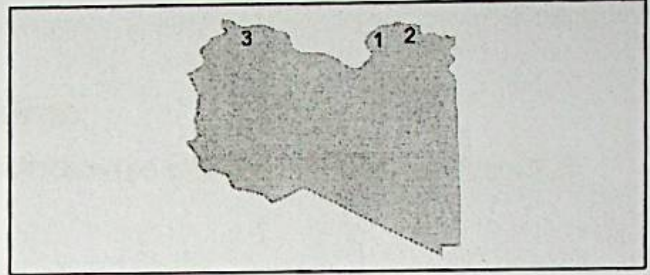


Summary: Second batch of Libyan troops sent to Italy for military instruction completes basic training course; Clashes break out between Khalid Hiftar's coalition and Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi; Director of Libya al-Wataniyya television channel briefly kidnapped in Tripoli; General National Congress approves already enacted 2014 budget in symbolic gesture



Second Batch of Libyan Troops Sent to Italy for Military Instruction Completes Basic Training Course

The second batch of Libyan troops sent to Italy for military instruction completed its 10-week basic training course at the Bersaglieri 8th Regiment's base in Persano. Reports indicate, however, that nearly half of the soldiers in the second batch dropped out and returned to Libya early because they could not handle the intensity of the training. According to the Italian Defense Attaché in Libya, those soldiers that remained for the entirety of the course ended up performing well. The Libyan government is expected to send a third batch of troops to Italy for military instruction after Ramadan. In total, the Italian government has committed to training 2,000 members of Libya's security forces as part of a broader effort by Western countries to strengthen the Libyan state.

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

Clashes Break Out Between Khalid Hiftar's Coalition and Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi(1)

Clashes broke out between Khalid Hiftar's coalition and Ansar al-Sharia in the Sidi Faraj and Hawari neighborhoods of Benghazi on the evening of 22 June. The fighting reportedly began after Ansar al-Sharia launched Grad rockets at positions occupied by Hiftar's coalition. Sources indicate the violence left at least one person dead and several others injured. The next day, Hiftar's coalition carried out several airstrikes on extremist Islamist militia positions on the western outskirts of Derna(2). The airstrikes came only days after warplanes belonging to Hiftar's coalition attacked two ships—allegedly carrying weapons destined for extremist Islamist militias in Benghazi—docked in the Derna Port.

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

Director of Libya al-Wataniyya Television Channel Briefly Kidnapped in Tripoli(3)

Unknown gunmen stormed into a Libya al-Wataniyya office in Tripoli on 23 June and kidnapped the television channel's director, Tariq al-Houni. The gunmen identified themselves as Interior Ministry-affiliated militiamen tasked with investigating al-Houni, but they did not produce any evidence to support their claim. Al-Houni was then released several hours later under unclear circumstances. The exact motive behind the kidnapping remains unknown at this point, but it is highly likely that militiamen upset with Libya al-Wataniyya's coverage of events are responsible. Militias of all political persuasions regularly employ violence to intimidate journalists in Libya.

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