

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) today made this statement following a phone call with Libyan Prime Minister Fayed al-Sarraj.

“I had a constructive phone call with the Prime Minister of Libya Fayed al-Sarraj. It is important the United States reinforce its commitment to a political solution in Libya and reject efforts by any party for a military takeover. The administration, in my view, needs to reaffirm past statements rejecting a military solution in Libya and pushing for political reconciliation.

“There will never be a military only solution in Libya, and the United States needs to lead the effort to bring about reconciliation between the recognized government of Libya and all factions on the ground.

“I very much appreciate the efforts to eradicate ISIS and other terrorist groups from Libya and strongly believe that if civil war spreads, terrorist groups will fill the vacuum.

“It is now time for the United States to lead the political reconciliation process and firmly reject any effort – by any party – for a military takeover.

“I appreciate the Prime Minister’s leadership and his willingness to work with all sides to ensure a peaceful resolution in Libya.”

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<https://www.lgraham.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=3844A1B9-C8AD-4D5D-B5B4-BBD0D9D188F5>

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From: bdefalco@mercuryllc.com

Date: May 3, 2019 at 9:45:42 PM EDT

To: ameldrum@ap.org, JGambrell@ap.org, ajohnson@ap.org

Subject: Local Libyan mayor willing to do interviews with press

Dear Andrew, Jon and Anna -

The mayor of Gherian, Youssef Elbedari, has been displaced in Tripoli since his city was seized by Khalifa Hifter's militias. He is interested in speaking out about the humanitarian crisis and war crimes carried out in his city for the past month. Mr. Elbedari is still in Tripoli and is willing to do interviews.

According to Mr. Elbedari, Hifter has detailed and executed civilian who speak out against the LNA; he says several bodies were recovered in the streets after they were executed by Hifter. The mayor can speak to the humanitarian crisis and how Hifter has turned his city into an LNA military operation center in the West.

Hope this can be helpful to you.

Mr. Elbedari's phone: +218 92-7203035

Email: Buono133@yahoo.com

kindest regards,

Beth

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