



The Lexicon

Country Context: Conflict in Libya

Introduction

Much of Libya’s current insecurity and violence is rooted in the 2011 opposition uprising and overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi’s -42-year rule. The 2011 revolution began with Arab Spring-linked anti-government protests in February that progressed quickly into civil war. This resulted in the proliferation of armed militias, the number of which ballooned to more than 1,600³ over the next three years, and encompassed goals across the political and ideological spectrums. In 2014, elections were held for the newly created House of Representatives (HoR) but the results were rejected by Justice and Construction Party (JCP) members of the General National Congress (GNC), who had done poorly in the 2012 elections. This resulted in the formation of rival governments—the internationally recognized HoR based in Tobruk and the GNC in Tripoli (with the National Salvation Government established as their executive arm)—and contributed