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Places in the News

[Libya](#)
Popular uprisings in the Middle East spread to Libya, threatening the regime of long-time leader Muammar al-Qaddafi and raising the possibility of a prolonged civil war.



Featured Place

Africa's Newest Nation: South Sudan Declares Independence

After years of civil war and negotiations, and a January 2011 referendum, [South Sudan](#) became an independent country, separating from [Sudan](#) on July 9, 2011. Though there are still issues to be worked out between the two countries, such as oil rights and revenue sharing and the final status of the Abyei enclave, the date was marked by celebrations throughout the new nation.

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