



Intelyse



LIBYA

Weekly Political Stability,
Economic And Security
Threat Assessment

24-30 JUNE 2023



COUNTRYWIDE OVERVIEW

FIGURE 1: HIGHLIGHTED INCIDENTS IN LIBYA 24-30 JUNE 2023



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- GNS threatened to block oil exports to demand financial restructuring and the implementation of budget.
- Western Libyan authorities launch a crackdown against cryptocurrency mining farms, resulting in the arrest of at least 50 Chinese nationals.
- The Internal Security Agency arrested a university professor, for an unknown reason.

OUTLOOK

- GNS capacity to block oil exports remains low. Unless the plan receives a buy-in from the LNA, it will likely occur.
- The move is part of steps taken by the GNU to prepare for high demand for power especially in the peak summer seasons.
- The arrest comes amid continued security operations by eastern Libyan authorities to arrest individuals involved in various crimes, including smuggling and the narcotics trade

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN LIBYA

GNS THREATENED OIL PRODUCTION

On 24 June, the GNS threatened to block oil and gas exports in response to the GNU's alleged mismanagement of energy revenue. The GNS added that it would act on its threat until financial procedures are completed for restructuring and implementing budgets. GNS Prime Minister Osama Hammad further stated that he had "frozen" 2022 oil revenues "equivalent to more than 130 billion dinars" as a first step and called for a fair distribution of oil revenues.

This comes after HoR Speaker Aquila Saleh announced the formation of a committee to develop a plan for restructuring the public budget and finding solutions related to the fair distribution of resources and handling public debt.

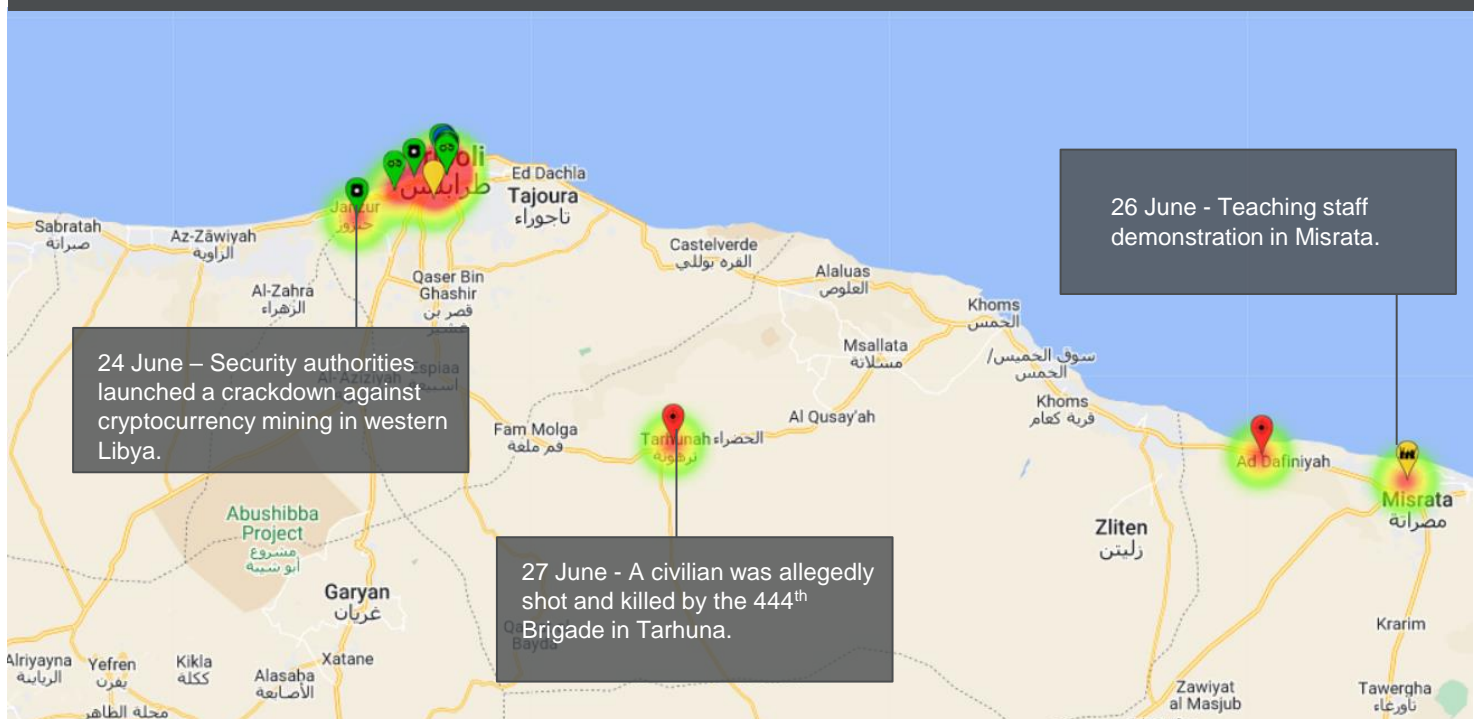
HOR HOLDS VOTE DURING SESSION

The HoR held a closed session in Benghazi on 26 June, where its members voted on the president and members of the Constitutional court. The development, along with other LNA decisions has been controversial due to its lack of approval from the HCS, the advisory body of the Libyan parliament.

During the same session, the HoR also voted on the new head of the Administrative Control Authority. The vote comes in response to the request of some HoR members to dismiss the former head of the ACA, likely due to continued east-west divide. The HoR also took a vote on the chairmanship of the National Planning Council.

The development comes amid the lack of progress this week in the 6+6 Joint Committee's proposal to hold the elections in Libya. The timing of the vote may also have been taken by the HoR to project that it continued to work amid the lack of political developments in the country.

FIGURE 2: HIGHLIGHTED INCIDENTS IN TRIPOLI FROM 24-30 JUNE 2023



CRACKDOWN AGAINST CRYPTO MINING IN WESTERN LIBYA

Libyan authorities arrested around 50 Chinese nationals and 20 locals during a crackdown against crypto currency mining farms in separate areas of western Libya. The raids were conducted in areas in and around Tripoli, Zliten, and Misrata.

Crypto currency mining requires high power consumption machines, which exacerbate to the occasional power crisis in the Libya especially during the peak of the summer season. This suggest that the operation was likely part of preparations when demand for electricity is high for air conditioning houses.

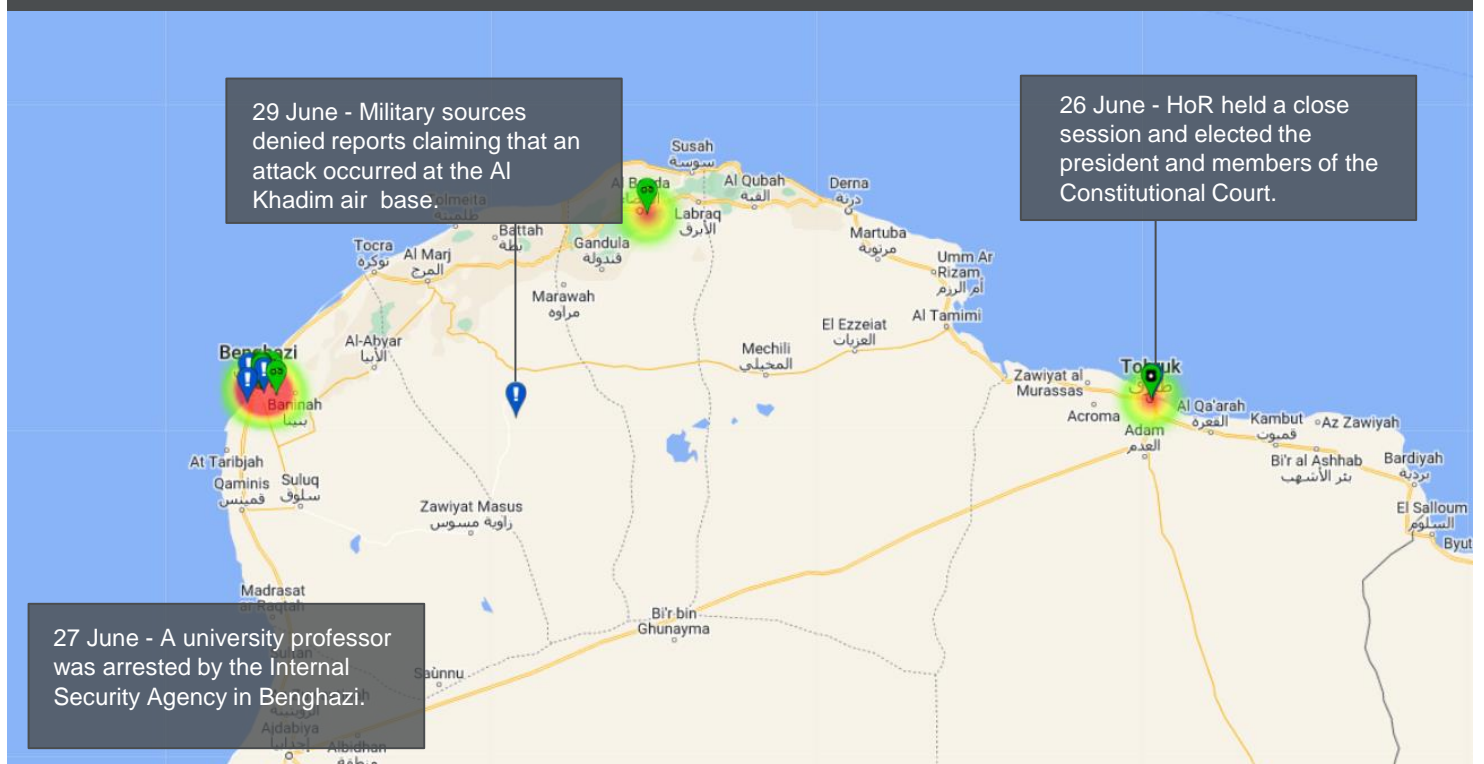
ITALY DELIVERS NEW BOATS TO LIBYAN COASTGUARDS

On 25 June, the Libyan coastguards received two new naval boats from the Italian government. The development comes in the context of Libyan-Italian cooperation and the implementation of its previous agreements and commitments. The new boats will be used by the Libyan navy for law enforcement and naval patrols.

RUSSIAN EMBASSY TO TRANSFER TO TRIPOLI

Russian ambassador to Libya, Aydar Rashidovich Aganin, met with GNU-PM Abdul Hamid Dbeiba in Tripoli on 27 June. The meeting discussed several issues, including the resumption of Russian diplomatic mission in Tripoli in August. During the meeting PM-Dbeiba reiterated the need for the importance of unifying the international positions towards resolving the Libyan crisis and ending foreign intervention in Libya.

FIGURE 3: HIGHLIGHTED INCIDENTS IN CYRENAICA 24-30 JUNE 2023

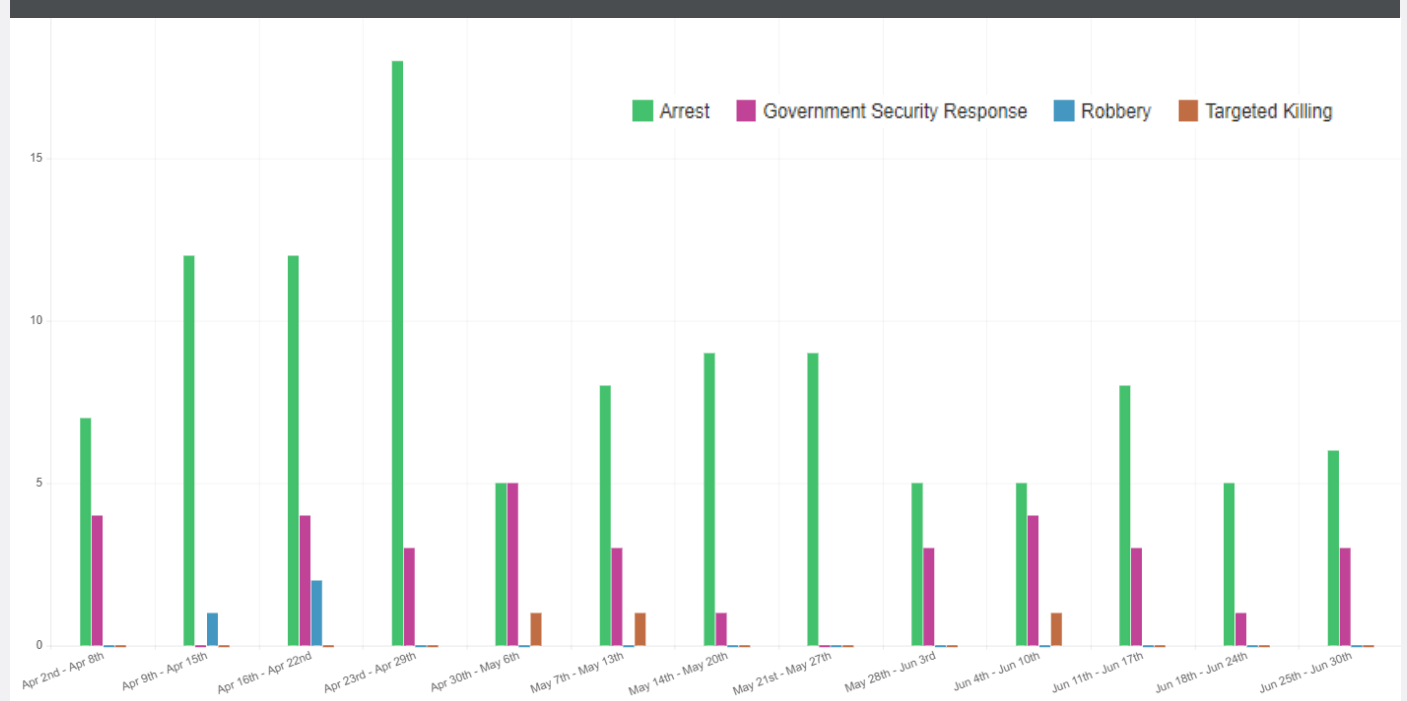


UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ARRESTED IN BENGHAZI

On 27 June, the Internal Security Agency (ISA) arrested Al Qasim Al Obeidi, a professor at the University of Benghazi. The reason for the arrest have not been disclosed, however, Al Obeidi is a noted activist calling for a solution to the Libyan crisis. Al Obeidi's family has called on security authorities in eastern Libya for his release and provide reason for the arrest.

The arrest comes amid continued security operations by eastern Libyan authorities to arrest individuals involved in various crimes, including smuggling and the narcotics trade (see Figure 4). This trend is assessed to continue in the short to medium term.

FIGURE 4: INCIDENT TREND IN CYRENAICA 2 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2023



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