

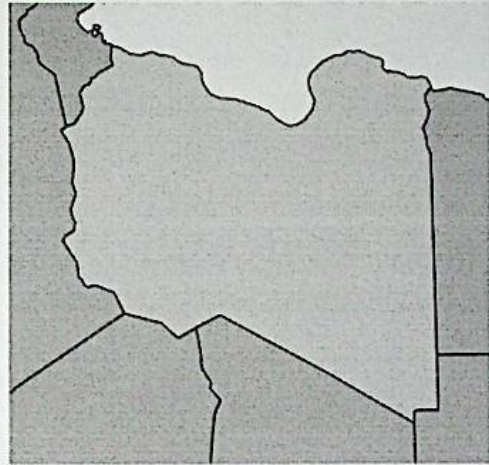
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**Libya**

Jul 13-19

**Summary**

On Saturday the Tobruk government signed the draft proposal presented by UN envoy Bernardino Leon in Skhirat Morocco. The document was not signed by the Tripoli Congress whose members were absent from the meeting in protest and who decided to refrain from continuing talks. The UN seems intent on continuing even without Tripoli.



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**Diplomacy**

Numerous doubts: this is the explanation given by Mohammed Muzab, a member of the Tripoli General National Congress, on the party's failure to sign the draft proposal presented by Bernardino Leon. He added that "during the last round of talks, when the draft was presented to us, we put forward our reservations but they were not taken into consideration". In an interview with Libyan website "Al-Wasat", the MP said that one of the party's doubts concerns the new army, "the formation of the new armed forces and who will lead them". He added that it has not been understood why "the Congress will have to become a State Council while the parliament will remain in its current role with an extended mandate". Libyan UN Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi has admonished Libyan parties, such as Tripoli's government, who do not intend to sign the agreement to form a new national unity government. Speaking to Libyan website "Ean Libya", the diplomat warned that "those who hinder the agreement will be held accountable with UN sanctions". He added that "the signing of the first chapter, the most important as it concerns political issues, has been done. Now we just need to discuss how to follow up on this first agreement, but an end is close". Dabbashi said that "there will be exemplary punishments for those who do not sign the Skhirat agreement" while he said the proposals put forward by the Tripoli Congress in order for them to sign the agreement were "ridiculous". Meanwhile the internationally recognised Tobruk government has accused the UN of taking no interest in the situation in Benghazi. Abdullah al-Thani's government asked the UN in a note to "provide the army with weapons as soon as possible to stop the expansion of terrorism". The government said it did not understand "the cowardly stance taken by the international community represented by UN and the silence from NGOs that claim they want to defend human rights and yet do nothing for Benghazi despite the continuous violations of children's rights".

**Politics**

The next national unity government and the Tobruk parliament "will have one year to carry out their task" if the definitive agreement whose first chapter was signed on Saturday in Morocco is officially approved. Tobruk MP Salihim Abdel Nabi told Libyan website "Al-Wasat" that "we made amendments to the draft proposal on the term of the new unity government. Now we have a counterpart with which to negotiate and we will certainly make some concessions, but never to the detriment of the Libyan people". The MP admitted that "there are still strong disagreements with the Tripoli government over fundamental issues such as the future of the country and the army". Tobruk has condemned Islamic State militants for demolishing numerous houses in the Al Sawa area. In a message on its Facebook page, the Tobruk

government denounced "the attempt to clear the city of residents in order to carry out a plot aimed at transforming the area into a base from which to launch terrorist operations in the rest of the country as well as neighbouring countries". For this reason, the government has called on the international community to help the "Libyan people in the fight against terrorism by lifting the arms embargo imposed on the Army".

#### **Security**

The Libyan Army led by Khalifa Haftar "is suffering due to a lack of weapons and ammunition which is preventing them from carrying out any kind of offensive against Islamist militia in the country", a Tobruk Parliament source told newspaper "Asharq Al-Awsat". For this reason, a Libyan Army source is against the signing of the agreement for a unity government. According to military councillor Salahuddin Abdel Karim, who is considered close to Haftar, "the Skhirat agreement would hand the country over to the militia after the people brought down their representatives during last summer's elections". The Libyan official added that "they are trying to repeat the experience of the US government in Iraq in 2004 but with Libya". Over the last few days, General Haftar visited Cairo in order to ask for military aid.

*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.*