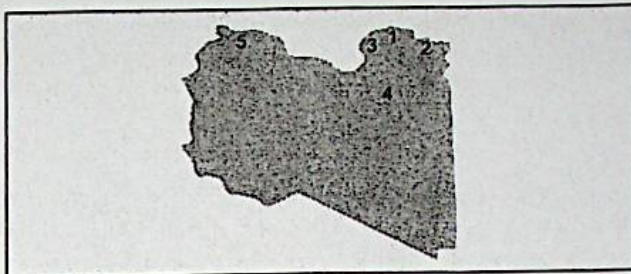


Summary: Italian Ambassador travels to Bayda and Tobruk for high profile meetings with Libyan officials; Khalifa Hiftar claims his coalition is ready to "liberate Benghazi from terrorists"; Awjila Municipal Council convinces protestors threatening to disrupt operations at 103 oil field to back down; Gunmen believed to be Salafists damage historic Shaib al-Ain mosque in old city of Tripoli



Italian Ambassador Travels to Bayda(1) and Tobruk(2) For High Profile Meetings With Libyan Officials

Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Buccino Grimaldi travelled to Bayda and Tobruk for high profile meetings with Libyan officials. In Bayda, Grimaldi met with Constitutional Drafting Committee (CDC) President Ali Tarhouni and Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thini. The meeting with Tarhouni focused on the CDC's activities, and in a statement afterwards Grimaldi voiced hope that it will produce a final document ready for public referendum by the end of 2014. The meeting with al-Thini reportedly focused on Italian support for Libya's "legitimate institutions", a reference to al-Thini's government, the CDC, and the Council of Representatives (CoR). In Tobruk, Grimaldi met with CoR President Aguila Salih Issa to discuss bilateral relations and the situation in Libya. In a press conference after the meeting, Grimaldi stated that he and Issa agreed there is no military solution to the situation in Libya and thus national dialogue efforts must be pursued. Grimaldi also stated during the press conference that events in Libya directly affect Italy.

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

Khalifa Hiftar Claims His Coalition is Ready to "Liberate Benghazi(3) From Terrorists"

Khalifa Hiftar claimed his coalition is ready to "liberate Benghazi from terrorists." Hiftar made the claim during a televised speech on the eve of 15 October, the day his coalition and its civilian supporters are planning to launch a massive assault against the extremist Islamist militias comprising the "Revolutionaries Consultation Council of Benghazi." During the speech, Hiftar also stated that he will end his military career after the "liberation of Benghazi" by his coalition. Benghazi residents largely believe Hiftar's coalition will make a serious push to take the city on 15 October, leading to fierce battles with the "Revolutionaries Consultation Council of Benghazi." It appears that most Benghazi residents are stocking up on food and water as a result, and sources indicate some people are preemptively fleeing from neighborhoods where the worst violence is expected.

Based on media reports in: al-Wasat, Libya al-Mustakbal, Libya Herald

Awjila(4) Municipal Council Convinces Protestors Threatening to Disrupt Operations at 103 Oil Field to Back Down

The Awjila Municipal Council convinced the protestors threatening to disrupt operations at the 103 oil field to back down. The protestors previously claimed that they would halt all activity at the oil field if their demand for employment opportunities in the energy sector was not met. It appears the Awjila Municipal Council resolved the crisis by securing a promise from Council of Representatives members to fulfill the protestors' demand. The employment opportunities are not expected to materialize immediately, however, and thus there is a risk that the protestors will threaten to disrupt the oil field's operations at a later date to jump-start the hiring process.

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