

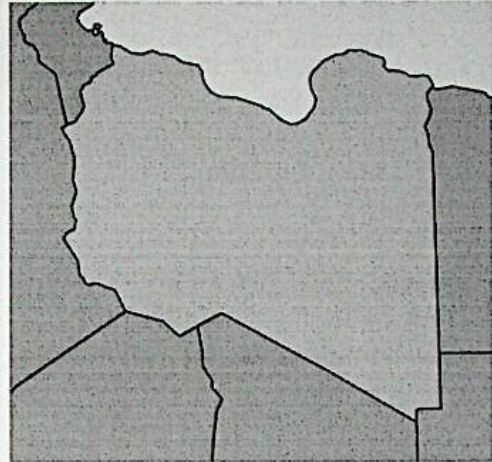
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**Libya**

**Jul 10-15**

**Summary**

Italian Interior Minister Marco Minniti visited Tripoli this week to discuss illegal immigration to Italy.



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**Diplomacy**

Libya will do everything possible to fight human trafficking and ease the pressure of immigration on Italian coasts, Presidential Council head and Prime Minister of the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA), Fayez al Sarraj, told Italian Interior Minister Marco Minniti who is in Tripoli for meetings on the fight against human trafficking, said the Italian Embassy in Tripoli on Twitter. Minniti said Italy appreciates the GNA's efforts and is ready to accelerate its commitments to Libya in the fight against human traffickers. Southern and western Libyan municipalities presented the Italian minister with a series of requests to stop illegal immigration from Sub-Saharan Africa towards Italy. Minniti held a meeting with Fezzan and Tripolitania mayors on fighting illegal immigration and supporting Libyan cities. In the final statement, the mayors called on the Italian government to help secure Libya's southern borders, train border forces and support the police, army and security centres in the cities. The Libyan mayors urged Italy to put pressure on countries from which illegal immigrants depart and support Libya's measures to fight illegal immigration by carrying out a series of projects in the south of the country to develop the cities and improve the failing health system.

Libyan General Khalifa Haftar, head of the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army (LNA) that controls most of Cyrenaica, met with US Ambassador to Libya Peter Bodde and the Commander of the US African Command (AFRICOM) Thoman D. Waldhauser this week, said "218 TV" and "al Marsad". The meeting was held in the army base of Haftar's forces in al Rajma, outside Benghazi. AFRICOM, however, denied the reports of a meeting between Waldhauser and Haftar. Quoted by "al Kull", the Command's affairs office said the report was "unfounded". The US Embassy in Tripoli also denied the reports, saying in a statement that Bodde and Haftar met on Jul. 9 in Jordan and "that was the last meeting between the two".

Haftar's Spokesman Ahmed al Mismari has accused the previous US Administration under former US president Barack Obama of "helping Islamist militia and terrorist groups in Libya". Speaking to US press in an interview published by "al Wasat", al Mismari also condemned the actions of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton: "The Libyan people were abandoned in the fight against terrorist groups and no measures were taken for the rebuilding of the army, nor was Libyan security aided after the 2011 NATO intervention". Obama's Administration, said al Mismari, "helped armed Islamist groups, including Abdel Hakim Belhadj, the Muslim Brotherhood and al Qaeda".

**Politics**

GNA Prime Minister Fayez al Sarraj, as Supreme Commander of the Libyan Army, has given Tripoli's aviation



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the green light to use force in fighting illegal immigration and halting fuel smuggling. According to "al Wasat", a decree issued this week said that al Sarraj ordered the air forces chief of staff to conduct "immediate initiatives in the fight against illegal immigration and fuel smuggling through the use of planes and force if necessary to stop these crimes".

The head of the Libyan parliament Abdullah al Masry and the Mayor of Benghazi Abdel Rahman al Abar have agreed to create a working group tasked with organising the transfer of the House of Representatives (the internationally recognised Libyan parliament) from Tobruk to Benghazi. The agreement was announced this week during a press conference in Benghazi, the cradle of the anti-Gaddafi revolution and Khalifa Haftar's current centre of power. Benghazi Mayor al Abar focused on security issues linked to the transfer that was made possible after Haftar announced the liberation of the city from Islamist militia.

Libyan troops under General Haftar are preparing to attack Islamist militia controlling the city of Derna, eastern Libya. After liberating the al Sabri district in Benghazi from the last Islamist militia, Haftar's forces will continue their offensive in the final important city in the Cyrenaica region where Islamist groups are still active.

The "Tripoli Revolutionaries" brigade, loyal to Prime Minister Fayez al Sarraj, have announced they have won the battle that began last Sunday against militia under former prime minister Khalifa Ghweil in the Gasr Garabulli area, 40 kilometres east of the Libyan capital. In a message on Facebook, the armed group said that "Tripoli forces regained control of the area after three days of heavy fighting with armed groups linked to the former government of national salvation". Tripoli forces now control the main entrances to Gasr Garabulli. At least four people died and 21 were injured in the fighting. The Misrata municipal council has confirmed that the armed group that attacked the Gasr Garabulli village last Sunday was comprised of members of several areas of Libya and aimed to restore the National General Congress and the Salvation Government, two bodies that were made obsolete by the 2015 political agreements. In a statement, the Misrata council called on the GNA to implement security and military institutions as soon as possible, according to the political agreement, and expel all armed militia from the capital.

### **Security**

Heavy fighting broke out on Jul. 9 east of Tripoli between forces loyal to the GNA and those loyal to former prime minister Khalifa Ghweil. According to "al Jazeera", the coastal road leading to the east of the capital is still closed due to the clashes. Before the fighting, Prime Minister al Sarraj's government had warned all militia against entering Tripoli without coordination with his forces. Last May 26, Ghweil's forces launched an unsuccessful offensive on Tripoli that led to the troops abandoning the city.

A suicide attack was conducted this week on the al Salmani school in Benghazi. Local security sources said at least three security agents were wounded when a man wearing an explosive belt blew himself up in the school. The agents had been informed of two terrorists hiding in the school after fleeing from the LNA siege in the al Sabri district of the city. The second terrorist was killed in clashes with the agents.

LNA special forces announced they have defused eight explosive devices tied to gas cylinders in al Sabri, Benghazi. A special forces Spokesman Mari al Huti said an army team discovered the devices behind the al Baladi hotel. A short while before, a special forces unit arrested an Egyptian Islamist militant attempting to flee the LNA-held district. Al Sabri is still considered dangerous for civilians due to mines and devices ready to explode placed by the terrorists before their retreat

*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.*