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NATO Extends Libya War Another 90 Days

By Jason Ditz

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Despite growing doubts about the effectiveness of the conflict and international efforts to broker a ceasefire, NATO announced today that it is [extending the war in Libya for an additional 90 days](#).

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the move was important because it “sends a clear message to the Gadhafi regime: we are determined to continue our operation.” Officials justified the move as retaliation after [South African President Jacob Zuma failed to negotiate Gadhafi’s departure](#) from the country.

The announcement will also send a message to the rebels, however, that NATO intends to continue its ill-conceived war indefinitely. This may make efforts to negotiate a ceasefire in the conflict, which has been essentially stalemated since April, all but impossible.

It was also usher in a growing humanitarian disaster in western Libya, where the United Nations [is reporting that food and medicine are in short supply](#). With NATO promising to continue bombing this half of the country for another 90 days, it seems that this will only get worse going forward.