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Conflicting Reports over Fate of Cabinet Underline Confusion, Lack of Transparency



Libyan lawyers hold placards during a protest in front of the Transitional National Assembly in Tripoli April 26, 2012. Libya, preparing for elections in June, has banned parties based on religion, tribe or ethnicity, the government said on Wednesday, and a new Islamist party viewed as a leading contender signalled it would challenge the decision. The placard reads: "Down to those who violate human rights in the judiciary."

Tripoli-While reports that the Libyan National Transitional Council (NTC) had approved a no confidence motion against the Government of PM Abdulrahim Elkeib during a stormy meeting on Wednesday meeting on the NTC, The council's spokesman, Mohammed al-Hareizi, denied that the NTC had sacked the government.

These confusing reports underline the lack of transparency that has characterized both the NTC and its executive branch since their emergency in February 2011 during the early days of the uprising against the dead brutal dictator Gaddafi.

On Thursday, two senior officials at the NTC, Fathi Baja and Moussa al-Kouni, confirmed to the Associated Press on Thursday that 65 of the 72 members of the NTC approved the motion against the el-Keeb

government.

By Friday, leadership of the National Transitional Council appeared hesitant and shaken, as it failed to come up with an official announcement over the ouster of the Cabinet.

Al-Hareizi's denial is the most bizarre twist in the political scene since Wednesday. Denying the story as a whole means he would even deny that a meeting even had took place on that date.

Al-Hareizi even described the report as "baseless" in a brief statement carried on the official Libyan news agency, LANA.

Fathi Baja said the decision to dismiss the Cabinet came after a stormy meeting between el-Keeb and six of his ministers with top NTC members.

He is reported saying: "El-Keib was very angry, and he wouldn't listen to our complaints," adding that he left the meeting in protest at the inaction of NTC leader Mustafa Abdul-Jalil, who "ordered us not to talk and remain silent."

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Suicide Bomber Kills 10 in Damascus

A suicide bomber blew himself up across the street from a mosque in the Syrian capital Friday, killing at least 10 people and wounding nearly 30, state TV said. Three other smaller explosions also were reported in the capital, killing one person.

The violence was the latest blow to a peace plan brokered by special envoy Kofi Annan that called for a cease-fire to go into effect two weeks ago. The truce has been roundly ignored on the ground, and the U.N. has only 15 monitors in Syria who are trying to salvage it.

In New Delhi, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon told reporters that the regime's continued repression of the civilian population "has reached an unacceptable, intolerable stage." Ban said he was "gravely alarmed" that killings continue,

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