

Libya daily security analysis report

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Table of Contents

Latest Developments	3
Political Developments	3
Security Developments	3
Regional Developments	3
Oil and Gas Developments	4
Migrant Developments	4
Significant Incidents	4
Tripolitania Region	4
Cyrenaica Region	5
Fezzan Region	5
Offshore	5
Outlook	5
Short Term Outlook	5
Medium to Long Term Outlook	6
Key Dates	7
Acronym List	8

Latest Developments

Political Developments

- The GNU Minister of Foreign Affairs, Najla Mangoush, met with the Tunisian President Kais Saied on May 02. The two discussed their unified position in support of a ceasefire in Sudan and cooperation between Tunisia and Libya in various fields.
- The HoR/HCS 6+6 committee met at the HoR headquarters in Tripoli on May 02. The HoR spokesman, Abdullah Blehaq claimed that the meeting saw a “convergence of views among the members of the committee on electoral laws.” The committee agreed on its working mechanism and communication with other parties and institutions on electoral law matters. **COMMENT**: The meeting follows HoR speaker Aquila Saleh’s comments where he claimed that the election laws “were nearly complete.” This has been the stance taken by both the HoR and HCS in which both continue to claim that a breakthrough or resolution is imminent, thereby retaining ownership of the election law file. The committee was promoted as the vehicle to achieve consensual election laws and may continue to promote a similar message in order to both remain relevant and seemingly present themselves as the only solution to the long-standing issues. **COMMENT ENDS**.
- The Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit stated during a TV interview that “There is a crisis in the Libyan file and no positive results or progress have been made.” **COMMENT**: The comment is quite cutting and follows the widespread non-attendance of the Arab League meeting that was held in Tripoli in January 2023. Of 22 Foreign Ministers, only five attended the meeting, which was seen by many as a protest against the continuation of the GNU. Gheit is however correct, with no progress on the issues of an elected government being achieved since the failed election in Dec 2021. **COMMENT ENDS**.

Security Developments

- Over the night of 2/3 May unknown armed forces were reported moving in the desert to the south of Ajaylat whilst UAV activity was reported in Ajaylat and Zawiyah. **COMMENT**: Speculation has continued of a possible move by forces under Hassan Abuzriba, with possible support from Zintan’s Osama Jweili against al-Far’s First Support Force in Zawiyah. This follows the recent release of a video which has been assessed as having been intended to undermine al-Far in the area. **COMMENT ENDS**.
- On May 02 the GNU CoS, General Mohammed Al-Haddad, met with a delegation of the US Department of Defense, represented by the US Defense Attache to Libya Colonel Mark Amblum. According to a brief statement by the General Staff, both sides discussed “the relations between the Libyan army and the U.S. army and the possibility of developing them,” It also stated that Al-Hadad “praised the role played by the AFRICOM forces.”

Regional Developments

- On May 02 the Italian Council of Ministers approved a proposal from Prime Minister Georgio Meloni and Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani for the continuation of military missions and ongoing development cooperation initiatives. During the session, the cabinet also launched four new military missions for 2023 “in support of peace and stabilization processes with an eye on Libya.” The new missions will include the deployment of military personnel off Libya. This will be to support the European Union Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM) in enhancing security, and control of Libya’s land, sea, and air borders against illicit trafficking.

Oil and Gas Developments

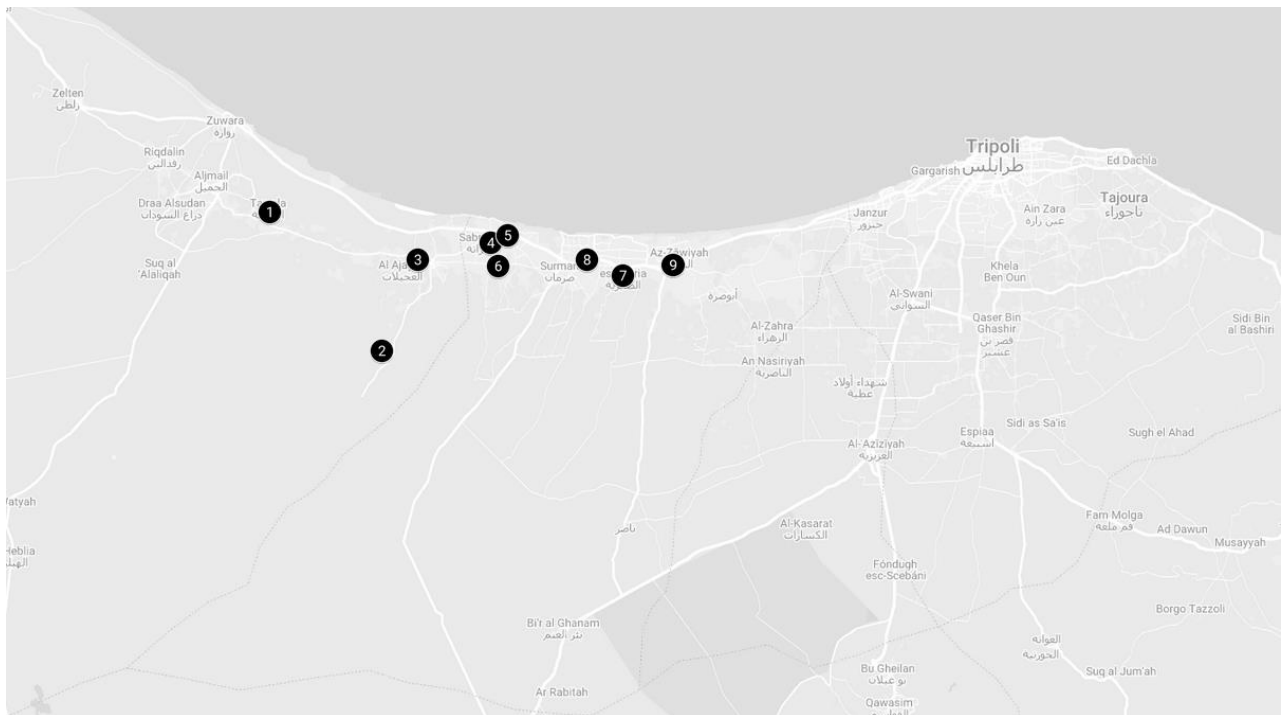
- On May 01 Zalfaf Oil and Gas Company announced that production at the Erawin oilfield had increased to 92,000 bpd. The figures are in line with the current plan to increase production to 100,000 bpd on the site.

Migrant Developments

- The head of the Sudanese Community in Libya, Moataz Mirghani claimed that the ongoing conflict in Sudan has not resulted in an increase in displaced Sudanese into Libya so far. He explained that this was primarily due to the long distances involved and the current lack of fuel in Sudan. **COMMENT:** Reporting appears to confirm Mirghani's statements, with the majority of Sudanese refugees arriving in Egypt and Ethiopia due to the distances involved. Furthermore the spokesman for the Municipal Council of Kufra, Abdullah Suleiman, also denied reports that over 70,000 Sudanese refugees have crossed the borders into Libya. However, as the conflict continues it is inevitable that refugees will begin to arrive in Southern Libya where they are expected to place a strain on the limited resources in the region. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



- 1. Armed Clash - May 02 21:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Tawela:** An attempted armed carjacking of an LIS vehicle resulted in an armed clash and the injury of the two carjackers.
- 2. Security Operation - May 03 01:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ajaylat:** An unidentified armed group present was reported in the desert to the south of Ajaylat.
- 3. Arrest - May 03 14:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ajaylat:** Two individuals were arrested, with one believed to have been a social media content creator.
- 4. Arrest - May 02, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratha:** Sabratha CID in cooperation with RADA/SDF arrested a Syrian national in possession of approximately \$5,000 in forged currency.

5. Surveillance - May 03 01:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: A UAV was reported as operating over the Sabratah and Ajaylat areas.

6. Murder/ Execution - May 03 15:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: An individual was found on the al-Ghalimiya road south of Sabratah suffering from bullet wounds.

7. Murder/ Execution - May 02 21:55, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabria: An individual was shot and seriously injured in a targeted attack.

8. Security Operation - May 03 01:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Mutarad: Unconfirmed sources reported that police stations in Harsha, Sabria and Mutarad were instructed to evacuate.

9. Surveillance - May 03 01:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: UAV activity was reported over Zawiyah.

10. Security Operation - May 02, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Wadi Mursit: The Joint Operations Room in the Western Region conducting counter-smuggling and migration operations in the Wadi Mursit area.

Cyrenaica Region

NSTR

Fezzan Region

NSTR

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
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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