



[Internationally-Recognized Government of National Accord Launches Operation to Capture Airbase](#)

Forces loyal to Libya's internationally-recognized government seized parts of the al-Watiya airbase, which had been under rebel control since 2014. The airbase, located to the southwest of Tripoli, had been held by forces belonging to rogue commander Khalifa Haftar since it was initially captured nearly six years ago. Haftar has used the airbase to launch attacks on the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA), and it is considered a key strategic position by both sides. The operation in al-Watiya comes not long after the Government of National Accord recaptured seven key towns from Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA). The LNA also recently failed in an attack on Tripoli, which has added to the GNA's momentum.

The conflict in Libya has been ongoing since Muammar Gaddafi was toppled in 2011. The most recent developments have seen the Government of National Accord take significant steps to defeating Khalifa Haftar and the Libyan National Army. The successful attack on al-Watiya airbase is another step forward for the GNA, and another stinging defeat for the LNA. A turning point in the war was Turkey's entrance on the side of the GNA. Turkish drones have been a key factor in the GNA's recent victories, and the Turkish government warned Haftar and his allies to "rethink their positions and invest" in the Libyan government. Khalifa Haftar still enjoys broad support in Eastern Libya, and has international allies in Russia and Egypt, which signals the war may drag on, despite the GNA's recent gains.