



Libya Weekly Digest

ISSUE NO 26: 17/11 – 23/11 2013

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EVENTS

Thousands of people demonstrated on Friday in the heart of Tripoli to demand the departure of armed militias still present in the Libyan capital. They gathered in the center of Tripoli, near a mosque in the city center. Some carried posters demanding the presence of the police and army, not the militia. Several armed groups have left the capital on Thursday, a few days after the Libyan army has invaded the streets of the city in an attempt to regain control.

Tripoli witnessed a general strike and civil disobedience since Sunday. One of the organizers of the movement said Friday that it will continue until the capital and the surrounding area are entirely free of militias.

some armed protesters tried to use a bulldozer in the south of Tripoli, to destroy the former headquarters of a pro-government militia at which they threw grenades. At least five people were injured.

The organizers of the event were able to convince the militants not to go to other headquarters, to prevent further scenes of violence.

Upon the request of the Government the Libyan army took control of Tripoli streets on Monday as part of an operation to oust the militias. The soldiers were warmly welcomed by the people.

ANALISYS

Building Security

State Institutions(1/2)

The tragedy recently endured by the Libyan capital, followed by a continued general strike in Tripoli and daily marches calling for a complete withdrawal of armed militias from the area and demanding that the security of the country be the responsibility of the Army and Police forces, are translating the general Libyan public opinion which seems to be widely rejecting any entities acting outside the frame of the legitimate governmental institutions: a state army and a state police.

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ACTIVITIES

DDR International Coordination Meeting(1/2)

AULOL attended on the 20th November 2013, the 8th International Coordination Meeting on DDR held by the Security Sector Advisory and Coordination Division, UNSMIL at the Libyan Armed Forces Staff College, Tripoli, Libya.

This meeting focused on the work of the Supreme Integration Committee (GNC Decision. 53) and the work of Warriors Affairs Commission for Rehabilitation and Development (WARCD).

SAD FRIDAY (15/11/2013) IN TRIPOLI (FOLLOW UP)

Misrata Local Council Freezes Membership in GNC, Cabinet: Misrata local council announced that it is pulling out its thuwar from Tripoli within 72 hours. The local council of Misrata asked that all of Misrata's representatives at the GNC and government to freeze their membership. The council held the GNC and government responsible for securing the capital and its residents, demanding the release of all of the detainees and paying compensation for the looted properties. The local council stressed that the thuwar of Misrata will not give up on the goals of the 17 February revolution.

Protestors in the Congress: They were allowed in the Congress during Tuesday session. They demanded:

- Congress sack the present administration and "form a crisis government",
- Congress members to state their opinions on what happened on Friday,
- An investigation into the massacre by the Minister of Defense and the Acting Minister of Interior to have all people involved in the tragedy arrested and put on trial,
- Tripoli members to boycott Congress until their demands were addressed.

Tripoli inhabitants have been keeping up the Pressure on Militias to Leave the Capital: They organized daily marches in Tripoli, chanting against militias and demanding that the national army and police assert themselves. Hundreds of women took part in the protest against the presence of armed militias in Tripoli streets and across the country. They called for a complete end to the country's militias and demanded that the security of the country be placed solely in control of the Army and Police forces.

Residents of the Libyan capital Tripoli continued a general strike for the week, in protest against the armed militias' presence in the capital. It is even expected that the general strike and civil disobedience will last until all militias fully comply with the people will, as the mayor of Tripoli, Sadat Al Badri declared on Tuesday night. Most public and private sector institutions kept their doors closed, including schools, local markets and shops. Main squares and streets appeared completely empty. Only health centers, bakeries, pharmacies, and gas stations remained open.

Army troops, On Monday, moved into Tripoli, set up checkpoints and patrolled the streets. The Defense Ministry sent out broadcasts asking locals for support. Citizens were called to cooperate with the army units and provide them with all the help needed to achieve security and stability in the nation's capital," the ministry announced.

Armed Brigades leaving Tripoli intensively: According to the Prime Minister Ali Zeidan the procedures to get armed brigades out of Tripoli are being pursued intensively and proceeding well. The armed brigades have been responsive.

Civil disobedience of Tripolitans will continue: Tripoli's Local Council announced that civil disobedience of Tripolitans will continue till the end of the week and until all armed groups withdraw from the greater Tripoli area.

1 - POLITICS

Political Process:

- **GNC Elects Ezzeddine Mohamed Al Awami as its First Deputy President:** In a vote held today at the GNC, Mr. Ezzeddine Mohamed Al Awami, GNC member from Almarj city, was elected as the First Deputy President of the GNC with a majority of 99 votes. The position has been vacant since the resignation of Dr. Jomaa Atiga on 19 July 2013.
- **Dar Al-Ifta issued a "code of honor to protect the country"** and called on all citizens including the GNC members, government, civil society organizations and all local and military councils to adhere to this code and invite others to do the same.

International Cooperation:

- **Libya in the Third Africa Arab Summit:** President of Libya's General National Congress NouriAbouSahmen hoped that the Third Africa Arab Summit places the foundation for new steps towards tangible cooperation in light of new directions towards democracy in both regions. He declared that global conditions had made it "imperative for Arab and African countries to come closer and cement a solid principle of cooperation to achieve mutual goals."
- **EU called to support the launch of a single national dialogue in Libya:** Maltese Foreign Minister George Vella has urged the EU to improve its engagement and support the launch of a single national dialogue in Libya. He said that the EU should support the launch of such dialogue process as a means of bringing together and empowering all elements of Libyan society.
- **Italian-French Concerns About Weakness of Libyan State Institutions:** The Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta and the French President François Hollande discussed the weakness of the Libyan institutions at their summit. Letta said in a joint press conference with Hollande that Italy and France have great concerns about the Libyan situation and the need to work together in order to strengthen the state institutions.

2 – SECURITY

Security Situation

- **Benghazi Security Head's Convoy Attacked:** The head of the Benghazi Joint Security Room (BJSR) Colonel Abdullah Al-Saiti's convoy was targeted in a car-bomb attack Tuesday morning that left one of his bodyguards dead and another seriously injured.
- **Libya's deputy intelligence chief was kidnapped outside Tripoli's international airport:** Mustafa Noah was bundled into a vehicle in the car park. He was freed a day after, reportedly following the intervention of the Shura Council of Zintan.
- **The house of the GNC member, Abdul RahmanSweihli, has been attacked with a RPG shell** on Monday, in Tripoli's Ben Achour area, according to BasheerSweihli and some neighbors.
- **Head of the military intelligence office of Ojeilat, Yossef Abdul Nabi Al-Atrash was assassinated** in his office on Sunday night.
- **Army and Police Spokesperson in Benghazi Resigns:** The Spokesperson of the joint security operations room in Benghazi, Abdullah Al-Zaydi, announced his resignation on Monday to protest the bad security situation in Benghazi and the authorities' lack in supporting the security organs.
- **Theft of Money Van with 1.5 Million Dinars in Sabha:** Gunmen blocked a van that was transferring money from Sabha to the North Africa Bank branch in Braq in Wadi Al-Shati. A total of 1.5 million dinars were stolen. An investigation was opened into the incident.
- **Electoral Office in Sirte Attacked:** The Electoral Office in 17 February secondary school in Sirte was attacked on Friday night by a lawless armed group who entered the school and burned two cars that were parked inside. They also fired RPG rockets on the building but nodamage was made.

3 – JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW

- **Dorda trial:** The head of external security agency in former regime Abu ZeidDorda denies the accusations against him in court on Wednesday. Dorda is facing a number of accusations such as seeking to kill Libyans who came out in a peaceful demonstration of the 17 February revolution, in addition to provoking a civil war in the country and undermining national unity. Court observers said that the public trial of the former regime figures showed the transparency of this trial.

- **The trial of Abdullah Senussi to continue in Libya:** The International Criminal Court has rejected an appeal by Abdullah Senussi to have proceedings against him in Libya suspended. The decision ends the request to the ICC by Senussi's lawyers in October asking it to order a halt to Tripoli court proceedings while the international court considered its main case against him. They claimed there was a danger he could be convicted and executed in Libya before the ICC ruled on the appeal.
- **Evacuation of Armed Groups from Tripoli and Hand-Over of Prisoners:** Minister of Justice Salah Al Merghani affirmed that the arrangements made to evacuate armed groups from Tripoli and other cities later on will include handing-over detainees and their placement under the authority of the competent judicial institutions. He clarified that the military detainees will be transferred to the Military judicial authorities and the civilians to the civilian juridical authorities.

4 –ECONOMY

- **Libya has resumed gas exports to Italy** after protesters in Mellitah port, ended their two-week seizure of the port, which is co-operated by Italy's ENI and NOC.
- **Libya's New Airline, "Libyan Wings" bought seven Airbus jets:** The carrier will begin operating early next year, to contribute in serving the highly increasing demand of the travel market in Libya. Libyan Wings will start operating in the Middle East and North Africa. It will also fly to Turkey and hopes to extend its network to northern Europe.

ANALYSIS

Building Security State Institutions(2/2)

This feeling is shared nationwide and the civil society "uprising" against the presence of armed militias might spread to other cities and areas. Such popular action reflects the urgent need to rebuild the national army and police institutions. The Libyan authorities are undoubtedly aware of this issue as well as of the challenges behind it, and they have spared no efforts to face it with the full support of the International community. The recent sad developments show that the issue has become a top urgency and doesn't allow any further delay.

ACTIVITIES

DDR International Coordination Meeting (2/2)

Mr. John Durance, Director, Security Sector Advisory and Coordination Division, at UNSMIL, noted that the current withdrawal of brigades and the appearance of army and police forces in Tripoli are considered as positive steps taken by the government in the aftermath of the fights which broke out last week and hoped that General National Congress would support these efforts.

The AUC Chairperson Special Representative, after reiterating the AU commitment to support Libya achieve the present crucial transitional phase, empathized on the need to strengthen coordination between all government actors who are involved in the Security Sector in general and in DDR in particular explaining that this would help the international community to respond more efficiently to the needs identified by Libyans.