

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- The 6+6 Committee held its second meeting on May 07, as scheduled, at the HoR HQ in Tripoli. HCS member, Fathallah Al-Sariri, stated that the committee has not yet discussed the conditions for running for the presidency, stressing that it is still working on the legislative elections. The meeting was followed by a meeting with the HNEC Chairman, Emad al-Sayeh.
- Speaker of the HoR, Aquila Saleh met with Jala al-Shuihadi, the Chairman of the 6+6 Committee in Quba to discuss updates on the work of the committee on May 09.
- Speaker Saleh met with the Deputy Minister of Interior (GNS), Faraj Gaim. The meeting took place in Quba and discussed the security situation in the country and the “necessity of extending security throughout Libya in cooperation with the LNA.”
- The Minister of Economy (GNU) Mohamed al-Hawij met with the commander of 55 Battalion, Muammar al-Dawi at his home to sign a decision to establish an International Exhibition in Warshefana.
- President Mohamed Menfi met with the outgoing Italian Ambassador to Libya, Giuseppe Buccino. The ambassador conveyed the greetings of Italian President, Sergio Mattarella and cited the important role the Presidential Council plays in bringing peace and stability.
- President Menfi met with several ambassadors and SRSG Bathily during a ceremony held to mark Eid al-Fitr in the presence of Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah, head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri and various high-level GNU ministers, heads of state institutions and military chiefs.
- Deputy of the Presidential Council, Abdullah Lafi, visited Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic. He was accompanied by the Minister of Youth (GNU) and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Laiko Company.
- Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah met with UK Ambassador Caroline Hurd at the Prime Minister's Office on May 10. As with previous comments from Ambassadors Mehraj of France and Norland of the US, Amb. Hurd reiterated the need for elections this year. Prime Minister Dbeibah praised the reopening of the British Embassy in Tripoli and progress in facilitating UK Visas for Libyans.

Terrorism Developments

- There are moves within Europe to move towards the classification of Wagner Group as a terrorist organisation.

Security Developments

- Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah met with the Chief of the General Staff, General Mohammad Al-Haddad, in the presence of a number of army officers. They discussed the rationing of army supplies and the obstacles facing the military clothing factory.
- GECOL Police have begun a campaign across Libya to secure power stations and small electric cabins, evicting people who are using them as dwellings as well as carrying out safety checks.

Travel Developments

- Heavy rains have impacted Tripolitania with a state of emergency being declared in Wadi al-Athal Bridge area with the mountain road becoming impassable. Cattle have also been lost due to flooding in the area.
- Excessive queues have developed at the Ras Ajdir border crossing to Tunisia with people waiting ten hours to cross.

- Additional traffic can be expected along the coastal road east between Tripoli and Misrata between May 13 and 27 due to the closure of Misrata airport. This is likely to see people having to fly to Mitiga Airport in Tripoli and travel by road to Misrata. This may attract additional protest activity to the route with groups aware the increased traffic could create additional leverage on the GNU.

Economic Developments

- The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) stated that the total oil sales revenue amounted to 19.1 billion dinars in the first four months of 2023. The CBL added that state revenues reached 31.9 billion dinars, while the total expenditure amounted to 24.9 billion dinars for the same reporting period.
- The Minister of Industry and Minerals (GNU), Ahmed Abu Hessa, and the Mayor of the Zliten Municipality, Muftah Hammadi, approved the decision to establish an industrial zone in Zliten, with an area of 8,800 hectares.
- The CBL has temporarily suspended the chairman, Naaman Elbouri, and the directors of the privately-owned Assaraya Trading and Investment Bank (ATIB) and appointed a temporary board for a period of six months. A replacement of the board can only be done by shareholders. Elbouri has accepted the move but stated they retained their right to litigate the decision.

Migration Crisis

- The municipality of Kufra has denied reports from the International Organization for Migration that 700 Sudanese refugees, displaced by conflict in Sudan, have arrived in Kufra.
- The IOM reported that 150 migrants were rescued and returned to Libya in the period of April 30 - May 06. This brings the total so far this year to 4,969 people who have been rescued and returned to Libya.

Oil & Gas Developments

- The NOC has revealed that the valve at Aziziyah south of Tripoli has been opened and that gas is now flowing through to the Kremia station which in turn will supply gas to Tripoli South Power station. The Aziziyah valve is connected to the coastal gas pipeline from Brega.
- The NOC has announced that Tatneft has made further discoveries in the Ghadames basin in area 82 block 4 – approximately 330km south of Tripoli. 82/04 is being explored as part of a 2005 ESPA, which gives the NOC an 89.5% stake in the JV with Tatneft as the operator.

Assessment

Political Developments

GNU: Commander of 55 secures further concession

The Minister of Economy (GNU) Mohamed al-Hawij met with the commander of 55 Battalion, Muammar al-Dawi at his home to sign a decision to establish an International Exhibition in the region of Ghout Busaq in Warshefana, Dawi's area of control.

COMMENT: 'After officially realigning with the GNU following a switch to the rival GNS in 2022, Dawi has focused on revamping his image, suggesting he is focused on establishing a political career alongside his military one. The signing of the document, at Dawi's home, is a nod to Dawi's current position, influence and control in the area. The establishment of an International Exhibition in Warshefana suggests a further concession from the GNU to secure his support, or at least non-aggression, given his continued good relations with key armed groups opposed to the GNU in the region.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Terrorism Developments

Wagner Group to be declare as a terrorist group?

There are moves within Europe to move towards the classification of Wagner Group as a terrorist organisation. The French parliament unanimously passed a non-binding resolution aimed at encouraging the 27 members of the EU to put Wagner on its official list of terrorist organisations. French MP, Benjamin Haddad, stated in parliament that: "Wherever they work, Wagner members spread instability and violence. They kill and torture. They massacre and pillage. They intimidate and manipulate with almost total impunity." He alleged that they were not mercenaries motivated financially, but were following "a broad strategy, from Mali to Ukraine, of supporting the aggressive policies of President Putin's regime towards our democracies."

Reports also indicate that Great Britain is also poised to add the group to its list of terrorist organisations after spending two months building a legal case. A government source allegedly stated to the media that the blacklisting was "imminent" and would occur within weeks.

COMMENT: 'Being added to terrorist lists would allow the EU and Great Britain to freeze assets and bar their citizens from dealing with the group. It would also stop Wagner from using financial institutions in the EU and Great Britain and make it a criminal offence to belong to the group. Personalities associated with the group are already subject to sanctions from various nations including the US. The group is also designated as a transnational criminal organisation in the US.

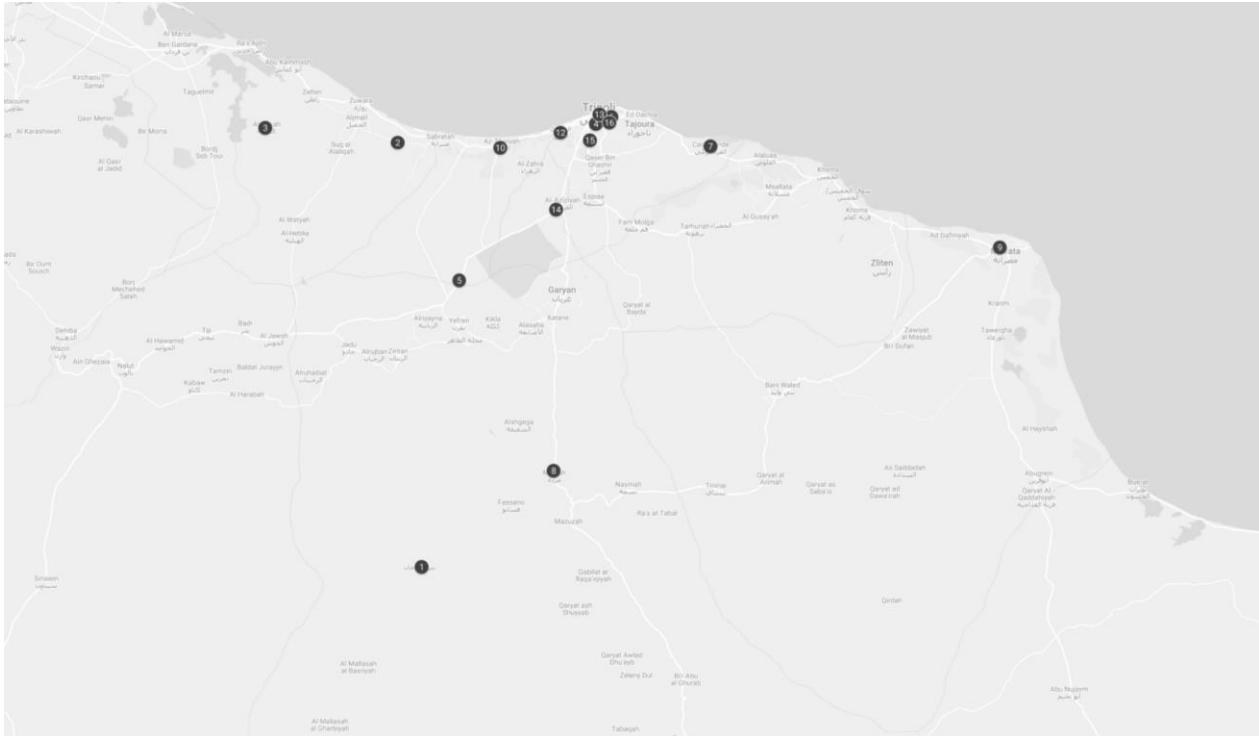
Wagner Group has been slowly spreading across various parts of Africa over the past few years, engaging in various conflicts, as well as taking control/ exerting influence over various trade and business activities. This includes Libya where they managed to embed their forces within LNA areas of control after fighting with the LNA during Operation Flood of Dignity in 2019/2020. Their activities, and ability to project Moscow's influence, have been of increasing concern to Western powers however it was their engagement in Ukraine which has triggered this much stronger reaction in a bid to try and contain the group.

This comes as tensions between Wagner Group and the Russian Ministry of Defence emerge into the public sphere, suggesting a struggle for influence within the Kremlin. The leader of Wagner Group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, stated on May 09 that the Russian Ministry of Defence had threatened to charge Wagner with treason if they withdrew from Bakhmut, Ukraine, where the group has been fighting for control for the past few months. The public statement came after Prigozhin threatened to pull his forces out of Bakhmut last week after suffering losses which he claimed were down to ammunition shortages, blaming the Ministry of Defence.

In addition to Wagner Group's current activities in Ukraine, concerns are mounting over their activities regarding the Sudan conflict which started in mid-April. This has resulted in pressure being directed towards the LNA by Washington over Wagner's activities in southern Libya, as well as the LNA's potential support for the Rapid Support Force, one of the belligerents in the Sudan conflict, by Cairo. Although Paris created some distance between them and the LNA after the failed Operation Flood of Dignity, France is still seen as a supporter of Eastern authorities and it's unclear how their drive to have Wagner classified as a terrorist organisation will affect their relationship with the LNA.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



- 1. Surveillance - May 08, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Bir al-Marhan:** The Shield Force for Support and Protection, under the Ministry of Defence (GNU), carried out reconnaissance operations in the area.
- 2. Armed Clash - May 09, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Shabika:** An armed clash erupted between the Salem Samamah and Ahmed Khalaf groups allegedly due to a dispute over African national workers.
- 3. Security Operation - May 09, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Al-Assah:** The Al-Assah Border Sector continued patrol operations along the border as part of a Ministry of Interior (GNU) security plan. Patrols started on May 08.
- 4. Kidnap - May 09, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem:** The Office of Information and Security Follow-up along with the SSA arrested three Bangladeshi nationals who are accused of kidnapping and torturing other Bangladeshi males. The videos of the torture were being sent to family members in order to exact a ransom.
- 5. Flooding - May 09, Az Zawiyah Province, Wadi al-Athal Bridge:** A state of emergency was declared by the Alasaba Municipal Council due to severe flooding at the Wadi Al-Athel Bridge area.
- 6. Political Announcement - May 09, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** The Minister of Health (GNU) dismissed Ashraf Abuqba as Director of the Medical Manpower Development Centre and appointed Dr Mustafa Bayou.
- 7. CP/ Roadblock - May 09, Tripoli Province, Garabuli:** The coastal road is reportedly still blocked at Garabuli with locals protesting over the lack of maintenance of the road and demanding the municipal council step down.
- 8. RTA - May 09, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Mizdah:** A car accident resulted in the deaths of three people with four others taken to intensive care.
- 9. Security Operation - May 09, Misrata Province, Misrata:** Extensive security campaign was underway by Special Operations Management and the Joint Operation Force to combat crime and contribute to security in the city.
- 10. Kidnap - May 09, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** A video purporting to show a woman begging not to be raped by security forces after she was allegedly kidnapped by them following social media posts

criticizing security in Zawiyah has appeared online. The veracity of the video cannot be confirmed, however the city is currently seeing a movement against the way in which armed groups operate and as such, like a similar recent video from the city purporting to show African nationals beating Libyan nationals, could spark outrage and further protests.

11. Arrest - May 09 11:56, Tripoli Province, Janzour: The Janzour Knights and SDF arrested the Libyan rapper, Takeshi. He has also been described as an activist on TikTok.

12. Arrest - May 09 11:56, Tripoli Province, Janzour: A man named as Taha Jawan (aka Al-Maxima) was arrested by an unidentified force.

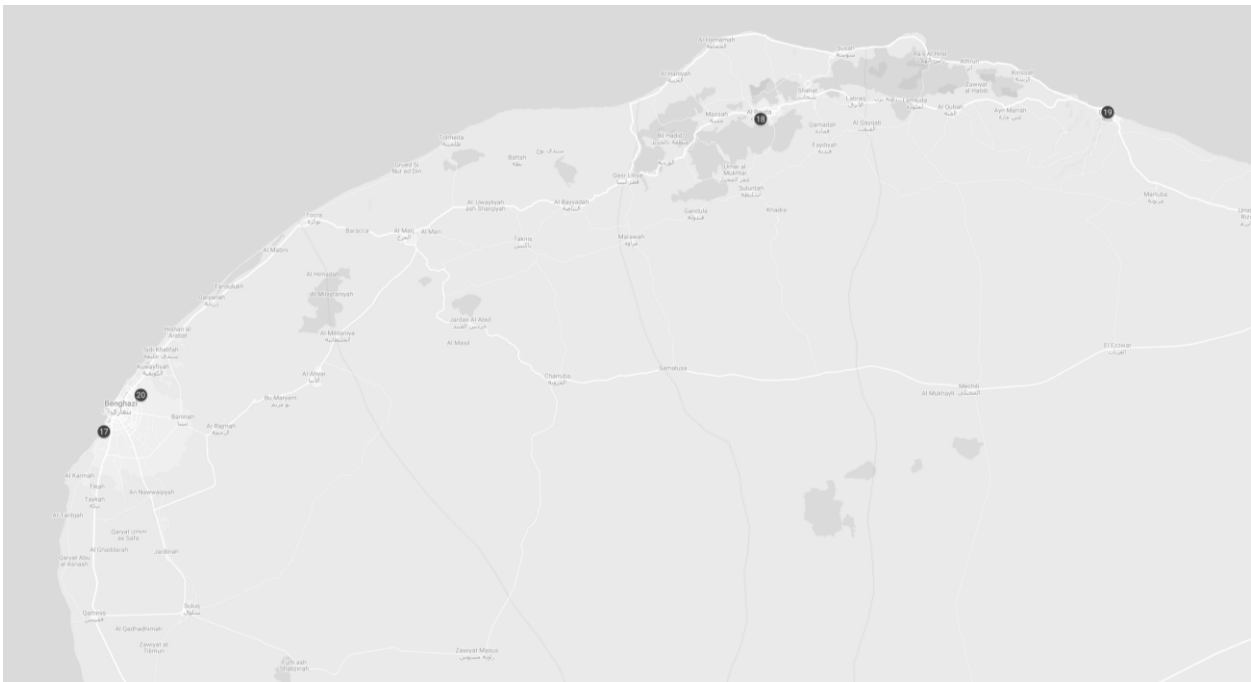
13. Demonstration - May 09 12:02, Tripoli Province, Prime Minister's Office: A protest took place outside the Prime Minister's Office.

14. Troop Movements - May 09 21:00, Al-Jafara Province, 4 Brigade Camp: The Western Mountains Military Region mobilised forces, including MRAPs, to their 4 Brigade Camp in Aziziyah. This follows a military exercise at the nearby Bir Al-Ghanam area which started on May 08 and may have been troops returning to their base.

15. SAF - May 09 23:13, Tripoli Province, Airport Road: Small arms fire was heard near Airport Road.

16. Threat Warning - May 10 14:30, Tripoli Province, Fornaj: Reports indicate that shops in the area have been given 72 hours to vacate. NFDK.

Cyrenaica Region



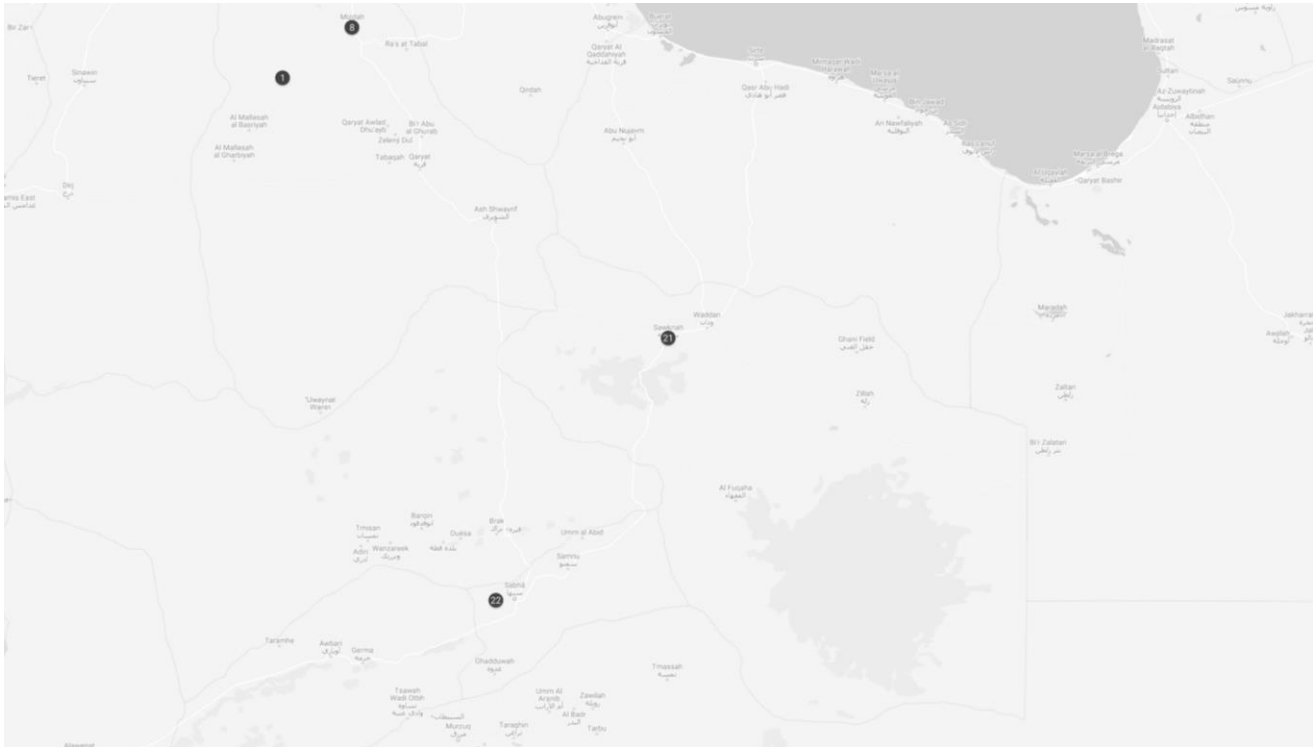
17. Arrest - May 09, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Dr Muftah Darbash Al-Qazaki, a political activist and faculty member was arrested by the Tariq bin Ziyad Brigade.

18. Security Operation - May 09, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: Police from the Bayda Security Directorate conducted an operation to educate people on the risks of traffic accidents on the occasion of World Traffic Day.

19. Murder/ Execution - May 09, Derna Province, Derna: Two bodies were recovered by the Red Crescent (Derna Branch) buried in Boumsafer Forest near the western entrance to the city.

20. Murder/ Execution - May 09 18:00, Benghazi Province, Shabna: A drive-by-shooting near Hur Mall resulted in the death of Adel al-Jazawi, a high profile member of the Special Forces while he was driving a black Hyundai Azerra. Jazawi's body was said to have been taken by the perpetrators. It's possible this targeted killing could trigger reprisals.

Fezzan Region



21. Arrest - May 09, Al-Jufra Province, Sawknah: A 15-year-old boy, Ali Hamad Al-Qazoun, was arrested by 77 Battalion for filming fuel trucks leaving the area. He was taken to the 77 Camp in Sukna. This comes after several pictures appeared online showing fuel trucks with local reports claiming 77 Battalion, under the command of Mohamed al-Muzoghi, was smuggling them to Umm al-Aranib and Sudan.

22. RTA - May 09 10:30, Sabha Province, Traghen: A car accident claimed the lives of four young people who had just had their graduation ceremony from the College of Aviation in Sabeia. Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah called the parents of the four victims to express his "deep sorrow" over the tragedy.

Offshore

NSTR

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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SECURE EVERY DAY

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