

# Libya daily security analysis report

May 12, 2023

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# Latest Developments

## Political Developments

- Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah met with tribal and community elders of the Jufra region. The chief elder confirmed their support of the GNU's efforts to strengthen municipalities, activation of local administration and the "GNU's vision to hold elections and end transitional phases." The region currently comes under the control of the LNA.
- Abdul Latif Al-Alam from Dar al-Ifta has been assigned the duties of the Executive Director of the General Authority for Hajj and Umrah Affairs.
- A tribal meeting was held in Sabha with reports the attendees rejected an Italian project to deal with illegal migration.

## Security Developments

- Armed clashes erupted in Zawiyah on the evening of May 11 after the Shorfa tribe attacked the Counter-Terrorism Force after the force released a man wanted for the murder of a Shorfa tribal member.
- The International Criminal Court has issued four new arrest warrants for alleged war criminals in Libya. Prosecutor Karim Khan also said he recently applied for two additional warrants. Khan has applied for the four new warrants to be unsealed.

## Economic Developments

- The Chairman of the Supreme Council of Tunisian-Libyan Businessmen, Abdel-Hafeez al-Sakraoui, stated that a conference would be held in Benghazi between June 04-06 dedicated to reconstruction projects in the city.

## Oil & Gas Developments

- The Harouge Oil Operations Company met with representatives of Malaysian oil companies headed by Petronas, in Tripoli on May 10. The meeting discussed the main challenges facing the oil and gas sector in Libya and the NOC's efforts to enhance production, modernize the sector, diversify partnerships, and exchange experiences.

# Assessment

## Political Developments

### **Dar al-Ifta assigned Hajj duties**

Abdul Latif Al-Alam from the Dar al-Ifta has been assigned the duties of the Executive Director of the General Authority for Hajj and Umrah Affairs. This comes as controversy erupts over the Hajj lottery which resulted in the south only getting 700 slots out of the 7,800 available.

**COMMENT:** 'The Dar al-Ifta, an advisory, judiciary and governmental body, is headed by Grand Mufti Siddiq Al-Ghariani who is widely seen as adhering to the Jihadist Salafi current of Islam. The Dar al-Ifta is involved in an escalating feud with the General Authority of Endowments and Religious Affairs (Awqaf), led by Mohamed Abbani from the rival Madkhali Salafi current.

Relations between the two rival religious authorities, which precede over significant influence as well as sources of income, have been strained for a good few years now with the Awqaf gaining ground at the expense of the Dar al-Ifta's as the Jihadi Salafi movement lost traction across Libya. However, this is now being challenged by a re-empowered Dar al-Ifta which is benefiting from GNU support, the return of key military commanders and the reorganisation of military units aligned with the movement. This has resulted in a number of demonstrations over recent months, the most recent of which saw "hundreds" of people protest on May 02 outside the prime minister's office in Tripoli calling for Abbani's removal." **COMMENT ENDS.**

## Security Developments

### Zawiyah clashes

At around 1920hrs on May 11, armed clashes erupted in the Dai Hilal area of Zawiyah after the Counter-Terrorism Force released a man accused of murdering a member of the Shorfa tribe. As a result, the Shorfa tribe launched an attack on the Counter-Terrorism Force which was being supported by 60 Infantry Battalion. Both are heavily influence by the Gammoudi tribe. The Shorfa were being supported by the Kaboat Militia. At least one person from the Counter-Terrorism Unit, Abdel-Daim Al-Marabat, was killed in the clashes along with another unnamed individual while a fire ignited at a local medical centre. Reports also indicated the use of a small aircraft which may have been used to support mortar attacks against the Counter-Terrorism Force Headquarters. Fighting went on until late on May 11 until 103 Battalion under the command of Othman Lahab mobilised to intervene. Lahab is associated with the Kaboat Militia.

**COMMENT:** 'The clashes come during a period of instability in Zawiyah with various efforts ongoing to reorganise the city's security forces. This includes the establishment of the Western Task Force by Chief of Staff Mohammed Haddad and Major General Salah Namroush, commander of the Western Coast Military Region (WCMR). The city is also seeing an alleged grassroots movement against the activities of the city's armed groups which has seen protests which resulted in the recent retreat of 52 Brigade (WCMR), under the command of Mahmoud Bin Rajab, from Zawiyah. The city has also seen the recent return of Abu Obedia, commander of the Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room (LROR), a Jihadist Salafi armed grouping established in the city and very influential for a time after the revolution. While the LROR is no longer an entity, Abu Obeida, who has a stated aim of re-involving himself in the city's security make-up, continues to enjoy significant support in Zawiyah as well as amongst other high-level regional and international stakeholders.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

## Economic Developments

### Benghazi reconstruction conference

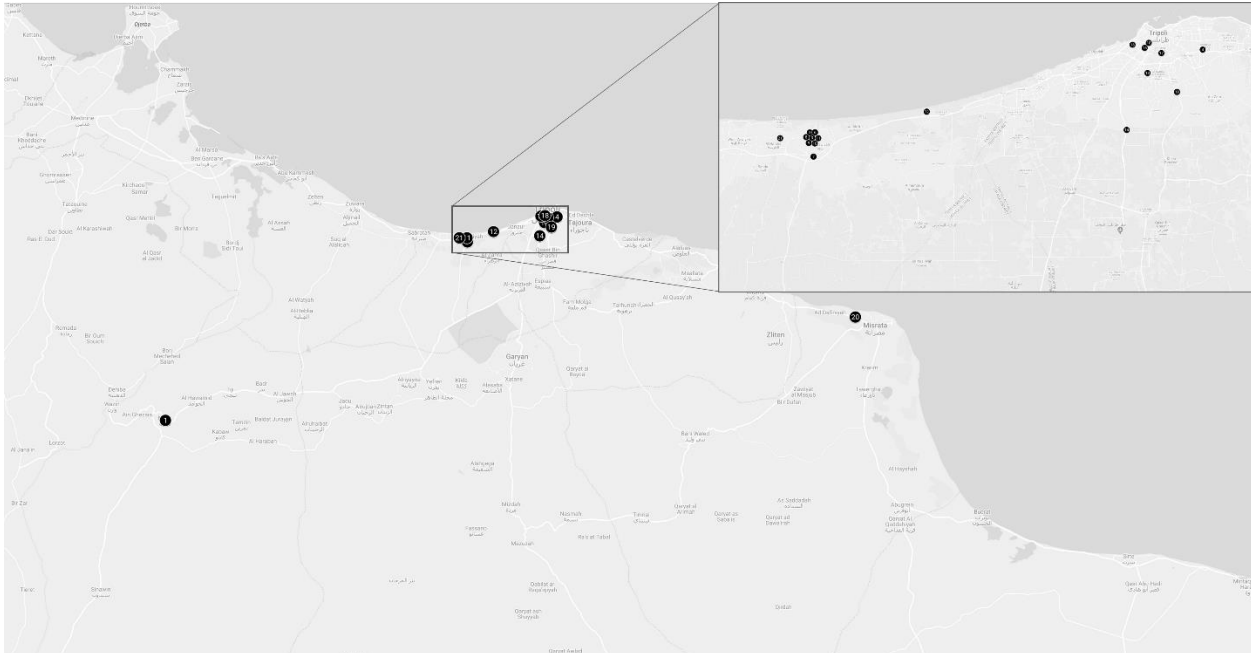
The Chairman of the Supreme Council of Tunisian-Libyan Businessmen, Abdel-Hafeez al-Sakraoufi, stated that a conference would be held in Benghazi between June 04-06 dedicated to reconstruction projects in the city. During the conference, a contract will be unveiled for the construction of an "integrated city" in Libya. This includes 10,000 housing units, four commercial towers, large areas, several malls, hospitals, and schools. The project is valued at \$1.5 billion dollars, on an area of 700.13 hectares. It is hoped that the construction would be finished by 2030. Sakraoufi claimed that reconstruction projects in the city would create over 20,000 jobs for Tunisians with Egyptian workers also brought in.

**COMMENT:** 'The reconstruction of Benghazi is gaining traction with private and some public investment, investment currently estimated in the billions, which has already resulted in the construction of malls, factories, industrial areas, medical and educational establishments. Egyptian, Emirati and Tunisian companies are already engaged in projects, while Chinese, Turkish and Eastern European companies are heavily involved in technological and electronic requirements.

Some of this construction is causing local controversy, however. The recent extensive demolition of the Sabri seafront area has raised various questions over property ownership and the different agencies involved in clearance, evictions, ownership and construction operations.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



**1. Crime - May 11, Nalut Province, Nalut:** The Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Control Agency in Nalut, in coordination with the SSA (Nalut Branch) seized 195,000 x 300mg Lyrica (Pregabalin) tablets from a Toyota Land Cruiser. The interception came after security forces received a tip-off that someone, with extensive connections to smuggling networks, was selling drugs in the area. Lyrica is approved as a drug to treat epilepsy and is also used to treat serious pain. It has a low potential for abuse and dependence but when taken in large doses it can cause euphoria and sedation and can lead to blackouts, impaired judgment and risky behaviour.

**2. Surveillance - May 11 18:18, Tripoli Province, Salahuddin:** A drone was sighted overflying the area.

**3. Armed Clash - May 11 19:21, Az Zawiyah Province, Dai al-Hilal:** Armed clashes erupted in Zawiyah after the Counter-Terrorism Force released a man accused of murdering a member of the Shorfa tribe. As a result, the tribe launched an attack on the Counter-Terrorism Force which was being supported by 60 Infantry Battalion. Both are heavily influence by the Gammoudi tribe. The Shorfa were being supported by the Kaboat Militia. At least one person from the Counter-Terrorism Unit, Abdel-Daim Al-Marabat, was killed in the clashes along with another unnamed individual while a fire ignited at a local medical centre. Reports also indicated the use of a small aircraft which may have been used to support mortar attacks against the Counter-Terrorism Force Headquarters.

**4. Security Operation - May 11 21:43, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** Female officers of the DCIM are working to combat tuberculosis within the migrant community.

**5. Armed Clash - May 11 21:53, Az Zawiyah Province, Dai al-Hilal:** Clashes were ongoing in the area.

**6. Troop Movements - May 11 22:05, Az Zawiyah Province, Dai al-Hilal:** Reports indicate that 103 Battalion, commanded by Othman Lahab (Silaa) began mobilising to carry out an intervention in an effort to bring the clashes under control. Lahab has an existing relationship with the Kaboat militia which was supporting the Shorfa Tribe.

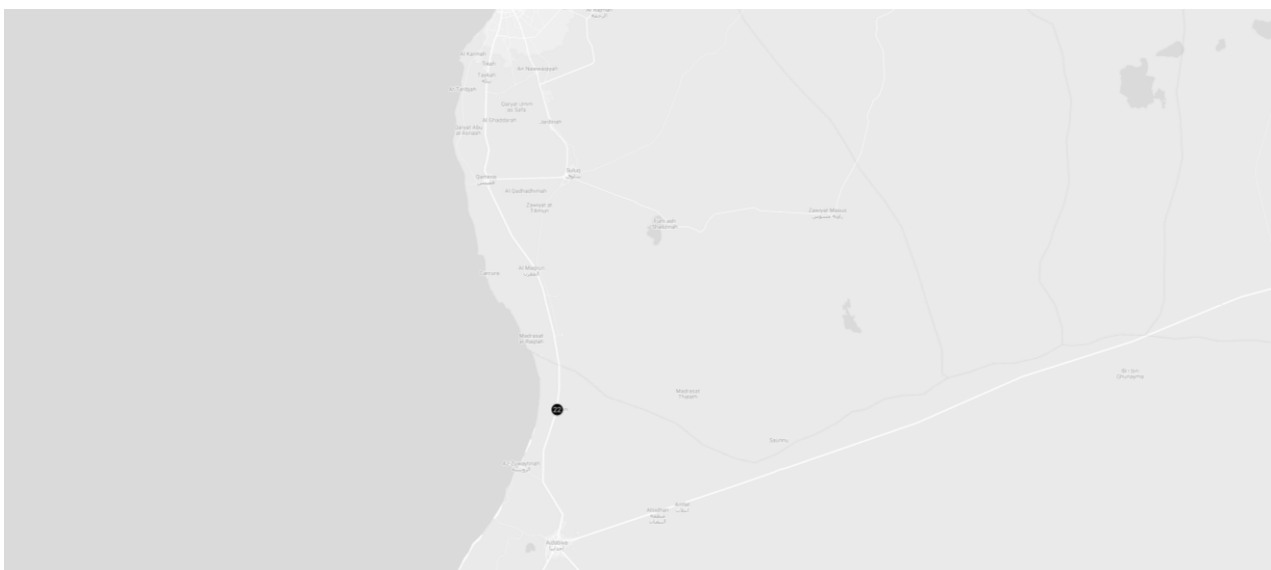
**7. Troop Movements - May 11 22:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** A number of ambulances from Red Crescent blue-lighted to Zawiyah.

**8. Armed Clash - May 11 23:05, Az Zawiyah Province, Dai al-Hilal:** Clashes were ongoing in the area.

**9. Ceasefire - May 11 23:19, Az Zawiyah Province, Dai al-Hilal:** A temporary ceasefire was called in the Zawiyah area to allow civilians to leave the area or to coordinate an evacuation with the emergency room of the western branch.

- 10. Armed Clash - May 11 23:25, Az Zawiyah Province, Dai al-Hilal:** Clashes resumed in the Dai al-Hilal area.
- 11. Evacuation - May 11 23:27, Az Zawiyah Province, Dai al-Hilal:** Families began being evacuated from the area of clashes.
- 12. Troop Movements - May 11 23:47, Al-Jafara Province, Mayah:** SSA forces under the command of Ghneiwa and Counter-Terrorism Forces under the command of Al-Jhawi had reached the Mayah area as they responded to the clashes in Zawiyah.
- 13. Troop Movements - May 12 01:10, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem:** SSA forces under the command of Abdulghani Kikli (Ghneiwa) deployed in their home area for unknown reasons following an unconfirmed report of a security alert.
- 14. Troop Movements - May 12 01:20, Tripoli Province, Airport Road:** SSA forces under the command of Abdulghani Kikli (Ghneiwa) deployed to the area for unknown reasons following an unconfirmed report of a security alert.
- 15. Troop Movements - May 12 01:20, Tripoli Province, Bab Aziziyah:** SSA forces under the command of Abdulghani Kikli (Ghneiwa) deployed to the area for unknown reasons following an unconfirmed report of a security alert.
- 16. Troop Movements - May 12 01:20, Tripoli Province, Suq al-Thalatha:** SSA forces under the command of Abdulghani Kikli (Ghneiwa) deployed to the area for unknown reasons following an unconfirmed report of a security alert.
- 17. Troop Movements - May 12 01:20, Tripoli Province, Al-Ittihad Club:** SSA forces under the command of Abdulghani Kikli (Ghneiwa) deployed to the area for unknown reasons following an unconfirmed report of a security alert.
- 18. Troop Movements - May 12 01:20, Tripoli Province, Al-Quds Roundabout:** SSA forces under the command of Abdulghani Kikli (Ghneiwa) deployed to the area for unknown reasons following an unconfirmed report of a security alert.
- 19. Troop Movements - May 12 01:20, Tripoli Province, Salahuddin:** SSA forces under the command of Abdulghani Kikli (Ghneiwa) deployed to the area for unknown reasons following an unconfirmed report of a security alert.
- 20. SAF - May 12 01:22, Misrata Province, Zawiyat al-Mahjoub:** Two children received gunshot wounds to lower limbs after two people exchanged fire near the Shaltat Mosque. The two children were transferred to Al-Hikma Hospital and were reported to be in a stable condition.
- 21. Armed Clash - May 12 15:13, Az Zawiyah Province, Gammoudi:** Clashes resumed in the Gammoudi area.

## Cyrenaica Region



- 22. RTA - May 11, Al-Wahat Province, Sultan:** A serious car accident resulted in the deaths of six people. One driver was from Benghazi, the other from Ajdabiya. The rest of the victims came from Egypt.

## Fezzan Region



**23. Arrest - May 12, Sabha Province, Sabha:** The Internal Security Agency arrested the coordinator of Italian NGO Ara Pacis, a local national from Sabha, on charges of helping Ara Pacis to settle migrants in southern Libya under the cover of agricultural projects.

## 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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