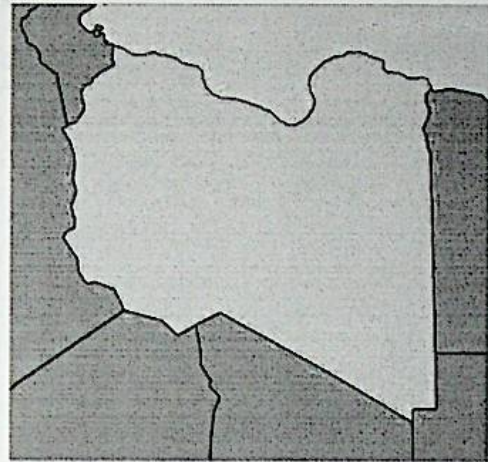


**Libya**

**Apr 10- 15**

There was a series of clashes and airstrikes in southern Libya this week between Tripoli forces and Khalifa Haftar's fighters.



**Diplomacy**

Libyan Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of National Accord (GNA) Ahmed Maiteeq has met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry in Cairo to discuss the Libyan crisis, said the Cairo Foreign Ministry. On Apr. 9, Maiteeq met with the Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces Mahmoud Hegazy. Maiteeq praised Egypt's role in reaching an agreement between the parties in Libya, stressing the need to develop economic cooperation parallel with the political process, said a statement. Shoukry stressed the need to achieve security and political stability through Libyan national reconciliation according to the Skhirat agreements signed on Dec. 17 2015. "Egypt hopes to help create Libyan state institution and reach a consensus to supply constitutional support to the government of national accord in order to allow it to carry out its tasks", said Shoukry. Maiteeq expressed his condolences for the victims of the attacks on two Christian churches in Egypt this week.

UN Envoy to Libya Martin Kobler has said the meeting with General Khalifa Haftar, Commander of the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army (LNA), at the head offices of his armed forces in al Maraj, eastern Libya, was "positive". Kobler wrote on Twitter that "the meeting focused on the obstacles in executing the Libyan political agreement and how we can move forward". Haftar has often refused to meet with Kobler in the past, despite numerous requests from the UN Envoy.

**Politics**

The Prime Minister of the unrecognised Libyan transitional government based in al Bayda, Abdullah al Thani, has said that "the state of division the country is going through will not end without a military solution" and called all Libyans to "join the military institutions led by Khalifa Haftar". Speaking to "Libya al Ahfath", al Thani added that he felt "part of the military institutions" and that he was "proud" of Haftar's men. "Libya's division will only come to an end with a military solution against the Muslim Brothers who dictate the country's agenda", he added.

Benghazi Mayor Ahmed al Arabi has handed in his resignation, saying he was a victim of a "series of unfounded rumours spread in an attempt to obstruct the work of the municipal council" of the city. In a statement published on the council's Facebook page, al Arabi added: "Since I accepted the position from the military governor Abdel Razaq al Nadori, I have worked in difficult conditions but recently rumours have been circulating in an attempt to obstruct the council's work and change mayor". Al Arabi was appointed by the military governor imposed by Khalifa Haftar on Aug. 11 2016, Abdel Razaq al Nadori, who has nominated the new mayor of al Maraj as Wahbi Anwar al Rakh, said the news agency that broadcasts from al Bayda.

The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) has warned of heavy damages and possible further electrical shortages due to the closure of the pipeline carrying oil and gas from the al Wafa field operated by Mellitah, a joint venture between NOC and ENI, and al Mara near Nalut. The plant has been closed since the end of March due to intervention from a local militia. In a statement, NOC spoke of "damages worth 9 million dollars per day due to the closing of this pipeline". The company also reiterated that "the al Wafa line is linked to the Algerian al Rarar field and its closure therefore" also seriously damages the neighbouring country.

Vice President of the Presidential Council Abdel Salam Kajman met with tribal chiefs from the Tebu, Awlad Suleiman and Tuareg clans this week in the Presidential Council head offices in Tripoli. A government statement published on Facebook said "the meeting focused on the possibility of compensating those who sustained damage from the conflict between the Tebu and Awlad Suleiman". The participants "agreed that everything must happen with sponsorship from the Presidential Council". After three days of intense negotiations, on Friday Mar. 31 at the Interior Ministry in Rome, the chiefs of the main southern Libyan tribes, the Awlad Suleiman (Arabs) and the Tebu (an ethnic Saharan group) signed a reconciliation agreement in the presence of Tuareg leaders and Presidential Council Vice President Kajman. The tribes requested that Italy (represented by Interior Minister Marco Minniti and Foreign Minister Elisabetta Belloni) be the guarantor of the pact.

### Security

Three fighters from the Third Force, a unit made up of militia under the GNA in the contested area of Sebha, southern Libya, have been killed in an airstrike by Khalifa Haftar's planes. Local sources said seven people were also injured during the raid. Tripoli Defence Ministry Spokesman Mohammed al Ghasri confirmed the reports, saying that the strike occurred in the city of Samnu, 60 kilometres east of Sebha. The Third Force took control of Samnu this week after clashes with Haftar's forces led by Mohammed Ben Nayal and reopened the road linking al Giufra and Sebha. "Ben Nayal militants were forced to flee to the mountains", said al Ghasri. Tripoli army sources said the Third Force is preparing a military attack on the city of Brak Shati to liberate it from Haftar's militia. Al Ghasri announced on Saturday that the "al Mooad" Operation underway in southern Libya by Tripoli forces aims to eradicate the presence of Haftar's Dignity Operation in the area. Ben Nayal men are positioned at the Brak Shati airbase, located roughly 60 kilometres north of Sabha.

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has denied reports on social networks on the presence of war planes at the airport located near the el Feel oilfield, southern Libya. The Tripoli-based company stressed that the oilfield airport is controlled by the Petroleum Facilities Guards (PFG) in Fezzan commanded by Abu Bakr al Suqi under the UN-backed GNA Defence Ministry. In this way, NOC answered the requests for clarification from the Spokesman of the Desert Anger Operation adopted by the GNA Defence Ministry, Colonel Salem Abu Rawi, who accused NOC of allowing Haftar to use its airports to conduct airstrikes on Third Force militia in Sebha where an armed conflict is underway. NOC in turn accused Fezzan PFGs of obstructing oil production from el Feel since December 2016, causing damages worth over 460 million dollars.

There were clashes this week south of the Giarabub oasis in south-east Libya. Local military sources told "al Wasat" that the LNA Omar al Mokhtar Brigade engaged in fighting with a rebel militia from Chad in an attempt to throw out an opposition Chadian group taking refuge in southern Libya.

Oil production at the al Sharara oil field in south-west Libya has been suspended following the closure of a pipeline by demonstrators, said a source from the Zawya oil refinery, adding that "the demonstrators closed the pipeline leading to the port and the refinery", 50 kilometres west of Tripoli. Al Sharara produces over 200,000 bpd, just under a quarter of Libya's total daily production.

*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.*