
**Saddam Haftar's promotion to the rank of "Lieutenant
General"... Does it carry political and military
implications, distort the image of an "organized army",
and pave the way for a military coup?**

Detailed reading

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Introduction

The military institution is a sovereign body with its own controls, laws and customs. It is an example of discipline, seriousness and combating chaos. Any transgressions or violations of these laws and controls cause a crisis, loss of confidence and harm to the military institution, which is entrusted with providing security and safety for the country and its people. Any laxity in punishing those who make mistakes and violate military laws distorts the image of the disciplined soldier, which negatively affects OnOnOn his duties in protecting the country's national security. One of the files that witnessed the most violations and breaches of military customs and clear violations of the provisions of the military law is promotions and granting of ranks within the military institution in Libya in its two parts: the eastern part represented by the General Command Forces, and the western part represented by the Chief of Staff affiliated with the government and the armed groups under it. The promotion crisis is represented in granting them to those who do not deserve them, whether by not passing through the stages stipulated in the promotions law with its many well-known articles, or by the person who obtained the promotion obtaining it due to pressure from "militias" or a powerful authority or an attempt by governments to neutralize him or gain his loyalty or granting these promotions for political goals and personal projects in order to Tightening control and influence, i.e. granting promotion to those who are trusted and related, not to those who are powerful and competent. Recently, a state of competition and conflict was observed between the eastern and western camps in Libya, with its military and civilian branches, in the matter of promotions, and everyone is clearly violating the law by granting major military ranks to figures who have not entered a single real war, or contributed to presenting strategic visions and projects related to the military file and the national security of the country, but the promotions were distributed in the east. And in the West, to gain positions, and to flirt with personalities who imposed themselves by force of arms, all of whom carry personal projects for the sake of political and military influence in the scene.

Among the files that received local and international reactions and met with disapproval and criticism is the haste of the Commander of the General Command, Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, in granting promotions to his sons and cousins in a few months, so that his son Saddam Khalifa Haftar reached the rank of "Lieutenant General", at the age of 34. This is an event that no country in the world has witnessed, even African countries, most of which are ruled by military coups. No one has dared to do this. A general who granted himself or his relatives a high military rank such as "Lieutenant General", even if he was the ruler and the controller, which makes "Saddam Haftar" enter the "Guinness Book of Records" as the fastest soldier to obtain military promotions that would bring him to the rank of "Lieutenant General" in less than 10 years of wearing the military uniform, after a course in one of the military colleges in the State of Jordan, not to mention that the man was not He was a military man from the beginning, and his only connection to the military establishment was that he took a series of intermittent courses in Jordan and Egypt, but the most powerful thing is that he is the son of the army commander who seems to be pushing him to the position he is planning for. Before beginning to present a reading and assessment of the results and repercussions of these actions on the strength and discipline of the military institution, we will review a small aspect of the Libyan military law that pertains to the promotion chapter.

It is Law No. (40) of 2004 on the promotion of officers to the rank of Colonel. The article states: "Officers shall be promoted to the rank of Colonel by seniority, provided that they meet the following conditions: A- Completing at least the following periods in the rank from which they are being promoted:

- From Second Lieutenant to First Lieutenant: thirty months.
- From First Lieutenant to Captain: three years.
- From Captain to Major: five years.
- From Major to Lieutenant Colonel: four years.
- From Lieutenant Colonel to Colonel: five years.

B- Proof of health fitness.

C- The efficiency reports must be satisfactory. D- The officer must not have been convicted by military courts during the year preceding the promotion, or have been subjected to disciplinary punishment five times during this year. C- Pass the promotion exam, or obtain the qualification determined by the General Staff Presidency for officers below the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. h- There are vacant positions in the staff.

"Obvious military violations"

Considering the aforementioned conditions, and the years that reach 20 years until the soldier reaches the rank of "Colonel" only, we find that Saddam Haftar reached his position and his last rank of "Lieutenant General" in clear violation of the law and military materials, since his years of service did not reach 5 years, not to mention his military studies or his subordination to the institution, he does not have any qualifications except that he is the son of the Commander-in-Chief, as we mentioned earlier. A few months before this step, specifically at the end of October 2023, Major General "Rakn" was appointed commander of the most important weapons in the Libyan army, which are the "Land Forces", replacing Lieutenant General Maraj Al-Amami, who held several military positions and is considered one of the oldest military personnel in the Libyan Armed Forces. For more control and empowerment, "Saddam Khalifa Haftar" is promoted from the rank of "Major General" He was promoted to the rank of "Lieutenant General" less than a year after his promotion to the rank of Major General, a military event that the Arab region had never witnessed in its military history. Even Gaddafi himself did not reach this rank, despite the fact that he was a member of the military establishment and despite the fact that he carried out a military coup, and did not grant himself ranks and medals. This is a funny and sad paradox.

We also observed another violation of the law and military customs, contained in Law No. (40) of the year of service in the armed forces, specifically in Chapter Nine on the duties of military personnel and the actions prohibited for them, Article (54), which stipulates the actions prohibited for military personnel, and is summarized in the article :in: It is prohibited for military personnel, personally or through an intermediary

To engage in commercial activities of any kind, or to have an interest in contracting, supply or -1

Tenders related to his work.

To purchase or rent, for the purpose of exploitation, real estate or movable property offered by the administrative authorities or -2

Judicial authority for sale or rental in the place where he performs his work if that is related to it.

To participate in the establishment of companies, or to accept any position in them, unless he is a representative of the government. 4 - 3

- To mediate for anyone in any matter related to his work, or to mediate for any person in any matter that does not fall within

In his specialty.

5 - To combine his work with any other work he performs for a fee or without a fee, except with written permission from the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. He is generally prohibited from performing any work prohibited for state employees other than the aforementioned.

Anyone who follows the activities and movements of "Saddam Haftar" finds him strongly influential in several files related to the economy.

And investment, and on top of that, his control over the Military Investment Authority, which his father established in the year, which is the economic arm of the General Command Forces, and enjoys a sovereign status, as it is not subject to the control of any party and does not pay any fees or customs.

Saddam appeared with his influence in the military investment sector and the scrap metal trade, especially with the state of Turkey, as well as his influence in the oil sector and his control over it in terms of exports and insurance, and even his influence in the decision to close the oil fields, as well as his influence and activities in the gold trade, especially with the state of Venezuela, by buying it, then remelting it and selling it, and these are matters

It is known that it is not secret or from the files that Saddam himself denies, and this is a violation of the text of the previous article that prevents the military from working in these matters.

"Competitive promotions in the west of the country"

The crisis of promotions and military ranks was not only in the east of the country, but it was also repeated in the west, where the head of the government, Abdul Hamid Dabaiba, retains the position of Minister of Defense. It is not yet known what the obstacles are to appointing a Minister of Defense for the Libyan state, and Dabaiba doing so while he is a civilian man who has no connection to military matters, and this is a strange paradox. Also, the title of "Supreme Commander of the Army" is limited to the Presidential Council according to the text of the "Geneva" Agreement, which provided for unified executive authority, although the Council has never exercised this task realistically and practically, which prompted the House of Representatives recently to withdraw this title from the Presidential Council and grant it to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aqila Saleh, turning the matter into controversy, debate and division between the two councils that still continues. Its echo is there. On every occasion or military meeting, the Libyan Presidential Council affirms its original jurisdiction to grant regular and exceptional promotions to army officers, appoint commanders and leaders of military regions, promote regular and exceptional officers, form and establish military units, and appoint commanders of military regions and their assistants, considering that this is "the original jurisdiction of the Presidential Council by law." In his capacity as the supreme commander, any decision issued in violation of this by any party or position is considered invalid and must be cancelled for being issued by an incompetent party," without disclosing what he meant by an incompetent party, but what is certain is that the Presidential Council, since coming to power, has distanced itself from Field Marshal Haftar and his forces and does not interfere in any matters that concern him or comment on him, thus proving that Haftar and his forces are his own private army. His own laws, knowing full well that he will never submit to them or treat them as "supreme commander" one day, which is another matter that harms the desired model of the military institution.

In an attempt and haste to compete with the eastern Libyan camp, especially the military one, both the Presidential Council, in its capacity as the supreme commander of the army, and the head of the Government of National Unity, rushed to promote a number of military leaders in the west of the country, some of whom were disciplined soldiers who carried military numbers and were sons of the military institution, and others were imposed by the policy of *fait accompli*, and They have a relationship with the military, but power and influence granted them ranks. The Libyan Presidential Council decided to promote the commander of the Western Coast Military Region, Major General Salah al-Din al-Namroush, to the rank of "Lieutenant General" and appoint him Deputy Chief of the General Staff. Last July, the Presidential Council decided to exceptionally promote the former Director of the Military Intelligence Department, Major General Osama Al-Juwaili, to the rank of Lieutenant General in the Libyan Army. The Presidential Council also decided to exceptionally promote the Commander of the 111th Brigade, Abdul Salam Zubi, to the rank of Colonel. After the last promotion, the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity and Minister of Defense, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah issued a decision to appoint "Zubi" as Undersecretary of the Ministry of Defense.

"Promotions that distort the military institution"

As we at the Libyan Center for Security and Military Studies pay special and precise attention to the military institution file, as we see that tampering with this institution and its role is one of the greatest threats to national security, so we have put forward several papers on building the military institution in Libya in line with the strategies of the global, regional and Arab military powers, and we have raised the promotion crisis. The ranks are in several papers, including a paper entitled: "Military ranks and exceptional promotions...and the challenges of building a unified Libyan army in a regionally divided society."

Published on our official pages on December 20, 2020, the military and political, there are many positions and senior ranks within the military institution that influence

In a scene that Libya had not experienced before a year ago, the Libyan state's financial budgets are being strained by the strength of the organizational structures and professional controls.

The privileges granted to these positions, which come through the political elite without any required qualifications, but rather through quotas and favoritism, we add here to them “kinship, family, love of control and influence, and ensuring blind and direct loyalty.” We confirmed in the paper, which can be viewed in full via our platforms, that “one of the most tragic events in Libya after the issue of exceptional military ranks and promotions granted to undeserving individuals, which caused a set of negative phenomena that affect the rebuilding of the unified professional Libyan army that maintains Libyan national security and Libyan borders, We add to it that such steps, without study and hierarchy, distort and weaken the military institution, and cause cases of chaos and even coups within it, because the old, combatant ranks see that they have been bypassed in favor of foreign figures to the military institution, who were promoted at lightning speed to reach the highest ranks of the army while they are a “team”, so that the old soldiers find themselves under the command of officers who have not... Their age exceeds 40 years, which causes resentment, chaos and loss of confidence. We also devoted a paper to the Libyan Center regarding the decisions issued by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and which concern the core of the military institution, including the creation of units within it and the latest of which is the promotion of his sons and cousins to be the ones now leading the scene. The paper of the Libyan Center for Security and Military Studies came under the title: Khalifa

Haftar.. Decisions of the stage or necessity”, published on our platforms on July 11, issued a new section called “Security Units Section”, and the decision stated in its third article that Brigadier General/Khaled

Khalifa Haftar (recently promoted to the rank of Major General) as its commander, and to include the military units: Major General Majhafel and Major General Khaled bin Al-Walid. This step also violated Resolution No. (40) for the year of service in the armed forces and its amendments, as the resolution itself specified the components of the Libyan army as follows: “Land Forces – Naval Forces – Air Forces – Air Defense Forces”, and did not mention the name “security units”.

“What made us confirm that it is only a step to enable Haftar to give his son Khaled a place in the military establishment, so that these units would then protect and guard Haftar personally, in addition to other tasks. We mentioned in the paper that “this decision brings to mind the decision of the General Temporary Defense Committee, No. 54 of 2011.”

2001 The following units are charged with guarding, securing, defending and liberating:

Guarding: The following units are charged with it: Security Forces 219 – Units affiliated with the Chief of Staff of the Security Units – The Green Revolutionary Guard – The People’s Guard – Other revolutionary formations – Regular bodies, regardless of their military or civilian status, which means that Field Marshal Haftar is following in the same footsteps as Gaddafi formed an army loyal to him (and only) on the condition that his family would control its units and leadership, which is what is translated by the evidence and decisions regarding the rapid promotion and advancement of the sons of the Field Marshal, the latest of which was the decision to promote Saddam to the rank of “Lieutenant General,” which is higher than the current positions before the rank of “Field Marshal.”

And Alia

The ill-considered promotion decisions in the East and the West, which come to buy loyalty and protection and are granted to people of trust, on the condition that the competent are bypassed, we consider them systematic steps to distort the military institution, and empty it of its content in favor of young leaders who have never entered a real war, which means weak performance and entails a danger to the national security of the country and its borders. And its sovereignty, as these young leaders who do not have negotiation or military experience can be manipulated by external or local parties, not to mention the state of suppressed discontent that these promotions leave in the souls and hearts of the veteran fighters and leaders, which means the deterioration of the institutional interior of the army, and the expectation of its collapse at the first opportunity for the founding fathers to overthrow Young officers with high ranks and medals, which makes the army always vulnerable to chaos and division, and its transformation into armed groups.

With different loyalties, loyalty to God and the homeland is absent, as is the military doctrine, meaning that we are facing a dilapidated project that is liable to explode at any time. Indeed, the recent promotions, especially the one that Saddam Haftar received from the rank of Lieutenant General, make us expect some scenarios that concern the military institution, including: the formation of a military council that Haftar can convince military personnel in western Libya to accept and join, which means the country falling under strict military rule and ending the democratic experiment, or the occurrence of coups. Military within the army institution, east or west, which means chaos, security breakdown, collapse of national security, securing the borders, or the return of fighting and clashes between the army camps, east and west. Therefore, the Libyan Center for Security and Military Studies recommends to the Presidential Council, in its capacity as the “Supreme Commander of the Army,” as well as Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, the necessity of observing military laws and their texts, especially in the chapter on promotions and military ranks, and that Haftar himself review the decisions to grant promotions to his sons, and the impact of that on the unity of the army and its stereotypical and national image. We also recommend to the 5+5 Military Committee the necessity of discussing the file of promotions and military ranks, since the “10” members are leaders and sons of the military institution, and they are the most aware of the danger of promoting the unqualified and undeserving. Therefore, both parties in the committee must provide recommendations and advice to their leaders on the necessity of reviewing the file of promotions and military ranks, perhaps it will be an opportunity and a step towards building an army. Real, with the tools of real leaders, in which loyalty is to God and then to the homeland, so that the citizen can be reassured that he has an army that protects his borders and capabilities, not personalities and leaders.





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