

**Forum:** Security Council

**Issue:** The Situation in Libya

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## Introduction

The nation of Libya, once filled with wealth, rich heritage and culture, has turned into a battlefield with bloodshed since 2019. The Libyan Civil War began in 2011 as an armed conflict between forces loyal to Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and rebel groups seeking to oust his government. This conflict was inspired by the Arab Spring revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia.

From 2014 to 2020, the war evolved into a multilateral civil conflict fought between different armed groups, primarily the House of Representatives (HoR) based in Tobruk and the Government of National Accord (GNA) based in Tripoli. The military situation in Libya as of June 2020 showed areas under the control of the HoR and the Libyan National Army (LNA), as well as areas under the control of the GNA and different militias forming the Libya Shield Force.

A ceasefire was declared on 23 October 2020. Despite attempts by Khalifa Haftar, leader of the LNA, to conquer Tripoli, these efforts were unsuccessful. The ceasefire led to the formation of a new Government of National Accord (GNA) on 10 March 2021, marking a significant step towards unifying the country.

Despite these developments, the Libyan Crisis continues with various local and foreign actors still involved. The political landscape remains complex, with shifting alliances and ongoing negotiations for a more stable and peaceful Libya.

In addition to this, it's worth noting that Libya's rich oil reserves have played a significant role in shaping the conflict. Various factions have sought control over these resources, adding another layer of complexity to the situation. The international community continues to monitor developments closely, hoping for a resolution that will bring lasting peace and stability to Libya.

Additionally, there has been a deathly flood in the country, causing the death of over 11,000 Libyans, and 10,000 others to go missing. This was caused by Storm Daniel, which also left a lot of infrastructure and homes destroyed in the city of Derna. However, these numbers have been disputed by the Libyan Red Crescent, which has denied the UN's claim that the death toll was as high as 11,300.

These displaced citizens are now in need of food, shelter, medicine, and other basic necessities. 2 of the main dams in Libya have also collapsed as a result of the floods, which further exacerbated the situation by increasing the volume of water in the floods.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

### **Libyan Civil War**

The war within the nation of Libya with 3 primary factions fighting for governance of Libya. These 3 parties are the GNA, LNA, and the HoR, with each of them fighting for governance of Libya. This had occurred after the death of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, which caused a power struggle in the country.

### **Government of National Accord (GNA)**

The GNA is a government that was formed in December of 2015, and was a UN-led initiative under the terms of the Libyan Political Agreement. They are one of the 3 factions involved in the Libyan Civil War, and are led by Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj. This is the only recognized government of Libya by the United Nations, however its efforts of unifying the country have been unsuccessful.

### Libyan National Army (LNA)

Originating as a military coup against General Gaddafi, this faction of the Libyan Civil War occupies the eastern side of Libya, with its capital being the city of Tobruk. The LNA is led by General Khalifa Haftar and parts of the House of Representatives. Their main foreign supporters include the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Russia.

### Arab Spring

A series of anti-government protests in the early 2010's originating in Libya due to poor quality of life in the country. The protests then spread to other African countries such as Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, etc.

### North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

NATO has intervened in the situation in Libya by acting as a biased mediator towards the rebel's regime. They introduced policies in hopes to bring peace to the region, including a no-fly zone over the nation. However, despite the immediate end to Qaddafi's human rights violations, NATO's intervention has been criticized for the ongoing instability in Libya.

### Muammar al-Qaddafi

Muammar al-Qaddafi was the dictator in Libya from 1969 until his assassination in 2011. His regime was overthrown by a military coup in 2010, which led to his assassination in 2011, which further led to the Libyan civil war. His political theories were similar to those of extremist Islamic organizations, and he had been rumored to be a member of the Islamic Brotherhood prior to his governance.

### Tripoli

The capital city of Libya which is now occupied by the GNA.

## Operation Dignity

In May 2014, General Khalifa Haftar, the military general of Libya, launched an attack on behalf of the LNA against Islamic extremist groups.

## Storm Daniel

The storm that caused mass flooding in Libya, resulting in over 11,000 deaths, 10,000 injured, and over 30,000 displaced & without a home.

## Key Issues

### Civil War/Power Struggle

Ever since the assassination of Muammar al-Gaddafi in 2011, there has been a power struggle in the country which has led to multiple different parties such as the LNA and GNA to resort to violence. This issue has also led to multiple human rights violations of the citizens of Libya, which has been condemned by many international organizations. Furthermore, inflation rates in the nation have soared higher than before, and so has poverty.

### Power Vacuum

As mentioned, the power vacuum in the nation has left the citizens in despair. The 2 main factions - the LNA and GNA - have been fighting for governance ever since 2011. This has led to a poor quality of life for the citizens of the country, causing multiple different protests as well. The GNA is recognized by the United Nations.

### Human Rights Violations

Under the rule of both governments, they have abused the human rights of their citizens in one way or the other. For example, the LNA has resorted to forcing their citizens to convert to Islam, and has also been rumored to have connections to Islamic extremist groups in Africa. Furthermore, a lot of their

citizen's right to food and water has been taken away by their government to assert their dominance in the nation as a dictator.

### **Inflation and Poverty**

Due to basic economics, the nation's GDP has decreased significantly due to the power struggle, including a massive reduction in exports in the country. Since the nation's main source of income has been reduced, so has their GDP and thus leading to high levels of inflation, and in the long term there will be unemployment and poverty. It is important to note that Libya has a rich oilfield, therefore a reduction in their exports to superpowers such as the USA will have a significant impact on their economy.

### **Intensive Flooding (Storm Daniel)**

The floods in the country in September 2023 have left a devastating impact on the lives of the Libyans. Over 11,000 lives have been lost due to the intensive flooding, over 10,000 have been injured, and 30,000 people have been displaced and left without a home. Many humanitarian organizations such as UNESCO and other UN bodies have sent for aid in the region, as well as the allies of Libya. However, the power struggle in the country has made the process of humanitarian aid reaching the victims much slower, and inadequate healthcare and general aid to their citizens. Additionally, a lot of homes and infrastructure has been lost, leading to homelessness and poverty.

### **Major Parties Involved and Their Views**

#### **GNA**

The GNA is a government that was formed in December of 2015, and was a UN-led initiative under the terms of the Libyan Political Agreement. They are one of the 3 factions involved in the Libyan Civil War, and are led by Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj. This is the only recognized government of Libya by the United Nations, however its efforts of unifying the country have been unsuccessful.

## LNA

Originating as a military coup against General Gaddafi, this faction of the Libyan Civil War occupies the eastern side of Libya, with its capital being the city of Tobruk. The LNA is led by General Khalifa Haftar and is supported by the House of Representatives. Their main foreign supporters include the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Russia.

## House of Representatives (HoR)

The HoR is a legislature created in 2014 against the GNA, and siding with the LNA. It acts as the council of the country, creating and debating new policies to be implemented in the country. It was supported by the LNA and was originally based in Tripoli; however, they relocated to Tobruk after the military coups in Tripoli.

## United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The United Arab Emirates strongly sides with the LNA and has openly expressed their alliance with them. In fact, they have sent them humanitarian aid, ammunition, and other monetary aid. Its main political stance on the issue is to mitigate terrorism and extremist islamic groups in the region in particular. This is evident as they view the Muslim Brotherhood as an extremist organization, similar to how LNA views it, and are providing them with aid to eradicate these non-state actors.

## Russia

Russia is supporting the LNA side of the civil war, and is backed by the HoR. Russia has allegedly sent ammunition and mercenaries to the LNA rebellions, which has been condemned by international humanitarian organizations to avoid starting a proxy war. Additionally, the support of Russia in this civil war has led to the significant uprising in the LNA region, in addition to an increase of activity in islamic extremist groups.

## Turkey

Turkey is backed by the GNA and has also had allegations of sending ammunition and mercenaries to them. Turkey mainly has economic incentives to support the GNA, primarily because of the oil in the region.

### Development of Issue/Timeline

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>1969</b>	Muammar Gaddafi's Coup	Gaddafi overthrows King Idris I and establishes the Libyan Arab Republic.
<b>March-April 2011</b>	Start of First Libyan Civil War	The conflict began with protests against Gaddafi's regime, which escalated into a civil war.
<b>20th October 2011</b>	Death of Muammar Gaddafi	Muammar Gaddafi's regime ended when rebel forces captured and killed him in his hometown, leading to a power struggle. This marked an end of the first civil war, and the National Transitional Council was appointed as the new government.
<b>16th May 2014</b>	Start of the 2nd Civil War	Operation Dignity was launched by General Khalifa Haftar

<b>17th December 2015</b>	Signing of the Libyan Political Agreement	The agreement establishes Government of National Accord (GNA), however the power struggle still persists
<b>27th July 2017</b>	Battle of Benghazi Ends	The LNA takes back the land of Benghazi from islamic extremist groups
<b>28th June 2018</b>	Battle of Derna Ends	The LNA took full control of Derna, further solidifying their power in the eastern side of Libya.
<b>23rd October 2020</b>	Ceasefire and peace talks	With the United Nations as the mediator, both parties have peaceful discussions and start working on plans for an interim government.
<b>10th March 2021</b>	Formation of a Unified Interim Government	A temporary government was formed to govern Libya at the time in attempts to mitigate the civil war.
<b>10th September 2023</b>	Floods in Libya	The floods in Libya first came over the country, causing a death toll of over 4,000

## [Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue](#)

### [Internationally Led Peace Process](#)



An internationally led peace process was initiated with the aim of electing a new interim government acceptable to a majority of Libyans. This process succeeded in late 2020 in ending much of the fighting in Libya's seven-year civil war

### **Libyan Political Agreement**

Signed on December 17, 2015, this agreement was a contract between Libyan parties—including institutions and individuals—to be facilitated and implemented under UN auspices. It aimed to ensure the democratic rights of the Libyan people and the need for a consensual government based on the principle of the separation of powers. However, it left unresolved pressing issues like worsening living conditions, control of oil facilities, people-smuggling, and the struggle against jihadist groups.

### **International Intervention**

Leaders from the EU, Russia, and Turkey committed to an end to foreign intervention in Libya's war and to uphold a UN arms embargo. German leader Mrs Merkel stressed that there was no military way to end the conflict, only a political solution.

### **Possible Solutions**

#### **2 State Solution**

Offering a 2 state solution where the LNA and GNA are separate nations, the 2 parties can govern their own region with their own laws. However, the primary issue with this solution is within the creation of the borders. Since both governments have disputed territories, it is highly unlikely that they will come to a peaceful conclusion.

#### **United Nations Facilitation**

Recognizing the United Nations as the best body to facilitate a de-escalation and negotiated settlement could provide greater assurances that all sides' interests will

be considered. The UN has reiterated that there is no military solution and that Libya's mosaic of communities cannot be governed without alliances and relationships stretching across the whole country.

### **Creation of a Flood Prevention System (FPS)**

Recognizing that the floods in Libya have had a serious impact on both the economy and the lifestyle of the citizens, a creation of a system where floods can be mitigated through water channels leading to dams is an extremely viable option. Though the creation of an FPS won't help in the rehabilitation of the aftermath of this current flood, it can prevent future floods.