

EMBASSY OF LIBYA

Highlights of Year 2018

Washington, D.C.



Edition #0001 - 2018

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- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis in discussion with the Honorable Vice President Mike Pence, on engagement with Libya (White House, June 5, 2018)



- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis meets with U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham at his office to discuss US engagement with Libya (Russell Building, June 12, 2018)

- ◆ U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo exchange on Libya with Ambassdor Wafa Bughaighis at the 242nd anniversary of US independence (US Department of State, July 4, 2018)



- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis met with the Honorable US Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce. After constructive discussions on exchange programs for youth and professionals, a gift exchange followed. Every year the US Department of State offers talented and community-minded Libyans the opportunity to engage in firsthand cultural exchange programs overseen by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. (US Department of State, September 4, 2018)

- ◆ *Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, continues congressional meetings on Capitol Hill to further discuss and better develop US engagement to support a political solution and economic engagement in Libya.*



- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, meets with US Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen to discuss developments in Libya.
(Rayburn House Office Building, April 17, 2018)



- ◆ *From right to left, US Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Ambassador Steven Goldstein, H.E. Libyan Undersecretary of Political Affairs Lotfi Almoghrabi, and the Libyan Embassy's First Secretary Sofian Belkheir at the signing of a long-awaited US-Libyan Cultural Property Agreement. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Government of Libya and the United States of America addresses import restrictions on archeological and ethnological material from Libya to the United States to protect Libya's cultural and historical heritage.*

(US Department of State, February 23, 2018)



- ◆ *Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis is honored with an award from the Archeological Institute of America, the nation's largest archeological organization, during the Championing Cultural Heritage Spring Awards Dinner in recognition of her support and contributions toward the preservation of antiquities and restoration of historical sites. This achievement would not have been possible without the support and dedication of the US State Department's Antiquities Coalition and the Cultural Property Advisory Committee, whose hard work and collaboration helped bring the MOU signing to fruition.*

(Washington Metropolitan Club, April 25, 2018)

Extended Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology between the Governments of the United States of America and the State of Libya



♦ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Ocean Affairs Environment and Science Judith Garber sign a protocol to amend and extend the agreement on cooperation in science and technology between the United States and the State of Libya for the next ten years, renewable. (US Department of State Treaty Room, November 14, 2018)

The US-Libya Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement represents a joint commitment between the United States and Libya to advance scientific and economic progress and provide a framework for cooperation that contributes to mutual economic prosperity and national security. The United States organizes many scientific and technical programs, including cultural exchange programs, the use of conservation technology, radiological safety, and sustainable development activities. The agreement strengthens US cooperation with Libyan partners to support young innovators across Libya through English language programs and technical programs.



♦ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis attends the 2018 Templeton Prize Ceremony honoring His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan at the (Washington National Cathedral, November 13, 2018)

During the Templeton Prize Ceremony, Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis met with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, and keynote speakers. The ceremony granted the 2018 Templeton Prize Laureate to His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, in recognition of his dedication to promoting interfaith harmony between Islam and other religions.



State of the Administration Speaker Series

US Chief of Protocol Ambassador Sean P. Lawler, invited Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis to the State of the Administration Speaker Series, hosted by Advisor to the President of the United States the Honorable Ivanka Trump. Ambassador Bughaighis discussed topics related to Women’s Economic Empowerment and their role in promoting global peace and prosperity. The discussion focused on education and empowerment of women and their families, job creation, and economic growth through workforce development, skills training, and entrepreneurship. (Blair House, November 15, 2018)



◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, at the White House Iftar Dinner, hosted by the Honorable President of the United States, Donald Trump.
(White House, June 5, 2018)

The Secretary of State and Mrs. Pompeo with Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, US Department of State, December 17, 2018



◆ The US-Libyan Business Association (USLBA) hosts a dinner reception in honor of Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis in recognition of her continued support and collaboration. USLBA sponsors and shareholders of US corporations, committees, think tanks with a special interest in Libya attended the event. (The Cosmos Club, March 8, 2018)



◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, spoke on a panel discussion with other international ambassadors currently serving in Washington. The event, titled "A View of America from Abroad," examined perceptions of US policy and current global issues. (Center for Strategic and International Studies CSIS, January 16, 2018)

Foreign Minister of Libya H.E. Mohamed Taher Sayala visits the new premises of Embassy of the State of Libya in Washington, D.C. and is received by Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis and colleagues.



◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis participated as a keynote speaker at the Organization of American States in Washington, DC. The speech presented featured “Enhancing Arab American Partnership through Youth Empowerment” for the 7th Annual Arab American Day. The event was hosted by Ambassador Salah Sarhan of the League of Arab States. Libyan Ph.D. student and innovator Ziad Abdelwaret Elhajjaji was one of the two selected honorees to be presented with award in recognition for his outstanding achievements. (December 12, 2018)



◆ Mr. Ziad Abdelwaret Elhajjaji, a Libyan Ph.D. Student



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS



◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis presents an award of appreciation to Mr. Robert E. Haughey during a repatriation ceremony at the Embassy of Libya in Washington, D.C. for the return of archeological objects to the State of Libya. The collection of pottery artifacts, originating from the ancient city of Germa and located in Wadi Alagal in southwest Libya, was acquired by Mr. Howard Meadows in the 1960s. (Embassy of the State of Libya, July 18, 2018)



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Pulitzer Center
Carnegie
Endowments
For International
Peace
-December 13, 2018**



◆ *Ambassdor Wafa Bughaighis* appeared as the featured guest speaker at the Pulitzer Center/Carnegie Endowments for International Peace event titled, “What’s Next?” The panel held free-flowing conversations, follow by Q&A with the audience. The topic of discussions related to Libya’s security, economic and political challenges.
(December 13, 2018)



**(IFE) Institute for
Education Salon
Series
-December 6, 2018**

◆ *Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, reprised her attendance at the IFE Salon Series, hosted by: Coach Kathy Kemper. The program included a conversation with Mr. Matt Lira, the White House Special Assistant to the President for Innovation Policy and Initiatives, at the Office of American Innovation. The discussion began with a welcome video message from co-founder of the Presidential Innovation Fellows Program, Todd Park.*



**Newly appointed
Ambassadors in
Washington, D.C.
-Photograph courtesy of Meridian
International Center**

◆ *Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, appointed an Ambassador November, 29, 2017 in ordinance with other newly appointed Ambassadors posted in Washington, D.C. hosted by CEO of the Meridian International Center Ambassador Stuart Holliday, who graciously received all honorees and welcomed newly appointed Ambassadors to their posts in the United States. The ceremony began with a VIP reception at the Meridian Center and provided an opportunity for all newly appointed Ambassadors’ to connect with key leaders in the US government, private sector, and cultural communities.*
(April 18, 2018)

Community Meeting Houston, Texas

◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis and embassy diplomats met with the Libyan community in Houston, Texas. The meeting was joined by Congresswomen Sheila Jackson Lee, and Congressman Al Green who expressed their ongoing support to the Libyan Community. (September 29, 2018)



Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis and embassy officials met with representatives from the City Hall of Houston, including Mayor Sylvester Turner, President & CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership Mr. Bob Harvey, and the Commissioner of Houston Planning, Mr. Zafar Tahir to discuss future bilateral economic and cooperation prospects between the US and Libya. (Mayors Office, City of Houston, (September 30, 2018)



Think Tanks, NGOs

Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis besides regular meetings with the administration, regularly meets with experts at thinks tanks, non-government organizations, and educational institutions. The Ambassador discusses updates on internal reform in Libya with a special focus on sustainable development and improving socioeconomic living standards by building infrastructure, improving health, and developing education. She also supports, innovates, and strengthens collaboration over a deeper understanding of current affairs in Libya.

◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis looks forward to continued dialogue with President of the International Republican Institute (IRI) Mr. Daniel Twining and its senior members. IRI work significantly contributes to strengthening democratic governance at the municipal level in Libya and helps to mitigate potential conflict in local and municipal areas. (May 17, 2018)



◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, continues ongoing meetings and discussions with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on strengthening collaborative efforts. The Ambassador offers a conducive and productive platform through which to help facilitate dialogue between Libya and the United States regarding necessary measures to lift the current travel ban, and improve business channels to promote fruitful bilateral opportunities between Libyan

◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, continues meetings with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), which provides international technical assistance and contributes greatly to monitoring electoral systems. NDI's support for Libya's capacity building, democracy education, and programs strengthening democratic values are essential in preparations toward the upcoming elections in Libya. NDI continues to work closely with the (HNEC) High National Election Commission in Libya, applying these principals for development and reform in

◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis continues her engagement with Vice President of the Heritage Foundation Mr. James Jay Carafano and other senior members of the organization. The Ambassador shared with Mr. Carafano, a leading expert in national security updates related to specific political trends in Libya, and ideas to better strengthen and support US policy making

◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis continues meetings with the President of the Brookings Institute, General John Allen to explore possible collaborations and opportunities related to innovative policy solutions in Libya and alternatives with particular focus on security and development reform in Libya.

◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis attended the Institute for Education's (IFE) 27th Season Kickoff Gala Dinner at the Belgian Embassy, hosted by Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium H.E. Kirk Dirk Wouters and Coach Kelly Kemper. IFE engages the global community to harness the power of data, innovation, soft diplomacy, and technology. It also educates youth for global citizenship with programs that foster intercultural appreciation. Ambassador Bughaighis continues to connect and learn more about the programs offered and applicable to Libyan youth. (February 7, 2018)



◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis participated in the salon series, *Entrée to Dialogue*, hosted by Ambassador of Italy H.E. Armando Varricchio and Mrs. Micaela Varricchio in collaboration with President of Meridian International Ambassador Stuart Holiday. Ambassador Bughaighis attended as a guest of honor to a dialogue on "The Creative Economy: Fuel of the 21st Century" at Villa Firenze, the Ambassador of Italy's residence in Washington, DC. (May 8, 2018)

◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis attended a discussion hosted by the Meridian International Center. The topic titled "Advancing Women's Leadership in Foreign Policy" featured speakers including Ambassador Paula Dobriansky, Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center Senior Fellow at the Future of Diplomacy project, and Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, Executive Director of Georgetown's Institute for Women, Peace, and Security. (April 30, 2018)

Special Events

- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis attended the 2018 Global Ties National Luncheon, “Change Through Exchange,” with other Ambassadors representing their countries in the US. The event brought together over 1,000 exchange professionals from the global ties network. Representatives from the US Department of State, the Diplomatic Corp, non-profit groups, think tanks, and grassroots organizations all attended the annual flagship professional exchange program. The International Visitors Leadership Programs (IVLP) and the Global Ties network is comprised of over 100 community-based members in 45 States, 21 international member organizations, and seven DC-based national programming agencies, including the US State Department’s Office of International Visitors. (Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC, February 8, 2018)
- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis attended the VIP reception and gala for Refugees International 39th Annual Dinner. Over 500 guests attended the special event celebrating and honoring individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and commitment to humanitarian action each year. This year’s McCall-Pierpaoli Award, Refugees International highest humanitarian award, was presented to Hamdi Ulukaya. Mr. Ulukaya is the founder and CEO of Chobani and founder of Tent Foundation. (Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, April 24, 2018)



- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis, with embassy staffers welcomes the newly appointed Libyan Desk Officer’s from the U.S. Department of State during a courtesy visit.



- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis met with US Agency for International Development (USAID) representatives, including Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Middle East Bureau Mr. Bruce Abrams, Senior Development Advisor for Libya Mr. Clinton White, Senior Libya Desk Officer Ms. Rachel Sorey, and Libya Desk Officer Mr. Adeyemi Onitiri. They discussed USAID assistance and private sector development alternatives between Libya and the United States. The USAID mission supports related program activities and objectives, such as peacebuilding and conflict mitigation, bridging stabilization in multiple business sectors to help identify shared business interests between Libya and the United States. (Embassy of Libya in Washington, DC, November 5, 2018)



- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis attended the Children’s Ball 2018 for the Children’s National Hospital Center. This year’s venue was in the landmark Union Station’s East Hall in Washington D.C. The Children’s National Hospital Center provides the highest quality care for every child, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. In 2017, Children’s National Hospital was named one of the top 10 Pediatric hospitals with the highest rated neonatology department by US News World Report. The Ambassador also visited the center and discussed prospects for cooperation with Libyan children hospitals. (April 6, 2018)

Embassy of Libya Community Gathering



- ◆ Our next generation: A young Libyan girl shares her patriotism, waving a Libyan flag in solidarity.
- ◆ Community engages in open discussion. (Embassy of Libya in Washington, D.C. April 14, 2018)



- ◆ Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis accompanied by embassy diplomats welcomed and received approximately 100 attendees from the Libyan community, who gathered and stood in respect for the Libyan national anthem. Ambassador Bughaighis shared a welcome speech and participated in a Q&A session followed by an open dialogue with the Libyan community over a luncheon buffet. Libyan students and members of the community voiced their concerns, which pertained to consulate affairs, residency issues for Libyans in the United States, legal affairs, endorsements among discussing efforts to support stabilization of Libya. Topics also included a special interest on improving communications and strengthening relations between the Libyan community in the United States and the Embassy of Libya in Washington, DC. (April 14, 2018)



Guest signing-in with welcoming remarks a the Libyan community gathering (Embassy of Libya, Washington, D.C. April 14, 2018)

Ambassador Bughaighis – meets and greets a Libyan family at Libyan community gathering. -April 14, 2018



Cultural Events & Updates

◆ *The Embassy of Libya's Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Faisal Alshaari and Political Counselor Mr. Moammer Hadia along with other diplomats attended the cultural exhibition for Africa Day 2018, marking the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity. (Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C. May 23, 2018)*

Africa Day Gala Dinner—Wardman Park Hotel



◆ *Libyan Community Iftar Event (Fairfax, Virginia, June 11, 2018)*



◆ *Embassy of Libya Hosts Community Iftar meal. Over 100 members of the Libyan community attended an Iftar meal filled with festivities for families and friends in observance of the holy month of Ramadan. Among the Libyan community members were students. Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis welcomed community members and encouraged community-embassy communications.*



◆ *The Embassy of Libya represented by Dr. Ageila Elabaar, Issa Abousetta, Ramzi Gerrbi and Moammer Hadia hosted 25 students from Stone Bridge High School in Loudoun County, Virginia. Students were briefed on the history and geographic regions of Libya. Addressed students' interest in the US-Libyan relationship, discussed current collaborations and developments between the United States and Libya. Presentations were followed by a Q&A (Embassy of Libya in Washington, DC, December 17, 2018)*



◆ *Howard University students elected by the Department of Political Science met with the Embassy of Libya's First Secretary Mr. Allaeddin Ben Rajab and Media Affairs Officer Mr. Burbaker Habib. The 16th Annual International Model African Union Conference was held at Howard University, Washington, DC. Each university sent at least six students accompanied by a faculty advisor. Michigan State University was chosen to represent Libya. The Model AU provided a unique opportunity for students to study Africa and the African Union through simulation and augmented briefings, hosted by African embassies across Washington, DC. The meetings were designed to increase awareness of the functions and activities of the African Union and to highlight major economic and social developments, including political and security issues in Africa. (Embassy of Libya in Washington, DC, February 22, 2018)*



Embassy Information

The Embassy of the State of Libya working hours of operation:
Monday thru Friday 9:00AM – 4:30PM (EST)
● New Consulate Hours (effective June 15, 2018)
Monday thru Thursday 09:30AM to 12:00PM (EST)
To submit or collect the following documents only (visa, passport renewal, civil registration and power of attorney): Monday thru Thursday 01:00PM to 03:30PM (EST)
For all other Consular inquiries please email to:
Consular.sec@embassyoflibyadc.org
Effective February 5, 2018 the Embassy of Libya's new address is:
1460 Dahlia Street, NW • Washington, D.C. 20012
Tel: (+1) 202 944-9601
Email: Info@embassyoflibyadc.com

WWW.EMBASSYOFLIBYADC.COM

[WEBSITE: WWW.EMBASSYOFLIBYADC.ORG](mailto:WWW.EMBASSYOFLIBYADC.ORG)

AMBASSADOR BUGHAIGHIS RECEIVES LIBYAN STUDENTS FROM THE PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM 2018 (PFP)



◆ *Ambassador Wafa Bughaighis*, hosted the Two Libyan Students visiting the United States under a Professional Fellowship Program (PFP) implemented by Legacy International and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Telecommunications Engineering students Ms. Najla Almissalati, and Mr. Osama Ibrahim were among the selected Fellows. The Pitch Event hosted at Busboys and Poets honored all participating Fellows with Fall 2018 Certificates and were recognized for their innovative ideas and outstanding achievements.

The PFP is a two-way citizen exchange program, designed for capacity building and professional development that contributes to civil society empowerment in Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, and Morocco. Legacy International and the US State Department welcomed 18 professional fellows from the MENA region, including two Libyan professional fellows, for the six-week program. (November 14, 2018)



◆ Academic Attach Dr. Ageila Elabbar, Mr. Moammar Masud, and Mr. Issa Abousetta, attended an orientation event at the Embassy of Australia in Washington, DC. The event focused on the role of US higher education associations and organizations in cooperation with governments and institutions. Representatives from various important education institutes including NAFSA, ACE, CIEEA, ASCU, and the US Department of Education attended the event. Discussions involved building educational relations with the US educational associations and increasing access to the wide range of educational recourses offered, such as universities, research centers, scholars, and entrepreneurs. Attending representatives of the Embassy of Libya seized the opportunity to discuss directly with these organizations on how to collaborate on these initiatives and incorporate Libya's education sectors and state universities.



◆ The Near East South Asia (NESA) Center's 2018 Washington Embassy Orientation Seminar at the Army and Navy Club brought together over 44 diplomatic officials from NESAs regional embassies in Washington. Embassy of the State of Libya staff members Sofian Belkhair and Moammar Hadia joined the event. The event is an annual occasion, providing newly assigned diplomats with a networking platform from the wider NESAs region. It is an opportunity to introduce diplomats to each other and connect with the DC policy community. The NESAs Center provides selected foreign embassy staff with nuanced information on US foreign policy goals and objectives, the US political landscape, the policy making process, the roles of think tanks and the media, lobbyists, the intelligence community, the US Congress, and the responsibilities of the executive branch. (Army and Navy Club, October 29-November 2, 2018)