

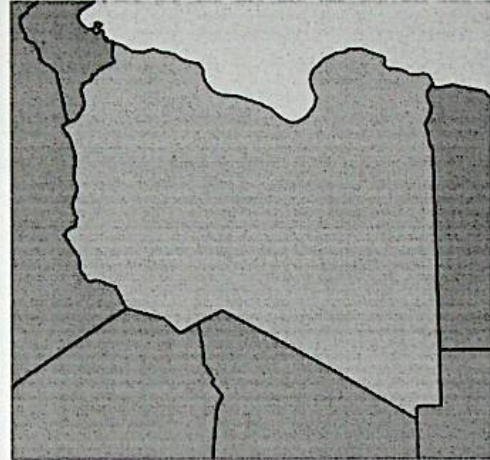
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**Libya**

**Feb 13-19**

**Summary**

The meeting between Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al Sarraj and Khalifa Haftar in Cairo was cancelled this week.



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**Diplomacy**

Libyan Speaker Aguila Saleh has said that "Libya will not respect any agreement or treaty that is not approved by the parliament which is the only legislative authority in the country". In an interview with "al Jazeera", Saleh said that the agreement signed by the Government of National Accord (GNA) with Italy on the management on migration flows "has not yet been examined by the parliament and the Libyan state is free from any agreement or treaty signed by the Presidential Council". The Tripoli court of appeals will rule on the charge made by various Libyan citizens, including Justice Minister Salah al Marghani, on the agreement with Italy next Wednesday.

There were conflicting reports at the beginning of the week on the meeting in Cairo between GNA Prime Minister Fayez al Sarraj and the Commander of the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army (LNA) Khalifa Haftar. According to "al Arabiya", the meeting began in Cairo, while "Sky Arabia" reported that Haftar and Sarraj are currently in the Egyptian capital but that there has been no direct contact between them.

**Politics**

A member of the Libyan State Council, Aboul Qasem Qazit, has said that "the GNA does not have the authority to negotiate on Libya's behalf". Speaking to "al Wasat", Qazit added that "only the parliament and the State Council have this authority. Although we support all efforts from neighbouring countries to solve the Libyan crisis, we must not forget that the parties involved in the solution are the parliament and the State Council". The GNA is "the result of a political agreement and must act according to the agreements (signed in Morocco in December 2015) and do nothing else or become a political party".

The meeting scheduled for Feb. 14 between the UN-backed GNA Prime Minister Fayez al Sarraj and General Khalifa Haftar has been cancelled. The two had no direct contact. The meeting was cancelled because Haftar set the amendment of the Skhirat agreements as a precondition for any direct meeting with al Sarraj, said the an anonymous source. Libyan diplomatic sources said Haftar has accepted to meet with al Sarraj in Algeria in two weeks. Haftar, who is supported by internal factions within the Tobruk House of Representatives who have refused to recognise the GNA, has put pressure on Speaker Aguila Saleh to impose the amendment of the Skhirat agreements before negotiating with al Sarraj. The LNA press office said Haftar refused to meet with al Sarraj, foiling Egypt's diplomatic efforts to hold a meeting and achieve a solution between the two. According to "Echourouk", Egyptian Chief of Staff Mahmoud Hegazy, who was appointed by President Abdel Fattah al Sisi to mediate between the parties, met with Haftar on several occasions to convince him to meet with al Sarraj but there are still obstacles regarding the distribution of

power. The Egyptian Armed Forces Facebook page said that “the Egyptian national commission for Libya welcomed both al Sarraj and Haftar, holding meetings with them in order to set various key points, the first of which is the protection of national unity and the creation of an independent authority able to defend the Libyan army and its role in repelling any foreign interference”. The commission found common points between the two parties, including “the need to reform the Constitutional Declaration and establish political and presidential elections by the end of 2018”. The meeting failed to take place mainly due to Haftar’s request to “have full control over the army and security in Libya”, said “Libya al Khabar”, adding that during indirect negotiations between the two in Cairo, Haftar set this control as a condition to meeting with al Sarraj. According to Libya media, al Sarraj refused to withdraw his support of the Benghazi Defence Brigades, an Islamist formation accused of having ties with al Qaeda.

Preparations were underway this week in al Baida, eastern Libya, for celebrations commemorating the sixth anniversary of the 2011 revolution against Muammar Gaddafi. Al Baida Municipal Council Spokesman Hamadi al Saiti told the press that “meetings have begun with civil society associations for the preparation of the celebrations”.

### **Security**

Libyan Forces Spokesman Ahmed al Mismari has announced that Libyan warplanes conducted six airstrikes on an al Qaeda position near the al Mabruk oilfield, 100 kilometres south of Ras Lanuf. Al Mismari added that there are “serious damages in terms of human lives and military vehicles destroyed, while the planes returned to base undamaged”. The MiG planes monitored the armed groups south-west of the oilfield, destroying over 40 armoured vehicles. Last Saturday, a helicopter was shot down in Ras Lanuf by Islamist militia considered close to al Qaeda. Members of the al Muadan tribe have blocked the coastal road 50 kilometres east of Sirte in protest over the recent kidnapping of the city’s mayor, Mokhtar al Muadani, in Tripoli. A source from the tribe said “the road is blocked and the demonstration will continue until the mayor of Sirte is released”. State Council member Abdel Jalil al Shaush, said that security forces must mobilise in order to achieve the release of the mayor who disappeared last Saturday at the eastern entrance to Tripoli.

*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.*