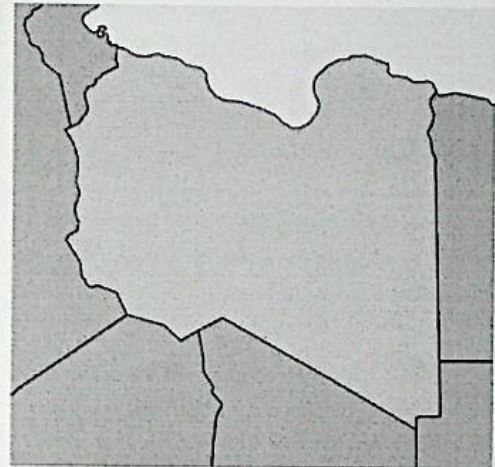


Libya

Sep 21-27

Summary

Inter-Libyan talks continued in Morocco this week with the two delegations just a step away from a final agreement. In Libya, internal clashes within the two governments continue between those who intend to accept the plan proposed by UN Envoy Bernardino Leon for a unity government, and those who intend to refuse.



Diplomacy

Libya's rival governments, Tripoli and Tobruk, have reached a preliminary "agreement" on the main points of the document that needs to be signed in order to form a new unity government in Libya, announced UN Envoy Bernardino Leon during the second day of talks in Morocco. Leon said that "the parties were able to overcome their differences on the main points". The text will now be discussed by the two Libyan parliaments and signed by Sept. 20. The majority of the Tripoli Congress has accepted the document, said al Bakkoush, a member of the dialogue commission for the Congress. The members of the Congress met to discuss the amendments they proposed to the document, that were accepted by Leon, and to analyse the final draft of the agreement. Al Bakkoush said that "the majority has agreed so today discussions will continue although we are on the path towards a definitive go-ahead". The Congress delegation will return to Skhirat, Morocco, over the weekend to sign the agreement. Leon has asked the governments to accelerate negotiations in Morocco and conclude by Sunday. During a press conference in Skhirat, Leon said that "tomorrow a new round of talks for a national unity government will begin where we will discuss nominations for the head and deputy head of the government". Regarding the differences that remain between the two governments, Leon said they are "normal because there is still a lack of trust but I believe we are close to an agreement".

Politics

A demonstration has been held in Zawiya, north-western Libya, followed by a military parade by local militants linked to "Fajr Libya" in support of the inter-Libyan talks in Morocco. Ali Bouzariba, a Tobruk MP who recently participated in the UN meeting in Geneva, told "Al Tadhamaoun" that "we decided today to show our support of the efforts to establish a unity government in Libya". During the demonstration, Bouzariba condemned terrorism and called for support of the talks. Protests were held in front of the Tripoli General National Congress, elected in 2012, to call for its members to reject the document proposed by Leon. The protesters also called for members to "be faithful to the principles of the Feb. 17 revolution" and accused them of "giving legitimacy to the Tobruk parliament with their contradictory position during the dialogue sessions".

Security

The Islamic State in Libya has given the residents of Sirte until October to ask for forgiveness and join the

jihad group. The Grand Mufti of the Islamic State, Hussein al Karami, released a radio message saying that "the residents of Sirte should quickly ask for forgiveness before it's too late because if they don't, we will consider them enemies of the Islamic State". He ordered all those of a suitable age, as well as those who have previously served in the army, to enlist in the jihad group. Armed clashes in Tripoli's suburbs have killed six people. According to Libyan media, an Islamic State commander attacked the Mitiga prison close to the city's international airport. Three assailants and three prison guards were killed. According to a Twitter account linked to the Islamic State, the attack was led by Wisam Bin Hamed whose aim was to liberate his comrades held in the prison. During the attack the assailants also detonated a bomb along the prison wall. Libyan media has reported that this could be a revenge attack against the Islamic owner of the new airline that will start flying from the Mitiga airport over the next few days. General Khalifa Haftar's militias have prevented the Prime Minister of the internationally recognised Tobruk government, Abdullah al-Thani, from travelling to Malta where he was to participate in an oil conference organised by Libyan state company "NOC". According to an official statement by the Tobruk government, al-Thani was due to leave for Malta from Labrag Airport when a group of militia forced him to disembark from the aeroplane. The militia say they had orders from the General Command to arrest al-Thani. Tobruk President Aquila Saleh ordered for him to be released. The Libyan interim government, supported by Tobruk and recognised by the international community, has accused Saqr al Jarushi, a high ranking air force official, of rebellion over the event.

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.