



ICFUAE

Factsheet

UAE's involvement in Libya

- Since the beginning of the armed conflict in Tripoli, Libya, on 4 April 2019, the UAE has supported Libya's renegade general and commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA), Khalifa Haftar, in the country's civil war and has been conducting air strikes to support forces loyal to the general. Several organisations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have condemned alleged war crimes by the LNA.
- Currently, there are two primary forces battling to gain control of Libya. Western Libya is being led by the UN-backed Government of National Accord, which is based in Tripoli. The GNA faces opposition from General Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army who control much of eastern Libya.
- A report from the United Nations Sanctions Committee has revealed that the UAE regularly violates the UN arms embargo by supplying military equipment and weapons to the LNA. On 24 February, the Libyan government revealed that around 100 flights from the UAE had carried almost 6,200 tonnes of weapons to Haftar's forces.



¹ /<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20200224-libya-uae-sent-100-arms-shipments-to-haftar>
² [73f5ece37825-8356-4902-https://www.ft.com/content/c3405be4-a9f1](https://www.ft.com/content/c3405be4-a9f1-73f5ece37825-8356-4902)



In April 2020, it was reported that almost **11,000** tonnes of jet fuel had been shipped to Libya from Emirati companies according to documents seen by the Financial Times.

- A Human Rights Watch (HRW) report found that an illicit drone strike on **18 November 2019** by the UAE on the Al-Sunbulah biscuit factory in Wadi al-Rabie, Libya, left **8** civilians dead and **27** injured. Out of the **35** casualties, **7** were from Libya and **28** were foreign nationals.
- An Emirati security firm, Black Shield Security Services, reportedly misled around **3000** Sudanese recruits. They were initially hired to work as security guards in hospitals and malls in the UAE. Instead, they were transferred to Libya to guard oil facilities under the control of Khalifa Haftar. Some were forced into military training camps and soon after sent to fight as mercenaries in armed conflicts in the MENA region, including Libya.

Civilian deaths and injuries- Facts and Figures:

- At the end of **2019**, more than **345,000** people had fled their homes and become displaced due to the warfare, including **150,000** in and around Tripoli .
- Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) have found that most of the **900** people who died or were wounded in explosions in **2019**, were victims of airstrikes .
- In its civilian casualty report, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya stated that from the last quarter of **2019**, there was a **45%** increase in civilian casualties in the first quarter of **2020** .



CFUAE



+44 7979 6666 98

campaigns@icfuae.org.uk

www.icfuae.org.uk