



## Fact-Finding Mission: Some third states, foreign fighters and mercenaries committed war crimes in Libya

The Chair of the Independent International Fact-finding Mission on Libya, Mohamed Auajjar, told the UN Human Rights Council that the Mission's investigations had established that all parties to the conflict in Libya since 2016, including third States, foreign fighters and mercenaries, have violated international humanitarian law (IHL), in particular the principles of proportionality and distinction, and some have also committed war crimes, referring to the Tarhouna mass graves committed by pro-Haftar Al-Kaniyat militias.

Auajjar said airstrikes had killed dozens of families and the destruction of health-related facilities had impacted access to healthcare and anti-personnel mines left by mercenaries in residential areas had killed and maimed civilians.

From April 2019 to June 2020, Haftar's forces backed by Russian Wagner Group, Janjaweed and Chadian mercenaries led an offensive against the then legitimate government in Tripoli and western region cities, killing several civilians and displacing thousands others.

"Arbitrary detention in secret prisons and unbearable conditions of detention were also widely used by the State and militias against anyone perceived to be a threat to their interests or views. Individuals and groups - both Libyans and foreign actors - had been identified and may bear responsibility for the violations, abuses and crimes committed in Libya since 2016." The report said.

It added, according to Auajjar, that the confidential list would remain so, until the need arose for its publication or sharing with other accountability mechanisms, saying the extension of the mandate for another year would allow the Mission to complement the work undertaken."

It also said that the extension of the mandate for another year would also give the Mission the opportunity to examine allegations of widespread and systematic abuses in the town of Tarhouna, in the south of Tripoli, where hundreds of bodies have been found in mass graves after the defeat of Al-Kaniyat militias who used to rule the city under the command of Khalifa Haftar.

Meanwhile, the Turkish ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Sadik Arslan, criticized "allegations" of the report against Turkey, saying at the Human Rights Council 48th session meeting Thursday that Turkey had ordered the formation of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission after the discovery of Tarhouna mass graves.

Arslan said Turkey had provided critical contributions to Libya and intervened in the country upon an official request from the legitimate government after the political process was in danger, warning that the report "isn't comprehensive enough as it hasn't mentioned war crimes and human rights abuses committed in public in Libya.

Politics

## Al-Gotrani says forming parallel government in east Libya is possible



The First Vice Prime Minister of the Libyan Government of National Unity (GNU), Hussein Al-Gotrani, has said that forming a parallel government in eastern Libya is a possible option that is being currently discussed.

Speaking to Libya Al-Ahrar TV on Sunday, Al-Gotrani said the statement issued on behalf Cyrenaica region came after massive pressure by the public in the eastern region after the suspension of funds to several public sector institutions and apparatuses.

He said he hadn't seen the bill of the 2021 budget and neither had most of the cabinet ministers because the Prime Minister, Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah, reviewed it only with certain people.

"Dbeibah hardly contacts me or picks up the phone to answer my calls regarding government work." He said, indicating that the last communication between the PM and Haftar's "General Command" was around last May.

Al-Gotrani indicated that there's no need for Dbeibah to keep the minister of defense position, urging him to speak about the reasons why he hasn't appointed a defense minister yet.

He also explained that there's no justice in appointment of overseas companies and embassies regarding the regional quota system, on which the GNU was based.

"We know that there are some calls for blockading oil production, but I personally am against such calls," Al-Gotrani added.

Meanwhile, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) called on Libyan parties to avoid escalation that could lead to instability and division in state institutions and eventually to halting the efforts to hold elections in December.

Politics

## In response to 'Barqa Officials', UNSMIL calls on parties to avert escalation



The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Sunday urged Libyan parties to avoid escalation and refrain from any action that could threaten the



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unity of the country and its institutions.

Responding to a statement received earlier that day, entitled "Statement by Barqa Officials in the Government of National Unity," the UN mission urged concerned parties to avert any escalation that may pose a threat to domestic or international peace and security or hinder the holding of elections on 24 December 2021.

The UNSMIL was referring to a statement issued by First Deputy Prime Minister Hussein al-Qatrani, ministers, officials, and mayors of municipalities in Benghazi.

"The Mission takes note of the issues set out in the statement and calls on the Government of National Unity to address them without delay." To resolve the arising concerns, it called for direct and constructive dialogue and adhering to the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF)'s Roadmap.

The mission served notice that concerned parties in Libya need to respect the elections timeline to realize the aspiration of the Libyan people to elect their representatives democratically, warning that the current status quo is not only unsustainable, but leads to instability and division.

**Politics**

## Al-Gotrani criticizes Libyan PM decisions, accuses him of dictatorship



The First Deputy Prime Minister Hussein al-Gotrani has criticized the Prime Minister Abdul-Hamid Dbeibah and said his government hasn't united state institutions, fairly distributed wealth or risen to the level of national responsibilities.

Al-Gotrani said in a statement on behalf of Cyrenaica officials in the government that the government presidency became a dictatorship and is serving personal agenda not working in an institutional capacity, in addition to issuing unilateral orders.

He said the government presidency issued decisions taking over the capacity and competencies of some ministers and didn't commit to making the authorities of the PM deputies.

Al-Gotrani decried the inflexibility of Dbeibah in keeping the position of Defense Minister not naming a separate personality, saying the mismanagement of Dbeibah's government could be due to the presence of some of his family members around him and his lack of administrative experience, condemning irresponsible media statements by Dbeibah that add to the division in Libya and calling on him to make amends to avoid escalation, which he will be responsible for.

Al-Gotrani said the government spent over 48 billion dinars and allocated 2.5 billion to Cyrenaica that haven't been cashed out yet, adding that the government issued about 400 decisions that haven't been seen by him as a Deputy Prime Minister.

**Economy**



**JMC 5+5 approves strategy to remove mercenaries from Libyan soil in a gradual and balanced manner**

The Joint Military Committee (JMC) 5+5, during its meeting in Geneva, made a decision to prepare and approve an action plan to remove all mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces from Libyan territory in a gradual and balanced way.

The JMC said in a statement on Friday that it met at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in Geneva from 6 to 8 October, with the support of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), and in the presence of the UN envoy to Libya, Jan Kubis, in order to complete the tasks of the committee regarding the implementation of the terms and provisions of the ceasefire agreement.

It emphasized the agenda relating to the exit of all mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces from Libyan lands by land, air and sea, stressing the need to prepare the Libyan monitoring mechanism for the ceasefire agreement, particularly the presence of the UN international observers in Libya prior to the onset of the plan.

According to the statement, the meetings were distinguished by a "national spirit of responsibility", while the JMC discussed mechanisms for implementing the plan to remove all mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces from Libyan territory.

The committee agreed to communicate with all relevant local and international parties to support the implementation of this plan and respect Libyan sovereignty.

**Politics**

## JMC member: Action Plan will take place in two stages



Member of the Joint Military Committee 5 + 5 (JMC) Major General Al-Fituri Greibel has revealed that the Action Plan concerning the removal of mercenaries from Libya is to take place in two stages.

Greibel explained in a press statement that the first phase includes the removal of the Russian Wagner group, the Sudanese Janjaweed, and Syrians on the front lines.

The second phase targets foreign forces from Russia, Turkey, and other Arab and European countries.

However, he did confirm that no target implementation date has

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been set for any stage, hoping that the first phase would begin before the elections.

According to Greibel, the plan will be implemented amidst tight security measures to ensure that any of these forces do not infiltrate neighboring countries during the deportation process, with fears that they may contribute to fueling conflicts in nearby countries or end up returning back to Libya.

The deportation process will not be easy, Greibel admits, explaining that they will commence with small numbers, perhaps one or two hundred from each side every week.

He talked about concerns of "detonating the operation" given each party's fear of the withdrawal of loyal elements, indicating that international support, especially from the United States or Britain, would be enough to face the parties that refuse or obstruct its implementation.



The Libyan representative at the second committee of financial and economic cases of the UN, Ahmed Mutamad, called for finding international cooperation to locate the Libyan smuggled assets and help regain them.

Mutamad said regaining the smuggled assets would help Libya fund its economic projects and achieve lasting development, adding that Libya has been suffering from the issue of money smuggling.

He said despite challenges, Libya wants to achieve lasting development adopted by the UN in its 2030 strategy, adding that the UN strategy can only be achieved through justice and national reconciliation as well as ending illegitimate intervention in countries' domestic affairs.



### Ministry of Oil discusses with French ambassador or supporting the oil and gas sector in Libya

The Minister of Oil and Gas in the Government of National Unity (GNU), Mohamed Aoun, discussed methods of initiation for France's support for the oil and gas sector in Libya and the strengthening and development of joint cooperation between both countries.

This came during Aoun's meeting with the French ambassador to Libya, Beatrice Le Fraper de Hellen, along with her accompanying delegation, consisting of directors of some French companies and also in the presence of a number of officials of the Libyan Oil Ministry.

De Hellen stressed her country's eagerness to strengthen Libyan-French relations in light of the local, regional and international circumstances surrounding the country and to assist the Libyan people to achieve the desired stability within the country.



### WB: Libya economy set for recovery in 2021

Libya has achieved significant progress on the path of its economic recovery driven by a strong rebound of oil production and the devaluation of the currency, says the World Bank (WB).

In a report Sunday, the WB attributed the progress to the stabilization of oil production in the country in 2020 and the flexibility of international oil prices, which positively impacted the trade, fiscal, and current account balances.

"Oil production has averaged 1.2 mb/d during the first half of 2021, compared to an average of 0.3 mb/d during the first 9 months of 2020 and 0.9 mb/d during the fourth quarter of the year."

The report outlined that the country is set for further recovery depending on the developments of the political process, including the December elections and the security situation stability.

"If presidential and parliamentary elections and the reunification of public institutions proceed, and oil production persists, Libya is projected to record a GDP growth rate of 78.2% in 2021. In turn, trade and current account balances are projected to register double-digit surpluses as a share of GDP, according to the WB report.



### Eni: Libya can achieve threefold increase of gas production

The director of public relations at the Italian oil giant, Eni, said Libya could achieve a threefold increase of gas.

The PR director said at the 10th edition of Shared Awareness and Conflict Resolution in the Mediterranean Conference, organized by EU Operation IRINI, that Eni wasn't harmed in the last ten years in Libya due to the strong connection with people and local authorities, according to Nova news agency.

The director added that the Mediterranean constitutes 1% of the world seas' area but affects 20% of world trade, referring to the geopolitical location of the region that is traditionally considered a gate between Europe and Africa.

Opinions

## 50,000 dinars and foreign exchange fees

Hanan Shallouf, a member of House of Representatives



The Tobruk House of Representatives (HoR), has prepared in the last days, proposals for some laws that it says are in the interest of the citizen, that it did not think about for nearly seven years. Unfortunately, these proposals come within the framework of political opposition to the decisions issued by the Prime Minister of the National Unity Government after they failed to implement the withdrawal of confidence from him that they approved.

Among these proposals is a proposed law for the disbursement of foreign exchange revenues, and according to their proposal, 50% to repay the public debt and 50% to the citizens, and they will determine how it will be spent on the citizen by law.

It seems that HoR does not live in reality. Will it put a law to spend 53 billion from previous years, half of it for the public debt and half for the citizens? Is it sure that it was not spent, or will it put a law on revenues that will come in the coming years that have been stopped by adjusting the foreign exchange rate!!!!

Does HoR know that by adjusting the exchange rate there are no longer fees on foreign exchange?!!!!

Do they know that there is a law that there is no public debt without a law, and that neither Al-Thanna nor Al-Siraj has issued any law for a public debt, and that any spending from Al-Kabir or Al-Hebri that they arranged debts in which they take responsibility for it and it is not considered a public debt, but rather it is corruption for which everyone who participated in it is held accountable, whether by not being held accountable or not taking measures.

The second proposal, which is the 50,000 dinars for each family record booklet, despite the joy that overwhelms the simple people for such a decision, but it is clear how unrealistic they are, the implementation of this proposal is not less than 50 to 60 billion, without talking about the forged family booklets and the booklets that will obtain the Libyan citizenship. Does the Central Bank of Libya have what covers this in addition to salaries and various projects?!!!! The most important question in the context of the opposition to Dbeibah they forgot that what Dbeibah did in marriage grant was a disciplined matter (the category of married people from August to December) and with a specific budget (one billion). And as soon as the number reached 50,000 young people, which is equivalent to the one billion that he monitored, the system closed and he approved another billion, they may repeat the work and may stop, but the work is disciplined and comes within the framework of his vision of the government as a government of peace, and in the framework of this, to keep young people away from the war, marry them (not necessarily that this be achieved target but he moves with a vision).

As for the contradictory proposal of the MPs, it comes with no vision and no goal other than an attempt to reduce Dbeibah by placing Al-Kabir in an embarrassing position to spend, and on the other hand we see lack of discipline and lack of objectivity, as the HoR's proposal lacks justice and equality, as a family booklet consisting of 10 persons will take the same value as a family booklet consisting of 3 persons, and a Libyan family booklet will take the same value as a newly naturalized family booklet.

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





Health

## Libyan authorities launch Covid-19 vaccination campaign for migrants

The Anti-Illegal Immigration Authority launched on Wednesday a Covid-19 vaccination campaign targeting illegal immigrants.

According to Hosni Abu Ayanah, head of the information office at the Tripoli immigration center, the campaign will cover around 832 migrants residing in the Sikka Road Center in Tripoli.

The vaccination teams are working in cooperation with the National Center for Disease Control, Abu Ayanah told the Anadolu news agency, noting that the campaign will continue until Thursday.



Health

## Libyan Health Minister elected as Chairman of the Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean at WHO

The Minister of Health in the Government of National Unity (GNU), Ali Al-Zanati, was elected Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, according to a brief statement issued on Tuesday by the Ministry of Health.

The election of Al-Zanati came during the 68th session of the committee in Cairo on Monday, with the participation of health ministers, high-level representatives from the 22 countries in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region, and representatives of international, regional, and national organizations.

Libya chairs the meetings of this session, which is due to be held from 11 to 14 October and the session is set to discuss accelerating readiness and response to health emergencies, along with developing a regional strategy for integrated disease monitoring.



Education

## Suspension of 11 private universities from practicing educational activities

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research announced the suspension of 11 private higher education institutions, most of whom are based in Tripoli, from practicing any academic activities.

The Minister of Higher Education, Imran Al-Qayeb, said Sunday that the private higher education institutions concerned in this decision are forbidden from accepting students and also demanded the competent authorities not to approve the certificates issued by these universities, except by a decision from the Ministry itself.



Education

## In cooperation with WFP, Education Ministry announces funding for school meals program

The government has unveiled plans to start a school feeding program in cooperation with the World Food Program (WFP).

Minister of Education Musa Al-Maqrif made the statement at a joint press conference with the representative and country director of the World Food Program in Libya Rawad Halabi on Wednesday.

The Education Ministry will determine the nutritional needs according to geographical and cultural factors. It will also work to allocate a budget for the program, train national elements, and develop a general policy for school feeding.

"The program's goal is to ensure that students have the minimum nutritional level they need during their school day due to its positive impact on the educational process," Al-Maqrif explains.

He urged all internal and external partners to support the feeding program and confirmed his ministry's commitment to bring this project into being.

For her part, the representative and country director of the World Food Program in Libya, Rawad Halabi, noted that Libya was one of the first countries to adopt the school feeding projects, indicating that the program will benefit around 2.4 million students across the country.

On Monday, the Ministry of Education, in partnership with the WFP, organized the National School Feeding Workshop in the presence of Minister Al-Maqrif, WFP director in Libya Rod Al-Halabi, and the UN Resident Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator Georgette Gagnon.



## GNU announces plan to categorize migrants in Libya

The Government of National Unity (GNU) said Sunday it is dealing with a complex issue manifested in the illegal immigration file, as it represents a human tragedy, in addition to its social, political, and legal consequences at the local and international level.

Responding to the breakout of migrants from the Ghout al-Shaal detention centre last Friday, the government said the Ministry of Interior and the relevant security services worked to redistribute large groups of those who escaped to other shelters while migrant families were set free.

It added that officials in charge of the center committed to abiding by the utmost levels of responsibility and not to use violence against the detainees.

Foreign nationalities, including immigrants, were classified into three categories based on their activities inside Libya.

Those tending to Europe are the most prominent, says the GNU, stressing that unless there is genuine and effective cooperation from the European Union, the suffering of this category continues, as "Libya will not bear the burden of not having unified visions regarding this file."

For immigrants wishing to settle in Libya and engage in the domestic labour market, the GNU confirmed that it is following up their situation and works to organize them per the plan of the Ministries of Labour and the Interior, ensuring an optimal level of responsibility to guarantee their rights and correct their legal status under the residency and labour laws in Libya.

The government renewed its tough and firm stance towards the third category that targets those engaged in criminal activities or got involved with local groups that threaten the lives of immigrants and citizens.

"We deal with this category of migrants in accordance to Libya's commitments to all international human rights covenants."

In order to protect migrants and all residents in Libya, the GNU underscored that it would continue to classify migrants according to their activities.

Libyan security forces arrested over the past week more than 4,000 migrants during an operation aimed at tackling human trafficking and smuggling activities in Tripoli, according to official statements.

But the U.N. migration agency's Libya mission accused the Libyan authorities of mishandling the overcrowding situation at the Ghot Shaal centre, which resulted in the shooting of six migrants last Friday, according to the IOM.



Local

## Dbeibah inaugurates Citizen Service Center

Prime Minister Abdel Hamid Dbeibah has launched the "Citizen Service Center" aimed at bringing the government closer to the people and promoting greater openness and transparency.

Dbeibah said in a speech before an array of government officials, including the CEO of the Libyan Post, Telecommunications and Information Technology, that the Centre provides a basis for a new concept of government-citizen relationship.

"The main goal of the project is to remove all barriers so that the citizen can communicate his complaints to the government," the PM said.

The submitted complaints and demands would be converted into reports and indicators and put into action as soon as possible, according to Dbeibah.

The Citizen Service Center, which will be subject to a trial period, will consider the grievances and inquiries of citizens related to the work of the government, ministries, and affiliated entities.



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## Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 15	23°/18°		PM Showers	42%	NW 28 km
Sat 16	26°/16°		Partly Cloudy	7%	WNW 16 km
Sun 17	27°/17°		Partly Cloudy	3%	SE 17 km/h
Mon 18	26°/18°		Scattered Thunderstorms	42%	NE 18 km/h
Tue 19	25°/18°		AM Showers	66%	N 15 km/h
Wed 20	27°/18°		Mostly Sunny	24%	SSE 14 km/h
Thu 21	28°/20°		Mostly Sunny	9%	SW 13 km/h

## Cartoon

The draft constitution under the dome of parliament



## Photo of the Week



## Features

## The City of Zawila



Zawila is a village in southwestern Libya. It was conquered by Uqbah bin Nafi' al-Fihri around the year 22 AH. During the Middle Ages, it was the capital of the Fezzan region. It is considered one of the oldest urban centers in Libya. It had trade relations with Egypt and the oases of Sudan. It is located 140 km to the east of the city of Murzuq, and also considered one of the most important Islamic heritage sites in Libya.

## History

It was dominated by the Hawwara Berbers, who mostly followed Ibadism. The Abbasids under Muhammad ibn al-Ash'ath al-Khuza'i captured the town in 762/63, and killed its Ibadi ruler, Abd Allah ibn Hayyan, but Ibadism persisted in Zawila and the Fezzan in general. The town then became part of the Rustamid domains, albeit lying on the extreme eastern periphery of their realm. After the demise of the Rustamid dynasty at the hands of the Fatimids, in 918/19 Zawila became the capital of another independent Ibadi state, under the Berber Banu Khattab dynasty, which lasted until 1176/77.

The Kanem Empire started raiding the region in the 11th century, but the Bani Al-Khattab held power until they were conquered by an Armenian Mamluk, Sharaf Al-Din Qaraqush, who came from Egypt, conquered the region in the 1170s. The instability created by Qaraqush was exploited by the Kanem, who by the end of the 12th century had seized control of the Fezzan, establishing a new capital at Traghan, a few miles west of Zawila. Kanem rule lasted through the 13th century, until the local governors, the Banu Nasur, established their own independent state. In the early 15th century, Fezzan came under the influence of the Hafsid dynasty, and Zawila probably once again became the regional capital. At the same time, however, the disruption of the trans-Saharan trade routes affected the town's prosperity, and it lost its importance and rank of capital. When the Awlad Muhammad dynasty established Murzuq as their capital to the west of Zawila, the trade routes were diverted there, and Zawila fell into obscurity.

## Landmarks of the City

Among the most important landmarks of the ancient city of Zawila, is the seven shrines of the rulers of Zawila from the family of Bani Al-Khattab.

The remains of the ancient mosque of Zawila are among the most important Islamic monuments.

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