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17 June 2011

Middle East Turmoil (Timeline)

December 17, 2010

Tunisia — A young man sets himself on fire in the Sidi Bouzid region after police confiscate the fruits and vegetables he sold without a permit. Mohamed Bouazizi had a university degree but no steady work, and his hardship resonates with many in Tunisia.

December 28, 2010

Tunisia — Tunisia's president warns that rioters will be punished after violent demonstrations over unemployment. At least two protesters die, one shot by police.

January 6, 2011

Algeria — Riots over rising food prices and chronic unemployment spiral out from Algeria's capital, with youths torching government buildings and shouting "Bring us Sugar!"

January 9, 2011

Tunisia — At least 14 people die in unrest over the weekend.

January 10, 2011

Tunisia — Tunisia shuts down all of its high schools and universities.

January 12, 2011

Tunisia — Army deploys armored vehicles around Tunis, government imposes a curfew as tear gas and stone-throwing youths reach the heart of the once-calm capital. Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi announces the firing of Interior Minister.

January 13, 2011

Tunisia — President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali appeals for calm and promises not to seek another term in office. The capital remains under military curfew for the second straight day.

January 14, 2011

Tunisia — President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali flees to Saudi Arabia.

Jordan — More than 5,000 Jordanians take to the streets across the country to protest rising

prices for fuel and foodstuffs and demand the prime minister's ouster.

January 15, 2011

Tunisia — Looting, deadly prison riots and street chaos engulf Tunisia. A new interim president is sworn in, promising to create a unity government that could include the long-ignored opposition. At least 42 people are killed in a prison fire in one resort town. The director of another prison in another tourist haven lets 1,000 inmates flee after soldiers shoot five dead amid a rebellion.

January 17, 2011

Tunisia — At least four opposition ministers quit government, align with demonstrators. Police fire tear gas at protesters.

January 18, 2011

Egypt — Over two days, four men set themselves on fire in a wave of self-immolation attempts possibly inspired by events in Tunisia.

January 20, 2011

Jordan — Prime minister announces a surprise pay raise for civil servants and expansion of a state subsidy program.

January 21, 2011

Tunisia — Tunisia's prime minister pledges to quit politics after elections that he says will be held as soon as possible, amid protests by citizens still angry at officials linked to their deposed president's regime.

January 22, 2011

Yemen — Thousands gather inside the University of San'a and call for the ouster of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Algeria — Helmeted riot police armed with batons and shields clash with rock- and chair-throwing protesters who try to march in defiance of Algeria's ban on public gatherings.

January 23, 2011

Yemen — President Saleh tries to defuse calls for his ouster, denies claims that he plans to install his son as his successor, raises salaries for the army.

January 24, 2011

Tunisia — Authorities clash with antigovernment protesters outside the prime minister's office, teachers go on strike, and police demand the right to form a union as Tunisia struggles to stabilize

itself after its president was overthrown.

January 25, 2011

Egypt — Thousands protest in Cairo. Police respond with tear gas and rubber bullets and beat protesters.

January 26, 2011

Tunisia — The government issues an international arrest warrant for Mr. Ben Ali, the ousted president, and six relatives, accusing him of taking money out of the country illegally.

January 27, 2011

Egypt — Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mohamed ElBaradei returns to the country after a month abroad, declaring he is prepared to lead the opposition to a regime change.

Yemen — Tens of thousands of Yemenis demand the president step down in nationwide protests, vowing to continue until their U.S.-backed government falls.

Tunisia — The prime minister names three independent ministers to key posts in the country's new interim cabinet in a bid to calm street protests against politicians linked to the ousted president.

January 28, 2011

Egypt — Protesters mass around Egypt and overpower the police. Army deploys on the streets of the nation for the first time in 25 years.

January 29, 2011

Yemen — A protest turns violent. Witnesses say prominent human-rights activist Abdul Hadi al-Azazi was arrested in the march.

January 30, 2011

Egypt — The country's scattered opposition movements throw their weight behind Mohamed ElBaradei to represent them in any future negotiations with the government.

Tunisia — The leader of a long-outlawed Tunisian Islamic party, Rachid Ghanouchi, returns after more than two decades in exile.

February 1, 2011

Egypt — More than quarter of a million Egyptians gather at Tahrir Square. President Mubarak says he won't seek re-election.

Jordan — Royal Palace says the king has sacked his government in the wake of street protests

and has asked an ex-army general to form a new cabinet.

February 2, 2011

Egypt — Pro-Mubarak supporters charge antigovernment protesters, sparking bloody clashes.

Yemen — President Saleh says he won't seek re-election when his term ends in 2013.

February 3, 2011

Egypt — Vice President Omar Suleiman says President Mubarak's son will not seek to succeed his father. Skirmishes between antigovernment protesters and Mubarak supporters continue

Yemen — Thousands rally in San'a, demand President Saleh make good on promises of political and economic reform. Government supporters gather about a mile away.

Jordan — King Abdullah II plans to meet with members of the country's Muslim Brotherhood.

February 4, 2011

Egypt — Tens of thousands of protesters fill Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Jordan — Hundreds of Jordanians stage peaceful antigovernment protests.

February 5, 2011

Egypt — Government officials meet with protest leaders. Ruling National Democratic Party's secretary general, Safwat Al Sherif, and Gamal Mubarak, the son of the president, resign.

Tunisia — Police shoot and kill at least two demonstrators at the police station in the northwestern town of Kef.

February 6, 2011

Egypt — Vice President Omar Suleiman meets with representatives of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. Egyptians stream into Tahrir Square for a 13th day of protests

Tunisia — Crowds burn a police station in the northwestern city of Kef. Interior Minister Fehrat Rajhi suspends all activities of the country's former ruling party, the Democratic Constitutional Rally, known as the RCD.

February 8, 2011

Egypt — Mr. Mubarak sets up a committee to recommend constitutional amendments. Thousands remain camped out in Tahrir Square.

February 9, 2011

Egypt — A massive crowd gathers at Tahrir Square.

Jordan — Leaders of Jordan's Islamic opposition call for a mass demonstration the following day under the slogan "The Solution Is by Dissolution" and asking that the country's monarch dismiss Parliament and call new elections later this year.

February 10, 2011

Egypt — Mr. Mubarak says he will delegate some powers to his vice president but declines to step down. Speech sparks anger among protesters.

February 11, 2011

Egypt — Egyptian Vice President Suleiman says President Mubarak is stepping down and delegating Egypt's affairs to the army.

February 12, 2011

Yemen — Protesters and government supporters clash briefly in San'a.

Algeria — Thousands of protesters defy a ban on demonstrations to call for political reform. Thousands of state security officials and police are deployed across the capital.

February 13, 2011

Yemen — Security forces block a march toward the presidential palace. Opposition parties pledge to enter into dialogue with President Saleh over a series of political concessions he made last week.

February 14, 2011

Yemen — Thousands of Yemenis return to the streets.

Bahrain — Bahraini riot police break up protests using tear gas and rubber bullets.

Iran — Tens of thousands demonstrate across the country in solidarity with Egyptian and Tunisian protesters. At least two people are killed and dozens injured.

February 15, 2011

Yemen — Security forces disperse hundreds of protesters after pro-government and antigovernment demonstrators clash in the capital San'a.

Bahrain — A funeral for a man killed during demonstrations swells into a massive protest.

Iran — The government threatens opposition leaders with execution. Tehran and other Iranian cities quiet down.

February 16, 2011

Yemen — Two antiregime demonstrators die in clashes in Yemen's southern port of Aden. A sixth consecutive day of violent clashes unfolds in San'a.

Bahrain — Tens of thousands continue to occupy a major intersection in the capital and thousands more march to mourn a second man killed in clashes with security forces.

Iran — Opposition leaders remain defiant. Pro-reform advocate Mahdi Karroubi says he is willing to "pay any price" in pursuit of democratic change.

Libya — A small gathering of protesters demanding the release of a human-rights lawyer flares into a violent antiregime demonstration in the Libyan city of Benghazi.

February 17, 2011

Yemen — Thousands of protesters square off with pro-government supporters in violent clashes.

Bahrain — Bahrain's military tightens control of the capital. Riot police fire tear gas at a public square occupied by antigovernment protesters, killing at least three people.

Libya — At least four antigovernment protesters are killed in clashes with security forces. Col. Moammar Gadhafi mobilizes large pro-government demonstrations. Anti-Gadhafi groups say protesters took to the streets in four cities: Zentan, Rijban, Shahat and Benghazi.

Iraq — Kurdish security guards open fire on a crowd of protesters calling for political reforms in Sulaimaniyah in northern Iraq, killing at least two people.

February 18, 2011

Yemen — One protester dies in a grenade attack in the central square of Taiz, one of Yemen's largest cities. At least three protesters die in clashes in the southern city of Aden. Supporters and opponents of the government clash in San'a for an eighth day.

Bahrain — Security services open fire on demonstrators. The country's crown prince appeals for calm and asks protesters to leave the square to begin "dialogue."

Iran — During Friday prayers services, thousands of attendees carry signs that call for the prosecution and execution of opposition leaders.

Libya — Human-rights and opposition groups monitoring clashes say the army has deployed to Benghazi. Col. Gadhafi drives through the capital, rallying thousands.

February 19, 2011

Algeria — Hundreds of protesters gather in central Algiers, but security forces stop them from gathering in May 1st Square. Some are able to enter but are beaten up and dispersed.

Bahrain — Security services fire on demonstrators marching toward the Pearl roundabout in

Manama. Protesters retake the public space after soldiers leave.

Libya — Col. Gadhafi's forces fire on mourners leaving a funeral for protesters in the eastern city of Benghazi, Libya, killing at least 15 people and wounding scores more.

February 20, 2011

Bahrain — A meeting between opposition groups breaks up with no agreement on whether to move immediately toward negotiations with the government.

Iran — Tens of thousands protest across the nation calling for the end to the Islamic Republic's rule. Riot police and plainclothes Basij militia battle the crowds.

Libya — Antigovernment unrest spreads to the Libyan capital, protesters seize military bases and weapons. Col. Gadhafi's son, Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, warns of civil war.

February 21, 2011

Libya — Residents report military helicopters and cargo planes fly over Tripoli. Violent clashes between protesters and security forces snowball in cities throughout eastern Libya.

Yemen — President Saleh rejects demands to step down. Several hundred protesters camp overnight in a square in San'a, near the city's university.

February 22, 2011

Yemen — Thousands of antigovernment protesters rally across the country. Pro-government supporters rally in San'a, where protesters continue to camp out. Two protesters are killed in clashes in San'a.

Bahrain — Opposition protesters organize another big rally.

Libya — Col. Gadhafi vows to remain in the country "until the end." Large parts of eastern Libya appear under the control of Col. Gadhafi's opponents.

February 23, 2011

Bahrain — King Hamid bin Isa al-Khalifa frees at least 23 political prisoners held on terrorism counts, pardons two others, including an exiled opposition leader.

Libya — Forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi open fire in the capital.

Yemen — President Saleh orders police to protect all demonstrators after two were killed the night before in San'a.

February 24, 2011

Bahrain — The country's largest trade union joins the leading Shiite bloc Al-Wefaq and secular

groups in the opposition.

Egypt — Egyptian authorities arrest the country's former information minister and the chairman of state television and radio on corruption allegations, the latest moves by the country's ruling military against senior officials of Hosni Mubarak's ousted regime.

Libya — Rebels controlling eastern Libya's main towns, Benghazi, Tobruq and Baida, announce an offensive against the capital, Tripoli.

Yemen — A mine placed on the route of an antigovernment protest explodes, killing one and injuring two. The explosion happened in Lawder, a southern town known for antigovernment feeling. In San'a, more than 5,000 antigovernment protesters camp in front of San'a University. Around 4,000 pro-government protesters camp about one mile away.

February 25, 2011

Libya — In spite of security forces barricading Tripoli, the capital, with checkpoints and patrols, residents take to the city's streets, gathering to pray and demonstrate against leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi. The U.N. Security Council prepares to discuss imposing sanctions on Mr. Gadhafi's embattled regime.

Yemen — Tens of thousands of Yemenis flood the streets of the capital, San'a, to demand the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Iraq — Thousands gather in Baghdad's Liberation Square to protest corruption and poor government services, despite restrictions. Thousands march on government buildings across the country. In Hawija, police kill three protesters, the Associated Press reports. The AP also reports that guards fatally shoot three people in Mosul.

Tunisia — An estimated 100,000 people demonstrate in Tunis, calling for Mr. Ghannouchi to step down.

Jordan — Thousands protest in the capital, Amman, as an opposition leader says Jordanians are growing "impatient with the slow and insufficient steps toward reforms." The crowd is the largest since protests started in the country ruled by King Abdullah II.

Egypt — Tens of thousands rally in Cairo's Tahrir Square to keep up pressure on Egypt's military rulers to carry out reforms and to call for the dismissal of holdovers from the regime of ousted President Hosni Mubarak.

February 26, 2011

Bahrain — Tens of thousands of mostly Shiite protesters stream into central Manama, the capital, to march on government ministries for the first time since demonstrations started. Prominent Shiite opposition leader Hassan Mushaima, who heads the hard-line group Haq, returns from exile.

Yemen — Two powerful tribal chiefs from President Saleh's own tribe, Hashid, join opposition

forces to demand the president's ouster. Tens of thousands of protesters, from the Hashid and Baqil tribes, march in Emran, Yemen.

Egypt — Military police clear protesters who try to camp out at the cabinet office to demand political reforms. Meanwhile, a panel tasked with amending Egypt's constitution recommends presidential term limits and judicial oversight for elections -- significant changes.

Libya — Residents say Col. Gadhafi's regime is arming civilian supporters to set up checkpoints and roving patrols around the capital. The United Nations Security Council imposes an arms embargo on Libya.

Algeria — Several hundred protesters march through Algiers, the capital, in the first demonstration since the Algerian government lifted its state of emergency. At least one lawmaker is wounded and six students are briefly arrested, according to an official.

Tunisia — Protesting youths and police pelt each other with rocks in Tunis, the capital. Gunshots ring out, cars burn, tear gas wafts through the streets and an army helicopter circles above.

Oman — Omani ruler Sultan Qaboos bin Said, wary of the unrest rippling across the region, replaces six cabinet members in a bid to defuse tensions in the country.

February 27, 2011

Yemen — At least 11 tribal sheikhs publicly pledge their allegiance to the president.

Libya — Rebel groups take control of Zawiya, close to Tripoli.

Tunisia — Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi says he is stepping down. Protesters and policemen clash in central Tunis. Interim President Foued Mebazaa says he asked Béji Caïd-Essebsi, a former government minister, to replace Mr. Ghannouchi.

Iraq — Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki gives his ministers 100 days to improve their performance or risk being fired. Clashes erupt in Amarah, 200 miles southeast of Baghdad.

Oman — Omani security forces fire tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters demanding political reforms, killing at least one person. Hundreds of protesters take to the streets in the town of Sohar.

February 28, 2011

Bahrain — Bahrain's upper chamber is forced cancel a meeting after protesters form a human chain to block the entrance to the parliament building. Protesters then march to the state television headquarters.

Libya — The West moves to send its first concrete aid to Libya's rebellion. Residents report planes loyal to Col. Gadhafi attempting to bomb Benghazi are repulsed by rebel anti-aircraft weapons. In Misrata, defense patrols claim to have shot down an attack helicopter sent from Tripoli. The U.S. Treasury Department freezes \$30 billion in assets controlled by Col. Gadhafi and his family.

Iran — Opposition leaders Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karubi are arrested, according to Mr. Mousavi's website. Government doesn't confirm arrests. Chief prosecutor Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei says members of the opposition have been isolated.

Egypt — Top prosecutor seizes all the funds of Mr. Mubarak and his family.

Yemen — President Saleh offers to form a unity government with opponents. The offer is rejected.

Iraq — Al-Maliki calls for early elections for the councils that rule Iraq's 18 provinces.

Oman — In the third consecutive day of unrest, striking workers and unemployed protesters block major entrances to Sohar, a north Omani industrial town, home to a major port and aluminium refinery. Protesters are demanding better pay and working prospects.

March 1, 2011

Libya — Rebels repel an attack on Zawiyah by forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi. The United Nations General Assembly suspends Libya from the U.N. Human Rights Council because of Col. Gadhafi's violent crackdown on protesters.

Yemen — President Saleh accuses Washington of instigating protests against his regime. Hundreds of thousands march in cities across the country.

Iran — The biggest antigovernment protests in two weeks erupt across the nation in reaction to the arrest of two opposition leaders. The protests are part of a new plan by the opposition to challenge Iran's regime by keeping a street presence every Tuesday for the next few weeks. Iran's government reacts with force, deploying police and plainclothes Basij militia to crush the crowds armed with batons, tear gas and guns.

Oman — Protests in Oman's second-largest city, Sohar, lose steam Tuesday, but not before spreading unrest to the mouth of the world's most important oil thoroughfare -- the Strait of Hormuz, which controls access to most of the energy produced in the Persian Gulf.

March 2, 2011

Libya — Rebel forces rout troops loyal to Col. Gadhafi in a fierce battle over the oil-port city of Brega. Mr. Gadhafi's forces launch airstrikes in the area of the rebel-held city of Ajdabiya, where antiregime forces resist. Italy votes to send aid for tens of thousands of refugees fleeing Libya.

Bahrain — Thousands march on the Interior Ministry in Manama, demanding the release of all political prisoners.

Yemen — President Saleh and opposition members agree to a deal that gives the president until year's end to work out a framework for his eventual exit and that would rule out handing down power to his son.

March 3, 2011

Bahrain — The six main opposition parties submit demands to the ruling Al-Khalifa family that include the introduction of a constitutional monarchy, the dissolution of the government and formation of a new interim government, the release of all political prisoners, along with an independent investigation into the deaths of seven protesters since the clashes began.

Egypt — Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq resigns and is replaced by a U.S. educated former transport minister, Essam Sharaf. Protest leaders and opposition politicians welcome the choice.

Yemen — Protesters stage new demonstrations to demand Mr. Saleh's immediate ouster.

Libya — Forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi battle rebel forces for control of key territory around oil installations. U.S. President Barack Obama says Gadhafi must leave office, and says he is sending military aircraft to the Libya-Tunisia border to help transport Egyptian refugees home. Meanwhile, the Dutch Ministry of Defense says three Dutch troops are being held by forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi after being captured during a rescue mission.

Tunisia — Tunisia's interim president says the country will vote on July 24 to elect an assembly tasked with writing the country's new constitution. Separately, thousands of migrants fleeing chaos in Libya walk into Tunisia through the border checkpoint at Ras Jedir. Tunisian authorities say some 90,000 foreigners have left Libya through Ras Jedir in a little more than a week.

Saudi Arabia — Hundreds of demonstrators take to the streets demanding democratic change in al-Ahsa and the Shiite fishing village of Qatif. Over 20 people are arrested and later released.

March 4, 2011

Libya — Security forces keep a tight grip on Tripoli. Col. Gadhafi supporters stage widespread rallies throughout the capital. An explosion at an ammunition depot in the rebel stronghold of Benghazi kills at least 16 people. In the oil-refinery town of Brega, rebel forces remain in control.

Yemen — Witnesses say Yemeni soldiers opened fire at antigovernment protesters in the northern city of Amran, killing three people. In the capital, tens of thousands assembled near San'a University urging Mr. Saleh's ouster.

Bahrain — More than 100,000 protesters gather in Manama.

March 5, 2011

Libya — Col. Gadhafi's forces launch a new attack on the opposition-held city of al-Zawiya. Forces attack the city on foot and with mortars and heavy weapons. Rebel forces capture the key eastern oil port of Ras Lanouf.

Yemen — President Saleh formally rejects protesters' call for his resignation this year, but several members of his ruling party resign. Tens of thousands of protesters take to the streets to demand

Mr. Saleh's resignation.

Oman — The sultan replaces three top government positions in an attempt to quell more than a week of widening demonstrations calling for jobs and political reform.

Bahrain — Thousands of Shiite protesters form a huge human chain around Manama. No police are in sight.

Algeria — Algeria's main opposition party holds its first rally in seven years in central Algiers, but police prevent the protest from growing.

Saudi Arabia — Government officials ban all protests and marches in the kingdom, warn they will take strong action if activists resume demonstrations.

March 6, 2011

Libya — Forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi strike back against rebel-held cities across Libya.

Bahrain — Tens of thousands opposition demonstrators encircle a government compound to stop a cabinet meeting. In a late interview with state television, Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa seeks to calm the situation, stressing the government is making progress on brokering talks, but warning neither side should set conditions before the talks begin.

Egypt — Gen. Mansour el-Essawy, a former general who led the antiterrorism drive during the 1990s, is named new interior minister. Groups of protesters storm the state security headquarters to rescue files they believed were about to be destroyed by security agents.

March 7, 2011

Bahrain — Hundreds of hard-line opposition protesters gather in Manama's financial center overnight and into the morning, defying a police order to disperse, escalating tensions between antigovernment demonstrators and the ruling Al-Khalifa family.

Libya — Forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi launch air strikes on the rebel-held oil port city of Ras Lanouf to check the rebels' advance west toward the capital. The U.N. calls on Libyan authorities to end hostilities and appoints a special envoy to the country. The U.S. and allies take steps to prepare for a possible military intervention. Some members of the United Nations Security Council begin drafting a U.N. resolution supporting a no-fly zone over Libya.

Oman — The sultan reshuffles the cabinet and removes the country's powerful economy minister. Protesters demand an increase in the minimum wage, legislative powers for the elected Majlis al-Shoura council and the replacement of most ministers.

Tunisia — Tunisia names a new government and disbands a much-hated police unit, the State Security Department, whose so-called political police spied on and harassed citizens under President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali. Prime Minister Beji Caid Essebsi keeps the heads of the key defense, interior, justice and foreign affairs ministries, but names new figures to six posts vacated

the week before.

Jordan — The government revises its draft budget for 2011 to include some 460 million Jordanian dinars (\$650 million) in additional expenditures, to cover a package of new social safety measures taken amid public demonstrations.

Egypt — The government arrests 47 officials from the state security agency and charges them with destroying documents in a bid to cover up crimes committed under the rule of deposed President Mubarak.

March 8, 2011

Libya — Forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi launch a new round of attacks on rebel positions, as his inner circle debates whether he should remain in power or relinquish his role.

Iran — The nation's hardliners consolidate power when former President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani steps down from his post as head of the country's most powerful clerical committee.

Yemen — At least two protesters are killed and dozens injured in San'a after the army fires live rounds and tear gas into a crowd during a demonstration, according to medics at the scene. Earlier, thousands of inmates riot at a prison in San'a, taking a dozen guards hostage and joining the growing calls for the country's president to step down. At least one prisoner is killed and 80 people are wounded. Protesters also gather in the streets.

March 9, 2011

Iran — Iran's highest-ranking moderate official is ousted from a clerical committee, a move that could consolidate power in the hands of the Islamic republic's hard-line rulers.

Libya — Forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi seize the central square of Zawiyah, a rebel-held city west of the capital, and stall rebel forces in the east.

March 10, 2011

Libya — Libyan officials try to soften the wave of economic sanctions hitting Col. Gadhafi's government. European Union foreign ministers and North Atlantic Treaty Organization officials meet in Brussels to consider options for intervening. France recognizes Libya's opposition National Transitional Council.

Yemen — President Saleh proposes a new constitution to strengthen the powers of the country's parliament, but his offer is rejected by demonstrators. Yassin Said Noman, president of the opposition coalition, says the only acceptable solution is for Mr. Saleh to hand over power.

Saudi Arabia — Police fire rubber bullets to disperse about 200 Shiite protesters in Qatif, according to a human rights activist.

Bahrain — Clashes erupt at a school. The main opposition group calls for the cancellation of a

march on the royal palace scheduled for Friday, saying it would risk provoking clashes between the Shiite majority and the Sunni minority.

March 11, 2011

Saudi Arabia — Hundreds of protesters take to the streets in the eastern Saudi Arabian cities of al-Hofuf and Awamiya. About 500 protesters, mainly Shiite Muslims, call for the release of prisoners held without charges.

Libya — Rebels remain on the defensive and protesters gather for demonstrations in Tripoli, as forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi continue their offensive from air and ground against rebel-held positions in the east. Soldiers parade through Ras Lanuf. Rebels retreat to positions in the small village of Ajaila, about 45 miles east of Ras Lanuf. The European Union freezes the assets of five Libyan entities, including the central bank and the country's sovereign-wealth fund.

Bahrain — Police fire tear gas to disperse tens of thousands of mainly Shiite antigovernment demonstrators after they march on the royal complex of Riffa on the outskirts of the capital. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates pays a surprise visit in a show of support for the royal family.

Jordan — Protests continue in Amman and other major cities demanding a quick dissolution of the country's parliament and holding national elections to choose new one.

Yemen — Yemeni security forces open fire on demonstrators trying to rip down photographs of the president. At least six are hurt as the biggest protests in a month of unrest rocked the country in a massive call for regime change.

March 12, 2011

Yemen — The Arab League asks the U.N. Security Council to enforce a "no-fly zone" over Libyan airspace, marking a possible diplomatic victory for forces opposed to Col. Gadhafi.

Jordan — Some 10,000 Palestinians and Bedouin tribesmen take to the streets of the capital to support the king, the Associated Press reports. Other Jordanians call for the dissolution of Parliament.

March 13, 2011

Libya — Troops loyal to Col. Gadhafi shell Brega, the site of a major oil terminal. State television reports that government troops have retaken the town.

Saudi Arabia — More than 200 Saudis are allowed to protest outside the Interior Ministry to demand the release of mostly Sunni detainees held on security and terrorism-related charges.

Bahrain — Protesters block a highway to Bahrain Financial Harbour, face off with police who fire tear gas.

Yemen — Police fire live bullets and tear gas at protesters, injuring more than 100 people who

were camping near San'a University. In Washington, a State Department spokesman says the violence must stop. In southern Aden province, demonstrators storm a police station. In Taiz province, clashes between demonstrators and police leave at least four wounded, witnesses said.

Oman — The sultan grants lawmaking powers to two advisory councils (one elected and another appointed by the sultan), boosts state pensions and social security payments.

March 14, 2011

Libya — Warplanes loyal to Col. Gadhafi strike weapons depots in the rebel-held city of Ajdabiya and forces move closer to the rebels' de facto capital city of Benghazi.

Bahrain — More than 1,000 Saudi soldiers enter Bahrain to help protect the country's oil and power facilities, and other key installations, in the wake of recent protests.

Yemen — Antigovernment tribesmen storm a security building in al-Jawf, close to the border with Saudi Arabia, and fatally shoot four soldiers in a revenge attack after government troops opened fire on opposition protesters calling for the president's ouster, witnesses said. Elsewhere, attackers stab a provincial governor in the neck and at least 60 people are injured in confrontations around the country.

March 15, 2011

Libya — Col. Gadhafi's forces capture Zwara, the last rebel-held town west of Tripoli, with heavy tank and artillery fire. They also close in on key rebel positions. The U.S. and Europe remain divided over military responses.

Bahrain — King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa declares a three-month state of emergency. A Saudi soldier has been shot and killed by a protester in Bahrain, a Saudi official says. Thousands are expected to march on the Saudi Embassy in Bahrain in protest over the arrival of its troops in Bahrain. After Iran criticizes the presence of Saudi troops, Bahrain recalls its ambassador from Tehran.

Yemen — Thousands of protesters take to the streets in the southern provinces of Taiz, Aden and Hadramawt.

March 16, 2011

Yemen — Government supporters armed with sticks, knives and guns attack thousands of pro-democracy protesters camped out in a main square, injuring hundreds, according to witnesses.

Bahrain — Security forces carry out a brutal crackdown on protester strongholds in Pearl roundabout and the financial district of Manama. President Barack Obama urges restraint against protesters.

Libya — Col. Gadhafi's forces seize Ajdabiya, the last town standing between them and the rebel capital, Benghazi, and renew shelling of Misrata, another rebel-held city. Meanwhile, Susan Rice,

U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, says the U.S. believes preparations should be made for military action that goes beyond a no-fly zone to protect Libyans.

Egypt — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visits Tahrir Square. Interior Minister Mansour el-Essawy dissolves the state security agency, fulfilling a central demand of the protest movement. He will create an internal security body called the National Security Sector.

March 17, 2011

Bahrain — Several opposition leaders are arrested in raids on their homes, and Iran recalls its ambassador to protest Gulf troops backing the government against Shiite protesters. Britain urges its citizens who don't have a "pressing reason" to be in Bahrain to leave the country, and says it is chartering planes for evacuations.

Libya — Late in the day, the U.N. Security Council passes a resolution authorizing military strikes on Libya. U.S. and European officials say air attacks against Col. Moammar Gadhafi's forces are possible "within hours" after the resolution is approved. Earlier, Egypt's military begins shipping arms over the border to Libyan rebels. Col. Gadhafi's air force bombs an airport near the opposition's main stronghold, Benghazi. Rebels use their own planes and helicopters to attack Col. Gadhafi's forces outside Ajdabiya, where new airstrikes kill civilians and destroy entire neighborhoods.

Yemen — Government supporters attack a protest camp in San'a, hurling stones and opening fire. At a rally, government loyalists strike as police fire tear gas. Witnesses describe the attackers as "paid thugs."

March 18, 2011

Libya — Libya announces an immediate cease-fire in its military operations, shortly after the U.K. says it is deploying fighter jets to enforce a no-fly zone over the country and Qatar becomes the first Arab nation to announce its participation in the U.N.-approved military mission against Col. Gadhafi's forces. But several residents affiliated with the rebels in Misrata, about 130 miles east of Tripoli, said government forces renewed their assault on Friday morning.

Yemen — President Saleh declares a state of emergency after 45 people are killed when armed men open fire on crowds of antigovernment protesters at San'a University. Crowds of demonstrators swell to approximately 100,000, making it one of San'a's largest protests yet.

Iraq — Thousands rally in mostly Shiite cities across Iraq against what they called "sectarian attacks" by security forces in Sunni-ruled Bahrain on Shiite-led protesters there. In Baghdad, some protesters called for more jobs, better services and an end to corruption.

Syria — Security forces launch a harsh crackdown on protesters calling for political freedoms, killing at least five people amid a group of demonstrators in Daraa, near the Jordanian border, according to a prominent activist.

Bahrain — The government tears down a 300-foot monument at the heart of Pearl roundabout, the

site of Shiite protests, erasing a symbol of the uprising against the Sunni government.

March 19, 2011

Libya — French jets destroy a Libyan military vehicle while enforcing a United-Nations mandate to protect Benghazi. Earlier, Col. Gadhafi's forces shell the rebel stronghold, and rebels respond by shooting down one of his fighter jets.

Yemen — Police shoot live ammunition, rubber bullets and tear gas at protesters in Aden, wounding at least 13 people, according to demonstrators. Thousands of protesters then attempt seize a local police station, but police hold them back.

Egypt — Egyptians line up to vote on constitutional amendments sponsored by the ruling military. The referendum is the first major test of the country's transition to democracy after the ouster of leader Hosni Mubarak.

Iraq — About 2,000 demonstrators wave Bahraini flags and chant "Yes, yes to Bahrain!" in Baghdad's Shiite Sadr City area. Some 4,000 gather in Basra and carry an effigy of Saudi King Abdullah in protest of him sending troops into Bahrain.

Palestinian Territories — Militants in Gaza fire more than 50 rockets into Israel in the heaviest barrage in two years, according to Israeli officials. A Hamas official is killed and four civilians are wounded when Israel responds with tank fire and airstrikes, says a Gaza Health Ministry spokesman.

March 20, 2011

Egypt — Egyptians approve a referendum on constitutional changes, with the country's elections commission chief saying that 77% of voters voted "yes" according to final results.

Yemen — President Saleh issues a statement saying he fired his entire Cabinet. The announcement came after members of Mr. Saleh's own tribe called on him to step down. Tens of thousands of people join a funeral procession for protesters killed by government gunmen.

Libya — U.S. and allied forces strike Col. Gadhafi's ground forces and air defenses.

Bahrain — Security forces arrest nearly 20 people, including a number of lower level political activists and even medical staff accused of criticizing the regime.

March 21, 2011

Yemen — Three army commanders, including a top general, join the ranks of antigovernment protesters who have called for an end to President Saleh's rule, as army tanks and armored vehicles deploy in the capital.

Bahrain — King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa says a foreign plot to "subvert security and stability" in the Gulf island kingdom has been foiled, praising the Saudi-led force he invited to help quell

unrest.

Libya — The U.S. and its allies step up air attacks against forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi. Four New York Times journalists who were held captive in Libya for six days are freed Monday by authorities and cross the border into Tunisia.

Syria — Syrians hold a defiant march in Deraa after a deadly government crackdown failed to quash three days of massive protests.

March 22, 2011

Yemen — President Saleh refuses to give in to an array of opponents demanding he immediately step down to make way for a military-backed democratic transition. Instead, he tries to salvage his 32-year rule through negotiations that also manage, as of the end of the day Tuesday, to keep the situation from devolving into a military conflict.

Libya — A U.S. jet crashes in northeast Libya and two pilots are safely ejected. U.S. and allied air patrols continue to expand the protective no-fly zone over the country.

Bahrain — The former commander-in-chief of the United Arab Emirates air force, Maj. Gen. Khalid Al Buainain, accuses Iran of plotting a "complete conspiracy" in Bahrain. He says his country refused to send aircraft to aid efforts to impose a no-fly zone in Libya because it didn't think the U.S. and Europe took the Iranian threat seriously enough.

Syria — Protests in the south of Syria continue for a fifth consecutive day. Small gatherings reported in several agricultural towns around the city of Deraa, as well as in Hajjar al-Aswad, a town close to Damascus.

March 23, 2011

Saudi Arabia — Government announces that it will hold long-delayed municipal elections on April 23, but dashes the hopes of some liberals in the kingdom by saying women wouldn't be allowed to vote.

Libya — Coalition forces solidify control over Libya's skies for a fifth day. The alliance's warships begin patrolling off Libya's coast to enforce the United Nations embargo on the country.

Syria — Fifteen people are killed in the southern city of Daraa when security forces launch an attack near the al-Omar Mosque, where anti-government demonstrators have taken shelter. Six people die in the initial attack, which begins at 12.30 a.m. Wednesday. The death toll climbs as bodies are found in the streets and later in the day when residents come under fire as they attempt to return to the mosque.

Bahrain — The national airline suspends flights to Lebanon, after Shiite Hezbollah's leader criticizes the Sunni-led government's decision to bring in outside troops to put down a Shiite uprising in the kingdom.

Yemen — Yemen's Parliament passes sweeping new emergency laws that suspend the constitution and enable President Saleh's remaining loyal security forces to arrest and detain his opponents. Political-opposition forces say the move heightens the threat of civil war.

Algeria — Hundreds of people clash with riot police in a poor neighborhood Algiers, starting at dawn when city authorities order bulldozers to destroy a group of houses built on a public garden, on the grounds that they had been illegally constructed. Witnesses say about 40 wounded people were evacuated by ambulances. But police say 20 people, mainly police officers, were hurt.

March 24, 2011

Libya — Allied forces pound several targets in Tripoli overnight and into Thursday morning, in the most intense night of bombing to date in the campaign against Col. Moammar Gadhafi. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization agrees to take over command of the no-fly zone.

Yemen — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the country's top general are nearing a settlement in which both would resign within days in favor of a civilian-led transitional government, people familiar with the situation say.

Jordan — Some 500 mostly young Jordanians set up a protest camp in a main square in the capital to press demands for the ouster of the prime minister and wider public freedoms. The protesters appear to be unaffiliated with any political party. Many said they met through Facebook.

Syria — Thousands call for liberty in the southern city of Daraa, defying a deadly government crackdown as they take to the streets in funeral marches for protesters killed by police gunfire. Media access is restricted but an AP reporter hears sporadic bursts of gunfire echoing through the city.

Bahrain — Bahrain warns Iran to keep out of its affairs, saying an escalation in the two countries' dispute over Bahrain's recent crackdown on political unrest could even lead to "conflict."

March 25, 2011

Libya — British missiles strike Libyan targets overnight and into Friday morning near the town of Ajdabiya, as allied forces try to hold back ground forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi.

Syria — Thousands take to the streets demanding reforms and mourning dozens of protesters killed. An activist says troops in the village of Sanamein, near Daraa, opened fire on demonstrators. He says there are witness reports of fatalities; numbers were unclear.

Yemen — Yemeni negotiators hashing out a transfer of power that would have President Saleh resign within days are stuck on details concerning the fate of his relatives, leaders of the country's elite counterterrorism units, people familiar with the discussions say. Protest organizers in San'a say they won't rally Friday, to allow talks more time.

Bahrain — Clashes erupt as antigovernment protesters defy a government ban on public gatherings, despite a beefed-up security presence. In Shiite villages surrounding the capital,

protesters, mainly young men, gather at intersections, calling for the fall of the ruling al-Khalifa family. Many of the gatherings are dispersed with tear gas, rubber bullets and bird shot.

Jordan — Police fired water cannon to disperse clashing crowds of antigovernment protesters and pro-regime loyalists in the Jordanian capital.

March 26, 2011

Libya — Rebels regain control of Ajdabiya after international airstrikes cripple Col. Gadhafi's forces. In Tripoli, a distraught Libyan woman storms into a hotel to tell foreign reporters that government troops gang raped her. She shows them bruises on her thighs and scratches on her face before a waitress brandishes a butter knife at the woman, who is eventually led away. A government spokesman later says the woman was drunk and possibly mentally challenged.

Syria — Protesters and government forces clash in Latakia, where the offices of President al-Assad's ruling Baath Party are set on fire, an activist says. The government frees more than 200 political prisoners to curb the unrest. Funerals are held across the country for victims killed in protests.

Yemen — Militants seize the town of Jaar, close to the southern port town of Aden.

March 27, 2011

Yemen — Islamic militants seize control of a weapons factory, the nearby Khanfar mountain and al-Husn, a town in the southern Yemen province of Abyan. The militants set up checkpoints around the small factory and in the town.

Libya — Rebels seize back the oil-refinery city of Ras Lanouf and take control of Brega, a main oil export terminal in eastern Libya.

Syria — The government warns against more demonstrations, makes a major concession by promising to lift the emergency law in place since 1963. Reports emerge from the city of Latakia that 12 people were killed and 200 injured during protests.

Bahrain — The government cuts the nationwide curfew time for the second time in as many days. Clashes continue in the Shiite villages that surround Manama. In the Shiite village of Karzakhan, military vehicles, groups of soldiers and riot police advance from checkpoints on the main road into the village.

March 28, 2011

Yemen — An explosion at a munitions factory in southern Yemen kills more than 100 people, mostly local residents, according to witnesses and medical officials, one day after a group of unknown gunman seized control of the site from the Yemeni military.

Libya — Rebel forces fight close to Col. Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte. Witnesses in Sirte report air strikes overnight and again early in the morning. In Misrata, residents report fighting between

rebels and Gadhafi loyalists who fire from tanks on residential areas.

Syria — Security forces fire tear gas on thousands of protesters in the southern city of Deraa. President al-Assad is expected to address the nation to try to ease the crisis.

Egypt — Egypt's military leadership announces it will hold parliamentary elections in September.

March 29, 2011

Yemen — Dozens of policemen and soldiers from different units join the protests around San'a University.

Libya — The rebel advance reaches Nawfaliyah, some 60 miles from Sirte, but are driven back to the hamlet of Bin Jawwad, a few dozen miles to the east.

Syria — President al-Assad accepts the cabinet's resignation. Hundreds of thousands of supporters of Syria's regime rally on the streets of Damascus and at least four other major cities.

Bahrain — Parliament formally accepts the resignations of 11 lawmakers from the Shiite opposition, postpones deliberations on six other Al Wefaq lawmakers who also submitted resignations last month.

March 30, 2011

Libya — Rebels retreat from the oil-refinery port of Ras Lanuf after coming under heavy shelling from ground forces loyal to leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi, the Associated Press reported. Coalition warplanes flew over the area, and explosions could be heard indicating a new wave of airstrikes against Gadhafi's forces. In a major diplomatic setback to Col. Gadhafi, Libya's foreign minister Moussa Koussa resigned from his position and may announce his defection as early as Thursday, European government officials said.

Syria — In a much-anticipated speech to parliament, Syria's President Bashar al-Assad offers no concrete concessions and blames foreign enemies for plotting unrest in the country.

March 31, 2011

Libya — In a major blow to Gadhafi, Libyan foreign minister Moussa Koussa resigns from his position and flies to the U.K.; Britain's foreign secretary said he isn't being offered immunity from "British and international justice."

Syria — President Assad sets up committees to replace the decades-old emergency laws and investigate civilian deaths in the recent unrest. His steps appear to be in an attempt to get ahead of fresh protests planned for Friday.

April 1, 2011

Libya — A leader of Libya's rebels says they will agree to a cease-fire if Moammar Gadhafi pulls

his military forces out of cities and allows peaceful protests against his regime.

Yemen — Hundreds of Yemenis pack a central square and march in cities around the country in the largest demonstrations in more than a month. Negotiations between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and opponents who want him to resign have reached a stalemate over his demand for a guarantee that his relatives won't be shut out of the military and politics after he quits.

Syria — Thousands of Syrians take to the streets in cities across the nation, defying security forces in a showdown between the government and opposition. Security forces clash with the crowds using tear gas and batons in several cities, including Daraa and Latakia. Plainclothes agents line the main squares in Damascus to prevent residents from demonstrating, witnesses said.

Egypt — In Cairo, thousands of demonstrators come to Tahrir Square demanding that Egypt's military rulers punish members of the administration of former President Hosni Mubarak.

Oman — Government police use tear gas and water cannons to disperse hundreds of protesters demanding the release of people detained in a security crackdown, witnesses say.

Jordan — Jordanian police separate hundreds of government supporters from reformist activists as the two groups hold rival rallies outside municipal offices in Amman. A group of students, Facebook activists, and Islamists carrying a huge Jordanian flag chanted: "Reform now. We want to elect the prime minister."

Tunisia — Police fire tear gas at stone-throwing youths in the capital after a demonstration by hundreds of Islamists protesting the country's secular laws.

April 2, 2011

Yemen — Thousands of antigovernment protesters hurl stones at police in Aden and call for a general strike, and protests are held in San'a.

Oman — Dozens of protesters stage a sit-in Muscat, the capital, to demand probes into alleged state abuses after clashes with security forces leave at least one person dead, reports the Associated Press.

Syria — Government forces tighten security Saturday and make sweeping arrests after at least seven people are killed Friday in clashes with security forces, according to the Associated Press.

April 3, 2011

Libya — Rebels fight government forces in Brega, a strategic oil town.

Syria — President Assad appoints a former agriculture minister to form a new government. Meanwhile, hundreds of people march in a suburb of Damascus during funerals to mourn those killed in the latest round of protests.

Algeria — Representatives of Algeria's communal guards say about 3,000 guards protest in the capital over the government's plans to disband their units. The guards are a state-armed militia that's

been on the front line of the fight against Islamist insurgents.

Yemen — Police attack women protesters marching in southern Yemen with sticks and rocks. Men join the protest after the attack and police open fire, seriously wounding three men.

Bahrain — Bahraini authorities ban the country's main opposition newspaper, Al-Wasat, in a widening effort to muzzle antigovernment media and crack down on the Shiite opposition. Al-Wasat's online edition also was blocked. The state-run Bahrain News Agency accused the paper of "unethical" coverage of the uprising against the country's rulers.

April 4, 2011

Libya — Libyan rebels push into and capture half of the strategic oil town of Brega, as a government envoy begins a trip to Europe to discuss an end to the fighting. Rebels say government forces attacked at least one oil field.

Yemen — Yemeni troops open fire on crowds of protesters demanding the ouster of President Saleh, killing at least 11 and wounding more than 30, according to witnesses. It is the second straight day of clashes in the southern city of Taiz.

Syria — A new governor is sworn in to rule the troubled Daraa province, center of anti-government protests in which at least 80 people have been killed. Replacing the governor is one of the gestures by President Bashar Assad aimed at defusing the protests.

April 5, 2011

Libya — Libyan government forces unleash a withering bombardment of rebel forces trying to take back the oil town of Brega, pushing them back even as the regime said Col. Moammar Gadhafi might consider some reforms but wouldn't be stepping down.

Syria — Syrian activists using a Facebook page to collect attention call for a new wave of nationwide protests on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Yemen — Tribesmen loyal to Yemen's embattled president clash at the gate of an army compound with a group of soldiers whose commander has sided with the opposition; the fighting in a suburb of San'a left three tribesmen dead, according to tribal elders and military officials. It was unclear how exactly the shooting started.

April 6, 2011

Egypt — The Muslim Brotherhood says it will join demonstrations across the country Friday—a move that could help the 83-year old Islamist group reclaim its revolutionary bona fides before parliamentary elections.

Libya — NATO dismisses rebel criticism of the pace of the alliance's airstrikes, saying the number is increasing every day and that on Wednesday it plans to conduct nearly 200 sorties Wednesday,

more than Monday's 137 and Tuesday's 186, the AP reported.

April 7, 2011

Saudi Arabia — Bashar Assad grants citizenship to thousands of Kurds living in a northeastern province, fulfilling a key demand by the country's long ostracized minority and making yet another concession amid extraordinary anti-government protests.

April 8, 2011

Yemen — Hundreds of thousands of Yemenis converge in the capital for rival demonstrations, with some demanding the president's ouster and others showing their support. Police and army units are deployed in San'a to prevent any clashes between the two sides. President Ali Abdullah Saleh rejects a mediation offer from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council that would have him cede power.

Libya — NATO acknowledges that its planes had struck rebels using tanks in their fight with the government forces in eastern Libya a day earlier, but the alliance won't apologize for any deaths and says it wasn't aware the rebels were using tanks.

Syria — Syrian security forces fire tear gas and live ammunition in Daraa as thousands of protesters gather in a tense southern city despite overtures by the president to end three weeks of unrest, witnesses tell the Associated Press.

Egypt — Tens of thousands of people gather in Cairo's Tahrir Square in the afternoon, demanding the nation's military leaders prosecute ousted president Hosni Mubarak and his family for alleged corruption.

April 9, 2011

Egypt — Demonstrators burn cars and barricade themselves with barbed wire in Cairo's Tahrir Square, demanding the resignation of the military's chief hours after troops violently disperse a protest there.

Libya — Government troops shell rebels' front-line outpost and advance in guerrilla-style units in Ajdabiya. NATO responds with what appears to be an airstrike. Rebels also push deeper toward Brega.

Syria — Security forces fire live ammunition to disperse a funeral march in Daraa for dozens killed a day earlier in the single bloodiest day of the country's three-week antigovernment uprising, a human-rights group says. Several mourners are wounded.

Yemen — Yemen, angry over Qatar's suggestion that its leader resign, recalls its ambassador as hundreds of thousands of Yemenis rally in Taiz and elsewhere.

Bahrain — Two supporters of the antigovernment movement die in police custody after physical

abuse at the hands of security officials, according to activists and relatives.

Palestinian Territories — Palestinian militants fire more than 30 rockets at southern Israel and Israeli warplanes kill five militants in the Gaza Strip.

Sudan — Both southern and northern Sudan have violated agreements by bringing heavily armed units into the disputed border region of Abyei, according to a U.S. special envoy. Southern Sudan is set to become independent in July.

April 10, 2011

Palestinian Territories — Gaza militants fire about 10 rockets and mortar shells at Israel, police say, but Israel does not strike back. A senior member of Gaza's ruling Hamas makes a rare appeal to the Israeli public for a halt to the escalating cross-border fighting.

Libya — A NATO leader says airstrikes destroy 11 tanks around Ajdabiya and another 14 near Misrata, the Associated Press reports. Dozens of people are killed in weekend fighting around Ajdabiya, according to a hospital supervisor.

Syria — Shots ring out after the army seals off the key port city of Baniyas, where antigovernment protesters turn out. At least three protesters are killed.

Yemen — Tens of thousands of Yemenis rally in San'a to protest the death of demonstrators Friday in the southern city of Taiz.

April 11, 2011

Libya — NATO steps up strikes on forces loyal to Col. Moammar Gadhafi, incinerating a convoy of vehicles laying siege to Ajdabiya and appearing to turn the tide toward rebel forces in the battle for the city. A delegation of African leaders, counterparts to a group that arrived in Tripoli Sunday, is greeted in Benghazi with protests.

Syria — Thousands of mourners chanting "Death is better than humiliation!" attend a funeral for four protesters killed Sunday in the port city of Baniyas, according to witnesses by pro-government gunmen. Elsewhere, security forces beat and arrest several students out of hundreds who protest for freedom.

Egypt — Egyptian prosecutors summon former President Hosni Mubarak for questioning and arrest former Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif.

April 12, 2011

Libya — Col. Gadhafi's forces shell Misrata and France says NATO should do more to take out heavy weaponry targeting Libyan civilians. NATO rejects the criticism, saying the alliance is performing well and protecting civilians.

Algeria — Thousands of students march in Algiers, the capital, to demand the resignation of the

education minister in the latest wave of antigovernment protests in the Arab world.

Syria — Pro-government gunmen attack the villages of Bayda and Beit Jnad, days after security forces shot dead four protesters in the same region, according to a leading Syrian opposition figure.

Yemen — Tens of thousands of Yemenis demonstrate across the country against a mediation proposal by neighboring Gulf nations because it offers President Ali Abdullah Saleh immunity from prosecution.

April 13, 2011

Egypt — An Egyptian public prosecutor says the former president, Hosni Mubarak, and his two sons will be taken into custody for 15 days pending investigations into corruption charges and acts of violence against the protesters who ousted him. The decision comes hours after Mr. Mubarak sought treatment for a heart attack on Tuesday evening.

Libya — In a meeting with envoys from NATO and Arab allies in Doha, Qatar, Libyan rebels call for stronger international pressure on Moammar Gadhafi's regime. Italy and Qatar revive their push to give Libya's rebels the means to fight off Col. Gadhafi's forces.

Syria — Thousands of women and children holding white flags and olive branches block a main coastal highway, demanding authorities release people detained in the northeastern villages of Bayda and Beit Jnad during a crackdown on opponents of the regime.

Yemen — Yemeni security forces clash with thousands of protesters hurling rocks and burning tires in the port city of Aden, killing at least one person. In San'a, armed civilians attack an army unit affiliated with an army officer who had earlier defected to the opposition. One officer is killed. Also in the capital, tens of thousands protest in the streets against the government.

April 14, 2011

Libya — A rebel in the besieged western Libyan city of Misrata tells the AP by telephone that Moammar Gadhafi's troops have unleashed heavy shelling of the port, killing nine and wounding 20 people. NATO's top military commander says the alliance needs eight sophisticated ground-attack fighters to carry out its mission in Libya. U.S., British and French leaders pledge to maintain the military campaign until Col. Gadhafi leaves office.

Syria — Syrian President Bashar Assad orders the release of hundreds of detainees. The order signals an attempt to calm weeks of growing protest anger and pre-empt what is expected to be another day of large demonstrations on Friday. The country's new prime minister, meanwhile, announces his cabinet, two weeks after President Assad fired the previous government in an earlier gesture that failed to contain the unrest.

April 15, 2011

Syria — Thousands demonstrate in several Syrian cities, including Daraa, Bayda and Douma, with some chanting "freedom, freedom," activists and witnesses tell the Associated Press. Security

forces fire tear gas and beat protesters with batons as tens of thousands of people march toward the Syrian capital.

Yemen — Yemenis turn out in massive crowds across the country -- including outside San'a University, in Taiz, Aden and eastern Hadramawt province -- to demand President Ali Abdullah Saleh immediately step down, while his loyalists rally in his support in San'a. Saleh tells tens of thousands of supporters near his presidential office that their huge number gives him legitimacy.

Libya — NATO foreign ministers seek to overcome deep differences over the military campaign in Libya amid calls to show a united front. The civilian head of NATO says that it is impossible to believe the alliance could accomplish its mission in Libya while Col. Moammar Gadhafi remains in power.

Algeria — Islamist extremists attack an army post and kill at least 13 soldiers watching the Algerian president's televised speech promising reforms, according to security officials.

April 16, 2011

Libya — Rebel forces advance on Brega after four days of NATO airstrikes. In Misrata, Col. Gadhafi's forces kill nine people and wound 20 in an hours-long barrage, according to a rebel.

Syria — Thousands of Syrians take to the streets for the funeral of a slain protester hours before President Bashar Assad is expected to appear in a televised speech.

Yemen — Thousands of demonstrators seeking the president's ouster denounce his comments against the participation of women in protest rallies.

April 17, 2011

Libya — Government troops bombard Ajdabiya and fighting flares in Misrata, where rebels have gained some new ground.

Syria — Gunmen open fire during a funeral near Homs, Syria, for a slain antigovernment protester, killing at least three people on a day when tens of thousands of protesters take to the streets.

Egypt — Prosecutors file corruption charges against the former prime minister and two other senior members of the cabinet that served under ousted President Hosni Mubarak.

Yemen — Security forces fire on antigovernment protesters in San'a as hundreds of thousands of marchers — including many women — pack cities around the country to denounce the president and remarks he made against women taking part in rallies.

Algeria — Two nearly simultaneous attacks in the Boumerdes and Bouira regions by suspected Islamist extremists kill six members of the country's security forces.

United Arab Emirates — Human-rights lawyers say authorities have detained a fourth activist for advocating democratic reforms in the oil-rich Gulf nation. The federation of seven sheikdoms

heavily restricts political activity but has been spared the unrest hitting other Arab nations.

Oman — Oman says it will spend about \$2.6 billion to address demands by protesters for more jobs and state aid. The spending boost is a centerpiece of efforts to quell two months of sporadic demonstrations.

April 18, 2011

Libya — More than 970 people trapped for weeks by the fighting in Misrata are evacuated by an immigration group and taken by boat to Benghazi.

Yemen — A Yemeni activist says police fired tear gas and live ammunition at protesters calling for the ouster of the country's longtime president, injuring 45 people in the Red Sea town of al-Hudaydah.

Syria — More than 10,000 mourners in Syria join funeral processions. After the burial of at four people in the western city of Homs, some 5,000 protesters take over the main square of the city, vowing to occupy it until President Bashar al-Assad is ousted.

April 19, 2011

Syria — Around 2 a.m., police use live ammunition and tear gas to clear protesters from a square in Homs, north of Damascus. At least one person is killed, according to witnesses. The government later issues a stern warning to the nation to stop protesting. In the afternoon, more than 10,000 demonstrators march back toward the square.

Libya — NATO jets bomb a column of Libyan government reinforcements on their way to the besieged city of Misrata, according to rebel fighters in the city.

April 20, 2011

Libya — As Col. Gadhafi's supporters continue the assault on Misrata, France and Italy announce plans to join Britain in sending military officers to Libya to help organize rebel forces organize and bolster the NATO air campaign.

Syria — Thousands of students protest in Daraa and at Aleppo University, brushing off President Bashar Assad's sweeping declarations of reform; the protest movement vows to stage the biggest rallies to date on Friday.

Yemen — Opposition activists report that gunmen on motorcycles opened fire on hundreds of demonstrators camped out early Wednesday in the port city of Hodeida, killing one and wounding several.

April 21, 2011

Syria — Protesters take credit for forcing President Bashar al-Assad to lift the country's 50-year state of emergency and brush off his attempts to placate the monthlong uprising. Activists say they

are planning the biggest protests to date Friday against Mr. Assad.

Libya — Opposition forces on the western side of the country take control of a crossing on the Tunisian border, the Dhuheiba border post, approximately 180 miles southwest of Tripoli. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates says President Barack Obama has approved the use of armed Predator drone aircraft in Libya.

April 22, 2011

Syria — Syrian security forces move forcefully in an attempt to disperse protests before they gained momentum in the afternoon, in some places by shooting at even potential protesters and using tear gas to break up groups heading to mosques for prayers. Dozens are killed.

Libya — U.S. Sen. John McCain visits Benghazi, and says Libyan rebels fighting Col. Moammar Gadhafi's troops are "my heroes." He is the highest-level American visitor to date in the rebel-held east.

Yemen — Authorities in Yemen arrest several military officers who had defected from the camp of the country's embattled president to join the opposition, according to a military official. Meanwhile, opponents and supporters of President Ali Abdullah Saleh march in cities and towns across the nation after Friday prayers.

Egypt — Tens of thousands of Egyptians led by hard-line Islamists escalate their protests over the appointment of a Coptic Christian governor in Qena.

Oman — Witnesses say protesters calling for investigations into state corruption stage a march in Salalah, south of the capital.

April 23, 2011

Syria — Security forces fire on tens of thousands of mourners during funeral processions in Douma and Izraa, killing at least 20 people. Meanwhile, two Syrian parliamentarians and the top cleric from Dara'a resign, apparently in protest over the government's handling of antiregime protests.

Libya — The U.S. Air Force carries out its first Predator missile strikes, the Pentagon says. In Misrata, rebels claim victory as Col. Gadhafi's forces say they are withdrawing, but the town is still bombarded and casualties are reported.

Iraq — Hundreds of followers of an Iraqi Shiite party protest in Baghdad in a show of solidarity for Shiite antigovernment protesters in Bahrain.

Yemen — President Ali Abdullah Saleh accepts a political deal brokered by neighboring Arab countries that will have him step down from power after 30 days in exchange for immunity for himself and his close relatives. Meanwhile, thousands of protesters kept up sit-ins and rallies at city squares in at least five provinces.

April 24, 2011

Libya — Rebel fighters take control of the main hospital in Misrata and drive Col. Gadhafi's forces to the edge of the city, the Associated Press reports. Gadhafi loyalists fire dozens of rockets at Misrata.

Sudan — At least 115 people die in government-rebel violence in Southern Sudan this week, an official says Sunday.

Syria — Dozens of activists are detained in raids. In Jableh, witnesses say soldiers and police open fire from rooftops, even though no protest is in progress, killing at least one person.

Yemen — Thousands of antigovernment protesters rally in San'a's Change Square.

Palestinian Territories — The 25-year-old nephew of an Israeli cabinet member is killed when Palestinian police open fire on a convoy of worshipers leaving a holy site in the West Bank city of Nablus.

Bahrain — The state news agency says a military prosecutor has demanded death for seven antigovernment protesters accused of killing two policemen during protests. The defendants deny the charges.

Morocco — Thousands take to the streets in peaceful demonstrations to demand sweeping reforms.

April 25, 2011

Syria — Syrian military tanks and armored vehicles move into the restive southern city of Deraa, and eyewitnesses say a key army unit close to president Bashar al-Assad is shooting at people.

Libya — Libyan forces bombard densely populated residential neighborhoods of Misrata, killing at least six, including a 10-year-old boy, according to hospital officials. After a 14-hour fight, rebels oust Gadhafi forces from Misrata.

Yemen — Yemen's opposition is deadlocked about whether to join embattled President Saleh in accepting a deal in which he would cede power after a 30-day period and receive immunity for himself and his close relatives. Forces loyal to Mr. Saleh open fire on protesters demanding his ouster, killing two at various protests.

April 26, 2011

Syria — Gunfire reverberates in Deraa, where the dead lay unclaimed a day after a government crackdown, residents say. A human-rights group says dozens are detained, mainly in Damascus and Jableh. Nevertheless, protests resumed. A draft statement condemning the violence makes the rounds at the United Nations.

Libya — Libyan government forces pound the port of Misrata.

Yemen — The opposition coalition accepts a deal that would remove President Saleh from power in exchange for immunity for himself and his relatives.

April 27, 2011

Syria — The Syrian army sends more tanks and reinforcements into Deraa as part of a widening crackdown against opponents of President Bashar Assad's authoritarian regime, while opposition figures say their "massive grassroots revolution" will break the regime unless Mr. Assad leads a transition to democracy.

Libya — An Albanian ship, chartered by the International Organization of Migration, docks at a Misrata port with 10 shipping containers of aid and two ambulances. The ship also plans to evacuate refugees from the battered city.

Yemen — Residents in at least 18 cities and towns launch a civil disobedience campaign to bring down the country's long-serving president. Shops and schools are closed and government offices shuttered. The daylong closures are planned twice weekly until Saleh goes, activists said.

April 28, 2011

Bahrain — A Bahraini national-security court sentences to death four Shiite protesters for killing two policemen during the antigovernment demonstrations earlier this year.

Syria — Hundreds of Syrian ruling party members quit over the military's use of force against protesters, and activists reported fighting between soldiers and elite troops, in signs of growing cracks among loyalists of the Assad regime. Turkey sent a high-level delegation to advise Syria on rapid reforms, a sign of Ankara's concern that rising violence could trigger instability across the region.

Libya — Col. Moammar Gadhafi's forces shell the rebel-held city of Misrata, killing nine people. Regime supporters and opponents battle for control of a crossing point along the Tunisian border, pushing refugees to flee.

April 29, 2011

Syria — Security forces open fire on demonstrators in the capital and in Latakia, the heartland of the ruling elite, wounding at least five people as thousands take to the streets across Syria, witnesses say.

Libya — Armed with anti-aircraft guns and rocket launchers, forces loyal to Col. Gadhafi cross a border in pursuit of rebels and end up clashing with residents of Dehiba, Tunisia. The Tunisian government demands Libya halt all incursions.

Yemen — Plainclothes police open fire on protesters calling for President Saleh's ouster in Hodeida, wounding at least five people ahead of mass demonstrations nationwide.

Bahrain — At Friday prayers, one of Bahrain's leading Shiite clerics warns the country is at risk

of even deeper tensions after four anti-government protesters are convicted of killing two policemen and sentenced to death by a military court.

April 30, 2011

Libya — NATO bombs strike a government complex in Tripoli as Col. Gadhafi calls for a cease-fire. Heavy fighting continues in southern Misrata.

Syria — More than 100 tanks, 1,000 soldiers and helicopters move into Deraa and take control of a prominent mosque, killing at least four people. Security forces keep dozens of women from marching on parliament in Damascus.

Egypt — Egypt's new justice minister says ousted leader Hosni Mubarak would face the death penalty if convicted of ordering the shooting of protesters during the uprisings. Mr. Mubarak's two sons and wife are accused of corruption.

Yemen — Security forces drive hundreds of protesters out of a square they had been occupying for months in Aden. About 10 people suffer bullet wounds.

May 1, 2011

Syria — Army tanks shell Deraa and roll in reinforcements as defiant residents struggle to find food, water and supplies.

Libya — Col. Gadhafi's forces shell a rebel port in Misrata as an aid ship unloads food and medical supplies. Libyans attack the Italian and British embassies in Tripoli.

Yemen — President Saleh refuses to sign a deal that will end Yemen's political crisis, leaving a deadlock. Tens of thousands of protesters take to the streets in several cities.

May 2, 2011

Libya — More than 2,000 Libyans shouting for revenge bury Moammar Gadhafi's second youngest son, who officials say was killed in a NATO airstrike Saturday along with three of the Libyan leader's young grandchildren.

Syria — Syrian troops go door-to-door in cities and towns across the nation, arresting scores of people in a campaign of intimidation aimed at crushing an uprising against President Bashar Assad's authoritarian regime, activists say.

May 3, 2011

Syria — A human-rights group says weekend arrests netted more than 1,000 people and many more have been reported missing in Syria since Saturday. Separately, the International Committee of the Red Cross calls on Syria to allow it "immediate and unimpeded" access to those injured in Deraa.

Bahrain — Several doctors and nurses who treated injured antigovernment protesters during

months of unrest in the Gulf kingdom have been charged with acts against the state and will be tried in a military court, Bahrain's justice minister says.

Libya — Rebels say forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi have been shelling a route used to ferry supplies from across the Tunisian border to rebel hideouts in the mountains of western Libya. Separately, NATO vows that its warplanes will keep up the pressure on Col. Gadhafi's regime for as long as it takes to end the violence in the North African nation.

May 4, 2011

Libya — Fighting continues in Misrata, and NATO airstrikes appear to target Tripoli.

Syria — A day after student protesters face tear gas in the previously quiet city of Aleppo, Syria's president says the military operation in Deraa will end "very soon." President Bashar Assad's remarks are reported in the private Al Watan daily.

May 5, 2011

Libya — The U.S. is trying to free up some of the more than \$30 billion it has frozen in Libyan assets so it can support the opponents of Moammar Gadhafi, U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Rodham Clinton tells a gathering of 22 nations and international organizations in Rome. Meanwhile, hundreds of tribal leaders from government-controlled areas of Libya gathered in Tripoli to call for an end to an armed uprising against Col. Gadhafi and aerial attacks by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on his forces. But what the government billed as a nationwide show of support drew only limited participation.

Syria — Syria's military says it has started to gradually move out of Deraa, 11 days after deploying troops and tanks in the city, but residents say tanks, troops and snipers still restricted their movement. Scores of Syrians around the capital go into hiding after the army and security forces carried out a dawn raid/on the Damascus suburb of Saqba, arresting at least 300 people, residents and activists say.

Egypt — Amr Moussa, the leading candidate in Egypt's presidential race, says in an interview with The Wall Street Journal that if he was elected he would break with former President Hosni Mubarak's reliably amenable policies toward Israel. Mr. Moussa also says that parliamentary elections in September will usher in a legislature led by a bloc of Islamists, with the Muslim Brotherhood at the forefront.

May 6, 2011

Syria — Syrian security forces open fire on protesters, killing 15 people in one city -- numbers for other cities were not apparent -- as thousands join demonstrations across the country calling for an end to President Bashar Assad's regime, witnesses and activists say.

Yemen — Hundreds of thousands of Yemenis flood a boulevard on the western edge of the capital, releasing colorful balloons to press their demand for President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step

down, as he denounces his opponents as "terrorists" in a speech to supporters nearby.

Libya — Amnesty International says Moammar Gadhafi's forces may have committed war crimes in Misrata and the humanitarian situation is rapidly deteriorating in the besieged city. Separately, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said killing Col. Gadhafi wasn't the objective of the international military mission in Libya, but that his death wasn't inconceivable.

May 7, 2011

Libya — Col. Gadhafi's forces bomb the main fuel depot in Misrata, according to witnesses.

Syria — Tanks roll into the coastal town of Baniyas, a day after clashes left at least 30 dead nationwide. Thousands of people take part in funerals for three people who were killed Friday in Homs.

Yemen — An activist says police fire tear gas and live ammunition to disperse protesters in al-Maafir, in Taiz Province, injuring at least six people. Residents in several cities — including Aden, Saada and Hodeida — observed a one-day shutdown of offices and businesses as part of a civil-disobedience campaign.

May 8, 2011

Syria — Security forces arrest more than 200 people, including a 10-year-old boy, in Baniyas and a 12-year-old boy is fatally shot amid shelling and shooting in Homs, according to activists.

Egypt — Muslim mobs set two Cairo churches on fire amid sectarian clashes that leave at least 12 people dead and more than 200 injured. Military forces arrest 190 people.

Bahrain — The king orders an end to the emergency rule imposed since mid-March as 21 leading opposition figures go on trial Sunday for plotting against Bahrain's Sunni monarchy. The defendants plead not guilty.

Libya — Tunisia's official news agency says some 80 shells fall on Tunisian territory as Libyan troops fight with rebels to regain control of the Wazen-Dhehiba border post.

Yemen — Security forces open fire on tens of thousands of protesters, killing one person in Hodeida and another in Taiz, according to an activist. Thousands also march in Aden.

Sudan — More than 80 people are killed when rebels attack cattle herders in Southern Sudan, officials say. Meanwhile, hundreds march in the southern capital to protest the unresolved status of a volatile border hotspot.

May 9, 2011

Syria — Security forces arrest hundreds of activists and antigovernment protesters in house-to-house raids across the country, part of an escalating government crackdown.

Libya — The U.N. Refugee Agency says it has received witness reports that a ship carrying as many as 600 migrants trying to flee Libya has sunk off the coast of North Africa. A spokeswoman

says the agency is trying to confirm what happened to the passengers when the vessel broke apart at sea Friday.

Yemen — Security forces open fire on demonstrators holding a sit-in on one of the city's main streets and launch rocket-propelled grenades at an office building where they believe protesters are hiding in the southern city of Taiz, killing three people, according to witnesses and medics.

Egypt — About 1,000 Egyptians protest violence against the Coptic Christian minority after the weekend's church burning and riots. Demonstrators say they fear that some in Egypt seek to replace Mr. Mubarak with an Islamic state that would marginalize Christians. Authorities arrest 23 people, including two accused of sparking the riots.

May 10, 2011

Syria — Troops backed by tanks enter several southern villages near the flashpoint city of Deraa, as the government presses its efforts to end a nationwide uprising.

Libya — NATO warplanes strike Tripoli with the heaviest bombing of the Libyan capital in weeks, while rebels report battlefield successes in the east and west.

Yemen — A government official says the country has stopped producing oil because of internal strife. Yemen had been producing about 290,000 barrels of oil a day -- a small amount in global terms, but enough to fund about three-quarters of the government's budget. A tribal official says fighter jets pound the villages of Khaliqa and Massoura, killing four tribesmen.

May 11, 2011

Syria — Syria escalates a countrywide crackdown on protesters as tanks shell a central city and a southern town, killing at least 20 people, rights activists say.

Yemen — Security forces fire on antigovernment protesters, killing two in Taiz and one in Damar, activists say. Demonstrators storm the police station in Taiz and take control of three government buildings, including the oil ministry. In San'a, protesters stage a street sit-in. In Aden, protesters set fire to tires.

Bahrain — The Associated Press reports that Bahrain's oil company has fired almost 300 employees in recent weeks for taking part in antigovernment protests and general strikes, according to the Gulf kingdom's energy minister.

Libya — Rebels in the embattled western city of Misrata celebrate the taking of a key air base outside the contested city in what they hailed as a major victory in their months-long struggle against Col. Moammar Gadhafi's troops.

May 12, 2011

Libya — NATO airstrikes hit Moammar Gadhafi's sprawling compound in Tripoli and three other sites early in the morning, hours after the Libyan leader's first appearance on state TV since his

son's death nearly two weeks earlier.

Syria — An activist says soldiers and tanks have surround the city of Hama, which was laid to waste in 1982 during an attempt by President Bashar Assad's father to stamp out an earlier uprising. Forces also use clubs to disperse 2,000 demonstrators on a northern university campus.

Yemen — Yemeni police trying to disperse thousands of protesters in two cities kill two and wound at least 47. In one city, protesters overrun a government building, posting a banner reading, "Closed until further notice by order of the youth revolution."

May 13, 2011

Syria — Security forces and snipers open fire on thousands of protesters Friday, killing at least six people as mass arrests and heavy security keep crowds below previous levels seen during the two-month uprising against President Bashar Assad, activists say. Three rallies are held in Damascus -- the largest number of protests held at one time in the capital.

Libya — NATO launches more airstrikes in Tripoli as Col. Moammar Gadhafi's regime faces open defiance on the ground, with activists reporting gunfights between protesters and soldiers in several of the capital's neighborhoods. The Libyan government accuses NATO of killing 11 Muslim clerics with an airstrike on a disputed eastern oil town.

Yemen — President Ali Abdullah Saleh rejects calls to step down as hundreds of thousands of protesters, backed by army defectors, demonstrate in the Arab world's poorest country and security forces kill at least three people.

May 14, 2011

Syria — Soldiers shell Tal Kalakh in Homs, near the border with Lebanon, killing at least three people and injuring at least 20. President Assad forms a committee to lead a dialogue with the opposition.

Libya — Mourners vow revenge and rattle off heavy gunfire in a Tripoli cemetery as they bury nine men they say were Muslim clerics and medics killed in a NATO airstrike in the mostly rebel-held east.

Yemen — A security official says gunmen attacked a checkpoint in Radda, killing six soldiers and wounding a seventh. Activists say police clashed with protesters in Taiz, injuring 15 during a rally.

Tunisia — Tunisian forces thwart a push by 200 of Libyan leader Col. Gadhafi's troops into Tunisian territory and arrest two people suspected of links to al Qaeda, according to Tunisian news reports.

May 15, 2011

Yemen — A security official says gunmen opened fire on two soldiers in southern Yemen, killing one and wounding the other. Another official says a security officer was snatched by unknown

gunmen while in a taxi. In Taiz, protesters peacefully seize a government building, a police headquarters and a ruling party office.

Palestinian Territories — Israeli soldiers open fire on hundreds of protesters attempting to cross the border into Israel from Lebanon, Syria and the Gaza Strip as protests erupt across the region. At least 13 protesters are killed.

Syria — Gunfire and explosions echo through the border town of Tal Kalakh in Homs, as hundreds of frightened civilians pour into neighboring Lebanon to escape a harsh crackdown against antigovernment protesters. At least eight people are killed.

May 16, 2011

Libya — The International Criminal Court mulls whether to issue arrest warrants for Col. Gadhafi, his son, Seif al-Islam Gadhafi and an intelligence chief. In Misrata, rebels say they drove government forces from a key point on the city's outskirts. In Tripoli, British forces target the intelligence agency building and a training base for bodyguards.

Syria — At least 16 people — eight of them members of the same family — have been killed in recent days in Talkalakh, a town of about 70,000 residents that has been under siege since May 12, witnesses and activists say.

May 17, 2011

Libya — NATO airstrikes pound two government buildings in Tripoli, including the interior ministry, setting them on fire.

Syria — Government agents chase and beat university students who were protesting against President Assad's regime at a campus in Aleppo and security forces disperse a rally of about 3,000 people in Homs, activists say.

Tunisia — A Tunisian security official says Tuesday that Libyan oil minister Shukri Ghanem, a high-profile member of Col. Gadhafi's government, defected and crossed into Tunisia by a road Monday.

May 18, 2011

Libya — Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's forces intensify their campaign to take strategic heights in a western mountain range and target a road that many people have used to flee the fighting in Libya, forcing the temporary closure of a border crossing to Tunisia. The Libyan government releases four international journalists Wednesday, more than six weeks after three of them were detained while covering the uprising against Col. Gadhafi.

Syria — President Bashar Assad claims the country's "crisis" is drawing to a close even as forces unleash tank shells on opponents and U.S. sanctions take aim at the Syrian leader and his senior aides for their brutal crackdowns.

Yemen — President Ali Abdullah Saleh refuses to sign a Gulf Cooperation Council-brokered pact that would have him leave power in exchange for immunity from prosecution. The GCC's head leaves Yemen.

May 19, 2011

Libya — Moammar Gadhafi's forces shell a western rebel stronghold, pounding the mountainous area with rockets, while in Tripoli loyalist civilians rally in the main square.

Syria — The Syrian army shells the border town of Talkalakh, killing at least eight people, two human rights activists tell the AP. Syrians fleeing to Lebanon in recent days have described horrific scenes of execution-style slayings and bodies in the streets in Talkalakh.

May 20, 2011

Libya — NATO fighter jets strike three ports in bombing runs, targeting Col. Moammar Gadhafi's navy with a goal of protecting the rebel-held port of Misrata. It is the broadest attack on Libya's naval forces since the alliance joined the conflict.

Syria — Syria's security forces opened fire on demonstrators in a Damascus suburb and at least two other cities Friday, killing 21 people, according to a human rights group. Large protests of thousands of Syrians each first emerged Friday in Baniyas on the Mediterranean coast, Aleppo in the North, Homs in central Syria and a few towns surrounding Deraa in the south. Security forces opened fire on protesters in Homs and the Damascus suburb of Daraya, according to activists.

Yemen — President Ali Abdullah Saleh calls for new elections, snubbing a U.S.-backed Gulf Arab plan to remove him from power. His announcement, without mention of the Gulf Cooperation Council's plan to have him sign a deal to leave power, is unlikely to end months of mass protests.

May 21, 2011

Libya — NATO aircraft fly 49 strike missions. Libyans angry over fuel shortages attack a bus carrying foreign reporters in the town of Zawiya. The reporters escape unharmed. Separately, four Frenchmen held by Libyan rebel forces on suspicion of spying are released.

Syria — Security forces open fire on thousands of people attending a funeral procession for slain protesters, killing at least three and injuring dozens, according to a human-rights activist.

May 22, 2011

Yemen — President Saleh again refuses to sign a deal to have him resign. He brings in armed supporters to the streets of San'a. Yemeni military helicopters ferry diplomats, who are trapped by Mr. Saleh's supporters, out of the United Arab Emirates Embassy.

Sudan — Southern Sudanese officials appeal for international help after northern Sudanese troops

seize Abyei, a border town. Foreign diplomats say they have little leverage to dislodge the troops.

Morocco — Police wielding nightsticks charge activists trying to demonstrate in Rabat, the capital. Several people are injured or briefly detained. Activists also try to protest in front of the parliament building.

Egypt — A Cairo court imposes the first death sentence over the uprising that deposed President Mubarak. A police officer, who was convicted of killing at least 20 protesters, was tried in absentia.

Libya — The European Union opens a diplomatic office in Benghazi and pledges support for a Libya where Col. Gadhafi "will not be in the picture." NATO airstrikes target Col. Gadhafi's compound in Tripoli.

May 23, 2011

Yemen — A gunbattle erupts in northern San'a between President Saleh's forces and fighters from a powerful tribe, which defected to the opposition, leaving at least six people dead and 25 wounded. Automatic weapons, mortars and tanks are used, as government troops take shelter inside the state news agency building.

Libya — A rebel commander says his fighters repelled a government tank advance, capturing 15 soldiers near Misrata.

Syria — A Syrian official says organizers canceled the first government-approved demonstration, a silent candlelight vigil, in Damascus. The event was meant to honor some 900 people killed in the uprising.

May 24, 2011

Libya — NATO warplanes bombard Tripoli in what appears to be the heaviest night of bombing in the air campaign, and the U.S. invites Libya's rebel leadership to open an office in Washington.

Yemen — Fighters for the powerful Hashid tribe use locks and chains to seal off key government buildings—including headquarters of the ruling party—as the revolt against President Ali Abdullah Saleh spills into the heart of the capital.

May 25, 2011

Libya — In a fight with Sudanese mercenaries supporting Col. Moammar Gadhafi near the border with Sudan, rebels destroy one of their weapons-laden vehicles, a rebel commander says.

Syria — President Bashar Assad, according to the state-run Tishrin newspaper, tells religious leaders in Deraa that reform is coming.

Yemen — Embattled President Ali Abdullah Saleh issues messages of hard-line defiance, even as intense battles rage in the heart of the capital for a third day, saying he will not step down or allow

the country to become a "failed state." The U.S. State Department orders nonessential U.S. diplomats to depart Yemen and urges all Americans there to leave.

Bahrain — A Bahrain security court sentences four demonstrators to a year in jail for involvement in the protests, according to a human-rights group. The reported convictions are part of a series of closed-door trials in a special court set up in March.

May 26, 2011

Yemen — Intense battles spread across Yemen's capital. The government says 28 people were killed in an explosion at a weapons storage site, but the opposition claims military forces shelled a building used by tribal fighters who have risen up against embattled President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The four-day death toll tops 70, pushing the nation closer to civil war.

Libya — Spain says it has received a message from Libya Prime Minister Al-Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi offering an immediate cease-fire. Spain says it supports the EU's position, which is that any cease-fire must be credible, verifiable and include all Libyan troops returning to their barracks. The White House dismisses the offer as not credible.

Syria — Opposition leaders call on the Syrian army to join the uprising against President Bashar Assad's regime, saying regime elements are targeting protesters and troops. Protests planned for Friday will honor the "Guardians of the Nation," a reference to the army.

Tunisia — Tunisia's electoral commission says it wants the first national election since the toppling of the country's longtime strongman delayed for three months. The commission proposes holding the vote for a constituent assembly on Oct. 16 instead of in July to allow organizers more time.

May 27, 2011

Syria — Security forces open fire on anti-government demonstrations, killing at least four people, as thousands take to the streets.

Yemen — After five days of fighting in San'a, the violence spreads beyond the capital, as Yemeni tribesmen opposed to the rule of President Ali Abdullah Saleh seize a Republican Guard military camp in the el-Fardha Nehem region in battles that leave dozens dead and prompt airstrikes by government warplanes, according to a tribal leader.

Libya — The U.S. and France reject the Libyan government's latest offer for cease-fire and reiterate calls for the ouster of Col. Gadhafi, while the U.K. confirms that British attack helicopters will be made available to fly sorties over Libya to raise pressure on the regime to step aside.

May 28, 2011

Libya — NATO airstrikes hit a command and control center at Col. Gadhafi's Tripoli compound.

May 29, 2011

Yemen — Hundreds of militants cement their control over Zinjibar, which they seized Friday. The militants have captured army tanks and armored cars left by some withdrawing forces. Other army units clash with the militants around the town Sunday.

Syria — Troops backed by tanks attack Rastan, Talbiseh and Teir Maaleh in Homs Province, killing at least five people and wounding scores of others, activists say.

May 30, 2011

Yemen — Armed forces kill more than 20 demonstrators in Taiz and government warplanes launch airstrikes around Zinjibar.

Syria — Troops bombard a town in Homs Province, causing several casualties. Residents armed with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades put up fierce resistance, activists say.

Sudan — The northern Sudanese government calls for Southern Sudan's troops stationed in northern border states to withdraw within two days. The standoff comes after the north's occupation of the disputed border region of Abyei.

Libya — Libya's rebels launch their own satellite TV station, Libya Alhurra, or "Free Libya," to counter the Gadhafi regime's powerful media machine, which depicts the opposition as terrorists and drums up patriotic fervor by beaming images of burning buildings hit by NATO strikes.

May 31, 2011

Syria — The Syrian military uses heavy machine guns and artillery in renewed attacks on Rastan, a few miles north of the central city of Homs. At least one person is killed, according to activists. Separately, President Bashar al-Assad issues a general amnesty that includes all political prisoners, in a gesture aimed at calming protests.

Yemen — Heavy fighting resumes in Yemen's capital between government troops and followers of Sheik Sadeq al-Ahmar, the country's most powerful tribal leader, ending a brief cease-fire and again raising the prospect that the country's political crisis could veer into civil war.

June 1, 2011

Libya — NATO and its partners in the military campaign to protect Libyan civilians have decided to extend their mission another 90 days, the alliance's top official says.

Syria — Troops shell a southern town with tanks and artillery, killing at least eight people, including an 11-year-old girl, according to a human-rights activist. Separately, the government is expected to begin releasing political prisoners in a move rejected by the opposition as an effort to buy time.

Yemen — Shelling by government troops and pre-dawn street battles between government forces and rival tribal fighters leave at least 41 people dead on both sides of the conflict in Yemen's

capital, as signs of disarray in President Ali Abdullah Saleh's military grow.

June 2, 2011

Libya — NATO blasts Tripoli with air strikes, sending shuddering booms through the city. Ambulances raced through the streets after the blasts. NATO said the attacks hit military vehicle and ammunition depots, a surface-to-air missile launcher and a fire control radar. Libyan government officials refused to comment.

Syria — Government troops pound the town of Rastan with artillery and gunfire, renewing attacks in a restive area that has been largely cut off from outside contact for six days. At least 15 people are killed in the latest attacks, bringing the total killed there to 72 since the onslaught began, activists said.

Yemen — Street battles rage between the army and opposition tribesmen in San'a, with dozens of people on both sides killed and wounded. Elsewhere a thousands-strong force of tribal fighters struggles at government lines on the northern outskirts of the city. The capital city's airport is closed.

June 3, 2011

Yemen — President Ali Abdullah Saleh suffers light injuries to the head when the presidential palace is shelled by the opposition, according to government officials. Three rocket propelled grenades fired from a rooftop across the street hit the center of the mosque inside the palace, where Mr. Saleh and dozens of senior government officials had gathered to pray. Residents of the capital say explosions rock the capital and street battles spread to many of the city's neighborhoods. Many residents scramble to evacuate to the countryside, and basic services like electricity, water, Internet and mobile network are disrupted, according to residents.

Bahrain — The Bahrain government says Formula One officials have agreed to reschedule the canceled Grand Prix for Oct. 30. The Bahrain Grand Prix had been scheduled as the season-opening race in March but was called off amid antigovernment protests. Meanwhile, Bahraini police fire tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters marching toward Pearl Square.

Syria — Tens of thousands of Syrians return to the streets. Five people are killed in protests in Hama, where 50,000 protesters march, says activist Ahmad al-Raad. Internet services are cut off in most parts of Syria's largest cities—including Damascus, Aleppo, Homs and Hama. Large demonstrations also emerge in the central city of Homs, in Qamishli and Deir ez-Zour in the northeast, Idlib in the northwest, and three towns surrounding Deraa in the South. In the western coastal city of Baniyas, some 300 protesters march out of two mosques, with security forces beating people and detaining most. Antiregime activists gathered in Turkey elect an advisory body to give the protest movement shape and support.

Libya — Libyan rebels announce that a day earlier they had broken the government siege of two western mountain towns. NATO pounds ten targets across the country, including four in Tripoli.

June 4, 2011

Libya — U.K. and French helicopters are used for the first time over Libya in and around Brega, where targets include military vehicles, equipment and government forces, NATO says. Hours later, airstrikes hit Tripoli.

Yemen — President Saleh accepts an offer from the Saudi king to travel there for medical treatment for wounds he received when his palace was shelled. Conflicting reports abound about his whereabouts and condition.

Syria — The government lifts its stranglehold on the Internet, but tanks roll toward the town of Hama as funeral are being held for killed protesters. Tanks also roll toward Jisr al-Shugour, where six people were killed.

Tunisia — Fighting over unemployment erupts in the mining town of Metlaoui, killing five people and injuring 90.

June 5, 2011

Yemen — Yemenis celebrate in San'a over the departure of President Saleh for medical treatment. He's expected to stay in Saudi Arabia for two weeks, but it's unclear whether he will return. In Abyan Province, security officials say gunmen ambush a military convoy, killing nine troops. Four are killed earlier when gunmen attack the presidential compound in Taiz.

Syria — The death toll in a government crackdown in Jisr al-Shughour and Khan Sheikhoun rises to 35 Sunday, including six police officers, a group says. The army withdraws from Dael and Hirak, near Deraa, and tanks pull back from Hama, where residents march in funeral processions.

Palestinian Territories — Israeli forces battle hundreds of pro-Palestinian protesters who try to burst across Syria's frontier with the Golan Heights, killing at least 23 people and wounding scores more.

Libya — Pounding explosions shake Tripoli. A NATO statement says those strikes hit missile-storage areas and launchers, command and control facilities, and a radar system.

June 6, 2011

Palestinian Territories — Syrian police block dozens of pro-Palestinian protesters from approaching the Israeli frontier a day after deadly border clashes. Israeli troops brace for more border violence. State-run Syrian TV says Syrian and Palestinian protesters are staging an open-ended sit-in at the border.

Libya — A series of NATO airstrikes target sites around Tripoli.

Yemen — Supporters of President Saleh's regime open fire on opposition fighters in San'a, killing at least six people. Meanwhile, officials loyal to Mr. Saleh say he will return from Saudi Arabia within days.

Bahrain — Forty-seven doctors and nurses who treated injured antigovernment protesters are arraigned in a closed-door hearing for allegedly participating in attempts to topple the regime.

Syria — The Syrian government says armed groups in Jisr al-Shoghour attacked government buildings and used medium-sized weapons and hand grenades, killing at least 80 troops.

June 7, 2011

Libya — Low-flying NATO military craft pound Tripoli, landing a series of 26 strikes in the Libyan capital in rare rare daytime raids. In a speech broadcast as audio on Libyan state television, Col. Moammar Gadhafi vows never to surrender, shouting "We will not kneel!" Separately, Tripoli dispatches Foreign Minister Abdul-Ati al-Obeidi to Beijing for a three days of talks.

Syria — Fearing reprisals, residents flee Jisr al-Shughour, where authorities say clashes between armed men and troops killed 120 security forces. Turkey says Syrians are crossing the border for shelter and medical treatment.

Yemen — Clashes kill a total of 19 people, including three children, in the Yemeni provinces of Abyan and Taiz overnight, military and medical officials said. Dozens of suspected Muslim militants attack an army position in the southern Abyan province and clashes erupt early Tuesday between gunmen and army troops near the presidential palace in Taiz. U.S. officials say Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh was seriously hurt in last week's rocket attack, raising the prospect that he will be forced to yield to a transfer of power.

June 8, 2011

Syria — Tanks and elite troops led by President Assad's brother head to the restive northern Idlib Province, where soldiers reportedly joined an antigovernment uprising, an activist says. Tanks also surround Jisr al-Shoghour. Meanwhile, Syria's ambassador to France says a woman impersonated her and announced her "resignation" on French TV Tuesday.

Yemen — Security officials confirm that hundreds of armed tribesmen have taken control of part of Taiz. The Obama administration says President Saleh appears to have been hurt worse than thought in an attack on his compound.

Libya — Col. Gadhafi, increasingly cornered under a stunning upturn in NATO airstrikes, lashes out with renewed shelling of Misrata, killing at least 10 rebel fighters.

June 9, 2011

Yemen — Armed tribesmen drive government troops from Yemen's second-largest city, Taiz, in a sign of the government's loosening grip over the country. The Republican Guard, commanded by Mr. Saleh's son, is regrouping outside the city to stage a counterattack against the fighters from the Sharaab tribe in an effort to retake the city, according to security officials.

Libya — NATO airstrikes against Col. Moammar Gadhafi's capital suggest a revival of a heavy NATO bombardment earlier in the week that targeted military installations across the capital.

Government officials refuse to say what had been targeted in the Thursday bombing runs.

Saudi Arabia — As hundreds of Syrians fled northern Syria for Turkey, the Associated Press said it was receiving widespread reports that the government had lost control of much of Idlib Province, as well as unconfirmed accounts of some residents fighting back with weapons.

Sudan — Northern Sudan bombs the Southern Sudanese village of Jau, killing at least three people, an official says.

June 10, 2011

Syria — The Syrian army is amassed on the outer edges of the virtually deserted town of Jisr al-Shughour, preparing to enter the city after protesters and mutinous forces rose up against the rule of President Bashar Assad there. Three protesters are killed in other parts of the country.

Yemen — Nearly 100,000 Yemenis protest in a main square of the capital, demanding the wounded president, currently outside the country, be removed from power. Opposition tribesmen march through the square in a funeral procession with the bodies of 41 comrades, as crowds chant, "The people want the butcher put on trial," referring to President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Libya — At least 23 people were killed and more than 100 wounded in a fierce offensive by Col. Moammar Gadhafi's forces on the outskirts of the rebel-held port town of Misrata.

June 11, 2011

Bahrain — More than 10,000 people rally in Manama. The Sunni monarchy allows the demonstration in a bid to ease tensions with Shiite-led groups.

Libya — Rebels battle their way back into Zawiyah. Their spokesman says rebels have control of a large western side of the city. Col. Gadhafi's forces shell Misrata.

Syria — Thousand of elite troops and tanks seal off entrances to the mostly deserted town of Jisr al-Shughour. Soldiers loyal to the regime come under sniper fire as they approach.

Yemen — Soldiers battle militants in an attempt to drive them from southern towns under the control of hundreds of fighters. The clashes kill at least 40 people on both sides, officials say.

Sudan — Police use tear gas and batons to break up a demonstration calling for more troops in a disputed border region.

June 12, 2011

Syria — Troops backed by helicopters and tanks regain control of the town, clashing with mutinous soldiers. The troops also dismantle explosives planted on roads and bridges leading to the town.

Libya — Rebels say they fought street-by-street in Zawiyah, but the government denies claims of a rebel advance there. People protest in Sabha. Col. Gadhafi's forces shell Misrata again, but NATO

airstrikes hit Tripoli.

Bahrain — A 20-year-old woman who recited poems critical of the regime -- and later claimed she was beaten in jail -- is sentenced to a year in prison.

Iran — Club-wielding police chase protesters and make arrests to disperse hundreds of people who gathered in Tehran to mark the second anniversary of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's disputed re-election.

Morocco — Thousands march through Casablanca, calling for greater democracy and an end to corruption even as the king prepares to unveil new constitutional amendments to address calls for reform.

Jordan — Bowing to popular demands for reform, Jordan's king says future cabinets will be formed according to an elected parliamentary majority. In a speech marking his 12th year as Jordan's ruler, King Abdullah II also promised further constitutional changes but didn't elaborate.

June 13, 2011

Yemen — Airstrikes targeting Muslim militants in control of a southern Yemeni town kill three of the extremists, according to military and medical officials.

Syria — Brig. Gen. Atef Najib, chief of the security department in the southern province of Deraa and a cousin of the Syrian president, has been banned from traveling abroad as the government investigates the violence gripping the country. The move appears to be an attempt by President Bashar Assad to show that he is serious about investigating the bloodshed.

Bahrain — A special security tribunal begins trials for 34 doctors and nurses accused of backing Shiite-led protests for greater rights and taking part in alleged anti-state plots at the country's main public hospital. The mass trial is part of a surge of cases coming before the security court set up by Bahrain's Sunni rulers.

Jordan — Stone-throwing youths angry about their exclusion from a town-hall meeting hosted by the king swarm his motorcade. According to government officials, the king is unharmed, and the violence is aimed at police, not the monarch. Some two dozen police officers are injured.

Libya — Rebels break out toward Tripoli from the opposition-held port of Misrata, cracking a government siege as fighters across the country mounted a resurgence in their four-month-old revolt against Moammar Gadhafi. NATO says it carried out 62 airstrikes on Libya Monday.

Tunisia — Tunisia's prime minister announces on the Arabic Al-Jazeera news channel that deposed President Zine Abidine Ben Ali will be tried in absentia on June 20 by civil and military courts.

Sudan — North and South Sudan agree "in principle" to demilitarize the disputed central Sudan region of Abyei and to allow an Ethiopian peacekeeping team to come in.

Sudan — A Sudanese human-rights group releases a report accusing the army of North Sudan of

pursuing a genocidal campaign against the Nuba peoples in southern Kordofan Province. A North Sudan spokesperson says they were targeting rebels, not civilians.

June 14, 2011

Libya — An apparent NATO airstrike hits an area near Col. Gadhafi's Tripoli compound. Col. Gadhafi's troops bombard opposition forces controlling a key border crossing with Tunisia, a rebel spokesman says.

Syria — Human-rights activists say Syrian tanks pushed toward more towns near the Turkish and Iraqi borders, including Maaret al-Numan, areas around Jisr al-Shughour and Deir ez-Zour.

Yemen — A senior official in Saudi Arabia says Yemen President Saleh has developed a "throat problem," but his overall condition is stable. Saleh is being treated in Riyadh after he was wounded in a rocket attack in Yemen. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of Yemenis demonstrate in nearly every major city of the country, demanding trial for Mr. Saleh's family and close aides.

Sudan — Talks to resolve crises in Abyei and air strikes in South Kordofan, the only oil-producing state in north Sudan, continue ahead of Southern Sudan's official proclamation of independence in July.

June 15, 2011

Yemen — Government security officials say that militants captured neighborhoods in Houta. Militants also fought against security forces in Aden, a southern port city. Injured President Saleh is quoted on Saudi TV saying that he is "steadily improving." A government spokesperson says that investigators have determined that an army group was behind the rocket attack on the president. Yemeni officials also report the interception of financial transfers made in Qatar to support antigovernment protesters. Officials urge their neighbor to stop "funding chaos."

Tunisia — State news agency reports that 27 Libyan soldiers have fled fighting in Libya on two boats also carrying 14 civilians. 6,330 Libyan refugees crossed into the country on June 13 and 14.

Jordan — A government spokesperson says Syria reopened the border post of Daraa to allow more Jordanians and Syrians to flee the ongoing conflict. The Daraa post was the only border crossing that Syria closed.

Sudan — President Obama calls for a ceasefire in taped message for VOA broadcasts after returning from a visit to Puerto Rico. He urges the governments of north and south Sudan to "choose peace."

Libya — Rebels forces seize control of two villages west of Tripoli, and Al-Rayayniya, a town southwest of Benghazi.

Syria — Thousands flee the historic town of Maarat al-Numan ahead of troops and tanks pushing into the north in a widening military campaign to crush protests.

Sudan — U.N. spokeswoman says that 11 bombs have been dropped in South Kordofan; five of them exploded, injuring two people. Fighting is also heavy in state capital, Kadugli. The U.N. says southern troops are headed north toward the city, causing panic among trapped civilians. A new U.N. report says at least 25 people have been killed in the violence so far, but local estimates are higher.

Syria — Tens of thousands of protesters take to the street in Hama to show solidarity with victims of the continuing crackdown.

June 16, 2011

Bahrain — Talks between opposition groups and the Bahraini regime are set to begin on July 1. However, the Shiite majority-Sunni minority divide threatens the likelihood of any immediate resolution.

Libya — NATO executes another raid near Col. Moammar Gadhafi's Bab al-Aziziya compound in Tripoli. There are no reports of casualties and it remains unclear what was exactly hit. Col. Gadhafi's son Saif al-Islam tells an Italian newspaper that an internationally supervised election, within three months, could put an end to the conflict.

Syria — Syria's military expands its reach to a fourth border by deploying forces to the remote towns of Deir el-Zour province near the frontier with Iraq, a volatile tribal area, stretching the capacity of its military. Security forces arrest a number of men above the age of 16, mainly in Jisr al-Shughour and Maaret al-Numan, according to a human-rights activist, who says hundreds of people have been detained daily.

Tunisia — The U.N. high commissioner for refugees calls for greater support for Tunisia to help those fleeing neighboring Libya's civil war. More than 400,000 people have fled to Tunisia since the Libyan conflict erupted in February. Since the uprising, the economy of the country credited with spurring the "Arab spring" has been strained by a drop in tourism.

June 17, 2011

Bahrain — In a Friday sermon, top Shiite cleric Sheik Isa Qassim says talks between the opposition and the regime cannot take place until authorities stop crackdowns against demonstrators. His sermon raises observers' fear that Shiite leaders will snub next month's scheduled talks aimed at ending the unrest.

Yemen — A ruling party official says injured Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh will return home in a few days. However, a top Saudi official tells the AFP that President Saleh won't return to Yemen.

Syria — Syria's military closes in on new towns in the northwestern region, the country's epicenter of violence, as 12 people are killed at protests across the country, according to activists.

Libya — Italy plans to sign an immigration accord with Libya's rebel group, the Transitional National Council, to halt the influx of Libyans seeking refuge in the southern European country.

NATO continued pounding Col. Moammar Gadhafi's capital.