

## Libya, One Year On: National Transitional Council (NTC) Struggles With Revolutionary Change

ICRtoP Blog Post 28 February 2012 To read the full blog post, see [here](#) .

The one-year anniversary of the first protests in Libya was marked on 17 February 2012. Spurred on by the [arrest of a human rights campaigner](#) and emboldened by protests sweeping the Arab world, citizens in the eastern Libyan town of Benghazi hit the streets in a “Day of Rage” exactly one year ago in protest of the now-deceased Colonel Muammar Gaddafi’s 41-year rule.

Like [Tunisia](#) and [Egypt](#) before it, protests [spread](#) like wildfire across Libya, with Benghazi becoming the de facto stronghold of the opposition to the Gaddafi regime. As they spread, the crackdown by the Gaddafi regime became more [ruthless](#)

The Libyan leader broadcasted his clear intent to commit further widespread human rights violations in a 22 February 2011 [speech](#) , calling on his supporters to attack the protesting ["cockroaches"](#) and urging them to “cleanse Libya house by house” until they surrendered.

The international community responded in an unprecedented manner with a range of measures within the framework of the **Responsibility to Protect**, imposing sweeping diplomatic and other non-coercive measures at the national, regional, and international levels. (...)

### (...) Insecurity, Lawlessness Prevail

As Libyans celebrated an end to the Gaddafi era, Mahmoud Jibril, the former leader of Libya’s now-provisionally-ruling National Transitional Council (NTC) [hailed](#) Gaddafi’s death as an end to “all the evils” in his country.

One year on however, evil has not vanished from Libya. Instead, insecurity and lawlessness prevail, and a number of high-profile civil society organizations have documented allegations of widespread human rights violations by Libya’s revolutionaries.

According to a 16 February [report](#) by Amnesty International (AI), hundreds of armed and “out of control” [militias threaten Libya's transition](#) in the post-Gaddafi era, which the provisional NTC has been [unable to rein in](#)

Running street battles often break out between the militias, terrifying and threatening civilians. Revenge attacks and discrimination against known or suspected Gaddafi supporters, as documented by ICRtoP member Human Rights Watch (HRW) in a 22 January [report](#) , are commonplace. Clashes between rival militias have erupted in the southeast, and despite NTC forces [int](#)

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. The violence is fueled by easy access to weapons stockpiles, some of which have

[slipped across](#)

Libya's borders into neighbouring countries. (...)

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