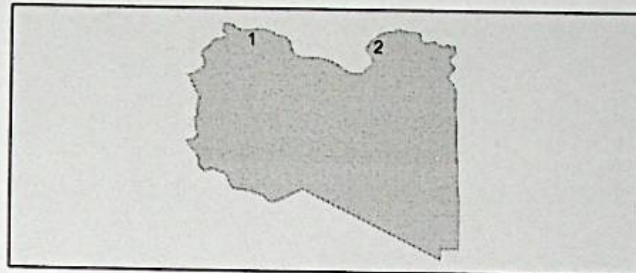


Media Analysis - Libya

20 October 2014

Summary: Italy, France, Germany, United Kingdom, and United States issue joint statement condemning "ongoing violence in Libya" and calling for "immediate cessation of hostilities"; Supreme Court scheduled to hold hearing on 20 October examining lawsuit disputing legitimacy of Council of Representatives; Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti to discuss Libyan crisis with Algerian officials; Khalifa Hiftar's coalition continues to make progress in assault against extremist Islamist militias in Benghazi



Italy, France, Germany, United Kingdom, and United States Issue Joint Statement Condemning "Ongoing Violence in Libya" and Calling for "Immediate Cessation of Hostilities"

Italy, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States issued a joint statement condemning the "ongoing violence in Libya" and calling for an "immediate cessation of hostilities." In particular, the statement condemned the "crimes of Ansar al-Sharia entities, and the ongoing violence in communities across Libya, including Tripoli(1) and its environs." The statement also voiced concern about "Khalifa Hiftar's attacks in Benghazi(2)" and stated that "Libya's security challenges and the fight against terrorist organizations can only be sustainably addressed by regular armed forces under the control of a central authority which is accountable to a democratic and inclusive parliament." The statement also threatened the use of "sanctions in accordance with the UNSCR 2174 against those who threaten the peace, stability, or security of Libya or obstruct or undermine the political process." Many in Libya interpreted the threat of sanctions as a move targeting the leaders of the Misratan-led and Zintani-led militia coalitions who have financial interests abroad.

Based on media reports in: al-Wasat, Libya al-Mustakbal, United States Department of State Website

Supreme Court Scheduled to Hold Hearing on 20 October Examining Lawsuit Disputing Legitimacy of Council of Representatives

Libya's Supreme Court is scheduled to hold a hearing on 20 October examining the lawsuit disputing the legitimacy of the Council of Representatives (CoR). The 30 mostly Misratan and Islamist members of the CoR who have refused to attend any of the legislative body's sessions thus far filed the lawsuit. The Supreme Court was originally supposed to hold the hearing examining the lawsuit earlier this month but postponed until 20 October. The Supreme Court did not explain its decision to postpone, but in the past it has consistently delayed cases on controversial topics due to intimidation from militia groups.

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

Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti to Discuss Libyan Crisis With Algerian Officials

Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti is scheduled to visit Algeria on 20 October. While in Algeria, Pinotti will reportedly discuss North Africa issues—including the Libyan crisis—with Algerian officials. The fact that the Libyan crisis is a major issue on the agenda of Pinotti's visit illustrates the extent to which Libya's neighbors, both in North Africa and across the Mediterranean Sea in Europe, view it as a destabilizing force.

Based on media reports in: al-Wasat