

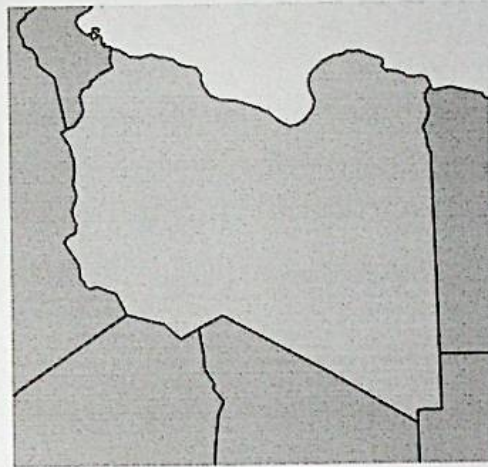
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**Libya**

Nov 30–Dic 9

**Summary**

There were various diplomatic initiatives this week, including a meeting in Algiers between countries bordering Libya. The Islamic State is advancing towards the Oil Crescent due to an inflow of new foreign African militants.



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**Diplomacy**

The situation in Libya and the region was at the centre of a ministerial meeting in Algiers between six countries bordering Libya. Algerian Minister for Maghreb Affairs, African Union and League of Arab States of Algeria, Abdelkader Messahel, told news agency "APS" that the meeting gave the countries and representatives of regional and international organisations the chance to exchange information on the situation in Libya and the entire region. The event comes after the Tobruk parliament signed a declaration supporting a national unity government that was received favourably by the UN and various other countries, including Algeria. The meeting was attended by representatives from all countries bordering Libya (Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Niger, Chad and Tunisia) as well as the African Union, the Arab League and the European Union. The new Special Representative for the United Nations Secretary-General in Libya Martin Kobler was also present. Libyan media report that Kobler told Tobruk MPs that he has no intention of amending the latest draft of the agreement for a reconciliation government resented by his predecessor, Bernardino Leon. Tobruk MP Tawfiq al Shahibi told "al Tadhamaoun" that "Kobler informed us that he intends to hold a new round of talks but does not intend to hold a debate on the agreement draft. I do not understand the point of these talks". The nominated prime minister of the Libyan national reconciliation government Fayez Sarraj left Cairo this week and travelled to Tunisia. According to Egyptian media, in Egypt Sarraj met with representatives from the local government, the Arab League and the UN to discuss the situation in Libya.

**Politics**

Abduallah al-Thani, head of the internationally recognised Tobruk parliament, is hoping for a Russian military intervention against the Islamic State in Libya. Al-Thani said that the entire parliament is "ready to coordinate on the highest level" to allow for Russian ground interventions. He also urged "all countries" to launch initiatives to support stability in Libya and said that Libyan authorities expect to see an increase in the flow of foreign Islamic State fighters from Syria after Moscow's bombing campaign in support of Damascus. Tobruk MP Abu Bakr Said has announced a US mediation initiative to resume dialogue with Tripoli. Speaking to "al Tadhamaoun", the MP said that "a US initiative is underway, in the next few days we will receive an invitation to hold US-backed meetings in Washington between Libyan figures involved in the talks". He added that "the United States are the only ones who can resolve the issue". At the end of the week, a group of southern Libyan municipalities launched an appeal to hold a meeting on Dec. 10 in Ghat. The document signed by representatives from the municipalities of Sebha, Barak, al Shati, Ghat and Wadi



Atba, says: "After a meeting held in Sebha, we have decided to call a new meeting to discuss security and human rights issues concerning the southern cities". Local mayors will also attend the next meeting that will discuss the re-opening of the southern airports and will ask for the presence of Tripoli and Tobruk representatives.

### **Security**

Islamic State fighters in Libya are moving from Sirte towards the oil wells in eastern Libya. According to "Al-Wasat", several local sources have reported that members of the jihad group are transporting their heavy weapons and vehicles to a location east of Sirte. Their aim is to extend their domain to the Oil Crescent and the city of Ajdabiya. General Khalifa Haftar's army warplanes are flying above Sirte. According to "Al-Wasat", the Islamic State has strengthened its troops in Sirte with the arrival of new fighters from Africa. Sources in the city say some of the new African members come from the group Boko Haram and others from Somalia. Islamic State fighters in Sirte are being trained to pilot warplanes using flight simulators that also train the terrorists in take-off and landing procedures. It is unclear how they came into possession of the machine, some say it was stolen from the Libyan military base while others say it is modern and came from abroad.

*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.*