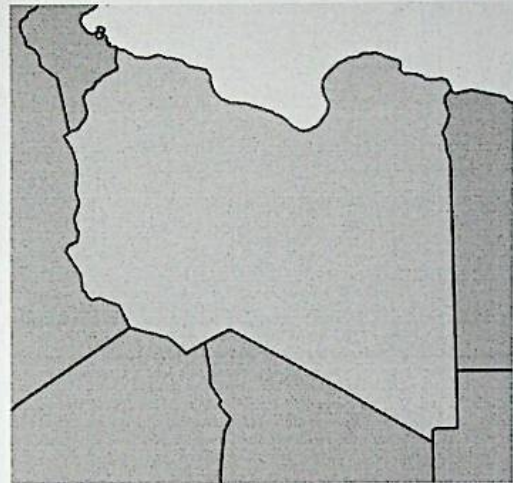


---

**Libya****Sep 21–27****Summary**

UN Envoy Bernardino Leon's mission concluded this week on Sept. 20 without an agreement between Libya's two rival governments. Leon has announced he has until after the Festival of the Sacrifice on Sept. 24 to reach an agreement on a national unity government. In Tripoli, the government has asked the Congress to boycott talks in Morocco.



---

**Diplomacy**

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has accused the armed forces of the Libyan government based in Tobruk of deliberately sabotaging peace talks with a new military offensive launched in Benghazi, eastern Libya. The Mission has called for an immediate stop to the offensive launched by General Khalifa Haftar to give way to the UN peace process. The Mission "strongly condemns the military escalation in Benghazi". "The airstrikes are a clear attempt to undermine and de-rail the on-going efforts to end the conflict when negotiations are in their most critical phase", said a statement. The mandate of UN Envoy Bernardino Leon has come to an end without an agreement for a national unity government between Libya's opposing governments, Tripoli and Tobruk. Leon's term concluded at midnight on Sept. 20 but the nomination of Libya's new national unity government could come after the Islamic Festival of the Sacrifice on Sept. 24. According to "el Khabar", Leon has asked the Libyan delegations to return to Morocco after the festival. The delegations have returned to Libya to discuss the last details and could travel to Morocco after the festival with the names of their candidates and to sign the final agreement for the establishment of the unity government.

**Politics**

Younes Fannush, a Tobruk MP, has defined the dialogue underway in Morocco as "wrong and stupid". In an interview for "Akhbar Libya 24", Fannush said that "it is wrong to talk with rebels and terrorists, with those who support terrorist groups in Libya. We can't talk with those fighting against our army in Benghazi and Derna". The MP criticised Bernardino Leon "who condemns the violence in Benghazi without saying that the battle in that city is symbolic of the situation in the country". The unrecognised government of Tripoli has asked the National Congress to boycott inter-Libyan talks in Morocco. In a televised speech, Tripoli's Prime Minister Khalifa Mohamed al Ghawuil urged the Congress to call alternative dialogue to be held in Libya and said that "we are sorry for the fact that a group of the Congress continues to talk. We need to stop the dialogue at least until their military attacks stop".

**Security**

Last Saturday, Libyan General Khalifa Haftar launched operation "Destiny" to liberate Benghazi from Islamist militia. Immediately after, at least two were killed and numerous injured in clashes in Benghazi between Army soldiers and Ansar al Sharia militia. Libyan media report particularly fierce clashes in Aby Atni, in the south of the city. Haftar's warplanes continue to circle the area and other parts of Benghazi and have



carried out airstrikes on the district of al Sabri. Benghazi has announced its support of Haftar's military operation against Ansar al Sharia. The city council has said in a statement that "clashes are underway in Benghazi between Libyan Army forces and outlawed armed groups". City authorities have criticised Leon's recent statement saying that Haftar's offensive is undermining peace talks between the various factions. The leader of Sudan People's Liberation Movement, Janah Manawi Abdel Karim Arja, has been found dead in the Libyan city of Kufra. He was leading an armed unit that three days ago attacked "Fajr Libya" militia when he was killed. According to "Akhbar Libya 24", roughly 40 militia from the Sudanese movement were killed when they attempted to occupy the northern part of the city. Fighting is still underway in Kufra between "Fajr Libya" and the Sudanese group.

*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.*