Stakeout: Libya Talks 5 + 5 - Ghassan Salamé

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Shotlist

3. SOUNDbite (English)— Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya: “Progress has been made on many important issues and we have before us a significant number of points of convergence.”
4. Close up, journalist.
5. SOUNDbite (English)— Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya: “Is this complete? Certainly not, and that is why we are still working on refining our basic draft and on bridging the gap on a few points of divergence between that still exist between the two delegations.”
6. Close up, journalist taking notes.
7. SOUNDbite (English)— Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya: “What do you do with the heavy weaponry, what, how to allow the internally displaced persons to go back to their homes; how to recivilianise the areas that have been basically a theatre of war; how do you deal with the armed groups, how do you deal with the monitoring of the ceasefire, who should monitor the ceasefire.”
8. Medium shot, TV crews, journalists.
9. **SOUNDBITE (English)**— Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya: “During these talks, the negotiators would be certainly helped by more calm on the fronts and by the absence of any act - provocative act - on the military side.”
10. Medium shot, photographers, TV camera tripods.
11. **SOUNDBITE (English)**— Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya: « Je ne suis pas venu à Genève pour avoir une photo avec deux personnes qui se serrent la main, ce n’est pas mon objectif. Mon objectif est d’arriver à un accord. Et s’il aurait été plus facile d’arriver à cet accord en ayant la mission, en faisant la navette entre les deux, je n’ai aucun problème avec cela. L’importance, c’est l’accord. »
12. Close up, journalists typing on laptop.
13. Medium shot, TV camera monitor showing Mr Salamé.
14. Close up, reporter taking notes, TV camera tripod to rear of shot.
On day four of UN-led talks to transform an uncertain truce in Libya into a permanent ceasefire, veteran negotiator Ghassan Salamé on Thursday welcomed the “progress” that had been made so far, before urging an end to any “provocative” military action that might dash the chance of a successful outcome.

“Progress has been made on many important issues and we have before us a significant number of points of convergence,” he said. “Is this complete? Certainly not, and that is why we are still working on refining our basic draft and on bridging the gap on a few points of divergence between that still exist between the two delegations.”

The talks in the Swiss city form part of an international push for peace in the oil-rich North African country.

In early January, Russian and Turkish Presidents Vladmir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan secured a truce agreement between the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) and the self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) - led by commander Khalifa Haftar, who laid siege to Tripoli last April.

Although the truce had been accepted by both sides, Mr. Salamé noted earlier in the week that an international arms embargo on Libya has been broken “incessantly” since 2011, with evidence of increasing foreign interference in the form of weapons and fighters.

“During these talks, the negotiators would be certainly helped by more calm on the fronts and by the absence of any act - provocative act - on the military side,” the UN official continued, in reference to ongoing clashes.

While remaining positive about the Geneva meeting, which precedes separate discussions on the economic aspects of the ceasefire – due to begin on 9 February in Cairo – and political talks on 26 February – also at the UN in Geneva – Mr Salamé spoke frankly about the number of difficult issues facing both delegations.

“What do you do with the heavy weaponry, how to allow the internally displaced persons to go back to their homes, how to recivilianise the areas that have been basically a theatre of war, how do you deal with the armed groups, how do you deal with the monitoring of the ceasefire, who should monitor the ceasefire.”

And while the talks have not taken place face to face, this is the least of Mr. Salamé concerns, he insisted.

“Je ne suis pas venu à Genève pour avoir une photo avec deux personnes qui se serrent la main, ce n’est pas mon objectif. Mon objectif est d’arriver à un accord. Et s’il aurait été plus facile d’arriver à cet accord en ayant la mission, en faisant la navette entre les deux, je n’ai aucun problème avec cela. L’importance, c’est l’accord.”

(I didn’t come to Geneva for a photo opportunity of two people shaking hands, that’s not my objective. My goal is to reach an agreement. And if it turns out that it is easier to do this by shuttling between the two (delegations), I have no problem with that. The important thing is the agreement.”)