

Libya daily security analysis report

May 01, 2023

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- Unconfirmed media sources reported that Abdul Ghani al-Kikli of Ghneiwa, Abdullah Trabelsi, of the General Security Agency (GSA) and Abdul Hakim al Sheikh of the SDF have travelled to Cairo in order to meet with the HoR Speaker Aquila Saleh. The story also claims that the discussions are to focus on the formation of a new government to oversee the upcoming elections. **COMMENT:** The three attendees represent the most powerful security actors in central Tripoli, with all three having a regional reach. The reliability of the reporting cannot be ascertained, however, such a meeting would mark a significant move on Saleh's part as the support of Tripoli-based security actors would significantly alter the balance of power in his (Saleh's) favour. As was seen during the August 2022 GNU/GNS-based clashes in Tripoli, the GNU and PM Dbeibah were entirely reliant on the support of Ghneiwa/GSA and the neutrality of RADA/SDF for their survival. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- SRSB Bathily met with the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan during a visit to Riyadh. Farhan confirmed Saudi support for a Libyan-led solution under the auspices of the UN. He also stressed the need to end foreign intervention in Libyan affairs.

Security Developments

- Unconfirmed reporting indicated that trade has recommenced through the Ain Kazit border control point on the Sudanese border. The CP is under the control of the Subul al Salam Battalion of the LNA and had previously been reported as being aligned with the Sudanese Government forces under al-Burhan.
- Kufra Municipality announced the formation of an Emergency Room to follow up on any impact from the ongoing Sudanese conflict. The Emergency Room is due to hold its first meeting on May 01 and will be headed by Masoud Abdullah, a member of the Kufra Municipal Council.
- Unconfirmed sources reported the arrest of four First Division members (Al Far) in Zawiyah by RADA/SDF. Those arrested were named as Abdul-Muhaimin Al-Mughirbi, Muhammad Kashinah, Muhammad Al-Buhali, and Abdullah Al-Zweik. **COMMENT:** The reason for the arrests is unknown but may be related to the recent clashes in the city which left four dead. Separately there has been speculation that the recently released video was intended to prepare the ground for Hassan Abuzriha forces to oust al-Far and the First Division from Zawiyah. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- Media sources report that during his visit to Zawiyah CoS Mohammed Haddad agreed to the forming of a committee which would include five from the protestors, three elders and seven army commanders. The committee is to discuss the security needs of the Zawiya and the means to implement the required improvements.
- The al-Bayda Security Director confirmed that the IED detonation against a truck in the Wasit area was not terrorist-related and was due to a personal dispute.

Regional Developments

- The NOC denied support for the conflict in Sudan through Sarir refinery. They added that they intended to take legal action against the individual who published the claim that refined products were being moved by the LNA over the border in support of the Rapid Support Force.

Oil and Gas Developments

- Mellitah Oil and Gas announced a three-week planned shutdown of the Mellitah complex. The shutdown is required for refurbishment operations.

Migrant Developments

- The Italian Coastguard denied a media report that claimed that it had requested that a merchant vessel which had rescued 30 migrants take them back to Libya. This came after Sea Watch International accused the Italian authorities on Apr 29 of making such an order, which the NGO deemed to be “a violation of the non-refoulement principle.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



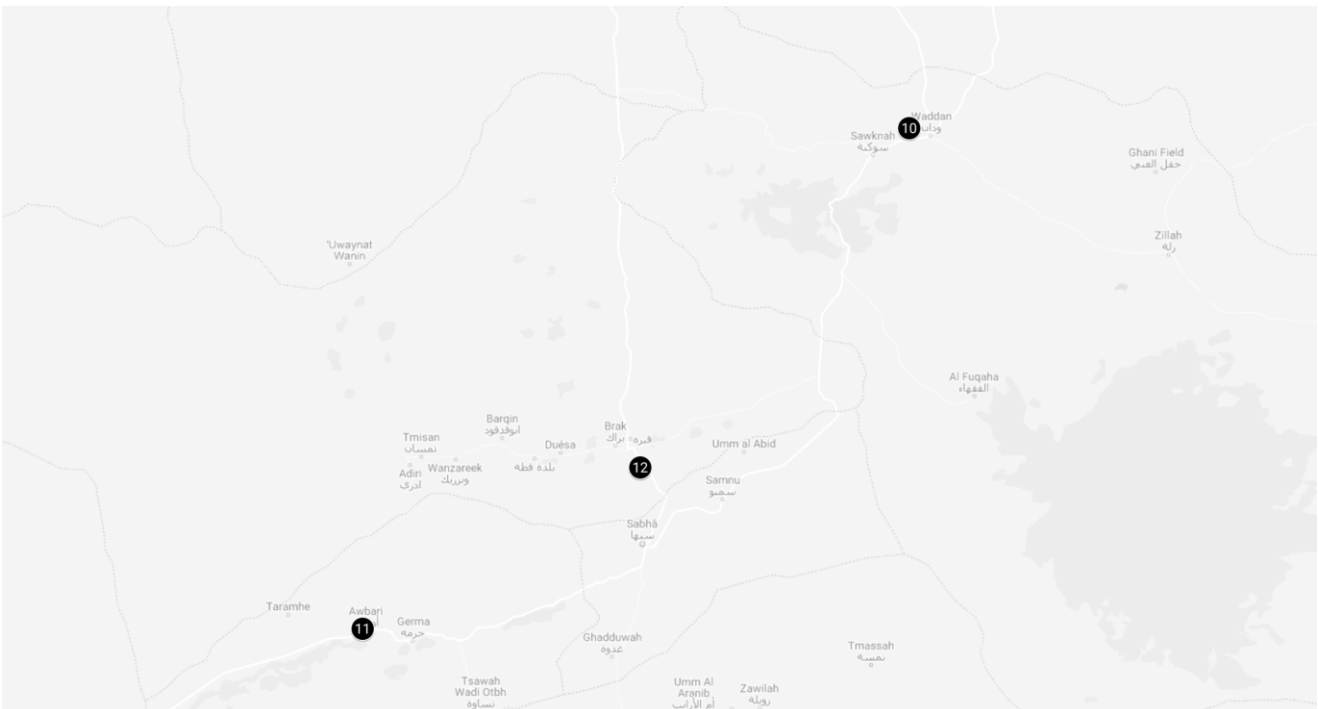
- 1. Murder/ Execution - Apr 30 15:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah:** A male named as Mohammaed al-Bakoush was killed in a targeted attack. Two others were injured in the incident.
- 2. Murder/ Execution - May 01 02:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** Ahmed Younes al-Gariani was injured in a shooting.
- 3. Arrest - Apr 30 20:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** Unconfirmed sources reported that RADA/SDF arrested four members of the First Division. Those arrested were named as Abdul-Muhaimin Al-Mughirbi, Muhammad Kashinah, Muhammad Al-Buhali, and Abdullah Al-Zweik. Reported April 30 at approx.
- 4. SAF - Apr 30 20:00, Tripoli Province, Janzour:** A employee in a mobile phone shop resulted in one staff member being injured.
- 5. Security Operation - Apr 30 15:30, Tripoli Province, Airport Road:** DCIM and 111 Brigade forces conducted a security operation against a makeshift migrant camp on Airport Road. The operation resulted in numerous arrests.
- 6. Murder/ Execution - May 01 13:30, Tripoli Province, Tajura:** Two males named as Hamza al-Hamati and Muhannad al-Saadawi were killed in a targeted attack. Unconfirmed sources report that the two may have been executed.
- 7. Security Operation - Apr 30, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Nasmah:** SSA Nasmah Branch conducted mobile and static security operations.
- 8. Kidnap - May 01 02:00, Sirte Province, Sirte:** Habib Mohammed Gaddafi was kidnapped/detained by the LNA's 604 Battalion.

Cyrenaica Region



9. Security Operation - Apr 30 15:00, Derna Province, Derna: Derna and Bayda ISA branches were reported as conducting mobile security operations.

Fezzan Region



10. Armed Attack - Apr 30, Al-Jufra Province, Jufra: The LNA's 110 Battalion reported being attacked by four vehicles bearing an emblem of Burkhan Alghadab Protect of the South. After repelling the attack and examining several corpses the LNA determined that the attackers had come from Sabha.

11. Security Operation - Apr 30, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari: 1st Infantry Company of 128 Brigade seized fuel from black market traders and distributed it locally.

12. Security Operation - Apr 30 20:00, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Zallaf: 128 Brigade was reported as conducting mobile security patrols in the Zallaf oil field area.

Offshore

NSTR

Outlook

Short Term Outlook

- The political process remains stalled, despite the best efforts of SRSG Bathily and his new initiative. The recently created 6+6 committee, created by the HoR and HCS to resolve the outstanding issues related to the election laws and constitutional basis for the elections has made no progress. The committee was viewed by many as a further attempt to delay the election process, and its actions to date would support this belief. Bathily has continued to engage with various political actors throughout the country, however, his new initiative remains ill-defined and as such appears to have received vocal approval but limited results.
- 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
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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