



Libya WEEKLY BRIEF

May 3rd - May 9th, 2023



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

POLITICS: On 07/05, the HCS-HoR 6+6 Committee, tasked with the preparation of electoral laws, held another meeting in Tripoli, following the one recorded earlier this month. The HoR's Spokesperson, Abdullah Blihaq announced the meeting, confirming the continuation of its work. The content of the talks was not communicated in detail, leaving little information about developments in the committee's debate, or in the discussion on specific subjects in the framework of the electoral process. However, on the following day, HCS member and 6+6 Committee member Fathallah Al-Sariri clarified that the committee had not yet started to discuss the highly debated aspect of presidential candidates' eligibility criteria. Al-Sariri relayed that the Committee was still working on matters related to the parliamentary election and was not yet discussing the presidential one.

On 08/05, members of the 6+6 Committee met in Tripoli with the Head of the HNEC, Imad Al-Sayeh. In a new social media post, Abdullah Blihaq relayed that the talks revolved around technical observations presented by the HNEC about presidential and parliamentary elections, to be taken into account during the Committee's work for the drafting of electoral laws.

Assessment: The 6+6 Committee continues to operate following its launch in early April, which represented a significant step towards elections in Libya. The Committee has assumed the role of the main institutional instrument for the revival of the electoral process in the current stage. Nonetheless, concrete results are yet to be yielded, potentially raising concerns about possible delays in the drafting of election laws. Further meetings involving the 6+6, like the one with Al-Sayeh, as well as new committee sessions, are to be expected in the upcoming weeks.

DIPLOMACY: On 03/05, the Head of the LNA, Khalifa Haftar, went on an official visit to Italy, where he met with several top officials. Following an initial meeting with the Italian Foreign Minister, Antonio Tajani, on 03/05, Haftar met in Rome with Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the following day.

At the center of the talks between Meloni and Haftar were the issues of illegal migration and regional security. According to Italian media, the meeting included a focus on the growing migratory phenomenon, as Italy continues to deal with a growing number of migrants and refugees arriving by sea from North Africa. The two sides also discussed the recent developments in Sudan and the effects that the Sudanese conflict might have on neighboring countries like Libya. Furthermore, the meeting also included Meloni's expression of support for the UNSMIL's initiative to revitalize the political process and promote the holding of elections by the end of 2023. On the same day, Haftar met also with the Italian Defense Minister, Guido Crosetto. They reportedly talked about migrant flows from Libya to Italy and possible risks of destabilization in the country. Italian media relayed that Crosetto addressed the issue of migratory flows' increment and the subject of Wagner Group forces' presence in Libya as a destabilizing factor.

During his visit in Rome, the Head of the LNA met with Italian Interior Minister, Matteo Piantedosi, with whom he discussed bilateral relation and, more specifically, a mechanism for consolidating cooperation in security, combating illegal migration, and training for security forces.

Assessment: Haftar's meetings in Rome confirmed Italy's intention to include the Head of the LNA as an interlocutor in Libya and to maintain relations with the country's eastern as well as with western authorities, especially considering the importance given by Rome to the problem of illegal migration and in light of recently growing cases of human smuggling from eastern Libya. It is worth noting that in late January 2023 a top-level delegation of the Italian government, including Giorgia Meloni, had met with the GNU's leadership in Tripoli but had not visited Libya's east.



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MILITARY: This week saw several meetings involving important Libyan and foreign military actors, aiming at the stabilization and strengthening of Libya's defense institutions. On 03/05, a delegation of US military officials, including the US Defense Attaché to Libya, met with a delegation of GNU MoD's military representatives, including the MoD's Chief of Staff of Ground Forces and JMC member, Al-Fitouri Greibel, the Commander of the MoD's 444th Brigade, the Commander of the MoD's 51st Brigade, and others. They discussed relations between Libyan and US military institutions and the possibility of their development. It is worth noting that the day before a US Defense delegation had already met with the GNU's Chief of Staff, Mohamed Al-Haddad. The 03/05 meeting confirmed Washington's intention to consolidate its relations with the Tripoli-based MoD and evidently cooperate with it for the security of Libya and its capital.

On the same day, a French delegation including the French Defence Attaché to Libya met in Benghazi with a group of top-level LNA officials, including the LNA's Chief of Staff, Abdulrazzaq Al-Nadhuri, the LNA's Air Force Chief of Staff, Mohamed Al-Manfur, and the LNA's Navy Chief of Staff, Shuaib Saber. They discussed the development and training of the military institution. In a statement communicating the holding of this meeting, the LNA General Staff's Media Center stressed the importance of training as focus of talks with the French side.

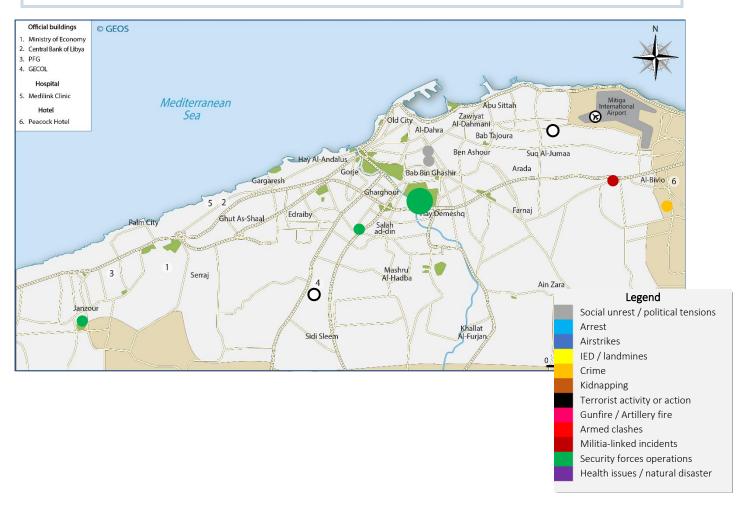
On 06/05, the LNA's Navy Chief of Staff met in Benghazi with the GNU MoD's Navy Chief of Staff, during a visit of the latter and his accompanying delegation. They discussed efforts to unify Libya's military institution as well as to develop administrative and procedural plans to implement such reunification process.

Assessment: The meetings of French and US delegations with military officials signaled the interest of those international actors in consolidating Libya's defense and maintain dialogue with the country's military institutions, also considering recently emerging threats to security in the North African region and on the background of a possible reunification process. The meeting between GNU MoD and LNA Navy delegations, like those between LNA and GNU Chiefs of Staff in the previous month, confirmed the persistence of dialogue between the two sides even though a full reunification of Libya's military institution does not appear likely in the short term.



SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

TRIPOLI



Main incidents of the week		
May 9 th	Tripoli, Al-Seka Road: On 09/05, dozens of investors protested in front of the GNU Prime Minister's office on Al-Seka Road in Tripoli, demanding the return of their investment portfolios which were suspended in 2012.	
May 9 th	Janzour: On 09/05, a civilian was arrested and detained by the DAOCT, also known as Rada Special Deterrence Force, in Janzour. He is allegedly accused of promoting illegal behaviour on the social media Tik Tok.	
May 9 th	Tripoli, Abu Salim: On 09/05, 3 Bangladeshi nationals were arrested by security forces and the SSA during a security operation in Tripoli's Abu Salim area. They are accused of kidnapping and torture.	
May 8 th	Tripoli, Tripoli International Airport Road (south): An unidentified explosion was heard near Tripoli International Airport Road (south) on 08/05. No further information was available.	
May 7 th	Tripoli: A number of civilians were arrested, and a number of abducted Nigerian women were freed by security forces during a security operation in Tripoli on 07/05. The arrestees are accused of kidnapping and human trafficking.	
May 7 th	Tripoli, Al-Seka Road: Dozens of civilians protested in front of the GNU Prime Minister's office on Al-Seka Road in Tripoli on 07/05, demanding changes in working conditions.	



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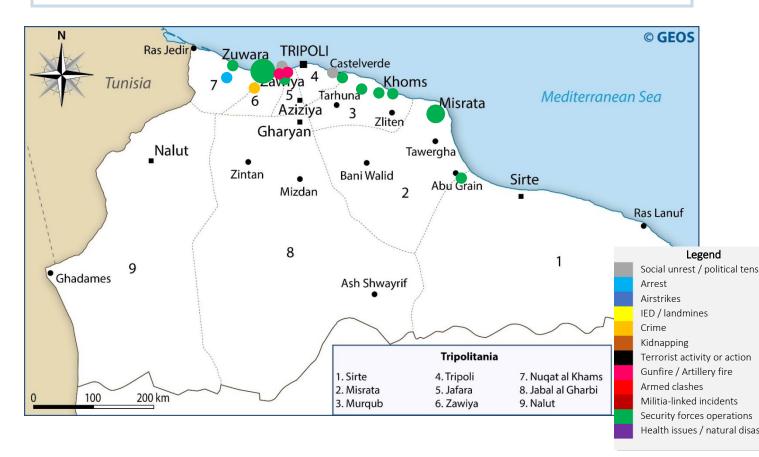
May 7 th	Tripoli: On 07/05, a Moroccan national was arrested and 1,510 narcotic tablets and a quantity of other drugs were seized by security forces during a security operation in southern Tripoli. She is accused of drug trafficking and prostitution.	
May 7 th	Tripoli: A civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tripoli on 07/05. He is accused of fraud amounting to LYD 840,000.	
May 7 th	Tripoli, Mitiga International Airport: An unidentified explosion was heard near Mitiga International Airport in the early hours of 07/05. No further information was available.	
May 6 th	May 6 th Tripoli: On 06/05, an armed convoy belonging to the GNU MoD's 111 th Brigade coming from Misrata was reportedly seen entering Tripoli. No further information was available.	
May 6 th	May 6 th Tripoli: On 06/05, at least 7 foreign nationals were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tripoli. They are accused of illegal entry into the Libyan territory.	
May 4 th	Tajoura: On 04/05, a civilian was killed by another one in Tajoura's Bir Osta Milad area. No further information was available.	
May 3 rd	Tripoli: 2 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tripoli on 03/05. They are accused of having committed several thefts amounting to LYD 153,500.	

Outlook

- → High tensions between armed groups, risk of armed clashes and of retaliatory attacks (targeted killings, kidnappings);
- → Increased risk of protests linked to the political transition process and the deterioration of socioeconomic conditions;
- \rightarrow Latent terrorist threat in the capital;
- → Volatile security environment due to the **high circulation of weapons among the population**;
- → Pursuit of the **reinforcement of the security apparatus and anti-criminal operations**, especially in the city's southern outskirts;
- → Risk of ERW and IED explosions in the southern outskirts.



TRIPOLITANIA



Main incidents of the week		
May 8 th	Tripolitania, Al-Ajaylat: On 08/05, 2 civilians were killed in an armed quarrel that took place in Al-Ajaylat. No further information available.	
May 8 th	May 8 th Tripolitania, Castelverde: In the late hours of 08/05, a number of civilians protested in Castelver blocking a main road, in protest against the lack of maintenance of the road causing many accident and demanding the overthrow of the city's municipal council.	
May 8 th	Tripolitania, Sabratha: On 08/05, 2 civilians were arrested by security forces in Sabratha. They are accused of armed robbery.	
May 8 th	Tripolitania, Msallata: On 08/05, 3 foreign nationals from African countries were arrested by security forces in Msallata. They are accused of human trafficking.	
May 7 th	Tripolitania, Sabratha: 2 civilians were arrested by security forces in Sabratha on 07/05. They ar accused of kidnapping and assault.	
May 7 th	Tripolitania, Misrata: A foreign national from an African country was arrested and at least 1,0 tablets of Tramadol were seized by security forces in Misrata on 07/05. He is accused of dr trafficking.	
May 6 th	Tripolitania, Khome: 25 Kg of cannabic word soized by socurity forces during a socurity operation a	
May 6 th	Tripolitania, Misrata: On 06/05, a civilian and 23 Pakistani nationals were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Misrata. They are accused of illegal entry into the Libyan territory and the civilian is accused of human trafficking.	
May 6 th	Tripolitania, Wadi Zamzam: On 06/05, at least 100 illegal migrants were arrested when an immigration hideout was raided by the SSA during a security operation in Wadi Zamzam. They are accused of illegal entry into the Libyan territory.	



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May 6 th	Tripolitania, Zawiya: Early on 06/05, unidentified shooting was heard in Zawiya. No further information available.	
May 5 th	Tripolitania, Misrata: On 05/05, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Misrata's Ghiran neighbourhood. He is accused of assault.	
May 5 th	Tripolitania, Khoms: On 05/05, a fuel smuggling truck and 14,000 litres of fuel were seized by the SSA during a security operation in Khoms.	
May 5 th	Tripolitania, Zawiya: On 05/05, a number of a civilians protested in Zawiya, announcing the continuation of their sit-in in Zawiya's Martyrs' Square until their demands are met, alongside their support for the 'Committee of 15', and demanding that the residents of the city are represented in efforts to restore stability in the city and fight against issues like corruption, drug trafficking, and general crime.	
May 5 th	Tripolitania, Zawiya: On 05/05, an armed convoy reportedly belonging to forces affiliated to the 'Committee of 15', a committee formed recently by the GNU's chief of staff, Mohamed Al-Haddad and composed of various representatives of Zawiya, aimed at securing the city, reportedly deployed in the city of Zawiya.	
May 4 th	Tripolitania, Sabratha: On 04/05, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Sabratha. He is accused of kidnapping.	
May 3 rd	Tripolitania, Jumayl: 2 civilians were arrested by an unidentified security force in Jumayl on 03/05. No further information was available.	
May 3 rd	Tripolitania, Misrata: A civilian was arrested, and 920 narcotic tablets were seized by security forces during a security operation in Misrata on 03/05. He is accused of drug trafficking.	
May 3 rd	Tripolitania, Sabratha: A Gambian national and a number of illegal migrants from African countries	
May 3 rd	Tripolitania, Sabratha: 2 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Sabratha on 03/05. They are accused of kidnapping and assault.	
May 3 rd	Tripolitania, Zuwara: A number of illegal migrants were arrested by SSA forces during a security operation in Zuwara on 03/05. They are accused of illegal migration.	
May 3 rd	Tripolitania, Castelverde: 2 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Castelverde on 03/05. They are accused of armed robbery, possession of illegal drugs, and illegal possession of firearm.	
May 3 rd	Tripolitania, Zawiya: In the early hours of 03/05, unidentified shooting was heard in Zawiya. No further information available.	

SECURITY: This week, western Libya witnessed a crackdown on illegal migration as several security operations were performed by security forces aimed at countering human smuggling in the region. On 03/05, a number of illegal migrants from African countries were arrested for illegal migration, and a Gambian national was arrested, accused of human smuggling, in Sabratha. On 06/05, 23 Pakistani nationals and a Libyan national were arrested after security forces raided a human trafficking hideout in Misrata. The migrants are accused of illegal entry into Libyan territory, and the Libyan civilian is accused of human trafficking. On the same day, at least 100 illegal migrants were arrested farther south, when the SSA raided a migration hideout in the Wadi Zamzam area.

Assessment: The operations recorded this week highlighted the strong presence of smuggling activity in areas along the Libyan coast. Similar activities are likely to continue in Tripolitania, and possibly in other parts of Libya. It is worth noting that, while providing law enforcement, such operations might produce a risk of tensions between security forces and criminal groups and could lead to sporadic clashes as they are conducted.



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SECURITY: This week, the situation in Zawiya returned to calm after the heavy protests held in the city last week, when thousands of demonstrators protested by blocking the Coastal Road and setting fires. On 05/05, an armed convoy was deployed in the city, belonging to forces affiliated to the 'Committee of 15' formed by the GNU's Chief of Staff, Mohamed Al-Haddad, and composed of various representatives of Zawiya including members of the Youth movement, and security and military leaders of Zawiya. This force is reportedly tasked to secure the city, in response to demonstrators' grievances over the deteriorating security situation of Zawiya.

On the same day, hundreds of civilians demonstrated in Zawiya, announcing the continuation of their sit-in in Zawiya's Martyrs' Square and their support for the 'Committee of 15'. Demonstrators demanded for the residents of the city to be appropriately represented in efforts to restore the city's stability and fight against issues such as corruption, drug trafficking, and general crime. They announced that they would continue their sit-in until their demands are met.

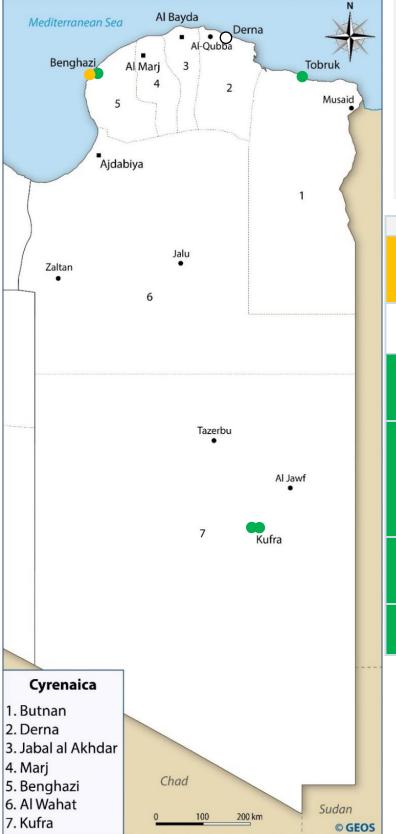
Assessment: Similar or even larger protests are likely to recur in the near future if no significant security improvement is achieved in Zawiya. However, the presence of the abovementioned newly deployed security force might bring stability to the area and therefore could appear the recently witnessed tensions.

Outlook

- → Tensions between armed groups which can lead to targeted attacks (drive-by shootings, kidnappings) and escalate into armed clashes, notably in the localities west and south of Tripoli and along the western coastal road;
- → Tensions linked to the continued presence of mercenaries and foreign armed forces;
- → Risk of sporadic clashes between security forces and criminal groups during anti-criminal operations;
- → **Risk of demonstrations** linked to insecurity, the deterioration of socio-economic conditions, and the ongoing political divide;
- → Risk of blockades of oil sites;
- → Latent terrorist risk.



CYRENAICA



Legend	
	Social unrest / political tensions
	Arrest
	Airstrikes
	IED / landmines
	Crime
	Kidnapping
	Terrorist activity or action
	Gunfire / Artillery fire
	Armed clashes
	Militia-linked incidents
	Security forces operations
	Health issues / natural disaster

	Main incidents of the week				
	May 9 th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi, Shabna: On 09/05, a civilian was killed by unidentified gunmen in Benghazi's Shabna neighborhood. No further information was available.			
	May 9 th	Cyrenaica, Derna: On 09/05, 2 unidentified bodies were found by the Libyan Red Crescent in Derna. Investigation is ongoing.			
	May 8 th	Cyrenaica, Tobruk: On 08/05, 11 illegal migrants were arrested when a hideout was raided by security forces in Tobruk. They are accused of illegal entry into Libyan territory.			
	May 8 th	Cyrenaica, Kufra: On 08/05, 13 foreign nationals and civilians were arrested, and 60 illegal migrants were freed when 3 illegal prisons were raided during a security operation by the Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency in Kufra. They are accused of human trafficking.			
	May 4 th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi: On 04/05, 2 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi. They are accused of shooting.			
	May 4 th	Cyrenaica, Kufra: A civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Kufra on 04/05. He is accused of murder.			



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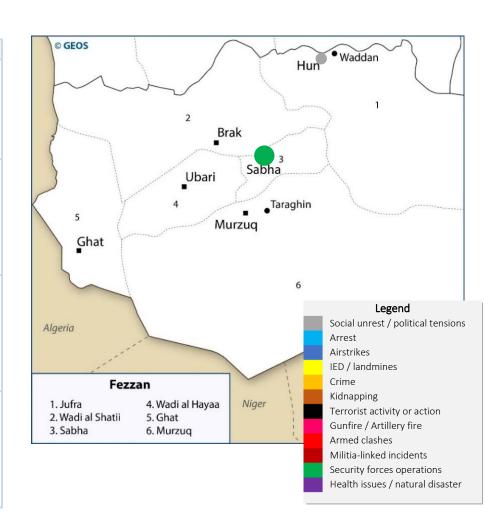
Outlook

- → Latent tensions between LNA-affiliated units leading to sporadic skirmishes and targeted attacks/killings and retaliations;
- ightarrow Tensions between the LNA and the population/local tribes;
- → High crime rate in Benghazi;
- → **Increase in protests** linked to insecurity, the deterioration of socio-economic conditions and the political transition process;
- \rightarrow Risk of blockades of oil sites.



FEZZAN

Main incidents of the week		
	May 8 th	Fezzan, Sebha, Tahrir: On 08/05, a Sudanese national was arrested by security forces in Sebha's Tahrir neighborhood. He is accused of murder.
	May 7 th	Fezzan, Sebha: A foreign national from Niger was arrested by security forces in Sebha's Al-Qarda neighborhood on 07/05. He is accused of human smuggling and theft.
	May 4 th	Fezzan, Hun: A number of university employees protested in front of the Jufrah University building in Hun on 04/05, demanding better working conditions.
	May 4 th	Fezzan, Sebha: On 04/05, a number of civilians were arrested by security forces and LNA forces during a security operation in Sebha. They are accused of arms and drug trafficking.



Outlook

- → Very high criminal rate in Sebha: regular attacks targeting properties (carjackings, armed robberies) and people (drive-by shootings);
- → Risk of protests and blockades of oil sites to denounce the deterioration of life conditions and ongoing political divide;
- → Latent terrorist risk in the region;
- → Latent tribal tensions which can lead to skirmishes or retaliation acts between tribes or with LNA forces in the area;
- → Tensions between the GNU and the LNA due to military deployments;
- → Deteriorated situation along the Chadian border and continued incursion of Chadian armed groups.



OFFSHORE

NSTR



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ACRONYM LIST

AAS – Ansar al-Sharia

 ${\sf ACA-Administrative\ Control\ Authority}$

AFRICOM – United States Africa Command

AGOCO – Arabian Gulf Oil Company

AQ - Al-Qaeda

AV – Armoured Vehicles

bpd - Barrel per day

BPMC – Brega Petroleum Marketing

Company

CP/(I)VCP - Check Point / (Illegal) Vehicle

Check Point

CBL – Central Bank of Libya

CID – Criminal Investigation Department

Col – Chief of Intelligence

ERW – Explosive Remnants of War

EU - European Union

EUDEL - Delegation of the European Union

to Libya

FACT – Front for Alternance and Concord in

Chad

GECOL – General Electrical Company of

Libya

GMR - Great Man-Made River

GNA - Government of National Accord

GNC – General National Congress

GNS – Government of National Stability

GNU – Government of National Unity

HCS – High Council of State

HNEC - High National Election Commission

HoR – House of Representatives

HVT – High-Value Target

ICC – International Criminal Court
IED – Improvised Explosive Device
IDP – Internally Displaced Person

IOM – International Organization for

Migration

IS – Islamic State

JMC – Joint Military Commission (5+5)

JTF - Joint Task Force

LIA – Libyan Investment Authority

LNA - Libyan National Army

LPDF – Libyan Political Dialogue Forum

LSM – Libyan Stock Market

MBL – Muslim Brotherhood in Libya

MoD – Ministry of Defence MoF – Ministry of Finance

MoFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MoH – Ministry of Health

Mol – Ministry of Interior

MoJ – Ministry of Justice

MoO – Ministry of Oil

MoT – Ministry of Transportation

NCDC – National Centre for Disease Control

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

NOC - National Oil Company

O&G - Oil and Gas

PAX – Person or Passenger

PC - Presidency Council

PFG - Petroleum Facilities Guard

PM – Prime Minister

PMCs – Private Military Contractors

RADA SDF – RADA Special Deterrence Forces

RPG – Rocket Propelled Grenade SSA – Stabilization Support Authority

TPF – Tripoli Protection Force

TRB – Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade

TURAF - Turkish Air Force

UAV – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

UN – United Nations

UNSMIL – United Nations Support Mission in

Libya

UAE – United Arab Emirates
USA – United States of America
UXO – Unexploded Ordnance

VBIED – Vehicle-borne improvised explosive

davica

WHO – World Health Organization



GEOS IN LIBYA - A 12-YEAR PRESENCE



Through its permanent representation in Tripoli since 2011, GEOS supports the development of national and international institutions and companies in Libya. Based on its strong local network, knowledge of the region and expert teams, GEOS advises and supports its clients at any stage of their projects.

YOUR NEEDS

Securing your projects

Understanding the Libyan environment

Protecting your people and assets 24/7 operational assistance

Crisis assistance

Medical support and evacuation

Transportation and logistics expertise

OUR SOLUTIONS

Expert advice

Accurate and updated reports on the security situation

Skilled staff (CPOs, drivers & guards)

Adapted vehicles (armoured and soft skin)

Defence and protective equipment

Safe havens

Logistics and accommodations
Sea, air and land solutions





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