

The NATIONAL INTEREST FOUNDATION

[Libya's Internationally-Recognized Government Signs a Ceasefire Agreement with Renegade Military Commander Khalifa Haftar's Forces](#)

After nearly a decade of conflict, Libya's warring factions have agreed on a ceasefire after rounds of negotiations with United Nations mediators in Geneva, Switzerland. The ceasefire was agreed upon between Libya's internationally-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) and Khalifa Haftar, a renegade military commander whose forces have controlled much of eastern Libya. The United Nations and both sides hailed the agreement as a "permanent ceasefire" to end the fighting in Libya. As part of the deal, all foreign fighters and mercenaries would have three months to leave the country. The presence of outside actors in Libya has greatly complicated the situation and pushed the country away from a democratic solution in the best interest of its citizens. With the ceasefire agreement, Libya's opposing factions will seek to bring unity to a fractured nation that has been plagued by instability and unrest.

The ceasefire agreement had been negotiated by delegates from both sides of the Libyan conflict, and mediated by the United Nations' special envoy, Stephanie Williams. Under the terms of the deal, all frontline forces would return to their respective bases, and foreign fighters would be given three months to leave Libya. Both of these conditions would be independently monitored by the United Nations to ensure compliance. Additionally, the ceasefire would be followed up by political talks in Tunisia to be held in November which will discuss Libya's political transition.

A key aspect of the ceasefire agreement is the reestablishment of national control over oil facilities and the national bank. Khalifa Haftar's forces had controlled a majority of Libya's oil fields, and blocked the Government of National Accord from accessing them, in an attempt to squeeze the government financially. Only in recent weeks has oil started to flow out of Libya again, after a serious economic depression. Libya's vital oil exporting ports of Ras Lanuf and al-Sidr are due to resume production soon, which will serve as a major catalyst for getting the Libyan economy back on track. The ceasefire also makes provisions to re-open national air and roadways, and reintegrate the soldiers fighting on the frontlines. To this end, the first passenger flight between Benghazi and Tripoli in over a year landed safely after the deal was reached.

After the deal was announced, both sides expressed their pleasure at having reached an agreement. The head of the government's delegation said Libya had endured enough bloodshed and appealed for unity across factions. Meanwhile, the head of the delegation sent by Khalifa Haftar stated that his side was committed to implementing what had been agreed upon in Geneva. Both sides being satisfied with the deal is crucial, as previous ceasefire agreements in Libya have been broken. Prior agreements have been used by foreign actors to covertly send additional weapons and manpower to Libya before the fighting resumed. Now however, all parties seem dedicated to ending the fighting.