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Libya PM Agrees to UN Truce if NATO Stops Bombings

By Jason Ditz

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The addition of NATO as a third set of combatants in the Libyan Civil War is making the prospect of a ceasefire agreement considerably more complex. Still, UN Special Envoy Abdul-Ilah al-Khatib's efforts in Tripoli were not entirely a failure.



Rather, [Khatib's call for a ceasefire between the Gadhafi regime](#) and the East Libyan rebels was met with conditional support from the country's foreign minister and vice president.

Prime Minister Baghdadi Mahmudi [said the regime would agree to the immediate ceasefire](#) provided NATO stopped its air strikes and agreed to international observers to confirm the ceasefire.

Regime officials [have repeatedly agreed to past calls](#) for a ceasefire, including a transition to UN-supervised elections. The East Libyan rebels have rejected such offers in the past, but might be increasingly open as it seems the war has fallen into a permanent stalemate.

NATO is the big sticking point, however, as a number of top officials have ruled out ever ending the bombing campaign. Indeed, [NATO military brass are calling for the further escalation](#) of the war, and don't seem particularly concerned about the prospect of years of bloody stalemate.