

Libya daily security analysis report

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Table of Contents

Latest Developments	3
Political Developments	3
Security Developments	3
Economic Developments	4
Reconstruction Developments	4
Assessment	4
Political Developments	4
Reconstruction Developments	4
Significant Incidents	5
Tripolitania Region	5
Cyrenaica Region	6
Fezzan Region	7
Offshore	7
Outlook	7
Short Term Outlook	7
Medium to Long Term Outlook	8
Key Dates	8
Acronym List	9

Latest Developments

Political Developments

- The GNS held its first meeting under its new prime minister, Osama Hamad. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Ministers, Ali al-Qatrani, Salem al-Zadma and Khaled al-Usta and held at the office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Benghazi.
- The Canadian Ambassador, Isabelle Savard, met with Deputy Presidential Council (PC) member, Musa Koni at the PC offices in Tripoli. Ambassador Savard affirmed Canada's ongoing support for the efforts of the PC. Koni, who has recently returned to Libya after a long medical trip, affirmed the PC's keenness to hold elections and the success of the national reconciliation file, stressing that "Canada will have a prominent role in the stability of Libya."
- Ambassador Savard also met with SRSG Bathily to discuss the latest developments in Libya. Ambassador Savard conveyed Canada's "ongoing support to the SRSG's efforts to facilitate an agreement between the various players that will benefit all Libyans."
- Ambassador Savard met with Chairman of the High National Elections Commission, Imad Sayeh, on May 23. The meeting "comes within the framework of examining the readiness of the commission and its willingness to implement the elections planned for this year." The ambassador congratulated the HNEC for the success of the Regional Conference for Enhancing Women Participation in Elections.
- Ambassador Savard met with Minister of State for Women's Affairs (GNU) Houria al-Tarmal, on the margins of the Regional Conference for Enhancing Women Participation in Elections to discuss the challenges and difficulties facing women in Libya.
- The Swedish Ambassador to Tunisia, Anna Block Mazoyer and the Swedish Consul in Benghazi, Anders Nilsson met with Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar at his office in Rajma. The meeting discussed joint cooperation between the two countries and comes on the heels of a meeting between the French ambassador and the Field Marshal on May 21.
- The French Ambassador, Mustafa Maharaj, met with the Minister for Communication and Political Affairs (GNU) Walid al-Lafi to review the GNU's plan to support upcoming elections and the development of the General Authority for Monitoring Media Content.
- The International Humanitarian Law (IHL)/ International Human Rights Law (IHRL) Working Group of the Berlin Process held a meeting in Tripoli on May 22 to discuss respect for fundamental rights in Libya, including freedom of expression and political participation.

Security Developments

- A video has appeared online showing a woman, believed to have been detained in Zawiyah, begging for water and news of her husband who is believed to have been retained with her. This is the latest video to have been released in Zawiyah over the past few weeks which appears aimed at stoking already high tensions in the city and stoking public anger. It comes just after renewed protests by the youth movement over ongoing instability in Zawiyah.
- A new armed group has been established in Sabratah under the Ministry of Interior (GNU). The group has been named the Security Threat Control Agency and is under the control of Mahmoud Bahroun (al-Far). The first batch of officers graduated at the training centre in Sabratah.
- The Ministry of Interior (GNU) concluded a training course for personnel guarding educational facilities in Tripolitania. The course was held in the House of Cinema and Arts theatre in Ajyalat and included guards from Zuwara, Zliten, Rigdalin and Al-Jmail.
- The family of Abu Agila Mohammad Mas'ud, a suspect in the Lockerbie bombing of 1988, is set to stand trial in the UK on May 31. Mas'ud pleaded not guilty to the charges in February. He was extradited controversially to the US in December 2022.

Economic Developments

- Minister of Trade and Economy (GNU), Mohamed al-Hawij, met with Qatar's Ambassador to Libya, Khaled al-Dosari, to discuss the possibility of reactivating bilateral trade agreements and memorandums of understanding with Qatari which have previously been signed.
- Minister of Planning (GNU) Mohamed Zaidani met with the former minister of planning, Issa al-Tuwaijjer, as part of preparations for the launching of the project, Preparing Libya Vision 2030. A committee is to be created to work on the project at the ministry.

Reconstruction Developments

- The Committee for the Limitation of Violations on State Property in Sirte has referred building infringements on the gas lines, the Great Man-Made River, and the railways to the Public Prosecution to take "the necessary measures."

Assessment

Political Developments

GNS: Hamad holds his first meeting

The GNS held its first meeting under its new prime minister, Osama Hamad. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Ministers, Ali al-Qatrani, Salem al-Zadma and Khaled al-Usta and held at the office of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in Benghazi. Hamad gave a speech during the meeting, pledging that the GNS would work to "provide urgent and necessary services, and adopt policies aimed at gathering the nation's diaspora." He further stated that his government is "the government of all Libyans" which pledged to extend its hands to everyone and to "launch a comprehensive national dialogue soon." Hamad also address the reconciliation process and stated that his government would "work to open channels of communication with everyone." He also stated that he aimed to rebuild the state administratively and economically and eliminate hotbeds of corruption.

COMMENT: 'The meeting was the GNS's third consultative meeting for 2023. Hamad, the Finance Minister, was appointed as prime minister last week after his predecessor, Fathi Bashagha, was suspended by the HoR on charges of wasting public funds. In reality, there were probably a number of different reasons for Bashagha's suspension, but his political capital eroded significantly after his failure to enter Tripoli in 2022. Hamad is seen as pro-Haftar and anti-Dbeibah who has held a number of senior political positions over the past few years. Although Speaker Aqila Saleh of the HoR was not supportive of the move to suspend Bashagha, he did meet with Hamad after his appointment at his office in Qubah.'

COMMENT ENDS.

Reconstruction Developments

Sirte: Efforts underway to remove infringements on public property

The Committee for the Limitation of Violations on State Property in Sirte has referred building infringements on the gas lines, the Great Man-Made River, and the railways to the Public Prosecution to take "the necessary measures." The committee met on May 22. The meeting was headed by the Mayor of Sirte, Mukhtar al-Maadani, and attended by Directors of real estate registration, the state property office, the municipal guard, the agricultural police, housing and utilities, the Roads, Bridges and Urban Planning Authority, the Public Cleaning Services Company and the director of the Sirte Municipality's legal department. The meeting discussed the infringements at the Arabsat Station, the Real Estate Registration Building, the Health Clinic in Rabat, the Vegetable Market and the Salkhana.

COMMENT: 'This is part of a wider push across the country to retake control of public land and buildings. These reclamations tend to go relatively peacefully but can result in localised protests where large numbers of people or businesses are evicted. In some cases, locations have been taken over by armed groups and this can cause localised tensions and increase the risk of confrontations in the short term.'
COMMENT ENDS.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1. Kidnap - May 21, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: An unidentified female was detained. A video was published showing her begging for water and news of her husband who is believed to have been detained with her. A militia member named Ahmed Al-Qanas appears in the video which shows traces of blood on the ground where the woman is being held.

2. Security Announcement - May 22, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: A new armed group has been established in Sabratah under the Ministry of Interior (GNU). The group has been named the Security Threat Control Agency and is under the control of Mahmoud Bahroun (al-Far). The first batch of officers graduated at the training centre in Sabratah.

3. Arrest - May 22, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Office of the Attorney General announced the imprisonment of a member of the Military Police Department as well as 'others' on charges of embezzling 1,190,130 LYD of public money.

4. RTA - May 22 20:00, Tripoli Province, Wadi Alrabea: A serious car accident resulted in a man being taken to hospital. His vehicle caught fire.

5. Troop Movements - May 22 20:30, Tripoli Province, Manara Road: SDF deployed forces to the Manara Road area in Qaser Bin Ghashir.

6. Murder/ Execution - May 23 01:30, Sirte Province, Sawah: A young man, Fouad Othman al-Faqi, was shot to death in the Sawah area by unknown people.

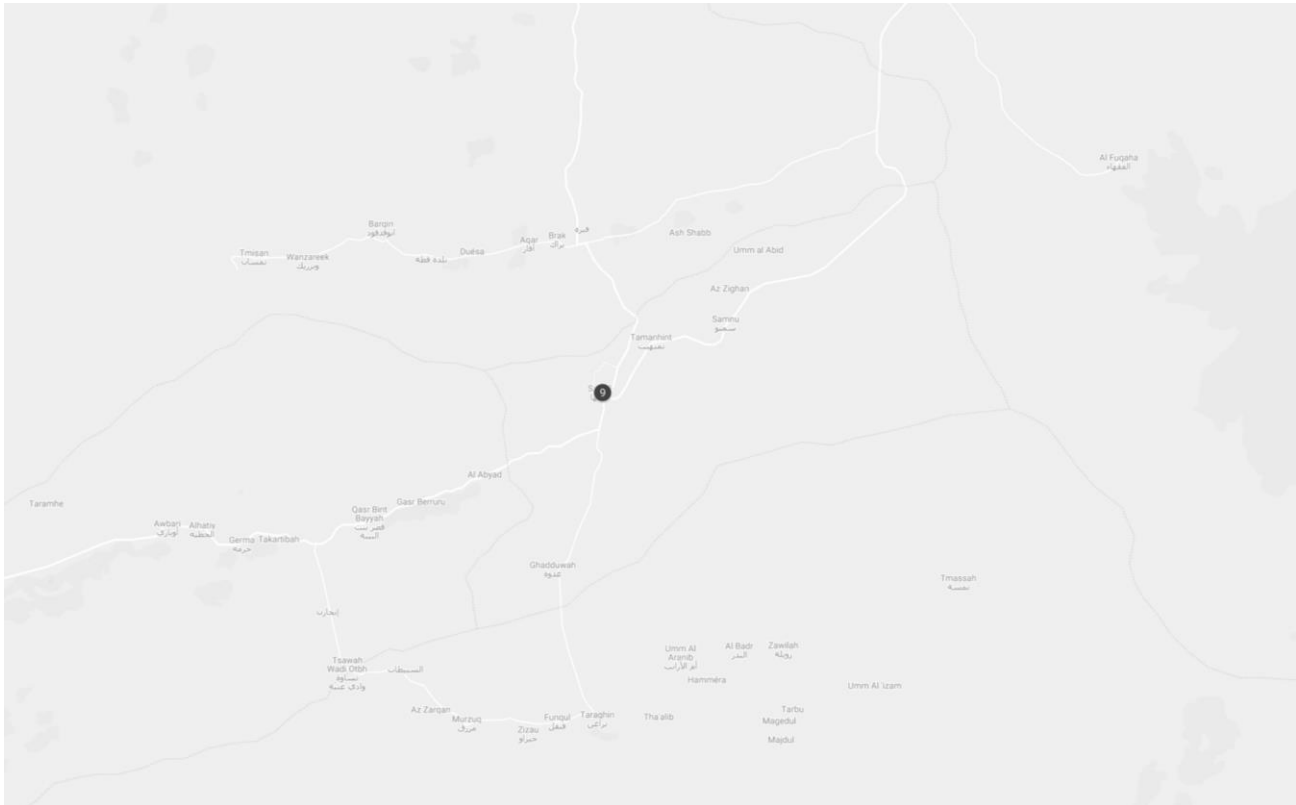
7. Demolition - May 23 11:00, Tripoli Province, Radisson Blu Hotel: Buildings near the Radisson Blu were demolished.

Cyrenaica Region



8. Kidnap - May 22, Benghazi Province, Sidi Khalifa: A man claimed he was kidnapped and photographed naked in a bid to blackmail him. He made an official complaint at Sidi Khalifa Police Station.

Fezzan Region



9. Arrest - May 23, Sabha Province, Sabha: Police forces from Benghazi and Sabha cooperated to arrest a person accused of kidnapping a man and photographing him naked in a bid to blackmail him. The incident took place in Sidi Khalifa, Benghazi however the suspect had fled to Sabha. He allegedly admitted his crime and claimed he had been under the influence of alcohol and narcotics.

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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