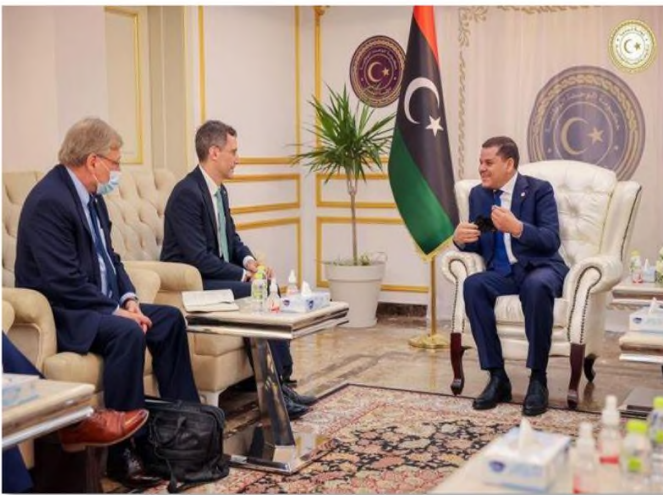




# LIBYA NEWS UPDATE

Wednesday, 19 May, 2021

## U.S. DELEGATION VISITS LIBYA IN SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY



Yesterday, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dabaiba met with Joey Hood, the U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs and Richard Norland, the Ambassador and Special Envoy to Libya.

Asst. Sec. Hood is the highest-ranking official to visit Tripoli since 2014 and the first senior U.S. official to visit since the UN-backed election of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in February. During a news conference, he emphasized Washington's support for the GNU and its efforts to bring Libya into a democratic, stable, and prosperous new era.

The meeting with Prime Minister Dabaiba was also attended by the Libyan Foreign Minister, Najla Mangoush, Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohamed Oun, and Mohamed Al-Menfi, the head of the Presidential Council. Matters discussed included combatting terrorism, Libya's current political roadmap, the December elections, and solving the migration crisis.

Asst. Sec. Hood called for full implementation of the ongoing ceasefire in Libya and stressed the importance of the GNU's objective of organizing national elections set for December, noting its crucial role in achieving national reconciliation. During the joint press conference, Hood told reporters that the meetings "demonstrate the commitment of the U.S. government and our strong diplomatic support for the progress the Libyan people have made towards an inclusive negotiated political solution." He also said that he and other State Department officials will be making frequent visits to Libya in the future and that they would be inviting Foreign Minister Mangoush to Washington.

Minister Mangoush hailed the role of the Biden's administration's efforts to support Libya and stressed the need for U.S. cooperation, particularly in creating the necessary conditions to hold elections. She also invited the U.S. to reopen its embassy in Tripoli and consulate in Benghazi. In recent months, several European governments, including France and Greece, reopened their embassies in Tripoli.

