

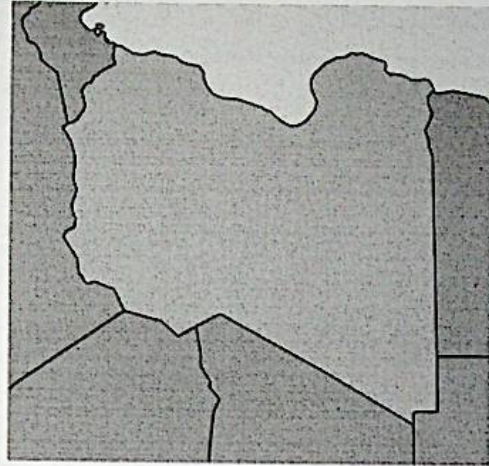
---

**Libya**

Jun 19-25

**Summary**

Ghassan Salamé has been appointed as the new UN Envoy to Libya while Seif al Islam Gaddafi has been sighted in Obari.



---

**Diplomacy**

The UN Security Council has given the green light for the nomination of former Lebanese Minister of Culture Ghassan Salamé as the new envoy to Libya. Last Saturday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres sent a letter in which he put Salamé forward for the position. Salamé is 66 years old and has lived in Paris for the past few years where he is a professor of International Relations at the Institute of Political Studies. In 2010 he became Dean of the International Affairs department. He was Minister of Culture in Lebanon from 2000 to 2003. Several months ago, Guterres put forward former prime minister Salam Fayad as a candidate to replace the current UN Envoy to Libya, Martin Kobler, but did not receive the go-ahead from the United States.

Government of National Accord (GNA) Prime Minister Fayez al Sarraj has taken part in the conference of migration management organised at the European Parliament and met with European Parliament President Antonio Tajani and High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini. On Jun. 22, al Sarraj met with NATO Secretary General Jen Stoltenberg at the organisation's headquarters.

Several members of Tunisian party Nidaa Tounes met with a Libyan military delegation led by Ahmed al Mismari, Spokesman of the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army (LNA), in Tunis sometime between April and May, said "al Marsad", a website linked to LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar, quoting an anonymous Libyan source present at the meeting. The meeting was held without warning and in secret and was attended by Nidaa Tounes Executive Director Hafedh Cais Essebsi, the party's head of political affairs Borhen Bsaies and Libyan Consul in Sfax Albahloul Essid. According to "al Marsad", the meeting focused on the fight against terrorism and the Tunisian delegation supplied information on Libyan terrorist movements in Tunisia without giving names.

**Politics**

A video has surfaced online showing the son of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, Saif al Islam Gaddafi, who was released last week by Zintan militants, walking along the streets of Obari, a city in southern Libya on the Algerian border, said "al Fadjr". The Algerian paper added that the video shows Gaddafi alongside several Tuaregs and that he will soon hold a political role in the country. Speaking to "al Youm al Sabah", Libyan political analyst and former spokesman of the unrecognised interim government in al Bayda, Abdel Hakim Maatuq, confirmed Gaddafi's arrival in Obari, saying that he was welcomed in the city by Tuaregs in the area who are loyal to his family. He said Saif al Islam may soon release a video

message to the Libyan people. Several websites supporting the former regime have also spoken of a video message from Saif al Islam and have said that he may hold a political role in the future. Saif al Islam was arrested by the Zintan Brigade in November 2011 while fleeing to Niger after his father's death. In July 2015, the Tripoli Court of Appeals sentenced him to death for the repression of protests in Libya. According to "al Marsad", many claim he may officially side with General Khalifa Haftar and that it was the LNA Commander himself who pushed for his release. Libyan lawyer and political analyst Ibrahim Ghweil has said Saif al Islam will make a return to the Libyan political scene. Speaking during recent celebrations in Cairo, Egypt, on occasion of Saif al Islam's release, Ghweil said that "in the next phase, there will be total reconciliation in Libyan society and the completion of Libya al Ghad (Libya of Tomorrow, a project that aimed to ensure the passing down of power from father to son) that was stopped in 2011". He said that Saif al Islam will present the project to the Libyan people. Ali al Ahwal, the former coordinator of the Libyan Tribal Congress, also spoke at the celebrations and called on the former regime officials and representatives of various Libyan associations and groups present in Egypt to "show their support for Saif al Islam so he can carry out his role in saving the country".

The Libyan GNA Presidential Council has promulgated the reconciliation agreement signed by Misrata and Tawergha. Speaking to "al Raid", the President of the Misrata-Tawergha file commission, Yousef al Zarzah, said that "the agreement signed by the Presidential Council requires the parties to compensate the damaged people and restore security for the two peoples". The first reconciliation agreement between the two cities was signed by representatives present at the dialogue committee on Aug. 31 2016 attended by UN Envoy Martin Kobler. The agreement also establishes the end of media campaigns and hostile declarations by both sides.

### **Security**

Unidentified warplanes have been flying over the Obari area, southern Libya, for several days on a reconnaissance mission, said local sources, adding that the planes may be searching for Saif al Islam Gaddafi. There are reports that the son of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi fled to the area inhabited by the Tuaregs after his release by Zintan militia on Jun. 9.

The Mayor of Sabratha Hussein al Daudi has sent a message to Tripoli authorities, calling for them to "take responsibility against outlaws in the area". In a message published on social networks, al Daudi said he has repeatedly sent messages to Tripoli reporting the presence of Islamic State activity in his municipality and that "there are elements attempting to provoke divisions and trigger the outbreak of war within the city". Al Daudi also asked Tripoli authorities to intervene in order to guarantee security in the city. Over recent days, the former Libyan Ambassador to the UN Ibrahim al Dabashi reported that the Benghazi Defence Brigades, who are accused of belonging to al Qaeda, were "attempting to occupy Sabratha with the help of Islamic State elements in the city".

*Based on news from the following Libyan newspaper and websites: Ean Libia, al Wasat, Libya al Mustakbal, Libya Herald, Libyan News Agency LANA, al Hayat, al Quds al Arabi, al Arabiya, Sky Arabia, al Youm.*