

Press Statement on the violence around the towns of Zuwara, al-Jumail and Regdalin

Tripoli, 4 April 2012 – The United Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) expresses its deep concern over the recent upsurge of violence around the towns of Zuwara, al-Jumail and Regdalin and reports of growing casualties. UNSMIL welcomes the efforts of the Libyan authorities in conjunction with local leaders to move quickly to broker a ceasefire and restore calm and order. UNSMIL also calls on all concerned parties to immediately cease hostilities while negotiations are on-going.

The latest clashes around Zuwara, coming on the heels of fighting in the south underline the need for the authorities to accelerate efforts in building strong state security institutions, including the integration of revolutionary fighters and the collection of heavy weapons. They also highlight the deep-rooted legacy of four decades of autocratic rule and the need for all components of Libyan society to work towards reconciliation. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya Ian Martin appeals to all sides to end the fighting: “the Libyan people sacrificed their lives to secure their freedom for a new, democratic Libya for all its citizens. I call on all parties to recall this sacrifice and resolve their differences without resort to the use of force.”