

## Turkish Security Support for Libya

- The decision by the internationally recognized Libyan Government of National Accord to accept military support from Turkey, including ground, sea and air support, is influenced directly by the dangerous escalation in the conflict of Russian military support to the war criminal, Haftar.
- The GNA is Libya's legitimate and sovereign government and has the sovereign role and right to negotiate treaties and formalize military alliances in order to safeguard the nation and protect civilians. The objective of GNA/Turk coalition is to restore peace and stability.
- Through existing command and control structures the GNA will work closely with Turkish counterparts to ensure alignment on military operations and will continue to operate in accordance with international law.
- The GNA appreciates the Turkish government's support in helping to protect Libya's citizens, and hopes this enhanced cooperation accelerates the conclusion of an unnecessary war waged by an aspiring dictator utilizing a campaign of war crimes.
- The recent Russian-led escalation in violence has already resulted in increased civilian deaths, a disproportionate number of which are children.
- The presence of over 2,000 pro-Haftar Russian mercenaries recently led to the U.S. Administration to recognize Libya as a priority issue, and the U.S. Congress passing legislation to ensure civilian populations are protected and democratic processes pursued.
- The disturbing reality is that there are already many foreign boots on the ground in Libya in the form of shadowy mercenaries and foreign bombers being piloted by foreign pilots, sent by multiple countries unwilling to publicly admit their contributions to Haftar's illegal campaign. These unaccountable forces are supporting a man under investigation by the International Criminal Court for war crimes.
- Thus, the situation in Libya can no longer be described as a civil war, but rather an overt proxy war.
- The people of Libya have done nothing to provoke the conflict they are enduring at the hands of Haftar's foreign supporters, and the GNA continues to work hard to resolve the conflict through the creation of a political framework and through engagement with the UN and rational sovereignties.
- Until there is a peaceful resolution, which the GNA seeks to achieve through a political process, the Government has an absolute responsibility to defend the citizens of Libya, who are coming under attack by increasingly sophisticated weapons and skills introduced to the conflict by Haftar's backers including Russia, Egypt, the UAE, and Jordan.
- It is important for the international community to be vigilant and proactive in the face of flagrant abuses of international law. Haftar's assault on Tripoli makes a mockery of the international rules-based system on which we all rely. And the GNA's willingness to negotiate in the interest of ending the killing has been met only with a cynical increase in violence.
- Therefore, the Government of Libya will continue to execute its sovereign right to protect its citizens, to include seeking support from credible external actors, and with appropriate transparency, until the community of nations sees fit to enforce international rules so that peace, security and stability is restored to Libya.

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