



[Haftar Forces in Retreat, Losing 7 Cities to the Internationally-Recognized Government of Tripoli](#)

Libyan military commander Khalifa Haftar and his forces are in retreat after suffering a string of defeats in Libya's northwest, including losses around the capital of Tripoli. In a two-day span, the internationally-recognized Government of National Accord captured seven towns from Haftar, and repelled an attack on the capital city. Haftar is leading the Libyan National Army, a rebel group that opposes the Government of National Accord. Following the losses, Haftar declared during a television address that a 2015 United Nations unity agreement was "a thing of the past" and stated that he would unilaterally create a new government, which has been roundly condemned by the international community. His announcement is widely seen as a distraction to his successive military defeats, and a way to firm up his control over eastern Libya, where his forces are based.

In response to Haftar, the Government of National Accord accused the commander of grandstanding to cover up for his military failures, and urged Libyans to be part of a democratic solution to the country's war. The European Union, which has brokered negotiations between Libya's warring parties in the past, called Haftar's declaration unacceptable, and said the only sustainable solution to Libya's civil war was a political one. Even Russia, which has backed Haftar, criticized him, saying that his unilateral declaration was inappropriate, and compromise was the only way out of the country's current situation.