

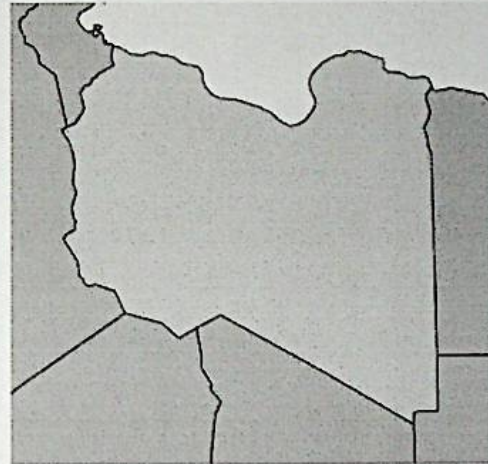
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## Libya

Aug 31 – Set 6

### Summary

Peace talks recommenced in Morocco this week between the two Libyan governments. The dialogue opened with optimistic words from UN envoy Bernardino Leon and concluded with internal divisions within the Tripoli delegation. In Libya, the Islamic State has announced the creation of its Emirate in Sirte.



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### Diplomacy

The Libyan talks appear to be on the right track and there is "optimism" regarding the possibility of reaching a final agreement by the end of September, said UN envoy to Libya Bernardino Leon at the end of a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry in Cairo this week. "The political dialogue in Libya is nearing its final phase, which is the most difficult, but there is an atmosphere of optimism regarding the very real possibility of reaching an agreement", Leon told "Al-Bayan". "One week ago I said that the agreement had to be completed by Sept. 1. This time limit runs out next week. In the next two weeks, we will work on voting in the candidates nominated by the participants in the talks in order to reach a final agreement by the next meeting of the United Nations General Assembly scheduled for Sept. 21", said Leon. Speaking in a videoconference from Paris on the new round of talks held in Skhirat, Leon said he was "confident" regarding the ongoing negotiations and sent a message to the Libyan leaders: "only a unified action can prevent a repeat of the Islamic State advances in Syria and Iraq". At the end of the week, the head of Tripoli's GNC (General National Congress) delegation Salah al Makhzoum resigned from the post. This is the reason for the absence of the Islamist parliament elected in 2012 and unrecognised by the international community from the talks held in Morocco. "The mission was informed by the GNC that its delegation would not be present in this round of talks and explained that it needed more time to reorganise following the resignation of two of its members. The GNC has assured that it remains committed to the talks process and that it will participate in the following session", read a statement from the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). Tobruk's Foreign Minister Mohamed al Dayri travelled to Paris to call for an end to the arms embargo and for airstrikes to be carried out against the Islamic State in the country. Al Dayri also visited London to meet with British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond and ask that General Khalifa Haftar's Army be supplied with munition, night vision goggles and other equipment banned by the embargo imposed by the UN. Meanwhile, the Arab League has promised Libya that it will provide help in adequately facing the threat of the Islamic State. General Haftar, the commander-in-chief of Libya's armed forces loyal to the internationally recognised Tobruk parliament, met with his Jordanian counterpart and military advisor to King Abdullah II, General Mishal Mohammed al Zabin in Amman. During the meeting, he said that at the present time, Libya's Armed Forces do not have the necessary weapons and equipment for such a challenge. Haftar said he spoke with al Zabin regarding the training of Libyan troops by Jordanian officials and the medical treatment of injuries. Last April, Haftar travelled to Jordan on his first official foreign visit since the beginning of Operation "Dignity" in Libya in 2014.



### **Politics**

The spokesman of Operation Dignity, Major Mohammed Hijazi, has told "Sky News Arabia" that Turkey is responsible for funding and arming foreign fighters in Libya and that over the past few days there has been an increase in attempts to smuggle weapons and foreign fighters into the country. Hijazi said that Ankara has been "supplying thermal rockets and anti-aircraft weapons to terrorist groups through shipments protected by Turkish naval vessels". In another statement, Hijazi said that "over the past few days, Libyan security forces have recorded an increase in attempts by extremist groups to transport weapons, military equipment and personnel into Libya by air and sea". The Islamic State has established its own "emirate" in Sirte, the birthplace of Muammar Gaddafi. The city has fallen to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's men and follows in the footsteps of Raqqa in Syria and Mosul in Iraq. The owner of an industrial laboratory in Sirte has told "Al-Wasat" that armed members of the Islamic State have visited shops, industrial workshops and factories and assigned each of them an identification number. The group has branded all commercial operations with their stamp and has brought into effect new taxes. Local sources have said that the group has also opened an Islamic sharia court.

*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.*