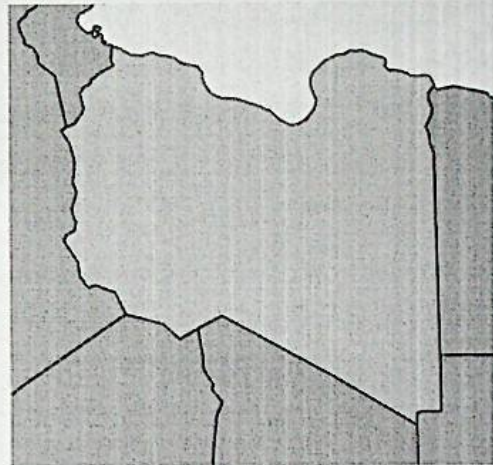


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**Libya****Oct 19-25****Summary**

The Tobruk parliament has rejected the national reconciliation proposal put forward by UN Envoy Bernardino Leon while the Tripoli Congress has not yet officially voted on the plan.



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**Diplomacy**

Political efforts to achieve a national government in Libya "will go on" and "there is no chance for small groups or personalities to hijack this process", said UN envoy Bernardino Leon in Tunisia after Tobruk rejected his proposal for a reconciliation government. "There has been a position on the agreement announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which was then followed by a statement signed by what seems to be a majority of the members", said Leon who underlined that "there was no vote" on the agreement presented on Oct.8. "The majority of Libyans wants a political solution, they do not want further clashes. The Libyan population is paying the price for all of this", he added, saying that the "process is going on" and "a political solution is the only real alternative". According to "Al-Ahram", Tobruk House President Agila Saleh has visited Egypt to meet members of the Egyptian government and discuss the Libyan crisis following the Parliament's failure to approve the national reconciliation agreement during Monday's session. Saleh will ask for Egypt's help in continuing the fight against terrorism. The Tripoli government has announced that Abdullah al Senussi, the former Secret Services Chief under Muammar Gaddafi, is suspected of being responsible for the Lockerby bombing of 1998 in Scotland together with another member of the regime, Mohammed Abu Ajila, who is accused of making the bomb that exploded on the aeroplane. Al Senussi was sentenced to death last July by the Tripoli court for his role in the 2011 revolution against Gaddafi.

**Politics**

The internationally recognised Tobruk parliament convened on Monday in an extraordinary session where it rejected the political agreement for a Libyan reconciliation government presented on Oct. 8 in Morocco by UN Envoy Bernardino Leon. The MPs also rejected the new government with a presidential office proposed by Leon. Libyan MP Abdel Mutlab Thabit announced that "after a heated discussion, the parliament decided to remain loyal to the agreement signed in July and rejected the names proposed as ministers and leader of the council of state. We also dissolved the delegation for the talks and formed a new one". The decision triggered strong debate among the MPs as it was not put to the vote but announced directly by Parliament Speaker Agila Saleh at the end of the session. MP Saleh Himma told "Al Wasat" that "the decision was made on agreement by all and there was no talk of putting it to the vote". Other sources within the parliament spoke of an embarrassed atmosphere after Saleh's announcement when a group of MPs protested over the lack of a vote. Immediately after the meeting, the electricity was cut off in the parliament chamber, preventing any discussions between the MPs. Leon's failed mediation has opened new and uncertain



scenarios on the future of Libya. The most risky of all scenarios, foreign intervention, is now expected. According to "Al Fajr", the U.S. has already made an agreement with Tunisian authorities to deploy its drones in southern Tunisia in order to carry out missions against the Islamic State in Sirte. According to an editorial in "Al Hayat", Libya is now a country "with no legitimate parliament. Tobruk, having extended its mandate after it came to an end on Oct. 20 without approving the reconciliation agreement, has put itself on the same level as the Tripoli Congress". According to the newspaper, "both Libyan assemblies have extended their mandates without an international agreement and now the political crisis in the country has been overshadowed by the economic crisis with the depreciation of the local currency while non-identified warplanes yesterday bombed Islamic State targets in Sirte".

### **Security**

A series of airstrikes have struck Islamic State training camps in Sirte, said "Libya al Hurra". It is still unclear who was behind the strikes. The Islamic State has created an "emirate" in Sirte, following the example of Mosul in Iraq and al Raqqa in Syria. Over the weekend, the group published images of two new executions: a Libyan was crucified for being a soldier in Haftar's army and a South Sudanese Christian was beheaded "to avenge the persecution of Muslims in the country". Seven missiles struck demonstrators in Benghazi who were protesting against the peace plan put forward by the UN Envoy Bernardino Leon. At least five people were killed and over 30 were injured. According to Libyan media, at least 2,000 people took part in the demonstration held in al Keesh Square in the city centre.

*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..*