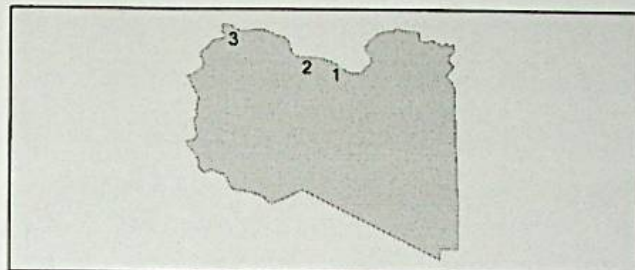


Summary: Misratan-led militia coalition carries out airstrike targeting Ras Lanuf airport; European Union foreign policy chief threatens financial sanctions against "those who are undermining prospects for a political solution" in Libya; "Libyan Community in Italy" issues statement firmly supporting Council of Representatives; Fighting between Khalifa Hiftar's coalition and Misratan-led militia coalition continues in northwestern Libya



Misratan-Led Militia Coalition Carries Out Airstrike Targeting Ras Lanuf(1) Airport

The Misratan-led militia coalition carried out an airstrike targeting the Ras Lanuf airport on 16 December. The airstrike, reportedly conducted by an agricultural aircraft that took off from Sirte(2), likely targeted the airport because it houses a base for Ibrahim al-Jathran's militia. It appears, however, that the airstrike missed its mark and landed in a nearby open field, causing no casualties or damage. The incident comes at a time when the Misratan-led militia coalition and Ansar al-Sharia are attempting to take the Ras Lanuf and Sidra oil terminals—located close to the airport—from Khalifa Hiftar's coalition. The fighting has caused the National Oil Corporation to declare force majeure at the two oil terminals and caused the evacuation of the Waha oil field. Sources indicate the violence is expected to intensify in the coming days, as both sides are sending reinforcements to the frontline.

Based on media reports in: al-Wasat, Libya al-Mustakbal, Libya Herald

European Union Foreign Policy Chief Threatens Financial Sanctions Against "Those Who Are Undermining Prospects for a Political Solution" in Libya

European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini threatened financial sanctions against "those who are undermining prospects for a political solution" in Libya. The move by Mogherini came the day after she announced that the EU will adopt "specific measures"—a reference to financial sanctions—if the effort by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to convene a political dialogue in the near future fails. Mogherini's statements, along with a recent threat by UNSMIL to target "individuals and entities that threaten Libya's peace, stability or security" with sanctions, illustrate the emerging consensus for a stronger international role in the Libyan crisis.

Based on media reports in: al-Wasat, Libya al-Mustakbal

"Libyan Community in Italy" Issues Statement Firmly Supporting Council of Representatives

A group calling itself the "Libyan Community in Italy" issued a statement firmly supporting the Council of Representatives. The group also expressed its concern over the "political, military, and social situation" in Libya at present, which it described as "very dangerous." Its statement additionally called on Italy and other members of the international community to give special attention to the Libyan crisis. In this regard, the group voiced support for the effort by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to convene a political dialogue. It noted, however, that the political dialogue must reject terrorism and not allow democracy to be undermined by accepting the imposition of opinions by force.

Based on media reports in: al-Wasat, Libya al-Mustakbal