



KEY EVENTS

1. Haftar made small gains on his offensive to capture Tripoli

28.12.2019 Haftar's fighters have failed to reach the center of Tripoli but have made small gains in recent weeks in some southern suburbs of the capital with the help of Russian and Sudanese fighters, as well as drones shipped by the UAE, diplomats say. The Chinese-made drones have given Haftar "local air superiority" as they can carry over eight times the weight of explosives than the drones given to the GNA by Turkey and can also cover the whole of Libya, a United Nations report said in November. ([Reuters](#))

2. NOC may close Zawiya port and El Sharara oilfield

28.12.2019 Libyan state oil firm NOC is considering the closure of its western Zawiya port and evacuating staff from the refinery located there due to clashes nearby, a statement said. NOC might also shut down the El Sharara oilfield, whose crude is exported via Zawiya port, the statement said. GNA accused LNA of having tried to strike the oil port complex. Zawiya is Libya's biggest functioning refinery, serving the capital Tripoli located some 40km east as well as regions in the west and south of the country. ([Reuters](#))

3. UN Libya Envoy condemns recent airstrikes on civilians

29.12.2019 The top UN official in Libya has condemned recent airstrikes targeting civilian installations that left at least three people dead and several others injured. Ghassan Salamé, head of UNSMIL, called for greater civilian protection following the incidents, which occurred in three locations in the west. "We have said it loud and clear that indiscriminate attacks against civilians not only constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law and human rights law, but also further escalate the conflict and incite future acts of revenge, which threaten the social unity in Libya," he warned in a statement issued on Saturday, adding that "this is utterly unacceptable." ([UN](#))

4. Sources claim that fighters are sent from Syria to Libya

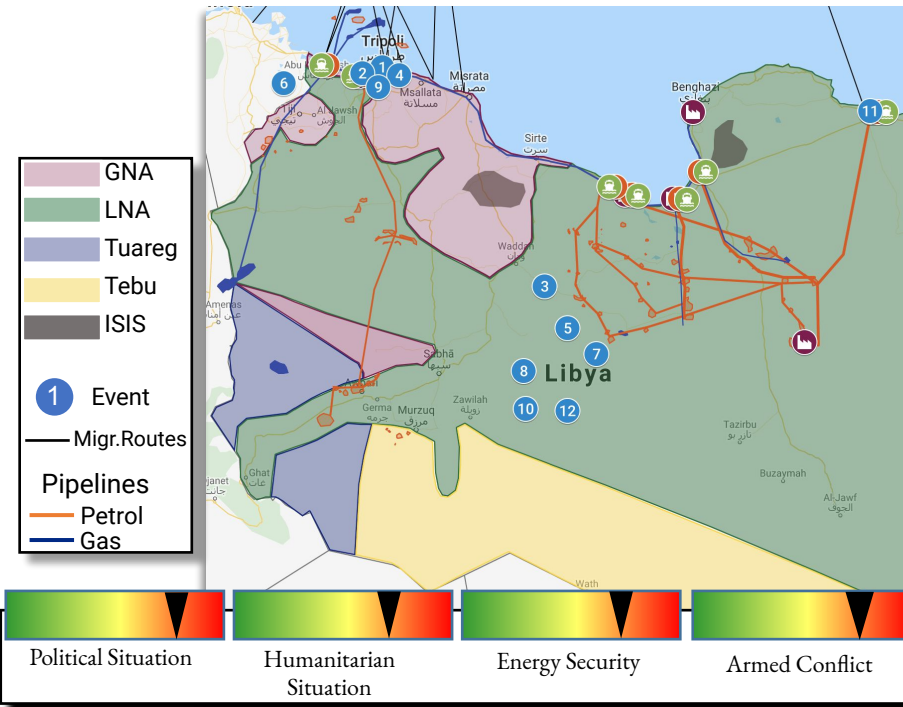
29.12.2019 The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights revealed on Sunday that Turkey had sent 300 fighters from Syria to Libya. Citing trusted sources, it said some 300 fighters had already arrived in the Libyan capital Tripoli, while some 900 to 1,000 recruits were currently receiving training at Turkish camps. They fighters are being paid around 2,000 to 2,500 dollars each for three to six months of contractual service in Libya. The salary would increase the longer the recruit chooses to remain in the North African country. The sources revealed that the fighters who had been sent to Libya were members of the disbanded Hasm movement. ([Al-Awsat](#))

5. The number of Sudanese mercenaries in Libya is increasing

24.12.2019 A new wave of mercenaries from Sudan is fighting in Libya, deepening concerns that the conflict in Libya has descended into an intractable international war that could destabilise much of the region. Leaders of two different groups of Sudanese fighters active in Libya have told the Guardian that they had received hundreds of new recruits in recent months. Both groups were fighting with the LNA. The commanders said that there are at least 3,000 Sudanese mercenaries now fighting in Libya, significantly more than most previous estimates. Earlier this month the UN said the interference of fighters from Sudan in Libya was a direct threat to the security of the war-torn country. A UN panel of experts said in a 376-page report to the security council that the presence of the Sudanese has become more marked in 2019 and may lead to further instability. ([The Guardian](#))

6. Erdogan pays a sudden visit to Tunisia to discuss Libya

25.12.2019 Turkish President paid a surprise visit to Tunisia to discuss cooperation for a possible ceasefire in neighboring Libya. Erdogan, speaking at a joint news conference with Tunisia's President Kais Saied, also reaffirmed Ankara's willingness to send troops to Libya if it received such a request. "We discussed the possible steps we can take and cooperation opportunities with the aim of establishing ceasefire in Libya as soon as possible and returning to a political process," Erdogan said (Reuters). Following this sudden visit, Erdogan announced the two nations agreed to provide political support to the UN-recognized GNA. Erdogan said Turkey and Tunisia agreed to ensure stability in Libya. GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha told a press conference that a Turkish-Tunisian-Algerian alliance was formed to support the Libyan government. Tunisian presidency denied such an alliance. ([AA](#))



ASSESSMENT

- LNA's constant and intensified attacks on the capital and other cities under GNA control have been causing enormous pressure and terror among GNA affiliated militia groups and civilians. The limited progress in the battlefield, however, is not what Haftar and his external backers were expecting. It is evident that, up to now, western militias have been making a good stand against LNA's superior firepower. Nevertheless, it is also evident that the military power of LNA and GNA will not stay at their current level. While Ankara has been vowing over sending troops to support GNA, Egypt and UAE have been working on increasing the Haftar's offensive power. It is highly likely that the war on Tripoli will continue as a stalemate but more destructive and deadly. The rumours about the deployment of Syrian fighters to fight for GNA—rumours denied by GNA—might be seen as the advance party of the Erdogan's support to GNA, which will ensure the continuation of the fighting against Haftar. On the other hand, in addition to Russian mercenaries—according to the Guardian—Haftar already managed to recruit thousands of Sudanese fighters for his army.
- Erdogan's surprise visit to Tunisia is perceived as a move to gain the alliance of Tunis for the purpose of using Tunisian ports and airfield to deploy troops/fighters and military equipment to support GNA. The country, however, is not willing to be a part of current military escalation. Looking at the statements of Tunisian speakers, it can be inferred Erdogan was not able to get the military alliance he was looking for with Tunisia.
- Oil deals between Russian oil giants and GNA institutions are another essential factor to be followed. Such kind of economic relations very reason for Russian keeping good relations with both of the fighting groups in Libya. Russia seems aware of the fact that Haftar will not be able to gain control of whole Libya and controlling both sides of the conflict is the purpose of Russian policy. Ankara-Moscow relations and the role of Turkey in Libya conflict can also be read as part of Russian policy to control both parties of Libya, which will be analyzed in a separate paper.

7. Turkey accelerates troop deployment process to Libya

28.12.2019 Turkish Parliament may meet extraordinary early next week to discuss sending troops to Libya. According to Sabah newspaper, the approval of the deployment of troops to Libya can be submitted to the Parliament on Monday (December 30). ([Sabah](#))

8. Russia reacts Ankara's plans to send troops to Libya

26.12.2019 It took just hours for the Russian government to react to the declaration of Turkish President that he plans to send troops to Libya to bolster the government of Tripoli led by Fayeze al-Serraj. Ankara has used as a pretext an invitation that the Tripoli government issued for military assistance from Ankara. Dmitry Peskov, Vladimir Putin's official spokesman said: "We have repeatedly said how Russia sees the crisis in Libya. We want an immediate end to the conflict and an end to bloodshed in the country." ([Tovima](#))

9. Italian PM: No-fly zone could achieve peace in war-torn Libya

28.12.2019 The Libyan crisis could be settled by introducing a no-fly zone over Libya as an option, but not through military intervention, Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said on Saturday. Conte stressed that recent telephone conversations with the presidents of Russia and Turkey proved the existence of the ongoing political dialogue on the Libyan crisis. During the conversation with Erdoganw, Conte had urged him to refrain from ground military intervention in support of GNA. The Turkish operation "will open the way for unbelievable military escalation, which will lead to many casualties among the civilian population and will not allow anyone to achieve victory," the Italian prime minister said. ([Sputnik](#))

10. Trump and Sisi reject foreign exploitation in Libya

27.12.2019 US President Donald Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi have agreed in a phone call that they reject "foreign exploitation" in Libya and urged parties to the conflict to take "urgent steps" to resolve the fighting, the White House said. ([The National](#))

11. Head of HoR visits Cyprus

28.12.2019 Speaker of Libyan HoR, Aguila Saleh, visited Cyprus on Saturday. He said that a possible involvement by Turkey in the Libya crisis with the deployment of troops in the country, will mean the complete destabilisation not just of Libya but the whole region. He also wanted Cyprus to convey the message to the EU. ([Cyprus Mail](#))

OPINION

12. Putin Makes A Move in Libya's Oil Crescent

25.12.2019 A good read on the relations and expectations of Russian oil companies with/from Libyan factions and National Oil Company (NOC): Russian Tatneft could opt to develop its acreage in the Sirte Basin, however, saw Ghadames a more viable bet. This might seem odd given the constructive relationship between Moscow and Haftar – Sirte is much deeper in Haftar— controlled territory and thus might be perceived as safer to work at. ([Oil Price](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Haftar intensifies his attacks upon Tripoli and other GNA-allied cities

21.12.2019 LNA have intensified airstrikes on Tripoli and other cities over the last few days. Haftar and his supporters' aircraft struck over the last days Tripoli, Misrata, Zliten and Masallata, heavily targeting military and civilian locations according to [\(Libya Observer\)](#)

2. LNA gives three-day to Misrata militias to pull out from Tripoli

22.12.2019 A Libyan force fighting to capture the Tripoli from the U.N.-supported government based there on Friday gave the defending militias a three-day deadline to pull out. The self-styled Libyan National Army issued a statement demanding that the powerful Misrata militias, which are fighting on behalf of the government in the Libyan capital, withdraw from both Tripoli and the coastal city of Sirte. The Misrata militias are named after the western Libyan town of Misrata, which saw some of the heaviest fighting during the 2011 uprising that led to the ouster and killing of longtime dictator Moammar Qaddafi. The militias played a key role in Qaddafi's ouster. Friday's LNA statement warned that if the militias do not withdraw, their town Misrata will continue to be targeted "every day, non-stop and in an unprecedentedly intensive way." [\(Arab News\)](#)

3. ICC chief Prosecutor warns Haftar

16.12.2019 The International Criminal Court's Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda, speaking to France24 from The Hague, warned Libyan Khalifa Haftar that she was monitoring his current offensive on Tripoli. She urged him to hand over one of his lieutenants, Mahmoud al-Werfalli, who is wanted by the ICC and whom Haftar recently promoted. [\(France 24\)](#)

4. GNA seizes a ship with its Turkish crew

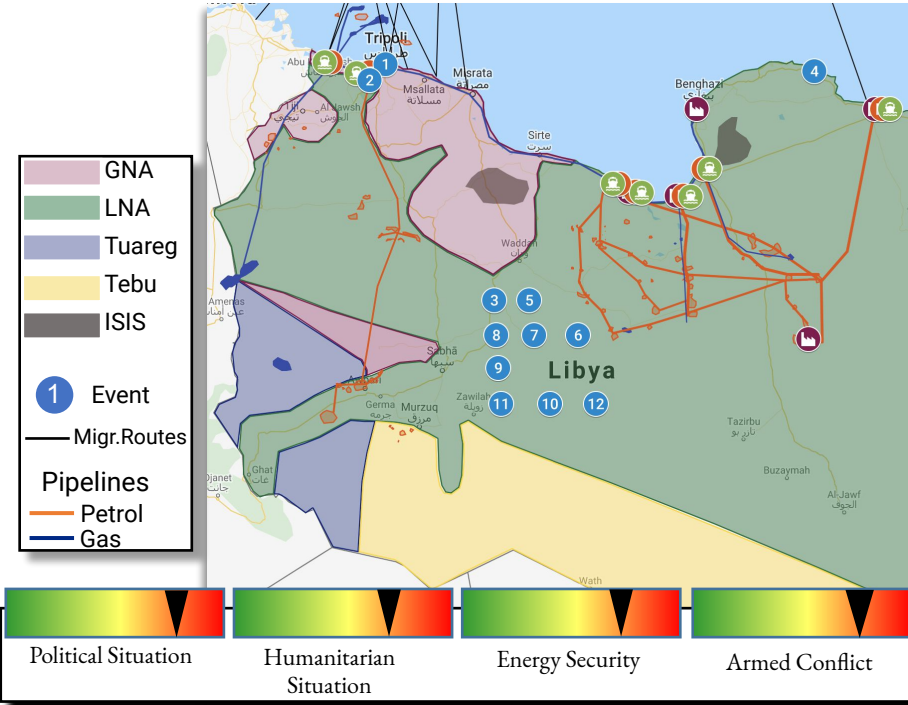
21.12.2019 Eastern Libyan forces seized a Grenada-flagged ship with a Turkish crew on Saturday off the Libyan coast, a spokesman said, amid rising tensions with Turkey, which supports the rival and internationally recognised Libyan government in Tripoli. An LNA naval combat vessel stopped the ship in Libyan territorial waters off the eastern city of Derna and towed it to Ras El Hilal port "for inspection and to verify its cargo", spokesman Ahmed Mismari told. It was not immediately clear what the ship was carrying. [\(Reuters\)](#)

5. Rumors over US sanctions on Russia's presence in Libya surprise Moscow

18.12.2019 Moscow is surprised over reports on the development of a US bill on sanctions against Russia for alleged military presence in Libya, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said. She reminded that US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had stated on Tuesday that the US is ready to work with Russia on Libyan regulation. "Yet, there are confusing reports - though confusing doesn't cut it anymore when we are discussing the US - on active development of another bill called the Libya Stabilization Act," she said. "It supposes sanctions against Moscow for some alleged Russian military presence in Libya. They want to accuse Russia of military intervention, which has become the main destabilizing factor in this state," the diplomat explained. Zakharova noted that the Russian stance on Libya remains unchanged. "Russia calls for an end to all military action and for inclusive political inter-Libyan dialogue as the only way of conflict regulation." According to her, in this context, Russia is ready to make a significant contribution, as it maintains contact with all active political forces. [\(TASS\)](#)

6. US finds Turkey-Libya deal provocative

22.12.2019 The United States has criticised a maritime and security deal between Turkey and Libya that could see Ankara deploy troops to the North African conflict as "unhelpful," "provocative" and a concern for Washington. "Now with the maritime boundaries, you're drawing in Greece and Cyprus... From the United States' perspective, this is a concern," a senior US State Department official on Saturday. "It's not the time to be provoking more instability in the Mediterranean." [\(The National\)](#)



ASSESSMENT

- ❑ The signing of Libya-Turkey agreements turned the crisis into a zero-sum game. With the addition of fight for natural resources of the Mediterranean to the Libya crisis, now the stakes are higher than ever. The delicate situation of Tripoli defense urges both parties of the conflict to act in super haste. In a couple of days, the Turkish Parliament ratified the Libya agreement, and Erdogan voiced the possibility of sending troops to Libya. Seeing imminent Turkish military involvement, Egypt's Sisi signalled Egyptian military involvement to back Haftar. According to some sources, Egypt already started to dispatching T-72 tanks and APCs to support Haftar.
- ❑ Moscow-Ankara relations is another essential equation for the Libya Crisis. Turkey will increase its military support to GNA. Rather than regular military units, it would be through the deployment of mercenaries and heavy weapons. Russia, however, would not allow a powerful Turkish intervention, which would lead to the total defeat of Haftar. Considering the latest NATO and Syria related crisis, Erdogan and Putin are of great value for each other. As seen in Syria, without conflicting with Turkey, Putin is able to limit Erdogan's policies through strategic manoeuvres. As they did in Syria, Putin and Erdogan might reach a compromise solution for Libya. Nevertheless, the parameters of this compromise are still to be seen.
- ❑ The disturbance of Egypt, Greece, Russia, Israel, Cyprus, Italy and France and some other EU members from new Libya-Turkey agreement is likely to lead to a new counter political and military coalition, which will make the relations in the Mediterranean tense. For Egypt, it is seen as a national security issue. The country shares a 1,115 km borderline with Libya. Since the military coup in 2013, Egypt is at odds with Turkey and sees the Muslim Brotherhood as its main enemy. It is highly likely that Egypt will militarily oppose a Turkish intervention to Libya. [To read more...](#)

7. US is concerned about intensified Russian involvement to Libya

21.12.2019 The US is "very concerned" about the intensification of the conflict in Libya, with a rising number of reported Russian mercenaries supporting Khalifa Haftar's forces on the ground turning the conflict into a bloodier one, a senior State Department official said. "We are very concerned about the military intensification," the official told Reuters. "We see the Russians using hybrid warfare, using drones and aircraft... This isn't good." "With the increased numbers of reported Wagner forces and mercenaries on the ground, we think it's changing the landscape of the conflict and intensifying it," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, referring to a shadowy group of mercenaries known as Wagner. Pompeo said there could be no military solution to the fighting and that Washington had warned countries against sending weapons to Libya, adding that he reminded Lavrov specifically of the U.N. arms embargo on Libya. [\(Reuters\)](#)

8. Egypt conducts military exercise against Tripoli-Ankara deal

20.12.2019 Egyptian naval forces conducted military drills against the backdrop of the maritime border and security agreement signed by Turkey and GNA. In a Dec. 11 statement, the Egyptian army said these military exercises come in implementation of an Egyptian military strategy aimed at developing its capabilities in the face of the challenges and risks witnessed in the region. [\(Al-Monitor\)](#)

9. Egypt sends tanks and APCs to Libya

20.12.2019 A consignment of Egyptian T-72 tanks and APCs arrived in Libya on Thursday to bolster Haftar's LNA, which had just broken through to the southern outskirts of Tripoli. This consignment was personally ordered by Egyptian President El-Sisi, DEBKAfile's military and intelligence sources reveal, along with instructions to a number of Egyptian air force squadrons to stand ready to support Haftar's push to take the capital from the UN-recognized GNA. [\(Debka\)](#)

10. Erdogan warns against legalizing Haftar

21.12.2019 Turkish president, Erdogan, warned on Friday of legalising Khalifa Haftar at the expense of the internationally-backed government in Tripoli, Anadolu Agency reports. Speaking to journalists following his visit to Malaysia, Erdogan disclosed: "Haftar is not politically legal. There are certain sides who seek to give him legitimacy, while Al-Serraj (head of GNA) is the leader and legal representative." Erdogan noted that Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, France and Italy are taking part in this endeavour. He also expressed his disappointment in Russia's covert involvement. "We cannot stay idle regarding the Russian Wagner Group mercenaries in Libya," he announced. Erdogan's warning came following Russian Interfax News reporting a Russian Foreign Ministry source expressing Moscow's worries regarding the possibility that Turkey may send forces to Libya, adding that the security pact between Ankara and Tripoli raises many questions. [\(MEMO\)](#)

11. TBMM ratifies military cooperation with Libya

21.12.2019 Turkey's parliament approved on Saturday a security and military cooperation deal signed with Libya's internationally recognised government last month, state media reported, an agreement that could pave the way for military help from Ankara. The state-run Anadolu news agency said that Turkey's parliament voted 269-125 in favour of the security accord after Serraj's Government of National Accord (GNA) ratified it on Thursday. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan has said Turkey could deploy troops to Libya in support of the GNA but no request has yet been made. He said on Friday that Turkey could not remain silent over Russian-backed mercenaries backing Haftar's forces. Russia said it was very concerned about the possibility of Turkey deploying troops in Libya and that the security deal raised many questions for Moscow. Erdogan will discuss Ankara's potential troop deployment to Libya with Russian President Vladimir Putin during talks in Turkey next month, the Kremlin said on Tuesday. Speaking on Saturday, Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay said the accords with Libya were historic for Turkey and added Ankara was ready to evaluate possible troop deployment. [\(Reuters\)](#)

12. Russia is returning to Libya, with or without Haftar

20.12.2019 It is clear that Moscow has decided to play a more active role in the Libyan direction. However, there is reason to question the scope and extent of the Kremlin's involvement. Unlike Bashar al-Assad, who does not advertise the presence of Russian specialists in the Syrian army, the Libyan military commander Haftar, on the contrary, does not mind exaggerating it for certain purposes. [\(Riddle\)](#)

KEY EVENTS

1. Haftar initiates a new wave of “final battle” on Tripoli

12.12.2019 Libyan Commander Khalifa Haftar urged his forces to advance toward the center of Tripoli in what he said would be the “final battle” for the capital. “Today we announce the decisive battle and the advancement toward the heart of the capital to set it free ...advance now our heroes,” Haftar said in a televised speech broadcast. His forces have often issued announcements of advances or decisive military action that have been followed by little concrete change on the battlefield. “Our forces are ready to fight any new insane attempt,” by Haftar to attack the city, Libya’s al-Ahram channel quoted Tripoli’s interior minister Fathi Bashagha as saying. ([Reuters](#))

2. Serraj and head of EU Libya delegation dismiss Haftar’s new offensive

13.12.2019 A day after Haftar declared a final, “decisive battle” to take Tripoli, the prime minister of Libya’s U.N.-supported government, Serraj, called on Libyans to rally around him in the defense of the nation. In a video posted on the Libyan government’s Facebook page, Serraj dismissed Haftar’s claim about a new push as “lies” and “delusions” and said his forces have already “taught the invaders a lesson.” The head of the EU’s delegation for relations with Maghreb Countries, Andrea Cozzolino, said Friday she was concerned about Haftar’s threats and warned that a new offensive would only lead “to more suffering for the Libyan civilian population, who have already paid a high price.” “I call on the European Union and the international community as a whole to condemn such threats and take all necessary measures to prevent a bloodbath,” she said in a statement posted on the official website of the EU parliament. ([AP](#))

3. Russia calls for dialogue in Libya

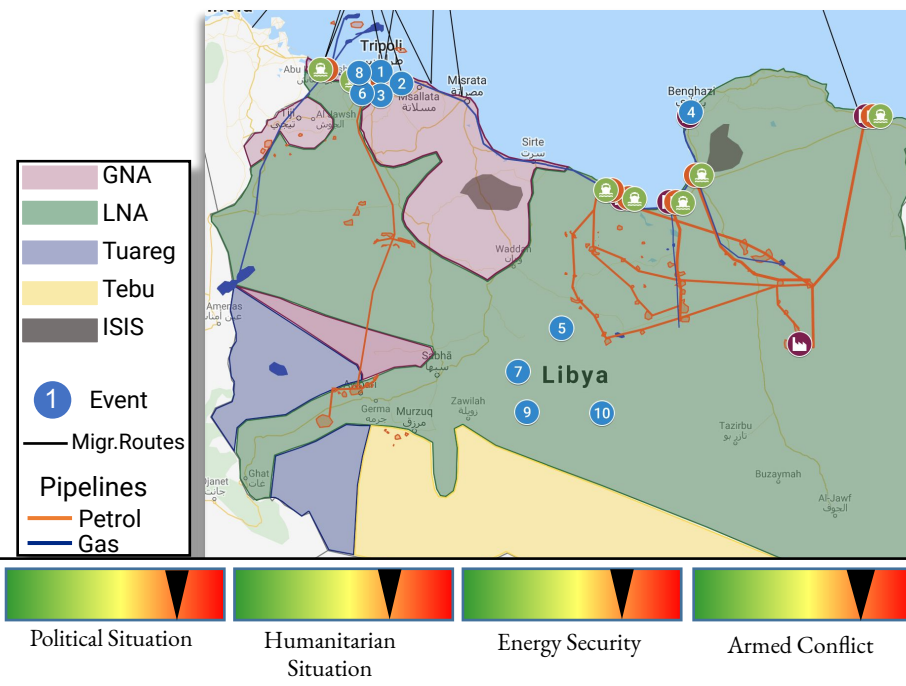
13.12.2019 Russia’s Foreign Ministry called for dialogue between hostile groups to resolve the crisis in Libya. Moscow and Ankara are seeking common ground regarding the situation in Libya, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Grushko told reporters. They have an understanding that the problem should be solved by Libyans themselves with the participation of all parties by means of negotiations, he said. ([RT](#))

4. LNA Spox asserts the shipment of new armoured vehicles to GNA

11.12.2019 The spokesperson for the Haftar’s LNA, Ahmed Mismari, has said that Turkey is openly providing military support to militias in Tripoli, reports Al-Arabiya. Mismari added that the army has information confirming that the Mitiga airport will soon be receiving armored vehicles sent by Ankara. The spokesman stressed that the time for diplomacy in Libya had ended and that now was the time for weapons. Mismari added that Turkish backing to Tripoli-based arms groups had been transformed from secret support to open support and that the LNA battle in Tripoli is a regional and not only local one. ([Ansa-Med](#))

5. Conte to speak Erdogan over his “mistaken approach” on Libya

13.12.2019 Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said at a press conference following the EU summit that he would be contacting Turkish President in relation to the latter’s “mistaken approach” on Libya. Conte said that he had already met with Erdogan at the NATO summit in London. Italy, he said, holds that Turkey’s agreement with GNA is “unacceptable since it seems to engage in an illusory logic of the dividing of spheres of competence. Such an agreement has no real effectiveness and it shows an absolutely mistaken approach.” ([Ansa](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Since the beginning of Haftar offensive on Tripoli, we have been witnessing the most active times of the Libya crisis. First, US reactions to increasing Russian involvement; then, two agreements between Serraj and Erdogan —the first about partition of maritime zones in the Mediterranean, and the second about Turkish rapid military reaction force to Libya— shifted the orbit of the longstanding stalemate in Libya.
- The signing of agreements turned the crisis into a zero-sum game; where, the winner will get everything in Libya. Incorporating the natural resources of the Mediterranean, now the stakes are higher than ever for both winners and losers of the Libya crisis. The delicate situation of Tripoli forces oblige both parties of the conflict to act in super haste. Haftar launched his most assertive “final battle” on Tripoli at all fronts of the clashes. Serraj, once again, came to Istanbul to ensure sizable Turkish military support. All these international meddling coincided with the new UN Panel of Experts report on Libya, which evinces and condemns the violations of UN Security Council arms embargo on Libya.
- Since the fall of Ghaddafi in 2011, the crisis in Libya was a low to mid-intensity internal conflict with proxy war elements. Following the aforementioned latest developments, rather than a proxy war, regional and international actors are more and more directly involved in Libya. If this trend continues, the conflict might overstep the boundaries of Libya and spill over the region. This constitutes a very high risk against the stability of Southern Europe and Mediterranean. The prominent international stakeholders of the Libya crisis, like Italy, France, UK and US, who left the crisis unsolved in the last eight years, who left GNA so desperate, and who overlooked the spoilers will share greater responsibility if they do not act swiftly.

6. Haftar’s forces get closer to capital Tripoli

14.12.2019 During the past several days, forces loyal to Haftar was reported to have advanced in and around the Tripoli. Amateur video on Arab TV channels appeared to show forces loyal to Haftar moving on several strategic locations in the capital. Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV, which supports Haftar, said his forces had captured the suburb of Ain Zara, as well as a militia base under the control of forces loyal to the Tripoli government of PM Fayez al-Sarraj. ([VOA](#))

7. Sisi: GNA is hold hostage by militias

15.12.2019 Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said in televised comments that the GNA “is not able to have a free and real will because they have been taken hostage by armed and terrorist militias there.” Sisi said his country has been “negatively affected” by the conflict in Libya. Last week, the Egyptian president said a comprehensive political solution would be achieved in the coming months that would put an end to a “terrorist hotbed that pushes militants and weapons to (Libya’s) neighboring countries including Egypt.” ([Al-Awsat](#))

8. Serraj goes to back to Istanbul to meet Erdogan

15.12.2019 Serraj held talks with Erdogan in Istanbul, just days after the Turkish leader said he was ready to send troops into Libya if requested by Tripoli. The closed-door meeting, which was not on Erdogan’s official agenda, took place in Istanbul. Erdogan declared on Tuesday that Turkey is prepared to send troops into Libya if requested. On Saturday, his Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said that there had not yet been any such request. In another sign of the Turkey-Libya rapprochement, Ankara announced on Saturday that Libyans younger than 16 or older than 55 would be allowed to enter Turkey without visas. ([Al-Arabiya](#))

9. UN Panel of Experts issues new Libya Report

09.12.2019 This week UN Panel of Experts issued their latest report on Libya. Report gives evidences of arms embargo violations of UAE and Jordan for Haftar and of Turkey for GNA and indicates mentions other violations as under investigation. Concrete oil smuggling cases are also written in the report. It says Russia printed 9.7 bn LYD for Eastern authorities. The reporters complain from lack of cooperation and compliance of the member states to asset freeze and other sanctions of the UN Security Council against the spoilers in Libya. The report also specifies that both sides of the conflict use foreign fighters, but LNA (~3000 men) has way more foreign fighters than the GNA (~450 men) (UN) ([UN](#))

10. OCHA: Nearly 900K people will need humanitarian assistance in Libya

13.12.2019 Nearly 900,000 people in Libya will need humanitarian assistance in 2020, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). “This reflects the most vulnerable people that have been identified as having the most severe needs,” OCHA said. The people who need humanitarian assistance in Libya are internally displaced persons, returnees, non-displaced conflict-affected people, refugees and migrants.. OCHA also estimated that 655,000 refugees and migrants are in Libya, incl. 48,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers. “However, refugees and migrants continue to be exposed to protection risks, human rights violations, exploitation and abuse.” “It is estimated that 115 million U.S. dollars will be necessary to complement the Libyan authorities’ efforts to respond to the needs of the people in Libya. ([Libyan Express](#))



KEY EVENTS

1. GNA downs LNA aircraft over Tripoli and captures the pilot

07.12.2019 The forces of Volcano of Rage Operation under the Libyan Presidential Council government's command have downed a MIG23 for Khalifa Haftar's forces in southern Tripoli and its forces have captured the pilot. The operation's media office said that the MIG23 was shot on Yarmouk Camp frontline in southern Tripoli, adding that the pilot Amer Al-Jagam was captured after he had ejected himself. Social media posts circulated footage and photos for the aircraft burning in Al-Zawiya and the pilot being captured. Senior leader Al-Taher bin Ghariba told reporters that Volcano of Rage Operation forces had shot down two aircraft not one on Saturday; one fell in Al-Zawiya and the other was shot in Yarmouk Camp frontline and fell somewhere under Haftar's control in southern Tripoli. Southern Tripoli frontlines saw heavy clashes Saturday morning as Libyan Army out attacks under air cover on Yarmouk Camp and Khallatat frontlines to regain positions lost over the last days, when Haftar's forces gained some advances that experts attributed to the sophisticated Russian mercenaries fighting for them and using high-quality weapons. ([Libya Observer](#))

2. GNA Interior Minister sees the MoU to boost military capabilities

07.12.2019 The Libyan Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha said the MoU with Turkey will strengthen the GNA and boost its defenses against the ongoing offensive against Tripoli, saying his government will work toward developing the MoU to allow it to defend itself. Bashagha said in an interview on Libya Al-Ahrrar TV Channel that the security MoU with Turkey includes developing security capabilities, training, information exchange and fighting illegal immigration. He also said that Qatar is supporting the Presidential Council's government in Libya and is ready to back up the establishment of the Libyan Army, saying his last visit to Doha was a remarkable success. He said the US will broker a security dialogue for all state security and military institutions in Libya, saying his government has already signed a preliminary agreement in that regard. He also said that the government is working on a mechanism to allow fighters to join state security and military institutions after calm descends on the capital ([Libya Observer](#))

3. LNA rejects to return downed drone back to US

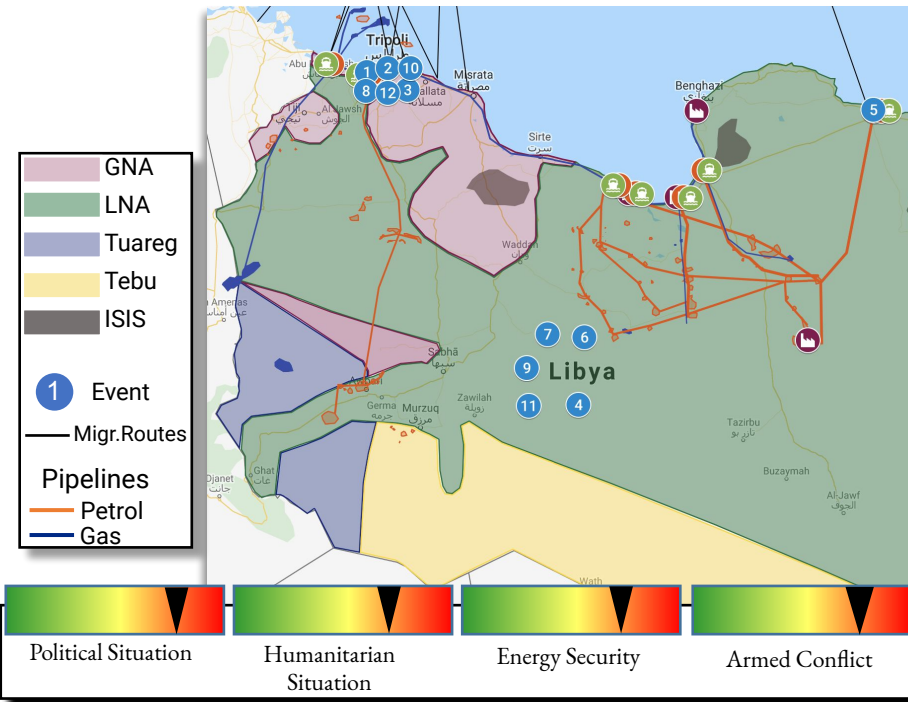
07.12.2019 The U.S. military believes that an unarmed American drone reported lost near Libya's capital last month was in fact shot down by Russian air defenses and it is demanding the return of the aircraft's wreckage, U.S. Africa Command says. U.S. Army General Stephen Townsend, who leads Africa command, said that the LNA is refusing to return the downed US drone. They say they don't know where it is, but I am not buying it," Townsend told, without elaborating. The U.S. assessment, which has not been previously disclosed, concludes that either Russian private military contractors or LNA were operating the air defenses at the time the drone was reported lost on Nov. 21, said Africa Command spokesman Karns. Defense Secretary Mark Esper, declined to comment directly on the drone but said he believed Russia was trying to "put their finger on the scale" in Libya's civil war to create a situation that was advantageous to Moscow. ([Reuters](#))

4. UN Security Council expresses concern over arms embargo to Libya

02.12.2019 The members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern at the recent escalation of violence in Libya. The Members of the Security Council stressed the need for all parties urgently to de-escalate the situation and to commit to a ceasefire. The members of the Security Council expressed particular concern regarding the reported breaches of the arms embargo set out by Special Representative Salamé in his briefing as well as the growing involvement of mercenaries. They called for full compliance with the arms embargo by all Member States. They called on all Member States not to intervene in the conflict or to take measures that would exacerbate the conflict. ([UN](#))

5. Eastern Libya Parliament pushing for take over the GNA seat at the Arab League

05.12.2019 A deal between Fayez al-Sarraj, head of Libya's Tripoli-based government, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also sparked concern in Riyadh. Gulf affairs experts said the presence of senior Saudi government officials at a meeting December 2 between Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Libyan House of Representatives Speaker Aguila Saleh signaled the importance that Riyadh places on developments. A Libyan diplomatic source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Saleh visit aimed to obtain Saudi support for a petition, submitted to the UN secretary-general and the Arab League secretary-general, requesting the withdrawal of both organizations' recognition of the GNA in Libya. The Libyan delegation also sought support for the formation of a government of national unity whose head would be appointed by the Libyan parliament and supported by the General Command of the Libyan Army. ([Arab Weekly](#))



ASSESSMENT

- This week —thanks to superior air support and Russian mercenaries— Haftar's LNA succeeded in gaining more ground in its endeavor to capture capital Tripoli. Witnessing significant impact of direct involvement of Russian fighters and weapons in the battlefield, the GNA government rushed for finding support from international actors. Last week, GNA Interior and Foreign ministers were in the USA to garner support against decisive Russian involvement. This week prime minister Serraj was in Ankara to get more military support from Erdogan government. For Serraj, new MoU is only about getting more military backing. This, however, added a new dimension to Libya Crisis. Ongoing power struggle for having a share of the freshly discovered fossil reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean has been added to the Libya stalemate. EU, Russia, US, Israel, some of the states with conflicting interest with Turkey in the Mediterranean; will likely come automatically closer to Egypt, KSA, UAE and Haftar camp.
- Serraj's signature of the MoU shows his despair to find more support in terms of arms and military equipment to maintain the defence of Tripoli. But it is likely that eventually, Serraj will lose more than he gets from this MoU. On the bright side for Serraj, downing of one or allegedly two LNA aircrafts in one day (Saturday) indicates new acquired capabilities, probably attributable to the promises within the MoU stipulating help in the fight against Haftar's increased military capabilities.
- Latest UN Security Council statement urging the member states to not to intervene and reminding about the obligation to obey the UN sanctions on Libya arms embargo has become a useless tradition, which has no bearing on realpolitik. Basically, UNSC is paralyzed due to divergent interests of its members to enforce previously made resolutions let alone making new ones to solve the conflict. UN Libya envoy Ghassan Salame tries for this very reason to convene Berlin Conference in his bid to construct a shared Libya policy among primary external stakeholders. Only a unified UNSC can enforce its sanctions and deter the spoilers.

6. Greece expels Libyan ambassador to Athens

06.12.2019 Greece said it was expelling the Libyan ambassador, angered by an accord between Libya and Turkey signed on Nov. 27 that maps out a sea boundary between the two countries close to the Greek island of Crete. Libya called the move unacceptable. Turkey dismissed it as outrageous. Greek FM Nikos Dendias said the Turkey-Libyan accord was a "blatant violation of international law", telling a news briefing that the ambassador, Mohamed Younis AB Menfi, had 72 hours to leave the country. "This is a legally invalid document," Greek PM Mitsotakis told parliament. Libyan FM Mohamed Siyala told Greece's decision was not acceptable, and Libya would have reciprocated if Greece had diplomatic representation in the country. Turkish FM Mevlut Cavusoglu also condemned the move. "This is outrageous" he told reporters. ([Reuters](#))

7. UN envoy warns against new kind of weapons pouring in Libya

07.12.2019 External interference in the Libya war is growing with new kinds of weapons arriving in the country, UN Special Envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame said. "What is important for us to know is that since the beginning of the war external interference in the Libyan crisis has grown up in different ways, including in the technical support, and this applies to both [Libyan] parties. ...This cannot be allowed to happen indefinitely", Salame said at the Mediterranean Dialogues forum in Rome. The UN representative was especially concerned about an influx of new types of arms into the country. "My efforts have been concentrated on the domestic scene in Libya in order to contain foreign influence. But with the war going on, external interference is becoming much more intense, new kinds of weapons are coming to the country", Salame warned. ([Sputnik](#))

8. GNA to present the names of Russian mercenaries to Russia

05.12.2019 UN recognized Tripoli government say they plan to confront Moscow over the alleged deployment of Russian mercenaries fighting alongside their opponents in the country's civil war. The GNA has documented between 600 to 800 Russian fighters in Libya and is collecting their names in a list to present to the Russian government, according to Khaled al-Meshri, the head of High Council of State. ([AP](#))

9. Lavrov calls for African Union involvement to solve the crisis in Libya

06.12.2019 Top Russian diplomat calls for African Union's involvement in talks on Libya. The African Union should be a full-fledged participant in the talks on resolving the situation in Libya, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Friday. Lavrov drew attention to the fact that many countries had expressed their concern about the MoU signed by Turkey and GNA on maritime jurisdiction. Moreover, Libya's recognized Tobruk-based parliament expressed its disagreement with the document, he added. "The situation in Libya is very complicated, because there are too many players there, too many questions are asked as to who is the most legitimate. There is a UN Security Council decision that must be respected," Lavrov added. ([TASS](#))

10. Libyan oil company suspends its operations due to nearby clashes

07.12.2019 Libya's Brega Petroleum Marketing Company had suspended operations and evacuated all staff from its Tripoli warehouse because of the intensity of clashes and shelling in the city. Brega, which is owned by state oil firm NOC and in charge of fuel supplies. ([Reuters](#))

11. UNHCR calls for closure of migrant detention centers

06.12.2019 The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called for closure of immigration detention centers in Libya and release of refugees and migrants into the urban community. "Currently, there are nearly 4,200 people held in detention centers in Libya, of whom 2,450 are persons of concern to UNHCR," the UNHCR said. "UNHCR continues to call for an end to detention and the gradual and orderly release of all refugees and migrants into the urban community." the UN refugee agency added. UNHCR and its partners have so far conducted more than 1,150 monitoring visits to detention centers in Libya in 2019. On Thursday, UNHCR said 2,178 had left Libya to a safe country through resettlement or evacuation in 2019. ([CGTN](#))

OPINION

12. With the Help of Russian Fighters, Libya's Haftar Could Take Tripoli

05.12.2019 Contrary to the propaganda of Haftar's backers, the collapse of the GNA cordon in southern Tripoli and a push into downtown areas, abetted by a brutal Russian ground campaign and Emirati air power, will not produce a quick victory. Instead, bloody block-by-block street fighting is likely to ensue, especially in neighborhoods and enclaves long opposed to the general's project... ([Foreign Policy](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. US officials meets with Haftar

25.11.2019 Senior U.S. officials met with General Khalifa Haftar to discuss steps to achieve a suspension of hostilities and a political resolution to the Libyan conflict. The officials expressed serious concern over Russia's exploitation of the conflict at the expense of the Libyan people. These frank discussions build on recent talks with Tripoli-based officials aiming to establish a common basis for progress between the parties on the issues that divide them, in the context of moving toward a ceasefire. These include concrete efforts to address militias and extremist elements, and the distribution of resources so they benefit all Libyans. ([State.gov](#))

2. US warns against Russian newly deployed Russian troops in Libya

26.11.2019 Russia has deployed military forces to Libya that are "de-stabilizing" the North African country, a top State Department official warned. David Schenker, the State Department's assistant secretary for near eastern affairs, told reporters that Russia is deploying troops in "significant" numbers to support Gen. Haftar. US officials have previously told CNN that they believe hundreds of Russian mercenaries affiliated with the Wagner Group, a paramilitary organization with ties to the Kremlin, have been in Libya for some time, working on behalf of Moscow and helping Haftar in his bid to capture Tripoli, however Schenker said that Russia is now deploying regular uniformed personnel there as well. The presence of the Russian troops "raises the specter of large-scale casualties among the civilian population," Schenker said. Schenker defended meetings between US officials and Haftar, arguing that such meetings have long taken place. "The significance is that we're dealing with him at higher levels," Schenker said. "We are engaged in trying to find a diplomatic solution ... we as a matter of policy talk to everyone," Schenker said, adding that US government officials have long talked to Haftar. "He has armor and significant forces under his control," the assistant secretary said, noting that Haftar controls 80% of the country. "We meet with everyone. ... This is nothing new." ([CNN](#))

3. Oil production resumes in El Feel Oil Field

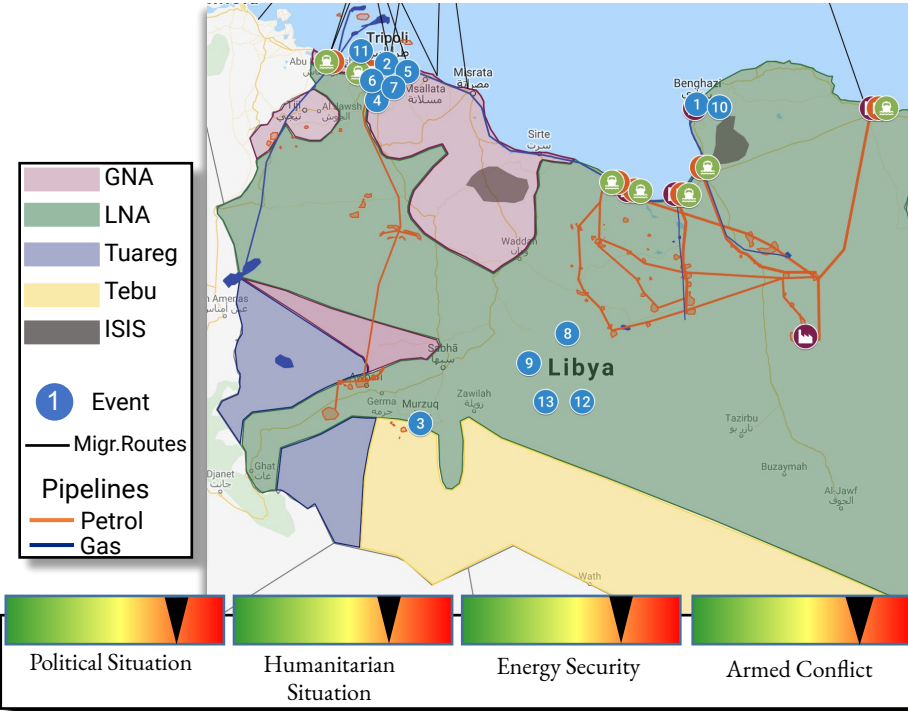
28.11.2019 The El-Feel field had stopped production after GNA forces attacked the forces guarding the field, aligned with Haftar's LNA. Libya's state National Oil Corporation (NOC) confirmed on Thursday that following the cessation of military activity at the El-Feel oil field, production has resumed today. NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla said: "I remind all parties that Libya's oil and gas fields are vital sources of revenues for the benefit of all Libyans. They must not be treated as military targets." "Any fighting in the vicinity of any of our facilities forces us to cease production, in order to ensure the safety of our employees. When production ceases, all Libyans lose out." There are conflicting reports as to who still controls the field after the LNA had yesterday mounted a counterattack, including air strikes, to reclaim control of the field. ([Libya Herald](#))

4. LNA intensifies fighting in Tripoli

27.11.2019 Libyan commander Khalifa Haftar will press a seven-month offensive to seize Tripoli after his forces ended a battlefield stalemate, his spokesman said. General Ahmed al-Mismari said LNA has been gaining ground in heavy fighting on the capital's outskirts. A halt to the war "is not even proposed in the general command at all. This is a battle against terrorists who've committed crimes against civilians, and the Libyan state," he said. "There is a team or two only for maintenance and to direct Libyan technicians to fix weapons, because we have old Soviet weapons," Mismari said, adding that the groups were "very small." ([Bloomberg](#))

5. Ankara and Tripoli governments sign a maritime agreement

27.11.2019 Libya's internationally recognized government and Turkey have signed an agreement on maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean Sea that could complicate Ankara's disputes over energy exploration with other countries. The new agreements were signed at a meeting on Wednesday between Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Fayez al-Seraj, the head of the Tripoli-based government which Ankara is backing against a rival military force. Turkey, which announced the accord and a deal on expanded security and military cooperation, gave no details of their memorandum of understanding and did not specify where Turkish and Libyan waters meet. Libya's neighbor Egypt dismissed the deal as "illegal", and Greece said any such accord would be geographically absurd because it ignored the presence of the Greek island of Crete between the coasts of Turkey and Libya. Tensions are already running high between Athens and Ankara because of Turkish drilling in the eastern Mediterranean off the coast of the divided island of Cyprus, and the EU has prepared sanctions against Turkey in response. The dispute has left Ankara searching for allies in the region. ([Reuters](#))



ASSESSMENT

- In the last couple of years, Libya file had lost its primacy for the US foreign policy. On the other hand, first with mercenaries and arms support then with regular Russian troops, Russia is giving more decisive support to Haftar side. Since last week, US officials started to be more involved to end the fighting in for Tripoli and more outspoken about US disturbance from growing Russian involvement and influence on Libya. Unlike other external meddlers, evidently, Russian support to Haftar has potential to have a more conclusive impact on the success of Haftar's offensive on Tripoli, which would -in case of success- mean recognizing Russian influence on Haftar's policies in the region. Increased Russian control on Libyan natural resources, irregular migration flows, and establishment of a new Russian military base on the southern flank of NATO/EU are only some of the threats that are possibly unsettling the US policymakers.
- However, the US is a bit late in stepping into solving the Libya Crisis. Much has changed since the beginning of Haftar's attack on Tripoli last April; when Russia was not so much dedicated to Libya as well. Now it will be more challenging to stop Haftar and Russia. Hence, it is seen that despite US warnings, Haftar has increased tempo of operations towards Tripoli and downed a US drone flying over Tripoli. Additionally, per Schenker's (US) statements, based on Haftar's de facto control over the %80 of Libyan territory and oil fields, it is apparent that the US still looking ways to distance Haftar from Russian influence.
- Certainly, US-Russia (two permanent members of UNSC) tension will complicate the negotiations for upcoming Berlin Conference. Another challenging factor that was added last week is a new agreement (Memorandum of Understanding on Maritime Issues) signed by Tripoli and Ankara governments. This new agreement will certainly start a new wave of disputes between Egypt, Greece and Turkey that will need to be settled before reaching a compromise in Berlin.

6. Greece asks Libyan ambassador to present a copy of the MoU

29.11.2019 Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias asked Libya's ambassador to Greece to present a copy of the agreement his country signed with Turkey on maritime boundaries by December 5, or risk being expelled from the country. Next week, Dendias will raise the issue in a series of meetings he will hold with counterparts from countries with influence in the region on the sidelines of a NATO and OSCE meetings. ([Ekkathimerini](#))

7. Egypt condemns the signing of MoU between GNA and Turkey

28.11.2019 Egypt condemned the signing of two memoranda of understanding (MoU) by the Turkish and Libyan prime ministers on maritime borders and security, the Egyptian foreign ministry said. "The two memoranda of understanding have no legal effect, they cannot be officially recognised in light of the Skhirat Agreement's Article 8, which stipulates that the [Libyan] government or the cabinet, not the prime minister, have the authority to sign international agreements," the Egyptian foreign ministry said. "It is well known that the current Libyan cabinet lacks ministers and representation of different Libyan regions, and thus the role of the prime minister is limited, and so making agreements with other countries is considered a blatant violation of the Skhirat agreement," the ministry said. Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoury discussed on Thursday the signing of the MoUs in phone calls with his Greek counterpart Nikos Dendias and Cypriot FM Nikos Christodoulides. Shoury and his counterparts agreed that the MoUs have no legal standing and that PM Saraj exceeded his authority as prime minister and violated the Skhirat Agreement. ([Ahram](#))

8. German FM gives no promises for the success of Berlin Conference

30.11.2019 German Foreign Minister 'Heiko Maas' announced his country's desire to hold a summit at the level of leaders to discuss the Libyan crisis early next year. In a meeting in Berlin, organized by the 'Friedrich-Ebert' Foundation, Maas said, Berlin is hosting preparatory meetings for the planned summit between high-level diplomats. The German foreign minister said in press statements, that it is not possible to give assurances that the summit can produce positive results. He added that the summit is expected to produce better results than previous summits and meetings. ([LANA](#))

9. Salame says the road to Berlin Conference is full of obstacles

30.11.2019 Ghassan Salame said "the road is (still) full of obstacles and complications" towards convening inter-Libyan peace talks that could be held in Geneva "probably in the first half of January". "We've recently had many complications, primarily of course concerning this Russian-American tension on the possible presence (in Libya) of Russian security firms," said Salame. Four preparatory meetings have been held in the German capital and a final session is scheduled to take place on December 10, he said. Apart from the Security Council's five permanent member states, Germany, Italy, Egypt, the UAE and Turkey have also taken part. "If all goes well, we'll be able to set a date... for the political meeting that should take place most probably in the first days of 2020," in which other countries could also join, said the UN envoy, to be followed by the inter-Libyan talks. ([Daily Mail](#))

10. LNA apologizes for downing US drone by mistake

25.11.2019 LNA say a U.S. military drone was shot down last week by mistake. The U.S. military said it lost the drone Thursday while it was assessing the security situation and monitoring extremist activity. U.S. Africa Command declined to elaborate Monday, saying only that the incident was under investigation. A senior official in the LNA's general command said they mistook the U.S. drone for a Turkish-made drone used by the Tripoli-allied militias. The LNA also downed an Italian drone southeast of Tripoli in recent days. The official said the LNA apologized for shooting down the American drone and has "agreed with the Americans to coordinate their operations over Tripoli and its surrounding areas to avoid similar incidents in the future." ([ABC News](#))

11. Libyan coastguards save 200 migrants

30.11.2019 The Libyan Navy has rescued more than 200 irregular immigrants off the coast of Zawiya, including 33 women and 14 children. "The immigrants - who were of African nationalities- were found on a rubber boat, 48 miles north of Zawiya city," the Libyan Navy Information Office said in a statement. ([Libya Observer](#))

12. Turkey-Libya maritime deal triggers Mediterranean tensions

29.11.2019 Turkey has boosted military aid to allies in Libya, but the maritime deal that comes with it has inflamed Mediterranean geopolitics. Greece and Egypt were among those to voice vehement objections. Two deals signed by Turkey and the internationally recognized government in Libya on maritime boundaries and military cooperation have angered their regional neighbors, ratcheting up tension in the Mediterranean over energy resources and strengthening Turkey's ally in the North African country ahead of a Berlin conference on conflict in the region. ([DW](#))

13. 'Libya is ground zero': drones on frontline in bloody civil war

27.11.2019 Civilian casualties are mounting as opposing sides deploy cheap Turkish and Chinese-made aircraft. The use of lethal drones was once an area dominated by the US, but has spread rapidly, drawing in new conflicts and causing more civilian casualties as warfare is revolutionized. The principal battleground is Libya, where both sides in the ongoing civil war are trying to gain air superiority with cheap Chinese-made craft run by the United Arab Emirates on one side, and equally inexpensive Turkish-made drones on the other. ([The Guardian](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. LNA declares no-fly zone over Tripoli

24.11.2019 Libya's east-based forces under the command of Khalifa Haftar announced a no-fly zone over western Libya; all around Tripoli. The spokesman said that the reason for the decision is "developments in the military operations, and advancement of the army's forces into the capital." "It is necessary to warn the aviation authority and all airlines companies using this area," Al-Mismari said. "Any suspicious target that threatens the safety of the people will be fired upon, whether such a target is on land, in the sea or air," Al-Mismari indicated. In a statement, the GNA Interior Ministry said any action threatening civil aviation and airports "amounts to crimes punishable under national and international law". ([Libya Express](#))

2. Haftar intensifies LNA attacks despite US warning to end his offensive

19.11.2019 Libya's aerial fighting has continued to escalate despite the U.S calling on Haftar to end its attack on Tripoli. Despite repeated statements by the U.S., aerial fighting has continued to intensify in the battle for Tripoli – in total disregard for the U.S. calls for an end to fighting. ([Libya Herald](#))

3. LNA air strike kills 10 civilians, "possible war crime" says UN envoy

18.11.2019 At least ten workers were killed and 35 wounded in an air strike that hit a biscuit factory in Libya in what a senior U.N official said was a possible war crime. The majority of those killed in the strike in Wadi Rabea, 21 km (13 miles) from the centre of Tripoli, were apparently migrants, while two were Libyans. U.N. Libya envoy Ghassan Salame told the Security Council. Pictures posted by authorities showed several wounded people in bloodstained civilian clothes lying on beds in ambulances or medical facilities. "Regardless of whether the attack deliberately targeted the factory or was an indiscriminate attack, it may constitute a war crime," Salame said. He also accused the LNA of causing civilian casualties by increased air strikes with unguided bombs, according to a transcript of his speech released by the U.N. mission in Libya. The LNA had conducted more than 800 drone strikes, Salame said, while forces allied to the Tripoli government had carried around 240. More than 200 civilians have been killed and 128,000 displaced in the conflict, Salame said. ([Reuters](#))

4. LNA spokesperson declares their intention to continue military confrontation

21.11.2019 Ahmed Al Mismari, spokesman for Haftar in Libya, said "no political process can have success if terrorist groups and criminal militias are not eliminated first, dismantled and disarmed". "The Berlin conference needs to make a map of terrorist groups and their supporters, taking into account the UN Security Council resolutions, in particular those that regard parties that support terrorist groups," he said. ([Ansa-Mcd](#))

5. Italian and American drones shot down over Tripoli

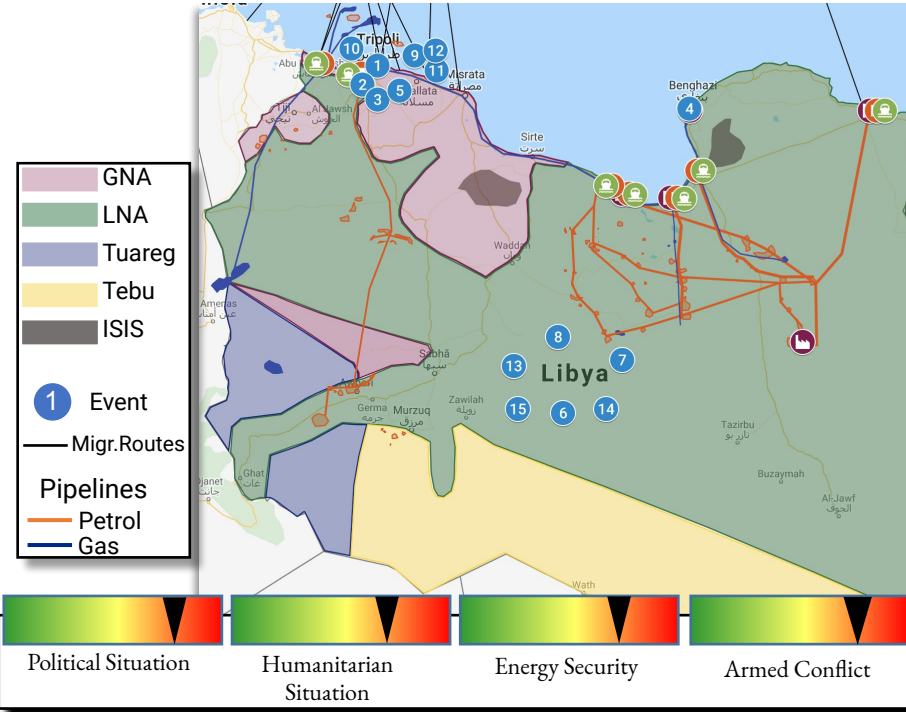
20.11.2019 Two foreign unmanned drones have been "lost" over Tripoli over the last few days. Firstly, on Thursday, the Italian embassy confirmed Libyan media reports and photographs that one of its drones had "crashed" in Libyan territory. Libyan reports said it had been located near Tarhuna, about 65 km southwest of the capital Tripoli. The Italian statement said that "Today (21 November) a remotely piloted aircraft MQ-9 of the Italian Air Force, which was carrying out a mission to support the "Mare Sicuro" operation (counter terrorism mission), crashed in Libyan territory. The causes of the event are being assessed", the Italian statement concluded. Secondly, AFRICOM reported on Friday that "An unarmed U.S. Africa Command remotely piloted aircraft MQ9A was lost over Tripoli. Drone operations are conducted in Libya to assess the ongoing security situation and monitor violent extremist activity. The incident is currently under investigation", concluded the AFRICOM statement. ([Libya Herald](#))

6. UAE/Haftar backed politician meets with Trump's officials

21.11.2019 Trump administration officials have had multiple meetings with a Libyan politician aligned with Haftar, hinting that the administration may be rethinking its Libya policy. In two meetings with National Security Council officials in Washington this fall, Aref al Nayed, an Islamic scholar and former ambassador to the UAE, has pitched himself as a transitional political leader for Libya after Haftar, the military commander, "liberates" Tripoli, according to documents provided by Nayed and multiple sources with knowledge of the meetings. Nayed, who has previously announced that he is running for president of Libya, fiercely condemns the UN-backed GNA and portrays himself as a consensus choice who will be able to bring together Libya's tribal factions under a so-called "National Unity Government." NSC officials were "noncommittal" to Nayed's proposal, according to a former senior U.S. official familiar with the meetings. ([Defense One](#))

7. Salame says peace is possible if Libyan parties reject foreign interference

18.11.2019 United Nations envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame said that peace in the country was possible if parties rejected foreign interference. He told the UN Security Council that preparations for an international summit in Berlin are underway and that a "crucial" meeting of senior officials Wednesday aims to reach agreement on an outline of actions needed to end the conflict. These include a return to the Libyan-led peace process, a ceasefire, implementation of the arms embargo against Libya, security and economic reforms, and upholding international human rights and humanitarian law, he said. He pleaded with foreign actors to honor the arms embargo. "All that is needed now is for you, the international community, to come together to provide the necessary umbrella for the Libyan parties themselves to join hands to end the conflict and resume dialogue," Salame said. ([Al-Awsat](#))



ASSESSMENT

• Last week, as result of intensified shelling on populated areas in western Libya and favourable weather conditions, the number of attempts to reach Europe from Libya through the Mediterranean boosted. Accordingly, the number of intercepted or rescued migrants and loss of lives dramatically increased. The figures by IOM (600 people in two days) once again demonstrated desperate migrants prefer dying at sea rather than staying in Libya. Likewise, the number of migrants saved by charity ships grew, which meant a chance to test the automatic distributing agreement of the rescued migrants among EU states to ease the burden on southern members. Upsettingly, the news over stranded migrants indicates a problem with the implementation of this mechanism.

• The shooting down of Italian and US drones over Libya was another significant development of this week. US drones are used fighting against ISIS. Italian drone, however, was downed over Tarhuna (a city within mainland Libya, some 50 kilometers from the Mediterranean shore) can be seen as an indication of Italian intervention to the crisis. Additionally, both of the drones were US made, one of the most sophisticated of its kind (MQ-9 series). Their downing requires advanced equipment which is not likely that LNA own. Taken together with the latest US statements against Russian presence in Libya, Russian involvement seems plausible.

• Still, if LNA acquired a new advanced anti-drone capability, it would be a game-changer in Libya stalemate, where drones play a significant role in the fighting. Intrinsically, such an advance capability points out Russia. On the other hand, despite US warning, if Russia increased its involvement within the Libya crisis in such a provoking way, this could trigger different international alignments on the US end.

• Another addressee of last week's US warning, LNA, who was called to stop its attacks on Tripoli. On the contrary, the rebel entity intensified its attacks and shelling on Tripoli. Developments have potential to lead to a loss of support for Haftar in the US although the extent cannot be foreseen at this point. Such a tension between the US and Russia —two permanent members of UNSC— can ruin the preparations for Berlin Conference as well. The raison d'être of the Berlin Conference was reaching an agreement on enforcing the UN arms embargo and constructing a common International approach to Libya Crisis, both of which undoubtedly requires an agreement between the US and Russia. Hence, the latest developments on the battlefield would be disruptive for the success of the Berlin conference.

8. NOC will increase oil output to 1.5 mbd by next year

21.11.2019 The NOC is spending LD 1.5 billion to increase oil output to 1.5 mbd within the next year. It also plans to see oil production hit 2.1 mbd and gas production rise to 3.4 billion cubic feet a day by 2024. According to Sanalla, oil production is currently 1.25 mbd. Sanallah was speaking on Wednesday in Tunis to a large visiting delegation from the Libyan British Business Council (LBBC). The speaker of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Saddek Elkaber also addressed the gathering. According to Sanalla, 2020 is to be a "year of transformation" as NOC moves towards its target of 2.1 m b/d in 2024. Work will start on repairing damaged and destroyed oil fields, new wells will be drilled, others reopened or upgraded, pipelines repaired, and new production technology installed. ([Libya Herald](#))

9. Italy leaves migrant stranded on charity ship

24.11.2019 The Open Arms picked up 73 migrants from a packed rubber dinghy drifting about 50 miles off Libya on Wednesday night and is seeking a safe harbor for those who remain on board. Italian authorities have evacuated 11 migrants from the Open Arms ship but not granted port access to the vessel, leaving it stranded in rough seas with 62 African migrants still on board, a spokeswoman for the Spanish rescue mission said. Among those evacuated are two young children and their families, several people suffering from burns and one man with a gunshot wound to his foot. ([Reuters](#))

10. More than 600 migrants have been discovered in two days

23.11.2019 Libya's coast guard intercepted more than 430 Europe-bound migrants this week, including a pregnant woman who gave birth to a baby girl on a boat the guard said. Four boats carrying 284 migrants were intercepted in separate operations off the coastal towns of Zawiya, Garabulli and Abu-Kemdash, and the city of Tripoli, the coast guard said in a statement. They were stopped Wednesday and migrants were handed over to authorities in Tripoli and taken to detention centers, it said. In a separate statement, the coast guard stopped another boat with 99 migrants on board off the coast town of Khoms on Thursday. Among them was a pregnant woman who gave birth to a baby girl on the coast guard's boat, the statement said. A sixth boat carrying 50 migrants was also stopped off Khoms on Friday. The U.N.'s migration agency said Friday that in a span of two days, at least nine boats carrying more than 600 migrants have been discovered on the central Mediterranean route. A tenth boat arrived Thursday in Italy's Lampedusa. ([AP](#))

11. 20 migrants missing at sea; 143 saved by Italian Coastguard

23.11.2019 Italian coastguards said they had rescued 143 migrants off the island of Lampedusa, although about 20 others were missing, according to the survivors. "The crews of four patrols rescued 143 people who had fallen into the sea" from a 10-metre boat, the coastguard said in a statement cited by AFP. Survivors said that about 20 of those who had been on the boat were missing. Two men, an Eritrean and a Libyan, said they had been unable to locate their wives after the rescue. A search for the missing continued on Saturday evening with two planes from Frontex and the Italian navy flying over the area. Those rescued were taken to Lampedusa, where they were allowed to disembark. Meanwhile, Italy, Germany, France and Malta jointly asked the European Commission to activate a migrant-relocation plan for 213 migrants on board the Ocean Viking rescue ship, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said on Saturday. ([MEE](#))

12. Six migrants' bodies washed-up on Libyan coast

22.11.2019 The bodies of six migrants were washed up on the coast east of Libya's capital Tripoli, near al-Khoms, where there have been regular departures of boats packed with migrants trying to reach Italy. ([Reuters](#))

13. Leaked EU reports depicts corruption in Libya detention centers

20.11.2019 The EU has admitted in a leaked report that it cannot monitor the Libyan coastguard and that the detention of migrants is a "profitable business model" for Libya's government, with whom it has recently renewed a controversial deal to stem migration to Europe. The report details the fate of refugees fleeing for Europe who have been picked up by the Brussels-backed coastguard and put in official and unofficial detention camps in dire and dangerous conditions. Widespread human rights violations, deaths, unexplained disappearances, bribery and corruption are cited in the 13-page paper, which still praises the "progress achieved" in reducing the numbers leaving the Libyan coast for Europe. Under a recently renewed multimillion-euro deal, the EU and Italy provide the Libyan coastguard with cash, training and boats to intercept migrants in the Mediterranean, as part of an attempt to block people from European shores. The leaked document, written by the presidency of the EU council for a "high-level working group on asylum and migration", reports: "Serious cases of corruption and bribery in the centres have been detected," the EU paper says. The European parliament's civil liberties committee will investigate the allegations. ([The Guardian](#))

14. Germany's quiet leadership on the Libyan war

20.11.2019 Although Germany's mediation role in the Libyan conflict has received relatively little attention so far, this might change if its initiative leads to a peace conference – or, alternatively, a collapse of the political process. ([ECFR](#))

15. Another conference, another incomplete solution for Libya

21.11.2019 Libya should be created by and for Libyans without external interventions or conferences that do not include all Libyans. Municipalities in most of Libya have resisted the ongoing violence over the years and proved to be key institutions of the country. There is another path. Around 107 local leaders attended meetings in January and March to discuss how to end the ongoing violence in their country. ([Atlantic Council](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. US calls on Haftar to stop his offensive on Tripoli and warns against Russian interference

16.11.2019 The United States calls on the Libyan National Army to end its offensive on Tripoli," the US State Department said in statement late on Thursday after a visit to Washington by GNA Foreign Minister Mohammed Siala and Interior Minister Fathi Bashaga. Discussions focused on security affairs. Eastern MP Faraj al-Shalawi dismissed the American, saying it was "humoring" the GNA delegation. "The decision to stop the war does not lie in the hands of the US or any other country," he stressed. "The LNA has been preparing for a crushing and final attack against all battle fronts" in Tripoli, he revealed to Asharq Al-Awsat. "The US knows very well that the LNA is combating armed militias and the remnants of terrorist groups that were active in Syria," he went on to say. "Haftar is not affiliated with the US or any other foreign power," he declared. Washington also expressed concern over Russia's meddling in Libyan affairs. "The US delegation, representing a number of US government agencies, underscored support for Libya's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia's attempts to exploit the conflict against the will of the Libyan people," the statement said. Moscow was quick to refute the allegations. Vladimir Dzhubarov, the first deputy chairman of the Russian upper house's Foreign Affairs Committee, told Sputnik: "Any attempts to accuse Russia of trying to take advantage of the conflict in Libya are groundless, as well as claims that Russian military is deployed there." He rejected the Department of State's claims as "nonsense," stressing that it was Washington to blame for the Libyan crisis. "They'd better remember who has stirred this Libyan pot, who has contributed to the murder of Gaddafi, after which the Libyan state has in fact pulled apart. It was exactly the United States," Dzhubarov stressed. [\(Al-Awsat\)](#)

2. LNA attacks GNA targets in Sirte

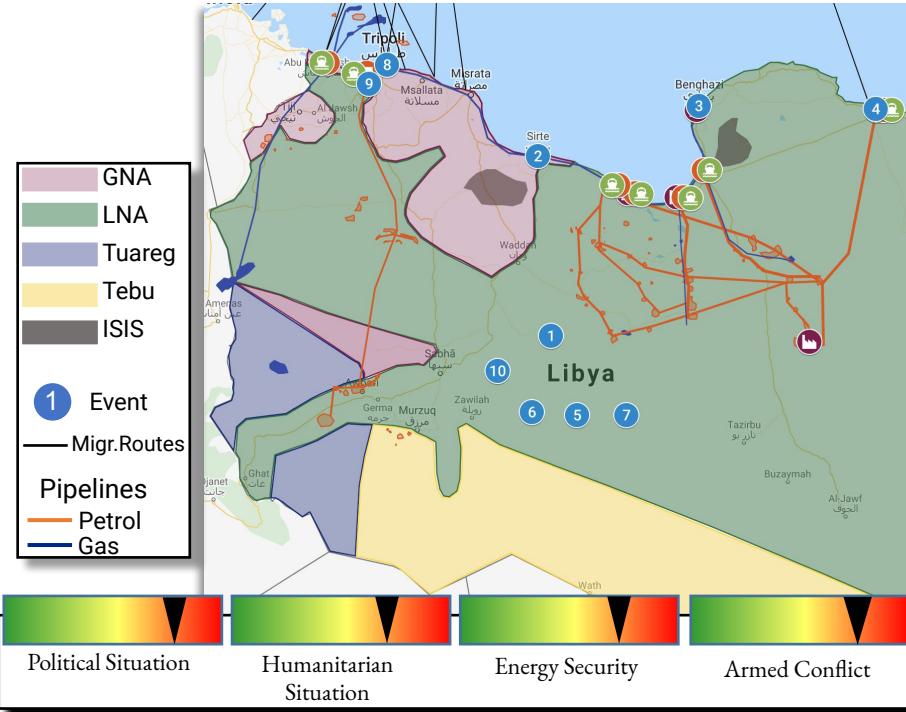
14.11.2019 LNA said it has raided sites of armed militias loyal to the GNA in the coastal city of Sirte, and thwarted an attack south of the capital, Tripoli. LNA's air force attacked Wednesday morning various targets in Qaradabiya airbase in Sirte after it had received military intelligence tips on the locations, according to LNA spokesman Ahmed al-Mismari. Mismari added that the targets included a military operations room used to control drones and some sites storing and hiding drones. In other news, Volcano of Rage Operation launched by the forces and militias loyal to the GNA, distributed photographs showing the destruction caused by the LNA in what it termed as an "indiscriminate shelling" in Saladin area in an attempt to compensate for the LNA's losses south of Tripoli. [\(Al-Awsat\)](#)

3. Tripoli Government Suspends Eastward Flights

14.11.2019 Eastern Libyan authorities forced a civilian flight to land for security checks soon after it had taken off from a city controlled by their rivals in the Tripoli government on Thursday, authorities said. The 90-minute stoppage of the Libyan Airlines flight underlined the warring sides' competition for control of Libya's institutions and infrastructure - part of a rift that has frustrated U.N.-led peace efforts. The General Secretary of Transportation in Eastern Libya had ordered stoppages and checks on all flights travelling over eastern territory from either Misrata or Tripoli's Mitiga airport to Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, the airport official said. In response to the decision, Mitiga airport announced the suspension of flights from the capital and Misrata to Egypt and Jordan "temporarily until finding solutions to this problem", it said in a statement issued late on Thursday. [\(Reuters\)](#)

4. Haftar goes to Abu Dhabi to negotiate way ahead with his supporters

14.11.2019 Khalifa Haftar has arrived in the UAE to meet with the Abu Dhabi top officials as well as Libyan House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aquila Saleh and Abu Dhabi's man in Libya, Aref Al-Nayed. According to Libyan Express the meeting in Abu Dhabi will aim at reaching a common ground among Haftar, Saleh, and Al-Nayed to form a new government in eastern Libya to replace the current Interim Government of Abdullah Al-Thini. The meeting also aims at getting the go-ahead of Haftar to accept Al-Nayed as the new Head of Government in eastern Libya so the UAE and behind it Haftar and his supporters can have a new card to play in the upcoming international conference on Libya in Berlin. [\(Libyan Express\)](#)



ASSESSMENT

- The statement of the US State Department is the most precise and direct call against the Khalifa Haftar's offensive on capital Tripoli, which is echoed by the US Libya Ambassador as well. Haftar's intensifying relations with Russia seems like the main reason for these remarkable declarations. There is growing resentment among US foreign policy-makers for leaving the leadership to Russia in that region. Since Trump's phone call with Haftar, — praising his role for securing Libya's resources and fighting terrorism, which was considered as a support to Haftar's military operation on Tripoli. — Washington was keeping a low profile and neutral policy on Libya, making husky-voiced calls for a political solution. This new statement, during the visit of GNA delegation (Interior Minister Fathi Bashaga and Foreign Minister Mohammed Siala), targeting Haftar and his military actions is a significant development. The main incentive of this statement seems like the increased Russian involvement in the Libya crisis on the side of Eastern groups. The growing number of Russian mercenaries (using Russian military equipment) and expanding Russia-printed Libyan banknotes were the most current indicators. The reaction of Trump is yet to be seen. Based on his previous expressions conflicting official policies of foreign and defence ministries, he still has the potential of surprising Libya analysts with an unexpected move.
- Intermediate level clashes between the two parties still continue in Libya. Since the GNA's capture of Gharyan, there is no significant development on the battlefield. Considering the failure of previous similar attempts, the statements of LNA sources on a new general attack on all fronts do not promise much.
- There is a vicious cycle that needs to be broken to reach a solution for the Libya Crisis: As long as there is no breakthrough in the battlefield no one willing to negotiate/compromise; continuation of the armed conflict depends upon the arms and military equipment support of the international actors; and international actors do not change their positions as long as there's no breakthrough on the battlefield. At this equation, no reason to expect success out of the Berlin Conference. Even so, it worths to mention that Germany is pushing hard to find a compromise among international actors. In the last week, Merkel reached to Egypt's Sisi and Heiko Mass, German Foreign Minister, engaged with his Italian and American counterparts. All declared disturbance from instability in Libya and their aspiration for a political solution. The leaked information points out to a lack of consensus between supporters of warring factions on the discussion points of the upcoming Berlin Conference.

5. Germany continues the preparations for Berlin Conference

14.11.2019 German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas has disclosed that his country saw eye to eye with the US on Berlin Conference on the crisis in Libya. "The US is highly interested in the Berlin Conference and will use its influence to make it a success, Maas said at a press conference with his Italian Counterpart Luigi Di Maio. "Everyone is interested in defusing instability in Libya as he put it. He welcomed Italian support for the conference, saying we will work together to end the crisis. [\(LANA\)](#)

6. Merkel discusses Libya Crisis with Sisi

15.11.2019 Egypt's President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi discussed the Libyan crisis along a number of international and regional files, during a phone call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. During the call, Al-Sisi affirmed Egypt's firm strategic position towards the Libyan crisis, which is to restore the Libyan national institutions, end the spread of criminal groups and terrorist militias, give the highest priority to combating terrorism, and put an end to illegal foreign interference in the Libyan affairs. "The will of the brotherly Libyan people must be realised and acted on to meet their aspirations for the return of stability in the country, and start the process of comprehensive development throughout the Libyan territory," Al-Sisi asserted. [\(Daily News Egypt\)](#)

7. US Defence Secretary vows to continue airstrikes against ISIS in Libya

16.11.2019 US Defence Secretary, Mark Esper has said that the airstrikes carried out by AFRICOM against ISIS in Libya last September have killed one-third of ISIS fighters. In a press statement Wednesday, in Seoul, Esper said that his country attaches importance to the fight against terrorism in Libya, confirming that the US will continue its operations to curb the expansion of the organization in the region. [\(Libya Observer\)](#)

8. ICC prosecutes Saif al-Islam on his behalf

13.11.2019 The International Criminal Court completed on Tuesday hearing the defense of Saif al-Islam, son of the late Libyan leader Moammar al-Gaddafi, in his request for an appeal of charges against him. The hearing was attended by Justice Minister Mohamed Lamloum from the GNA. The court in The Hague granted sufficient time to the defense and prosecution to present their arguments. It will later issue its ruling on the appeal. ICC general prosecutor Fatou Bensouda had renewed in a report submitted to the United Nations Security Council a demand that Libya arrest Saif al-Islam and turn him over to the court where he can be tried for "war crimes". During Tuesday's hearing, Lamloum defended the Libyan judiciary, saying it is facing challenges that are preventing it from arresting the suspects. [\(Al-Awsat\)](#)

9. GNA decreases the salaries

14.11.2019 Sarraj has ordered a 40 percent drop in the salaries of GNA representatives, and another decrease of 30 percent in salaries of advisers, starting 2020. Sarraj's office issued a statement on Facebook, saying the decrease in the wages will also include the Prime Minister and will be in effect starting January. It also asked the Ministry of Finance to provide a proposal for the percentage to be cut from the salaries of the state administrative authorities' employees as well as to take the necessary measures to unify the salary for all public sector staff in Libya. [\(Al-Awsat\)](#)

10. Sudan denies UN report claiming Sudanese interference in Libya

19.11.2019 The UN Panel of Experts of the International Sanctions Committee on Libya accused Khartoum of sending 1,000 soldiers from the RSF to eastern Libya in July. These soldiers were sent at the order of RSF commander Lieutenant General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known by his nickname Hemedti, in violation of UN sanctions banning military support to the parties involved in the Libyan conflict. The Sudanese army has denied a UN report accusing it of sending fighters from its Rapid Support Forces (RSF) to fight in Libya alongside the Marshal Khalifa Haftar-led Libyan National Army (LNA). It denounced the report, saying it tarnishes the Sudanese armed forces' image. [\(Al-Awsat\)](#)

KEY EVENTS

1. UAE, Sudan, Jordan, 'break arms embargo to back Haftar'

10.11.2019 Al Jazeera has obtained a draft copy of a report by United Nations which reveals that member states - the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Turkey and Jordan - have violated the arms embargo imposed on Libya. The report by the Panel of Experts of the International Sanctions Committee on Libya said that Sudan and its Lieutenant General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemeti, did not abide by UN sanctions to ban military support to the parties involved in the Libyan conflict, noting that 1,000 Sudanese Rapid Support Forces were sent to eastern Libya in July. The report also stated that the UAE violated the arms embargo by providing Haftar with an advanced air defence system that was installed at the al-Jufra base and near the city of Gharyan. It also provided him with a warship that was modified with guns and other offensive equipment. "The UAE, Jordan and Turkey provided weapons periodically and sometimes blatantly with little effort to conceal the source," the experts said in a summary attached to their study.

Last July, the GNA demanded answers after Paris conceded French missiles were found at a base used by Haftar. While France admitted purchasing the US-made Javelin missiles, it denied supplying them to Haftar, saying French forces operating in the war-torn country had lost track of them after they were judged to be defective. However, the French ministry statement did not explain how the missiles were lost, fuelling suspicions that Paris is backing Haftar on the ground. ([Al-Jazeera](#))

2. Exposed: Malta's secret migrant deal with Libya

10.11.2019 Malta has secretly negotiated an agreement with Libya that sees the Armed Forces of Malta coordinating with the Libyan coastguard to intercept migrants headed towards the island and returned to the war-torn North African country. The agreement for "mutual cooperation" was struck between members of the AFM and the Libyan coastguard, with government official Neville Gafa acting as an intermediary. Gafa has come under fire for posing as a "special envoy of Prime Minister Joseph Muscat" during meetings with the Libyan government and was exposed as having held a meeting with a Libyan militia leader who ran extortion rackets and a private detention centre, where former regime officials and sympathisers were held. ([Times of Malta](#))

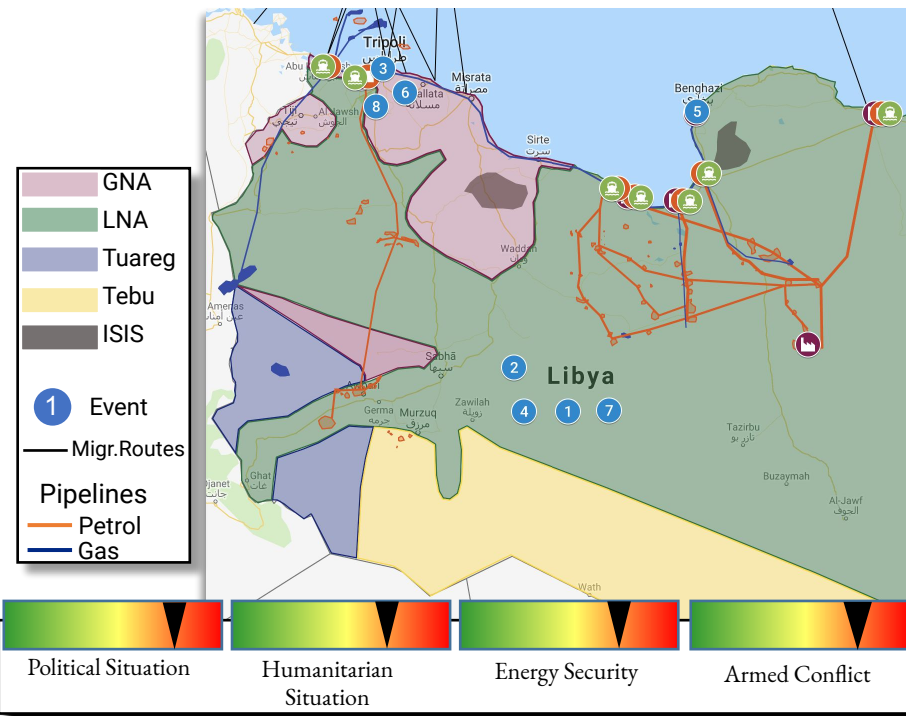
3. Russia Positioning Itself in Libya to Unleash Migrant Crisis Into Europe

08.11.2019 The Russian leader's warning about Libya, many analysts believe, reflects an ambition to intervene in the conflict at least in part to control refugee flows into Europe, indicating a broad understanding of the disruptive power that the movement of immigrants has had on the Western world.

"Russia's efforts to manipulate refugee flows is aimed at destabilizing and politically weakening the European Union," says Agnia Grigas, a non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council. "Libya's proximity to Europe just across the Mediterranean is likely to unleash another refugee catastrophe." ([The Guardian](#))

4. Russian Snipers, Missiles and Warplanes Try to Tilt Libyan War

07.11.2019 After four years of behind-the-scenes financial and tactical support for a would-be Libyan strongman, Russia is now pushing far more directly to shape the outcome of Libya's messy civil war. It has introduced advanced Sukhoi jets, coordinated missile strikes, and precision-guided artillery, as well as the snipers — the same playbook that made Moscow a kingmaker in the Syrian civil war. ([New York Times](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Russian intervention in Libya is an extension of its efforts to expand influence zone in the Middle East and to squeeze arteries to pressure and subdue Europe to accept its policies. Having not recovered from the blows it got in Ukraine and Syria, Europe faces Russian threat this time in Libya. More precisely, Russia, with its support to Haftar and his war efforts:
 - Threatens the stability in Libya by lengthening the conflict and fertilizing ground for rise of militia groups which will be hard to be integrated into peace conditions -if ever - the conflict ends
 - Threatens energy security of Europe, a main buyer of Libyan oil, by Haftar's efforts to create parallel structures in the East to include oil sales
 - Threatens unity and survival of Libyan state by helping Haftar fund his war efforts through money forged by Russia, an extension of efforts to mimic state institutions like Central Bank in the East,
 - And most importantly, threatens Europe that is subject to politicization of Europe-bound refugees and as a result, rise of extreme right parties throughout the continent. By contributing to the destabilization of the country, Russia not only wants to perpetuate flow of refugees to keep the debate on the issue heated, it also shows limits of "European values" as can be seen in European agreements with the state of Libya and individual state institutions that aim at returning refugees to Libyan soil to be subjected to torture, ransom and inhumane treatment in the hands of militias. This comes at great costs of denigration of European name.
- The report by the Panel of Experts of the International Sanctions Committee on Libya lays bare the situation for onlookers. The disturbing part of the report is the new phase in the international law, lack of feeling of need by the spoilers to conceal their interventions that goes against UNSC Resolutions.

5. NOC reports a 21 percent increase in October oil revenues

10.11.2019 Libya's state National Oil Corporation (NOC) today reported a 21 percent increase in oil revenues in October compared to September. Oil revenues for October were US\$ 2.2 billion, an increase of 381 US\$ million (21 percent) compared the previous month. Commenting on the figures, NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla said "Despite significant security challenges on the ground and a drop in oil prices, NOC delivered increased revenues in October through uninterrupted production and higher sales. These revenues provide vital resources for the Libyan people and our continuity of supply contributes towards market stabilization." ([Libya Herald](#))

6. ICC knows where 3 Libyan fugitives are and urges arrests

06.11.2019 The International Criminal Court's prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda called Wednesday for the immediate arrest of longtime Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's son and two others accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity, saying their whereabouts are known. She said her office has reliable information that Seif al-Islam Gadhafi is believed to be in Zintan, that Mahmoud al-Werfalli, a commander in LNA is in the Benghazi area, and Al-Tuhamy Mohamed Khaled, former head of the Libyan Internal Security Agency, is in Cairo. ([AP](#))

7. Germany and the US see eye to eye on Berlin conference on Libya

10.11.2019. The German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said his country and the US see eye to eye regarding the Berlin conference on Libya. In a joint press conference with his Italian counterpart, Maas added that the two countries want to end the destabilizing conflict in Libya as the military solution cannot work in the country. The Italian Foreign Minister Luigi di Maio also expressed his country's concern over the ongoing fighting in Libya, saying Italy supports Berlin conference and that it calls for a ceasefire in the country. ([Libya Observer](#))

8. Libya's Central Bank urged to take measures against Russia-printed currency

10.11.2019 The Presidential Council (PC) has urged the governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) to take actions against printing and circulating the "counterfeit currency", referring to the Libyan banknotes printed in Russia by the parallel CBL in Al-Bayda in eastern Libya. The PC urged CBL governor to warn commercial banks not to deal with the Russia-printed banknotes, calling on him to take legal actions to ensure the national currency is stable. The parallel CBL printed billions of dinars in Russia, which sent value of dinar in 2015-2016 into collapse. ([Libya Observer](#))

9. Foreign jets used in Libyan refugee centre airstrike, says UN

06.11.2019 Foreign fighter jets are suspected by United Nations arms experts of launching precision missiles that killed at least 53 refugees housed in a Libyan refugee detention centre near Tripoli in July, one of the worst single atrocities of the Libyan civil war. The allegations, first published by the BBC, led the former British ambassador to Libya, Peter Millett, to call on the UN security council to discuss at ambassadorial level how outside powers are prolonging the conflict in Libya and extending the suffering of the Libyan people. No nation is directly named in the report. "The only two countries with capacity and motive to mount the strike were the UAE and Egypt," Millett told the Guardian. ([The Guardian](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. German FM meets with Serraj to discuss Berlin Conference

28.10.2019 Libya's internationally recognized Prime Minister met with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and his delegation in the western city of Zuwara. The Libyan government reported that the Germans presented details of the Berlin conference on Libya to be held at, as yet, unspecified time aiming to find a solution to the Libyan crisis. UNSMIL Head Ghassan Salame was also present. Germany's clear position on the Tripoli war has been clear where it rejected the attack on Tripoli as soon as the aggression occurred. Germany also confirmed its support for UNSMIL's plan to resolve the crisis and confirmed its eagerness for all influential parties to participate in the Berlin conference to achieve fundamental results. Germany also agreed that the final statement of the Berlin conference will be issued only after the full agreement of participants. The German delegation also pronounced reason for its invitation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council to the conference as to create a commitment by the Security Council to what is agreed at Berlin. Other states were invited to ensure the cessation of military supplies to Libya and the establishment of the principle of non-intervention. The importance of a ceasefire as a basis for the success of the conference was also stressed. ([Libya Herald](#))

2. Eastern CBL stepped up banknote deliveries from Russia

29.10.2019 A parallel central bank in eastern Libya stepped up deliveries of new banknotes from Russia this year, before and after Haftar launched a military offensive to capture Tripoli, Russian customs data show. The data obtained by Reuters shows nearly 4.5 billion Libyan dinars (\$3.22 billion) were dispatched in four shipments from February to June. The new banknotes appear to push the total quantity of dinars ordered from Russia since 2016 well above the 10 billion previously acknowledged by eastern officials and underscore the dependence of eastern factions on the deliveries. ([Reuters](#))

3. Malta seizes Libyan banknotes shipped from Russia

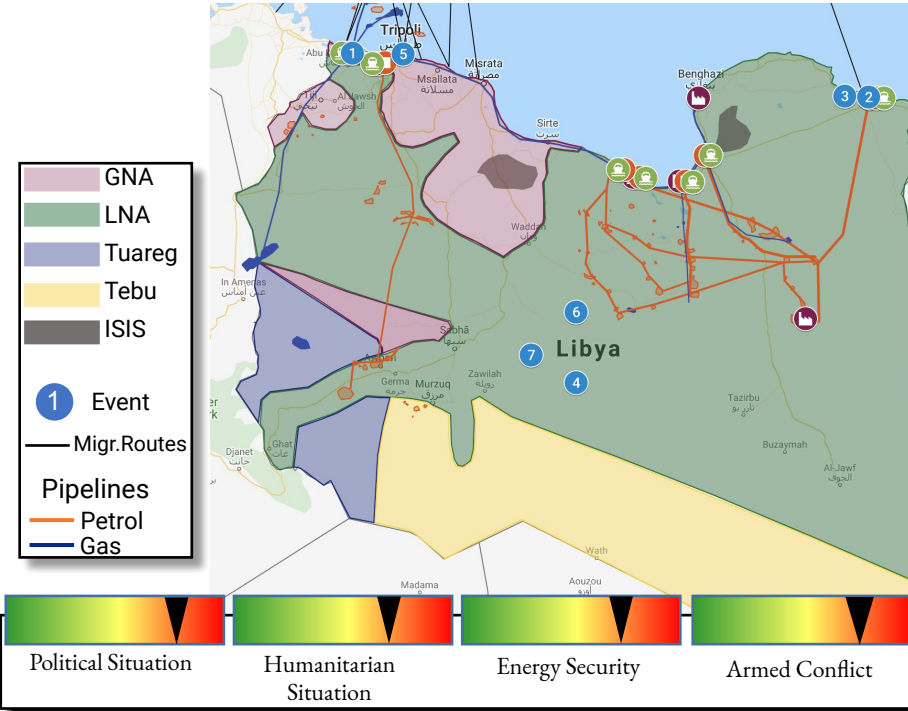
01.11.2019 The Maltese government has seized a massive shipment of unofficial Libyan banknotes believed to have been destined for Haftar. Security services in Malta confirmed two 2,000-cubic-foot (56-cubic-metre) containers packed full of the recently introduced currency were discovered at the end of September when the shipment was stopped in Malta. The cash is thought to have originated from a Russian-owned mint, which has been printing money for the unrecognised Libyan government, based in the eastern city of Bayda. ([The Guardian](#))

4. Egyptian oil companies return to

29.10.2019 Egyptian oil companies that had operations in Libya but pulled out during the civil war will return to the country, the National Oil Corporation said. NOC's chairman Mustafa Sanalla said the Egyptian companies will help Libya's NOC to boost oil production by resuming previously suspended projects and will also take part in expanding the country's pipeline network, both for oil and gas. Earlier this month, Sanalla warned that Libya's oil production could drop steeply soon unless the Government of National Accord - the UN-recognized Libyan government - released funds meant for the National Oil Corporation. ([Oil Price](#))

5. GNA re-opens Mitiga Airport after two months

29.10.2019 Libya's internationally recognized government reopened Mitiga, Tripoli's only functioning airport, after almost two months of closure, and flights will resume within two weeks, the transportation minister said. The airport had been shut since Sept. 1 after being repeatedly struck by artillery fire and air strikes blamed on eastern forces of Khalifa Haftar. ([Reuters](#))



6. Italy allows charity ship to disembark 104 migrants

29.11.2019 Italy said on Tuesday it would let a French charity rescue ship disembark 104 migrants after the vessel spent 11 days at sea waiting for authorization to dock. The interior ministry said in a statement that the Ocean Viking could head to the Sicilian port of Pozzallo, adding that France and Germany had agreed to take in 70 of the migrants. French charities Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and SOS Méditerranée, which operate the ship, had issued an appeal on Monday asking Europe to designate a safe port for the migrants who picked up off the Libyan coast on Oct. 18. Amongst those aboard are two pregnant women and 41 minors under the age of 18. ([Reuters](#))

7. EU has limited monitoring capacity on EU-funded Libya Coastguards

03.11.2019 In the past two years, the EU has spent more than 90 million euros funding and training the Libyan Coast Guard (LCG) in an attempt to keep migrants out of the continent. Yet a leaked EU report seen by Euronews suggests that the bloc's ability to monitor LCG's activity is limited at best. The report in question was sent in July this year by the European External Action Service to member states' ambassadors. While the military mission called Eunavfor Med - Operation Sophia (ENFM) is in charge of training and evaluating LCG, its staff is not permitted to set foot in the country due to security conditions. "It is important to underline that any monitoring activity ashore will be conditional to the improvement of the overall security situation in Libya, which at the moment doesn't allow any ENFM personnel to enter the country," the report said. ([Euronews](#))

ASSESSMENT

- The German Foreign Minister and diplomats are pushing hard to make the upcoming Berlin Conference on Libya happen. The visit of Heiko Maas to Libya was aimed to understand the contours of GNA stance towards different issues. As the primary task, Maas and his team should understand the reasons for the failure of the Rome and Paris conferences. German mediators should avoid repeating the same mistakes in those conferences, which had achieved nothing significant for solving the crisis in Libya. Under ideal conditions, their first goal seems like reaching a ceasefire, stemming violation of arms embargo, and preventing the division of Libyan sovereign institutions (e.g., NOC, CBL, LIA). Another essential point to take into account should be the realities on the ground, not only in the Tripolitania and Cyrenaica but also in the Fezzan.
- Second, rather than focusing only on concerns of LNA and GNA; moderators should address tribal, ethnic, religious and historical expectations, grievances, enmities/feuds of all groups in Libya.
- For quite some time, Haftar and Interim Government of Eastern Libya have been relying on the dinars printed in Russia to maintain the liquidity in the East and paying the salaries of Haftar's LNA. Russian mercenaries fighting for LNA and print of money has largely been seen as two indicators of Russian support to Haftar and his offensive. Still, Russia maintains good relations with the GNA as well. Against this backdrop and the fact that Tripoli-based Central Bank of Libya (CBL) hasn't proclaimed the Russian printed Libyan Dinar as unofficial, Malta's move to seize the money —per UN resolutions— coming from Russia comes as a surprise. It is yet to be seen based on provisions of which UNSCR Malta seized this shipment.

KEY EVENTS

1. Warring parties claim advancement in the battlefield

24.10.2019 LNA led by Khalifa Haftar announced on Friday that it has seized new areas in Tripoli's suburbs, reinforcing its positions against GNA. LNA forces are preparing for a large operation in the coming days to liberate Tripoli, a prominent officer, who preferred to remain anonymous, revealed to Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper. Further, the 'Volcano of Rage' operation launched by Sarraj's GNA announced Thursday seizing the Yarmouk military camp. According to the operation, 16 LNA soldiers were killed and three vehicles were seized. ([Al-Awsat](#))

2. Amnesty: Warring parties commit war-crimes in Libya

21.10.2019 Warring parties in the ongoing battle for Tripoli have killed and maimed scores of civilians by launching indiscriminate attacks and using a range of inaccurate explosive weapons in populated urban areas, Amnesty International said in a new report. In the first in-depth field investigation across the frontline since fighting broke out on 4 April, the organization visited 33 air and ground strike sites in Tripoli and surrounding areas. It unearthed evidence of potential war crimes by both the UN-backed GNA and the LNA. Our on-the-ground investigation on both sides of the frontline revealed a systematic disregard for international law fuelled by the continued supply of weapons to both sides in violation of a UN arms embargo. "Our on-the-ground investigation on both sides of the frontline revealed a systematic disregard for international law fuelled by the continued supply of weapons to both sides in violation of a UN arms embargo," said Donatella Rovera, Senior Crisis Response Adviser at AI. "Scores of civilians have been killed and injured as both sides use everything from Gaddafi-era unguided rockets to modern drone-launched guided missiles in attacks that could amount to war crimes," said Brian Castner, Amnesty International's Senior Crisis Adviser on Arms and Military Operations. ([Amnesty](#))

3. Airstrikes kill two children in Tripoli

21.10.2019 Two children were killed on Tuesday when a rocket hit their home in Libya's capital Tripoli, as AI accused warring parties fighting for the city of "utter disregard" for the laws of war. The GNA blamed the strike on the LNA. ([Daily Mail](#))

4. UNSMIL condemns attacks on civilians and health facilities

24.10.2019 The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) strongly condemns attacks on all civilian targets including health facilities and medical personnel. UN has documented at least 58 attacks on health workers and health facilities in 2019, as of 25 October. The UN stresses that attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure violate international humanitarian and human rights law and may constitute war crimes. ([UNSMIL](#))

5. BP and Eni delay oil exploration venture in Libya

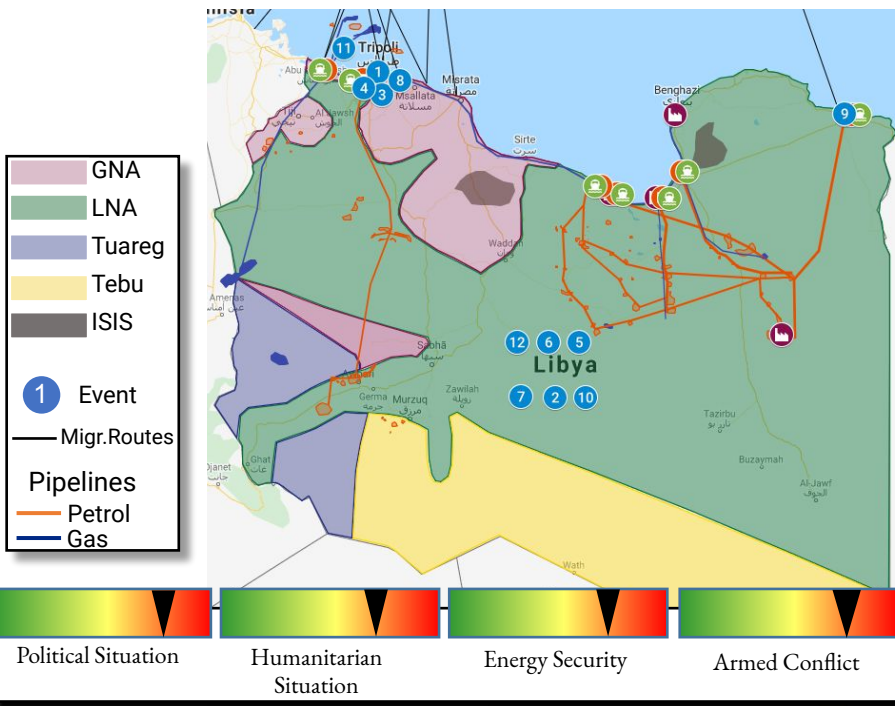
23.10.2019 BP and Italy's Eni have delayed an oil exploration venture in Libya, scheduled to start 2020 due to the deteriorating security situation. The two companies have postponed the project announced in October last year, without announcing the date of resumption, it added. The step was part of the NOC's efforts to bring back international energy companies to Libya after many of them left the country following the 2014 war in Tripoli, according to The Economist. ([Libya Observer](#))

6. NOC announces new off-shore and on-shore oil drills

22.10.2019 The Head of National Oil Corporation Mustafa Sanallah has announced that the NOC will drill 31 off-shore and more than 40 on-shore wells, saying that the Al Jouf Company will take part in the effort with the aim of raising production of some local companies, and introducing new technologies into the Libyan oil market. ([LANA](#))

7. Sarraj calls for a nationwide Libya Conference to solve the crisis

21.10.2019 GNA calls for convening a nationwide conference to settle the crisis in the country, GNA Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj said. "Our country is now living through a severe crisis provoked by the interference into our domestic affairs. It has entailed a split in the country and its state institutions and triggered aggression against our capital city on April 4, 2019," he told during a session of the Russia-Africa Summit. "We call for convening a nationwide conference, involving all the Libyans, to resolve the crisis we are in and stop the ongoing international intervention," he stressed. ([TASS](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Amnesty report tries to do the naming and shaming, and members of the UN Security Council, UN Human Rights Council and major international actors should do the sanctioning part, through official fact-finding missions in the field. While naming the perpetrators, it is also essential to differentiate the significance and frequency of the crimes. The death of two children in another LNA airstrike, at the very same day with this Report, justifies the urgency of concrete action on this issue.
- The findings of such reports are highly crucial for the discussions of the Berlin Conference. More comprehensive UN expert group reports must follow this tack and provide more concrete evidence before the Conference. Meanwhile, the preparation process of the Berlin Conference, which was expected to be done in late October or November 2019, seems not going on track. Up to now, German politicians haven't disclosed any agenda, invitee list or possible meeting dates. According to leaking news, Germans are having difficulties in reaching a consensus with other stakeholders on the format, agenda and composition of the Conference. It shouldn't be surprising to hear, in the upcoming two weeks, the postponement of the Berlin Conference.
- The news over the suspension of BP and Eni oil exploration venture in Libya is a result of constant chaos and insecurity in the country. NOC head Mustafa Sanalla has plans to raise the level of production to over 2 million BPD. Current funds allocated to NOC by GNA are significantly lower than required amount. His target, therefore, requires foreign direct investment, advent of which is dependent on security and political stability, two requisites to attract investors. To worsen the situation, efforts for forming a parallel NOC in Eastern Libya weakens the bargaining power of Sanalla.

8. Libya asks for military-technical cooperation with Russia

22.10.2019 The head of the Russian contact group on intra-Libyan settlement, Lev Dengov disclosed that Libya had called for new military-technical cooperation agreements with Russia. Dengov explained during his meeting with Fayez Al-Sarraj in Sochi that military-technical cooperation with Libya in the current situation is very difficult, due to the arms embargo imposed on Libya. He confirmed that Russia is looking for ways to work with Libya in this regard, within the framework of international standards and law, according to the Russian news agency Sputnik. ([Libya Observer](#))

9. FM of Tobruk Government calls for more Russian interest in Libya

22.10.2019 The foreign minister of the "Tobruk government", Abdel Hadi Hweje, has called on Russia to set up negotiations for Libya similar to those that were held recently in Sochi to resolve the situation in Syria. "We hope that Russia will play a more important role in the resolution of the Libyan crisis. Russia is an active member of the UN and a great global economy", the minister said. The foreign minister also praised the Russia-Africa Summit and Economic Forum, which was held in Sochi on 23 October, adding that it was long overdue, as Russia has a significant advantage when it comes to operating in Africa. "Russia has never had a colony in Africa, and thus there is no heavy burden of the past [standing in the way]. On the contrary, all ties have been strategic, like between equal partners. This is why [Russia and Africa] have great opportunities to cooperate", he said. Abdel Hadi Hweje added that Russia is expected to return to Libya, where it could invest in rebuilding its infrastructure, roads, power grid, and in the construction of railroads. ([Sputnik](#))

10. NGO claims Libyan Coastguards fired warning shots to its vessels

26.10.2019 German NGO Sea-Eye said one of its vessels was threatened by masked Libyan security forces who fired warning shots as it rescued 90 migrants from a lifeboat on Saturday, which the Libyan Navy denied in a statement. The crew aboard the NGO ship, named Alan Kurdi, rescued the migrants after receiving a distress call from people aboard the lifeboat off the coast of Libya. Sea-Eye spokesman Gorden Isler claimed the Libyan boats arrived as the rescuers were handing life jackets to men and women on a white dinghy off the coast of Libya and began circling the ship, hampering rescue efforts. He said the masked men fired "warning shots" and pointed mounted guns at the rescue crew and the migrants, some of whom had jumped into the water, before retreating. Meanwhile, the Libyan coastguards issued a statement following the accusation, denying all allegations by the German NGO, saying nothing like had happened. ([Libyan Express](#))

11. Rescue ship stuck at sea with 104 migrants on board

24.10.2019 The humanitarian rescue ship Ocean Viking remained stuck at sea Friday with 104 migrants on board, a week after rescuing them off Libya despite an EU plan designed to resolve such cases. French charities SOS Mediterranee and Doctors without Borders, which operate the ship, say they have requested permission to land in either Italy or Malta. But SOS Mediterranee said there has been no response so far. The Ocean Viking was previously offered Libya as a place of safety, but refused to land there. SOS Mediterranee said that "no port in Libya can be considered safe according to international law." Only seven EU countries have agreed to participate in a "fast-track" plan, which would screen migrants, relocate asylum-seekers and return those who don't apply or qualify within four weeks. ([AP](#))

OPINION

12. VOA Interview with US AFRICOM Spokesman

24.10.2019 In an exclusive interview Friday with VOA, Africa Command Director of Public Affairs Col. Chris Karns said four U.S. airstrikes this year had killed 43 of the terror groups' fighters in Libya, where Islamic State forces had been gathering in camps and recruiting new fighters. "We wanted to make sure that threat did not grow," Karns said, adding that the U.S. would "continue to monitor the situation" to prevent Libya from gaining a safe haven and taking advantage of a "difficult situation." ([VOA](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Merkel tries to avoid previous mistakes made in Palermo and Paris

06.10.2019 German Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed at the Berlin Conference on Libya that 'there will be no summit meeting unless there was an agreement on what will happen after the summit.' Western diplomatic sources said Germany was seeking through preparatory meetings to avoid mistakes made at Paris and Palermo conferences. German effort focus on international support for the work of the UN Support Mission in Libya aimed at bringing together regional and international actors and creating a common vision on issues of arms flow and protecting unity of the National Oil Company. ([LANA](#))

2. Head of HCS says that Berlin Conference won't be like previous Libya Conferences

08.10.2019 The Head of the High Council of State (HCS) Khalid Al-Mishri said the upcoming international conference on Libya in Germany won't be a conventional one like those of Paris and Palermo but is in fact divided into stages and they have already begun. A week ago, Berlin hosted a preparatory meeting that picked up on the September 17 meeting and New York meeting as well. The meeting was attended by UN envoy Ghassan Salame, representatives from UK, US, France, Egypt, Italy, UAE, Turkey, Russia, European Union, African Union, and Arab League. ([Libya Observer](#))

3. Salame hopes for conducting the Berlin Conference next month

10.10.2019 The U.N. envoy for Libya said he hopes an international conference next month will produce a Security Council resolution committing foreign powers to stopping an escalating proxy war and an accelerated mechanism to enforce an arms embargo. It will seek to rally key external players to halt increasingly flagrant violations of a U.N. arms embargo and pressure their allies inside Libya to commit to a ceasefire and a new political process. Salame said that a clear expression of the will to end the war needs to be expressed clearly in a UN Security Council resolution and in a follow-up mechanism in order to protect the implementation of this resolution. No date has been set for the conference, which aims to bring together the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council as well as the United Arab Emirates, Italy, Turkey and Egypt. Salame said a U.N. panel of experts that monitors the arms embargo was investigating dozens of violations, and that foreign interference that was "even more blatant" than before included possible or potential use of foreign mercenaries and operators of foreign supplied drones. Salame said the reporting system needed to become quicker and more "reactive". "We need the sanctions committee to be more active in sanctioning those who violate the arms embargo, and we need the countries where those weapons are produced or brought to commit publicly to stop any transfer or arms to Libya." ([Reuters](#))

4. Libya rejects Arab League decision over relations with Turkey

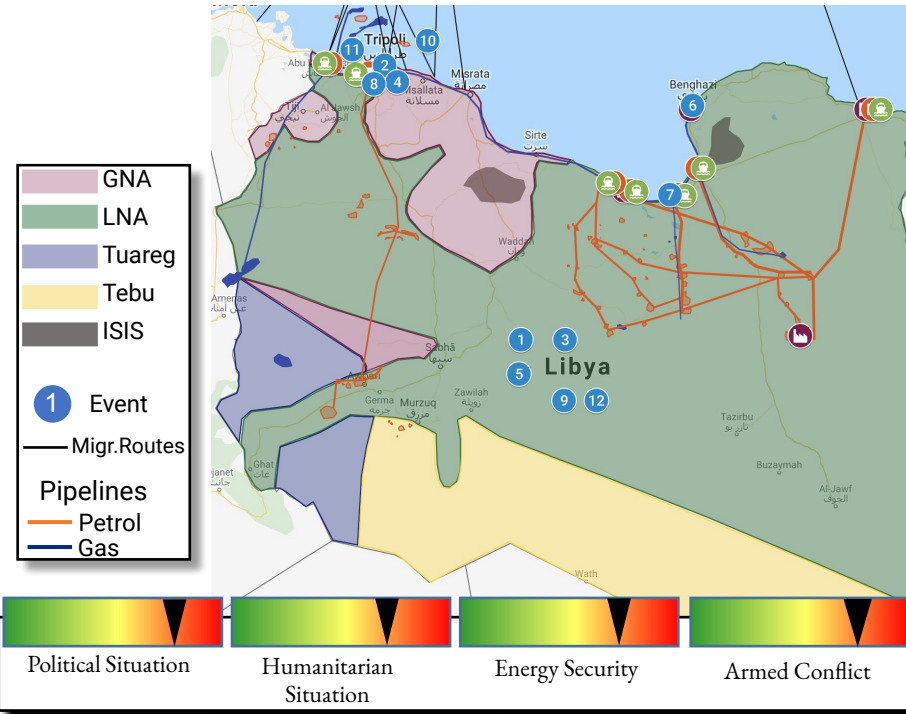
11.10.2019 Libya's Foreign Ministry of the Government of National Accord (GNA) said it refuses to reduce diplomatic representation and cooperation with Turkey. The Libyan Foreign Ministry made the remarks as the Arab League demanded to discuss the Turkish military operation in Syria, following an urgent meeting in Egypt's capital Cairo. Arab foreign ministers demanded on Saturday Turkey to unconditionally pull out its troops from Syrian territories, holding Ankara responsible for the consequences of its ongoing military offensive in Syria. ([Libyan Express](#))

5. Drones becomes the mainstay of Tripoli War

12.10.2019 The ItaMilRadar website has said that the drones have become the mainstay of the war in Libya, in the six past months since the beginning of Haftar's offensive against Tripoli. The military aviation control website quoted the UN military envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame as saying that the Tripoli war saw some 900 missions carried out by drones from both sides, noting that the use of these aircraft has increased dramatically in recent weeks. It also disclosed that the UAE has supplied Haftar with Chinese-made drones in recent months and had deployed specialists to Libya in order to operate these aircraft, according to the website. ([Libya Observer](#))

6. Mesmari: "Turkey may send terrorists from Syria to Libya"

10.10.2019 The Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Khalifa Haftar has expressed fears that Turkey, which has launched an offensive on Kurds in northeast Syria, would transfer thousands of terrorists to Libya. LNA spokesman Ahmed al-Mesmari said that Turkish President Erdogan could send the terrorists held by Kurdish forces in detention camps to Libya through the seaports and airports of Tripoli, Misrata and Zuwara, which fall under the control of Fayez al-Sarraj's Government of National Accord. ([Al-Awsat](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Preparations and developments related to the upcoming Libya Conference in Germany are dominating the discussions on the Libya crisis. Mediators are working hard to manage the expectations to avoid disappointment at the end of the conference. Main discussion point will be how to enforce the arms embargo.
- The rejection of Libya's GNA the decision of the Arab League to reduce diplomatic representation and cooperation with Turkey is no surprise. It depicts the alignment between the Erdogan regime and GNA. LNA's statements related to the possibility of transfer of thousands of terrorists into Libya shows the rival alignment between Egypt-UAE and LNA.
- On the other hand, it is promising to see that EU leaders, even though temporary, brought up a solution plan for sharing the irregular migrants saved in the sea. The reaction of Eastern Europe members is still a question mark, but the agreement among most western and southern European member states is a significant development. The proposal of Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos may preclude stranded migrants for weeks waiting to get permission for disembarkation to EU ports.

7. Tripoli NOC pays the salaries of Eastern units

08.10.2019 Libyan state oil firm NOC said it had been able to pay the salaries in September of staff at a fuel distribution unit after a dispute with a parallel board established by eastern authorities. The case is watched by oil markets for signs whether NOC might break up after eastern authorities allied to Khalifa Haftar, whose troops have been trying to seize Tripoli, set up a board for NOC's Brega unit, which is in charge of fuel supplies, in areas of their control. "This unfortunate episode demonstrates that the so-called parallel board is incapable of managing the most basic functions of the company," NOC said. "We urge the so-called parallel board members to step aside so order can be restored." ([Reuters](#))

8. Tripoli Militias ask marriage certificate to couples in Tripoli street

08.10.2019 Amid the ongoing war, lack of security, bad financial and service status in the Libyan capital Tripoli, the Special Deterrence Force (SDF) based in Mitiga Airport has become religious police arresting any male and female in public together if they are not married and have marriage certificates on them. Ridiculous as it seems, the SDF has actually started scouring cafes, restaurants and other public places in Tripoli and asking any man and woman, guys and girls who are together in public or in cars to prove they are married, or else they get detained "for immoral behavior." ([Libyan Express](#))

9. EU migration chief brings up a new plan to solve the problems temporarily

07.10.2019 The European Union's top migration official urged EU member states to back a temporary plan to quickly get migrants off boats in the Mediterranean Sea and distribute them among willing countries. Germany, France, Italy, and Malta are seeking approval from their EU partners for a "fast-track" process to screen migrants, relocate asylum-seekers and return people who do not apply or qualify for asylum, all within four weeks. "It's a moment for all member states to show more solidarity and more responsibility," Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos told, where EU interior ministers were meeting to discuss migration challenges in the Mediterranean. "We cannot continue like this with what is happening in the Mediterranean. We cannot only try to find ad hoc solutions. We need permanent mechanisms," he said. ([Al-Awsat](#))

10. Charity ships rescue 176 migrants in the sea

12.10.2019 Humanitarian groups said they rescued 176 migrants on two rubber boats in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya while Tunisian authorities reported blocking a smuggling boat carrying 110 migrants from setting off for Italy. Doctors Without Borders and SOS Mediterranee said their Ocean Viking ship rescued 74 migrants Sunday morning about 50 miles (80 kilometers) off the Libyan coast near an oilfield. In the afternoon, the groups said they rescued 102 people aboard another rubber boat about 40 miles off the coast. Tunisia's interior ministry said three coast guard boats pursued the smuggling boat after it left Friday night from the city of Sfax. Officers shouted through loudspeakers at the boat and passengers threw projectiles that injured two officers and broke windows. The coast guard eventually forced the boat back toward Tunisia and rescued 25 migrants who had jumped into the sea. ([Bellingham Herald](#))

11. Italian Coastguard recovers the bodies of 13 drowned migrant women

06.10.2019 Italian coastguards recovered the bodies of 13 women who died after a crowded migrant boat capsized in heavy weather as rescue boats approached it off the coast of Lampedusa, an island south of Sicily, local authorities said on Monday. The coastguard said rescue vessels had picked up 22 survivors, but they feared many other people might have died in the accident - the latest in a long line of sea disasters to hit migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean and reach Europe. ([Al-Awsat](#))

OPINION

12. Libya; Rich in Oil, Leaking Fuel

08.10.2019 Despite Libya's oil wealth, governance flaws and a lack of security have led to fuel shortages, especially in the south of the country. Since 2011 fuel has been diverted to the black market in increasing volumes. The result is that Libyans effectively pay twice - first for the fuel subsidies and second for the growing debts owed by state-owned institutions to the Libyan exchequer - for fuel that often doesn't even reach their local pump. In some parts of the country, Libyans to pay up to 15 times the official subsidized rate to refuel their vehicles. Such dynamics indicate that greater emphasis should be placed upon increasing the transparency within the fuel system and attempting to fix flaws in its governance, rather than expecting the removal of subsidies alone to bring a halt to smuggling and theft. ([Chatham House](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Libya PC outlines the conditions for upcoming Libya Conference in Germany

29.09.2019 The Presidential Council (PC) has conditioned its participation in the upcoming international conference on Libya in Berlin to a number of demands, including commitment to the Libyan Political Agreement and its bodies as the only basis for any upcoming dialogue, stressing that all countries should halt dealing with parallel institutions in Libya as the only legitimate body is "the Government of National Accord." The PC said a ceasefire in Tripoli can only happen if the attacking forces have withdrawn to their previous positions before April 04, 2019 without any conditions. It adds that the solution in Libya is as per the UNSMIL action plan that was undermined by Haftar's offensive on Tripoli and that the UN efforts are on line with the Serraj's initiative of last June that called for a national conference to pave the way for a constitutional basis for elections. The PC said there can be no talks of a security council outside the political agreement before ending the presence of all parallel institutions and that the military institution should be under the command of the civilian authority of the PC's government. "The NOC in Tripoli is the only legitimate body to manage oil production and exports. All stakeholders should be invited to the meetings and conferences on Libya without exception as happened in preparations for the Berlin conference." The PC added. "We are keen on defeating Haftar's militias and we won't have any dialogue with those who have Libyans' blood on their hands." It further added. ([Libya Observer](#))

2. GNA allocates \$1 billion to NOC to maintain oil production

04.10.2019 Libya's internationally recognized government said it had allocated 1.5 billion Libyan dinars (\$1.06 billion) for the NOC to maintain oil production in 2019-2020. 1.2 billion dinars was allocated "for projects that contribute in maintenance of current production rates and increase the productive capacity of the oil and gas sector". A further 300 million was allocated to pay the NOC's obligations to other companies. Last week NOC said in a statement that production was expected to be severely affected if it did not get the budget funding it needed from the government. It also said the government "reduced the approved budget of the Corporation and its companies twice" this year without prior notice. ([Reuters](#))

3. UNSMIL warns against parallel oil trade in Libya

04.10.2019 UNSMIL said it is alarmed by indications that parallel, unrecognized authorities in Libya are threatening the operation and management of Libya's NOC and its subsidiary Brega. The mission reiterated that the Tripoli-based NOC, is the sole sovereign institution that under international and national law is charged with the stewardship of the country's oil, including the export and import of oil and fuel. UNSMIL warned that continued efforts to divide the NOC's functions threaten the country's oil revenue and consequently the interests of all Libyans. "These efforts could constitute violations of UN Security Council Resolutions and could place responsible individuals under sanctions." The Mission said it will report suspected violations to the UN Panel of Experts, the UN Sanctions Committee and the UN Security Council. ([Libyan Express](#))

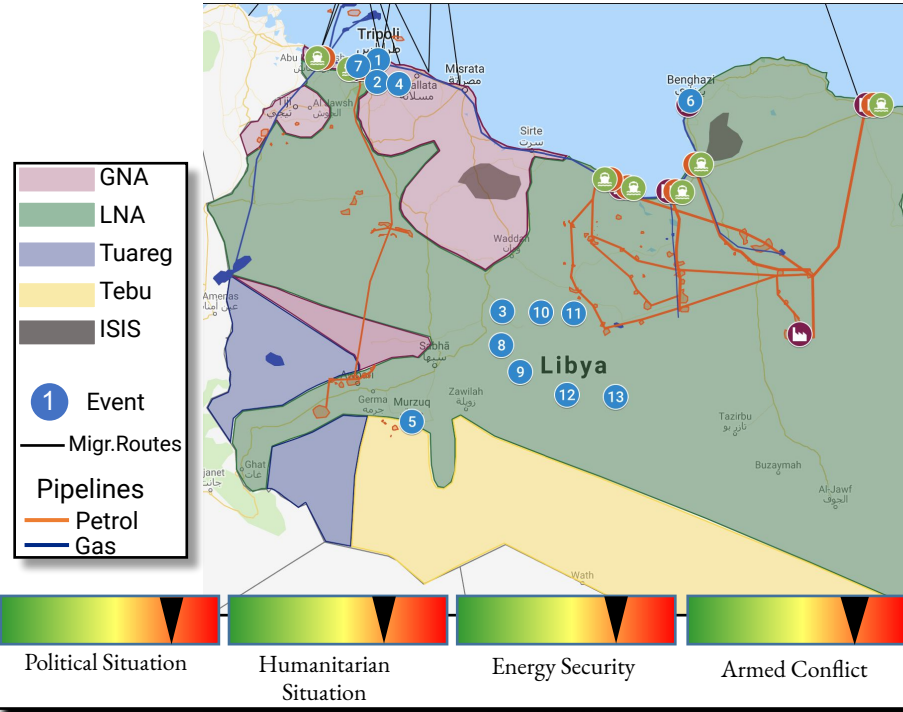
4. LNA and GNA announce their advance in the battlefield

01.10.2019 LNA announced Tuesday a sudden advance in the battle to seize control of the capital, Tripoli, from militias backed by the GNA after nearly five months of fighting. A statement by the Media Center of the LNA's Dignity Operations Room said the "militias are beginning to collapse on various fronts after painful and accurate airstrikes and advances near their bases." A senior LNA official told Asharq Al-Awsat that National Army forces took control over new areas in their advance towards Azizyah, about 40 kilometers south of Tripoli. LNA's Military Information Division aired video footage on Tuesday showing the surrender of a group of militiamen. It said the fighters handed over their weapons, ammunition and vehicles to military units near Tripoli.

* Meanwhile, Forces from Faye al-Sarraj's GNA said they took control of new positions in the Ramla battlefield, south of the capital. The forces announced repelling an LNA attempt to advance from the front towards the capital. Field Commander in Volcano of Rage Operation Taher bin Gharbiyya said his forces have taken control of new positions in this area. ([Al-Awsat](#))

5. LNA killed 26 militants running away US airstrikes

02.10.2019 "The Libyan army units supported by the aviation forces liquidated 26 mercenaries and terrorists in the vicinity of the town of Murzuq in the southwest of the country as they fled airstrikes by the AFRICOM," Mismari told a press conference. The spokesman added that a total of 43 terrorists had been killed by the mission's airstrike on targets of the ISIS terror group near Murzuq, the town citadel and the Sabha Airport. ([Sputnik](#))



ASSESSMENT

- ❑ *Ahead of a new international Libya Conference, the one evident thing is that both GNA and LNA propaganda machines try hard to persuade international community that they have the upper hand in the battlefield. The operations rooms of both sides frame the developments as if it is only a matter of time to defeat their opponent. The reports of independent sources, however, demonstrate that the forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar are far from achieving any significant breakthrough in all fronts, including lately opened Sirte front, which was opened to shake off the stalemate on other fronts. Death of dozens of Russian mercenaries —together with other mercenaries— indicate that Haftar resorted all sort of options to unlock the resistance of GNA camp but failed. From now on, he does not possess many courses of action to advance in Libya.*
- ❑ *Our analyses show that Haftar is the loser of the current war. His only salvation is international interference. The upcoming conference in Germany would be a venue to save him. Seeing this probability GNA side wants to prevent Haftar once again to emerge as a reliable interlocutor. The announcement of PC and Serraj is an attempt to avoid the Haftar and his backers hijack the conference and re-promote him as the saviour of Libya.*
- ❑ *Anymore, it is obvious that other actors of Libya will not accept giving a significant role to Haftar in the governance of Libya. On the other hand, the position of Serraj is quite contentious. He is increasingly getting isolated, and his legitimacy is weakening. Most likely, he has no place in the future of Libya, as well.*
- ❑ *Internal and external stakeholders must start planning the post-war Libya, where, rather than Serraj and Haftar, more legitimate Libyan actors will take over.*

6. LNA destroys 25th Turkish drone in Libya

01.10.2019 The media center of the LNA's "Dignity Operations" room said that LNA forces downed the 25th Turkish drone in Tarhuna while trying to target army troops sites. The Army did not reveal any additional information, but a military source told Asharq Al-Awsat that the downing of the Turkish drone came within the framework of confronting Turkey's military role in supporting militias loyal to Sarraj's government. UN envoy Salame said Libya is "possibly the largest drone war theater in the world." Salame noted "a much more intense use of drones" in recent weeks, saying they had been deployed "600 times on one side and 300 times on the other side," without clarifying the sides to which he was referring. ([Al-Awsat](#))

7. HCS condemns the abduction of its member

01.10.2019 HCS in Libya has issued a statement condemning the abduction of its member Mustafa Al-Treki from in front of his house in Matrad area in west of Al-Zawiya city by "masked" gunmen loyal to Haftar's force. The HCS said that this is not the first time an official is abducted by armed groups and outlaw gunmen, referring to abductions happening to other government officials in the past years. ([Libyan Express](#))

8. Pompeo: Ceasefire in Libya is our priority

01.10.2019 The US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, said a ceasefire in Libya is a priority for Washington. In a joint press conference with his Italian counterpart Luigi Di Maio, Pompeo said he discussed the issue of Libya with Italy's President and Prime Minister, reiterating the need to resume political dialogue. ([Libya Observer](#))

9. Gaddafi's last spokesperson speaks to Russian media

05.10.2019 The bombing campaign, which propped up rebel forces and ultimately led to the summary execution of Gaddafi, was justified by reports of various crimes of its government. Those were later proven to be completely false or largely exaggerated, said the Gaddafi's wartime spokesman, Moussa Ibrahim, who served as Gaddafi's spokesman at the time. Gaddafi sought to break Western grip on Africa and was disposed for that, he said. Gaddafi's Libya had several initiatives which were detrimental to Western goals in Africa, including creation of a new gold-backed currency, an African central bank and a pan-African military force, Ibrahim told. ([RT](#))

10. Libyan Coastguard: The number of drowned migrants reduced

03.10.2019 The number of migrants and refugees who have drowned while trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Libya has dropped by 43.1 per cent in the first nine months of this year, the Libyan Navy said. Coastguards and naval forces rescued 7,036 people from the sea between 1 January and the end of September this year, it said. Among those rescued, "6,835 illegal immigrants were found alive. ([MEMO](#))

11. Human Trafficker was in Italy to meet Italian intelligence officials

03.10.2019 One of the world's most notorious human traffickers attended a meeting in Sicily with Italian intelligence officials to discuss controls on migrant flows from Libya. Abd al-Rahman Milad, known as Bija, took part in a meeting with Italian officials and a delegation from the Libyan coastguard at Cara di Mineo, in Catania, one of the biggest migrant reception centres in Europe, on 11 May 2017. Bija's presence was documented by the Italian newspaper Avvenire, which published an extensive investigation into the meeting. ([The Guardian](#))

OPINION

12. Between 10 and 35 Russian mercenaries have been killed in the Libyan Civil War.

01.10.2019 Last week, the bodies of the first Russians killed in Libya's civil war started arriving back home for burial. Officially, Russia isn't part of the fighting in North Africa, which has been ongoing for several years now. In reality, however, Russian combatants have been providing massive support to one side in the conflict, in exchange for which Moscow's Libyan allies have promised "oil, railways, and highways." Meduza investigative journalist Liilya Yapparova has learned that an infamous Russian private military company has suffered dozens of casualties in Libya. She also found some of the mercenaries' names despite efforts to keep that information secret: even the mercenaries' bodies are being withheld. ([Meduza](#))

13. Why Troubled Libya Isn't a Lost Cause—Yet

03.10.2019 Washington and other capitals could pressure Haftar to pull back forces from Tripoli and make clear what is obvious on the ground: this conflict will not be won on the battlefield. Essential to de-escalation is making enforcement of the UN arms embargo a meaningful policy. Saudi Arabia and other supporters of Haftar could improve their international reputations with such a genuine effort at peace. While the hard work of negotiations occurs, U.S. policy should focus on the needs of municipalities. We called the approach

KEY EVENTS

1. International actors, including UAE, declares support to Tripoli based NOC

21.09.2019 Five Western countries including the US, as well as Turkey and the UAE, support Libyan state oil firm NOC as the sole legitimate authority for the country's energy sector, a joint statement said. The move came after the eastern Libyan parallel government allied to Khalifa Haftar appointed a parallel board last week for a local unit of NOC, a move seen by diplomats as attempt to break away from the Tripoli headquarters. "For the sake of Libya's political and economic stability, and the well-being of all its citizens we exclusively support the NOC," the statement posted on the website of the U.S. Embassy for Libya said. It was signed by the United States, the UK, Germany, France, Italy, the UAE and Turkey, it said. ([Reuters](#))

2. Head of GNA proposes an overarching Libya conference

23.09.2019 The Libyan PM has offered to try to find a way out of the recent spiral of violence through a national forum to include all of the country's factions. Speaking at the Concordia conference in New York on the sidelines of the UNGA, Fayeza Al Serraj, head of GNA called for a resumption of the UN-led peace process. "We can hold a Libya forum where all of the factions and people in Libya are invited and can work out a road map for the forthcoming stage, including parliamentary and presidential elections," said he. ([The National](#))

3. Serraj speaks at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly

24.09.2019 In his speech to the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Serraj, the internationally recognized head of Libya's Tripoli-based government blamed external interference for extending Libya's current war. Following his accusations to Haftar, head of LNA, he renewed his request to put him on the international sanctions list and to hold his supporters accountable and he called on the UN to urgently send an investigative mission to document the various serious violations. ([Libya Herald](#))

4. Qatar and Egypt voice their conflicting Libya policies at UN General Assembly

23.09.2019 Egypt and Qatar, who support rival groups in the Libyan conflict, traded barbs at the United Nations on Tuesday, highlighting just how difficult it will be for the U.N. to push renewed peace efforts. Without naming countries specifically, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi told delegates at the U.N. General Assembly that there had to be a concerted effort to stop militias taking control of Libya and preventing support from external actors. But addressing the same delegates shortly after, Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, accused Haftar's forces of carrying out war crimes with impunity and with the support of countries that were undermining the GNA and U.N. peace efforts. ([Reuters](#))

5. Haftar declares his openness to a new negotiation process

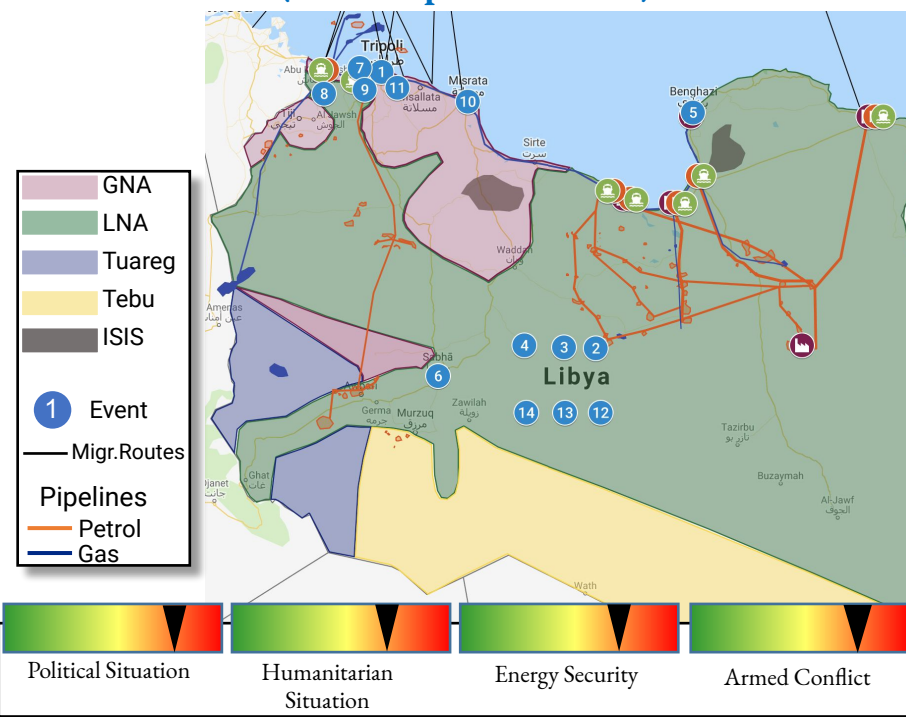
25.09.2019 Retired Libyan General, Khalifa Haftar, expressed his openness to dialogue and the political process for the first time since his forces launched a military operation to control the capital Tripoli six months ago. Haftar in a statement, Thursday, before the UN meeting on Libya: "Dialogue and meetings must be carried out. The position of the political process must be acknowledged, and there must be a comprehensive national dialogue, preserving the national unity of the Libyan territory." He stressed that "the democratic process the Libyan people are seeking will remain in conflict with the opposition of terrorist groups and armed criminal militias controlling the security and economic decision in Tripoli." Referring to the possibility of holding elections to end the division and conflict in Libya, Haftar said: "holding the elections is impossible unless armed groups are eliminated and dismantled, and weapons are collected." He also noted that "the success of any dialogue is made difficult in the presence of terrorism and outlaw groups." ([MEMO](#))

6. AFRICOM hits ISIS-Libya targets third time in a week

26.09.2019 U.S. forces said on Friday they killed 17 suspected militants in their third air strike in a week on southern Libya. The strike, conducted on Tuesday, hit southwestern Libya, the U.S. Africa Command said in a statement, without giving the location. Residents of the city of Sebha said they heard an explosion to the south. Two separate air strikes had killed 19 suspected militants in southern Libya, the U.S. military had previously said. The United States has said it will not allow militants to use a conflict between eastern and western-based factions around the capital Tripoli to protect themselves. ([Reuters](#))

7. Serraj confirms presence of Russian mercenaries among LNA fighters

27.09.2019 Chairman of the Presidential Council, Fayeza Al-Sarraj confirmed in an interview with Fox News channel that the Libyan armed forces have found private belongings to Russian fighters, in the fighting axis south of Tripoli. Al-Sarraj said that they have no information regarding the nature of the relationship



ASSESSMENT

- Rather than contributing to the solution of the crisis, last week's UNGA verified the difficulty of reaching an international consensus on Libya during the upcoming Germany conference.

- Taking over from Italy and France, neutral mediator Germany assumed a significant role for solving the crisis. Stopping the arms shipment / military assistance from regional backers of fighting factions of Libya is an achievable goal for the conference, which will be held in late October or November 2019. The second and more challenging goal could be the establishment of a unified and common international approach to Libya Conflict. In the light of uncompromising attitudes and distrust of fighting Libyan factions, the sole remedy seems like a compromise among their regional and international backers. The failure of Haftar, in the last six months, in his offensive on Tripoli will probably be the incentive of a compromise among backers.

- On the other hand, with the fear of losing his reputation and support, Haftar is exigently struggling to achieve significant progress before the conference. This week, news portals reported that around 100 Russian mercenaries deployed to Libya and it is also said that Al-Wattiyah Airbase assigned to Russian aircraft to support the LNA attacks to Tripoli, Misrata and Sirte. It is also reported that some of these mercenaries already were killed in action. Additionally, news over Russian involvement coincided with increasing aircraft attacks on GNA groups in the last week. The participation of new forces is highly likely a part of Haftar's attempts related to the upcoming Germany conference. For more details click here

8. GNA: LNA's Al-Wattiyah Airbase is controlled by Russian forces

28.09.2019 Libya Al-Ahrar TV channel has quoted a source in the GNA as saying that Al-Wattiyah Airbase is now under the complete control of Russian forces. The source added that two Sukhoi aircraft arrived in Libya recently to support Haftar's armed groups; one is stationed at Jufra Airbase and the other landed in Al-Wattiyah. The aircraft that bombed Tripoli on Friday morning took off from Al-Wattiyah, while the other one that struck Sirte area was operated from Jufra Airbase, according to the same source. According to some twitter accounts Russian fighter jets hit downtown Tripoli, destroying the Nawasi Brigade, prominent GNA supporter, buildings.

([Libya Observer](#))

9. GNA hires a new lobby firm

26.09.2019 Brad Gerstman of Gotham Government Relations & Communications once lobbied for President Donald Trump have been hired to lobby on behalf of GNA according to disclosure filings shared with PI. Gotham will lobby the executive branch and work on reports on the "Human Rights violation and crimes against Libyan civilians" carried out by Haftar, the Libyan militia leader waging a campaign against the government, according to a copy of the contract. The one-year contract is worth \$1.5 million, with an additional \$150,000 for "miscellaneous expenses." Half of both fees must be paid upfront. ([Politico](#))

10. Rwanda receives the first group of refugees from Libya

28.10.2019 The first group of what is expected to be hundreds of evacuees have been moved to Rwanda from Libya, under a new programme involving the African Union and United Nations refugee agency. The 66 refugees, who were Sudanese, Somali or Eritrean, flew from Misrata airport to Rwanda's capital Kigali. "UNHCR urges the international community to support Rwanda's gesture of solidarity with refugees by providing financial support and resettlement places," the agency said in a statement. Rwanda said it will initially take 500 refugees, in an agreement signed earlier this month. The Great Lakes country is already sheltering about 150,000 other refugees, mostly from neighbouring Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ([Libyan Express](#))

11. Boat carrying more than 50 capsizes off the coast of Libya

28.10.2019 Rescuers are attempting to save the lives of over 50 people whose boat capsized off the coast of Libya. The migrants were hoping to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. At least 50 migrants are at risk after their boat capsized off the coast of Libya, according to the UN relief agency and Libya's coast guard. Ayoub Gassim, a spokesperson for the coast guard confirmed that the incident had taken place off the western city of Misrata. At the time he stated he was unable to provide further details but confirmed that rescuers were on their way. ([DW](#))

OPINION

12. Putin-Linked Mercenaries Are Fighting on Libya's Front Lines

24.10.2019 A private army linked to Russian President Vladimir Putin has begun fighting on the front lines of the Libyan war, according to people familiar with the matter, the latest projection of Russian power following a decisive military intervention in Syria. More than 100 mercenaries from the Wagner group headed by Yevgeny Prigozhin, also known as "Putin's chef" for his Kremlin catering contracts, arrived at a forward base in Libya in the first week of September to support eastern strongman Khalifa Haftar's assault on the capital Tripoli, said the people, who included Libyan and Western officials. ([Bloomberg](#))

13. Can Germany stop Libya becoming the new Syria?

23.10.2019 The international community's approach to Libya has been the preserve of just a few countries for several years now – and they have little to show for it. So Germany's recent entry into the fray is a potential game-changer: a United Nations international conference on Libya is set to take place there in late October or early November. Angela Merkel's decision to host followed a warning from the chancellor about the dangers of Libya sliding into Syria-like chaos. ([EFCFR](#))

14. Libya's lost generation: How the country's ongoing conflict has impacted its youth

24.10.2019 They witnessed the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi, and have grown up in a society riven by war, no wonder then that the psychological toll on Libya's youth has been critical. It is nearly half a year since Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar launched a grinding war for the Libyan capital of Tripoli. This battle, the latest in a series of brutal conflicts since the 2011 revolution toppled dictator Muammar Gaddafi, has taken an alarming psychological toll on the country's youth. ([MEE](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Clashes, cover by air power, continue in and around Tripoli

21.09.2019 Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) on Saturday announced that drones from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) targeted a residential area in Tripoli, seriously injuring several members of a family. In the meantime, heavy clashes took place between GNA forces and Haftar's forces in Yarmouk Camp and after long hours of fighting, GNA forces announced full control of the camp and said it had thwarted Haftar's forces advance on the frontline. Violent clashes also erupted on Tripoli Airport frontline and many fighters from both sides have been reported killed and injured. No specific number was given from either side for the casualties. ([Libyan Express](#))

2. US forces killed 8 ISIS fighters in an airstrike in southwest Libya

18.09.2019 AFRICOM said it carried out the strike targeting ISIS fighters around Murzuq in southwest Libya on Thursday. Early assessments were that eight fighters were killed and no civilians were killed or injured, the command said. The strike was coordinated with the Libyan Government of National Accord. "U.S. Africa Command conducted this airstrike to eliminate terrorist leaders and fighters and to disrupt terrorist activity," AFRICOM commander General Stephen Townsend said. "We will not allow them to use the current conflict in Libya as protection. Together with our Libyan partners, we will continue to deny terrorists safe haven in Libya." Although AFRICOM has carried out a number of strikes in Libya since 2016, it has rarely targeted Islamic State fighters. The command carried out only eight strikes against ISIS in Libya between when President Donald Trump took office in 2017 and March 2018, the New York Times reported last year. ([The Defence Post](#))

3. Macron and Conte agree on migration and Libya policies

17.09.2019 The European Union must introduce a new, automatic system of taking in migrants saved from the Mediterranean, the leaders of Italy and France said on Wednesday, as they sought to patch up bruised bilateral relations. French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte spoke to the media, in Rome. Conte said he had received French backing for a system to handle the redistribution of migrants, meaning that Italy could rely on the entire 28-nation bloc to accept automatically a share of all the new arrivals as soon as they were rescued. Macron said EU countries that refused to take part in the scheme should be "seriously penalized". They did not provide further details, saying only that the issue would soon be discussed by EU interior ministers.

Besides immigration, the two men also presented a united front on another issue that has long been a bone of contention - Libya. Conte said they had agreed to a "joint initiative" and wanted to see a meeting of all the various warring parties in the north African state in yet another attempt to forge peace. ([Reuters](#))

4. German president backs Franco-Italy cooperation on migration issue

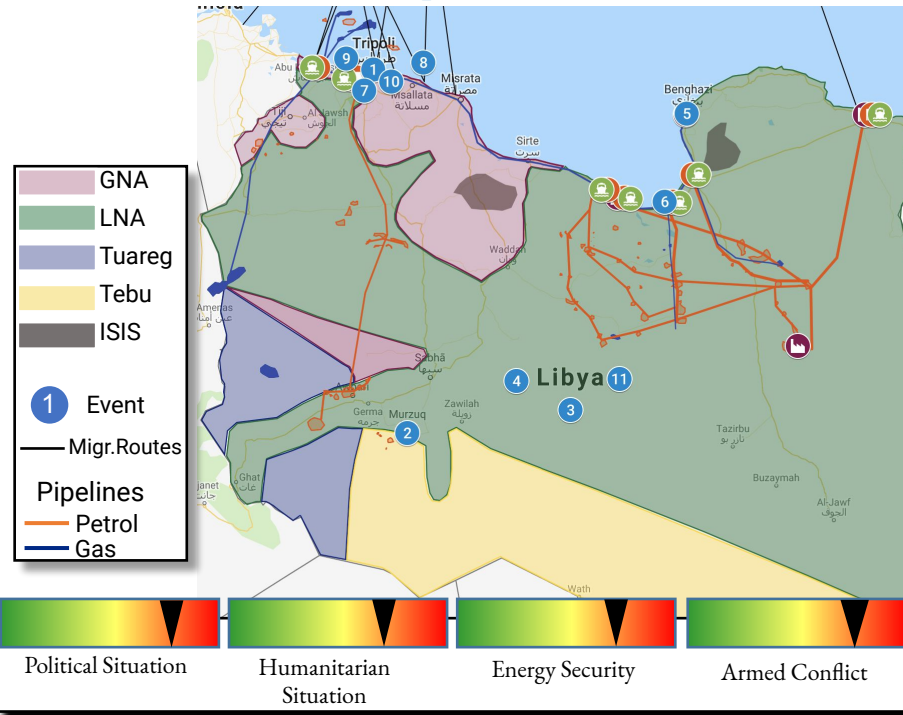
18.09.2019 Frank-Walter Stienmeier the German President expressed his hopes in cooperation with Italy and France to launch a new initiative for "preventing the erosion of the Libyan state", as he put it. On his official visit to Rome, Stienmeier said that "the immigration issue is closely linked to Libya, where the situation requires a new European effort, if the erosion of the state is to be prevented, Italy, France and Germany can prepare and launch an initiative." "I hope there will be more joint European efforts in the future, more than in the past, that will ease the burden on Italy" he added. ([LANA](#))

5. U.S. Ambassador to Libya meets with Haftar in Abu Dhabi

16.09.2019 The U.S. Ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, met with LNA commander Khalifa Haftar on Thursday in Abu Dhabi, the U.S. embassy revealed in a short statement. It said that the two discussed "the current situation in Libya and prospects for achieving a political solution to the Libya conflict". ([Libya Herald](#))

6. Head of Tripoli NOC condemns appointment of parallel board for Brega oil Company

20.09.2019 The parallel NOC in eastern Libya decided to appoint a management board of Brega Company, which was condemned by the Tripoli-based NOC that considered it a desperate attempt to export oil illicitly through parallel bodies in the east. The Chairman of the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) Mustafa Sanallah assured residents of eastern region in Libya that fuel supplies to their region will never cease. In a video statement on Facebook, Sanallah said there are enough quantities of all types of fuel in eastern Libya and that kerosene is also sufficiently available in there despite the fact that its consumption in eastern and central Libya increased by 80% this year compared to last year, which is unjustifiable. He also said that there are ongoing investigations into the consumption of kerosene in eastern Libya to know whether it is misused



ASSESSMENT

- Long-standing war of rival eastern and western powers of Libya for the capital of the country enhanced the power vacuum at southern parts of Libya. In addition to recent unrest between Tobu and Arab tribes around Murzuq, intelligence reports indicate a stirring among ISIS groups. US AFRICOM airstrike killing eight ISIS fighters was the first US airstrike against ISIS cells. This airstrike also confirms that the current power vacuum stemming from the civil war has been increasingly providing grounds to ISIS to resurge and gain power.
- The new initiative of the GNA to investigate post-conflict DDR policies is a promising initiative to prevent militia control on the government authority. If it is not just a face-saving seminar to deceive international community ahead of new international conferences, it may be an essential tool to avoid making the same mistakes that Libya experienced following the fall of Gaddafi.
- Italian and French rapprochement on Libya and migration issues and the German president's support to them might bring new momentum to produce more productive EU policies. The current momentum is a result of a combination of accelerated international solution-seeking efforts and the break-up of far-right Salvini from the Italian government. As having the most prominent historical, economic and political ties with Libya, cooperation and shared vision of France and Italy, would be one of the most promising developments for reaching a solution in Libya Crisis. Inclusion of Germany to this binary would constitute the trio to establish the long-awaited coherent EU Libya and migration policy.
- The shooting of a Sudanese migrant intercepted in the Mediterranean by Libyan coastguards blazed the discussions of training and funding of Libyan Coastguards by the EU. To prevent such tragedies and accusations, the EU can condition her support to Libyans with the closure of notorious migrant detention centres and prevention of other human rights violations against irregular migrants.

7. GNA to conduct DDR meeting in Tripoli

20.09.2019 The General Staff of the Tripoli-based Libyan army, aligned with the internationally recognized Government, announced today that it is preparing to hold a seminar in Tripoli with the title: "Organizing and Absorbing Supporting Forces in State Institutions". By "Absorbing supporting forces", Serraj government hints at the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of militias. The General Staff said the seminar would present projects and working papers on the process of integrating members of the forces supporting the Libyan army into state institutions. The event is open to all and participants are invited to propose "good recommendations". The seminar will be held on 23-24 September at the headquarters of the Organization and Management Authority in the Sidi Abdel Jalil area of Janzur in Tripoli. ([Libya Herald](#))

8. Malta allows only partial disembarkation of migrants from charity boat

20.09.2019 A group of 265 migrants were brought to Malta on Saturday, including 36 from the rescue ship Ocean Viking. The operators of the ship complained that more than 180 other migrants on board had been refused disembarkation by authorities in the island. The Maltese armed forces said 229 migrants among Saturday's arrivals were rescued from three boats in distress in Malta's search and rescue zone. Another 36 were transferred to a Maltese patrol boat from the Ocean Viking, which had rescued them in Malta's zone. The arrivals were the fourth group to arrive on the Mediterranean island in a week. But Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), which operates Ocean Viking, said in a tweet that 182 survivors from other rescues, including a newborn, children and a pregnant woman, remained stranded on board. This, it said, "demonstrates the discriminatory, arbitrary and inhumane nature of a system which continues to prioritize political gameplay above human lives and dignity". Malta argued that those people were picked up outside its rescue zone. ([Reuters](#))

9. Libyan Coast Guard intercepts nearly 500 Europe-bound migrants in the Mediterranean

19.09.2019 Libya's Coast Guard said late on Thursday it had picked up 493 migrants on six inflatable boats in six operations in a week in areas northeast and northwest of Tripoli, the capital. The migrants, including 28 women and five children, are from sub-Saharan, Arab and Asian countries. They were all moved to detention centers run by the U.N.-backed GNA, Coast Guard spokesman Ayoub Qassem said. ([Reuters](#))

10. Libyan Coastguard shoots dead a migrant after returning him to shore

19.09.2019 A Sudanese man was shot dead just hours after the Libyan Coast Guard returned him to shore, the UN's migration body said. UN staffers witnessed the event which occurred in Tripoli on Thursday after 103 migrants had been returned to shore by the Libyan Coast Guard. International Organization for Migration (IOM) staff who were present to provide aid reported to the UN body that armed men began shooting in the air when migrants tried to run away from their guards. Many of the migrants were resisting being sent back to Libyan detention centres. "This was tragedy waiting to happen," said IOM spokesperson Leonard Doyle in a statement. "The use of live bullets against unarmed vulnerable civilians, men, women and children alike, is unacceptable under any circumstances and raises alarms over the safety of migrants and humanitarian staff." Charlie Yaxley, the UN refugee agency's spokesman for Africa and the Mediterranean/Libya, said the incident made it "irrefutably clear that refugees and migrants must not be returned to Libya after being rescued at sea." IOM estimates that roughly 5,000 migrants are detained in inhumane conditions in Libya with over 3,000 detained in areas of active combat. ([Euronews](#))

OPINION

11. Libya: Locked or moving forward?

18.09.2019 Without a critical event on the ground that breaks the stalled position of the opposing forces, it will not be possible to unlock the situation, which may become endemic and last for a long and destructive time. At the same time, the situation can be unlocked only by a change of mind of any of the foreign actors involved. In other words, it would require a change of sides—by one or more of the actors critically involved in the Libyan theater—to obtain the change on the ground that could lead to a new consensus among international actors to begin meaningful negotiations leading to a solution for the embattled country. ([Atlantic Council](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Germany plans to gather a new Libya Conference

12.09.2019 Germany is planning to hold an UN-backed international conference on the future of Libya in an attempt to force the many regional actors to stop funding and arming the country's warring sides. The UN has admitted its strengthened arms embargo on the country has been totally ignored by a range of countries, including Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. The UN special envoy, Ghassan Salamé, has come to the view that unless an international spotlight is thrown on the role of the many regional actors, the war will continue indefinitely, possibly turning the country into a new Syria.

Speaking in Berlin on Thursday, Heiko Maas, the German foreign minister, hinted that some countries are unlikely to attend if they believe they are going to be put in the dock for backing one side or another. Maas added: "Germany wants to launch a consultation process with all relevant actors. There is still a lot of work before we can have such a conference. But we have started working on a process." He also revealed the UN panel of experts was investigating over 40 cases of arms embargo breaches of varying magnitude, despite non-cooperation by most of the perpetrator member states. "It is sadly true to say that the arms embargo has been ineffective since 4 April 2019," he said ([The Guardian](#)).

2. Two LNA-allied commander killed by GNA drone strikes including

13.09.2019. Two commanders of the eastern Libyan forces trying to take the capital Tripoli from the internationally-recognised government were killed late on Friday in a drone strike, officials said. The strike is a blow to Khalifa Haftar's eastern-based Libya National Army (LNA). The drone strike took place in the town of Tarhouna, southeast of Tripoli. The town has been the main base of the LNA since it lost Gharyan town south of Tripoli. The Tripoli government and LNA both confirmed that two Tarhouna-based commanders - Mohsen al-Kani, head of the Kaniyat armed group, and Abdelwahab al-Magri, head of the 9th brigade - died in the strike. A brother of Kani was also killed. ([Reuters](#))

3. LNA claims the control of Libyan skies

13.09.2019. LNA spokesman, Ahmed al-Mismari, announced on Friday that it had foiled a large attack on Al-Jufra Air Base before it had commenced, claiming that the plan of the attack was prepared by Turkey, and financed by Qatar. "The army shot down three Turkish drones that attempted to conduct airstrikes on Al-Jufra Air Base, they targeted a terrorist gathering in Sirte that planned to advance to Al-Jufra with 19 vehicles, all of which were destroyed," Al-Mismari explained. He added, "we targeted another terrorist gathering, consisting of 15 vehicles destroyed in the area of Abu Nujaym, that was planning to advance to the south and we struck the Air Academy in Misrata, as well." Al-Mismari claimed that his army is controlling all of the Libyan skies and reiterated that his forces are preparing for the battle to liberate Tripoli. ([MEMO](#))

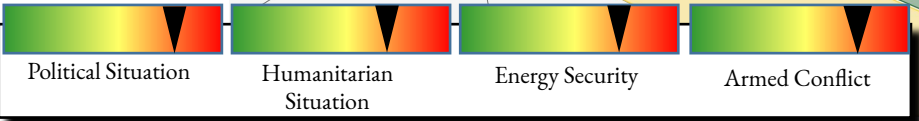
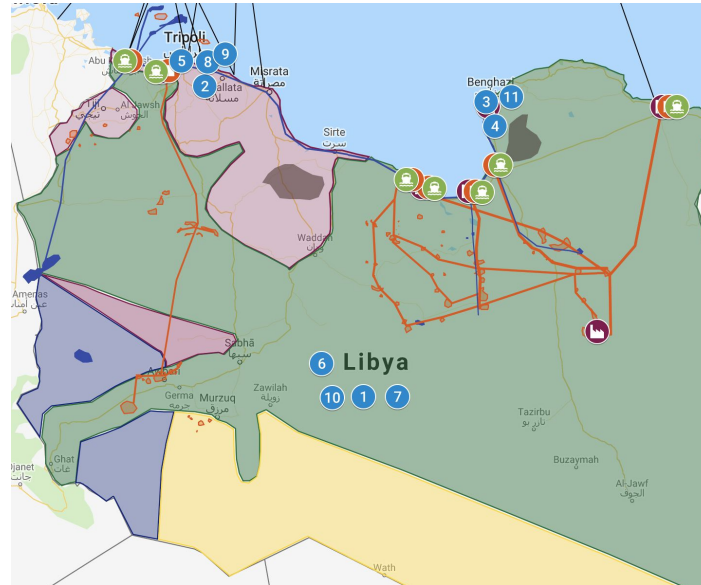
4. Salame claims that Haftar demanded guarantees for a possible withdrawal from Tripoli

09.09.2019 The UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salamé, said that retired Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar demanded guarantees for a possible withdrawal from the vicinity of the capital Tripoli. This came in an interview with the French newspaper Libération, published on Monday. Salamé stated that "weeks ago, the parties' positions became more realistic and the issue is not only geographical any longer, as Haftar demanded guarantees for a possible withdrawal from the vicinity of Tripoli." Salamé explained that "Haftar wants guarantees from the ruling parties in Tripoli, and requests making some appointments in important state posts in his favour." Salamé added: "In return, parties are willing to negotiate with Haftar on the condition of the withdrawal of his forces." He continued: "However, other parties do not want to negotiate with Haftar, as they consider that the retired Field Marshall lost legitimacy to be an active doer in Libya when the conflict ends." ([MEMO](#))

5. GNA Interior Ministry grants passports to Aouzou citizens

13.09.2019 Libyan politicians and human rights activists expressed concern after the Ministry of Interior at the GNA granted passports to Aouzou citizens, Chad, saying they have Libyan identity numbers. The Ministry's recent move is interpreted as the government's desire to use those citizens as militants in the battle against LNA. The 114,000-square-kilometer Aouzou region caused a long-running dispute between Libya and Chad until the International Court of Justice ruled that Chad had a majority vote in the region. Sabha MP Ali al-Saidi Qaidi rejected the decision of Interior Minister Fathi Pasha Agha to issue passports to some citizens of the Chadian Aouzou region. Website of al-Marsad newspaper quoted al-Qaidi as saying that this is a manipulation of national security, noting they are Chadian mercenaries to be used by the GNA in its war against LNA. ([Al-Awsar](#))

	GNA
	LNA
	Tuareg
	Tebu
	ISIS
	Event
	Migr.Routes
	Pipelines
	Petrol
	Gas



ASSESSMENT

- Replacing the attempts of France, last year Italy was trying to take the lead in Libya crisis from France and preparing for Palermo Conference with Trump's support. Now, we have Germany, the EU's steering member, to take over the Libya file. This time, however, different dynamics might lead to a successful conference. First of all, unlike France and Italy, Germany has an impartial and unbiased stance against Libyan factions. Secondly, possible German-made conference has no too ambitious goals, such as bringing peace and stability to Libya. It only aims to enforce UN arms embargo and stop meddling of regional powers to prevent a proxy war in Libya. Finally, rather than producing a self-styled approach, Germany takes the responsibility of a moderator to support peace efforts of UN special envoy Ghassan Salamé.
- From the pessimist aspect, since the beginning of the latest Tripoli offensive, Serraj and GNA camp claim that Haftar lost his trustworthiness and it is not possible to negotiate with him again. Besides, the approach of UAE, Egypt, KSA, Turkey and Qatar —the apparent violators of UN arms embargo and regional backers of Libyan factions— will be decisive to the success of the conference. Germany will need to work hard to seat these countries to a negotiation table and bring them to a common ground.
- Following the loss of Gharyan, Tarhuna is the most important western Libya powerbase of the LNA. Latest developments in the battlefield demonstrate that — apart from its drones and airstrikes— Haftar's LNA has lost its ability to push forward to Tripoli with its ground forces. The unexpected death of the leader of Tarhuna's Kaniyat armed group might cause a commotion among Tarhuna militia and further weaken the Haftar's hand in advance of a possible Libya conference in Germany.

6. Leaked document claims Russian technical support to LNA

12.09.2019 Russian technicians are supporting the LNA, the powerful faction led by former general Khalifa Haftar, by repairing its Soviet-supplied armoured fighting vehicles and artillery, according to a leaked document released by the Russian investigative news website Proekt as part of a joint investigation with The Daily Beast and The Dossier. "In the period commencing 17 October 2018 up to now, the overhaul specialist team of the Russian Federation made up of 23 men conducted inspection, damage/defect assessment, and overhaul of armoured vehicles and equipment as specified below," stated the Russian-language document, which was dated 12 March. The document did not state whether the Russian technicians were serving military personnel or contractors, although Proekt said the metadata in the document showed it was written by an individual who is reportedly associated with the private military company known as the Wagner Group. ([Jane's Defence](#))

7. IOM repatriates 127 more migrants to their home countries

13.09.2019 The International Organization for Migration reports it has repatriated 127 African and Asian migrants stranded in Libya. Despite all the difficulties, IOM has succeeded in returning more than 7,200 stranded migrants to their countries of origin this year. Upon their return, the migrants receive a reintegration package that helps them resume their lives, continue their education or start a small business. ([Libyan Express](#))

8. UNHCR evacuates 98 refugees to Italy

12.09.2019 UNHCR said Friday that it evacuated 98 refugees out of Libya to Italy, in its third humanitarian evacuation to Italy so far this year. "With Libya continuing to suffer under conflict, such evacuations are a lifeline for the most vulnerable refugees living in detention centres and urban areas, who are in dire need of safety and protection," UNHCR said in a statement. The refugees are from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan, and include 52 unaccompanied children. Many of the refugees had been held in detention in Libya for long periods, some for more than eight months. With this operation, the number of vulnerable refugees assisted by UNHCR and evacuated from Libya in 2019 reached 1,474; including 710 to Niger, 393 to Italy, and 371 resettled in other countries in Europe and Canada. "There are still some 3,600 refugees in detention centres. We urgently need to find solutions for them, as well as thousands more vulnerable refugees living in urban areas," said Jean-Paul Cavalieri, UNHCR Chief of Mission for Libya. ([Ansa-Med](#))

9. Italy grants permission to 82 migrants to dock in Lampedusa

13.09.2019 Italy granted permission to a ship carrying 82 migrants to dock Saturday in Lampedusa, Sicily, and allowed the passengers to disembark. The Ocean Viking rescued the migrants nearly a week ago in the Mediterranean Sea. The ship carried 58 men, six women and 17 minors, including a 1-year-old child. On Wednesday, a pregnant woman and her husband, who were passengers on the ship, were airlifted to Malta and she gave birth there. "This comes after a coalition of European states has stepped up with another ad hoc solution to enable the disembarkation and relocation of rescued people," the release said.

MSF project coordinator Erkinalp Kesikli said some of the child passengers told the medical team that while in Libya, they sustained burns with melted plastic, beatings with sticks and bites from dogs. "We hear horrific stories of sexual abuse against men, women and children," Kesikli said. "Exploitation and arbitrary detention has left many with deep psychological wounds. We are relieved that they will no longer be waiting in limbo at sea thanks to the solidarity demonstrated by European states." Non-governmental organizations have estimated that more than 2,000 migrants perished while trying to cross the Mediterranean in 2018. ([UKI](#))

10. Rwanda agrees to take 500 refugees from Libya

09.09.2019 African refugees being held in squalid conditions in detention in Libya will be evacuated to Rwanda under an agreement reached with Kigali and the African Union, the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said on Tuesday. A first group of 500 refugees from the Horn of Africa will be evacuated in coming weeks out of 4,700 now estimated to be in custody in Libya, under a new transit mechanism, UNHCR spokesman Babar Baloch said. ([Reuters](#))

OPINION

11. A Warlord Rebuilds Benghazi in His Own Image

12.09.2019 Benghazi was the center of the revolution against former Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi. After driving out the Islamists, warlord Khalifa Haftar has set up a culture of surveillance and fear in the

KEY EVENTS

1. Salame says cooperation of key external actor is key to peace in Libya

03.09.2019 In his latest update on the Libyan situation to the UN Security Council yesterday, the head of UNSMIL, Salame said that there have now been over 100 civilian deaths, 300 injured and 120,000 displaced as well as fighter deaths “in the low thousands” as a result of the war launched by Haftar to “liberate” Tripoli on 4 April this year. Salame condemned the eastern-based Interim Government for setting up parallel unelected councils, called for the freeing of and the investigation into the disappearance of House of Representatives (HoR) member Siham Sergiwa. The UNSMIL head said that the UNSC arms embargo on Libya has been “ineffective” and that fighters on both sides were ready for peace as they were exhibiting “combat fatigue”. He added that “The idea that war should be given a chance and that a military solution is at all possible is quite simply a chimera”. Ultimately, Salame said that without the cooperation of key external actors (popularly believed to be France, Egypt, UAE, Turkey and Qatar), the Libyan conflict will continue. ([Libya Herald](#))

2. GNA forces launch counter attack on LNA

06.09.2019 Libya’s U.N.-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) initiated an offensive aimed at pushing back eastern forces led by Khalifa Haftar. The clashes on Saturday morning came after nearly a month of calm. “Three fighters allied to GNA from Misrata were killed in the offensive in Tripoli this morning,” the witness from the coastal city, some 200 km (124 miles) east of Tripoli, told Reuters. An LNA military source said the offensive was repelled and the LNA maintained its positions. The source added five LNA troops were injured. Neither side claimed significant advances. The GNA forces’ media office, Volcano Wrath, posted a photo online of heavy artillery targeting the LNA in Wadi Rabea, Qew Triangle and Sabea in Tripoli’s southern suburbs. ([Reuters](#))

3. LNA rules the returning the negotiation table out

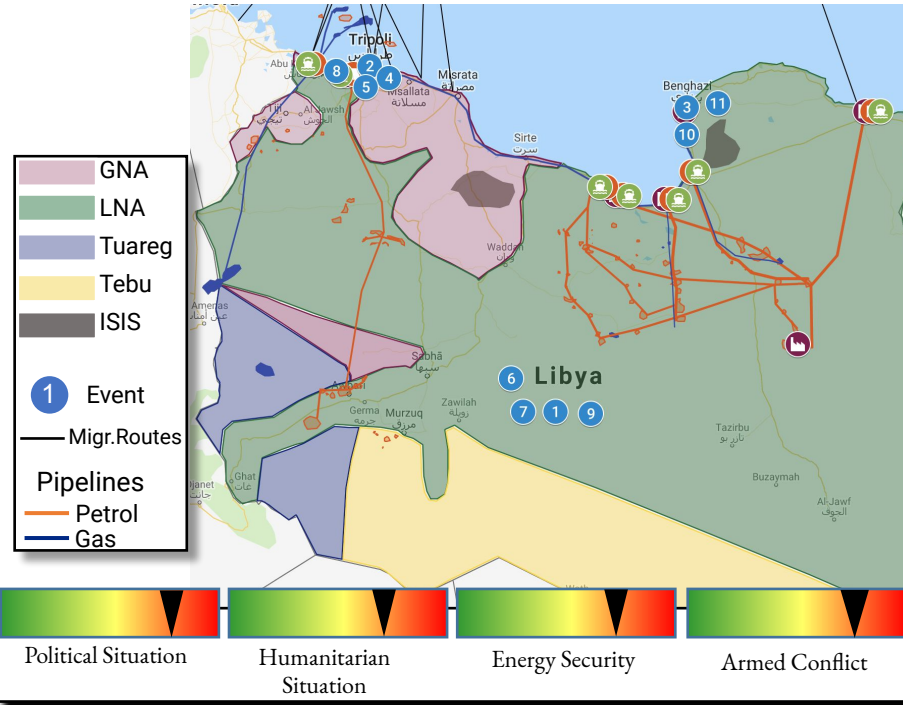
06.09.2019 Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar’s forces on Saturday ruled out a UN call to return to the negotiating table, with his spokesman saying a military solution is the best way to resolve the conflict. The battle (for Tripoli) is in its final phases, LNA spokesman General Ahmed al-Mesmari told during a press conference in the UAE, one of Haftar’s foreign backers. “When the guns speak, diplomacy goes silent. The time of going back to dialogue is over,” he said. “The military solution is the best solution to spread security and reimpose the law.” ([Daily Mail](#))

4. Tripoli NOC restricts fuel supplies to LNA controlled areas

05.09.2019 Libya’s state oil firm has restricted kerosene supplies to areas controlled by eastern commander Khalifa Haftar in what diplomats and oil officials said was an attempt to prevent his troops using them in their five-month-old battle to take the capital. The company said it took no side in the conflict and there was more than enough fuel in the east for civilian purposes. “NOC has stopped all additional fuel supplies until such time that assurances can be met that fuel is only being used for domestic and civilian aviation purposes, and reflects real consumption,” the NOC said in a statement. “Jet fuel stocks in the east are more than adequate to cover demand for civilian flights. NOC takes no side nor part in the conflict in Libya and it rejects any attempt to portray it as doing so,” it said in a later statement. Forces allied to Serraj also get fuel from NOC. The NOC did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether it had restricted those supplies. Serraj’s allies are less fuel dependent than the LNA due to shorter supply lines, and they scaled back their air strikes after the LNA hit western airports. ([Reuters](#))

5. NOC: Libya oil and gas revenue increases by 23% in July

02.09.2019 At the end of July 2019, the Libyan state-owned oil company (NOC) reported a 23% increase in its oil and gas sales, compared to June 2019. The receipts thus passed from \$ 1.73 billion to \$ 2.1 billion. The company attributed the increase in revenue to an increase in the number of crude oil shipments from since the end of June. However, NOC boss Mustafa Sanallah said the sector remains vulnerable to setbacks mainly related to the deteriorating security situation in the country. He added that the sabotage of the main Al Sharara oil pipeline during this month has affected revenue that could have been higher. ([EnergyMix Report](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Despite their inability to prevail in the battlefield, Libyan factions and Haftar’s LNA, seem determined to continue fighting. To deter spoilers (and their regional backers) and attract warring groups to the negotiation table, prominent international actors need to show some political muscle. Following the statement of G7 to convene new Libya conferences to initiate peace negotiations, UN special envoy Ghassan Salame declared a similar approach to start a new political process in Libya. These two indicate a certain level of international consensus. Ambiguous positions and insufficient interests of US and Russia constitute the main impediment for constructing a forceful global approach. To make a breakthrough, prominent international actors such as the US, Russia, UK, Italy and France should negotiate to reach common ground. Besides, these leading actors are the only powers with ability to enforce implementation of UN arms embargo to Libya.
- Following LNA’s failed attempt to re-capture Gharyan, this time GNA initiated a full-scale counter-attack to exploit this setback. Such manoeuvres might be rooted in a desire to gain the upper hand in the battlefield ahead of possible upcoming peace negotiations.
- Falling short of selling the Libyan oil through Eastern NOC, a couple of weeks ago, Haftar had guaranteed the oil production and gave up the option of Eastern Libya marketing the Libyan oil. On the strength of Haftar’s statement, Mustafa Sanallah, head of Tripoli NOC, might have decided to restrict the fuel supplies to LNA controlled areas. His move, however, involves high risks to Libya’s oil production and sales. It would damage the agreement between LNA and Tripoli NOC. Possessing the control of the most of the Libyan oil fields, in response to NOC’s latest decision, LNA may choose to stem the oil flow and/or accelerate the partition between eastern and western sovereign Libya institution. It is just a speculation, but Sanallah’s move can be interpreted as he is taking a side against Haftar. Would that be because Sanallah wants to pave the way for entering the political competition for leading Libya in the aftermath

6. The number of internally displaced people reaches 200K in Libya

01.09.2019 The internally displaced civilian count in Tripoli since the beginning of the war has risen to 199,925 people, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) confirmed. Most of those displaced are residing in shelters, while others are staying with relatives, the UNHCR explained, adding that it had provided humanitarian assistance to around 10,500 displaced people. The death toll from Haftar’s attack on Tripoli reached 1,048, more than 100 of them civilians, while the number of wounded reached 5,558, among them 290 civilians, according to the latest statistics of the World Health Organization. ([Libya Observer](#))

7. UNHCR reports its facilities in Libya overcrowded

03.09.2019 UNHCR complained of the overcrowding of its facility for the gathering and transferring of refugees, in Libya, explaining that this will hamper the transferring process of migrants. The UNHCR explained in a statement that the overcrowding of its facility will affect its ability to transfer refugees at risk in Libya, to other safer countries. The facility, which was built by the UNHCR in December last year, is overloaded and hosts more than 1,000 refugees, while it is only equipped to accommodate 700 people, according to the UNHCR. ([Libya Observer](#))

8. Libyan Coastguard intercepts 108 Europe-bound migrants

02.09.2019 Libya’s coastguards have intercepted 108 Europe-bound illegal migrants off the country’s Mediterranean coast. The Libyan Navy spokesman Ayoub Qassim said the rubber boat with the African and Middle Eastern migrants, including 13 women and seven children, was stopped off the western city of Sabratha. Qassim indicated that the migrants were given humanitarian and medical assistance before being taken to a detention center in western town of Zawiya. Sabratha is one of the biggest launching points for the mainly African migrants making the dangerous voyage across the Mediterranean Sea. ([Libyan Express](#))

9. Italian police confiscate the charity ship disembarking more than 100 migrants

01.09.2019 More than 100 migrants aboard a German migrant rescue ship that had been stranded at sea for a week were allowed to disembark in Sicily on Monday after Italian police confiscated the boat. The ship’s captain had earlier set course for the Sicilian port of Pozzallo, citing an emergency because of bad weather and sparking a new standoff between rescuers and Italy’s far-right interior minister just as he looks set to lose his job. ([Reuters](#))

OPINION

10. Prime seaside real estate, oil and scrap metal: Inside the billion-dollar fund financing a Libyan warlord

06.09.2019 Experts say “to finance the war effort, bankroll expenses that include a Washington lobbyist, and satisfy the appetites of his officers, Haftar has turned to what critics are calling predatory business practices, much of which is conducted via the Military Investment and Public Works Committee, a quasi-legal authority through which properties are expropriated or bought on the cheap, and commodities are sold abroad. Attempts to quantify the value of the authority’s assets and revenues have proven difficult. One researcher estimated that it controls between 5 billion and 10 billion Libyan dinars in assets, suggesting it’s worth at least a \$1bn (£810,000), with tens of millions of dollars in annual revenues.” ([Independent](#))

11. Libya’s Haftar and the false narrative of authoritarian stability

02.09.2019 “While Haftar’s foreign allies may think they have no choice but to provide military and political support to their protégé, backing his offensive is tantamount to fueling instability across Libya, undermining the very rationale upon which their support is based. Foreign powers should prioritize stopping the war, instead of getting caught in the zero-sum game of either saving Hifter or exposing the LNA to a dangerous power struggle or fragmentation. Rather than appeasing, funding, and arming Hifter, foreign states should disavow the narrative of security and stability he peddles. Taking a sober look at the mounting disarray left in his wake in areas he’s purportedly stabilized would be an excellent first step in that regard.” ([MEI](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. G7 Summit sets forth two new Libya conferences to solve the crisis

28.08.2019 Radio France Internationale (RFI) said the solution for the ongoing conflict in Libya will go through two conferences, as agreed upon by western countries in the recent Group of Seven (G7) Summit. "For Westerners, it is time to put an end to the conflict in Libya by focusing on a political solution and maintaining the status quo around Tripoli, as both parties are unable to prevail." RFI said on Wednesday. The first conference is going to be an inter-Libyan conference; a revised and corrected version of that planned by Ghassan Salamé, the UN special envoy, before the war broke out. No dates and even the place of this meeting were disclosed. According to RFI, it looks however more inclusive, as military leaders of Misrata and Zintan, heavyweights of the conflict, will be invited. According to Libyan sources, Ghassan Salamé also met in Tunis Oussama Juwaili, the commander of western military zone of the Government of National Accord, and who would condition a truce to guarantees of security for his fighters. "The stated objective of this inter-Libyan conference is to lay a new foundation for the previous conference held in Skhirat in Morocco in 2016, to allow, in the long term, to reunify the Libyan executive authority, that is today divided between East and West." RFI further revealed.

The second conference, international this time, is planned in New York at the end of September, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. "After being divided, Westerners now show pragmatism, more determined to get out of the crisis. In this perspective, France is consulting with London and Rome and seeking to establish a lasting truce in Tripoli nearly five months after the start of the conflict." Disclosed RFI. It added that for the international community, it is essential to adopt more realistic solutions and to compel the stakeholders to stick to them. The final declaration of the G7 summit on Sunday (August 25th) called for an international conference to end the crisis in Libya. The G7 countries also affirmed their support for the work of the UN to set up an inter-Libyan conference. [\(Libyan Express\)](#)

2. UN Secretary General presents a Libya Report to Security Council

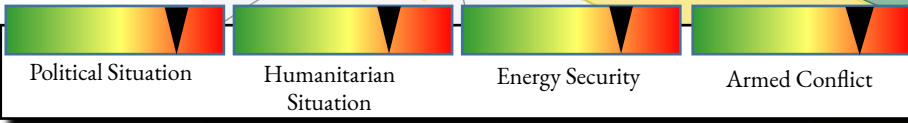
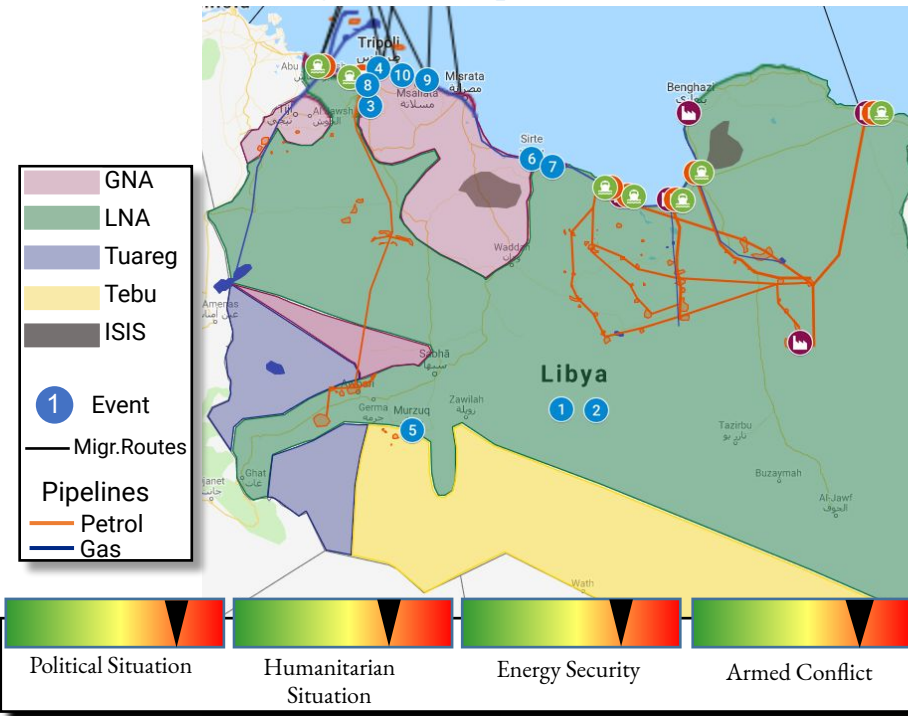
28.08.2019 The latest report of UN Secretary General on the crisis in Libya is released. In the report UNSG Antonio Guterres reflected his view on various aspects of the crisis; such as humanitarian, terrorism, security, political, economic situations and migrants and other vulnerable groups. Guterres said that Haftar's offensive on Tripoli brought the political process to a halt, aggravated humanitarian needs and forced displacement. He recommended member states to observe the UN arms embargo to Libya. In his report he also mentioned from the divided House of Representatives which is making decisions without quorum, and he named the Eastern interim government as "parallel and defunct." In economic situation, Guterres mentioned that in 2019 Libya will have around \$10 billion deficit, and he added that, in this reporting period, interim government printed 3 billion Libyan dinars printed. Unlawful deprivation of liberty, detention and torture section is highly loaded with violations. Guterres draws a special attention to the serious human rights violations in city of Derna. His report also provides all the numbers related to refugees, migrants and other vulnerable groups in Libya. At the end of the report Guterres recommends the 12-month extension of the UNSMIL mandate.

3. Spokesperson declares ongoing GNA control over Gharyan

29.08.2019 Interior Ministry spokesman of the GNA insisted yesterday that the situation in the city of Gharyan was "under the military control of the (Tripoli-based) Libyan Army's Joint Operations Room of the GNA" and the security components of the Ministry of Interior, primarily the Gharyan Security Directorate. The Tripoli statement on Gharyan comes on the back of two failed attempts within one week by the LNA to recapture the city. The second attempt started on Sunday 25, when forces came from both Al-Asaba (south-west of Gharyan) and again from Arban, supported by heavy LNA airstrikes. However, it now seems that GNA reinforcements forced the LNA to retreat on Monday after two days of clashes. Drone strikes have continued by both sides. LNA drones hit part of Gharyan on Tuesday and according to the LNA, GNA drones hit Al-Asaba and allegedly killed four civilians. [\(Libya Herald\)](#)

4. LNA increases its military presence around Tripoli

30.08.2019 Haftar has consolidated its presence in the capital's suburbs as fighting with the forces loyal to the Government of National Accord (GNA) subsided, military sources said. The sources told Asharq Al-Awsat that LNA upped its military presence outside Tripoli and launched a large scale surveillance operation to thwart a possible terrorist attack in the oil crescent region. The sources said that the LNA is also gearing up for a military operation to clear the southern city of Murzuq from "terrorist and criminal groups," mainly those backed by the Chadian opposition. GNA's Foreign Minister Mohammed Sayala planned the LNA for coming to a "armed agreement" on Tripoli, which means "a continuing operation



ASSESSMENT

- The new report of the UN Secretary-General is a comprehensive one, providing the most reliable data on all aspects of the crisis in Libya. At the same time, when considered with current facts in the field, it depicts the inability of the UN, while seeing the evil. The recommendations section is highly weak and disappointing. More concrete, UN Security Council actions, such as no-fly-zone over Tripoli, could have been requested.
- The civil war in and around capital Tripoli is still ongoing at full steam. Moreover, even though G7 plans to convene new Libya conferences, indicators in the field refer that there is not much room for returning to the negotiation table, in the short term.
- Haftar's forces are pushing hard to recapture the city of Gharyan, which is an important geostrategic location for launching attacks on Tripoli, and for the protection of LNA's supply lines. The loss of Gharyan already adversely affected the LNA operations around Tripoli international airport. It seems that, despite superior firepower and restless airstrikes, GNA still owns the city. After so many tries, if Haftar accepts the defeat, it is for sure that his offensive on Tripoli will suffer irrecoverable damage both on his operational and morale conditions.
- Having stuck in the current fronts, Haftar might try to extend the war to new fronts such as Sirte and Misrata. Lacking enough ground power to reach his goals, armed drone strikes gaining increasingly more importance for Haftar's LNA. GNA is trying to reply to his opponent with Turkish made Bayraktar drones, but it is evident that Haftar has superiority in the air. LNA is able to hit all the airfields that GNA might deploy Turkish drones. As seen during the latest Gharyan offensive GNA camp is not much able to fly his old-fashioned planes or Turkish made drones to oppose LNA airstrikes. To decrease the increasing lethality of the war, the UN can impose a no-fly zone over the battlefield. In this way, losing their only efficient firepower Haftar's camp might be more willing to accept a compromise solution on the negotiation table.

5. Murzuq initiative wants to establish a neutral city

30.08.2019 Fezzan Commission is trying to bring the peace back to Murzuq. This initiative's declared aim is to establish a neutral city, without influence of various armed factions, and investigate crimes to end sufferings and ensure justice in the city. In the meantime, it is reported that Haftar's forces continue to hit the city with airstrikes. On Saturday afternoon two different strikes killed 8 people. According to UN coordination office, during the latest turmoil in the city; more than 90 civilians killed and over 16,000 people were displaced to nearby towns.

6. ISIS may infiltrate with migrants' influx through sea

30.08.2019 The spokesman for Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous Operation Mohammed Al-Ghasri has told that they have depicted movements for ISIS in Garabulli area outside Tripoli. Al-Ghasri said there could be possible infiltration of some ISIS militants with immigrants' influx through the sea. Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous Operation was launched by the Presidential Council's orders in May 2016 to uproot ISIS terrorists from Sirte with an air cover by the US army. After about seven months of battle in Sirte, Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous Operation forces backed by February revolutionaries and US air cover declared ISIS defeat in Sirte. [\(Libyan Express\)](#)

7. Sirte PF declares state of high alert after tracking Haftar's armed convoy

31.08.2019 Commander of Sirte Protection Force, Al-Na'as Abdullah declared the state of high alert after the tracking of a convoy of armed vehicles belonging to Haftar's forces coming from the east, in the area of Al-Rawagha, heading to an unknown destination. Recently, Sirte Protection force had continued to operate fixed and mobile patrols east and south of Sirte, reaffirming that the area extending from Abu Qrin to Sirte is under the control of the Central Military Region of the Government of National Accord. [\(Libya Observer\)](#)

8. Airstrike to Tripoli's Mitiga Airport injures Libyan Pilgrims

31.08.2019 Libyan pilgrims have survived rocket attacks on Mitiga Airport in Tripoli on Saturday night. Airport sources said the pilgrims were leaving the plane around 2:00 a.m. when the rockets started falling a few meters away from their plane, causing panic among the pilgrims and wounding a number of them. Their Libyan Airlines Airbus A330 was also damaged by rocket shrapnel. A video shared on Facebook showed women screaming while fleeing the rocket attacks. [\(Libya Observer\)](#)

9. New shipwreck in sea; about 40 people dead or missing

26.08.2019 About 40 people are feared dead or missing after the latest wreck of a boat carrying migrants bound for Europe off the coast of Libya, while about 60 people may have been rescued, the U.N. refugee agency said on Tuesday. Libyan coastguard spokesman Ayoub Qassem said the bodies of five migrants had been recovered and 65 migrants had been rescued about 9 miles off the coast of the city of Khoms. Three of those found dead were from Morocco, one was from Sudan and one from Somalia, Qassem said. UNHCR said most survivors were from Sudan, with others from Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Unseaworthy vessels overloaded with migrants trying to reach Italy regularly capsized off Libya. Last week more than 100 people died, and a boat with about 250 capsized last month. As of last week, nearly 5,400 migrants had been intercepted or rescued at sea by the Libyan coastguard so far this year, UNHCR reported. According to Italy's interior ministry, 4,862 migrants have landed on Italian shores since Jan. 1. [\(Reuters\)](#)

10. Italy agrees to disembarkation of women, children and sick people but ban remains

29.08.2019 The Mare Jonio, operated by Italian charity Mediterranean Saving Humans, picked up around 100 migrants adrift off Libya in a rubber dinghy on Wednesday. The castaways included 22 children under the age of 10 and 26 women, at least eight of whom were pregnant. On Thursday the Italian government agreed to allow women, children and sick people on board to disembark but refused to lift its ban on the ship entering Italian waters. "The ban... remains in place for a ship that does not respect laws and intentionally provokes a state of necessity on board so as to be able to disembark in Italy," a source close to the Italian Interior Ministry said. On its web page, Mediterranean called on Italy to allow the other migrants on board the ship, as well as the crew, to disembark since the situation remained unsafe. In the last year Italy has run a closed ports policy to try and stem illegal immigration from North Africa. [\(Reuters\)](#)



KEY EVENTS

1. Fighting on Tripoli starts over following a two days truce

12.08.2019 Fighting around Tripoli resumed overnight, following a two-day truce observed during Eid al-Adha, Libyan officials said Tuesday. The two-day cease-fire - proposed by the U.N. - was the first since the LNA launched an offensive to capture Tripoli. Haftar's forces carried out airstrikes overnight on Tripoli's southern outskirts, the officials said. The militias allied with GNA also shelled Haftar's forces in the southern and eastern outskirts, they said. On Saturday, both sides had accepted the truce ahead of the holiday, though they later each claimed the other had violated the cease-fire. ([Daily Mail](#))

2. UNSMIL urges for a permanent ceasefire in Libya

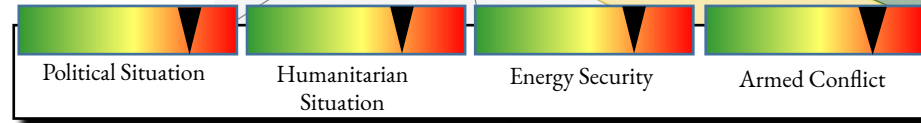
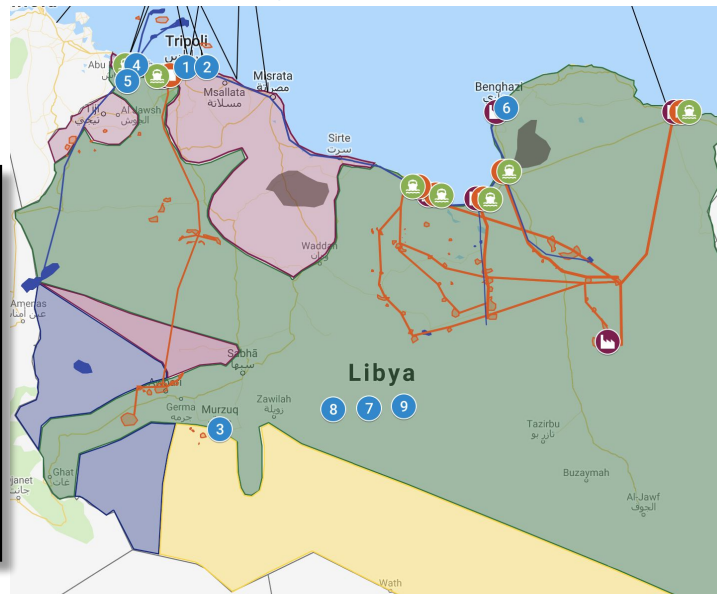
14.08.2019 UNSMIL was ready to immediately use its good offices to transform what was accomplished in the period of truce into a "permanent ceasefire," announced UN Special Representative in Libya (SRSG) Ghassan Salame. UNSMIL welcomes the international community's declarations of support for the truce and renews Salame's proposal to convene a meeting of concerned countries. The statement noted that nations "should work towards providing guarantees for a permanent ceasefire, a call for upholding the arms embargo, and a commitment to return in good faith to a UN-sponsored comprehensive political process to end the Libyan conflict." The truce was not respected in Murzuq, argued the statement, noting that "communal violence between the Tebu and al-Ahali communities continued, killing seven individuals and wounding 54 others." "As of 12 August, the ongoing acts of violence displaced approximately 5,000 individuals to Wadi Ettabah and around 200 to al-Gatroun area." ([Al-Awsat](#))

3. More than 90 civilians killed in Murzuq

14.08.2019 "The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says that at least 90 civilians were killed and more than 200 injured as a result of the violent clashes which escalated early this month in Murzuq, southern Libya, including the airstrike that targeted the area on Aug 4," the Office of the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General said in a statement. The statement said that the clashes in Murzuq escalated following numerous consecutive precision airstrikes hitting the area on Aug 4. The fighting also continued during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, disregarding the truce brokered by the United Nations on Aug 10-11. ([Bernama](#))

4. LNA hits Libyan airports despite UNSMIL's condemnation

17.08.2019 UNSMIL has dismissed claims by Haftar that a government-controlled airport bombed by his forces in recent days housed military infrastructure. On Thursday and Friday LNA launched air strikes on Zuwara airport in western Libya, targeting what it said was a hangar "which houses Turkish drones and their ammunition". GNA said a member of civil protection was wounded in Friday's attack. UNSMIL said it dispatched a delegation to Zuwara to investigate the LNA allegations. "After reviewing the airport's facilities and all the adjacent buildings, the assessment mission was able to confirm that neither military assets nor military infrastructure were observed at Zuwara Airport," a statement said. It declared Zuwara airport "a civilian facility". UNSMIL denounced the strike, which "caused serious damage to the airport's infrastructure, including to the runway". "Attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructures constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian and human rights law," it said. Haftar's forces have also allegedly repeatedly targeted Tripoli's sole functioning airport Mitiga. ([Daily Mail](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Benghazi, under Haftar's rule, seems like a secure city when compared to capital Tripoli. However, a sense of security crackle when tested with a counter-Haftar discourse in the city. The abduction of Libyan MP Sergewa and such enforced disappearances illustrates the level of intolerance against criticism and that of oppression against Haftar's rivals in Eastern Libya. Such practices indicate that while dreaming a democratic and stabilized country, Libyans may wake up to Haftar loyalists' repressions against critical voices through Gaddafi-like violent applications.
- With the support of external backers of warring parties, the use of air force is gradually rising in Libya. Haftar's self-styled LNA intensified using airstrikes to impose superiority and suppress its adversaries. The silence of international actors against Haftar's indiscriminate shelling through airstrikes —as was in Tajoura and Murzuq— permits him to continue air attacks to civilian targets. The relative increase of air/drone strikes could be an indication of a ground power that is stuck in the battlefield. International community's naming & shaming of the perpetrators and a decent criminal investigation could be initial steps to take to forestall future disasters, such as targeting civilians, UN staff and health workers.
- Ongoing communal turmoil in Murzuq, as well as historical resentments, stems from the disrupted social balance as a result of the latest LNA operation in Southern Libya. Ethnic violence among Tubu and Arab tribes has a high potential of escalation, which would raise the number of displaced families in Southern Libya.

5. UNSMIL deplors increasing airport attacks in Libya

15.08.2019 The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) deplored the ever-increasing and systemic attacks on airports in western Libya, including Zuwara and Mitiga. "These attacks have endangered the lives of thousands of civilian travelers, including UN staff and humanitarian workers ... UNSMIL stresses that these attacks must cease immediately, and reiterates that airports used by civilians are not military targets." ([UNSMIL](#))

6. Abducted politician, Sergewa, has been missing for 4 weeks

15.08.2019 The Interim Government in eastern Libya should exert all possible efforts to ensure the safe return of Seham Sergewa, a member of parliament who was abducted from her home in the eastern city of Benghazi on July 17, 2019, Human Rights Watch said today.

The Interim Government, which controls Benghazi and is one of two governments that claim legitimacy in Libya, denied that it or any forces linked to the LNA, an armed group that supports it, had any role in Sergewa's abduction. Its interior minister blamed unidentified "terrorist groups who infiltrated Benghazi" for the abduction. However, relatives and Benghazi residents with knowledge of the incident said that they believed LNA-affiliated groups were behind the abduction and that some cars used in the abduction identified the groups. Sergewa has been outspoken in opposing the continuing military assault of Haftar on Tripoli. In an interview on July 16, the night before she was abducted, with a pro-LNA TV station, Al-Hadath, she reiterated her opposition to the ongoing armed conflict in Tripoli. She stated her support for a unity government in Libya and denounced "extremists" on both sides of the conflict. ([HRW](#))

7. Rome court overrides Salvini's ban on migrant ships

13.08.2019 An administrative court in Rome ruled that a Spanish rescue ship carrying around 150 migrants should be allowed to enter Italian territorial waters in defiance of a ban imposed by Interior Minister Matteo Salvini. Salvini, leader of the far-right League party, quickly responded that he would not allow the ship entry regardless of the ruling, setting up another high-profile conflict over the issue of immigration which has proved his biggest vote-winner. The charity vessel Open Arms had appealed to the court to let it come to Italy, saying international maritime law meant it had a right to bring the migrants to safety. Earlier this month Salvini introduced a new law hiking fines for ships that enter Italian waters without authorization to up to 1 million euros (\$1.12 million). ([Reuters](#))

8. Conte says six EU countries agrees to take in 150 migrants

14.08.2019 Italian PM Conte said that six EU countries had agreed to take in some 150 migrants from a rescue ship that Italy had blocked from docking, resolving the latest standoff over immigration to Europe across the Mediterranean. The migrants will be shared out among France, Germany, Romania, Portugal, Spain and Luxembourg, Conte said in an open letter to Salvini in which he accused the minister of disloyalty and being "obsessed" with closing Italy's ports to migrants. ([Reuters](#))

9. Libyan Coastguard intercepts 577 migrants so far in August

17.08.2019 Libya's coastguard said it intercepted 57 Europe-bound migrants off the country's Mediterranean coast. Spokesman Ayoub Gassim said a wooden boat carrying 53 Ethiopian migrants, including 17 women and nine children, and four Egyptian migrants were stopped on Saturday off the coastal town of Zawiya. The town is about 48 kilometres west of the capital, Tripoli. Libya's coastguard says it has intercepted 577 migrants at sea so far in August. ([National](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Salame releases his new de-escalation plan for Libya

08.08.2019 UN special envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame, told that his recent initiative for de-escalation in Libya is a three-point plan that could bring a peaceful solution to the conflict. Salame said the first point of his plan consists reaching a humanitarian truce for the holiday of Eid al-Adha, which, if the three parties agree to it, would show Libyans that an alternative to war exists. The second point would be an international conference with the participation of all foreign parties. The last and the third point would be a conference reserved only for Libyan parties. He emphasised the difference between a ceasefire and a humanitarian truce, in that the former has to be monitored while the latter is only a common agreement between the warring parties to stop military action for a limited period of time. Salame said his initiative includes full implementation of the UNSC's arms embargo, and that following the international conference, there would be another with the participation of all the Libyan parties and foreign representatives, in order to resume political dialogue. ([ANSAMed](#))

2. GNA accepts UNSMIL truce with conditions

09.08.2019 Libya's Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) announced that it is willing to agree to a four-point conditional truce over the Eid Al-Adha holiday which is expected to start on 10 August, Saturday and terminate on Tuesday in western Libya. GNA said it would agree to this "limited humanitarian truce" in response to humanitarian needs and the request by UNSMIL. GNA's first condition is that the truce must include all areas of fighting and all direct and indirect fires must cease and there must be no forward movement of forces from current positions on the ground. Secondly, all flight activity and observation flights in all skies and from all air bases must be prohibited. Thirdly, the truce must not be used as cover to move or mobilize troops. And finally, UNSMIL must guarantee the implementation of the truce and monitor any transgressions of the truce. ([Libya Herald](#))

3. LNA agrees to GNA's conditional truce for four-day Eid Al-Adha

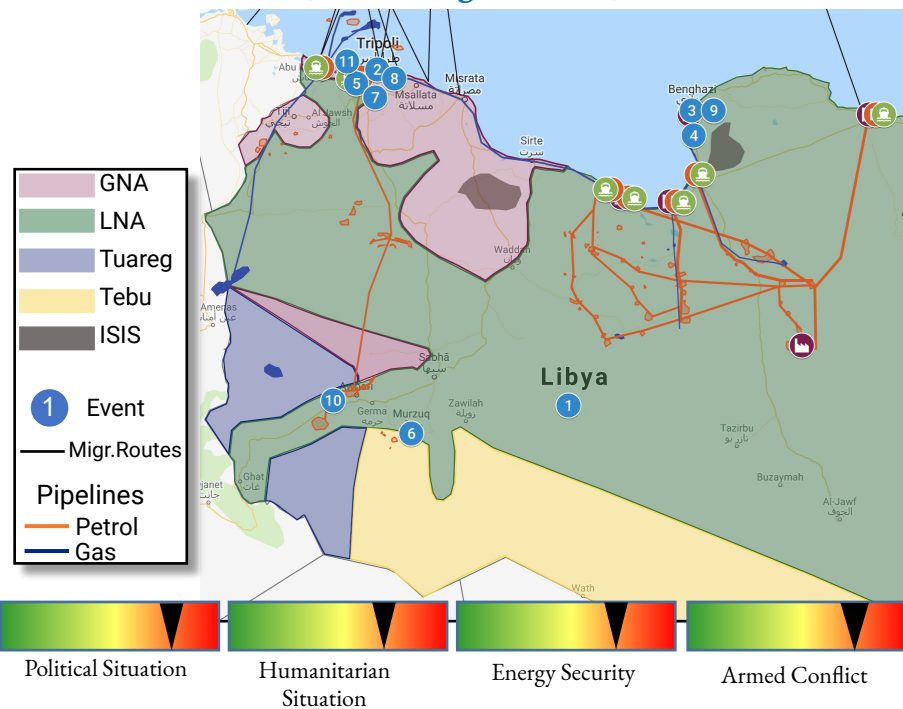
09.08.2019 Following UNSMIL had announced its disappointment early Saturday that the LNA had not responded positively to the proposed truce. Later the same day, LNA has announced that it has accepted GNA's conditional truce over the four-day Eid Al-Adha feast of sacrifice period. The LNA statement said that the truce was accepted out of respect to the occasion of the holy Islamic Eid Al-Adha feast of sacrifice in order that that Libyan citizens could enjoy a peaceful feast. The truce will be on all military operations on the outskirts of the capital Tripoli from 3 pm (Libya time) 10 August until 3 pm Tuesday 12 August. ([Libya Herald](#))

4. Car bomb kills three UNSMIL staff in Benghazi

09.08.2019 A car bomb explosion in the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi killed three UN staff members and two other mission members. UNSG Antonio Guterres condemned the attack. "The UN does not intend to evacuate from Libya," the assistant secretary-general for peace operations, Bintou Keita, later told the Security Council, which also condemned the attack. The UN gave no more details, saying only some of its casualties had been members working in Benghazi, where its Libya mission had been boosting its presence recently. ([Reuters](#))

5. Protesters demand Salame to leave Libya

07.08.2019 A number of Libyan citizens held a protest in front of the UN mission's HQ in Janzour district, west of Tripoli, to demand the expulsion of the UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame. The protesters carried banners saying "Salame get out" and another saying "Salame is imposing criminals on the Libyan people". Activists had called for a protest to demand the expulsion of Salame, especially after what they called the deliberate fallacies contained in his recent briefing to the UN Security Council. ([Libya Observer](#))



ASSESSMENT

For the first time since the beginning of Haftar's Tripoli offensive, warring parties agreed to give a break to fighting, during the holy Eid Al-Adha. It is worth stressing that LNA agreed to stop fighting for 48 hours, while GNA accepted four days long truce. Under the current setting of distrust and prevalent foreign intervention, it is not going to be easy to implement such a truce, even for such a short time. Besides, UNSMIL has no capability to monitor or enforce the truce. Therefore, the ceasefire is incredibly fragile, but as much valuable for returning the negotiation table. By no means, the onus is on Libyans. But the UN Security Council and international actors have an essential role to play that shouldn't be neglected to turn this truce into a peace process.

Terror attack against UNSMIL staff in Benghazi — a city under LNA's control and Haftar's main power base — is a sign of a perilous scenario for Libya. The ongoing turmoil in Libya and increasing dissatisfaction among Libyans provide a backdrop to terrorist activities in cities, which would attract other terror groups from neighbouring countries. In the meantime, accusing him with bias in his latest UNSC briefing, GNA camp keeps the pressure on Salame to dissuade him from similar discourses. The mediator role of Salame and UNSMIL might adversely be affected by the latest developments.

Just like following the Tajoura refugee detention centre incident, despite dozens of civilian deaths in LNA's Murzuq attack, UN and prominent international actors avoided naming/condemning Haftar as the perpetrator of these war crimes. There are a lot of carrots for Libyan actors, but no stick to spoilers. Obviously, the silence of international community heartens aggressors in Libya to continue violations and disheartens the silent majority in the Eastern and Western Libya from standing up for a democratic solution. GNA's decision of giving 3,000 dinars to each militia will obstruct dissolving militia groups after the war. Similar benefits were the main reason that prevented maintained militia dominance following the fall of Gaddafi.

6. Drone strike on Murzuq kills 43 people

04.08.2019 A drone air strike by eastern Libyan forces on the southern Libyan town of Murzuq has killed at least 43 people, a local official said. The attack is the second major air strike blamed on LNA forces after at least 44 migrants were killed in June, when a detention centre in a suburb of the capital Tripoli was hit. The LNA confirmed a strike late on Sunday on Murzuq, but denied it had targeted any civilians. ([Reuters](#))

7. GNA grants 3,000 dinars to Tripoli fighters

05.08.2019 GNA has allocated 40 million Libyan dinars (£23.5 million) for its defense ministry. The government also granted each of its soldiers 3,000 dinars as a reward for fighting the LNA. Authorities gave no details on the military spending. They had in April budgeted up to 2 billion dinars (£1.2 billion) to cover medical treatment for the wounded, aid for displaced people and other "emergency" war costs. GNA has since received combat drones and trucks from Turkey to match the build-up of the LNA, which enjoys backing from Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, diplomats say. ([Reuters](#))

8. Tripoli war displaced more than 105,000 people

08.08.2019 The U.N. refugee agency says fighting over Libya's capital of Tripoli has displaced more than 105,000 people since April. The UNHCR tweeted on Friday that its relief aid could only reach about 2,200 out of 21,000 displaced families and that those displaced "continue to be in need of support, peace and stability." ([DailyMail](#))

9. LNA accuses Emir of Qatar for arming Tripoli militias

08.08.2019 LNA accused Emir of Qatar of financing the shipment of a Ukrainian plane destroyed by his forces two days ago at the airbase in Misrata. The plane was flying from Turkey carrying a large shipment of weapons for the GNA. LNA spokesman General Brigadier Ahmed al-Mesmari said during a press conference that Emir of Qatar paid for the shipment of the Ukrainian plane, but his plan failed. He noted that Muslim Brotherhood leaders in Qatar and Turkey were greatly frustrated after targeting the plane at the Misrata airport. ([Al-Awsat](#))

10. El-Sharara oilfield reopens

07.08.2019 Libya is gradually restarting production at the El Sharara oilfield, the country's largest, two field engineers and an oil industry source said on Thursday, after unknown gunmen had blocked a pipeline. "Production has restarted," said one of the engineers. ([Reuters](#))

11. Libya Coastguard and charity ship rescue in total around 125 migrants

08.08.2019 A ship operated by the humanitarian group Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has rescued 80 migrants from a rubber dinghy off Libya. A hotline for migrants run by a network of activists said it was alerted to the boat off Libya carrying 80 people, including five women and four children, and informed both authorities and the Ocean Viking.

In the same day, a Libyan coast guard ship has rescued 45 "illegal migrants" including eight women and two children aboard a dinghy in distress 55 miles north-west of Tripoli. ([ANSAMed](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Latest from Tripoli fighting

04 August 2019. The situation in Libya's capital, Tripoli, was relatively calm due to heavy losses of armed militias loyal to GNA, according to a LNA Commander, Major General Fawzi al-Mansouri. GNA had earlier announced to have destroyed several drones, one of which was a Wing Loong model. The downed drone was heading towards Misrata, announced Spokesman for the Volcano of Rage Operation (VRO), Mustafa al-Majai. LNA sources denied the allegations indicating the drone downed in al-Jufra belonged to Tripoli militias. In the meantime, it's reported that Haftar arrived in Cairo heading a delegation on a visit to discuss the latest developments in Libya. ([Al-Awsat](#)) On Tuesday, UNSMIL announced that Salame and Haftar met in eastern Libya and "discussed the latest developments in Libya and ways to return to a state of peace and dialogue." Haftar did not comment on the meeting. ([Al-Awsat](#))

2. Salame offers a three-point peace plan for Libya

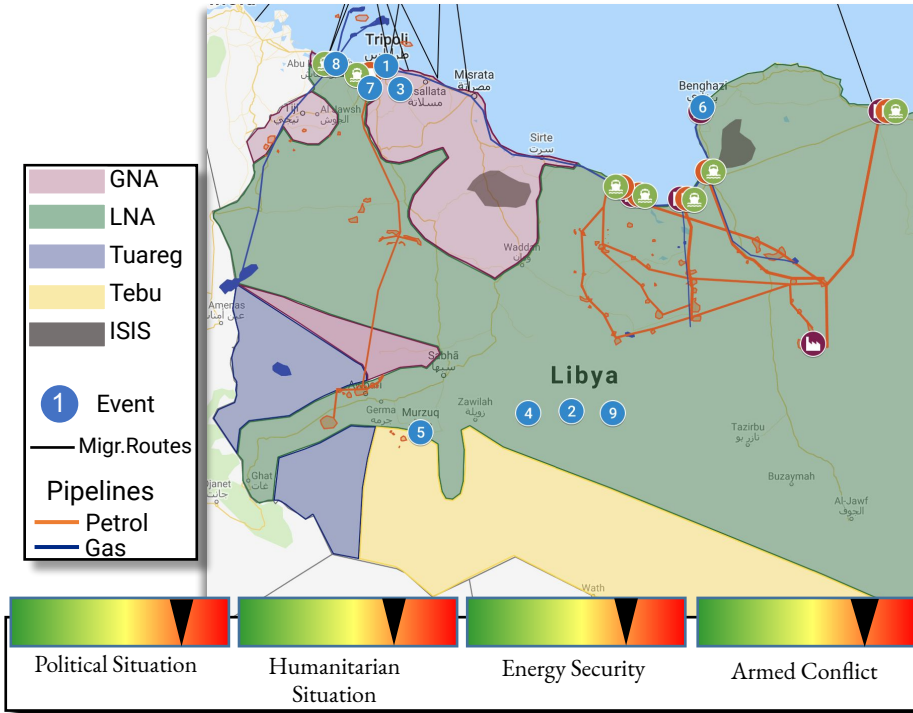
29 July 2019. In his latest remarks to the UN Security Council made by video link from Tripoli, SGRS and UNSMIL head, Ghassan Salame, proposed a three-point peace plan involving a ceasefire (beginning on August 10, on the occasion of Eid al-Adha), arms embargo and a national conference. He said that the scope of Libya's violence has spread and intensified. He reported an increased use of foreign mercenaries, heavy weapons and ground attacks by both sides. Both sides were also ignoring int'l humanitarian laws. Salame called for all migrants to be freed from detention centres and called on forces defending Tripoli to stop using Mitiga airport for military purposes and for Haftar's forces to stop targeting the airport. He discouraged the formation of the breakaway Tripoli-based HoR and reported that foreign governments support to the factions by sending weapons to Libya has been instrumental in intensifying the war: "Libyans are fighting wars of others", he added. Salame warned of the weaponization of Libya's oil and called for a "monopoly over force of arms" and a unified army. ([Libya Herald](#))

3. Serraj summons Salame to protest his briefing to UNSC

01 August 2019. Head of GNA and Presidential Council, Serraj, summoned Salame, to hand him a memorandum protesting the fallacy of his briefing to UNSC. Separate statements were issued by the Serraj's Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces, Minister of Interior, Transport and Martyrs and Wounded Affairs. Additionally, militias of Tripoli defense accused Salame with "betrayal to the martyrs' blood." Reportedly, GNA was mainly disturbed from Salame's words over Mitiga airport, terrorists fighting for GNA, and human rights violations in Gharyan. ([Libya Herald](#))

4. GNA agrees to shut down three migrant detention centers

02 August 2019. Libya is to close three of its largest migrant detention centres, including one which was hit by an airstrike last month during fighting between rival forces. Fathi Bashagha, interior minister with the UN-recognised government in Tripoli, has reportedly ordered the closure of camps in Khoms, Misrata and Tajoura following international condemnation of the "inhuman" conditions within them. There are questions over where the displaced migrants will go and fears that they will simply be moved to other detention centres, worsening overcrowding. ([Telegraph](#))



ASSESSMENT

• *Despite the statements over their successful advances on the battlefield, this week only brought more casualties and depleted resources, without any breakthrough for both GNA and LNA. Following his UNSC briefing, Salame's meeting with Haftar does not promise anything as well. Haftar still seems willing to continue his attacks at full throttle. If accurate, the arrival of so many Sudanese mercenaries to the Libyan battlefield makes the things even worse. Foreign funders of these mercenaries (LNA has no source to fund the Sudanese Military Council in exchange of those mercenaries) might take the initiative from Libyan parties. With so many mercenaries, Libyan civil-war can escalate to a point where Libyans might lose their ability to control let alone end it.*

• *Being painted with the same brush with LNA, GNA camp is extremely angry with Salame's latest briefing to UN Security Council. While mentioning LNA's indiscriminate bombings or human rights violations, Salame also made a point of GNA's wrongdoings. Prominent GNA figures' demand for Salame's resignation and all the harsh criticisms against him, can also be seen as part of an ongoing propaganda war. Firstly, GNA is trying to urge Salame and other interlocutors to name Haftar as the aggressor. Secondly, the entity is trying to influence Salame to take a more pro-GNA position during future peace negotiations. During his Southern Libya offensive, Haftar used a similar strategy against Salame and accused him of bias against LNA. As a result, Salame avoided using a critical language to Haftar's operation. Currently, UN envoy has no friends in Libya. Besides, influential UNSC members do not pay attention to his reports. Even though he is the most promising UN Libya envoy, until now, the latest developments might prevent him to do his job effectively.*

• *Last, the security vacuum in Southern Libya intensifies. The conflict between the Tubu tribe and pro-Haftar groups in Southern Libya is escalating. LNA's withdrawal after overturning the balance of power left the region vulnerable. Security vacuum and unsettled conflicts between social groups in the South incapsulates high risk of new turmoil for Libya.*

5. Libya tries to increase oil production

01 August 2019. Libya's NOC and Italy's ENI said they had completed the second phase of a project at the Bahr Essalam offshore gas field to increase production. Phase two of the project increases field production from 995 million standard cubic feet of gas per day to 1,100 million, NOC said in a statement. ([Reuters](#)) Libya's Waha Oil Company announced that it has contracted locally to redevelop its Dahra and Bahi oilfields. It says that this comes as part of its ongoing efforts to rehabilitate a number of oil fields whose surface facilities and infrastructure were destroyed during the fighting and war in the region. ([EnergyMix Report](#)) In the meantime, Libya's Sharara oilfield, the country's largest, was shut down on Tuesday after a valve on the pipeline linking it to the Zawiya oil terminal was shut. The shutdown at the time prompted state-owned National Oil Corp to declare force majeure on loadings of the crude grade. ([EnergyMix Report](#))

6. Clashes re-erupted in Murzuq

04 August 2019. Armed fighting in Murzuq in southern Libya erupted Saturday and continued through to Sunday, leaving behind four people killed and four others wounded as well as three missing, a source from the town said. The source added that the clashes started after armed men from Tubu tribe had stormed into Megaryef neighborhood. As response, LNA Air Force targeted Murzuq. No confirmed numbers of casualties have been reported yet. ([Libya Observer](#))

7. A secret group of Eastern Libyans try to end fighting in Libya

04 August 2019. A network of Libyan activists in the country's east opposed to Haftar's months-long offensive to seize the capital, Tripoli, has emerged; evidence that the civil society idealists who originally began the 2011 uprising against the dictatorship of Gaddafi persist, even if they are often cowering in fear. Ahmed Sharksi, a 29-year-old activist and petroleum engineer now living in exile in Tunisia, is one of the coordinators of the Society for Civic Cooperation, a largely secret network of activists in eastern Libyan cities including Benghazi, Ajdabiya and Beida. They oppose both Haftar's militaristic vision and the Islamist-leaning armed groups he is fighting. ([Independent](#))

8. Libya Coastguard brings in total around 130 migrants back to Libya

04 August 2019. Libyan coastguards have been reported to have rescued through separate operations 130 migrants. The migrants are in good health according to statement. ([ANSAmEd](#)) ([Libyan Express](#))

OPINION

9. Haftar, Hemeti, and a Canadian lobbyist's Libyan connection

02 August 2019. Last week, around 1,000 members of Sudan's notorious Rapid Support Forces (RSF) were reported to have arrived in eastern Libya, joining the ranks of Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA). Their arrival, which was reported by Radio Dabanga, a Dutch-based broadcaster run by Sudanese exiles, coincided with Haftar's declaration of an imminent "victory" as his forces amass on the outskirts of the Libyan capital. ([MEE](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. 55 bodies recovered from the worst boat tragedy of this year.

27.07.2019. Fifty-five bodies have been recovered so far off the Libyan coast, an aid worker said on Saturday, after a wooden boat carrying hundreds of migrants capsized on Thursday. Search operations are continuing to find other missing migrants. It was unclear how many people were on board and how many are still missing and feared to have been drowned after what the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR described as “the worst Mediterranean tragedy of this year.” Red Crescent member Abdulmenam Abu Sabay said the boat, which capsized near Komasa, some 120 km (74.6 miles) east of Tripoli, was carrying 350 people, mostly from Sub-Saharan Africa. The Libyan navy on Thursday put the number of migrants on board at 250 and the UNHCR said up to 150 were feared dead. Libyan coast guards and local fishermen rescued 134 migrants on Thursday. “We do not have enough capability to carry out our operations. Citizens help us with their own vehicles,” Abu Sabay said. “The bodies are still in bags in a hangar and we are waiting for security authorities’ permission to bury them,” he added. ([Reuters](#))

2. Italy’s Salvini blocks own coastguard ship with migrants on board.

26.07.2019. Interior Minister Matteo Salvini said on Friday he would not let an Italian coastguard boat carrying 135 migrants dock until European Union countries agreed to take them in. The Gregoretto coastguard vessel rescued the migrants on Thursday from two boats off Malta, but was awaiting orders on where it could take them. “I will not give any permission for them to disembark until Europe commits to accept all the immigrants on board,” Salvini, who is head of the far-right League party, said in a statement. Rome has asked Brussels to coordinate migrant redistribution between member states, a European Commission spokeswoman said on Friday, adding that the EU executive would act to this effect. ([Reuters](#))

3. GNA forces say repel new LNA push (zero-hour) on Tripoli.

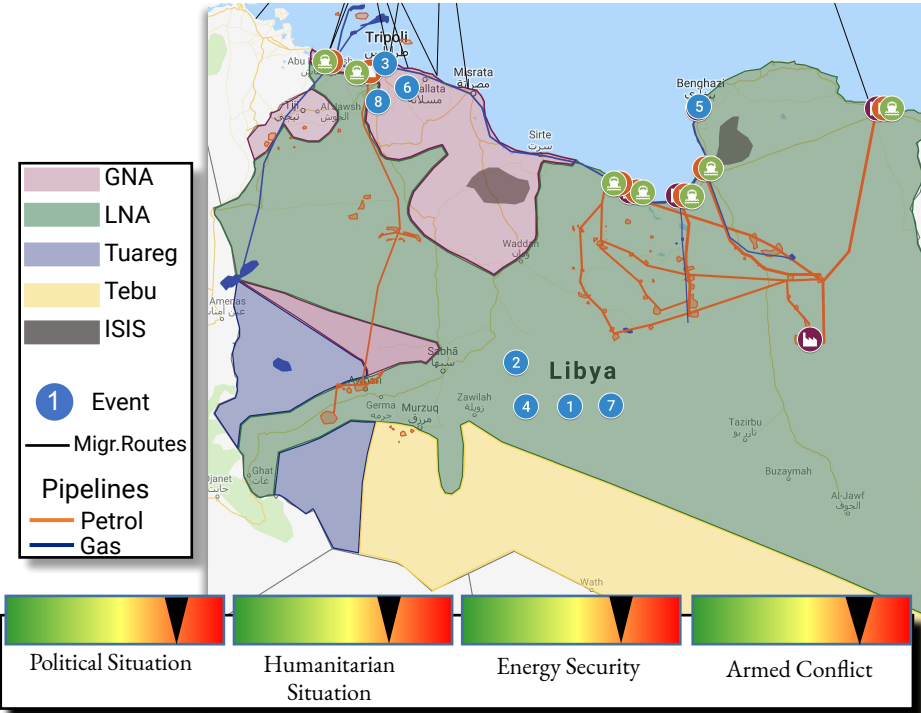
24.07.2019. The Tripoli forces aligned with Government of National Accord (GNA), say they have successfully repelled the much-heralded offensive by the Haftar-led Libyan National Army (LNA) and their aligned forces. Meanwhile, the pro Haftar forces claim they have made progress on a number of fronts. It will be recalled that the Haftar forces had announced Monday 9.00 hrs as the launch of their “zero hour” offensive to “liberate Tripoli from terrorist and criminal militias” as part of their “second wave” attack on the capital. The new military escalation came after the appointment of the new LNA Western Operations Room commander, announced on Sunday 21 July, to replace Maj-Gen. Abdussalam Al-Hassi. The new commander is Maj-Gen. Mabrouk Al-Ghazawi. Some reports say Hassi was arrested following the LNA’s loss of Gharian, allegedly being held either under house arrest or pending a court martial. ([Libya Herald](#))

On Wednesday evening, Haftar pledged “imminent” victory. “The victory flag will soon be raised in our capital. It will become the city of peace and regain its role as the capital of all Libyans,” he said in a speech. He addressed the citizens enthusiastically, saying “the meeting with victory is so close to the goal for which so many lives have been sacrificed.” ([Al-Awsat](#))

On Sunday, Haftar transferred the war to liberate Tripoli to the western city of Misrata after his forces targeted military sites in the city for the first time. LNA said in a statement that the bombing of Misrata came after a drone attack to al-Jafra Airport.. ([Al-Awsat](#))

4. Brother of UAE crown prince funds plan to prevent splits from Haftar army.

23.07.2019. Egyptian and Libyan sources unveiled that the UAE national security advisor and brother of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Tahnoun bin Zayed, is overseeing a large-scale operation to bribe militias loyal to Tobruk parliament against the GNA, for fear of possible splits in the ranks of Haftar forces. The sources pointed out that there are fears in Cairo and Abu Dhabi of the withdrawal of areas in the west of Libya, such as Tarhunah and Bani Walid, from backing Haftar in his latest operation, after paving the way for his forces to reach the outskirts of the capital. This came after the great loss suffered by the Haftar forces in the city of Gharyan (the operations centre of the offence on Tripoli). ([MEMO](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *Despite fresh forces and extra support from his regional backers, Haftar’s promises and declarations about imminent capture of Tripoli turned out to be empty promises as latest military confrontation on the ground demonstrated. He, once again, failed to make a breakthrough in his Tripoli offensive and disappointed his adherents. This last initiative might leave its mark and wear down the faith to LNA’s capability to capture Tripoli.*
- *Considering his achievements in protracted Benghazi and Derna operations, Haftar’s promises of a victory in Tripoli shouldn’t be underestimated. What is more, as opposed to those two battles where Haftar fought by large against isolated marginal groups, Tripoli is the capital of Libya, hosting an internationally recognized government with sizably external support and a population slightly over 2 million Libyans. The big question at this time is; will his allies in the battlefield and external backers continue to believe in him and extend their support?*
- *Aware of this high-risk, Haftar is trying to guarantee the continuation of external support through repeated accusations to Turkey and Qatar and provoke Egypt, UAE and KSA to increase support. He is also seeking to influence US policymakers by hiring lobby groups and through the visit of HoR members to US Congress and Senate. Latest developments indicate that his international backers Russia and France have slightly distanced themselves from Haftar. Following Gharyan defeat of LNA, the US made weapons originally given to French army put France in a difficult situation, and French Parliamentary investigation on France’s role in Libya will highly likely squeeze Macron even more. The statements coming from Russian policymakers are not much supportive of Haftar anymore either.*
- *The tragedy of Europe-bound migrants in Libya still continue and will highly likely be present in the foreseeable future: Just like in the case of the Tajoura migrant detention centre bombing, following this year’s worst boat accident and death of 150 migrants, the international community has failed to mobilize to find a sustainable solution. Rescued migrants were taken back to Libyan detention centres where they will find nothing else than suffering and will probably seek for another smugglers’ boat and risk their lives while longing for Europe. Meanwhile, Salvini’s blockade to Italian boat carrying 135 migrants, substantiate the urgency of an internal EU agreement on dealing with irregular migration.*

5. LNA threatens to punish Qatar.

24.07.2019. LNA spokesman Ahmed Mesmari threatened to punish Qatar for its terrorist role in Libya and the entire region. “I have presented documents that prove Qatar’s role,” Mesmari said. “We have provided names of official Qatari elements, including intelligence officers and diplomats, and explained their role in supporting terrorists whether with money or weapons,” he explained. In the meantime, Head of East Libya Parliament Aguila Saleh said in an interview that his country has been exposed for years to an “international conspiracy.” “Turkey, Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood are among parties that have been conspiring against Libya,” Saleh stressed, adding that Britain and Italy had also major roles in this conspiracy. ([Al-Awsat](#))

6. Al-Araby: Militias from Sudan deployed to Libya to support Haftar.

26.07.2019. An estimated 1,000 fighters from Sudan’s Rapid Support Forces (RSF) militia arrived in central Libya on Thursday, reportedly charged with protecting oil infrastructure to allow Haftar’s troops to focus solely on the ongoing offensive to seize Tripoli. The troops, belonging to the notoriously violent paramilitary group, are reportedly the first batch of 4,000 Sudanese fighters to be sent to Libya to support Haftar, according to Sudan’s Radio Dabanga. Mercenaries from Sudan’s RSF are thought to be in Yemen since 2015, fighting alongside Saudi and Emirati forces by whom they are supported with money and weapons ([Al-Araby](#))

7. Western HoR visits Russia, Eastern HoR visits US.

24.07.2019. A delegation from the breakaway Tripoli Libyan Parliament, HoR, paid an official visit to Moscow. The Libyan delegation said they were met by Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, as Russia’s Foreign Minister was away. The HoR report that during the meeting, Bogdanov reiterated his country’s rejection of the attack on Tripoli and claimed that he had warned Khalifa Haftar about the consequences of this aggression on Tripoli. Bogdanov also stressed Russia’s commitment to the Libyan Political Agreement (signed in Skhirat in 2015). The Tripoli-based HoR delegation also reported that they met with Leonid Slutsky, Vice-President of the Russian Duma and Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Parliament, who allegedly stressed that his country did not support Haftar’s forces and was against the aggression from the beginning. ([Libya Herald](#))

On Thursday, a delegation of the Tobruk-based HoR visited the Washington. The HoR report that its delegation visited the U.S. Congress and Senate and “met a number of its members”, as well as meeting with “a number of officials of the State Department and Whitehouse” in order to “clarify the picture of what is happening in Libya to the American administration and the legitimacy of the war on terrorism, extremism and illegal armed militias carried out by our (LNA) armed forces and provide a number of files and documents about these extremist groups”. ([Libya Herald](#))

8. French Parliament forms a committee to investigate the role of France in Libya.

27.07.2019. The French Parliament has formed a committee to investigate the role of France in Libya, citing the US-made French missiles that were found in Gharyan among Khalifa Haftar’s forces military equipment. The formation of the committee to investigate France’s role in Libya before and during Tripoli offensive was based on a proposal of 17 Parliament Members on July 18. “Diplomacy needs integration not double standards’ rhetoric which makes France lose its credibility in the international circles.” The French Parliament said. It added in a statement that respecting democracy and defending French interests means respecting international commitments and transparency for the best interest of the French people. The statement referred to the “ambiguous” role of the French convoy with weapons intercepted between Libya and Tunisia on April 14, 2019, saying the government’s explanation that the convoy and arms were from the French embassy in Tripoli was not enough. ([Libya Observer](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. LNA prepares for a large-scale push on Tripoli

21 July 2019. Libya's UN-recognized government says forces loyal to strongman General Khalifa Haftar appear to be preparing for a new offensive to capture the capital city Tripoli. The GNA said on its Facebook page Saturday that it is "concerned over reports, confirmed by the UN and the media, on preparations for a new military escalation". Videos circulated on social media in recent days show columns of military vehicles belonging to Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA), trucking towards the south of the capital. Via a post published on one of its official Facebook pages on Friday, LNA urged young people in Tripoli to join Haftar's forces to eliminate all militias allied with the Tripoli-based government. Tripoli war has left nearly 1,093 people dead, and over 5,750 wounded, according to the UN's World Health Organization. The fighting has also forced more than 100,000 people to flee their homes. ([Press Tv](#))

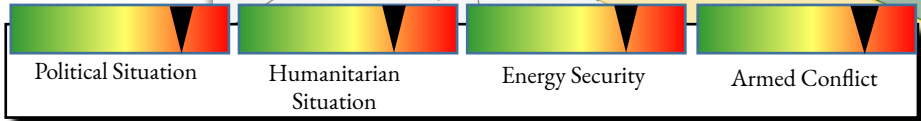
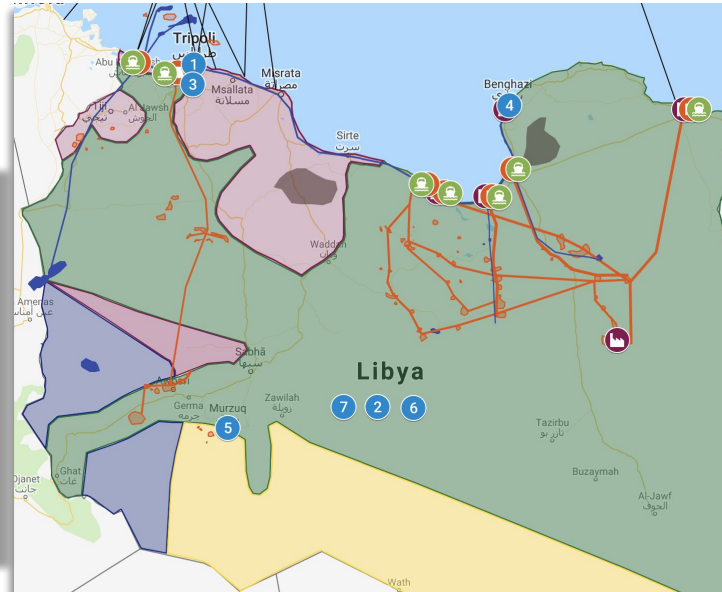
The Libyan National Army (LNA) is calling on the capital's youth to prepare for "zero hour." Informed military sources told Asharq Al-Awsat that LNA commander Khalifa Haftar is expected to deliver a speech to his forces deployed on the outskirts of Tripoli "to storm the city in the coming days." The necessary arrangements have been taken to "cleanse" the capital of all terrorist and extremist elements, they added. The LNA's media office confirmed that its troops deployed around the capital were "ready and awaiting" the final orders to attack the remaining members of the "Turkish-Qatari militias." The LNA accuses Turkey and Qatar of backing militias loyal to the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord, headed by Fayez al-Sarraj. In a statement, GNA said it was following with concern information of a new military escalation by "hostile" forces against Tripoli. It stressed that its forces were prepared to confront and deter any new assault, calling on the UNSMIL and international community to assume their responsibilities towards Libya. UNSMIL said Saturday that it was exerting efforts with local and foreign powers to avert the escalation and safeguard civilians. ([Al-Awsat](#))

2. P3+3 releases a joint statement on war in Tripoli

16 July 2019. In a joint statement, the governments of the US, UK, France, Italy, Egypt, and UAE have "expressed concern" called for a return to the UN-led peace process and an immediate end of hostilities in Tripoli. They said the ongoing fighting in Tripoli threatens Libya's stability and its energy sector and exacerbates the tragedy of human migration in the Mediterranean. They warned of ongoing attempts by terrorist groups to exploit the security vacuum in the country. They called on all UN member states to fully respect their obligations to contribute to Libya's peace and stability, prevent destabilizing arms shipments, and safeguard Libya's oil resources in accordance with Security Council resolutions. ([Libya Observer](#))

3. GNA accuses France, Russia and US for preventing UNSC resolution against Haftar

16 July 2019. The Libyan FM Mohammed Sayala said in a briefing on his ministry work at the Tripoli-based House of Representatives (HoR) that the UNSC had failed to issue a resolution for Tripoli offensive because of the US, Russia and France's reservations and prolongation. Sayala also said that Arab countries had also failed in taking a clear stance regarding Tripoli offensive. He added that the GNA had sent a letter to France and International Criminal Court regarding the banned weapons found in Gharyan at the hands of Haftar's forces. Sayala also added that the US describes Haftar's forces as militias, saying the US had asked Haftar to join the political dialogue for the first time through its Libya ambassador. ([Libyan Express](#))



ASSESSMENT

- It is now apparent that Haftar and his allies decided to escalate the military confrontation in an around Tripoli. Local sources and social media footages showing LNA's military build-up confirm the upcoming large-scale push of LNA to capture the Tripoli. Haftar might think that time is against him. LNA's extended supply lines, the weariness of forces, fluid international politics, GNA's damaging counter-attacks, delaying military breakthrough and low morale among soldiers might be pushing Haftar seek decisive result in a short time.
- According to sources, Haftar is gathering all his forces together, including his reserves. It is highly likely that his regional backers also mobilized their military support as well. UAE's withdrawal from Yemen might have a connection with the UAE's intention of paying more attention to Libya. All these preparations indicate that Haftar has reached a desperate point and needs to get a result before reaching culmination point. If this last attack fails to produce intended results, he will lose his reserve and his strategic attack initiative.
- Salab Badi's interview in the Washington Post demonstrates that some of these militias already plan to turn against their current allies. This interview and Wolfram Lacher's article unveiled the Tripoli defenders' internal rivalry, which is buried until the end of Haftar's Tripoli offensive. If GNA and its allied militias achieve to defeat Haftar, it is highly likely that various militia groups in Tripoli will call-back their conflicting interests and turn against each other. While some will seek for more political power, others will run after more economic benefits.
- There is no reasonable scenario among possible outcomes of the Tripoli offensive. As time goes on, the situation will only worsen. It should be enough for the international actors, who care about peace and stability in Libya, to get into action to stop the war on Tripoli.

4. GNA accuses militias in Benghazi of kidnapping HoR MP

19 July 2019. Debate continued to rage in Libya over the fate of a lawmaker who was abducted a day earlier in the eastern city of Benghazi. GNA accused militias in the city of kidnapping Siham Sergewa. Protesters had rallied in front of her residence in Benghazi on Wednesday after she refused to describe the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization. All contact with her was later cut off and she was abducted. The MP also opposed the LNA operation to liberate Tripoli of terrorist and criminal militias. She had taken part in a meeting of Libyan lawmakers in Cairo just days ago where she was reportedly threatened by pro-LNA MPs. MPs from the Libyan parliament in the East held security forces in Benghazi responsible for Sergewa's safety. They demanded her release and confirmed that she and her husband were assaulted in front of her children. UN Libya mission "stresses that silencing the voices of women in decision-making position will not be tolerated," calling for her immediate release. ([AL-Awsat](#))

5. NOC: Sharara oilfield shut down since Friday

20 July 2019. Libya's largest oilfield, El Sharara, has been shut down since Friday due to a suspected valve closure and an investigation has been launched, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) said on Saturday. It was not immediately clear what or who had caused the shutting of the valve, but the field has been the target of numerous shutdowns by protesters or armed groups in the past few years. The field was pumping around 290,000 bpd prior to the shutdown, the NOC said, adding that the incident had occurred in Hamada, an area of desert in western Libya surrounded by a number of towns and cities. Sharara's closure will cut Libya's oil production to a little over one million bpd, a NOC official told. ([Reuters](#)) As the result of Sharara pipeline closure, NOC declared a state of force majeure on crude oil loadings at Zawia port commencing Saturday. ([Libya Herald](#))

OPINION

6. He once attacked Tripoli. Now a Libyan militia leader defends it from another invader

20 July 2019. The question for many Libyans is: What will Badi and other militias do after the war is over? The war has brought old rifts back to the fore and created new ones, according to Lacher. Anger over the corruption of the Tripoli militias runs deep. Hifter's allies include western Libyan communities that were pro-Gaddafi and suffered defeat in 2011. And some western Libyan cities are divided between Hifter and the U.N.-backed government. "We should not expect them all to just go home again when the war is over," Lacher said. "Their mobilization will reawaken their leaders' political ambitions and demands for material rewards." Indeed, Badi already plans to turn against his militia allies. "After the war, whoever is a criminal, a thief, has to be prosecuted," he said. "There must be justice. Anyone who kills or steals, we'll be after them." ([Washington Post](#))

7. Who's Fighting Haftar in Tripoli?

11 July 2019. If Haftar has no realistic prospect of bringing Tripoli under his control despite massive foreign backing, this is due primarily to the cohesion and resolve of these armed groups. But their sacrifices also lay the ground for new societal divides and political struggles. Just as these forces are deeply rooted in local communities, they also see some western Libyan towns as overwhelmingly supportive of Haftar. Other towns, such as Zintan or Sabratha, are deeply divided, with fighters participating in the war on both sides. The war has brought old rifts back to the fore and created new ones. Powerful new militias are likely to arise from it. Worse may yet be to come. ([Medium](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. UN calls for refugees/migrants to be freed from detention

12 July 2019. In aftermath of Libya airstrike deaths, UN officials call for refugees and migrants to be freed from detention. The call comes in response to the airstrikes on the Tajoura Detention Centre, which killed more than 50 migrants and refugees and injured more than 130. António Vitorino, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, insisted that the international community should “consider the protection of the human rights of migrants and refugees a core element of its engagement in Libya”, pointing out that they have appealed to the EU and AU to prevent a repeat of the “tragedy”.

If the protection of refugees and migrants in Libya cannot be guaranteed, said the UN officials, they must be evacuated to other countries. For this to be possible, countries, they said, must provide more evacuation and resettlement places, and extra resources. Vitorino and Grandi called for Libya to **end the practice of detaining refugees and migrants rescued at sea, and consider alternatives, such as allowing them to live in the community, in open spaces, or establishing semi-open safe spaces** such as the Gathering and Departure Facility run by the UNHCR. Some 50,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers. People rescued from the Mediterranean, said the UN officials, should not be taken to Libya, because it “cannot be considered a safe port”, and ships from European countries should resume search and rescue operations which have saved thousands of lives. Commercial vessels should not be directed to bring rescued passengers back to Libya, the statement continues, and NGO boats which have attempted to take on similar operations must “not be penalized for saving lives at sea”. (UN)

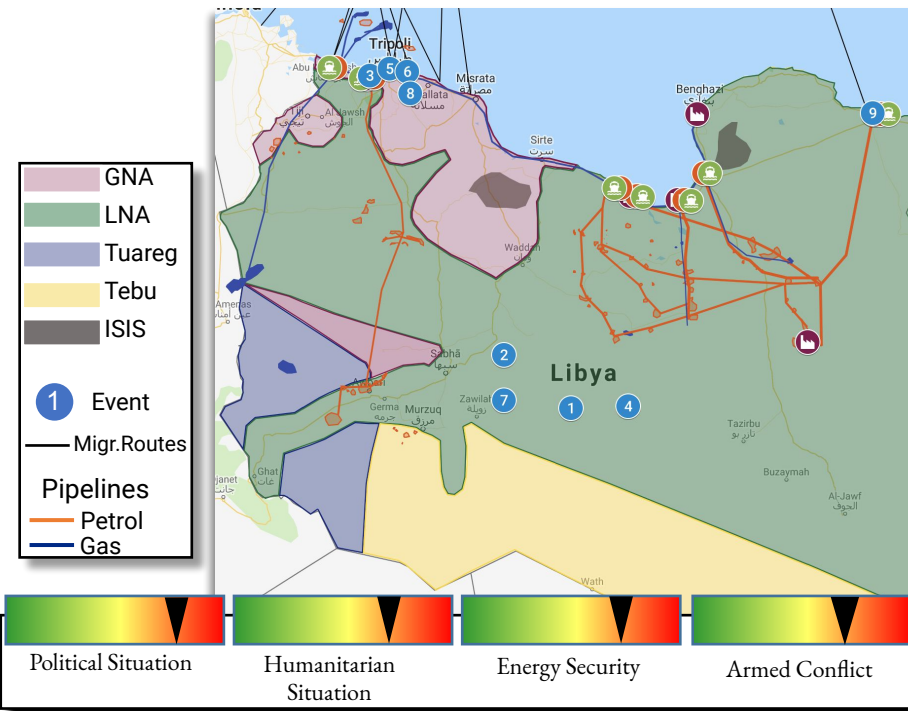
In the meantime, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said on Friday, 95 more migrants have been moved to Tajoura detention centre, despite a risk it could be hit again which led to survivors being evacuated. (Reuters) Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Fatou Bensouda confirmed that it has initiated the legal procedure to investigate the aerial bombardment of the immigrants’ centre of Tajoura. (Libya Observer)

2. IOM: 641,398 migrants live in Libya

11 July 2019. The IOM has counted at least 641,398 migrants in Libya, cited in a report published Thursday on its 25th round of Displacement Tracking Matrix data collection, which took place from March to May 2019. According to the report, migrants in Libya come from more than 39 different countries and are present in all 100 Libyan municipalities, distributed in 565 of the 667 communities in Libya. The report said 9% of migrants are minors, 34% of whom are unaccompanied, 13% of migrants are women, 65% of migrants came from Sub-Saharan Africa, 29% from North Africa, and 6% from Asia and the Middle East. The highest percentage of migrants came from Niger, followed by Egypt and Chad (15% each), Sudan (11%), and Nigeria (9%). The report said 57% of migrants live in self-paid rented accommodation, 12% in informal camps, 10% in employer-provided accommodation, and 8% directly at the workplace. It said 20% of identified migrants live in the area of Tripoli, 11% in the region of Ejdabia, and 9% in Murzuq. (ANSamed).

3. Libyan Coastguard intercepts 53 irregular migrants

13 July 2019. A patrol boat of the Libyan Coast Guard at the Zawiya refinery intercepted 53 irregular immigrants, including 10 women and a child. “The migrants were spotted aboard rubber boats off the coast of Sabratha,” the Navy information office said, clarifying that they were of different African nationalities as follows: Cameroon (14), Nigeria (1), Senegal (5), Niger (1), Cote d’Ivoire (12), Guinea (15), Mali (3), Togo (1) and Central African Republic (1). The rescued migrants were transferred to Al-Zawiya and Al-Nasser accommodation centres of the Illegal Immigration Agency, according to the Libyan Navy Information Office. (Libya Observer)



ASSESSMENT

- *US investigation on sophisticated Javelin missiles —found by GNA in Haftar’s military stronghold Gharyan— left no choice to French authorities but to admit the ownership of those arms. The French statement —saying that those missiles were there to be used for self-protection of French special forces— brought about more questions than answers. France still needs to explain the purpose and size of this military existence in Haftar’s camp. The awkwardly played double game is once more uncovered. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, France officially declares its support to UN recognized GNA and covertly supports LNA. In 2016, Le Monde revealed the presence of French special forces in Libya, at the beginning of current Tripoli war, armed French agents caught at the border, and now forced declaring existence of special forces in Gharyan.*
- *If one tries to account for the causes of this double game, three bullets can be named. First, France sees Haftar as the most likely new ruler of Libya and wants to have more say on the future of the country by influencing on him. Second, French concerns related to terrorism attacks on its soil may have pushed the country send its special forces to the field. Last, France may intend to have more advantageous access to the underground resources of Libya.*
- *The woe of irregular migrants in Libya is getting worse. Operation Sophia operates without vessels, hampering any rescue operations. Furthermore, the work of humanitarian rescue ships or intervention of commercial vessels are precluded with many obstacles (e.g., €50.00 fine for rescue ship captains entering Italian waters). Europe-bound desperate migrants still depart from the coast of Libya. Late interception of Libyan coastguard in the sea will increase the number of migrants in Libya’s notorious detention centres. The news related to relocation of new detainees to Tajoura detention centre, in the aftermath of airstrikes, which killed more than 50 people is an indication of the continuation of this trend. On the other hand, thinking about the misery of the ten times more migrants living out of detention centres in Libya, closure of migrant detention centres will not solve the humanitarian problem of migrants in Libya. Conflict in Tripoli and core causes of migrants’ displacement from home countries should be addressed by the members of UNSC and European states.*

4. Rescue ship collects another 44 migrants from Mediterranean

09 July 2019. The migrant rescue boat Alan Kurdi has saved another 44 people, including women and infants from their stricken vessel in the Mediterranean, its operator German charity Sea-Eye said on Tuesday. Malta has agreed to take in those rescued and is sending a vessel to pick them up, the charity said in a statement. (AFP)

5. Bashagha: French arms indicate its support to Haftar

11 July 2019. GNA demanded urgent answers after Paris conceded French missiles were found at a base used by Haftar’s forces. How did the missiles reach Haftar’s forces, when they were delivered and how? Just some of the questions foreign minister Siala put to his French counterpart Le Drian asking him to “urgently” explain himself, a statement from the ministry said. In an interview on Friday, defence minister Florence Parly said, “These missiles were damaged and out-of-use, and were being temporarily stocked in a warehouse ahead of their destruction. They were not transferred to local forces.” Parly was not able to explain how the missiles ended up in the hands of Haftar’s forces. (RFI) On Sunday, speaking in an interview in the Libyan city of Misrata, Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha disputed France’s claim that the missiles were inoperable and said his government has asked experts from the UN and US to examine the weapons to confirm they are in working order. “The dung leads to the camel,” Bashagha said, citing an Arab proverb. (Libyan Express)

6. GNA arrests two members of Russian troll factory in Tripoli

12 July 2019. Security forces of GNA reportedly arrested two Russian men in Tripoli in May, though the arrests were not announced until early July. Tripoli authorities claim that the Russians possessed laptops and memory sticks that revealed their work in a Russian “troll factory” that allegedly sought to influence upcoming elections in Libya and a number of African countries. A letter stamped by the attorney general’s office and later obtained by Bloomberg revealed that the two Russians were involved, with the support of Russian officials, in securing a meeting with Saif al-Islam Gadhafi. (Al-Monitor)

7. Libyan MPs warn against Turkish intervention to Libya

13 July 2019. Libyan MPs warned against the dangers of the “Turkish role over their country’s stability,” due to Ankara’s arming of terrorist militias in Tripoli. They also stressed their keenness to “extend bridges of cooperation with Egypt and bolster means of communication to eliminate terrorism in their country.” This came during the visit of Libyan parliamentarians to Cairo to participate in the meeting organized by the Egyptian national committee entrusted with helping Libyans reach a political solution. Around 80 deputies arrived in Cairo by Saturday to discuss several issues, mainly the sharp division among MPs, the financing of armed militias and the fight against terrorism. (Al-Awsat)

8. LNA prepares to launch a decisive attack on Tripoli

13 July 2019. Troops loyal to Khalifa Haftar are preparing to launch a decisive attack on Tripoli to seize Tripoli from the forces of GNA. Haftar forces’ War Information Division, announced on Facebook, Saturday: “General Haftar is expected to deliver a speech announcing the launch of the latest operations to liberate Tripoli”, adding that: “the next hours will mark the victory of Haftar troops in God’s will.” In the following hours, the War Information Division confirmed that the air force of the Haftar forces carried out intensive raids on and around the city of Gharyan, in addition to continuous shooting in the vicinity of the Prime Minister’s office inside Tripoli. (MEMO)

9. Saleh rejects Serraj’s political peace initiative

10 July 2019. Agela Saleh, head of Libya’s House of Representatives (HOR), said that Faiez Serraj, head of the Presidency Council and GNA, has nothing to offer and that he is a hostage to Tripoli’s armed militias. Saleh added that in Libya, there can be “no state as long as these militias exist”. (Libya Herald)

KEY EVENTS

1. Haftar wants to control the capital not to sell oil

05 July 2019. Haftar said the state oil company in Tripoli has the sole right to sell the nation's crude, a statement that might ultimately help stabilize production that has swung wildly for almost a decade because of ongoing conflict. The National Oil Corp., or NOC, in Tripoli has the "exclusive" right to export Libya's crude, Haftar said in a written response to questions from Bloomberg. Haftar pledged to continue to protect oil facilities while urging the state oil producer not to use its resources to "support terrorists and armed militias, and to avoid interfering" with his army or working against it. "Sale of oil is an exclusive" jurisdiction of the Tripoli NOC, Haftar said. ([Bloomberg](#))

NOC welcomed Haftar's commitment to the legitimacy of the NOC and its sole right to export Libyan oil in accordance with Libyan law and UNSC resolutions. Furthermore, the NOC called for the disbandment of the parallel institution (the NOC branch in the east) that it says has attempted to illicitly market discounted Libyan oil, and thereby putting to an end attempts to partition the national energy sector. The NOC said that the parallel eastern based NOC institution repeatedly failed in its efforts due to the international community consistently upholding UN Security Council resolutions. ([Libya Herald](#))

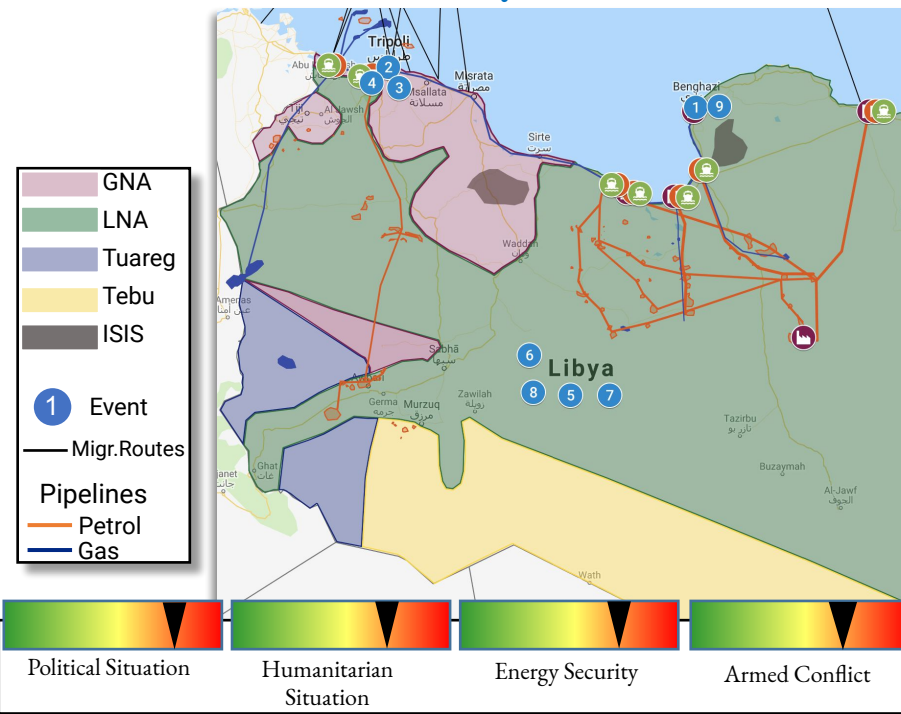
2. At least 53 die as air strike hits migrant detention center in Tripoli

04 July 2019. Libya's UN-backed government said it is contemplating shutting down migrant detention centres and releasing all the detainees for their own safety, after airstrikes targeted one such centre on Tuesday in a devastating attack which killed at least 53 people. The strike left at least 130 wounded when it hit a hangar in which the migrants were detained in the Tripoli suburb of Tajoura. The GNA and its arch-foe, militia leader Khalifa Haftar traded blame for the deadly assault. But despite a storm of outrage, a divided UN Security Council failed to unanimously condemn the attack in an emergency meeting Wednesday after the US did not endorse a proposed statement. ([New Arab](#))

The U.N. called for an independent investigation and for perpetrators to be held to account. In a statement, GNA blamed the Haftar for the incident. The LNA denied it had hit the detention center. The UNHCR refugee agency had already called in May for the Tajoura center, which holds 600 people, to be evacuated after a projectile landed less than 100 meters away, injuring two migrants. Frightened migrants were still at the detention center after the strike, which partially destroyed the hangar. ([Reuters](#))

3. Ankara continues sending arms to Libya

07 July 2019. GNA, on Sunday, received another shipment of Turkish armed drones, local sources familiar with the matter told Ahval. New shipment arrived at Mitiga, the only functioning airport in Tripoli, on Sunday morning via an Ukrainian cargo plane, sources said. Last week, Eastern Libyan forces destroyed the main control room for drones at Mitiga airbase in the capital, Reuters said. Thus, the GNA needed a new urgent shipment of armed drones, local sources told Ahval. Since the start of the assault in Tripoli, the LNA, which has air superiority, has several times said its jets brought down Turkish drones in Tripoli. The new shipment came after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Friday met Serraj in Istanbul and reiterated his support for the UN-backed government. Erdoğan on Saturday discussed the ongoing conflict in Libya with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin during a phone call, the state news agency Anadolu said without giving further details on the nature of the conversation. ([Ahval](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *The statements of Haftar can be seen as an assurance for the oil market. If he keeps his promise, with the escalation of the war, the threat of disrupting oil revenue and oil production to hurt GNA is off the hook. However, following his quite a few failed attempts to sell Libyan oil through Eastern NOC, his statements should be considered as an acknowledgement of his failure to sell oil and an attempt to use status quo to leverage trust to his camp. The consistent and unified stance of the international community was the main reason for Haftar's failure to sell Libyan oil.*
- *Apart from the heart-wrenching humanitarian side, the air strike to a migrant detention camp in Tripoli is indicative of the high political and security risk that ongoing civil war in Libya poses to Europe. Death of more than 50 migrants in a government detention centre proved that Libya is not a safe country for migrants. As long as the civil war in and around Tripoli continues, it is impossible to justify the EU's current overprotective migration policies disregarding the conditions in Libya. On the other hand, Libyan decision of closing official detention centres will grow the numbers of EU-bound migrants in Libya. While the number of migrants to reach the EU is increasing, escalating fighting in Libya will deprive the EU leaders from legal grounds to stem these flows.*

4. LNA launches new strikes on Tripoli

02 July 2019. LNA carried out air strikes against militia positions in al-Yarmuk camp south of the capital Tripoli. LNA had announced Monday that it will be launching the strikes after "traditional means" of war had been exhausted to "liberate" Tripoli from the clutches of militias that are affiliated with Fayeze al-Sarraj's Government of National Accord. The strikes coincided with Speaker of the eastern parliament Aguila Saleh, who is also the eastern forces supreme commander, declaring a state of general mobilization in the country. LNA commander of western operations Abdul Salam al-Hassi declared that his forces will enter and liberate Tripoli, vowing in televised remarks: "We will defeat the gangs and restore the nation's sovereignty regardless of how much support they are receiving from Turkey." He revealed that the LNA has so far destroyed four drones provided by Ankara. ([Al-Awsat](#))

5. Putin warns militants flowing into Libya from Idlib

04 July 2019. Russian President Vladimir Putin said he was worried that militants were flowing into Libya from Syria's Idlib province and warned that the Libyan situation was deteriorating. Putin, who was speaking at a news conference in Rome after holding talks with Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, said Moscow wanted Libya's warring sides to agree a ceasefire, to hold talks, and to enter into a proper political process to sort out the country's problems. ([Reuters](#))

6. Serraj meets with Erdogan

05 July 2019. The Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reiterated his support for Libya's GNA on Friday, according to Turkish presidential sources. Erdogan met with the Head of GNA, Fayeze Al-Serraj, in Istanbul. Erdogan also called for an end to attacks by "the illegal militia loyal to Libyan commander Khalifa Haftar." ([Libyan Express](#))

7. Mogherini calls for preventing arms shipment to Libya

06 July 2019. The EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini called member states of the UN to prevent arms shipments from reaching Libya and to protect its oil resources. She emphasized in her briefing to the EU on the need to put the UN-led political process in Libya back on track, in order to reach a unified government that represents all Libyans and to prepare for parliamentary and presidential elections. Mogherini also demanded an immediate end to the fighting in Tripoli, urging the key players to refrain from what she called the systematic use of incitement to violence and to bring conflicting sides back to the negotiating table. ([Libya Observer](#))

8. Stranded migrants to be brought to Malta and relocated to other EU states

07 July 2019. Migrants onboard the NGO-operated rescue vessel Alan Kurdi will be brought to Malta and relocated to other EU member states. "Following discussions with the European Commission and the German government, the Maltese government will transfer 65 rescued immigrants on board the ship Alan Kurdi operated by the NGO Sea Watch to an Armed Forces of Malta asset which will then enter a Maltese port. "All the rescued persons on board will be immediately relocated to other EU member states" Maltese government said. ([Malta Today](#))

INTERVIEW

9. Libya's Haftar Comments on Tripoli's Offensive, Oil: Transcript

05 July 2019. Libya's eastern-based military commander Khalifa Haftar commented on his offensive to capture the capital, the future of oil exports and attempts to end the nation's crisis peacefully in written answers to questions sent by Bloomberg News. The full transcript of the interview can be read here: ([Bloomberg](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. GNA pushed the LNA out from its main base in Tripoli

26 June 2019. Forces allied to Libya's internationally recognized government seized the town of Gharyan south of Tripoli, home to the main supply base of eastern forces attacking the capital, witnesses and Tripoli officials said. The takeover of Gharyan by Tripoli forces is a major blow to LNA. Gharyan was until Wednesday the main forward base for the LNA where troops, weapons and ammunition arrived from the East. The LNA began its Tripoli campaign here. Forces allied to GNA, backed by air strikes, stormed the town, some 90 km (56 miles) south of Tripoli, in the morning in a surprise attack, witnesses said. The Presidential Council said in a statement Gharyan had been fully "liberated". The LNA still holds the town of Tarhouna southeast of Tripoli, its second main position in the campaign. (Reuters)

2. LNA declares war against Turkey

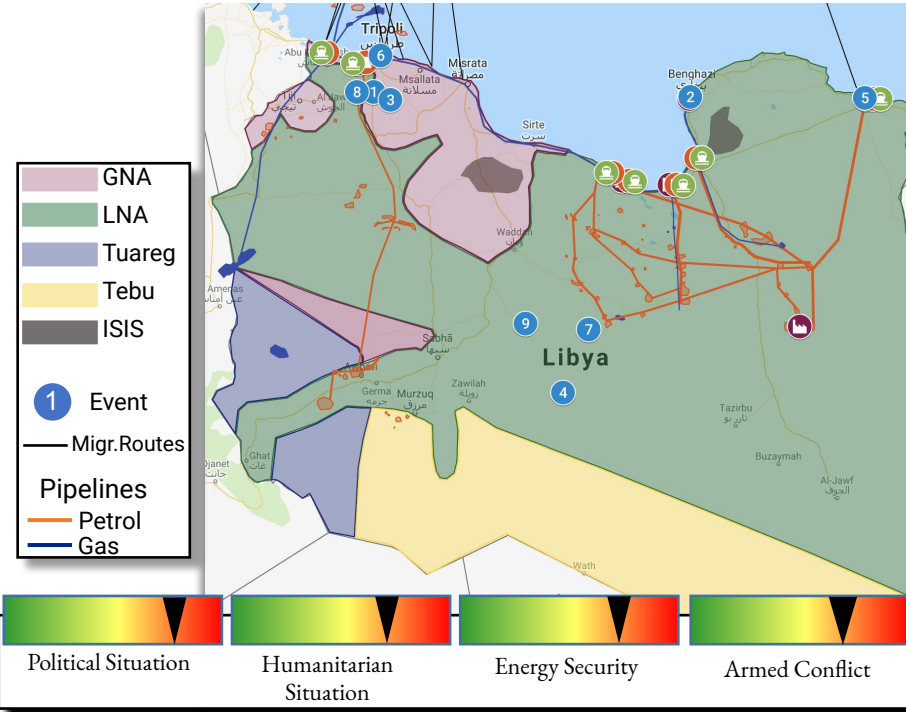
28 June 2019. The forces of Libya's Khalifa Haftar said that Turkish vessels and interests are "legitimate targets" in its battle to seize the capital of Tripoli, after it accused Turkey of helping rival militias allied with the U.N.-supported government. A spokesman for the LNA, Ahmed al-Mesmari, said the country had "come under illegitimate Turkish aggression" in recent weeks. "Turkey has become directly involved in the battle (for Tripoli), with its soldiers, planes, sea ships and all the supplies that now reach Misrata, Tripoli and Zuwara directly," al-Mesmari said. He said Turkey had helped push the LNA out of Gharyan, which is about 100 kilometers (62 miles) from Tripoli. The town was a key supply route for Haftar's forces pushing toward the capital. Turkish forces bombed LNA positions and provided aircover for militias allied with the Tripoli-based government to retake the town, he added. He said the LNA was now ordered to target any Turkish ships, strategic sites or companies operating in Libya or its territorial waters, and to arrest any Turkish nationals in Libya.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday he was unaware of the LNA's orders. "If Haftar has given such an order, we'll get that evaluated," he said. He added that Turkey had already taken the "necessary" precautions. "From now on, we would take precautions in a different way as well," he said. (AP) Ankara will retaliate against any assault from LNA forces Turkey's defense minister said Sunday. "There will be a very heavy price for hostile attitudes or attacks, we will retaliate in the most effective and strong way," Hulusi Akar told. (Al-Arabiya) The Libyan Interior Ministry issued a statement denying presence of any military officers from Turkey on Libyan soil within the control of the GNA. (Libyan Express)

On the other hand, Al-Marsad website revealed the identity of Turkey Army drone team, allegedly, working in Tripoli according to information obtained from a senior LNA officer. Website also claimed that the hangar and control room of Bayraktar tactical drone is located in Mitiga airport in Tripoli; The Turkish Army is using this UAV to surveillance and reconnaissance operations and also carry out military operations against Haftar forces. (ISW)

3. US says investigating US arms in Gharyan

29 June 2019. The United States said Saturday it was looking into reports that American anti-tank missiles were found by GNA forces at a captured rebel base in Gharyan. The New York Times reported Friday that four Javelin missiles were found at a base used by LNA. Markings indicate the missiles were first sold to the United Arab Emirates, a major buyer of US arms. "We take all allegations of misuse of US origin defense articles very seriously. We are aware of these reports and are seeking additional information," a US State Department spokesperson said on condition of anonymity. "We expect all recipients of US origin defense equipment to abide by their end-use obligations." (Mail)



ASSESSMENT

- At first glance, the statement by Mismari on Friday, can be read as a declaration of war against Turkey. It is, however, in reality, not a world-shaking development for the ongoing crisis. Haftar and his camp had already been expressing their annoyance about Turkish backing to their rivals. Since 2015, on several occasions, Haftar blamed Turkey with providing arms and military equipment to terrorists and even filed complaints before the UN. By contrast, this time, LNA accused Turkey with direct involvement to the war with Turkish ships, planes and soldiers and threatened to use force against Turkish assets in the country. So, what?
- With this strong statement, First, he might be seeking to boost support from his regional backers who also stand in the camp against Turkey and the Muslim Brotherhood (MB). This should initially create a "rally around the flag" effect by alarming backers about further defeats in the face of Turkey-supported GNA to get more decisive support and more sophisticated military equipment. Second, he may be aiming to legitimize support from his backers by magnifying effect of Turkish support to the opposite camp. Third, he might be aiming to dampen the shock of unexpected Gharyan defeat among his fighters and boost morale. Failing in his counter-attacks, Haftar tries to find a way out from this strategic setback. He prefers to blame Turkish intervention, rather than being beaten by Libyans, of whom he claims to be the supreme leader/commander.
- The loss of Gharyan, which was a commanding terrain and stronghold, would be a game-changer in the current civil war. LNA supply lines and its operations concentrated around Tripoli International Airport are now in danger. It would also give psychological dominance to GNA forces, who were in a defensive position up to now.

4. New initiative calls for LNA and GNA to unite against terrorism

25 June 2019. The Libyan National Forces Alliance has launched an initiative aimed at ending the current battles in the country. The initiative includes successive phases and several suggestions, mainly establishing a buffer zone to be able to set up humanitarian corridors for families under siege in areas of fighting and provide urgent humanitarian aid. It also calls for forming a joint force of not less than 10,000 fighters from the LNA and the GNA that follows an independent joint field command with the objective to combat terrorism and illegal immigration. The initiative was announced on Monday and its statement was launched by Head of the Alliance Mahmoud Jibril. The initiative targets "reducing the increasing risks as the battle continues, most notably the spread of terrorist movements and groups within Libyan territory, and the increasing rates of both illegal immigration and organized crime." (Al-Awsat)

5. Salame meets with Saleh

25 June 2019. The UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame discussed during a meeting with the Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) in Tobruk, Aqila Saleh, ways to resolve the current stalemate. "The two sides discussed at length the brutal challenges facing the country and how to return the country to the path of peace, stability, and the rule of law, in addition to creating conditions conducive to dialogue between all Libyan parties," the UNSMIL said. (Libya Observer)

6. Salame briefs on his meeting with Haftar

26 June 2019. UN envoy Ghassan Salame said his recent meeting with Khalifa Haftar focused on shortening the period leading to a political solution after the end of military operations in Tripoli. The SRGC told local media after his visit to Benghazi that he found a number of elements to reach a political solution according to Haftar's vision. (Al-Awsat)

7. Italian FM: Haftar still essential interlocutor

28 June 2019. Eastern Libyan strongman General Khalifa Haftar remains an "essential interlocutor" on the Libyan scene, [Italian FM Milanese told during a press conference with UN envoy Ghassan Salamé. "Haftar remains one of the protagonists of the Libyan scene, an essential interlocutor," he said. "As Italian government we are convinced of the need for an inclusive dialogue with all the protagonists", said Moavero. Presenting a peace plan earlier this week Fayed Al-Sarraj, prime minister of the UN-backed government in Tripoli, had ruled out dialogue with Haftar. (ANSA)

8. GNA claims France soldiers among LNA forces

29 June 2019. The Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) claims to have spotted French soldiers serving among the forces of General Khalifa Haftar. Commander of the GNA's First Infantry Brigade, Mustapha Al-Machai, claimed to have spotted six cars carrying French soldiers who had been stationed at Haftar's operations room in the city of Gharyan, south of Libyan capital Tripoli. (MEMO)

9. Rescue ship captain dismiss Italian threats of arrest

28 June 2019. The young German captain of a migrant-rescue ship stranded off Italy dismissed threats of arrest and personal criticism from the country's far right interior minister on Friday, saying her main priority was the safety of 40 rescued Africans. Carola Rackete, captain of rescue ship Sea-Watch 3, speaks to the media as the ship remains blocked one mile outside the port of Lampedusa. Salvini says he will only allow Rackete to dock when other EU states agree to immediately take the migrants once ashore, and even then Italian authorities would seize the ship and prosecute its captain for assisting people-smugglers. However, a European Commission official was quoted by Italian news agency AGI on Friday as saying the allocation of migrants among EU nations needed to be worked out and that in the meantime the ship must be allowed to dock. (Reuters)

KEY EVENTS

1. GNA claims upper hand in Tripoli fighting

20 June 2019. The Faiez Serraj-aligned Volcano of Rage Operations Room (Burkan Al-Ghadab), which coordinates the fight against the Khalifa Haftar forces, claimed in a press briefing yesterday that they have achieved several successes in the battlefield and accuse the Haftar forces of using cluster bombs and internationally banned phosphorus bombs. Their claims coincide with reports indicating increased fighting in and around the disused Tripoli International Airport. The Tripoli forces claimed that their forces are “hunting the outlaw (Haftar) militias at Tripoli airport and other locations after their supply has been cut off”. ([Libya Herald](#))

2. Erdogan confirms arms shipment to GNA

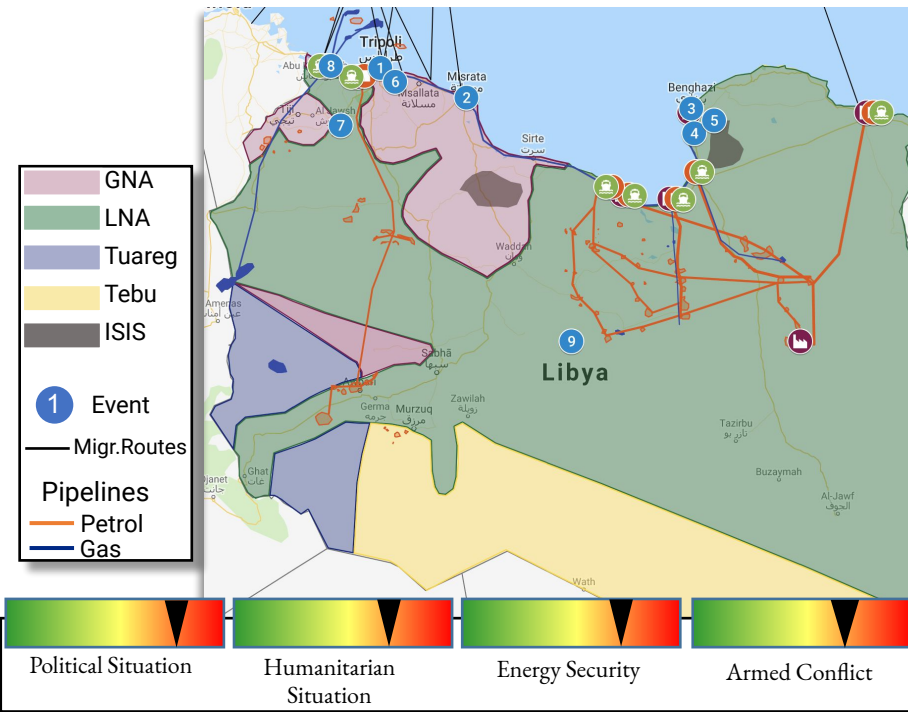
20 June 2019. Turkey has sold weaponry and equipment to the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya to balance the civil war there, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan acknowledged on Thursday. The statement was the first confirmation by any Turkish official that Ankara provided security assistance to the Tripoli-based administration. Pictures emerged last month showing that dozens of Turkish “Kirpi” armoured vehicles were delivered to the GNA. GNA’s opponent, LNA, also claimed last month that Turkey had provided drones to their enemy. “We have a military cooperation agreement with Libya. We are providing to them if they come up with a request, and if they pay for it. They really had a problem in terms of defence needs, equipments,” Erdogan told a group of journalists. Turkey’s president said officials were coordinating the security assistance with the GNA through Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar and the relevant intelligence agencies in both countries. Erdogan declined to elaborate on the type of Turkish support provided to the GNA. He also accused Haftar’s forces of seizing banks located under LNA control and illegally purchasing weapons. ([MEI](#))

3. UAE and Egypt support Haftar

22 June 2019. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has offered urgent military support for the forces of Haftar. Egypt also dispatched military experts to the battlefields in Libya to fight side-by-side with Haftar’s forces, Arabi 21 reported yesterday. Arabi 21 cited reports by a Russian newspaper that the UAE has sent the Pantsir Defence System S1 anti-aircraft missiles, artillery ammunition and night sighting to Haftar’s forces. ([MEMO](#))

4. Haftar explains his vision for Libya

21 June 2019. In a long and exclusive interview with the eastern-based The Libyan Address Journal, Khalifa Haftar put forward his vision for Libya and repeated his motivation for launching his military attack on Tripoli on 4 April. Haftar insisted that there needs to be a political solution and that he wanted to hold democratic elections – but only after ridding Tripoli of its “Islamists and militias”. On Serraj’s peace initiative he says it lacks “seriousness” and does not address the “root causes of the crisis”. On the European position on Libya, Haftar said Europe’s position remains important for him. He said Europe should understand the longing of the Libyan people for changing their reality, and for exiting this crisis, and that such change begins with “the war on terror, the dismantling of militias, and the ending of this phase of the hijacked authority that lacks proper authorization by the people”. However, Haftar said he did not see this changing of Libyans’ reality happening purely through the military operation launched on Tripoli. He insisted that Libya’s solution must be through the political track, and with the participation of all Libyans. The Libyan people will find solutions for using dialogue and discussion, through peaceful, political, and democratic means, he explained. ([Libya Herald](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *Just a couple of days after expressing his motivation to annihilate militias and Islamists in Tripoli, Haftar met with UN envoy Ghasan Salame, the first time since the beginning of Tripoli offensive. Despite his disappointment, Salame’s visit to Haftar indicates the pressure on the former.*
- *Both Serraj and Haftar had initially vowed to continue to fight till reaching their objectives, an ambition which becomes more elusive every day and which could take decades as can be followed from military advancements.*
- *Salame seems to act together with Serraj in a new wave of negotiations. Serraj and his coalition want to leave Haftar out of political negotiation table, which does not match up with realities on the ground. As the leaders of the Libyan factions have lost their ability to build political solution based on compromise and that major powers are in disarray in terms of building consensus on a constructive policy, current developments do not promise much success. The emergence of new political leaders in the east and west sides of Libya might be a key to open this deadlock.*
- *Reports on the suffering and death of irregular migrants in Libya identifies—in the simplest terms—the lack of security of life for refugees in Libya. The news related to intercepted/rescued refugee boats should be seen from this perspective as well. Continuation of restrictive EU stance on migration policies will increase the agony of irregular migrants in Libya.*

5. Salame and Haftar discuss transition in Libya

22 June 2019. United Nations envoy to Libya Ghasan Salame held talks with Libyan National Army commander Khalifa Haftar, at al-Rujmeh; where they discussed the circumstances that led to the outbreak of current fighting and the humanitarian situation in Tripoli, said the UN mission. They also discussed ways to accelerate the transition towards reaching a political solution. ([Al-Awsat](#))

6. NOC warns against cutting oil production

22 June 2019. The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has voiced concerns about the recent calls for the shutdown of national oil production. “Any deliberate disruption of oil sector operations will severely impact national revenue streams, potentially render NOC in contravention of contractual obligations, and create further division in the country.” NOC statement reads. The Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) in Tobruk, Aquilah Saleh, threatened in a TV interview to shut down oil production, saying Libyan oil revenues end up at the Tripoli-based Central Bank which uses it to buy weapons. ([Libya Observer](#)) On the other hand, OilPrice.com reported that Libya’s oil production could double to 2 million bpd by 2023.

7. Refugees die in Libya detention centers

21 June 2019. Conditions in two detention centers in Libya are medically catastrophic and consistent with reports that at least 22 people have died since September from suspected tuberculosis and other diseases, the international medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières said, after gaining access to the centers in recent weeks. The Zintan and Gharyan detention centers, located south of Tripoli in the Nafusa Mountains, hold hundreds of people who are registered as asylum seekers or refugees with the UN refugee agency UNHCR. Nonetheless, they are stranded in these centers for months or years with virtually no assistance. The reports of death have also been confirmed by United Nations agencies. Since November 2017, only 3,743 people have been evacuated from Libya by UNHCR, mostly to Niger, where they must then wait for another country to offer them asylum. On June 3, UNHCR relocated 96 people from Zintan detention center to a UNHCR-run facility in Tripoli where they await evacuation from Libya. ([Reliefweb](#))

8. Libya intercepts 200 Europe-bound migrants

22 June 2019. Almost 200 Europe-bound migrants, including women and children, have been intercepted off Libya’s Mediterranean coast this week. Libyan coast guard said 39 people in two boats were stopped on Wednesday. Another 17 in a vessel were intercepted on Thursday, while on Friday, more than 143 migrants in two boats were prevented from continuing their journey. The group consisted mainly of people from Africa, except for eight from Bangladesh. ([Sky](#))

9. EU emphasize strict border controls

18 June 2019. A European rights watchdog said that the EU was violating international law with its increasingly restrictive stance on migration and should step up sea rescues - an element that is not part of the bloc’s new five-year action plan. The EU has become tougher on immigration since a 2015 spike in Mediterranean arrivals caught it by surprise, stretching social and security resources and feeding support for right-wing and Eurosceptic forces across the bloc. The EU has since tightened its external borders and asylum laws, as well as giving aid to non-EU states on the eastern and southern rim of the Mediterranean to help them contain migration to Europe. The bloc’s 28 national leaders are set to restate their commitment to these policies in a new “Strategic Agenda for 2019-2024”, a document they are due to endorse at a summit in Brussels on Thursday and Friday. “Effective control of the external borders is an absolute prerequisite for guaranteeing security, upholding law and order, and ensuring properly functioning EU policies,” it says. ([Reuters](#))



KEY EVENTS

1. UN extends arms embargo to Libya

10 June 2019. The UN Security Council voted unanimously to renew measures designed to implement the Libya arms embargo for another year. The resolution authorizes Member States with the power to inspect vessels on the high seas off Libya's coast when reasonable grounds exist to believe they are violating the ban. UK, France and Belgium expressed concerns about the armed escalation in Libya. Germany noted that the arms embargo is more important than ever, stressing that the supply of weapons fuels an erroneous conception that military force can solve the crisis. ([Libya Herald](#))

2. IOM: 94,000 people displaced by war on Tripoli

13 June 2019. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said that more than 18 thousand families have been displaced from areas of clashes south of Tripoli so far, which means nearly 94,000 people. "More than 48% of the IDPs are children under the age of 18, and more than 3,900 IDPs are staying in mass displacement centres," IOM explained, noting that families who fled to locations close to conflicting areas are still at risk. ([Libya Observer](#))

3. Salame keeps his hope for a political solution

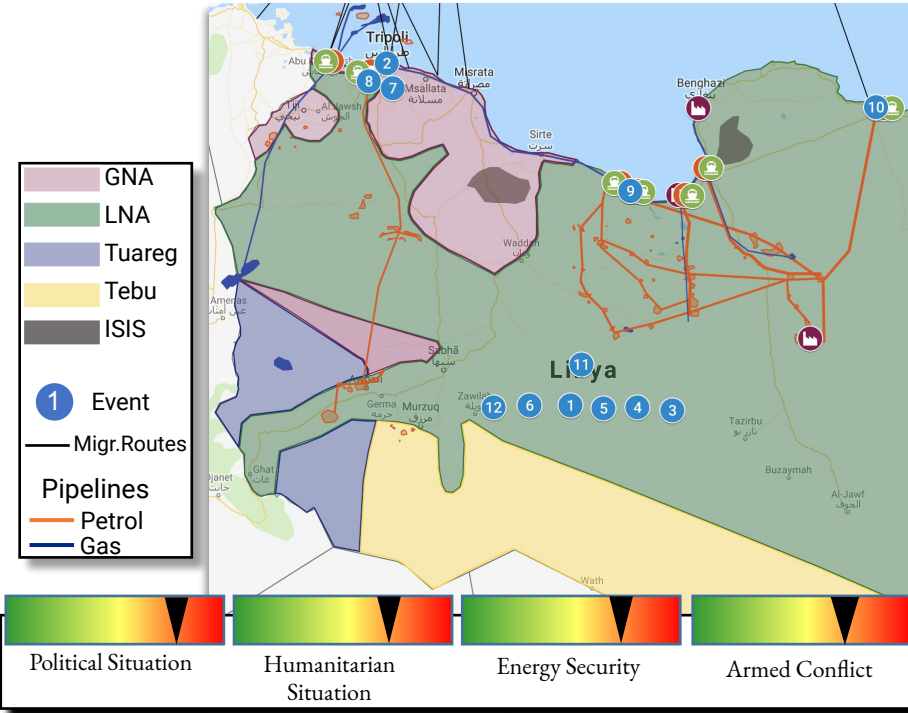
14 June 2019. United Nations envoy Ghassan Salame expressed for the first time his confidence that a political settlement may be reached in Libya instead of a military solution. Salame was speaking at a joint press conference with Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui after holding discussions in Tunis. He explained that his optimism stems from the series of talks he has held with the foreign ministers of member states at the UN Security Council and prominent Libyan leaders, including Khalifa Haftar and Fayez al-Serraj. Salame revealed that the majority of influential figures believe that a military solution was "impossible" in Libya and they understood the need for a political settlement. Commenting on the situation in Tripoli, he described the humanitarian and security situation after two months and a half of a "dangerous" and "reckless" war as "difficult" and verging on "catastrophic." The situation has grown complicated after the LNA launched its operation on the capital, he explained. Some countries claim to oppose the military option, but still provide political, security, financial and military support to one of the warring parties, he went on to say. Some powers are also arming the parties in blatant violation of Security Council resolutions. ([Al-Awsat](#))

4. EU uses visa policy to ease migrant repatriation

10 June 2019. The EU's visa policy will be used to obtain more migrant repatriations. The EU Council's update of the visa code regulation will contribute to improving cooperation with third countries on readmission by introducing a new mechanism for using visa processing as leverage, according to a statement. Under this mechanism, the European Commission will regularly assess third countries' cooperation on readmission. Where a country is not cooperating, the Commission will propose that the Council adopt a decision implementing specific restrictive visa measures related to visa processing and, eventually, to the visa fee, the statement said. If a country is found to be cooperating on readmission, the Commission may propose that the Council adopt a decision to reduce the visa fee, cut back on the time to decide on visa applications, or increase the period of validity of multiple entry visas, the statement concluded. ([Libyan Express](#))

5. Guardian reports: Russia seeks influence in Libya

11 June 2019. The Guardian reported, citing leaked documents, that Russia is seeking to bolster its presence in at least 13 countries across Africa, including Libya, by building relations with existing rulers, striking military deals, and grooming a new generation of "leaders" and undercover agents. The British newspaper said the leaked documents place Libya as the top fourth country for Russia's potential cooperation as Moscow has already stepped up its operations on the ground in Libya. The report also says that Russia is supporting Haftar. ([Libya Observer](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *In the last weeks, news suggests existence of efforts to sell oil through a parallel NOC, based in eastern Libya. It should be noted that this is not Haftar's first such initiative. A similar attempt last year had been repulsed by strong US reaction. Also, the one-NOC policy is the cement that has kept Libya unified during the 8+ years of conflict. If eastern based NOC receives the long-awaited international legitimacy and starts making new contracts to sell oil, the money received will be used to fund Haftar's war efforts that would eventually disunite Libya.*
- *Despite UN arms embargo, sophisticated military equipment and weapons pouring inside Libya from external allies of both parties, hints at an escalation in this protracted civil war. On the other hand, UN Envoy, Salame's express of hope about a political settlement to the current military confrontation, the first time since the beginning of Haftar's Tripoli offensive, signals a rapprochement between sides. It is apparent that his comments are based on the signals he received from internal (including Serraj and Haftar) and external actors of the crisis, who seem aware of the dead-end of the current conflict. As his statement is the only positive development concerning the solution of the crisis, deserves to get credit.*
- *Having lost their trust to each other, at this stage of the crisis Libyan parties lost their capability to sit and solve the conflict internally. Except for a unified and superior external intervention, it is unlikely that Libyan factions will be able to end this bloody war. In the face of no guaranteed winner, the positions of international actors continue to float. France, Italy, USA and Russia still have not clarified their positions. Their positions depend on their relationship with regional actors: Turkey/Qatar (preeminent backers of GNA) or UAE/Egypt/Saudi Arabia (preeminent backers of LNA). Kaleidoscopic Libya policies of prominent international actors is also main reason for lack of cease-fire up until now and will give shape to how the situation evolves towards more conflict or compromise in the coming days.*

6. Salvini threatens Sea-Watch with €50,000 fine

12 June 2019. Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini threatened to use tough, new measures for the first time on a German charity ship, Sea Watch, after it picked up migrants off the coast of Libya without authorization. "This is the umpteenth time Sea Watch, which is a real pirate ship, has done something like this," said Salvini. The Italian government on Tuesday approved a security decree that gives the Interior Ministry the power to deny access to Italian territorial waters to vessels that it considers are a risk to security or public order. Boats that fail to respect ban orders face fines of up to 50,000 euros (\$56,500). ([Reuters](#))

7. Tripoli NOC warns over parallel NOC oil contracts

11 June 2019. Head of NOC has denounced that the parallel NOC in eastern Libya signed contracts with Egyptian and Emirati companies to sell oil at lower prices than the official price. He warned of the risk of splitting Libya's oil sector, stressing that if oil output and export operations go out of the NOC control, the fight will be carried out and the oil will be used to finance war. ([Prensa Latina](#))

8. Oil firms start to renew licenses with GNA

14 June 2019. The GNA Economy Minister Ali Al-Isawi told that France's oil giant "Total" and other foreign oil firms have started to renew their business licenses with GNA to keep operating in the country. The Minister of Economy denied that the suspension of the foreign firms' licenses was prompted by a political motive, saying some firms had operated without a license for a long time. "If a license did not get renewed, there are several oil companies to take the oilfields in 24 hours. There is a lot of competition," Al-Isawi said. In last May, the economy ministry suspended Total and 39 other foreign firms, saying their licenses had expired, before granting a grace period of three months to seek new ones. ([Libyan Express](#))

9. NOC communicates concern over Ras Lanuf

14 June 2019. Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) expressed concern over what it called "an increased military presence" at its Ras Lanuf oil terminal. It said that this could potentially make the oil terminal a military target. It warned that these actions could result in the withdrawal of NOC personnel from the port for their safety. The NOC reported that a group of around 80 military personnel under the command of Major General Abdullah Nur al-Din al-Hamali entered the port on Wednesday, 5 June. The NOC went on to say that the military personnel had taken over a building within the terminal and are converting it for military use. ([Libya Herald](#))

10. Saleh rejects peace talks before Tripoli captured

13 June 2019. The head of the Libyan parliament aligned with eastern forces trying to seize the capital from the internationally-backed government said there could be no peace talks until they had captured the city. The campaign on Tripoli has left at least 653 dead and displaced more than 93,000, according to the United Nations, as well as causing extensive material damage. ([Reuters](#))

11. LNA claims killing 12 ISIS members

15 June 2019. Haftar's forces said they "carried out a surprise attack against IS remnants hiding in Haruj mountains, and killed more than 12 terrorists of a group called the Lonely Wolves." They said that the terrorists hiding inside Haruj mountains in southern Libya are responsible for several terrorist attacks in the region, it noted. ([Libyan Express](#))

OPINION

12. March to Tripoli, or a Third Civil War in Libya: Initial Results

13 June 2019. The military offensive of Haftar on Tripoli had finally petered out by mid-May, having achieved none of its goals. On the eve of the offensive, the military leader announced that he planned to install a new GNA by the middle of April. However, these attempts failed. The LNA was not able to breach the inner areas of the Libyan capital due to the fierce resistance it faced on the approaches to the city. Russia has the opportunity to play the role of mediator in the conflict, joining France and Italy in these efforts. Russia should also pay attention to those figures in Libya whose influence continues to grow against the background of the events taking place in Tripoli and who have the opportunity to play a consolidating role in the future. Major General Osama al-Juwaili is one of these figures. ([RIAC](#))



KEY EVENTS

1. Libya High Council condemns Haftar airport bombing

8 June 2019. Libya's High Council of State has denounced the bombing of an airport and field hospital by LNA, forces loyal to General Khalifa Haftar. The LNA on Thursday conducted an air strike on the military section of Mitiga International Airport, the only functioning airport in Tripoli. The attack hit the airport runway just before a relief plane was slated to take off for the southern city of Ghat, which has been ravaged by floods this week. The strike was the second attack on the airport in two days. The LNA also this week bombed a field hospital in As-Sawani. An Al Jazeera correspondent in Libya quoted an official from the GNA's Ministry of Health, who indicated that some members of the hospital's medical staff were injured in the attack. [Middle East Monitor](#)

2. Floods in the South - West of Libya

5 June 2019. Heavy rains caused flooding and damage in several locations in Ghat municipality from 28 May to 5 June. Over 20,000 persons have been affected and about 2,500 are currently displaced to nearby areas. Four people died, including three children, and about 30 suffered minor injuries. [ReliefWeb](#)

3. Trump officials snub strongman Khalifa Haftar

8 June 2019. US officials insist that Trump's phone call to Haftar was a personal favour to the Egyptian president, Abdul Fatah al-Sisi, who was visiting Washington a few days earlier, and did not signify a shift in US policy. "State and defence were not aware of the Trump call, let alone supported it," said Jonathan Winer, a former US envoy on Libya.

However, the pro-Haftar push inside the administration, while short-lived, went well beyond a phone conversation. On White House instructions, the US mission at the UN joined with Russia to block a UK-backed resolution calling for the end of Haftar's offensive. Bloomberg reported that Trump and his national security adviser, John Bolton, had explicitly supported the offensive, and Haftar boasted to senior UN officials that Bolton had given him the green light for the assault, on the condition he acted quickly. The White House would not respond to the claim. [The Guardian](#)

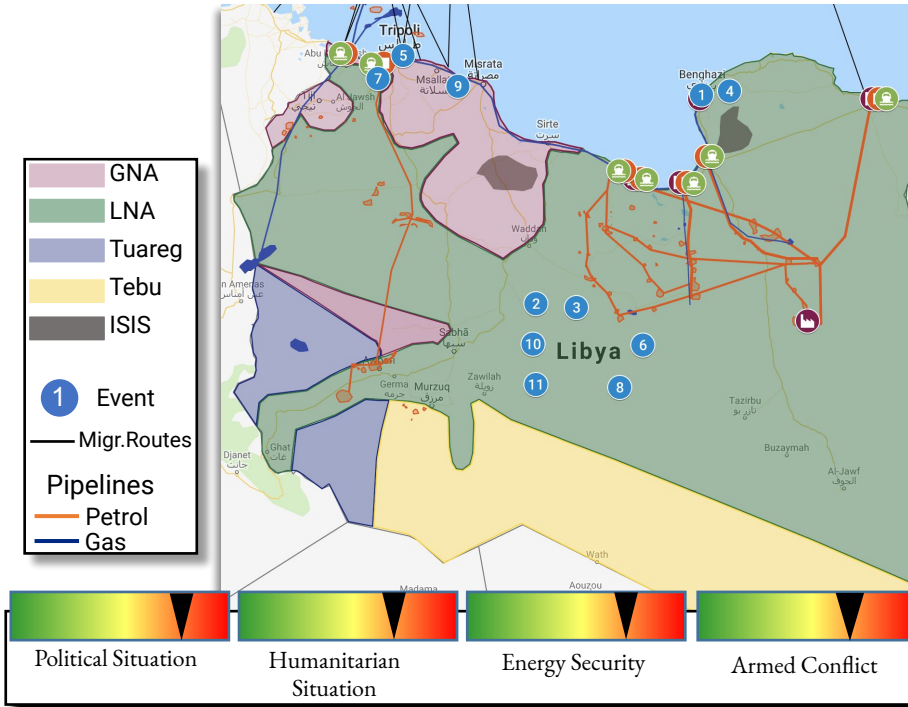
4. Libya's PC deputy head asks US to end Egypt, Saudi Arabia's support for Haftar

8 June 2019. The deputy head of the Libyan Presidential Council, Ahmed Mitig, has requested the US to exert pressure on its allies that are meddling in Libya by backing up Khalifa Haftar's attack on Tripoli and make them stay out of Libya. "We urge the US administration to use its leverage to end the support provided by Egypt and Saudi Arabia to Haftar." Mitig told Fox News on Saturday.

Mitig is on a formal visit to Washington D.C., where he met with a number of senators, including Republican Lindsey Graham, and discussed the US policy toward Libya amid the offensive on the capital that was launched by Haftar on April 04 in an attempt to seize power. [The Libya Observer](#)

5. How Lobbyists Are Cashing In on Trump's Libya Policy

5 June 2019. In recent years, the various conflicts in the Arab world—the cold war between Qatar and the Saudis and the Emiratis, and the war in Yemen, which pits Saudi proxies against Iranian proxies—have played out in Washington, where the different sides in these faceoffs have rushed to retain high-paid lobbyists to influence the Trump administration. Now it's the Libyan civil war that is generating a spree to sign up the influence peddlers of K Street. It seems that Trump's foreign policy—or, in this case, the lack thereof—has been very good for the hired-gun lobbyists of Washington. [The Mother Jones Corruption Project](#)



ASSESSMENT

- *The US support to the offensive to Tripoli that materialized in the form of a presidential telephone call to Haftar, has generally been framed as one of those impulsive moves of the US President not heeding state policies and traditions. This is a continuation of the general rhetoric of the US officials claiming post-Trump US is as pre-Trump and the President's statements and intrinsic moves do not reflect the US state stance. Libya is a litmus test for that.*
- *The evidence tells US state is actually in the driving seat in Libya. Lacking well understanding of the country and well established policy, US seems to have bet on the wrong horse based on assessment of favorite allies in the Gulf, namely UAE, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.*
- *Contrary to claims of Haftar that he would seize control of Tripoli in two days, his operations stalled in 2 months and public opinion is becoming increasingly against him. Last week Russia made a turn in its policies toward Haftar and this week there is seemingly a change of heart in France and US.*
- *Although it is unlikely that those countries will take direct steps against Haftar in coming days, they will most likely urge the sides to explore political ways to solve their differences.*

6. In a city of ever-shifting front lines, Libyans confront their worst fighting in years**

4 June 2019. "There has been a lot of indiscriminate shelling," said Niels David Scott, head of the United Nations' humanitarian coordinating office in Libya. "It's taken a very heavy toll on the civilian population, not only in terms of casualties but also in the disruptions on their lives." Yet the denizens of Tripoli remain resilient. In areas yet untouched by the war, streets are clogged with traffic. Libyans shopped, frequented cafes and visited parks with their children after the traditional iftar dinner during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which ended Tuesday. [The Washington Post](#)

7. Refugee Agencies Urge EU to Greater Efforts in Libya

7 June 2019. In talks with EU interior ministers Friday, UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi and IOM Director General Antonio Vitorino called for "more urgency in the responses" to Libya's challenges. They say "Libya is not a safe place for disembarkation given the appalling conditions in the detention centers to which people are transferred. More support is needed for those trapped." The two lament that the EU still has no predictable method to provide migrant boats with safe harbor and share the people aboard. [The New York Times](#)

8. Libyan coast guard intercepts Europe-bound migrants

8 June 2019. Libya's coast guard Spokesman Ayoub Gassim said Saturday that a wooden boat carrying at least 22 African migrants, all of them men, was intercepted Friday north of the Bouri offshore oil field, around 105 kilometers (65 miles) from Tripoli. [AP](#)

The Coast Guard had earlier in the week intercepted:

- a rubber vessel with 80 African migrants, including six women and three children on Monday off the coast of the western town of Garaboli, 60 kilometers (37 miles) east of the capital, Tripoli. [AP](#)
- one boat carrying 44 Moroccans and an Egyptian was on Tuesday north of the Bouri offshore oil field, around 105 kilometers (65 miles) from Tripoli, and
- a rubber boat carrying 85 migrants — among them five women and five children on Monday, off the coast of the town of Khoms, 120 kilometers (75 miles) east of, Tripoli. [AP](#)

9. EU migrant policy: Lawyers call it a crime against humanity

3 June 2019. More than 40,000 people have been intercepted in the Mediterranean and taken to detention camps and torture houses under a European migration policy that is responsible for crimes against humanity, according to a legal document asking the International Criminal Court to take the case Monday. The request filed with the ICC alleges that European Union officials are knowingly responsible for migrant deaths on land and at sea, as well as culpable for rapes and torture of migrants committed by members of the Libyan coast guard, which is funded and trained at the expense of European taxpayers. The filing names no specific EU officials but cites an ongoing ICC investigation into the fate of migrants in Libya. [AP](#)

OPINION

10. Less than the sum of its parts: Europe's fixation with Libyan border security

27 May 2019. Europe views the drop in migration from Libya to Europe as a success. The EU and member states have buttressed Libya's border security by training and equipping formal forces, working with hybrid security forces, and making deals with armed groups. But these efforts impede the emergence of a functioning, civilian Libyan security sector and threaten stability. This is a problem for Europe. Migration will wax and wane, and its political salience will shift, but Libya remains on Europe's doorstep. [Institute for Security Studies](#)

KEY EVENTS

1. Libyan defenses shot down UAE-made drone used by Haftar's forces

2 June 2019. The forces of the Libyan Army under the command of the Government of National Accord (GNA) shot down Saturday night a drone made in the UAE used by Khalifa Haftar's forces in their attacks on Tripoli. The Libyan Army media office said the Emirati surveillance drone was shot down by Libyan defense system in Al Sawsni in southern Tripoli. [Libyan Express](#)

2. Flight data places mysterious planes in Haftar territory

28 May 2019. Cargo planes were discovered flying clandestinely into bases controlled by renegade Libyan military commander Khalifa Haftar and dropping off unidentified payloads at the time his forces attacked Tripoli last month, an Al Jazeera Arabic TV investigation found. Satellite images and flights data show two Russian-made Ilyushin 76 aircraft registered to a joint Emirati-Kazakh company called Reem Travel made several trips between Egypt, Israel, and Jordan before landing at military bases controlled by Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) in early April, just as it attempted to seize the capital. Flight transponders appear to have been turned off while flying into the war-torn North African country. [Al Jazeera](#)

3. Libya's Haftar Meets Putin in Moscow for First Time

1 June 2019. Commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA) Khalifa Haftar held talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Friday in what was the first official and declared meeting between them. Libyan sources close to Haftar said he sought to convince Putin to help lift the embargo that as been imposed on the LNA by the United Nations Security Council. They also discussed Russian assistance in developing the LNA's weapons, they added. [Al Sharq al Awsat](#)

4. The toll from the armed conflict in Tripoli rises to 562

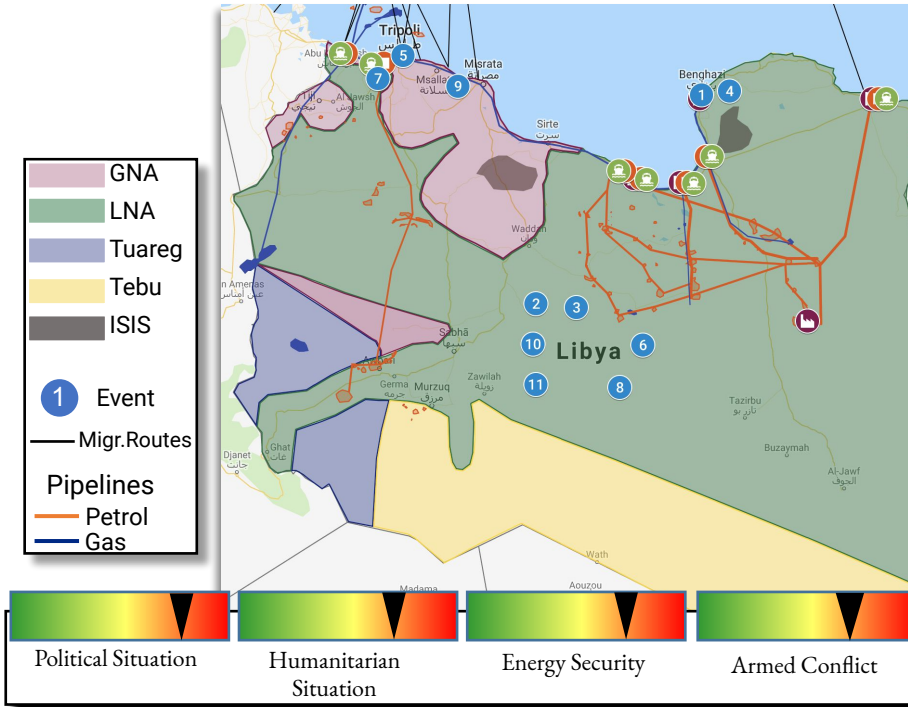
27 May 2019. The toll from the armed conflict in Tripoli, Libya is now 562 dead, including 40 civilians, and 2855 wounded, including 106 civilians. Last week's deaths included two health workers traveling in ambulances. [WHO](#)

5. Over 90,000 IDPs in Libya since Tripoli fighting started

1 June 2019. Over 90,000 people have been displaced in Libya since April as a result of the armed conflict between Khalifa Haftar's forces and UN-backed government forces in Tripoli, United Nations said on Friday. [Libyan Express](#)

6. UNSMIL Deplores Recent Attacks in Tripoli Including Kidnapping of HCS Member

26 May 2019. UNSMIL is deeply concerned at a series of serious incidents which have taken place in the last few days in and around Tripoli. The Mission is very concerned at the report of the kidnapping of a member of the High Council of State from the Qasr Ben Ghasheer neighbourhood in Tripoli. UNSMIL is also concerned regarding the airstrike on the Rexos compound in Tripoli, a civilian facility located in a high populated area that has been used by members of the House of Representatives for meetings. Shelling civilian targets and the kidnapping of civilians including political actors sends a worryingly anti-democratic message. [UNSMIL](#)



ASSESSMENT

- *The war that has no Libyan winners continues in full fledge. What we see on the ground is the internationalization of the local power competition and further "yemenization" of energy-rich Libya. The stakes are so high that the countries giving support to the sides wear two faces giving hope to one side while actually aiding the other side. In this regard, Russian statements distancing itself from Haftar and his initiative left place to news in Al Jazeera where Russian planes are seen transferring arms to Haftar's camp this week. A similar stance was observed in that of France last week and after the summit in Mecca by Saudi Arabia this week. The regional / international backers of the fight are now aware to that Haftar will not be able to break the balance of power between LNA and GNA-led military entities. At this point all negotiations or aid to the sides despite UN embargo should be interpreted as efforts to tilt the balance towards one side.*
- *French moves to both support Haftar and its further purchase of six boats to enable Libyan government intercept migrants in the Mediterranean has echoed strongly in the country and caused action by humanitarian organizations. Such actions of French government aiming to maximize tactical gains here and there will most probably do more harm than benefit in the long run.*

7. African refugees evacuated from Libya to Italy, more help needed: U.N.

30 May 2019. Amid violent clashes and a deteriorating security situation in Tripoli, 149 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers were evacuated to safety in Rome. The evacuees are from Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia. They include 65 children, 13 of them below a year in age. One of the children was born just two months ago. Many of the evacuees need medical treatment and are suffering from malnourishment. More than 1,000 refugees and migrants have been evacuated or resettled out of Libya by UNHCR in 2019, while more than 1,200 others have been returned to Libya by the Libyan Coast Guard in just May alone after being rescued or intercepted while attempting to flee by boat. (UNHCR) [<https://tinyurl.com/y643bpwo>]

8. Top militant suspect transferred to Egypt from Libya

29 May 2019. Top Egyptian militant suspect Hisham al-Ashmawy was transferred to Egypt from eastern Libya in a military aircraft, Egyptian state television said on Wednesday. Ashmawy, a former Egyptian special forces officer, was apprehended in the Libyan city of Derna late last year and has been long sought by Cairo on charges of orchestrating a deadly desert ambush on police and other high-profile attacks. [Reuters](#)

9. Libyan coast guard intercepts 124 Europe-bound migrants

29 May 2019. Libya's coast guard says it has intercepted 124 Europe-bound migrants, including a woman and children, off the country's Mediterranean coast. Spokesman Ayoub Gassim says Wednesday that two rubber boats carrying African, Arab and Pakistani migrants, including a woman and 20 children, were intercepted Tuesday off the city of Zuwara, 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of the Libyan capital, Tripoli. He says the migrants were given humanitarian and medical aid and then taken to a refugee camp in Tripoli. [AP](#)

10. Shelling caused NOC Tripoli clinic fire: NOC

27 May 2019. Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) claimed today that Friday's Tripoli Oil Clinic fire in the Gharghour district of Tripoli was caused by direct shelling of the facility. It claimed that an Internal Security Agency investigation and forensics report reviewed debris found in the destroyed warehouse which led to this conclusion. The NOC reiterated that shelling of civilian targets is a war crime. [Libya Herald](#)

OPINION

11. France illegally arming Libyan coastguards to stop refugees from Africa

1 June 2019. At a February security conference in Munich, Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly informed Faiez el-Sarraj that France had purchased six boats for Libya. The purpose was to stop the flow of migrants attempting to journey across the Mediterranean. According to the press, the ships, built by the company Sillinger, which equips the French special forces, include dedicated supports for the Libyan regime to mount machine guns. On May 10, the Paris Administrative Court rejected the request of eight human rights organizations to suspend the boats' delivery. They had pointed to European and UN embargoes against the sale of arms to Libya, and the "foreseeable consequences of the delivery of the six boats for the human rights of migrants and refugees intercepted and returned to Libyan soil." [WSWS](#)

KEY EVENTS

1. LNA hires a US lobby firm

20.05.2019. The LNA has hired Stephen Payne and Brian Ettinger of Linden Government Solutions to lobby in Washington on behalf of Haftar's forces as well as assisting with "international coalition building" and public relations. GNA recently hired, Mercury, on a one-year contract. Prime Policy Group is also lobbying for the Libyan government on a pro bono basis. ([Politico](#))

2. Libya is on the verge of a partition, Salame warns

21.05.2019. In his latest remarks on Libya to the UNSC, UNSMIL head Ghassan Salame said that Libya could descend into an all-against-all state of chaos or permanent partition. He said arms were openly "pouring into all sides" which were making Libya a "cynical joke". He urged the formation of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate if those sanctioned by the UN were fighting for either side. Salame warned about the increased night air strikes on residential areas and called for the application of International Human Rights Law. He also warned about the renewed attempts by the east to illegally export oil. ([Libya Herald](#))

3. Salame slams lack of moral motivation to end conflict

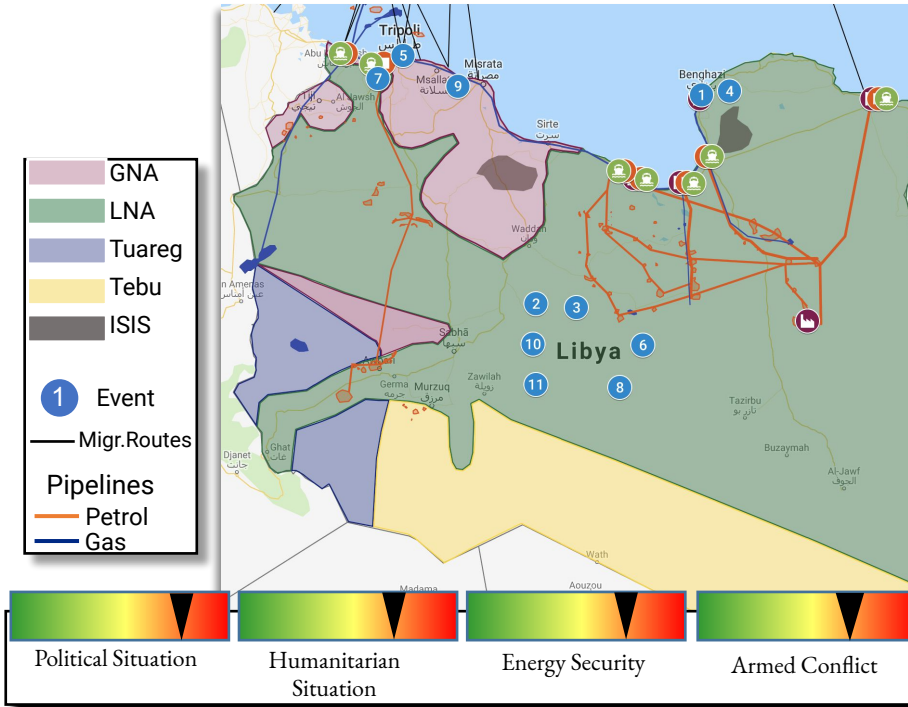
22.05.2019. Speaking at the International Peace Institute in New York, Salame said: "The truth is that Libya can pay for its own suicide. I always considered my compatriots in Lebanon as stupid enough to commit suicide with somebody else's money. The Libyans are even worse. They are committing suicide with their own money." He said: "I am not sure the some leading countries in the security council are fully aware of the risks they are taking by allowing the conflict to fester. This particular conflict can transform, it could mutate in a few months so we truly regret that we did not stop it on time. "There is not enough of a moral motivation to put an end to this war and therefore there is less of a political predisposition to make the extra mile to find a solution" he added. ([The Guardian](#))

4. Haftar rejects unconditional ceasefire

23.05.2019. Haftar, rejected calls for a ceasefire in the Tripoli fighting during his talks with French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris. Haftar was reported to have said that he was willing to negotiate a ceasefire "if certain conditions are met." These conditions were not made public. ([Libya Herald](#)) On Sunday, speaking to press Haftar said that Salame has turned into a biased mediator in the Libyan conflict, saying Salame is giving irresponsible statements about Libya's crisis. ([Libya Observer](#))

5. GNA-France rapprochement in Tunis

22.05.2019. France's ambassador to Libya met with GNA MoI Bashagha, in Tunis in a sign of rapprochement between the two countries. GNA announced that the two countries had agreed on "several special security topics in the field of counter-terrorism, organized crime and civil defence, as well as economic crimes and money laundering". ([Libya Herald](#))



ASSESSMENT

- While Libyan factions are spending on US lobby firms to improve their image in the eyes of US policymakers, UN envoy Ghassan Salame, during his speeches in New York – at both UN Security Council and New York International Peace Institute – harmed the reputation of Libyan leaders. Contrary to his calm tone, Salame was exclusively emotional and acerbic while expressing the mistakes and "stupidities" of the Libyan factions. He used a similar tone against the international community whose leading actors remained mute if not encouraging in face of the violations to UN arms embargo by multiple parties and failing to generate a unified Libya policy to urge warring parties to a ceasefire. His words is unlikely to change the stance of UNSC members. However, he made a historical note of highly likely consequences of not taking immediate action to stop Haftar's offensive, and militia dominance in Tripoli.
- Statements coming from the Russian side indicates that Russia is distancing themselves from Haftar's actions. Russian arguments are highly severe. They accuse Haftar, for not really seeking to free Libyans from terrorists. Following Trump's phone call to Haftar, this is another indicator of reshuffling of the cards. In this unstable conjuncture, Haftar is still able to insist on continuing his highly costly offensive. Two weeks after Serraj, Haftar, as well, rejected Macron's proposal of an unconditional ceasefire. Haftar still seems not aware of it, but a truce could serve more to himself than to his opponents.

6. Serraj meets with ambassadors and eastern elders

23.05.2019. Speaking to a group of ambassadors to, in Tunis, Serraj said the "request for a ceasefire must be accompanied by the return of those who have attacked to where they came from" .. Serraj also met with elderly leaders and others responsible for some tribal groups in eastern Libya and asked for their support. ([ANSAMED](#))

7. Fighting intensifies in Tripoli

25.05.2019. The LNA made a new push on Saturday morning, trying to advance on a road from the former airport - located in a southern suburb - towards the center but there was no sign of progress. The battle for Tripoli has killed at least 510 people, forced 75,000 out of their homes, trapped thousands of migrants in detention centers, and flattened some southern suburbs. It has also forced closures of schools, split families on different sides of the front line, and brought power cuts. ([Reuters](#))

8. Russia is concerned over Haftar's offensive

23.05.2019. Haftar's plan to wipe out "terrorists" has sparked concern in Moscow as it is unclear who is considered a target. If Haftar genuinely seeks to free Libya from terrorists, he should coordinate his action with GNA not fight it, the head of the Russian contact group on intra-Libyan settlement, Lev Dengov, said. The internal conflicts only help terrorist groups which have intensified their activities in Southern Libya, the Foreign ministry's spokeswoman, Zakharova said. ([RT](#))

9. Libyan Navy rescued 290 distressed migrants

24.05.2019. The Libyan navy has rescued some 290 migrants from sinking boats off the coast of Tripoli in two separate operations. They were taken to a detention center in Suq al-Khamis. UN agencies and aid organizations have opposed taking migrants to camps in Libya, amid fears they will find themselves in arbitrary detention. ([GlobePost](#))

OPINION

10. What is Frances's game in Libya?

21.05.2019. Macron's France is playing a dangerous game of dual-policy in Libya. In partnership with Egypt and the Emiratis, the French are gambling on Haftar succeeding in his current offensive, and achieving total hegemony over Libya. They are hedging their bets on this in order to secure their own regional interests, albeit at the expense of the Libyan people's aspirations of building a civil and democratic state. ([Al-Araby](#))

11. Origins of the conflict and options for resolution

21.05.2019. Libya's best chance for progress remains a unified international approach built on near complete alignment among international actors, supporting Libyans convening as a whole to address political, security, and economic issues at the same time. While the tracks can be separate, progress is required on all three for any of them to work in the long run. But first the country will need to find a way to pull back from the confrontation created by General Haftar. ([MEI](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Both sides claim progress in the fighting

12.05.2019. Forces aligned to GNA claim that they are repelling Haftar’s forces in the Tripoli fighting. Meanwhile, LNA Spokesperson claimed that their forces were “approaching the Tripoli surroundings.” ([Libya Herald](#)) On Sunday, local sources reported intensified fighting in Ein Zara, Airport Road, Qasir Benghaziir and other southern Tripoli areas, with reports of heavy death toll and huge wave of displacement. Since April 04, over 450 people have been killed and over 2200 injured, number of IDPs amounted to over 660.000. ([Libyan Express](#))

2. GNA receives military equipment from allies

15.05.2019. LNA announced that it has shot down a drone flown by GNA militias. Media reports speculated that the drone may have been manufactured by Turkey and LNA accused Ankara of supplying drones to the pro-GNA militias in Tripoli. LNA had previously said that both Turkey and Iran have been providing weapons and ammunition to GNA. ([Al-Awsat](#)) On 16 May, Khaled al-Meshri, president of HSC confirmed in an interview that the GNA had obtained unmanned drones in the last few days. ([Independent](#)) On 18 May, pictures and videos posted by the pro-GNA Facebook pages showed what appeared to be dozens of Turkish-made BMC Kirpi armoured vehicles in Tripoli port. Since 2014, UAE and Egypt have provided the LNA with military equipment such as aircraft and helicopters. ([Reuters](#))

3. Amnesty reveals possible war crimes in Tripoli

16.05.2019. Amnesty International has revealed new evidence of indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas in Tripoli likely to amount to war crimes. Witness testimony and satellite imagery supported the report. Amnesty has also documented attacks that placed the lives of hundreds of refugees and migrants at risk. ([Amnesty](#))

4. LNA calls for revolt in Tripoli

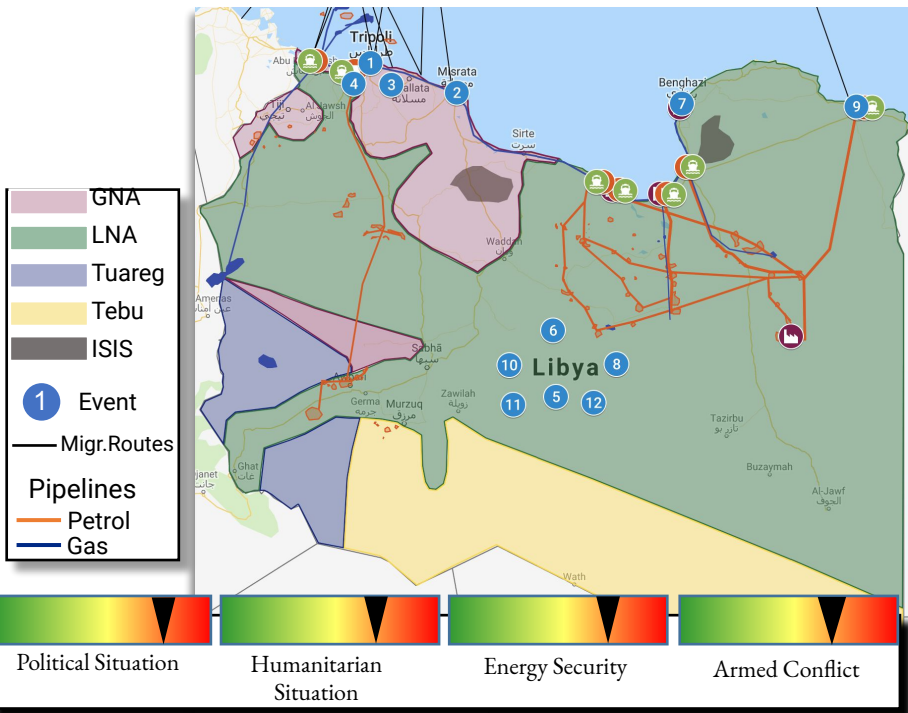
18.05.2019. The LNA said that the pro-GNA militias had arbitrarily arrested hundreds of LNA supporters in Tripoli, and called on the residents of Tripoli, “whose sons are held captive by militias, to rise up and rid themselves” of the outlaws. ([Al-Awsat](#))

5. Salame meets with NATO’s Stoltenberg

13.05.2019. NATO SG Jens Stoltenberg met the UN Envoy Ghassan Salamé at NATO headquarters for talks on the security situation in Libya. Stoltenberg stressed that NATO is prepared to help Libya build effective security institutions. It would be done at the request of the Libyans and only when the security conditions allow it. ([NATO](#))

6. Haftar pays a surprise visit to Rome

16.05.2019. Haftar held surprise talks with Italian PM Conte in Rome ahead of a visit to Paris next week. Conte said he urged Haftar halt his attack on GNA. We want a ceasefire and we feel that the political path is the only solution.” he added. ([Mail](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Though constituting a violation to UN arms embargo, Government of National Accord sources for the first time intentionally voiced the arms and military equipment they receive from their regional backers. In contrast, LNA had never admitted such international reinforcements, well recorded within UN reports. This can be interpreted as a show of force by GNA, which has been left alone by the international community and hard pressed under recent LNA attacks. GNA seems willing to show that they still have the power to carry on this fight. Moreover, with this new reinforcement, forces allied with GNA might be planning to conduct a general counter-attack to LNA lines.
- In order to limit Turkey and Qatar’s increasing influence in Libya, LNA’s regional backers will likely increase arms shipments to maintain technical military superiority. This escalation will likely intensify the fight, which will only lead to a more devastating and protracted civil war and deepen the internal hostilities within Libya.
- Serraj wants Haftar to withdraw to Eastern Libya for a ceasefire. At this stage, to be able to get out of the tight corner, LNA can surprisingly seek a truce as well. Should LNA choose to do so, Haftar will not be willing to retreat from around the capital Tripoli, to use this as leverage on the negotiation table.
- Regional backers of the warring factions of Libya are not in position to be directly affected by the consequences of the probable security vacuum in Libya. If the EU opts for a passive role, those backers will continue to fan the flames of the civil war with more destructive weapons, as a result of which, EU will increasingly suffer from newer waves of irregular migration. To prevent that, EU should adopt a more active, determined and unified Libya policy.

7. Sources: Haftar talks to US officials in Egypt

13.05.2019. Haftar had held talks with officials from the American administration during his visit to Cairo last week, an informed source revealed. The American delegation included officials from the Defense and State Departments and AFRICOM. A US official told that they were in contact with several Libyan leaders, as well as international partners, in order to achieve stability and return to table. ([Al-Awsat](#))

8. EU claims to be united in Libya policy

13.05.2019. Following the EU Foreign Affairs Council and after having met with Serraj, Mogherini said the EU is united in its foreign policy on Libya. Mogherini reiterated the position set out in the EU Council statement which is a catch-all statement supporting Serraj, Salame and his efforts, condemning terrorists and violations of Human Rights, calling for a ceasefire – but not condemning Haftar’s attack on Tripoli. ([Libya Herald](#))

9. HoR declares MB a terrorist organization

14.05.2019. Libya’s internationally recognized House of Representatives designated the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organization. The decision was taken by only 70-plus members, which means the session did not have a quorum ([Libya Herald](#)) A statement on the HoR’s website revealed that legal action would be taken against a MB member who, demanded Turkish military intervention in Libya. ([Al-Arabiya](#))

10. Rescued migrants allowed to disembark to Italy

17.05.2019. Families with children saved in the Mediterranean by the German charity Sea-Watch were given permission to land in Italy, despite the Salvini’s “closed ports” policy, two days after it rescued 65 migrants in distress off Libya. Save the Children had appealed earlier Friday for an end to the odyssey of those who had risked the perilous crossing from North Africa to seek safety in Europe. ([Libyan Express](#))

11. UNHCR: Stop sending migrants back to Libya

19.05.2019. UNHCR urged the EU not to send migrants back to Libya. “People rescued by the Libyan coastguard in the Mediterranean should, under no circumstances, be brought back to the detention camps in Libya,” head of UNHCR said. He also called on the EU to allow private rescue vessels to continue their life-saving work in the Mediterranean. ([DW](#))

OPINION

12. Libya’s Coming Forever War

15.05.2019. There is no question that the decrepit GNA needs to be replaced with a more inclusive and legitimate body. There is no question the corrupt and predatory constellation of militias in Tripoli needs to be dismantled. But the way to do this is through a combination of political negotiations and technocratic tools — which were making slow but perceptible progress before Haftar’s April 4 attack. It is not by backing one set of militias against another. ([War on the Rocks](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. LNA opens a new front in Sirte

12.05.2019. LNA opened a new battlefield on the advance on Tripoli by sending forces to the coastal city of Sirte. Military sources told local media that the LNA dispatched major forces to Sirte. Forces loyal to GNA in Sirte had denied over the past two days that the LNA was marching on the city. ([Al-Awsat](#))

2. Salame will attend NATO meeting

12.05.2019. UN Special Envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame has, meanwhile, been touring European countries in an attempt to reach an immediate ceasefire to the fighting. He is supposed to hold talks with NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg on Monday. Salame has been calling for a return to political dialogue in Libya. ([Al-Awsat](#))

3. ISIS attacks to Ghadduwah

11.05.2019. The Spokesperson of the UNSG, Farhan Haq, said ISIS attack on Ghadduwah town in southern Libya is yet another reason why a ceasefire must take effect in the country. ([Libya Observer](#)) Speaking during an interview with Tunisian TV presenter and France 24 host Tawfiq Mejjad, Haftar stated that he sends the captured Tunisian ISIS members back to their home country. ([MEM](#))

4. Serraj tours four European capital

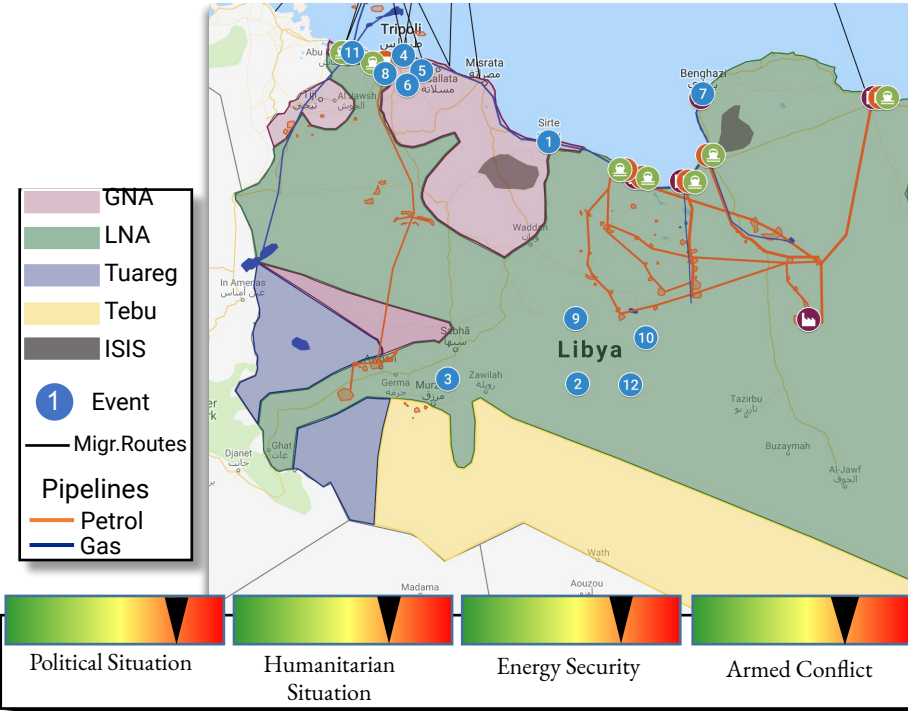
12.05.2019. Serraj's tour included stops in Rome, Paris, Berlin and London as Serraj tried to rally support for the GNA in the face of the attack on Tripoli by Haftar's LNA. In all four capitals, Serraj was told there had to be a ceasefire and a return to the UN-led political dialogue with Haftar. In Paris, he was told the ceasefire had to be unconditional. Despite outward smiles and warmth on display, the talks with Macron appear to have been particularly negative. ([Arab Weekly](#))

5. Serraj no longer accepts to negotiate with Haftar & Saleh

10.05.2019. Serraj was reported by his media office as having told Macron that not only would there be no ceasefire unless Haftar withdrew, but that he would no longer talk to either Haftar or Aguila Saleh, the president of the HoR. Serraj said he no longer considered them acceptable because of the Tripoli attack. ([Arab Weekly](#))

6. GNA suspends operations of 40 foreign companies

09.05.2019. Libya's internationally recognised government has suspended the operations of 40 foreign companies including French oil multinational Total, a Libyan government official has said. Total is a major oil player in Libya, which pumps more than 1m barrels of oil a day and aims to have reached 2.1m barrels by 2023. Explaining the decision, which also affected the aerospace company Thales and the telecoms company Alcatel, the economy minister, Ali Abdulaziz Issawi, said the foreign businesses' licences had expired, according to a decree that appeared online, and whose authenticity was confirmed by an official in the ministry. They have all been given three months to reapply for their licences. ([The Guardian](#))



ASSESSMENT

▪ *The new US Libya policy is the main unknown in the Libya puzzle. For the sake of not backing the losing horse, following Trump's phone call to Haftar, all actors are looking for more concrete indicators to gauge US position. Owing to the current ambiguity in the US's position, Serraj's primary international backers, including Italy, began to re-assess their perspective against the Libyan actors. The main reason for Serraj's Euro-tour was to ensure their support in the face of this reassessment. It is evident that Serraj was not able to get a clear backing of European leaders. GNA's decision of suspending the operations of 40 European Companies, seems to have been taken following the disappointment and rage in face of European reaction during the tour. However, suspension of licences for these firms, including French oil multinational Total, has a high potential of backfire against besieged Tripoli government. Three months of extra time can be seen as a mitigation measure against this risk.*

▪ *Foreign intervention has become more apparent with the UN report referring to UAE support and non-compliance with UN arms embargo. Together with downed Portuguese pilot and frequent allegations related to mercenaries, it depicts one of the incentives of a prolonged crisis in Libya, which can only be prevented with a unified international stance.*

▪ *Latest ISIS attacks in the South of Libya is a reference to increasing security vacuum in the South of Libya. According to the current data at hand, there won't be a quick winner of the Tripoli war. Protracted conflict will weaken both anti-extremist groups —LNA and GNA. The more power and resources LNA use against Tripoli, the weaker they get in the rest of Libya. The stronger LNA attacks against Tripoli, the more GNA falls into the clutches of militias and extremist groups, which join the defence of Tripoli. It is, therefore, highly likely that, as the Tripoli fighting intensifies, ISIS and other terror groups will gain more ground.*

7. Mercenary pilot identified in Libya

07.05.2019. A man who was purportedly captured when his aircraft was shot down by the Libyan National Army (LNA) faction during the recent fighting around Tripoli has been identified as a Portuguese national. "I was requested to destroy the roads and bridges," captured pilot said when asked what he was doing in Libya. His captors said he was flying a Mirage F1 when he was hit but he did not confirm this. ([Janes](#))

8. Serraj pleads the US to stop Haftar foreign backers

12.05.2019. Writing to WSJ, GNA denounced its foe Haftar as an "aspiring military dictator" and urged Trump to stop foreign support for his month-long offensive on the capital Tripoli. "To prevent a bloody civil war with global implications, Libya needs the US to help stop other countries from meddling in our affairs," Serraj said. ([Reuters](#))

9. UN Security Council urges for cease-fire

10.05.2019. UNSC wants the Libyan parties to "rapidly return to UN political mediation and to commit to a cease-fire and de-escalation to help mediation succeed." UNSMIL called for a one-week humanitarian truce starting last Monday, which was the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, but the truce has failed to come into force. The U.N. said this week the fighting has killed 443 people and wounded more than 2,000. Some 60,000 people have been displaced from Tripoli since early April. ([VOA](#))

10. UN report: missile strikes implies UAE support

06.05.2019. UN experts are investigating missile strikes near Libya's capital that were fired likely using Chinese-made drones and point to possible involvement by the UAE, a confidential report shows. A UN panel of experts said in the report to the SC, that it had identified the weapon as a Blue Arrow air-to-surface missile and is paired with the Chinese-made drone, connected to UAE and LNA ([DailyMail](#))

11. Ship capsizes kills 65 migrants in the Mediterranean

10.05.2019. At least 65 migrants drowned when their boat capsized in the sea off the Tunisian coast after they had left Libya, UNHCR said. It was one of the deadliest shipwrecks involving migrants trying to reach Europe this year. ([Reuters](#))

OPINION

12. Only a Cease-Fire Will Protect Libya's Oil

10.05.2019. What we are now seeing in Tripoli is a fight for control of oil facilities with a winner-take-all outcome. What is certain is that the losers will transform the oil sector into an arena for endless reprisal attacks. Only a ceasefire and a return to the dual-key system will return stability to Libya's oil sector. Libya's civil conflict has raged for too long, and it is tempting to seek to break the deadlock once and for all. However, a violent swing of the pendulum, one way or the other, threatens to take offline much of Libya's oil production – and along with it, Libya's prospects for a peaceful and prosperous future. ([Bloomberg](#))



KEY EVENTS

1. Head of GNA Calls LNA Offensive 'Stab in The Back'

05.05.2019. "What happened was a stab in the back. We talked with him [Haftar] about the political decision. He performed this attack on April 4, which means that when I talked to him [last time] at the end of March, he was already preparing the attack," Sarraj said. Sarraj also expressed regret that only a little amount of countries had recognised the offensive by the Libyan National Army on Tripoli as an act of aggression. [Sputnik](#)

2. Libya's GNA appeals to Turkey for help

04.05.2019. Forces loyal to Fayed al-Sarraj's Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya are asking ally Turkey to obtain military and civilian help to stop the assault following clashes in eastern Tripoli following an air strike by the Libyan National Army (LNA), the London-based pan-Arab newspaper Asharq al-Awsat said. One GNA spokesman said his administration had appealed to Turkey for "anything that is needed to stop the assault" by the LNA, Asharq al-Awsat reported. [Ahval](#)

3. Libyan officials: Militant attack kills 9 troops at LNA base

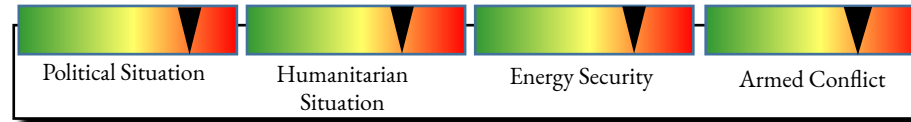
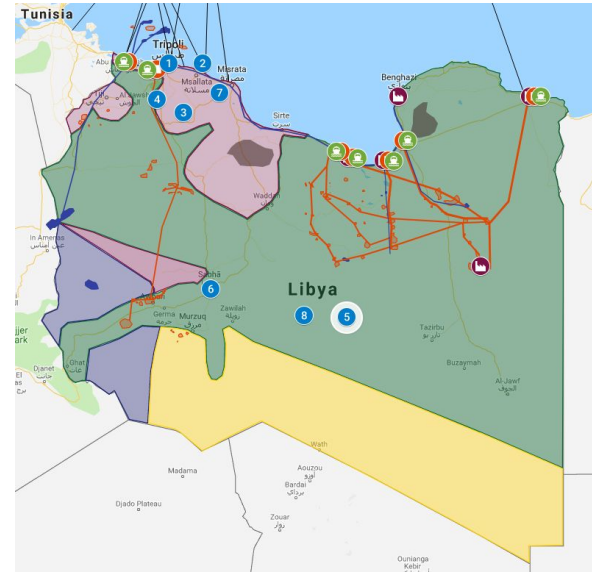
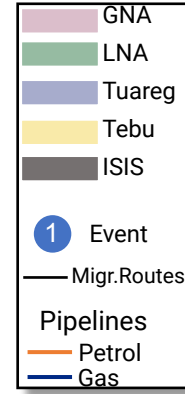
04.05.2019. Islamic State militants on Saturday killed at least nine soldiers in an attack on a training camp for the self-styled Libyan National Army in the country's southwestern desert, officials said. The militants drove their vehicles into the recently established training camp and clashed with guards near an air base seized earlier this year by the LNA, led by Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter, in the town of Sabha, the officials said. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying at least 16 soldiers were killed or wounded. [AP](#)

4. Battle for Tripoli becomes a sandbox for outside powers

05.05.2019. Some analysts believe the Kremlin has tilted towards Haftar, noting that it blocked a UN Security Council statement calling on Haftar's army to "halt its military activity" toward Tripoli. The outgoing head of US Africa Command, Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, told a Congressional committee on March 7 that Russia's dealings with Haftar were "aimed at accessing Libya's vast oil market, reviving arms sales, and gaining access to coastal territories on the Mediterranean Sea."

Long-time Libya watcher Geoff Porter at North Africa Risk Consulting says that, "US support for Haftar (with the White House unilaterally breaking from the US diplomatic community's consensus) means that Haftar may be able to start to market oil exports under his control without having to worry about US trying to stop him."

There's also a European dimension to the Libya story. France and Italy are sniping at each other, with the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, blaming Paris for "historical mistakes" that contributed to Libya's instability. French sources insist Paris was not aware of Haftar's plan to attack the west, an assertion that has met a skeptical response in Rome. But France blocked an EU statement that would have called on Haftar to stop his campaign. [CNN](#)



ASSESSMENT

- As Haftar's attacks to Tripoli stall, the war continues in an increased tempo in other fronts. To start with, the sides in the war and their international backers are in full engagement in propaganda.
- During his telephone call some three weeks ago, Trump had expressed his support to Haftar's operations to Tripoli by labeling it as "ongoing counterterrorism efforts" and had expressed a "shared vision" for Libya. This rhetoric, mainly advocated by UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt in confronting political Islamists, increases in vigor. French joined the band this week by latest interview of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Le Drian saying: "And in the camp of its [Haftar's] opponents, there are militia hold-up officials, specialists of predation and jihadists." Latest ISIS attack to an LNA base in Sabha on 4 May has been abused by the media of this group to reinforce the same line of argument, saying: "ISIS is fighting for GNA." As Sabha is 650 km. south of Tripoli and the example most recently in Yemen has perfectly shown that vacuum of power and chaos is oxygen for groups like ISIS, the operation itself and this rhetoric only exacerbates the problem. In other words, the operation started for the articulated aim of fighting terrorism is creating conditions for militia and terrorist organizations to thrive. What is more, as Wolfram Lacher says, this rhetoric oversees existence of "criminals and Madkbali Salafis in Haftar's forces."
- French support to Haftar extends to blocking action in EU and Russia does the same in UNSC. On 7 March, the country had blocked a UN Security Council statement that would have called on Haftar to halt advance on Tripoli. Other supporters are Tunisia and to a minor extent Bahrain.
- As his forces reached culminating point, his operations stalled and long lines of logistics stemming from Benghazi make them costly, Haftar has to find resources to finance his current operations and his buying of militia to turn the tide against GNA, as has been the modus operandi. His recent overtures to NOC officials hints at his desire to sell Libyan oil by-passing NOC under tacit agreement of the US. However, this is unsustainable. As his operational capacity can be said to be limited, his backers might have either made a miscalculation or should be calculating to interfere by force at some point.

5. Jean-Yves Le Drian: «France is in Libya to fight terrorism»

02.05.2019. Finally, was not supporting Marshal Haftar a false good idea? I leave you judge. The Libyan National Army controls a large part of the territory. And in the camp of its opponents, there are among the militia hold-up officials, specialists of predation and jihadists. Among the opponents of Haftar, there are mafia gangs of smugglers who torture and enslave migrants. They do not fight for Sarraj but for the protection of their criminal activities. Haftar fought against terrorism in Benghazi and southern Libya, and that was in our interest, that of the Sahel countries, the neighbors of Libya. I support everything that serves the safety of the French and friendly countries of France. [Le Figaro](#)

6. Libya's Rival Governments Move to Financial War With Frontline Stuck

30.04.2019. With the frontlines around Libya's contested capital Tripoli stalemated, the two rival factions are bringing oil and money supplies into the firing line of their battle for power. Khalifa Haftar, chief of the eastern-based forces which are attacking the city, is putting pressure on state oil firm NOC and its operations in his fiefdom, diplomats and analysts say. In response, the internationally-recognized government in Tripoli is limiting his access to hard currency, the sources said.

Sabha is 650 kilometers (400 miles) south of the capital, Tripoli, where Hifter's forces are currently fighting to take control of the city from militias affiliated with a weak U.N.-supported government. Diplomats and analysts saw the move as a sign that Haftar wants to remind Tripoli he can stop oil exports as a way to pressure Serraj into a deal to share oil revenues should he not win on the battlefield. Tripoli has responded to Haftar's moves with the central bank (CBL) on Monday imposing special checks on four banks, three of them in Benghazi, before they can get hard currency. [AP](#)

8. UNSMIL Calls for a week long humanitarian truce

05.05.2019. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) called for an extendable one-week humanitarian truce starting at four in the morning of the first of Ramadan, 06 May, in accordance with the spirit of the month as well as the Human Rights Convention, during which all parties pledge to halt all forms of military operations, including reconnaissance, shelling, sniper operations, and mobilization of forces.

UNSMIL also called on all parties to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need and to ensure the freedom of movement for civilians during this truce. The mission encourages all parties to use the truce to exchange prisoners and the bodies of the deceased and expresses its readiness to provide the necessary support in this regard. [UNSMIL](#)

9. Lib. coast guard rescues nearly 100 Europe-bound migrants

01.05.2019. Libya's coast guard says it has rescued 96 Europe-bound migrants off the Mediterranean coast. Spokesman Ayoub Gassim says Wednesday a rubber boat carrying the migrants, mostly from Africa, stopped Tuesday off the coast of the western town of Khoms. [AP](#)

KEY EVENTS

1. Tripoli clashes continues on multiple fronts

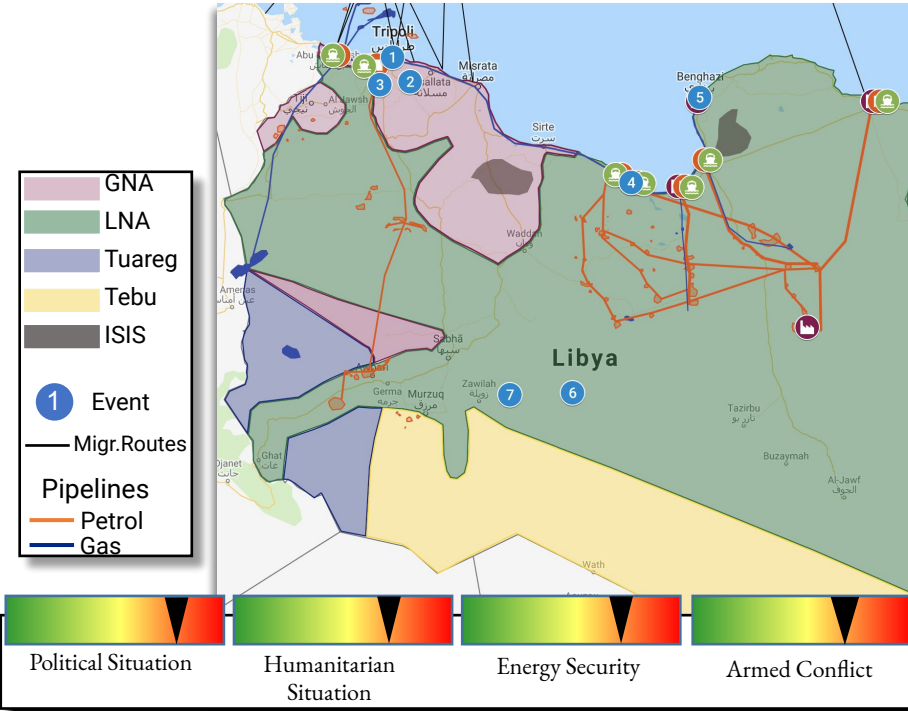
25.04.2019. "Fluid fighting has continued on multiple fronts in and around the south west and southern boundaries of Tripoli as the two adversaries fail to impose their will on the battlefield (LH). On Tuesday, LNA Spokesperson Mismari told the second stage of the operation was launched with the use of infantry forces after the completion of the first phase. (Sputnik) Despite all the fog of war and the war propaganda by both sides, it is clear that the GNA-aligned forces have failed to push up the mountain road to Gharian, as they had threatened and promised to do over the last few days. But equally, the LNA-aligned forces have failed to penetrate central Tripoli. The frontlines have remained fluid and changing from morning to evening and from day to day, concentrated at Ain Zara, Wadi Rabea and around Tripoli International Airport. Faiez Serraj stated that there will be no negotiations or dialogue until after defeating the aggressors. On the political front, UNSMIL head Ghassan Salame continued his international push for a political solution by visiting Tunis and Rome. Salame told the press in Rome "The UN continues its role in Libya. We have been providing assistance to thousands of families affected by the fighting to be relocated to safer areas." (Libya Herald)

2. Humanitarian crisis escalates in Tripoli

27.04.2019. About 1,700 IDP children have been reached with psychosocial assistance and more than 37,500 persons have now fled their homes as a result of the Tripoli around the borders of Tripoli, the latest UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said. The report says that there are at least 90 civilian casualties, including 21 verified fatalities since the beginning of the conflict. These casualties include medical personnel, women and children, and at least one foreign national. The report also bemoaned the fact that armed actors and security institutions have restricted freedom of movement and increased security check toward the civilian population. Individuals, including IDPs, originally from the east, have been particularly targeted due to perceived risk of military involvement or political affiliation, it added. (Libya Herald)

3. Trapped migrants wounded in Tripoli

26.04.2019. Migrants and refugees have been shot and wounded in a detention centre south of Tripoli as Libyan fighters battle for control of the capital, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said. The UN and international NGOs have warned that thousands of migrants and refugees who fled violence at home and are now trapped in Libyan detention centres are facing enormous dangers and must be evacuated. On Wednesday the UN refugee agency UNHCR said it had evacuated 325 asylum seekers from the Qasr Bin Ghashir detention centre a day after an attack against refugees and migrants. It was not clear who carried out the assault. "12 refugees endured physical attacks that required hospital treatment," a statement said. MSF said that over 700 unarmed men, women and children were trapped in the Qasr Bin Ghashir detention centre. (Daily Mail)



ASSESSMENT

- *Haftar's gamble for a blitzkrieg victory in Tripoli ended up being a protracted war. The backing of international actors is going to be determinant of this bloody civil war. Drone attacks and use of more sophisticated weapons indicates that –despite UN arms embargo– warring factions still receive arms. Trump's unexpected support to Haftar already encouraged him to intensify his attacks. On the strength of this support, Haftar may –once more– try to funnel oil sale/revenue to eastern NOC / Central Bank, which he tried last summer, but was stonewalled by Trump.*
- *On the other hand, for the sake of distracting LNA forces or cutting its supply lines, GNA and its supporters in defence of Tripoli might want to extend this war to other cities of Libya. This move would undoubtedly increase the casualties and scale of war and would lead to further disintegration of Libya as well.*
- *Intensifying civil war, and deteriorating political and financial conditions in Libya has the potential to cause severe problems for the northern side of the Mediterranean. Rather than the UAE, Qatar, Turkey or S.Arabia –which are situated far away and will not be affected from the crisis as much as EU– European countries should be more active in finding a sustainable solution to Libya Crisis. Libya is in their neighbourhood. Up to now, a significant majority of the migrants using Libya route to Europe were non-Libyans, but intensely populated Tripoli civil-war would cause a new migration wave and initiate a great humanitarian disaster.*

4. LNA send warship to Ras Lanuf

27.04.2019. LNA had sent a warship to the eastern Ras Lanuf oil port, after days of unconfirmed rumors of a foreign navy ship having been sighted. LNA spokesman Ahmed Mismari told reporters his forces had sent the Alkarama patrol vessel to Ras Lanuf in Libya's key Oil Crescent region as part of a "training mission" to visit the operations room and to secure oil facilities. State oil firm NOC said several Libyan warships had used the oil port, while military personnel had also entered the nearby Es Sider terminal. It did not say who was responsible for this but the two terminals, Libya's biggest oil export ports, are controlled by the LNA. NOC condemned in a statement the use of its facilities for military purposes without mentioning the LNA or naming who was behind the acts. "Incidents recorded by NOC include: The seizure of the Es Sider airstrip for military use, military personnel entering the port of Es Sider as well as attempts to requisition NOC tug boats, the berthing of warships in the Ras Lanuf terminal and its use by Libyan military vessels." "The latest outbreak of hostilities ... poses a serious threat to our operations, production and the national economy," said NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla. (Reuters)

5. LNA accuses Serraj for recruiting terrorists

26.04.2019. The Libyan National Army (LNA) revealed that it had detected dozens of terrorist fighters that have joined the forces of the Government of National Accord (GNA) that is headed by Fayez al-Sarraj. An LNA military official told that several members of the Ansar al-Sharia group were among the fighters, including Qais Abdulkarim al-Abah and his brother Mohammed, who was killed in the Tripoli battles. Blacklisted by the UN, the political Islam militia emerged after the Libyan revolt. It was led by Mohammed al-Zahawi, who was killed in Benghazi during battles against the LNA in 2014. The Qaeda affiliate had announced its dissolution in May 2017, but its members soon swore allegiance to the ISIS terror group. LNA spokesman Ahmed al-Mismari had previously accused Turkey of transporting al-Nusra Front extremist group members from Syria to Libya to fight against the LNA. He had also warned that foreign fighters had also joined pro-GNA forces. (Al-Awsat)

OPINION

6. A Warlord Rises in Libya

24.04.2019. A warlord's forces swept across a fractured country and fought the internationally recognized government to a stalemate outside the capital city, and another Arab nation suddenly faced the specter of military rule. And in a recent, ambiguous statement issued after a phone call with the man in charge of that offensive, President Donald Trump seemed to signal he would be fine with that. (Atlantic)

7. After Tripoli assault, Libya's next battle could be over banks

25.04.2019. Eastern Libya commander Khalifa Haftar has thrown much of his military forces into attacking Tripoli, but the outcome of the offensive could be determined by a separate battle — to keep open the parallel finance system that funds his soldiers. (Reuters)



KEY EVENTS

1. Fighting escalates in Tripoli

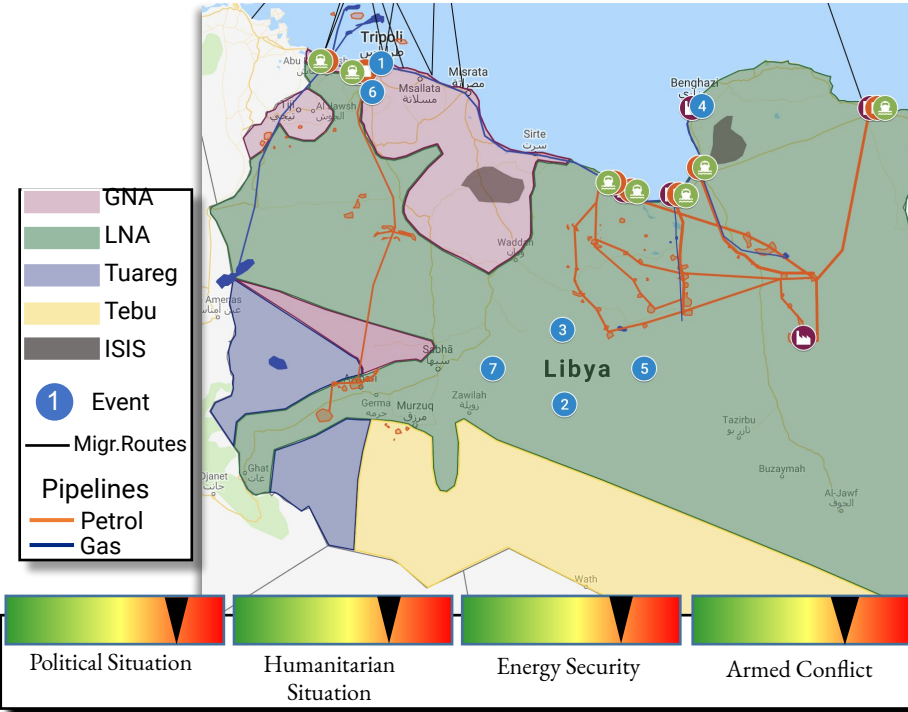
17.04.2019. Tripoli experienced a third night of shelling last night as missiles, reported by both sides as Grad, fell on a number of residential areas including the Abu Sleem (Busleem) and Salah Al-Deen districts. In the huge and ever-escalating (mis) information war, both sides in the Tripoli fighting acknowledged the falling of missiles on residential areas – but blamed them on each other. ([Libya Herald](#)) On Thursday, the Tripoli war expanded to the south of Libya. On the legal front, the Serraj Military Attorney General issued arrest warrants for Haftar and 6 other leading LNA commanders. These arrest warrants comes in response to earlier arrest warrants issued by the pro-Haftar Military Attorney General which included Faiez Serraj and all his remaining Presidency Council. ([Libya Herald](#)) For the second Friday running, thousands took part in demonstrations in Tripoli and Misrata against Haftar for their attack on Tripoli. Besides Haftar, France was singled out for criticism as many demonstrators wore yellow vests. ([Libya Herald](#)) On Saturday, several air strikes and explosions shook the Tripoli overnight in an escalation of a two-week offensive. The violence spiked after the White House said that President Trump spoke by telephone with Haftar. Residents counted several missiles strikes, one of which apparently hit a military camp of forces loyal to GNA. The fighting has killed 227 people and wounded 1,128, the World Health organization (WHO) said. ([Reuters](#)) OCHA indicated that over 32,100 people have been internally displaced since the onset of fighting, with over 900 individuals currently residing in collective shelters, and local authorities are setting up additional shelters. ([Al-Awsat](#))

2. US and Russia oppose UN bid

18.04.2019. Russia and the US opposed a British bid backed by France and Germany at the UN Security Council to demand a ceasefire in Libya. Russia insisted on having no criticism of Haftar in the proposed resolution, while the US said it wanted more time to consider the situation. Diplomats say the signaling from Washington goes a long way toward explaining Haftar's aggressive strategy in the face of strong condemnation by the European powers and the UN. ([France 24](#)) UN special envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame said international divisions had "encouraged" Haftar. ([CGTN](#))

3. Trump speaks with Haftar

19.04.2019. The White House revealed that Trump reached out personally to Haftar, as a push at the UN to broker a ceasefire hit trouble. Trump and Haftar spoke on Monday "to discuss ongoing counterterrorism efforts and the need to achieve peace and stability in Libya," according to the WH. A statement said that Trump "recognized Haftar's significant role in fighting terrorism and securing Libya's oil resources," adding that "the two discussed a shared vision for Libya's transition to a stable, democratic political system." The White House did not say why it delayed giving news of the phone call. ([France 24](#)) Sources told that the phone call was mediated by Sisi, who had met Trump last week before meeting Haftar on Sunday. ([Al-Awsat](#)) An LNA spokesperson told: "We have won the political battle and we have convinced the world that the armed forces are fighting terrorism." ([BBC](#))



ASSESSMENT

- From this week on, the conflict in Libya has evolved into a full-scale civil war. Use of heavy weapons and the involvement of extremist groups – the majority of which are adversaries of Haftar – will deepen the hostility between GNA and LNA. In the new stalemate, LNA claims to fight against extremists, while LNA attacks create grounds for their presence in Tripoli. A protracted war will likely increase extremist foothold and bloodshed in Tripoli, ruin oil revenues/economy and hopes for a political solution leading to a unified Libya.
- Considering uncompromising and power-thirsty nature of Haftar, only way out seems to be an early defeat of one warring party. Otherwise, in the end, if LNA loses, it is not going to be easy to clean up Tripoli from extremist influence. If LNA wins, Haftar will not be able to stabilise highly populated Western Libya due to many factors to include massive destruction, deep hatred against him, and the patchwork-like coalition structure of LNA. Both scenarios will have destructive consequences for European interests as well.
- Trump's phone call to Haftar strengthened the latter's hand and heartened him in the battlefield, where he was in dire straits. Additionally, the move caught UN and the international community off guard as both were preparing to push for an immediate truce. Trump's move, despite indicating a radical shift from dominant US Libya policy, in fact, is in total accordance with his foreign policy so far showing a trend to support autocratic and strong-leaders in the Middle East. This time, however, there is a problem, as it is not guaranteed that Haftar will win and he is not a strong man as he seems. Therefore, Trump's move may jeopardise main US interests – energy security and prevention of terrorism. Additionally, Trump made this phone call following Sisi's visit to Washington. The consultations during this visit between two leaders might have had influence in realisation of this phone call.

4. LNA accuses Turkey of sending terrorists to Libya

20.04.2019. LNA spokesman Mismari revealed terrorist banners, belong to ISIS and al-Qaeda, supporters have started to emerge in the capital Tripoli. Addressing a press conference, he vowed that the LNA will expel the militias from Tripoli in order to restore stability, security and the authority of the state. Moreover, he accused Turkey of meddling in the battle by sending al-Nusra Front extremists from Syria to the capital to combat the LNA. ([Al-Awsat](#)) French FM said in a statement that some groups and persons, classified on the UN sanctions list because of their terrorist acts, are involved in the fight in Tripoli against LNA. ([Address Libya](#))

5. Salame describes Tripoli offensive as a coup

15.04.2019. U.N. envoy Ghassan Salame said Haftar's decision to issue in the course of his campaign arrest warrants for Serraj and other top Tripoli officials "sounded more like a coup than counter-terrorism ... We are in fact in a military stalemate since eight days, or nine days," Salame said, adding that both sides had carried out 30 air strikes each that had not changed the situation on the ground. Air strikes and shelling have hit civilian infrastructure and residential homes, especially in the south of Tripoli where Haftar's forces have sought to penetrate government defences. The U.N. humanitarian agency OCHA said targeting civilian facilities was a violation of international humanitarian law. ([Reuters](#))

6. GNA accuses France for supporting Haftar

17.04.2019. Libya's Interior Minister Fathi Bachagha had accused Paris of supporting the "criminal Haftar" and ordered the "suspension of all relations between the ministry and the French side", the Tripoli authorities said, according to AFP. The French government has rejected claims by Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) that it has been supporting Haftar. Libya's interior ministry said it was suspending all relations with France over support for Haftar and his Libyan National Army (LNA). Claims of French support for Haftar are "completely unfounded", according to a French foreign ministry official cited by the AFP news agency. ([RFI](#))

7. Qatar calls for arms embargo against Haftar

16.04.2019. Qatar's foreign minister has called for an effective arms embargo against Haftar and for his troops to withdraw from areas they have occupied. Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani also told the newspaper in an interview he was pleased to be told by his French counterpart that Paris was working to ensure a planned national reconciliation conference on Libya goes ahead. Asked how the conflict can be stopped, Sheikh Mohammed said: "By rendering effective the embargo against Haftar and preventing those countries that have supplied him with munitions and state-of-the-art weapons from continuing to do so." ([Reuters](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. EU calls for immediate ceasefire in Libya

11.04.2019. HR/VP Mogherini made a declaration on behalf of the EU on the situation in Libya. She said “The European Union and its Member States call on all parties to immediately cease all military operations. The LNA and all the forces that have moved into Tripoli or its vicinity must withdraw and the humanitarian truces called by the UN must be heeded. (EU) France, however, blocked the draft EU statement calling on Haftar to halt his eastern forces’ offensive (Reuters)

2. WSJ: S.Arabia funds Tripoli offensive

12.04.2019. Days before Haftar launched an offensive on Tripoli, S.Arabia offered tens of millions of dollars to help pay for the operation, the Wall Street Journal has reported. The offer came during a visit by Haftar to Riyadh, the Journal said. Citing senior advisers to the Saudi government, the offer of funds – accepted by Haftar – was to buy the loyalty of tribal leaders, recruit fighters, and other military purposes. “We were quite generous.” one of the unnamed advisers told WSJ. (Libyan Express)

3. Head of HoR supports LNA advance

13.04.2019. Eastern Libyan forces will pursue their advance on the capital Tripoli, Aguila Saleh, head of the House of Representatives, said, despite international calls for a halt in an offensive that risks causing many civilian casualties. “We need to get rid of militias and terrorist groups” Saleh told. (Reuters)

4. Libyans demonstrate against war

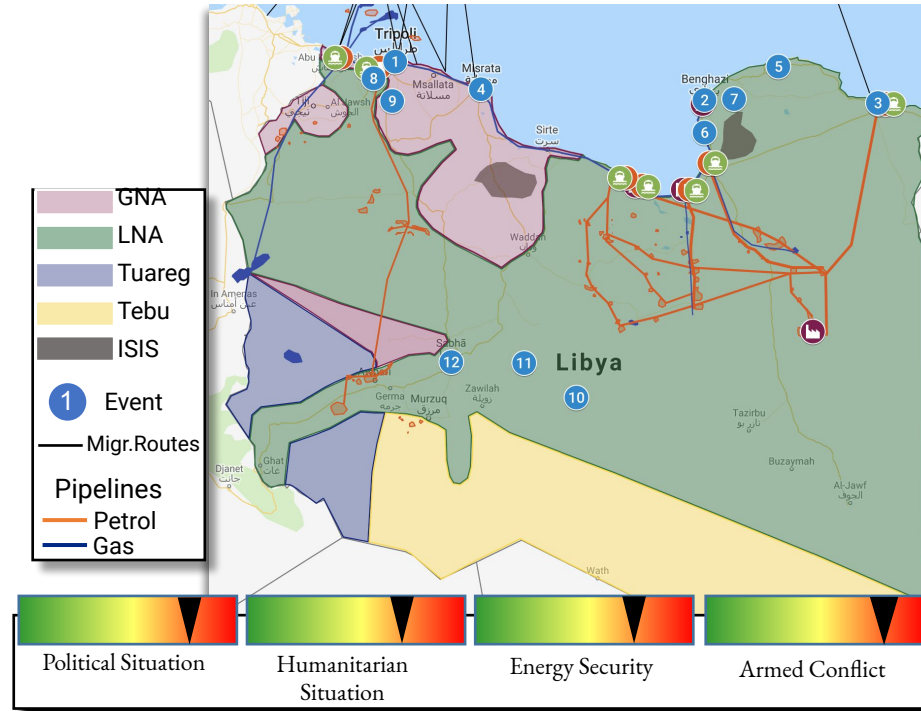
13.04.2019. Thousands of Libyans came out to demonstrate in Tripoli and Misrata yesterday afternoon against the war on Tripoli waged by Haftar, calling for a civilian state and objecting to possible military rule. The demonstration was sanctioned by the Serraj MoI since all demonstrations need prior state approval. There were a variety of placards not only denouncing Haftar but also his French, UAE and Saudi backers. At the Misrata demonstration a French flag was burnt. (Libya Herald)

5. East issues arrest warrants for PC members

13.04.2019. The Pro-Haftar and eastern-based Military Attorney General issued arrest warrants for 23 western based people, 9 civilian and 14 military/militia leaders, for “supporting terrorism”. The civilians included all the Presidency Council members led by Serraj and Ahmed Maetig with the addition of former High State Council head Abdelrahman Swehli and head CBL Saddek El-Kaber. (Libya Herald)

6. Haftar visits Moscow

11.04.2019. Haftar was in Moscow on the afternoon of Thursday, for an unofficial visit to the capital Moscow to meet with a number of high-level officials in Russia’s Ministry of Defense, a military source in the LNA says. (FRN)



ASSESSMENT

- *Haftar's offensive against Tripoli was an evident miscalculation. His unexpected advance to the capital, where one-third of Libya lives, days before long-awaited UN-backed National Conference, depicted how Haftar is thirsty for power. It has, however, turned out to be the worst course of action for him. Dispersed Western militias came together to fight against his forces. Military realities on the battlefield have unmasked fragility of LNA in the face of real resistance and that Haftar has no power to capture Tripoli easily.*
- *Haftar and his international backers cannot afford a protracted and bloody war in and around the capital of Libya. Two most important backers of Haftar, France and Russia have already distanced themselves from his unnecessary move for Tripoli. With the assumption that his international backers (UAE, Egypt, S.Arabia, France, Russia) will not join this war with their military assets, victory seems distant for Haftar. He will likely either seek a truce or experience a humiliating defeat and retreat. In any case, nothing will be the same in Libya. Haftar has demonstrated that he is not a reliable political actor in Libya. It is not likely that the UN and western states would continue political negotiations with him. On the other hand, Haftar's visit to Russia and Egypt indicates that both countries are looking for a way out in this dead-end without losing this figure.*
- *To prevent more bloodshed and to force him to agree to an early withdrawal, international actors should agree on a common approach to solving the current crisis in Libya. However there several hurdles before that. First, the rivalry between France and Italy hinders a robust EU reaction. Second, the US is unwilling to get involved. In any case, there is a need to find common ground to implement intense EU and US pressure and deter external military support to fighting factions.*

7. Haftar meets with Egypt's Sisi

14.04.2019. Egypt's President Sisi met with Haftar, who is under international pressure to halt an advance on the capital Tripoli. A statement from Sisi's office did not mention Haftar's offensive directly but “confirmed Egypt's support for efforts to combat terrorism and extremist groups and militias in order to achieve security and stability for the Libyan citizen”. (Libyan Express)

8. Refugees trapped in fighting

14.04.2019. Refugees and migrants trapped on the front line of fighting in Tripoli, are pleading to be rescued from the war-torn country while being “surrounded by heavy weapons and militants”. Hit by food and water shortages, detainees at the Qasr bin Ghashir detention centre on the southern outskirts of Tripoli, told they were “abandoned” on Saturday by fleeing guards, who allegedly told the estimated 728 people being held at the facility to fend for themselves. The majority of the approximately 6,000 people held in the facilities were intercepted on the sea and brought back to the North African country after trying to reach Europe. (Al-Jazeera)

9. Heavy fighting continues around Tripoli

14.04.2019. Heavy fighting and bombing continued in the last week. Both sides claimed that they downed an aircraft from other side. An LNA war plane attacked a military camp allied to GNA near Zuwara, which was the closest yet to an oil and gas facility. (Reuters) At least, 121 people have been killed and 561 wounded since Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) started its offensive on April 4, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Both sides have repeatedly carried out air raids and accuse each other of targeting civilians. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), for its part, estimates more than 15,000 people have been displaced so far, with a “significant number” of others stuck in live conflict zones. (Al-Jazeera) GNA stated that they captured more than 150 LNA troops including child soldiers. Photos and videos surfaced on social media related to these allegations.

10. Conte: Latest conflict may trigger refugee exodus

13.04.2019. Italy's PM has said any foreign military intervention in Libya would not resolve the latest conflict, warning that it might trigger a refugee exodus across the Mediterranean. “A military option cannot be a solution,” told Conte (Reuters)

11. Four EU states agree to share rescued migrants

13.04.2019. Four EU countries have agreed to take in 64 African migrants rescued by the German and stranded at sea for almost two weeks. The migrants will be redistributed among Germany, France, Portugal and Luxembourg. (Reuters)

12. Four EU states agree to share rescued migrants

11.04.2019. ISIS AMAQ news agency said that they had killed six soldiers from the LNA force near Sabha. LNA spokesman confirmed the attack but said there had been no casualties on the LNA side. (Reuters)

KEY EVENTS

1. Haftar orders troops to march on Tripoli

03.04.2019. LNA commander Haftar ordered his forces to march on Tripoli. Haftar described his forces' move as a "victorious march" to "shake the lands under the feet of the unjust bunch." "We are coming Tripoli, we are coming," he said. Haftar urged his forces to enter the city peacefully and only raise their weapons "in the face of those who seek injustice and prefer confrontation and fighting." He urged his forces not to open fire on any civilians or those who are unarmed. "Those who lay down their weapons are safe, and those who raise the white banner are safe". ([AP/BI](#))

2. Serraj announces state of alert

03.04.2019. Serraj, head of GNA, has ordered and announced a state of alert to all military and security forces to prepare to respond and deter any threats aimed at destabilizing security in any area of the country. Serraj said that "war only brings destruction to the country and suffering to the people", urging Haftar to "stop the language of threats and to take on the reason and wisdom." ([Libya Herald](#))

3. Misrata sends forces to protect Tripoli

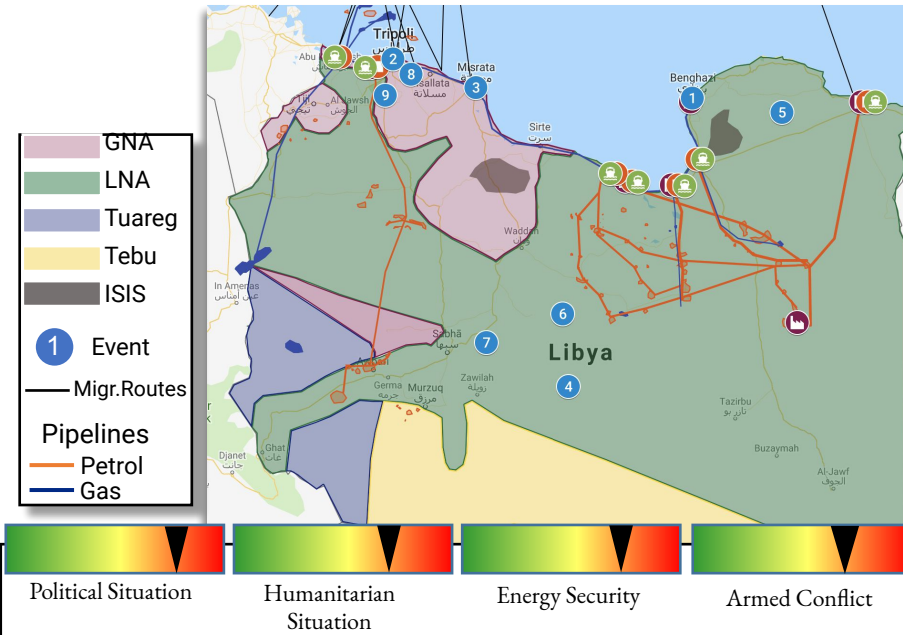
04.04.2019. After a prolonged meeting, the leaders of the armed brigades and forces in Misrata city have agreed to send their military might to Tripoli in order to secure whole western region against the attacks of Haftar's forces. ([Libyan Express](#))

4. International reactions to Haftar

04.04.2019. The UK, US and EU condemned the increase of violence and urged all parties to show restraint. ([Libya Herald](#)) US, France, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, and the UK released a joint statement saying "deeply concerned by fighting near Gharyan, Libya and urge all parties to immediately de-escalate tensions, which are hindering prospects for UN political mediation... Our governments oppose any military action in Libya and will hold accountable any Libyan faction that precipitates further civil conflict" ([State.gov](#)) On 05 April, The Kremlin said it was not helping Haftar push westward and that it supported a negotiated political settlement to Libya's problems that ruled out any new bloodshed. ([Reuters](#))

5. UNSG Guterres meets with Libyan leaders

05.04.2019. UN Sec.Gen. Antonio Guterres tried personal diplomacy flying east to meet Haftar and leaders of the HoR. He failed to persuade the factions to sign a ceasefire, tweeting on Friday: "I leave Libya with a heavy heart and deeply concerned. I still hope it is possible to avoid a bloody confrontation in and around Tripoli." Haftar was quoted as telling Guterres that the operation to capture Tripoli would continue until terrorism was defeated. ([National](#)) Salame said he was determined that the conference scheduled for April 14-16 would be held on time, that the reconciliation meeting offered the only way out of the country's political crisis. ([Al-Jazeera](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *Haftar's unexpected advance towards Tripoli caught all parties, to include long-time ally UAE, off guard. Considering the promises be made in Paris and Palermo, and lastly, during Abu Dhabi negotiations, Serraj and Salame can be said to have been duped.*
- *Such move days before National Conference (NC) hints at the mindset of Haftar. It is arguable that he sees no solution to his problem other than a military one. Haftar, conceivably, sensed that he would not get what he wants from NC and that it would be even more challenging to reach his goals after an agreement in a well-attended NC. For that reason he acted swiftly to convert his achievements in the South to decisive results, as his fragile order in the South is unsustainable for a longer term.*
- *The new gamble Haftar plays is colossal. If he cannot ensure that some of the strong western militia groups side with him, the new Tripoli operation will likely take months if not years, which will further cause unprecedented bloodshed in Libya. His plans of wresting control of Tripoli without fight collapsed, and his Western opponents are uniting against him. LNA troops, up to now, haven't faced with an opponent as strong as Western militias. Offensives in Benghazi, Derna and Southern Libya were against asymmetric and weak groups. Even so, those operations lasted months/years. Majority of the Libyan population lives in Western Libya, and crowded cities like Misrata have reputation for their hatred against Haftar and his ideology, which doesn't bode well for the latter. Additionally, too overstretched logistic lines and prospective cuts of oil revenues coming from Tripoli-based Central Bank makes LNA highly vulnerable against protracted civil war.*
- *Obviously, there will be no winner in this fight. However, if Haftar cannot attain a quick win - as an aggressor - it will end with humiliation. Other negative consequences of meeting his Waterloo / heavy defeat, will probably be a disgraceful retreat and loss of international backing.*

6. Security Council calls Haftar to halt operation

05.04.2019. UNSC expressed concern about military activity near Tripoli, warning that it threatens the country's stability, and called on Haftar to halt all military movements. President of the council for April said "Council also called on all forces to de-escalate and halt military activity. There can be no military solution to the conflict," ([Reuters](#))

7. G7 agrees to put pressure on Haftar

06.04.2019. Foreign Ministers of the G7 agreed to put pressure on those responsible for a violent power struggle in Libya, especially Haftar, Germany's Heiko Maas said. "We are agreed that we must use all the possibilities at our disposal to exert pressure on those responsible in Libya especially Haftar. Each country would use its channels, said Maas, adding that Italy and France had direct contacts with Libya. ([Reuters](#))

8. Serraj accuses Haftar of betraying him

06.04.2019. Serraj said attacks on Tripoli is a stab in the back amid the efforts to reach a political solution in Libya. Serraj said that he met with Haftar many times and was positive that the results of those meetings would facilitate a political settlement to the crisis. He asked the countries supporting Haftar in his war to stop it. ([Libya Observer](#))

9. Tripoli: What is happening on the ground?

07.04.2019. On Thursday, LNA advanced into the southern outskirts of the Tripoli. The newly-formed Western Region coalition of anti-Haftar forces launched the "Wadi (Ouadi) Doum 2" operation to counter Haftar's attack on Tripoli. (Wadi Doum is a military airstrip build by Qaddafi in northern Chad where Haftar was defeated and captured by Chadian government forces fighting for the Qaddafi regime in 1986.) GNA forces captured around 140 LNA troops and their arms and vehicles. ([Libya Herald](#)) On Friday, The LNA reached the southern outskirts of the capital and said it took the former international airport, though the Tripoli military officials deny this. On Sunday, the Air Force of the western region has carried out airstrikes on the gatherings of LNA forces in the southern Gharyan. ([Libyan Express](#)) On Sunday, UNSMIL called for a "humanitarian truce" for 2 hours. IOM Director said. "The fate of all Libyan civilians and the safety of humanitarian workers also remains an overriding concern." ([CNN](#)) LNA forces carried out air strikes on the southern part of Tripoli and made progress, coming some 11 km from the city centre. Forces allied to the Tripoli government meanwhile announced their operation called "Volcano of Anger" to defend the capital, a spokesman said, without giving details. ([Reuters](#)) The GNA said at least 21 people had been killed and 27 wounded since the fighting began, without specifying whether civilians were among the dead. LNA said that 14 of its personnel had been killed, while the Libyan Red Crescent reported the death of one of its doctors. ([AFP](#)) On Sunday, US troops are being moving out of Libya after a surge in fighting between rival groups left foreign powers scrambling to ensure the safety of their forces and peacekeepers in the country. "The security realities on the ground in Libya are growing increasingly complex and unpredictable," Thomas Waldhauser, head of US Africa Command, said. India has also relocated all 15 of its stationed peacekeepers from Tripoli, Sushma Swaraj, the country's External Affairs Minister, said. ([Independent](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Report reveals brutal violence against migrant

25.03.2019. Refugees and migrants trying to reach Europe from Africa are being subjected to horrific and routine sexual violence in Libyan detention centres, a survey has found. People arriving at the centres are “often immediately raped by guards who conduct violent anal cavity searches, which serves the dual purpose of retrieving money, as well as humiliation and subjugation”, the report by the Women’s Refugee Commission says. Many of the victims have been forcibly returned to the country by the Libyan coastguard under policies endorsed by the EU. A UN officer estimated that 90% of male refugees and migrants hosted in the Italian reception system had experienced sexual violence during their journey. ([Guardian](#))

2. Mogherini demands closure of migrant shelters

28.03.2019. The EU’s foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini demanded the closure of migrant shelters in Libya, on claims that their conditions of detention were unacceptable. “The European Commission is unable to act alone to eliminate the violent practices and violations of the rights of migrants and asylum seekers in shelters in Libya,” Mogherini said through her spokeswoman. ([Libya Observer](#))

3. Libyan activists express concerns over Nat. Conference

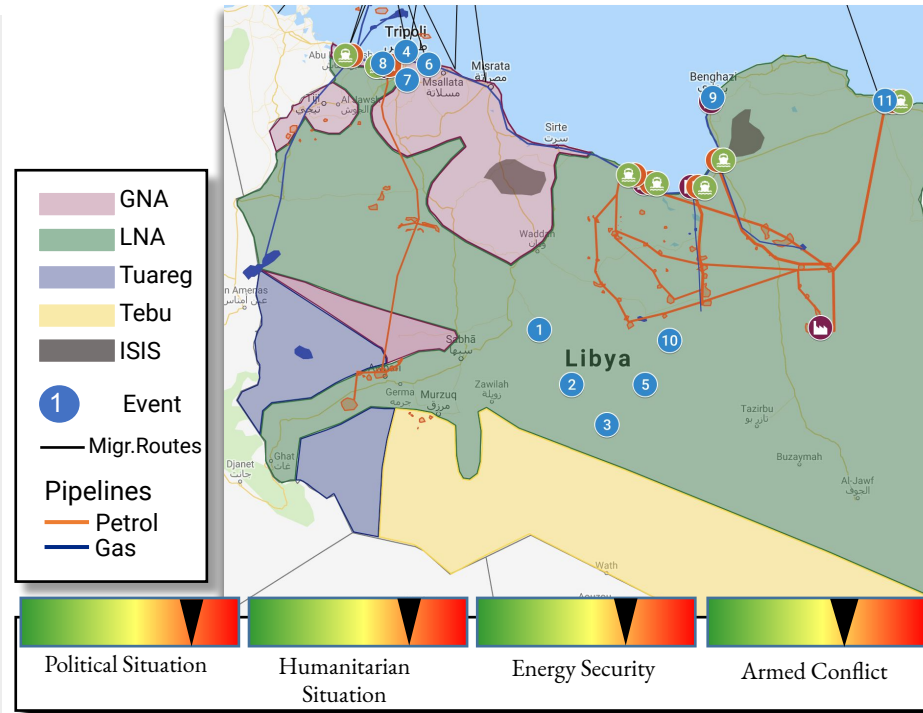
26.03.2019. 150 Libyan personalities warned in a statement of dragging the UN-backed National Conference (NC) into “transitional arrangements”, underlining that this would be a grave mistake that could put the country in jeopardy and open the floodgates for challenging its legitimacy and intentions, according to the statement. The signatories, who include, politicians, academics, lawyers, and activists, expressed their concern that the NC will be an automatic tool for blessing the power-sharing agenda, especially in light of what they called the “UN mission’s insistence on acting obscurely”. ([Libya Observer](#))

4. UNSC affirms full support for National Conference

26.03.2019. The UNSC is calling on all Libyans to put aside their differences and use next month’s National Conference to work toward peace. The council urged all those attending the April 14-16 conference in Ghadames near the border with Algeria “to come together to engage in good faith in this Libyan-led, Libyan-owned process.” The Security Council backed Salame’s efforts “to mediate a political way forward in Libya that would lead to credible and peaceful elections.” ([AP](#))

5. Belgian Lawmaker denounce Council over Libya accounts

28.03.2019. A top Belgian parliamentarian has slammed the EU Council for failing to explain why it told EU countries in 2011 that they are free to release interest payments from frozen Libyan funds. The U.N. concluded in September that Belgium had broken international sanctions by allowing interest to be paid from frozen accounts in Brussels. ([Politico](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *The latest report on brutal violence against migrants in Libya once again proved that intercepting the migrants in the Mediterranean and forcing them back to Libya is neither safe nor humanitarian. When combined with those horrible abuses in Libya, the EU decision to withdraw all ships from the Mediterranean would be highly destructive for the reputation of the EU. With the latest Council decision, Operation Sophia becomes a symbolic maritime mission without vessels, and this further reflects the wide crack among MSs on migration matters. Conceivably, remaining air assets of Sophia will be used to increase the reach of Libyan coast guards in the sea to intercept more migrants.*
- *The EU should find a way to solve the fair burden sharing problem among MSs. The following step could be a replacement of withdrawn military vessels by civilian rescue ships under the umbrella of a civilian EU CSDP operation – which would be more optimal for saving lives. This kind of a decision, however, is not likely, as populist/far-rightist policies are dominant ahead of EU parliament elections. Ironically, following the disastrous shipwrecks in 2015, as the most eager one to launch an EU operation, Italy was trying to convince other member states. Now, however, the shoe is on the other foot.*
- *On the other hand, Salame’s discreet attitude ahead of the National Conference risks its success. Lack of or ill public information about agenda and aims of the Conference – as was before Skhirat in 2015 – raise more criticism on the National Conference, risking failure. Salame’s preparatory meetings focused on Serraj and Haftar. However, those two do not represent most of the Libyans and their legitimate representative bodies (HoR, HCS). Salame should respond to the concerns of entire Libyan society through transparency and by clarifying attendees, structure, agenda and goals of the National Conference.*

6. Three migrants charged with hijacking a tanker

26.03.2019. A Turkish tanker, the El Hiblu-1 was overpowered by a group of migrants among a larger group of 100 it rescued from within Libya’s search and rescue region. Among the 100 migrants aboard the ship, 38 were men, 15 women and 47 claimed to be minors. The hijacking reportedly took place when the vessel was six miles off the Libyan coast. The commandeered ship was intercepted by Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) Patrol Vessel P21 before entering Maltese territorial waters, in the early hours of Thursday morning. Three teenagers were on Saturday morning charged with hijacking a commercial tanker and forcing it to change course to Malta. ([Malta Today](#))

7. Salame: Libyan political leaders are corrupted

28.03.2019. Salame, said there are 10 countries intervening in Libya, adding that he is working with the UN Secretary General to take the necessary measures to stop such interventions. Salame said there are foreign countries supplying arms to different Libyan parties despite the UN arms embargo on the country. Salame also indicated that Gaddafi’s regime left Libyans’ hands busy with over 10 million arms’ pieces. He explained that the political leaderships and elites in Libya are against any democratic progress as they keep benefiting from the chaos and keep stealing the resources and wealth of the country. “The Political leaders in Libya are corrupted beyond expression. They are using their posts to take money and invest for their own benefits abroad.” Salame remarked. ([Libya Observer](#)) Both HoR and HCS denounced Salame’s words.

8. Libya holds first elections since 2014

30.03.2019. Libya held rare municipal elections in nine communities, although turnout in the country’s first voting for five years reached only about 38 percent. Libya has not held any elections since 2014, when a heavily contested national vote ended up splitting the country into rival administrations and parliaments. ([Reuters](#))

9. Haftar: Libya Crisis will be resolved in two weeks

31.03.2019. Haftar announced that the Libyan crisis would be settled within the next two weeks as soon as the new government of national unity is formed. “Within the next two weeks, Libya will witness the resolution of the current crisis through the formation of the government of national unity”. ([Sputnik](#))

10. EU suspends Op Sophia naval assets

28.03.2019. The EU extended the mandate of the Operation ‘Sophia’ naval mission to counter human smuggling and trafficking in the Mediterranean. The mandate will last another six months, but patrols by warships will be suspended. However, the operation’s air patrols and support of the Libyan coastguard and navy will continue. The 26-nation EUNAVFOR Med is already down to two ships. It also operates seven aircraft. ([Janes](#)) As a reaction, “This is an outrageous abdication of EU governments’ responsibilities,” said Amnesty International. The human rights commissioner for the Council of Europe called on the bloc to step up sea rescues. Doctors Without Borders said the EU move was “irresponsible and reckless”. ([Euractiv](#))



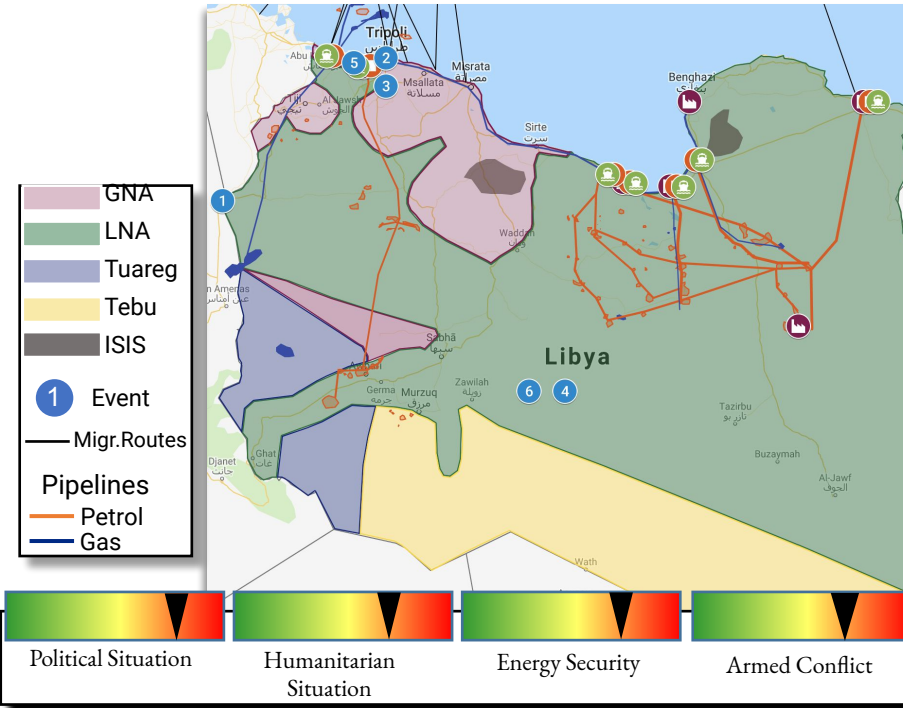
KEY EVENTS

1. Libya holds “National Conference” in April

20.03.2019. UN special envoy and the head of the UNSMIL, Ghassan Salami told a press conference in Tripoli, that 120 to 150 Libyans will take part in the National Conference in the town of Ghadames, near the border with Algeria, on April 14-16. The meeting will bring together representatives of rival authorities in the east and west, and will not include any foreign parties, he said. He urged rival factions to seize the “crucial opportunity” of a National Conference next month to unite the country and chart a roadmap to peace after years of division and chaos. (AP) Salame stressed that the Conference will not be an alternative to existing representative political institutions such as the Presidency Council, the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High State Council (HSC). Salame also explained that the National Conference will not have executive powers but will offer recommendations. These will include recommendations on the date of presidential and parliamentary elections and the manner in which they will be carried out. He explained that it will then be for the HoR and the HSC to respond to the recommendations, but that the UN would endorse the recommendations made by the National Conference. However, Salame also said that if the HoR and HSC did not respond to the demands for elections of the silent Libyan majority of over 85 percent – he would find alternatives. (Libya Herald)

2. Salame briefs UN Security Council

21.03.2019. In his latest briefing to UN Security Council, UN special envoy and the head of the UNSMIL, Ghassan Salami, told that the UN is working with many parties ahead of the National Conference “to ensure as broad a buy-in as possible to the political process.” “What is clear is that the Libyan people fervently desire that their institutions be united as soon as possible,” he said in a video briefing from Tripoli. “Unfortunately, they are up against powerful forces, which have materially profited from the country’s chaos and division and are therefore loath to work towards a unification.” Salame warned that failure to advance the political process would demonstrate “that the country is totally controlled by force of arms.” But he said the National Conference offers a chance for all parties “to step back from the edge of this precipice” and “put aside their differences for the good of the country, to unite, to avoid war and to choose a path of peace and prosperity.” Salame said many principles aren’t new and the talks started in September 2017, but “what is new is the sincerity to turn these words into the end of the transitional period through elections.” He called on Libyans in the coming days “to come together and to avoid acts of obstruction and incitement.” Salame cited “a notable uptick in the weaponization of media platforms as tools of incitement,” warning that “this is tearing at Libya’s fragile but vital social fabric and could well be used to instigate violence.” (AP) Salame also said Haftar’s LNA forces were generally perceived as a positive and stabilizing development in the south, but asked if the operation was sustainable. However, he criticised its mobilization further north which he said caused friction and counter-mobilizations which could lead inadvertently to conflict. He expressed concern about human rights violations in Derna. (Libya Herald)



ASSESSMENT

- Salame announced the date of the long-awaited National Conference (NC), an integral part of his road map. Built upon results of four months field work of the Center of Humanitarian Dialog, the NC aims to mobilise current political actors (esp. HoR, HCS, LNA, GNA) in the direction of broadly-shared public will. By announcing that the NC will not have executive powers, Salame aims not to scare HoR and HCS. His speech, however, includes threat in case they do not abide by the decisions taken at the NC. A successful NC should ascertain agreement on the way ahead including a guarantee that the election results will be accepted by all sides.
- NC will likely end with a list of legitimate and sensible decisions to be implemented in the coming months. The execution of those decisions, however, are dependent on the will of Haftar and Western militias who have the real muscle in the field. While the former is looking for a supreme role as an acknowledgment of his power on the ground, the latter already indicated that they would never accept Haftar’s rule. This is the current dead-end of Libya politics.
- In case of a failure in Salame’s NC process, Haftar may seek to conduct his own national conference, which would give him the only thing that he lacks: international legitimacy before advancing to Tripoli. Inconsistencies in Haftar’s discourse is notable. His opinions on democracy float. While salafist groups are the backbone of his LNA, he alleges, he fights against extreme-Islamists. While LNA is a patchwork of militias from various ethnic, religious, tribal groups and mercenaries, he claims he fights against the militia control in Tripoli.
- We are entering to highly crucial weeks in Libya Crisis. The US –a superpower with no colonial history on Libya– should throw its weight to dissuade grinchers in this highly delicate process.

3. Libya agrees on \$34 bn budget for 2019

18.03.2019. Libya’s U.N.-backed administration agreed with the central bank and other players on a 2019 budget worth 46.8 billion dinars (\$33.83 billion), it said after months of arguments. The “financial arrangements”, as the budget is called officially, mark an increase from last year’s 42 billion dinars. Libya has no proper budget as authority is divided between the U.N.-backed Tripoli government and a parallel administration allied to the internationally recognized parliament in the east, part of a conflict. The central bank therefore agrees with Tripoli - with the tacit agreement of authorities in the east mediated by Western powers and international institutions — on a budget mainly covering public salaries and fuel subsidies for the whole country. (Reuters)

4. Preparations underway for new Serraj-Haftar meeting

18.03.2019. Preparations are underway to hold a meeting between Haftar and Serraj. Informed sources told that the meeting is planned for next week and will follow up on the previous one between the two officials that was held in Abu Dhabi last month. Haftar and Sarraj had agreed during those talks to hold presidential and parliamentary elections before the end of the year. The sources revealed that Egypt and the UAE are keen on including parliament HoR Speaker Aguila Saleh in the upcoming talks, which could be held in either Cairo or Abu Dhabi. The meeting will focus on nominating a new candidate to head the GNA and determine its ties to the LNA. It will also cover security arrangements to hold the polls. (Al-Awsat)

5. Boat sank: 30 migrants missing

21.03.2019. At least 30 migrants are believed to be missing after their boat sank off the western Libyan city of Sabratha this week, a coastguard spokesman said. According to a survivor the boat was carrying almost 50 migrants, coastguard spokesman said. The body of one child was recovered and 16 migrants were rescued, he added. (Reuters)

6. HRW urges UN HR Council to establish Libya mechanism

23.03.2019. Human Rights Watch remains concerned by the human rights crisis in Libya, which is taking place amidst near-absolute impunity. HRW said in a report. Since the Council’s last resolution on Libya, armed groups, some of them affiliated with one or the other of Libya’s rival governments, continued to attack civilians and civilian property indiscriminately and sometimes deliberately; abduct, torture, and disappear people; and failed or refused to ensure the safe return of displaced people to areas they control. Migrants detained in Libya face ill-treatment and inhumane conditions in official detention centers run by one of the competing governments, and in unofficial centers controlled by militias or traffickers. Libyan courts are plagued by a lack of due process. Prison authorities, often only nominally answerable to one or the other of the rival governments, hold thousands of detainees in long-term detention, in many cases without charges. “In this environment, how can we speak meaningfully about technical assistance and capacity building, in the absence of robust monitoring, public reporting, and efforts towards accountability? For the fourth year in a row, the resolution on the table this session is out of touch with the needs on the ground.” It added. HRW calls once again on this Council to establish a Special Rapporteur on Libya. (Libyan Express)

KEY EVENTS

1. EU Ambassadors held a joint meeting in Tripoli

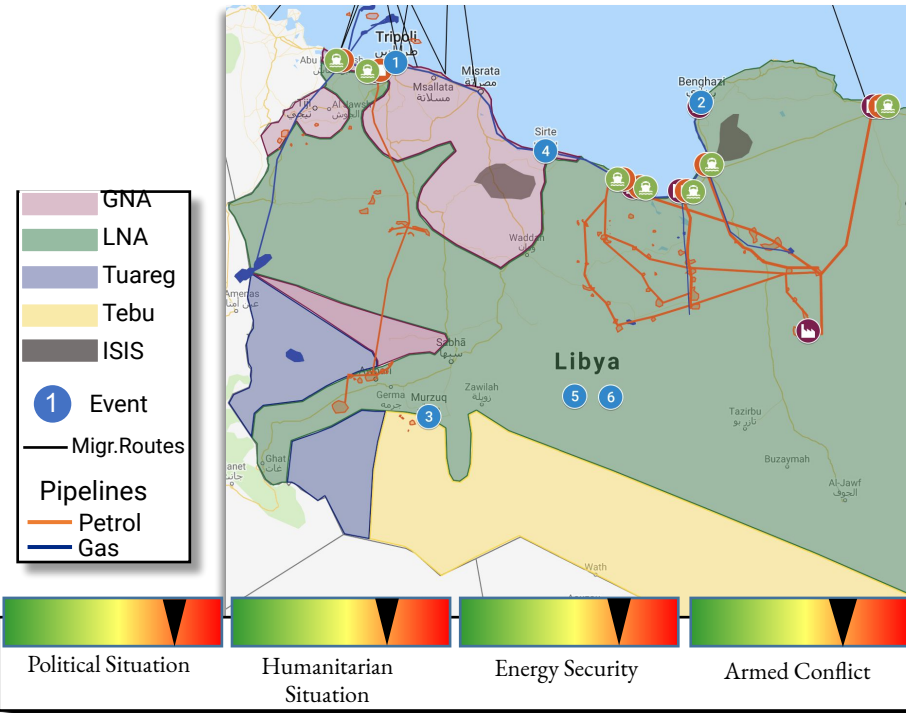
12.03.2019. Ambassadors of the European Union and the Member States accredited to Libya held joint meetings today in Tripoli with a number of high Libyan officials including Chairman of the Presidency Council Faiez Serraj, President of the High Council of State Khaled Meshri, MFA Mohammed Siala, and Minister of Interior Fathi Bashagha. The Ambassadors also met with UN SRSG Ghassan Salame. The joint visit of Ambassadors representing the European Union, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom allowed for an exchange of views on the political and security situation in the country and supporting efforts towards moving forward the political process aimed at ending the period of transition. ([Libya Herald](#)) During the meetings, Serraj, has criticized the negative interventions of some countries in Libya, expressing dismay at supplying arms to conflicting parties and thus prolonging the crisis. EU ambassadors reiterated support of their countries to the efforts of Salame, stressing the need to hold the National Conference so all the parties can discuss the way out of the political stalemate. They also said they support dialogue among all Libyans and the latest meeting between Serraj and Haftar in the UAE. The meeting discussed as well human rights, illegal immigration, the return of European airliners to Libyan airports and the lifting of the ban on Libyans airliners in European airspace, in addition to easing visa requirements for Libyans, facilitating medical treatment in Europe and education cooperation. ([Libya Observer](#))

2. Head of UNSMIL meets with Haftar

13.03.2019. For the second time in less than a month, the UN envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame met with Khalifa Haftar and discussed the latest developments in the country, Haftar's general command media office reported. Local media outlets loyal to Haftar said the visit of Salame to Rajma came upon the invitation of Haftar. On February 18, Haftar and Salame met and discussed the situation in southern Libya, Derna, and the preparations for the Libyan National Conference. Two days ago, Salame said the National Conference would be held in less than a month, while a Libyan official cited Presidential Council sources as saying that the conference will be held in Ghadames city on March 24, adding that it could adopt the agreements made at the UAE meeting. ([Libya Observer](#))

3. New security formation in Murzuq

16.03.2019. Member of the municipal council Mohammed Omar, announced the formation of a joint security room headed by Lt. Col. Mohammed Mulia Tebuan to secure the city. Omar, who is also the from Tebu tribe, added that the security room included members representing all the ethnic groups of the city from the army and police personnel. "The Murzuq Security Directorate reactivated the Correction and Rehabilitation Facility in the city, Omar said. ([Libyan Address](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *News over early withdrawal of Haftar's forces from Southern Libya is a clear indication of reorganization of forces for a new offensive. LNA's intentional show of force aims to dissuade western militias from entering firefight and to gain political upperhand. However, the US, European states and even Haftar's backers do not want Haftar to initiate another military campaign against Tripoli. The shared fear is that this would cause a bloody war and more importantly a newer internal turbulence since the fall of Gaddafi. Additionally, it would deteriorate the situation about irregular migration, terrorism and oil production in and from the country, each attracting high international attention. With the threat of Tripoli offensive, Haftar wants to leverage those international concerns to attain political gains.*
- *Western militias are still highly sceptical of the Abu Dhabi meeting and follow-on conferences, including Salame-Haftar meetings. This scepticism has the potential to lead to a confidence crisis between Serraj-Salame and Western militias. Western groups think that Salame and Serraj are trying to present Haftar as the general commander of the national army with a fait accompli. Western groups see Haftar as a second Gaddafi and will not likely accept such a role. Worse still, Haftar is highly unlikely to agree to any lower function. This will be the toughest stalemate that Salame's upcoming National Conference will face.*

4. High tension around Libya's Sirte

14.03.2019. After claims by the forces under Khalifa Haftar's command to have been positioned on the outskirts of Sirte or at least nearby it, a remarkable military buildup has been reported in the city that is located in central Libya. Sirte Protection Force (SPF) announced the state of emergency after the advance of Haftar's self-styled army forces near southern Sirte. The SPF added in a statement that it had tasked patrols to be present in areas 90km to south and west of Sirte, saying Haftar's forces advance is unacceptable provocation. "The advance of Haftar's forces is a security violation of the administrative borders of Sirte." SPF's commander Al-Naas Abdullah said. ([Libya Observer](#)) The spokesman for Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous operation Mohammed Al-Ghasri warned in a presser against plunging Sirte into a new war which will be a lose-lose to all, adding that the city has been secure since the control of the operation forces on it after they had defeated ISIS terrorists. Al-Ghasri also warned that any attacks on Sirte will be a declaration of war whose results will be catastrophic, adding that the operation forces are ready to foil any assaults. "We are against any party that uses the army as a means to political ends and isn't logical to talk about having a nonexistent military institution committed to a civilian authority. He also said that the emergency state is still in place and that all military units had been summoned amid advances by the forces under the command of Haftar. Haftar's forces announced earlier that they had sent military might to "the targeted place," and many observers say the true motive of Haftar could be advancing on Tripoli, while others say his movements are maneuvers to achieve political gains as the National Conference's date approaches. ([Libya Observer](#))

OPINION

5. Is Tripoli Next? A Warlord's Victories Risk Libya Conflagration

14.03.2019. Libya's most powerful warlord has his sights on the capital. And even his international backers are nervous. Based in the east of Libya, Khalifa Haftar has made no secret of his ambition to capture Tripoli, the northwestern seat of the internationally-recognized government. Alarmed, international powers are clamoring to avert a military showdown that could rattle global oil markets and sow further chaos in a divided country already struggling to defeat Islamic State and stem the flow of migrants toward Europe. ([Bloomberg](#))

6. Libyan army chief strengthens hand by taking more territory

11.03.2019. A major military push south by the Libyan strongman Marshal Khalifa Haftar has left him in the ascendant, and possibly able with international backing to dictate the terms of a future Libyan political settlement, including presidential and parliamentary elections. Haftar, the head of the Libyan national army, has been strengthened by a successful offensive into the often lawless south-west, and some observers say he is in a better position to dictate terms to his rival Fayez al-Sarraj, the head of the UN-recognised government of national accord in Tripoli. ([The Guardian](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. NOC lifts force majeure at Sharara Oilfield

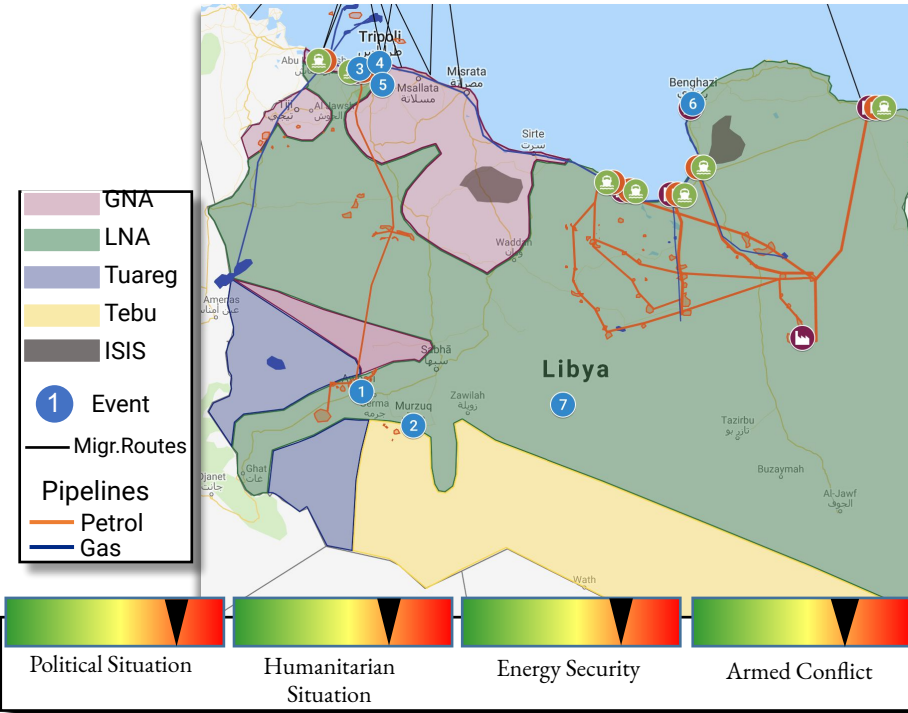
04.03.2019. "Libyan state oil company–NOC said it had lifted force majeure at the El Sharara oilfield, the country's biggest, which has been closed since December when state guards and tribesmen seized it. The resumption brings to an end a stalemate between NOC and the Libyan National Army (LNA), which had taken control of the field three weeks ago as part of a southern offensive. NOC said that Sharara's operating company Akakus had received written assurance from the LNA that all individuals subject to Public Prosecutor arrest warrants have been removed from the field and will not be re-admitted to the site. The closure of the field caused a production loss of \$1.8 billion (£1.3 billion), it said. The restart of the field also underlines the role of the UAE in Libya. Last week, the UAE had hosted a meeting between Sanalla and the Tripoli Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj aimed at persuading NOC to reopen the field, according to diplomats. (Reuters) In a joint statement released on Saturday, The Ambassadors of France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States welcomed the NOC's decision to lift force majeure and immediately resume production at the crucial El-Sharara oil field. (Address Libya)

2. LNA withdraws from Murzuq

06.03.2019. Sources from the town of Murzuq in southern Libya have confirmed that LNA withdrew from the town toward Sabha. According to the sources, the withdrawal came out of the blue and left behind several clashes among armed groups, leading to deaths and injuries. (Libyan Express) On Saturday, Murzuq, Wadi Utba, Al-Gatroon and Tamsa's social components signed a truce of calm and peaceful coexistence among the residents of Murzuq in southern Libya. The truce necessitates ceasing hostilities and banning weapons as well as lifting social protection on those involved in crimes and bringing them to justice. The signatories also agreed to reopen state institutions and avoid spreading violence to them and to all vital institutions in the town. Many people were killed and others injured in clashes after LNA had withdrawn after spending days in control of the town. Haftar's forces entered the town in clashes with Tubu forces using several southern tribal fighters who are not on good terms with the Tubu in the region. (Libya Observer)

3. Libya Western cities reject military rule

06.03.2019. Dignitaries and elders of Zawiya city west of Tripoli have emphasized in a statement their commitment to building a civil state based on democracy and the peaceful transfer of power. The statement underlined the rejection of Zawiya city to the military rule and an authoritarian state and their full support to build the military and security establishments on a professional basis and under a civil authority. Dignitaries of the western region issued a statement at their meeting last Sunday in the city of Zuwara in which they recorded their refusal to the military rule and not to let anyone use the western region to attack another party. Previously both Misrata and Tajoura in western Libya issued statements rejecting military rule and dictatorship, condemning the UNSMIL's line of policy and support for Haftar. (Libya Observer)



ASSESSMENT

- *Haftar's self-styled LNA didn't wear off during its two months of Fezzan operation. While gaining control of Southern Libya, his primary tool was soft-power – sealing alliances with Southern tribes or incorporating local militias to LNA forces. Currently, highly neglected Fezzan population seems happy with submitting to a strong man and Haftar is withdrawing his troops back to his central and eastern Libya strongholds to utilise them in his next move.*
- *Now, Haftar has the 2/3 of the country, all of Libya's on-shore oil fields and a strong army. His power and easy victory made Western militias highly anxious, and they vowed, once again, for strong resistance against anti-revolutionists. UNSMIL and major international actors are worried about Haftar's next move as well. If he decides to advance upon Tripoli, it will cause a bloody civil-war with strong Western militias. Haftar, however, is a patient old man, who is likely to look for more peaceful options first.*
- *Abu Dhabi negotiations seem like a good chance to prevent this escalation. Western militias, especially Misratans, however, do not trust Haftar's promises about democracy and suspicious about secret agreements between Serraj-Haftar-UNSMIL, which would make Haftar supreme commander of the unified Libyan army. Lack of a joint official statement about the content of Abu Dhabi negotiations further fans the flames.*

4. Haftar-Serraj reps discuss security situation

04.03.2019. Representatives of the Haftar and Serraj have held a series of meetings in neighbouring Tunisia to discuss the security situation in the capital, Tripoli, a parliamentary source close to Haftar revealed. The source told that Haftar now believes that storming Tripoli militarily is "impossible" after several Western countries explicitly warned him against the move and called on him to consult with the GNA on the situation in Tripoli. "Italy, UK, US support a French-Russian proposal which is supported by several Arab countries to keep the capital Tripoli away from fighting under the protection of the GNA forces because it hosts sovereign institutions like the CBL and NOC," the source said, noting that a recent meeting between Haftar and Serraj indicates that Haftar has "reluctantly" accepted the proposal. (MEMO)

5. Serraj tries to clear the air on Abu Dhabi agreement

05.03.2019. During his meeting with Mayors of Libya's western region, Serraj confirmed the following points agreed upon at the Abu Dhabi meeting with Haftar: 1-The emphasis on Libya being a civilian state. 2-Curtailing the current transitional period of weak government, state institutions and contested legitimacy. 3-Working to unify the state's institutions such as the CBL. 4-Cessation of hate and incitement speech and narrative. 5-Presidential and parliamentary elections to be held before the end of 2019. 6-Peaceful transfer of power. 7-Separation of powers. 8-The continuation of meetings and follow-up on the agreed points. (Libya Herald)

OPINION

6. Libyans fear showdown as eastern commander eyes capital

09.03.2019. Haftar taps into fatigue among Libyans yearning for electricity, petrol and banknotes scarce in a country which once enjoyed some of highest living standards in the region. For many, especially in the east, the general is the only one who can end fighting by myriad groups with ever-changing names. For his enemies in western cities and Islamists who were oppressed under the old regime, he is a new Gaddafi. (Reuters)

7. Origins of The Libyan Conflict and Opts for Its Resolution

04.03.2019. Libya's best chance for progress in the near term is a unified international approach built on near complete alignment among international actors, supporting Libyans convening as a whole to address political, security, and economic issues at the same time. The progress is required on all three for any of them to work in the long run. (MEI)

KEY EVENTS

1. Serraj meets with Haftar in Abu Dhabi

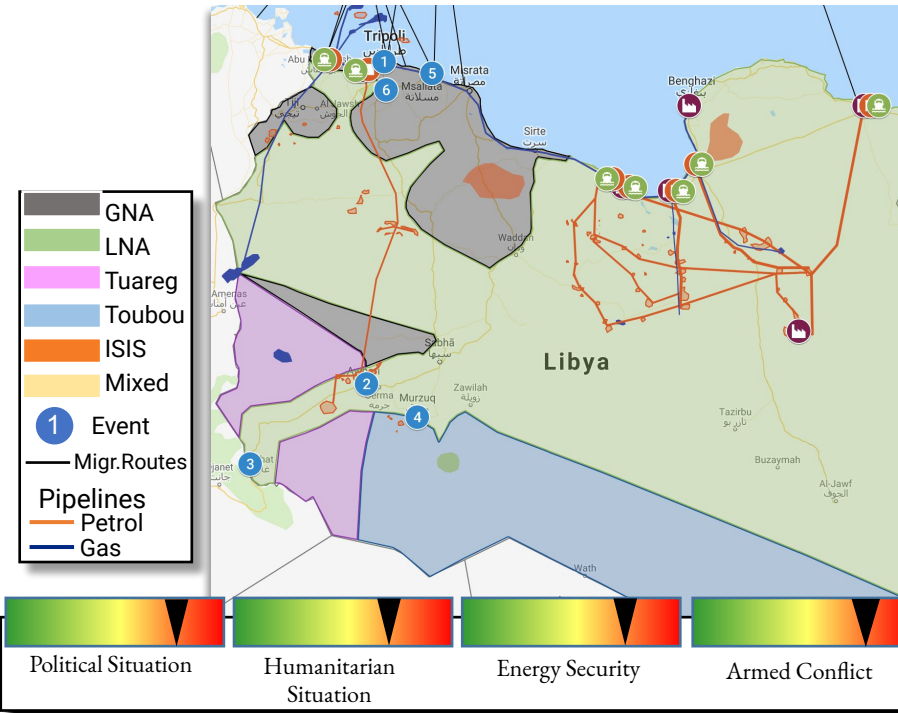
27.02.2019. Libya's internationally recognised prime minister, Serraj al-Fayez, and the military commander of its eastern half, Khalifa Haftar, have met and agreed that national elections are necessary, the United Nations said on Thursday. While both were meeting in Abu Dhabi in their first confirmed encounter since November, Haftar's forces claimed control of the last major city in southern Libya, tilting the power balance towards him at the expense of Serraj's weak Tripoli administration. The two men agreed "on the need to end the transitional stages in Libya through holding general elections," the U.N. Libya mission (UNSMIL) said in a Tweet. "They also agreed on ways to maintain stability in the country and unify its institutions." The UN gave no further details about the Abu Dhabi meeting. After similar encounters it has engineered it often releases pictures showing hand-shakes between the participants. It made no such picture available on Thursday. (Reuters) In the meantime, the governments of France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States released a statement reiterating their strong support to the ongoing efforts of UNSMIL and welcomed the Sarraj-Haftar meeting in UAE. (State.gov)

2. Sharara remains closed until security guaranteed

28.02.2019. Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) Chairman, Mustafa Sanalla, said the Sharara oilfield force majeure will remain in place due to security and not technical reasons. In a video address released this morning on the situation at the Sharara oil field, Sanalla said that the NOC was technically ready to lift the state of force majeure at Sharara, but the issue remains security. Force majeure will be lifted once the workers' safety is guaranteed, he added. Sanalla called on all the concerned parties and the General Command of the LNA to remove the armed groups from the field, adding that once that is done, the state of force majeure will be lifted immediately afterwards. Sanalla stressed that the NOC has a good relationship with the General Command (of LNA) in the Eastern and Western regions and wishes the same for Sharara. (Libya Herald)

3. LNA claims full control of South Libya

03.03.2019. The spokesman for the forces of the Libyan east-based self-proclaimed army Ahmed Al-Mismari his self-styled Libyan National Army has seized control of Libya's southern border with Algeria. Al-Mismari said their forces entered several southern towns, including Ghat and Awaynat, the previous week. The advances are the latest in an operation Haftar announced in January to "eliminate gangs, terrorists and criminals" in the south. The spokesman claimed that the forces now control all Libya's borders except the one to the west which is shared with Tunisia. (Libyan Express)



ASSESSMENT

- *Libya's agenda is locked onto Haftar's southern offensive. On the way to wrest whole control in Fezzan -town by town- Murzuq has been the only city, where LNA forces faced with real resistance. News over more than 200 IDPs and human rights abuses in Murzuq is alarming and requires international attention to prevent victors-rule.*
- *Latest Serraj-Haftar Abu-Dhabi agreement on the political transition in Libya doesn't promise hope. The agreement when taken together with the statements of UN and major Western states shows to what extent Haftar has become the utmost dominant actor on the ground in Libya matters. It would not thus be wrong to assume Haftar's military operation to gain the control of Southern territories and oil fields will provide him long-awaited international legitimacy. Sanalla's video address, imploring to Haftar -rather than to prime minister Serraj- for the security of the Sharara oilfield, was another strengthening/legitimising factor for Haftar while weakening GNA's internal and international role. Haftar's control on South and East Libya and on Libya's oil fields is now combined with international recognition. The rule of a military-strongman, as it looks, means a lot for Libyans as this was not what they revolted for.*
- *On the other hand, as being the facilitator of Haftar's legitimacy, Serraj's role here is highly controversial. Serraj's move might lead to a conflict between him and Tripoli militias and Islamists (especially Muslim Brotherhood), who are at odds with Haftar and see him as an anti-revolutionist and terrorist.*

4. Over 200 displaced in Murzuq

27.02.2019. In its flash report on the situation, the IOM said that a large number of families had been displaced as a result of the recent fighting in Murzuq. The report said that in 3 days at least 200 families were displaced from Murzuq to Al Qatrun as the security situation became increasingly tense in Murzuq and surrounding areas over the past week. (Libya Herald) Aman Organization Against Discrimination (AOAD) has voiced concern over the violations, attacks on civilians and targeting of people based on their identities in Murzuq. AOAD said in a statement on Saturday that the attacks on civilians and vengeance assaults in the town in southern Libya hinder international efforts to strike reconciliation among all Libyan people. (Libya Observer)

5. MEP: EU could review financial support to Libya

01.03.2019. The European Union could review its financial support to Libya over abuses against migrants in various detention centers in the country, Antonio Panzeri, a member of the European Parliament, told reporters. "In Libya there is a dramatic situation for migrants that, I believe, will lead us to make a complete assessment of the financing to Libya itself," said Panzeri, who is also the president of the EU Sub-Commission for Human Rights. Panzeri stressed that EU's money for Libya "can not and should not" be used to abuse migrants. "In Libya, there is an ungovernable situation and migrants are being held in horrible conditions, I would say even criminal." He said. "A few immigrants we have met have confirmed that the situation there is dramatic. They live in camps and are subject to constant harassment and violence. We can not only outsource the problems but we must evaluate them together." Panzeri explained. "If the situation continues we will ask for a new evaluation of the funding." He concluded. (Address Libya)

6. Political parties sign code of ethics

26.02.2019. Several Libyan political parties and organizations have signed a doctrine to organize political work in the country, boost democracy and peaceful circulation of power as well as to renounce violence and elimination. The parties, which signed the paper on Monday, reiterated commitment to state sovereignty and stressed the need to work for all Libyans and stay away from partisan bias, promising to denounce terrorism, fanaticism, and using foreign intervention against fellow citizens. The parties added. The six parties, which signed the paper, said other parties are welcome to join. Signatories included Tajamou Al-Itihadi, Shabab Al-Wasat, Naam Libya, National Movement, Taghyeer Party, National Alliances Party, and Justice and Construction Party. (Libya Observer)

KEY EVENTS

1. Haftar controls El Feel Oilfield

22.02.2019. Forces loyal to the Libyan self-styled army of Khalifa Haftar controlled the vital south-western El Feel oilfield – producing around 70 K barrels a day. According to the sources, Haftar’s forces had made a deal with the security faction already protecting the field and was handed control of El Feel after joining them. Meanwhile, the state oil firm “National Oil Corporation (NOC), which operates the field in a joint venture with Italy’s Eni, said it was concerned about developments near El Feel oilfield and was monitoring the situation closely to ensure the safety of its staff,” according to a NOC representative. ([Libyan Express](#))

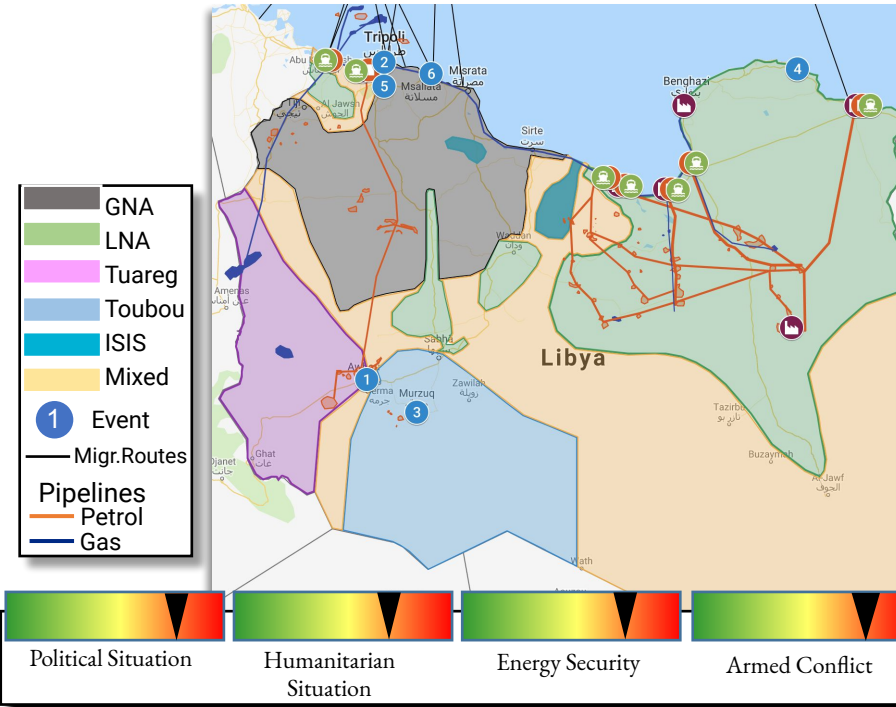
2. Serraj calls for calm in the South

22.02.2019. Mohamed El-Sallak, official Spokesperson for Faiez Serraj, stressed the keenness of Serraj to prevent the spilling of Libyan blood in the country’s southern region and not to have any clash or confrontations between the brothers of the one nation, whatever the controversy. “The security and stability of the south is higher than any political tension,” he said at a press conference. El-Sallak also conveyed the emphasis placed by Serraj on the need to remove civilian installations from any military operations and not endanger the lives of civilians. Serraj nevertheless reaffirmed that he shared what he referred to as the “common objectives, foremost among which is the fight against terrorism, extremism, organized crime and mercenaries from outside the borders”, calling for a common stand in the face of these dangers. ([Libya Herald](#))

3. LNA claims control of Murzuk

23.02.2019. “Khalifa Haftar’s self-styled army claimed control over the city of Muzuk in south-west Libya, following battles with the South Protection Force of Tabu. This was the first lengthy battle of LNA in its military campaign to the South. The military information division of Haftar’s forces said that the move comes within the operations of “clearing the south”, adding that it had seized vehicles and weapons from the Chadian gangs and had captured many of their fighters. A local source confirmed the withdrawal of the South Protection Force from Murzuk to an unknown destination in the desert. Haftar’s forces have intensified their ground and air attacks on the town of Murzuk three days ago, from within the area of Ghadwa south of Sabha. ([Libya Observer](#))

Aman Organization Against Discrimination (AOAD) has voiced concern over the violations, attacks on civilians and targeting of people based on their identities in Murzuq. AOAD called on the UNSMIL to assume its responsibility in protecting minorities in Libya. House of Representatives’ member for Murzuq Rahma Abu Baker said Friday that Haftar’s forces committed violations when they entered the town, saying four Tubu dignitary tribesmen were killed besides the burning of some houses in there. “They are waging an ethnic war.” She remarked. Meanwhile, Murzuq is seeing dire conditions as its hospital is suffering from lack of supplies and medics due to the siege. ([Libya Observer](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *Following Palermo Conference, all stakeholders had agreed on holding a National Conference at the beginning of 2019, which is supposed to be followed by regional/national elections. The year 2019, however, started with Haftar’s military campaign to the South and thereafter things turned upside-down. UN brokered political process lost its basis of consensus and internal/external actors are still (re)positioning themselves according to this new conflict environment.*
- *Haftar is heading for his aim of controlling all oil production sites and getting the upper-hand against Tripolitania by dominating rest of Libya. His increasing influence will make Haftar more reluctant for a compromise in the UN-backed political process and giving in to the civilian authority. His power, however, is not enough to confront relatively strong Tripoli, Misrata, Tarbuna or Zintan militias. He still needs to build new pacts with some of the western militias and get more support from his external partners.*
- *On the other hand, up to now, his troops haven’t encountered real military resistance in the South. Other than Murzuk, he gained easy achievements through buying local alliances. If his actions trigger a unified Tubu resistance, his dispersed force structure (between Eastern, Central and Southern Libya) might struck him in a difficult situation. Things can get more hectic, if Western militias barge into to the heated Southern fighting –without waiting Haftar walk up to them.*

4. HRW: Civilians caught in Derna

22.02.2019. Human Rights Watch (HRW) called for the immediate allowance of aid and medical workers into Derna to help the trapped civilians in the Old City neighborhood, calling on the forces under Haftar’s command to allow the civilians to leave the city as they have been trapped there within the past two weeks without access to food, water, or medical care. “The LNA should investigate allegations of abuse by its members and hold those responsible accountable. It should also ensure safe conditions for Derna residents displaced by the fighting to return home.” Said Middle East and North Africa director at Human Rights Watch, Sarah Leah Whitson. HRW also called on Haftar’s forces to disclose immediately the names of anyone they have detained during operations to take the city, who may number in the hundreds, according to United Nations reporting and one unconfirmed and partial list of names obtained by Human Rights Watch. ([Libya Observer](#))

5. Serraj’s decisions invoke anger among militias

24.02.2019. Serraj has made controversial appointments to the Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) and to the Central Bank of Libya (CBL). The appointments have invoked the anger of Tripoli’s main militias as well as his general critics. This move has also been criticised for abuse of power of a transitional government, during a time when the LPA prescribes that all leading sovereign positions are to be chosen consensually. The most worrying if not existentialist criticism for Serraj came in a lengthy and scathing 4,000-word statement by Tripoli’s leading militias. These are the very militias that prop-up the weak Serraj regime. The statement by the Tripoli Protection Force on “the ongoing systematic tampering with the state’s economic and financial institutions” criticised Serraj for his unilateral decision-making and for making the Libyan political scene even more complicated by ignoring the LPA. ([Libya Herald](#))

6. MSF: 116 migrants have been forcibly returned

23.02.2019. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has reported that 116 migrants have been “forcibly returned” to Libya after a day and a half at sea. MSF said in a tweet that the migrants, including 21 women and children, disembarked in the western coastal city of Al-Khums early Thursday. “MSF provided water, food, blankets and hygiene kits to the group, which also included a pregnant woman and 6-month-old baby.” The report says. The Spokesman of the Libyan Navy, Ayoub Qassim, confirmed a boat carrying immigrants – mainly African – was rescued in the Mediterranean Sea, but rejected the term “forcibly returned,” saying the Libyan coastguards “rescued them from the sea for their safety.” ([Libyan Express](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. El Sharara Oil Field ready to restart

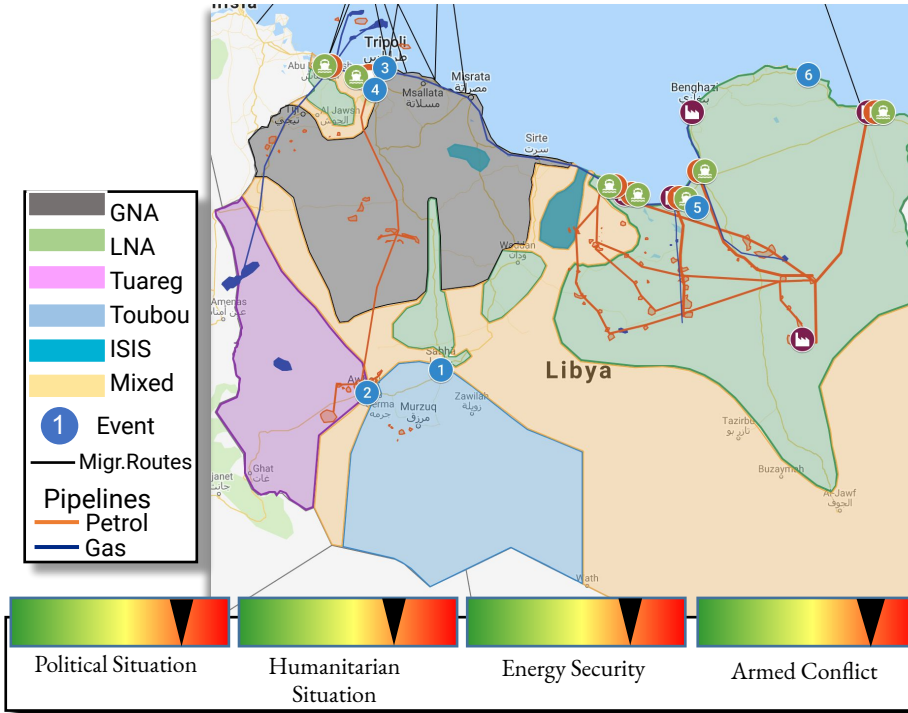
12.02.2019. Libya's state oil firm NOC is committed to a swift resumption of oil output at the El Sharara oilfield, but only after its workers' safety is assured, it said. On Monday, Haftar's forces took over the field. But NOC said in a statement it had received no official communication from El Sharara that the field had been secured. NOC also said a no-fly zone imposed by the LNA for any air traffic without its permission would have to be lifted for workers to be able to fly in and out. ([Reuters](#))

2. LNA claims full control of Sharara Oilfield

12.02.2019. Haftar-led LNA, as well as forces aligned to it, claimed that they had taken full control of the Sharara oilfield. There were many photos and videos posted by the LNA media department as well as social media purporting to show the LNA and its allied forces in the oilfield. There is no irrefutable evidence as yet that the LNA coalition has total and permanent control of the oilfield. It is also unclear if there will be a counter move to regain control of the oilfield by the anti-Haftar forces, including forces representing the Serraj Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli. It is thought that the LNA coalition may have gained control of the oilfield overnight as a result of some Tebu forces switching sides. ([Libya Herald](#)) Hamed Al-Khayali, mayor of the southwestern Sabha city, told that the GNA has nearly lost all control over the area. "LNA forces now are deployed to Sabha's outskirts," he added in a note to Haftar's growing and expanding the sphere of influence. Khayali reaffirmed that the GNA no longer enjoys any influence in southern Libya and that it was only a matter of time before the LNA announces its total control over the area. For his part, the newly-assigned GNA commander of the Sabha military zone, Ali Kanah said that the Sharara and El-Feel oilfields have been secured and the force entrusted with their protection is capable of carrying out its task to the fullest. In the meanwhile, Khayali labeled Kanah a defector and called on him to rejoin Haftar's forces and step down from the GNA. ([Al-Awsat](#))

3. LNA claims full control of Sharara Oilfield

16.02.2019. GNA Interior Minister, Fathi Bashagha, said in a TV interview that Haftar played a "national role" in his recent military action in the south of Libya. He said that what happened in the south (Haftar's military action) was "acceptable from the national point of view" and that after Haftar's action the south was now free of organized crime – the crime which had been exacerbated by political divisions of Libya. But he qualified it politically. "We hope that Haftar's forces will only play their national role, not invest them politically in order to increase the division or achieve a gain because if this trend goes, I think there will be other repercussions," he said. On Libya's militias he said that his government had reached "the end of the road" with them and stressed that "Libyans were fed up with the militias and their excesses ... (and) these scenes (of militias) in the capital Tripoli". He also said that the U.S. was currently showing "increased interest" in supporting Libya's political consensus. He added: "If Libya continues in this division, the division is not in favour of either the East or the West nor the South. ([Libya Herald](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *Haftar is claimed to have wrested control of Sabha –the capital of Fezzan– strategically important Sbarara oilfield, and air traffic in southern Libya. Yet, the authenticity of the news will be understood in the coming days. If he also manages to attain local public support in addition to his military achievement ahead of elections, this would brace Haftar's country-wide image. It is, however, still too early to celebrate. The operation still proceeds deep into Fezzan areas. None of the major tribes, other than ethnic-Arab Awlad-Suleimani tribe, has yet declared support to LNA. Furthermore, last week there was information about the local anti-LNA coalition pursuits. They still might be waiting to see how things will evolve. Their positions will be more evident in the coming weeks.*
- *Tripoli-based GNA Interior Minister, Fathi Bashagha's supportive statements over Haftar's operation is the most reconciliatory comment from Western Libya. Bashagha's constructive comments will likely lead to better communication among rival authorities as he is the primarily responsible person for internal security. Additionally, in the upcoming National Conference process and elections, Bashagha can emerge as a unifying political figure for all factions of Libya.*
- *The highly prolonged clashes and humanitarian problems in Derna demonstrate two aspects of current conflicts in Libya. First, it is not easy to win a complete victory in the field, no matter how superior your military power is. Second, it is highly essential for ICC and UN bodies to follow the crimes against civilians closely.*

4. Tripoli militias vow to fight against Haftar

15.02.2019. Tripoli Protection Force, has declared its rejection to the military dictatorship, accusing Haftar of attempting to rule the country by mean of force, denying the Libyan people from electing their representatives through democratic means. "We express our utter rejection to the project of war criminal Haftar who seeks to rule the country with the blood of the Libyan people and with funding from an external agenda that does not seek stability and prosperity of Libya." A statement by the TPF said. ([Libya Observer](#))

5. Thousands of casualties reported in 2018 in Libya

13.02.2019. Human Rights Solidarity (HRS) says 3 719 people were killed, wounded or kidnapped in clashes across Libya during 2018. In a recently released report, HRS said that 2.947 fighters made up 79 percent of the total figure while 772 civilians, including 49 children, accounted for the remainder. "1567 people were killed, 2,011 people were injured, and 141 others were captured or detained by armed groups," the report stated. June alone saw 857 casualties, which included 285 deaths, as fighting escalated in Derna in eastern Libya. Derna topped the report with the most casualties in 2018, registering 1,111 people. The numbers were high due to the clashes between forces loyal to eastern commander Haftar and the Derna Protection Force. The clashes killed 83 people, including six children. "Tripoli came second on the list with 978 casualties in 2018, due to militia clashes in southern parts of the capital where 276 people were killed, including eight children," the report recorded. Ajdabiya was on the list as well with 469 casualties, while Sabha registered 345, Sirte 309 and Benghazi 174 casualties. ([IOL](#))

6. Reports: Egypt backs Gaddafi's son in Libya elections

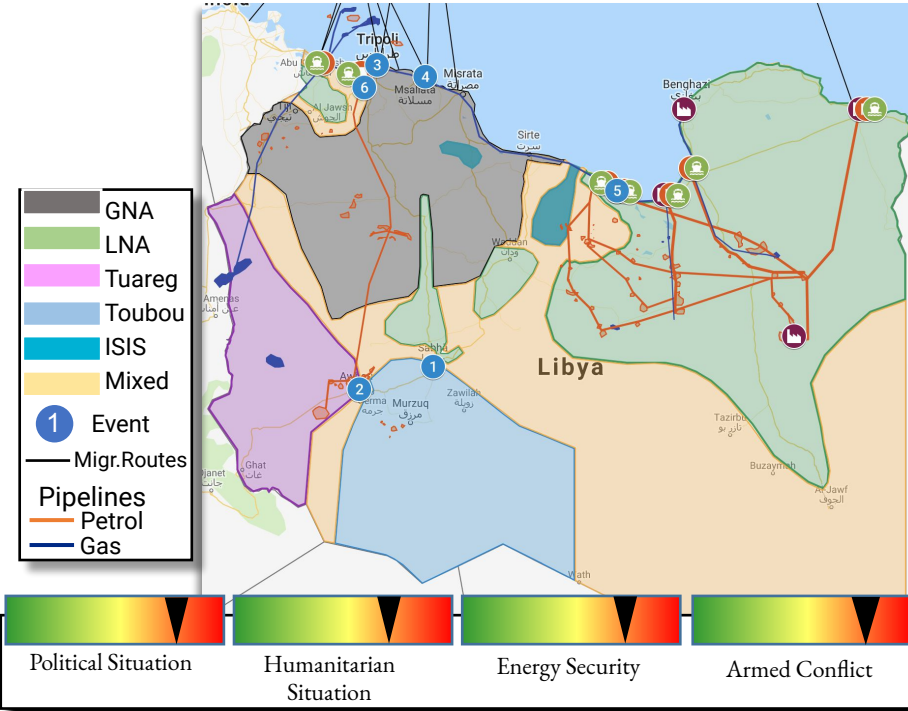
12.02.2019. Some seven civilians have been killed and dozens more wounded in the eastern Libyan city of Derna, as Haftar's forces claimed victory over the city after weeks of fighting "terrorists". Derna has witnessed intensified clashes since the beginning of this month between the LNA and armed militias known as the Derna Protection Force (DPF). However, scores of women and children are still believed to be trapped inside the old city, cut off from basic services including food, water, and urgent medical care. Reports also indicate that some 2,000 people are currently being detained in Derna's Grenada prison, with local sources stating that the inmates are being deprived of water and food. In a statement yesterday, the UN expressed concern at these latest developments, calling for unconditional, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access to the affected civilians in Derna. ([MEMO](#))



KEY EVENTS

1. The armed conflict in South Libya continues to escalate

10.02.2019. Fighting has broken out over the future of Libya's largest oil field, as forces loyal to the GNA battle LNA forces led by Khalifa Haftar, the leading figure in fractured Libya's east. LNA claimed on Wednesday that Haftar's forces had seized al-Sharara oil fields largely without a fight, in conjunction with the forces that had previously controlled the field. This was later contradicted by other local reports. ([The Guardian](#)) The Head of the GNA Fayed Al-Serraj appointed Wednesday Ali Kanna, the commander of Sabha military zone. Ali Kanna is known for opposing Haftar, and his Dignity Operation and his new post in Sabha is set to place him in confrontation with Haftar's forces ([Libya Observer](#)) Tebu community claim that the LNA is targeting them by allying with local groups, particularly of Awlad Suleiman and elements of Zuwai tribe members from Kufra. This prompted three Tebu officials to resign in protest: HoR member from Murzuq, Rahma Adem, (Eastern) Interim Government Minister of Housing, Ali Kouso and Tebu LNA Social Coordinator, Ali Barka. ([Libya Herald](#)) In a statement on Tuesday, the PC condemned military escalation in southern Libya including airstrikes on Murzuq town, where many were injured. The statement reads. It adds that war on terrorism, crime and mercenaries is a target for all, but it should be done via coordination among all state security apparatuses, not through hasty military operations. ([Libya Observer](#)) As military action briefly halted near Ghadduwah and Murzuq on Wednesday evening, the LNA spokesperson declared the liberation of the Sharara oilfield. However, many sources suggest the LNA does not have full control of Sharara. Their position was then contested by the mostly pro-GNA Tuareg PFG 30th brigade. LNA Spokesperson Mismari, in haste, had urged the NOC to lift its Force Majeure on Sharara in a press conference, attempting to claim a quick victory on the ground. However, it was clear that the situation at Sharara was still fluid and unstable. ([Libya Herald](#)) On Friday, LNA has imposed a no-fly zone in the south of Libya. A statement posted on a Facebook page called the "Military Information Division" said that Haftar's forces would down any plane which enters the skies of the southern territories without prior permission. The statement added that any plane which did not follow these orders would become a target. ([MEMO](#)) On Saturday, Haftar carried out four air strikes near the El Feel. The strikes were directed at GNA-appointed commander Ali Kanna, who was inside the compound at the time. "The strike targeted a civilian plane that was trying to evacuate a number of wounded people from the oilfield to Tripoli" said GNA in a statement. ([Reuters](#)) In the meantime, the LNA's local opponents are attempting to negotiate a unified local security body called the "South Protection Forces" (SPF). ([Libya Herald](#)) On Sunday, UNSMIL has issued a statement reminding all Libyan parties of their obligations. This came after the LNA airstrike on the runway of El Feel oilfield. In this context, the UNSMIL reiterated the need to limit all military operations in the Libyan south to the fight against terrorism and organised crime. The UNSMIL failed to acknowledge the obvious fact that the attack on the runway of El Feel was carried out by warplanes under the command of Khalifa Haftar. GNA instructed its Foreign Ministry to document the LNA's act and present it at the UNSC, citing the need to hold the ones behind endangering the lives of civilians and the resources of the country accountable. ([Libyan Express](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *This week the crisis in the South was highly fluid. Haftar's military intervention to Southern Libya, as warned by LCW three weeks ago, continues to escalate and evolves into a more complex crisis. The power struggle between GNA and LNA, now combined with the local power struggles, hostilities and security vacuum in the Fezzan. Realising Haftar's ambition to control the region, ethnic groups and local tribes set out to build alliances against LNA.*
- *If Haftar gains control of Southern oil fields (1/3 of all Libya oil) and adds it to the Oil Crescent (2/3 of all Libya oil) that he already controls, he will get incredible supremacy on GNA. Seeing that rising threat, GNA decided to take action. From this week on, forces of two rival governments –GNA and LNA– are face to face in the battlefield. Feeling Haftar-threat in their bones, even Tripoli-based militias set out to seeking bigger and stronger alliances like Western Region Protection Force (WRPF).*
- *Regrettably, Southern conflict costs Libyans a lot. Libya is losing \$30 million a day due to the closure of the El Sbarara oil field since 08 December, while only \$36 million is missing to conduct local elections, and more than 800 thousand people living in need to humanitarian assistance. Worse still, Libyans, nowadays, should have been speaking about long-awaited National Conference preparations –supposed to be conducted next month– rather than current escalation. Salame and UNSC members should be extremely anxious due to the risk of losing their last bullet for national reconciliation, which is expected to lead to national elections later this year.*

2. Libya's local elections suffer from lack of funding

05.02.2019. At least 69 municipal councils out of 120 in Libya may not hold elections in March due to a lack of funding by GNA, the head of the elections committee said. Holding elections to renew the municipal councils requires at least 50 million Libyan dinars (\$36 million) he told. ([Reuters](#))

3. Western militias seek to merge

09.02.2019. The Tripoli Protection Force (TPF) announced yesterday on its official Facebook page that it will be integrating itself into a new larger coalition to be named the Western Region Protection Force (WRPF). It said that the new entity would be under one unified command. ([Libya Herald](#))

4. LNA ask for UN sanctions to Turkey

07.02.2019. The Libyan customs authority on Wednesday said that it seized nine armoured military vehicles coming from Turkey at Khoms port. The spokesman of LNA, Ahmed Al-Mismari, appealed to the UN to impose sanctions against Turkey for supporting extremists in Libya. Al-Mismari said Turkey had continued supporting extremist groups in Libya and encouraged them to oppose the LNA. ([Ahval](#))

5. Reports: Egypt backs Gaddafi's son in Libya elections

07.02.2019. The Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies quoted sources as saying that Ahmad Qadhaf Al-Dam, Gaddafi's uncle, has been holding meetings with Libyan tribal leaders in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, in order to mobilise their support for Saif Al-Islam based on understandings supported by the Egyptian Intelligence Service. According to the sources, the meetings have paved the way for the organisation of a tribal conference on 7 February in Ras Lanuf, to discuss the Libyan elections. ([MEMO](#))

6. UN launches new humanitarian plan in Libya

07.02.2019. The UN launched Libya's 2019 humanitarian needs plan in Tripoli yesterday. The UN noted that seven years after the Libyan 2011 revolution, hundreds of thousands of people across the country still live in dire conditions. The UN 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan, seeking US\$ 202 million, to continue providing health support, protection, water, and shelter. The Plan reveals that an estimated 823,000 people, including 248,000 children need some form of humanitarian assistance in Libya, and that half of them are Libyan citizens. Conflict-affected refugees and migrants in or transiting through the country make up the other half. ([Libya Herald](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. NGOs urge EU: 'Stop sending migrants back to Libya'

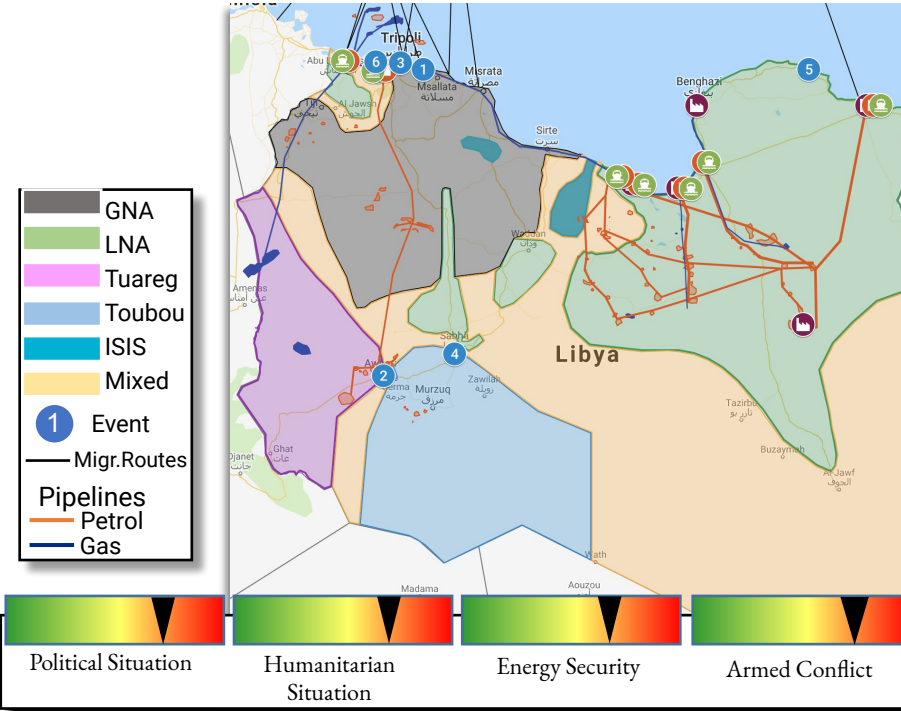
01.02.2019. European Union leaders are "making the Mediterranean a watery graveyard as a matter of deliberate policy" with a deal that makes Libya responsible for migrants trying to cross the sea into the continent, a group of more than 50 organisations has claimed. Oxfam, Human Rights Watch and Médecins Sans Frontières were among the signatories to a letter which claimed they had "allowed themselves to become complicit in the tragedy unfolding before their eyes". Under the deal, Italy and the EU agreed to provide the Libyan coastguard with money and technical support, in exchange for them stopping migrants trying to reach Europe from Libya. The organisations urged leaders to end the return of migrants to Libya, support search and rescue operations and adopt timely and regular disembarking arrangements. At least 5,300 migrants have died since the deal – described as "inhuman" by the United Nations – was agreed in February 2017, with thousands more currently suffering in Libyan detention camps, Oxfam said. ([Independent](#))

2. Sanalla calls for national force to guard oil installations

29.01.2019. The head of Libya's National Oil Company (NOC) has said he wants to set up a national force armed with surveillance to protect the country's petroleum assets after repeated seizures of oil installations by militias. Mustafa Sanalla, the chairman of NOC, said the force would require an annual budget of tens of millions of dollars and be under the control of the UN-recognised government. But the force could include members of the Libyan National Army (LNA) headed by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, the dominant figure in Libya's east, he added. Sanalla was speaking to the Guardian as a militia continued to occupy the country's biggest oilfield, El Sharara, in the impoverished south. The army has attempted to capture the site. He said his plan for a national, non-tribal, oil installation protection force should start with a pilot project in El Sharara once it was secured. Sanalla also expressed his doubts about Haftar's intervention in the south. The crisis in El Sharara, he said, had been complicated "by the launch of an international counter-terrorism mission, which has expanded into an attempt to seize control of territory, including potentially, national oil infrastructure". ([The Guardian](#))

3. UNSMIL may postpone National Conference

01.02.2019. The United Nations is likely to delay a conference intended to prepare Libya for elections this year until there is more support from rival leaders, sources familiar with the plans said. In a new push, U.N. Libya envoy Ghassan Salame wanted a conference in "the first weeks of 2019" with potential polls by June. But momentum for that has been lost due to resistance from major parties backing the parallel governments in Tripoli and the east who benefit from access to oil revenues and jobs for armed groups in the absence of police. Sources told Reuters the conference could still happen by the end of February, but a delay until at least March looked more likely. "Salame won't announce a venue and date ahead until he thinks there is enough support from all sides," one source said. (Reuters)



ASSESSMENT

- *EU migration policies have been taking a lot of sticks. However, owing to rising far rightist sentiment and forthcoming EU Parliament elections, such criticisms didn't have much repercussion among EU policy makers. On the other hand, UN Security Council permanent members, who have the power to deter the internal militias and force the transition in Libya, are busy with other more attractive crises and has no appetite to engage in Libya. Thus, capsized boats, slave markets, migrant detention centres and other humanitarian woes in Libya are likely to continue for a more while.*
- *Head of National Oil Corporation, Sanalla, is a highly respected and successful bureaucrat. Unlike other scattered governmental bodies, he managed to keep oil production and revenue united. Additionally, he is producing Libya-wide policies. To unify dispersed Libya political and social structure, he or someone like him can gain public acceptance rather than current uncompromising political figures.*
- *National Conference is Salame's last resort. If it fails, the whole action plan of the fifth UN envoy, Salame, will fail and probably the sixth UN envoy will take over. Salame hopes that National Conference will urge current power holders, who got the opportunity to exploit the Libya's resources in the status quo. However, Salame has not been able to find a solution to mistrust between various internal actors. For example, Haftar does not want to sit and negotiate with Islamists whom he already defeated. He might see the conference as a way to open his gains to discussion. This also might be the main reason of current LNA-Salame tension.*

4. LNA's operation in the South continues

01.02.2019. At least four Libyan soldiers were killed on Friday when forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar fought with a local armed group as they sought to expand south, military officials said, with the World Health Organization putting the overall death toll at 14. Friday's clashes were the first real resistance the LNA faction faced since arriving in the south two weeks ago from its main eastern stronghold of Benghazi. LNA officials said clashes began when soldiers left the main southern city of Sabha and arrived in the nearby town of Ghudduwah. It backed troops with air strikes on the "terrorists" and "Chadian mercenaries", the officials said, using a pejorative for Chadian opposition groups active in south Libya. ([Reuters](#)) Libya's UN-backed unity government in Tripoli, for its part, which is administratively responsible for Sabha, has yet to issue a comment about the incident. Last month, pro-Haftar forces arrived at the Sabha Airbase (known locally as the Tamanhant Airbase) in advance of planned operations along Libya's borders with Sudan, Chad and Niger. ([MEMO](#))

5. Haftar's troops accused of torture and murder of civilians

01.02.2019. Forces loyal to a powerful Libyan military commander once courted by the west are likely to have committed war crimes in the eastern city of Derna, London rights lawyers have revealed, urging the International Criminal Court to investigate instances of torture, murder and mutilation of corpses. The legal opinion, which was shared exclusively with The Independent, marks the first time General Khalifa Haftar's troops have been formally accused of war crimes in the coastal city, under their control since last summer. Rights groups have repeatedly accused the LNA, which controls swathes of territory in the east and south of Libya, of committing war crimes in cities like Benghazi. Last July, the ICC issued a second arrest warrant for Gen Haftar's special forces commander Mahmoud al-Werfalli after several videos appeared online apparently showing him murdering captured fighters. But the new report now sheds light on allegations of abuse in Derna. The LNA has denied allegations of abuse in the past. ([Independent](#))

6. Mogherini: EU reached consensus on Operation Sophia

02.02.2019. EU High Representative for FASP, Federica Mogherini said that there is a broad European consensus on preserving the Operation Sophia in the Mediterranean. "The operation has contributed to an 80 percent decrease in the number of immigrant arrivals in Europe, as well as the destructing of human traffickers' boats, in addition to training more than 300 officers of the Libyan Coast Guard," Mogherini stated Thursday following EU defense ministers meeting in Romania. ([Libya Observer](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. HRW criticizes EU's Libya and migrant policy

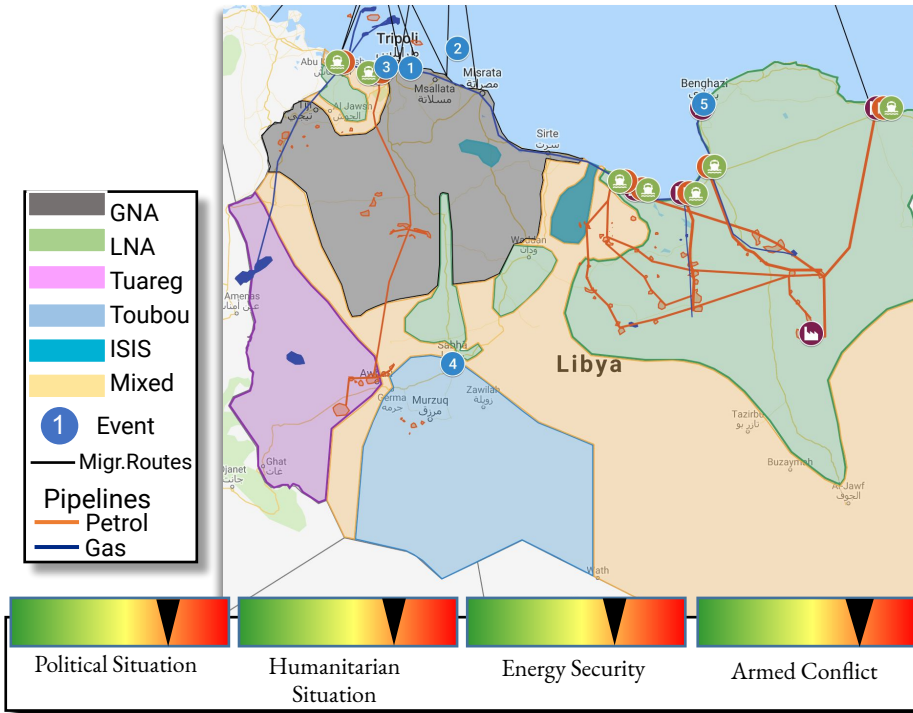
21.01.2019. In its new report, 'No Escape from Hell' Human Rights Watch (HRW) portrays the conditions in Libya and results of EU migration policies. HRW is urging Italy and the EU to condition their support to Libya on tangible improvements in detention conditions for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and says that unquestioning foreign support for Libya's coast guard leads to migrants being held in "arbitrary, abusive detention." It condemned such efforts to stem migration to Europe as contributing "to a cycle of extreme abuse" against people fleeing war and poverty. The report documents "severe overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, malnutrition, and lack of adequate health care" in detention centers, including at least four instances of violent abuse by guards. It says children have also been seen to be held in poor conditions. ([Arab News](#)) The report found that by pouring millions into the coffers of the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord – the UN-backed interim government of Libya – the EU is effectively exposing asylum seekers to the risk of torture, sexual abuse and forced labour in contravention with international law and the principle of non-refoulement. Officials in the EU and the current governments of France, Germany, the United Kingdom – as well as Italy's previous government – have all admitted they are aware of abuses against migrants and asylum seekers in Libyan detention centres. ([The National](#))

2. Fourty-seven migrants stranded off Italy

27.01.2019. The last remaining NGO rescue vessel in the central Mediterranean remains stuck off Sicily's eastern coast, with Italy's government refusing the Sea-Watch 3 entry despite the vessel receiving an invitation from the mayor of Syracuse. Forty-seven people including 13 children are stuck aboard the ship, which rescued them off the Libyan coast and has since been stranded, with Italy steadfastly refusing it entry first at Lampedusa and then in Sicily. Italy's Salvini said "They can then investigate and threaten me, but I'm not for turning. Dutch boat belonging to a German NGO? Amsterdam or Berlin awaits you," he tweeted. ([Times of Malta](#)) Salvini told reporters that he sent a letter to the government in the Netherlands officially requesting that they organize landings for the migrants "aboard this vessel that waves a Dutch flag." Dutch Migration Minister Mark Harbers said that without the prospect of such a comprehensive solution to how to process migrants rescued at sea that the Netherlands "will not take part in ad-hoc measures." He added that the ship flying the Dutch flag doesn't oblige the Netherlands to take action. EU Commission President Jean Claude Juncker's spokesman said that the commission is in touch with member states, and was watching the events closely. ([Stripes](#))

3. France and Italy row over Libya scaling up

27.01.2019. Salvini accused France of having "no interest in stabilising the situation" in Libya, "probably because it has oil interests that are opposed to those of Italy." "If people are leaving today it's because European countries, France above all, have never stopped colonising dozens of African countries," claimed Italian Economic Development Minister Luigi Di Maio. "The EU should sanction France and all



ASSESSMENT

- *HRW report revealed the genuinely bellish conditions of the migrants in Libya, which is described as a result of EU's migration policies. Up to now, Europe is known as the founder of universal human rights. However, outsourcing this responsibility against migrants to unreliable militia groups or impotent governments, or implementing additional measures to increase border security contradicts EU's such position. Moreover, it does not stem desperate flow towards Europe.*
- *EU urgently needs a set of new regulations for rescued migrants. Even in these winter days, every week we face with disembarkation and distribution crises, when the weather gets warmer, the number of such incidents will increase. Accordingly, polemics among populist politicians -as seen between Italian and French politicians- -especially on the road to EU Parliament elections this May- would snowball and disconcert EU policies. Such an escalation would not be in favour of solving the problem.*

countries like France that impoverish Africa and make these people leave because Africans should be in Africa, not at the bottom of the Med," he added. Since the beginning of the year, more than 200 migrants have drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean. The UN migration agency said no fewer than 4,216 migrants made it to Europe in the first 16 days of the year, compared to 2,365 during the same period of 2018. UNHCR spokesman Charlie Yaxley observed that "rescue at sea has been taken hostage by politics... decisive leadership that taps into fundamental values of humanity and compassion is sorely needed." ([Arab Weekly](#))

4. LNA takes control of Sabha Castle

26.01.2019. LNA have tightened their grip on several strategic targets that fall under the control of "criminal groups," notably Sabha Int Airport, the city's historic citadel, and the Mountain Hotel. This comes as part of the offensive that the forces, led by Haftar, has launched to liberate the southern cities from terrorist groups. LNA announced that, after taking control of the airport and the fortress, the military units moved south to seize the rest of the camps, which the Chadian opposition has taken as a safe haven. Spokesman Brigadier General Ahmad al-Mismari announced that army units advanced in "several areas in the south" from an airbase 650 kilometers from the capital, Tripoli, pointing out that the main target is "to ensure the security of residents in the southwest and protect them from terrorists," whether ISIS, al-Qaeda or criminal gangs. ([Al-Awsat](#)) Meanwhile, Haftar's forces looting, robberies and kidnappings and storming of houses were recorded in Sabha. Several tribesmen and elders in the city had issued a statement rejecting the presence of those force. ([Libya Observer](#)) On 26 January, Mayor of Qatroun Ali Saidi said in a press statement that the southern community rejects any military assistance that pursues personal political goals - in reference to the forces of Haftar. ([Libya Observer](#))

5. LNA calls Salame as an enemy

23.01.2019. The forces that control eastern Libya regard U.N. envoy Ghassan Salame as an enemy contributing to the North African nation's violent crisis, a spokesman said. The unusually strong criticism followed the U.N. Libya mission's expression of "deep concern" about a deployment last week to southern Libya of troops from the Libyan National Army (LNA), which is led by Khalifa Haftar. "Ghassan Salame should remember that this is a holy national duty and we will not leave Libya to be like Lebanon, a country of militias and multiple authorities," he told reporters in the eastern city of Benghazi. Salame is from Lebanon. Mismari said the U.N. official was surrounded by "graduates" of Tora Bora, the Afghan mountain hideout once used by the late al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The U.N. mission did not respond immediately to a request for comment. ([Reuters](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Haftar plans to secure Southern oil fields

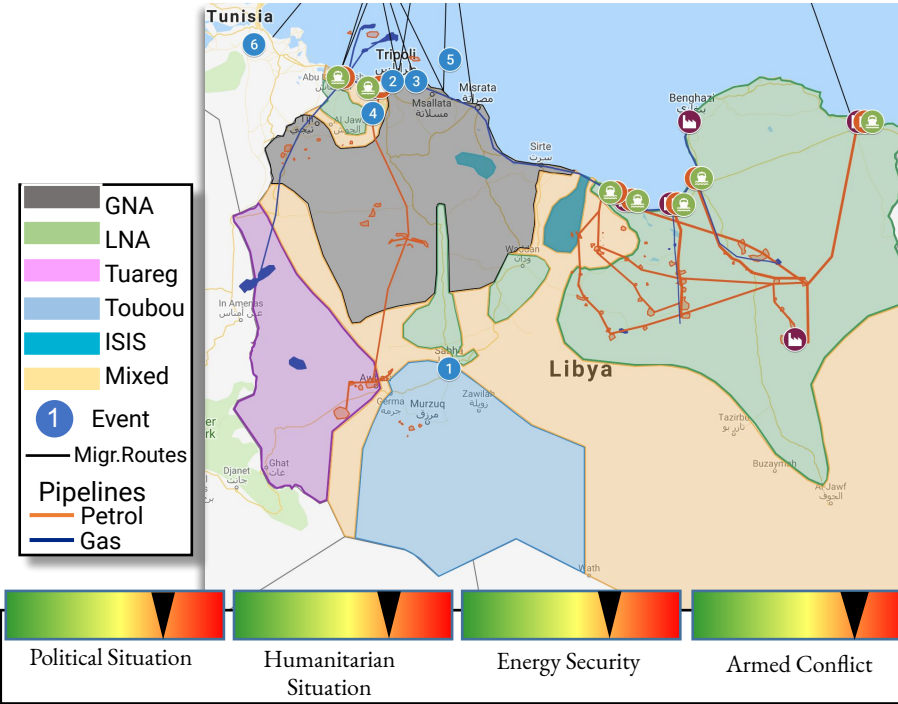
15.01.2019. LNA, launched an operation in southern Libya. “We announce the start of an operation to liberate the south,” LNA spokesman Ahmed al-Mismari told reporters in Benghazi. ([Al-Awsat](#)) Forces allied to Haftar have entered the city of Sebha as part of a campaign to secure the country’s lawless south Mismari said. “The next step is to secure all of Libya’s oil regions,” he added. The mayor of Sebha, told Haftar’s forces were on the outskirts of the city. Mismari also said that the LNA’s operations in the south were aimed at cleansing the region of terrorists and safeguarding the civilians, as well as securing the vital infrastructure. ([Bloomberg](#)) An Al-Qaeda leader known as “Abu Talha Al-Libi” has been killed in an operation near Sabha, southern Libya, the Libyan National Army said Friday. ([Arab News](#)) On the diplomatic front, Italy’s prime minister, Giuseppe Conte, paid a visit to the capitals of Libya’s southern neighbors, Niamey and N’Djamena on Tuesday and Wednesday. He met with presidents, Idriss Deby and Mohamadou Issoufou and discussed several issues, including stability in southern Libya, migration, counter-extremism and rehabilitation of border security and surveillance capacity-building. ([Libya Herald](#)) On 20 January, UNSMIL expressed its deep concern about reports coming from the South on the mobilization of armed forces and the escalating cycle of statements and counter-statements, signaling growing risks of imminent conflict. ([UNSMIL](#))

2. New round of Tripoli fighting kills 13 people

20.01.2019. The Health Ministry said that in the fighting in Tripoli between rival militias, which flared up Wednesday, 14 people died and 60 got injured, shattering a UN-brokered ceasefire reached in September that ended hostilities in the city. Fighting has subsided as the PC and GNA-aligned coalition of main Tripoli militias, the Tripoli Protection Force (TPF), claimed it has inflicted huge defeats on the Tarhuna-based 7th Infantry Kani Brigade in all fighting fronts. They claim the Tarhuna-based brigade were forced to flee south beyond Sbea towards Tarhuna. ([Libya Herald](#)) On 17th, the TPF said in a statement that it no longer obeys the orders of the Presidential Council and will do so only if the decisions are taken unanimously by all members. The statement clarifies that the armed brigades, which operate under the Interior Ministry, won’t follow orders from the PC, calling it a conflicting entity, asking for unity in taking decisions. “The nine members of the PC should approve orders until a president is elected in Libya,” the statement read. It added that the force considers all what happens in Tripoli a mess and the PC must clarify its stance regarding the current unrest in the capital. ([Libya Observer](#))

3. GNA and CBL fail to agree on budget

18.01.2019. GNA and the central bank have failed to agree on a national budget for 2019 due to a row over spending priorities, and the wrangling could go on until March. Tripoli administration and the central bank could not agree how to use revenues from a new fee on hard currency transactions, among other issues, diplomats as well as the sources familiar with the talks said. ([Reuters](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *Knowing that he has not enough power to advance upon Tripoli, Haftar initiated a major military operation in Southern Libya. Haftar promises to defeat foreign terrorist groups and stabilise oil production. Most probably these are not his only intentions. His probable desire for controlling major cities and oil fields of Fezzan would cause anger among local tribes and escalate the conflict in the region.*
- *Rising opposition of weighty PC members, fighting in Tripoli, budget conflict with CBL, Sharara oil-field discussion with NOC and Haftar’s advance on Southern Libya put Serraj in a tight squeeze. His weak position prevents him from taking a strong stance against problems in the Southern Libya and Tripoli. He still makes decisions but lacks the muscle to implement them. Besides, due to ongoing militia-control, Tripoli remains to be a powder barrel.*
- *The success of national conference, and planned municipal, parliamentary and presidential elections in 2019, if held, will be undermined due to ongoing conflicts in the South and Tripoli. UN and international actors should be alert not to lose this last chance.*

4. Salame briefs UNSC on the latest in Libya

19.01.2019. In his briefing to the UNSC on the situation in Libya SRSG Ghassan Salame urged Libya’s political class to respond to the daily calls upon it to overcome its fractious, narrow, and self-interested definition of governance. In his report Salame talked about the poor situation in Libya’s south, the south Tripoli militia fighting, Derna, economic reforms, the National Conference and elections. ([Libya Herald](#)) Failure to hold a national reconciliation conference in Libya could open the path to those who want a military solution to the country’s divisions, Salame warned. The conference, which was due to be held this month, is intended to be a precursor to presidential and parliamentary elections this spring designed to end the splits that have paralyzed the country ever since the ousting and killing of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. Salame refused to set a date or venue for the conference, instead saying he was working night and day in the hope of it being staged “in the coming weeks”. ([The Guardian](#))

5. Around 170 migrant dead, 100 ignored in the sea

19.01.2019. About 170 people are feared to have died in two separate Mediterranean shipwrecks, the UNHCR says. The Italian navy reports a ship sank off the coast of Libya with 117 people on board, while Moroccan and Spanish authorities have tried to find a lost boat in the western Mediterranean. The first boat reportedly disappeared with 53 people on board in the Alborán Sea at the western end of the Mediterranean. A search for the vessel over several days has so far been unsuccessful. The second ship, a dinghy, left Libya on Saturday, three survivors told 120 people were on board when it departed Garabulli in Libya. ([RNZ](#)) On 20 January, a migrant boat carrying some 100 people and which reported that it was in distress is being ignored by authorities, an NGO said. The claim comes the day after some 120 migrants who left Libya yesterday had drowned. ([Malta Today](#))

6. 5+5 countries cooperate against human traffickers

18.01.2019. Mediterranean governments pledged to cooperate in the war against human traffickers and called for efforts to counter the threat of racism and xenophobia. A declaration on the matter and other issues of concern was signed by Malta, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania during a summit held in Floriana. Known as the 5+5 dialogue called for the applicable migration and human rights laws to be respected and for operations of the relevant national authorities both on land as well as by vessels at sea not to be hindered. Ministers also agreed on the importance of migration policies to be adopted on “evidence-based analysis and a balanced narrative”. ([Times of Malta](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Serious division revealed in Presidential Council

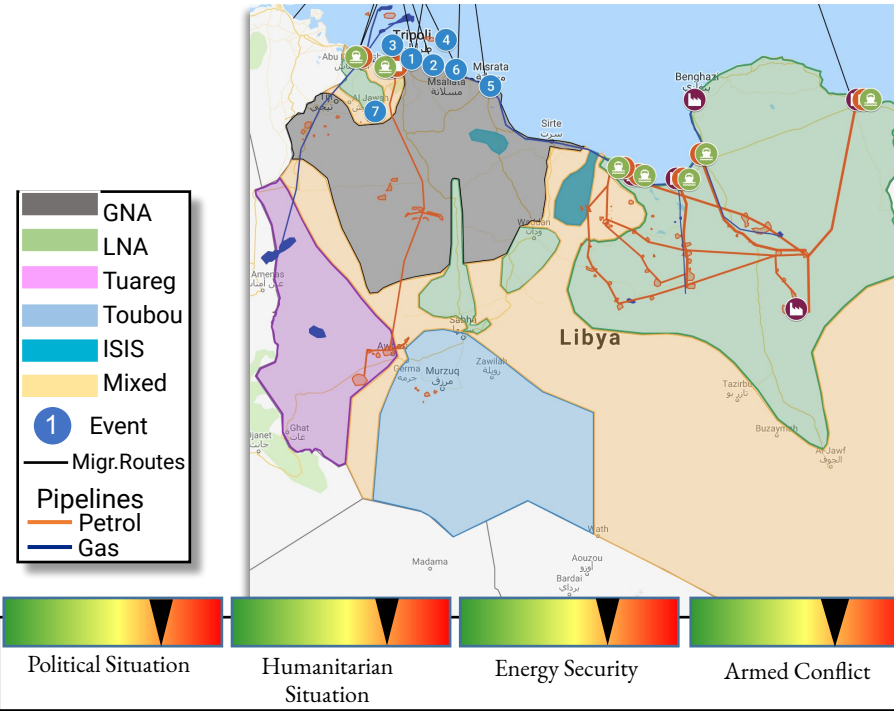
12.01.2019. Three Presidential Council (PC) members: Ahmed Maiteeg, Fathi Al-Mijbri, and Abdelsalam Kajman, have issued a statement accusing the Head of the PC, Fayed Al-Sirraj, of having an individual and personal approach to decision making in vital issues. "We hold Al-Sirraj responsible for the repercussions of the imminent collapse of the country and its institutions, which would make Libya go back to the drawing board." The trio added. They also said that such imminent calamities are caused by the policies of Al-Sirraj which lack "proper consideration" and are in essence "irresponsible." They called for applying the laws of the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) that include consultations in making sovereign decisions with the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS). ([Libya Observer](#)) Divisions within PC were further exposed on Wednesday. During a meeting in Tripoli with the Masar bloc of HoR members, Maetig appealed to them to pressure Serraj to respect the terms of the LPA. ([Libya Herald](#))

2. Malta disembarks 49 stranded migrants

09.01.2019. Forty-nine migrants disembarked in Malta after spending more than two weeks stranded on board rescue ships, ending a standoff in which EU countries had refused to offer them a safe port. The agreement that ended the stalemate was brokered by the EU Commission, and it calls for a total of some 300 migrants who have reached Malta in recent weeks to be redistributed between eight EU countries, including Italy. The majority of them will be shared among Germany, France, Portugal, Ireland, Romania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Italy and Malta, Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat said. The remainder, including 44 Bangladeshis, will be sent home, he added. Over the last week, humanitarian groups had warned of growing physical and psychological distress among the migrants on the stranded boats, many of whom also suffered seasickness due to the rough seas. ([Reuters](#))

3. Guterres says 'deeply concerned' over detainees in Libya

12.01.2019. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the Libyan government to take measures to protect detainees in Libya from torture and ensure a fair trial. "I remain deeply concerned about the widespread violations of human rights, the attacks against detainees and the arbitrary detention of thousands of men, women and children," Guterres said in a report covering the past six months. "The Libyan government must implement procedures to allow all persons detained to be protected against torture and other ill-treatment," he added. "All prisons must be under the effective control of the government and not subject to any influence or interference from armed groups." According to the report, more than 669,000 immigrants have been counted in the country, including 12% of women and 9% of children, during the period mentioned. The report pointed out that the number of detainees in Libya has increased since last August. He explained that about 5,300 refugees and migrants were detained in Libya during the reporting period, including 3,700 people in need of international protection. ([Al-Awsat](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *After Serraj, Misratan politician, Ahmet Maiteeg, is the second prominent figure of PC and GNA. Latest developments revealed a severe political conflict within PC, which would erode its authority. Besides, it is highly paradoxical that the vice chairman of PC, Maiteeg, is seeking for HoR's assistance in this conflict. It might open a new era in Tripoli-HoR relations. If some of the government officials begin to disobey Serraj's orders (which is not very unlikely), HoR and HCS would have the chance to reshuffle the cards in Tripoli.*
- *The upcoming Libyan National Conference will aim to achieve national reconciliation. Constitution, elections and resource allocation will be the main negotiation topics. This process could be the last chance for Libya to reach a democratic solution, and for UN to reinstate its trustworthiness to attain a peaceful transition in Libya. If national conference process fails, due to his control over military and hard stance against extremist groups, Haftar will likely gain more international support for obvious need for stability in the region.*
- *A conviction shared by large segments including UN envoy, one of the main obstacles to the solution in Libya is the existence of over 15 million weapons. Despite UNSC arms embargo, detection of smuggled Turkish weapons, the second time just in three weeks, ignited a wave of wide-spread public anger and suspicion inside Libya. Both Eastern and Western Libyan authorities perceive this as an intervention in favour of extreme-Islamist groups.*

4. Salame: parliamentary elections could be held in spring

09.01.2019. Head of UNSMIL Salame said parliamentary elections "could take place as early as next spring". "Two or three weeks" of meetings between representatives of Libya's rival camps were still needed before a date could be set for the ambitious event, Salame noted. "But the decision to convene the national conference has already been taken and contacts between our Libyan partners have begun," he stressed. Salame also said there are 15 million unseized weapons, which means that each Libyan owns two or three weapons. Withdrawing these weapons is a real challenge. ([Al-Awsat](#))

5. Attempt to smuggle arms into Libya foiled

08.01.2019. Libyan authorities from the Misrata port said it had "managed to seize a shipment of weapons containing Turkish pistols inside a container with some household items and children's toys used as camouflage." The shipment contained about 20,000 pistols, officials noted ([Ahval](#))

OPINION

6. Turkey expanding aggressive foreign policy into Libya

11.01.2019. Turkey is advancing an aggressive foreign policy in the MENA, with Libya being President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's potential next focus, according to two analysts. More interceptions of Turkish weapons were made this month, conservative columnist Michael Rubin wrote in National Interest on Friday. Besides, Libya continues to be divided due to its civil war. The country split between two governments that claim power, while Islamic groups also operate in the margins, according to Jerusalem Post. ([Ahval](#))

7. West 'risks helping political hijack of Libya's peace talks'

10.01.2019. Libya risks losing its final chance to find a peaceful solution to four years of deadlock because political parties backed by the west are plotting to hijack crucial talks, said a former ambassador to the UN Ibrahim Dabbashi. Salamé is hoping to hold a national conference this month before presidential and parliamentary elections due by the summer, which are designed to bring the war-torn country back together. He said in his letter to Salame that "some Libyan parties backed by the active members of the UNSC are trying hijack the national conference". He said Salamé should not be fooled by these groups, which he said already occupy the chaotic political scene and were seeking to flood the meeting to maintain their power, rather than find a long-term political solution. He said the UN needed to bypass them, ideally through municipal councils. ([The Guardian](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Rescued migrants still stranded at sea

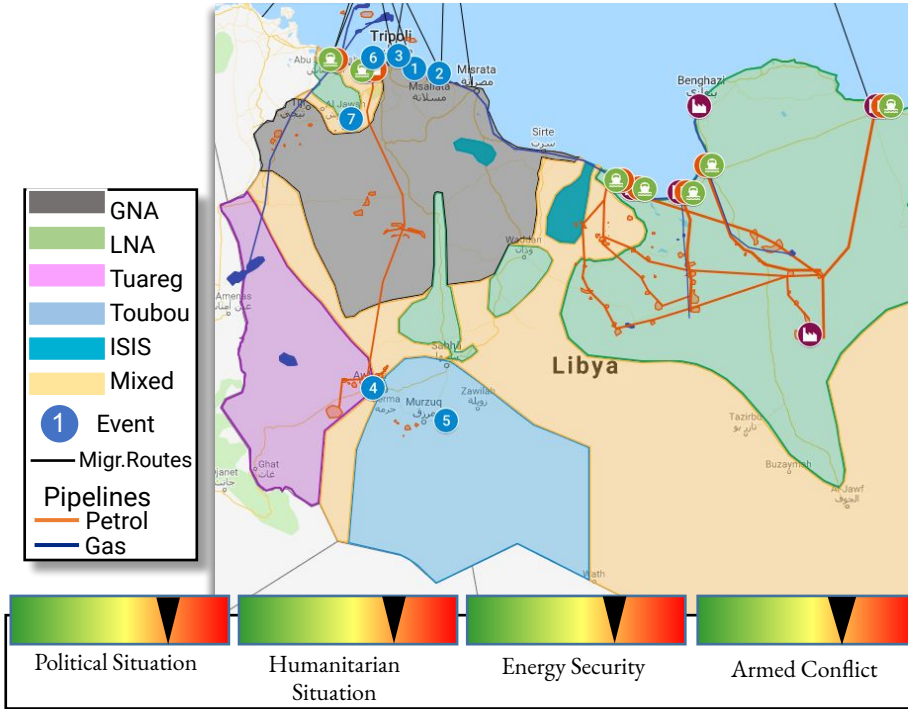
05.01.2019. After two weeks stranded at sea and battered by winter storms, migrants onboard a rescue ship are growing frustrated, supplies are dwindling and the crew are exhausted as European countries refuse to offer a safe port of call. The Sea-Watch 3, a vessel run by a German humanitarian group, plucked 32 people from an unsafe boat off the coast of Libya on Dec. 22, including three small children who are suffering from seasickness and four teenagers, who are travelling alone. The vessel is now in Maltese waters sheltering from high winds and rough seas. Another German humanitarian group, Sea-Eye, is also in waters off Malta with 17 people rescued on Dec. 29 on board its ship. This week almost two dozen humanitarian groups, including Amnesty International and the United Nations' International Organisation for Migration, called on the European Union to offer a safe port to both vessels ([Reuters](#))

2. Spain rescues 401 irregular migrants at sea

02.01.2019. Spanish coastguards rescued 401 migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean over the first two days of the new year. The news comes just days after a charity rescue vessel carrying 311 mainly African migrants plucked off the coast of Libya docked in Spain, ending a traumatic journey which saw them spend Christmas at sea. A spokeswoman for Spain's coastguards told AFP they had rescued 111 migrants on Tuesday in the Strait of Gibraltar and Alboran Sea. She added 290 more were rescued on Wednesday. Spain has become Europe's main entry point for migrants, overtaking Greece and Italy. According to the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) latest figures, more than 56,000 migrants arrived in Spain by sea from January 1 to December 19, 2018, and 769 died attempting to do so. This sea route to Europe is not the deadliest - at least 1,278 migrants died in 2018 trying to reach Italy and Malta - but it is the busiest, according to the IOM. ([RTE](#))

3. 1.1 million people need humanitarian assistance in Libya

04.01.2019. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Libya Office has declared that 1.1 million people need humanitarian assistance in Libya. In a report on its 2018 activities in Libya, the UNHCR said 187,423 persons are internally displaced while 400,000 others have returned home. The report indicated that the UNHCR had provided humanitarian and cash assistance to more than 92,000 persons and provided support to health and education facilities. Regarding the illegal migrants and refugees, the UNHCR said it had helped more than 10,000 persons with life-saving medical supplies. ([Libya Observer](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *This week, sharing the burden of rescued migrants again turned into a patience game. It is well known that there have been highly-charged discussions between EU member states to find a solution for migrants stranded at sea. However, rather than ad-hoc reactions, EU needs a renaissance and reform (R&R) with its migration policy and regulatory bodies in cooperation with African Union and UN. For managing migration in a humane way, this R&R process should address not only saved or arrived migrants but also 1.1 million helpless people (according to latest UNHCR report) and brutal detention centers in Libya, and even the problems in root countries.*
- *Under the color of fighting against Chadian terrorists, lately, Haftar increased his military build-up in the South of Libya. With the support of his local supporters, Haftar would try to take control of Southern Libyan cities, which would significantly debilitate Tripoli-based Government of National Accord.*
- *Rather than government's control, the dominance of armed militia in Tripoli has been reported many times. The statements of interior minister of GNA is a confession of this fact. This brings the latest accords in Palermo or Jordan into question in point of who makes decision and the impact of the decisions taken on the ground.*

4. Libya loses 8,500 bpd in Sharara Oil Field

03.01.2019. Libya's closed Sharara oilfield is expected to lose 8,500 barrels per day (bpd) to looting, state oil company NOC said. Three security breaches and looting have taken place at the 315,000-bpd field over two weeks, NOC said, reiterating its calls for the implementation of emergency security measures to allow Sharara to be reopened. The internationally recognized government and NOC agreed on a security plan last week to protect the Sharara field, and NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanalla on Thursday said attacks on the field could destroy the Sharara system and damage the economy. ([Arab News](#))

5. Haftar sends additional forces to South

02.01.2019. Haftar has sent additional troops to south Libya after his forces were attacked on the Chadian border on 28 December. Chadian opposition fighters seized military vehicles belonging to Haftar's armed forces after killing an officer and injuring 12 others. The pro-Haftar militias are located in three military bases: Tamant Al-Hind, Al-Waw and Brak Al-Shati. Local media quoted eyewitnesses who said that a significant number of armed forces, equipment and weapons arrived at the bases. On 28 December, Al Jazeera Net revealed that the UAE was playing a negative role in creating a state of agitation in the southern part of Libya, citing unnamed private sources who claimed that the Emirates offered the GNA's military leaders in the south rewards if they served in Haftar's forces. The same sources pointed out that a delegation from the tribes of the south, known for being loyal to Haftar, visited the UAE early last month and consulted with officials on the possibility of providing support for ongoing military movements in the area. ([Middle East Monitor](#))

6. Bashagha: Armed groups dominate Tripoli

04.01.2019. The Interior Minister of the Government of National Accord (GNA) Fathi Bashagha has told BBC Arabic that there are armed groups and forces, which are registered under the ministry's command, who are implementing the agendas of outsiders and thus are dominating the decision making in political and economic fields in Tripoli. Bashagha said that the armed forces don't follow the orders of the interior ministry or those of the GNA, adding that they have their own budget and agendas and nobody can stand in their way. "They have created a parallel interior ministry in Tripoli." Bashagha revealed. ([Libyan Express](#))

OPINION

7. The new Libya: The return of a Gadhafi?

04.01.2019. Just as the Syria war did not end with ISIS capturing Damascus, the events in Libya equally have taken an unexpected turn as Dr. Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, the son of Col. Muammar Gaddafi, is a political candidate in the presidential election. His candidacy is supported by large segments within the Libyan people and viewed by many as a unifying force of reconciliation in war-torn Libya. ([WND](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. ISIS attacks Libya Foreign Ministry

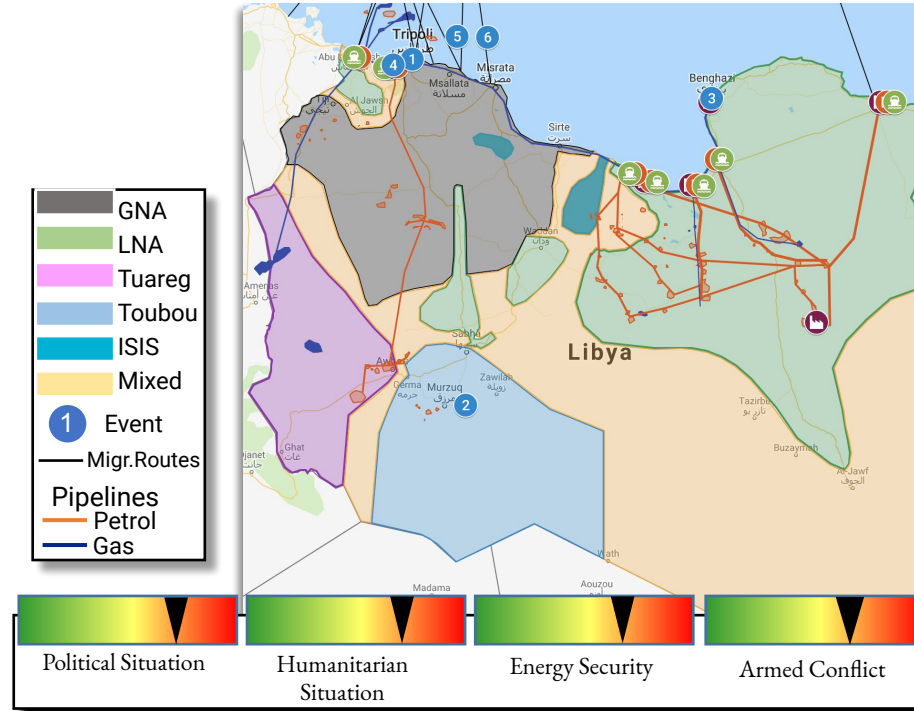
25.12.2018. Suicide bombers have stormed the Libyan foreign ministry in the capital Tripoli, killing at least three people including a senior civil servant in an attack claimed by ISIS. Twenty-one other people were wounded in the attack. Interior Minister Fathi Bash Agha said his department lacked the equipment necessary to restore law and order in Libya. "Weakness and a security breakdown" allowed assailants to attack the foreign ministry, he said. The foreign minister said the UN should lift an arms embargo it has imposed on Libya since the 2011 uprising. "Stability cannot be restored... without a partial lifting of the embargo. It is needed to guarantee security and combat terrorism," Siala told reporters. In September, IS claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on the headquarters of Libya's National Oil Company in the heart of Tripoli which left two dead and 10 wounded. Four months earlier, it claimed an attack on the electoral commission's headquarters which left 14 dead. Last month, IS claimed responsibility for an attack on militia forces in southeastern Libya in which at least nine people were killed. ([MEE](#))

2. Chadian armed groups attack LNA in South of Libya

27.12.2018. A Chadian armed group attacked a camp of the Libyan National Army (LNA) in southern Libya, leaving one person dead and 13 wounded. The attack took place near Traghan, about 400 kilometers north of the border with Chad. ([Al-Awsat](#)) On 29 Dec, Spokesman for the LNA, Mesmari, has affirmed that the LNA will confront terrorism in any city, considering that the latest military operations in southern Libya's Sadada aim to eradicate terrorism and impose security. He also reiterated accusations against Turkey of jeopardizing the security and stability of Libya. Further, Serraj's Government of National Accord (GNA) decried the offensive conducted by mercenaries. In its statement on Thursday, the council said the attack targets the country's stability and security, and is also a violation of sovereignty. This compels answering repeated calls for uniting the army and for making south Libya a starting point to counter terrorists and mercenaries, it said. As for the Tobruk-based Libyan parliament, it said the attack reflects the mercenaries' continuous breach of Libyan territories. In its statement on Thursday, the parliament called for unity against armed gangs and terrorist groups. ([Al-Awsat](#))

3. Efforts underway to unite security agencies

29.12.2018. An initiative to unite Libya's security agencies was revealed, making it the first such overture between the rival governments in Tripoli and Tobruk. Media official in the temporary capital in eastern Libya, Tareq al-Kharaz said that a meeting was held in Benghazi between head of the security agency in Tripoli, Salem Qarimida and his counterpart in Benghazi Adel al-Arfi to discuss what he described as "current and accumulating challenges". In addition, Kharaz said that Interior Minister of the eastern government, Ibrahim Boushnaf, and his counterpart from the Tripoli Government of National Accord, Fathi Bashaagha, presented a proposal to unite security efforts in order to restore calm throughout Libya. A committee headed by Qarimida was formed to that end, he added. ([Al-Awsat](#))



ASSESSMENT

- This year on different occasions ISIS demonstrated its operational capabilities in Libya. Its latest attack to Libya Foreign Ministry, on Christmas day, could be seen as an answer to Trump's announcement over ISIS's defeat. ISIS was heavily hammered in Sirte, in 2016, however, ongoing security chaos and delayed political compromise provided a fertile ground for ISIS to recover.
- Both Tripoli and Tobruk governments are concerned about waxing ISIS threat and Chadian/Sudanese armed groups threats. They are both aware that their military power will not be enough to eradicate these threats. Latest meeting in Benghazi to unite security institutions could be seen as an effort against such threats. On the other hand, they both complain about UN arms embargo. However, it is not likely that UN will lift that embargo ahead of unifying security institutions.
- Irregular migration continues to be the most important political problem of the EU. Due to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean, NGO rescue ships are back in the field, in accordance with the Global Compact on Migration, which was adopted by 164 UN member states in Marrakech two weeks ago. In the absence of NGO rescue ships, migrants were drowning silently or being dragged to infamous Libya detention centers by Libyan Coastguards. The burden of rescued migrants shouldn't be left only to Italy, Malta or Spain. They are saved in the EU borders. Notably, Germany and other member states shouldn't fail to do their parts to reach more sustainable migration policies and to prevent the rise of right-extremist politicians.

4. Libyans meet for gathering a National Conference

29.12.2018. Al-Zawiya city hosted the first meeting of the Libyan National Conference of February 17 Revolutionaries to discuss new initiatives based on dialogue and peaceful solution without foreign intervention. The conference utterly rejected the return to military rule and any type of foreign intervention in the domestic affairs of Libya. It also stressed on the need for maintaining Libya's oil and gas resources and protecting them from illegal selling, adding that calls for operating Libya into three regions are not welcome and can never be materialized as Libyans are united and don't wish to be divided. The statement called for forming the Libyan National Gathering for all revolutionaries of February 17 and all those who care for its principles, saying the door is open for all free Libyans to join. ([Libyan Express](#))

5. Charity ship, with 311 migrants, docks in Spain

29.12.2018. A charity rescue vessel carrying 311 mainly African migrants plucked off Libya docked in Spain, ending a traumatic journey which saw them spending Christmas at sea and several European nations denying the ship entry. The vessel docked in the port of Crinavis near the southern city of Algeciras to applause and Proactiva Open Arms, the Spanish charity which runs the Open Arms vessel carrying them, feted the arrival with a "Mission accomplished" tweet. "These are people, both children and adults, who have had really horrible experiences in both their countries of origin and during their journey," Vicente Raimundo, the director of intervention in Spain for the NGO Save The Children. He said some of the 139 children aboard came "from countries at war such as Somalia and Syria." The migrants were rescued on December 21 from three vessels but were denied entry by Italy and Malta. Libya, France and Tunisia did not respond to Proactiva Open Arms' requests for permission to dock, Madrid said. ([Libyan Express](#))

6. Dutch rescue ship stuck at sea

27.12.2018. A Dutch-flagged ship, Sea-Watch 3, that rescued 32 migrants from a sinking boat near Libya is still looking for a harbor where the migrants may enter and be processed as possible refugees. The 32 passengers include six minors, one of which is a baby, and two others which are rather young. There are also four women on board and 22 crew members. According to the group Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Malta, and Spain have refused the Sea-Watch 3. ([NLTimes](#)) The NGO whose boat has been stranded at sea for six days between Libya and Malta appealed to EU states to act before supplies start running out. "We are carrying people who have fled strife. We need help as soon as possible. Countries have a duty to respect the law of the sea," said Ruben Neugebauer, spokesman for the Sea Watch 3. "We need a safe port to land. It would be best if we could disembark in Malta or Italy and redistribute the 32 among other EU states," Neugebauer said. ([Times of Malta](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. UN report: migrants subjected to “unimaginable horrors”

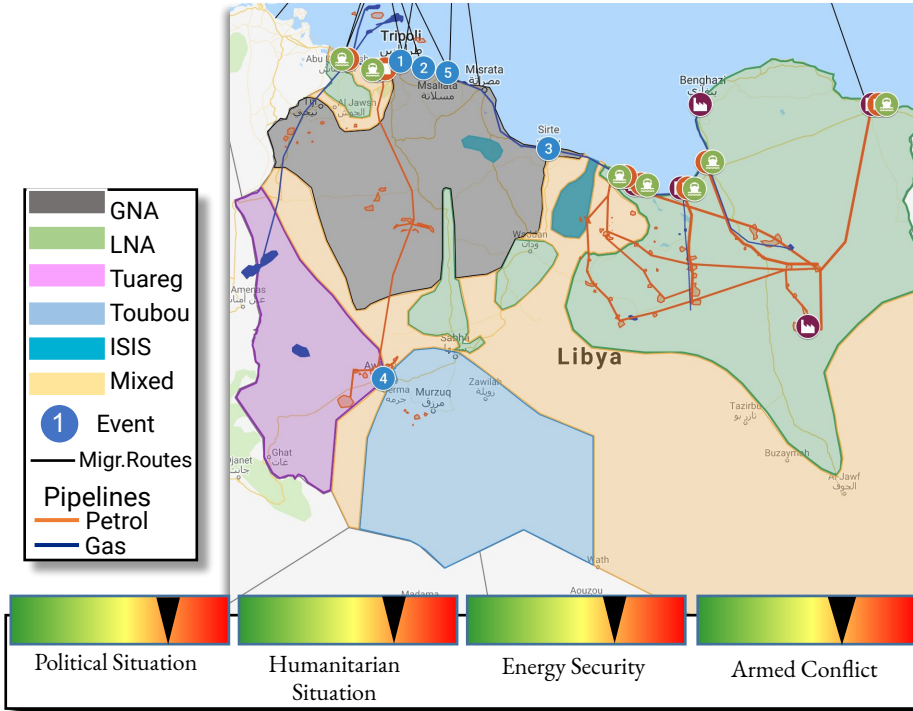
20.12.2018. Migrants and refugees are being subjected to “unimaginable horrors” from the moment they enter Libya, throughout their stay in the country and during their subsequent attempts to cross the Mediterranean Sea, according to a UN report released on Thursday. The 61-page report, published jointly by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the UN Human Rights Office, covers a 20-month period up to August 2018, and details a terrible litany of violations and abuses committed by a range of State officials, armed groups, smugglers and traffickers against migrants and refugees. These include unlawful killings, torture, arbitrary detention, gang rape, slavery, forced labor and extortion.

Based on 1,300 first-hand accounts gathered by UN human rights staff in Libya itself, as well from migrants who have returned to Nigeria or reached Italy, the report traces the entire journey of migrants and refugees from Libya’s southern border, across the desert to the northern coast – a journey “marred by considerable risk of serious human rights violations and abuses every step of the way.” UN staff visiting 11 detention centers, where thousands of migrants and refugees are being held, documented torture, ill-treatment, forced labor, and rape by the guards. Those who manage in the end to attempt the perilous Mediterranean Sea crossing, are increasingly being intercepted or rescued by the Libyan Coast Guard which then transfers them back to Libya, where many are delivered straight back into the pattern of violations and abuse, they have just escaped. The approximately 29,000 migrants returned to Libya by the Coast Guard since early 2017.

The report states Libya cannot be considered a place of safety following rescue or interception at sea, given the considerable risk of being subject to serious human rights abuses, and notes that these “pushbacks” have been considered by the UN Special rapporteur on torture as violations of the principle of non-refoulement, which is prohibited under international law. ([UNSMIL](#))

2. Italy and Malta deny Charity boat with 313 migrants

21.12.2018. The boat belonging to the Spanish aid group Proactiva Open Arms saved 313 migrants in waters near Libya. Malta and Italy denied the aid boat permission to dock and the boat’s calls to Italy, France, Tunisia and Libya have gone unanswered. Finally, Spain gave permission to set course for Spain after Italy and other Mediterranean countries did not answer its request to dock. ([Independent](#)) Earlier Proactiva posted on Instagram that the 311 migrants - including pregnant women, children and babies - had been rescued from “certain death at sea” and said Malta had refused to provide food, adding “this isn’t Christmas”. Meanwhile Italy’s Salvini tweeted that “Italian ports are closed” and the migrants would not be allowed to land. The journey to Spain will take five or six days but another Proactiva vessel is on its way with more supplies. Meanwhile, a German NGO, Sea-Watch, said it had rescued 33 migrants at sea and was appealing for a port where they could disembark. ([BBC](#)) Proactiva Open Arms with three boats, German NGO, Sea-Watch, with one boat started patrolling the Mediterranean in late November. ([France-24](#))



ASSESSMENT

- New UN report clearly indicates that Libyan soil is not safe for migrants. Policies preventing migrants leaving Libya only serves to increase their agony. Based on the sad facts of the report European states should definitely re-consider the humanitarian effects of their policies, adopted to stem migration flows from the country. Additionally, European countries should leverage their commitments/assistance, to Libya, to enable Libyan authorities do their part to prevent human rights abuses. Up to now, EU funneled high amounts of money to Libya, including through renowned Africa Trust Fund and Operation Sophia. However, there seems no development in preventing human suffering and improving conditions for migrants. Therefore, it is necessary to re-assess the utilization of EU funds for Libya.
- Citing a need to foil an attack by Jadran’s forces on oil terminals seems like a disguise for Haftar’s forces intentions moving towards Misrata and Tripoli. Sirte has an important geopolitical position for controlling Oil Crescent, and Misrata is one of the most powerful military/political hubs of Libya. If Haftar takes his steps towards Misrata, it will definitely mess everything once more and destroy all the achievements to date.
- Through its control over oil sales, NOC has a unique and powerful position. Developments in Sharara Oil Field has revealed a divide between the reputable chairman of NOC, Mustafa Sanalla and Serraj. Due to his weak position and forthcoming elections, Serraj adopted an accommodating approach while his bureaucrat Sanalla wants to pursue a hardline against protesters.

3. UNSMIL and PC condemns clashes near Sirte

19.12.2018. Haftar’s forces attacked Saddada Castle between Misrata and Bani Walid, claiming control of the area after brief clashes with forces inside the castle under the command of the former chief of Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG), Ibrahim Jadran and Benghazi Defense Brigades (BDB). The move of Haftar’s forces is seen as an advance on Misrata city, which has mobilized all forces to secure all of its administrative borders. Earlier this week, Haftar’s forces advanced into Abu Najim - 70 km to the west of Sirte - before they were told to leave by central military zone forces. LNA mobilized troops around the oil crescent region, citing a need to foil an attack by Jadran’s forces on oil terminals. ([Libya Observer](#)) The BDB are made up of anti-Haftar forces who used to live in Benghazi but were forced out of their city after Haftar had won the war between them. Haftar refers to them as Islamists/terrorists. ([Libya Herald](#)) The UN mission in Libya warned the parties against consequences of “playing with fire” saying it would hold initiators responsible for the fighting in the vicinity of Sirte, adding that it will deal with them accordingly. Likewise, the Presidential Council (PC) has condemned in the strongest terms the military escalation in Saddada town, saying it is an unjustifiable act that could plunge Libya in violence and chaos once again. ([Libya Observer](#))

4. Sharara Oil Field discussions continue

21.12.2018. GNA announced that following a visit by Serraj, the Sharara Oil Field was reopened after it was forcefully closed two weeks ago by gunmen and protesters demanding better services for the south. Serraj stressed that development projects will be launched in the region, vowing to improve security in the southern border area. Serraj promised for allocation of 800 million U.S. dollars to improve services in southern Libya. ([The Nation](#)) Despite Serraj, reaching an apparent agreement with the Fezzan Anger Movement (FAM) to reopen the Sharara oilfield, Libya’s state National Oil Corporation (NOC) has maintained the force majeure status on the oilfield. FAM confirmed the agreement with Serraj and added that they would remain in occupation of the oilfield until their demands are met within the agreed deadline. NOC considers the oilfield still unsafe for its staff to return to. Moreover, it objects to setting a precedent or appearing to set a precedent by rewarding blockades. Besides, NOC objects to the state being blackmailed into paying a ransom as a result of blockades. ([Libya Herald](#))

5. Libyan port seizes arms shipment from Turkey

20.12.2018. There was widespread anger in Libya this week after Al-Khoms port authorities east of the capital Tripoli seized a container laden with weapons and ammunition coming from Turkey. The authorities in the port said this was the second such seizure in al-Khoms this year. They said the cargo included 3,000 handguns, 400 hunting rifles in addition to 2.3 million bullets. ([Al-Awsat](#)) LNA has called on the UNSC to launch an immediate investigation into what it says are two shipments of military hardware from Turkey to the North African country. ([PressTV](#)) On Saturday, Turkish Foreign Minister Cavusoglu went to Libya and agreed to open an urgent joint investigation into a consignment of arms. The UN mission in Libya has condemned the shipment of arms to Libya as “extremely disconcerting.” ([Libyan Express](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. NOC rejects paying militiamen in Sharara Oil Field

14.12.2018. Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) said it would not pay a "ransom" to have the armed militiamen that shut down the field last week lift their blockade, the company's chairman said in a statement. NOC's chairman said if the Libyan Ministry of Finance paid the militants, this would set a dangerous precedent that would endanger Libya's economic recovery. A day earlier, Mustafa Sanalla said in a letter to the Prime Minister of the UN-recognized government of Libya that if a ransom was paid, NOC would not restart production at Sharara or lift the force majeure on the Zawiya export terminal and refinery, where the crude from Sharara goes. ([Oil Price](#)) The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) warned Thursday that the closure of Sharara oil Field will have serious repercussions on the economic and financial situation of the country. ([Libya Observer](#))

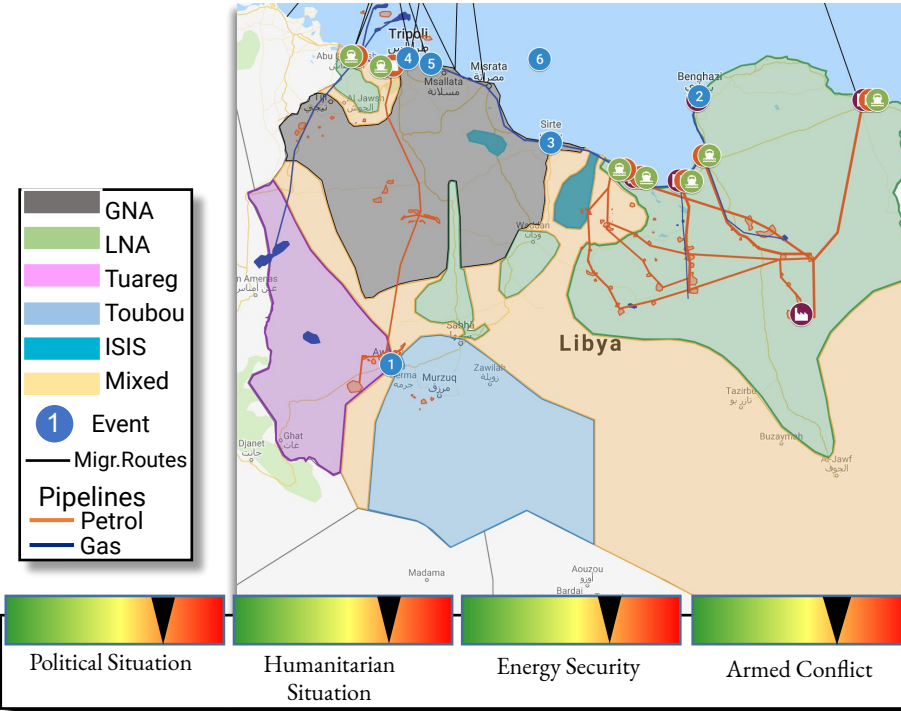
2. Haftar visits Cairo to discuss latest developments

12.12.2018. Libyan General Khalifa Haftar was in Cairo for meetings with Egyptians responsible for relations between Libya and Egypt and to discuss the latest developments in the Libya dossier. With the Egyptians, Haftar will look at "strengthening relations between the two countries in the area of border control to impede infiltration operations" by terrorists, and will conduct "an information exchange about terrorist groups as well as recent developments in Libya in light of efforts by Egypt and the UN envoy to reach a political solution to the Libyan crisis to ensure unity and stability for the Libyan territory," the source said. ([Ansa-Med](#))

By the way, Italy revealed on Monday a new initiative aimed at holding a meeting between head of the Government of National Accord (GNA) Faye al-Sarraj and commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA) Khalifa Haftar. Italy is seeking to bring them together in Rome later this week. Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte stated that he was certain that he will meet both of the Libyan rivals, but he did not disclose further details, reported Italy's AKI news agency. Neither Sarraj nor Haftar's offices commented on Conte's remarks. ([Al-Awsat](#))

3. Haftar's forces advance toward Sirte

15.12.2018. On Friday night, local media outlets and local sources from central Libya reported advances of military formations of brigades related to Khalifa Haftar's self-styled army toward southwestern Sirte towns. Brigade 106 and Brigade of Tariq Bin Ziyad, which is known to be linked to Salafist-Madkhalist ideology of Saudi Arabia, were reported as advancing on Wadi Al-Hamar, Wadi Abu Najim, Wadi Al-Lood and other areas outside Sirte and close to the central region – especially Misrata. The former spokesman for the Operation Al-Bunyan Al-Masrous that defeated ISIS in Sirte Mohammed Al-Ghasri told local news outlets in Libya that they had told the advancing forces to leave the central region and the outskirts of Sirte, "and they left." In the meantime, eyewitnesses in Misurata reported Saturday afternoon a number of warplanes hovering over the city. ([Libyan Express](#))



ASSESSMENT

- As there seems strong social anger behind it, the problems in Sharara Oil Field not likely to be solved so quickly. The agony of South Libyans has been going from bad to worse with high costs (gasoline price is around \$0.12 in the North and \$1.5 in the South,) towering unemployment, scarce food supplies, high crime rates, the pressure of ISIS militants and foreign mercenaries, lack of medical support and transportation means... Closure of the biggest oil field of Libya provided the broader attention to their problems. Their demands seem rightful. However, if authorities submit to them, extreme reactions would turn into a pattern for similar issues.
- The main reason for Conte's efforts to bring Haftar and Serraj together seems that Rome aims to decrease the tension and follow on the promises that Haftar and Serraj made in Palermo.
- The maneuvers of the forces attached to Haftar, towards Sirte, denotes a very dangerous escalation in Libya. On the brink of a collecting a National Conference, such an action would spark new clashes, which might quickly spill over into Western Libya.
- Currently, the rescue operations of Sophia (EUNAVFOR Med) was stopped or bottom out by Italians. As they want to leave all the rescue operations to Libyan Coastguards, the extension of Sophia's mandate only for three months represents Rome's reluctance to deal with rescued irregular migrants.

4. EU extends Operation Sophia for 3 more months

15.12.2018. The European Union has agreed to extend Operation Sophia off the Libyan coast for three coming months. Italy agreed on the extension saying it is technical and has no political intentions after many Italian officials, especially those linked to the party of the current Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, had asked for changes to be made at the operation. Operation Sophia has been stalled for weeks as calls in Italy, especially by Salvini, urged for changing its mission duties, however; extension has been agreed upon by all including Italy. Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has been pressured by the EU on Thursday and Friday summit in Brussels and then he announced that Italy is with the extension of the operation to limit the flow of illegal migrants to Italian ports if rescue operations continued in the sea. Extension is at stake as many EU countries find a need for a change in the nature of the Operation Sophia, while some call for terminating it. In the meantime, the EU also extended EUBAM mission that oversees the borders in Libya for 18 months to come, allowing it a budget of 18 million euros. ([Libya Observer](#))

5. Head of HCS criticize HOR decision

11.12.2018. President of the High Council of State (HCS), Khalid al-Mishri, said that the amendments to the Constitutional declaration made by the House of Representatives (HoR) are contrary to the political agreement, noting that this agreement is the only way to a common political formula. Al-Mishri pointed out that the amendment of the political agreement's articles will cancel the original version, stressing the objection of the HCS on dividing Libya into three constituencies. He also expressed his disapproval of issuing these amendments without referring to the HCS to agree on the form of the state, regarding whether to divide it into several electoral districts or to adopt a single electoral constituency. ([Libya Observer](#)) On 13 December, Mishri visited Turkey and discussed the latest developments in the Libyan scene, including, efforts to end the political deadlock in Libya. ([Libya Observer](#))

OPINION

6. A U.N. Migration Pact Is Dividing Europe

10.12.2018. This year, 3,381 migrants have died around the globe, according to the IOM. Since 2015, that number is 22,459. How to save migrants' lives, while also addressing calls for border controls, has drawn world leaders to Marrakesh, Morocco, this week to discuss the United Nations' Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The 34-page document offers guidelines on how to make migration more orderly and humane. It suggests cross-national cooperation, treating migrants with dignity, eliminating discrimination and even holding culinary festivals "to facilitate appreciation for migrant cultures." None of it is binding. The pact has split the European Union, where migration remains a politically toxic issue, even as the number of migrants arriving to the EU has dropped by 90 percent since 2015. At least seven countries — led by Hungarian President Viktor Orban, the leader of the EU's anti-immigrant nationalists — have refused to sign onto the pact. ([NPR](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. OPEC decides to decrease oil production

07.12.2018. OPEC and its Russia-led allies agreed on Friday to slash oil production by more than the market had expected despite pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump to reduce the price of crude. Oil prices jumped about 5 percent to more than \$63 a barrel as the combined cut of 1.2 million bpd was larger than the minimum 1 million bpd that the market had expected. Saudi Arabia, de facto leader of the OPEC, has faced demands from Trump to help the global economy by refraining from paring supplies. An output curtailment also would provide support to Iran by increasing the price of oil. ([Reuters](#))

2. Libya's largest oil field taken over by demonstrators

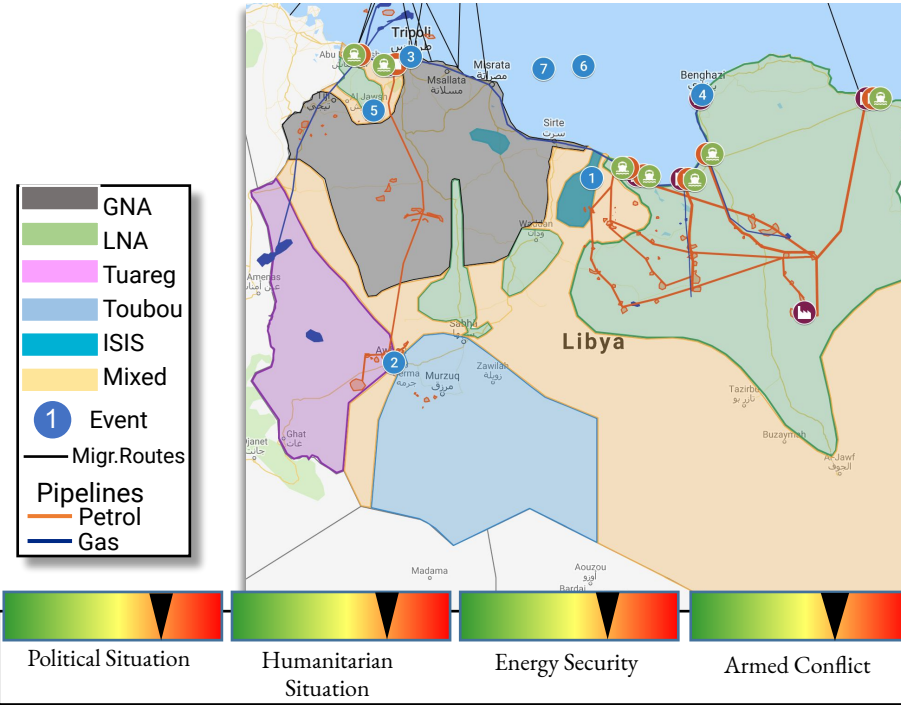
09.12.2018. Demonstrators in the southwest of Libya took over the country's largest oil field in protest at the region's marginalization by the government. They also threatened to close another medium-sized oil site nearby if their various demands, that seek to improve the quality of life for locals, were not met. Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) said the "disgraceful" move could cost the national economy \$32.5 million daily but insisted production had not stopped despite threats to workers. "We want to provide basic life requirements such as fuel, money, hospitals and security," told the movements leader Bashir El Sheikh. ([The National](#))

3. Serraj meets Stoltenberg, Mogherini and Pompeo in Brussels

04.12.2018. NATO is prepared to help Libya rebuild its security and military institutions Stoltenberg said in a meeting with the Serraj in Brussels. According to the Serraj's media office, Stoltenberg reiterated NATO's support for the GNA and the UNSMIL in their continuous efforts to reach a political solution to the crisis of the country and to rebuild the military and security institutions. Earlier on the same day, Serraj met with Mogherini, to discuss security, illegal immigration, economic and other issues of mutual concern. ([Libya Observer](#)) Serraj, also met with the US Secretary of State, Michael Pompeo, and told him that the negative intervention of some countries should end and the US should play a role in that. ([Libya Observer](#))

4. Haftar goes back to Italy

06.12.2018. Three weeks after Palermo Conference, Haftar met with Conte in Rome. According to Italian government's press releases, Haftar and Conte held follow-up discussions of the Palermo for Libya and reiterated the support for the Salame. "This is part of our stance to support stability in Libya." The Italian government said. Upon arriving in Italy on Wednesday, reports said the visit was confidential and he was to meet with the US ambassador to Tunisia – a US official tasked to monitor Libya's crisis. ([Libya Observer](#)) On Sunday, Haftar had left Jordan just hours before the arrival of Serraj, who denied meeting Haftar following reports on their meeting.



ASSESSMENT

- *Libya's oil reserves play a key role in the susceptible oil market. Therefore, the level of oil production is a soft spot for Westerners. Latest protests in Sbarara Oil Fields might have roots in a real social agony or a manipulation by a beneficiary of high oil prices. When read with OPEC's decision to slash oil output despite Trump's pressure, the control of Libyan oil fields/production gains more global importance.*
- *Riding the wave that he caught at Palermo, Haftar continues his negotiations with international actors. His promises to fight against extremist groups in Libya, to stem the irregular migration flows and to maintain reliable oil production, cause the international community to forget about his undemocratic and unlawful profile.*
- *News over Saif al-Islam, Tuaregs, Tebus Misratans or Zintans reminds us that all important stakeholders should be included to attain a perpetual political solution in Libya. Singling Haftar/Serraj or Tripoli-based armed militias as partners to resolve problems in Libya would carry international community to another failure in the country.*
- *The end of Aquarius's mission will cause more unwitnessed deaths in the Mediterranean. Single-handed Libyan coast guards are inadequate to cover SAR missions. Indeed, migrants, who had been drifted in the sea for 12 days proves it.*

5. Gaddafi offers solutions to Libya Crisis

06.12.2018. Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, the son of the late Libyan leader, sent a letter to the Russian Foreign Ministry, including means of ending the eight-year political crisis that has hit the country. His message was received by Russian Deputy FM Mikhail Bogdanov, who is also President Vladimir Putin's special envoy to the Middle East and Africa. Libyan politicians were surprised by this visit, pointing out that Libya's current problem is due to foreign interventions in the first place rather than internal problems. ([Al-Awsat](#)) Saif al-Islam believes that national reconciliation dialogue involving all the warring parties and transparent elections are necessary in order to overcome the crisis. Saif al-Islam also supports a roadmap initiated by Salame. ([Tass](#))

6. Aquarius ends rescue operations in Mediterranean

06.12.2018. After a long standoff and amid an ongoing global refugee crisis, European nations led by anti-immigrant Italian politicians have forced a migrant rescue ship to cease operations. "Europe condemns people to drown," warned Médecins Sans Frontières—also known as MSF or Doctors Without Borders—which operated the ship, Aquarius, with its partner SOS MEDITERRANEE. With just this vessel, the groups have rescued an estimated 30,000 people since February of 2016. "This is a dark day," declared MSF general director Nelke Manders. "Not only has Europe failed to provide search and rescue capacity, it has also actively sabotaged others' attempts to save lives." The ship has been trapped at the French port in Marseilles since Panama revoked its flag earlier this year—citing pressure from Italian officials—and smears have continued since then. ([Common Dreams](#)) In the meantime, The Libyan coastguards have rescued 10 illegal migrants, recovered two bodies and are still looking for 10 others, who have been missing from the boat that capsized off Misrata shores. "22 immigrants were onboard a wooden boat. It had been in water for 12 days" The media office added. ([Libya Observer](#))

OPINION

7. Libyan Warlord Embraced by Foreign Leaders as a Key to Peace

Decades after he led a CIA-backed military campaign against Moammar Gadhafi's regime, a powerful Libyan warlord has become central to international efforts to stabilize the warring nation that holds Africa's largest oil reserves. As Mr. Haftar expands his sway in Libya, he enjoys a deepening embrace from European states, at times overshadowing the United Nations-backed government in the capital Tripoli that he opposes. Some Western officials now regard Mr. Haftar as indispensable to any future Libyan peace pact, even after he rejected a previous U.N.-brokered peace deal in 2015 and has appeared on video ordering his men to take no prisoners in battle. Mr. Haftar has threatened to march on Tripoli, seizing the remainder of Libya by force. Few expect him to follow through on those threats, as powerful militias stand in his way. None of this has stopped European states from courting Mr. Haftar. "Time is on Haftar's side," said Fawzi el-Hadad, a Libyan political analyst in Cairo, "not the side of the others." ([WSJ](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. US AFRICOM hits AQ militants in Libya

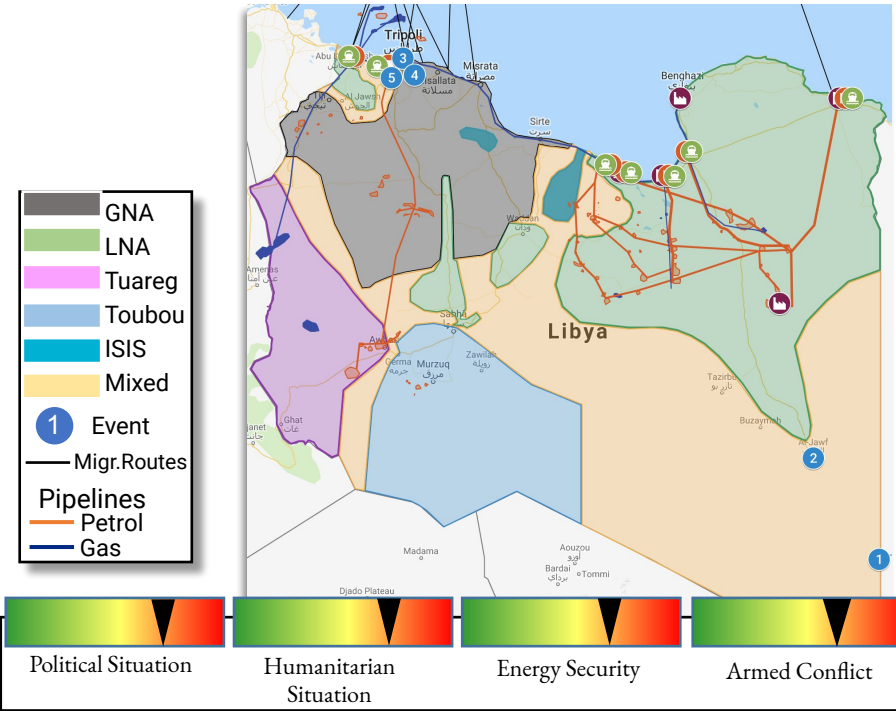
30.11.2018. U.S. forces carried out an airstrike against al-Qaeda militants in Libya, Africa Command said. "In coordination with the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA), U.S. Africa Command conducted a precision airstrike near Al Uwaynat, Libya, November 29, 2018, killing eleven (11) al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) terrorists and destroying three (3) vehicles," AFRICOM said in a press release. "AFRICOM will use precision strikes to deny terrorists safe haven in Libya. We will keep pressure on their network, and they remain vulnerable wherever they are," U.S. Africa Command director of operations Major General Gregg P. Olson said. ([Defense Post](#))

2. Haftar and Serraj in Jordan for reconciliation talks

29.11.2018. Haftar is in Jordan for crucial reconciliation talks with Libya's Serraj, head of the Presidential Council, Arab News has learned. Senior government sources told Arab News that Haftar, the head of the Libyan National Army (LNA), is in Jordan without giving reasons for the visit. Pundits believe it aims to speed up reconciliation talks with Serraj. It is unclear what the added value of Jordan is for the Libyans. ([Arab News](#)) In the meantime, Serraj arrived in Jordan on Saturday for an official visit. According to a statement by GNA's Media Office, Serraj will meet during the visit with King Abdullah II of Jordan and Prime Minister, Omar Al-Razzaz, among other officials. ([Address Libya](#))

3. FMs of Libya's neighboring countries meet in Khartoum

29.11.2018. The foreign ministers of Libya's neighboring countries, who met in Khartoum on Thursday, called for preserving the unity and integrity of the Libyan territory, stopping external interference and focusing on southern Libya in the fight against terrorism and extremism and the organized criminal activities there. In a speech at the opening session, Salameh said that the United Nations was facing difficulties in reaching out to the vast Libyan territory, pointing to the seriousness of the situation there. Sudan's Foreign Minister Al Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed said in press statements that the meeting discussed recent developments in southern Libya and called for immediate response to the dangerous situation. He added that the meeting reiterated the support to the efforts of the UN envoy with regards to holding a conference while "taking into consideration the preoccupations of the countries of the region." The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of Libya, Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria, as well as the representatives of the United Nations, the Arab League and the African Union Commission and officials from Chad and Niger. The Sudanese official announced ongoing plans by Sudan, Chad, Niger and Libya to find a "security arm" to counter the infiltrations along the Libyan borders, and revealed an agreement to form a security committee to maintain security along the borders of the four countries. ([Al-Awsat](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Following Palermo, discussions have again focused on the winners and losers of the Conference. To refresh memories, Haftar was reluctant to attend the conference not to commit himself to the decisions taken and not to sit to a table with Qatar, Turkey and Libyan Muslim Brothers reps. And he had succeeded in excluding Turkey and Qatar from the talks he joined due to his distaste towards political Islamist agenda, an effort, and sentiment shared by Egypt also. Another win was the handshake between Haftar and Serraj. Serraj won the guarantee that Haftar would not try to topple him until elections were held.
- It seems that UN and principal actors build their solution on Haftar and Tripoli-based various Islamist groups. But, the problem is not so simple in Libya: Misratans and groups backed by Turkey, and other militia groups excluded from Palermo talks still have the potential to ruin the UN-brokered peace process. Not to mention powerful terrorist groups like ISIS, Al Qaida, mercenaries and sub-Saharan terrorists in the South of Libya.
- It seems that Jordan will be the new venue for Haftar and Serraj to discuss how to share the general command of the unified military forces. Jordan might have been chosen due to its relatively neutral stance in the Arab/Muslim world. A compromise between Haftar and Serraj would be essential to accelerate and actualize the new UN election timeline.
- On the other hand, irregular migration crisis in the Mediterranean -overshadowed by political developments- is still ongoing. Following green lights to disembarkation of a few migrant ships, the new socialist Spanish government is looking for a more sustainable solution to vessels carrying migrants, which are refused by Italy and Malta. It is highly likely that, until setting up a common migration policy/agency, the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean will not be addressed adequately, and European states will face similar problems every week.

4. 12 Migrants stuck in a Spanish fishing boat

11.11.2018. Since last Thursday the 13 crew members of the "Nuestra Madre Loreto" have hosted 12 migrants from Niger, Somalia, Sudan, Senegal and Egypt whom they rescued from a rubber dinghy off the coast of Libya. The boat's captain, Pascual Dura, told AFP that Italy and Malta had both refused to allow the vessel to dock and unload the migrants while Spain's maritime rescue service only offered to return the migrants to Libya. ([France 24](#)) The captain Pascual Durá, launched a desperate message of help to the Spanish authorities to offer him an urgent solution. ([Int News](#))

OPINION

5. Did Libya gain anything from the Palermo conference?

29.11.2018. The gathering failed to deliver any breakthrough in terms of practical steps to tackle the conflict in Libya other than the usual handshakes between different Libyan parties represented there. It reaffirmed the commitment of the participants to support the UN plan for the country which is yet to bear fruit. Sources behind the scenes spoke of Haftar's anger that both Qatar and Turkey were invited. He accuses both countries of supporting his arch rivals, including Daesh, Al-Qaeda and the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood. Turkey and Qatar were exclusion could have serious consequences for Libya, since Doha and Ankara still have loyal armed militias in western Libya capable of upsetting any security arrangements that they do not like. In the end, Italy had its political show and regional and international worthies had their time in the spotlight, as happened in France in May, but has Libya gained anything from Palermo? The reality is that nobody is likely to ask such a question. ([Middle East Monitor](#))

6. Sisi's Ambitions in Libya

30.11.2018. Haftar has been Egypt's close ally since January 2014, when he rejected extending the mandate of the General National Congress, which was dominated by Muslim Brotherhood members. That May, Egypt helped Haftar launch a campaign against Islamists, not just extremist groups such as the Islamic State, but also militias in Benghazi. Cairo has supplied Haftar with funding, arms, and even soldiers. Egypt's primary goal is to counter the spread of political Islam, particularly in neighboring countries that could pose a threat to national security. In addition, Sisi seeks to control the situation in Libya to confront the potential threat of terrorist groups in western Egypt. In backing Haftar, Sisi further hopes to demonstrate that the model of military rule can provide security and stability. Yet Egypt's clear favoritism in Libya is more likely to perpetuate division and chaos. ([Carnegie](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Libya death toll rises to eight in Daesh attack on Police Station

24.11.2018. The official death toll has risen in an attack on a police station in the southeastern Libyan oasis town of Tazirbu, which authorities are attributing to Daesh radicals. In a Saturday statement, the United Nations said at least eight civilians were killed in the attack a day earlier, with nine wounded, three abducted and nine still missing and believed to be kidnapped. (The New York Times) <https://goo.gl/BEH8ng>

2. Libyan coast guards force stranded migrants off container ship

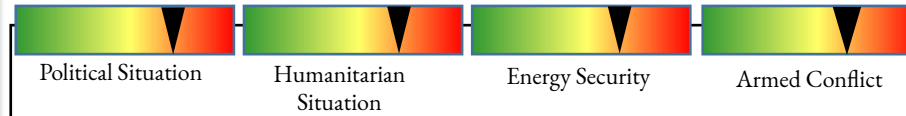
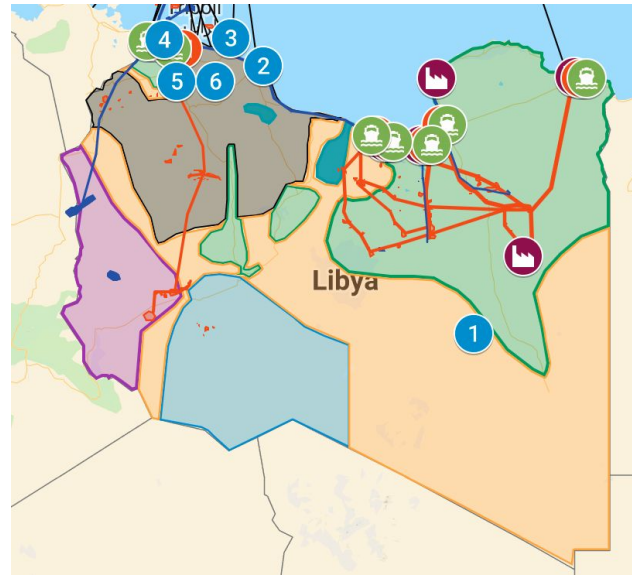
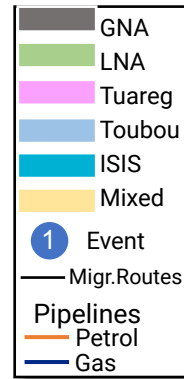
24.11.2018. Libyan authorities on Tuesday forcibly disembarked at least 79 migrants who had refused to leave Panama-flagged "Nivin" cargo ship that rescued them before docking in Misrata port in the west of Tripoli. "A joint force raided the cargo ship and used rubber bullets and tear gas to force (them off the ship). Some had been injured during the disembarkation but are now "in good condition" after treatment in hospital, and all have been taken to a detention center in the city, said. The operation has been carried out under the auspices of Libya's attorney general" the commander of the central region coastguards, Tawfiq Esskair, told Reuters by phone. (Reuters) <https://goo.gl/h8SHIX>

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without Borders (MSF) expressed its concern over the lack of official information on the place and the health of migrants who were evacuated. MSF said in a statement that it was denied permission to visit the immigrants with health concerns who were under their care for ten days, saying that Libya cannot be considered a safe place to migrants. MSF has accused the EU of preventing migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers from reaching Europe, explaining that the migrants have no choice but to be held indefinitely in Libyan shelters. (The Libya Observer) <https://goo.gl/aURBVB>

3. Libya Sees Currency Stabilizing Next Year, Squeezing Militia

20 November 2018. Libya expects to end a long-running liquidity crisis by early 2019 as a foreign currency tax helps the official and black market exchange rates converge at less than 3 dinars to the dollar, the Tripoli-based deputy prime minister said. The chasm between the two rates has enabled armed groups and their allies to reap vast profits to fund the conflict through their control over banks and through scams linked to letters of credit (LCs) that grant dollars at the official exchange rate. The official rate, used only by some state companies, has remained at 1.4 dinars.

To bridge the gap, the internationally recognized government in Tripoli slapped a 183 percent tax on commercial and private hard currency deals in September, bringing the effective official rate for such transactions to 3.9 dinars. Together with a new allowance that allows Libyans to withdraw up to \$10,000 annually using a credit card, this has helped bring down the parallel rate to 5.30 from between 6 and 7 two months ago, according to dealers' rates seen by Reuters. Once the rates converge and the supply of dinars and dollars is freed up, Libya will begin reducing fuel subsidies that cost the state up to \$5 billion last year and have led to rampant smuggling to neighboring countries, Maiteeg said. (The Washington Post) <https://goo.gl/pHQJLH>



ASSESSMENT

- Despite several setbacks like not having all political actors around the table, Palermo Conference has indeed provided more political stability to further enable reforms and political support from international actors.
- Tax reform enacted in September and allowance for citizens to withdraw \$10,000 per year in credits seems promising in bringing economic stability to the country. The support from international actors, investments into the energy sector, amelioration in the citizen's withdrawing rights and finally abolition of subsidies for energy would put the economy on the right tracks benefitting citizens over armed groups. Still an overall stability depends on the reforms to attain conditions allowing elections and a constitutional referendum to be held. As reiterated by Salame during his speech to the UNSC: "To both Houses, elections are a threat that must be resisted at all costs, but to the citizens, elections are a means of liberation from the ineffective and increasingly illegitimate authorities."
- The resentment in South emanating from continued marginalization and porous borders has led transnational terror networks like Daesh and Al Qaeda to find fertile grounds. This week's attack by Daesh testifies for that. Initiatives like that of UNDP and UNICEF are steps in the right direction to provide services in the region.
- Forced disembarkation of migrants in Misrata Port and silence on the side of EU is heart-breaking. Many detention centers have fallen under the control of armed forces which operate them under inhumane conditions to extract ransoms. As MSF declared: "Libya cannot be considered a safe place to migrants."

4. UNDP and UNICEF to support municipalities in Libya with recovery programs

25.11.2018. The UN Development Program (UNDP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) have confirmed that they will support 24 municipalities in Libya as part of the Recovery, Stability, and Socio-economic Development Program formulated jointly by the European Commission and Italy. "The 50-million-euro program will enhance access of citizens to health, education, water, sanitation, and social services," the UNDP and UNICEF explained. (Libya Observer) <https://goo.gl/Fhr8eT>

OPINION

5. With a lack of progress in Libya's transition, what would a national conference in 2019 mean?

21.11.2018. Many other countries in the region (Yemen, Somalia, Tunisia) have experience with national conferences that offer lessons for Libya. Those experiences show that while national conferences create significant opportunities, they are also fraught with risks. Tunisia presents one of the only successful experiences with dialogue processes in the region, but the context and manner of proceeding will be challenging to replicate in Libya. First, Tunisia's conference was convened by a number of civil society actors, whereas Libya's process is effectively being launched by the UN and will depend heavily on additional support from the int'l community. Secondly, Tunisia's conference lasted for over a year and made plodding progress, which most Libyans would probably view as highly undesirable. Finally, the Tunisian conference encouraged agreement between the country's leading political forces, whereas, in Libya, the rationale seems to be more to maneuver around political elites. (The Washington Post) <https://goo.gl/X6NyZU>

6. Spare a Thought for Libya's \$67 Billion Wealth Fund

21.11.2018. The Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) was created a decade ago. The bulk of the LIA's money, though, is subject to sanctions imposed by the UN in 2011 designed to safeguard the nation's wealth from being pilfered. The fund has assets of about \$67 billion. That includes roughly \$8.5 billion invested in some 84 companies in Europe and the U.S., including German insurer Allianz AG, U.K. telecoms company Vodafone Group Plc and Italian bank UniCredit SpA. As a result of the sanctions, returns on the investments have been miserly, amounting to about 1.5 percent to 2 percent in the past year. The sanctions that have frozen the funds limit its room for maneuver, meaning \$21 billion is trapped in deposit accounts. As the portfolio's bond holdings matured in recent years, the proceeds had to be transferred to the fund's cash accounts. The LIA's next step will be to appoint an independent firm to go through several years of accounts and prepare a full audit that can be presented to the UN. However, the UN could make a start in preparing the LIA for its future independence by allowing it to freely invest the proceeds of securities as they mature. Provided it makes good on its promise, the LIA should be unshackled to invest the proceeds of about \$1.5 billion of bonds. (The Washington Post) <https://goo.gl/pHQJLH>

KEY EVENTS

1. Palermo Conference ends with lots of good wishes

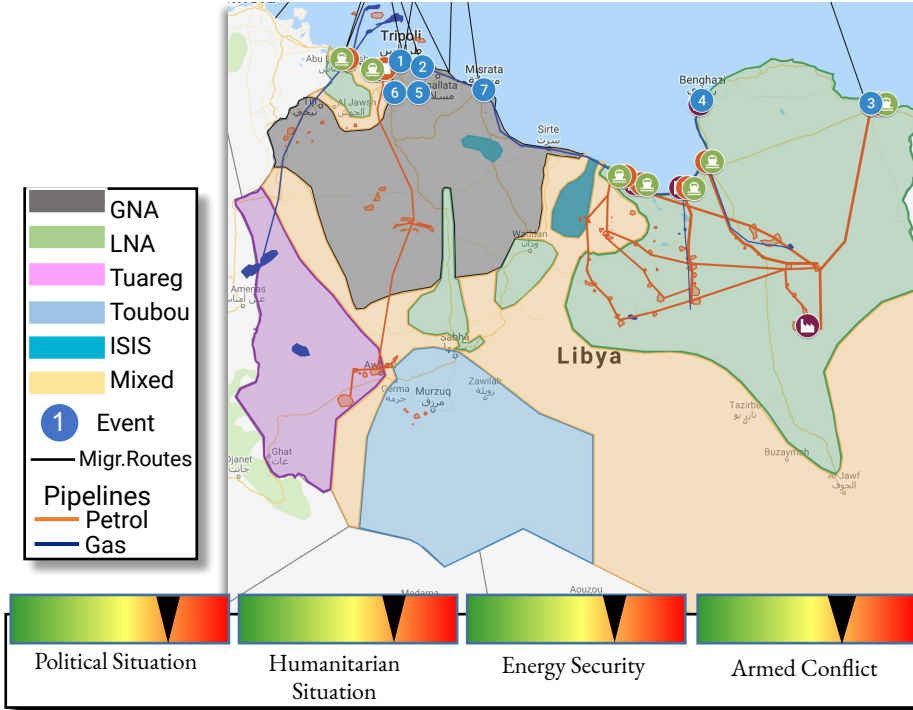
13.11.2018. The final statement of Palermo Conference has stressed the importance of completing the constitutional entitlement and holding the elections by spring 2019. "There is no room for a military solution in Libya. The peaceful settlement is the only solution to the crisis," the statement read, insisting that the political agreement is the only framework for restoring stability in Libya. The statement welcomed the commitment of the Libyan parties and the efforts made to push the House of Representatives towards issuing a referendum law in order to complete the constitutional process and head for credible and peaceful elections. The statement also recalled the importance of respecting the electoral results, insisting that any party who seeks to obstruct the electoral process must be held accountable. The participants pledged to support the outcome of the UN-backed National Congress actively and to press the key players to implement its outcomes without delay, in addition, to support the building of a unified military institution under civilian authority. In conclusion, the attendance called on Libya's neighbors to support the stability in Libya. ([Libya Observer](#))

2. Haftar and Serraj meet in the side-lines of Palermo

13.11.2018. Haftar came to Palermo late and only attended the side discussions. Haftar and Serraj held a meeting on the sidelines of the summit- their first in over five months. During talks, Haftar said that he would be happy if Serraj were to stay in power until elections are planned. Conte shared photos of the meeting, showing both Haftar and Serraj smiling alongside Sisi, the EU's Donald Tusk, Tunisian Essebsi, and Medvedev, among other leaders. The meeting was not welcomed by Turkey's delegation to Palermo, which pulled out of the conference, saying it was "deeply disappointed" at being left out. ([The National](#)) The mayors of Zintan and Misrata said "Nothing will change, those leaders do not represent us", who were excluded from the meeting in Sicily, and on the vote in 2019 added that "We are not mature, we need time. We need to support those cities that are the only guarantors of the territory." ([La Stampa](#))

3. Moscow decides to get more involved in Libya

14.11.2018. Russia is prepared to take part in the work to restore Libya's economy, and the social sphere said Medvedev. "Restoring the economy, restoring the social sphere, prospective projects, which could be and need to be restored – this is also key for resuming normal life in Libya," added he at Palermo. Medvedev noted that Russia is willing to collaborate and to develop economic projects with Libya. He clarified that the collaboration would depend on national reconciliation in the country. ([UAWire](#)) Russian officials have said that Gaddafi's son Saif Al-Islam will have a part to play in the country's peace process and Russia is in regular contact with him. "There is a certain group of people who have been supporting everything that is linked to Gaddafi and his family," the Russian officials stressed. However, he noted, Russia could not neglect the fact that there are several sanctions imposed against Gaddafi's son. ([Middle East Monitor](#))



ASSESSMENT

- As expected there is no significant breakthrough with the Conference. The most important outcome is the consensus on the new UN new roadmap. Salame as the owner of new roadmap, and Italy as the mediator and new diplomatic leader of Libya files are the winners of Palermo. Haftar was also a winner of the Conference, with last minute maneuvers over attendance and his role in the discussions cemented his long-sought international legitimacy.
- Another important outcome is the role of Russia. It was the first time for Moscow being high level represented in a Libya Conference. Moreover, rather than leaning back, Medvedev actively attended solution seeking discussions. Other Libyan and external actors of Palermo were happy with Russia's constructive involvement. So, it can also be counted to Palermo's credit. Russia aims to act the savior in Libya, using political and economic means, rather than military ones. For that end, along with supporting sponsoring Haftar, keeps good relations with all parties including Gaddafi's son.
- The problem is the post Conference media statements of the parties, as was following the Paris Summit. Controversial media statements of the parties have a huge potential of undermining the hardly reached consensus and implementation of the promises. One another risk factor for Palermo Summit decisions is dissatisfaction of Turkey and France and non-participant Libyan groups. Conte and Salame need to find a way to get those unsatisfied and shunned actors on board.

4. Discussions continue with statements on Palermo

15.11.2018. Haftar and Serraj engaged in a media debate regarding a dispute that happened between them during the security meeting, which discussed the Libyan crisis on the sidelines of the Palermo conference. A statement issued by the office of Haftar indicated that he attended the meeting to discuss all security issues related to the war on illegal immigration and terrorism and securing Libya's borders with neighboring countries. During the meeting, Haftar discussed restructuring the army and not its unification, but he implicitly refused to recognize Serraj as the top commander of the national army. Haftar also considered the status of the army commander an exclusive matter only given to the prospective head of state, and its duties must be transferred to the general commander of the army until the presidential elections are held. He noted that it is not acceptable to include armed militias in the national army which now holds about 80 thousand fighters. During the meeting, Sarraj reiterated the importance of completing security arrangements, economic reforms and providing services to citizens throughout the country, according to a statement issued by his office. The statement mentioned Haftar without referring to his military rank or position. ([Al-Awsat](#))

5. Serraj hints a compromise with Haftar

17.11.2018. Serraj hinted at the possibility of reaching a compromise with Haftar on the powers and functions of the Army Commander in the aftermath of the Palermo. Serraj stated that Haftar wants to be commander of a unified Libyan Army. However, the 2015 UN-sponsored Skhirat peace agreement stipulates that the prime minister is also the army chief. Corriere Della Sera newspaper quoted Serraj as saying that a compromise could be reached. He did not provide further details. ([Al-Awsat](#))

6. Serraj slams European leaders for hypocrisy

08.11.2018. Serraj has lambasted European leaders for their "hypocrisy" on the migrant question and called for more intensive cooperation. "I see so much hypocrisy in European demands toward our country. You are asking us to hold over 600,000 migrants inside our borders, of which only 30,000 are in official refugee camps. However, you yourselves, who are infinitely richer than us, refuse to accept even one," the prime minister said, speaking to Italy's Corriere Della Sera. ([Sputnik](#))

7. Migrants refuse to disembarkation in Misrata

18.11.2018. 80 migrants, including children, aboard a Panama-flagged merchant vessel, have been stranded in the sea since 08 Nov. Some 94 migrants refused to leave a ship after they were rescued 62 miles north of Misrata. However, then negotiations succeeded in getting off 14 immigrants, including a woman and a child. The rest of the migrants are demanding to be transferred to Europe, or allow their voluntarily return to their countries or a third country. ([Al-Awsat](#)) Red Crescent had provided basic need and conducted medical checkups to the migrants aboard the cargo ship upon its arrival to Misrata Port about a week ago. Amnesty International said the migrants on board the ship are "at risk of torture if forced to disembark in Libya." ([Libya Observer](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Salame shifts from election plan to national conference

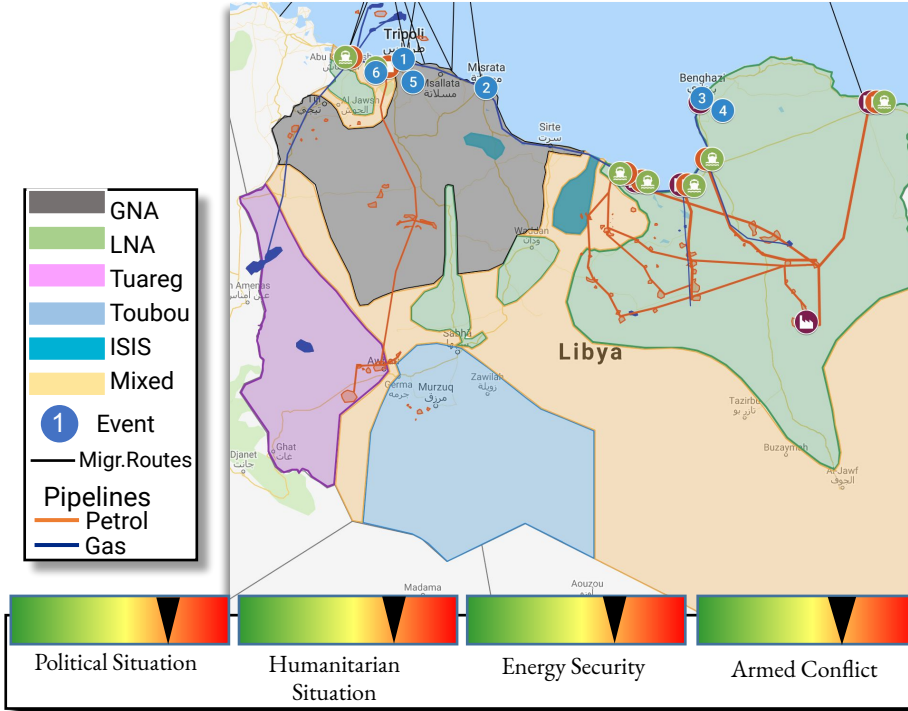
08.11.2018. Libya should start the process to hold an election in spring 2019 only after a national conference to discuss its ongoing conflict, the UN Libya envoy said, officially burying the unlikely idea of a vote next month. Violence and a deadlock between rival administrations had made vote goal unrealistic, although nobody had declared it officially dead or offered a new time frame. Instead, the UN wants to focus on a national conference to give Libyans a forum to discuss their future and bridge divisions between armed groups, tribes, town and regions, UN Libya special envoy Ghassan Salame told the Security Council. "The National Conference is to be held in the first weeks of 2019. The subsequent electoral process should commence in the spring of 2019," Salame said, without specifying whether he meant it was expected then or it ought to happen then. Salame said the internationally recognized House of Representatives had deliberately failed to approve legislation to hold a vote. "The House has failed to uphold its responsibilities," he said. "It is now clear that the postponed sessions and contradictory public statements were simply intended to waste time. "To both Houses, elections are a threat that must be resisted at all costs, but to the citizens, elections are a means of liberation from the ineffective and increasingly illegitimate authorities," Salame said. ([Reuters](#))

2. Libyans want national government and their fair share

03.11.2018. The findings by the non-governmental Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue highlight wide discontent of ordinary Libyans with a struggle between two governments, rival armed groups, tribes and regions since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. UN had mandated the center to stage 77 meetings in 43 places across Libya to engage with all parts of society, a rare grassroots experiment in a country where few dare express themselves freely for fear of armed groups. More than 7,000 Libyans participated in the meetings, some 30 percent of whom took part online as volatile security made it difficult to come in person, the group's 77-page report obtained by Reuters said. "A common grievance expressed by participants in the consultation process was the lack of any government that genuinely represents and unifies the population," the report said. "The great majority of participants also agreed that the immediate priority for a new government should be national reconciliation," it added. Libyans are demanding a share distribution of resources and an end to looting by armed groups of oil and gas revenues, the real power holders. "A sense of anger and bitterness about the economic situation was frequently expressed, especially with regard to the National Oil Corporation, Central Bank, and Libyan assets abroad," the report said. ([Reuters](#))

3. Haftar visits Russia ahead of Palermo Conference

07.11.2018. Russia's DM Shoigu met Haftar in Moscow, Russian media reported, signaling Kremlin support ahead of a conference aimed at settling the Libya's years of strife. Shoigu and Haftar discussed the Libyan crisis and the security situation in the Middle East and North Africa, Russian news agencies said, citing a defense ministry statement, without giving details. ([Reuters](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *The Palermo Conference starts tomorrow. Unfortunately, there is no much reason to be hopeful from the Conference. It will provide a long-sought prestige to Rome in Libya Crisis. However, with the current players around the table, it will be naive to expect a breakthrough. Compared to previous Paris meetings, it will broaden the representation of different Libyan groups, but the presence of some key attendees is still not clear. In any case, most of the actors seem willing to maintain the status-quo. Last minute speculations over Haftar's participation seems to have frightened Conte who rushed to Benghazi to convince Haftar. It seems that following his visit to Moscow, there is a different game in Haftar's mind. Let's hope that his new game won't cause new griefs in the region.*
- *This week, Salame -the seventh UN Special Envoy for Libya- officially declared a new plan with new priorities. Pointing to the current house of representatives (HoR) and upper house (HSC) as those responsible for the failed elections, Salame intends to postpone elections until after the formation of new legislative bodies via "National Conference." The findings of the research of the Center for Humanitarian Dialog (desire for a representative government and fair share of resources) will presumably be used as leverage to implement Salame's new plan and to replace the "time wasting" and "failed" HoR and HCS. The convincing power of UN and Western States on the competing Libyan groups into reconciliation would normally be the determinant of the success for Salame's new plan. However, Russian interference in the political game may complicate the efforts to find solution.*

4. Another speculation over Haftar's attendance to Palermo

11.11.2018. Haftar will not take part in Palermo Conference a source in the LNA told Sputnik. "Marshal Khalifa Haftar, will not attend the upcoming conference that will be held in Palermo, Italy, on November 12-13, in order to find a solution to the political and security crisis in Libya," the source said. ([Sputnik](#)) On the same day, Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte visited the Libyan city of Benghazi to meet Haftar. Conte travelled to Benghazi to discuss the "latest developments on the Palermo conference", said a senior official from Haftar's self-proclaimed Libyan National Army. Haftar, who visited Rome in late October, has confirmed he would take part in the conference, according to the Italian government. But pro-Haftar Libyan media later reported that he would boycott the talks, without saying why. Contacted by AFP, his staff declined to confirm or deny the reports. ([Daily Mail](#))

5. Libyan Players set for Palermo Conference

09.11.2018. Main Libyan actors from the east—Haftar and president of the HoR, Ageela Salah, Prime minister of the UN-backed GNA, Faye al-Serraj, and head of the HSC, Khalid al-Mishri—are supposed to attend. The heads of state of the US, France, Germany, and Russia have been invited: none have confirmed their attendance. The US should send Pompeo. ([Atlantic Council](#)). EU also confirmed that Mogherini will be present at the Palermo. The EU said the conference will aim at finding a solution to end the political deadlock in Libya and help boost and support the efforts of the UNSMIL in that regard, in addition to discussing elections and security and economic reforms. ([Libya Observer](#)) Sarraj, has urged the international community to find a "common vision" for the country, ahead of crisis talks in Palermo next Monday. In remarks to AFP, Sarraj hit out at "negative interventions by some countries" in Libya, without naming them. ([Al-Awsat](#))

6. Libyan Navy saves 199 migrants at sea

08.11.2018. The Libyan Navy has rescued 199 illegal immigrants, including women and children, while attempting to reach Europe by sea. "A Libyan Coast Guard patrol rescued 179 men, 16 women and 4 children on board rubber boats in the middle of the sea," the Information Office of the Libyan Navy explained. The office added that the immigrants were of different African nationalities. The migrants were handed over to the immigration HQ of the Immigration Control Agency after providing them with humanitarian and medical assistance, according to the Information Office of the Libyan Navy. ([Libya Observer](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Military official rejects Haftar's role

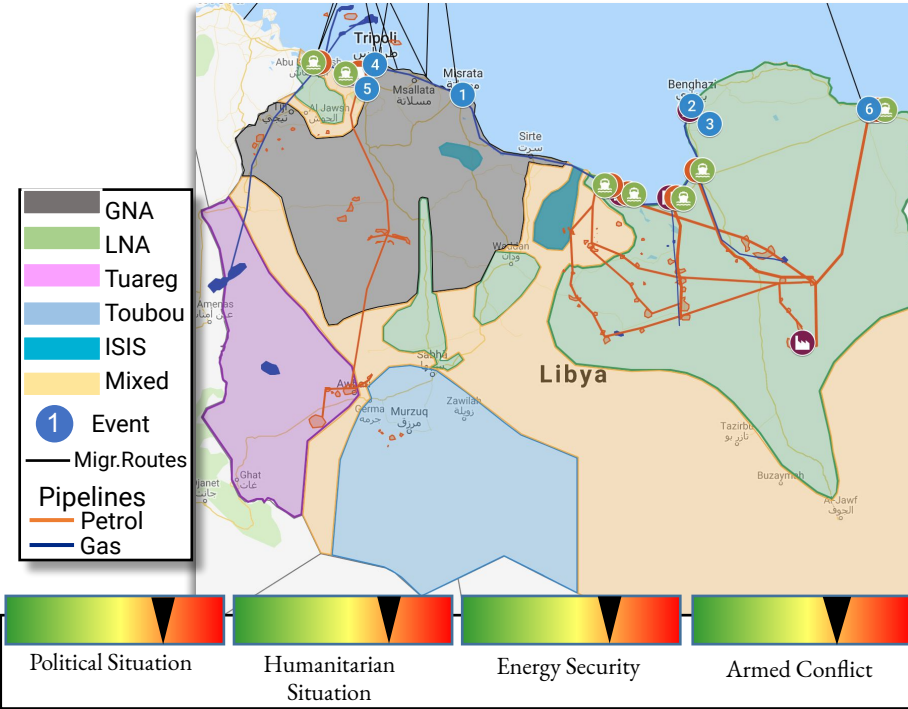
01.11.2018. The chief of military intelligence at Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous forces Mohammed Al-Ganidi said "honorable military officials" reject the results of Cairo meetings that aim at unifying the Libyan military institutions. Al-Ganidi told reporters that the rejection is based on the leaked information that says "the retired colonel and dual citizen as well as war captive" would be heading the Libyan army, besides the fact that the meetings were held in Egypt which is "an enemy to Libyans and supporter for Haftar and his militias in their crimes in Benghazi and elsewhere - like the crime of Al-Abyar where 36 persons were slaughtered." He also said that countries like Egypt, UAE, and Saudi Arabia which support militias cannot help form a Libyan military institution, citing UAE's aircraft that take off from Khadim airbase in Marj town to strike civilians in Derna without Libyan authorities' knowledge. "Initiatives to unify the military institutions must come from inside Libya. We met in Misrata two years ago and several officials came even from eastern Libya to come up with an agreement on the matter but the Presidential Council (PC) hindered it and so did Serraj by disallowing a meeting in Mittiga and Misrata airbases." He explained. He also indicated that they need a Libyan National Army that is concerned with securing the country's borders and respects peaceful power circulation as February 17 revolution days, rejecting any discussions that involve Khaifa Haftar and his militias. ([Libya Observer](#))

2. Libyans discuss over Supreme Command of Army

03.11.2018. LNA Spokesperson Ahmed al-Mesmari told that the post of "Supreme Commander of the Army" may consist of three persons, in the event of modifying the current formation of the presidential council, from a president with eight deputies to a president with two deputies only. Based on the constitutional declaration in Libya, Speaker of the House of Representatives (HoR) Aguila Saleh is the head of state and the Supreme Commander of the army. However, the Skhirat agreement, signed between Libyan parties in late 2015 in Morocco, gives Fayed Sarraj, head of the Government of National Accord (GNA), the right to be the "Supreme Commander of the army", after the agreement was included in the constitutional declaration. This has not happened so far. According to participants in the Cairo meetings to unify the Libyan military institution, the differences have become almost exclusively regarding who will become head of state. In other words, will it be Saleh or Sarraj? ([Al-Awsat](#))

3. Haftar confirms attendance of Palermo Conference

30.10.2018. Conte stated that Haftar has confirmed his intention to participate in the Palermo conference. Conte and Haftar had a long and articulate meeting which included an exchange of views on the Libyan situation. Conte reiterated that it will be a "Conference for Libya and not on Libya", based on two fundamental principles, such as full respect for the assumption of responsibility on the Libyan side and the inclusiveness of the process, which is part of the path traced from the UN plan. ([Libya Herald](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *In the run-up to Palermo Conference, there are positive developments in Libya. Following the cease-fire in Tripoli, authorities are determined to improve security and economic conditions. An agreement -on the new PC structure-between two legislative bodies (HoR and HSC) is on the doorstep, which had never happened before. Western and Eastern politicians are eager than ever to unify the state institutions for reaching stabilization and solving economic problems. Palermo Conference should build on current developments. If the Italian government tries to impose a new plan from scratch, it might lead to recommencement of the violence in Libya. Instead, reinforcing Salame's plan and UN efforts, and finding mechanisms to consolidate current dialogue between internal players by providing unified international support would be a wiser approach. Let's hope that energy and migration-related expectations of the far-right Italian government and conflicting interests with France won't disrepute the Conference.*
- *On the other hand, the most challenging topic is constructing a unified national army and military leadership. Cairo discussions and backlash from western military groups demonstrate the magnitude of the problem. There is no magic wand to solve this problem, but the Trump administration can throw US's weight for reaching a compromise, as he did last summer. As you will recall, during Oil Crescent crisis Haftar had given up the control of oil sales to Tripoli after being threatened with US/UN sanctions.*

4. Libyan leaders visit Rome ahead of Palermo Conference

01.11.2018. Libya's main political figures visited the Italian capital Rome this week ahead of the international conference on Libya organized by Italy to be held in the Sicilian city of Palermo on 12-13 November. The head of Libya's HoR, Ageela Saleh, concluded his official visit to the Italian capital Rome at the invitation of Conte. During his visit, Saleh met with Italian FM Milanese and discussed with him the latest political developments and the situation in Libya and ways to reach a solution to end the current crisis in Libya ahead of the Palermo Conf. The Deputy head of Libya's PC, Ahmed Maetig and the head of the Libya's HSC, Khaled al-Mishri, was also in Rome where they separately met on Wednesday with Milanese, during which they discussed preparations for the Palermo conference. ([Libya Herald](#))

5. Serraj reveals his discussion agenda for Palermo

01.11.2018. Serraj, the head of PC/GNA has revealed his discussion agenda for the Palermo Conference. According to the statement, the main points of discussion for Serraj were the affirmation of both the presidential and parliamentary electoral process, conducted on a constitutional basis. The ending of the existence of parallel state institutions and the consolidation of all existing state institutions. The continuation of the implementation of the (new) security arrangements, which are stipulated in the 2015 Skhirat Libyan Political Agreement (LPA). Finally, the new economic reforms. ([Libya Herald](#))

6. HoR and HSC agree on new PC structure

31.09.2018. "Libya's parliament, HoR, and the HSC have officially agreed on a mechanism for restructuring the Serraj-led PC. A copy of the joint final agreement was handed over to the UNSMIL head Ghassan Salame at a meeting. At the meeting, the next steps to be taken, the establishment of a timetable and the venue for holding of electoral assemblies, were also discussed with the heads of the HoR and HSC Dialogue Committees, Abdulsalam Nasia and Basheer al-Hosh respectively. In their joint press release, the HoR and HSC said that they had, as per article 12 of the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA), agreed on restructuring the current PC to a three-member body consisting of a President and two Deputies, with a separate prime minister. They stated that this newly restructured PC would act as a unity government for all Libya. Also, that the restructuring of the PC and unification of all state institutions is a patriotic project to end the existing political split in the country. The press release said that the role of the new executive authority is to unify state institutions and prepare for presidential and parliamentary elections. ([Libya Herald](#))

KEY EVENTS

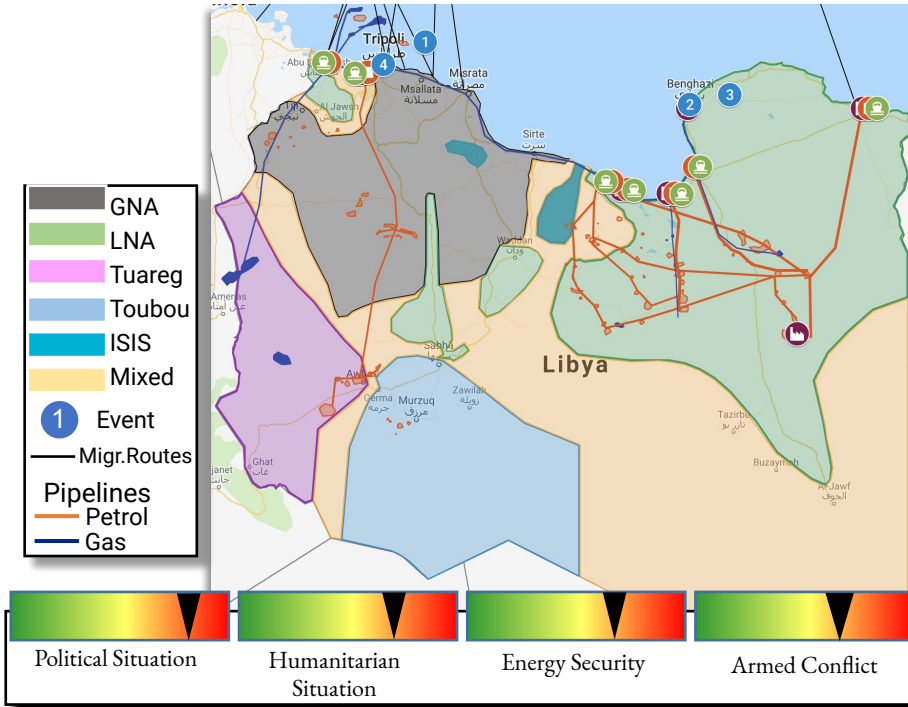
1. Italian FM: Haftar attends the Palermo Conference

23.10.2018. "UN special envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame met with Haftar. The development emerged as efforts are underway to bring together all rival parties to attend next month's Italy-hosted conference aimed at resolving the Libyan crisis. LNA spokesman Ahmed al-Mismari said that Haftar has yet to decide on whether he will attend the Palermo talks.

On 27 Oct, Italian FM Enzo Milanese declared that Haftar had on more than one occasion expressed his readiness to attend conference. Italy's AKI news agency expected the Haftar to pay a visit to Rome next week to meet with local officials over his participation in the Palermo conference.

Italian PM Giuseppe Conte, meanwhile, announced that he had received Putin's support to hold the conference. Moscow will contribute to the Palermo meeting, which will be held on November 12 and 13, he revealed. "Russia is a main player in the effort to establish stability in Libya," he stated. ([Al-Awsat](#)) Putin hailed Italy's plan to host the Libya conference, saying Russia fully supported the new Italian government's approach to resolving the North African nation's political crisis. He said he wasn't sure whether he would be able to attend the event, but pledged that Russia would be represented and do its best to help advance the Libyan settlement. ([AP](#)) Merkel is among foreign leaders slated to attend, while the US and France have also promised to send high-level representatives, Italian FM said. ([Reuters](#))

The Head of the Presidential Council (PC) Serraj met Friday in Rome the Italian PM Conte and discussed the preparations for the Conference. They also reviewed the latest security arrangements and reforms done by the government in Tripoli and across Libya, as well as fighting illegal immigration and assisting Libya's coastguards and border guards with training projects. ([Libya Observer](#)) On Friday Conte also met with head of the UNMSIL, Ghassan Salamé, to discuss latest developments and Palermo conference. According to a statement by the Italian government, Conte reiterated the central role of the UN in the process of stabilization of Libya. Salame, for his part, said the conference can "give an essential signal of support of the international community to the political process". ([Libyan Address](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Only two weeks before the Palermo Conference, the participation of Haftar still remains unknown. There are speculations, but Haftar hasn't confirmed any of them yet. The Italian PM and FM are extremely worried to ensure that Haftar appears in Palermo, fearing that the absence of Libya's strongman would destroy any hopes of reaching a solution to end the turmoil in Libya. Haftar is experienced enough to see the dilemma for Italians and use it as leverage. The question is, how experienced are Italian politicians to be up to Haftar's game.
- The power vacuum in South of Libya increasingly attracted Chadian and Sudanese opposition to the region and escalated criminality. Against those militias, up to now, GNA and LNA haven't provided much support to Southern Tribes. Other than condemnation, GNA did nothing, and LNA staged some air attacks. Haftar's ally France would be the driving factor behind the currently expected LNA operation in South of Libya and Chad-LNA partnership. With this operation, Chad will get rid of opposition militias, and Haftar will extend his control to the majority of Libya. However, Haftar has no enough power to reach his goals in such a vast area; thus, he will need military support from Chad, France, and his other sponsors. This operation has the potential to worsen the situation in Libya.
- Having the pressure of UNSMIL in addition to latest militia clashes, Serraj and the PC might feel the necessity of immediately implementing security measures in Tripoli in line with Libyan Political Agreement.

2. LNA gets ready to launch a new operation in South Libya

24.10.2018. Haftar launched military operation Murzuq Basin to "eliminate gangs, terrorist and criminals, that have been kidnapping and robbing in the south of the country". The operation will be launched in coordination with the operations of the central military areas, Sebha, Brak Al-Shati, Ubari, Ghat, Murzuq and Kufra. This comes on the back of Haftar issuing a decision to form a joint force "to cleanse the south of the country from criminal gangs and terrorist groups". Meanwhile, in Tripoli, PC member Ahmed Kajman said that today's Cabinet meeting concentrated on the crisis in the south of Libya. Kajman said that what is happening in the south is very dangerous with the presence of criminal gangs that violate Libyan sovereignty, threaten national security and engage in armed robbery. He stressed the need to be resolute in confronting these gangs from both the Chadian opposition and the Sudanese Justice and Equality forces. ([Libya Herald](#))

3. Russian aircraft use Libyan airport

25.10.2018. Russian military aircraft have landed at an airport in eastern Libya that has been used as a military base by the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Open source ADS-B transmitter signals have shown that two Russian Aerospace Forces (VKS) Tupolev Tu-154M passenger aircraft have flown at least two missions via Al-Khadim airport. Also known as Al-Kharouba airport, Al-Khadim is inside territory controlled by the Libyan National Army (LNA). UAE military aircraft were seen there in 2016 as new hangars and other infrastructure were constructed. The UAE aircraft appear to have flown combat missions in support of LNA operations against Islamist militant factions in Libya. ([IHS Jane's](#))

4. Presidential Council (PC) issues new Tripoli security plan

27.09.2018. "The PC issued a statement announcing the approval of the security arrangements to secure Greater Tripoli area. The security arrangements are proposed by the committee that was formed last month in the wake of bloody clashes in Tripoli between armed groups in southern Tripoli districts. The security arrangements aim to guarantee the safety of residents, their properties, and state properties as well, and establish order in the capital. ([Libya Observer](#)) UNSMIL welcomed the Greater Tripoli Security Plan, which focus on forming joint police and army forces to secure the city. During a meeting on Tuesday with military and field commanders of the city of Misurata, some 250 km east of Tripoli, the head of the UN Mission, Ghassan Salame, said the UN Mission plans to replace the armed groups in Tripoli with a joint force. ([Libyan Express](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Libyan Army reunification talks continue in Cairo

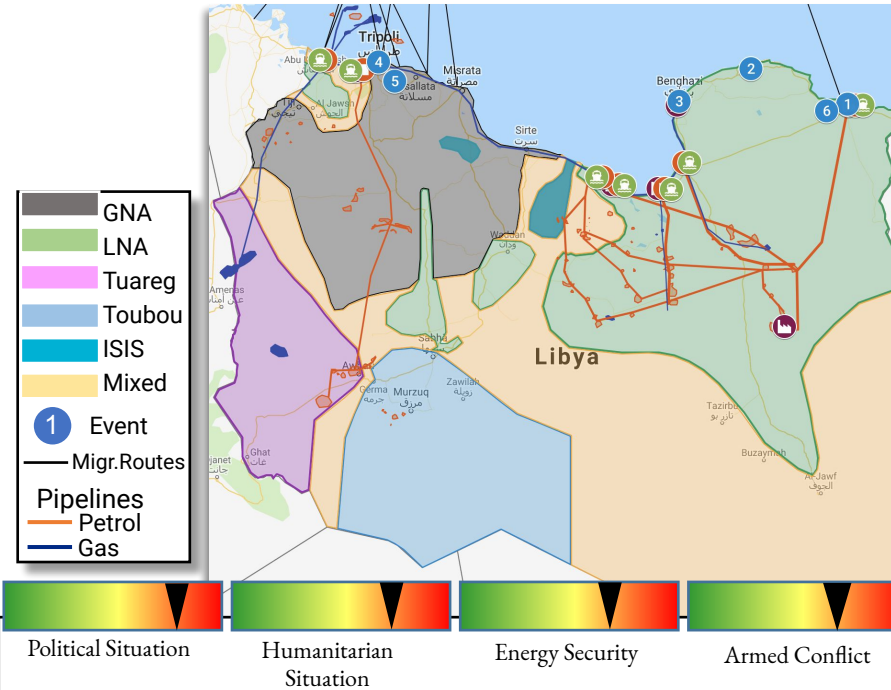
20.10.2018. The Presidential Council (PC) has denied reports circulated by some media outlets concerning reaching a final agreement on the unification of the military establishment. Earlier, the spokesman for LNA, claimed in a press statement that a formal agreement was reached on the unification of the military establishment in Libya during Cairo meetings. He also added that the agreement included the organizational structure, tasks and duties of each council, in addition to some proposals concerning the armed groups in the western region. ([Libya Observer](#)) The seventh round of Libyan army reunification talks resumed in Egypt this week with the participation of senior leaders from the LNA and GNA. Since its launch in September 2017, the talks between Libyan military commanders have succeeded in a relative rapprochement, with an agreement on "the organizational structure of the Libyan military establishment, and the establishment of the Supreme Defense Council, National Security Council and the General Command Council." ([Al-Awsat](#)) The sources expected that the results of those meetings might come spurious because the supervisors of the meetings support Haftar's side. Besides, the commander of the military council in the city of Misrata, Bin Rajab, told a TV channel that his side refuses any settlement if Haftar is part of it. Bin Rajab said that the attendants of Cairo meetings can only represent themselves, adding that any meetings outside Libya discuss the Libyan army issues should be refused. ([Libya Prospect](#)) The new Egyptian proposal for the unification of the Libyan military institution contains forming a military council that represents all political parties, including the Gaddafi regime. The proposal adds that Khalifa Haftar will be head of the council but with limited authorities. ([Libya Observer](#))

2. LNA gets ready to launch a new operation in South Libya

20.10.2018. "The LNA leadership stated that it is planning a wide-scope military operation in the south of the country to eradicate the Sudanese, Chad, and local opposition groups and gangs. The Libyan parliament called on Haftar, Thursday, to send military reinforcements urgently to Southern Libya in order to expel Chad opposition gangs that are having ongoing clashes with residents there. ([Al-Awsat](#)) Head of GNA Fayez al-Sarraj also has pledged to take "strict measures against mercenaries and gangs" reaching the country's south from abroad. ([Al-Awsat](#))

3. Haftar not attending Palermo Conference

17.10.2018. "Sources confirmed that Haftar will not attend the Palermo conference on Libya in November for several reasons. Some of the reasons, according to the sources, were that there is no clear agenda for the conference, no clear objectives, and no list of participants. ([Address Libya](#)) Besides, Ali al Saidi, Libyan deputy close to Haftar, claimed that Saleh and Haftar will not go to the Conference. The declaration arouses many concerns in the Italian government because Saidi is one of the largest representatives of an area of Fezzan (an important area for traffic control and transit of migrants). ([PRP](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *The unification of Libyan army one of the most essential steps towards normalization. Establishment of a neutral national army would pioneer unification of executive authorities and fair elections. It is a pity that the facilitator of Cairo talks -Egypt- is an intimate sponsor of Haftar. The supervisory position of Egyptians raises fears and mistrust among others, which is likely to hinder reaching a sustainable solution. It is expected that at the end of the talks dominant parties will declare an agreement on new (unified!) army structure and request lifting the arms embargo on Libya.*
- *As assessed earlier South of Libya is increasingly becoming a safe haven for mercenaries and insurgent groups. It can be the very reason for Haftar to project force to South of Libya. It is a long shot, but if Haftar achieves to gain the control of South of Libya, he will also be the one, who controls illegal immigration routes in addition to oil crescent.*
- *It seems that the preparations for the Palermo Conference are not going as good as expected. There left less than a month but still, there is no concrete statement but speculations over participants, goals, and agenda of the Conference, which is causing irritation among Libyans and hesitation among stake holders. Undoubtedly, the absence of Haftar is a failure and will hamper an applicable solution. However, next week, if Conte can convince Putin to attend Palermo than it would affect Haftar's position. Additionally, current tempo of Italian government would end up postponement of the Conf.*
- *Since the latest Tripoli turmoil, negotiations between HoR and HCS to change the PC, moving along unprecedentedly promising. It is highly likely that Serraj will be replaced in the near term.*

4. Rome: Palermo Conference may not be decisive

20.10.2018. The Italian news agency AKI quoted FM sources as saying that they are working intensively on issues related to the Palermo conference on Libya on Nov 12-13. Diplomatic sources said they received "good reactions from both the UN and other partners", noting that the event should not be considered "decisive" as "solutions will not come out of it," but "another important stage in keeping up with the roadmap" to establish security and stability in Libya. Adding that the preparations for the event were "hard work," given the "large number of active players", targeting the participation of 23 countries as well as the Libyan parties. Diplomatic sources said they were working on "multiple tracks, such as those related to the economy, security and the agenda to be presented to the Libyan parties." The conference itself will be "a roadmap update," which was developed by the UN earlier, with the hope they will also address political issues, "starting with the prospects for holding elections when the necessary conditions are met." ([Wasat](#))

5. Haftar insists on securing elections and liberating Tripoli

15.10.2018. Haftar announced its readiness to secure any electoral process in regions under its control. Al-Awsat also learned that the LNA was making logistic preparations to "liberate" the capital Tripoli, which had seen in recent months clashes between rival militias. The preparations were almost complete as Haftar inaugurated ten new security and military brigades in the western region. These developments reveal that he was secretly preparing a military offensive against Tripoli in spite of UN and western efforts to reach a political settlement in the country. Sources close to Haftar told that the ten brigades were highly trained and six of them are deployed in the eastern Benghazi region. They revealed that a meeting was recently held by a number of LNA officers to discuss the situation in Tripoli and the western region as a whole. They added that LNA units affiliated with the general command "were prepared to carry out any order." "No order has yet been given for them to act," they said. Haftar had declared in September that "liberating Tripoli was an unavoidable option." ([Al-Awsat](#))

6. HoR and HCS close to agreement

18.10.2018. Libya's House of Representatives (HoR) set four conditions for agreeing to cooperate with the High Council of the State (HCS) on the pre-amendment of the executive authority and the formation of a new Presidential Council (PC), with a president and two deputies, instead of the current presidential council of the GNA headed by Fayez al-Sarraj. The HoR spokesman indicated that the parliament approved the request of the HCS on the proposal to amend the new structure of the executive branch. He explained that, after the vote, the parliament conditioned its approval with the cancellation of Article 8 of the additional provisions of the 2015 political agreement considering that Egypt would soon host a dialogue to unite the military. The spokesman indicated that among the conditions: a timetable for the formation of the executive branch within a maximum period of 30 days, the inclusion of the political agreement in the constitutional declaration, and granting members of the new presidential council a week to choose their president. ([Al-Awsat](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. UK Press: Russia sets up a stronghold against west in Libya

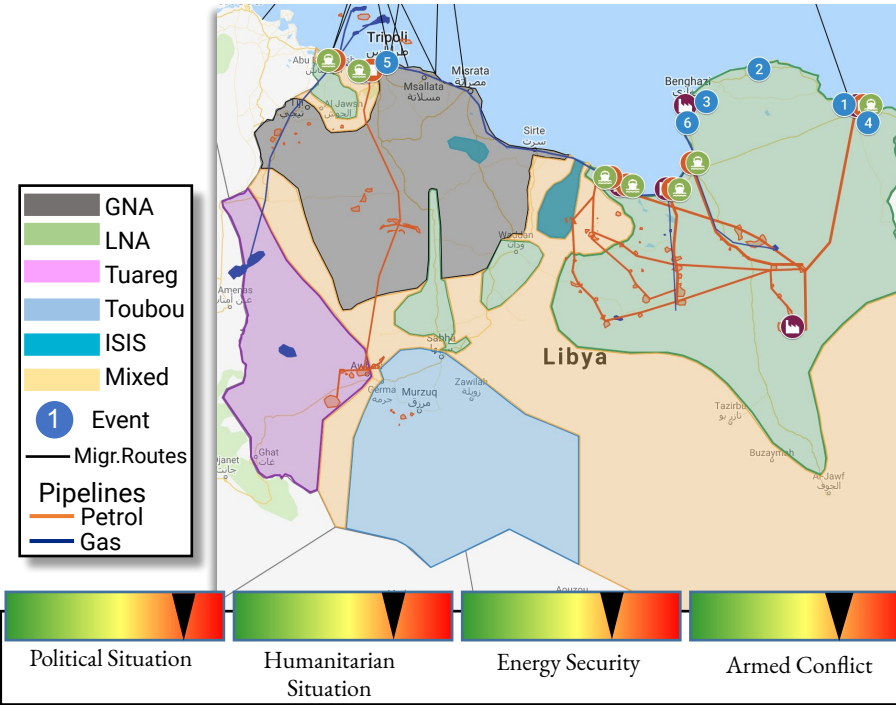
08.10.2018. British intelligence warned Theresa May that Russia is moving troops and missiles into Libya in a bid to enforce a new stranglehold on the West. Intelligence chiefs have told the PM that Vladimir Putin wants to make Libya “his new Syria”. Moscow is sending missiles to Libya to get a stranglehold on European immigration routes, and seizing control of the biggest illegal immigration route to Europe is seen as Moscow’s primary goal. The Sun allege that “dozens” of officers from the GRU military spy service as well as its Spetznaz special forces wing are already on the ground in eastern Libya, initially carrying out training and liaison roles. Two Russian military bases are already now up and running in the coastal towns of Tobruk and Benghazi, using the cover of the controversial Russian private military company the Wagner Group which already has outposts there. Russia’s Kalibr anti-ship missiles and S300 air defence missile systems are also now believed to be on the ground in Libya. ([The Sun](#))

2. Russia refutes news over intervention to Libya

09.10.2018. The Russian Embassy in London refuted the news in UK press over Russian intervention to Libya. “This publication has nothing to do with reality. We are treating it as a new attempt to shift the responsibility for the ruined country and destroyed lives of millions of Libyans on Russia which had no relation to the 2011 NATO military intervention which grossly violated the whole range of UNSC resolutions,” a representative of the embassy told reporters, according to Russian news agency Sputnik. The embassy added that Russia supported peacemaking efforts in Libya and never planned any military intervention. ([Libyan Express](#))

3. RBC confirms Russian military activity in Libya

09.10.2018. Following the news in UK media, Russian magazine RBC confirmed the Russian military presence to Libya based on sources close to the Defense Ministry. The Russian contingent in the country is presented including the elite airborne units, transference in the eastern area of the parts in the suburbs, he said, adding that the movement has begun in recent months. Sources confirmed to RBC Russian military activity in the region and pointed out that Russia’s ally in Libya is LNA led by Haftar. ([RBC](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Although the newspaper, which released the news over Russian intentions in Libya, is known with hyperbolic news coverage, and Kremlin denies the allegations, RBC confirms Russian military activities in Libya. As assessed in week 32, Russia-LNA convergence would be a game changer. Haftar currently is the most influential figure and controls the oil crescent of Libya, only lacking international legitimacy. Therefore, Syria-Libya analogy is not exactly valid. Assad was the legitimate government, and Russian troops were invited by him. In Libya Haftar and Russian military intervention has no legitimacy and Russian military intervention will not be by the book. Besides, backing another dictator would infamize Russia.
- Despite these, if Russia sides Haftar in Libya crisis and wins, might have the ability to control irregular migration to Europe, allowing Putin to make Turkey’s Erdogan like threats – “If you ... I open the border gates to Europe” – Besides, Libya is the primary country for balancing oil prices following Iran sanctions. If Russia acquires control over Libyan oil production, gains the ability to speculate oil supply/prices. Additionally, Russia might gain access to valuable Libyan ports to control the Mediterranean, and re-gain Libyan arms market, more than \$4 billion in the Qaddafi era.
- The best option for the West is immediately leaving aside diversified manipulative policies and adopting a unified approach to solve the Crisis and be ready to react on-time to prevent Crimea/Syria like de-facto.

4. HoR-HCS negotiate to change Presidential Council

11.10.2018. The High Council of State (HCS) has put off the voting on the House of Representatives (HoR) proposal to reshape the Presidential Council (PC) to next Monday. According to the HCS’s member Saad Ben Shrada, Thursday’s session saw the members agreeing on amending the proposal then the voting was delayed till Monday session. He told reporters that the HCS has earlier tasked its dialogue committee to amend the proposal of the HoR due to some qualms by certain HCS members. “In essence, there is an agreement on the proposal to reshape the Presidential Council, but to be safe we referred it to amendment and then voting.” After endorsing the new PC members by the two councils, HoR will elect one the members a president of the PC, which will in turn elect a Prime Minister in a week time, after that the two councils form a committee to agree on sovereign posts’ nominations. ([Libya Observer](#))

5. Salame briefs Stoltenberg

10.10.2018. The Head of the UNSMIL Ghassan Salame, and his political deputy, Stephanie Williams, met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to brief him on the political, economic and security developments in Libya. Sources confirmed that Salame intends to participate in the meeting of NATO ambassadors within the NATO Council. ([Libya Observer](#)) On 11 Oct, Salame also meets with the European High Representative for Foreign Policy Federica Mughnerini, to exchange views on the next steps needed to pursue the political transition, ahead of the European foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg next Monday. ([EEAS](#))

6. Haftar’s spokesperson slams the draft constitution

10.10.2018. The spokesman for the LNA, Ahmed Al-Mismari, said in a presser that the current Libyan constitution draft is miserable and not up to the ambitions of the Libyan people, adding that the referendum law passed by the HoR was done in a very “cynical manner.” Al-Mismari indicated that Haftar won’t allow any more prolongation of the political crisis in Libya. “Haftar is positive that Libyans will reject the constitution and then we should immediately go to parliamentary and presidential elections as per Paris declaration of principles in last May if the constitution was rejected by the people from the first referendum round.” Al-Mismari said. Meanwhile, eastern MPs rejected the passing of the referendum law saying “30 members from Tripoli region” met and passed it, adding that the law violates the constitutional declaration and needs amendment first and the majority of two-thirds of members afterward. ([Libya Observer](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. HoR-HCS negotiate to change Presidential Council

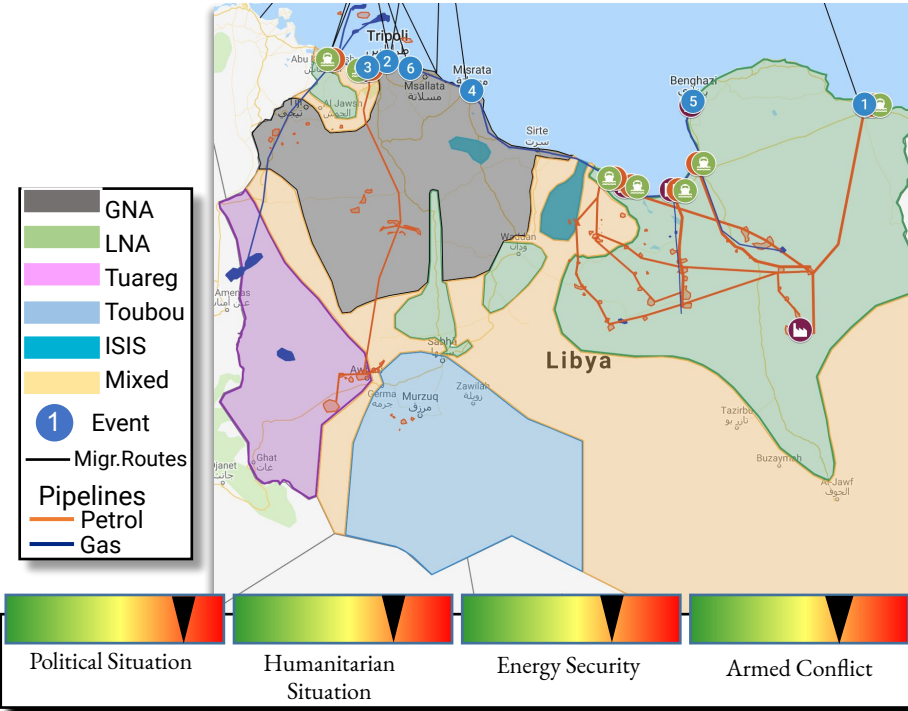
01.10.2018. The member of the House of Representatives (HoR) Hamad Al-Bindak revealed that intensive talks are currently taking place between representatives of the HoR and the High Council of State (HCS) with the participation of the UN envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame, noting that the talks are proceeding well. Al-Bindak explained in a press statement that it was agreed to reshape the Presidential Council (PC) headed by Fayez al-Sarraj, who will also head the unified government, adding that the HoR will give confidence to this new government. He further clarified that all sovereign state institutions will also be unified; however, the unification of the army will be postponed to a later stage, as he put it. ([Libya Observer](#))

2. UNSMIL praises security arrangements in Tripoli

06.10.2018. The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) praised the new security arrangements in the Libyan capital Tripoli adopted by the Government of National Accord. "UNSMIL welcomes the progress made by the Greater Tripoli Security Arrangements Committee," the UN mission said in a statement. The finalized plan, submitted by UN-backed Libyan Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj, stipulates "the withdrawal of armed groups from sovereign institutions" to be replaced by regular forces, according to the statement. The Libyan Ministry of Interior announced on Thursday that the armed group al-Nawasi handed over Tripoli's seaport to the government as part of the new security arrangements. ([Libyan Express](#))

3. Italy to host a Libya Conference on 12-13 November

02.10.2018. Italy will host an international conference on Libya in Sicily next month to try to bring together opposing forces and forge dialogue in the warring nation, Italian Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi said. The meeting will be held in the Sicilian capital Palermo on Nov. 12 and 13, with key players from both within Libya and abroad expected to turn up, Moavero told parliament. "We want to find a common solution, even though there will be different opinions around the table," Moavero said, adding that the goal was to help restore peace in Libya and facilitate an inclusive political process ahead of possible elections. Italy bristled at the move to fix a date in the face of continued clashes between rival factions, and few Western diplomats believe the vote can go ahead in the current climate. Moavero said he did not expect the Palermo meeting would focus on specific dates. "No deadlines will be imposed or tasks set for the Libyans," he said. ([Reuters](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Serraj is now trying to take the necessary steps to eliminate armed militia groups and establishing a joint army/police forces, which he should have been made, in the last three years, after Skhirat Agreement. It seems not easy, but the upcoming weeks will show his ability to implement security reforms without falling under the influence of armed militias.
- The eventual success of ongoing negotiations between HoR and HCS would open be an opportunity to break the political stalemate in Libya. If they can unify of sovereign state institutions (e.g. government, Central Bank of Libya and National Oil Corporation) would be a great achievement ahead of Palermo Conference.
- Italy had a unique chance with Palermo Conference to win the leading role in Libya Crisis. Following the latest turmoil in Tripoli, all parties realized that it will not be possible to maintain current status-quo and they need to compromise. Russia and US declared their attendance to Italy. Also, most recent UNGA served as a preparatory stage for Palermo Conference. Likewise, NATO's willingness to train Libyan security forces would be an essential asset to assist the transformation of partite armed militias into reliable security institutions. For the sake of not wasting this critical opportunity, Italy should be cautious about chasing her national interests and constructing an inclusive conference structure. It seems that Palermo Conference will be one of the most important milestones of the Libya Crisis.
- On the other hand, the hardline approach of far-right parties continues to claim lives. Doubling of public support to Salvini's policies demonstrate the dominance of populist policies to shared European values.

4. NATO is willing to train Libyan Security Institutions

04.10.2018. The Secretary General of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, said they are ready to train Libyan military forces. Stoltenberg said in a presser after a meeting for NATO defense ministers in Brussels that the alliance wouldn't reject training Libyan forces and is ready to help the country rebuild its security and military institutions, especially the defense ministry and security apparatuses. No confirmation was made by Stoltenberg on whether NATO will be part of the Sicily conference on Libya on November 12-13. Meanwhile, Russia announced Thursday that it will be part of the Italian conference on Libya. ([Libya Observer](#))

5. Haftar accuses other parties

02.10.2018. Haftar still supports plans for national elections in December but says other players are not fulfilling their part for the vote to take place. His downbeat comments to Reuters add to growing doubts that a French plan, backed by the UN, to hold elections aimed at ending seven years of conflict in the oil producer will go ahead. Haftar, refused to say whether he would run in presidential elections as expected, saying only: "Which elections are you talking about? When they are announced and the door opened to run for them, you will know the answer." "we are ready to play our part in securing elections on the agreed date," Haftar said in the written response. "But the rest of the parties have breached their commitments ... and have not taken any steps to fulfil their role," he added. ([Reuters](#))

6. Research reveals rise in sea death rates

01.10.2018. Italy's closing of its ports to rescued migrants is driving up deaths at sea, an Italian think tank said, using calculations based on numbers collected by UN agencies. Since taking power in June, Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, who heads the far-right League party, has refused to allow charity rescue ships to dock in Italy, a policy that has broad popular support after the arrival of almost 650,000 people from North Africa since 2014. Though arrivals are down 80 percent from last year, Salvini's hardline on immigration has helped more than double support for his party since the March national election. But IOM estimates of the number of dead or missing at sea suggest there are dire consequences to this policy, according to Matteo Villa, a researcher at Italy's ISPI think tank. In the four months since Salvini took power, the average number of deaths per day has risen to 8, compared with 3.2 in the period between July 16, 2017 and May 31, 2018, when the previous government was in charge, Villa's calculations show. The death rate in September was 19 percent, so about one in five migrants who attempted to reach Italy from North Africa perished. ([Reuters](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Militia fights in Tripoli seem over

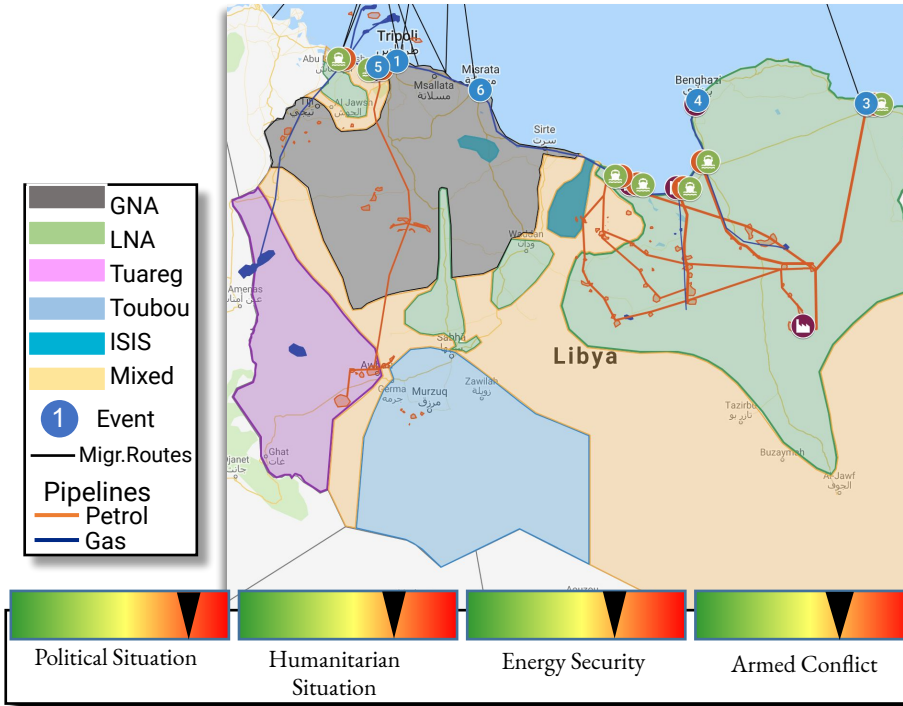
25.09.2018. Fighting in the Tripoli has ended, the city's Security Directorate announced, after nearly a month of fierce clashes that left over 115 people dead and 560 others wounded. Misrata's Al-Smoud Brigade and Tarhouna's Seventh Brigade reportedly retreated. A reconciliation agreement between militia groups was signed, paving the way for an end to the fighting with the release of prisoners on both sides. Security forces removed sand barriers from the fighting zones and gave permission to thousands of displaced families to return to their homes, as news of the ceasefire spread. Some 25,000 people, half of whom were children, had been displaced by the clashes according to the UNICEF. ([Middle East Monitor](#))

2. Serraj criticizes HoR

25.09.2018. Sarraj said that the Presidential Council (PC) will not be "a hostage" to the House of Representatives (HoR), and will seek alternatives to hold elections and enable the people to choose their representatives and governments and end this stage, with all its political and legislative institutions. His statement came in the ministerial meeting on Libya on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York with the participation of the foreign ministers of France, Algeria, Tunisia, Chad and the European Union. He stressed that he will not disregard the election option announced more than a year ago, which included the initiative of the UN envoy on the holding of concurrent parliamentary and presidential polls under a sound constitutional basis to overcome the power struggle and end the transitional stage, to a stable and lasting one. ([Libya Observer](#))

3. HoR passes constitutional amendments

24.09.2018. The HoR declared that it has approved the necessary amendments to the temporary constitution that were needed for the referendum law for Libya's permanent constitution. The declaration came from the HoR's spokesperson Abdalla Belheeg. It is expected that the HoR will now refer the referendum law to the High National Election Commission (HNEC) within a week. If it is deemed that there is a "right environment" to hold elections, a date will need to be decided between HNEC, the HoR and the Serraj government. UNSMIL will no doubt have a considerable advisory input. It is nevertheless worth bearing in mind that question marks persist over whether the HoR followed the correct technical procedures in passing the amendments to the temporary constitution that were needed for the referendum law. This could leave the referendum law and the constitutional amendment vulnerable to legal challenges. ([Libya Herald](#))



ASSESSMENT

The clashes around Tripoli, leaving more than 100 dead, 500 wounded and thousands of displaced people, for now, seem to have ended. Militia groups, not satisfied with the status quo in Tripoli, retreated. However, the clashes collapsed the illusion of security in the capital and unearthed the corruption, unlawfulness and the dissatisfaction of Libyans. At this point, all the actors realized the unsustainability of the status quo and the urgency of finding a yet another solution. It is widely accepted that the UN-backed Serraj administration has failed its mandate, to eliminate armed militia groups and establish a credible security organization, since the Skhirat Agreement of 2015. Tripoli conflicts may result in the fall of the Serraj government and a change in Presidential Council structure. For this, it is hoped that, although it seems highly tricky, HoR and HCS will reach an agreement by making some compromises from their positions. However, it is likely to encounter resistance of Serraj and Tripoli-based militias, owing to the eventual reluctance to giving up the power/money that they have. UN or other international actors might need to intervene to negotiate and convince militias out of their positions.

4. HoR pushes for a new PC

25.09.2018. HoR moved forward a step in re-formulating the Presidency Council currently led by Faiez Serraj. In its Tuesday session, the HoR authorized the Chairman of its Dialogue Committee, Abdulsalam Nasia, to communicate with the High State Council (HSC) in order to agree on the mechanism of selecting a new executive authority. It will be recalled that under the terms of the 2015 Skhirat Libyan Political Agreement, the Presidency Council can only be changed with the agreement of both the HoR and the HSC. To this end, a committee, the Dialogue Committee, has been created to facilitate negotiations between the two bodies. This would take the form of a Presidential Council (PC) made up of a president and two deputies. Belheeg said that the HoR instructed Nasia to conclude these procedures in less than two weeks from Tuesday (13 October). Part of the new reform is also the appointment of a fourth person as prime minister who is not a member of the PC. ([Libya Herald](#))

5. Libya FM asks UN for a security mission

28.09.2018. Libya's UN-backed foreign minister called on the UN's political mission in the country to take up a "security and stability" support role. Mohamed Sayala, who made the remarks at the UN General Assembly in New York City, did not specify if he had in mind a UN peacekeeping mission. "We call for conversion of UNSMIL, which is a special political mission, into a mission of support for Libya's security and stability," he said without providing further detail. ([New Arab](#)) "Salame's action plan has not attracted the needed progress as required by our government, which is with the calls urging for general elections seeing the Libyans' participation in voter registration." He explained, saying they are looking forward for the concerned authorities to their bits regarding the elections. ([Libya Observer](#))

6. UN Envoy surprised by Sayala's UN speech

29.09.2018. The UN envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame told Aljazeera TV that he was surprised to Sayala's request for a security mission. "Maybe Sayala said he wanted the UNSMIL to do more than politics. I will talk with the PC Head about the request made at the UNGA." Salame also said that after meeting representatives from the HoR and HCS, and discussing breaking the political impasse, he sensed unwillingness among parties to return to the political dialogue in Tunisia and the framework of the joint amendment commission that wanted to amend the political agreement. He also said that most Libyans wish to change the current political organs but lack the peaceful methods to do so, saying that there are politicians who reject the change to hold on to their posts. ([Libya Observer](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. Ceasefire collapses in Tripoli

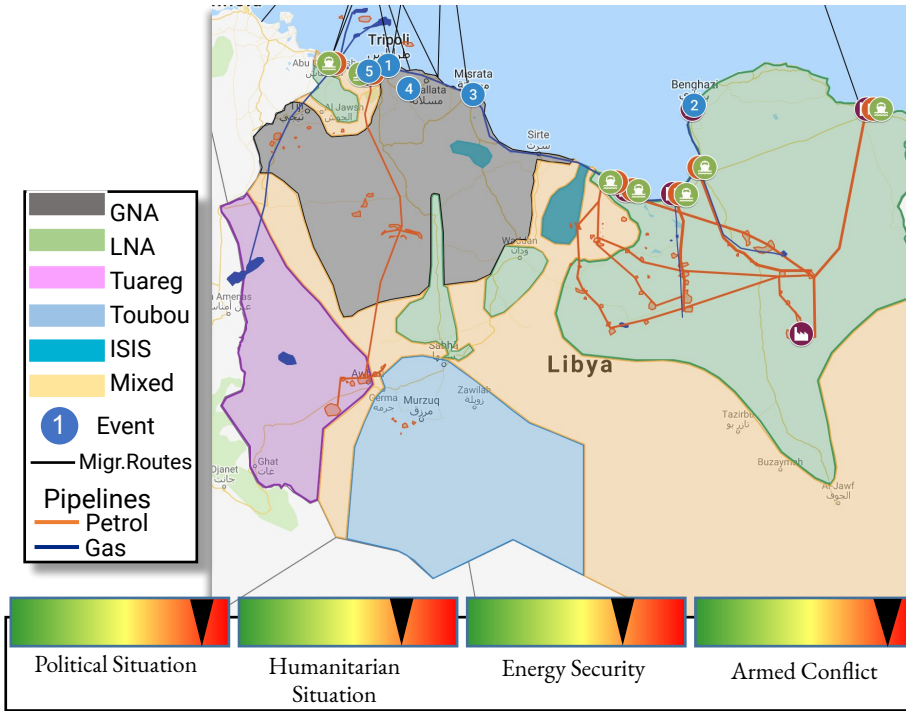
23.09.2018. The UN-brokered ceasefire collapsed this week. Libya's internationally recognized government (GNA) has called on the UN to take "concrete and effective" action to protect civilians and halt the fighting. GNA called on the UN mission to "present the Security Council with the reality of the bloody events in Libya so that it can ... protect the lives and property of civilians". ([Arab News](#)) The death toll hit 106 and the injuries reached 518, while 18 are still missing and 149 families evacuated and 264 others assisted. ([Libya Observer](#)) The International Committee of the Red Cross has called the deteriorating situation in Libya as desperate, citing constant fighting, the collapse of the economy, and the destruction of basic infrastructure. The group also cited the sabotaging of health facilities, water and electricity supplies, as well as the dangers of unexploded remnants. ([News24](#))

2. Haftar will move towards Tripoli

22.09.2018. Libyan National Army (LNA) commander Haftar reiterated a warning that his forces could intervene to restore calm in Tripoli following the renewal of militia clashes in the capital. "When the time is right, we will move towards Tripoli," he told a meeting with tribal officials. "Such a move will calm all sides," he stressed, while adding that the LNA was not involved in any of the military operations in Tripoli. Moreover, Haftar said that the militias involved in the clashes were being supported by the Government of National Accord (GNA) that is headed by Fayez al-Sarraj. ([Al-Awsat](#)) In another context, Haftar admitted that some regional countries, including the UAE, Egypt, Jordan, and Algeria, had supported him in his war in Benghazi over about four years. ([Libya Prospect](#))

3. Misratan forces joins Tripoli fights

23.09.2018. Misrata revolutionary brigades and military council as well as leaders of Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous announced in a televised statement that they are joining the battle of Tripoli "to purify it from the militias." The statement stressed that what the "militias are doing in Tripoli and their control of the city and their crimes against the civilians" needs intervention and "we are joining the operation in Tripoli to end their presence in the capital. Meanwhile, clashes continue to rock the capital between the alliance of four Tripoli-based armed groups "Tripoli Protection Force" and the alliance of Seventh Brigade and Summed Brigade. ([Libyan Express](#))



ASSESSMENT

- *The UN's threat of sanctions didn't deter militia groups. The ceasefire has collapsed, and the clashes in Tripoli are dragging the country into complete chaos. The identities and sides of the conflicting parties still are not clear. Joining of new groups, including the Misrata and Zintan forces, and Haftar's search for best conditions to intervene into Tripoli clashes will highly likely complicate the matters.*
- *According to the information coming from the field, the dissatisfaction of local people from UN-backed corrupted militias and weak leadership of Serraj have an essential role in current deadlock and failure of the ceasefire. However, the main concern is the fragmented approach of the international community and the existence of various powerful militia groups -thanks to the support that they receive from foreign actors (e.g., France, Italy, Egypt, UAE, S. Arabia, Qatar and Turkey). At this stage, it is unlikely to solve the crisis within Libya. The only solution is that the international community agrees on a common solution and plays an active role to realize it. The UN General Assembly, which coincides with such a time, might be a pivotal opportunity to step forward and achieve the required momentum.*
- *EU Leader's agreement on establishing a 10,000-person-strong border force during Informal EU summit represents the focus of EU and gravity migration budget in the coming period.*

4. Guterres calls for ceasefire in Tripoli

23.09.2018. The Secretary-General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, expressed his concern about the number of the violations of the ceasefire that was signed by the armed militias in Tripoli on 4 September under the supervision of the UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame. Guterres called on all sides of the conflict to "refrain from any actions that would increase the suffering of the civilian population." Guterres stressed that all those who violate the agreement are responsible for "the violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law," adding that they must hold responsibility. ([Libya Prospect](#)) Meanwhile, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) identified two militia leaders, vowing that they will be held accountable for their actions. Violators of security will also be persecuted by international law, it warned. It urged all warring parties, "especially those fighting under the command of Salah Badi, to immediately cease all acts of violence in Tripoli," The Badi militias, however, rejected the UN stance, listing in a statement a number of violations committed by rival militias. Moreover, they urged the UN mission to "refrain from becoming embroiled in the actions of the corrupt militias." Badi claimed that his militias were acting in self-defense and that they will not stand idly by as they come under attack from rival militants. ([Al-Awsat](#))

5. EU Leaders discuss migration issue

19.09.2018. EU heads of state or government met for an informal working dinner on migration in Salzburg. Just before the summit, European Council President Donald Tusk said "Instead of taking political advantage of the situation, we should focus on what works ... We can no longer be divided into those who want to solve the problem of illegal migrant flows and those who want to use it for political gain." The EU must end the "blame game" on migration and instead focus on working more with foreign countries and further strengthening its border to bring down arrivals, the chairman of the bloc's leaders added. ([Reuters](#)) During the informal summit, the heads of state or government agreed to strengthen cooperation with third countries, including Egypt. Donald Tusk will meet President Al Sisi still in September to take the cooperation forward. In this context, the leaders also agreed to organize a summit with the League of Arab States in February 2019 ([EU Council](#)) Leaders also agreed to create a 10,000-person border force by 2020, a dramatic expansion. The plan is to make it more difficult for potential asylum seekers to land in Europe -something Italy has been pushing for dating back to even before the installation of the Conte government. European Union Council president Donald Tusk said there was now a consensus among countries for a "sharp determination" among leaders in Salzburg to strengthen border security. ([China.org](#))

KEY EVENTS

1. ISIS hits Tripoli NOC

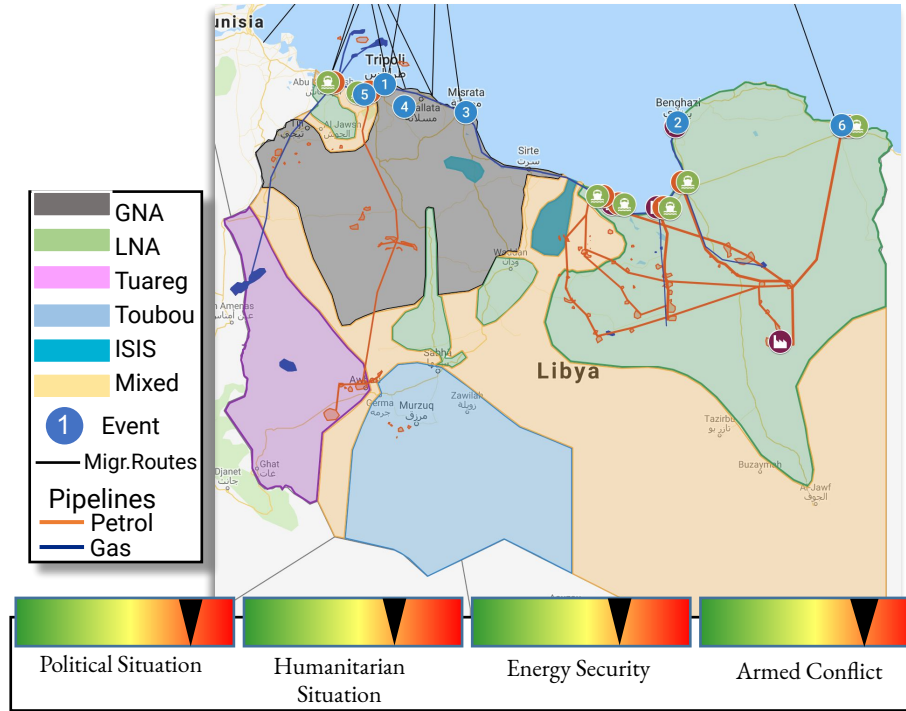
10.09.2018. An assault on the headquarters of Libya's state oil firm, the National Oil Corporation (NOC), has left two security guards and two attackers dead and 10 wounded, according to a security official. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack on NOC's landmark building in Tripoli, came just a week after the UN negotiated a truce between rival factions fighting for greater control of the capital. ([Middle East Eye](#)) A July 2018 report estimates there are still 3,000-4,000 ISIS fighters in Libya. While the group's central command may now lie in the triangle between Bani Walid, Sirte, and Jufrah district. ([Defend Democracy](#))

2. Italian FM meets Haftar in Benghazi

11.09.2018. Italy's foreign minister Milanese met Haftar in Benghazi, days after the commander described Italians as "enemies" and accused some Libyans of being puppets of the Italian government. The two men "had a long and cordial conversation which relaunched close relations with Italy, in a climate of consolidated trust," the Italian foreign ministry said in a statement. According to Milanese, Italy, a key supporter of the UN-backed government of Serraj in Tripoli, wants to "maintain an active dialogue" with all well-intentioned actors in Libya. Milanese said Haftar "expressed his appreciation for Italy's foreign policy, which Libya can't do without". ([The National](#)) Haftar asked Milanese, to change the current ambassador in Libya, Giuseppe Perrone, for a closer relations with Italy, according to Libyan Express. ([Libyan Express](#))

3. Salami tries to improve security in Tripoli

13.09.2018. Violations of Tripoli's already-fragile truce continued, with militias firing missiles at the Libyan capital's vicinity and airport. Flights scheduled for the capital's airport were redirected to the Misrata International Airport. Sarraj and Salami held a two-day meeting to discuss security arrangements in Tripoli, in the presence of military commanders from different parts of western Libya. Salami hinted at imposing international sanctions against those breaching the truce. Salami also revealed that he will meet with foreign ambassadors to Libya to "discuss the latest ceasefire violations and those behind them." ([Al-Awsat](#)) Salame also announced forming of a commission for new security measures, which he said will be comfortable to all. Salame said the new security measures will allow considering ending conflicts more deeply, saying all parties signed except one. ([Libya Observer](#))



ASSESSMENT

- In 2018 ISIS proved its ability to conduct terror attacks in Libya, with car bombings, electoral commission attack and series of other strikes in Western and Eastern Libya. Currently, Libya's priorities are militia violence and electoral security but, ISIS shouldn't be overlooked. It is certain that Libyans will need support to fight against ISIS to achieve stability in the country.
- Milanese - Haftar meeting depicts the Italian ambition for a leading role in the Libya Crisis. However, if Italy does what Haftar requests related to the ambassador, it would weaken its influence on other parts of Libya.
- Almost a year after the UN action plan -which was initiated by UN SecGen Guterres and special envoy Salami and was aimed to end political divide, security, and economic challenges- the crisis in Libya relapsed in all indicators. Additionally, it is evident that another agreed roadmap -the Paris summit- already failed. The main reason for throwback is the shirking of GNA, HOR and HCS's their duties and failing to achieve national reconciliation. Requests of various tribal and regional assemblies support this assessment. However, this bottom can turn out to be a stepping board by changing the current corrupt order and malfunctioning governing bodies with the support of international actors.

4. Tribes supports 7th Brigade's move against Tripoli

15.09.2018. The General Gathering of Libyan Cities and Tribes has stated support for the Seventh Brigade and all armed formations working with it against the "militias controlling Tripoli and its state institutions." "The Presidential Council has three days from today to disband those militias." The gathering's statement warned. The gathering, which was held in Tarhouna, called for handing over arms of militias to state authorities and surrendering criminals and violators to justice. "All prisons under those militias' control must be turned into the control of state authorities." It added. The gathering was attended by many elders, dignitaries and tribesmen from western, southern and eastern Libya. ([Libya Observer](#))

5. UNSC extends Libya Mission, but rejects imposing an election timetable

13.09.2018. The UN Security Council has extended the mandate for its political mission in Libya by another year, but refused to endorse a date for elections agreed during the Paris meeting four months ago. The UNSC resolution called for parliamentary and presidential elections to be held "as soon as possible, provided the necessary security, technical, legislative and political conditions are in place". France had called for the 10 December election timetable to be maintained but faced opposition from the United States along with other European Union countries, notably Italy. US warned that "imposing false deadlines will backfire" and lead to worse divisions inside Libya. On Wednesday, Serraj, who had agreed to the roadmap, said conditions in his country were too unstable to hold elections. ([Middle East Eye](#)) In response, France said "France will continue with its partners to support the efforts of the Libyan authorities and the UN to ensure the continuation of the political process and in particular the conditions for holding elections by the end of the year," ([Middle East Monitor](#))

6. HoR makes a controversial decision

13.09.2018. The Libyan House of Representatives (HoR) passed a constitution referendum law, organizing the referendum as three polling centers; east, west, and south with each having 50+1 votes, spokesman said. The HoR also discussed reshuffling Presidential Council into two deputies and one head from the three regions of Libya, with the HoR and the HCS nominating the figures. Meanwhile, eastern MPs rejected the passing of the referendum law saying "30 members from Tripoli region" met and passed it, adding that the law violates the constitutional declaration and needs revision and majority of two thirds of members. Many east-based members reject the current constitution draft as they harbor separation ideas and need their region to be a state on its own, while others reject the draft as it excludes the possibility of Haftar running for president over his second citizenship. ([Libya Observer](#))

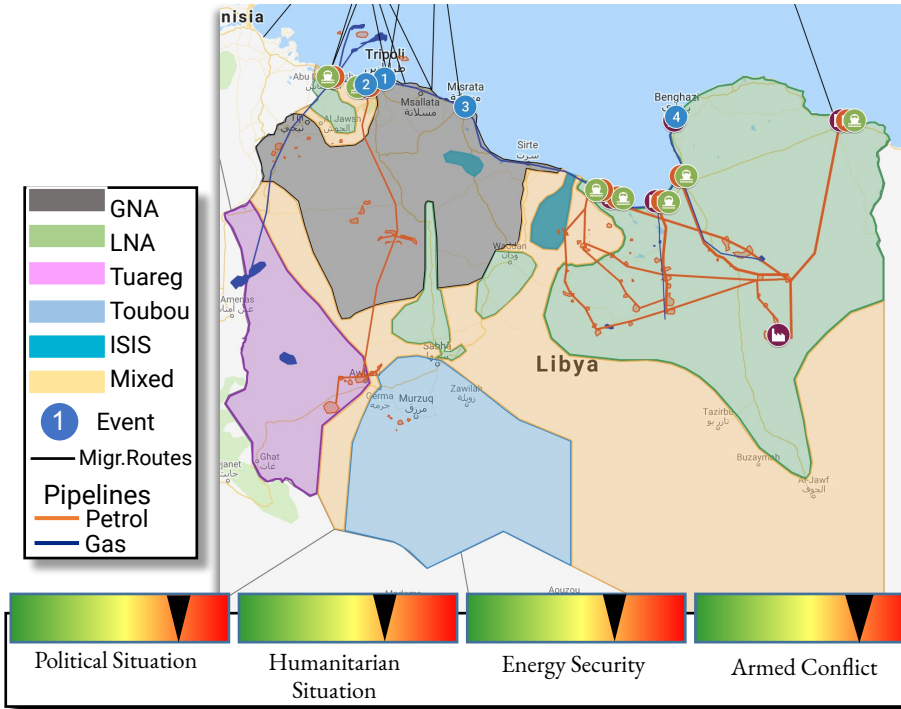
KEY EVENTS

1. UNSMIL achieves a fragile truce in Tripoli

04.09.2018. A truce brokered in Tripoli by the UNSMIL after a week of violence between local fighters has largely been observed. The clashes, which left more than 60 dead, pitted four big armed groups in Tripoli against rivals from other towns. The militias had not withdrawn their heavy weapons from strategic locations in the Libyan capital. The armed groups have vowed to resume hostilities if talks to be hosted by U.N. Special Envoy Ghassan Salame do not result in a lasting settlement. (Reuters) On 07 Sep, After the ceasefire, Tripoli's only functioning airport (Mitiga) has re-opened following its one-week closure. (BBC) On 09 Sep, armed groups vying for control of the Libyan capital have agreed to set up a mechanism to "consolidate" a recently agreed ceasefire, the United Nations' Libya mission, UNSMIL, said. (Reuters) The UNHCR has called on warring factions to "spare civilians" trapped by the fighting. "Some of the nearly 8,000 arbitrarily detained migrants are trapped in detention centers in areas where fighting has been taking place, without access to food or medical treatment," said UNHCR spokesman Charlie Yaxley. (DW) On 02 Sep, about 400 prisoners, including members of Qaddafi regime, escaped from prison in Tripoli. (Middle East Monitor)

2. Salame warns UNSC on emergencies in Libya

05.09.2018. Ghassan Salame told the Security Council that "the status quo in Libya is untenable." He urged council members to help address the "looming threat" from the spread of extremist groups and support economic reforms and efforts to advance the political process and move toward national elections. Tripoli was "on the brink of all-out war" until the fragile cease-fire between the major parties, he said. "This crisis is but the latest in a series of crises that have engulfed Libya," Salame stressed. He pointed to events in Libya's oil-rich crescent that "effectively threatened to split the country," the Islamic State's expanding presence and operations, and over 1,000 Chadian government and opposition forces fighting from bases in southern Libya. This, risks "the south becoming a regional battleground and safe haven for foreign armed groups," he said. Salame also pointed to hunger strikes in eastern and western Libya by refugees and asylum seekers in detention centers protesting their bleak living conditions. "To restore stability to Libya there is a strong and urgent need to establish strong and unified civilian and military institutions which work for the benefit of all citizens," Salame said. "For national elections to take place a number of conditions must be met" which "will require great efforts to achieve — but they are achievable" added he. (Libyan Express) →



ASSESSMENT

- *With its shattered status Libya looks like three different neighboring failed states. Struggle over oil crescent, expanding presence of ISIS, Chadian forces and other mercenaries, problems of refugees/migrants/IDPs, nonfunctioning parliament and judicial system, public dissatisfaction from corrupt governance, power cuts and food shortages, and finally with the collapse of security delusion in Tripoli and Haftar's gaze on attacking Tripoli, the crisis reached to one of the peaks since 2011 revolution.*
- *Salame briefed UNSC on closing the chapter of the current approach. It seems that the UN and some of the external actors of Libya Crisis already started thinking over a new approach. In the upcoming days, it is highly likely that we will hear about new plans. Planned Libya Conference in Italy would be a suitable venue to put new roadmaps into practice. In order to pacify the four prominent actors (GNA, LNA, HOR, HCS), who are to blame for current failure, wider representation of regional and tribal groups (including Gadhafi supporters) would be highly beneficial. The first step of an applicable new roadmap should be the setting of a functioning parliament, rather than presidential elections.*
- *Tajani's words correctly summarize the importance of Libya's stability for the West. UNSC and western actors should be more committed and concerted to solve the problem. As the Libya crisis is not a proxy war, the regulatory role of external actors is highly essential to smooth the uncompromising and greedy attitudes of some internal groups.*

* He was highly critical of the House of Representatives which has failed to deliver on promised legislation for a referendum and elections. "They simply have no intention of relinquishing their positions," Salame said. "They have put in place legal provisions to maintain their authority in perpetuity. ...And for the personal ambitions of a few, all Libyan citizens have paid a steep price." "If legislation is not produced soon, we will close the chapter on this approach," Salame warned. "There are other ways to achieve peaceful political change, and we will embrace them with no hesitation" he said, without elaborating. (Libyan Express)

3. Tajani calls for unified Libya policy

07.09.2018. European Parliament president Antonio Tajani that "EU has to play a central role in managing this crisis. If we are not able to carry out this task, we will leave the door open for the ambitions and interests of countries." "In the absence of a stable Libyan government that can control the country's borders and territory, managing migration flows from Libya's coast will become more difficult," Tajani said, adding that the smuggling of weapons and drugs will continue to help terrorists, putting in danger the safety of African and European citizens. (Al-Awsat)

4. Haftar eyes Tripoli and names Italians as 'enemies'

08.09.2018. Haftar said that "Tripoli crisis shouldn't go longer and liberating the Libyan capital is inevitable." Speaking to tribal leaders in Benghazi, he declared that he would liberate Tripoli through a well-structured plan to end what he called militia's rule. "We will not be silent about the current situation in Tripoli anymore," he stressed. Haftar warned that, if elections in Libya are not transparent, his army will abort them. The parliament called on its members to attend two sessions in its headquarters in Tobruk next Monday and Tuesday in order to enact the bill of a referendum over the constitution. These sessions are the last chance before heading to the presidential elections in case the quorum isn't met to pass the bill. (Al-Awsat) Haftar disclosed that he has contacts with some "militias" to help them get out of the country and start businesses abroad. "But if you decide to return home, then you will be prosecuted," he told the "militia" leaders, promising to help them settle abroad through Libyan embassies. In his speech, he criticized Italy saying "there are people who highly praise it despite their knowledge that Italy is as an enemy to us." "Worshipping Italy and implementing their demands is a real problem," he remarked. He rejected the current draft constitution saying "it's a disaster and must be substituted." The draft constitution hinders Haftar from running for the presidential elections due to his dual citizenship. (Libyan Observer)

KEY EVENTS

1. Heavy clashes broke out in Tripoli

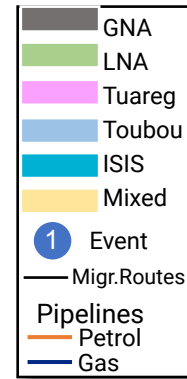
27.08.2018. Heavy clashes broke out in southern Tripoli districts between the 7th Brigade and a coalition of armed brigades made up of Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade, Bab Tajoura Brigade, Ghanewa Brigade, Nawasi Brigade and Misrata's 301 Brigade. The reason of the clashes is still unclear, but the 7th Brigade says "the military operation aims to cleanse Tripoli of corrupt militias, which they used their influence to get bank credits worth millions of dollars while the ordinary people sleep outside banks to get few dinars." Up to now, three ceasefire agreements were reached but were quickly violated and heavy clashes resumed hours later. The Reconciliation Commission, composed of Tarhuna, Misrata, Zawia, Tripoli and Zintan groups trying to halt fighting in southern Tripoli. ([Libya Observer](#)) The fresh wave of violence has so far killed nearly 40 people, including 18 civilians, and injured some 100 others, according to Libyan health officials. Human Rights Watch said the death toll included at least four children. ([Press Tv](#))

On 31 August, Libyan authorities closed Tripoli airport, which lies in an eastern suburb, after some rockets were fired in its direction. Flights diverted to Misrata airport, which lies about 190 km (120 miles) east of Tripoli. ([Reuters](#))

On 31 August, fierce clashes in Tripoli are endangering the lives of thousands of mostly African migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers held in overcrowded detention centers, the aid agency Doctors Without Borders said. The recent fighting demonstrates that Libya is not a safe place for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers," Ibrahim Younis, the head of Doctors Without Borders in Libya, said in a statement. ([Washington Post](#))

On 01 September, USA, France, Italy, and the UK condemned the current escalation of violence in Tripoli. "... We urge armed groups to immediately cease all military actions and warn those who tamper with security in Tripoli or elsewhere in Libya that they will be held accountable for any such actions" added the announcement. ([State.gov](#)) UN SecGen Antonio Guterres called on the conflicting parties in Libya to immediately cease fire and resume peace talks. The UN Support Mission in Libya and the interior ministry of Libya's UN-backed administration also denounced the renewed violence. ([Press Tv](#))

On 02 September, Libya Presidential Council announced a state of emergency in the capital Tripoli. ([SMH.com](#))



ASSESSMENT

- Armed clashes in the south of Tripoli are precisely a clash of interests. Since 2014 agreement some militia groups gained influence on Libya's official institutions in Tripoli. This privileged position of some militias generated resentment of others, which are excluded from access to benefits of Libya's faltering economy. In the meantime, the failure of GNA in disbanding militias or integrating them into regular security forces are the underlying causes of the current confrontation around Tripoli. It also depicts the impossibility of free elections. Armed militias can effectively enforce the voters or change the results according to their will.
- Latest information over Jodran- Gaddafi loyalists and Chadian rebels justify our previous assessment of "fighting for Oil Crescent is not over." The purpose of pending Jodran coalition seems to weaken Haftar's position and attaining leverage to use in the political process and elections.
- Libya needs building consensus. If the head of HoR Saleh decides to go elections, as he claimed, with existing temporary constitution, it would only result in endless discussions on legitimacy.

2. HoR MPs declare distrust of Sarraj

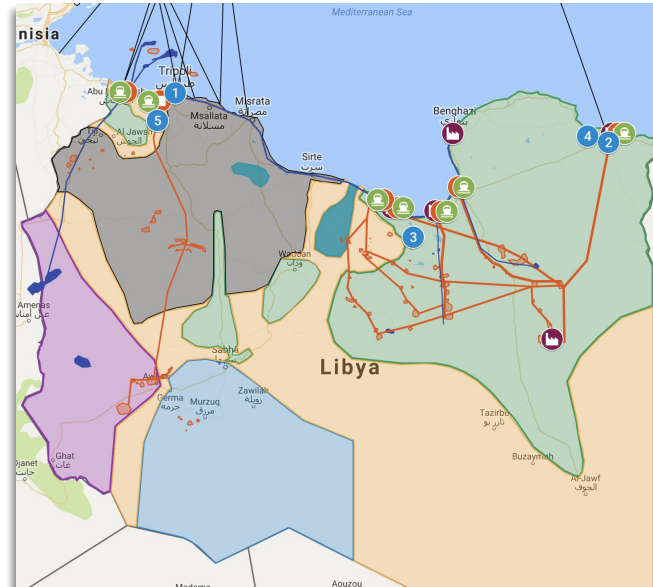
30.08.2018. 130 MPs in the Libyan House of Representatives (HoR) signed a document stipulating their distrust of Sarraj. According to Ibrahim AL-Doursian, an MP in HoR, there are negotiations ongoing with the High Council of State (HCS) to form a new PC. He clarified that "the MPs' signing of the document is a step ahead towards the right path due to his failed presidential work, his failure to achieve his promises and the militias' subjugation of Al-Sarraj." In a press statement, the bloc of Cyrenaica MPs called for "self-control and for the immediate return of the two dialogue committees and all those members of the HCS wishing to participate as well as the MPs boycotting the idea to the meeting to amend the political agreement." Statement also demanded the transfer of the GNA and its bodies from Tripoli to any other Libyan city. ([Middle East Monitor](#))

3. Jodran and allies preparing new armed conflict

27.08.2018. The former chief of the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) Ibrahim Jodran and Moamar Gaddafi's tribal loyalists, as well as Chadian rebels, have been teaming up for a new alliance to carry out a military operation to control not only the oil crescent region but also many more areas in the country. Haftar sent more troops to the oil crescent region and reports said Al-Saiqa Force's units were seen moving toward the southwestern region, especially to Ghat, yet Al-Saiqa spokesman Miloud Al-Zway denied the reports. "Jodran met with former Haftar's forces leader in western Libyan district of Wershiffana, Chadian rebel groups will be part of the new alliance as they have good locations in southern Libya such as Um Al-Araneb and others, not to mention Tubu tribesmen who could be part of the alliance too. ([Libya Observer](#))

4. HoR fails to vote on referendum law

27.08.2018. Libya's House of Representatives (HoR), Libya's failed to muster a quorum for yesterday's session, which is needed in order to vote in the constitutional amendment needed to legalize its referendum bill. The referendum bill was agreed in principle at the HoR's last session before the Eid holidays – subject to a constitutional amendment being passed. As a result of the lack of the needed 120-member quorum, the session became a consultative session. It was agreed that another session would be held next Monday, 3 September in an effort to pass the necessary constitutional amendment. However, HoR head, Ageela Saleh warned that if next Monday's session fails to achieve a quorum he would be forced to use, which, he said, permitted him to hold direct elections for a temporary president by the electorate – without going through the HoR. ([Libya Herald](#))



KEY EVENTS

1. UN urges GNA taking action against militias of Tripoli

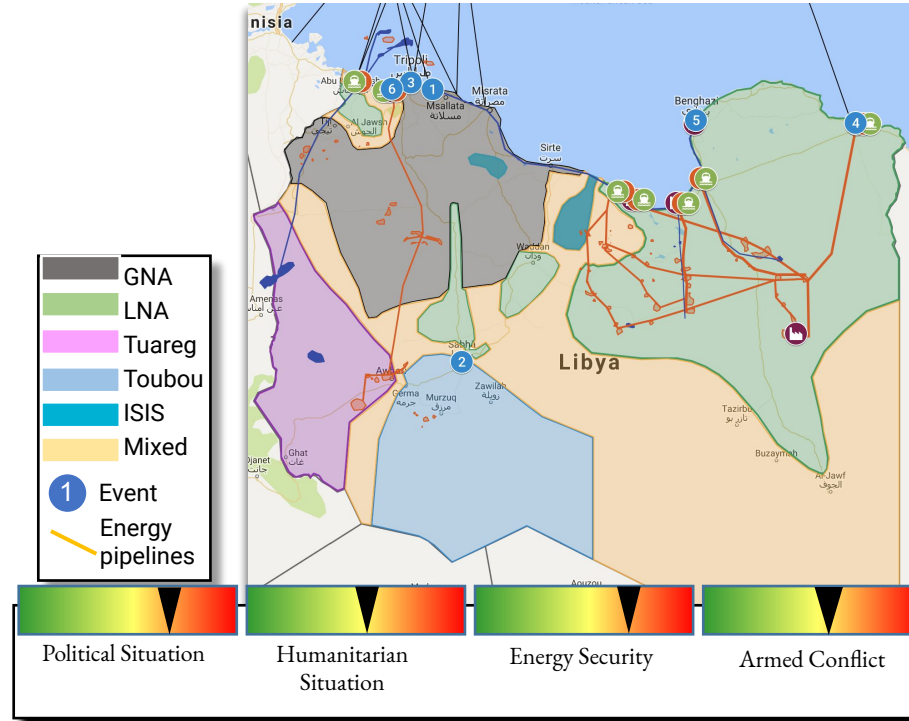
21.08.2018. The UN has called on Libya's internationally recognized government to crack down on armed groups obstructing the work of state institutions in the chaos-racked country. The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) expressed its "strong condemnation of the violence, intimidation and obstruction to the work of Libya's sovereign institutions by militiamen." It called on the UN-backed Government of National Accord to "prosecute those responsible for these criminal actions." Several state institutions, including those in Tripoli, have been regular targets of harassment and intimidation by armed groups technically operating under the GNA's Interior Ministry. Members of militias "nominally acting under the Ministry of Interior of the GNA are attacking sovereign institutions and preventing them from being able to operate effectively," UNSMIL said. Last week, the National Oil Corp. said men from the Interior Ministry had forced their way into the headquarters of Brega "arrest" its chief. The Libyan Investment Authority, the GNA-managed sovereign wealth fund, recently moved from its downtown Tripoli office to a more "secure" location after threats from militiamen against its employees. ([Arab News](#))

2. Salame criticizes slow pace of Libyan Government

22.08.2018. UN Special Envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame has urged Libyan citizens to express their contempt towards the delay of official institutions in fulfilling their obligations, criticizing the slow pace of government action and further deterioration of the country's public services sector. All institutional work in the country is either slow or dysfunctional, he explained while adding that Libyans are frustrated and impatient with poor services and delay in the decision-making progress on important issues. He defended his fight for a Libyan approval for legislation on a constitutional referendum which makes way for presidential and parliamentary elections before the end of 2018. ([Al-Aswat](#))

3. New fighting begins in south of Tripoli

25.08.2018. 30 km-away from Tripoli Qasar Bengashir has been the scene for military escalation as several vehicles were seen deployed in the area. This new escalation is seen by many observers as the beginning of a new fighting in southern Tripoli. Several brigades, mostly under the Presidential Council's government Interior Ministry, including Nawasi and Tripoli Revolutionaries clashed more than once with forces securing Qasar Bengashir – Seventh Brigade of Defense Ministry based in Tarhouna. ([Libya Observer](#))



ASSESSMENT

- UNSMIL is asking GNA to prevent criminal actions against Libya's sovereign institutions by militiamen. However, the problem is those militiamen are the ones upon which the military and police force of Tripoli-based GNA hinge. GNA has no separate military power to use for law enforcement on militias. This is one of the most critical vulnerabilities of the UN-backed Libya government. The main point of conflict lies in the allocation of Libya's resources. Tripoli-based militia groups do not want to lose their share and intervene any regulatory attempts. Security reform, which involves the unification, disarmament, and reintegration of militias is vital to solving this problem.
- Migrants in Diciotti still waiting for an agreement among European states. For the very reason, last week we assessed the unsustainability of ad-hoc solutions to migrants' disembarkation problems. Moreover, it contains severe concerns in the face of international law.

4. ISIS attack kills 7 Libyan Soldiers

24.08.2018. An attack on a checkpoint between the Libyan capital and the town of Zliten killed seven soldiers of the UN-backed unity government (GNA), an interior ministry source said. "The attack was carried out with grenades and light weapons." ([News 24](#)) This last attack took place shortly after the broadcast of a voice recording by ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi to incite his supporters to launch more terrorist attacks in several Arab countries, including Libya. In a statement, Sarraj, Head of GNA, pledged to pursue the perpetrators. "They will not escape impunity and will not find a safe place for them in Libya." ([Al-Awsat](#))

5. Paris welcomes Italy's call for a new Libya Conference

25.08.2018. The French Foreign Ministry welcomed the Italian government's call to hold an international conference on Libya, considering Italy as a key partner in the Libyan file. The ministry confirmed in a statement its support for all initiatives that fall within the framework of the UN efforts to reach reconciliation between all Libyans. "The stabilization of Libya is achieved by adopting a constitutional norm to organize a presidential and legislative election, which date has been scheduled at the Paris Conference last May and was approved by the Libyan people," The French diplomacy stated. ([Libya Observer](#))

6. Standoff among EU members continue over rescued migrants

24.08.2018. The Italian coast guard ship, Diciotti, rescued 190 people on the 15 August and remained at sea until 21 August, 13 of those rescued were evacuated for emergency medical treatment whilst at sea. The ship was initially prevented from docking as the Italian government claimed Malta should take responsibility, as the rescue took place within their respective search and rescue zone. It was finally allowed to dock at the Sicilian port of Catania but individuals on board were not permitted to disembark. Interior minister Matteo Salvini said other European states must resettle them among their own countries "Or we will be forced to do what will definitely break up the smugglers' business – that is to take the rescued people back to Libya." An investigation conducted by the prosecutor of the city of Agrigento was launched on 22 August. Following the prosecutors visit, the 29 minors on board were permitted to disembark leaving 148 still on the ship. ([Relief Web](#)) By the way, Libyan Foreign Minister Muhammad Sayala announced that Libya will refuse "all initiatives aimed at repatriating migrants to its territory." "Libya will in no way accept what is being reported by some news outlets regarding the repatriation of illegal migrants towards the North African countries they have come from". ([Ansa](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH (06 - 12 AUGUST 2018)

1. LNA calls for Russia to intervene Libya

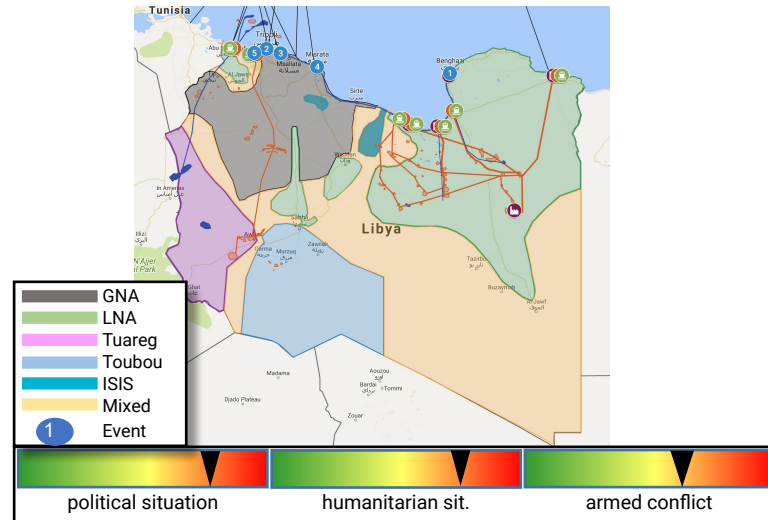
08.08.2018. The spokesperson for the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army (LNA), Ahmed al-Mesmari, said that Russian support was needed to better equip his forces and help establish a unified national government. Mesmari said that "the Russian-Libyan military relationship goes back a long time," adding that "the LNA is currently completely armed with Russian weapons and its military doctrine is Eastern, therefore Libya's need for Russia is increasing more and more as the war on terror continues." ([Newsweek](#)) LNA earlier accused Turkey and Qatar of supporting jihadist militants in the country, also stating that Rome, who has supported the GNA, hinders attempts to hold elections. "The Libyan problem also needs engagement from Russia and President Putin himself, the removal of external actors, for example, Turkey, Qatar, specifically Italy, from the Libyan arena. Russian diplomacy should play an important role in this issue," LNA spokesman Ahmed Mismari said. He also noted that the LNA plans to carry out presidential and parliamentary elections in December. LNA is in close contact with Russia, as its leader Haftar visited Moscow in order to hold talks with Russian officials. However, according to Mismari, Russia hasn't furnished Libya with weapons due to an international embargo. ([Sputnik](#))

2. Armed groups threaten political transition in Libya

12.08.2018. UN experts say "predatory behavior" by armed groups in Libya is posing a direct threat to forming a national government and ending lawlessness that has fueled militancy, human trafficking and instability in the wider region. The experts also warned in the summary of a report to the UN Security Council that "the use of violence to exert control over Libya's state institutions might result in a return of armed confrontations in Tripoli." They said the Libyan Investment Authority, National Oil Corporation and Central Bank of Libya "were targets of threats and attacks, impacting on the performance of Libya's oil and financial sectors." The panel is particularly concerned that different armed groups attempt to gain legitimacy by ostensibly supporting efforts to combat irregular migration. ([Arab News](#)) Another report issued by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights studies said that Serraj's GNA and the Haftar's LNA "continue to operate through armed and paramilitary groups in the absence of any mechanism for proper integration or an instrument to define the chain of command." ([Al-Awsat](#))

3. Italy gives 12 patrol vessels to Libyan Coastguard

07.08.2018. The Italian parliament approved a plan to donate a further 12 patrol vessels to the Libyan coastguard to help push back migrants setting sail for Europe. They will join four Italian



Assessment:

- After France lost its leading role in the Libya Crisis to Italy, Haftar knocked on the door of his other pillar of support, Russia.
- In case of a new election failure, which will likely happen due to lack of agreement on a new constitution and electoral laws, the heavily-divided state of the country, and the dominance of various armed groups in the majority of the country, there seem two most likely scenarios in Libya: peaceful partition of Libya or deepened fights over dominance among current influential groups.
- The inclusion of Russia into the crisis on the side of LNA, the most potent armed group, will likely cause more loss of influence for the EU. In the current situation, the EU, which is not able to produce a robust common policy owing to its primary focus on migration and Italy-France disagreement on Libya, should swiftly construct a strategic action plan aiming at the stability of Libya. Failure has the potential to cause a new wave of violence in the war-torn country generating millions of Libyan refugees heading to Europe. This could also be used by Putin as a new means of hybrid warfare against the West.

boats already given to Libya and will be crewed by EU-trained sailors. The latest gift was endorsed by MPs from the new Italian government, despite opposition demands that Libya guarantee the human rights of migrants. Tempers rose after opposition MPs argued that Libya was not a safe port for rescued migrants. The plan to equip the Libyans is backed by the EU, which has funded the training of 237 Libyan coastguard officers. The latest course was run by the Spanish navy. This year the Libyan coastguard has intercepted 12,720 migrants at sea and returned them to Libya, according to the IOM. Departures from Libya to Italy have fallen this year as Spain becomes the top destination for migrants in the Mediterranean, but deaths at sea on the Libya route rose last month to 157, from 68 in July last year. ([Libyan Express](#))

4. Conte says Italy has no ambition on Libya

09.08.2018. Italian PM Conte stressed that his country has no ambitions for domination and expansion in Libya. He called for the need to secure a stable political framework before holding the elections in this country. He stressed that: "Libya is of strategic importance for Italy for historical, geographical, and political reasons. Also, the migration routes that cross Libya are targeting Italy. That is why we have a major interest in relations with this country." Conte continued: "We will ensure our interests while respecting the interests of all the parties at the international conference that we will hold in Rome on Libya in November." We are aware that if we accelerate elections (in Libya), we will not achieve real stability. Therefore, we need gradual progress he added. ([Middle East Monitor](#)) On the other hand, Sarraj declared on Tuesday that the fate and timing of the presidential and parliamentary elections in the country can only be determined by the Libyan people. ([Al-Awsat](#)) On 13 August, Haftar described the upcoming presidential election as the only solution for the current crisis. He didn't deny his candidacy, stressing his main concern currently to "save Libya and rid it from terrorism". ([Al-Awsat](#))

5. Libya's migrant detention centers alarmingly overcrowded

11.08.2018. IOM said that its voluntary repatriation program in Libya is unable to keep pace with the alarmingly high number of migrants in government detention centers. The migration agency reports government-run detention centers in Libya are packed with migrants, mainly from sub-Saharan Africa. This, despite IOM's robust program to return migrants to their countries of origin. IOM spokesman Millman says large numbers of refugees and migrants heading toward Europe are being intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard, brought back to shore, and placed in detention upon arrival. He says this interception or, as some see it, rescue operation, has been so successful that the number of migrants placed in official detention centers has nearly doubled from 5,500 to 9,300 between 2017 and 2018. ([Libyan Express](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

(30 JULY - 05 AUGUST 2018)

1. Libya's Parliament postpones the constitution referendum law session

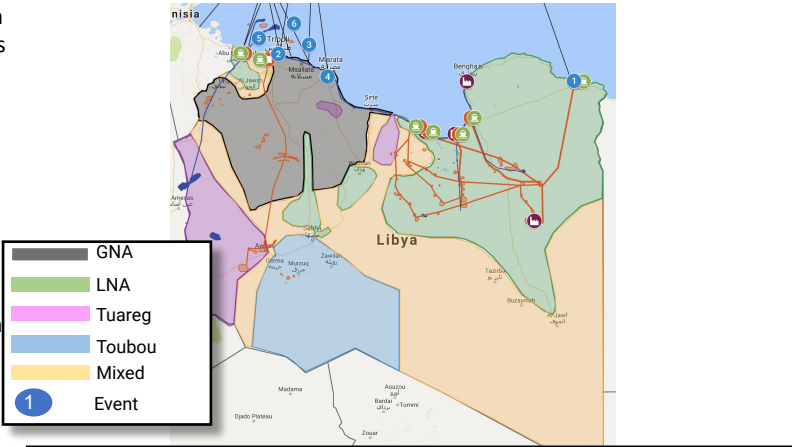
30.07.2018. The Tobruk based House of Representatives (HoR) postponed on Monday a vote over the constitutional referendum to Tuesday, following altercations by protesters who briefly shut down the building. During the session, 93 MPs discussed the draft law, which divides the Libyan electoral process to three polling centers. In a scene that has been repeated several times at parliament, protesters hindered the entrance of some deputies to the building. Parliament Speaker Aqilah Saleh suspended the session until Tuesday. ([Al-Awsat](#)) On Tuesday, HoR decided to delay voting on the law for the constitution referendum two weeks, tasing the consultations commission to devise a new mechanism for voting that will be obliging to all the MPs. Tuesday session was lacking full quorum and the MPs could not get the law passed in the current critical situation the country is going through. ([Libyan Express](#)) Libya's Muslim Brotherhood has criticized the Parliament's decision to postpone a vote on the constitutional referendum in the country. ([Al-Awsat](#))

2. Italy plans an international conference on Libya

30.07.2018. Italian PM Conte said he was organizing a conference to look for ways to stabilize Libya. "In agreement with President Trump, I'm going to organize a conference on Libya," Conte told reporters in Washington after meeting with the U.S. president. "We would like to deal (with) and discuss all of the issues related to the Libyan people, involving all of the stakeholders, actors, protagonists in the whole of the Mediterranean," said Conte, who took office last month promising a crackdown on immigration. After their meeting, Conte said Trump had agreed Italy would become "a reference point in Europe and the main interlocutor for the main issues that need to be faced ... with particular reference to Libya." "We are going to discuss economic aspects, but also social aspects: the need for protection of civil rights; the problem of constitutional process - of issuing and passing laws so as to enable Libya, in particular, to get to democratic elections in a condition of the utmost stability," Conte added. ([Reuters](#))

3. In one-month 680K migrants arrive in Libya

04.08.2018. "In May 2018, IOM Libya identified 679,897 migrants in Libya from 42 nationalities, 8% of them are minors," said the IOM. "The top 5 nationalities were Nigerian, Egyptian, Chadian, Sudanese and Ghanaian. Together these nationalities account for up to 65% of Libya's migrant population," it added. Migrant shelters in Libya are crowded with thousands of migrants who have been rescued at sea or arrested by the Libyan security services. ([China.org](#))



Assessment:

- The failure of the Libyan Parliament in passing constitutional referendum law will highly likely distort the Paris Agreement, which calls for elections until the end of 2018. The irreconcilable polemics during constitutional talks in the HoR is an indicator of the current political stalemate in Libya. France still insists on the schedule agreed in Paris. After receiving the full support of US, Italy announced its leadership in the Libya Crises, which will be materialized with a Libya Conference in Italy. The other discrediting factor for France is the dissatisfaction of some internal and external actors with France's support to Haftar.
- Meanwhile, Trump's support to Conte amounts to the endorsement of Italy's strict migration policy as well, which will likely empower Conte's hand in the EU migration discussions and bring in further erosion of European humanitarian values.

4. France insists on holding elections in this year

03.08.2018. France has insisted on holding parliamentary and presidential elections in Libya by the end of 2018, despite Italy's call for achieving reconciliation before any such move. "We want to hold elections by the end of this year because the Libyan people have no representational entity that keeps the country stable," French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said. Le Drian, who visited Libya last month to push Paris' initiative, said that the elections would help the country fight terrorism and stem the flow of migrants to Europe. "Without stability in Libya, the flow of migrants would not be organized," he stressed. However, Italy insists a vote in Libya should not be rushed. ([Al-Awsat](#)) On 05 August, The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) said it held a joint working session to discuss securing the upcoming Libyan elections scheduled for the end of this year. ([Libyan Express](#))

5. Italian boat returns the rescued migrants to Libya

31.07.2018. According to the Spanish charity Proactiva Open Arms, the Asso 28, an Italian oil rig support vessel, rescued 108 people from international waters on Monday and took them to Libya, their country of departure. If confirmed, this would constitute a breach of international law, under which migrants rescued in international waters cannot be returned to a place where their lives are put in danger. Both the United Nations and European Union have acknowledged that Libya is not safe. The UN refugee agency said on Twitter the operation "could represent a violation of international law". ([The Guardian](#)) A spokesman for the UN migration agency said the agency was still investigating the case but confirmed the return of the migrants to Libya. He said the Libyans first told him the rescue operation was carried out by "an unknown vessel", then changed their version and said the rescuing boat was Libyan. ([Reuters](#)) On 01 August, Libya's coast guard announced that they intercepted three groups (292, 101, 181) totaling more than 570 migrants in the Mediterranean, including at least 66 women and 19 children. ([Daily Mail](#))

6. NGO boat rescues 87 migrants off Libya

02.08.2018. Spanish NGO Proactiva Open Arms has saved 87 migrants in international waters in the Mediterranean Sea and says it's in touch with several countries about where to bring them. NGO says the boat rescued the migrants early Thursday about 54 miles (87 kilometers) off the Libyan coast. It was the first rescue by an aid group in several weeks, as European countries jockey over where to take those rescued at sea. ([Daily Mail](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

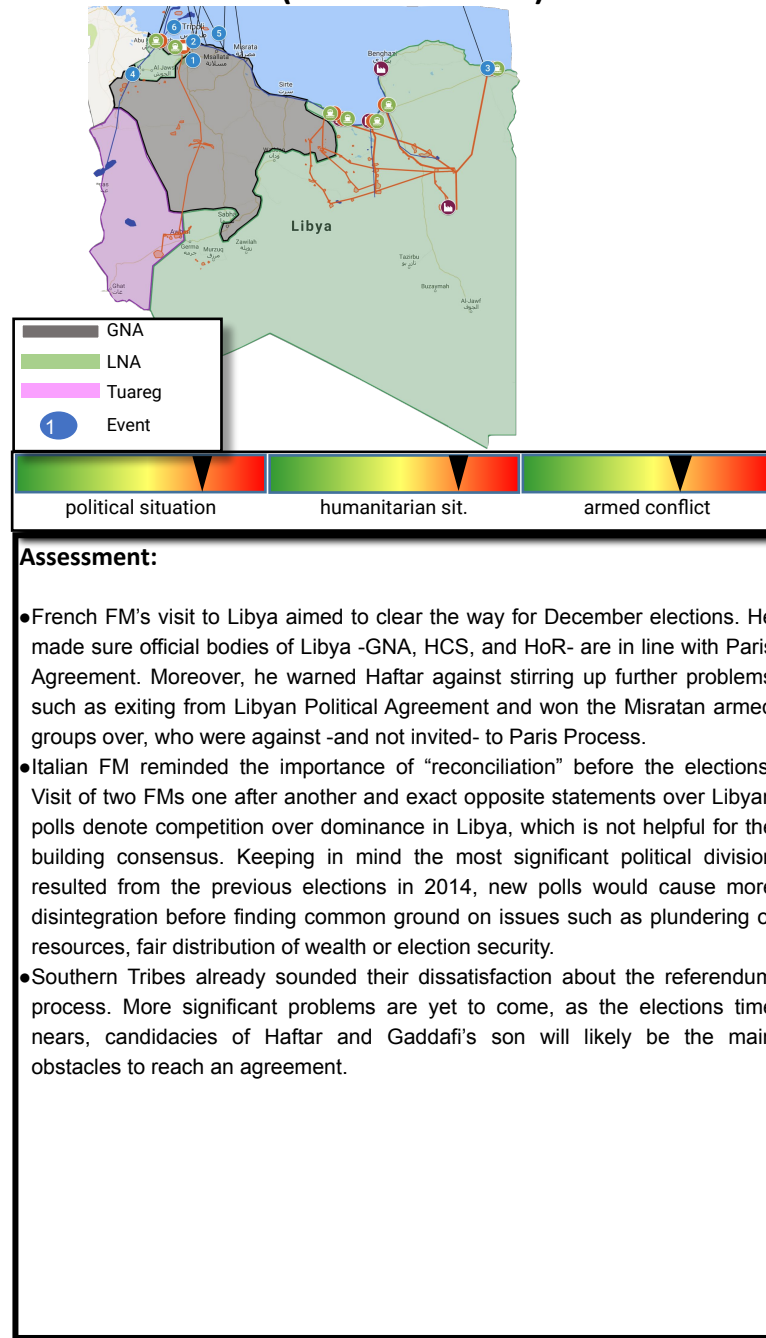
(23-29 JULY 2018)

1. France FM visit to Libya pushes for elections.

23.07.2018. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian pushed a deal paving the way for elections in Libya during a visit Monday to the chaos-ridden country. Speaking alongside the head of Libya's UN-backed government, PM Fayez al-Sarraj, Le Drian urged leaders to forge ahead with plans for polls this year. "It's what Libyan citizens aspire to, who have registered massively in electoral lists," he said in the capital Tripoli. "I have come to remind (parties to the deal) of those commitments and that calendar, and to share this approach with those who were not in Paris on May 29," Le Drian said. Maintaining pressure on Libyan leaders to prepare for polls, the foreign minister announced 100 million-dollar donation to organise the elections. "France supports the efforts of all of those who work in this direction," he said. While in Tripoli, Le Drian also met with Khalid al-Mishri, head of the High Council of State in Tripoli, which serves as an upper chamber. Both Mishri and Aguilah Saleh Issa, the Tobruk-based parliament speaker. ([Daily Mail](#)) France's foreign minister is also held talks with Haftar and make a stop in the western city of Misrata, the base of powerful armed groups who did not attend the Paris talks. The Misratan side stressed that it is possible to go for general election in Libya before the end of this year. The Misratan attendees announced that Misrata is ready for the elections, but initially, it is essential to finish working on the constitution and go for a referendum. ([Libya Prospect](#))

2. Italy stands against pushed elections.

24.07.2018. Italy's Defence Minister Elisabetta Trenta, appeared to take a swipe at a French push for Libya to hold elections this year, insisting a vote should not be rushed after visiting Tripoli. "Italy is close to Libya, not out ahead of it, and will help it to resist foreign interference," Trenta told journalists after returning to Italy from Libya. "We do not believe that an acceleration of the electoral process can bring stability," she said, adding that the north African nation also needed "reconciliation, the return of security and political work." Trenta held talks with the head of Sarraj a day after France's FM Le Drian visited the country to push Paris initiative. Former colonial power Italy has close ties to Libya and is deeply involved in efforts to stabilise it after years of chaos following the 2011 ouster of Moamer Kadhafi. ([Daily Mail](#)) Other than elections, Trenta and Sarraj discussed supporting the Libyan industrial and agricultural sectors, especially in technical and advisory terms. The new Italian Government has commenced assistance to Libya in several areas, including the fight against illegal immigration, in addition to other sectoral areas such as health and education. ([Libya Observer](#))



3. Concerns over election laws.

28.07.2018. The Tobruk-based Libyan parliament is preparing to vote on the new constitutional referendum and to adopt a series of laws on the anticipated parliamentary and presidential elections, amid concerns that the legislature will fail to meet the necessary quorum to complete the voting process. ([Al-Awsat](#))

4. Amazigh calls for boycotting the referendum.

25.07.2018. The Libyan Amazigh Supreme Council has decided to boycott the referendum on Libya's constitution, which is still under deliberations and yet to be issued by the House of Representatives by July's end. ([Libya Observer](#))

5. More than 1500 migrants die on Libya-Italy route.

28.07.2018. For the fifth straight year, at least 1,500 migrants have perished in the Mediterranean, with the route between Libya and Italy being the deadliest, claiming the lives of one in 19, the UN migration agency said. Spain, which has overtaken Italy as the preferred destination, has registered nearly 21,000 migrants so far this year, almost more than in the whole of last year, the IOM said. In all, about 55,000 migrants have reached European shores so far this year, against more than double that number at this time last year, 111,753, it said. Italy, has had about 18,130 migrants arriving by sea from Libya this year. "Despite low numbers arriving to Italy, the rate of death per 1,000 people may be at its highest point since the emergency began," IOM spokesman Millman told a news briefing. ([Arab News](#))

6. Operation Sophia continues but reduced.

26.07.2018. After the EU de facto halted rescue operations in the Mediterranean off the Libyan coast last week, ships from the EUNAVFOR Med Sophia mission sailed again on Monday. However, the mission has been saving fewer and fewer people from drowning for months. In its three-year existence, the mission has saved at least 49,000 refugees from drowning and brought them to mainland Europe. After the Italian commander of the Op. Sophia ordered the warships involved back to port, the Political and Security Committee decided at a crisis meeting to review and revise Sophia's operations for the next five weeks. In this way, the EU is essentially sanctioning the actions of the Italian government. ([WSWS](#)) "Italy will guarantee the landing in their ports of all the people saved by the military ships" of Op. Sophia Italian FM Milanese said in Berlin. This offer was valid for just five or so weeks to give the EU time to draft new rules, which currently say people rescued by Sophia automatically go to Italy. "We expect all EU states to respect existing agreements. Rescues at sea are part of it," his German counterpart, Heiko Maas, noted. ([EU Observer](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

(16-22 JULY 2018)

1. New setback in migration crisis

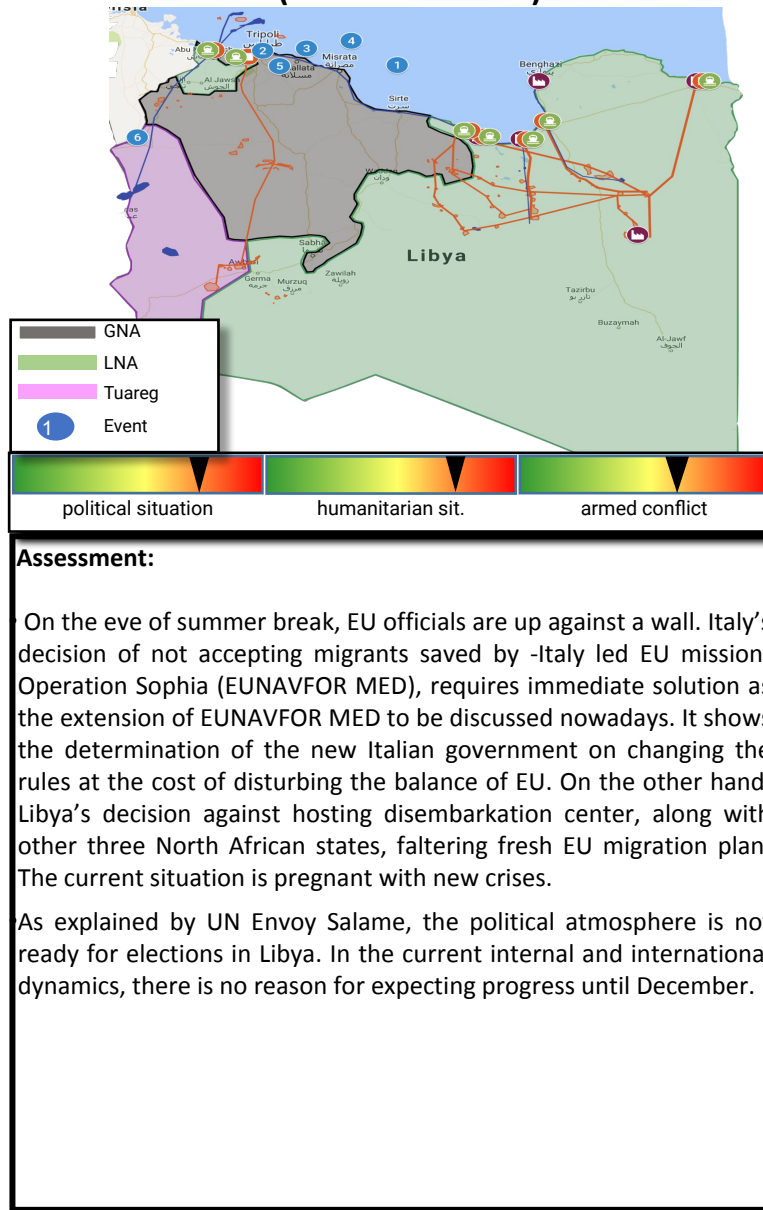
21 July 2018. The European Union's migrant strategy suffered a new setback with Italy refusing to freely accept people rescued at sea. The salvos follow a fractious EU summit in June which agreed to set up "disembarkation platforms" outside the bloc to process migrants after Italy's new populist government said it was closing its ports. "Italy does not want to be the only country where migrants saved at sea by its own naval units disembark," Foreign Minister Enzo Moavero Milanesi said in a letter to EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini. The Italian position and its implications were discussed at a meeting on Friday by member states in Brussels where diplomats said countries agreed to a "strategic review" of the EU's own naval operations. Italy commands the European military operation Sophia launched in June 2015 following a series of deadly shipwrecks in the Mediterranean. "Operation Sophia is maintained," an EU diplomat involved in the talks told AFP on Friday. "The aim remains to reach a consensus on future action within a European framework and in an orderly process," the source added. ([The National](#))

2. Sarraj rejects hosting disembarkation centers

20 July 2018. "We are absolutely opposed to Europe officially wanting us to accommodate illegal immigrants the EU does not want to take in," Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj told German mass-selling daily Bild in an interview published on Friday. (Reuters) [[https://tinyurl.com/ybdvfyrh]] Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia were also approached by the EU but have already refused to host such centers "We also won't agree on any deals with EU money about taking in more illegal migrants," the Sarraj told. Sarraj said European leaders should instead put pressure on migrants' origin countries to stop them embarking on their journey in the first place. Most of the migrants are from the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. ([The National](#))

3. Junker writes back to Conte

19 July 2018. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker wrote a reply to Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's letter saying Italy would no longer take in migrants plucked from the Mediterranean until other member states accepted some of them. In his letter, Junker stressed that ad hoc solutions will not be feasible in the long term and agreed to try and identify nations that would shelter rescued migrants until a definitive framework was agreed upon. He added that the Commission is on the case and new legislative proposals will be presented in September. ([Politico](#))



4. NGO accuses Libya of abandoned migrants

20 July 2018. A boat belonging to Spanish NGO Proactiva Open Arms has docked in Spain carrying a woman rescued from the wreckage of a dinghy off the coast of Libya. The survivor, a Cameroonian woman, named Josepha, was suffering from hypothermia when she was found alongside the bodies of another woman and a young boy. The NGO had accused Libyan authorities of abandoning the three at sea when it rescued 158 other migrants from the dinghy on Monday night. ([Euronews](#)) The woman," told a journalist on board the rescue vessel that the migrants had been at sea for two days and two nights. ([The National](#)) Sarraj dismissed the accusations and said "We save hundreds of people off the coast of Libya every day - our ships are constantly on the move," adding that Libya was being left to rescue migrants from the Mediterranean alone and needed more technical and financial support. ([Reuters](#))

5. Salame briefs UN Security Council

16 July 2018. The UN envoy to Libya briefed the UN Security Council about the latest developments in the country, urging member states to use pressure on "some parties who are still hindering the efforts to hold elections in the war-torn country." Salame told the UN Security Council that a recent agreement to resume oil production in Libya will not hold unless key issues concerning the distribution of wealth and endemic plundering of resources are immediately tackled. "It would be difficult to advance the political process without action and the right conditions, and it would be unwise to conduct elections. Without clear and strong messaging to those who would attempt to stall or disrupt these elections, the conditions will not be met." Salame said, explaining fears about the holding of the upcoming elections in Libya. Salame remarked. He urged the UN Security Council members to press the House of Representatives (HoR) to deliver and in a timely fashion the necessary legal framework for the elections and constitution. ([Libya Observer](#))

6. Sarraj calls for a unified international stance

18 July 2018. Sarraj called on the international community to present a unified stance towards Libya, to push for early elections and to push the HoR to stop obstructing the political process. Speaking in Tunis, Sarraj presented what he saw as his demands for resolving Libya's current political crisis at a meeting with ambassadors of the major powers. After summarizing the efforts that have been made to reach reconciliation in Libya, he said, "Whenever we step towards reconciliation we find a way backward." Sarraj said that the political divide in Libya would not have continued if the obstructionists found a decisive, resolute and unified international stance. ([Libya Herald](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

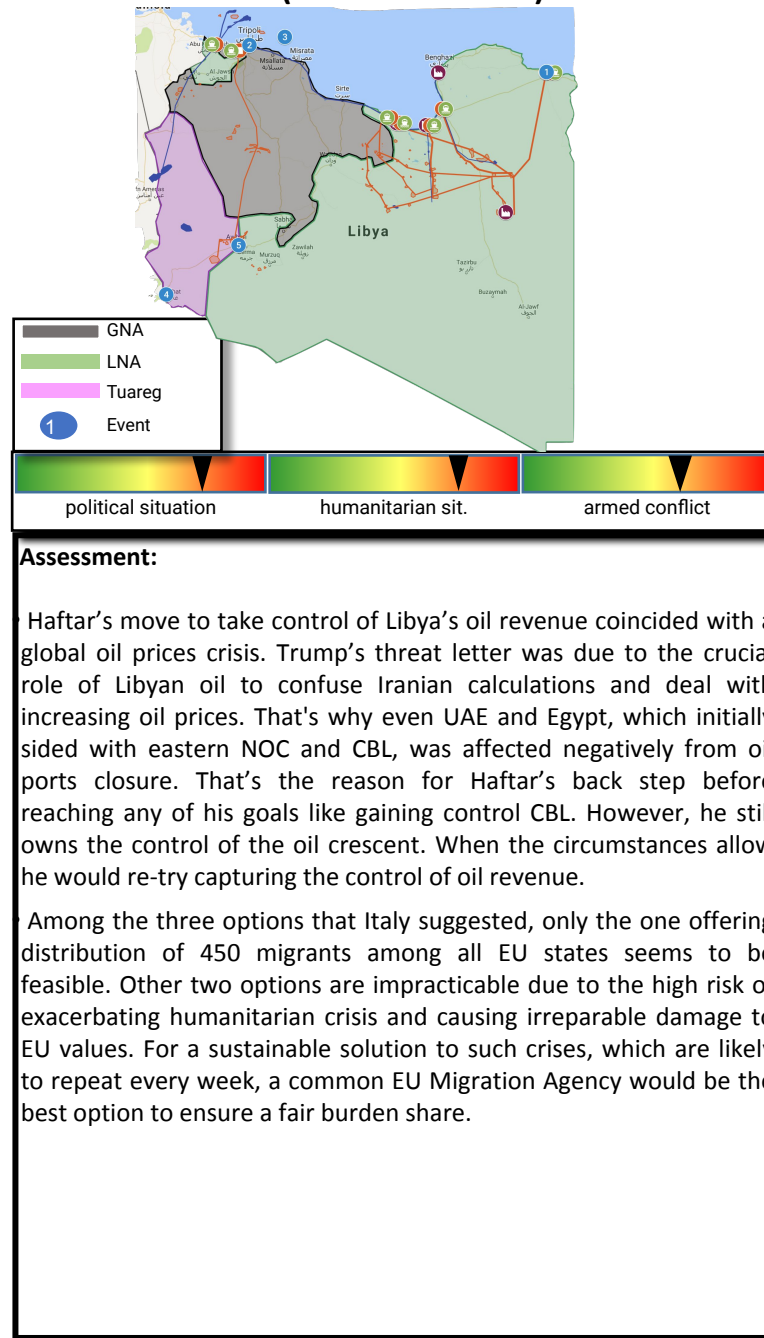
(09-14 JULY 2018)

1. Libya Oil Crisis is resolved

11 July 2018. Haftar announced that the control of oil exports will be handed over to the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA). The decision led to the resumption of oil exports from eastern Libya after they came to a halt for over two weeks due to a dispute between the two rival powers over the management of the strategic sector. The western-based National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced "the lifting of force majeure" at the Al-Hariga, Zweitina, Ras Lanuf and Al-Sidra ports, which are conduits for much of the crude, gas and petrochemical sales that form the lifeblood of Libya's economy. NOC chairman Mustafa Sanallah hailed the LNA for its decision and thanked Sarraj, the parliament and international community for their efforts to resolve this crisis. The NOC said in early July that the oil crisis had slashed crude production by over four-fifths and cut the country's heavily oil-dependent public revenues by some \$67.4 million (57.9 million euro) per day. ([Al-Awsat](#)) The leaders of France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States issued a statement welcoming the resumed work of NOC. ([Gov.uk](#)) The former advisor at the State Council, Ashraf Al-Shoh, told a TV channel, on Tuesday, that the US, Italy, UAE and Egypt met in Rome to solve Libyan oil crises. He stated that the UAE and Egypt were behind Haftar's decision to press on the Presidential Council (PC) in Tripoli to change the governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL). In a strong reaction, the US refused to link between the two issues, stressing that Haftar must return the authority on the oil ports to the NOC in Tripoli. The meeting agreed not to link between handing over the oil ports to the NOC and changing the LBC governor in Tripoli, and pressed on the UAE and Egypt to persuade Haftar to hand over the ports to the NOC in Tripoli. Al-Shoh stated that the essential message was to the UAE who should stop helping Haftar in selling the Libyan oil outside the legal authorities. Sources confirmed that Abu-Dhabi opened, more than a year ago, a parallel bank account for the Interim Government in Al-Baida. It is worth mentioning that the American president, Donald Trump, had sent a letter to the head of the House of Representatives (HoR), Ageela Saleh, and the head of the PC, Sarraj, calling them to end the crises. According to source, Trump had warned, in the letter, Saleh and Sarraj of international persecution in the first stage. Then this could be followed by direct threats that could use even the force. ([Libya Prospect](#))

2. Al-Sirraj requests UN assessment to CBL

11 July 2018. Libya's east and west-based central banks welcomed Sirraj-requested UN assessment commission. A commission under the UN auspices will revise and assess the revenue and expenditure of the Tripoli and Al-Bayda CBL administrations. ([Libya Observer](#))



Assessment:

Haftar's move to take control of Libya's oil revenue coincided with a global oil prices crisis. Trump's threat letter was due to the crucial role of Libyan oil to confuse Iranian calculations and deal with increasing oil prices. That's why even UAE and Egypt, which initially sided with eastern NOC and CBL, was affected negatively from oil ports closure. That's the reason for Haftar's back step before reaching any of his goals like gaining control CBL. However, he still owns the control of the oil crescent. When the circumstances allow he would re-try capturing the control of oil revenue.

Among the three options that Italy suggested, only the one offering distribution of 450 migrants among all EU states seems to be feasible. Other two options are impracticable due to the high risk of exacerbating humanitarian crisis and causing irreparable damage to EU values. For a sustainable solution to such crises, which are likely to repeat every week, a common EU Migration Agency would be the best option to ensure a fair burden share.

3. Italy refuses disembarkation of rescued migrants

14 July 2018. A ship operated by EU border agency Frontex and a vessel owned by Italy's tax police picked up the migrants near the Italian island of Linosa and more than 100 nautical miles from Malta, which rejected pressure from Rome on Friday to rescue them. Eight of the migrants who needed medical assistance were taken to the Italian island of Lampedusa for treatment. "The migrants could be distributed immediately among European countries, or Italy would contact Libya to send them back to where they came from," an Italian source said. A third option would be to leave the migrants on the ships temporarily while their asylum requests are considered, the source added. Italian PM Conte would write to EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, European Council President Donald Tusk and other European heads of state to urge them to apply the European principles on migrants that were restated at a summit in June. ([Reuters](#)) Malta said the people travelling on the packed vessel were Italy's responsibility. Conte said, France and Malta have agreed to host 50 people each, other European countries will also take some of the asylum seekers, responding to a request for help sent by Italy. ([Reuters](#))

4. EU funds decrease migration from Niger

13 July 2018. "Through financial support and a strong partnership, the European Union has helped Niger to reduce migratory flows to Libya and the EU by over 95%. In 2016, 330,000 people crossed Niger primarily directed to Europe via Libya. In 2017, this number went down to less than 18,000, and in 2018 to around 10,000. We must continue to support Niger in this action by offering all possible help for the economic, entrepreneurial and technological development of the country" said the President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, ahead of his mission in Niger on 17 and 18 July. ([Africa Newsroom](#))

5. Libya's biggest oil field shuts down

14 July 2018. NOC said in a statement that it had shut down production in Sharara oilfield and all workers had been evicted after a terror attack and abduction of two engineers -one Libyan and one Romanian. Sharara is Libya's biggest oil field with 270.000 bpd and is located in the south. that it is following the incident closely and is expecting to lose 160.000 barrels per day over the Sharara field shutdown. No party claimed the attack and abduction. Sharara has been recently a target for armed groups to try and coerce authorities into stratifying their demands. ([Libya Observer](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

(02-08 JULY 2018)

1. Libya Oil Crisis harms economy and Paris Agreement

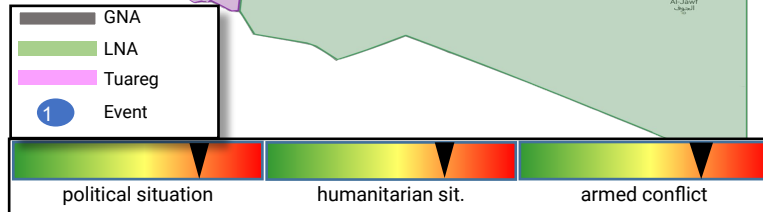
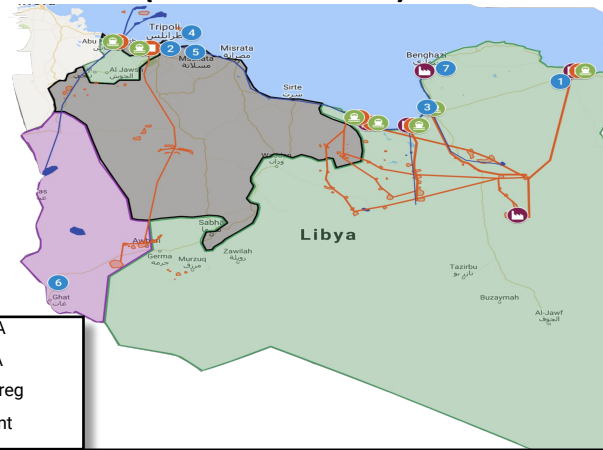
03 July 2018. Oil prices raised after Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) declared force majeure on loadings from Zueitina and Hariga ports after eastern factions seeking control of Libya's oil exports began to block tankers at the two ports. It resulted in total production losses of 850,000 bpd due to the closure of eastern fields and ports. ([Libyan Express](#)) On 07 July, The head of the Libyan High Council of State requested Macron to communicate with all Libyan parties to stop "violation" of the Paris agreement. Al-Meshri said the transferring of the oil ports is a violation of the Paris agreement and several UN Security Council resolutions, "We hope you would communicate with the Libyan parties to immediately stop these violations and move to what was agreed upon," Meshri said in the letter to Macron. ([Xinhua](#))

2. Head of Tripoli NOC calls for international sanctions

04 July 2018. The Chairman of the NOC, Mustafa Sanallah, has called on the international community to impose sanctions against 48 people and entities loyal to Haftar, including the head of the parallel NOC in Benghazi, Faraj Hassi. Sanallah addressed a letter to the UN Sanctions Committee and foreign embassies, confirming what he described as contracts made by Haftar's long term allies, which are contrary to UN resolutions to buy Libyan oil. NOC is in the process of releasing documents, which show illegal contracts made by the parallel illegal institution, pointing out that these contracts could equate to the loss of at least \$800 million to the Libyan state. ([Libya Observer](#))

3. Haftar wants to use oil ports as a bargaining chip

04 July 2018. Haftar has preconditioned reopening the oil terminals and allowing the exports of crude to go back as normal as they have been to some points. "The first condition is to appoint the new governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Mohamed Al-Shoukri who was picked by the House of Representatives; the second is to appoint a fact-finding committee to see where the terrorist groups which attacked the oil ports lately were receiving their funds from; and the third is to investigate why there were no salaries paid to the armed forces over the last period. It also said it is committed to the Paris agreement made last May and to the elections that shall be held by December 10 this year. ([Libya Observer](#)) On 07 July, Sarraj and UN envoy Salame made a joint statement in Tripoli saying NOC in Tripoli is the only legitimate entity responsible for managing oil under the exclusive supervision of the government. They agreed that recent developments and unilateral decisions do not serve the approved political path in preparation for holding presidential and parliamentary elections on a sound constitutional basis. ([Middle East Monitor](#))



Assessment:

According to statistics two things are on the rise; migrants drown and migrants being returned to Libya by the coastguard. Former is due to migrants' desperations to leave before the further crackdown, and lack of NGO actions in the region. Latter is due to increased capacity and area of responsibility of Libyan coastguards and lack of NGO boats -currently, there is no operational NGO rescue boat in the Mediterranean. Basically, both are the result of Italian policy changes. It is evident that leaving SAR only to Libyan Coastguard works, however in the cost of lives.

Haftar's long shot to gain absolute power on oil revenues by a new NOC seems not successful. International actors are still backing Tripoli-based NOC. As assessed, now Haftar is trying to use it as a leverage to change governor of Central Bank of Libya and increase his share from oil revenue. However, it has a potential to backfire. Tripoli may exacerbate the crisis to de-legitimize Haftar.

4. Death toll in the Mediterranean rises

03 July 2018. More than 200 migrants have drowned in the Mediterranean in the past three days. Yesterday, The Libyan coastguard reported a further seven deaths and a further 123 migrants rescued. The 1,000 deaths landmark was reached on 1 July. It is the fourth year in succession that more than 1,000 migrants have died trying to reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. According to a research, so far in 2018 only half of those leaving Libya have made it to Europe, down from 86% last year. The data shows 44% have been brought back by the Libyan coastguard, compared with 12% last year. A total of 4.5% died or had gone missing, compared with 2.3% last year. But in June, almost one in 10 died or went missing upon departure from the Libyan coast – the highest proportion ever. So far, the EU's main proposal to prevent migrants reaching Europe – setting up asylum processing centres outside Europe – has been rejected by leaders in Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. ([The Guardian](#))

5. IOM and UNHCR speak-out their concerns

06 July 2018. The head of IOM, has urged Libya to stop detaining migrants who have been returned to the country's shores after trying to cross the Mediterranean. IOM recommended Libya, the construction of separate centres for women and children. ([UN News](#)) The UNHCR is expected to open a new transit center in Tripoli this month, which will have a capacity for 1,000 people. From this gathering and departure facility, candidates for asylum will be evacuated to a UN center in Niger to complete their applications, which will allow them to be transferred to resettlement nations. ([VOA](#))

6. Libya Deputy Prime Minister visits Rome

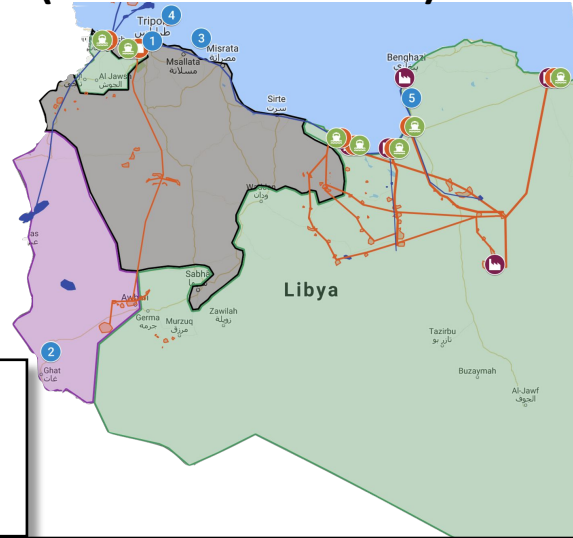
05 July 2018. During the press conference with Libyan DPM Maiteeg, Salvini called for the end of the international arms embargo on Libya, saying weapons and migrant traffickers disregard it anyway. Salvini said Italian security forces will be sent to Ghat, a city in Libya's Algeria border. The Italian presence is aimed at bolster Libyan police against traffickers smuggling in migrants. Earlier this week, Italy announced it was giving 12 vessels to Libya's coast guard, which humanitarian groups say is ill-equipped to properly rescue migrants from traffickers' unseaworthy boats. Salvini said that 17 more boat will follow. ([Fox News](#))

7. LNA accuses Qatar and Turkey

06 July 2018. The Libyan National Army (LNA) escalated its rhetoric against Qatar and Turkey, accusing them of transforming Libya into an open ground for terrorist groups. ([Al-Awsat](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

(25 JUN – 01 JUL 18)



political situation humanitarian sit. armed conflict

Assessment:

National Oil Corporation (NOC) and Central Bank of Libya (CBL), the two most essential tools of governmental power in Libya, are currently under the control of internationally recognized GNA. With his latest move, If Haftar – owner of Oil Crescent – manages the transfer the authority of these two institutions he will also be able to steal the legitimacy of Tripoli-based government. However, it would deepen the split in the country and increase the uncertainty for the oil markets. First reactions show that international actors won't accept new NOC. Haftar, who probably aware of it, eventually would try to use new NOC as leverage to achieve the dragged-on change of the governor of CBL.

Despite declining migrant numbers, the current migrant crisis and results of EU summit proved that the far righters are increasingly influencing the EU on migration related policies. In the short term, announced measures could appease some member states and save the day. However, in the long run, controversial humanitarian aspects of offshoring would damage EU values and put migrants in grave danger. Besides, doubtful feasibility -as there is no volunteer to host EU control centers and African disembarkation centers- would lead to another failure.

1. EU leaders agree on new migrant control centers

29 June 2018. EU27 leaders announced that they had reached an agreement on migration. Although the number of migrants arriving in Europe has fallen by 90% since their 2015 peak, the fallout has fuelled a political crisis between and within EU capitals. Member states agreed to send rescued migrants on EU territory to “control centres” across the bloc – at locations still to be decided, and only in countries that volunteered to have them. There, “rapid and secure processing” would shift economic migrants from refugees with a potential right to asylum, “for whom the principle of solidarity would apply.” Appeasing some of the central Europeans, no relocation measures would be compulsory. Leaders also backed plans, to tighten the EU’s external border, give more money to countries such as Turkey and Morocco to help prevent migrants leaving for Europe, and set up processing centres in countries such as Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia. ([The Guardian](#))

2. Haftar rejects foreign presence on Libya to stem migration

30 June 2018. A potential foreign military presence to combat illegal migration in Libya’s south would be considered an “attack” on the state, the LNA has said. While no country was mentioned in particular, it was seen as a likely reference to Italy and its new anti-immigration government. The LNA said it would “take all measures to protect the Libyan state... to prevent any act that violates national sovereignty. Italy has researched a potential military outpost on Libya’s southwestern border with Algeria recently and this led to protests in the town of Ghat. ([The National](#)) On 25 June, during a visit to Tripoli by Italy’s Salvini, GNA Vice President said that Libya “categorically refuses” the installation of migrant centers in Libya. ([Arab News](#))

3. Barcelona accepts Open Arms rescue ship

01 July 2018. A Spanish NGO rescue boat, Open Arms, which plucked 59 migrants from a patched-up rubber dinghy in the Mediterranean Sea near Libya has been permitted to sail to Barcelona, following another political row between Italy and Malta over where the vessel should dock. Barcelona mayor Ada Colau said “doesn’t want to be an accomplice to the policies of death of Matteo Salvini.” ([ITV](#)) Italian Interior Minister Salvini wrote on his Twitter page that Italy would not accept the ship. The vessels carry migrants from Palestine, South Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Syria, Cot d’Ivoire, Eritrea, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Libya, Bangladesh, and Guinea. ([Sputnik](#))

4. Rubber boat capsizes off Libya: 3 babies among 100 dead

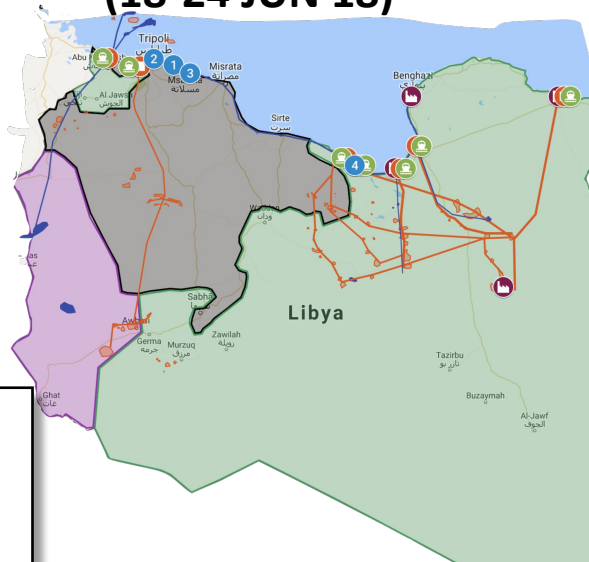
29 June 2018. At least 100 people died after a boat carrying around 123 refugees and migrants sank off the coast of Tajoura in Libya. The unseaworthy and overcrowded rubber boat they were traveling in sank at sea. Survivors were swimming for one hour before they Libyan coast guard rescued them. Among those deceased are 70 men, 30 women, and three babies. The Libyan coast guard rescued 16 people while more than 80 bodies remain at sea. ([UNHCR](#)) The bodies of three children under the age of five have been retrieved. Separately, an estimated 345 migrants were returned Friday to Libyan shores by the Libyan coast guard, IOM said. ([CNN](#)) In the latest incident Open Arms -NGO- called the maritime rescue coordination centre in Rome to offer help, officials there said the Libyan coastguard had the situation covered and that no assistance was needed. Shortly later, the Libyan coastguard service said it rescued 16 migrants from the boat that capsized east of Tripoli, but about 100 who had been onboard were missing at sea and feared dead. A survivor said 125 people, including women and children, had been on the boat. ([The Guardian](#))

5. LNA claims oil ports transferred to eastern NOC

25 June 2018. Haftar’s forces have handed control of oil ports to a National Oil Corporation (NOC) based in Benghazi, a move the internationally recognized NOC in Tripoli dismissed as illegal. LNA spokesman said on TV that no tanker would be allowed to dock at eastern ports without permission from new NOC based in Benghazi. ([Reuters](#)) East Libya officials said they would send oil revenue from areas under their control to a central bank based in the east, defying pressure to return recently recaptured ports to the internationally recognized NOC. ([Reuters](#)) The internationally-recognized Libyan government, GNA, has described measures taken by Haftar to control oil exports in the country as “illegal” ([Middle East Monitor](#)) The UNSG Antonio Guterres voiced concern at developments in Libya’s oil crescent, calling for de-escalation and the return of oil resources to recognized authorities. United States, France, Britain and Italy said they were deeply concerned by an announcement that east Libyan oil fields and ports would be handed over to a parallel NOC based in Benghazi. ([Libyan Express](#)) Libya’s oil production has been reduced to 315,000 bpd as storage tanks at Hariga and Zueitina ports fill up due to eastern officials blocking exports. The production drop has been gradual as ships have been barred from loading at the ports for several days. ([Reuters](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

(18-24 JUN 18)



Assessment:

- EU Migration Summit brought no solution but “a lot of good will” to the current migrant crisis. For a durable solution, EU should fight against irregular immigration without compromising its principles, and by sharing economic and social burden evenly among its member states. The delayed solution for irregular immigration raised populism in Italy. It is also likely to risk Merkel’s position in Germany and the solidarity of Schengen zone itself if a sustainable solution is failed to be obtained.
- Haftar gained the control of the oil crescent two years ago. It has been the driving factor of his international legitimacy. Jadran also tries to gain the control of the same area. Even though Haftar’s forces have been scattered across a large area including Derna, Benghazi, Sabha, and other parts of Eastern Libya and Oil Crescent, air support reinforced mainly by UAE and Egypt provides him superiority in the field. Thus, Haftar seems to have gained control over the area. However, Jadran hasn’t played his last card yet. Regional tribes have a decisive role in controlling the area; if Jadran could gain their support, this fight is likely to continue and be the main obstruct against the Paris Process.

1. Libyan Coastguards rescues or intercepts around 900 migrants in a week

22 June 2018. Five African migrants died, and nearly 200 were rescued off Libya as they tried to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, the Libyan coastguard said. In the last week, 900 migrants have been intercepted or rescued by the Libyans. Migrants rescued or intercepted at sea are usually taken to detention centers. Earlier this week, survivors reported that at least 220 migrants drowned off the coast of Libya in the past few days while trying to reach Europe, putting the death toll this year to more than 1,000, the United Nations said on Thursday. ([Middle East Eye](#)) On 23 June, Spanish coastguards rescued nearly 600 migrants in the Mediterranean trying to make the crossing with dinghies or wooden rafts from Africa. ([Reuters](#))

2. Migration discussions cause tension among EU leaders

24 June 2018. In the last couple of days before the EU migration summit tempers flared. Italy slammed Malta’s refusal to take in the MV Lifeline as “inhumane,” but Maltese PM Muscat retorted his country would not be told what to do. ([Reuters](#)) Macron said European cooperation had managed to cut migration flows by close to 80 percent and problems stemmed from “secondary” movements of migrants within Europe. ([Reuters](#)) Today, the 16 EU leaders met in Brussels for the informal talks in a bid to iron out differences over migration policies. Several countries with anti-migrant governments, including Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, did not attend. Merkel said the meeting had created “a lot of goodwill” to discuss EU disagreements on migration. She added that the leaders agreed that Europe's outer borders needed to be better protected to keep people from entering illegally. Italy, a major entry point for migrants, especially from Africa, has called on EU members to accept their share of economic migrants entering EU or get less EU money. Merkel said EU leaders agreed that “all countries should share all the burdens” related to migration. “We cannot leave the countries of entry alone, as that would mean that they have to solve all the problems on their own,” she said. ([DW](#))

3. MV Lifeline, to become second Aquarius case

23 June 2018. MV Lifeline, the vessel carrying more than 200 migrants off the coast of Libya, is currently at the center of another diplomatic standoff between Malta and Italy. Italy’s interior minister said that Malta should allow a Dutch-flagged rescue ship carrying migrants rescued from rubber dinghies off the Libyan coast to make port there because the boat is now in Maltese water. Both Maltese and Italian authorities support their stance with legal arguments. ([Malta Independent](#)) German NGO boat, carrying over 200 migrants, currently stranded in the Mediterranean. Both countries have refused to let the ship into their ports. Italian coastguards sent a message to rescue boats operating in the Mediterranean advising them that Italy would no longer be their first point of reference. ([Digital Journal](#))

4. LNA claims control of strategic oil ports

17 June 2018. The spokesperson for Haftar-led Libyan National Army (LNA), claimed that the Sidra and Ras Lanuf oil port terminals had been recaptured from the Ibrahim Jadran coalition, Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) militia. The recapture was achieved with the aid of airstrikes provided by the UAE backed LNA air force. The Jadran forces claim that they had made tactical withdrawals, regrouping and preparing for a counter attack. ([Libya Herald](#)) These ports are the largest oil ports and have crucial to the recovery of the country’s oil industry. Two oil storage tanks had been set on fire since the initial attack, causing damage that the National Oil Corporation (NOC) has said will take years to repair. And today, a third storage tank was set alight. ([Reuters](#)) The head of Libya’s National Oil Corporation (NOC) confirmed that LNA had regained control of the Ras Lanuf and Es Sider ([Reuters](#)) The LNA has accused its rivals of launching attacks on the oil sites “to ease pressure on terrorists in Derna. “The attack... was planned by the intelligence services of states that do not want the return of stability in Libya,” said Tarek el-Jerouchi, a member of the country’s eastern parliament, pointing to Italy, Turkey, and Qatar. ([France 24](#)) In the meantime, a video has revealed the depots in the oil facilities used by LNA to stock military equipment and arms sent by UAE. PFG has accused LNA warplanes of attacking repairing workers with mortars and barrel bombs to hinder them from extinguishing the tanks on fire. ([Libya Observer](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

(11-17 JUN 18)



Assessment:

- Control over Libya oil crescent region, which has %80 of oil reserves, has a decisive role in the crisis. Haftar has the power in the area since 2016. Haftar and his foreign supporters including France, UAE, Egypt, and Russia want that not changed. However, current attacks in the region might have been backed by other internal and external actors who don't want to go to elections with the current status. Thus, the struggle for dominance in this region might be the central conflict area on the way to polls.
- Aquarius decision of new Italian Government was a definite shift of focus in refugee policy: from humanitarian perspective to Italy-first perspective. This is the result of unsuccessful EU policy that left the problems of Italians unsolved, and likely to increase humanitarian crisis inside Libya. Still, rational EU leaders have a chance to come up with a more humane and sustainable solution at the EU Summit during 28-29 June.

1. Heavy clashes erupt to control Libya Oil Crescent

14 June 2018. The major Libyan oil ports of Ras Lanuf and Es Sider were closed and evacuated after armed groups opposed to Haftar. Armed groups headed by Ibrahim Jathran who blockaded the terminals in Libya's oil crescent for three years before being forced out by Haftar. LNA has been sending reinforcements to the oil crescent ahead of a push to recapture the ports and has launched air strikes against its rivals. Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) called for the "unconditional and immediate" withdrawal of militia loyal to Jathran from Ras Lanuf and Es Sider terminals, warning of environmental disaster and further damage to key infrastructure. The NOC declared force majeure in both ports announcing an initial production loss of 240,000 barrels per day (bpd), which it said was expected to rise to 400,000 bpd if the ports stayed shut. ([Reuters](#))

Clashes caused an oil storage tank to catch fire in the Ras Lanuf terminal, and Es Sider terminal has been shut down. ([BBC](#)) The Libyan House of Representatives and The PM Serraj condemned the attacks, and UNSMIL warned about economic and political impacts. ([Xinhua](#)) Also France condemned the offensive in the strongest possible terms and stressed its dedication to agreed timetable for the elections. ([France Diplomatie](#))

2. LNA claims capture of Derna

14 June 2018. Haftar declared that they face just a few dozen "remnant" Derna fighters who have deployed snipers and planted explosives to stave off inevitable defeat. ([Reuters](#)) Meanwhile, LNA accused with summary killings in Derna. A video posted on social media shows the graphic moment when LNA fighters were torturing two people before opening a barrage of gunfire on them. ([Libyan Express](#)) A spokesman of LNA said that their forces will continue military actions throughout all of Libya and will liberate Sirte, Misrata and then Tripoli so the military can control the entire country. ([Libyan Express](#))

3. Anti-immigrant policies rise in Italy

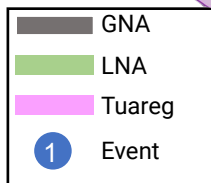
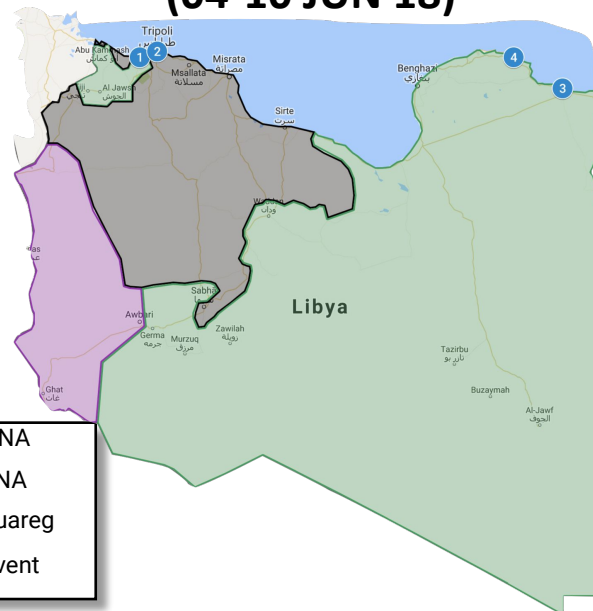
16 June 2018. Interior Minister Salvini has announced that Italy won't allow two NGO rescue ships with illegal migrants from Africa onboard, which was abandoned by human traffickers, to dock in their ports. According to the him, the boats Lifeline and Seefuchs under the Dutch flag are waiting off the Libyan coast, ready to take people. "These people should know that Italy doesn't want to be complicit in the business of illegal immigration no more" added Salvini. ([Sputnik](#)) On 13 June, Leader of the Italian "Brothers of Italy" party has urged for a naval blockade on Libya to stop immigration boats. On 12 June, the Italian ambassador to Libya met with Libyan foreign minister and reiterated the commitment of Italy to helping Libya in the illegal migration issue through deals and agreements. ([Libya Observer](#)) Meanwhile, Libyan coastguards, supported with £160 million by the EU, is caught on camera beating desperate migrants as they set out to sea on a floating death-trap. ([Mail Online](#))

4. Aquarius arrives Valencia port

17 June 2018. The Aquarius charity-run rescue ship arrived in the Spanish port of Valencia, a week after Italy refused to let it dock with 629 migrants on board. Spain offered to take the boat in, meaning it had to travel an extra 700 miles after plucking the migrants from unstable ships off the coast of Libya. ([Reuters](#)) Macron of France promised to have some of these refugees. However, Spain may soon need to welcome more migrants, as rescue ships picked up more than 1,000 people on 15-16 June. ([ThinkProgress](#)) Malta and Italy's refusal to take in the migrants and refugees rescued off the coast of Libya widely criticized. The head IFRC accused Europe of betraying its fundamental values by ignoring the plight of the rescue ship Aquarius. Macron, named Rome's action as "cynicism and irresponsibility." ([The Guardian](#)) On 16 June, Macron and Italian PM Conte met and agreed that the EU should set up asylum processing centers in Africa to prevent "voyages of death." At their meeting in Paris, Macron and Conte also demanded "profound" changes to the EU's asylum rules which put the migrant burden on their port of entry to Europe—mainly Italy and Greece. ([AFP](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

(04-10 JUN 18)



Assessment:

•Dutch initiative in UNSC unexpectedly elicited on the malfunctioning aspect of EU immigration policy. In this picture, Libyan human traffickers seem to be enabled by EU or some member states. For keeping the refugees out of European shores, EU is trying to make a refugee deal with Libyan authorities -as they did with Turkey. However, lack of government authority in Libya leaves the refugees vulnerable to horrific abuses. Chauvinist discourses -like the one of Salvini- and rising popularity of right-wing in the EU states are likely to hinder cooperation with Libya and other North African countries.

1. UNSC blacklists 6 Libyan Human Traffickers

08 Jun 2018. Upon increasing evidence on human slavery in Libya, the Netherlands actuated UN Security Council put six Human Traffickers under international travel ban and asset freeze. This is the archetype of global sanctions on human traffickers. Six of the traffickers are Libyan. Among which there are a coast guard regional head and a militia leader who works in coordination to abuse the migrants. It is known that Italy and EU sponsor Libyan coast guards against illegal immigration. ([Maritime Executive](#)) On the other hand, Jalel Harchaoui, an associate at North Africa Risk Consulting commented “Do not put too much emphasis on individuals ... illicit networks don’t rely on just six men,” on Twitter. “Western states - when it comes to illicit activities in Libya - must first focus on not being complicit,” he added, referring to a blacklisted militia leader, who had been supported by Italy and the EU last year. ([Reuters](#)) According to a statement from Dutch Government, these sanctions will be a part of comprehensive efforts by the entire international community to bring peace and stability to Libya, and Libyan authorities would like to see the list expanded. ([Libya Herald](#))

2. Salvini vows to send half million refugees back to Libya

04 Jun 2018. In his first weekend as Italy’s minister of interior, Matteo Salvini traveled to Pozzallo, Sicily, a harbor town that has become a main port of arrival for migrants and refugees, and vowed to “put Italians first” and send half a million undocumented migrants “home.” Before elections, Salvini campaigned on a pledge to deport about 500,000 migrants from North Africa living illegally in Italy. ([WND](#))

3. Libya High State Council holds out an olive branch to HoR

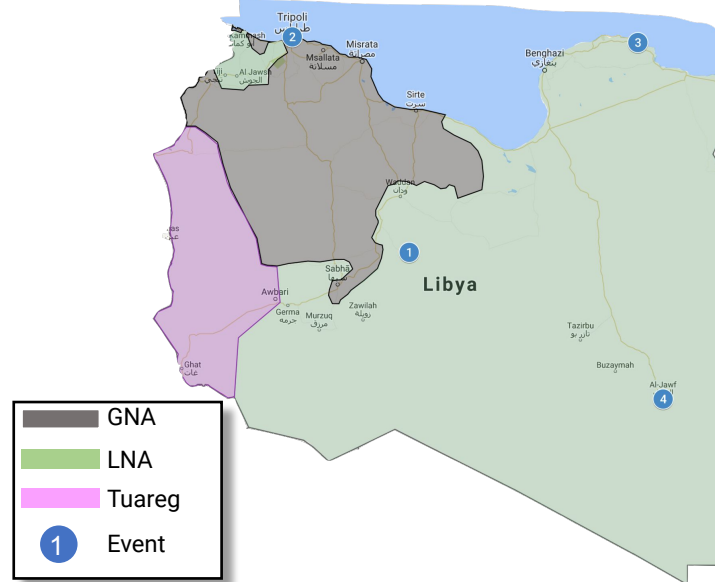
07 Jun 2018. Soon after Paris Declaration, the head of the High State Council (HSC) Khaled Mishri has announced his readiness to meet opponent parliament -the House of Representatives (HoR)- in Tobruk. Mishri claimed that he is ready to lead a delegation of 30 HSC members representing all of Libya’s constituencies for the sake of ending political division, achieving stability and getting together on practical solutions in advance of elections. ([Libya Herald](#))

4. LNA enters Derna

08 Jun 2018. According to Libyan National Army (LNA) spokesman Ahmed al-Mesmari, LNA forces have entered the city and captured “more than 75 percent of Derna and forced out terrorists from most of the city.” ([RT](#)) A photo released by Haftar’s forces showed Yahiya al-Osta Omar - a senior commander of Derna Protection Forces-, sitting captured and handcuffed in civilian clothes. On the other hand, UN warned about the humanitarian crisis in the city. “We are deeply alarmed at the escalating risks to the population,” said Elizabeth Throssell, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, in a statement. “There have been increasing allegations that civilians have been arbitrarily detained, while others have been prevented from leaving the city.” ([Reuters](#))

LIBYA CRISIS WATCH

(28 MAY – 03 JUN 18)



Assessment:

- Paris Agreement is a significant step. However, it is not signed by the parties and vague about setting the basis for elections. Electoral law by 16 Sep and elections by 10 Dec seem unrealistic. Haftar is a military leader, and his possible presidential competitors are civilian politicians, roles and powers need to be defined by a constitution, which needs to be passed by referendum process. On the other hand, honest elections require impartial and unified security forces to oversee polls, and legal institutions to deal with legal challenges and objections.
- Paris agreement didn't touch on ending the current military attacks in Libya. France's close stance to Haftar could be the main reason for that. However, resumption of Haftar's offensive attitude and search for more mercenaries have a potential of undermining current international peace efforts.

1. Four Rival Leaders accord in Paris to go for elections on 10 December.

29 May 2018. Libya's four rival leaders: Fayeze al-Sarraj -head of the UN-backed Government of National Accord in Tripoli-, Khalid al-Mishri -newly elected head of the High Council of State in Tripoli-, Khalifa Haftar -commander of self-styled Libyan National Army- and Aguila Saleh -speaker of Tobruk based House of Representatives- reached an agreement on holding the legislative and presidential elections on 10 December 2018. Parties refrained from putting their signatures under this eight-point Paris Agreement, which also includes unification of governmental institutions and establishment of a national army. According to oral Paris Agreement, the electoral laws, which will be adopted by 16 September, will set the constitutional basis for the elections. ([Reuters](#))

2. Post-Comments of Libyan Leaders threaten the Paris Agreement

31 May 2018. Soon after Paris Declaration, Libyan leaders started to threaten the unsigned verbal agreement. Haftar said that their red lines should not be crossed. Head of High Council of State - Mishri announced that they do not recognize Haftar as the commander of Libyan national army, and pointed out Fayeze -head of the GNA- as the Supreme Commander of the Libyan Army. He added that he would not shake Haftar's hand as he is responsible for the suffering of 130.000 Libyan in Derna. Speaker of HoR-Saleh alleged that Haftar saved the Libyans and even some neighboring countries from the threat of terrorism ([Al-Awsat](#)). On the other hand, other actors of Libya Crisis declared that the French initiative does not represent them. Representatives of most prominent thirteen military forces in western Libya including Misrata and Zintan military councils rejected foreign interference to Libya Crisis and urged UN to act impartially. ([The Libya Observer](#))

3. UN warns about a severe humanitarian crisis in Derna

31 May 2018. After Paris Declaration, Haftar picked up Derna offensive where he left off. UN Humanitarian office announced that fighting in Derna escalated to an "unprecedented" level. The UN report stressed that due to heavy air raids, shelling of residential areas and heavy ground clashes, residents of the city struggling with the shortage of water, food, and medicine, and living without electricity. According to the UN report, Local sources reported that Derna Protection Forces are taking positions amongst civilian infrastructure in residential areas, and not letting the civilians leave the city. It is also reported that at least 17 civilians, including two children, were killed and another 22, including seven children, were injured in the conduct of hostilities. ([Arab News](#)), ([Reuters](#))

4. Sudan, Libya, Chad, and Niger agree on border security and the fight against transnational organized crime

Foreign Minister of Libya Government of National Accord stated that Libya signed an agreement with Sudan, Chad and Niger to enhance joint efforts for providing border security against human trafficking, illegal migration, terrorism and all forms of cross-border crime. This agreement is also important for preventing the migration of mercenaries to Libya. ([Sudan Tribune](#))
On the other hand, it is revealed that Haftar sent his aides to meet with the leaders of Sudan Liberation Army-Minni Minawi to increase the number of fighters in Libya. It is alleged that two sides agreed on increasing the number of Minawi fighters in Libya to more than 1000. ([Libya Observer](#))