

Government and Rebel Forces Clash in Libya



Tripoli, January 29 (RHC)-- Fresh clashes have erupted in Libya as supporters of the former leader, Muammar Gaddafi, went up against government forces and former rebels, according to a military source in Tripoli.

The fighting broke out on Tuesday when government reinforcements wanted to dislodge militants from the positions they had occupied in the southern city of Sebha. Al-Ferjani Akila, of the Sebha Operations Center, said: "Clashes are taking place between the army and former rebels from Misrata on one side and supporters of the old regime on the other."

The incident follows two weeks of violent tribal clashes in Sebha where at least 88 people have been killed and more than 130 others wounded. The recent clashes have been the deadliest since the tribes accepted a ceasefire agreement in March 2012.

The deal was signed after deadly tribal battles, which led to the death of at least 150 people and wounded hundreds of others. Militants loyal to Gaddafi have consistently tried to take advantage of the security situation in Libya by launching attacks on army bases. The militants refuse to lay down their arms, despite efforts by the central government to impose law and order.

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