

Libya daily security analysis report

April 27, 2023

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- The HoR Speaker Aquila Saleh held a meeting with PM (GNS) Bashagha to discuss the current political situation and the GNS's role in supporting the 6+6 committee process to approve the election laws.

Security Developments

- Protests by youth were seen throughout the Zawiyah area on Apr 27. The demonstrations were in reaction to the release of a video purporting to show Libyans being tortured by Africans.
- The US Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Barbara Leaf spoke by phone to LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar on the "urgent need to prevent outside actors, including the Kremlin-backed Wagner Group, from further destabilizing Libya or its neighbours, including Sudan." **COMMENT:** The report of the conversation was carried out on the official US State Department - Near Eastern Affairs social media page and underlines the continued urgency that the US sees in the limited or eliminating Wagner Group influence in Libya and elsewhere in Africa. Leaf raised the issue of Wagner Group with Haftar during his visit in March and the subsequent lack of any developments in their removal will have been met with some frustration. In addition, increased reporting of either the LNA or Wagner Group resupplying the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan from Libya will have only reinforced the assessment that Wagner Group is primarily attempting to disrupt and subsequently influence regimes throughout Africa. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- The Irish Government voted to deploy the LÉ William Butler Yeats, a Samuel Beckett-class patrol vessel, to assist the European Union defence IRINI operation.

Regional Developments

- GNU Foreign Minister, Najla Mangoush, held a call with the US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Barbara Leaf where the two discussed strengthening cooperation between the two countries on the Sudan conflict file. In a social media post on the call, the US State Department stated that it "strongly supports efforts to end the violence in Sudan & prevent further regional spillover. In a call, A/S Leaf & Libyan FM Najla Mangoush discussed the impact on regional security as well the importance of full support for UN efforts leading to Libyan elections."
- Fighting has continued in Sudan, with the ceasefire that was brokered by the US being largely ignored by both sides. Sudanese Government forces were reported as conducting airstrikes within Khartoum on RSF positions with fighting continuing throughout the Darfur region. The current ceasefire expired at midnight on Apr 26, however, government forces had stated that they had agreed to talks in South Sudan to extend it at the initiative of the East African regional block, the IGAD. At least 512 people have been killed and 4,193 wounded in the fighting, according to health ministry figures, although the real death toll is likely much higher.

Assessment

Protests by youth were seen throughout the Zawiyah area on Apr 27. The demonstrations were in reaction to the release of a video purporting to show Libyans being tortured by Africans. The demonstrations saw the closure of entry and exit points to Zawiyah, Zawiyah Refinery, Zawiyah Municipal Council and Zawiyah Security Directorate. The youth movement of Zawiyah also released a list of demands and vowed to continue to block routes until their demands are met:

- We demand the abolition of the joint security force and its restructuring again, the criminalization of witches and the issuance of a law criminalizing all those who deal with them.

- The punishment must be applied to the Africans who appeared in the torture video, and the work of the Security Directorate must be completely stopped and its compliance with the judiciary.
- We demand the election of a new municipal council and the suspension of all members of the current municipal council and their accountability.
- The agencies working with the Al-Zawia refinery must be restructured in coordination with the Oil Facilities Guard to prevent smuggling, and a committee will be formed from the youth of the movement to follow up on the implementation of this demand.
- We demand that the security services that dealt with Africans or sold them gasoline be held accountable.
- We demand the closure of all petrol stations known to smuggle fuel, and they are 5 stations.



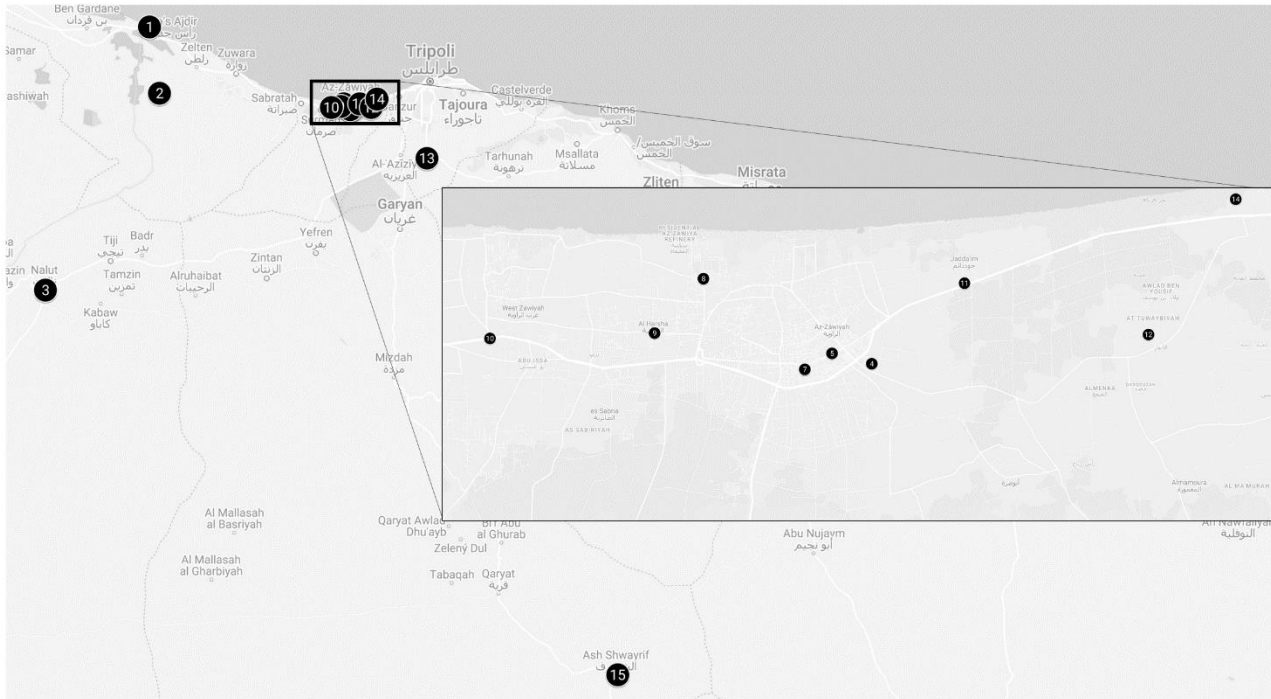
Photos: Roadblocks in Zawiyah on Apr 27 – Source Social Media

The issue of a large migrant population in Zawiyah, by some reports 46,000 out of a total population of 186,00 has long been recognised as a social issue. The release of the video, showing the torture of an alleged Zawiyah youth by Africans had a predictable spontaneous response and given the pre-existing demographic issues, this latest development significantly increases the risk of revenge attacks against the African migrant population, both within Zawiyah and other areas of Libya. Online posts calling for the clearing of dens' or similar hate speech only fuel the existing fire. Such activity has a precedent with a pogrom against Africans in 2000. This episode saw violence throughout the country, with 150 deaths being reported in Zawiyah alone, which was once again a focus of activity. While the country has changed significantly since 2000, the social issues and deep-seated socially based resentment remain much the same.

However, the release of the video is also likely a tactical move by groups in the city to weaponise the race issues already present and provide an opportunity for them to advance their own self-serving agendas. As yet there has been no reported external response to the development or statement from the GNU.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



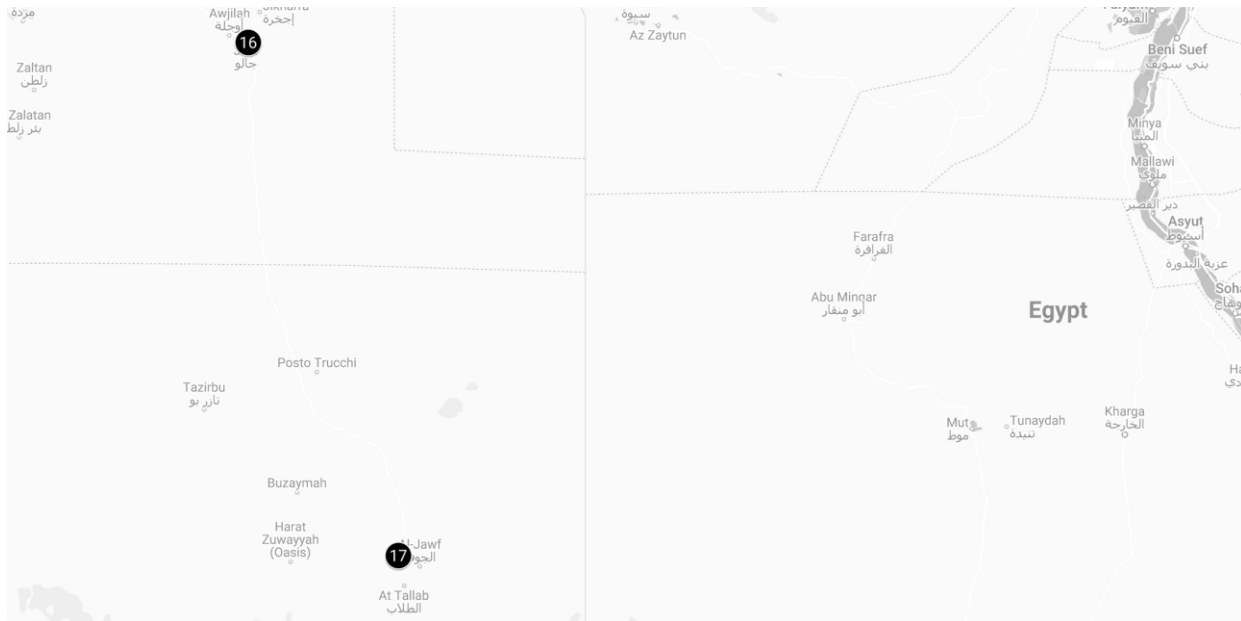
- 1. Other - Apr 26 13:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ras Ajdir:** Unconfirmed sources reported that restrictions had been placed on Tunisians entering Libya through the Ras Ajdir Border Cross Point. Tunisia military were also reported as mobilizing near the border.
- 2. Security Operation - Apr 26, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Al-Assah:** GNU Border Security conducted border patrols between Al Assah and Tiji
- 3. Murder/ Execution - Apr 26 19:00, Nalut Province, Nalut:** A Zintani local, named as Ali Mufti al-Mahrouq was shot and killed by unknown perpetrators. Local sources report that the murder raised tensions between Nalut and Zintani factions with the latter expected to conduct a show of force in Nalut areas.
- 4. Demonstration - Apr 27 07:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah Municipal Council:** Local youth closed down Zawiyah Municipal Council.
- 5. Demonstration - Apr 27 03:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah Security Directorate:** Local Youth closed down Zawiyah Security Directorate.
- 6. Demonstration - Apr 27 02:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** Local youth blocked routes with burning tyres throughout Zawiyah
- 7. Sabotage - Apr 27 12:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** Valves for fuel and gas at the Semafro were closed. The valves supply western Tripoli from the Zawiyah refinery and their extended closure is expected to result in power cuts.
- 8. Demonstration - Apr 27 03:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah Refinery VCP:** Local youth forced the closure of Zawiyah Refinery VCP.
- 9. Demonstration - Apr 27 01:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Harsha:** Local youth closed roads with burning tyres in response to the recent release of a video.
- 10. Demonstration - Apr 27 01:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Mutarad:** Local youth closed roads with burning tyres in response to the recent release of a video.
- 11. CP/ Roadblock - Apr 27 07:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Jadda'im:** Local youth closed Samoud VCP with earth berms in protest to the deteriorating security situation in Zawiyah.
- 12. CP/ Roadblock - Apr 27 11:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Tuwaybiyah:** The route was closed in Tuwaybiyah.

13. Security Operation - Apr 25, Tripoli Province, Espiaa: A force of 100 vehicles from the Western Military Region were deployed to the "Southern Line of Tripoli" in order to conduct counter smuggling operations.

14. Arrest - Apr 27 15:00, Al-Jafara Province, Mayah: The 'Anti Immigration Committee' and coastguard seized a boat and arrested illegal migrants onboard.

15. Security Operation - Apr 26, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif: GNU Mol Border Guards conducted operations on the River Road between Bani Walid and Ash Shwayrif.

Cyrenaica Region



16. Troop Movements - Apr 26 23:30, Al-Wahat Province, Wahat: LNA 110 Battalion were redeployed from Wahat to the South.

17. Troop Movements - Apr 26, Kufra Province, Kufra: Unconfirmed sources reported the arrival of large ammunition resupply and Wing Loong Chinese-made UAVs.

Fezzan Region



18. Armed Attack - Apr 26 13:00, Al-Jufra Province, Zillah: Alleged 77 Battalion of the 128 Brigade forces attacked Zillah Courthouse resulting in the release of a fuel smuggler who was accused of causing death by dangerous driving.

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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