

# Libya daily security analysis report

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# Latest Developments

## Political Developments

- Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah met with elders from Aziziyah to discuss “security and service conditions in the area,” on May 30.
- Head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri, was ejected from a meeting in his hometown of Zawiyah, by angry members of the Path of Correction Movement on May 31. This came after he rejected the GNU’s current security operation along the northwest coastline.
- Mishri met with the Turkish Ambassador, Kenan Yilmaz. Ambassador Yilmaz briefed Mishri on a meeting he had held at the Turkish Embassy with a delegation from Zawiyah.
- SRSB Bathily met with Speaker of the HoR, Aqila Saleh on May 31 in his home at Qubbah. The men discussed developments in Libya focusing on political updates and confirmed their support to the work of the 6+6 Committee to prepare the electoral laws. Speaker Saleh reiterated his plan to establish another unified government to take the country to elections.
- Speaker Saleh also met with British Ambassador, Caroline Hurdall. Saleh reportedly again reiterated his plan for a new unified government to take the country to elections.
- Speaker Saleh and Prime Minister (GNS) Osama Hammad, along with a number of GNS ministers, have held talks with a delegation from Zintan. The HoR spokesman stated the officials discussed “the importance of providing services to all of Libya, and particularly Zintan.” This comes after a visit by the SRSB to Zintan where he met with the Mayor and Major General Osama Jweli, commander of the Western Mountain Military Region.
- Prime Minister (GNS) Hammad has appointed Mohammed Baiyu as head of the Libyan Media Foundation.

## Security Developments

- Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah, in his capacity as Minister of Defence, held another security meeting regarding the ongoing security campaign along the northwest coastline on May 31. This follows a meeting on May 30.
- Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah, in his capacity as Minister of Defence, has conducted a “reshuffle of the Supreme Military Court.” The new head and members of the Supreme Military Court were sworn in before Dbeibah on May 31. Dbeibah “urged the members of the Supreme Military Court to work with the laws and legislation in force in the country, and to avoid favoritism and mediation in issuing judgments, hailing to the same time the efforts of members of judicial bodies and prosecutors.”
- Major General Jweli, commenting on the GNU’s current security campaign, stated that the use of “guided aircraft may complicate the political landscape, as all parties will see to possess weapons.”
- The Undersecretary of the Interior Ministry (GNS), Faraj Qaim, and the Chief of Staff of the Border Guard, Major General Moftah Shaqlouf, held an extensive meeting with the security leaders in Musaid following recent destabilization after a clash between the LNA border guards and local smugglers.

# Assessment

## Political Developments

### **GNU: Prime minister meets with Aziziyah elders**

Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah met with elders from Aziziyah, to the southwest of Tripoli, to discuss “security and service conditions in the area,” on May 31. The prime minister also discussed the

northwest coast security operation. Dbeibah assured the elders that “protecting citizens and their property is a priority of the GNU and the target of such operations are crime and drug smuggling.”

**COMMENT:** ‘This is the latest meeting which the prime minister has held with local towns. On May 29, the prime minister met with a delegation from Zuwara and Ajaylat. Both areas have seen airstrikes however following the meeting, Ajaylat saw a concentration of strikes and at least one security raid.

Aziziyah is dominated by Zintani forces, including those under the command of Major General Osama Jweli. Jweli also has a large military camp near the town. Aerial surveillance was reported over Aziziyah on May 25. Any targeting in the area as part of the GNU’s security operation along the northwest coastline would mark a serious escalation.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

#### **HCS: Mishri meets with Turkish Ambassador**

Head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri met with the Turkish Ambassador, Kenan Yilmaz at the HCS headquarters in Tripoli. Ambassador Yilmaz briefed Mishri on a meeting he had held at the Turkish Embassy with a delegation from Zawiyah. The ambassador spoke of the “spirit of cooperation and friendliness that prevailed in the meeting” and the importance of calming the situation in the region. The two men went on to discuss the elections and the conclusions of the 6+6 Committee.

**COMMENT:** ‘On May 27, Mishri claimed that the airstrikes were being carried out without the knowledge of the Presidential Council (PC) and called on the PC to “withdraw the powers and leadership of drones from Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah.” Mishri claimed that Dbeibah is exploiting the military capability to “terrorise his political opponents” and was trying to pull Turkey into the conflict, through its use of drones. Mishri, who is from Zawiyah, claimed that Turkey had nothing to do with the drone strikes.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

#### **GNS: Baiyu appointed as head of the Libyan Media Foundation**

Prime Minister (GNS) Osama Hammad has appointed Mohammed Baiyu as head of the Libyan Media Foundation.

**COMMENT:** ‘Baiyu had worked as part of the Gadhafi regime media machine and was appointed by outgoing Prime Minister and head of the PC, Fayez Sarraj on October 10, 2020. Sarraj appointed him to “unify the Libyan state media’s narrative, respond to overseas-based Libyan media’s output and reduce the media hate narrative.” Following his appointment, there was a notable reduction in inflammatory and divisive language within the state media.

The appointment however did not have the support of the rest of the PC and his changes and past resulted in some factions perceiving him to be biased against them. Baiyu was detained on October 20, 2020 in Tripoli by TRB before being released on November 11, 2020 stating his detention was a “misunderstanding.” Baiyu was later suspended by the Audit Bureau for “obstructing its oversight work,” a decision he rejected calling it “arbitrary and unjust.” The Libyan Media Foundation was dissolved in June 2021 by the GNU.

His reappointment by Hammad is likely to cause some tensions and may be designed to counter Dbeibah’s rather extensive media machine.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

## **Security Development**

#### **GNU: Another security meeting regarding ongoing operation along northwest coastline**

Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah, in his capacity as Minister of Defence, held another security meeting regarding the ongoing security campaign along the northwest coastline. The operation was described as designed “to combat criminal gangs, drug trade, weapons, human trafficking, and fuel smuggling abroad.” The meeting was attended by Chief of General Staff Mohammed Al-Haddad, the Commander of the West Coast Military Region, the Chief of the Operations Board, the Chief of Naval Forces Staff, the Command of the Electronic Aviation System, the Western Region Intelligence Command,

and the Security Committee charged by the Presidency of Staff to formulate the Security Plan in the Western Region in the Joint Operations Room.

The Prime Minister praised the commitment to precise targeting as per the rules set out by the Air Force which “carried out its duties and coordinated with other military elements and intelligence agencies in targeting.” The meeting included a presentation of the air strikes which have been carried out and what they had achieved. Chief of Staff Mohamed Al-Haddad confirmed that the Libyan army forces were “always ready to carry out tasks in order to maintain citizens' safety, cleanse the country of armed gangs, and organized crime.”



Image: GNU security meeting (GNU Media)

The meeting concluded by a commitment to follow up the security operations in the next stage according with the agreed plan. They confirmed the security operation would continue until its “desired goals are achieved.”

**COMMENT:** ‘Efforts continue to frame the operation as one against criminal elements along the northwest coastline. While this is accurate, it only captures part of the picture. While those being targeted are involved in organised crime, they are also, in many cases, part of “official” state security forces and politically opposed to Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah. Other groups, involved in similar activity who are aligned with the prime minister are not being targeted and may well look to take over any criminal activity along the coastline from groups whose capability is currently being eroded. The prime minister’s point, that airstrikes are being precision targeted, comes after warnings from the US and UK regarding the potential for civilian casualties.

These meetings, while practical, are also likely staged to send a message of unity with the northwest’s political and military authorities as well as creating opportunities for framing the operation. This meeting also placed the prime minister as the lead, as opposed to that held on May 30 which saw President Menfi heading the meeting.

The blurring out of one of the faces round the table has led to speculation of a Turkish Military presence at the meeting. This comes amidst reports that the airstrikes are being carried out by the TB2 drones.’

**COMMENT ENDS.**

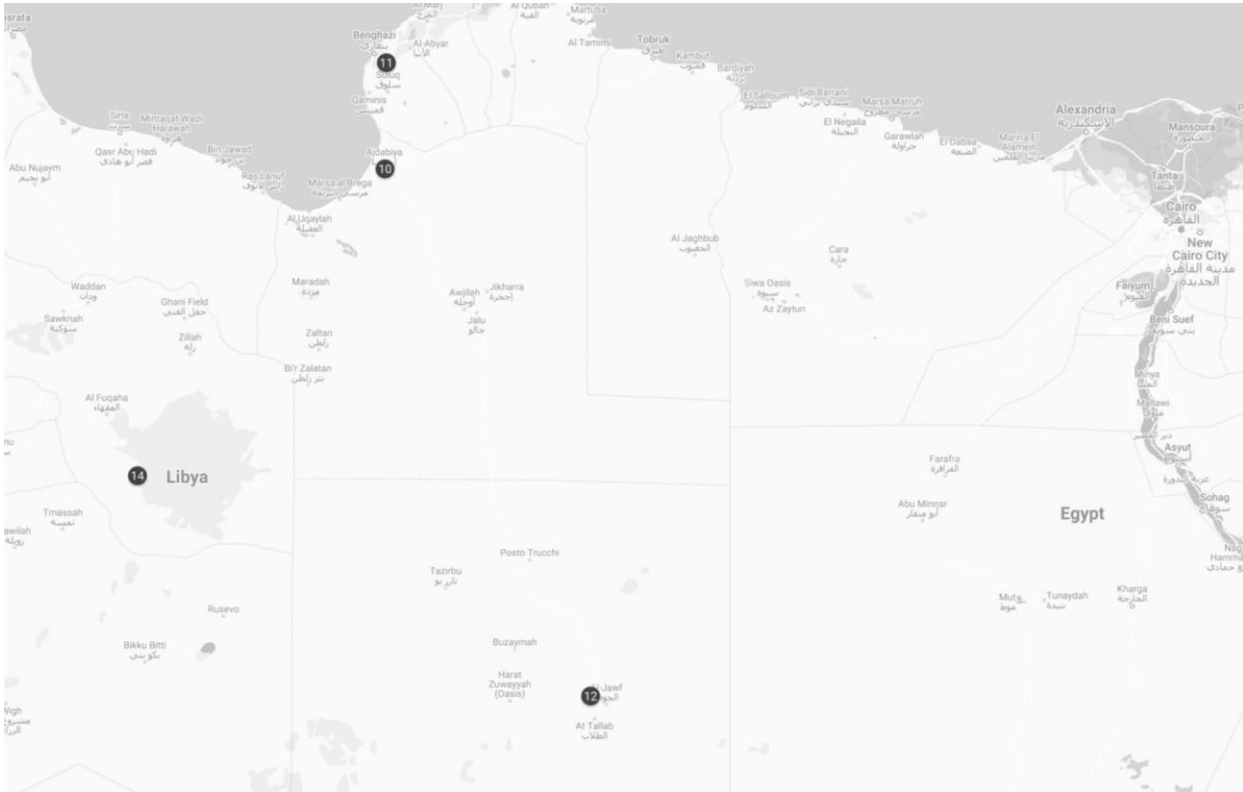
# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



- 1. Kidnap - May 30 21:00, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara:** The Rahba al-Duru Battalion conducted a raid, freeing three Bangladeshi nationals who had been kidnapped for ransom.
- 2. Kidnap - May 30 23:00, Tripoli Province, Al-Baish:** The Rahba al-Duru Battalion conducted a raid, freeing African workers who had been kidnapped for ransom. The victims had been tortured with one reportedly dying during the ordeal.
- 3. Airstrike - May 31 00:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Awlad Saqr:** An airstrike hit the area.
- 4. Arrest - May 31, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** Tripoli Criminal Investigation Bureau arrested a man for the theft of 780,000 LYD from inside a house.
- 5. Troop Movements - May 31 02:30, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Al-Jinan Bin Naseeb:** An armed convoy moved from Al-Jinan Bin Naseeb towards Aljmail.
- 6. Airstrike - May 31 16:25, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Shabika:** Three airstrikes targeted alleged alcohol storage facilities belonging to Ammar Belkour.
- 7. Security Announcement - May 31 21:00, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah, in his capacity as Minister of Defence, held a security meeting regarding the ongoing security campaign along the northwest coastline. The meeting was attended by Chief of General Staff Mohammed Al-Haddad, the Commander of the West Coast Military Region, the Chief of the Operations Board, the Chief of Naval Forces Staff, the Command of the Electronic Aviation System, the Western Region Intelligence Command, and the Security Committee charged by the Presidency of Staff to formulate the Security Plan in the Western Region in the Joint Operations Room.
- 8. Murder/ Execution - Jun 01 01:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Shabika:** Two men, Malik Al-Najah and Abdul Wahid Abu Al-Jam, were shot dead in the Shabika area. The shootings follow a series of airstrikes against the Belkour Militia and a raid in the area. They were allegedly carried out by a military force from outside the city.
- 9. Demonstration - Jun 01 12:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Maya:** Locals protested against airstrikes on Maya Port.

## Cyrenaica Region



**10. RTA - May 31, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya:** Three people died in a road traffic accident in the Forty West Area of the town.

**11. Kidnap - May 31, Benghazi Province, Sidi Faraj:** Two Chadian nationals allegedly carried out an attempted kidnapping, armed robbery, and burglary. Security forces subsequently arrested them.

**12. Accident - Jun 01, Kufra Province, Kufra:** A fire broke out in the Al-Alf market near the Arab Market in Kufra.

## Fezzan Region





**13. Arrest - May 31, Sabha Province, Sabha:** Two people have been arrested for the murder of Mohammed Ibn Abdullah al-Senussi, the son of Major General Abdullah Al-Senussi, however, the perpetrator remains at large. A spokesman of the Security Directorate of Sabha confirmed that Senussi had been stabbed in the leg causing him to bleed out. The attack came in an argument over money. Senussi was found in his home and taken to Sabha Medical Centre where he died.

**14. Troop Movements - Jun 01, Fezzan, Fezzan:** The LNA deployed additional forces to the region.

## 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. Bilateral talks between the Haftar and Dbeibah families may also yet cause a significant rupture in the political space in the short term. 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 Tripolitania is becoming increasingly unstable. As political divisions deepen, tensions amongst armed groups are growing with increasing competition over territorial control. This is particularly evident around Zawiyah and the northwest coastline as well as Tripoli International Airport. This trend is likely to continue to escalate with factions solidifying and looking for an advantage over opponents.
- The outbreak of violence in Sudan has the potential to cause conflagration across the region and destabilise the southern border areas with Libya. Speculation continues to suggest that the Libyan National Army (LNA) is providing material support to the Rapid Support Force (RSF), one of the belligerents of the Sudanese conflict. Convoys heading south from Libya have been targeted by the Sudanese Armed Forces, activity which may well have encroached on Libyan territory. 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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