

Media Analysis - Libya

7 March 2014

Summary: "Friends of Libya Conference" held in Rome; Tuareg protestors reject Defense Minister's attempt to negotiate end to operations halt at al-Sharara oil field; Saadi Gaddafi extradited from Niger to Libya; North Korean flagged oil tanker attempts to dock at "Cyrenaica Regional Government"-controlled Sidra terminal



"Friends of Libya Conference" Held in Rome



Libyan leaders, diplomats from 36 countries, and officials from seven international organizations attended the "Friends of Libya Conference" in Rome on 6 March. Illustrating the importance given to the conference, many of the countries involved—such as Italy, France, Germany, Russia, Turkey, and the United States—sent Foreign Ministers as their representatives. Most delegates at the conference focused their remarks on the necessity of international cooperation to address Libya's alarming security situation. However, newly appointed Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini emphasized that Libya's political factions must find a way to cooperate if international assistance is to be effective. Libyan Foreign Minister Muhammad Abdulaziz appeared satisfied with the conference, stating that it sent a strong message that the deteriorating situation in Libya must be dealt with in a serious manner.

Based on media reports in: al-Manara, Libya al-Mustakbal

Tuareg Protestors Reject Defense Minister's Attempt to Negotiate End to Operations Halt at al-Sharara Oil Field

Tuareg protestors rejected Defense Minister Abdullah al-Thini's recent attempt to negotiate an end to the operations halt they are imposing at the al-Sharara oil field. The protestors reportedly do not trust al-Thini's promise to expedite government efforts to meet their demands, which include: the issuance of official identification papers to the Tuareg community and the dissolution of the unelected Obari Local Council. According to a protest leader, the operations halt at the al-Sharara oil field—jointly managed by Repsol and the Libyan National Oil Corporation—will continue until their demands are actually realized. The hardline drawn by the protestors will prolong the operations halt substantially, dealing a blow to ongoing efforts to increase oil production in Libya.

Based on media reports in: Libya Herald

Saadi Gaddafi Extradited From Niger to Libya

The Nigerien government extradited Saadi Gaddafi—one of former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi's sons—to Libya on 6 March. Saadi fled to Niger during the 17 February Revolution in 2011 and lived in exile in the country until his extradition. Many Libyan officials accused Saadi of organizing attacks by Gaddafi loyalists against the Tamenhint Airbase near Sabha(1) in January 2014. Some reports indicate the Nigerien government decided to extradite Saadi after the attacks, but others suggest the extradition only came after the Libyan government offered to pay a large sum of money in return. Saadi faces several charges for acts he committed under his father's rule, including incitement to murder and corruption. According to the Libyan government, Saadi will be given a fair trial in conformity with international standards.

Based on media reports in: al-Manara, al-Watan al-Libiyya, Libya al-Mustakbal, Libya Herald, Quryna al-Jadeeda