

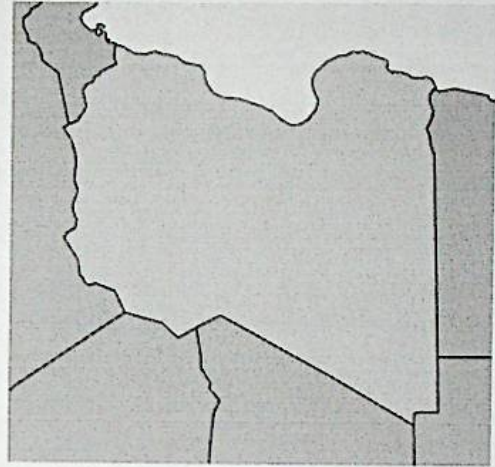
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**Libya**

Nov 2-8

**Summary**

Martin Kobler was appointed UN Envoy to Libya this week while Bernardino Leon is set to head a United Arab Emirates diplomatic academy, provoking dispute in Tripoli.



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**Diplomacy**

The United Nations Security Council yesterday approved the nomination of German diplomat Martin Kobler as the new Special Envoy for Libya, said "Al Arabiya". Kobler will replace Bernardino Leon whose mandate came to an end in recent weeks. At the moment, it is unclear when Kobler will begin peace talks between the Libyan factions. UN sources stress that Leon should officially leave his post by Nov. 6 but this deadline could be extended if there are developments in talks for the formation of a national unity government. Martin Kobler most recently headed the UN peace-keeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and was also the UN special envoy to Iraq and UN representative in Afghanistan.

**Politics**

The Libyan General National Congress has said it is "shocked" over comments made by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in support of UN envoy for Libya Bernardino Leon. According to the Political Committee of the GNC, "it is wrong to continue supporting Leon's mediation seeing as he failed to reach a compromise between Libyan parties". The Committee also said it does not understand why "Leon continues to carry out his role even though his successor, Martin Kobler, has been officially appointed". Speaking to Libyan media, the President of the GNC Nuri Abu Shaimin said that "the appointment to the United Arab Emirates is proof that Leon has always been biased". The GNC session held yesterday on the national dialogue has ended inconclusively. According to Libyan state news agency "LANA", the members of the congress met in Tripoli to discuss their position on dialogue with the internationally recognised Tobruk government and on recent security developments in the Libyan capital. Further upcoming meetings have been scheduled although Libyan media have reported secret negotiations between GNC members and Tobruk MPs to reach an agreement without UN mediation. Libyan Misrata militia have decided to take a different position to Fajr Libya regarding the solution to the crisis in the country. A high-ranking member of the Misrata militia, Ismayl al Majari, told "Al Arabiya" that their goal is to reach an agreement for national reconciliation: "this is the only possible solution, it is not possible to find other solutions through weapons. Many mujahedeen ask me why they are still fighting and why a state has not been built". Tripoli's Fajr Libya militia are refusing to take part in talks with the Tobruk parliament and they intend to continue fighting. Misrata hope that the new UN envoy will convince Tripoli to accept the agreement.

**Security**

The Tobruk government has said that three Italian ships violated Libyan waters and that it will take all

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measures necessary to protect its sovereignty. In a statement, the government said that three Italian ships were spotted off the coast of Benghazi. The Italian Defence Ministry has released a statement saying that "the news released this morning by Libyan sources about the presence yesterday of three Italian vessels in Libyan waters is false". The ministry added that "all of Italy's military ships present in the Mediterranean operate in international waters and respect the limits established by treaty". Libya's Air Force Commander Saqr Geroushi announced that Libyan warplanes had been deployed to "monitor the Italian warships". There were fierce clashes in Tripoli following the kidnapping of Tripoli's Minister of Planning Ahmed al Qadar. "Al Jazeera" reported that the minister was kidnapped by the "Revolutionaries of Tripoli" brigade. In a declaration of responsibility, the group said that al Qadar "exploited the brigade's name to terrorise ministry employees and get his hands on the department's budget for his own personal gain". During the night, fighters from Zliten, the minister's home town, opened fire against their rivals using heavy weaponry. A state of alert was declared this week in Tripoli and Misrata after news broke that one of the cities will soon be targeted by an Islamic State attack. Witnesses told "Al Wasat" that there are long lines at the al Sadad crossing where Misrata militia are stopping all Libyans travelling along the coastal road from Sirte, the Islamic State stronghold in Libya, to the capital. Local militia are carefully checking everyone after reports that an Islamic State suicide bomber crossed over to carry out an attack in one of the two cities. Militia are also searching for further accomplices after two suspected Islamic State terrorists were stopped in a car in Ajdabiya on their way to Tripoli.

#### **Economy**

There are long queues in petrol stations in Tripoli following news from Zueitina oil port in Cyrenaica. Ibrahim Jadhran, the former leader of the Political Bureau of Cyrenaica separatist movement who is currently commander of the Petroleum Defence Guards of the Oil Crescent, has ordered the suspension of oil supplies to Tripoli's National Oil Corporation (NOC). Ali al Hasani, spokesman for the guards defending the Libyan oilfields, told "Al Tadhroun" that the order is to stop supplying crude oil to Tripolitania. In this way, Jadhran has sided with Tobruk while assigning the running of the oilfields to Tripoli's NOC.

*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.*