

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- President Mohamed Menfi and Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah met at the prime minister's office to discuss updates on the local and international political situation, national reconciliation, and elections.
- President Menfi also met with SRSB Bathily to discuss elections in 2023, the national reconciliation project, the unification of the military, a national mechanism to manage oil revenues, spending priorities and the exploration of ways to support the 6+6 Committee to "accomplish its responsibilities in the near future."
- Deputy Presidential Council member, Abdullah al-Lafi met with the US Special Envoy, Richard Norland to discuss national reconciliation and the elections during a phone call on May 10. The call also included Leslie Ordeman, Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Libya. Both parties agreed that "efforts to promote national reconciliation in Libya are necessary to ensure long-term peace and prosperity throughout the country."
- Zahra Langhi, a member of the LPDF, has claimed that negotiations between the Dbeibah and Haftar families, under UAE sponsorship, continue with an agreement allegedly reached on some elements.
- French ambassador Mustafa Mihraje issued a statement affirming Paris's support for the 6+6 committee's work and urged it to accelerate its performance. He explained that France does not interfere in Libyan affairs, but as a permanent Security Council member, it is concerned about the situation in the country. This came as he toured Misrata and Zliten, visiting factories and the Misratan free zone.
- The Netherlands will officially open the headquarters of its embassy in Tripoli on May 15. The embassy has been closed since 2014. The opening will include a ceremony and press conference.

Security Developments

- The 5+5 Joint Military Commission is scheduled to hold its next meeting on May 16 in Sabha. The meeting is set to discuss the usual topics of removing mercenaries and foreign fighters, the release of detainees and the return of displaced people as well as the unification of the military.
- Deputy Minister of the Interior (GNS), Faraj Gaim, travelled to Bayda to take part in the Second National Conference on Traffic Safety. Senior security leaders, scientists, academics, and researchers along with the Arab Organisation for Traffic Safety attended the conference while traffic police embarked on an awareness campaign with local drivers.
- Shops around the Fornaj Roundabout in Tripoli were given 72 hours to vacate their premises on May 10. This order was reportedly given by the Tripoli Security Directorate and is to facilitate the widening of the road in order to alleviate traffic congestion.
- The Security Directorate in Zawiyah has issued an order for all security authorities in the city to ensure vehicles have registration plates and logos of their units along with a travel permit for each vehicle. Any found not to be following the rule will have legal action taken against them.
- Sabratah city officials have agreed to activate the administration of the Immigration Control Department and to form a security unit to combat illegal immigration.

Travel Developments

- Flights were diverted from Benina Airport to Al-Abragh Airport on May 10 due to bad weather. This included flights coming from Damascus, Syria and Alexandria, Egypt.

Economic Developments

- The GNS has signed a cooperation agreement for a number of investment projects with a coalition of foreign companies, including the Chinese International Railways Group.
- Audit Bureau Head, Khaled Shakshak, met with a delegation from the US Agency for International Development to discuss ways to improve efficiency in auditing, particularly in the oversight of extractive industries and investment. The meeting also included discussions on plans for developing the Audit Bureau through a partnership with the US agency.

Sudan Crisis

- The Sudanese Ambassador to Libya, Ibrahim Mohamed, met with Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah to discuss the situation in Sudan, the coordination of efforts between the two countries, and the role of GNU in providing humanitarian support to the Sudanese people. Chief of General Staff, Lt. Gen. Mohamed Al-Haddad, also attended the meeting and stressed the coordination of military efforts to monitor the Libyan-Sudanese borders. The Sudan border areas in Libya fall under the control of the LNA-aligned Subul al-Salam Battalion from Kufra.

Assessment

Political Developments

Dbeibah/ Haftar negotiations continue

Zahra Langhi, a member of the LPDF, has claimed that negotiations between the Dbeibah and Haftar families, under UAE sponsorship, continue with an agreement allegedly reached to give Haftar the ministries of defence, economy, interior, and foreign affairs. This was said to be in exchange for the presidency.

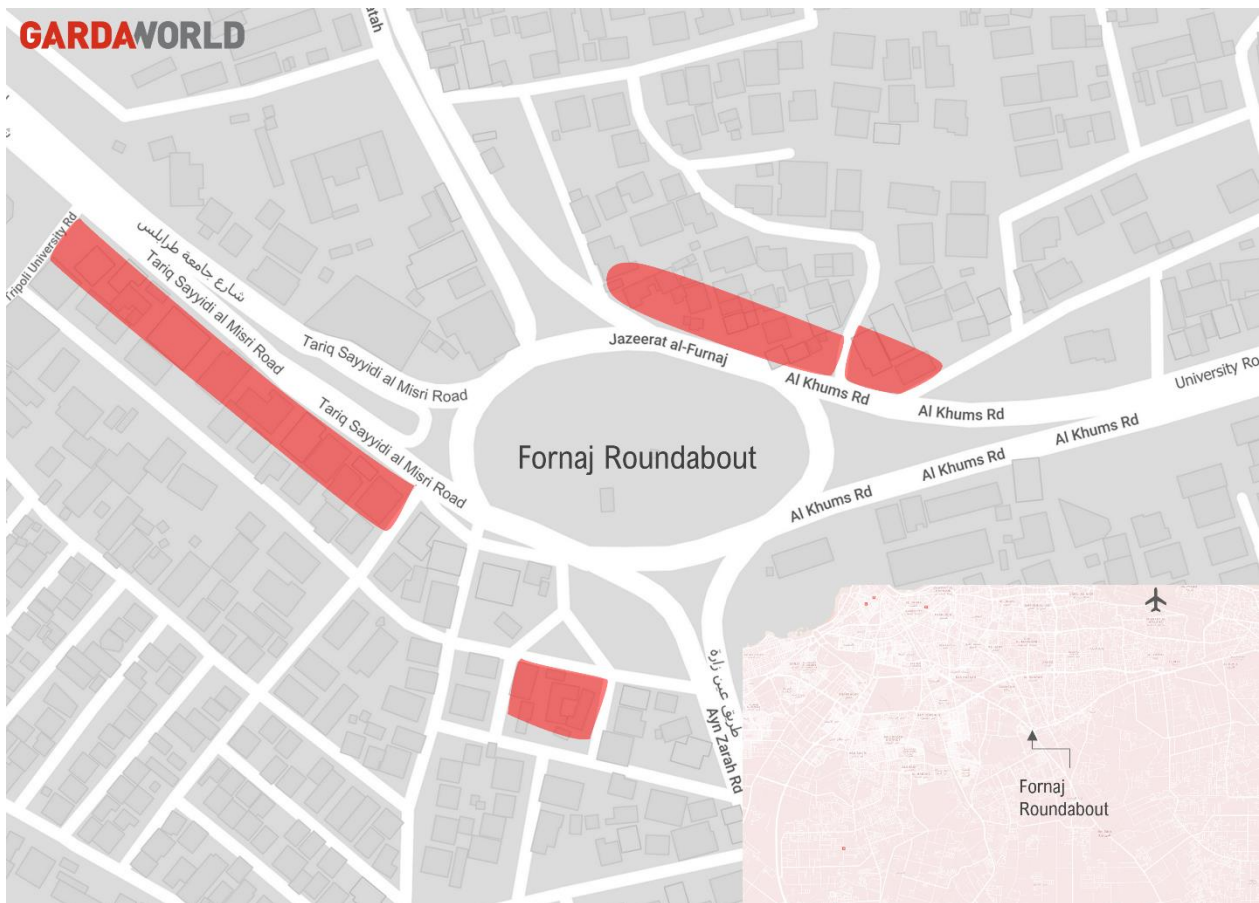
COMMENT: 'Reports have consistently pointed to bilateral negotiations between the two prominent families under the auspices of the UAE. Previous negotiations, spearheaded by Saddam Haftar and Ibrahim Dbeibah, have already produced results, including the replacement of Mustafa Sanalla as head of the NOC. These latest negotiations are widely believed to be centred around a power-sharing agreement between the two power bases which would delay elections and see a reshuffle of the GNU, and presumably a subsequent abandonment of the GNS.'

While there would be some potential benefits, including moving back to a one-government system allowing some time for the country to work towards unity, the concentration of power in the hands of the two families could well prove highly problematic in the longer term. This comes as some international stakeholders begin to wonder whether elections could prove destabilising and question whether they are the answer to Libya's complex political issues.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Security Developments

Tripoli: Fornaj shops to be demolished

Shops around the Fornaj Roundabout in Tripoli were given 72 hours to vacate their premises on May 10. This order was reportedly given by the Tripoli Security Directorate and is to facilitate the widening of the road in order to alleviate traffic congestion.



Graphic: Showing areas of shops told to vacate in red around the Fornaj Roundabout

COMMENT: 'It's possible this order could trigger tensions in the area of Fornaj, especially given the short timeline in which to comply. It's also unclear if the issue could trigger further questions over property ownership, questions being asked in various areas of the country as reconstruction starts gaining some traction.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Sabratah: New illegal immigration unit to be established

Sabratah city officials have agreed to activate the administration of the Immigration Control Department and to form a security unit to combat illegal immigration.

COMMENT: 'Sabratah is a focal point for illegal immigration in Libya, with boats being sent by local armed groups across the Mediterranean. Attempts to disrupt or take over this activity tend to result in localised destabilisation with armed groups looking to ensure the continuation of their lucrative activities. It's possible the move by the city is an attempt to legitimise an existing armed group already involved in this activity. By giving them a legal remit to police the issue, this could disrupt other group's involvement, sparking tensions.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Economic Developments

GNS: Signs investment agreement

The GNS has signed a cooperation agreement for a number of investment projects with a coalition of foreign companies, including the Chinese International Railways Group, BFi Limited, and Arub Engineering. The projects are aimed at reconstructing cities including roads and hospitals and are part of the GNS's Development of the Nation project which was launched in April. The agreement was signed by Deputy Prime Minister (GNS) Ali Al Qatrani.

COMMENT: 'The signing of the agreement comes after a meeting between Prime Minister (GNS) Bashagha and Qatrani to discuss the Development of the Nation project. It comes as the East is seeing a

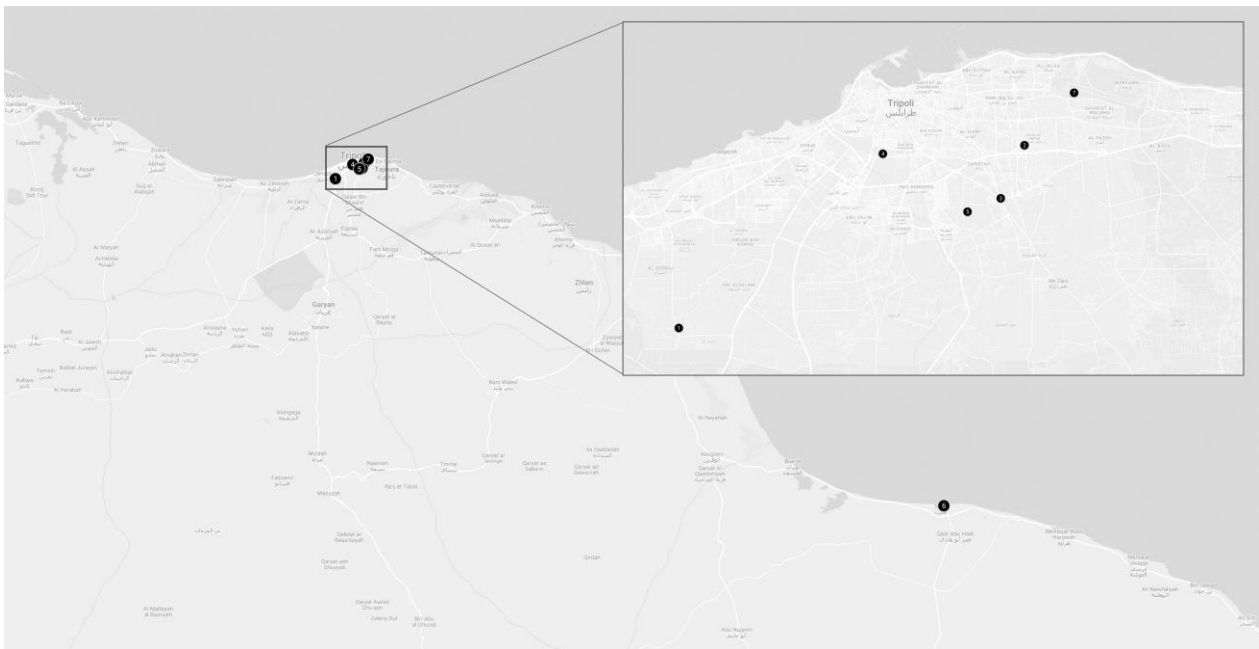
notable period of investment with private investors building malls, factories, industrial complexes, hospitals, and universities. Meanwhile, the Benghazi municipality is focused on infrastructure such as bridges.

The GNS remains cash-strapped and it's unclear how the deals are to be financed however China has a long history of financing large infrastructure projects across Africa as part of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), spending around \$155 billion over the past two decades as it gradually consolidated its economic presence. As a result, Beijing has established significant influence on the continent, first in Sub-Saharan Africa and more recently, into the Maghreb where it has established comprehensive strategic partnerships with Algeria and Morocco. The crisis in Libya over the past 11 years has however made it difficult for Beijing to incorporate the Maghreb more completely within its BRI framework.

Just as the situation in Libya presents Beijing with the opening it has been waiting for, the EU and US are beginning to challenge Chinese influence with their own spending. This comes as an economically stressed China reportedly mothballs big-ticket projects under the BRI, switching to smaller projects with less financial risk.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



- 1. SAF - May 10, Tripoli Province, Serraj:** A car windscreen was found to have been damaged by a bullet.
- 2. Kidnap - May 10, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** 444 Brigade arrested a kidnapper after he had demanded a ransom from the family of his victim.
- 3. Threat Warning - May 10 14:30, Tripoli Province, Fornaj:** Reports indicate that shops in the area have been given 72 hours to vacate. This is to facilitate the widening of the road in a bid to solve congestion and was announced by the Tripoli Security Directorate.
- 4. SAF - May 10 18:38, Tripoli Province, Camp 77:** Weapons testing was heard from inside Camp 77 from the SSA.
- 5. Assault - May 10 21:53, Tripoli Province, Tripoli University:** Guards at the university engaged each other in a fistfight.

6. Arrest - May 11 07:00, Sirte Province, Sirte: The 604 Battalion (LNA) stormed the home of Ahmed Ibrahim al-Gadhafi at dawn to arrest his son. Ahmed Gadhafi has been detained in a Misratan prison since 2011.

7. Surveillance - May 11 08:40, Tripoli Province, Mitiga Airport: A drone took off from Mitiga Airport.

Cyrenaica Region



8. Arrest - May 10, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: Brigadier General Ashraf Al-Furjani, Director of the Tobruk Anti-Drug Branch, was arrested. This may be part of an ongoing feud between ISA/ Ministry of Interior units in the east of the country.

Fezzan Region



9. Smuggling - May 10 21:45, Al-Jufra Province, Zillah: A number of fuel trucks arrived in Zillah under the protection of 77 Battalion (LNA). Local reports assert the trucks are smuggling fuel to Sudan.

10. Prisoner Release - May 11, Al-Jufra Province, Zillah: Ali Hamad Al-Qazoun, a 15-year-old boy arrested by 77 Battalion (LNA) at the Zillah Checkpoint for taking photographs of fuel trucks on May 09, was released after an intervention by local sheikhs.

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. SRSG 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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