

# MEMO

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**DATE:** June 13, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Libya Weekly Update

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Below is a summary of the latest top headlines of the week surrounding the news in Libya. Key highlights include:

- President Trump does not support Haftar, and the reports of a meeting at the White House between the two are false.
- General Haftar continues to fail at attacking Tripoli, and he does not have the ability to unify the country.
- The United States publicly articulated support for the GNA has not changed, and it is imperative that the United States take leadership in order to halt further foreign actions that are quickly making this a proxy war. Only the United States can lead effectively.

**Axios (6/10): [Foreign powers fuel Libya's bloody stalemate](#)**

- President Trump does not support Haftar, and his opinions of him are waning. As this is happening, Secretary Pompeo stated that the U.S. is considering a range of options that includes a U.S.-enforced ceasefire.
- Haftar has failed and will continue to fail at building alliances in Libya. The general cannot run the country as a Dictator.
- Libya's Deputy Prime Minister, Ahmed Omar Maiteeg, believes President Trump realizes now that Haftar cannot succeed. To this point, Maiteeg believes the United States is Libya's main ally, and Trump should send a message to outside players to stay out of Libya.

**The Guardian (6/8): [Trump officials snub strongman Khalifa Haftar as US shifts course on Libya](#)**

- The Trump administration is not welcoming General Haftar to the White House, as previously reported.
- President Trump's phone call, though confusing, was not an endorsement of Haftar or a change of course on US policy.
- Haftar's forces on the ground are stalled outside of Tripoli, and the President continues to lose any favor of Haftar.
- The United States is positioned to make real negotiation in Libya, and Secretary Pompeo is considering many options including a US-enforced ceasefire.
- Linden Strategies, which represents a war criminal in General Haftar and the LNA, has made zero progress in influencing the White House or gaining traction on the Hill.

**Al-Jazeera (6/9): [US politicians ask Pompeo to clarify policy on Libya](#)**

- Eight members of the House of Representatives [sent a letter](#) to Secretary Mike Pompeo urging the White House to reject the military offensive launched by Haftar on Tripoli.
- Standard United States policy is to back the UN-backed GNA and to foster democratic negotiations in Libya.

- President Trump's call with Haftar was not an endorsement of his actions, it was a political favor.

Fox News (6/7): [Libya's deputy PM urges the US to stand by Libyan government in its fight against warlord Khalifa Hifter](#)

- DPM Maiteeg sat down with Fox News' Bret Baier to discuss a range of topics in Libya including the status on the ground, US leadership and General Haftar's attempts to take Tripoli.
- The GNA has succeeded in putting out the ongoing attacks in Tripoli.
- The purpose of the phone call between Trump and Haftar was as a favor to Egypt, not a backing of him or the LNA.
- Haftar does not believe in democracy or a peace process, he believes in taking Libya by force and commanding as a dictator.
- Haftar's attack on Tripoli has prevented the GNA from fighting ISIS, which has helped the terrorist group remain in Libya.

France 24 (6/7): [Libya's UN-backed government sees US support](#)

- DPM Maiteeg has confidence in the United States support for the UN-backed GNA.
- The United States is pressing for stability in Libya, attempting to get all sides to the negotiating table.
- The United States must send a clear message to its allies, stay out of Libya. The US also has the ability and leadership to bring about negotiations, as well as ward off other influencers in the region.

Al-Jazeera (6/8): [Libya's GNA: US stands by us as the legitimate government](#)

- The GNA remains confident that the US supports its cause, and is calling for greater diplomatic effort from the US.
- The US supports a peace process and is currently consulting with Libyan leaders to try and achieve this goal, according to Secretary Pompeo.
- DPM Maiteeg believes the United States is the only country that can generate negotiations, and also prevent outside influencers from working in Libya.

NBC News (6/6): [Libyan government appeals for U.S. backing after 'confusing' message from Trump](#)

- President Trump's mixed messaging on Libya is confusing our current ally in the country.
- The US State Department understands the situation in Libya, as well as the GNA's role in the country.
- The Libyan government needs the United States to support politically as well as diplomatically.
- General Haftar has no chance at success through military action, and his offensive on Tripoli has been quelled since it launched in April.

Associated Press (6/11): [UN chief urges implementation of arms embargo against Libya](#)

- Secretary General Guterres is urging countries to implement a UN arms embargo against Libya, with illegal weapons transfers are fueling the ongoing conflict.
- An arms embargo is an effective key to help de-escalation in the ongoing conflict.

The Guardian (6/9): [Mediterranean will be 'sea of blood' without rescue boats, UN warns](#)

- The migrant crisis in Libya is growing, and Libyans will die at sea if there are not enough rescue operations, or conversely, if the ongoing conflict does not stop.
- War in Tripoli is forcing migrants to flee, 700 of which left in recent days, with five percent being intercepted and sent back to Libyan detention centers, 40 percent arriving in Malta and 11 percent arriving in Italy. These numbers will continue to spike if a resolution is not reached.

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