

Libya daily security analysis report

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Table of Contents

Latest Developments	3
Political Developments	3
Security Developments	3
Sudan Crisis	3
Assessment	3
Security Developments	3
Sudan Crisis	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 French and Italian foreign ministers have reaffirmed their “full support for the efforts of SRSG Bathily.” The statement was issued by the French Foreign Ministry upon the conclusion of Minister Catherine Colonna’s visit to meet her Italian counterpart, Antonio Taiani in Rome where a number of issues were discussed. The meeting smoothed over tensions caused by the French Interior Minister two weeks ago when he claimed that Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, was “incapable of solving immigration problems” in Italy.

Security Developments

- The airstrike campaign which began on the afternoon of May 25 continued through the night with further strikes taking place overnight along the northwest coastline. The target group expanded to other armed groupings with surface-to-air fire and aerial surveillance activity adding to the tensions.

Sudan Crisis

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (GNU) has condemned an armed attack against the Libyan Military Attaché building in Khartoum. The attack caused material damage. The Ministry called on the Sudanese authorities to detain those involved in the attack stating that it undermines relations between the two countries.

Assessment

Security Developments

North-west coastline: Airstrike campaign continued

Further airstrikes have hit targets along the northwest coastline overnight following an initial four which targeted Maya, Abu Surra and Motrid on the afternoon of May 25. Later attacks hit Harsha, Abu Kammash, Surman and Bir al-Ghanam bridge in Zawiyah. Aerial surveillance was also reported in Surman, Aziziyah, Zawiyah and Janzour. The strikes and surveillance triggered surface-to-air small arms fire in several areas including Zawiyah and the Bir Al-Ghanam area.

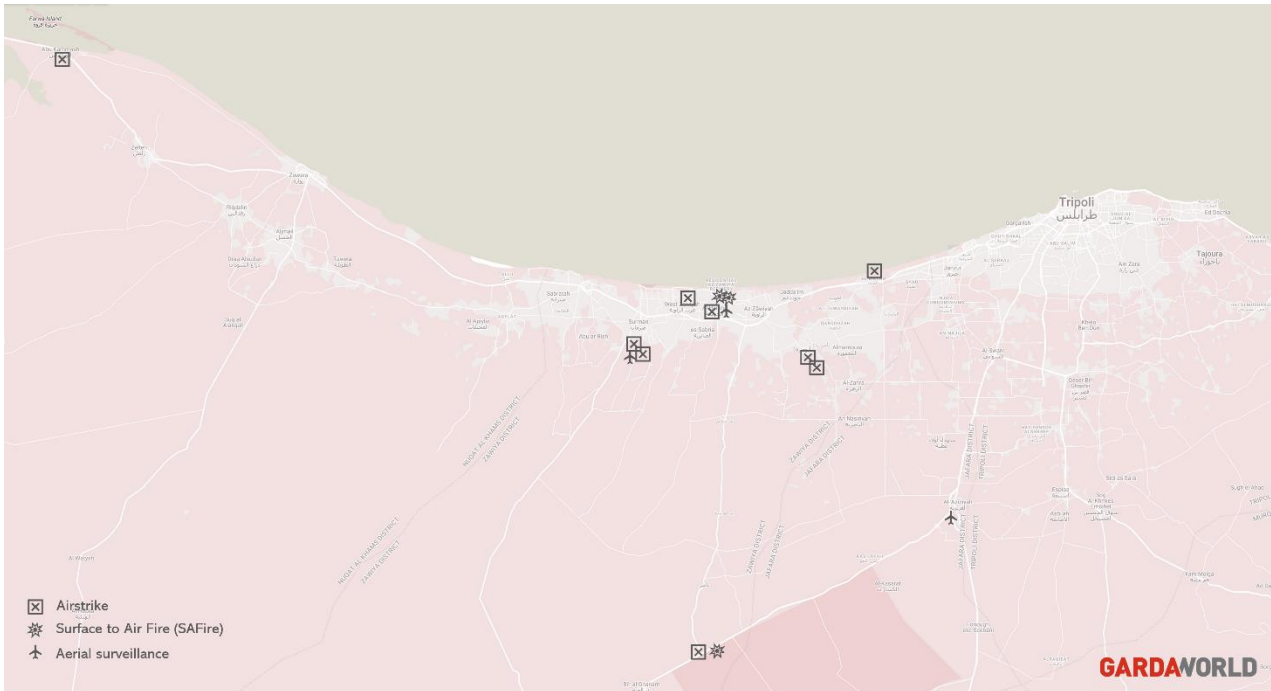
On May 26, a meeting was held at the home of Muammar Dhawi, commander of 55 Battalion in Warshefana. The meeting included: Essam Bouzriba (Minister of the Interior GNS), Othman Lahab (commander of 103 Battalion), Abdul Rahman Milad (aka Bika - coastguard commander, Zawiyah), Mohammed Hussein al-Khadrawi, Hassan Bouzriba (commander of the Abu Surra Martyrs Battalion), Essam al-Daik, Mohamed Kushlaf (Qasb - commander of Nasr Battalion), Hani al-Shak, Samir Kenz, Haythem al-Mufjar, Mohamed al-Ari, Abdul Salam al-Rajbani.

COMMENT: ‘One of the attacks overnight targeted TRB in south of Surman. This comes after TRB published photos of them carrying out military training in the area on May 21, the first public indication of their continued survival in months after they were ousted from Tripoli in summer 2022. The other attacks targeted various other groups including the Kaboat Militia. These came after the initial four attacks in the afternoon of May 25 which targeted the Bouzribas.

The same guest list attended an Iftar dinner on April 23, hosted by the Bouzriba's as part of reconciliation efforts within Zawiyah and Warshefana. The airstrikes may have helped to progress this reconciliation process as groups in the city suddenly find themselves faced with a new threat posed by the GNU.

Dhawi had sided with the Bouzribas and Lt Gen Osama Jweli in 2022 against the GNU but reconciled later in the year, becoming an official part of the Ministry of Defence (GNU). His true loyalties have been questioned however as he begins to build a new image of himself as a politician and negotiator, a position he may well be looking to perform in the current situation.

Further airstrikes and aerial surveillance remain possible as Chief of the General Staff and Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah look to bring Zawiyah more under control however talks are likely to be triggered as the various factions try to navigate the new reality.' **COMMENT ENDS.**



Graphic: Airstrikes and aerial surveillance May 25 – May 26, 2023

Sudan Crisis

MoFA: Libyan Military Attaché building attacked in Khartoum

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (GNU) has condemned an armed attack against the Libyan Military Attaché building in Khartoum. The attack caused material damage. The Libyan diplomatic mission has already been evacuated from Khartoum as a result of the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Force which began mid-April.

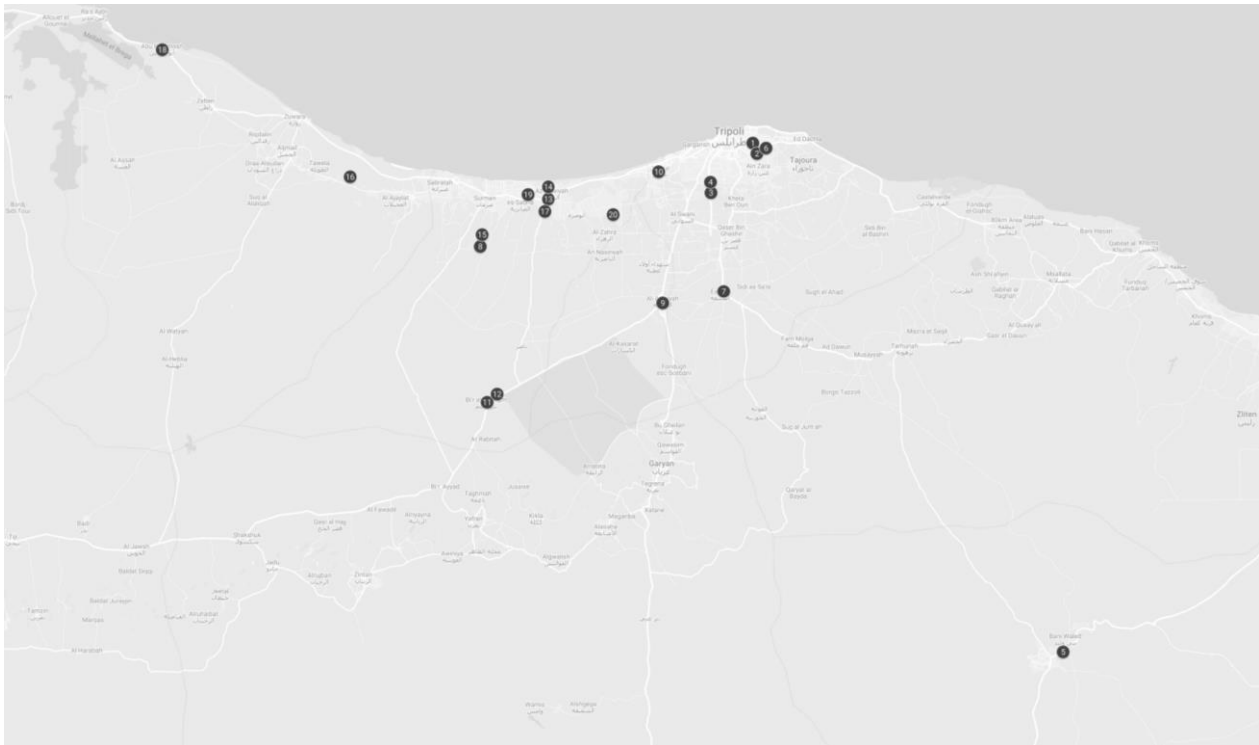
The Libyan Foreign Ministry called on all relevant Sudanese authorities to “pursue those who prove to be involved in this criminal act that harms brotherly relations and violates the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, as well as all laws and customs governing diplomatic work between states, which require providing protection for embassies and diplomatic missions.” They also renewed condemnation of “the repeated attacks on the premises of some diplomatic missions of several countries in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.” The ministry further encouraged all parties to the Sudanese crisis to solve their problems peacefully through dialogue and to ensure stability and prosperity return to Sudan.

COMMENT: ‘A week-long ceasefire, brokered by the US and Saudi Arabia, began on May 23 however there have been repeated breaches including fighting on May 25 in Khartoum, Omdurman and El-Obied. Both sides have sought to blame the other for the breaches with the US Department of State stating that possible breaches had been detected including observed use of artillery, military aircraft and drones.

There are no reports as of yet suggesting the Libyan Military Attaché's building was deliberately targeted and its likely it is collateral damage in the ongoing fighting effecting the capital city.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1. Weapons Find - May 22, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Security Directorate Support Force stopped a vehicle at the checkpoint and found the vehicle was carrying rocket launchers and other weapons. The people in the vehicle also had no identification papers. They were arrested.

2. Prisoner Release - May 23, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Head of the Libyan Intelligence Service, Hussein al-Ayeb, intervened in an arrest carried out by the Security Directorate Support Force the previous day after they searched a vehicle at a checkpoint and found a number of weapons including rocket launchers. Ayeb stated that the men arrested worked for him.

3. Armed Attack - May 23, Tripoli Province, Equestrian Bridge: A group aligned with the Libyan Intelligence Service attacked a checkpoint belonging to the Security Directorate Support Force near Equestrian Bridge on Airport Road in response to the arrest of some of their members after they were found to be carrying weapons.

4. Armed Attack - May 23, Tripoli Province, Equestrian Bridge: The Security Directorate Support Force identified a villa being used by members of the Libyan Intelligence Service (LIS). The LIS team was led by Captain Firas Ahmed Al Darnaba Al Zintani. The villa was stormed by the Security Directorate Support Force resulting in clashes. Two members of the Support Force were wounded along with three from the LIS. At least four people, including minors, at the villa were arrested including the brother of the leader of the gang. The Support Force stated that their investigations, launched after they uncovered the LIS gang transporting weapons through one of their checkpoints, found that the gang had been involved in "numerous practices and abuses against citizens including kidnappings."

5. Security Operation - May 25, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: 444 Brigade arrested four prominent smugglers, including an Algerian nicknamed Don Ronaldo, after carrying out an ambush in the desert (no further details on location).

- 6. Arrest - May 25, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** The Tripoli Security Directorate stated that two children had stolen 260,000 LYD from their family to pay for the online PUBG game. The security directorate stated that the children's accounts had been stolen and held to ransom resulting in the children stealing family money to pay to recover their accounts.
- 7. Troop Movements - May 25 12:20, Tripoli Province, Espiaa Hospital Bridge:** SDF mobilised forces in the area.
- 8. Surveillance - May 25 16:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman:** A drone was reportedly carrying out surveillance in the area of Surman Reserve.
- 9. Surveillance - May 25 16:30, Al-Jafara Province, Aziziyah:** A drone was reportedly carrying out surveillance in the area of Aziziyah Reserve.
- 10. Surveillance - May 25 23:30, Tripoli Province, Janzour:** A drone was carrying out surveillance in the area.
- 11. Airstrike - May 26 01:15, Az Zawiyah Province, Bir Al-Ghanam:** An airstrike targeted a Al-Sifaw HQ, likely south of the bridge. Reports suggest a weapons depot was targeted.
- 12. SAFire - May 26 01:25, Az Zawiyah Province, Bir Al-Ghanam:** Surface-to-air small arms fire was heard in the area in association with airstrikes.
- 13. Surveillance - May 26 01:45, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** A drone was reported over the area.
- 14. SAFire - May 26 01:49, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** Surface-to-air small arms fire was reported in Zawiyah in response to drone activity.
- 15. Airstrike - May 26 02:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman:** An airstrike targeted a suspected TRB position.
- 16. Armed Attack - May 26 02:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Farikh:** Three men, Moayad Belgit, Riyad al-Zhaf, and Ahmed Khalaf attacked the Al-Farik Checkpoint. A vehicle was set on fire and at least one weapon was stolen.
- 17. SAFire - May 26 02:05, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** Kaboat Battalion fired at a drone operating in the area.
- 18. Airstrike - May 26 05:15, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Abu Kammash:** An airstrike targeted an 'Ottoman Crowd' (nickname for pro-Turkish during the Ottoman period) armed group location.
- 19. Airstrike - May 26 05:20, Az Zawiyah Province, Harsha:** An airstrike targeted an 'Ottoman Crowd' (nickname for pro-Turkish during the Ottoman period) armed group location.
- 20. Security Announcement - May 26 14:00, Al-Jafara Province, Warshefana:** A meeting took place at the home of Muammar Dhawi, commander of 55 Battalion, to discuss how to respond to the airstrikes carried out over May 25 and 26.

Cyrenaica Region



21. Kidnap - May 25, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: The Ajdabiya Security Directorate freed 15 Egyptian workers who had been kidnapped by a gang in the city. Four members of the gang were arrested, and weapons and narcotic substances were recovered. The gang had allegedly demanded a ransom of 20,000 LYD in exchange for their release. The workers were in the country legally and had arrived through Benina Airport.

Fezzan Region



22. Murder/ Execution - May 25 22:00, Sabha Province, Tayouri: Two elderly ladies from the Dakhely family were murdered in the home by unknown people.

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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