

Politics



Ex-envoy of the US to Libya details Washington's efforts to stabilize Libya

The ex-envoy of the United States (US) to Libya, Jonathan Winer, has said that the essence of US efforts to achieve stability in Libya begins with democracy and elections, and includes unifying

institutions as well as using natural resources and wealth for the benefit of the Libyan people in a comprehensive manner.

Winer added to Al-Jazeera Net that this essence is reflected in the four principles in which the US has defined its strategy to prevent conflicts and promote democracy.

Winer explained that the principles of the US are summed up in enabling the Libyan people to choose their leaders, which requires holding elections, in addition to integration between east, west and south, to protect Libya itself from its security and economic weaknesses. He added that Libya needs to monopolize the use of force over its government under the rule of law, pointing out that the unified army, the national border control system, and local police forces subject to civilian rule are all natural elements in any normal government and country.

He also pointed to Libya's need to manage its revenues in a manner characterized by reasonable efficiency, and to resist corruption that undermines the legitimacy of any government that embraces it, as well as undermines public confidence in any country in which corruption becomes an essential factor in the daily life of consumers and companies alike. He indicated that Washington seeks to "urge Libyan leaders to cooperate with United Nations efforts to achieve a unified political process leading to elections by the end of the year."

Politics



US official gives online briefing on her visit to Libya

The US is committed to fully supporting the UN head Special Representative Bathily's efforts to build consensus leading to presidential and parliamentary elections later this year in Libya, in keeping with the aspirations of the Libyan people, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf said in an online briefing on Thursday.

Leaf, who recently ended a three-day tour in the region, said that Libyans have repeatedly made clear they want elections and to vote for a unified government that provides them the services, security, and stability they lacked, which "they well deserve."

She further stressed "the importance of upholding Libya's sovereignty and respecting Libya's ceasefire agreement by

ensuring all foreign fighters, forces, and mercenaries leave the country, above all, Wagner fighters, as well as US support for Libya's economic institutions to strengthen transparency."

Responding to a question on whether elections are possible this year in Libya, the US official said the prospects for elections lie firmly in the hands of the Libyan leaders.

"We've already seen two years ago with the unprecedented number – millions – of Libyans registering to vote that there is a deep appetite, actually a demand signal, for elections. And beyond that, a demand signal for a unified government that they have not enjoyed for 12 years."

Leaf said that she conveyed to all the leaders she met that the SRS is launching a

process to mediate to get over some of the sorts of seismic issues, which have prevented them from holding such elections previously, emphasizing that all requirements are in place to go ahead with the voting process.

However, she confirmed the importance of having a political will and the ability to compromise.

"Nothing prevents Libya from holding elections this year except for lack of political will or unwillingness to compromise among key leaders.

She said that technically, the country is capable of holding such elections, but there is a need to get the key leaders in the place of exercising compromise and getting behind the SRS's efforts.



Menfi tells German ambassador: PC is ready for any initiative leading to holding elections

The Head of the Presidential Council, Mohammed Menfi, has reaffirmed their readiness to support any initiative that enables elections to be held, including the partnership with the UN mission to complete the elections before the end of 2023.

Menfi's remarks came on Wednesday in a meeting with the German ambassador, Michael Ohnmacht, in Tripoli, where they discussed bilateral relations and developments in the political situation in Libya.

The German ambassador hailed the work of the Presidential Council in the file of reconciliation and elections, and its commitment to work with all parties to preserve the unity of the country in pursuit of elections.



6 + 6 Committee holds first meeting at HCS HQ in Tripoli

The 6+6 Joint Committee for preparing the voting laws held its first meeting, on Wednesday, at the headquarters of the High Council of State (HCS) in the capital, Tripoli.

Parliament spokesman Abdullah Blehaq said the session was the first preparatory meeting for the committee formed by the House of Representatives (HoR) and the HCS.

According to Blehaq, the group discussed mechanisms of action and the grounds for launching their work.

For its part, the HCS also issued a statement outlining the substance of Wednesday's meeting, saying the session was a step towards drafting laws for the elections planned for this year "by the thirteenth constitutional amendment."

It said the meeting occurred in a positive atmosphere and yielded promising results on the possibility of completing the required legislation in the shortest possible time.



Libya condemns Israeli attack on worshippers at al-Aqsa Mosque

The Government of National Unity has condemned the Israeli occupation forces for raiding Al-Aqsa Mosque and attacking the worshippers inside.

For the second night in a row, the Israeli occupation forces stormed the Al-Aqsa Mosque on Wednesday using stun grenades and firing rubber bullets at the worshippers, which resulted in injuries and large-scale arrests.

A statement by the Foreign Ministry said: "The racist practices against the Palestinian people and the targeting of holy places are unacceptable and provoke the feelings of Muslims."

Such actions contradict the rules of international law and human rights, and the international community must put an end to these attacks, the statement underscored.



UN envoy calls on mayors to join a process that leads to holding elections this year

The UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, called Wednesday on mayors in Libya to join a process leading to free, transparent and fair elections this year, adding in a speech at the conclusion of the meeting of the Supreme Council of Local Administration in Tripoli in the presence of Libyan Prime Minister and other mayors and officials, that it is now time to give legitimacy to all institutions in this country through a free, transparent and independent process, calling on all institutions to commit to this task for the sake of all Libyans.

The UN envoy said elections would not solve all the problems, but they must be the beginning of a new era and a new dawn for the sake of the history of Libya, calling on mayors to assume their responsibilities and saying: "You have to ask yourselves what you did to make Libya great once again. Will history remember you as people who prolonged the crisis, or contributed to alleviating the suffering of the country and citizens?"

Bathily reiterated that the real challenge facing Libyans today is the nonexistence of transparent mechanisms for the distribution of the country's wealth, saying that Libya is witnessing a turning point in its history, and that the years of conflict and crises must end.

Politics

**UNSMIL:
15 million square
meters are still
contaminated with
explosive ordnances
across Libya**



United Nations Support Mission in Libya
بعثة الأمم المتحدة للدعم في ليبيا

On International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action today, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said despite strong efforts from mine action partners over the past decade, more than 15 million square meters are still contaminated with explosive ordnances across Libya.

“The indiscriminate use of weapons in civilian areas during the recent conflicts means even urban areas are littered with explosive remnants of war. These remnants of conflict obstruct safe access to education, healthcare and development, and continue to injure or kill long after the fighting has ceased, posing a daily threat to life and livelihoods.” UNSMIL added.

“Mine action efforts are an essential component of Libya’s journey to peace and stability coupled with reforms in the security sector to control explosive ordnance contamination and the proliferation of weapons,” said Special Representative of the Secretary-General Abdoulaye Bathily.

He added that the threat posed to Libyan citizens undermines stability and the right to a life without fear, while the UNSMIL said it remembers the 19 people, including 14 children, killed by explosive remnants of war in Libya in 2022.



Politics

**Norland:
We don’t want an
election that adds to
instability in Libya**

The US special envoy and ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, said that he “does not want any electoral process that increases instability” in Libya, stressing the need to resolve the controversy over the identity of the candidates for the presidential elections.

In an interview with the Saudi Al-Arabiya Al-Hadath news channel, Norland reaffirmed the US support for the efforts of UN envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, to reach elections in 2023.

“The identity of the candidates for the presidential elections must be resolved because it previously caused the elections to be postponed,” Norland said, pointing out that many of the candidates were considered controversial figures.

He said: “We must agree on the method of managing the electoral process. Nobody who wants to run for elections can be part of supervising the vote.”

Norland stressed that the political agreement is one of the basic elements for holding elections, adding that progress must be made in the file of removing mercenaries from Libya to support this holding elections.

Regarding the US embassy’s return to work from inside Libya, Norland said the reopening of their embassy in Libya is linked to the security situation.



Politics

**IRINI monitors 15 suspicious
flights out of 1,000 in March**

The European Naval Operation IRINI has announced that it had monitored 15 suspicious flights out of 1,000 and 146 flights to Libya during the month of March and continued to monitor 25 airports and runways and 16 ports and oil terminals.

IRINI said in its monthly report that it carried 13 vessel surveys with the consent of masters out of 447, and radioed 311 merchant vessels out of 8,958.

The report added that Turkey refused at the end of March to inspect its ship, “MV Kosova”, despite the request of the leadership of the inspection operation, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution.

It is noteworthy that the European Union launched Operation IRINI on March 31, 2020, with the authorization of the UN Security Council, and with the contribution of 24 European Union countries.

Economy



**NOC:
Bouri is the largest
offshore oilfield in
Libya and produces
23.5k bpd**

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) said in the latest data of production rates of a number of offshore oil and gas fields, signaling out Bouri field as the most important.

The NOC’s statement clarified that the total production of offshore fields amounted to one billion cubic feet of gas and 42,500 barrels of oil per day (bpd), stressing that Bouri has the largest production. The statement indicated that Bouri field is the largest among the country’s fields in the Mediterranean, as it produces about 23.5 thousand bpd, noting that

the production of Al-Jurf field amounted to 19 thousand bpd and Al-Salam field amounted to 1.4 billion feet of gas per day.

Bouri field is located 120 km north of the Libyan coast in the Mediterranean Sea and it has been managed by the Mellitah Oil and Gas Company since the start of production in 1988, knowing that it was discovered in 1967.

President Kais Saied said that Tunisia only got little benefits from the Bouri oilfield, adding that there was an intention to divide the field into two halves with Libya,

but this proposal was retracted, remarking in a statement during his visit to the headquarters of the Tunisian Petroleum Activities Corporation, that after January 1974, the date of the declaration of unity between Tunisia and Libya, the proposal for sharing was rejected by the Tunisian side, and Libya brought in an American company that was on the verge of bankruptcy and laid a platform for oil extraction, hence; Libyan-Tunisian relations were again filled with tension.



Economy

**Ministry of Labor launches
“Brilliant” project to integrate
young people into labour
market**

Ministry of Labor and Rehabilitation of the Government of National Unity announced, on Saturday, the opening of registration for the “Brilliant” training and rehabilitation project.

The project aims to improve job skills and entrepreneurship, based on the agreement signed between the Ministry and the Supernova Organization.

Vocational trainings are to be conducted within this pro-

gramme in project management and overall management over a period of 3 months in the municipality of Janzour for the targeted segments within the national project for rehabilitation and reintegration, according to a post by the ministry on its official Facebook page.

The Ministry called on those wishing to participate in this training programme from the target groups of both sexes to register now via a website designated for this purpose.

Interview



Archaeologist Anna Leone: Fight against illicit trafficking of Libyan antiquities is top priority

Interviewed by Aisha Al Hijazi

The Libya Observer speaks to Professor Anna Leone, member of the Centre for the Study of the Ancient Mediterranean and the Near East. She worked on several projects in order to preserve the Libyan antiquities in Sabratha and Jabal Nafusa, and participated in the training of Libyan cadres for the management of sites and monuments in Libya.

Q-You have a valuable participation in projects to reduce trafficking and looting of Libyan antiquities, brief us more about this?

A- The illicit trafficking is great concern to me. Since 2016, I have worked with a team for the Department of Antiquities (DOA) in Libya and the Institut National du Patrimoine de Tunisie to create an app called HeDAP for the fast recorded of object and a database. The system has been tested and improved thanks to the collaboration of the Libyan and Tunisian teams. We have now handed over the system to the DOA in Tripoli and they are implementing it to create a digital museum catalogue. This will be an essential tool not only to stop illicit trafficking, but also to improve the management of collections. We are also going to pilot the use of the system in Iraq soon. The fight against illicit trafficking is a priority and the DOA is fully on board and very collaborative on this problem.

Q-You participated in a project aimed at training Libyan cadres working in the archaeological field? Could you tell us more details about this project?

A- I have started collaborating with the Department of Antiquities of Libya since 2013 with a project on GIS training (focusing on the Jebel Nafusa) and then continued from 2017 to 2019 with the project Training in Action funded by the British Council. We trained a total of 72 heritage professionals from Libya and Tunisia on: survey, GPS, magnetometry, photogrammetry, 3D modeling, drones, condition assessment, site management, conservation, public engagement, museum catalogue and HeDAP. The training structure was based on my experience and methodology developed from 2013-2017. The training had to be on steps and based on data that the trainees were recording themselves. The trainees needed to help specific characteristics: leadership, committed and motivated, smart, computer literate. The project was a success, it was a truly collaboration between trainees and the trainers. Through the training, they also managed to collect an enormous set of data. Aside being a success as a training project, it was also an incredible experience and I have made friends for life.

Q-Your research focused on the study of urban development in Roman cities in North Africa, what did you find out on this study?

A- The development of Roman cities in North Africa from the 3rd c. to the 8th/9th c. I wrote two books and many articles on this topic. I initiated a tradition of studies, which other have followed to look at old colonial excavations, which were mostly destroying later phases of occupation, and I tried to make sense of them and identify trends and directions. I found out that societies are very resilient,

and they can easily transform and reuse everything that is available. I also found out that no matter what the situation is. Societies always find a way to express their identities. Different religions co-existed mostly peacefully in ancient cities, and they continued to use the same practices and symbols reinterpreting them over and over. For more details you can look at my books: Changing Townscapes in North Africa and The End of the Pagan City .

Q- Do you have studies and projects about Libya in the near future?

A- I have many projects. Concerning Libya I am due to start a project on the protection of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Nafousa and the region of Tataouine in Tunisia, which also include building conservation, making documentaries, and impact of climate change.

Q- Women like you are considered role models for young women, what advice would you like to give to Libyan women who are specialized in the field of archeology?

A-Do not be afraid of saying what you think, and if you are not listened say it louder, until someone realizes you are speaking and you have ideas and starts pay attention to you. Do not allow anyone to make you think that you are incapable of doing something, always show what you can do, work harder than the others, if you do more than average, they will have to notice it and recognize your work.

Q- You worked for many years in Libya...How would you describe your working experience with Libyan archaeological experts?

A- I have worked with many people. There is one thing that I love which I have seen happening I would say in the 97% of my relationship with Libyan archaeologists, it is the human relationship, getting to know them and get their trust and mutual respect. And even when you disagree, that trust and respect is always there, and allows you to maintain with these people friendship for life. There are a few cases, but very few, where my trust and the respect towards me was ended, and I was hurt, but this only happened a very limited number of times, I can count them on one hand. My experience with Libyan colleagues has almost always been wonderful, I have collaborated with very hard working, clever, and respectful people. There is not an episode, but many episodes, I can just tell you about the close collaborations with some trainees, who delivered the work they promised they were going to do , by the deadline, without even telling me how difficult it was for them to go out and do that job, without telling me they did not have heating for the houses, or flour for the bread. They promised to me and they delivered it, without asking for anything. And this is what I mean when I talk about trust and respect, I would always help them, and they would always help me, and I know I can count on them, and they know they can count on me.



Education

Al-Zawiya University discusses obtaining advanced position in international rankings

Al-Zawiya University has held the second periodic meeting of its international rankings committee in order to obtain an advanced position in the QS and Times rankings for the best universities in the world.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research said that the meeting discussed the recommendations of the workshop presented by the chairman of the ranking committee at the University of Benghazi.

During the meeting, some mechanisms that could be adopted to create a special classification for the various faculties of Al-Zawiya University were presented, with the aim of upgrading the educational and research level at the university.



Education

Minister of Education discusses with French ambassador teaching French to high school students

Minister of Education of the Government of National Unity, Musa Al-Magaryef, discussed on Thursday, with the French ambassador to Libya, Mostafa Mihraje, the issue of teaching French as an optional language for secondary school students.

During the meeting, Mihraje expressed readiness of the French embassy in Libya to support the plan of the Ministry of Education with training programmes and curricula, according to a brief statement issued by Ministry of Education.

The meeting was attended by Director General of the General Center for Training and Education Development, Abdul Salam Al-Saghir, Director of the Research Department at the Center for Educational Curricula and Educational Research, Saif Al-Nasr Bel-Hassan, and the Co-operation Attaché at the French Embassy.



Sports

Al-Akhdar out of CAF Confederation Cup after losing 1-4 to USM Alger

Libya's Al-Akhdar football club lost 1-4 to Algeria's USM Alger on Sunday in Algeria as part of the sixth round of the Group A matches of the CAF Confederation Cup, thus leaving the tournament fourth with 5 points just like Congo's Lupopo but with a goal deference that made it third, while South Africa's Gallants made the cut by qualifying top of the group with 12 points with the second USM Alger with 11 points.

The first half ended 3-0 for the algerians who scored at the minutes 8, 20, and 35. The second half saw the Libyan team score at the minute 65 by Suhaib bin Salman, but the Algerian managed a fourth goal at the minute 74.



Sports

Al-Ahly Tripoli wins 2-1 against Egypt's El Gaish in Cairo

Libyan football team Al-Ahly Tripoli won 2-1 against Egypt's El Gaish team in Cairo as part of the Arab Club Champions Cup's qualifiers.

El Gaish scored first at the minute 34, but Al-Ahly made a comeback in the second half at the minute 66 by Mohammed Al-Munir and 87 by Abdelrahman Al-Henshi.

Al-Ahly Tripoli will play El Gaish in the second leg on next Tuesday at Benina stadium in Benghazi for the qualification for the next round of the tournament.

Crimes



Father and son arrested for murder

A father and son have been arrested for killing a man in his home in Tripoli.

According to initial reports, the intruders stormed a home in the Fernaj neighborhood and stole more than 70,000 dinars and jewelry after beating two people in the house, including a woman.

The victim succumbed to his injuries after days of the attack, the Interior Ministry confirmed on Saturday.

It stressed that all necessary legal proceedings will be taken against the alleged offenders.



Culture

Minister of Culture, Qatari ambassador discuss cultural cooperation

The Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development of the Government of National Unity, Mabrouka Toghi, discussed Sunday with Qatar's ambassador to Libya, Khaled Al-Dosari, aspects of joint cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides discussed, during their meeting at the ministry's HQ in Tripoli, ways to support and develop joint cooperation in the cultural fields.

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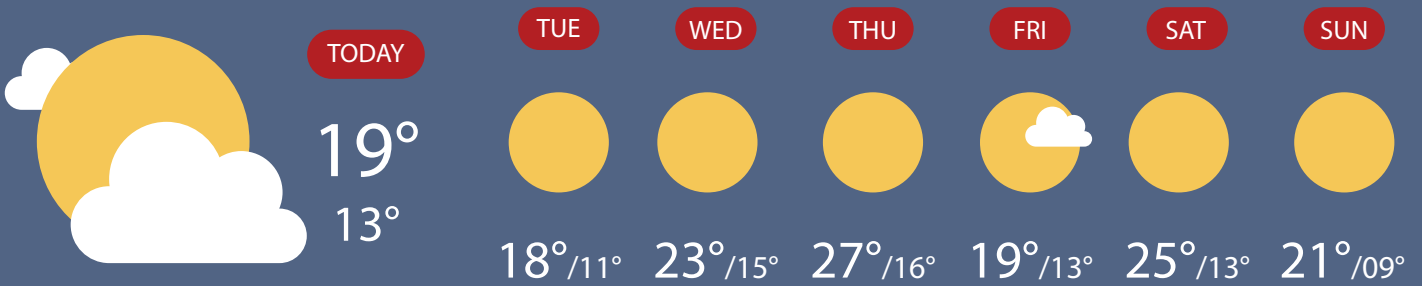
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Photo of the Week



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