



Weekly Report

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Libya

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- 1 Ousting of Libyan Prime Minister triggers conflict between East and West
- 2 Libya plans military offensive in response to blockade

Ousting of Libyan Prime Minister triggers conflict between East and West

- Libya's Islamist-led congress forced Ali Zeidan out of office this week after he failed to prevent a North Korean tanker from loading oil from a port controlled by rebels in the eastern region of Cyrenaica.
- Despite having the largest oil reserves in Africa, production of oil in the region has dropped drastically in the last six months following the self-declaration by the rebels of a federalist government formed in Cyrenaica. The rebels have blockaded numerous oil terminals arguing that much of Libya's oil is produced in the east but the revenue flows to Tripoli in the west. The rebels, based in the east, want a larger share of the profits.
- In an attempt to retake the blockaded oil terminals from the rebels, an attack was launched in the city of Sirte, which is the location of an army special forces unit- the Zawiya Martyrs brigade: 5 people were killed. The rebels responded to this aggression by creating a defence line at the Red Wadi, which is a natural feature that impedes the way to the oil ports.
- Source: The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/13/libya-ali-zeidan-threat-civil-war>

"We prefer talks but if talks fail then the state will act." -Prime Minister Ali Zeidan

Libya plans military offensive in response to blockade

- On March 10th, 2014, Libya officials stopped a North Korean-flagged tanker that had loaded oil from a rebel-held port. Currently, the rebels have full control of three ports throughout Libya and have part control of a fourth port. The rebel federalists believe they have a right to sell this oil.
- The head of parliament, who has since been ousted and replaced by de facto president Nuri Abu Sahmain, ordered the formation of a force made up of regular soldiers and allied militias to take back the occupied ports while, Abb-Rabbo al-Barassi, the self-declared rebel prime minister, called on "all honorable men" in the east to join the federalist forces.
- The United Nations' special envoy to Libya, Tarek Mitri, told the U.N. Security Council on Monday that the loading of oil by the rebels onto the North Korean-flagged vessel "constitutes an illegal act and violates Libya's sovereignty over its ports and natural resources".
- Tensions in the region remain high.
- Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/11/us-libya-oil-idUSBREA2709K20140311>