

# Libya daily security analysis report

June 29, 2023

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# Latest Developments

## Political Developments

- The Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov commented that Libya had been turned into a “black hole” and that through its southern borders bandits smuggled weapons to the Sahara-Sahel region as well as “terrorists of all stripes, extremists, and drug dealers poured in who are still terrorizing the corresponding countries of the African continent.” He blamed this development on the actions of NATO in 2011 claiming “They violated a UN Security Council resolution that prohibited such actions. They ruined the Libyan state, which the entire international community is still collecting piece by piece and cannot implement it.” **COMMENT:** The comments came as Lavrov was explaining the presence of Wagner Group in Mali and the CAR, claiming that the security situations in both nations were a result of the collapse of Libya. This has long been the stated Russian position on Libya, with Lavrov frequently claiming the actions of NATO in 2011 were contrary to UN Resolution 1973 and have been the cause of insecurity in Libya and the Sahara-Sahel region. **COMMENT ENDS.**

## Oil and Gas Developments

- In an interview with al Sharq Awsat, GNU Minister of Oil, Mohammed Oun expressed his concern over the repeated calls to suspend Libya’s oil production. Oun warned that “such interruptions could have a detrimental impact on the country.” He added that “ordinary Libyan citizens would be the first to feel the repercussions should oil production cease, through the potential loss of international oil-importing clients or the damaging effects on power stations.”
- Unconfirmed open sources reported that the Chairman of the NOC, Farhat Bengdara has submitted his resignation and is to be replaced temporarily by NOC board member, Hussein Saffar.

## Migration

- On Jun 28 the Nigerian diplomatic mission in Libya confirmed that they had secured the release of 40 Nigerian migrants from the Bir al-Ghanam detention centre.
- In the UN Results Report in Libya 2022, it was revealed that the number of internally displaced people had reduced to 125,000, representing a decrease of 60% since October 2020.
- The EU Human Rights Chief at the EU border agency announced that the agency may suspend its operations in Greece over chronic rights abuse against migrants.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) revised its statistics for the Jan-Jun 2023 period, recording at least 1,999 migrants died crossing the Mediterranean, up from 1,358 for the same period in 2022. More than 60,000 migrants have entered Italy so far this year, compared to less than 27,000 during this period last year, a notable rise in the number of arrivals. More than 82,000 migrants are expected to arrive in total by sea in Mediterranean Europe this year, according to the IOM, compared to less than 49,000 at this time last year.
- The UN released a report in which they estimated at least 1 million Sudanese would flee the country as a result of the ongoing conflict. To date the majority of refugees have fled to Chad or Egypt, however as the humanitarian situation worsens further, there is a strong likelihood of the movement of refugees into Libya. **COMMENT:** Chad and Egypt do present the best locations in terms of geographic practicality, however, those entering Libya are more likely to be seeking to use the country as transit to Europe, thereby fueling the human trafficking gangs. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- Giorgia Meloni, the Prime Minister of Italy, criticized the migration memorandum between Italy and Libya that was signed by Paolo Gentiloni in 2017. This agreement involved Italy providing support, including training and equipment, to the Libyan Coast Guard to prevent migrants from leaving Libya and reaching Italy. Meloni addressed the Italian House of Representatives before the forthcoming European summit and expressed her concerns about the migration pact. She

specifically mentioned that the agreement was overseen by then-Interior Minister Marco Minniti. Meloni highlighted the existence of sceptics who question the effectiveness and consistency of the dialogue with these key players, implying that there has been a lack of continuity in the approach to the migration issue.

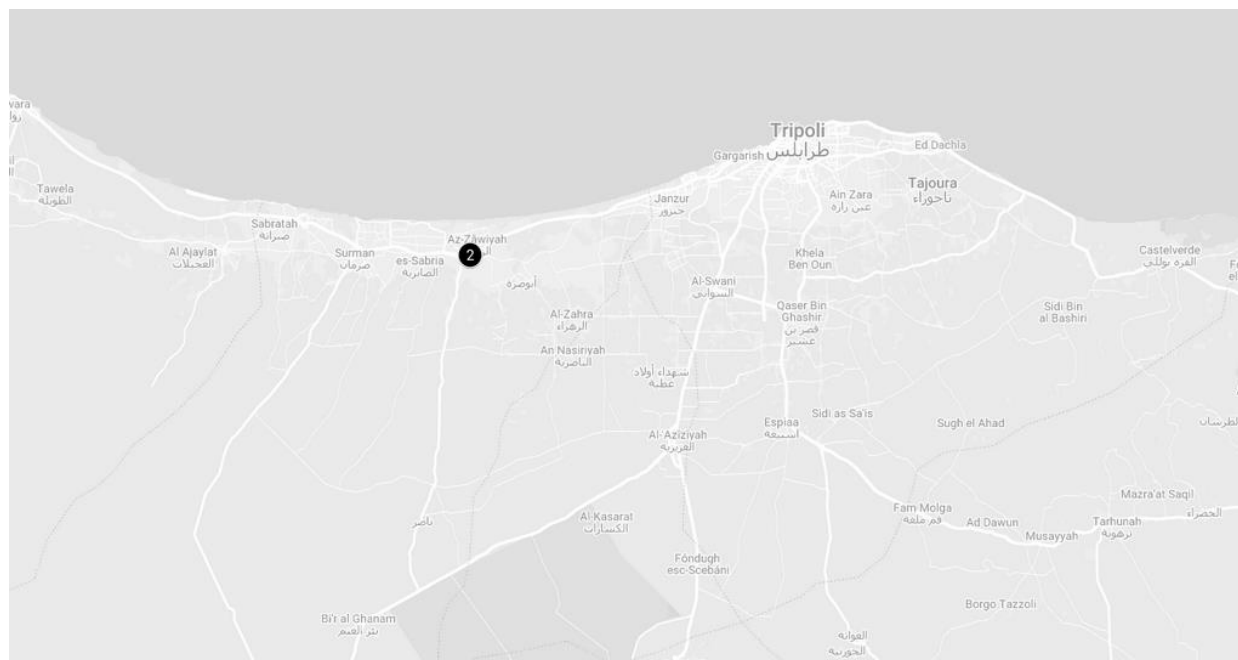
# Assessment

## Bengdara Rumoured to have Submitted Resignation

Unconfirmed open sources reported that the Chairman of the NOC, Farhat Bengdara has submitted his resignation and is to be replaced temporarily by NOC board member, Hussein Saffar. Bengdara also claimed that “Haftar’s sons” were planning on closing oil fields in areas under their control. Reportedly individuals close to Dbeibah were attempting to dissuade Bengdara from following through on his resignation. **COMMENT:** The announcement follows Bengdara’s recent meeting with PM (GNS) Osama Hammad, during which the two discussed the mechanisms for the imposition of an oil blockade. Bengdara’s stance on the threatened oil blockade is not known, however, as he was appointed as a result of an agreement between PM (GNU) Dbeibah and LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar it is probable that he would not be aligned with Hammad on the issue of the cessation of operations and both Haftar and Dbeibah will move to stop Bengdara from standing down. Bengdara has also been keen to show that the NOC is not politicised, having recently made the point to US Ambassador Norland, and this most recent blockade is primarily viewed as a political move by the GNS to starve the GNU of finances. **COMMENT ENDS.**

# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



**2. Murder/ Execution - Jun 28 22:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** A member of the al Saqr family was killed following a dispute with a local security actor.

## Cyrenaica Region



**1. Security Operation - Jun 28, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk:** The LNA's TBZ Brigade was reported as conducting an anti-smuggling operation between Tobruk and the Egyptian border.

## Fezzan Region

NSTR

## Offshore

NSTR

# Outlook

## Short Term Outlook

- The MoR/HCS track continues to gather pace, with the HoR due to debate the election laws that have emanated from the 6+6 committee. Saleh has already raised concerns on the issue of dual nationality, a mandatory second round and the size/allocation of the parliament. Running in tandem is the concept of a new unified government to replace the GNU. The concept has the support of the HoR, HCS, LNA and the GNS, with all seeing such a government as a means to exert control and influence. For the very same reasons, the GNU remains resolutely opposed to it, while UNSMIL and the International community's reaction has been decidedly lukewarm. Both UNSMIL and the IC likely view the replacement of the GNU as an unnecessary threat to political security and by extension the election process, while also being concerned that any interim government would attempt to extend its tenure and prove to be an election spoiler.
- 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.
- The threat of an oil blockade or GNS control of NOC accounts both represent a further threat to the GNU and would see funding cut off for the GNU's cash-heavy projects. The coming week is likely to see a reaction from the CBL, who would be required to allow the GNS control of the NOC accounts. Likewise should this cooperation not be forthcoming and the GNS move to impose a

force majeure, this would require action from the LNA. To date, Haftar or the General Command has yet to comment on the threat, and their cooperation cannot be guaranteed.

- 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 – 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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