

Dear United States Ambassador,

We write today to voice our support for the recognition of the Government of National Accord. We also support the peaceful resolution of the current conflict between the Government of National Accord and the so called Libyan National Army. Our support is consistent with what we understand to be our nation's current policy toward Libya.

Libya has struggled to achieve peace but has made meaningful gains under the internationally recognized Government of National Accord. In partnership with the United Nations, the Government of National Accord had been moving toward national elections. Unfortunately, a rebel army attacked when the Government of National Accord was on the verge of completing democratic elections. Now Libya is faced with a conflict between the United Nations recognized Government of National Accord and a rebel army that is taking money and arms from foreign actors pursuing narrow self-interest at the expense of the Libyan people.

Prior to this conflict, the Government of National Accord was pursuing economic reforms and building on Libya's increased oil production to create economic prosperity. For the past several weeks, the Government of National Accord has been forced to direct resources toward creating a defense for Libya's citizens from a warlord, Khalifa Haftar, who has been accused of war crimes and human rights violations by the International Criminal Court.

Mr. Haftar claims to be a leader of the Libyan people; however, his behavior has been that of a rebel leader creating destruction of his native land in the pursuit of power and greed. In his attack on the internationally recognized government, Mr. Haftar issued arrest warrants for officials of the Government of National Accord. Mr. Haftar's army is significantly populated by mercenaries from other countries, Chad and Sudan being prominent examples. Mr. Haftar has saddled Libyans with billions of dollars in debt to fund the attacks. His son, allegedly robbed hundreds of millions of dollars in cash from the Libya's Central Bank in 2017.

This conflict has resulted in over 500 deaths, thousands of wounded and more than 60,000 civilians being displaced from their homes where many are fleeing the country in order to secure safety.

Many of our United Nations allies have demanded a de-escalation of the conflict and an immediate cease-fire. The current conflict presents many other potentially impactful consequences. The violent chaos is beginning to be exploited by ISIS and other terror groups. The fighting makes it impossible for normal civic life. We are witnessing a humanitarian crisis unfold before the world.

To prevent a bloody civil war with international implications, the United States needs to provide the necessary leadership within the global community to provide a peaceful resolution to this conflict. Specifically, we need the United States to facilitate a dialogue where peace and stability can be achieved in Libya. A ceasefire needs to be declared with Mr. Haftar's cooperation and the complete withdrawal of his forces to the pre-attack boundaries. Mr. Haftar should not be acknowledged as a legitimate political leader until at a minimum, he becomes a constructive actor in bringing peace, stability and democracy to Libya.

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As the leader of democracy, we need the United States to lead the voices at the United Nations to stop this violence and pursue a peace that will lead to democratic elections. Such an outcome will allow the Government of National Accord to achieve a state of democracy recognized by the world where liberty, peace and prosperity can be experienced by the citizens of Libya.

Sincerely,