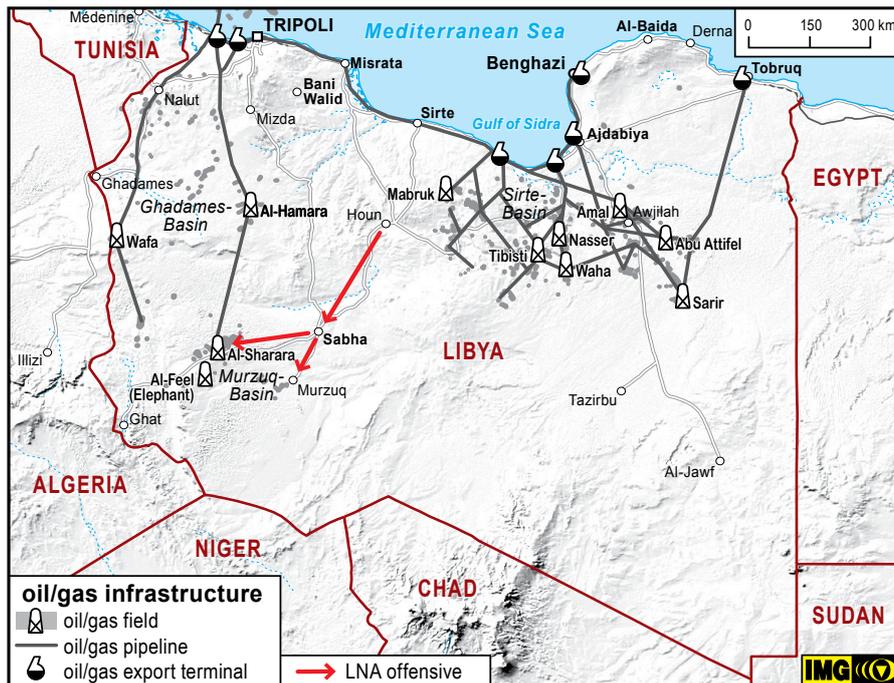


FACT SHEET LIBYA

14 November 2018 - 28 February 2019 No. 8

On February the 17th the Libyan people celebrated the eighth anniversary of the beginning of the revolution. Despite some optimism after the Palermo summit in November 2018, an increasing militarization of the conflict could be observed. The campaign of Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) that was launched in January, shifts the balance of power in the country in a way that

could compromise the peace process. Although some southern militias handed over their positions to the LNA without resistance, there was heavy fighting around Murzuk. After the acquisition of the oil fields in Ubari by the LNA, Haftar now controls all major oil fields in the country, thus significantly strengthening his basis of power.



Note: No claim to completeness of the map is put forward.

GRAPHIC

The LNA offensive in Fezzan is now at an advanced stage. The intensity and duration of the battles depend on the willingness of local militias to cooperate with the LNA. An expansion of the offensive towards Tripoli, however, is unlikely at this point of time. The LNA will try to secure the oil production in the region as well as to gain control of the border to Niger and Algeria. The latter will be only achievable if the LNA is supported by the Tuareg and Tebu tribal militias.

FORECAST

After postponing the dialogue conference, the African Union, in collaboration with the UN, now plans an international conference in July in preparation for the countrywide elections, scheduled for October 2019. The success of such a conference, however, largely depends on how far clashes between rival militias in Tripoli, Haftar's offensive in the south, as well as the enduring division between the political blocs allow for a political dialogue.

Meanwhile, Haftar's offensive in the south pursues two important goals: to persuade the tribal militias to join the LNA or lay down their weapons, as well as to oust the Chadian armed opposition groups of Tebu from Libya. The continuation of Haftar's offensive towards Tripoli depends on the willingness of cooperation of the local militias with the LNA. Moreover, Haftar repeatedly emphasized his support for free elections and the prevention of violence.

The periodically published Fact Sheet compiles and analyzes significant developments pertaining to the Libya conflict while providing maps and an outlook of possible future events.

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SOURCES.: MEDIA ANALYSIS; LAYOUT.: REF III/Medien, IMG



INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

25.11.: Egypt and Sudan launched combined patrols in an effort to control the border to Libya and counter cross-border threats.

29.11.: The US Africa Command eliminated eleven suspected fighters of al-Qaida of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in the south-western part of the Libyan desert. AQIM, however, denied any link to the killed group.

22.12.: Libya and Turkey initiated a joint investigation based on an outgoing arms shipment from Turkey that was seized in Khoms Port. Incidents of arms smuggling have increased since the Turkish delegations' premature departure from the Palermo summit a few weeks prior.

17.01.: The vice president of the Presidential Council (PC) and the EU Ambassador to Libya discussed the possibility of collaboration in the areas of border administration and assistance to municipalities.

02.02.: UN special envoy Salamé met with the Egyptian Foreign Minister and members of the Libyan community in Cairo in an effort to discuss the conditions for holding the Libyan National Conference.

04.02.: Following requests by the Chadian authorities, French aircraft bombed a Chadian rebel convoy of 40 pick-ups coming from Libya. Dozens of Chadian militias of the Tebu have fled into their home country due to the LNA offensive in southern Libya.

12.02.: The African Union (AU) proposed a joint AU-UN conference to promote reconciliation among rivaling factions in Libya.

26.02.: Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov cautioned against using time pressure to force an election in Libya. Political consensus and peace among major factions were cited as prerequisites for establishing a comprehensive political process. Russian media sources increasingly reported about Saif al-Gaddafi in connection with the upcoming elections in Libya.

DOMESTIC POLITICS

26.11.: The House of Representatives adopted a constitutional amendment recognizing the division of Libya into the three voting districts of Tripolitania, Fezzan and Cyrenaica. New rules stipulate a minimum 50% + 1 vote per district and 2/3 national approval for the final draft of the constitution to be ratified. Further amendments included an agreement to restructure the Presidential Council by reducing its members from nine to three, as well as appointing a separate prime minister.

10.12.: Oil production at the Sharara oilfield near to Ubari, which provides roughly 1/3 of Libya's oil production, was halted following protests by the local population. The 30th brigade, a Tuareg tribal militia tasked with securing el-Sharara, was accused of enabling the protests.

14.01.: According to Libya's Central Bank, the budget deficit fell from 10.6 bn dinars (2017) to 4.6 bn dinars (3.3 bn US dollars) at the end of 2018, largely due to increasing oil and gas revenues.

31.01.: The National Oil Corporation (NOC) estimated a need for a 60 bn dollar investment in order to modernise the facilities of the oil and gas industry.

28.02.: During negotiations held in Abu Dhabi, Prime Minister Fayez Serraj, also Chairman of the Presidential Council in Tripoli, and Khalifa Haftar agreed to end the transitional period by holding elections. However, deadlines had not been set. In addition, work would be continued to unify fragmented state institutions.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

23.11.: Suspected ISIS-gunmen killed 9 civilians in the city of Tazirbu, located in the southern desert of Libya. 10 people were injured while others were abducted.

25.12.: Three suicide bombers attacked the Libyan Foreign Ministry in Tripoli, killing three people and leaving over 20 injured.

15.01.: Khalifa Haftar's LNA instructed all militias to surrender their positions in Sebha, Fezzan's capital, to military authorities. In the next few days some LNA units continued their airstrike-supported offensive towards the south and west. Heavy fighting took place in the Murzuk Basin.

16.01.: Clashes between militias from Tarhuna and Tripoli over the Tripoli International Airport broke the four-month ceasefire in the south of the capital. The fighting lasted for six days and ended with 13 dead before the militias from Tarhuna withdrew.

06.02.: Serraj appointed the Tuareg commander and previous Gaddafi Commander Ali Kanna as military commander in Sabha.

11.02.: After negotiations with the 30th Brigade, a Tuareg unit of the Petroleum Facility Guards, the el-Sharara oil field was handed over to Haftar's LNA, as the second large oil field in the region (el-Feel) was 10 days later.

13.02.: Numerous leaders of the LNA arrived in Sabha. They assured the population that their aim is to restore security but not to occupy the area. One step would be the resumption of civil aviation at Libya's Sabha airport.

22.02.: In the course of fierce fighting with Tebu militias, the LNA deployed additional units in Murzuk. According to the IOM a minimum of 200 families were displaced within three days, due to the fighting.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

20.11.: Refugees that had been returned to Libya, were forcibly removed from their rescuing vessel, the Panamanian cargo ship Nivin, by the Libyan Coast Guard, after refusing to disembark onto Libyan soil.

21.12.: The Libyan Coast Guard announced the interception of 15,000 migrants in 2018, largely due to enhanced operative capabilities after receiving a donation of decommissioned Italian Navy vessels. Concurrently, the humanitarian situation in Libyan refugee camps continued to be subject of criticism.

19.01.: Human Rights Watch criticised that there are still over 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDP's) in Libya and that they are partly prevented from returning.

06.02.: The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Government of National Accord (GNA) launched the Humanitarian Response Plan 2019 in an effort to raise necessary funds for humanitarian purposes.

11.02.: Despite the LNA declaring the end of the military operations in Derna, the situation remains tense according to the UNHCR. Around 1,300 displaced families returned by January, while 600 more found their homes destroyed in their absence. A number of buildings were also seized by the LNA.



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