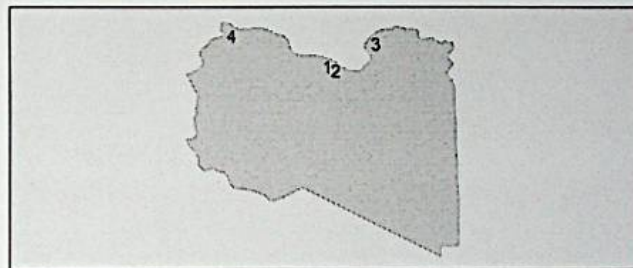


Summary: Clashes pitting Khalifa Hiftar's coalition against Misratan-led militia coalition and Ansar al-Sharia continue near Sidra and Ras Lanuf oil terminals; Death toll in fighting between Khalifa Hiftar's coalition and extremist Islamist militias in Benghazi rises to 475; Italian Foreign Minister states that "ongoing conflict in Libya will not end with the victory of any party"; Tunisian government orders temporary three-day closure of Ras Jadir border crossing



Clashes Pitting Khalifa Hiftar's Coalition Against Misratan-Led Militia Coalition and Ansar al-Sharia Continue Near Sidra(1) and Ras Lanuf(2) Oil Terminals

Clashes pitting Khalifa Hiftar's coalition against the Misratan-led militia coalition and Ansar al-Sharia continued near the Sidra and Ras Lanuf oil terminals. Reports indicate heavy fighting occurred in Bin Jawad—located just west of the Sidra oil terminal—leading the town's residents to flee en masse. The violence has caused the National Oil Corporation (NOC) to declare force majeure at the two oil terminals and led to the evacuation of the Waha oil field. The NOC released a statement on 18 December claiming that the disruptions forced Libya's daily oil production down to 330,000 barrels. In the same statement, the NOC announced that it is maintaining its independence and not aligning with any side in the ongoing conflict in Libya.

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

Death Toll in Fighting Between Khalifa Hiftar's Coalition and Extremist Islamist Militias in Benghazi(3) Rises to 475

The death toll in the fighting between Khalifa Hiftar's coalition and the extremist Islamist militias of the "Revolutionaries Consultation Council of Benghazi" has risen to 475. Hiftar's coalition has made large territorial gains since it launched its new offensive on 15 October, but fierce clashes remain ongoing between the two sides in the al-Sabri and Souk al-Hout areas. Hiftar's coalition maintains that it is making progress against the extremist Islamist militias and will soon exercise control over all of Benghazi. It is likely, however, that violence will continue in the city even if Hiftar's coalition captures all territory, as the extremist Islamist militias have the ability to wage a guerilla-style campaign.

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

Italian Foreign Minister States That "Ongoing Conflict in Libya Will Not End With the Victory of Any Party"

Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni stated that the "ongoing conflict in Libya will not end with the victory of any party." Gentiloni made the remark during testimony in front of the Foreign Affairs and Defense committees of the *Camera dei Deputati*. Gentiloni also stated that the only way to address the conflict at present is to support the effort by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to convene a political dialogue. According to Gentiloni, Italy and other countries can provide support to UNSMIL by helping with "monitoring" or "peacekeeping" if the political dialogue succeeds.

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