

2 Killed, 29 Injured in Clashes in Libya's Capital

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Deadly clashes erupted in the Libyan capital of Tripoli overnight Friday between local militia and a brigade from Misrata city, leaving two people killed and 29 injured, a security officer told Xinhua.

The clashes broke out in the eastern area of Suq al-Juma in Tripoli following unconfirmed reports that Nuri Friwan, the commander of the Misrata Nosoor Battalion, who was wounded during a shootout at a Tripoli's checkpoint on Tuesday, died in a hospital in Malta.

There were negotiations between the elders from the cities of Misrata, Suq al-Juma and Tajoura, which aimed to put an end to the fighting, Libya Herald reported online, adding that the Misrata Military Council closed the Dafniya checkpoint to prevent any armed force from heading to Tripoli.

The clashes spread across the eastern part of Tripoli. In the areas of Fashloom and Zawiyat Dahamani, the two sides shot with anti-aircraft artilleries.

Meanwhile, five star hotel Redisson Blue on the west side of Tripoli came under gunfire. Local witnesses told Xinhua that a number of guests were evacuated from the upper floors and relocated in the basement.

Two years after the 2011 revolution, the security is drastically deteriorating in the North African country, especially following the flash abduction of Libyan Prime Minister Ali Zeidan in early October.

Murders and kidnappings of security officers as well as political activities are registered on a daily basis, causing casualties.

On Tuesday, NATO announced that an advisory team will soon be set up in Libya to assist the war-torn country to address its security issues.