

Forum: General Assembly 4 (Special Political and Decolonisation)

Issue: Measures to ensure political stability of Libyan territories

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Introduction

Despite foreign intervention from world powers and the UN, the Libyan crisis continues to rage on. With regional and political stability at an all time low, the UN needs to act now to ensure democracy is upheld, but also needs to act to appease the multitude of Libyan factions fighting for their own say.

Libya's multitude of factions have been at a constant state of fighting with each other since even as far back as the 1969 coup d'etat. However, as a result of the 2011 conflict and the liberation of the country from Gaddafi's regime, the fighting between groups has increased drastically, forcing an international response with the aim of attempting to bring peace to a region in turmoil. In order for Democracy to be upheld throughout the region, all factions must be appeased and the legitimacy of the UN backed Government of National Accord must be reinforced. With the UN backed GNA finally being in the position to hold fair elections and rid the country of 60 years of corruption and tyrannical rule. Libya might be finally reaching a new dawn.

Definition of Key Terms

Government of National Accord

Often referred to as the GNA, the Government of National Accord is the current interim government formed under the Libyan Political Agreement signed on the 17th of december 2015, the government is considered the legitimate government by the majority of the UN and Western powers. The GNA has total control over Libya's Prime Ministerial Offices but has been all but rejected by local governments and the **Council of Deputies**. The party is led by Fayez al-Sarraj (the current Prime Minister).

House Of Representatives "Council of Deputies"

After taking power on the 4th of august 2014, the Council of Deputies has acted as a House of Representatives for the Libyan Government. The council has been criticised in the past for its lack of non-compliance with other governmental factions and the constitution. Despite claims that the party is

dishonest with its electoral obligations and procedures, the party remains in power throughout Libya. The Council has strongly objected the UN's backing of the **GNA** in the past.

Libyan National Army

The Libyan National Army is a combination of the Libyan Armed Forces, Navy and Air Force. The army was constructed as a result of the previous National Army being defeated and disbanded during the first civil war. The army is also made up consisted of smaller regional militias with have pledged allegiance to the **GNA**.

Islamic State in Libya

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in Libya, which is commonly referred to as ISIL, is a division of the Islamic State operating in Islam and following the pledged and beliefs of the Islamic state. It intendeds to establish a caliphate in the Middle east. ISIL takes an extremist stance on Shariah law an and aim to create a large sustainable territory whose law will be that which was lain down by their version of the prophet Muhammad. As they follow their version of the teachings of the Quran, they are dedicated to fight the "heretics" which is anyone who opposes or threatens their expansion

Libya Dawn

Libya Dawn refers to the rebel militia and political movements supporting the GNC, either directly, by pledging their support or by indirectly supporting the GNC's political beliefs. Despite pledging support to the GNC, the militia's often have their own independent views and agendas and often resort to guerilla like tactics when attacking cities and towns.

Background Information

First Libyan Civil War

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, was the uprising of Muammar Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi. He became to be a vocal key leader among the Libyan parliament. He was amongst the establishing leaders of the 1969 Revolution against the ruling Sanussi monarchy. After the revolution, Gaddafi was responsible for the mass Socialist-Islamic reformations that spread throughout the country. In spite of his time in government was coming to an end in 1977, Gaddafi remained to rule the country obliquely.

The Libyan coup d'état, that occurred in 1969, which is also known as the al-Fateh Revolution or the 1 September Revolution. This was a military coup d'état carried out in Libya by members of the Free Officers Movement, a group of rebel military officers led by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, created to abolish the long reigning tyrannical monarchy.

The non-violent coup originated in Benghazi and, within two hours, the takeover of the city was achieved. Army units instantly assembled as a follower of the coup and, within a couple of days, securely organised military control in Tripoli and throughout the country.

The Free Officers Movement, who stole the credit for carrying out the coup, was governed by a twelve-member directorate that elected itself the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). This body composed the Libyan government after the coup. The RCC announced the country to be a free and sovereign state called the Libyan Arab Republic, which would continue "in the path of freedom, unity, and social justice, guaranteeing the right of equality to its citizens, and opening before them the doors of honourable work."

On 7 September 1969, the RCC declared that it had elected a cabinet to direct the government of the new republic. An American-educated technician, Mahmud Sulayman al-Maghribi, who had been detained since 1967 for his political activities, was selected, prime minister. He looked over the eight-member Council of Ministers, of whom six, like Maghrabi, were civilians and two, Adam Said Hawaz and Musa Ahmad, were military officers. Neither of the officers was a member of the RCC.

Although the USSR pressured Libya, the recently formed government disregarded communism, essentially because it was greatly Atheist, and officially supported an Arab version of socialism that linked Islamic principles with social, economic, and political betterment. Libya essentially rewrote their country's complete legal and political position overnight as they converted from a conservative Arab traditionalist state to a Radical Nationalist Nation.

Second Libyan Civil War

In 2011, a second civil war broke out as a result of the Arab Spring Protests. The anti Gaddafi coalition/forces which consisted of a large percentage of Libya's political and Military groups created the National Transitional Council, which was meant to act as an interim authority for the rebel controlled areas and to allow the country to function democratically after the fall of the regime. After several widely reported atrocities were committed by the government, NATO got involved in March 21st. Their main goal was to protect civilians from government forces. On the 27th of June, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a warrant for Gaddafi arrest after several atrocities committed by him and the government including murder and inhuman acts on deprived towns. Gaddafi was ousted from power after Tripoli fell to rebels. His government managed to maintain some power for the next two months, however when the final cities they still controlled fell, Gaddafi was caught and ultimately killed.

Ongoing Libyan Civil War

The current second libyan civil war started in 2014 and as of now, is still going. It is primarily between the elected, internationally recognised libyan government known as the Tobruk Government, and the rival islamist government known as the National Salvation Government. The Libyan government has the power of the Libyan Military and is aided by the Egyptian and the UAE, while the NSG is lead by the Muslim Brotherhood as well as being backed by militias like like Libya Dawn. It is also supported by Sudan, Qatar and Turkey. While these are the two main powers, there are smaller rival groups such as the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries.

Recently there has been some political breakthroughs such as the United Nations Organising a cease-fire as of December 2015. On April 5th 2016, The islamist government announced that they would be suspending operations and handing power down to the UN backed 'Unity Government'.

Key Issues

Internal Armed Conflict Among Groups.

Conflicting armed parliaments and terrorist groups have all been carrying out indiscriminate and untargeted attacks on both civilian inhabited areas and on vital economic Infrastructure. The Libyan National Army with the aid of the US has been continuing to target supposed ISIS strongholds without regard for the Civilian population. Despite fierce opposition, rebel and insurgent forces have been pushed back heavily from the major cities. The capital city Tripoli remains strongly under GNA control. Despite having almost total control of the North Western Section of the country, The remainder of the East coast including Benghazi and the rest of the country is controlled by the Libyan national army and local independent factions. The midland region of the nation is currently contested as both GNA f

Further clashes in civilian areas continue to disrupt access to Health Care, Electricity and Food especially in Benghazi as well as other contested cities with the United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees (UNHCR) estimating that nearly 400,000 have been internally displaced during the conflict. Innocent Civilians continue to be placed under the crossfire by all sides of the conflict and are indiscriminately targeted during Air Strikes and Raids.

Currently a large humanitarian issue is posed by the amount of fighting occurring in areas with a large civilian populous. Cities especially Benghazi have been under intense fighting with the recent NATO air strikes and Libya Dawn forces attempting to regain control from Militia and IS forces. In the past six months the **Libyan National Army** has been clearing Benghazi from ISIL control, despite this the City, and the surrounding region remains strongly under the control of the Council of Deputies

Islamic state of Iraq and the Levant in Libya

Following the 2011 Civil war, many rebel fighters went to Syria to fight alongside the militant groups fighting in the Syrian Civil War. In 2012 one such group established the “Battar Brigade” who pledged loyalty to ISIL and went on to fight for it in Libya and Syria. This group continued to grow in size and allegiance with ISIL and in late 2014 began to focus on internal attacks targeting Oil Installations and international hotels in major Libyan cities. Allied with the support of several high members of the Al-Qaeda linked Ansar Al Sharia, ISIL made several large territorial gains including the city of Sirte and many key parts of Benghazi. During early 2015 they began to solidify their role over many towns and cities along the coast including Derna and Harwa. During 2016 after the death of Abu Nabil Al Anbari, the leader of ISIL in Libya, the **Libyan National Army** successfully pushed back ISIL out of some parts of Benghazi.

Contested Government

Establishing who is the legitimate government and insuring that the process remains democratic is vital for the long term stability throughout libya and the surrounding region. Although the GNA is considered the legitimate government to the international communities, Many factions continue to contest the legitimacy of the GNA, and wish to remove it from power. Appeasing all parties involved and reinforcing the legitimacy of the GNA is vital for democracy to succeed in Libya.

The GNA’s main opposition, The Council Of Deputies, has been linked with corruption and supporting Militia groups. Despite these claims the Council Of Deputies remains the political leader and in control of the majority the Major Areas like Benghazi. In order for political stability to be long term, the GNA and the Council need to unify and form a

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Government of National Accord (Legitimate Libyan Government)

The UN, specifically the Security Council, backed Government of national accord is strongly pushing for a democratic and united Libya. The GNA strongly represents western political system and democracy and is pushing for a “1 Libya” mentality. Despite having the country's interest at heart, many local groups and the Council of deputies object to the GNA due to its youth

United States of America

Political relations between the USA and libya have been strong after the creation of the Security Council Backed GNA. During the Gaddafi regime, the US was a strong figurehead in the fight against Oppression and the regime.

Despite having previously aided the Libyan Government in 2011, Many western powers including NATO and the US are reluctant to start a military intervention. The current situation in Libya is continuing to escalate but despite having the power to intervene, and the US believe that troop deployment in Libya will only worsen the conflict.

As of Early 2016, the USA has launched airstrikes on ISIL strongholds at the request of the GNA. This is in line with the US's stance on terrorism and its ongoing war against ISIL. Both the USA and NATO countries will face political ramifications for intervening in the conflict as more and more neighbouring nations begin to be pulled into the crisis.

NATO and European Powers

Despite having the power and ability to stage a “Boots on Ground” intervention in Libya NATO and other European powers are unwilling to do so, as they fear escalating the crisis and the political fallout that would come if they intervene. Despite this fear, they are strong participation in Airstrikes, with NATO constituting a large percentage of the airstrike raids currently targeting Libya.

In the First and Second Civil Wars, NATO played a strong role in supporting the Legitimate government, and both the Council of Deputies and the GNA have been calling for NATO to take a similar stance of participation

The Russian Federation

Libya during the majority Gaddafi Regime was a close ally of the Soviet Union but after the dissolution of the USSR and the formation of the Russian Federation, Russia under political pressure from the western world, began to change its stance towards one of remaining neutral. Despite this neutrality, Russia directly criticised the USA's dealing with the death of Gaddafi, and publicly stated their wishes for a public tribunal. Russia continued to criticise and refused to participate in NATO's Air Strike campaign during the Libyan Civil War and although were pressured by the US and west into the initial arms sanctions, they were one of the first to lift the arms sanctions during late 2012.

China

China has remained mainly neutral on the topic of Libya in international debate. They have previously criticised the NATO air strike campaign saying “If military action brings disaster to civilians and causes a humanitarian crisis, then it runs counter to the purpose of the UN resolution,”(Chinese President Hu Jintao,2011), with the Chinese government wishing to avoid a similar situation to one in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Date	Description of Events
September 1, 1996	<p>Military Coup</p> <p>Libyan monarchy was dethroned in a military coup commanded by Muammar Gaddafi. Gaddafi wants pan-Arab agenda and is trying to form alliances with several Arab nations and proposes state socialism by nationalising most economic activity, including the oil industry.</p>
1977	<p>People Revolution</p> <p>Gaddafi declares a "people's revolution", substituting the country's official name from the Libyan Arab Republic to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and creating "revolutionary committees". This indicated the start of ordered chaos, economic decline and general extremism.</p>
June, 2011	<p>Arrest of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi</p> <p>The ICC issues an arrest warrant to seize Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, because of two crimes against humanity.</p>
October 20, 2011	<p>Muammar Gaddafi Killed</p> <p>Muammar Gaddafi is seized in Sirte and quickly executed by rebel fighters.</p>
July 7, 2012	<p>Elections</p> <p>Libya holds its first free elections in over 40 years. The people votes to a 200-seat General National Conference, which replaces the temporary post-revolution National Transitional Council.</p>
April 8, 2014	<p>al-Thani prime minister</p> <p>The General National Congress officially elects al-Thani prime minister and instructs him to form a cabinet within his first week of office</p>

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- **S/RES/2293** 2016
Renewing the enforcements on Arms,Transport and finance imposed by **S/RES/1807** 2008
- **S/RES/1970** 2011
Imposes an Arms embargo and enforces Targeted sanctions on Libya.
- **S/RES/2259** 2011
Supporting and the **Government of National Accord** and calling it the Legitimate government

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The majority of past Security Council resolutions focus only on solving the short term immediate armed crisis through cease fires and air strikes and introducing the short term transitional government. Despite having success succeeding in this, there is no “Long Term” plan or goal for the situation in Libya. The existing solutions are also extremely vague towards the long term solution of a sustainable democratic libya. Focus needs to be made to ensure the pleasing of all parties and to ensure that democratic elections are held failure.

Resolution 1973 established an arms embargo and a no-fly zone over Libya. Although this clamped down civilian airspace and further restricted how factions act, it does little to assist in the Libyan economy and further angered local factions.

The majority of past resolutions also focusing on creating and consolidating the power of the UN sponsored GNA and do little to appease the other regional factions and the country as a whole. The resolution was vague in it's all necessary measures clause as it stated that all necessary measures should be taken to keep citizens safe, but excluded finer details into what long term plans should be enacted and how regional stability is to be achieved after the initial crisis.

Possible Solutions

The warring libyan factions continue to disagree on several key issues affecting the country. The Council of deputies despite all it flaws and accusations of being unconstitutional and corrupt, still holds a large percentage of the political Power in the nation. Despite pledging allegiance to the GNA, the Council of Deputies must be somehow incorporated into the current form of Government to ensure that their position is accepted and considered

In order to reinforce and attempt to ensure that National and Regional elections are held fairly, the constant monitoring of the electoral process by an independent group is a must when coming up with ways to further the democratic functions of the country working on similar electoral monitoring cases such as the first Namibian elections in 1989 after the country gained independence from South Africa. Further creating mediated discussions between the GNA and the Council of Deputies about how and when democratic Elections will be held can be done to minimise conflict and tension between the groups. Taking a solution between

One main focus must be towards the re-establishing and reaffirming the regional borders of individual power groups such as the GNA which are currently contested and/or in a state of disarray. Allowing current political groups to retain control of previously controlled areas will minimise conflict, but in order for the area's to be regulated and managed, the GNA and the Council of Deputies must come to an agreement about how land should be split up. Due to the large amount of Militias that inhabit the smaller libyan towns & cities, care must be taken to ensure as many parties as possible are pleased and not angered which could possibly increase tensions and the current conflict between groups.

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