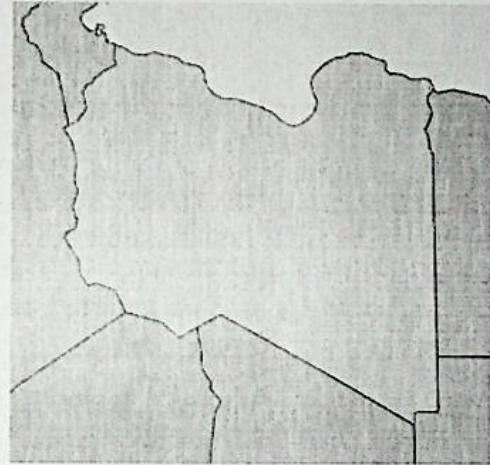


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## Libya

June 26-July 1

Zintan militia have released Saif al Islam Gaddafi.



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### Diplomacy

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry has rejected comments made over recent days by the spokesman of the armed forces under Khalifa Haftar, accusing Khartoum of supporting Islamist militia in Libya. In a statement, the Sudanese ministry said the accusation were "false" and that it "rejected" them as they were full of "obvious errors". The Sudanese government in turn accused Haftar's Benghazi forces of "undermining the stability and security of our country by supporting the rebels on Darfur". The Spokesman of the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army (LNA), Ahmed al Mismari, had accused Sudan of "training terrorist organisations active in Libya" and "supplying them with weapons over the Sudanese border".

The Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) Foreign Ministry has demanded an explanation from the Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry regarding the arrest of two Libyans citizens at Jeddah airport. According to a statement from the Libya ministry, the two Libyans had been on the Umrah pilgrimage and were on their way home. "The ministry has contacted Saudi authorities for an explanation regarding the circumstances and the reason for their arrest", said a statement.

Saif al Islam, the son of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, has arrived in Abu Dhabi on a private jet after obtaining asylum from the local government. According to "mujtahid al Imarat", "Saif al Islam is now in Abu Dhabi under the protection of the state". Saif al Islam was released over recent weeks by the Abu Bakr al Zintan Brigade.

The Defence and National Security Committee of the Tobruk House of Representatives has declared Italian Ambassador to Tripoli Giuseppe Perrone "persona non grata", said Committee head Tala al Mayhoob, whose mandate within the House of Representatives expired roughly three months ago. "The Italian Ambassador has been informed orally of our decision to declare him persona non grata", said al Mayhoob, adding that the Committee is about to issue another decision to ban Ambassador Perrone from entering the area under their control. The measure is difficult to enforce as the jurisdiction on "persona non grata" and the nomination of ambassadors falls under the Tripoli Presidential Council. Al Mayhoob called for an official apology from the Italian Embassy in Tripoli over a recent tweet "mocking the Committee's list of alleged terrorists".

### Politics

GNA Prime Minister Fayez al Sarraj held a telephone conversation this week with the new UN Libyan Envoy Ghassan Salamé to launch collaboration between the two. According to a Presidential Council statement, al Sarraj congratulated Salamé on his appointment and confirmed the Tripoli government's support of his nomination by the UN Security Council, adding that he had issued orders to facilitate his work in any way in

Libya. National reconciliation between Libyans "will be the priority of my work", said Salamé in his first message on Twitter since taking up the position. The former Lebanese Minister of Culture said: "I thank UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for my nomination and the Security Council for their trust in me. I promise all Libyans without exception that national reconciliation will be my priority".

The local and tribal councils in al Zawiyah, western Libya, have officially called on Saudi authorities to release two Libyan citizens arrested on Monday at the end of the Umrah pilgrimage to Mecca. In a joint statement, the councils also asked GNA authorities to clarify circumstances surrounding the arrest. The Tripoli Foreign Ministry said it had launched an investigation into the arrest. The two Libyan nationals are former members of the Libyan Fighting Group that is part of the local police in al Zawiyah, a north-western Libyan city in the region of Tripolitania, said "al Jazeera".

### Security

The LNA, led by Khalifa Haftar, has announced it has destroyed a "very large" Islamic State cell in Agedabia, eastern Libya. The cell was based in the outskirts of the city and large quantities of explosives were seized. In a statement on Facebook, Haftar's forces said the cell "had planned the murder of several important military figures and intended to strike various anti-terrorism military bases in the city". Haftar's forces also released a video showing moments of the raid that led to the destruction of the cell.

Haftar's forces have taken control of the fish market in Benghazi, near the port, after three years of clashes with the Islamist militia that previously controlled the area. LNA soldiers recently took control of the courtroom area in northern Benghazi and now also control the seafront where the fish market is held, from the Bin Katu Mosque to the square housing the courtroom. Haftar's forces are now preparing to take control of the final area of the city still held by Islamist militia.

A group of Islamic State militants has kidnapped a former soldier belonging to Gaddafi's tribe in southern Sirte, a local tribal chief told "al Wasat". He added that the man was taken on Saturday evening in the village on Abu Hadi while travelling to al Sabain. Although forces from the "al Bunyan al Marsoos" operation entered Sirte last November, Islamic State elements are still active in villages south of the city.

Members of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) delegation kidnapped this week by a group of armed men in Zawiyah, west of Tripoli, have been released after a series of negotiations between the kidnappers, led by well-known smuggler Ali Kardamin, and several tribal chiefs in the Libyan city, said "al Wasat", quoting security sources. The UN delegation comprised of four men and two women is now headed towards Tripoli. The UNSMIL convoy was attacked this week while carrying diplomatic staff and the UNSMIL delegation through the city towards Tripoli. According to "Libya Herald", the attack on the convoy and kidnapping come after the recent arrest of several drug smugglers linked to Ali Kardamin by Tripoli security forces.

*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.*