

## Politics

### Delegate to Arab Parliament: Libya ready to send weapons to Gaza if borders are open

The member of the House of Representatives (HoR) and representative of Libya in the Arab Parliament, Hassan Barghouthi, reaffirmed Libya's support for the Palestinian resistance without hesitation or fear of the international community.

Barghouthi's remarks came in his speech during a session of the Arab Parliament on Wednesday, when he expressed Libya's readiness to send weapons to the resistance in Gaza if there was a mechanism to open borders.

He also said that if the borders with Gaza were open, Libya would transfer all the weapons inside the country to the resistance, and explained that there were young men from Libya who asked about the existence of a mechanism to go and fight in Gaza if the borders would be opened.

The Libyan delegate also added that all Libyans believed in the Palestinian Cause: "heart and soul, the young before the old," stressing their willingness to give everything they have to the Palestinian Cause.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Committee in the House of Representatives, Youssef Al-Agouri, called in his speech Thursday during the thirty-fifth emergency conference of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union; for Arab action toward an immediate halt to the aggression against Gaza, urging them not to accept any solution that included displacing the people of the Gaza Strip under any justification.

Al-Agouri called for Arab diplomatic and parliamentary action at all levels away from political statements. He called on them to work to mobilize regional and international support and hold the international community responsible for the crimes of Israeli aggression in the Gaza Strip.

## Politics

### Libyan PM says GNU's stance on elections is immutable

The Libyan Prime Minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, confirmed that the position of the Government of National Unity (GNU) to achieve the desire of the Libyan people for fair and just elections was firm and would not change, adding that elections must be held according to fair, consensual, and enforceable laws to ensure the success of the vote without eliminating any candidates. Dbeibah added in his speech during the eighth cabinet meeting of 2023 held in Tripoli on Thursday that the security challenge was one of the most prominent obstacles facing the GNU, adding his government had great confidence in the choices of the Libyan people if those who seized power for themselves enabled the people to express their desire directly.

He indicated that GNU institutions were asking to confront the disaster in Derna and its suburbs and mitigate its effects and damage, noting that efforts to confront the repercussions of the disaster had been continuing in different stages, including relief, services and reconstruction.

Dbeibah pointed out that the reconstruction of Derna according to the vision of the GNU had no place for political tensions and opportunists. He also approved at the cabinet meeting the results of the work of the National Committee for the Demarcation of Land and Maritime Borders at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the Libyan maritime borders.

The cabinet members also adopted a decision to continue disbursing the monthly grant to Palestinian students at universities and higher institutes, and another decision to grant a basic pension payment to widows, divorcees, and disabled members of the Palestinian community in Libya.

## Politics

### Italy has to choose between oil and Israel, say protesters in front of Mellitah oil complex

Protesters gathered in front of the Mellitah Oil and Gas Complex -which Libya co-owns with Italian Eni- to denounce the war crimes committed by the Israeli occupation against civilians in Gaza.

The group called on Italy to rectify its "ominous" position towards Israel's attacks on Gaza and to contribute to sending aid to the besieged territory.

In support of the armed resistance in Gaza, the protesters said the Palestinian resistance factions have the right to defend their people against the "brutal occupation."

They demanded a strong international stance against the Israeli bombing of hos-

pitals and civilians, calling for an immediate intervention to stop such attacks.

Given its unique position in the Islamic arena, the protesters said they were shocked at Saudi Arabia's silence against the Israeli crimes, calling on Arab and Islamic nations to march in the streets and voice their rejection of the Israeli assault.

Arabic oil is being used to kill civilians in Gaza, the group said, as they called Oil-producing states to use crude as a pressure card to stop the Israeli attack against the Palestinians. They warned to take their protest to another level if denied their calls.



Politics

## Protesters in Libya condemn Israeli air strike on Gaza hospital

Thousands of Libyans took to the streets on Tuesday night to Martyrs' Square in the capital, Tripoli, and other squares in Misrata, and Benghazi, to denounce the crime of the Israeli occupation forces after the bombing of Al-Ahli Hospital, which housed displaced people in the Gaza Strip, killing at least 500 people.

The angry protesters chanted slogans denouncing Israeli crimes and supporting the Palestinian resistance, and also denouncing the rulers of Arab and Islamic countries, whom they accused of "failing the nation's issues."

The protesters also demanded stopping the export of Libyan oil and gas to European countries, calling for the expulsion of ambassadors from Western countries that support the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health announced that more than 600 people, most of them women and children, were killed, and 900 others were injured in an Israeli bombing that targeted the Arab Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in the Gaza Strip.

The Ministry of Health explained that the martyrs of the bombing were mostly women and children, whose body parts were spread on the trees and hospital corridors, noting that the high number of martyrs came due to the crowding of the hospital yards with displaced people and refugees heading to the hospital to take shelter from the brutal Israeli bombing of civilian homes.

## Libya demands Western Powers stop double standards when addressing Palestine

Libya's Ambassador to the United Nations, Taher Al-Sunni, has demanded Western Powers to stop their "double standard" when addressing the Palestinian issue.

"We reject any attempt to displace the Palestinians from their country, especially Gaza," Al-Sunni said, stressing that Palestine will remain the prime issue until establishing the State of Palestine with Al-Quds as its capital.

Addressing the Security Council (UNSC) on Wednesday, the ambassador said the UNSC has turned into a political wrestling ring, expressing his regret that it did not issue any resolution "to stop the brutal aggression against innocent people in Gaza."

He said the Palestinian issue cannot be viewed solely based on the events of October 20th, as he underscored the importance of addressing the root causes of the conflict, including the settlement policy and the killing of "the dream of peace" over the past 75 years.

On Wednesday, a US veto undermined a Brazilian-drafted resolution calling for humanitarian pauses for aid to Gaza, arguing that the resolution did not sufficiently underscore Israel's right to self-defence.

The draft got yes votes from 12 out of the 15 UNSC members, with Russia and the UK abstaining.



Politics

## Libyan PM denounces Gaza genocide, calls for firm stance by Arab leaders

The Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah denounced Wednesday the war crimes and genocide in the besieged Gaza Strip, calling for a firm Arab stance to stop the Israeli aggression that had been ongoing since October 07.

"Targeting defenseless civilians, bombing hospitals, ambulances, mosques, and schools, and the stifling, inhumane siege of the Gaza Strip, constitute genocide, war crimes, and a stain written by history on the foreheads of the occupiers and their supporters," Dbeibah said in a video statement released by the official media platform Hakomitna on Facebook.

Dbeibah said that the massacre at Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza showed the ugly face of the Israeli occupation and the hateful killing machine that "brags about its power and unlimited, arrogant support." "The people and government of Libya will spare no effort in providing humanitarian and relief aid quickly, ensuring its passage to Gaza." He said, pointing out Libyans' expression of solidarity with Palestinians in public squares through the ongoing protests in support of besieged Gaza.

Dbeibah directed his speech to the leaders of the Arab countries, saying: "The central issue of Palestine is uniting all our peoples who hope that we will have a firm stance that forces the aggressor, the occupier, and its supporters to stop the aggression."

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Politics

## Algerian Foreign Minister discusses with Libyan Minister-designate of Foreign Affairs latest developments in Libya

The Algerian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Attaf, has received the Libyan Minister-designate of Foreign Affairs, Al-Taher Al-Baour, on the sidelines of the ministerial meeting of African and Northern European countries hosted by Algeria.

A statement by the Algerian Foreign Ministry stated that the talks between Attaf and Al-Baour focused on the cooperation relations that bind the two countries and peoples, in addition to the latest developments in the situation on the Libyan scene.

Al-Baour expressed the Government of National Unity's appreciation for the solidarity it received from Algeria during the recent floods that struck the regions of eastern Libya, praising Algeria's constant standing by the Libyan people and its support for the political path led by the United Nations to resolve the crisis in the country.

Al-Baour is participating as a representative of Libya in the 20th session of the meeting of foreign ministers of African-North European countries, held in Algeria during the period from October 16 to 18.



Politics

## Security Council extends Sanctions Committee's Panel of Experts on Libya for one year

The UN Security Council voted unanimously on the decision to extend the work of the Panel of Experts of the Sanctions Committee on Libya for another year.

On a Monday briefing at the Security Council, the UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, called on all stakeholders, including the main leaders, to meet and agree on a binding political settlement for a peaceful electoral process based on a unified government that could lead Libya to elections, saying UNSMIL was ready to facilitate this process.

Bathily also renewed the call on all of Libya's international partners to support this electoral process as the only way to give the country legitimate institutions and a future of peace, unity, stability and prosperity.



Politics

## Dbeibah reviews reconstruction of flood-hit cities with German am-

Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah has reiterated the need for coordinating national and international efforts to reconstruct flood-affected cities such as Derna in eastern Libya.

The PM's remarks came at a meeting with the Ambassador of Germany, Michael Ohnmacht, on Wednesday, in which they discussed Libya's political developments and issues of mutual interest.

A statement by the PM media office said the parties confirmed support for the UN envoy's efforts to reach fair and just elections and reviewed the potential return of German companies to Libya.

During the meeting, PM Dbeibah underscored Libya's official and popular stance regarding the "Israeli aggression against defenceless civilians in the Gaza Strip who are facing intense raids amid the silence of the international community."





Economy

## NOC signs deal with Norwegian company for oil and gas research

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) signed on Tuesday a memorandum of understanding with Norwegian oil and gas giant Statoil to examine Libya's oil potential in maritime areas.

Under the agreement, the Norwegian company will provide training for young national personnel working in the oil sector.

It may be worth noting that the Norway-based Statoil, also known as Equinor, is one of the leading multinational energy companies operating in 36 countries with additional investments in renewable energy.



Economy

## Al-Koni and Aoun review establishing refinery and gas line in the south

Member of the Presidential Council, Musa Al-Koni, has discussed with the Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Aoun, the situation of the oil sector, and the possibility of establishing an oil refinery in the south to contribute to the provision of fuel in the region.

Both sides also reviewed establishing a gas line to feed the Ubari power station from one of the fields near it, according to a statement published on the Presidential Council's Facebook page.

In turn, Al-Koni stressed the need to pay attention to human resources development programs to raise the efficiency of employees of the oil sector in the southern region.

Economy

## Libyan Central Bank mulls withdrawal of old prints of banknotes

Officials at the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) agreed to look into the withdrawal of some old prints of Libyan dinar banknotes, in addition to the 50 dinar banknote, as part of a series of measures that the CBL intended to take after reunification.

The committee formed to complete the procedures for reunifying the CBL held Wednesday in Tripoli its second meeting, headed by Governor Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir and his deputy, Marea Raheel, in the presence of the directors of the CBL's departments in Tripoli and Benghazi, and discussed a number of measures that supported reunification efforts, agreeing on a



single organizational structure and one director for the management of banking and monetary supervision, in order to enhance the reunification project.

The CBL's meeting saw an agreement to support bank balances with the CBL in Tripoli with 9 billion dinars to expand banking services such as selling foreign currencies, and to take measures that support the stability of the exchange rate, limiting foreign currency circulation in the black market.



Economy

## Tripoli hosts Petro Africa Forum and Exhibition

The Libyan Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huweij, accompanied by the Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Oun, inaugurated "Petro Africa Forum and Exhibition for Oil, Gas and Renewable Energies" in its eighth edition, which was hosted at the Tripoli International Fair.

The event included dialogue sessions and meetings for leading companies and academics in the fields of oil and energy, with the aim of presenting promising investment opportunities in Libya and the African continent.

The event, which Libya is hosting for the first time, will be ongoing from October 16 to 19, with large local and African participation.

The Ministry of Economy and Trade said on its Facebook page "Petro Africa Forum and Exhibition" saw a broad local and African participation from leading companies in the fields of energy, petroleum products and mineral industries.



Economy

## HoR, CBL discuss draft law on combating money laundering

The House of Representatives (HoR) and the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) have discussed the draft law on combating money laundering and terrorist financing before referring it to be approved.

This came during a meeting of the HoR's Planning and Finance Committee with the CBL's Financial Information Unit on Sunday, according to the HoR.

Economy

## Supreme Financial Committee reviews allocating urgent financial support for flood-hit areas



The Supreme Finance Committee held a meeting in Tripoli on Monday to discuss providing urgent financial support to the residents of the flood-hit areas affected by Storm Daniel.

According to sources close to the committee, 14 out of 17 members attended the first meeting of the committee since the disaster, after the committee terminated the membership of the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Marai Al-Barasi, on September 3.

The meeting aims to establish a mechanism for reconstruction and allocate urgent financial support to residents of the affected areas and rental housing or temporary homes for the displaced.

The Presidential Council seeks to form a joint reconstruction committee, with international approval, to overcome the crisis of government duplication and the conflict between the two governments over leadership of reconstruction efforts.





Opinions

## A different approach to overcoming the stalemate

*By Abdullah Alkabir, a Libyan political writer and commentator*

A plethora of meetings and statements, but to one outcome! There are no elections on the foreseeable horizon that could open a window of change and bring hope to end the current state of affairs, in which lives, money, time and sovereignty are wasted. The basic points of disagreement still exist, and they are almost just an excuse to abort the elections, circumvent to form a new government, and extend the transitional phase that the de facto authorities do not want to leave.

Following his meeting with Chairman of the High National Election Commission (HNEC), the UN envoy Abdoulaye Bathily praised HNEC's preparations for the electoral process, stressing that the United Nations will provide full support to HNEC to conduct the elections. The meeting discussed election laws, which HNEC had previously announced that it had received from the House of Representatives (HoR).

The discussion focused on the technical aspects of the laws, as HNEC, as well as UNSMIL, presented some technical observations about the laws, and it appears that the 6+6 Committee responded to these observations and made the required amendments. However, The High Council of State's (HCS) declared adherence to the Bouznika version, confirms that the amendments went beyond technical points to items of controversial issues, which the six-party committee sought to reach a formula that would be acceptable to both houses.

However, such acceptance did not come from the HoR and its speaker, who violated the Constitutional Amendment, and presented the draft laws for discussion in the HoR sessions, then referred them to HNEC, without informing the HCS and UNSMIL, instead addressing the UN Secretary-General urging him to mobilize international support for the formation of a new government.

Agila Saleh knows that changing the government requires the approval of the HCS, and therefore some concessions must be made in the draft laws, such as acceptance of HCS position in preventing the candidacy of military personnel and candidates with dual nationalities. This concession Agila cannot make, because in doing so he agrees to exclude his key ally Khalifa Haftar. This is a scenario that will hasten his ouster from HoR presidency, and the intro-

duction of a new presidency that will be more intransigent in its positions.

Agila Saleh's bypassing of the UN envoy, and addressing Guterres directly, was an attempt to marginalize the role of the envoy, who did not announce any clear change in his position, and is still urging everyone to negotiate and agree on the draft election laws. Bathily also does not see that the matter warrants for the formation of a new government, but rather to go on working with the existence of a unified government, inclusive of all parties.

Western countries, and foremost the USA, support Bathily's vision and position on the elections and government issue, but they do not put enough pressure to push all parties, especially those intransigents in their positions, to respond and engage in Bathily's project.

The de facto authorities, east and west, realize that expanding participation in any dialogue sponsored by UNSMIL means the entry of political and military parties with different positions and interests, and through the space granted to them in the dialogue, they will have an influence on the outcomes, which will necessarily not be what the HoR and the HCS want.

After all the six-party committee meetings in Morocco, the laws it adopted, and then the additional meetings at home, in response to pressure from some parties to amend some items, and the UN envoy's continued meetings and consultations, the election file did not advance an inch, and therefore all these meetings and consultations were running in a vicious circle.

The way to overcome the current stalemate is to search for a new approach to conduct parliamentary elections, which supporters expand every day, and bypass the parties to the conflict that will not accept any elections or results that would end their authority. This certainly requires international and regional consensus, the features of which have not yet emerged.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer



#### Crimes

## Tunisian man and two Libyans arrested on charges of smuggling currency outside Libya

The Ministry of the Interior of the Government of National Unity has announced the arrest of a Tunisian man in charge of smuggling currency, along with two other Libyan individuals.

The Ministry stated that Public Security Service of the western mountain branch arrested the accused during one of the security stops, in possession of a ten-dinar banknote that is not traded in the country and was suspended from the Central Bank.

During investigations with the accused, he confessed to trading in currency and smuggling it to Tunisia, in cooperation with two other people from Libya, the ministry added, indicating that legal measures would be taken and the accused would be referred to the Public Prosecution.



#### Art

## Libya recovers stolen artifact from France

The Libyan embassy in Paris has announced the recovery of a stolen artifact that had been smuggled illegally to France, which is a rare marble funerary statue.

The Libyan ambassador to Paris, Khaled Kajiji, confirmed that this recovery has its own symbolism, as it is a significant victory for Libyan cultural preservation after efforts made by several parties for years, motivated by their awareness of the human and cultural value of these antiquities.

According to the Libyan Embassy in Paris, on its Facebook page, Kajiji expressed his aspiration for more permanent cooperation and coordination in the field of combating antiquities smuggling and protecting the human and cultural heritage.



#### Health

## Egypt bans export of non-Egyptian-made medicines to Libya

Libya and Egypt have agreed on measures at the common land border to stop the flow of pharmaceutical drugs, other than Egyptian-made, into Libya.

The Egyptian Customs Authority said in a notification that it would only allow the entry of Egyptian-origin medicine through the Salloum border crossing with Libya.

Libya's Ministry of Finance had addressed the Egyptian authorities requesting permission for exported Egyptian medicines to enter Libya through the common border and banning supplies of other origins.

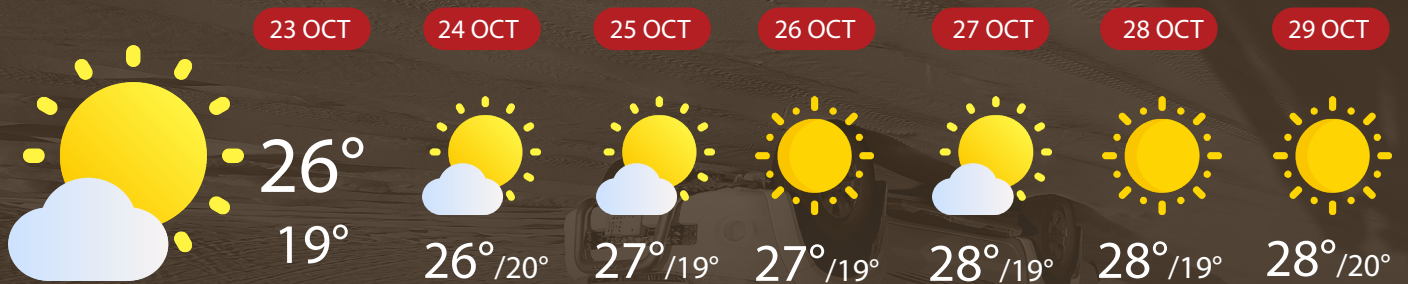
The Ministry said the step intends to deter customs violations as part of their efforts to enhance trade exchange between the two countries.





## Photo of the Week






## Tripoli Weather Forecast



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