

NORTH AFRICA REGIONAL REPORT

High-level overview and brief analysis of regional political, economic and security activity, distributed every fortnight.

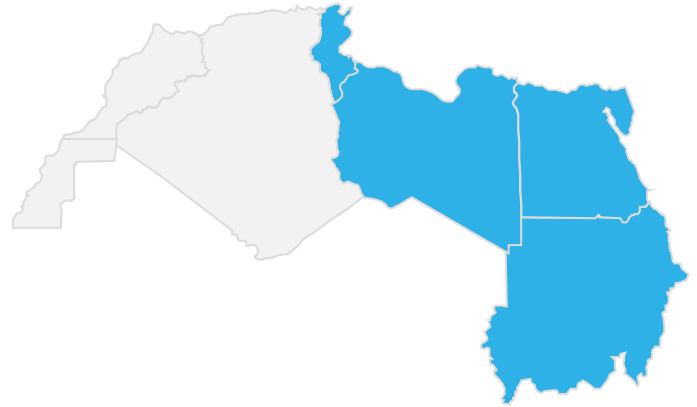
TUNISIA

On April 25, Tunisian authorities announced the recovery of fifty-eight bodies and the rescue of one thousand two hundred forty-two irregular migrants off the country's coast in the past forty-eight hours, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa. A week earlier, on April 19, at least twenty-five African migrants died, and fifteen were reported missing after a boat carrying them to Europe sank in the Mediterranean off the Tunisian coast. Tunisia has recently experienced an increase in the rate of irregular African migration to Europe due to the repercussions of the economic and political crises in the country and various countries in the region. The rise of despotism, arrests, and the financial crisis will likely fuel an increase in xenophobia towards refugees, as well as an increase in anti-refugee policies and actions by the government.

EGYPT

On April 19, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) announced the transfer of one-hundred-and-seventy-seven Egyptian soldiers from Merowe Airport. The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) had referred to the Egyptian soldiers as paramilitary captives but announced that it had used that word in error on April 20. The same day, the United Arab Emirates claimed to have mediated the release of the soldiers deployed to the base for joint exercises with the Sudanese army. Egypt plays an essential role in the current situation in Sudan and is involved, both diplomatically and militarily, in support of General al-Burhane's SAF. It is unlikely that Egypt will intervene militarily in Sudan, but military and financial aid will certainly be sent to al-Burhan.

The Region at a Glance



LIBYA

On April 20, the Libyan National Army (LNA) commander, Khalifa Haftar, denied that he had provided weapons and military equipment to the SRF to help them in their confrontation with the SAF. He also called for forming a joint mediation committee, including members of the League of Arab States and the African Union, to end the fighting. Haftar, who was Cairo's favored ally in his fight against the Government of National Accord (GNA), is now in a difficult position. His support for the SRF, while Egypt supports the SAF, could lead to a deterioration in relations between the two parties, depending on the situation in Sudan and its regional reach.

SUDAN

While the SAF and the SRF announced on April 25 that a new seventy-two-hour truce had gone into effect, the two warring parties accused each other of ceasefire violations. The Sudanese army said in a statement a few hours after the truce began that it had detected violations by the SRF. The SRF also claimed that the army shelled the Republican Palace in Khartoum. The ceasefire, brokered by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia for humanitarian purposes, was intended to allow states to continue evacuating their nationals and let Sudanese civilians flee the capital and major cities. Clashes are likely to resume before the end of the truce, and the situation is not expected to settle down.

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Regional Involvement in Sudan

The war in Sudan could have important implications for diplomatic relations and security in North Africa, particularly between Egypt and Haftar's Libya. Egypt has been involved both diplomatically and militarily in support of the Sudanese army led by General al-Burhane. Although it is unlikely to intervene militarily, Egypt will likely provide financial and military assistance to al-Burhan. Egypt's involvement could lead to tensions with other countries in the region, particularly Haftar in Libya, which supports the RSF.

Libyan National Army (LNA) commander Khalifa Haftar has denied providing weapons and military equipment to the RSF to help them in their confrontation with the Sudanese armed forces, however, his inclination toward the RSF is clear, likely steered through his relations with Russia. Haftar has called for the formation of a joint mediation committee, including members of the League of Arab States and the African Union, to end the fighting. Haftar was previously a favored ally of Cairo in its fight against the Government of National Unity (GNA), but his position is now difficult. His support for the RSF, while Egypt supports the Sudanese armed forces, could lead to a deterioration in relations between the two sides, depending on the situation in Sudan and its regional impact.

In the Maghreb countries, it is difficult to know how Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia will react. Assuming that they will take a position, Algeria, a country traditionally on the Russian axis, could support the RSF, and Morocco, which was recently isolated by its Saudi and Emirati allies in the negotiations over Syria's re-entry into the Arab League, could support Al-Burhan and the SAF. Tunisia is already facing a political and migration crisis and a shift to authoritarian rule, so it is unlikely to take a stand in the conflict.

Sudan faces a difficult situation, with clashes between the Sudanese armed forces and the RSF. Although a ceasefire has been announced to allow civilians to flee the conflict areas, ceasefire violations by both sides could lead to renewed hostilities. This instability could have repercussions throughout the region, especially if prolonged or escalating.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Country	Event	Date(s)	Remarks
Regional	Labour Day	1 May	Public Holidays

