MAKE PEACE HAPPEN
www.peaceau.org

AFRICAN UNION
LIAISON OFFICE TO LIBYA

Libya Weekly Digest

ISSUE NO 22: 22/10 – 26/10 2013

22/2013

EVENTS

ANALISYS

EVENTS

- Dar Al-Ifta, in a statement on Sunday 20 October, expressed on its extreme pain over violations taking place in the country, adding that anyone who carries out kidnapping or murder is considered to be a criminal whoever he belongs to.
- The National Dialogue forum initiative under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture and Civil Society was launched in Benghazi under the slogan of "Benghazi we hold dialogue and reconcile for you".
- About 10 members of a suspected terrorist cell linked to former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's regime were reportedly arrested in the eastern city of Benghazi on Monday.
- NATO agreed to respond positively to the request made by the Libyan Prime Minister to provide advice on defense institution building in Libya, as part of the overall efforts of the international community.
- The Algerian authorities have reportedly stopped security coordination on border control with any Libyan irregular security units.
- Libya's oil production is currently at 600,000 barrels per day with the government still working to end protests at ports that have cut the shipments.

ANALISYS

NATO advisory team for Libya

On 22nd of October, NATO Secretary General Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen stated that Allies have agreed to respond positively to the request made by the Libyan Prime Minister to provide advice on defense institutional building, as part of the overall efforts of the international community.

Reiterating comments made at the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago, Rasmussen said: "We stand ready to consider providing assistance to Libya in areas where the Alliance can add value." In the same summit Allies invited Libya to become a Mediterranean Dialogue partner, if it so wishes, and that invitation stands.

This advisory team is expected to work in close coordination with and complement efforts by other international organizations and bilateral efforts by Allies, and will avoid duplications. The team, which will be constituted of "no more than 10 people, won't have a permanent base in Libya, and it will operate from Brussels," as declared NATO spokeswoman.

The Libyan Prime Minister, while visiting NATO on May 27th, in a joint press conference with NATO Secretary General, refuted what he described as 'rumors' in Libya that NATO forces will interfere in Libya. He explained that Libya's coordination with NATO will include technical consultations and training. The NATO Secretary General stressed on NATO's expertise in the reform of security and defense sectors, especially in institutional education and training. He stated that "We stand ready to help the Libyan government in these areas, where you need us and where we can add value."

Events

POLITICS

Prime Minister abduction follow up (2):

- **Residents from AL Zawiya protested in the Martyrs Square in Tripoli,** calling on PM Zeidan to withdraw his statement in which he accused two GNC members from Al-Zawiya of being behind his kidnapping adding that the issue should be left to the judicial system to decide on it.
- **Zawia Local Council head, Mohamed Khathrawi, declared to the local press:** "Ali Zeidan has no right to accuse anyone from Zawia before the investigation has begun. Zeidan should wait for the results of the enquiry. Then he can declare anything he wants. Zawia had a great reputation and its people had played a major role in liberating Libya. What was being alleged damaged that reputation. In any event, it would have been impossible for a brigade from Zawia to have participated in Zeidan's abduction. Moreover, individual actions did not represent the whole city. The council had met with the two of the town's congressmen accused by the Prime Minister of being involved in his kidnapping – Mohamed Kilani and Mustafa Treiki. We asked them a direct question: Were you involved in what happened with Zeidan? Kilani and Treiki said no".

Dar Al –Ifta and the general situation:

- **Dar Al-Ifta**, in a statement on Sunday 20 October, expressed on its extreme pain over violations taking place in the country, adding that anyone who carries out kidnapping or murder is considered to be a criminal whoever he belongs to. It condemned the kidnapping of Prime Minister Ali Zeidan and all the assassinations, bombings and kidnappings. It also held the Government responsible for the blood that was shed and the wasted state funds because it is the executive body in the state and responsible of the citizens security. Dar Al-Ifta also held the GNC responsible for negligence in performing its monitoring role on the Government.

National Dialogue:

- **National Dialogue Initiative Launched in Benghazi**: The National Dialogue forum initiative under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Culture and Civil Society was launched in Benghazi under the slogan of "Benghazi we hold dialogue and reconcile for you". This forum is said to include most of the components of society in Benghazi such as the civil society organizations and the political parties as well as representatives of the tribes and residents of the city. It aims to stress the importance of dialogue and the need to activate it and launch the initiative as well as activate the round table among components.
- **The National Forces Alliance called on all the society components to participate in the national dialogue** and they set 3 November a date for their preparatory meetings to choose the administrative body of the dialogue. The Head of the National Forces Alliance Steering Committee, Abdul Majid Mleiqta, believes that any dialogue that does not include the effective political entities and figures, armed brigades leaders, tribal wise men and elders, religious scholars as well as civil society organizations is bypassing reality and ignoring the truth. He added that the Alliance's initiative will be a continuation and activation of all the initiatives put forward in the past, affirming that dialogue and consensus are the foundation for building the new Libya.

Elections:

- **Constitutional Assembly Candidates Registration:** According to the head of the High National Election Commission (HNEC), Nuri Elabbar, since nominations opened on 6 October for the elections

to the 60-member assembly which is to draft Libya's new constitution, 133 have so far been received. Of these, 33 so far – 30 men and 3 women – had been approved after checking with the Political Isolation Law Standards Authority. The other candidates still needed to be vetted. He added, among them eight women and six Tebus and Tuaregs. No candidates, however, from the three ethnic minorities – Amazigh, Tebus, and Tuaregs -– had so far been registered, he said. The deadline for nominations had been extended until the end of the month to take account of the Eid holiday break.

- **Registering Voters will begin soon:** The chairman of the High National Elections Commission, Nuri Al-Abar, said that the Commission hopes to begin registering voters soon through SMS mobile. He called on the state institutions to assist and cooperate with the citizens who want to run for the elections. He also called on the need for all citizens to get the national number in order to register to vote.
- **Representatives of Amazigh towns** including elders, revolutionaries' commanders and CSOs in Nafoussa Mountains met in Tamizn to set up a mechanism to implement the earlier decision of the Amazigh Supreme Council to boycott the upcoming constitutional Assembly election.
- **The acting Tawergha Local Council** has called on the town's displaced inhabitants to boycott the elections to the Constitutional Assembly as well as the planned municipal poll in protest at what it says is the government's lack of interest in their situation.

Federalism:

- **The Head of the Executive Council of Barga has declared** the composition of 22 ministers adding that the region will be divided into four districts (Ajdabia, Benghazi, the Green Mountain and Tubruq). GNC has rejected the announcement.

2 – SECURITY

Security Situation

- **Libyan Air Force Colonel Gunned Down in Eastern City of Benghazi**. Libyan security officials say gunmen have shot dead an air force colonel as he left his home in the eastern city of Benghazi. It was the latest in a spate of assassinations in Benghazi recently. The killings are blamed on militiamen who fought against Gadhafi's forces but now operate outside state control. Col. Adel Khalil al-Tawahi from Benghazi's Beninah air base died instantly when gunmen shot him in the chest and head on Thursday. Air force personnel from that base joined rebel ranks during the early days of the 2011 uprising that toppled Gadhafi. The motive for al-Tawahi's slaying was not immediately clear.
- **Suspected terrorists arrested in Benghazi.** About 10 members of a suspected terrorist cell linked to former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's regime were reportedly arrested in the eastern city of Benghazi on Monday night. The detainees have reportedly confessed their involvement in a number of assassination cases staged in Benghazi in recent months. The assassination cases were carried out against army officers and activists by means of setting explosive devices in their cars, according to the statement. The officer added that the suspects also admitted that they operated inside a terrorist cell that was behind all the recent attacks in Benghazi.
- **A car explosion in Benghazi** targeted the Alwiya Hura School which is hosting the Benghazi subcommittee of the Central Committee for Municipal Councils Elections (CCMCE) as a training center.

Security Assistance and Cooperation

- **NATO will provide an Advisory Team for Libya:** NATO agreed to respond positively to the request made by the Libyan Prime Minister to provide advice on defense institution building in Libya, as part of the overall efforts of the international community. It will establish a small advisory team to conduct this effort. This advisory effort will work in close coordination with and complement efforts by other international organizations and bilateral efforts by Allies, and will avoid duplications.

- **Algerian Libyan security boarders' coordination:** The Algerian authorities have reportedly stopped security coordination on border control with any Libyan irregular security units. They seem to have ordered their field units located along the border with Libya not to cooperate or exchange information with any irregular security unit in the area. This position seems to be based on reports according which Libyan unofficial brigades have replaced regular army brigades. However, this information was denied by the Defense Ministry's spokesman, Abdurrazag Shebahi.

Security of Libyan Institutions :

- **Former Libyan Fighters stormed the parliament** to demand medical aid. They held up slogans of condemnation against the interim government, who has so far failed to deliver all the aid promised to the ex-fighters for them to receive treatment overseas. This protest is the latest of a series of demonstrations over the same issue.

Security of Foreign Citizens

- **The Egyptian truck and bus drivers (around 80) freed**: they have been held hostages by gunmen on the road from Ajdabiya to Tobruk. The Egyptian ambassador, Mohamed Abu Bakr declared this release came following negotiations involving the embassy, tribes in eastern Libya who acted as mediators, and the abductors. The abductors are said to have demanded the handover of 12 Libyans jailed in Egypt for smuggling arms into the country.

3 - ECONOMIE:

- **Libya's oil production is currently at 600,000 barrels per day** with the government still working to end protests at ports that have cut the shipments. "The government is said to be still resolving the problem to reach normal production of 1.6 million bpd by the end of the year.
- **The World Bank's work with Libya** following the revolution seeks to help the authorities strengthen the relationship between government and citizens by supporting the Libyan authorities in their work in three main areas according to Marouane El Abassi, the World Bank Resident Representative in Tripoli:

  1- Helping Libya build transparency and accountability in the public sector, by strengthening the management of public resources, including Public Finance Management (PFM) and procurement and capacity building for government officials.

  2- Acting under the heading of Private Sector Development in the form of long term and short term job creation and private and financial sector development.

  3- Providing help to Libya comes in the service delivery area with regional and urban development, local government laws and infrastructure services such as in the information and communications technology, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

  Most of the help provided to Libya by the World Bank is funded either by the World Bank or from its trust and is focused on providing technical assistance.

4 - CULTURE:

- **International Tripoli Book Fair:** This month's International Tripoli Book Fair is reported to have earned a record half million Dinars: 70,000 books on show and 400 publishers from 15 countries. The Ministry of Culture is said to be planning for the promotion of more books on Libya's culture and history, the support of spread libraries across Libya and the setting up of an action plan for the organization of the next book fair in 2014 which coincides with the selection of Tripoli as the Capital of Arab Culture 2014.