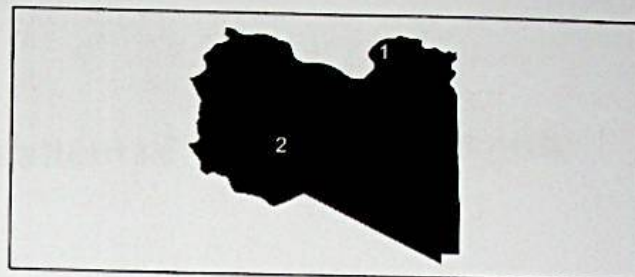


Summary: Negotiations allegedly progressing between Libyan government and "Cyrenaica Regional Government"; Ostensibly pro-government militias retake Tamenhint Airbase from Gaddafi loyalists; Preparations underway for Rome conference on international assistance to Libya; Libyan Post Company engineer kidnapped in Benghazi(1)



Negotiations Allegedly Progressing Between Libyan Government and "Cyrenaica Regional Government"

"Cyrenaica Regional Government" Prime Minister Abdulrabih al-Barassi stated that negotiations with the Libyan government over the reopening of the Ras Lanuf, Sidra, and Zueitina oil terminals are progressing. Al-Barassi also claimed that the Libyan government agreed to two out of the three demands made by "Cyrenaica Regional Government" leader Ibrahim al-Jathran. The allegedly agreed upon demands include the launch of an investigation into claims of corruption in the hydrocarbon sector and the formation of a committee representing Libya's three regions to supervise hydrocarbon exports. According to al-Barassi, a deal to reopen the terminals could be finalized within two weeks if the Libyan government agrees to al-Jathran's third demand: direct distribution of hydrocarbon revenue to Libya's three regions.

Based on media reports in: Libya al-Mustakbal, Libya for the Free

Ostensibly Pro-Government Militias Retake Tamenhint Airbase From Gaddafi Loyalists

Ostensibly pro-government militias from Misrata retook the Tamenhint Airbase in southern Libya(2) from Gaddafi loyalists on 28 January. The Gaddafi loyalists captured the facility last week during the chaos that emerged after the renewal of violence between Arab and Tabu militiamen in the region. Sources indicate that the Misratan militias, which received support from the Libyan Airforce, managed to arrest 18 Gaddafi loyalists during the operation. The recapture of the Tamenhint Airbase is a positive development, but the Libyan government's continued reliance on militias to provide security is problematic. Although the government and the militias possessed a shared interest in this incident, the same Misratan militiamen have repeatedly ignored government orders and used weapons to intimidate officials in the past.

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

Preparations Underway For Rome Conference on International Assistance to Libya

The Libyan government held a preparatory meeting for the conference on international assistance to Libya that will be held in Rome during March. At the conference, Libya and its international partners will make decisions related to assistance programs in the fields of security, justice, and rule of law. Foreign Ministry Undersecretary for Political Affairs Wafa Bouqages and Defense Minister Abdullah al-Thini hosted the preparatory meeting, which was attended by the Italian, American, British, French, and European Union ambassadors to Libya. Sources indicate that the officials discussed their priorities with regards to the different forms of support that the international community can provide to assist state institution building efforts in Libya.

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