



Security Council

Topic 1: The Lybian civil war

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1. Definition of Key Terms

GNC: is the General National Congress(GNC), which won the popular vote in 2012 elections. The GNC was made of two major political groups, the National Forces Alliance (NFC) and the Justice and Construction Party (JCP).

LNA: The Libyan National Army, formally known as "Libyan Arab Armed Forces", was gradually formed by General Khalifa Haftar as he fought in what he named Operation Dignity.



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Libya Shield: The Libya Shield Force supports the Islamists. Its forces are divided geographically, into the Western Shield, Central Shield and Eastern Shield. Elements of the Libya Shield Force were identified by some observers as linked to Al-Qaeda as early as 2012.

UNSMIL: The **United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL)** is a United Nations (UN) advanced mission in Libya, created in the aftermath of the Libyan Civil War. UNSMIL is a political mission, not a military mission. The main elements of its mandate defined by the UN include supporting Libyan transitional authorities in "post-conflict efforts", providing mediation in implementing Libyan political agreements, supporting key Libyan institutions and monitoring and reporting on human rights.^[1] UNSMIL is led by the UN Department of Political Affairs.^[2]

Libya Sanctions Committee: The UNSC's **Libya Sanctions Committee** has the power to designate vessels for the purposes of the **Libya sanctions** regime to prohibit transactions with crude oil illicitly exported from **Libya** aboard a designated vessel and bunking services (the provision of fuel, supplies or other servicing) for a designated vessel.

Arab Spring: The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Arab world in the early 2010s.

GNC: Government of National Accord

HoR: House of Representatives

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Muslim Brotherhood: The Society of the Muslim Brothers , better known as the Muslim Brotherhood, is a transnational Sunni **Islamist** organization founded in Egypt.

2. Introduction

The Second Libyan Civil War is one of the major ongoing wars in the world.

The question on the issue of Libya has been discussed several times in the Security Council, which has passed over 20 resolutions regarding this topic.



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It is clear that the current situation is unbearable and unacceptable. Citizens are forced to live under leaders who deliberately choose to ignore their human rights.

The Un needs to urgently make both sides come to an agreement and ensure a stable peace, or else the already tense circumstances might degenerate even more.

3. Background Information

Up until the Second World War, Libya was one of Italy's colonies. After the end of the conflict, the country came under the control of France and the United Kingdom, until its independence on January 1, 1952.

Thus was born the Kingdom of Libya, a monarchy led by King Idris which, however, accused of being corrupt and too pro-Western, fell in 1969 at the hands of a coup led by Colonel Mu'ammarr Gaddafi.

Gaddafi's initial revolutionary socialism soon gave way to a real dictatorship. He was then killed in 2011, during the Arab Spring, with the intervention of NATO.

Despite NATO's involvement in military operations to free Libya from the dictatorship, the country after 2011 was left to itself, creating a violent and tumultuous environment, without a real central power and without police force to stop the advance of jihadist groups on the territory.

There were various attempts to restore Libya to a democratic order, such as the 2012 elections, but the Islamist parties still managed to take control of the elected parliament, imposing their ideologies of a political Islam to lead the country. This created a new general discontent in the country, but above all a political immobility, which allowed the advance of the jihadist groups that started building a Caliphate.

In 2014 Khalifa Haftar ,a general, after the death of Gaddafi, gained popularity in the eastern part of the country (Cyrenaica region) thanks to his ambition to completely eliminate the issue of jihadist terrorism in the region. Haftar publicly threatened a coup d'état, with the aim of driving away those who,



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according to him, were the main destabilizers of the country, namely the members of the Muslim brotherhood. However, the government managed to keep its office, so Haftar tried to put together some militias and some armed groups. He founded a proper army, the one that a few years later became known as the Libyan National Army. General Haftar started a series of military offensives known as Operation Dignity, with the purpose of freeing the most important cities in the eastern side of Libya such as Benghazi, Derna and other important centers of Cyrenaica, from the Islamist presence.

In the same year, new elections took place because of the threat of the coup by Haftar. A new parliament was elected by popular vote, the House of Representatives, which moved for political reasons from Tripoli to Tobruk, a city on the coast of Cyrenaica. This was a strategic position for Haftar since it guaranteed its military protection.

Meanwhile, the old Islamic majority, which was defeated in the new elections, congregated in Tripoli, proclaiming itself a legitimate parliament and electing a new president and a new prime minister.

Thereby Libya then found itself divided in two: on the one hand there was the government chaired by the HoR, duly elected and based in Cyrenaica which had the military support of Haftar and on the other hand a self-proclaimed Islamic government in Tripoli, which had the support of armed groups and Islamic militias.

In 2015, the international community set itself the goal of promoting a Libyan unitary government, since it was the only solution to eradicate terrorism and immigration, but above all to stop the internal divisions in the country that had caused a second civil war. In October the two Libyan factions, the parliament of Tobruk and the members of the Congress of Tripoli, got together with the UN in Morocco to come to an agreement and establish peace again.

Fayez Al-Sarrāj is named for the role of prime minister of the new Libyan government, unanimously recognized by the UN Security Council. Serraj formed his government, the GNA or government of national agreement, which, however, did not win the trust of the HoR. The HoR and the GNA are, as to this day, still in competition for the control and export of Libyan oil, an



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important and fundamental resource of the country, and for the offensives against ISIS.

One of the first acts of Fayed Al Serraj's government is the request of international help to remove ISIS from Cyrenaica. He obtained multiple successes with several offensives in 2016, however it was clear how the GNA did not have enough resources to control the territory. In fact, Serraj's GNA will never be able to strengthen its authority, especially due to the lack of support from General Haftar who will never recognize the legitimacy of the government allocated by the UN.

At the beginning of 2018, Libya and its international allies are divided as the following:

- The legitimate UN government of Al-Serraj and the GNA, based in Tripoli, supported by the international community and diplomatically by Italy (interested in reducing migration through agreements with Tripoli) from Qatar and Turkey.
- Haftar and his army, the Libyan National Army (LNA) which controls Cyrenaica (based first in Tobruk and then in Benghazi) and is supported by Russia (which thus had the opportunity to get closer economically and militarily to Europe), France (which sees Haftar as a champion for the elimination of terrorism), Egypt (ally to fight ISIS) and the United Arab Emirates (for oil interests).
- The Fezzan, an area south of Libya, characterized by the presence of numerous tribes and brotherhoods, as well as armed militias, who compete for control of trade routes, migration and oil fields.

Despite the numerous conferences to arrive at a diplomatic agreement the situation began to escalate resulting in a real armed conflict between the two parties.

In April 2019, General Haftar's troops began to advance west, getting to less than one hundred kilometers from Tripoli, with the aim of military conquest of the Libyan capital. The reaction of the two factions was immediate: the GNA



halted the enemy advance with aerial bombardments, while the UN called for a ceasefire on both sides.

The war, however, soon entered a decisive phase of stalemate, as on both sides there was a lack of resources to continue fighting.

The cards on the table changed when Turkey entered the War alongside Al-Serraj, thanks to a military and maritime agreement signed in November 2019, in which Turkey is granted the exclusive rights to exploit oil areas in the Mediterranean. In the last days of the year, General Haftar planned a new attack to the capital, declared as the "final battle" for the control of Tripoli, while the GNA declared itself ready to reject yet another conquest attempt.



4. Major Parties Involved

- Libya (site of the civil war)
- Italy (diplomatic supporter of the GNA)
- Turkey (GNA ally)
- Qatar (GNA ally)
- Russia (LNA ally)
- France (LNA ally)
- Egypt (LNA ally)



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- United Arab Emirates (LNA ally)

5. Timeline of Events

- 2011→ Fall of the Gaddafi dictatorship
- 2012→ Elections
- 2012→ Division of the country and birth of the Caliphate
- 2014→ Haftar founds the LNA
- 2014→ Operation Dignity
- 2015→ Second Elections
- 2015→ Fayed Al-Sarrāj is named for the role of prime minister of the new Libyan government
- 2016→ Al-Sarrāj offences against ISIS take place
- 2016→ Battle of Sirte
- 2017→ Battle of Benghazi
- 2018→ Battle of Dema
- 2018→ Battle of Tripoli
- 2019→ Attacks start from both factions
- 2019→ Turkey enter the war

5. UN Involvement

The Security Council has passed numerous resolutions regarding the Libyan Civil war. Here is a list of the most significant ones:

1. Resolution 1973 - Regarding the protection of civilians in Libya and the enforcement of the arms embargo



2. Resolution 1970 - Regarding a demand of an immediate end to the violence in Libya
3. Human Rights Council resolution - Regarding recent human rights violations
4. Resolution 2009 - Regarding the establishment of a three-month mandate period for the UNSMIL and change the regime of sanctions
5. Resolution 2017 - Regarding the non-proliferation of arms
6. Resolution 2022 - Regarding the extension of the UNSMIL mandate
7. Resolution 2040 - Regarding the extension of the UNSMIL mandate by other 12 months
8. Resolution 2095 - Regarding the extension of the UNSMIL mandate by 12 months
9. Resolution 2146 - Regarding measures on vessels designated by the 1970 Libya Sanctions Committee
10. Resolution 2174 - Regarding the imposition of sanctions on individuals and entities obstructing the completion of political transitions
11. Resolution 2208 - Regarding the measures on vessels transporting crude oil illicitly
12. Resolution 2213 - Regarding the renewing of the UNSMIL mandate
13. Resolution 2214 - Regarding counter-terrorism efforts
14. Resolution 2240 - Regarding the authorisation of interdiction of vessels used for migrant smuggling or human trafficking
15. Resolution 2268 - Regarding the renewment of the sanctions regime for a year
16. Resolution 2298 - Regarding the transfer and destruction of Libya's category 2 chemical weapons outside of the country
17. Resolution 2323 - Regarding the renewment of the UNSMIL mandate
18. Resolution 2542 - Regarding the renewing of the UNSMIL mandate



7. Official Documents and Treaties about the Issue

❖ Skhirat Agreement (17 December 2015)

Representatives from throughout the country came together to negotiate an agreement. The agreement ensures the democratic rights of the Libyan people and the need of a consensual government based on the principle of the separation of powers.

❖ Palermo Conference (12-13 November 2018)

The Palermo conference was a two-day conference organized by the Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to discuss the UN policy in regard to Libya.

8. Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Over the years, there have been several attempts to address the ongoing conflict. The most relevant ones are:

- EUFOR Libya
- Libyan Political Agreement

8. Useful Links

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/libya.php>

https://media.africaportal.org/documents/libya_formatted_final_21.02.2018.pdf

https://menarights.org/sites/default/files/2016-12/LBY_Political%20Agreement_ENG_0.pdf

<https://unsmil.unmissions.org/security-council-resolutions-and-statements>

<https://libya.liveuamap.com> <https://peacemaker.un.org>



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