or judicial redress. In October, the Organizing Committee of the Families of Victims of Abu Salim in Benghazi suspended their weekly public protests after security officials undertook to address their health, housing and socio-economic concerns.

The authorities took no steps to investigate past gross human rights violations or bring to justice those responsible.

- No investigation was held into the enforced disappearance of Jaballah Hamed Matar (brother of Mahmud Hamed Matar) and 'Ezzat Youssef al-Maqrif, prominent members of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, a banned political opposition group, who are believed to have been detained by Egyptian security officials in Cairo and handed to the Libyan authorities in March 1990.

- **Refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants**

In June, Law No. 19 of 2010 on Combating Irregular Migration was passed. This law allows for indefinite detention followed by deportation of those believed to be irregular migrants, and allows no right of appeal.

On 8 June, UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, disclosed that the Libyan government had ordered it to cease operation; it was subsequently permitted to partially resume its work but was no longer allowed to process new refugee cases or visit detention centres.

Thousands of suspected irregular migrants, including refugees and asylum-seekers, were held in severely overcrowded conditions in detention centres until July, when the authorities released over 4,000 of them and granted them three months' temporary residence.

Suspected irregular migrants faced habitual verbal abuse, beatings and other ill-treatment, in some cases amounting to torture, while detained. In early July, the Libyan leader called for an investigation into reports that about 200 Eritrean nationals had been beaten by security officials at Misratah Detention Centre on 30 June and during their forcible transfer to Al-Birak Detention Centre. By the end of the year, no information had been disclosed about the outcome of the investigation.

- **Women's rights**

The law continued to discriminate against women, notably in relation to marriage, divorce and inheritance, and polygamy remained allowed for men.

In January, a new nationality law was adopted to permit Libyan women married to foreign spouses the right to pass on Libyan nationality to their children on a similar basis as permitted for Libyan men married to foreign spouses.

- **Discrimination**

—

**members of the Tabu community**  
Members of the Tabu community in south-eastern Libya faced discriminatory measures. The authorities refused to renew or issue passports, birth certificates and other identification documents, and schools in Kufra municipality refused to enrol some Tabu students.

**Tabu community**

Forced evictions of members of the Tabu community continued in Kufra until early April; families told Amnesty International that those evicted were neither consulted about the evictions nor provided with alternative housing.

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**Death penalty**

At least 18 prisoners, possibly more, were reported to have been executed, many of

them foreign nationals. In May, a newspaper close to Saif al-Islam al-Gaddafi reported that over 200 people were on death row.

In December, Libya was one of the minority of states that voted against the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty.

### [Black Africans 'forced to eat Gaddafi's flag' in Libya - Telegraph](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/9124651/Black-Africans-forced-to-eat-Gaddafis-flag-in-Libya.html)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/9124651/Black-Africans-forced-to-eat-Gaddafis-flag-in-Libya.html>

## • **Black Africans 'forced to eat Gaddafi's flag' in Libya**

**Video has appeared on the Internet that appears to show Libyan rebels tormenting a group of black Africans, locking them in a zoo-like cage and forcing them to eat the old Libyan flag.**

- 7:00AM GMT 06 Mar 2012
- About a dozen men are sat on the ground with their hands bound and small green flags in their mouths.

Off camera, a voice screams in Arabic: "Eat you flag, you dog. Patience you dog, patience. God is great." The man nearest the camera then anxiously works his flag up between his teeth. The men are then told to stand and jump.

Black Africans acted as mercenaries in Col Muammar Gaddafi's forces, but also as migrant workers in significant numbers in the north African, Arab state.

Thousands of sub-Saharan Africans have been rounded up since the late ruler fell in August. Amnesty International said they had become "targets of stigma, discrimination and violence".

The video, which was uploaded on to the Internet last week and spotted by news sites yesterday, follows the release of footage of extremist gangs desecrating war graves in Benghazi, the former rebel stronghold.

- It was suspected that the attacks were carried out by members of a Salafist militia, who were shown kicking over graves in the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery, and may have been connected to the partial incineration of Korans at a US base in Afghanistan.

The transitional Libyan government apologised for the desecrations and promised to pursue those responsible.

### [Libyan tribes toe the line as tensions simmer | News24](http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Libyan-tribes-toe-the-line-as-tensions-simmer-20120306)

<http://www.news24.com/Africa/News/Libyan-tribes-toe-the-line-as-tensions-simmer-20120306>

## • **Libyan tribes toe the line as tensions simmer**

2012-03-06 17:13

- Kufra - Despite an army-brokered truce, tensions still simmer in the Libyan desert city of

Kufra where clashes pitting Tobou tribesmen and their allies against Zwai and other tribes claimed more than 100 lives.

"Tensions between the tribes remain but the truce, which called for a ceasefire and a halt of hostilities, has been respected," Tobou commander Issa Abdel Majid told AFP.

The national army has established a semblance of control over the city and negotiated a truce between tribal elders, an AFP reporter who visited Kufra said, but the blame game continues and allegations fly like daggers.

- Veiled women of the Zwai tribe staged a vocal protest against "Chadian forces" they blame for almost a fortnight of violence in February, said the journalist who visited the south-eastern city escorted by the authorities.

Members of the Tobou ethnic group are concentrated in Chad and Niger but also have a presence in Sudan and southern Libya. Residents say the Tobou launched the attack on Kufra by raiding a farm.

Lawyer and political activist Al-Senusi Salim Al-Qimi, who is on the local elections committee, told AFP that Chadian militias entered the city and opened fire indiscriminately.

"Since the February 17 revolution, there has been a political, administrative and security void" in Kufra, a town of 40 000 people, he said, referring to last year's uprising which toppled Muammar Gaddafi.

"A group of Chadian mercenaries sent by Abdel Majid and his Tobou supporters entered Kufra, seized the main arteries of the roundabout and began firing in all directions causing a high number of civilian casualties."

- Subject of reconciliation

That area is now void of residents and the streets are unlit.

Abdel Majid, who was previously responsible for monitoring borders in the area and allegedly abused his power for the purposes of smuggling, categorically denied the allegations to AFP.

The Tobou tribesmen, in turn, say that it is they who came under attack and that the other parties refuse to recognise them as Libyans, although they played a key role in liberating the south and registered as residents in the 1950s.

"We were one with the Zwai in the trenches when fighting against Gaddafi but since liberation they have wanted us out of the city and say we are not Libyans, which is a complete lie," said Rajab Sayyidi, a Tobou militiaman.

Kufra lies in a triangle where the borders of Egypt, Chad and Sudan meet.

Hamid Mussa al-Wadi, a Tobou field commander, was more optimistic on the subject of reconciliation.

- "What happened was merely a clash between the Tobou and the Zwai but we are brothers and we will reconcile," Wadi said.

Tobou tribesmen passionately complain about their exclusion from Kufra's civilian and military councils and say that a long-term solution to the situation in Kufra requires their integration in these bodies.

"We were marginalised under Gaddafi and we will not tolerate being marginalised again," warned Sayyidi of the Martyr Ahmed Sharif brigade.

Tribal clashes in Kufra in February cost more than 100 lives and displaced half the population, according to UN estimates. The seriously wounded were airlifted to Benghazi and Tripoli for treatment.

[- AFP](#)

## [Libyan rebels cage black Africans in zoo, force feed them flags \(SHOCK VIDEO\) — RT](#)

<http://rt.com/news/libya-rebels-torture-africans-679>

- Libyan rebels cage black Africans in zoo, force feed them flags (SHOCK VIDEO)
- Published: 02 March, 2012
- A shocking video has appeared on the Internet showing Libyan rebels torturing a group of black Africans. People with their hands bound are shown being locked in a zoo-like cage and allegedly forced to eat the old Libyan flag.

*"Eat the flag, you dog. Patience you dog, patience. God is Great,"* screams a voice off-camera in the video uploaded to YouTube last week, which also made its way onto LiveLeak.com.

The torturers are also shown making the group of captive black Africans stand up with pieces of green cloth still in their mouths and apparently forcing them start jumping.

A number of people are shown standing outside the cage watching the atrocity.

- After Muammar Gaddafi was killed, hundreds of migrant workers from neighboring states were imprisoned by fighters allied to the new interim authorities.

They accuse the black Africans of having been mercenaries for the late ruler.

In the course of the fighting to topple Gaddafi last year, sub-Saharan African migrants and refugees *"became targets of stigma, discrimination and violence,"* the human rights group Amnesty International said last month.

- *"At the beginning of the crisis, there was vastly exaggerated propaganda for which the highest level of the National Transitional Council should take some responsibility because they largely contributed to that unfounded propaganda,"* said Donatella Rovera, Amnesty's senior crisis response advisor.
- Some of the black migrants managed to flee into neighboring Mali and Niger, but more than 5,000 were detained. They face mass execution, beatings, and revenge killings, according to an Al Jazeera report published back in September.

Before the Libyan uprising broke out, the country hosted about a million black African workers, many of them employed in domestic work, construction, trash collection and other low-wage jobs.

Human Rights Investigations (HRI) suspect Libyan rebels of ethnic cleansing of the black population of the country, particularly in the city of [Tawergha](#).

## [UN says south Libya tense after tribal warfare | CTV News](#)

<http://www.ctv.ca/CTVNews/World/20120228/south-libya-tense-after-tribal-warfare-120228>

- UN says south Libya tense after tribal warfare
- The Associated Press

Date: Tuesday Feb. 28, 2012

- BENGHAZI, Libya — The United Nations says the situation in a remote southern part of Libya where more than 100 people were killed in tribal warfare this month remains tense although a cease-fire brokered by local officials is still holding.

Monday's statement by the UN Support Mission in Libya said that as much as half of the population of Kufra has fled and that around 200 foreign migrants are still waiting to be moved out of the area.

The clashes that broke out Feb. 11 underscore the struggle facing Libya's new leaders to enforce security, disarm people and unify multiple militias that took part in an eight-month civil war that ended with the capture and killing of longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi in October.

- Dozens were killed this month by rockets, mortars and gunfire that rocked residential areas in the desert town, which is some 800 kilometres away from the more populated coastal city of Derna.

The UN said it provided people there with food, medicine, mattresses, blankets and hygiene kits to vulnerable communities whose basic services have been interrupted by fighting.

The injured packed the city's three-room hospital for days during the clashes. Many had no beds to sleep on. There was one doctor and 15 nurses using empty bottles of water as blood bags. Patients had to share one ventilator.

For days, rescuers were unable to get to the bodies of victims who were left on the street.

An Associated Press reporter who was in Kufra during the clashes saw at least 160 houses demolished by rockets in one neighbourhood. Families gathered inside a school seeking shelter, but even that came under shelling.

Shops were closed for days, and no one could walk in the street. If one tribe took over one square, the other tribe opened fire and drove it out.

- During that time the powerful Arab tribe of al-Zwia clashed with the African Tabu tribe near Kufra, a border area where Libya, Chad and Sudan meet. The region is a hub for the smuggling of African migrants, goods and drugs.

The two groups are old rivals and speak different languages. The Tabu have long complained of discrimination under Gadhafi.

Abdel-Majed, once an opposition leader who founded a group calling for an autonomous state for the Tabu people, said Gadhafi's regime would expel Tabu students from schools, take their passports and deprive families of bank loans.

Gadhafi also tried to change the demography of the city by offering incentives to al-Zwia tribe members to move to Kufra in order to outnumber the Tabu.

The clashes, erupted after an al-Zwia smuggler shot and killed six Tabu tribesmen guarding a border crossing, lifting the lid on a long suppressed ethnic conflict.

In another sign that the government is struggling to reign in the country's numerous armed factions, the U.S.-based Human Rights Watch called on a Misrata-based militia Monday to immediately release two British journalists and three Libyans travelling with them.

The rights group said that the Saraya Swehli militia detained the British citizens nearly a week ago. They work as freelance journalists for Iran's Press TV.

The Middle East director at Human Rights Watch, Sarah Leah Whitson, said in a statement that militias must stop detaining people and called on the Libyan government to take charge of militia detention facilities. The rights group says the militia has denied them access to the journalists.

### [Libya: NTC Chairman Denies Khamis Capture, Warns Neighboring Countries over Harboring Pro-Gaddafi Criminals](http://tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=7946)

<http://tripolipost.com/articledetail.asp?c=1&i=7946>

- Libya: NTC Chairman Denies Khamis Capture, Warns Neighboring Countries over Harboring Pro-Gaddafi Criminals  
25/02/2012
- Tripoli— "Libya will not forgive any state that provides safe heaven to pro-Gaddafi criminals and must immediately hand them over to face trial," said the chairman of the National Transitional Council (NTC) Mustafa Abdul Jalil at a press conference Saturday night in Tripoli.

Jalil said there was no foreign intervention in al-Kufra and the conflict there which has subsided was a conflict between tribes. He called on all parties to reach reconciliation and that the government is in full control of the city.

With regard to the pro-Gaddafi elements who are currently taking Ben Walid as a safe heaven, Jalil said the national army and security services are monitoring the situations closely.

"We are now in dialogue with the elders of Ben Walid to surrender the pro-Gaddafi elements, if they failed to do so force will be used to arrest them in the near future," he confirmed.

Answering a question about the capturing of Khamis Gaddafi, son of the former brutal dictator, Abdul Jalil denied that the brutal and ruthless former military officer was captured; saying what has been reported yesterday was based on rumors.

- The NTC chairman reassured the Libyan people that national security institutions and those of the revolutionaries are well positioned to face any security threats coming from outside or inside.

He praised the expertise of the rebels' security apparatus which he said have proven to be even more disciplined and efficient than those who were especially trained to carry security tasks.

"The revolutionaries will hit pro-Gaddafi elements with an iron fist.

- Abdul Jalil cited the huge spontaneous celebrations on the first anniversary on 17 February by the Libyan people as a proof that the greatest majority of the population feels being emancipated from the oppressive regime of the dead dictator.
- Abdul Jalil said the Libyan Attorneys General filed official extradition requests with documents indicate the crimes committed by these elements to all neighboring countries both African and Arab. All these countries have not headed the call.

"Bilateral relations with these countries will be based on how they handle the Libyan extradition requests and whether they hand over the pro-Gaddafi criminal elements," Abdul Jalil stated.

"Neighboring countries must decide on extraditing these elements and/or restrict their movements," as they pose a security threat to Libya, he added.

- Sources who declined to be named told The Tripoli Post that yesterday that Khamis was captured near the Tunisian borders in western Libya.

Abdul Jalil told reporters the news about Khamis' capture were baseless and mere rumors.

"Regarding what is going on in al-Kufra is a tribal conflict and there is no any evidence of any foreign intervention. I call upon all groups in the city to reconcile their differences on the basis that they are all brothers and God forbids them from harming each other," Jalil said.

All tribes who reside in Kufra should be set with each other and coexist, he added.

He said the national army is in full control of the city and humanitarian assistance is being provided by the government.

### [Southeast Libya clashes resume despite army intervention | Reuters](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/24/us-libya-clashes-idUSTRE81N0Q820120224)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/24/us-libya-clashes-idUSTRE81N0Q820120224>

- Southeast Libya clashes resume despite army intervention
- By Ali Shuaib

TRIPOLI | Fri Feb 24, 2012

- (Reuters) - Clashes between rival tribes in the far southeast of Libya have flared up again, injuring several people, the tribes said on Friday, despite Libyan troops intervening to end the fighting.
- Dozens of people have been killed in the past two weeks in the city of Al Kufra, near Libya's borders with Chad and Sudan, after a long-standing rivalry between two tribes erupted into violence.

The fighting is a fresh challenge for Libya's new leadership which took over after the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi last year but has struggled to restore stability, hampered by the lack of an effective national army.

Armed forces chief of staff Youssef al-Mangoush said on Thursday Libyan forces had intervened to end the fighting, in a rare example of the government in Tripoli imposing its authority over the fractious country.

However representatives of the two rival tribes in Al Kufra, the Tibu and Zwai, said clashes had resumed again.

"The Tibu looted some houses and stole cars, we had to defend ourselves," Adelbari Idriss, a security official from the Zwai tribe, said by telephone. "The army hasn't done anything."

- Isa Abdel Majid, who is leading the Tibu fighters, also said fighting had resumed and that Tibu living in the western suburbs of Al Kufra had come under attack. He said people had been injured but did not give a figure.

He said around 100 people on the Tibu side were killed since the clashes began. "More than 30 of those died while they were being evacuated by road to hospitals in other towns," he said.

It was not possible to independently verify their comments.

On Thursday, some of the wounded were flown to hospitals in the capital Tripoli on board Libyan Red Crescent aircraft. Others have been flown to the eastern cities of Benghazi and Ajdabiyah, officials from the Zwai side said.



Members of the Tibu ethnic group are mainly found in Chad but also inhabit parts of southern Libya. The Zwai tribe accused the Tibu of attacking Al Kufra, backed by mercenaries from Chad. The Tibu said it was they who came under attack.

The region has a history of violence involving tribes. A tribal rebellion in 2009 was suppressed only after Gaddafi sent in helicopter gunships.

### ['Scores' killed in Libya in 24 hours - Telegraph](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/9096634/Scores-killed-in-Libya-in-24-hours.html)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/libya/9096634/Scores-killed-in-Libya-in-24-hours.html>

## • 'Scores' killed in Libya in 24 hours

**50 people have been killed in the past 24 hours in tribal warfare in southern Libya, according to witnesses.**

- 22 Feb 2012
- Moussa Bazama, an ambulance worker driving north taking injured to the coast, said 50 people had been killed by the rockets, mortars and gunfire rocking residential areas in the desert town of Kufra. Hundreds of families are fleeing toward northern cities.

The claim follows earlier reports that fierce clashes between two tribes in Libya's remote southeastern desert have killed more than 100 people over the past 10 days.

At least 113 people from the Toubu tribe and another 20 from the Zwai tribe have been killed in the desert town of Kufra since the fighting between them erupted on February 12, the sources claimed.

"We are under siege since a week. Since the start of the clashes, 113 people (from our side) have been killed, including six children," Toubu chief Issa Abdelmajid told the AFP news agency.

He said another 241 members of his tribe have been wounded in the raging battles with members of the Zwai tribe.

- Mr Abdelmajid, a former opponent of Col Muammar Gaddafi who fought the slain dictator's forces in last year's conflict, was previously tasked by the ruling National Transitional Council with monitoring [Libya's](#) southeastern border.

At least 20 people from the Zwai tribe have also been killed and another 40 wounded in the clashes, said Yunus Zwai, spokesman for the Kufra local council.

"People from Toubu tribe are being helped by foreign elements from Chad and Sudan. We have arrested several Chadian and Sudanese fighters," he said.

- Both groups were using light arms when the fighting erupted, but the violence intensified, with the two sides firing rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns, local sources said.

"I appeal to the international community to intervene and stop these clashes which are aimed at exterminating my tribe," said Mr Abdelmajid.

"We tried calling the NTC but it has not responded," he added.

Libya's official LANA news agency quoted NTC spokesman Mohammed al-Harizi as saying that the situation in Kufra was "not calm."

"There is an armed conflict between certain members of the society there in which several have been killed and wounded," Harizi said on Monday without specifying the number of casualties.

- An NTC source, on condition of anonymity, said that control of lucrative smuggling routes was at the root of the conflict.

Mr Zwai, meanwhile, said those fighting members of his tribe were not Libyan Toubu tribesmen, but "foreign elements."

"There is an invisible hand in the fighting. The Libyan Toubu are safe in their homes," he said.

Members of the Toubu tribe are dark-skinned and present in southeastern Libya as well as in Chad, Sudan and Niger.

Kufra, with a population of about 40,000 people, is located in a triangle sharing borders with Egypt, Chad and Sudan. The Toubu tribe faced discrimination under Kadhafi's regime.

*Source: AFP & AP*

### [Militias stymie Libya's leaders - World - The Boston Globe](http://bostonglobe.com/news/world/2012/02/22/libya-interim-leader-acknowledges-his-government-powerless-control-armed-militias/3b3VF0JUOzW2M71IVKGn1O/story.html)

<http://bostonglobe.com/news/world/2012/02/22/libya-interim-leader-acknowledges-his-government-powerless-control-armed-militias/3b3VF0JUOzW2M71IVKGn1O/story.html>

## • **Militias stymie Libya's leaders**

### **Interim chief cites legacy of mistrust**

#### • **By Maggie Michael**

| Associated Press

February 22, 2012

- TRIPOLI, Libya — Libya's interim leader acknowledged yesterday that his transitional government is powerless to control militias that are refusing to lay down their arms after ousting Moammar Khadafy as it struggles to impose control over the oil-rich North African nation.
- In a wide-ranging interview, Mustafa Abdul-Jalil warned that remnants of the former regime also still pose a threat and that it will take years for Libya's new leaders to overcome a "heavy heritage" of corruption and distrust after more than four decades of Khadafy's rule.
- Abdul-Jalil said the governing National Transitional Council has made mistakes, but he also criticized former rebels who have formed powerful militias and local governments that have emerged as rivals to the central government in Tripoli that assumed power after Khadafy was ousted.

"Both are to blame," he said. "The governmental program to integrate the militias is slow, and the revolutionaries don't trust it."

- Libya is celebrating the first anniversary of the Feb. 17 start of the revolution last year, when peaceful antigovernment protesters took up weapons in the face of a deadly crackdown by Khadafy forces against their rallies. Libya declared liberation after Khadafy was captured and killed in October and is getting ready for national assembly elections in June. The new assembly will form a government and set up a panel to draft a constitution.

However, the country has been plagued by revenge attacks by those who suffered at the hands of Khadafy's forces during the brutal civil war. Human rights groups have documented reports of widespread torture and killings of detainees.

- Hundreds of armed militias that fought against Khadafy's forces are the real power on the ground in the country, wielding control over cities, neighborhoods, and borders while the transitional government has been unable to rein in fighters, rebuild decimated institutions, or stop widespread corruption.
- Underscoring the turmoil, some 50 civilians have been killed in the past 24 hours in tribal warfare in southern Libya, witnesses said yesterday. But there were conflicting accounts about the cause of the conflict.
- Abdul-Jalil said Khadafy regime loyalists were "seeding sedition" in Kufra, but he declined to elaborate on which tribes are connected to the former regime.
- Salem Samadi, who heads a revolutionary militia and has tried to mediate a truce between the two sides, blamed the outbreak of violence on a fight over smuggling.

Abdul-Jalil, 60, who has led the National Transitional Council since it was formed, said Libyans need years to overcome a culture of corruption, mistrust, and build state institutions and rule of law. "What Khadafy left for us in Libya after 40 years is a very, very heavy heritage," he said. "It is very heavy and will be hard to get over it in one or two years . . ."

- He also said that Khadafy's relatives and loyalists remain a danger because they are hosted by countries that do not have control over them. He said Libya's future relations with neighbors will be determined by how they respond to Libyan demands to hand over former regime forces on their territories.

### [Libya sends army to stop clashes in southeast | Reuters](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/18/us-libya-clashes-idUSTRE81H0MA20120218)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/18/us-libya-clashes-idUSTRE81H0MA20120218>

- Libya sends army to stop clashes in southeast
- TRIPOLI | Sat Feb 18, 2012
- (Reuters) - Libya has sent military forces to stem clashes between rival tribes over control of territory in the far southeast of Libya, the armed forces chief said on Saturday, as more people were reported killed in the violence.

- Clashes broke out late last week in the remote city of Al Kufra and have continued since, highlighting the challenge of policing the sparsely populated desert. Dozens of people have been killed, the tribes have said.

Libya's ruling National Transitional Council has struggled to assert its authority across the whole of Libya as rival regional militias and tribal groups jostle for power and resources following the fall of Muammar Gaddafi.

Gunmen from the Zwai tribe have been clashing with fighters from the Tibu ethnic group led by Isa Abdel Majid, who they accuse of attacking Al Kufra backed by mercenaries from Chad, according to a security official from the Zwai tribe.

- The Tibu, however, said they were the ones to come under attack.

Speaking by telephone on Libyan state television, armed forces chief Yousef al-Mangoush denied there was any foreign presence in the area and urged elders from both sides to meet.

"This is a problem between two tribes, which stems from the past. It is not an ethnic problem," he said. "Military forces are now on the ground there."

- In a text message to Reuters, Adelbari Idriss, a security official from the Zwai tribe, said two people were killed and seven injured in clashes in the city on Saturday. Separately, he said the Zwai had stopped two cars carrying Chadian men.

It was not immediately possible to independently verify his comments nor contact officials from the Tibu side.

- The Tibu are mainly found in Chad but also inhabit parts of southern Libya, Sudan and Niger, often criss-crossing unmarked desert borders. Abdel Majid's men supported the Libyan rebels during the 2011 uprising that ousted Gaddafi.
- In Al Kufra, tribal ties are far more powerful than they are on the country's Mediterranean seaboard. A tribal rebellion in 2009 was suppressed only after Gaddafi sent in helicopter gunships. The remote region is also a hub for smugglers taking advantage of the lawless borders of sub-Saharan Africa.

The province surrounding Al Kufra is Libya's largest and borders Sudan and Chad. The roads in the region are poor, and some reports said the airport was out of use due to the fighting, possibly holding up any aid.

(Reporting by Ali Shuaib)

### [Dozens killed in southeast Libya clashes: tribe official | Firstpost](http://www.firstpost.com/fwire/dozens-killed-in-southeast-libya-clashes-tribe-official-216326.html)

<http://www.firstpost.com/fwire/dozens-killed-in-southeast-libya-clashes-tribe-official-216326.html>

- **Dozens killed in southeast Libya clashes: tribe official**

— Feb 17, 2012

- **Tripoli:** Dozens of people have been killed since last week in clashes between rival tribes over control of territory in the far southeast of Libya, the tribes said on Thursday.

Violence broke out late last week in the remote city of Al Kufra and has continued since, highlighting the challenge of policing the country's sparsely populated desert.

Libya's ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) has struggled to assert its authority across the whole of Libya as rival regional militias and tribal groups jostle for power and resources following the fall of Muammar Gaddafi.

Local gunmen from the Zwai tribe have been clashing with fighters from the Tibu ethnic group led by Isa Abdel Majid, whom they accuse of attacking Al Kufra backed by mercenaries from Chad, according to a security official from the Zwai tribe.

- "The situation is still complicated today. The Tibu attacked the city with mortars and there were snipers," Abdelbari Idriss, the security official from the Zwai tribe, told Reuters, adding that the Tibu had received reinforcements from other desert towns.

He said 15 people on his side had been killed and 45 injured. "Thirteen were buried yesterday, two today."

The Tibu, however, said they were the ones to come under attack.

- Mohammed Laban, from the Tibu tribe and a representative of a citizen group in Al Kufra, said the death toll among the Tibu had reached 55, and more than 100 had been injured. He said the Tibu had asked the NTC for help.

"There is a crisis here. There are no doctors, there is no water. Shops are closed," he said by phone. "The number of injured is 117. We couldn't get to the airport because it is under control of the Zwai and we would like the NTC to help by sending helicopters to take our injured to hospitals."

It was not possible to independently verify the reports.

The Tibu are mainly found in Chad but also inhabit parts of southern Libya, Sudan and Niger, often crisscrossing unmarked desert borders. Abdel Majid's men supported the Libyan rebels during the 2011 uprising that ousted Gaddafi.

- "We are being attacked because they say we are not Libyan, but we are Libyan," said Al Kufra resident Mohammed Sanussi. He said the Zwai were getting reinforcements from other areas.

Mohammed Al-Alagy, head of Libya's freedom and human rights council, said his group was looking into the violence.

"After that, we will transfer the report to the NTC to let them take the necessary steps," he told reporters.

In Al Kufra, tribal ties are far more powerful than they are on the country's Mediterranean seaboard. A tribal rebellion in 2009 was suppressed only after Gaddafi sent in helicopter gunships. The remote region is also a hub for smugglers taking advantage of the lawless borders of sub-Saharan Africa.

The province surrounding Al Kufra is Libya's largest and straddles the borders of Sudan and Chad. The roads in the region are poor, and some reports said the airport was out of use due to the fighting, possibly holding up any aid.

**Reuters****[AFP: New clashes rock Libyan desert town](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALEqM5jKOzbCqfn3FgxXGCgJZ1SekGaGhA?docId=CNG.d2dfb7bb5556b9a072d2459a2931d3f.6e1)**

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALEqM5jKOzbCqfn3FgxXGCgJZ1SekGaGhA?docId=CNG.d2dfb7bb5556b9a072d2459a2931d3f.6e1>

- New clashes rock Libyan desert town

(AFP) – 2 hours ago

- TRIPOLI — Tribal clashes in Libya's remote southeastern desert left at least six people dead on Wednesday, tribal sources said, bringing to around 30 the toll since fighting began three days ago.

"Six people died today, including two from wounds sustained overnight," said an elder of the Toubu tribe, speaking of fighting in the town of Kufra.

Meanwhile, a previously unknown group calling itself the National Rally of Toubus (NRT) said that Kufra was a disaster zone and that the Toubu tribe was the target of genocide.

Fierce clashes on Sunday and Monday left eight Toubu and nine members of the Zwai dead.

Both groups were using light arms when the fighting erupted on Sunday, but the violence intensified, with the two sides firing rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns on Monday, sources said.

- The Toubu, who are dark-skinned, were discriminated against even under the regime of slain dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

In a statement received by AFP, the NRT said that "Kufra is a disaster area and what is happening in the town is genocide and the extermination of the Toubu."

On Tuesday, Turki Tobawi, from the Toubu tribe, told AFP that his people were surrounded by members of the Zwai tribe.

"We are under siege from all sides. The Zwai tribe is shelling us with heavy weapons," he said.

He charged that Libya's ruling National Transitional Council was backing the Zwai by sending weapons and fighters to their help, which was also confirmed by a source from the Zwai clan.

- The NRT statement also pointed the finger at the NTC and the interim government, saying they had "not taken urgent measures to preserve the blood of the Libyan people."

Mohammed al-Harizi, spokesman for the NTC, could not confirm Wednesday's toll, but said a council of wise men and tribal elders from the region had been formed to try to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

The latest clashes apparently erupted after a young man from the Zwai tribe was killed in Kufra by three dark-skinned men believed to be Toubu, a Zwai source said.

The Toubu tribe is also present in Niger and Chad.

Kufra, with a population of about 40,000 people, is located in a triangle sharing borders with Egypt, Chad and Sudan.

**[IC Publications | African Business | New African | New African Woman | African Banker | The Middle East | African Business \(en français\) | New African \(en français\) | New African Woman \(en français\) | African Banker \(en français\)](#)**

[http://www.africasia.com/services/news\\_mideast/article.php?ID=CNG.58776191a917f222dba8c1ca67f49cd6.261](http://www.africasia.com/services/news_mideast/article.php?ID=CNG.58776191a917f222dba8c1ca67f49cd6.261)

- 17 killed in Libyan tribal clashes: tribesmen
- A fierce gunfight between two tribes in Libya's remote southeastern desert has killed at least 17 people in the past two days and wounded another 22, tribal sources told AFP on Monday.

Clashes between the tribes of Zwai and Tobu in the town of Kufra have killed 17 people since Sunday, including nine from the Zwai tribe and eight from the Tobu clan, sources from both the tribes said.

- A source from the Tobu tribe said "shelling from the Zwai side was intense with heavy weapons."

He said that members of his tribe turned to the the National Transitional Council for help but that Libya's ruling body "did not respond and did not answer our calls."

Earlier on Monday, NTC spokesman Mohammed al-Harizi confirmed that there were clashes between two groups on Sunday.

"It was a problem between two tribes and they are working to find a peaceful solution," he told AFP, without naming the tribes.

Both groups were using light arms when the fighting initially erupted on Sunday, but the violence then intensified, with the two sides firing rocket-propelled grenades and anti-aircraft guns, sources said.

- A militant from Tobu tribe said those fighting him and his comrades since Sunday were Zwai tribesmen supported by the NTC.

"There is a plan to exterminate the Tobu tribe. Our situation is worse than what it was under Kadhafi," he said without giving his name.

Members of Tobu, who are dark-skinned, were discriminated against even under the regime of slain dictator Moamer Kadhafi.

- The latest clashes apparently erupted after a young man from the Zwai tribe was killed in Kufra by three dark-skinned men believed to be from the Tobu tribe three days ago, a source from the Zwai tribe said.

Tobu tribe is also present in Niger and Chad, while the town of Kufra which houses about 40,000 people, is located in a triangle sharing borders with Egypt, Chad and Sudan.

The desert town also witnessed deadly clashes during last year's anti-Kadhafi uprising, which erupted across the country and ended with the strongman's death in October.