

Libya daily security analysis report

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Table of Contents

Latest Developments	3
Political Developments	3
Security Developments	3
Travel Developments	3
Assessment	3
Security Developments	3
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	7
Key Dates	8
Acronym List	9

Latest Developments

Political Developments

- Presidential Council (PC) Deputy, Abdullah al Lafi, travelled to Cairo on May 24 and 25, meeting first with the head of the Secretary General of the Arab League, Ahmed About Gheit and then Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister, Hamdi Sanad Loza. In both meetings support for the PC's reconciliation project was expressed.
- The eastern-based El-Qata'an Tribe videoed a message for Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi, asking him to intervene and secure the release of tribal members imprisoned in Egypt.
- Municipal elections began at 0900hrs on May 27 in Zuwara and Daraj. Preparations began last week along with a two-day training course for volunteers who are supervising the elections.

Security Developments

- Further airstrikes hit targets in the wider Zawiyah area and Maya. Locations associated with SSA Western Branch and Nasr Company were targeted.
- The campaign of airstrikes, one of which targeted MP Ali Bouzriba's home on May 25, have been denounced by the presidency of the HoR and 68 MPs.
- UNSMIL also commented on airstrikes, reminding "all parties" that measures related to law enforcement must be in line with national and international law and that the protection of civilians should be the top priority.
- The GNU announced on May 26 that a group of Western Special Forces officers and NCOs have travelled to Italy for "advanced training."

Travel Developments

- Flights have resumed at Misrata Airport after work to maintain the runway was completed. Flights resumed at 0600hrs on May 27. They were received at the new temporary arrival hall.

Assessment

Security Developments

Zawiyah: Further strikes hit targets along the northwest coastline

Further airstrikes hit targets in the wider Zawiyah area and Maya. Locations associated with SSA Western Branch and Nasr Company were targeted overnight May 26/27. The attacks have come in three missions so far, starting on May 25. The SSA Western Branch (which includes the Bouzribas) was targeted previously on May 25 however this is the first attack reported against Nasr Company. The company is commanded by Mohamed Khuslaf (aka Qasab) who provides security at Zawiyah Refinery. The latest strikes come after a meeting on May 26 between various Zawiyah commanders who are, or could be affected, by the strikes to decide on a response. This included the Bouzribas and Kushlaf. The airstrikes are being carried out by the GNU, sanctioned by Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah in his capacity as Minister of Defence.

Photos purporting to show the remnants of the missile that carried out the initial attack on Maya Port on May 25 suggest it was a MAM-L air-to-surface missile manufactured by Turkish Defense Contractor, Rokestan. The missiles are compatible with the TB2 Bayraktar drones which are known to be present in western Libya. Rokestan describes the missile as a: "lightweight Smart Micro Munition (which) has been

developed for unmanned aerial vehicles [UAV], light attack aircraft and air-to-ground missions. MAM-L offers high strike precision and efficiency with alternative warheads against fixed and mobile targets.”

Reactions to the airstrike campaign:

The Bouzribas: MP HoR Ali Bourziba has sought to lay the blame for the campaign on both the Misratan’s and the Turks. He stated that the airstrikes were a “game by some Misratan leaders to ignite a war in the city” and expected that those targeted would respond by attacking Al-Far (Mohamed Bahroun) or Mahmoud Bin Rajab. Bouzriba however intimated this was not going to be part of their response. Bouzriba also blamed the Turks due to the likely use of the TB2 drones.

Minister of the Interior (GNS) Major General Essam Bouzriba described the attacks as “shocking and painful for everyone.” He claimed that the attacks were the “irresponsible actions of people aimed at igniting the fuse of war and strife between the sons of the same homeland.”

The High Council of State (HCS): The head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri, responded by stating that Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah directly manages the western region’s drone capability, not their “brothers in Turkey.” Mishri stated that the prime minister managed the drone capability under his position as minister of defence. He claimed that the prime minister was looking to drag Turkey into the campaign but claimed they remained neutral. He further claimed that the prime minister was using the drones to “settle political scores against people who opposed him under a noble pretext such as fighting crime.” Mishri added: “We call on the Presidential Council, in its capacity as commander-in-chief of the Libyan army, to withdraw the powers of drones and its leadership from the prime minister, who is exploiting them to terrorize and confront his political opponents.” He further claimed that the attacks were carried out with the knowledge of the Presidential Council, but without the knowledge of the Chief of General Staff of the Western Region and the recently formed military and security committee. The committee was formed in Zawiyah as part of the Chief of Staff’s response to the ongoing instability and protest movement.

A former spokesman of the HCS, Senussi Ismail, stated that the “problem of Zawiyah has been going on for months and citizens are fed-up with the turbulent security situation, with high crime rates and the use of illegal migrants as mercenaries.” He stated that the GNU “should not stand idly by” but that the use of drones “complicates the scene because it indicates foreign intervention, which is an excessive use of force because it is purely a security issue.”

The House of Representatives (HoR): Sixty-eight HoR MPs issued a statement in which they denounced the airstrikes in Zawiyah and the western coast, one of which destroyed MP Ali Bouzriba’s home. The presidency of the HoR also issued a statement denouncing the attack on Ali Bouzriba’s home. The statement went on to reiterate that “such acts pose a danger to the lives of citizens, increase tensions, destabilise the security situation and chaos, and thwart efforts to establish security and hold presidential and parliamentary elections through the competent committees.” They called for calm on all sides.

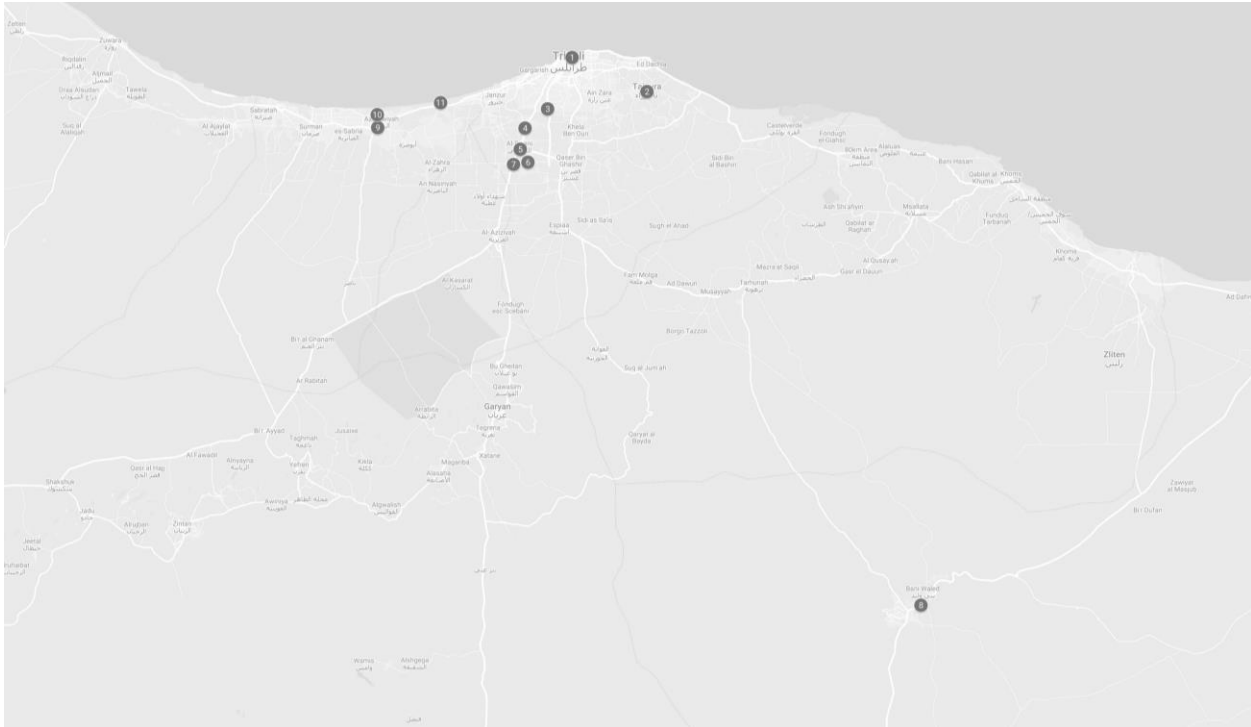
MP Mesbah Ohida warned against the “excessive use of force” and “against bullying foreigners to strike Libyans.” He stated that all foreign forces must leave Libya.

The Correction of the Path Movement, Zawiyah: The Correction of the Path Movement issued a statement on May 26 stating their support for the “efforts of the Ministry of Defence and the Presidential staff to fight crime and smuggling in Zawiyah and the West Coast.” They called on Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah to not deviate from fighting smugglers and criminals. The video statement on May 26 accused the prime minister of being drawn into settling political scores rather than indiscriminately targeting criminal dens. The movement was established in April in Zawiyah as a grassroots movement which is calling for an end to the proliferation of armed groups in the city as well as organised crime.

Turkey: There has been no statement from the Turks with regard to the campaign. Efforts to harden the Turkish Embassy in Tripoli are underway in the event the situation results in protests against the Turkish presence in Libya.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1. Security Operation - May 25, Tripoli Province, Turkish Embassy: Additional security measures, including blast walls and blocked roads, have been established around the Turkish Embassy. This is in response to airstrikes on Zawiyah and along the western coast which some have blamed on Turkey given the use of drones.

2. Accident - May 26, Tripoli Province, Tajura: An African worker died after being hit by a power line which had been hit by a lorry. The driver fled the scene. The victim had worked in a flour factory in Wadi Alrabea.

3. Security Operation - May 26, Tripoli Province, Sidi Saleem: General Security, in cooperation with the Kremiya Police Station, implemented security checkpoints on al-Slak Street in Swani Bin Adams under the framework of a security plan put forward by the Management of Force and Support.

4. Security Operation - May 26, Tripoli Province, Kremiya: General Security, in cooperation with the Kremiya Police Station, implemented security checkpoints in the area under the framework of a security plan put forward by the Management of Force and Support.

5. Security Operation - May 26, Tripoli Province, Swani: General Security, in cooperation with the Kremiya Police Station, implemented security checkpoints in the area under the framework of a security plan put forward by the Management of Force and Support.

6. Security Operation - May 26, Tripoli Province, Ramla: General Security, in cooperation with the Kremiya Police Station, implemented security checkpoints in the area under the framework of a security plan put forward by the Management of Force and Support.

7. Security Operation - May 26, Al-Jafara Province, Zahra Bridge: General Security, in cooperation with the Kremiya Police Station, implemented security checkpoints in the area under the framework of a security plan put forward by the Management of Force and Support.

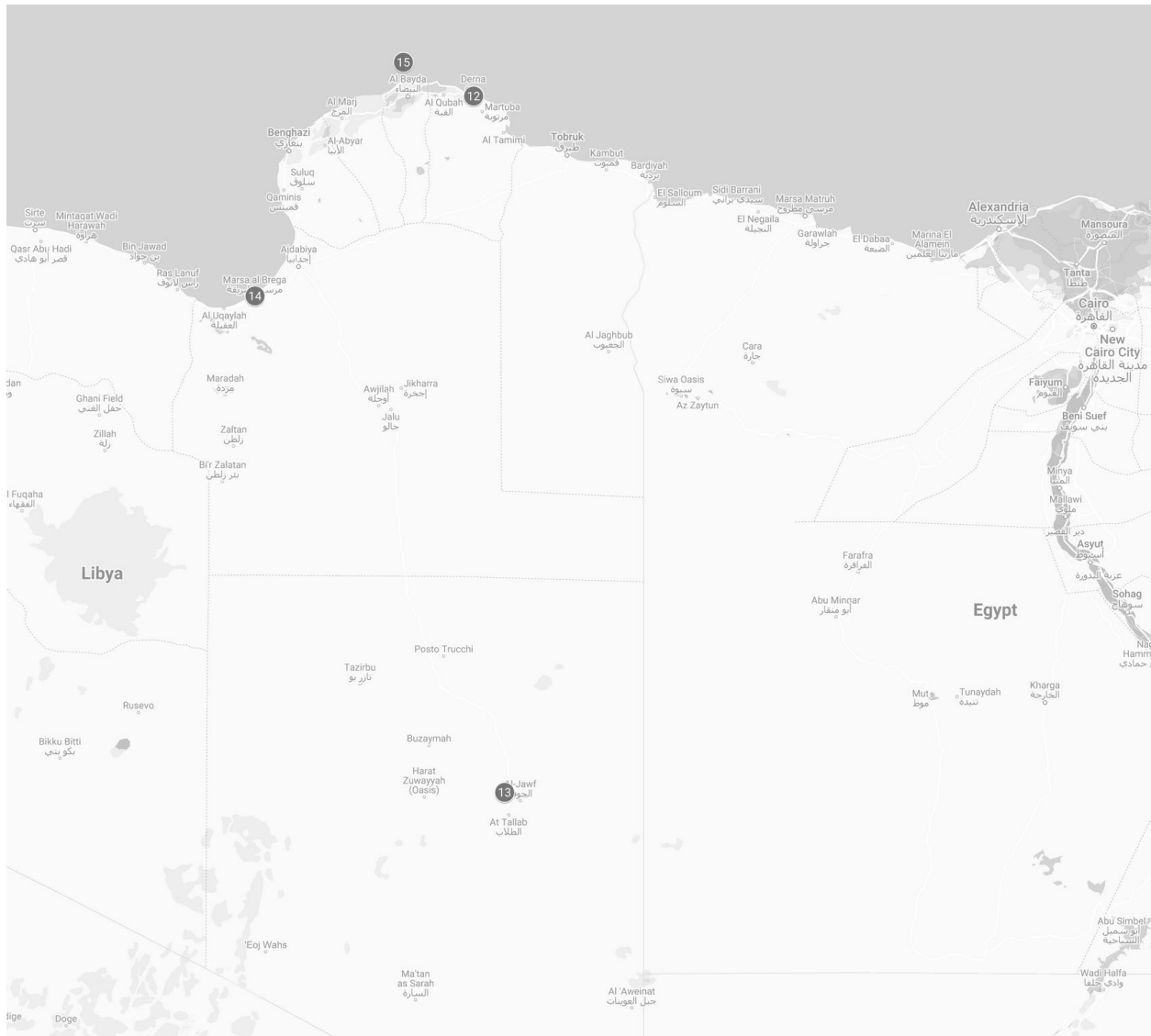
8. Security Operation - May 26 19:48, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: 444 Brigade carried out security operations in the area.

9. SAFire - May 27 00:06, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Surface-to-air fire was heard in the area in association with further drone strikes.

10. Airstrike - May 27 00:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Further airstrikes were reported on alleged SSA Western Branch locations as well as Nasr Battalion locations. Reports indicate there may have been some casualties.

11. Airstrike - May 27 00:30, Al-Jafara Province, Mayah: Another airstrike targeted Mayah. Reports indicate that the Hassan Bouzriba's HQ was targeted. Hassan is the commander of Abu Surra Martyrs Battalion.

Cyrenaica Region



12. Arrest - May 25, Derna Province, Derna: The DCIM transferred a Syrian national to the Al-Bayda Immigration Detention Centre for deportation after a court decision in Derna. The person has allegedly got an infectious disease and will be deported to Syria via Benina Airport.

13. Arrest - May 26, Kufra Province, Kufra: The Kufra Security Directorate arrested a person for selling narcotics and psychotropic substances inside the city. The perpetrator, a Libyan national, was ambushed outside of the city and found to be in possession of 800 tramadol tablets and two pieces of hashish.

14. Security Operation - May 26 18:16, Al-Wahat Province, Brega: An unconfirmed report claimed that an intoxicated member of 128 Battalion (LNA) was stopping traffic and demanding money in order to allow vehicles to pass.

Fezzan Region

NSTR

Offshore

15. Rescue - May 26, Libyan Territorial Waters, Undetermined Territorial East: Reports indicate that the LNA has rescued 485 migrants off the coast after their engine failed on May 23 and returned them to Benghazi port. The boat had sent a distress call on May 24 after the engine failed and they ran aground, allegedly in international waters, 320km north of Benghazi. This is believed to be the first time the LNA has carried out a rescue operation of this nature. It comes after an increase in migrant flows from eastern Libya, prompting an invite from Rome to Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, and invite he took them up on at the start of May. No deal was reportedly reached at the meeting; however, the rescue may well be a move by the LNA to show willingness and capability to Rome in exchange for the right deal/ support.

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

Mol - 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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