



Policy Analysis /
Articles & Op-Eds

December Elections in Libya Risk a Return to Civil War

by [Ben Fishman](#)

Nov 21, 2021

Also available in

[Arabic](#)

Also published in National Interest

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Ben Fishman](#)

Ben Fishman is a Senior Fellow in The Washington Institute's Geduld Program on Arab Politics.



Articles & Testimony

Authorities have come too far to risk resuming violence or dividing the country with a rushed, heavily boycotted vote.

Just over ten years after the demise of Muammar Gaddafi, his once “reform-minded” son turned internationally-wanted war criminal announced he will run for president of Libya in elections scheduled for December 24. Seif al-Islam’s political aspirations demonstrate just one of many problems with holding elections next month. If he is allowed to run, Libyans who fought against Ghaddafi may boycott or turn to violence. Conversely, if Seif’s candidacy is rejected by the electoral commission that is expected to determine his eligibility, supporters of the old regime could boycott or disrupt the elections. The same dynamic will occur now that Khalifa Haftar, the eastern-based commander who wantonly attacked Tripoli in 2019, has entered the race. Given this hyper-polarized climate and the risk of substantial violence, it is far more prudent to delay elections for a certain period until several critical issues are resolved...

[Read the full article on the National Interest website.](#) ❖



[View/Print Page as PDF](#)

SHARE



EMAIL ALERTS



[Sign Up](#)



TO TOP

RECOMMENDED



BRIEF ANALYSIS

What Next After the Assassination Attempt on Mustafa al-Kadhimi?

Dec 4, 2021

◆
Ali Al-Mikdam



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Popular Protest, Democratic Prospects, and U.S. Policy Dilemmas in the Middle East

Dec 2, 2021

◆
Chiraz Arbi,
Yasir Zaidan,
Alberto Fernandez



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

The UAE's Second Half-Century: Building Forward to What?

Dec 2, 2021

David Pollock

TOPICS

Arab & Islamic Politics

Democracy & Reform

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

North Africa

STAY UP TO DATE



SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS



THE
WASHINGTON INSTITUTE
for Near East Policy

1111 19th Street NW - Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20036
Tel: 202-452-0650
Fax: 202-223-5364

[Contact](#)
[Press Room](#)
[Subscribe](#)

The Washington Institute seeks to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them.

The Institute is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible.



© 2021 All rights reserved.