

# Libya daily security analysis report

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## **Table of Contents**

### **Latest Developments 3**

Political Developments 3

Military Developments 3

Oil & Gas Developments 4

Migration Crisis 4

Sudan Crisis 4

### **Assessment 4**

Political Developments 4

Military Developments 5

### **Significant Incidents 5**

Tripolitania Region 5

Cyrenaica Region 6

Fezzan Region 7

Offshore 7

### **Outlook 8**

Short Term Outlook 8

Medium to Long Term Outlook 8

### **Key Dates 9**

### **Acronym List 10**

# Latest Developments

## Political Developments

- The 6+6 Committee was scheduled to hold its second meeting at the HoR HQ in Tripoli on May 07 according to HoR spokesman, Abdullah Blehim. On May 08, the committee was scheduled to meet with the head of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) to discuss the preparation of election laws.
- The Italian Ambassador to Libya, Giuseppe Buccino met with Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah and with Foreign Minister (GNU) Najla Mangoush as he finishes his tenure as ambassador. The prime minister used the occasion to reiterate Libya's cooperation with Italy, especially the return of Italian companies to Libya.
- Foreign Minister (GNU) Mangoush received Marc-André Franche, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Resident Representative for Libya. Franche presented his credentials and discussed the new UNDP country program for Libya which "includes a greater focus on the south, support for capacity building, and direct development investments through partnerships between local authorities and the international community."
- Turkish forces at Watiyah Airbase were transported under heavy security to the Turkish Embassy in Tripoli on May 07 to cast their vote for the Turkish elections, before returning to the base. The Turkish elections are due to be held on May 14.
- Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah gave a speech at the opening of the 49th Tripoli International Fair stating that his government aims to put Tripoli "back on the map of international investment, and make it an attractive destination for investors."
- A delegation from the Awlad Suleiman tribe (whose stronghold is Sabha) travelled to Misrata to meet with Misratan elders in the presence of the Minister of Labour (GNU), Engineer Ali Abd-Rida. The meeting discussed the national reconciliation project and peaceful coexistence.
- Major General Abdullah al-Senussi's hearing has been postponed to May 15 by the Tripoli Court of Appeals after he did not attend a session on May 08. It's unclear why Senussi, the former intelligence chief and brother-in-law of Muammar Gadhafi, was not able to attend the session.
- The National Commission for Human Rights in Libya (NCHRL) has denounced the Internal Security Agency (ISA) move to restrict women travelling alone from Tripoli. The NCHRL stated it was "arbitrary and illegal and was in violation of the rights of Libyan women and a restriction of the freedom of movement of Libyan female citizens."

## Military Developments

- The Naval Forces Chief of Staff from Tripoli and his delegation met with his Benghazi counterpart at the Naval HQ in Benghazi. The visiting delegation also toured tourist sites in Sousse and Shahat in the Green Mountains. The visit comes amidst ongoing efforts to unify Libya's military.
- Brigadier General Khaled Haftar (LNA) met with the head of the ISA in Benghazi to discuss cooperation and security integration between the armed forces and the ISA. This comes amidst an internal fuel within the ISA.
- A delegation of the LNA General Command visited Sameh and Al Naqa oilfields. This comes as part of a tour of oilfields by the delegation as they assess security provision in the area.
- The Ministry of Interior (GNU) met to discuss the building and development of security checkpoints on the coastal road. The meeting included the Undersecretary for Public Affairs, Major General Mahmoud Saeed and the Director of the General Department of Security Operations, Major General Ali Al-Nuwaisari.
- The Committee for Historical Restoration and the Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade (LNA) announced the completion of efforts to reconstruct Sabha Castle.
- A vocational training centre was opened in Janzour for Libyan youths who have been involved in armed conflict. The centre was opened by the French Embassy and an EU delegation.

## Oil & Gas Developments

- Chairman of the NOC, Farhat Bin Qadara, has appointed a new board of directors for Brega Oil Marketing Company. The new board will be chaired by Fouad Bel-Rahim and will comprise Faraj Al-Jaidi, Mustafa Aoun, Milad Al-Hejras and Abdul-Rahman Abdul-Salam.
- The NOC announced on May 07 that its production of crude oil amounted to 1.215 million barrels during the previous 24 hours. The total domestic consumption of natural gas amounted to 718 million cubic feet.

## Migration Crisis

- The DCIM has deported 170 Chadian nationals through Mitiga Airport. The Chadian Ambassador to Libya was present at the airport during the deportation.
- The head of the Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency held a high-level meeting with officials from African nations to discuss the illegal immigration file in Libya and to find solutions.

## Sudan Crisis

- Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah met with the Libyan Ambassador to Sudan, Fawzi Boumeriz, to discuss the evacuation of Libyans in Sudan. This comes after messaging from the Libyan Embassy in Sudan warning its efforts to repatriate Libyan citizens in Sudan were coming to a close.
- Further unconfirmed reports have surfaced of alleged fuel smuggling by 77 Battalion (LNA) from the Zillah area to Umm Aranib south of Sabha and into Sudan.

# Assessment

## Political Developments

### Turkish forces travel to Tripoli to vote in Turkish elections

Turkish forces at Watiyah Airbase were transported under heavy security to the Turkish Embassy in Tripoli on May 07 to cast their vote for the Turkish elections, before returning to the base. The Turkish elections are due to be held on May 14.

**COMMENT:** 'Turkey's elections may be a pivotal moment in modern Turkish history. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is facing the most serious challenge to his 20-year rule following an economic crisis, the erosion of Turkish democracy and the devastating earthquakes on February 06 which killed over 50,000 people. The president's main opposition is from Kemal Kilicdaroglu, leader of the Republic People's Party (CHP) and presidential nominee for the six-party National Alliance bloc. Kilicdaroglu has been described as Erdogan's polar opposite. A secular politician, Kilicdaroglu is slightly older at 74 and was born in the Kurdish-majority eastern province of Tunceli. The CHP represents the party which was formed by the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and has pledged to reduce the powers of the president and move towards a more inclusive parliamentary system should Kilicdaroglu gain power.

The fallout of the earthquakes which included issues with building code regulations and mass displacement of people (many of whom are traditional Erdogan supporters), was originally assessed as likely to have a detrimental impact on Erdogan's popularity. Although he did lose a point, Kilicdaroglu lost five, as the Turkish population weighed up who they trusted more to head the country's recovery. Analysts have suggested that Kilicdaroglu could narrowly beat Erdogan during the initial vote, however, he is unlikely to gain a majority unless one of the other candidates who holds moderate support drops out. Should a majority not be reached during the first round of voting, a second round between the top two

candidates will take place on May 28 and could see Erdogan maintain his position according to current polls.

Should Erdogan win the elections and secure power for another five-year term, there is not expected to be an impact on Turkish policy in Libya. Should the elections result in a change of leader however, it's unclear how the new incumbent will view Turkish involvement in Libya. It's unlikely that they would seek to reduce their influence which they have built over the past few years. Libya's political elite are likely to be following the elections closely as they weigh up any potential impact on their own positions.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

## Military Developments

### LNA: Sabha Castle restoration complete

The Committee for Historical Restoration and the Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade (LNA) announced the completion of efforts to reconstruct Sabha Castle. **COMMENT:** 'The historic site had been used by armed groups as a base and as a result, was badly damaged in fighting in 2016 and 2018. In 2018, the castle was being used by the Awlad Suleiman before they were ousted by Chadian armed groups as they pushed northwards, controlling the southern part of Sabha until they were pushed back after the LNA deployed to the area.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

# Significant Incidents

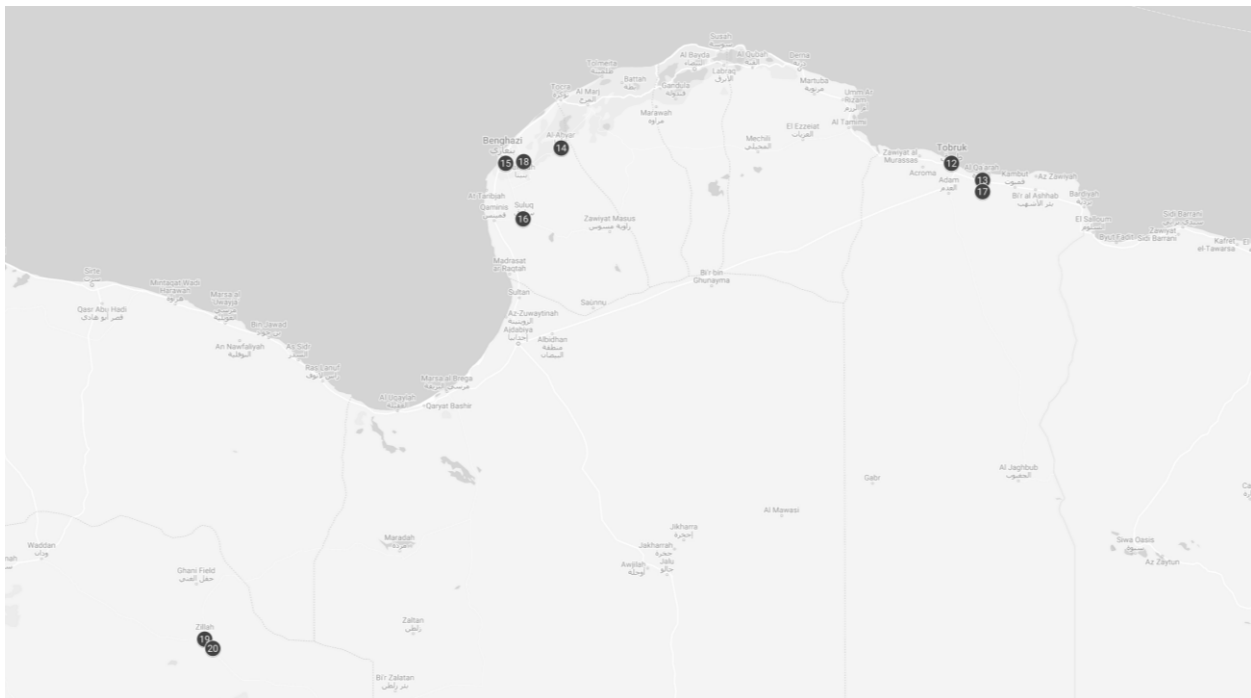
## Tripolitania Region



**1. Security Operation - May 07 00:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Bir Abu al Ghurab:** The Nafousa Mountain Military Region and DCIM carried out a security operation resulting in the arrest of 102 suspected migrants.

- 2. Security Operation - May 07, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara:** Police in Ain Zara carried out a large-scale campaign against cars without registration plates, seizing 97 vehicles over a 24-hour period.
- 3. Armed Clash - May 07, Tripoli Province, Islamic Call Centre:** An unconfirmed report allegedly from the Tripoli Security Directorate claimed that there had been a clash involving General Security inside the Dawa Association Headquarters resulting in the death of Mohamed al-Hamali. The clash involved "secret members" under the command of Mohamed al-Kashik who is investigating the trigger of the clashes. The person held responsible for killing Hamali has handed himself into the SSA after escaping the Islamic Dawa Association Headquarters.
- 4. Demonstration - May 07 12:30, Tripoli Province, Prime Minister's Office:** Surplus Staff demonstrated outside of the Prime Minister's office. This coincided with a similar protest outside the Surplus Staffing Office in Abyar in Benghazi Province.
- 5. RTA - May 07 12:31, Tripoli Province, CP 17:** A young boy was killed in a road traffic accident near Checkpoint 17 on the coastal road.
- 6. Troop Movements - May 07 13:20, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Watiyah Air Base:** Turkish soldiers returned to Watiyah Airbase under tight security after casting their vote at the Turkish Embassy in Tripoli.
- 7. Demonstration - May 07 14:00, Tripoli Province, Prime Minister's Office:** Ministry of Health staff protested outside of the Prime Minister's office over the non-payment of Covid-19 related payments.
- 8. Arrest - May 07 18:00, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** Tripoli Security Directorate arrested a gang allegedly smuggling kidnapped girls from Nigeria into Libya. The gang was discovered in a house on the outskirts of the city after a 17-year-old victim, taken along with other school friends, escaped and raised the alarm.
- 9. Crime - May 07 19:49, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah:** A man stole a car from a showroom after claiming he wanted a test drive. He was later arrested by the Security Directorate and the vehicle was recovered.
- 10. Arrest - May 07 20:33, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah:** A man and his two sons were arrested for physically assaulting and detaining his divorced daughter against her will in his home. She was able to escape and file a complaint at the local security directorate who took action.
- 11. Security Operation - May 07 21:00, Misrata Province, Bani Walid:** The Counter-Terrorist Force 2nd Support Unit carried out static and mobile security operations. This resulted in the seizure of illegal fuel trucks and suspected illegal immigrants were arrested on River Road.

## Cyrenaica Region



**12. Armed Clash - May 07, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk Medical Centre:** The General Manager of the Tobruk Medical Centre stated he has requested that the doors to the medical centre are closed to protect the facility and staff in the event of clashes after he stated there had been a number of incidents. NFDK.

**13. Assault - May 07, Al-Butnan Province, Al-Qa'arah:** 128 Battalion allegedly assaulted Abdul Basit Al-Basiri after targeting his home. Basiri was struck in the head leaving him in a critical condition.

**14. Demonstration - May 07 03:00, Benghazi Province, Abyar:** Surplus Staff demonstrated at the Surplus Staffing Office. This coincided with a similar protest outside the Prime Minister's office in Tripoli.

**15. Forced Seizure of Land - May 07 07:30, Benghazi Province, Bohdema:** Benghazi CID allegedly forced families to leave an area near the Military Police Camp in the area and seized the land.

**16. RTA - May 07 15:00, Benghazi Province, Suluq:** A serious accident involving a lorry resulted in the deaths of a young driver of a minibus, Rami al-Muzoghi, and eight Bangladeshi nationals who were passengers on the bus.

**17. Demonstration - May 07 16:03, Al-Butnan Province, Al-Qa'arah:** Local people demonstrated after an alleged attack on Abdul Basit Al-Basiri by 128 Battalion after they targeted his home for unknown reasons.

**18. Arrest - May 08 12:20, Benghazi Province, Benina Airport:** An initial report claimed that Al-Kandar, an activist on TikTok, was arrested at Benina Airport.

## Fezzan Region



**19. Smuggling - May 07 18:40, Al-Jufra Province, Zillah:** Another unconfirmed report claimed that fuel was smuggled from the Awija Farm from Zillah towards Umm Aranib area under the protection of 77 Battalion (LNA).

**20. Smuggling - May 08 21:10, Al-Jufra Province, Zillah:** 25 fuel trucks were sighted at Zillah. Local speculation has claimed that they are to be used to smuggle fuel to Sudan under the protection of 77 Battalion (LNA) under the command of Mohamed al-Muzoghi. This comes after similar reporting on May 05 suggesting that fuel trucks, under the protection of Muzoghi and 77 Battalion had left a farm in the area of Zillah towards Umm al-Aranib. 77 Battalion has had a presence in the Jufra area since at least January 2021.

## Offshore

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# Outlook

## Short Term Outlook

- Election momentum is failing to gain traction in Libya at present. The 6+6 Committee from the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) remains the focal point of the political process for now but has failed to make any progress towards its goals. SRSB Abdoulaye Bathily is progressing his High-Level Panel for Elections (HLPE) concept with June given as a deadline for the 6+6 Committee to come to an agreement. Meanwhile, heads of both the HoR and HCS continue to meet in Cairo, however, political elites remain subject to accusations that they are employing stalling tactics to avoid elections. At the same time, some international stakeholders are becoming more wary of elections, suggesting they could bring about more instability and may not be the answer to solving Libya's complex issues.
- The security situation in and around Tripoli remains fundamentally unstable. After significant changes to the capital's security makeup in August and September 2022, tensions are once again increasing as mistrust and competition grow. This is leading to increased concerns of a further outbreak of violence in or around Tripoli with tensions mainly building to the west of the capital at present.
- The outbreak of violence in Sudan has the potential to cause conflagration across the region and potentially destabilise the southern border areas with Libya. There has been speculation that the Libyan National Army (LNA) and even the National Oil Corporation (NOC) have been providing support to the Rapid Support Force (RSF), one of the belligerents of the Sudanese conflict, however there has been no evidence to support this. While the border has allegedly been closed on both sides, local reports suggest traffic is moving normally at this time. Efforts are underway in Kufra to establish mechanisms to support any refugees coming across the border, however, for now, reports suggest most Sudanese refugees moving over land borders are heading to other countries including Chad and Egypt.

## 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 whether elections are held or not. 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.
- The resurgence of Jihadist Salafism in Tripolitania remains a potential source of destabilisation with indications of renewed tensions between adherents and those of Madkhali Salafism. This competition between the opposing ideologies seeps into the political as well as the military spaces and is expected to slowly intensify as the Jihadist Salafi adherents gain strength in the region. This could increasingly become a defining factor for various groups involved in the political and military spaces.
- While the political process continues to falter, armed groups are exploiting the situation to increase their strength, influence and power across Libya which will likely have a longer-term negative impact on the political situation.
- 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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