



**GORAN
TOMASEVIC**
/ REUTERS

**Une autre guerre
civile en Libye**
*Another Civil War
in Libya*

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Début avril, l'Armée nationale libyenne de Khalifa Haftar a lancé une offensive pour prendre le contrôle de Tripoli, aux mains de combattants fidèles au Gouvernement d'union nationale du Premier ministre Fayez al-Sarraj, soutenu par les Nations unies.

Lors d'une interview accordée à Reuters, Fayez al-Sarraj a affirmé sur un ton de défi que ses forces, composées de groupes armés présents dans plusieurs villes de l'ouest du pays, continueraient à repousser le maréchal Haftar, le considérant comme un potentiel dictateur de la même espèce que Kadhafi. Sans donner plus de détails, il a déclaré : « Notre objectif principal est de défendre Tripoli. Au cours des prochains jours, il y aura de bonnes nouvelles, des avancées. »

Les appels de la communauté internationale à un cessez-le-feu sont restés sans effet, les divergences diplomatiques autour du dossier libyen n'arrangeant rien. L'Égypte et les Émirats arabes unis soutiennent Haftar, qu'ils perçoivent comme un rempart contre les islamistes, et lui fournissent des armes depuis 2014 selon des rapports de l'ONU. Haftar se dit capable de rassembler les Libyens et de repousser les djihadistes.

La plupart des pays occidentaux traitent avec le Premier ministre al-Sarraj, qui a récemment reçu une livraison d'armes de la Turquie. La France et d'autres pays ont proposé un cessez-le-feu sans condition, sans pour autant exercer de véritable pression sur Haftar, qui pourrait ainsi maintenir ses troupes dans l'ouest du pays.

Le Premier ministre al-Sarraj a proposé la tenue d'un « forum libyen » pour réunir « les forces nationales influentes sur les plans politique et social, et partisans d'une solution pacifique et démocratique ». Cette initiative prévoit également la tenue d'élections avant la fin de l'année. La proposition a été bien accueillie par l'Union européenne, et par l'ONU qui avait déjà suggéré d'organiser une rencontre peu avant le début des hostilités. Mais sans surprise, les législateurs de l'est du pays, alliés à Haftar, ont refusé.

Depuis avril, selon l'OMS, les frappes aériennes et les combats au sol ont fait 1 000 morts et 5 000 blessés. Plus de 100 000 personnes ont dû fuir leur maison, et la Libye semble sombrer un peu plus encore dans le chaos.

LIEU D'EXPOSITION
COUVENT DES MINIMES

↑ Un combattant fidèle au Gouvernement d'union nationale (GNA), reconnu par la communauté internationale, observe les positions des combattants fidèles au maréchal Khalifa Haftar.

Banlieue de Tripoli, 15 mai 2019.

© Goran Tomasevic / Reuters

A fighter loyal to the internationally recognized Government of National Accord [GNA] observing positions held by fighters loyal to Khalifa Haftar.

Outskirts of Tripoli, Libya, May 15, 2019.

© Goran Tomasevic / Reuters



Un combattant fidèle au Gouvernement d'union nationale (GNA), reconnu par la communauté internationale, traverse une maison située près d'une position tenue par les forces loyales au maréchal Khalifa Haftar.
Banlieue de Tripoli, 15 mai 2019.
© Goran Tomasevic / Reuters

A fighter loyal to the internationally recognized Government of National Accord [GNA] walking through a house near a position held by troops loyal to Khalifa Haftar.
Outskirts of Tripoli, Libya, May 15, 2019.
© Goran Tomasevic / Reuters

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Another Civil War in Libya

Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) began an offensive in early April to take Tripoli from fighters loyal to Prime Minister Fayed al-Serraj's Government of National Accord (GNA) which has the backing of the United Nations. In an interview with Reuters, Prime Minister Serraj struck a defiant tone when he said that his troops, from armed groups in cities in the west of the country, would continue to repel Haftar, seeing him as a potential Gaddafi-like dictator. "Our primary military goal is to defend Tripoli," he said. "In the coming days there will be positive news... progress," but he gave no details.

Calls from the international community for a ceasefire have fallen on deaf ears, and diplomatic discord over Libya has not helped the situation. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have backed Haftar and, according to UN reports, have been arming him since 2014 as a bastion against Islamists. Haftar believes he is capable of reuniting Libya and countering jihadists.

Most Western countries have been working with Prime Minister Serraj, who recently received a shipment of arms from Turkey. France and other countries have proposed an unconditional ceasefire, without putting any real pressure on Haftar, which would mean that his troops could stay in western Libya.

Serraj also proposed a national conference to prepare for elections to be held before the end of the year: "Libyans should meet to overcome this struggle for power." The idea was welcomed by the United Nations, which had proposed its own such forum shortly before the war broke out, and by the European Union, but, predictably, lawmakers from eastern Libya allied with Haftar rejected it.

Since April, according to the World Health Organization, airstrikes and ground fighting have left nearly 1,000 dead and 5,000 wounded, and more than 100,000 have been forced to flee their homes, as Libya appears to be plunging even further into chaos.

EXHIBITION VENUE
COUVENT DES MINIMES

Un combattant fidèle au Gouvernement d'union nationale (GNA), reconnu par la communauté internationale, pendant des affrontements avec les forces loyales au maréchal Khalifa Haftar. Banlieue de Tripoli, 15 mai 2019.

© Goran Tomasevic / Reuters

A fighter loyal to the internationally recognized Government of National Accord [GNA] during clashes with forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar. Outskirts of Tripoli, Libya, May 25, 2019.

© Goran Tomasevic / Reuters



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Goran Tomašević, the Serbian photographer working for Reuters, has spent more than 20 years travelling the globe to cover the world's biggest stories. His award-winning pictures of wars and revolutions have become some of the most enduring images of the conflicts in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria. His work also includes photographic features from South Sudan, Pakistan, Mozambique, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Burundi, Nigeria, and Honduras, as well as sports coverage of the Olympic Games and World Cup soccer. Tomašević began photographing war in 1991, with the breakup of Yugoslavia, covering the story for the daily newspaper *Politika*. In 1996 he joined Reuters, covering political tensions in Kosovo and anti-Milošević demonstrations

in his hometown of Belgrade. Over the three months of NATO bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999, Tomašević was the only photographer working for the foreign press to remain in Kosovo throughout the conflict.

In 2002, Tomašević moved to Jerusalem and covered the second Palestinian intifada. During the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, his picture of a U.S. Marine watching the statue of Saddam Hussein topple became one of the most memorable images of the war.

He returned to Iraq as sectarian violence escalated, and also photographed America's "other war" in Afghanistan. His sequence of photographs of U.S. Marine Sergeant Bee narrowly escaping Taliban bullets has become an iconic image in U.S. war history.

Tomašević was based in Cairo from 2006 to

2012, and was at the heart of Reuters' coverage of the Arab Spring uprisings. In Libya, his image of a fireball after an airstrike on pro-Gaddafi fighters was published on the front pages of more than 100 newspapers around the world.

He has won international acclaim for his raw pictures of the Syrian Civil War, showing rebel fighters battling pro-Assad forces in the ruins of Aleppo and Damascus, and also for his coverage of the bloody siege on a shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya.

Distinctions and awards include: Reuters Photographer of the Year; World Press Photo, first and third prizes, Spot News Stories, and POYi, second and third prizes, News Picture Story; China International Press Photo of the Year; SOPA Award of Excellence for News Photography; London Frontline Club Award;

Days Japan award; National Press Photography Association, Best of Photojournalism, Portrait and Personality category and third prize for news; and in 2014, he was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography. The photo team of *The Guardian* newspaper chose Goran Tomašević as their agency photographer of the year for 2013; *International Business Times* UK chose him as their agency photographer of the year for 2016. In April 2019, Tomašević and several colleagues from Reuters were awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography for their coverage of the mass migration of Central and South Americans to the United States.

Goran Tomašević is Chief Photographer for Reuters, and is currently based in Istanbul.