

## Politics

### US Africa Command: 2000 Russian Wagner mercenaries fighting for Haftar in Libya



The Head of the public relations department of the AFRICOM Nicole Kirschmann said there are 2000 Russian Wagner Group mercenaries fighting for Khalifa Haftar in Libya.

She told Libyan "February TV" that the heavy presence of the Russian mercenaries in the region destabilizes Africa, adding that Libya needs a political solution rather than the escalation of the mercenaries.

Yevgeny Prigozhin-owned Wagner Group has been backing up Haftar's forces against the internationally recognized Government of National Accord throughout 14-month offensive against Tripoli. Prigozhin is close to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Meanwhile, the US Congress said it was mulling a bill that incriminates and calls for sanctions against Russian Wagner Group owner who poses threats to US national security and that of its allies.

The US Congress bill says Russian Wagner Group has supported Khalifa Haftar and his forces by providing mercenaries, artillery, tanks, drones, and ammunition, with Yevgeniy Prigozhin personally attending a meeting between Haftar and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu in Moscow on November 07, 2018.

It added that a United Nations report, made public on May 06, 2020, concluded that Wagner Group had operated up to 1,200 military contractors in Libya, including snipers and specialized military teams, serving as "an effective force multiplier" for Haftar's forces.

## Politics

### Warlord Haftar's deputy prime minister demands Israeli help to fight Turkey



So-called deputy prime minister of Haftar-controlled eastern Libya government, Abdul Salam Al Badri, has called on Israel to help fight what he called "our joint enemy – Erdogan."

In an interview with Israeli newspaper Makor Rishon, Badri sent a message to the Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying: "We have never been enemies and we hope you will support us."

He also called on Israel to launch a political initiative in cooperation with Greece, Cyprus, Egypt and Lebanon to sign a joint maritime agreement, similar to the maritime border agreement signed between Turkey and the Libyan Government of National Accord in Tripoli.

## Politics

### Haftar says his forces have withdrawn from cities to fight in the desert



After humiliating defeats over the last weeks, especially the loss of southern Tripoli and Tarhouna, Khalifa Haftar issued a statement through his General Command saying his forces' withdrawal was to protect civilians and to avoid destruction in cities, saying they will now fight in the desert and in the open.

The statement, which didn't bear his signature, said the General Command had decided to restructure the main operations room with appointments of new qualified officers who can adapt to the ever-shifting battles.

"The management of military operations will be much better in the coming period as part of a new firm strategy that is backed by the armed forces, civilian authorities, and the people from all tribes." The statement reads.

It adds that after Haftar's forces "succeeded in liberation of Tripoli battle, Turkish intervention turned the war on terrorism to an international war with local slogans."

Haftar's forces and Russian Wagner Group mercenaries are still positioned inside Sirte as GNA forces' reinforcements lie some few kilometers away awaiting orders to advance on both Sirte and Jufra, according to GNA's liberation room in the area.

## Politics

### Libyan Army under GNA's command cuts off main supply line for Haftar's forces

The Libyan Army forces under the command of the Government of National Accord (GNA) said it had seized a major supply line for Khalifa Haftar's forces used to transfer fighters and military equipment to Tarhouna and then to south Tripoli.

The media office of Volcano of Rage Operation said GNA forces had seized 350 km long road between south and west Libya used by Haftar's forces to prop up their war on Tripoli with either mercenaries, fighters or military equipment and fuel.

The line starts from Al-Shuwairif town in northern Sabha and then goes in three directions toward Nessma, Marssit and Garyat towns as it then goes toward Bani Walid, Tarhouna and southern Tripoli.

The announcement comes as a potential military operation to seize Sirte and Jufra is underway, while Haftar's forces and his supporters are pushing for a resumption of political process to reach a ceasefire before the GNA's control of the two strategic cities.

Egypt, France and UAE are ramping up their diplomatic efforts to push for the ceasefire, as Egypt's Abdel Fattah El Sisi talked to US President Donald Trump to inform him of his country's Cairo Declaration initiative.

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Politics

## Turkey: Egypt's Initiative to save Haftar is "still-born"

Turkey has rejected the Egyptian initiative proposed to establish a ceasefire in Libya, saying through its Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu that the initiative aims to rescue Khalifa Haftar, but it is a stillborn initiative.

Speaking to Hürriyet newspaper in Turkey, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu doubted the "sincerity" of the Cairo Declaration, citing recently intensified aggression against Libya's UN-recognized government by putschist Khalifa Haftar, who is supported by Egypt.

Çavuşoğlu questioned the current motives of Haftar, whom he said previously refused all ceasefire efforts but suddenly made a joint statement in favor of a truce with Egypt after recent advances by the government.

He also indicated that amid recent victories of the Government of National Accord (GNA), Egypt and Haftar are calling for a truce as Haftar began to lose on the ground.

"This is neither convincing nor sincere. Cease-fire efforts in Cairo are stillborn," the Turkish Foreign Minister said, adding that if a consensus is reached on a platform where everyone comes together under the umbrella of the United Nations, that ceasefire will be credible and permanent.

Referring to earlier ceasefire efforts by Turkey and Russia, he said he spoke to his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on Monday about Libya, and both countries agreed to hold political consultations on the issue.

He also said that Erdogan and US President Donald Trump tasked both countries' defense and intelligence officials to review steps to tackle the issues in Libya.

On Monday, Erdogan said he had agreed with Trump on "some issues" about Libya and that GNA would continue fighting till it controls Sirte and Jufra airbase.

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Politics

## Head of High Council of State says Egypt's rulers won't have "military stunt" in Libya

The Head of the Libyan High Council of State (HCS) Khalid Al-Mishri has ruled out the possibility that Egypt will have a military adventure in Libya to support Khalifa Haftar, saying Egypt's interior policies can't handle a Yemen-like Abdel Nasser-era scenario.

Al-Mishri told Al Jazeera that GNA considers such news as unconfirmed as there isn't any official statements about Egyptian Army presence near the Libyan border, adding that Cairo fears that security violations can take place on its borders after the defeats of Haftar's forces, which include mercenaries from Sudan, and that the reinforcements inside Egyptian soil are Cairo's owned right.

He said the Egyptian initiative, which was rejected by the GNA, means that Cairo is approaching Libya peacefully not militarily.

"The Egyptian administration won't go for the option of entering Libya but for improving its relations with it and with the GNA. If Egypt entered Libya, the situation will get complicated and it will cost Cairo a lot, a thing it can't bear in terms of security and economy," Al-Mishri said.

"However, Egypt isn't looking for direct escalation in Libya even if it's a staunch supporter of Haftar. If such a thing happened, eastern Libyan nationals can turn against Cairo." He added.



Politics

## Turkish demining experts start removing mines planted by Haftar's forces in south Tripoli

A Turkish demining team of experts started to remove mines and IEDs planted by Khalifa Haftar's forces in south Tripoli, Tarhouna and other areas, according to the Libyan Foreign Ministry.

The Ministry said that Minister Mohammed Sayala met with the Turkish ambassador to Libya and discussed the work of the Turkish demining experts, in addition to reviewing cooperation between the two countries and the latest developments in Libya.

Turkish ambassador said Turkey will always stand by Libyan legitimate government and people as per all international laws and UN Security Council resolutions on Libya.

Anadolu Agency reported that demining experts from the Turkish Armed Forces on Thursday started clearing civilian areas in Libya, adding that the move comes upon the request of the Libyan government to ensure the safe return of civilians to their homes located in areas liberated from Haftar's forces.

It added that the Turkish demining experts and Turkish Special Forces started work to ensure security and a return to normalcy in such areas.

Meanwhile, a government committee for human rights said 34 people were killed and 50 others injured so far in mine explosions in areas liberated from Haftar's forces.

Politics

## US court hears Libya war crimes case against Haftar

Two Libyan families have lodged their case against Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar, who also holds a US citizenship, to an American court on Friday, in an effort to hold him accountable for atrocities committed in the conflict in Libya.

The Virginia Federal Court heard the two Libyan families' representatives Muna Al-Suyid and Abdullah Al-Kershiny, who filed the lawsuit against Haftar, whose lawyers did not appear at the first hearing in Alexandria, Virginia, which dealt mainly with procedural questions, such as determining service and damages, according to The Associated Press.

AP added that the judge could soon grant a default judgment, as Haftar and his sons failed to respond to the suit by the deadline.

It also said, citing the plaintiffs' lawyers, that Haftar's connections and properties in suburban Virginia give the federal court jurisdiction to prosecute his offenses.

The families seek up to \$85 million in damages from Haftar and his two sons, Khalid and Saddam, who helped lead his 2014 offensive in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi, the report adds.

Meanwhile, former political adviser to Haftar, Mohammed Buisier, said on Facebook that deciphering the American equation is simply taking Haftar out of the conflict into criminal investigation.

Separately, The United States Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Bureau at the State Department, David Schenker, said Washington was investigating and trying to get to the bottom of reports that Khalifa Haftar's plane was in the Venezuelan capital Caracas last week as part of an attempt to secure an oil deal.

Speaking at a teleconference, David Schenker said the allegations were concerning and added that US and United Nations sanctions applied to those exporting Libyan oil outside legal auspices of Libya's National Oil Corporation, according to Reuters.



Politics

## Turkey plans to set up two military bases in Libya

Turkey is planning to set up two military bases in Libya after the victory of Libyan Army forces under the command of the Government of National Accord and liberation of south Tripoli and other western region areas from Khalifa Haftar's forces.

Yeni Safak newspaper in Turkey said, citing military sources, Ankara and Tripoli's cooperation is becoming more thorough as Al-Watiya airbase is being re-operated for Turkey, adding that Ankara will put anti-aircraft systems and drones inside Al-Watiya airbase, as they proved successful in operations against Haftar's forces.

It also said that rebuilding projects have already begun as Turkey is willing to provide massive contributions to reconstruct the destruction caused by the nine-year war.

It also indicated that oil drilling and exploration activities are going to start as well between Ankara and Libya, in addition to giving Turkey another military base in Misrata, according to Yeni Safak.

It said Turkey worked to resolve the Libyan conflict using not only ground and air forces but also the naval force, creating a naval missions force off the Libyan coast, helping to thwart threats from the sea to the country.

"The tension and Greek provocations in Eastern Mediterranean requires the presence of Turkish naval forces in Libyan territory and that is why Misrata port will be a military base for Ankara." The newspaper added, saying it will have the biggest share in Libyan oil drilling and that is why Turkish ships should be inside Libyan waters.

Politics

## Libya presses international community to prosecute pro-Haftar "Kaniyat" militia



The Attorney General's office on Sunday said it is communicating with the United Nations mission in Libya and the Prosecutor's office of the International Criminal Court (ICC) over the crimes committed by the pro-Haftar militia known as the "Kaniyat".

In a statement, the Attorney General's office pointed out that its move comes in the framework of the joint cooperation with these international bodies related to the investigation of facts and to prosecute the leaders and fighters of the Kaniyat militia.

The statement indicated that orders have been given to arrest the commanders of this militia, including Muhammad Omar al-Kani and his brother Abdel Rahim, in addition to Muhammad al-Shaqaki, Salem Shniba, Hassan Jaballah, and Wasim al-Jarushi.

Victims of this militia will be asked to come forward and give testimony before the Public Prosecutor's Office, says the statement, stressing that investigations will be carried out in strict confidence to protect the witnesses and victims during all stages of the judicial process.

More than 11 mass graves were discovered in the city of Tarhuna and its vicinity since it was liberated from the Kaniyat militia a week ago. The victims included women and children, and some were buried alive, according to the forensic reports.

Opinions

# How Turkey crushed UAE's gambit in Libya

By Mohammad Pervez Bilgrami, a political analyst

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Turkish drones in early April this year successfully carried out strikes on an Antonov military cargo aircraft from the UAE at an airstrip north of Tarhuna city in Libya. The hit was aimed at disrupting the UAE's regular supply of weapons to the warlord Khalifa Haftar's forces attacking the southern Tripoli front line. Since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya is virtually divided into two seats of power: The Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli, which enjoys UN and international recognition but seriously backed only by Turkey, and the other group led by Khalifa Haftar, a renegade general, in eastern Libya backed by United Arab Emirates (UAE) sheikhs, the Egyptian military regime, Russian mercenaries and French leader Emmanuel Macron.

After suspending peace talks with Haftar in February, the GNA successfully launched Peace Storm Operation in response to aggression by Haftar's forces in and around Tripoli. The UAE has been dumping thousands of tonnes in military supplies to support Haftar in violation of a UN Security Council resolution, which bans arms exports to the war-torn country. But these military supplies of heavy and sophisticated equipment, including the Chinese Wing Loong armed drones and Russian Pantsir air defence systems could not win the war for the UAE. The GNA with Turkey's support has launched a counter offensive dubbed, operation Volcano of Rage by killing many of Haftar's fighters, including senior commanders, and destroying the enemy's logistics and weapons supplies. Western Libya has become a graveyard of Pantsir-S1 air defence systems as Turkish drones have destroyed several Russian-made units in Al Watiya and Tarhuna operations.

## UAE's lack of war fighting capacity

One of the main reasons why Abu Dhabi has failed in Libya is its heavy reliance on foreign weapons and mercenaries from Sudan, Chad and Nigeria to fight its war in Libya. The UAE, an amalgamation of seven emirates of around 10 million people of whom more than 90 per cent are foreigners, heavily relies on imported men and machines to play its ego-driven power games. Forget the foreigners, even the UAE's own citizens do not want to die for their sheikhs.

Secondly, Libya is far away from the UAE. Even in Yemen, located so close to them, the UAE and its partner Saudi Arabia have been unable to win the war against Houthi forces. The UAE can burn its petrol money but it can't win long wars because they lack what constitutes national power. The mercenaries it hires are only good for creating terror. They are poorly trained and least motivated to fight a war of attrition. Captured Sudanese mercenaries accused the UAE for recruiting them to work as security guards in the Emirates but deployed them on the Libyan war front.

The fall of strategically important Al Watiya air base and imminent fall of strategic city of Tarhuna has further displayed the lack of war fighting capacity of the UAE at the western Libyan front. To win Libya, the UAE needs the full military commitment from the countries with real national power. The three countries Russia, France and Egypt who are UAE's partners in Libya have the national power and military capacity to fight a long sustained war for Haftar. But why would Russia or France put sophisticated military assets and ground troops in a direct confrontation with Turkey and internationally recognised government of Libya? Egypt, the only East Med basin country seems more content with projecting power close to its land border in Eastern Libya than winning Tripoli for Haftar. Like Pantsirs, a few Soviet-era Mig and Sukhoi fighter jets will not be able to change the course of military advancement of the GNA government in western Libya.

The UAE's ability of creating a chaos, orchestrating coups, bribing politicians, trapping unprincipled government leaders in various traps, is well known but winning wars is different ball game. The long wars cannot be won with the mercenaries whose only motivation is to get monthly wages. But that is not strange in the UAE's case as its own armed forces are full of foreign contractors and mercenaries from the US, Britain, Australia and Latin America. In reality, the UAE is pawn of western war profiteers and mercenary suppliers to grab oil and resources of Arab countries.

## Advantage Turkey

Modern wars are being fought with the armed and reconnaissance drones, electronic jammers, and decoy radars in the battle field. To sustain such wars, Turkey has developed an advanced infrastructure to meet the demand of modern warfare. Turkey also has its own highly trained military personnel to plan and strategize the Libyan war who are also providing training and consultation to the GNA forces. In addition, Turkey has now used some of its Syrian allies under its command structure in the Libyan war theatre. These officers and soldiers have been officially commissioned after rigorous training process.

Turkey has key technological advantage over UAE. Turkey's Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) armed drones TB-2, Anka-B and Anka-S have hit Haftar's forces hard and shifted the balance in favour of GNA. The Anka-S, which is capable of satellite-controlled attack, has proved to be effective in Syrian and Libyan war theatre. Adding to the punch, will be advanced and heavy payload carrying High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) drones Akinci and Aksungur.

### Opinions

In addition to MIM-23 improved Hawk medium-range air defence and Korkut low altitude/very short range air defence systems already deployed to safeguard Tripoli airspace. After successfully operating in Syria, the KORAL radar jammers, the electronic warfare systems that Turkey transferred to Libya in early February, were used to jam Haftar's Pantsir air defence systems. Turkey is also in the process of mass producing Hisar-A short range and Hisar-O medium range air defence system. When ready, they are also expected to be deployed in Libya to further improve the air defence cover over Tripoli and other major cities and enforce a safe fly zone.

Turkey has also deployed the Gabya class Navy frigates to provide air and naval protection support to GNA forces off the coastline between Tripoli and Sabrata since early February. On April 1 for the first time in the Libyan conflict, Turkish frigates fired surface-to-air missiles on LNA drones. Turkey has also deployed Turkish Air Force's Boeing E-7T, flying off the coast to provide signal intelligence to Turkish forces on the ground.

### Diplomatic Manoeuvring

On the diplomatic front, Turkey has roped in Algeria into the Libyan conflict. Turkey and Algeria have already conducted high level meetings focussing on Libyan situation including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's January visit to Algiers and Erdogan's meeting with his Algerian counterpart on the side-lines of the Berlin conference on Libya. Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has stated that Tripoli is the redline not be crossed while receiving GNA head Fayez Al Sarraj in Algiers. Algeria has maintained good relations with both sides of the conflict in neighbouring Libya and can also prove to be a counterweight to al-Sissi's Egypt. Erdogan also made a surprise visit to Tunisia in late December 2019 to discuss developments in Libya. Tunisian President Kais Said has already announced his support to the GNA government in mid-April after GNA forces took control the border crossings with Tunisia.

Turkey's military assistance to the successful GNA military operations will further enhances Turkey's diplomatic outreach to Libya's to key neighbours Algeria and Tunisia. The other major plus for Turkey in the medium and long term is its acceptability in the masses of Libya in general and other Arab streets in particular. Turkish military operation has turned the tables in Libya, Haftar and his foreign backers are now the ones calling for a ceasefire and desperately want to see de-escalation in military activities, while Turkey and GNA are confident and want to clear all of Western Libya from Haftar mercenaries.

Haftar appears to control most of Libya's key oil infrastructure. However, now that his attempts to capture Tripoli have been thwarted by the Libyan government forces, he will look for ways to sabotage oil facilities or hold on to those located near Benghazi and in other eastern parts of Libya, where his militias operate more freely. Losing oil by Haftar means Abu Dhabi will have to share a portion of UAE oil income to sustain the warlord and his militias. The warlord's foreign backers would not mind the country's territorial division as long as they have control over Libya's vast oil resource. Turkey's next move will be directed at stopping the partitioning of the country and prevent Libya becoming a "new Somalia" in the Mediterranean. In the meantime, the countries that did not heed to Turkey and UN-backed Libyan government's call in January's Berlin conference for dialogue to stop Haftar's offensive on Tripoli are now asking for negotiation to end the conflict.

**Credit: This opinion was first published by Agenformedia**

**Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Libya Observer**

### Economy

## Brussels court rules in favour of LIA



The Brussels court ordered on Thursday that frozen assets owned by the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) are not to be transferred outside the Euroclear accounts, after imposing a precautionary attachment on those assets.

The ruling stipulates that the assets which amount to \$ 15 billion USD remain in the Euroclear banks and not to be moved to other accounts under the supervision of the Belgian judiciary. The LIA considered the decision as a "judicial victory."

In a statement yesterday, the LIA explained that the assets were seized as a precautionary measure in the framework of the ongoing investigations.

For his part, the LIA head, Ali Mahmoud, emphasized that they have approached all legal means to preserve these important assets for the benefit of future generations.

The LIA reaffirmed it would continue on with its strategy to protect its assets, the independence of its legal personality, and interests away from the Libyan government, confirming its full commitment to the sanctions imposed by the Security Council.

### Economy

## Grand Mufti prohibits buying goods from UAE, Egypt, and Jordan



The Grand Mufti of Libya Sheikh Al-Sadiq Al-Gharyani has issued a fatwa prohibiting purchasing goods from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, and Egypt, considering that every dollar paid to these countries "is a bullet in the chest of our sons".

The fatwa published on the Libyan Fatwa House's official Facebook page stated "It is not permissible to buy goods from the UAE, Jordan, Egypt or any other country that is hostile to us," explaining that trading with these countries will make them even stronger while the money they earn will be used against the Libyan people.

Instead, the Grand Mufti urged the Ministry of Economy and traders to import all goods from Turkey for standing with the Libyan people in its crisis.

Earlier, he called the government to cut ties with the UAE, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and France for backing warlord Haftar's war on Tripoli.

Health

## A woman undergoes successful surgery at Tripoli Hospital to remove a brain tumor



Doctors of the Neurosurgery and Spine Department at the Tripoli University Hospital have performed a surgery to remove a tumor for a 35-year-old patient, the media office of the hospital said in a statement on Facebook yesterday.

The woman has been complaining of a chronic headache and poor eyesight throughout the past period. After undergoing examinations she was diagnosed with "Large frontal base "Meningioma", a large tumor in the front part of the head, according to the hospital.

The head of the Neurosurgery and Spine Department, Dr. Faisal bin Talib who conducted the nine-hour surgery explained that it was one of the most complicated operations to be performed in the hospital, confirming that the patient was sent home and is resuming normal life after achieving full recovery.



Health

## NCDC receives a new apparatus to detect the Coronavirus rapidly

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced the provision of a testing device for the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) to detect the Coronavirus, which provides rapid testing for 5000 samples.

The Sustainable Development Management Department of the NOC clarified that the apparatus was secured through the Italian company ENI and was intended to assist the NCDC with testing of samples received by its laboratory from all across Libya.

1,200 rapid plastic test kits were also delivered to the NCDC.

Life

## Tajoura Municipality renames seaside road to 'Suleiman the Magnificent'



The Municipality of Tajoura has decided to name one of its main seaside roads, located in the Hamidiya area, as 'Suleiman the Magnificent Road' in commemoration of the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.

The Mayor, Hussein Bin Attiya said that this step comes to celebrate this great historical figure who sent troops and leaders, amongst whom was one of the most important figures in Libyan history, the Ottoman leader, Murad Agha, who assisted the people of Tripoli in liberating their city.

Bin Attiya confirmed that the road, which begins at the lighthouse of the Hamidiyya 'Al-Fanar' and leads to the roundabout named Jazeerat Esban, a region where the Spanish soldiers landed when they occupied Tripoli in the year 1510.

It is worth noting that in excess of 5000 Libyans lost their lives in the Spanish conquest of Tripoli, whilst thousands more were taken as captives, however, with the help of Suleiman the Magnificent, Tripoli was subsequently liberated from the Spanish rule in the year 1551.

Crimes

## Interior Ministry nabs thieves robbing houses in liberated neighborhoods



The Interior Ministry of the Government of National Accord (GNA) has arrested thieves taking advantage of the loose security in liberated neighborhoods in Tarhouna, southern Tripoli and Qasir Benghazi.

The Interior Ministry seized with the thieves a number of stolen items and referred them to security operations apparatus for legal procedures.

The Interior Ministry said it will continue to exact security and stability in all neighborhoods and secure the private and public properties.

Western, Tripoli and Central military zones formed Monday a joint military force to aide the security apparatuses of the Interior Ministry in securing all freed neighborhoods and detaining the looters and robbers who drive military vehicles claiming they are part of Volcano of Rage Operation.

Social media posts showed lots of stolen items, including cars and electronic equipment that have all been confiscated by the Interior Ministry security personnel.

On Saturday, the Interior Ministry launched a security operation "Safe Country" to prevail stability in areas liberated from Khalifa Haftar's forces.

Life

## Volunteers launch campaign to restore damaged homes of IDPs



A group of youths launched an initiative named "Lamit Khut" meaning "brothers to lend a hand" aimed at helping IDPs to piece things back together and restart their lives.

The campaign was well-received attracting more than 100,000 followers on Facebook within an hour of its release, with some offering money, their skills, and free services according to their profession. As the guns fell silent in Tripoli following the defeat of Haftar's militias, many of the displaced residents rushed back to their neighborhoods. Several of them documented their first moments when approaching their homes on social media; sharing their shock, tears, and grief as they witnessed their life savings and years of hard work reduced to rubble.

A man in his fifties is trying desperately to hold back his tears as he makes his way through the wreckage of what once was his home.








Other videos and images kept pouring onto social media showing returnees wandering forlorn among piles of their possessions. In some neighbourhoods, entire buildings have been levelled.

Libya's social media was awash with posts expressing immense anger and grief on the high cost in blood and humanitarian situation Libyans had to pay because -in the words of commenters- of "a power-crazed megalomaniac who launched endless military campaigns to seize power".

weather

### Tripoli Weather Forecast



Fri 19	37°/29°		Sunny	0%	E 23 km/h
Sat 20	29°/20°		Sunny	0%	WNW 26 km/h
Sun 21	27°/20°		Sunny	0%	NW 23 km/h
Mon 22	28°/19°		Sunny	10%	NW 22 km/h
Tue 23	28°/20°		Sunny	10%	NNW 18 km/h
Wed 24	29°/21°		Sunny	0%	NE 20 km/h
Thu 25	31°/23°		Sunny	0%	ENE 24 km/h

### Photo of the Week



Features

## Libya's 1967 prime minister Abdul-Qader Al-Badri



Apart from his role in political life, Abdul-Qader Al-Badri was generous, well-mannered, and a loving son for his mother.

He assumed office as prime minister in the 1st of July 1967 during a crucial period of Libya's modern history before he resigned in October of the same year making way for the Minister of Justice, Abdul Hamid Al-Bakoush.

Abdul-Qader Abdul-Qader Al-Badri who was named after his father was born in 1921, in the district of "Al-Militaniya" of the small town of Abyar east of Benghazi where he lived a simple rural childhood.

Although fatherless and raised in poverty, he was a "strong character" that assumed family responsibility from an early age, as his father died before he drew his first breath and left him with a widowed mother to care for.

He received his primary education at a religious school like many of his peers at that time, and got engaged in farming and other trade activities, where he proved most successful in the business world and managed to create a fortune, to become one of the wealthiest of Benghazi's society in his thirties.

Al-Badri who grew up as a single child with no brothers or sisters had 33 children from several marriages, including 18 boys and 15 girls, making "a dream come true" for his mother who was always praying to see him have a big family of his own.

He won parliament elections of the Cyrenaica government in 1950 by acclamation and maintained his position as an MP for his hometown Al-Abyar since the independence of Libya.

Al-Badri was among sixteen deputies who opposed the Libyan-British Treaty in 1953, which made him one of the main opposition leaders in the National Assembly.

He assumed several ministerial positions and continued to climb the ranks of the government serving at the head of the ministries of health, industry, jobs, housing, and government property until he took the office of Prime Minister in 1967.

In the 1960s, he built the largest and most luxurious mosque in Benghazi at the time, but all his properties were vandalized and confiscated as the new rulers took over the country by a military coup in 1969.

Al-Badri was harassed, intimidated, arrested, and interrogated after Gaddafi's coup, he was also forbidden to travel and put under the supervision of the Gaddafi regime's intelligence services.

His son "Isam" was executed in 1987 by the so-called Revolutionary Committees "Lijan Thawria", which were licensed by Gaddafi to prosecute all those suspected of opposing his regime.

Isam was arrested among a large group of youths for allegedly assassinating a member of the Revolutionary Committee, Ahmed Wirfalli, a Gaddafi's favorite known for his fearsome reputation for brutality towards Gaddafi's opponents.

Wirfalli was responsible for the torturing and killing of teachers and students including activists in the student movement, among them Ahmad Makhoul and Naji Buhweya who were reportedly torched to death under his command.

The ruthless scenes of the execution were broadcasted live on Libyan TV state on 17 February 1987.

Abdul-Qader Al-Badri died on the 13th of February 2003 and was buried at his birthplace in the Al-Militaniya region east of Benghazi.

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