



# LIBYA NEWS UPDATE

Friday, August 13, 2021

## WAGNER: SCALE OF HAFTAR'S RUSSIAN MERCENARIES IN LIBYA REVEALED BY THE BBC

A BBC investigation has revealed the scale of operations by a shadowy Russian mercenary group in Libya's civil war, which includes links to war crimes and the Russian military.

A Samsung tablet left by a fighter for the Wagner group has exposed its key role - as well as traceable fighter codenames. The BBC has also obtained a "shopping list" for state-of-the-art military equipment which expert witnesses say could only have come from Russian army supplies. Wagner's fighters have appeared in Libya since April 2019 when they joined the forces of **Khalifa Haftar**, after he launched an attack on the UN-backed government in the capital, Tripoli.



The TV documentary, [Haftar's Russian Mercenaries: Inside the Wagner Group](#), includes eyewitness accounts of **human rights abuses committed by Wagner and Haftar's forces**. One former fighter freely admits "no-one wants an extra mouth to feed" when asked about killing of prisoners. A Libyan villager also describes how he played dead as his relatives were killed. His testimony helped the BBC team identify a suspected killer. The Samsung tablet also provides evidence of the mercenaries' involvement in the mining and booby-trapping of civilian areas.

## ECONOMY MINISTER DISCUSSES RETURN OF U.S. COMPANIES TO LIBYA

The Libyan Minister of Economy and Trade, Mohammed Al-Huweij, discussed with the Head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce the return of American firms to Libya to resume their halted projects and increase cooperation. The Minister reiterated the importance of a real partnership between local and foreign investors, adding that Libyan investment laws had given incentives and assurances to investors.



## LIBYA OPENS ITS LARGEST COVID-19 VACCINATION CENTER

Libya has opened its largest Covid-19 vaccination center in the capital Tripoli, in an effort to speed up inoculations and contain the rising number of infections. Established in the gymnasium of the City sports venue in Tripoli, the vaccination center has a daily capacity of 3,000 patients. Libya's Government of National has similar plans to open centers in the cities of Benghazi, Misrata and Sebha.



DISSEMINATED BY MERCURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, LLC, A REGISTERED FOREIGN AGENT, ON BEHALF OF LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. MORE INFORMATION IS ON FILE WITH THE DEPT. OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC.



# LIBYA NEWS UPDATE

Friday, August 13, 2021

DISSEMINATED BY MERCURY PUBLIC AFFAIRS, LLC, A REGISTERED FOREIGN AGENT, ON BEHALF OF LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. MORE INFORMATION IS ON FILE WITH THE DEPT. OF JUSTICE, WASHINGTON, DC.