

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- In a speech at the Misrata Security Directorate, PM (GNU) Dbeibah called on the Ministry of the Interior to fully prepare to secure Libyan cities for elections. He added that the success of the elections is a national duty and is the responsibility of the MoI and its affiliates. He concluded with, “Be with your country, prepare to secure the elections, and take sides with your people, who said their word: elections, then elections, then elections.” **COMMENT:** As with the failed December 2021 elections, Dbeibah will continue to make all the right noises to indicate his support for elections. The role of the GNU is primarily to facilitate the elections through the HNEC for the technical aspect, and the MoI for the security component. However, as with the 2021 elections, the key issues relate to election laws and the constitutional basis for the elections, which sits with the HoR and the HCS. This allows for any election delays or postponement to be blamed on both, with the GNU appearing blameless. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- In a speech to LNA officers, Khalifa Haftar called for the fairer distribution of oil wealth and accused Tripoli of being a hotbed of corruption. He added that he stands with the Libyan people “who are hungry & unable to tolerate irresponsible behaviour.” **COMMENT:** Statements vilifying the Tripoli authorities are a mainstay of Haftar’s statements and the issue of the distribution of oil revenues is a long-standing dispute between the east and west of the country. However, should they increase in their frequency and intensity, and the election process flounder or fail the prospect of measures such as an oil blockade would increase significantly. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Security Developments

- The General Command of the LNA announced that all common borders with Sudan have been closed and reinforcements sent to Kufra airbase. It was also reported that members of the Rapid Support Force, who had operated in the border triangle for the past few years have returned to Sudan.
- Additional reporting on the recent clashes in Zawiyah reveals that Abdo Zait was murdered on Apr 22 following his earlier abduction and beating of Hazim Arhim (al-Awais) and the killing of Hazem al-Dubali. Zait had accused both of affiliation with the LNA, following a visit by both to the east of the country. As well as Ziat’s murder, his brother, Amir Zait was kidnapped by al-Awais aligned forces. The fighting between Ziat and al-Awais forces subsided following the intervention of the Al-Siila’a battalion under Othman Lahab and the release of Amir Zait. Subsequent meetings between the notables of the Awlad Saqr tribe and military leaders in the city have seen some form of resolution.
- The head of Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, revealed that Wagner Group pilots had remained in Libya. The claim was made to demonstrate that Ukrainian pilots had continued to work for Wagner, despite the ongoing conflict in Libya. **COMMENT:** 14 MiG 29 and Su-24 jets were reported as arriving in Libya in May 2020. The jets were stationed in Jufra and at least two were reported to have crashed by June 2020. No subsequent reporting has indicated that any of the aircraft have been withdrawn. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Regional Developments

- Open sources reported that fighting in Khartoum subsided on Apr 25 to allow for the evacuation of foreigners from the Wadi Seidna airbase northwest of Khartoum. The US, UK, France, Switzerland, and Belgium have all now evacuated their embassy staff. Unconfirmed sources indicate that following the lull, fighting resumed following the arrival of new Rapid Support Force reinforcements in Khartoum.
- WHO also warned of a high risk of biological hazards after a laboratory storing measles and cholera pathogens for vaccinations was seized. The warning did not indicate which of the two sides was responsible.

Migrant Developments

- The total of recovered bodies has risen to 57 after two boats sank off the Libyan coast. A survivor from one of the sinkings stated that approximately 80 persons were on his boat. The bodies have been recovered at Sabratha (46) and Garabulli (11). The Red Crescent announced that the number is expected to increase in the coming days.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1. Murder/ Execution - Apr 25 01:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Harsha: A male, named as Khaled Bashir Abdel Mawla was seriously injured in an assassination attempt.

2. Armed Attack - Apr 24 21:00, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms: An armed attack was reported in the area of Wadi Kiam VCP. The VCP was temporarily closed.

Cyrenaica Region



3. Armed Robbery - Apr 24 22:00, Benghazi Province, al-Kish: An armed robbery was reported in the al-Kish area with 95,000 LYD being stolen. Benghazi CID reported that one perpetrator was arrested while operations to apprehend three further suspects continued.

4. Security Operation - Apr 24 19:00, Al-Marj Province, Marj: Marj CID were reported as conducting anti-smuggling operations.

5. Troop Movements - Apr 24 21:00, Kufra Province, Libya - Sudan Border: LNA were reported as deploying additional forces in the area of the Libyan/Sudanese border.

Fezzan Region

NSTR

Offshore

NSTR

Outlook

Short Term Outlook

- Libya remains locked in a political impasse with two governments, both of which are slowly weakening. The House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) continue to dominate the current political scene, with their efforts to resolve key issues like the constitution taking centre stage. SRSB Abdoulaye Bathily is attempting to wrest some control away from the two entities in a bid to make progress towards elections in 2023, however, they continue to enjoy the support of key regional and international backers. Various factions are beginning to position themselves for expected change in 2023 as the UN continues to push towards elections, while regional and global issues, not least the Ukraine offensive, continue to shape the international communities' agendas in Libya.
- The security situation in and around Tripoli remains fundamentally unstable. After significant changes to the capital's security makeup in August and September 2022, new faultlines are emerging as militia commanders continue to consolidate their positions. This includes expanding their influence through ministries and other state apparatus. In addition, plans to reconstruct Tripoli International Airport threaten to destabilise the delicate balance of power in the city with Misratan entities looking to claim significant influence over the location. The resurgence of Jihadist Salafism in Tripolitania is also a potential source of destabilisation, one which is currently being felt in Tajura and along the north-west coastline. This instability along the coastline may be positively impacted by efforts in Zawiyah to reorganise armed groups which could increase cooperation. Armed groups in Tripoli continue to be empowered via financial, military, and political means, ensuring they will continue to exert significant influence over the political situation.

Medium to Long Term Outlook

- The solution to Libya's political impasse remains elections for many stakeholders with UNSMIL attempting to develop a new pathway. Realistically, the path to elections in 2023 will be fraught with difficulties however, there is a real chance that much-needed groundwork could be achieved. While UNSMIL heads efforts towards elections, other international stakeholders are prioritising more short-term objectives as they look to shape not just Libya, but regional and global issues.
- Terrorist groups remain active but contained in Libya. Islamic State (IS) will continue to present a threat to security forces, primarily in the south, and may re-establish the capability to mount sporadic attacks along the coastline in the future. The group continues to suffer from years of attrition and is more likely focused on providing support for more active IS theatres in sub-Saharan Africa. Al-Qaeda-aligned groups remain active in the country with their integration into societies in the south and some armed groups in the Tripoli area potentially posing a longer-term issue for Libya.

Key Dates

Date	Occasion	Comment
April 21 - 24, 2023	Eid Al-Fitr (+/-)	Public Holiday
May 01, 2023	May Day	Public Holiday
June 27, 2023	Arafat Day	
June 28 – 30, 2023	Eid Al-Adha	Public Holiday
July 19, 2023	Islamic New Year	Public Holiday
September 16, 2023	Martyrs' Day	Public Holiday
September 27, 2023	The Prophet's Birthday	Public Holiday
October 23, 2023	Liberation Day	Public Holiday
December 24, 2023	Independence Day	Public Holiday

Acronym List

AQ - Al-Qaeda
BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
CBL – Central Bank of Libya
CESF - Constitution and Election Support Force
CNI – Critical National Infrastructure
DACOCT - Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism (SDF)
DDR - Disarmament, demobilising and reintegration
GASO – General Administration of Security Operations
GACS – General Administration of Central Support
GECOL – General Electricity Company of Libya
GMMR – Great Man-made River
GNA – Government of National Accord (2016)
GNC – General National Congress (2012)
GNS – Government of National Stability (2021)
GNU – Government of National Unity (2021)
GTUC - Greater Tripoli Union Council (Tripoli militias and others, established in June 2020)
HCS – High Council of State (Tripoli-based)
HNEC – High National Elections Commission
HoR – House of Representatives (Tobruk-based)
IDF – Indirect Fire (mortars/rockets)
IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
IED - Improvised Explosive Device
IOC - International Oil Company
IS - Islamic State
ISA – Internal Security Agency
JMC – Joint Military Commission
LIFG – Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
LNA – Libyan National Army
LPA – Libyan Political Agreement (2015)
LPDF - Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (2020)
LROR - Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
MoD - Ministry of Defense
MoF - Ministry of Finance
MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoI - Ministry of Interior
MoJ - Ministry of Justice
MoO - Ministry of Oil
MoT - Ministry of Transportation
NFDK - No Further Details Known
NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation (aid/charity)
NOC – National Oil Company
NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report
P3+2 – France, Germany, Italy – UK, US
PC – Presidency Council
PG – Presidential Guard
PFG - Petroleum Facilities Guard
RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
RTA - Road Traffic Accident
TIP – Tripoli International Airport
SSA – Stability Support Authority
SAF - Small Arms Fire
SDF – Rada Deterrence Force/ Special Deterrence Force/ Rada
UXO - Unexploded Ordnance

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SECURE EVERY DAY

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