

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- SRSB Bathily briefed the UNSC on the latest developments in Libya, including political developments, the security situation and human rights concerns.
- SRSB Bathily met with the Japanese Charge d’Affaires, Masaki Amadera. The two discussed the recent political developments and Amadera expressed the continued Japanese support for UNSMIL and its efforts towards holding elections.
- The Speaker of the Egyptian House of Representatives, Hanafi Gebali visited Benghazi on Jun 19 where he addressed the Libyan HoR session. Gebali called on an agreement that results in presidential and parliamentary elections. Gebali also reiterated the rejection of all external interference which targets the stability and unity of Libya and called on the HoR and the HCS to continue their role within the framework of the powers.
- During the HoR session the Speaker, Aqila Saleh, stated that the legislative chamber is working with the HCS “to form a government, as soon as possible, that will take charge until the electoral process is achieved.” He added that the Libyan crisis will be solved through a Libyan-Libyan process, pointing out that the House of Representatives issued the 13th constitutional amendment through which a joint 6+6 Joint Committee was formed and which will develop a proposal for the presidential and parliamentary elections law.
- Saleh also confirmed that the Chairman of the 6+6 Committee for the HoR, Jalal Al-Shuwaidi handed over a copy of the election laws of the 6+6 Committee to Parliament and that it will be presented to the parliament in its next session after Eid Al-Adha.
- The head of the HNEC, Emad Sayeh commented that Libya suffers from a lack of political parties in the electoral process. He added that the absence of a party role has produced weak powers through the previous electoral process.
- On Jun 18, SRSB Bathily met with the President of the PC, Mohamed Menfi in Tripoli. During the meeting, Bathily confirmed the UNSMIL’s readiness to “coordinate efforts with the Presidential Council, and other Libyan factions in refining the legal structure for the upcoming elections.” Menfi also briefed Bathily on the outcomes of his recent dialogue with various Libyan factions. These interactions revolved around deliberating the results from the 6+6 Joint Committee.
- On Jun 18 the Head HCS Khaled Mishri, referred to the SRSB Bathily the final results for the laws of elections of the state’s president and national assembly, which resulted from the meeting of the 6+6 Committee. Mishri noted in the letter that the results are final and that any subsequent amendment needed to be done through the 6+6 committee.

Security Developments

- Following reports of an imminent visit by LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar to Tripoli, Major General Khaled Mahjoub of the LNA media department denied that there were plans for any such visit.

Economic Developments

- On Jun 18 the Governor of the CBL, Siddiq Kabir, met with the Dutch Ambassador to Libya, Dolf Hogewoning. During the meeting, the two discussed bilateral cooperation in preparing and arranging training courses for Central Bank employees, in coordination with the Dutch Central Bank.

Travel Developments

- Extant Threat - Air traffic controllers announced their intention to strike on Jun 21. The strike will be in two phases with all outbound flights subject to a 30-minute delay. The second phase would start on Jul 01 which will see a complete stoppage of air traffic. The dispute between air traffic controllers

and the GNU Ministry of Finance has been ongoing for several months and is related to the controllers' demand to be included in the unified salary schedule.

Migrant Developments

- Two individuals were arrested on human trafficking charges in Benghazi. The two, one of which is Libyan and the other Egyptian, were reported to be using a building in the Salmani area to gather migrants for onward smuggling to Italy.
- The Chief Public Prosecutor announced that 250 illegal migrants had been stopped before they departed Libya for Italy. Four individuals were also arrested in relation to human trafficking charges. No location was given.

Assessment

Political Developments

SRSG Briefs the UNSC

SRSG Bathily briefed the UNSC on the latest developments in Libya, including political developments, the security situation and human rights concerns.

Bathily updated on the political situation first, noting that although progress had been made there remained four outstanding issues on the election process, these being:

- Candidate eligibility
- The mandatory second round for the presidential vote
- The provision that if the first round of the presidential vote failed this would automatically cancel the parliamentary vote
- The establishment of an interim government to facilitate the elections.

Bathily also noted that the release of the 6+6 committee outcomes had seen mixed reactions, and served to highlight the contentious nature of the four points. He added that these could derail to process and have a severe impact on the overall security of Libya. He then called on UNSC, International and Regional partners to use their influence to move the process forward through the key Libyan political actors.

The SRSG then talked on security matters and noted that while Tripoli had remained calm, the security situation in Zawiyah remained poor. He raised concerns about the security operation that had been undertaken since May 25 and has resulted in 23 airstrikes along the northwestern coast. He noted that the airstrikes had resulted in civilian fatalities and the destruction of one medical clinic. He pointed out that the military-type operation, being undertaken in a densely populated area, was unwise and should be curtailed. He also highlighted the concerns in the southern region related to the ongoing conflict in Sudan. He briefed that if the conflict continued the threat of increased refugee numbers or the movement of armed elements into the region would rise significantly. He pledged that UNSMIL would remain available to assist in the ongoing situation.

He also called on the JMC 5+5 to maintain the momentum that had been created during the two meetings (Tripoli and Benghazi) that saw both the JMC and a variety of security actors meet for the first time.

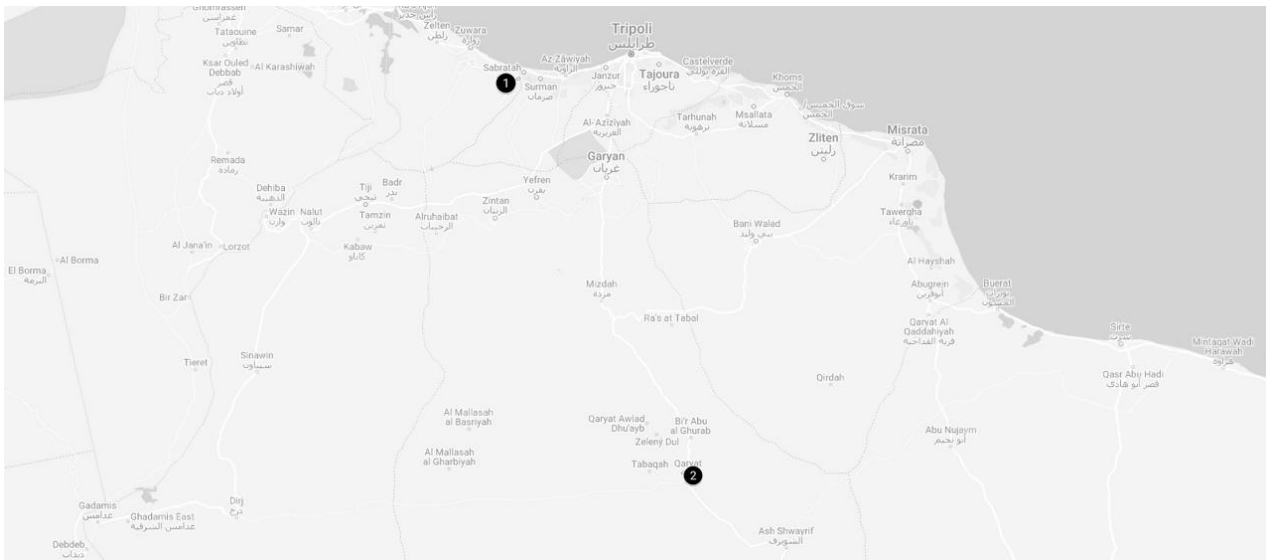
Bathily then addressed several Human Rights concerns. He criticised the increase in excessive controls being used by several security agencies. He noted that these security actors were placing restrictions on the right of assembly and movement. He briefed that females travelling alone through airports had to complete a form to explain why they were not travelling with a male. He called for such practices, which are blatantly discriminatory, to cease. He also criticised the posting of confessions, likely obtained under duress, on social media platforms.

He closed by reiterating his consistent message that elections not only require a legal framework but also political agreement. He also warned against attempts to maintain the status quo and once again called on regional and international partners to work with Libyan political actors to achieve a political agreement to facilitate presidential and parliamentary elections.

COMMENT: Prior to the briefing there had been significant speculation that Bathily would use the briefing to announce direct UNSMIL measures to move the process forward. However, the briefing took the form of an update, rather than an announcement of a new policy. The briefing is unlikely to have any significant impact within Libya as it allows the political bodies to retain ownership of the election laws and subsequent vague election pathway. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1. Murder/ Execution - Jun 18 15:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Zafarana: An individual named as Abdul Karim al-Arbash was killed in a suspected targeted attack.

2. Security Operation - Jun 18 14:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Qaryat: Nafusa Mountain Military region was reported as conducting operations, including air reconnaissance flights in the wider Qaryat area.

Cyrenaica Region



3. Arrest - Jun 18, Benghazi Province, Salmani: A Libyan and Egyptian national were arrested on human trafficking charges.

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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