

[swissinfo.ch](https://www.swissinfo.ch)

# Exclusive: U.N. envoy wants Libya election by June after Libyans decide format

4 minuti

---

## Skiplink Navigation

- [Jump to Homepage](#)
- [Jump to Navigation](#)
- [Jump to content](#)
- [Jump to contact page](#)
- [Skip to search](#)


## Main Features

## External Content

The following content is sourced from external partners. We cannot guarantee that it is suitable for the visually or hearing impaired.

[Reuters International](#)

This content was published on November 12, 2018 1:19 PM  
PM Nov 12, 2018 - 13:19





U.N. Envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame speaks during an interview with Reuters ahead of the first day of the international conference on Libya, in Palermo, Italy, November 12, 2018. REUTERS/Guglielmo Mangiapane

*(reuters\_tickers)*

By Ulf Laessing and Ayat Basma

PALERMO, Italy (Reuters) - The U.N. envoy for Libya hopes another attempt to hold an election will take place by June after he scrapped a December plan, but said Libyans should first use a national conference in early 2019 to decide on the poll's format.

U.N. Special Envoy Ghassan Salame decided to abandon a plan to hold elections on Dec. 10 after a spike in violence in Libya, which has been gripped by conflict and paralysed by political deadlock since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Salame was speaking to Reuters before the start of a

conference in Palermo organised by Rome with the aim of pushing forward a new U.N. plan. Salame said last week this plan would include an election in the spring, without elaborating.

At Monday's interview, the envoy said this meant the vote would be held between late March and late June, but that the format of the poll would depend on what was decided at the national conference scheduled for early 2019.

"We want to ask at the national conference what type of election do you want, parliamentary or presidential, and what kind of law," Salame said.

The envoy said the national conference should "preferably" take place on Libyan soil. He said surveys had shown that 80 percent of Libyans want elections to end the stalemate between Libya's rival administrations, both of which are backed by armed groups.

Salame said he hoped the Palermo conference would put pressure on Libya's internationally recognised parliament, the House of Representatives (HOR), which has refused to approve an election law.

"The HOR has been sterile, has produced no law ... I think we need wider representation of the Libyans," he said.

Salame also called on the central bank to unify the exchange rate of the dinar to the dollar to prevent armed groups with access to cheap dollars from selling them on the black market at a premium.

Libya had introduced a fee on hard currency transactions

which had helped to lower the spread between official and black market rate but a unified rate was needed.

"We applaud the results ... we want this exchange rate to go even lower," he said.

(Reporting by Ulf Laessing and Ayat Basma; Editing by Raissa Kasolowsky)

## Neuer Inhalt

Horizontal Line

---

### subscription form

Form for signing up for free newsletter.

**Sign up for our free newsletters and get the top stories delivered to your inbox.**

Reuters

[Reuters International](#)