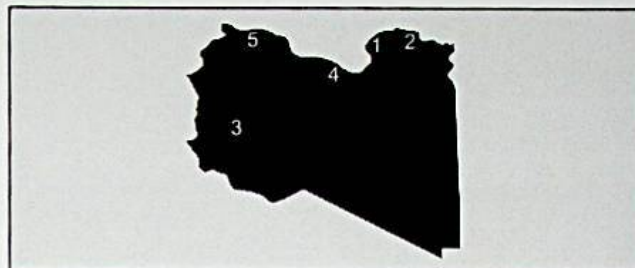


Summary: *Low turnout in Constitutional Drafting Committee election; Constitutional Drafting Committee election disrupted by violent incidents in Benghazi, Derna, and Obari; Italian government contributes to search effort for missing Libyan Air Force helicopter; Bombings target residences of al-Aseema television channel staff*



Low Turnout in Constitutional Drafting Committee Election

Turnout for Libya's Constitutional Drafting Committee election was low, with the High National Elections Commission reporting that only 350,000 voters participated. Over 3,400,000 people were eligible to vote, meaning that voter turnout stood at approximately 10 percent. The low turnout occurred despite serious efforts by the Libyan government to promote voter participation. Reports indicate the low turnout was largely the result of boycotts by the Berber and Tabu communities, safety fears in eastern Libya, and a general disillusionment with the political process. The low turnout in the election is worrying, as it is likely to harm the legitimacy of the final document produced by the Constitutional Drafting Committee.

Based on media reports in: al-Watan al-Libiyya, Libya al-Mustakbal, Libya for the Free, Libya Herald, Quryna al-Jadeeda, Tripoli Post

Constitutional Drafting Committee Election Disrupted By Violent Incidents in Benghazi(1), Derna(2), and Obari(3)

Violent incidents disrupted the Constitutional Drafting Committee election in Benghazi, Derna, and Obari. In Benghazi, masked gunmen broke into a polling station and destroyed its electoral materials. In Derna, unknown assailants detonated homemade bombs outside of six polling stations hours before the election began. The explosions caused serious material damage and killed at least one person. Most Benghazi and Derna residents believe extremist Islamist militias carried out the attacks to undermine the election by driving down voter turnout. In Obari, Tabu activists broke into two polling stations and destroyed electoral materials. The Tabu activists' action marked the fulfillment of a threat previously made to disrupt the election unless their demand for a guarantee of minority rights in the constitution was met.

Based on media reports in: al-Watan al-Libiyya, Libya al-Mustakbal, Libya for the Free, Libya Herald

Italian Government Contributes to Search Effort For Missing Libyan Air Force Helicopter

The Italian government is now contributing to the search effort for a Libyan Air Force helicopter that went missing last week. The exact circumstances of the helicopter's disappearance remain unclear, but there is evidence to suggest that it may have crashed near the coastal town of Sidra(4). According to the Libya Herald, Italian aircraft equipped with underwater imaging systems are patrolling the coast of eastern Libya looking for remnants of the helicopter. Italy's participation in the search effort is likely to improve the country's image in eastern Libya, as the issue of the missing helicopter and its crew is the subject of much attention.

Based on media reports in: Libya Herald