

Forum: Special Political & Decolonisation Committee
Issue: Post war reconstruction in Libya
Student Officer: Ioannis Panselinas
Position: Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ioannis Panselinas and I will be serving as the Main-Chair of the Special Political & Decolonization Committee (GA4) during the 5th Platon School Model United Nations Conference. Having participated in both the 3rd and 4th PSMUN Conferences, it is my honor to participate in this year's conference. This will be my fourth time as a Student Officer and my third time in the Political Committee.

As a Student Officer, I will be responsible for the Committee. I will be there to ensure that the right procedures are followed and that the lobbying and debating process do not come to a standstill. I will maintain the order and address any problems should they arise. My responsibility is to know the issues of our Committee in depth, to be able to provide you with a thorough Study Guide prior to the conference and to be able to assist during lobbying and debating.

The issue of Libya is a vast and complex one. It entails serious issues such as political instability, violence, poverty and discrimination among others. I hope that this Study Guide will be a valuable first introduction to the topic. Yet, in any case, you should not solely rely on it. I strongly recommend that you carry out your own research as there is much to explore and virtually every state will have their own opinion on the topic. Should you need any further assistance; please do not hesitate to contact me.

I hope that this experience will prove to be a rewarding and enlightening one for you and I am looking forward to meeting you all in the conference. My best wishes for a fruitful and challenging debate.

Kind regards,

Ioannis Panselinas

Chair of the Political Committee

INTRODUCING TOPIC

Libya is a North African country that stretches along the northeast coast of Africa between Tunisia and Algeria on the west and Egypt on the east. To the south there are Sudan, Chad, and Niger. Much of the country lies within the Sahara. It also borders the Mediterranean Sea to the north and much of its population lives along its coast. Moreover, it is considered a tribal society. Libya's total area consists of approximately 1.7 million sq. km and has a population of around 6 million inhabitants. The strength of its economic sector is that of oil export and it is known to have one of the highest qualities in the world since it is lighter and easier to refine than other deposits.

The crisis in Libya is encompassed in the wider situation of political unrest prevailing throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Libya's Muammar al-Gaddafi came into power through a coup and was seen as undesirable due to his brutal willingness to target any civilians that threatened his position. The backbone of his foreign policy goals were that of the elimination of Israel and the advancement of Islam, support for Palestinians, elimination of outside "Western" influence in the Middle East and Africa and support for various "revolutionary" causes.

Consequently, a wave of inevitable pro-democratic protests began spreading throughout the region against al-Gaddafi's authoritarian regime. Libya's struggling transition to democracy, therefore, started in 2011 when an uprising supported by NATO's intervention brought down his reigning dictatorship. Armed militias defeated government forces in a brief civil war that resulted with the death of Qaddafi. The militias refused to disarm after the war and began to openly challenge the new transitional authorities.

Even though Libya held its first election in 2012 it must be noted that it had not done so in more than four decades. The aim to elect a General National Assembly, which would succeed the Transitional National Council (TNC) that governed after the decline of the Gaddafi regime, has not been achieved since it still remains in tremendous political upheaval. Having an inadequate army and police force, the country has tried to absorb their many revolutionary "brigades" by concentrating them into provisional security forces that have not much changed. They have shown marginal progress on creating a national army to replace the disorderly revolutionary militias the country uses to rely on for security.

Disputes among rival militias during 2014 took hundreds of lives and uprooted hundreds of thousands of Libyans. The relocation of the parliament to Tobruk and the fall of Tripoli to militias has left the country with two rival authorities.

Therefore, the chaotic predicament that Libya faces today is mainly due to the fact that the state is non-existent. The absence of one clear rule is present and the need for

regional autonomy a priority. As stated in January 2014 by Bill Lawrence, a North African expert and visiting professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University, “Libya is not one big mess. It is a bunch of little messes that are not very related.”¹ Thus, ‘Libya is ruled by everyone and no one’. The issue of political and security instability is of utmost importance.

All the above, along with the plaguing slow pace of change, have caused widespread problems and challenges that must be faced. Unceasing fighting has caused damage to property and the infrastructure such as dilapidated schools and hospitals. Water, fuel and food shortages are an endless issue. Insecurity and lack of laws are obstructing cash reaching banks across the country which in turn promotes economic stagnation. Libya must look toward abolishing violence (especially against children and women), discrimination against minority groups, poverty and environmental degradation. A transition towards a modern and efficient economy must prevail.

Finally, it must be recognized that the international community will play an important role in the reconstruction of Libya. Both European countries and the US are still skeptical about offering substantial help. They see the difficulties of disarming the militias and the threat of the al-Qaida. Libya’s solutions, though, rely on collective efforts. Even though the authorities do not want direct interference from abroad, they are open to suggestions. The international community could offer assistance in areas such as technological expertise, public sector reform, training of security forces and design of a political agenda promoting stability and economic stability.

KEY TERMS

Revolution

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a revolution is “a forcible overthrow of a government or social order, in favor of a new system”². In the social sciences the term is used to describe a radical change in the socio-political status quo and it often includes outbursts of violence. In this light, the government overthrown can be a military dictatorship or even a democratically elected government.

¹ “Libya”. Global Security.org. 2014.
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/libya/intro.htm>

² “Revolution”. Oxford English Dictionaries.
<<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/revolution>>

De facto

De facto is someone/something “existing or holding a specified position in fact but not necessarily by legal right”. It is used to describe a ruler, authority etc. A de facto ruler can be someone who has established himself through use of force and without public consent or someone who exercises power without possessing a position rightfully.

National Transitional Council (NTC)

The NTC was an interim rebel administration in Libya holding power during the revolution. The NTC provided political leadership, military command and was the international representative of the Libyan people. However, it never set out to becoming or behaving as a government. It existed to ensure the transition to the post-Gaddafi era by ensuring democratic elections and the establishment of a new constitution. On July 7th 2012, the NTC ensured that free elections take place and were the first parliamentary elections held since the end of the Gaddafi dictatorship. The NTC officially handed power over to the elected General National Congress on the 8th of August 2012.

General National Congress (GNC)

The General National Congress was elected on the 7th of July 2012 and it officially came to power on August 8th 2012. Its mandate was to form an interim government and to draft a new constitution, which would be later voted upon by the people on a referendum. The GNC appointed Ali Zeidan, a human rights lawyer, as Prime Minister. He would eventually step down in March 2014 and be replaced by Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thani. From the time the GNC assumed rule, it was given an 18-month deadline to achieve its mandate. When the deadline passed with work on the new constitution only just getting underway, Congress was forced to organize elections to a new House of Representatives, which replaced it on 4 August 2014.

On the June 25th 2014 elections, the Islamists gained a fraction of the votes that they had received in the 2012 elections. As a result, Islamist former members of the GNC have constituted the (self-proclaimed) New General National Congress (NGNC), currently stationed in the capital of Tripoli. Due to its influence on the Supreme Court, it has managed to disband the elected House of Representatives. It is now the de facto authority over ministries.

Council of Deputies / House of Representatives

The Council of Deputies, or else called by the media, the House of Representatives, is the currently recognized Libyan government. It seized control from the GNC on August 4th 2014, after the June 25th elections. However, it was disbanded by the Libyan Supreme Court. Since the court, though, was controlled by the Islamist opposition, the HoR still has legitimate authority over Libya. It is stationed in Tobruk and resides on a hired Greek car ferry.

Civil war

A civil war can be defined as “a war between citizens of the same country”.³ A violent revolution between government forces and the people against the regime of a country can also be considered as a civil war. Civil wars primarily occur in order to overthrow regimes and governments yet they can also occur afterwards over who will seize control of the country.

UNSMIL

UNSMIL is the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. It was established with the United Nations 2144 in September 2011, at the request of the NTC, the Libyan authority at the time. The mandate of the Mission has been extended several times and it ends in March 2015, at which point it can be extended. It was created to ensure a democratic transition, ensure rule of law & human rights, and coordinate international assistance. All the activities are targeted towards national ownership to avoid any possible foreign exploitation.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Libya has been making daily headlines over the past four years. For almost 42 years, Muammar Gaddafi was the de facto ruler of the Arab nation. However, in February 2011, Arab Spring movements drove Libya into a large scale uprising which overthrew Gaddafi and established the National Transitional Council (NTC). The council would be later recognized as the legitimate representative of the people of Libya.

After the uprising, Libya plunged into a civil war with rebel forces and armed militias fighting pro-Gaddafi forces across the country. During the revolution, loyalist forces performed atrocities against the Libyan people. Thus, at the end of February 2011, Libya was expelled from the UN Human Rights Council. In response to escalating violence from Gaddafi, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution which imposed a no-fly zone over Libya, froze all Libyan assets, imposed an arms embargo and referred Gaddafi to the ICC



Libyan dictator, Muammar Gaddafi in the 12th African Union Summit.

³ “Civil War” Oxford English Dictionaries.

<<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/civil-war?q=civil+war>>

(International Criminal Court) for crimes against humanity. From March until August 2011, rebel forces, backed openly by foreign states and NATO military intervention, defeated the Gaddafi forces. At last, in August 2011, the strongholds of Gaddafist power, Zlitan and Tripoli, fell into rebel forces. On the 25th of August 2011, the Arab League recognized the NTC as the legitimate leader of Libya.

On October 20, 2011 and while Gaddafi was transported in a convoy, NATO forces attacked. A battle took place and Gaddafi was captured, beaten and finally shot, resulting in his death. Sirte, the last loyalist city, was captured three days later. On the 23rd of October 2011, the loyalist forces were defeated. The civil war against Gaddafi was over, but it had taken a toll of 30,000 Libyans.

After the demise of the Gaddafi regime and his forces, Libya immersed itself into an era of huge instability. Due to the collapse of the regime, Libya was devised amongst armed militias having control over regions and cities and a central government unable to establish its authority. That which distinguished the great division between the militias was their political ideas, with Islamist politicians on the one side fighting their opponents on the other.

Finally, a type of consensus was reached and on July, 7th 2012, Libya held the first parliamentary elections since the collapse of the former regime. After the elections, the NTC passed the power over to the elected General National Congress (GNC) on August, 8th 2012. The GNC had the responsibility of setting up an interim government and drafting a new Constitution which would then be voted upon by the people of Libya in a referendum.

On November 14th 2012, Ali Zeidan, a Geneva-based human rights lawyer and liberal took office as Prime Minister of Libya. He was appointed by the GNC on October 14th 2012 and took office after his cabinet was approved by the Congress.

While he was serving, a period of relative stability followed. However, turmoil and militia attacks continued. As it would turn out, he was forced to step down on March 11th 2014, when he was not able to prevent a shipment of rogue oil leaving the country. He fled Libya on March 14th, 2014.

Ali Zeidan was replaced by Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thani. However, facing climaxing instability, al-Thani's government explored the possibility of the restoration of the Libyan monarchy. "On the occasion of a preparatory meeting for the 25th summit of the Arab League in Kuwait, the Libyan government, on March 25 2014, opened the debate on the restoration of the monarchy in the country. 'The restoration of the monarchy [in Libya] is the solution that will guarantee the return to security and



Libya division during the Civil War (as of January 2015)

Red Under control of the Tobruk-led Government and Allies

Green Under control of the New General National Congress and Allies

Grey Under control of the Ansar al-Sharia (Libya)

stability...,' said the Libyan Foreign Minister, Mohamed Abdelaziz, during the meeting."⁴

From the beginning of 2014, Libya was governed by the General National Congress (GNC). The GNC unilaterally extended its power after its electorate mandate had concluded in January 2014. In response to this, on the 14th of February 2014, General Khalifa Haftar gave an order to the GNC to be dissolved. He then called for the constitution of a 'caretaker government' committee, whose task would be to inspect new elections. The GNC overlooked him.

As a result of the above, conflict began in May 2014. The launch of *Operation Dignity* by General Haftar triggered the break out of the post-Gaddafi Libyan Civil War. The main target of *Operation Dignity* was the Islamist groups in Benghazi. Later, his forces also attempted to dissolve the GNC. This ongoing conflict prevented the GNC from preventing elections, which finally took place on June 25th 2014. The outcome of the elections was the replacement of the GNC with the Council of Deputies. With them, the Islamists suffered a large electorate defeat. As a result, the Islamist politicians launched *Operation Libya Dawn* to seize Tripoli International Airport and finally captured it on the 23rd of August.

Moreover, when the former members of the GNC were not re-elected, they attempted to seize power from the Council of Deputies by replacing them. Thus, the New General National Congress was established. On November 6th 2014, the Supreme Court in Tripoli declared that the Council of Deputies would be dissolved. However, since the court is controlled by the Islamists, as of today the Council of Deputies remains the internationally recognized elected parliament.

Currently, the Council of Deputies has fled Tripoli and is stationed in Tobruk, controlling the largest part of the country. The east is controlled by the New GNC and the city of Benghazi is controlled by the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries. In October, 2014 the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (recognized by the UN as a terrorist organization) has taken control over the city of Derna.

At this point in time, there are two governments in Libya. The one is the House of Representatives (HOR), which still remains as the internationally recognized, despite the fact that it was disbanded by the Libyan Supreme Court in November 2014. The other, having seized de facto authority over the ministries and relying on the few former members of the General National Congress (GNC) to provide a veneer of legitimacy, is currently based in the capital, Tripoli.

The civil war has been plaguing the country and has created numerous problems. Thousands of civilians have lost their lives in the raging conflict and thousands more have been displaced. Once, Libya was a leading exporter of oil, but after the revolution, exports have been halted. There is much to be done in order for Libya to resume its previous status. A fully recognized government, elected by the people

⁴ <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/4251/libya-monarchy>

should be established, the economy has to be kick started and reconstruction of the society and infrastructure has to be part of the plan.

United Nations & NATO Intervention

Both the UN and NATO have taken action in response to the situation in Libya. Firstly, the United Nations Security Council has adopted several resolutions concerning the issue. They began with UNSC resolution 1970 adopted on February 26th 2011 in response to the excessive and lethal force used by the Gaddafi regime to suppress the revolution. This resolution implemented international sanctions as a preventative measure. This was then followed by a key-resolution, UNSC resolution 1973 of March 17th 2011, adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and it:

- i. Enforced a no-fly zone over Libya and it also placed a total restriction to all Libyan flights.
- ii. Extended the force of UNSC resolution 1970, so as a result it continued the assets freeze on all the assets of the Libyan government on the grounds that these assets should be designated for the Libyan people.
- iii. Allowed the implementation of all possible measures, including military action, to ensure the safety of the public.
- iv. Demanded a ceasefire to be implemented and all attacks on civilians to be prohibited.
- v. Strengthened the already imposed armaments embargo and allowed for the forceful inspection of sea vessels and airplanes.
- vi. Established a panel of experts, who have the task of overseeing and promoting the sanctions imposed.

After this resolution was established, the Gaddafi regime officially declared a ceasefire. However, Gaddafi later on announced on Libyan state radio and referring to the citizens of Benghazi, the heart of the revolution that: “We are coming tonight, and there will be no mercy.”⁵

Following the above resolution, several others were established to protect, assist and promote the Libyan people and the legitimate government. The last resolution, to be implemented as of January 2015, was established on August 2014.

In response to the ongoing crisis, the UN launched in September 2011 the UNSMIL (United Nations Mission in Libya). In March 2014 it was extended for 12 more months. Its mandate is to assist in the democratic transition, ensure rule of law & human rights, and coordinate international assistance (you can find information on <http://unsmil.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3543&language=en-US>).

⁵ <http://world.time.com/2011/03/17/gaddafi-warns-benghazi-rebel-city-we-are-coming-and-thereill-be-no-mercy/>

In order for the UNSC resolutions 1970 and 1973 to be imposed, NATO launched Operation Unified Protector. The UNSC authorized NATO forces to put into force the arms embargo on Libya, to implement at all cost the no-fly zone and to give all protection necessary to the civilians. The operation was launched on March 23rd 2011 and it lasted until the 31st of October of the same year. NATO support was of paramount importance for the revolutionary forces, since it ensured them support and military assistance.



COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

Libya

Being the country in question, Libya plays the central role in our issue. Libya has been torn between rival political parties and between the state army and various armed militias. The internationally recognized government of Libya has been repeatedly asking for foreign intervention to assist them with fully establishing their regime. Libya still to this day remains in a state of division and civil war, with all sides attempting at all cost to establish themselves as the legitimate and undisputable leaders of the country. At this point, what Libya needs is peace, democratic establishment and measures towards reconstruction.

United Arab Emirates

Since the beginning of the political upheaval, the UAE have played a major role in the Libyan conflict. In general, "Shaken by the turbulence of the Arab spring, the UAE has emerged as the most assertive of the conservative Gulf monarchies."⁶ It is apparent that the UAE are attempting to oppress a danger for the status quo, the rise of the Islamists both within their regional borders and internationally. The UAE had a decisive role in Libyan affairs in 2011, when they joined a NATO operation against the regime of dictator Myanmar Gaddafi. Their contribution was of great significance, as it backed rebels during their uprising. After Gaddafi was overthrown, the UAE kept their sphere of influence on the country, by assisting it in rebuilding the economy. Again, when the civil war broke out once more in mid-2014, the UAE "have secretly launched airstrikes against Islamist-allied militias battling for control of Tripoli"⁷ and

⁶ Ian Black. "UAE's boldness in Libya reveals new strains between west and its Arab allies". The Guardian. August 26th 2014.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/26/uae-boldness-libya-strains-with-west-arab-allies>

⁷ David D. Kirkpatrick and Eric Schmitt. "Arab Nations Strike in Libya, Surprising U.S." International New York Times. August 25th 2014.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/26/world/africa/egypt-and-united-arab-emirates-said-to-have-secretly-carried-out-libya-airstrikes.html?_r=0

have been allegedly supporting General Khalifa Haftar, who as well is opposed to Islamist rule.

Egypt

Egypt has played a major part in the ongoing conflict and on the 2011 revolution. Unlike the UAE, it did not participate in the NATO Operation Unified Protector. Egypt had been used as a base for airstrikes by the UAE on Libya. American officials admitted to the New York Times that “the Egyptians and the Emiratis had teamed up against an Islamist target inside Libya”⁸ during the 2014 civil war. Egypt’s actions had been against the Islamist forces, attempting to seize power and take control over Tripoli and other Libyan strategic locations.

NATO

The intervention of NATO forces in Libya had played a decisive role in the outcome of the 2011 Libyan revolution. The operation codenamed “Operation Unified Protector” was launched between February and October 2011. NATO intervened to enforce the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973, which condemned the human rights violations undertaken by the Gaddafi regime.

The Security Council attempted with its resolutions to implement a no-fly-zone, an arms embargo and authorized member states to act in order to protect Libyan citizens by taking adequate measures with the use of regional organizations. The first step of the NATO operation was the enforcement of the no-fly zone and afterwards, on March 31st to take over sole command and control of all military operations for Libya.

“The NATO-led “Operation Unified Protector” had three distinct components:

1. the enforcement of an arms embargo on the high seas of the Mediterranean to prevent the transfer of arms, related material and mercenaries to Libya;
2. the enforcement of a no-fly-zone in order to prevent any aircraft from bombing civilian targets; and
3. air and naval strikes against those military forces involved in attacks or threats to attack Libyan civilians and civilian-populated areas.”⁹

The Security Council had set a mandate for NATO which was fulfilled and NATO forces withdrew in the end of October 2011.

⁹ “NATO and Libya”. North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
< http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_52060.htm?selectedLocale=en>

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

The below timeline was based mainly on the Al Jazeera *“Timeline: Three years after Libya’s uprising”* (<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2014/02/timeline-three-years-after-libya-uprising-201421691755192622.html>).

DATE	EVENT
February 15, 2011	<p>Battle for Libya begins</p> <p>Fathi Terbil, a lawyer and government critic who represented relatives of prisoners killed in the 1996 Abu Salim prison massacre is arrested and protests arise in Benghazi with up to 2,000 participants. Dozens of protestors are killed by security forces who tried to stop them.</p>
February 17, 2011	<p>'Day of Rage'</p> <p>Believed by many as the beginning of the revolution, Libya's "Day of Rage" provokes thousands of people to protest against Gaddafi's rule. Demonstrations take place in Benghazi, Zintan, and Ajdabiya, Darnah among others. Bullets are fired at the demonstrators by Gaddafi forces, supposedly killing more than a dozen of them. As protests continue, reports state that Gaddafi hired mercenaries to join his security forces in order to continue to suppress the demonstrations.</p>
February 20, 2011	<p>Rebels take Benghazi</p> <p>Anti-Gaddafi rebels, after days of battle, seize control of Libya's second city. Already under rebel control are cities further east. Benghazi's hospitals report over 300 people killed over several days of fighting. The fall of the Katiba, the city's well-stocked military garrison, is a key factor in the war for Benghazi. Gaddafi keeps launching attacks on Benghazi but does not manage to regain control of the city.</p>
March 19, 2011	<p>NATO starts bombing Libya</p> <p>Upon debating, the United Nations Security Council votes to impose a no-fly zone over Libya. Of the 15 members of the council, ten vote "yes", while five abstain, being Russia, China, India, Germany and Brazil. Enforced firstly by NATO, the resolution calls for international military action to protect civilians. Support comes from several Arab countries such as Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Shortly after passing the resolution, French jets bomb Libya. The US, UK and others join next.</p>
August 21, 2011	<p>Rebel fighters enter Tripoli</p> <p>Gaddafi asks Libyans to fight off rebel "rats". Rebels arrive at Green Square and rename it Martyrs' Square. Libyan rebels launch a massive offensive on Gaddafi's compound in the centre of the capital.</p>
September 1, 2011	<p>Interim rulers discuss reshaping Libya</p> <p>During a conference in Paris, Libya's interim rulers talk with world leaders about reshaping Libya. On the 42nd anniversary of his gaining power, Gaddafi calls upon his supporters to continue fighting.</p>
October 20, 2011	<p>Gaddafi captured and killed</p> <p>Gaddafi is captured and killed in Sirte by rebels. After four days, the bodies of Gaddafi and his son Mutassim are transferred from Misrata where they were on display to a secret location to be buried.</p>
October 23, 2011	<p>Libya declares liberation</p> <p>The National Transition Council leader Mustafa Abdel Jalil declares the liberation of Libya eight months after the uprising against Gaddafi's 42-year rule began. Jalil vows to uphold Islamic law.</p>

July 7, 2012	<p>First free elections in decades</p> <p>A 200-seat General National Conference is elected by 2.8 million Libyan voters which is to replace the unelected National Transitional Council that ruled the country after the revolution.</p>
August 8, 2012	<p>NTC transfers power to newly elected General National Congress</p> <p>The National Transitional Council transfers power to the General National Congress. Mohamed Yousef el-Magariaf, leader of the National Front Party is voted chairman of the GNC, and, therefore, made interim head of state.</p>
September 11, 2012	<p>Attack on US consulate in Benghazi</p> <p>US Ambassador J Christopher Stevens is killed during a battle between an armed group and US security officers. Many other diplomatic missions in the Middle East are assaulted due to a video entitled "Innocence of Muslims".</p>
October 14, 2012	<p>Ali Zeidan appointed prime minister</p> <p>Ali Zeidan successfully runs for the position of prime minister after giving up his seat in the NTC. A month after his appointment, his government is sworn in.</p>
January 11, 2014	<p>Deputy Industry Minister Hassan al-Droui shot dead</p> <p>While visiting his hometown of Sirte, Deputy Industry Minister Hassan al-Droui is shot dead. The identity of the shooters is unknown. This becomes the first assassination of a member of the transitional government since the fall of Gaddafi.</p>
March 9, 2014	<p>Libya threatens North Korea ship over seized oil</p> <p>Libya threatens to bomb a North Korean-flagged tanker taken over by rebels trying to export oil.</p>
March 10, 2014	<p>Military authorized to use force on oil tanker</p> <p>Libya's Defense Ministry gives the green light to its military to use force to halt a North Korea-flagged tanker carrying crude oil sold by rebels.</p>
March 11, 2014	<p>Tanker holding Libyan oil escapes</p> <p>North Korean-flagged oil tanker escapes navy warships trying to stop it and is now in international waters.</p>
March 11, 2014	<p>Prime Minister Ali Zeidan ousted</p> <p>MPs call a vote of no confidence in Zeidan after being informed that the North Korean-flagged ship escaped to sea.</p>
April 2, 2014	<p>Rebels agree to end oil port blockade</p> <p>Rebel leader Ibrahim Jathran, along with his group, puts an end to their seizure of several oil-exporting ports after coming to solution with the government.</p>
May 17, 2014	<p>Launch of 'Operation Dignity' in Benghazi by ex-general Khalifa Haftar</p> <p>Army troops supporting a general instigating recent coup rumors and two armed groups fight and kill at least 24 people. Former Major General Khalifa Haftar promises to restart an armed offensive against Islamist former rebels in Benghazi, after being accused of attempting a coup on the 18th of May.</p>
May 18, 2014	<p>'Operation Dignity' moves to Tripoli</p>

	Forces allied with ex-general Haftar proceed into the capital.
May 19, 2014	<p>Armed group attacks parliament</p> <p>Al-Qaeda-inspired Lions of Monotheism Group states their intention to battle with forces loyal to a renegade Libyan general, Khalifa Haftar, after they attacked parliament and stopped its activities. Politicians ran for their lives as the gunmen raided the legislature.</p>
May 23, 2014	<p>Misrata forces move into Tripoli</p> <p>Forces allied with the General National Council from Misrata, move into the capital in a standoff with Zintan groups allied with ex-general Haftar.</p>
June 3, 2014	<p>New Libya Prime Minister</p> <p>Supported by 'Islamist' forces, Libya's new Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteeq takes office.</p>
June 4, 2014	<p>Court declares election illegal</p> <p>Libya's Supreme Constitutional Court decides that the election of Maiteeq is illegal due to an insufficient number of votes.</p>
June 5, 2014	<p>New caretaker government</p> <p>Appointed as new interim prime minister is Abdullah al-Thanni.</p>
July 7, 2014	<p>Formation of Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries</p> <p>In response to Haftar's attack on 'terrorists', a new organization brings together various ideological groupings, including Ansar al-Sharia and Libya Shield 1.</p>
July 13, 2014	<p>Launch of 'Operation Dawn'</p> <p>Fighters belonging to the Libya Revolutionaries Operations Room (with loyalty to the General National Council) fight to retake control of the capital's airport, in response to Haftar's 'Operation Dignity'.</p>
July 25, 2014	<p>Elections</p> <p>Legislative elections for the Council of Representatives return a majority of 'liberals' and 'nationalists' and a defeat for Islamist-allied candidates.</p>
July 31, 2014	<p>Benghazi control shifts</p> <p>Forces linked to the new Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries overtake most of Benghazi, putting back prior gains by Haftar and his allies.</p>
August 4, 2014	<p>House of Representatives sworn in</p> <p>The elected House of Representatives, or else the Council of Deputies is sworn in in the eastern city of Tobruk. The procedure does not take place in the capital Tripoli, where Islamist groups are raging over control of the city.</p>
August 13, 2014	<p>House of Representatives passes motion</p> <p>The House of Representatives in order to bring a ceasefire and stability passes a motion. With it, it calls upon all armed militias in the country to dissolve. Many of them had been given direct government since the 2011 revolution. A second motion is passed which calls upon for international intervention in order to provide the civilian population and government institutions with the required protection.</p>
August 16, 2014	<p>New Shura Council formed</p>

	The formation of the Shura Council of Benghazi takes place. The Shura Council of Benghazi is a breakaway group that rejected the jihadi ideology of their former partners, Ansar al-Sharia.
November 6, 2014	<p>House of Representatives disbanded</p> <p>The Libyan Supreme Constitutional Court disbands the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives rejected the ruling, claiming that it was made "at gunpoint" and that the court is controlled by the New General National Congress and the Islamists. It still remains the legitimate and elected government of Libya.</p>

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Libya until this day is torn by the raging civil war. There are several measures to be taken in order for Libya to embark on a Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP). This program should include:

- * Ceasefire and Disarmament

Realizing that a civil war is still effective, it is of paramount importance to implement a ceasefire between the two opposing governments. In addition, currently there are several armed militias, each stationed in a region of the country. This creates a severe instability and poses a daily threat to the lives of thousands of innocent civilians. Thus it should be a priority to implement a ceasefire and disarm the illegal armed militias.

- * Political stability

As previously stated, there is severe political instability in Libya. Different militias are attempting to seize power and the two major rival governments, the elected HoR in Tobruk and the NGNC in Tripoli are still in a state of conflict. As a result, measures should be established in order to ensure a new democratic transition and a stable government. Democratization of the state is essential. All Libyans should have the right for access to power and the right to exercise their power - to participate in the process of reconstructing their country. That should be achieved by all means, preferably without resorting to violence.

- * Economic development

Before the revolution, Libya used to be one of the world's largest oil exporters and its exports were the main source of income for the country. Currently the oil wealth is divided among the groups and much of it is escaping without consent from the government. Economic development is inextricably linked with a ceasefire and a stable government. Even though economic development is a part of post-war reconstruction, this should not be the focus.

- * Meeting basic humanitarian needs

Meeting basic humanitarian needs is an integral part of reconstruction. International assistance should be given to Libya, in order to meet them. In addition, after the situation stabilizes, there should be a lifting in the isolation of Libya, in order for imports and exports to take place and for people to return to the country.

- * Rebuilding of infrastructure

The revolution and the civil war had and still are destroying all of the country's infrastructure. Hospitals, schools, public transportation hubs, military force along with large residential areas have been destroyed. After the country gets on the reconstruction program, a large part of it should be targeted towards rebuilding the ruins the war has left behind.

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