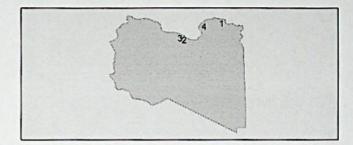


Media Analysis - Libya

22 December 2014

Summary: Islamic State-affiliated "Consultation Council of Islamic Youth" militia reportedly bans smoking in Derna; Libyan Foreign Minister claims that Misratan-led militia coalition wants to take over oil terminals to finance terrorism worldwide; Italian Prime Minister does not rule out international military intervention in Libya if political dialogue effort fails; Khalifa Hiftar claims that his coalition will declare victory in Benghazi this week



Islamic State-Affiliated "Consultation Council of Islamic Youth" Militia Reportedly Bans Smoking in Derna(1)

The Islamic State-affiliated "Consultation Council of Islamic Youth" militia banned smoking in Derna, according to a *Libya Herald* report. If true, the development marks the latest instance in which the extremist Islamist militia has enforced a strict moral code on the city's population. The "Consultation Council of Islamic Youth", which maintains a Sharia Court, previously publicly flogged several young men for drinking alcohol. The ability of the extremist Islamist militia to run its own justice system in Derna highlights the extent to which it now dominates the city. Reports published in recent weeks have suggested that Khalifa Hiftar's coalition will soon push on Derna to confront the "Consultation Council of Islamic Youth", but thus far it has only carried out a few targeted airstrikes.

Based on media reports in: Libya Herald

Libyan Foreign Minister Claims That Misratan-Led Militia Coalition Wants to Take Over Oil Terminals to Finance Terrorism Worldwide

Libyan Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Dairi claimed that the Misratan-led militia coalition wants to take over oil terminals so it can make money to finance terrorism worldwide. Al-Dairi's remark comes at a time when the Misratan-led militia coalition, along with Ansar al-Sharia, is attempting to capture the Ras Lanuf(2) and Sidra(3) oil terminals from Khalifa Hiftar's coalition. Reports indicate fighting between the two sides calmed down over the weekend, as each is rushing in reinforcements from elsewhere in the country. The violence has greatly harmed Libya's energy sector, forcing daily oil production down to 330,000 barrels.

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

Italian Prime Minister Does Not Rule Out International Military Intervention in Libya if Political Dialogue Effort Fails

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi stated that international military intervention in Libya cannot be ruled if the ongoing political dialogue effort fails. According to Renzi, the Libyan crisis now represents a threat to Italy and therefore all options are on the table. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) is leading the political dialogue effort with the hope that Libya's various factions agree to a ceasefire. It appears, however, that the prospects of such a ceasefire being reached in the near future are low given the recent military escalation of the conflict.

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