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Politics

Tobruk-based HoR requests Egyptian Amy's intervention in Libya



The Tobruk-based House of Representatives, which is loyal to Khalifa Haftar, has requested military intervention from the Egyptian Amy for "the national security of the two countries".

The House of Representatives (HoR) said in a statement that the Egyptian Amy is invited to intervene in Libya if there is an imminent threat to the national security of both countries, adding that Egypt is the strategic depth of Libya's secured economy and society as well.

The HoR also welcomed Egyptian President's call on tribes' representatives to be present on the scene after urging for arming Libyan tribes last month.

Previously, HoR Speaker Aqila Saleh said he was with Egypt's intervention in Libya, saying it is legitimate as it will secure its rights and western borders with Libya.

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El Sisi said earlier that any direct intervention for his country's army in Libya would be legitimate as per international laws, which stirred condemnations across Libya and the world as many parties inside Libya and countries in the region and the West thought El Sisi was declaring war and inciting Libyans to fight one another.



Turkish Foreign Minister, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu has stressed that military operation will no doubt take place if Haftar's forces do not withdraw from Sirte and Jufra, saying that the Government of National Accord (GNA) is determined to solve this matter.

Speaking to the state-owned news channel, News Turk, Çavuşoğlu disclosed that there are diplomatic efforts going on to solve this issue.

"Turkey is giving more time for negotiations, but preparations for a military operation are already underway, and it will inevitably take place if Haftar's forces refuse to withdraw," the Turkish minister underscored. He affirmed that the GNA must control the coastal city of Sirte and the airbase in Jufra before agreeing to a ceasefire.

In an article published by the American newspaper Politico, Çavuşoğlu said that the arms embargo to Libya is applied only to the GNA, but not to the "putschist" Khalifa Haftar.

In this context, he added that the UAE, Egypt, and Russia are supporting Haftar by all means, as well as France, "the historical ally of Turkey", despite him hindering efforts for peace and stability. He also indicated that Paris's allegations about the Turkish naval harassment of a French ship have not been confirmed by NATO."

Çavuşoğlu believes that Tripoli would have been occupied by the "putschist" Khalifa Haftar, had it not been for the Turkish support which prevented a humanitarian catastrophe in Tripoli that would have affected other European countries as well.

He called on the European Union to pay more attention to the mass graves found in the city of Tarhouna, which is believed to have been committed by Haftar's militias, noting that the forced closing of oil operations by Haftar's militias is depriving the Libyans of an important source of income.



The Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Khalifa Haftar "is ready to sign a ceasefire agreement in Libya, accusing the Government of National Accord (GNA) of "lacking desire to sign it too".

Lavrov's remarks came in a virtual meeting he held with his counterparts from Fourth Congree and South Africa according to Dussian

parts from Egypt, Congo and South Africa, according to Russian news agency TASS.

"When we called on the main leaders in Libya, Haftar and Al-Sarraj as well; as Aqila Saleh in last January, Haftar's forces weren't ready to sign ceasefire agreement as they thought they were the strongest party on the ground, while Al-Sarraj thought it was acceptable to sign." Lavrov said.

He added that Russia assesses that Haftar's forces are now ready to sign the ceasefire agreement, yet now Tripoli government is not ready for the ceasefire and is relying on the military solution.

Meanwhile, Lavrov said the appointment of a permanent special envoy would contribute to easing tensions, but argued that the US hinders it, vetoing candidates suggested by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

He also stressed that the new UN special envoy for Libya must be a representative of the African Union, adding that one year has passed and the UN Secretary General couldn't appoint an envoy despite many candidates being named, yet Washington always got in the way.

"I think the Americans are trying to sideline Guterres." He added.

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The Libyan ambassador to the UN, Taher El Sonni, said Khalifa Haftar's conditions for reopening oil ports and fields show that he is executing foreign agenda in Libya.

El Sonni told US-based Alhurra TV that Libya had been suffering from foreign intervention since 201, adding that the way the international community handled Libya had opened doors for a proxy war over the years.

El Sonni said the support of certain countries to Haftar was meant to make Arab nationals feel remorse for their calls for peaceful transition of power as those countries fear for their "thrones".

"We understand that Egypt has the national security issue in sight and it is a Libyan national security issue as well, however; the way to handle this isn't through backing up a war on the borders." He explained.

El Sonni also said that Turkey's cooperation with the GNA is a way for the government to defend itself against military coups, adding that Haftar is a war criminal and has no future in Libya's political solution as it would be impossible to share power with dictatorship advocates who call for seizing power by foece.

"In the east, there are so many national elites who may not see eye to eye with the GNA on many issues but still, the GNA extends arms to them for dialogue to end the crisis." El Sonni added.

Haftar's spokesman conditioned reopening oil fields and ports to depositing revenues of exports at a new foreign bank account not at the Central Bank of Libya in Tripoli.

The NOC, however; explained that those conditions were the instructions of the UAE to Haftar in order to keep Libya's oil production shut, while the US embassy in Libya said those who undermine Libyan economy and cling to military escalation will risk isolation and sanctions.

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Politics

Libyan army establishes joint force to maintain security in western region



Commander of the Western Region Joint Operations Room, Major General Osama Joueili, issued a decision to establish a joint force under the command of Brigadier General, Al-Feturi Gharibel charged with important functions, such as securing the western region and tracking armed gangs.

The force will be drawn from the combat units which took part in repelling the aggression on Tripoli with strength of 500 military personnel from each of the three military regions; the Western, Central, and Tripoli region, according to a statement by the Joint Operations Room.

Among the tasks will be securing the routes in and out of the western region, controlling the movement of military vehicles and weapons, and vacating public and private HQs from groups seizing the sites in violation of the law to hand them over to the official authorities, as well as confiscating armed vehicles and weapons.

One of the core duties of the force will be hunting down smuggling rings involved in smuggling fuel, irregular migration, and other issues, also removing random buildings and preventing encroachment on public lands.



The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) has condemned the renewed blockade on Libyan oil exports, saying it has been informed that the instructions to shut down production have been given to Khalifa Haftar's forces by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"This is gravely disappointing, especially following repeated statements by very senior representatives of the UAE last week in support of international efforts to restart oil production in Libya." NOC explained, calling in a statement on Sunday on the states responsible for this blockade to be held to account by the United Nations Security Council.

"NOC has been forced to declare force majeure on all oil exports from Libya to limit its contractual liabilities." It added.

Libyan oil exports restarted Friday of last week with the loading of the oil tanker Kriti Bastion at Es Sider. However, Haftar's forces ordered a halt to further exports a day later, reversing their cooperative posture in negotiations.



The Libyan African Investment Company "LAICO", in cooperation with Libya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has succeeded in recovering the tourist resort "Bahari Beach" in the Tanzanian capital, Dar es Salaam, owned by the Libyan state, which was illegally seized by another party since 2016.

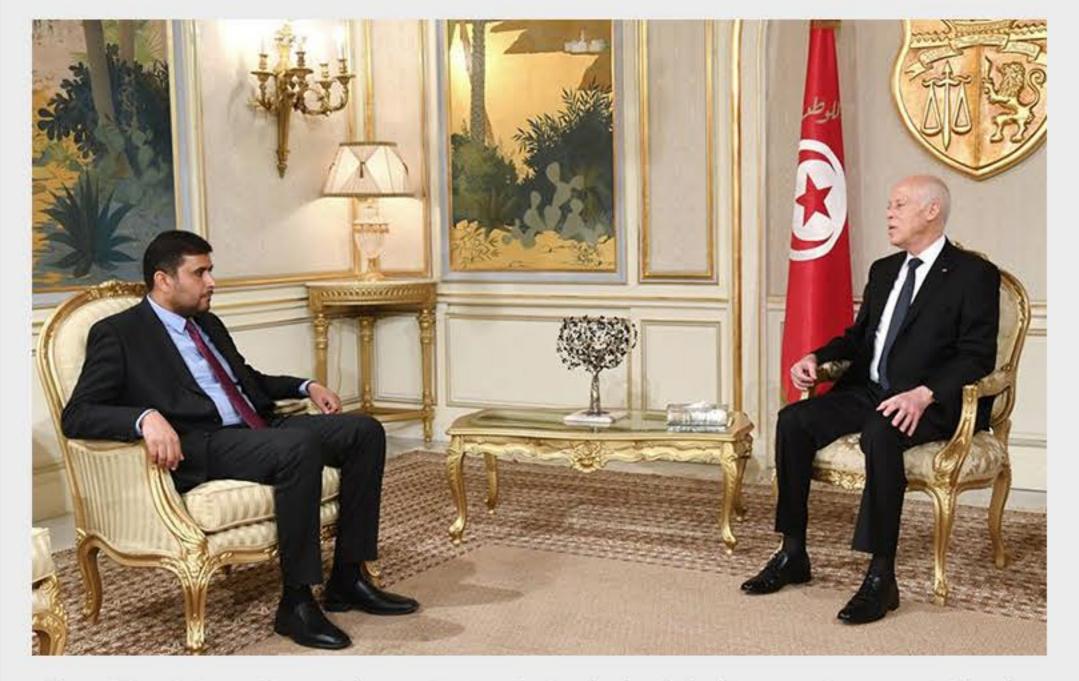
A source in the company stated that all legal procedures have been put in place in preparation to restore the ownership of the site to the Libyan state.

The CEO of the Bahari Beach, Abdul-Hakim Al-Shuwaidi, praised the efforts of the Foreign Ministry represented in the Department of International Cooperation in its careful follow-up to most of the African investments owned by the Libyan state in Africa.

It is noteworthy that the Bahari Beach hotel was established in 2003 and is considered one of the top tourist attractions in Dar es Salaam, as it is situated over an area exceeding 24 hectares on the Indian Ocean shores in the region of "Kunduchi", which is about 25 kilometers from the city center of Dar es Salaam.

Economy

Libya and Tunisia discuss the activation of 'joint economic projects'



The Tunisian President Kais Saied, held discussions with the Libyan Minister of Finance, Faraj Bumatari, initiating several joint projects to develop bilateral agreements in various fields in relation to investment.

The Tunisian Presidency quoted Bumatari as saying, "this meeting is an opportunity to address several issues related to trade cooperation and the 'free zone', but also to discuss many other strategic issues".

He pointed out that the two sides intend to increase cooperation on several levels, in order to create better economic and financial integration between both countries.



The Head of the Libyan Presidential Council Fayez Al-Sirraj held a meeting to review procedures for the return of Turkish firms and investments to Libya.

The meeting was attended by several officials who are related to the procedures, including the Minister of Planning, Central Bank, Audit Bureau and stocks market representatives.

The meeting discussed projects of infrastructure that have been suspended and await resumption by Turkish firms, which left Libya due to security reasons.

The projects include energy sector, electricity and other areas that need urgent attention to prvide better services to the Libyan people.

Al-Sirraj reiterated in the meeting the importance of resuming suspended projects by Turkish firms, hoping that the return of Turkish investments could open the door for a calculated partnership between the two friend countries, saying it could also include the private sector in Libya.

Economy

US regrets foreign interference against Libya's economy



The US embassy in Libya said in a statement that it regrets that foreign-backed efforts against Libya's economic and financial sectors have impeded progress and heightened the risk of confrontation after several days of intense diplomatic activity aimed at allowing the National Oil Corporation (NOC) to resume its vital and apolitical work as a way of defusing military tensions.

The US embassy added that incursions by Russian Wagner Group mercenaries against NOC facilities, as well as mixed messages conceived in foreign capitals and conveyed by Haftar's forces on July 11, hurt all Libyans striving for a secure and prosperous future.

"Illegal obstruction of the long-overdue audit of the banking sector further undermines the desire of all Libyans for economic transparency." The US embassy indicated.

It outlined that such disappointing actions will not deter the US embassy from its commitment to work with responsible Libyan institutions, such as the Government of National Accord (GNA) and the House of Representatives (HOR), to protect Libya's sovereignty, achieve a lasting ceasefire, and support a Libyan consensus on the transparent management of oil and gas revenues.

The US embassy also remarked that the door remains open for all who lay down weapons, reject foreign manipulation, and come together in peaceful dialogue to be a part of the solution.

It warned, however; those who undermine Libya's economy and cling to military escalation of facing isolation and risk of sanctions.

"We are confident the Libyan people see clearly who is prepared to help Libya move forward and who instead has chosen irrelevance." The statement reads.

Opinions

Guilty Macron breathes fire after he fails to turn Libya into Rwanda

By Yasin Aktay, adviser of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

Credit: This article was first published by Yani Safak on July 12, 2020

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All political parties in Libya have changed their tune since the scales tipped in favor of the Government of National Accord (GNA). The current balance has come to be seen as a political gain that needs to be preserved, even by those who support warlord Khalifa Haftar.

But despite this "status quo", it appears to be unacceptable to the entirety of Libya, because it does not genuinely promise to bring the Libyan people neither stability, nor independence nor territorial integrity. The efforts of the forces supporting Haftar to negotiate under current conditions, or their attempts to return to the Berlin Conference or the meetings of the 5+5 Military Committee in Geneva, do not seem to indicate a concrete desire for establishing peace, but rather an attempt to buy time.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has accused the GNA in Libya of refusing to sign a ceasefire deal. However, Lavrov seems to have forgotten that while the GNA was at the negotiating table in Berlin and Geneva, Haftar and the countries endorsing him were continuing to mount their attacks on Tripoli, as they attempted to bring down the GNA; and at the time neither Russia nor anyone else denounced this or called for a ceasefire. But now in order for the ceasefire call to carry any kind of credibility or goodwill, Haftar must withdraw from the occupied territories, such as Sirte, after he abides by the ceasefire of course.

He will withdraw or be made to withdraw from Sirte in any case, except that it's important for him to do so without further bloodshed, to do so without causing additional harm to the Libyan people; and it is in his interest not to add more files to his criminal dossier than he has already done.

Threats surrounding Egypt come from the east and south

We have said time and time again that it is important and necessary for those in Libya to justify to the Libyans and the entire world their presence there and what they aim to achieve.

For example, Egypt claims to be in Libya for the sake of its security. However, as prominent Egyptian political analyst Saif Al-Din Abdel Fattah noted, throughout history Libya has posed no threat whatsoever to Egypt. Indeed, the existing threat to Egypt has always originated from the east, and now there is a new danger from the south: the water crisis of the Nile.

The threat of Zionism from the east represents the greatest risk to the future of Egypt, but Cairo, under the leadership of Sisi, appears blind and deaf to this threat.

The same applies to the risk of drought in the Nile, which constitutes the life force of Egypt. Of course, the issue must be resolved peacefully with Ethiopia, and it cannot be resolved through war with either Ethiopia or Sudan. Perhaps this threat can be overcome if serious planning was made to find other water resources in Egypt.

However, Sisi has neither the vision nor the ability to eliminate this threat today. He is trying to save himself from his current dilemma, to rush to meet the demands that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) tasked him with. It's such a shame that a great country like Egypt, with state traditions that go back millennia, is in its current state today.

Of course there is an aspect that concerns the Libyans as well: what does Egypt, which Sisi is leading and Libya's next-door neighbor, want? What does it want from the Libyan people? What does it promise them? It cannot convince anyone that there is any threat coming from Libya. Libya is not in a position to threaten anyone now. On the contrary, there Egypt is threatening Libya, which is not hypothetical but a real threat.

French colonial history the way Macron remembers it

Despite everything we said about Egypt, let us presume that Cairo is in Libya because the two share a border. But what business does France have there? What does it pledge to the Libyan people? How and to whom will France explain that it wants to re-establish the criminal colonial system it has implemented for centuries in North Africa?

All the parties participating in the recent talks on Libya at the United Nations are now aware that Turkey's presence is part of its official agreement with the legitimate GNA, and therefore its presence is justified and is gaining merit. We find that those who used to be so vocal have gone silent, and only France has expressed its dismay with Turkish presence in Libya. But why?

The spokesman for the Turkish Justice and Development (AK) Party answered this question very well, saying, "Turkey has disturbed Macron because it did not allow him to turn Libya into Rwanda again."

France is considered the cradle of the Enlightenment for the West, the so-called democracy, and the forbearer of contemporary values; yet now in Libya, it does not seem to stand for any of these values, except for its dark past and brutal history of colonization.

Today, when France is mentioned before the people of Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Mali and all Africans, what springs to mind are barbaric massacres, brutal torture, racism and authoritarian colonial governments whose painful wounds are still fresh today.

Follow next page



Opinions

Macron's quest for Libya and his exasperation with Turkey does not render this past obsolete; on the contrary, with each gesture and every word, he brings to light France's dark history.

However, he does not only keep that history fresh in our minds through his words and actions, but by literally repeating that past in Libya. His ally Haftar's massacres and mass graves in Libya are quite reminiscent of that gruesome French history in Africa with all its gory details

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

Abu Salim Municipal Council delivers medical kits to staff at Abu Salim Accident Hospital



Abu Salim Municipal Council said it had delivered around 50 medical kits to the Abu Salim Accident Hospital in support of the monitoring and tracking teams in their efforts to reduce transmission of Covid-19.

The kits include masks, gloves, and full protective clothing necessary when dealing with Covid-19 suspected cases in side hospitals, the Municipal Council of Abu Salim explained on Facebook.

It emphasized its readiness to provide support to all the health facilities within the municipality, on the basis of its resources.

The Health Ministry delivered last may a shipment of medical equipment to the Covid-19 treating Centre in Abu Salim which is still under construction.

The shipment consisted of a medical oxygen production plant, a water desalination plant, and a wastewater treatment plant, in addition to furniture of special use in isolation rooms for patients with respiratory diseases.



The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank agreed to grant Libya \$480,000 in emergency aid for the purpose of obtaining personal protective equipment essential in treating patients infected with the Coronavirus.

According to a statement issued by the bank, which is based in Cote d'Ivoire, the funding is set up to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic and will be used specifically in prevention and control, along with protection of communities against the pandemic, particularly those most vulnerable, which includes health workers.

Health

Al-Najjar: Disease Control Center lacks authority to perform its duties

The Director of the National Center for Disease Control, Badr al-Din Al-Najjar has said that the center lacks the mandate that enables it to effectively fulfill its duty in tackling the coronavirus pandemic, as its role now is limited to announcing the Covid-19 testing results, counting the new cases and the deaths from the disease, and supervising the monitoring teams.

Al-Najjar told a local media outlet that the coronavirus confrontation plans, guidelines, and decisions are all in the hands of the Supreme Scientific Consultative Committee, which have recently taken successive decisions to establish individual committees operating outside the broad umbrella of the center, citing that the decentralization of taking decisions and the exclusion and marginalization of the executive arms have contributed to the proliferation of the virus.

He explained that the center is operating with the support of "some parties" which he did not specify, despite the fact that the center has been allocated 15 million dinars, but according to Al-Najjar this sum only exists on paper, as they have received nothing of this allocation to date. "The center even lacks laboratory operators and clothing for its monitoring teams," he noted.

According to the National Disease Control update on Friday, the Covid-19 cases in the country have amounted to 1342 cases, including 977 active cases, 38 fatalities, while 307 have recovered from the disease.



A Turkish air ambulance aircraft carrying medical supplies needed to tackle the coronavirus pandemic arrived at Mitiga International Airport last week.

The plane departed from Istanbul and was basically carrying examination kits, according to the media office of Libya's Ministry of Health.

The head of the office of the undersecretary of health, Mahmoud bin Mahmoud noted that the shipment will be delivered to the Center of Biotechnology Research in Tripoli, for use in conducting daily laboratory tests, for Covid-19 suspected cases.



The Ministry of Health has sent medical supplies to the city of Sabha as part of the efforts to contain the spread of coronavirus.

The shipment consisting of medical supplies needed to fight Covid-19 is the second to be dispatched during this month to cities of the southern region, according to the ministry.

The aid includes ten mobile isolation rooms fully equipped, 100 oxygen cylinders, a CT-Scan 32 slice, and a FLouroscopy digital ray device.



The Faculty of Economics at the University of Zawiya has held its first virtual international conference under the slogan "Reality - Challenges - Implications".

The conference featured panel discussions on a number of scientific themes, including, e-training, digital transformation and sustainable development, e-learning and its role in the educational institutions and research centers, and e-management systems.

The opening session which was held via video conference was attended by the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation, President of the Zawiya University, Mayor of the Zawiya Municipal Council, and the Director of the Quality Center at the Ministry of Education, in addition to the deans of the faculties at the Zawiya University.

Several research papers were presented from various Libyan universities, centers, and higher institutes, as well as specialized professors from Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Palestine, Madagascar, Britain and the United States of America.



The Under Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Adel Jum'aa has discussed during a meeting with the head of the National Authority for Technical and Vocational Education, Adel Zindah and the Director General of the Educational Facilities Department, Ali Al-Qweraih a number of issues related to assessing the damage caused to educational institutions located in areas of clashes during the aggression on Tripoli.

Jum'aa stressed the necessity to make the national plan announced by the government to reconstruct damaged educational institutions a success and this requires assessing the damage and preparing technical measurements for all levels of education, said the education ministry's official.

He indicated that the reports should include accurate details on the buildings, the location, the nature of the damage, the maintenance and repair work required, and the financial assistance needed. He also noted it is of most importance to attach the files with photographs that prove those damages.

The meeting concluded to the need to form a joint working group composing of the Education Ministry, the Universities Administration, the National Authority for Technical and Vocational Education to prepare a consolidated report on the educational institutions affected by the aggression under the supervision of the Educational Facilities Department.



The Ministry of Education has supplied all requirements needed for protection against the Covid-19, for any possible plan to restart schools.

Mohamed Amari Zayed, the Education Minister, confirmed in a statement published on the ministry's Facebook page, that they have supplied more than 7 million masks as well as gloves, in addition to thousands of devices related to temperature measuring and sterilization materials.

He explained that the education monitor offices will start receiving their share from these equipment and materials as from Sunday, according to the number of schools and students in each district.

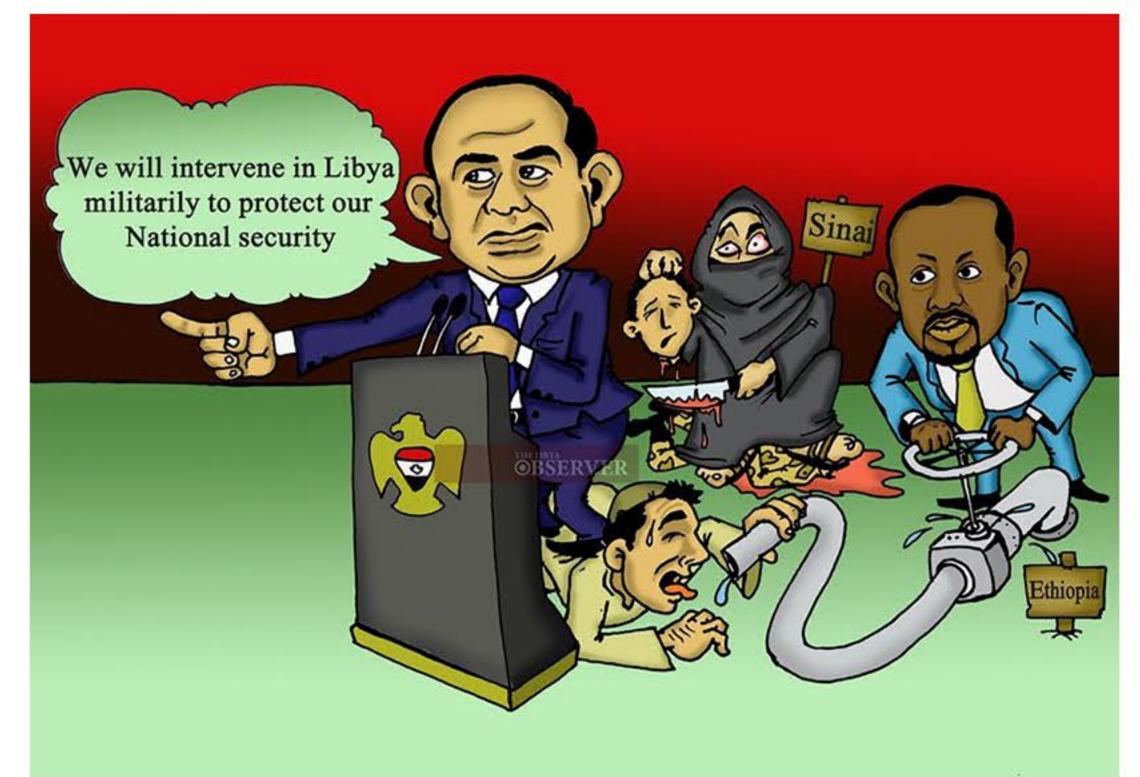


The people of the town of Shahhat in east Libya have denounced the continued kidnapping and disappearance of Maqboula Al-Hassi, a 70-year-old woman, who has been abducted since October 2019.

The citizens indicated during a protest that the kidnapping of Maqboola Al-Hassi was carried out by a militia affiliated with Saad Farkash, appealing to the official authorities to release her or reveal her fate.

The protesters said that they also refuse to accept the continued absence of the kidnapped Finance Minister of Bayda-based government, Kamel Al-Hassi, which occurred last May, calling for his immediate release.

Cartoon







weather

Tripoli Weather Forecast



Fri 17	31° /23°	Sunny	/ 10%	→ NE 23 km/h
Sat 18	30° /23°	Sunny	/ 10%	→ NNE 22 km/h
Sun 19	30° /22°	Sunny	/ 10%	→ N 20 km/h
Mon 20	30° /22°	Sunny	/ 10%	→ NE 22 km/h
Tue 21	31°/22°	Sunny	/ 10%	→ NE 20 km/h
Wed 22	31°/22°	Sunny	✓ 0%	→ NE 17 km/h
Thu 23	33°/24°	Sunny	✓ 0%	

Photo of the Week



Features



Living and working in Tripoli in the times of the COVID-19 pandemic has been very challenging, to say the least. With the on-going armed conflict in Libya already limiting the ability of UNICEF from carrying out much needed assistance, it could be said that the pandemic has made an already desperate situation worse.

The initial uncertainty over the spread and severity of the virus caused fear among the populace and UNICEF staff members. The restrictions imposed by the government, including the shutdown of some institutions, physical distancing, curfews and lockdowns, have forced many organisations, including UNICEF, to alter their strategy on how to provide support and assistance as and when required.

The suffering from the unprecedented bombing and shelling in urban areas, deterioration of services and rapidly declining economy resulting in increased suffering of millions of children and their families in Libya cannot be underscored. Following the attack on Tripoli in April 2019, armed conflict raged in and around the capital – a city that hosts approximately 2 million residents out of the 6.8 million of the total Libyan population – for close to 14 months. As a result of the previous conflict in Tripoli in 2011, at least 201,000 Libyans have been displaced from their homes and are trying to find safety in the city centre or other areas away from the extended front lines.

The government's institutions and civil society organizations, supported by the United Nations, have been struggling to provide assistance to over 400,000 internally displaced persons and over 600,000 migrants and refugees due to security and access constraints, lack of capacities on the ground, and severely underfunded response.

The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the struggles being faced due to the restrictions imposed not only by the Libyan Government, but by Governments all over the world. Some of the challenges include inability to import much needed goods, such as medicines, into the country due to closure of borders and bans on international flights. The armed conflict has not spared the UNICEF team; five UNICEF colleagues and their families have fled their homes in search of safety. Like all the residents of the greater Tripoli region, UNICEF staff and their families are living in terror under almost constant bombardment.

An elderly father of one of the UNICEF colleagues suffered serious injuries in a bomb blast, was taken to hospital and treated in the Intensive Care Unit for several days. In addition, frequent and extended water and electricity cuts have exacerbated the situation while the temperatures reached above 40°C. Through all this, observance of the holy month of Ramadan continued.

The movement restrictions and limited availably and constrained accessibility of vital services due to preventive COVID-19 measures have rendered the lives of the UNICEF team extremely challenging. Like other UNICEF staff around the world, the UNICEF team in Libya has had to adjust its programme delivery rapidly to the very different and increasing needs of children impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. Closure of schools and child friendly spaces, disruption of vaccination services, failure in the supply chain to already struggling health facilities that lack basic Personal Protective Equipment are of particular concern.

Simultaneously, the team has had to manage numerous virtual meetings and increasing questions from the different parts of UNICEF globally, the Libyan institutions, the United Nations and donors. A constant challenge has been to remain focused on the most essential activities that UNICEF is set to deliver. One of the important country office priorities has remained resource mobilization and donor engagement to ensure continued support of Libyan institutions and vulnerable populations.

These are the times that Libyans need the United Nations the most. The coming together of all walks of the humanitarian community can help Libya deal with the devasting consequences of the armed conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic and make better use its resources for its people.

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