

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- The 6+6 Committee has announced that they have reached an agreement on presidential and electoral laws, however the agreement remains pending. The committee is awaiting the presence of the Head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri and Speaker of the HoR, Aquila Saleh, for a final decision on the laws.
- The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court has ruled that Law No. 5 of 2023 issued by the HoR, establishing the Supreme Constitutional Court in Benghazi, was unconstitutional.
- Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah has travelled to Italy as expected for a two-day meeting which will include time with his Italian counterpart, Prime Minister Meloni.
- President Mohamed Menfi met with the Sudanese Ambassador to Libya, Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed in Tripoli. The two men discussed the recent developments and ongoing peace efforts in Sudan.
- The Administrative Control Authority has lifted the suspension of Adel Jumma and allowed him to return to his position as Minister of State for Government and Cabinet Affairs. Jumma was suspended on May 16 but has continued to carry out his duties.

Security Developments

- Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah issued a resolution to establish yet another new security agency. The “National Apparatus for Supporting Armed Forces” has likely been established to help shore up the prime minister's position in Tripoli as efforts to remove him via the HoR/HCS track take shape.
- An airstrike was reported to have hit an unknown target in Zuwara on the evening of June 07. This came after a warning from the West Coast Military Region to stay away from criminal dens, drug dealers and smuggling sites, naming them as legitimate military targets. This is the first attack associated with the GNU northwest coastline operation since June 02.
- Abdulsalam Zoubi, commander of 301 Battalion, 111 Brigade based in Tripoli has rejected the outcomes of the 6+6 Committee. He stated: “With the reality of force on the ground, we say that we will not allow what prolongs the crisis, even if it bears a political character with legal frameworks.”
- The nightly curfew imposed on Tobruk by the LNA on June 03 has been lifted. This comes after locals pushed back against the curfew, deliberately moving at night. Tobruk is the stronghold of the Speaker of the HoRs tribe, the Obediat Tribe. The tribe and Saleh are coming under increased pressure from the LNA at the current time as the political landscape starts to shift.

Economic Developments

- The Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, Siddiq al-Kabir, met with the US Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Eric Meyer and Ambassador Richard Norland along with representatives of the US Departments of Treasury and State in Washington on June 07. They discussed the results of the Article IV consultations with the IMF and the efforts of the CBL in partnership with the GNU to invest in renewable energy and raise oil production rates. Combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism were also discussed.
- The Ministry of Economy and Trade (GNU) met with the Charge d’Affaires of the German Embassy, Annika Engels in Tripoli. The ministry invited German companies to resume their projects and invest in Libya by entering into a partnership with the private sector.

Oil & Gas Developments

- The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bengdara, implemented decision No. 326 of 2023, which sees Mounir Al-Maghribi assumed his role as Head of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) branch in Benghazi. This is part of a broader move to shake-up the NOC senior management.
- Reports indicate that Halliburton is looking to expand its operations with Sirte Oil Company. The Chairman of the Board of Directorate of Sirte Oil Company met with a Halliburton delegation in his office where a brief presentation was given of Halliburton's operations in Libya. This outlined the expectation that the company would return "to full activity" by the end of 2023 with the signing of a contract to rehabilitate the Dhahra Field.

International Relations

- SRSB Abdoulaye Bathily met with the UK's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Barbara Woodward, and the UK's Ambassador to Libya, Caroline Hurd on June 06. SRSB Bathily later stated that to support Libyan aspirations to choose their leadership, they had to agree on the need for stakeholders to establish electoral laws, improve security and create a conducive environment for free, inclusive, transparent and credible elections.

Assessment

Political Developments

HoR-HCS Track: 6+6 Committee process floundering

The 6+6 Committee has announced that they have reached an agreement on presidential and electoral laws, however the agreement remains pending. The committee is awaiting the presence of the Head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri and Speaker of the HoR, Aquila Saleh, for a final decision on the laws. The comments came in a press conference held in Bouznika, Morocco by the head of the HoR delegation, Jalal Al-Shuwaidi and the head of the HCS delegation, Omar Boulifa on the evening of June 06.

Al-Shuwaidi confirmed that the committee was not subjected to pressure or interference from Morocco or from abroad. He also expressed his thanks to the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the committee's meetings over the past ten days.

The head of HCS delegation, Omar Boulifa, indicated that the laws agreed upon by the committee allow everyone to run, and did not exclude anyone from participating in the elections. He stated also that the laws were not characterized by exclusivity and exclusion. Boulifa stated that all points of contention were finalized and agreed upon, and the law for the elections of the National Assembly and the President of the State was agreed upon. He further confirmed that everything had been accomplished with free Libyan will.

The Moroccan Foreign Minister Nasser Bourita also gave a statement at the press conference, claiming that the agreement reached by the 6+6 Committee cannot be described as "decisive." He added: "The text of the agreement, whatever it is, if it is not accompanied by political will remain a text. Without the political will, we fear that the agreement will be added to other agreements that have not been implemented on the ground."

Unconfirmed reports have claimed that the 6+6 Committee outcomes state that elections would be held under a new government "to ensure the integrity of the electoral process." Article 85 of the presidential election law further stipulates that neither the prime minister of this new government nor any of its members would be eligible to run for elections. The presidential election will also include two rounds with the top two candidates going through to a second round, regardless of how many votes are secured in the first round. Candidates must leave public office, whether in government or military, once the High National

Election Commission (HNEC) approve their entry into the presidential race, according to Article 17 of the law.

COMMENT: 'Both Mishri and Saleh arrived in Morocco on June 06, a day later than expected, to sign the agreement however reports indicate this has yet to occur as various factions come under pressure and pushback against the agreement starts. The agreement has had pushback from Belqasim Haftar, members of the HoR and HCS, the Justice and Construction Party, the National Front Party, and the commander of 301 Battalion, 111 Brigade. Some reports suggest the signing has been delayed by "several days."

Both Saleh and Mishri are believed to be conditioning the finalisation of electoral laws on the agreement to establish a new unity government (as stipulated in the 6+6 agreement) to take the country to elections, a proposition which directly threatens Prime Minister Dbiebah. Even if the 6+6 agreement is signed by the two men, it is still believed to have to pass votes in both houses, creating plenty of further opportunity for further delays, changes, and pushback.

Saleh was reportedly prevented from traveling to Morocco by Belqasim Haftar over an insistence that there was a change of text around the ability of dual nationals to stand for president. The text stipulated that any dual nationality would have to be relinquished in between the first and second rounds of the presidential elections however Belqasim was pushing for this to be dropped after two months in office. Following national and international mediation, Saleh was allowed to travel, however he was accompanied by Belqasim, Field Marshal Haftar's son and political advisor.

The intervention by Belqasim highlights the influence the Haftar clan now projects over not just the eastern political authorities but Saleh himself. Although not in itself unusual, Saleh has spent the last few weeks largely working from his home base of Qubbah, instead of presiding over HoR sessions in Benghazi, Haftar's powerbase. 106 Brigade (LNA) is also moving against Saleh's tribe, the Obediat, at Labraq Airbase while the LNA is carrying out wide-ranging security operations in the Tobruk and Egyptian border areas. This comes after rumours mid-May that Saleh's position was coming under pressure. This situation was worsened by the removal of Fathi Bashagha as prime minister of the GNS against Saleh's wishes.

Minister Bourita articulates the situation well, pointing out that without political will, the text of the agreement will remain just text.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Constitutional court rules Benghazi move was unconstitutional

The Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court has ruled that Law No. 5 of 2023 issued by the HoR, establishing the Supreme Constitutional Court in Benghazi, was unconstitutional. The ruling came after an appeal was filed by the Head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri. The appeal was accepted on March 05 with the Supreme Court deciding it was unconstitutional. After which, the work of the Constitutional Chamber of the Libyan Supreme Court resumed.

The law had been presented by HoR Speaker, Aqila Saleh in September 2022. It established a constitutional court consisting of 13 members appointed by the HoR with its HQ in Benghazi. All appeals filed before the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court were to be referred to the Constitutional Court in Benghazi as soon as the law was issued. Saleh later announced the suspension of his decision in April 2023 after Mishri suspended all communications between the two chambers in protest.

COMMENT: 'The move by Saleh was an attempt to bring the constitutional court under the influence of himself and eastern authorities. This came amidst increasing competition over control of the judiciary after a recognition of the importance of the judiciary within the electoral process after the non-elections of 2021 where key decisions were decided in court. The Constitutional Chamber was re-established in August 2022 in Tripoli by the General Assembly of the Supreme Court after a suspension of six years as competition over the judiciary heated up.

Saleh had already been forced to back away from moves to establish the court under his influence after Mishri suspended communications in April, conveniently resulting in the scrapping of a proposed meeting

in Zintan by the SRSG. This latest decision will complicate any further efforts to move the court to the east however it is unlikely to put an end to the competition over the judiciary system.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Security Developments

GNU: Dbeibah establishes another new security agency

Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah issued a resolution to establish yet another new security agency. The "National Apparatus for Supporting Armed Forces" is to be tasked with the protection of the legitimacy of state and sovereign institutions, and to preserve Libya's security and stability."

Ahmed Issa has been named as the commander of the agency which has been "tasked with safeguarding the goals of February 17." The resolution allows for the agency to establish branches in Libyan cities. It will provide support to the Ministry of Interior "when necessary" in providing protection to sovereign headquarters and diplomatic missions, provide support in emergencies and national disasters, rescue operations and support in securing infrastructure projects, and archaeological and tourist sites. It will also provide support to the army "as necessary" to help protect borders and ports and secure vital and strategic installations and facilities.

Othman Lahab, commander of 103 Battalion in Zawiyah, has been appointed as Deputy Commander of the National Apparatus for Supporting Armed Forces under Ahmed Issa.

A statement was issued by "a number of battalions and military formations" in Misrata rejecting the establishment of the new force. "We will not allow the continuation of the political impasse under flimsy pretexts aimed at extending the current corruption, represented by the GNU, and we warned every official who tries to achieve political gains for his own interests in our name."

COMMENT: 'The new force is assessed as primarily being a new praetorian guard for the prime minister to help shore up his position in Tripoli as efforts to unseat him via the HoR/HCS track take shape. In addition, the force is also likely to be aimed at causing further attrition to the anti-GNU armed faction which has taken root to the south and northwest of Tripoli, by pulling in Othman Lahab.

The force will come directly under the control of the prime minister and has been given a broad remit meaning Dbeibah can potentially look to use it in numerous roles. In addition to the above aims, this will allow the prime minister to attempt to contain commanders in Tripolitania which have been expanding their influence over the region in recent years.

Ahmed Issa is the brother of Mohammed Issa, the Undersecretary of Political Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mohammed was appointed after commanding the Zatarna Axis during Operation Volcano of Rage. They are both from the prime minister's hometown of Misrata.

Lahab has been associated with the Bouzribas and commands 103 Battalion, based in western Zawiyah. Despite Lahab's association with the Bouzriba's, his battalion has garnered a reputation locally as one which will mediate between competing forces along the northwest coastline.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

301 Commander rejects 6+6 Committee outcomes

Abdulsalam Zoubi, commander of 301 Battalion, 111 Brigade based in Tripoli has rejected the outcomes of the 6+6 Committee. He stated: "With the reality of force on the ground, we say that we will not allow what prolongs the crisis, even if it bears a political character with legal frameworks."

COMMENT: 'Unconfirmed reports have also claimed Zoubi, from Misrata, has threatened Mishri should he sign it. This has been a common tactic over the years as factions look to influence developments in foreign nations pertaining to Libya. Zoubi is assessed to be supportive of the GNU and Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah and as such was unlikely to be supportive of the HoR/HCS track. However, it highlights the pushback the 6+6 Committee outcomes and the wider HoR/HCS track can encounter from GNU

supporters in Tripolitania, many of which have influence on the political situation through the use of arms.'
COMMENT ENDS.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



- 1. Crime - Jun 06, Tripoli Province, Wadi Alrabea:** The Anti-Narcotics and Psychotropic Service seized hashish from a farm in Wadi Alrabea. Equipment and tools used within the drug industry along with narcotic plants and seeds for cultivation were also found. A Libyan national was held and confessed to being helped by two Moroccans and an Egyptian national.
- 2. Arrest - Jun 06, Tripoli Province, Airport Road:** Police from the Airport Road Police Station arrested a person for stealing his wife's property. The arrest came after the wife filed a complaint stating that her husband had stolen gold jewellery worth 20,000 LYD in addition to 30,000 LYD in cash.
- 3. Arrest - Jun 06, Misrata Province, Misrata:** 61 Bangladeshi nationals were arrested in Misrata as they prepared to travel to Europe illegally. Two other people of different nationalities were arrested for facilitating and confessed to previously smuggling 35 illegal immigrants to Italy.
- 4. Threat Warning - Jun 06 18:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** The West Coast Military Zone sent an urgent message calling for civilians to stay away from criminal locations, drug dealers, smuggling and fuel storage sites stating that these were considered legitimate military targets.
- 5. SAF - Jun 06 18:47, Tripoli Province, Yarmouk Camp:** Small arms fire was reported in the area of Yarmouk Camp.
- 6. Arrest - Jun 07, Tripoli Province, Sidra Road:** A gang was arrested for the murder of a construction worker in one of the al-Sidra buildings. The man had allegedly been thrown from a sixth-floor window after he and his colleague were robbed by the gang. Both victims were tied up and thrown from the building during the incident.
- 7. Airstrike - Jun 07 02:48, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Zuwara:** A drone targeted the area.

Cyrenaica Region



8. Demonstration - Jun 05, Al-Marj Province, Marj: Posters for a joint Turkish and Libyan exhibition were ripped down and driven over while others were burnt. This follows similar activity on June 03 in Bayda and June 05 in Benghazi. The posters are adverts for the Turkish Industries Exhibition which is planned to take place at the Al-Hawary Fairgrounds in Benghazi between June 12-15.

9. Security Operation - Jun 06, Al-Butnan Province, Musaid: The Joint Security Force (Mol/LNA) used a police dog to indiscriminately chase Egyptian nationals in a small crowd outside a building. This comes as thousands are deported across the border to Egypt.

10. Weapons Find - Jun 06 19:17, Al-Butnan Province, Bir Al-Ashhab: The Joint Security Force (Mol/LNA) uncovered drugs, pills and weapons hidden inside farms in the Bir Al-Ashhab area near Tobruk. Those responsible had already fled prior to the forces entry.

11. Security Announcement - Jun 06 20:00, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: The Tobruk Security Directorate announced the end of the nightly curfew which was imposed on June 03 due to ongoing security operations in the area. This comes after notable pushback from locals who rejected the curfew, taking to the streets. It should be noted that Tobruk is dominated by the Obediat Tribe, which counts HoR Speaker Saleh as a member. Saleh is believed to be coming under notable pressure at present from the Haftar clan.

Fezzan Region

NSTR

Offshore

NSTR

Outlook

Short Term Outlook

- There is an increasing likelihood of forthcoming political change in Libya. The HoR and HCS track has made progress with regard to the constitutional basis for elections, however, this process is only likely to continue smoothly should they secure support for the next phase of their strategy which is the creation of a new unified government. This step is mainly to ensure their continued relevance and primacy over the political process as well as an opportunity to remove certain personalities, like Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah.
- Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar has once again positioned himself well with influence over both the HoR/HCS track and the competing power-sharing talks between his family and the Dbeibah clan. With progress appearing possible on the HoR/HCS track, pressure is now growing on the power-sharing talks to come to an agreement, an agreement which could yet cause a significant rupture in the political landscape in the short term.
- Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah is under threat from the HoR/HCS track and is looking to secure a powersharing deal with Haftar in order to help maintain his position however, he has benefited recently from the re-election of Turkish President Erdogan, the fall of rival Misratan prime minister Fathi Bashagha, had is currently building political capital as a result of his security operation along the northwest coastline. He now needs to spend that political currency effectively in talks with Haftar as well as repairing the fractures in his support base. He also needs to manage the security campaign effectively to ensure he can contain his enemies while not pushing too hard and risking a wider destabilisation in the region.
- 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.

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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SECURE EVERY DAY

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