

Politics

Libya, Turkey and Malta voice reservations about EU's Operation IRINI



Libya, Turkey and Malta have issued a joint statement expressing reservations about the European Union's Operation IRINI that aims to monitor implementation of the UN arms embargo in Libya.

The joint statement came after meetings for the Turkish and Maltese Foreign Ministers with Libyan officials in Tripoli.

Turkish and Maltese Foreign Ministers as well as their Libyan counterpart have all voiced their reservations about IRINI naval mission, agreeing to boost their cooperation in different fields as the Maltese Foreign Minister and his Turkish counterpart reiterated support for the internationally recognized Government of National Accord, saying there can be no military solution to the crisis in Libya.

They also agreed on joint cooperation in economy and efforts to limit the flow of illegal immigrants, return of Maltese and Turkish firms to work in the country and resume flights among the three countries.

The statement also said that the three countries will boost cooperation to fight illegal immigration and human trafficking as this issue isn't just a threat to Europe but also to Libya, saying the southern borders of Libya should be well secured against human trafficking and smuggling operations.

It added that the officials also expressed appreciation for Libya's humanitarian role in fighting illegal immigration and their readiness to provide Libya with the necessary equipment for the coastguards.

They stressed that the EU should actively help in fighting illegal immigration and uprooting the problem by investing in source countries of illegal immigration. The officials agreed to form a joint team work to follow up on the countries' interests.

Politics

Egypt, Russia deploy anti-aircraft systems in Libya to support Haftar



Radio France Internationale (RFI) has confirmed that there are Twitter accounts close to Egyptian authorities saying Cairo has sent a Russian anti-aircraft system to Ras Lanuf in Libya.

RFI added that Egyptian authorities are discrete regarding the news about sending the Russian air defense system to Libya, adding that Egypt deployed nine anti-aircraft systems (S-300) in last February on the borderline with Libya.

Radio France Internationale indicated that the circulated photos from Ras Lanuf in Libya, near the area's oil port, had shown radars and rocket launchers used for (S-300) anti-aircraft systems, adding that similar systems could have been deployed in Sirta and Jufra.

US magazine, Forbes, said earlier Russia could have deployed advanced S-400 anti-aircraft system in Libya, saying military analysts were trying to make sure of the details based on photos on social media showing a radar and missiles in Ras Lanuf.

"This could be the famous S-300, or the even more potent S-400 missile system. If so it could help tip the scales in the favor of Russia and its local allies against GNA forces." Forbes said.

Last July, US Africa Command said it had evidence of Russian military presence in Libya, saying it had imagery for military equipment for Wagner Group on frontlines in Sirte and that Russia had given Haftar's forces fighter jets and military vehicles as well as anti-aircraft systems.

Politics

Erdogan: Egyptian-Greek agreement is null and void



The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that his country continues to implement the Libyan-Turkish Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed between Tripoli and Ankara in November last year, confirming that his country would not negotiate with entities who possess no rights in the said areas of maritime jurisdiction.

Erdogan stressed in a speech that the agreement signed by Egypt and Greece is of no value, considering it null and void.

He added that Greece has zero right to sign such an agreement, considering that it does not have any maritime borders with either Egypt or Libya.

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Politics

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "We will not permit any party to attack our maritime rights"



The Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it is following, with great interest, the recent signing of an agreement by two countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, defining what they perceive to be their exclusive economic zones.

The Ministry added, in a statement commenting on the Egyptian-Greek agreement, regarding the demarcation of their maritime borders, that it is also following with interest the statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece, at a press conference on the issue.

The Libyan authorities affirmed that it would not allow any party the opportunity to violate Libya's maritime rights, reiterating the implementation of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed with Turkey regarding the representation of maritime areas, which does not conflict with International Maritime Law and international agreements and conventions in particular.

Politics

Turkey's Foreign Minister: There's proposal to surrender Sirte, Jufra to GNA



The Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has revealed that there's a proposal to surrender Sirte and Jufra to Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA), adding that talks are still ongoing.

Cavusoglu arrived Thursday in Tripoli and met with the Head of the High Council of State (HCS) Khalid Al-Mishri, holding after the meeting a joint press conference.

The Turkish Foreign Minister indicated at the press conference that the situation in Libya is very complicated and Ankara has assured Russia, which backs warlord Haftar, that the political solution process is still ongoing.

The Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu added that warlord Khalifa Haftar doesn't believe in political solutions or even the ceasefire.

Cavucoglu reiterated that Haftar's backer, France, is looking away from the arms and military equipment being delivered to Haftar's forces via Egypt and Syria.

Cavusoglu met also with the Head of the Presidential Council Fayez Al-Sarraj along with the Maltese Foreign Minister to discuss political solutions to the conflict in Libya.

Economy

Sanallah discusses with the Maltese ambassador cooperation in oil and gas domain



Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanallah has discussed with the Ambassador of Malta to Libya, Charles Saliba and his accompanying delegation, aspects and means of cooperation regarding the oil and gas domain, in addition to building communication channels that would serve the interest of both countries.

Discussions covered many issues of concern to the oil sector in Libya, inter alia, the possibility of activating the memorandum concluded between the two countries in 2013, which provides for cooperation between Libya and Malta, in addition to discussing the development of the Tripoli oil clinic in several areas, such as updating the analysis laboratories, Operating rooms, and training medical personnel in the sanatorium and elevating their efficiency.

This came during a meeting at the NOC HQ, according to a statement by the NOC's website.

During the meeting, Sanallah expressed his appreciation to the Maltese side for its desire to seek cooperation with the NOC. "We hope for further work and cooperation in every possible way to combat the smuggling issue that has exhausted the Libyan state," Sanallah said, stressing that Malta, as a neighbor and friend of Libya, can play a prominent role and contribute to the return of its stability.

Sanalla also assured that there are many great opportunities for cooperation between the two countries, such as contracting, logistics and communications, and other aspects required in the Libyan oil sector, but this will not occur until stability is restored to Libya, according to the NOC head.

In turn, the Maltese ambassador praised the depth of the relationship between the two countries. "The stability of Libya is part of the stability of Malta," he said, noting that the economic relationship between the two countries goes back for 20 years.

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Economy

Loss of revenues due to Libyan oil closure exceed \$7.8 billion



The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has reported the total loss of sales opportunities as a direct result of oil installation closures amounts to 7.841 billion dollars, during the 200 days of force majeure.

The NOC, on its official Facebook page, called for an end to the forced closure of its installations in order for international partners to be able to provide extra support in the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

It is worthy to note that warlord Haftar's forces closed the oil fields and ports in the country since January last for economic and political gains.

Economy

Souq Al-Jum'a Municipality discusses strategies to achieve inclusive development



Mayor of Souq Al-Jum'a Municipality, Hisham Bin Youssef, met with members of the "Technocracy for Development and Research" Organization to discuss ways of achieving overall development in communities.

The meeting touched upon the role of public and private institutions in implementing community development mechanisms, according to a scientific method.

The two sides agreed to carry out joint action, including preparing reports and statistics to provide background information that could assist in assessing the current situation, in order to develop the concept of identity, in support of community rehabilitation, according to a statement by the municipality.

"Souq Al-Jum'a Municipality aims to enhance the quality of education and health system, in addition to improve the living conditions of families, and establish the values of equality and justice," the municipality explains.

Economy

UN announces launch of international financial audit of Libya's Central Bank



The Acting Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Stephanie Williams has announced the finalization of the process to initiate an international audit of the two branches of the Central Bank of Libya.

The UNSMIL said this process is the culmination of a process "laudably commenced by GNA Prime Minister Sarraj on July 10, 2018 in a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in which he requested the United Nations to facilitate an international audit of the Central Bank branches in Tripoli and Beyda as a means to restore integrity, transparency and confidence in the Libyan financial system and create the conditions for the unification of Libyan financial institutions."

The UN mission added that on September 13 2018, the UN Security Council, in Resolution 2434, mandated UNSMIL to support the requested financial review process.

"Following several meetings chaired by former SRSG Ghassan Salame in the fall of 2018, Governors Al-Kabir and Al-Hibri agreed to and finalized the Terms of Reference of the audit in December of that year." The UNSMIL said in a statement on Monday.

"During this phase of the process, UNSMIL consulted with the International Financial Institutions. In September 2019, representatives of the two branches of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) participated in a selection panel to review bids submitted by qualified international auditing firms. In compliance with best practices and with the advice of UN technical specialists, the panel voted unanimously to award the contract to Deloitte." It added.

The UNSMIL indicated that UNOPS, the UN agency that managed the procurement process, has now finalized the contract with the awarded company in order for the audit to commence as soon as possible.

It also remarked that the international financial review process is a critical step towards enhancing transparency in the Libyan financial system and creating the conditions for the eventual unification of the CBL.

"The process is equally important to have an informed dialogue on the equitable distribution of national revenue in Libya and to re-establish national accountability mechanisms. Beyond its UN Security Council mandate, the international audit review is a top priority for the International Follow up Committee for Libya established during the Berlin process. As the process begins, the international community and the Libyan public will be watching closely to ensure that all parties fully cooperate with the process." UNSMIL indicated.

UNSMIL said it would coordinate closely with the National Audit Bureau authorities in western and eastern Libya through the course of the international audit, adding that it was fully expected that the national audit authorities will conduct any follow-on or forensic audits recommended as a result of the international audit.

UNSMIL also urged for the immediate lifting of the blockade imposed by Haftar's forces, saying the National Oil Corporation has warned that a continuation of the blockade risks further damage to and deterioration of Libya's vital oil infrastructure and pipeline network.

"The NOC must be allowed to fully resume its operations for the benefit of all Libyans and the future of the country. UNSMIL hopes that the international community will fully support this urgent call." It added.

Opinions

Nest of vipers in Libya and the intellectual who sold his soul to the devil

By Yasin Aktay, adviser of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

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Credit: This article was first published by Yani Safak on August 06, 2020



Turkey's support to the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) not only changed all balances on the ground but also foiled the ploys of the nest of vipers that was quietly set up in Libya until today. The vipers waiting to divide Libya between them without leaving anything for the people, do not know what to do now that Turkey is on the stage.

When Turkey arrived there upon Libya's official call and in all its legitimacy, it revealed one by one their coup-plotting, violations of human rights, the massacres they committed together with the war criminal they support, and their war crimes. As many as 13 collective graves have been discovered in Tarhuna alone, with the bodies of those who died as a result of the massacres committed by France-backed warlord Khalifa Haftar. As a result, those who support Haftar, primarily France as well as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt need to be called to account. This is the cause Turkey is pursuing now.

However, the panic in the nest of vipers is now being replaced by recovery and preparations for counterattacks. The counterattacks are revealed not only on the ground but also in their media and public diplomacy activities. The pirates that support all sorts of terrorist organizations to achieve their own despicable aims, that invade a country with their sights set on that country's resources only and therefore commit all kinds of massacres there, that commit war crimes, have the audacity to accuse Turkey of supporting terrorism and displaying disunity within NATO due to the support it is providing the internationally recognized and legitimate Libyan government.

The speech putschist Gen. Khalifa Haftar made last week in address to the militias of the radical Madkhali-Salafist group, was an interesting example of this shamelessness. The dangerous and radical Madkhali group is Libyan, yet it receives instructions directly from Saudi-based Shaykh al-Madkhali. This group, which is currently Haftar's most important armed militia in Libya, shares the exact same ideology with Daesh. If anybody knows on which line, against whom, and why Daesh is fighting, we can perhaps reveal the difference between them. However, there is no difference between them, and the war crimes they committed have been exposed.

In address to these militias, Haftar mentions the "fight against the terrorists in Tripoli," and praises the sacrifices they made to save Libya from terrorism. This approach, which has taken it all too far, was topped with the meetings and statements made by France's discredited Zionist intellectual Bernard-Henri Levy, who supported Haftar with his visit. Levy, who presents himself as an intellectual supporting freedom movements through such meetings, is nothing other than a typical orientalist spy. Levy drew attention with the praises he sang to Haftar, who is supported by France, and whose sole mission is to take his own commission while making the country's resources available to the countries backing him.

During these meetings, Levy told those with whom he held the meetings that he sees the war in Libya as a front of the war in the Islamic world in general. As a matter of fact, he claimed that those who think this war is between Christianity and Islam are being mistaken, that this is a war among the Islamic world itself. As you can guess, according to Levy, one side of this war among the Islamic world is the radical Islamist side represented by Turkey under President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's administration. Levy, who associates Turkey with Afghanistan's Taliban, placed against Turkey the Islamic Enlightenment represented by the UAE.

Man is known by the company he keeps. In order to talk about Islamic enlightenment in relation to the UAE, which mobilizes its coup operators, terrorists, scheming spies and assassins whenever there is the slightest movement towards democratization in any part of the Islamic world, and drowns any democracy attempt through all sorts of immoral relations with all kinds of terrorist organizations, one must have gifted their mind and soul to the devil.

The meetings held by Levy are only a part of a more expansive diplomacy and public diplomacy recently started by France. Steven Erlanger's article titled, "Turkish Aggression is NATO's 'Elephant in the Room,'" published in The New York Times yesterday, interprets Turkey's confrontation with France in Libya entirely in favor of France, and accuses Turkey of being a non-adaptable country within NATO. There is no mention at all about France's open support to putschist and murderer Haftar, or its weapon and technical support to him. However, Erlanger states that Turkey broke the weapon embargo in Libya, without any mention of Turkey's deal with the legitimate government. He also added that Turkey's disputes with Greece in NATO, its prevention of the membership of countries such as Egypt, the UAE, and Armenia, and of course its latest deal with Russia to purchase S400s are examples of Turkey's spoilsport attitude in NATO.

Of course, each one of these examples present other problems regarding the way NATO operates. For example, Erlanger makes no mention of how a current NATO-member country is able to provide financial and political support to and become involved with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) terrorist organization, which poses a threat to another NATO country, and even go as far as making an oil production and purchase deal with them.

Follow next page

He did not ask what business France has in Libya, as if France's presence and operations there are legitimate, as if Turkey is joining the game late. There is also no mention of how Turkey is sieged by Greece and the other countries in the Mediterranean to the extent that Turkey cannot even cast a fishing line on its own coasts. They want a self-proclaimed legitimacy. But that is not how it works.

Frankly, it is a fact that Turkey spoiled all these twisted and unrightful games in which NATO members are involved.

Those complaining should get their act together, give up their colonialist-pirate desires, and stop crying.

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

Shipment of Covid-19 testing kits arrives at Mitiga Airport

A shipment consisting of laboratory assessment tools for implementing Covid-19 virus testing arrived at Mitiga International Airport, said a statement by the Health Ministry.

The shipment which was flown to the country via the Flying Ambulance Service includes 10,000 pieces of assessment tools.

According to the ministry, the shipment will be handed over to the Biotechnology Research Center, which will distribute the consignment to the 20 existing laboratories across Libya, dedicated for conducting the Covid-19 virus testing.

A second shipment containing around 110,000 pieces of Covid-19 kits is expected to arrive later this day, in addition to another 90,000 pieces on Friday, according to the Ministry of Health.

Earlier, the Biotechnology Research Center denied having any shortage of supplies in testing materials, after media outlets circulated a correspondence between the National Center for Disease Control and the Ministry of Health, stating that it had run out of Covid-19 testing kits.

Health

Health Ministry sets up new isolation facilities in Nalut and Gharyan



The Health Ministry said it had equipped one of Nalut Central Hospital buildings to operate as an isolation centre with a capacity of 80 beds.

The new isolation site includes 16 intensive care beds and is provided with monitoring systems, examination rooms, and a place for the medical staff, according to a statement by the Health Ministry on Facebook.

In the same context, the ministry also confirmed the completion of another isolation site in Gharyan city, with a capacity of 82 beds, including 12 intensive care beds.

The ministry emphasized that it is working to increase the clinical capacity of the coronavirus treatment centers across the country, by supporting these facilities with advanced mobile isolation units, in addition to setting up and equipping new sites, in response for any potential increase in the number of Covid-19 cases, after the disease reached the fourth epidemic level in the country.

Health

Hay al-Andalus mayor: Coronavirus is raging out of control



The Mayor of Hay al-Andalus Municipality, Mohamed Al-Futaisi has sounded a distress call to all government authorities that the coronavirus case counts in the municipality are spreading out of control.

In a statement on the municipality's Facebook page, Al-Futaisi held all relevant authorities accountable for the fragile situation to which they have come, including the Supreme Consultative Committee, the National Centre for Disease Control, and the Ministry of Health.

"Some authorities have set up an isolation centre inside the municipality without informing the local authorities," the statement read, stressing that the centre will be operated under the municipality's authority.

Al-Futaisi added that hosting the returnees from abroad within the municipality was one of the reasons for the spread of the virus in the area, arguing that this was done without the municipality's knowledge or approval.



Ministry of Health increases capacity of beds in Souq Tolata Isolation Centre to 100

The Ministry of Health has raised the clinical capacity of the Souq Tolata Isolation Centre in Tripoli to 100 beds, having been supported by Swiss mobile medical units, equipped with specialised biological filter technology, air conditioning and kitted out with toilet facilities.

An official at the Ministry of Health added that it intended to raise the clinical capacity in various other isolation centres, through advanced mobile units, in response to an increase in the number of newly diagnosed cases of COVID-19, due to the unfortunate event of many citizens' failure to adhere to the guidelines provided, as he put it.



Education

Preparatory and secondary certificate exams kick off in Libyan schools abroad

The general exams for the primary and secondary certificates for Libyan students abroad kicked off in 34 countries, amid exceptional measures due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

This follows months of homestay, with online classes due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 and the government's measures to curb its spread.

"All required procedures and virus prevention measures have been put in place," said the Director of the National Examination Center, Ahmed Masoud.

Around 1990 Libyan students abroad will sit for the secondary and junior certificate exams this year; 1029 of them will test for the Preparatory Certificate, according to the Education Ministry, while 921 students will take their General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) exams.

The ministry further explained that it had commissioned 70 examination boards to oversee the Preparatory Certificate exams, in addition to 68 boards for the scientific section of the GCSE, and 26 for supervising the GCSE literary section.



Life

National Wildlife Trust warns Libya's tortoises are on their way to extinction

The Libyan Wildlife Trust has warned that the Libyan tortoise species are on their way to extinction, due to the ongoing smuggling of these creatures outside the country.

The Libyan Wildlife explained in a statement that tortoises are being smuggled to Egypt to be sold to tourists, as well as local people, who most of them live in apartments, which is not a suitable place to raise such creature, as they hardly see the sun.

"We see a lot of posts from Egyptians complaining of having diseased tortoises or of their pet tortoise dying shortly after bringing them home," the statement read, explaining that the tortoises suffer from overcrowding and inappropriate conditions during their long and "terrible" journey.

It pointed out that to make a suitable home for a turtle you need to install UVB solar bulbs, which are very expensive and most people can't afford them, according to the statement.

"There are societies in Libya that work day and night to protect wildlife and under very difficult circumstances," The Libyan Wildlife Trust noted, urging Egyptians to boycott smugglers and traders of wildlife, and not to get involved in the extinction of Libyan tortoises.

Crimes

Joint Force arrests drunken man for killing and injuring people in random shooting



The Joint Force has arrested a man in connection with the murder of two people and the wounding of another, after he opened fire on a number of vehicles in the "Jibs Gate" area in Tripoli, while he was drunk.

The suspect injured one of the security men during his arrest and also violently resisted his apprehension, according to a statement by the Joint Force.

The force confirmed that the man is now in custody pending referral to the Public Prosecutor to take legal measures against him.

Meanwhile, protesters closed the Al-Sawani Road, and the routes leading to the Jibs Gate district, in protest of the shooting incident, before it was subsequently reopened.



Crimes

A gang arrested for encroaching forests east of Tripoli

The Ministry of Interior said that it had arrested a gang for encroaching public forests in the Municipality of Garabulli, east of Tripoli.

"The gang has destroyed the forest landscape by cutting trees, and used fake documents of ownership to take over the lands in this area," a statement by the Interior Ministry said on Facebook.

A security force from the Interior Ministry, in coordination with the Agricultural Police and the Garabulli Security Directorate, has carried out the arrest operation.

"The encroachers were surrounded in the forest and were caught in the act of crime," the ministry explained, confirming that they also seized the machinery they were using, before referring the encroachers to the Public Prosecution Office to complete legal procedures.

Earlier this month, the Zintan Municipality also voiced concern that some citizens are encroaching on and clearing public land in the municipality, including what is known as the "Apple Farm", located in the center of Zintan region.

weather



Tripoli Weather Forecast

Fri 14	34°/24°	Sunny	0%	ENE 23 km/h
Sat 15	36°/26°	Sunny	0%	N 15 km/h
Sun 16	37°/27°	Sunny	0%	NNW 15 km/h
Mon 17	38°/28°	Sunny	0%	NE 16 km/h
Tue 18	38°/28°	Sunny	0%	NE 18 km/h
Wed 19	37°/27°	Sunny	0%	NE 18 km/h
Thu 20	36°/26°	Sunny	0%	ENE 18 km/h

Photo of the Week: People in Tripoli flock to the beaches to escape from the summer heat coupled with high humidity amid long hours of power outages



Features

Exclusive interview with head of “Ya Biladi Party”, Nuri Abu Sahmain



Nouri Abu Sahmain is a Libyan politician and the former president of the General National Congress. He was born on October 25, 1956 in the city of Zuwara.

He graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Benghazi in 1978, and now he heads “Ya Biladi Party”, which was established on July 6, 2020 as a political project aimed at developing a vision to reach a civil state in Libya.

The Libya Observer met him in his office and had this interview:

The Libya Observer: Nuri Abu Sahmain led the National Conference in a sensitive transition period before he was eliminated from the scene in 2016, to return today amid a more complex scene, where was Nuri Abu Sahmain during this time? Do you see an opportunity for you in the current stage?

Abu Sahmain: As you know, a presidential council was formed according to the Skhirat Agreement, and the legislative authority represented in the House of Representatives derives its legitimacy from the agreement itself, in addition to a higher state council who plays an advisory role.

I decided, of my own free will and conviction to not be part of this agreement, and this is what made me outside the Libyan political scene in an official capacity.

As for what has been and is going on in Libya since 2016; as a matter of political honesty and moral duty, I did not feel, rather, I could not refrain from what is going on and tried hard to provide what was possible, especially that I feel that this is a tax you have to pay in the service of the homeland with all its pain and hopes.

Literally, I was not absent from the scene, but you could say that there was a political reality present on the ground, with which I interacted negatively and positively as required by the political phase, and I tried hard to espouse a political discourse that builds not destroys, unites not separates.

The Libya Observer: What is the ambition of Nuri Abu Sahmain from launching “Ya Biladi Party”?

Abu Sahmain: When a movement, bloc, or party is announced, I don't think it is attributed to the ambition of one person, and if that happened throughout history, it is usually linked to some who have claimed to be inspiring leaders, or the one leader.

Personally, this path or orientation does not intrigue me, although we cannot deny that there were great leaders in history. In my opinion, their achievements are what made out of them, great leaders and this, I think, came after a long march.

Therefore, I take pride that my ambition behind establishing the new party is to work to make a dream come true to many Libyans who yearn to save the homeland.

The Libya Observer: What is the party's vision of the main issues, the most important of which are the establishment of the state, the constitution, reconciliation, and the relations with neighboring countries?

Abu Sahmain: No doubt that these main issues are a priority for our new party. Our objective is to build a solid-state based on constitutional grounds, through sovereign institutions concerned with consolidating true justice, legislative, judicial, and executive powers, upon the principle of separation of powers.

Our institutions should raise their standard of performance to ensure that Libya assumes a respectable place in the international community, by recalling our long and ongoing struggle since independence, the sacrifices of our ancestors. We will build institutions that would strive towards a better tomorrow and a prosperous future, through our promising young generation, drawing on the experiences and practices of countries that have surpassed the stages of dependence, fragmentation, and wars, those who managed to bring about progress and prosperity and spare their nations backwardness and breakdown.

The Libya Observer: How does Abu Sahmain see the current political and military scene in Libya, and what is the future of Haftar and his sons?

Abu Sahmain: I view the scene through the sincere desire of those who want to achieve security, safety, and reject oppression and tyranny. I see it through the hands that want development and stability, that resist corruption, and hope for the consolidation of transparency and law enforcement.

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I see it through bright minds eager for meaningful education, and regarding Haftar and his sons, well, to address this issue we must first, discuss the future of Haftar's project, his sons, and supporters. We are determined to fight and reject this project. We cannot leave Libya in the hands of caudillos, or an individual, or a family, or a tribe, or any ideological and regional party.

Libya is for everyone loyal to the homeland, and those who wish to enter the political arena have no other way than doing that through the ballot boxes.

The Libya Observer: Will Abu Sahmain run for parliamentary or presidential elections?

Abu Sahmain: Getting engaged in political activity is a prelude to further steps, including running for candidacy or joining an electoral battle, and the launching of "Ya Biladi Party" is part of this, however, this will be discussed and assessed in due course, as required by that stage when announcing the start of elections, and I will make my decision according to the interest of "Ya Biladi Party", in line with our goals, also taking into consideration the concept of differentiation among the candidates, this means nominating other figures that may increase our party's chances of winning the elections.

The Libya Observer: From Berlin to Algeria, via Cairo, Paris, and Palermo, numerous initiatives have been put forward seeking to end the Libyan crisis through a political track. In your opinion, why did they all fail? And what is your position, regarding these initiatives? Do you have a specific vision for a political solution in Libya, especially at a time the country is witnessing high tension, foreign interference, and international accounts that created a more complex scene?

Abu Sahmain: The failure of these initiatives, according to my belief, is because it did not emanate from the womb of the Libyans' demands and hopes, to be more precise, the initiatives were not forwarded by institutions and bodies that truly represent the Libyan people, or at least represent the reality of what is happening on the ground.

Unfortunately, there is a "kitchen" outside the homeland where deals are brewed, with the complicity of clandestine players who listen without thinking or speaking, then at some point, they claim they are key parties, but in fact, they are puppets echoing what they were told to say, while they do not realize the consequences of such actions.

Regarding the questions if the party has a vision for a political solution, of course, it does, despite the institutional structure of the movement has not been completed, but as we said before, it is the fruit of experience drawing from several political junctures, in which the country has been exposed to fragmentation, division, successive wars, neglect of the state's sovereignty, and increasing sufferings of citizens.

It is through the elite who represent this line; we will propose a political vision that rests on the pillar that any solutions should be found within Libya with no foreign interference.

The Libya Observer: What is your position towards the countries that have negatively interfered in Libya and supported Haftar's attack on Tripoli? Especially we hear voices calling for cutting the diplomatic and economic ties with these countries?

Abu Sahmain: How painful it is to see some countries harming Libya with their negative interference, they have even dared to intervene military directly or indirectly, outside the local, regional, and international legitimacy.

Those who allowed themselves to intervene, even lack the legislation within their governments that permits them to attack another country, and this stems from the fact that international law and legislation of the Security Council, the United Nations, and international agreements criminalize anyone who interferes in the affairs of another state, even by peaceful means, let alone through the military approach.

As for the issue of cutting ties with an aggressor country, this is an obvious matter that does not require consultation or time to think about. Whoever attacks or supports the aggressor is declaring war, so how can there be diplomatic relations or economic cooperation with such parties.

The Libya Observer: How do you assess the security and military cooperation agreement signed with Turkey? Do you support signing similar agreements with other countries?

Abu Sahmain: The relations between states are based on the agreements signed between, in various fields, including political, military, security, commercial, and cultural fields.

Whenever there is a regional or international conflict, the state should take steps to secure and preserve its sovereignty without delay, by adopting measures to avert threats, including harmful external interference, and this of course requires providing all adequate capabilities and capacities that guarantee its security and stability.

I think the Libyan-Turkish agreement was very important but late.

Concerning signing similar agreements with other countries, of course, this would be acceptable, depending on the requirements of the public interest, provided it does not involve taking part in any aggression against another state.

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