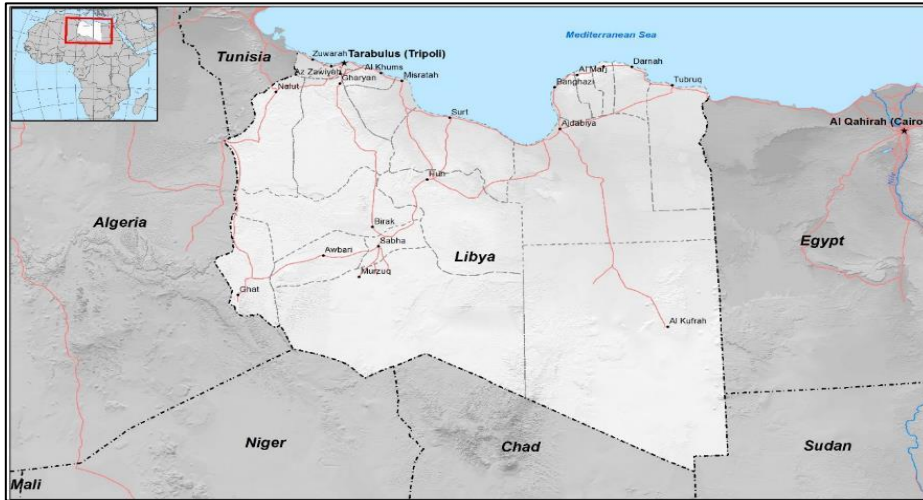


EU LIAISON AND PLANNING CELL LIBYA
Bi-Monthly Security Roll Up – JUNE / JULY 2023
(events from 06 June to 11 July)

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SUMMARY

The Libyan security landscape has evolved in the West and the Great Tripoli Area (GTA), with the GNU striving to univocally expand the Security Plan/Apparatus along the Western Coastal Road down to the Nafusa Mountains, while reducing UAV tactics and fostering land show-of-forces and build-up of ground operations.

In the East, the LNA Cdr is re-proposing the oil revenues' blackmail mantra while reinforcing ties with his GNS proxies, including those residing in the West. In fact, in the impasse of the political/electoral process, LNA and Eastern based institutions face the dilemma remaining a reliable partner for those external actors concerned with containing smuggling and human trafficking from the Sahel, while controlling of an impeded flow of oil revenues.

Therefore, both sides have promoted security operations, especially in urban areas for the pro-Western forces, desert patrolling and the control of the borders as the major operational instrument for the Eastern LNA. This in the framework of the migration/refugees expansion, the Sudanese conflict, and the fate of the Wagner Group (WG) in Libya and the Region.

Negotiations with local stakeholders and tribal leaders remain relevant for both sides. However, no major changes in a unified security posture could be anticipated as long as external actors remain the guarantors of each other efforts.

At international level, the Russian Federation is expected to increase its formal engagement to influence a traditional anti-Western expansion strategy and provide a narrative for the WG to remain relevant in the area, pending the next 25th of July Security Working Group iteration in Benghazi, that could constitute an opportunity for the IC to regain some initiative.

1. MAIN EVENTS IN THE GREAT TRIPOLI AREA (GTA)

The GNU MoD military and MoI security plans are struggling to gain all-inclusive support. The Western Coastal Region and the Nafusa Mountain Region continue to be the area of operation and the theatre for negotiations between main Western security leaders. GNU-aligned actors continue to carry out arrests and maintain security checkpoints. Latest 444th Combat Brigade's transfer of personnel may corroborate the possibility of increased land operations.

Of interest:

- 06 JUN:

- GNU PM established a **National Apparatus-Agency for the Supporting Forces**, including formations from the February 17 revolution, a decision allegedly retracted the day afterward;
- **Western military Cdrs** (444th, 52nd, 111th, and GSA) **rejected** a transitional phase through a **new government**, while AGs from **Misrata** issued a statement **against the GNU**;

- 07 JUN:

- **New drone strikes** against smuggling networks were reported in Zuwara and Al Ajaylat;
- Ammar Belkour militia escorted an unknown number of illegal migrants near Mellitah;
- Tripoli hosted the first meeting of the Libya - **Italian Military Cooperation Committee**;

- 08 JUN:

- Sources reported GNU drone strikes in separate areas of Zuwara;
- 103th Bn deployed South of Zawiya;
- **Border Security Agency** (BSA) foiled an attempt to smuggle more than 22,000 narcotic pills at the Ras Ajdir border;
- GNU-MoI issued an order to transfer forces from Southern cities to the BSA in Tripoli, threatening to stop wages if they refused;

- 09 JUN, airstrikes targeted a black-market fuel site in Zawiya;

- 10 JUN, MoI announced that it has begun conducting **security force patrols South of Misrata**, and setting up checkpoints around Dufan;

- 11 JUN, **444th Bde deployed** to Qasr Bin Ghashir and the Zahra area, South of Tripoli;

- 12 JUN, the HCS Chairman received prominent Western military Cdrs to discuss the outcomes of the 6+6 Joint Committee;

- 13 JUN:

- A Bayraktar-TB2 was monitored taking off from Al Wattiyah Airbase and conducting a reconnaissance sortie over Zuwara;
- GNU Airstrikes targeted Abu Kammash and Zuwara near the Tunisian border;

- 18 JUN:

- Sources reported a GNU drone strike targeting suspected smuggling assets in Zawiya;
- Leaders from Misrata and Warshafana signed the **Brotherhood Charter**, affirming their commitment to the principles and objectives of the 17 February revolution;

- 21 JUN: GNU CoS visited 111th Bde training provided by the Poland-based **European Security Academy** (ESA) - Private Military Contractors;

- A **Turkish** Air Force **Airbus A400M** that departed **from West Africa** made a stopover in Libya (Al Watiya AB) before continuing on to Turkey; replicated on 22 JUN on the way **backward**;
- Sources reported Kabwat armed group preparations to move equipment and personnel to the Nafusa Mountains from Zawiyah;

- 26 JUN, HCS Head and GNU PM held an unannounced **meeting in Palm City**, allegedly with a number of Cdrs (111th Bde, Muhammad Bahrn, GSA) and the Audit Bureau Head;

- 28 JUN, GNU's PM and the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs met with a delegation from Zawiya who confirmed their support for the GNU's campaign against smugglers and criminals;

- 29 JUN, training on **radio-UAV jamming** was provided to GNU Central Military Region by **TUR advisors**;

- 02 JUL, **dismissal of Muhammad Al-Bahron** as Head of the Western Region GIS/ LIS by the Head of the GIS/ LIS, Lieutenant General Hussein Aib;
- 04 JUL:
 - 103rd Bn Al Sela and **Al Kabbu militia mobilised** towards the Rass Youssef Gate and closed off the Coastal Road in protest of the arrest of Al Kabbu militia Cdr;
 - The GNU PM ordered the Cdrs of 12 armed groups to form a **joint force to reopen the Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Road** and coordinate and inform the West Coast Military Region Cdr Osama Juwaili;
 - Meeting between **Nafusa Mountain Military Region** Commander, LTG Usama al-Juweili, 777th Combat Brigade Cdr, Haitham Al-Tajouri, Head of the 55th Infantry Bn, Muammar al-Dawi, HoR Deputy, Ali Abu Zariba, 103rd Battalion Cdr, Othman Al-Lahab, and Ayoub Abu Ras at the 4th Brigade Camp, Aziziyah. Attendees allegedly coordinated **responses to the IGNU Western Coastal Region Joint Force**, including mobilisation and preparation of equipment;
 - The Office of Attorney General confirmed the **transfer of Al Kabbu militia Cdr to Tripoli** and reopened the Coastal Road between Tripoli and Ras Ajdir;
 - Western Coast Military Region Cdr's forces were stationed in Al-Swani and Al-Aziziya;
 - The Attorney General met with delegations from Al Zawiya and Zuwara to assure them that proper procedures were taken and presented them with evidence against Al Kabbu militia Cdr;
 - Open sources monitored the movement of **several military convoys across Tripoli at night** on 4th July and in the morning on 5th July;
 - GNU Mol announced the **restructuring of security directorates** in the Western Mountain Regions;
- 05 JUL:
 - Reports indicated a military convoy affiliated with a Misrata armed faction passed though Al Khoms Coastal Road and travelled Westwards;
 - The 166th Bn was spotted travelling on the Airport Road's Highway, heading Eastwards;
 - GNU PM formed an operations room headed by West Coast Military Region Cdr to implement the plan to secure the Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Road;
 - Alleged meeting was held between several Western military Cdrs at the West Coast Military Region HQ in Syad;
 - A member of the 52nd Bde was arrested in Al Zawiya at the orders of the Attorney General;
 - GNU PM decides to name the operations room that he formed, headed by Al-Namroush and with Mahmoud Hamza as a member, as the "**Joint Room for Control and Security**";
- 06 JUL, wisemen and notables from Nalut announced the **closure of Nalut Security Directorate** in protest of the decision by the GNU Mol;
- 06-07 JUL, alleged negotiations between GNU Prime/ Defence Minister Dbeibah and Nafusa Mountain Military Region Commander, LTG Usama al-Juweili. Additional localised sources report, a meeting between Lieutenant-General al-Juweili and HoR Deputies in Zintan;
- 07 JUL, representatives from **Nafusa Mountain municipalities** have **invited GNS Interior Minister**, Issam Abu Zariba to visit and review security directorates and police stations;
- 08 JUL, Western Coastal Military Region Commander, Major General Salah Al - Deen Al-Namroush conducted inspection at Ras Ajdir Border Crossing, and met with security directors;
- 09 JUL, **GNU PM froze the recent decision** issued by the Mol **to restructure the security directorates in the Western Mountain Region**;
- 11 JUL, tensions at Mitiga airport between Forces affiliated with Head of the Internal Security Service (ISA) and Security Deterrence Force (SDF) to execute the arrest of former Minister of Finance of the GNA, Faraj Boumtari.

2. SECURITY EVENTS OUTSIDE OF THE GTA

Field Marshal Haftar continued to solidify his customary authority by appointing his son Khaled as **CoS** of the **LNA Security Units**. LNA still conducts high-profile operations to support tribal appeasement, notwithstanding disputable success. The 128th Bde claimed patrols along the Malian-Chadian border and its objective to act as a guardian of Libya's Southern frontiers. The contested 29th of June airstrike against the LNA-controlled air base in al-Khadim opened the door for ongoing rumours about the LNA's current links with the Wagner Group and its relevance in the progression of the Libyan Ceasefire Agreement and the regional impact.

Events of interest:

- 07 JUN, GNS Deputy-Mol announced a security operation at the Port of Kampot targeting drug dealers and human traffickers;
- 08 JUN, 128th Bde and the TBZ Bde conducted **joint desert patrols** across the South;
- 09 JUN, tensions between members of the GNS-Mol and the TBZ Bde over money, cars and drugs seized during recent operations;
- 12 JUN, a convoy affiliated with TBZ Bde and **128th Bde** arrived in **Mizdah**;
- 13 JUN, LNA Cdr received in his HQ the HoR Speaker, in the presence of 90 deputies;
- 15 JUN:
 - The **GNU CoS** accompanied by the 603rd Infantry Bn Cdr and CTF Cdr inspected patrols and security positions in **Abugrein, Zamzam, Abu Nujaym**;
 - A new movement calling itself the "**Voice of the People**" was reported to be planning demonstrations in the city of Benghazi and Western cities calling for the abolition of the GNU, the freezing of the PC, and the formation of a military council led by LNA Cdr to take over.
- 22 JUN, reporting of one person killed and others injured in an explosion of a truck, that was carrying fertilizer near Sebha;
- 29 JUN:
 - **airstrikes reported at al Khadim/al Kharruba** airbase (150 km SE of Benghazi), formerly hosting Wagner assets. GNU CoS has denied responsibilities – no evidence of wreckage;
 - during morning hours, in the Southern region, the LNA 128th Bde reportedly conducted deser patrols in the **bordering areas with Niger and Chad**.
- 03 JUL, **LNA Cdr** gave a **speech** to LNA officers in Rajmah:
 - calling for the implementation of a revenue-sharing mechanism;
 - stressing the need for a supreme committee for financial arrangements able to deliver by the end of August;
 - condemning the work of foreign ambassadors (reference to US Special Envoy statement against any threat of oil shutdown) as an interference in internal affairs and the corruption of the GNU;
- 08 JUL, Field Marshal Haftar met with GNS Deputy PM, Salem al-Zadma, alongside LNA General Command Social Coordinator of the Awlad Suleiman tribe, Sheikh Zaidan Al-Zadma;
- 10 JUL, LNA Cdr issued a decision to establish the "**CoS of the Security Unit**" and appointed the 106th Bde Cdr as its Chief. The new force includes the 106th Bde;
- 11 JUL, **LNA Cdr met with UN SRSG** in Benghazi (next SWG is expected in Benghazi on the 25th of July).

3. OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY RELATED EVENTS

The remarks made by the US Special Envoy to Libya on June 30th elicited the anticipated response from local stakeholders and rekindled Libya's general reluctance to accept outside guidance on the critical leverage of the oil income. Despite all political and security concerns, this event highlighted once again the close links between the political, security and economic tracks into the unique operational framework.

Of interest:

- 06 JUN, Minister of Economy and Trade issued a resolution concerning the ban on the importation, circulation, and sale of **goods that violate public order, decency and Islamic beliefs**;
- 07 JUN, Italian PM received GNU-PM and his accompanying Delegation;
- 09 JUN:
 - the HCS Chairman met with the new Turkish MoD in Ankara while a delegation from the **Turkish Gendarmerie Command visited** the HQs of the General Directorate of Security Operations in Tripoli;
 - GNS Interior Minister, Issam Abu Zariba met with Belarusian Chargé d'affaires, Mohammed Merhi Astiya, discussing security;
- 11 JUN, ITA Mol said that Rome will ask LNA Cdr for **greater cooperation** in stopping the **departure of immigrants from Eastern Libya**;
- 12 JUN, Customs at Misrata Port thwarted an attempt to smuggle 14 containers filled with tanks carrying 280k of diesel allegedly destined to Turkey;
- 13 JUN, **Iranian** MoFA spokesman announced Iran intends to establish **diplomatic ties** with Libya;
- 15 JUN,
 - Tripoli hosted the 6th meeting of the **5+5 Defence Scientific Committee**, concerned with the mine file;
 - The Algeria President Tebboune says international pressure will not affect the **Algerian-Russian friendship**, adding "*our views are the same*" on Libya.
- 16 JUN, the PC decided to give a **general amnesty** for a number of military prisoners who have served a certain period of their sentences in prison;
- 17 JUN, Libyan social and tribal representatives threatened to close the Lebanese Embassy in Libya and use tactics of the militia if a fair solution is not found for **Hannibal Gaddafi's case**;
- 19 JUN, During the **UN envoy's (4th) brief on Libya to the UNSC**, there were calls for the withdrawal of foreign forces, foreign fighters, and mercenaries, **adherence to the arms embargo** (FRA) and concern at **violations of human rights**, concern at the proliferation of weapons and hope for **more effective inspection efforts** off the coast of Libya (RF), concern of **spillover from** the situation in **Sudan** (CHN), and **selective application of the arms embargo** not to impede the capacity of Libyan forces from addressing threats (UAE);
- 24 JUN, the Eastern Libyan authorities issued a threat to **halt oil exports** due to corruption in the GNU, by invoking the judiciary and declaring force majeure; HoR Members expressed disapproval for the GNU making financial obligations without approval by the Parliament;
- 25 JUN, sources reported **Sudanese Armed Forces** (SAF) conducted an **airstrike** targeting the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), **within Libyan territory**;
- 26 JUN, the new Russian ambassador to Libya visited the GNU PM announcing the imminent **opening of the RF Embassy** in Tripoli;
- 28 JUN, Head of the **Sudanese Transitional Sovereignty Council**, confirmed, in contact with Turkish President, that Sudan accepts any Turkish initiative to stop the war and establish peace;
- 30 JUN, US Special Envoy stated: "*The United States urges Libyan political actors to **abandon threats of an oil shutdown** that would be highly destructive to Libya's economy and hurt all Libyans. We call on Libyan leaders to implement an inclusive revenue management mechanism", "We need to unify the government in Libya before going to the elections"*."
- 04 JUL, Egypt and Turkey announced they had appointed ambassadors to each other's countries for the first time in a decade;
- 05 JUL, Turkish Ambassador to Egypt stated that Egypt and Turkey agree on the need to hold elections in Libya and that an improvement in Turkish-Egyptian relations will strengthen the dialogue in Libya;

- 10 JUL, UK ambassador to Libya, in an interview with Al-Jazeera Mubasher stated that it is difficult for the world to deal with a **Libyan president who is wanted by the ICC** - referring to Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, adding that the **military officials' candidacy for elections** is a complicated issue;
- 11 JUL:
 - Russia & Gulf Countries call for withdrawal of Foreign Forces from Libya;
 - Russian Ambassador warns of **proliferation of smuggled weapons from Ukraine** conflict to Sub-Saharan Africa **through Libya**.

Sign-off for release: Brig. Gen. STELLA, V.

Disclaimer: This report is based on security events and reports from multiple open sources, whose accuracy may not always be verified. Therefore, the information and conclusions expressed are subject to change without notice.