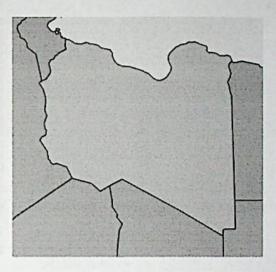


Libya

Summary

Representatives of the two Libyan government will sign an agreement on Dec. 16 to establish a national reconciliation government. The Islamic State is expanding in Libya and has captured Sabratha.

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Diplomacy

Representatives of the Tobruk parliament and Tripoli's General National Congress have confirmed that they will sign the national reconciliation agreement on Dec. 16 in Morocco, say Libyan media. Tripoli MP Saleh Makhzoum told journalists that "the national reconciliation agreement will be signed on Dec. 16". Tobruk MP Mohammed Shaib however said it was possible that the agreement would be signed in Morocco. This week, Tripoli and Tobruk representatives met in Tunis to reach an agreement for the formation of a national unity government. UN Envoy to Libya Martin Kobler and representatives of the rival parliaments met in a hotel together with several foreign diplomats who participated in the meeting as observers. Libyan Army Chief Gen. Khalifa Haftar has denied recent reports in the Tunisian press that he met with Kobler. The Libyan Armed Forces press office announced in a statement that "Gen. Haftar has never met Kobler. The meeting referred to by the Tunisian press was between Kobler and an adviser of the Libyan Army General Command". According to Tunisian press, Kobler has set aside a role for Haftar in the future Libyan government as head of the commission for the reconstruction of the army.

Politics

The council controlling the Libyan area of Ghariyan has announced its support of the agreement for a national reconciliation government signed in Tunis by Tobruk and Tripoli MPs. According to a statement published by Libyan news agency "al-Tadhamoun", Ghariyan administrators have said the Tunis initiative is "courageous" and that "the Libyan people need further similar initiatives to bring stability back to the country". According to the statement, "there is no alternative to dialogue and understanding in order to build a unified Libyan state". Divisions continue however between the parties in Libya and within factions themselves - 92 Tobruk MPs have reiterated their opposition to the agreement reached in Tunis on Dec. 6, said "Libya Herald". Two days ago, a delegation from the Tobruk parliament reached a political agreement with representatives from the Tripoli parliament. The 92 MPs opposing the agreement, who have the majority within the Tobruk parliament, have reiterated their support of the agreement reached through UN mediation for a national unity government. They also said they were surprised about events in Tunis. A group of municipalities of southern Libyan cities has announced that it has created a new unity body. According to "al-Wasat", the mayors of the southern cities have established a body for the coordination of the cities' administrations, claiming that they have been abandoned "by both the Tripoli government as well as Tobruk" and that "they are unable to find a political agreement to put an end to the crisis in the country". In a statement released after the third meeting between southern municipalities held yesterday in al-



Shawuirif, the mayors announced their support for the reconciliation initiative by the residents of southern Libya that will lead to a meeting to be held in a few days in Jafra

Security

The Islamic State has announced the establishment of a new emirate in Sabratha. According to "Shems FM", a military parade was held by the jihad group in Sabratha with roughly 30 military vehicles flying the group's black flags. Local sources say that an Islamic State cell operating west of Tripoli confirmed it had taken control of Sabratha following the arrival of a convoy of jihad militants. Armed clashes have resumed in Obari, southern Libya, between rival Tebu and Tuareg clans. Tuareg spokesman Mohammed al-Ansari told Libyan news agency "al-Tadhamoun" that the rival tribes yesterday attacked several areas of Obari with heavy weapons. Eleven people from the Tuareg tribe were injured in the clashes that mark a break in the ceasefire signed last month by the two groups in Qatar. Libyan Army warplanes have carried out an airstrike on a Benghazi suburb. According to "Akhbar Libya 24", the planes struck a convoy of Islamic State men and vehicles heading to Benghazi. Army Spokesman Naser al-Hasi said that a second raid was carried out in Sidi Faraj. The planes then took photographic surveys of the damages caused to the Islamic State that confirm the targets were hit.

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.