

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- Reports claim that the HoR is set to hold a session on May 15 in Benghazi to decide whether to suspend Prime Minister (GNS) Fathi Bashagha.
- Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah met with SRSB Bathily at his office in Tripoli to discuss the latest developments regarding elections, the return of displaced people, the latest situation in Sudan and the impact of the conflict on Libya.
- The Dutch Embassy was reopened on May 15 in a ceremony held at the location in Tripoli. The event was attended by Dutch Deputy Foreign Minister Paul Hoots, Libyan officials and other ambassadors.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs (GNU) Najla Mangoush has traveled to Doha, Qatar as part of her current tour of the Middle East. This comes after a visit to Bahrain. The tour comes before the 32nd Arab League Summit, which is to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on May 19.
- The HCS held a session on May 14 which resulted in the decision to form committees to investigate “violations” committed by the GNU in relation to the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum roadmap and other alleged breaches of Libyan law. These include the failure to hold elections and imposing long-term international treaties on the state.
- Speaker of the HoR, Aquila Saleh, met with a delegation from Jaghboub to discuss the latest situation in the country. Jaghboub, is a remote village in an Oasis near the Egyptian border and was the birthplace of the Senussi religious movement in the 1800s.
- A Russian diplomatic delegation visited the High National Electoral Commission (HNEC) on May 14 and met with HNEC head Emad Sayah. The Russian team reportedly offered the HNEC help in managing any future elections.
- Italian Ambassador Buccino visited Benghazi on May 15 and met with the mayor of the city to discuss the coordination of reconstruction programs. Italy is currently providing support to the renovation of historic buildings in Benghazi and there are also several projects ongoing with UNDP funding. Afterwards, Amb. Buccino travelled to Quba where he met with Speaker Saleh.
- The trial of Major General Abdullah al-Senoussi, the former head of Libyan Intelligence under the Gadhafi regime, has been postponed again to June 05.

Security Developments

- Presidential Council member, Abdullah Lafi, met with Chief of Staff Mohamed Haddad and a number of army officers in Zawiyah. The meeting discussed the “intensification of work to eliminate crime, arrest criminals, fight destructive phenomena and the existence of illegal armed groups in the city.”
- The Libyan Intelligence Service (LIS - Eastern Branch) has begun an arrest campaign against “content creators who violate public etiquette and offend the values and principles of our Libyan conservative society.” Arrest warrants have also been issued for people outside of the country with the LIS stating that this has been done in cooperation with international police.
- There were indications of armed group activity to the southwest of Tripoli overnight on May 14/15 with areas shared by Zintani and Misratan forces seeing increased security postures. The reasons for this are not yet clear.
- Head of the Eastern Internal Security Agency, Osama Dorsi, met with the head of 128 Reinforced Bde, Hassan Zadma, in Jufra on May 15 to discuss increased cooperation between the two forces.

Travel Developments

- Minister of the Interior (GNS) Essam Buzriba met with GNS Minister of the Environment, Mohammed Hafez, and Mohammed Mansour, the Director of Tamanhint Airport to discuss reopening the airport to domestic flights as soon as possible.

International Developments

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan defeated his chief rival Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu with 49.51% of the vote against 44.88% in the Turkish elections, however as neither gained 50% of the vote, both men will now move to a second round of voting on May 28. There remains a small number of overseas votes to be counted, however, it is not enough to tip either candidate over the 50% threshold. Current assessments suggest Erdoğan likely has the advantage going into the second round.

Assessment

Political Developments

GNS: Moves afoot to remove Prime Minister Bashagha

Reports suggest that the HoR is set to hold a session on May 15 in Benghazi to decide whether to “suspend” Prime Minister (GNS) Fathi Bashagha. Around 60 MPs are reportedly holding a “consultative session to discuss the fate of the GNS headed by Fathi Bashagha,” according to MP Jaballa Al-Shaibani. This is allegedly over allegations of the “embezzlement” of one and a half billion Libyan dinars. Other reports suggest it is connected to funding sources of the GNS and the GNS’s “inability to resolve a number of files under its authority.” Another unnamed MP stated that the HoR would go on to form a “mini-government” which would be tasked with managing salaries, fuel, and the implementation of the electoral laws decided by the 6+6 Committee. Reports indicate that Minister of Finance (GNS) Osama Hammad or Minister of Health (GNS) Othman Abdul-Jalil could be appointed while an investigation takes place.

COMMENT: ‘This comes as other reports suggest bilateral talks between the Haftar and Dbeibah families are coming to a head. Any deal is widely expected to result in a reshuffle of the GNU and the possible dissolution of the GNS. A move against Bashagha at this time could well be politically motivated in order to progress the creation of another unified executive. The creation of a new unified executive, which would be expected to see key ministerial posts taken by eastern factions, could well prove destabilising for Tripoli and the wider Tripolitania region as various politicians, and their patronage networks, loose positions, and access to funding.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

Security Developments

Zawiyah: Lafi and Haddad meet

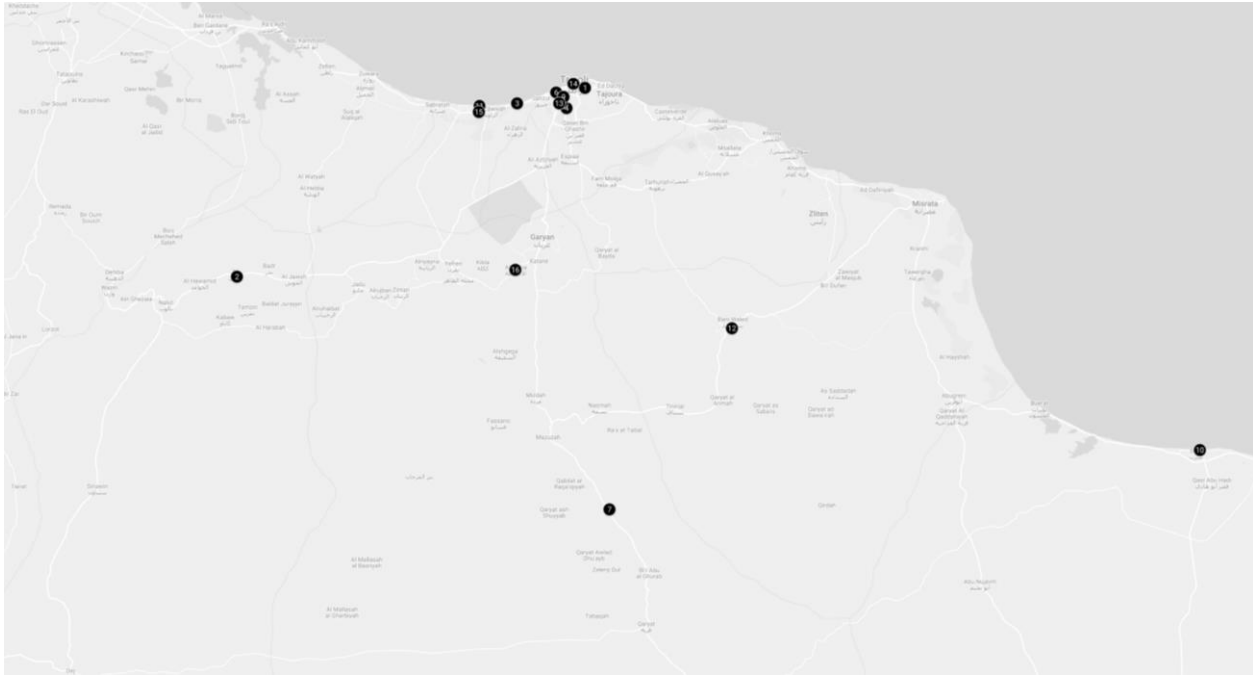
Presidential Council member, Abdullah Lafi, met with Chief of Staff Mohamed Haddad and a number of army officers in Zawiyah. The meeting discussed the “intensification of work to eliminate crime, arrest criminals, fight destructive phenomena and the existence of illegal armed groups in the city.” A statement issued by Lafi went on to state: “We also emphasized the need to implement all instructions issued regarding the protection of civilians, securing state institutions, supporting stability in the city, and eliminating armed appearances, including the seizing of cars moving around without metal plates, and those carrying any kind of heavy and light weapons.”

COMMENT: ‘This comes as recent attempts by Haddad to restore stability in Zawiyah begin to falter in the face of further clashes and threats of escalation from the Zawiyah Youth Movement. The meeting, with Lafi who is from Zawiyah’s Awlad Suqr tribe, is an attempt to progress plans to stabilise the city however,

Zawiyah is likely to remain unstable in the short term due to local dynamics and even more so should the country see significant political upheaval.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



- 1. Security Operation - May 14, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** The DCIM has launched an "intensive" security campaign to inspect foreigners residing in Libya.
- 2. Security Operation - May 14 12:00, Nalut Province, Tiji:** The Batin al-Jabal Security Directorate, under the Mol, intensified nighttime static operations.
- 3. Accident - May 14 13:30, Al-Jafara Province, Mayah:** A gas cylinder exploded in a home, killing a woman.
- 4. RTA - May 14 14:50, Tripoli Province, Airport Road:** A serious traffic accident occurred on Airport Road.
- 5. HMG - May 14 19:30, Tripoli Province, Islamic Call Centre:** Heavy Machine Gun fire was reported in the area. The call centre was the focus of an alleged GSS internal armed dispute which resulted in one death. The Islamic Call Centre has now announced force majeure and instructed its lawyers to file a lawsuit against two men: Ibrahim al-Rabo and Tariq al-Hajrais, stating that they impersonated two associations president and secretary-general.
- 6. SAF - May 14 21:00, Tripoli Province, Ghut Al-Shaal:** Small arms fire was reported in the area.
- 7. Arrest - May 14 22:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Wadi Marsit:** The Al Maqari Battalion arrested 23 suspected illegal immigrants and handed them over to the DCIM.
- 8. Troop Movements - May 15 00:00, Tripoli Province, Supply Camp:** An unidentified armed force mobilised in front of the camp.
- 9. Troop Movements - May 15 01:00, Tripoli Province, Gypsum Gate:** GSS mobilised forces at the checkpoint.
- 10. Troop Movements - May 15 01:00, Sirte Province, Sirte:** CID Benghazi met with and coordinated an arrest campaign against former regime members with the Sirte Security Directorate.
- 11. Accident - May 15 02:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah Power Station:** A fire was reported at the power station. This was believed to be relatively minor.

12. Murder/ Execution - May 15 02:30, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: The bodies of two unidentified males were found with gunshot wounds in their car in Bir Suwaydah. A third man sustained critical wounds.

13. Threat Warning - May 15 05:13, Tripoli Province, 7 April Camp: Reports indicated tensions around 7 April Camp.

14. Demonstration - May 15 14:00, Tripoli Province, Algeria Square: Retired police officers protested calling for the activation of Law No.5 of 2013.

15. Kidnap - May 15 19:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Harsha: Al-Mu'tasim Billah Madi was taken in a suspected kidnapping.

16. Troop Movements - May 18:30, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Alasaba: Western Mountain Military Region armed convoys moved into the area.

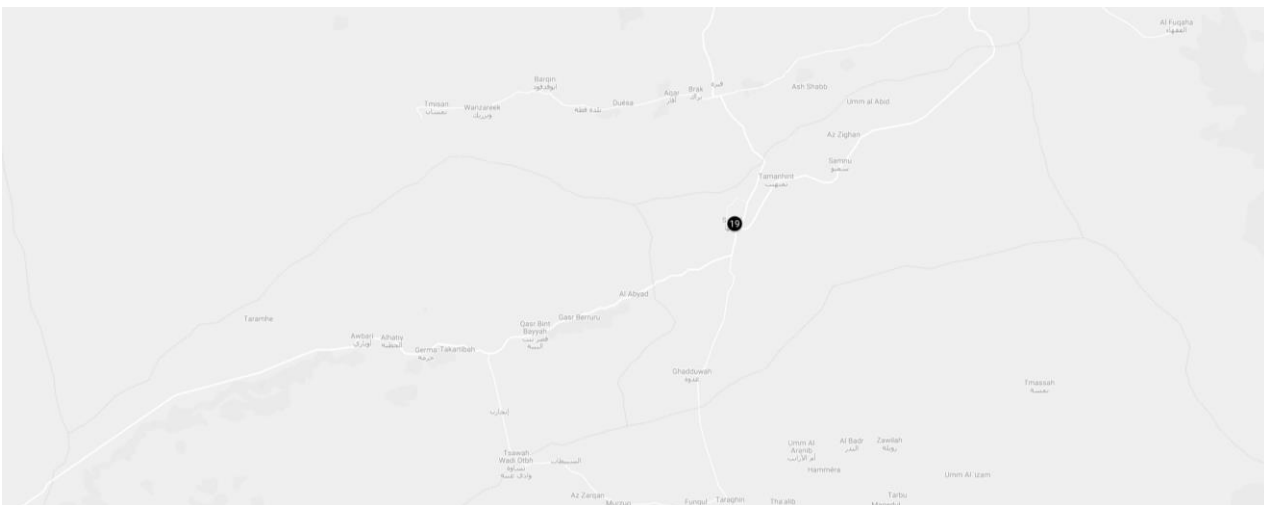
Cyrenaica Region



17. Arrest - May 13 20:00, Derna Province, Derna: The ISA Derna Branch arrested a number of Libya nationals, accused of organising a "Christianisation cell" in alleged cooperation with foreign nationals.

18. Accident - May 15 15:44, Benghazi Province, Benghazi University: A fire broke out at Benghazi University.

Fezzan Region



19. SAF - May 14, Sabha Province, Sabha: A man was seriously injured after being shot in the head.

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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