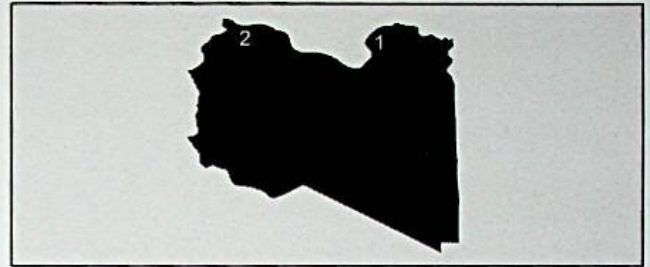


**Summary:** *Benghazi militiamen storm General National Congress headquarters and force delay of vote for new Premier; Attacks against state symbols in eastern Libya continue; Italian government may send delegation to Libya to search for solutions to illegal immigration crisis; Libyan government negotiating with kidnappers of Jordanian Ambassador and Tunisian diplomats*



## **Benghazi(1) Militiamen Storm General National Congress Headquarters and Force Delay of Vote for New Premier**

A group of Benghazi militiamen stormed the General National Congress (GNC) headquarters in Tripoli(2) on 29 April, forcing a delay of the second round vote for a new Premier until 4 May. The GNC held the initial vote shortly before the incident, with Misratan militia-backed Ahmed Mehiteg coming in first with the support of 67 MPs and Loyalty to the Martyrs bloc-backed Omar al-Hassi coming in second with the backing of 34 MPs. Several sources indicated that the Benghazi militiamen—supportive of al-Hassi—stormed the GNC headquarters to prevent the second round vote, as they feared that Mehiteg would gain the supermajority of 120 MPs necessary to win the Premiership. Although details around the incident remain unclear, it is likely that the sources' account is accurate as various militias have taken similar actions in the past to influence GNC votes.

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

## **Attacks Against State Symbols in Eastern Libya Continue**

An explosive device detonated underneath the vehicle of a Central Security Forces officer in Benghazi on 29 April. The officer managed to survive the blast but sustained serious injuries. The same day, unknown gunmen shot and killed a judge associated with the Gaddafi regime in Derna. The two incidents mark the latest in a string of attacks targeting state symbols in eastern Libya that has left over 220 people dead since mid-2012. The Libyan government has been unable to stop the violence, prompting frustration amongst local residents who generally accuse anti-government Islamist militias of carrying out the attacks. Demonstrating this frustration, dozens of local residents blocked a major street in Benghazi with burning tires after news of the attempt on the Central Security Forces officer's life broke.

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

## **Italian Government May Send Delegation to Libya to Search for Solutions to Illegal Immigration Crisis**

The Italian government may send a delegation to Libya to search for solutions to the crisis caused by illegal immigration across the Mediterranean Sea. News of the potential action comes at a time when the Italian government is calling on the European Union to increase the resources it dedicates to dealing with the influx of immigrants coming via North Africa. The Italian government's intensified focus on the issue is in response to a large uptick in immigrant flows as of late due to improving weather conditions in the Mediterranean Sea.

*Based on media reports in: Libya al-Mustakbal*