

National Transitional Council

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المجلس الوطني الانتقالي
al-majlis al-waṭanī al-intiqālī



[Flag](#)



[Coat of arms](#)

Motto: *Freedom, Justice, Democracy*

Anthem: *Libya, Libya, Libya*



Cities under NTC control

Cities under Gaddafi control

Capital

[Tripoli](#) (*de jure*)

[Benghazi](#) (*de facto*)

Official language(s)

[Libyan Arabic](#) (*de facto*)

[Berber dialects](#)

(most prominently [Nafusi](#))

Demonym

[Libyan](#)

Government

[Caretaker government](#)

- [Chairman](#) [Mustafa Abdul Jalil](#)
- Vice Chairman [Abdul Hafiz Ghoga](#)
- [Chairman of the Executive Board](#) [Mahmoud Jebri](#)

Establishment

- [2011 Libyan civil war](#) 17 February 2011
- National Council established 27 February 2011

Website

ntclibya.com



Red shaded areas and cities are controlled by anti-Gaddafi forces, Green is controlled by pro-Gaddafi forces, and Tan areas and blue cities are contested areas.

The **National Transitional Council** ([Arabic](#): [مجلس الوطنيين إلى أجل أجل](#), *al-majlis al-waṭanī al-'intiḳālī*), sometimes known as the **Transitional National Council**, the **Interim National Council**, or the **Libyan National Council**, is a political body formed to represent [Libya](#) by [anti-Gaddafi forces](#) during the [2011 Libyan civil war](#) against the regime of Colonel [Muammar al-Gaddafi](#). Its formation was announced in the city of [Benghazi](#) on 27 February 2011 and its intended purpose is to act as the "political face of the revolution". On 5 March 2011, the council issued a statement in which it declared itself to be the "only legitimate body representing the people of Libya and the Libyan state". On 21 August 2011 President Barack Obama issued a statement saying that the United States recognizes the NTC as the legitimate government of Libya.

An executive board, chaired by [Mahmoud Jibril](#), was formed by the council on 23 March 2011. The council has so far been officially recognized as the legitimate governing authority in Libya until an interim authority is in place by 32 countries. [Malta](#) has recognized it as the sole legitimate negotiator of the future of Libya, establishing formal relations in Benghazi with the NTC and cutting off all relations with Gaddafi's regime, but maintains it has not granted full diplomatic recognition to the council. [Russia](#) has recognized it as a co-legitimate representative of Libya along with Gaddafi's regime, though its official stance is that Gaddafi should leave Libya. [Norway](#) and the [People's Republic of China](#) have not granted recognition to the NTC, but officials from both countries have met with its representatives several times and Norway has no existing diplomatic relations with Gaddafi's government. [Liberia](#), [Malawi](#), [Peru](#), and some Western governments have severed ties with Gaddafi's government, but have not recognized the council. Several other countries have established unofficial ties with the National Transitional Council, with a number of those countries establishing a permanent diplomatic presence in Benghazi to liaise with council officials.

The council uses the name *Libya* for the Libyan state and has used the long-form name *Libyan Republic*, while the Gaddafi government's name for the Libyan state is the [Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya](#).

Background

2011 uprising and civil war

Main article: [2011 Libyan civil war](#)

After [popular movements overturned the rulers of Tunisia and Egypt](#), its immediate neighbours to the west and east, Libya experienced a full-scale [uprising](#) beginning in February 2011. By 20 February, the unrest had spread to Tripoli. As of late February 2011, much of Libya had slipped out of Gaddafi's control, falling to [anti-Gaddafi forces](#). [Eastern Libya](#), centered around the [second city](#) and vital port of Benghazi, was firmly under the control of the opposition. The opposition began to organize themselves into a functioning government.

Early efforts to form a government



Opposition meeting in Al Bayda, 24 February 2011

On 24 February 2011, politicians, former military officers, tribal leaders, academics and businessmen held a meeting in the eastern city of [Al Bayda](#). The meeting was chaired by former justice minister [Mustafa Abdul Jalil](#), who [quit the government](#) a few days before. The delegates discussed proposals for interim administration with many delegates asking for UN intervention in Libya. The podium at the meeting displayed the pre-Jamahiriya flag.

On 25 February 2011, Al-Jazeera TV reported that talks are taking place between "personalities from eastern and western Libya" to form an interim government for the post-Gaddafi era. On 26 February, it was reported that former justice minister Mustafa Mohamed Abud Al Jeleil was leading the process of forming an interim body, to be based in Benghazi. Mr Abud Al Jeleil stated that "Gaddafi alone bore responsibility for the crimes that have occurred" in Libya; he also insisted on the unity of Libya and that Tripoli is the capital. The efforts to form an alternative government have been supported by the Libyan ambassador in the [United States](#), [Ali Suleiman Aujali](#). The Libyan deputy ambassador to the United Nations, [Ibrahim Omar Al Dabashi](#), has stated that he supported a new alternative government "in principle".

Establishment of a national council

A National Transitional Council was formed on 27 February 2011 to act as "the political face of the revolution". Its spokesman [Hafiz Ghoga](#) made clear at the launch press conference that the national council is not a provisional government and Ghoga also added that the newly formed council was not contacting foreign governments and did not want them to intervene. He later clarified that an airstrike mandated by the United Nations would not be considered a foreign intervention.

An [Al Jazeera](#) English journalist in Benghazi has reported that a fully fledged interim government will not be formed until Tripoli is under opposition control. This is in contrast to claims made by former justice minister [Mustafa Abdul Jalil](#) on the previous day about the formation of a provisional government. These comments have now been clarified by the council as his "personal views".

On 5 March 2011, the council issued a statement in which it declared itself to be the "sole representative of all Libya". It was also stated that [Mustafa Abdul Jalil](#) was chairperson of the council.

On 10 March, [France](#) became the first country to recognize the National Interim Council as Libya's only legitimate government.

Formation of an executive board

On 23 March the council established an Executive Board to act as a transitional government for Libya. [Mahmoud Jibril](#) was appointed as Chairman of that board stating that council now serves as the "legislative body", and the new Executive Board will serve as the "executive body". Jibril is known to be leading the meeting and negotiations with French President [Nicolas Sarkozy](#), a meeting that resulted in France officially recognizing the council as the sole representative of the Libyan people.

Aims and objectives of the national council

The "Declaration of the founding of the Transitional National Council" states the main aims of the council are as follows:

- Ensure the safety of the national territory and citizens
- Coordination of national efforts to liberate the rest of Libya
- Support the efforts of local councils to work for the restoration of normal civilian life
- Supervise of the Military Council to ensure the achievement of the new doctrine of the Libyan People's Army in the defense of the people and protect the borders of Libya
- Facilitate the election of a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution for the country; be put to a popular referendum
- Form a transitional government to pave the holding of free elections
- Guide the conduct of foreign policy, and the regulation of relations with other countries and international and regional organizations, and the representation of the Libyan people

In another statement clarifying the goals for a post-Gaddafi Libya, the council has committed itself an eight-point plan to hold free and fair elections, draft a national constitution, form political and civil institutions, uphold intellectual and political pluralism, and guarantee citizens' inalienable human rights and the ability of free expression of their aspirations. The council also emphasized its rejection of racism, intolerance, discrimination, and terrorism.

Council structure and membership

National Transitional Council (legislative body)

National Transitional Council المجلس الوطني الانتقالي <i>al-majlis al-waṭanī al-intiqālī</i>	
Type	
Type	Unicameral
Leadership	
Chairman	Mustafa Abdul Jalil
Vice Chairman	Abdul Hafiz Ghoga ^[33]

Members	33 members
Meeting place	
Benghazi, Libya (interim)	
Website	
ntclibya.com	

The National Transitional Council is a thirty-three-member body that claims to be the "only legitimate body representing the people of Libya and the Libyan state".

Al Jazeera English reported that each city or town under opposition control will be given five seats on the new council and that contact will be established with new cities that come under opposition control to allow them to join the council. The identities of members of the council were not disclosed at the launch conference. What is known is that human rights lawyer [Hafiz Ghoga](#) is the spokesperson for the new council. An Al Jazeera English journalist in Benghazi stated that [Mustafa Mohamed Abud Al Jeleil](#) still had a leadership role within the new council. The Council declared that Jeleil is the head of the council. The council met formally for the first time on 5 March 2011 when it was announced that the council has 33 members. The names of some of the members are being kept secret to prevent threats to their families that are still in Government held areas of Libya

Membership of the council

The council has thirty-three members; the identities of several members has not been made public to protect their own safety.

The members of the council include

- [Mustafa Abdul Jalil](#) – [Chairman of the Council](#)
- [Abdul Hafiz Ghoga](#) – Vice Chairman of the Council, Spokesman, and City of Benghazi
- Fatih Turbel – Youth
- Zubeir Ahmed El-Sharif – Political Prisoners
- Fatih Mohammed Baja – Political Affairs and City of Benghazi
- Abdullah Moussa Al-Mayhoub – City of Qubba
- Ahmed Al-Abbar – Economics
- Ashour Bourashed – City of Derna
- Uthman Megrabi – City of Batnan
- Suleiman Al-Fortia –

- Salwa Fawzi El-Deghali – Legal Affairs and Women
- City of Misurata
- Mohamed Al-Muntasir – City of Misurata

Executive Board



On 5 March 2011, a crisis committee was set up to act as the executive arm of the council. An Executive Board was announced on 23 March 2011. It originally had 15 members, but a minor reorganization apparently removed the post of Military Affairs from the council proper and created a successor position for Defense on the board, expanding the bureau to 16 members.

The Executive Board was dismissed on 8 August 2011. The board's chairman Mahmoud Jibril is expected to name members of the new board in due course. Members of the previous board may be re-appointed.

Members

- [Mahmoud Jibril](#) – [Chairman](#)

Members (March 2011 –August 2011)

Prior to the re-shuffle in August 2011, the board members were:

- [Mahmoud Jibril](#) – [Chairman](#) and Head of International Affairs
- [Ali Al-Issawi](#) – Vice-Chairman
- Ahmed Hussein Al-Darrat – Internal Affairs and Local Government
- [Jalal al-Digheily](#) – Defense (formerly Military Affairs)
- Mahmoud Shammam – Media
- Abdullah Shamia – Economic
- [Ali Al-Tarhuni](#) – Finance and Oil
- Anwar Al-Faytouri – Transportation and Communications
- Abulgassim Nimr – Environment
- Atia Lawgali – Culture and Community

- Naji Barakat – Health
- Mohammed Al-Allagi – Justice and Human Rights
- Hania Al-Gumati – Social Welfare
- Abdulsalam Al-Shikhy – Religious Affairs and Endowments
- Ahmed Al-Jehani – Reconstruction and Infrastructure
- Suliman El-Sahli – Education

Local government

In opposition-held Benghazi, a 15-member "local committee" made up of lawyers, judges and respected local people has been formed in order to provide civic administration and public services within the city. Residents have organized to direct traffic and collect refuse. Many shops and businesses have opened again. A newspaper and two local radio stations have also been established.

Similar "local committees" are being formed in other cities controlled by opposition groups.

Commercial bodies

The council has established the following commercial bodies to manage its financial affairs:

- The Central Bank of Benghazi – to act as the "monetary authority competent in monetary policies in Libya"
- Libyan Oil Company – to act as the "supervisory authority on oil production and policies in the country"

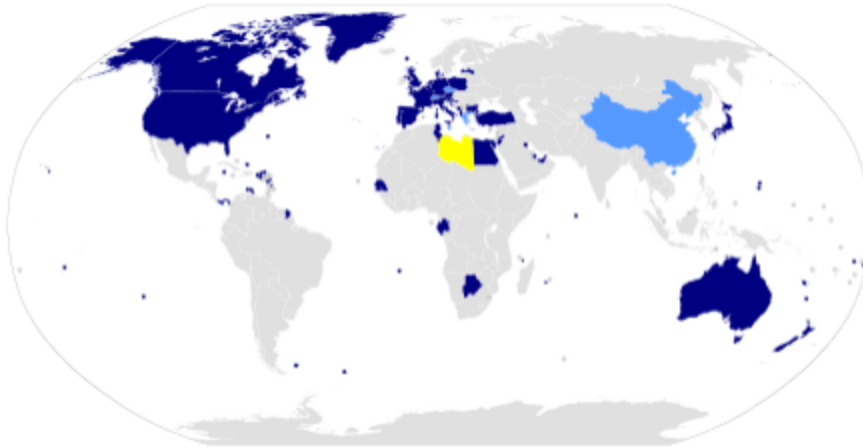
Armed forces

The [Anti-Gaddafi forces](#) are Libyan armed forces which were constituted during the [2011 Libyan civil war](#) by defected military members and armed citizens in order to engage in battle against both remaining members of the [Libyan Armed Forces](#) and paramilitary loyal to the rule of [Muammar Gaddafi](#). The [National Liberation Army](#), formerly known as the Free Libyan Army, is the NTC's military arm, with the small [Free Libyan Air Force](#) operating assets including captured and defected fighter jets and helicopters.

[Omar El-Hariri](#) was the first military affairs minister the NTC named, holding that position from 23 March 2011 forward. By 19 May 2011, however, [Jalal al-Digheily](#) had replaced El-Hariri.^[52]

On 1 April 2011, [Abdul Fatah Younis](#) was announced as commander of the armed forces, in an attempt to insert an organized fighting structure due to a string of failures. Younis was killed in an attack on 29 July 2011 which has been variously blamed on pro-Gaddafi agents, rogue rebel militiamen, and the NTC itself. [Suleiman Mahmoud](#), Younis's top lieutenant, replaced him as army commander.

Foreign relations



 Libya

Countries that have recognised the National Transitional Council as the sole legitimate representative of Libya

Countries that have permanent informal relations with Benghazi but have not granted official recognition

Main article: [Foreign relations of the National Transitional Council](#)

In July 2011, the [Libya Contact Group](#) of representatives of many nations announced its participants' agreement to deal with the National Transitional Council as the "legitimate governing authority in Libya". The council has also received the backing of the [Arab League](#) and the [European Union](#).

[Mohammed El Senussi](#), the [pretender](#) to the throne of Libya, has also voiced his support for the NTC.

Military intervention

Main article: [2011 military intervention in Libya](#)

[United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973](#) authorized a multi-national effort to establish a no-fly zone. On 19 March, British, French and US air forces began attacking targets in Gaddafi-controlled Libya, thereby initiating the [UN military intervention](#). Operations are currently being led by [NATO](#) under [Operation Unified Protector](#), though non-NATO states such as [Jordan](#), [Qatar](#), [Sweden](#), and the [United Arab Emirates](#) have also contributed to the military mission.
