



## REMARKS OPV REPORT: MAPPING THE IMPACT OF THE 12 MAY 2025 TRIPOLI CLASHES

### what happened?

On 12 May 2025, intense clashes broke out in Tripoli after Abdel Ghani al-Kikli (“Gheniwa”), commander of the Stability Support Apparatus (SSA), was assassinated inside the 444th Brigade headquarters in Abu Salim, a stronghold of his forces.

His killing sparked heavy fighting across southern Tripoli, including Abu Salim, Salah Eddin, Hadda Plateau, and Dribi, with residents reporting gunfire, mortars, and mobilized militias.

In response:

- The GNU declared a state of emergency and urged civilians to stay indoors.
- Hospitals were placed on high alert.
- Schools, universities, and Mitiga Airport suspended operations.

The UNSMIL called for an immediate ceasefire, warning all sides to protect civilians.

At least six people were injured, with tensions still high and further violence possible.

## What does it mean?

- The killing of a senior SSA leader inside the capital underscores the weakness of unified security command in post-2011 Libya, where militias still operate as autonomous power centers.
- Rapid escalation from a single assassination to city-wide battles highlights how localized disputes can spiral into broader urban armed confrontations, endangering civilians in densely populated neighborhoods.
- UNSMIL's urgent ceasefire appeal and similar calls from the French Embassy signal growing international impatience with recurring militia violence, as foreign diplomats warn of potential war-crimes implications for attacks on civilian targets

## Consequences

- GNU's emergency measures and targeted operations may temporarily contain the clashes, but without a durable political settlement or effective disarmament of militias, future flare-ups remain a serious threat.
- School and university closures, travel restrictions and mass-casualty medical preparations protect civilians in the short term but disrupt essential services, exacerbate anxiety and strain already overburdened health facilities.
- Renewed fighting will likely intensify diplomatic pressure on Libya's rival factions to recommit to UN-mediated security integration; failure to stabilize Tripoli could prompt targeted sanctions or expanded international monitoring of humanitarian-law violations.