



FACT SHEET LIBYA

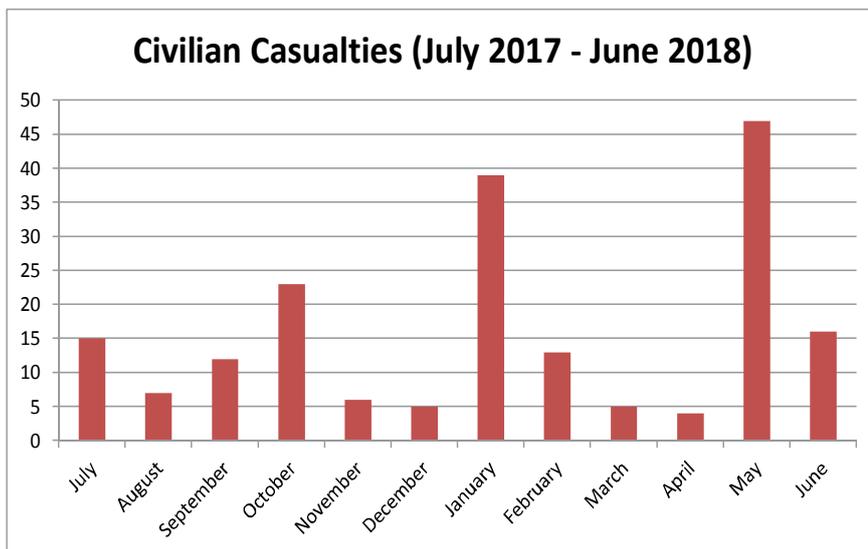
25. April 2018 – 23. July 2018 Nr. 6



The push for elections in Libya by French president Macron and the head of UNSMIL, Ghassan Salamé, has finally led to the announcement of the four most important Libyan stakeholders to hold presidential and parliamentary elections on December 10, 2018 and to provide the constitutional framework for elections by September 16.

The election of Khaled al-Mishri as speaker of the High State Council (HSC) brought new dynamics into the political dialogue between the two legislative bodies, the HSC in Tripoli and the House of Representatives (HoR) in Tobruq.

The battle for the oil infrastructure between Sirte and Ajdabiya attracted great attention. Ibrahim Jadran, who controlled the oil facilities up to 2016, has unified a bunch of Islamist leaning militias and local armed groups to bring the oil infrastructure in Sidra and Ras Lanuf under his control. After the Libyan National Army (LNA) had recaptured the facilities it handed over the administration of the sites to the National Oil Corporation (NOC) in Tripoli, however, only after receiving certain guarantees from the authorities in the capital, like more transparency and control regarding the oil revenues.



Source: UNSMIL

GRAPHIC

The number of civilian casualties in Libya varies strongly from month to month. Most civilians died in January (39) when fighting was going on intensely in Benghazi, and in May (47) when in Benghazi, as well as in Tripoli and Derna the number of civilian casualties was high. Almost half of the victims during the last year died in Benghazi (85 out of 192). Other cities with a high number of civilian casualties are Derna (39), Tripoli (21) und Sabha (16).

FORECAST

Although the UN and several other international actors support the plan of holding elections, there is no guarantee that elections will bring more stability and end the deep fragmentation in the country. However, holding elections can be considered as the only consensus the various political and military actors agree on at the moment. The greatest obstacle on the path to elections is the adoption of an electoral law. Although the HoR started a debate about the electoral legislation in its sessions, it remains uncertain if the law will be adopted by the deadline on September 16.

The visits of high ranking EU officials to Libya, such as the president of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, as well as the first visit of Federica Mogherini, highlight the strong interest of the EU in resolving the migration issue.

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

23.04.: The head of the Italian Navy, Admiral Girardelli, arrived in Tripoli to review the cooperation with the local branch of the Libyan Coastguard. The Italian Navy is present in Libya since summer 2017 for logistical, technical and operational support of specific coast guard entities. Moreover, Italy announced to deliver 50 rubber boats to the Libyan Coastguard in autumn.

03.05.: Russia invited the Libyan foreign minister, Mohammed Siala, of the internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) to Moscow, the following day Khalifa Haftar, commander of the LNA, held a video conference with the Russian defence minister. In both meetings combating terrorism and the future of Libya were major topics.

10.05.: Once again Egypt stopped a convoy at its border with Libya and captured 13 vehicles with arms and ammunition.

21.05.: In a report to the UN Security Council Salamé announced to give up the amendment attempts of the Libyan Political Agreement and stated he will focus entirely on preparing elections.

29.05.: Aguila Saleh, speaker of the HoR, Khalifa Haftar, commander of the LNA, Fayez Serraj, president of the Presidency Council (PC) and Khaled Mishri, speaker of the HSC were invited for negotiations to Paris and announced in a joint statement to hold parliamentary and presidential elections on December 10, 2018 and unify the divided state institutions.

31.05.: Libya, Niger, Chad and Sudan signed an agreement to secure their common borders and fight human trafficking and weapons smuggling. Details about the cooperation are not yet known.

06.06.: The US conducted a drone strike 35 km south of Bani Walid, killing 4 IS-members. One week later the US carried out another air strike around 15 km further south, killing one member of al-Qaeda.

07.06.: The UNSC sanctioned four Libyan and two Eritrean individuals for human trafficking and fuel smuggling from Libya by freezing their assets and imposing travel bans. These are the first UN sanctions against individuals suspected of human trafficking and people smuggling in history.

12.06.: The UN extended the arms embargo on Libya for another year, which in its strict form is imposed since 2014, but lacks full enforcement. Several Libyan stakeholders called the international community to lift the embargo partly in order to better equip government units, such as the Presidential Guard.

02.07.: UN Secretary General Guterres appointed the US diplomat Stephanie Williams as deputy head of UNSMIL.

DOMESTIC POLITICS

27.04.: The day after Haftar's return from his medical treatment in France, the Awlad Suleiman Tribal Council, the largest fraction in Sebha, declared its loyalty to Haftar. Shortly after leaders from Kufra published a similar statement.

07.05.: The PC issued a controversial decree (Nr. 555) converting the Special Deterrence Force (SDF) in Tripoli into the Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism, which gives the SDF besides its own budget more competences, such as online monitoring of "suspicious" individuals.

12.05.: Zintan continued its diplomatic offensive and signed reconciliation agreements with the other Tripolitanian cities Misrata and Tarhuna.

11.07.: After the LNA had reconquered the major central Libyan oil terminals it announced to hand back the administration of the oil facilities to the internationally recognized NOC in Tripoli, however only after certain demands, such as more transparency regarding the oil revenues, were met. After the handover oil production continued.

18.07.: Fatih Majbari, an Easter Libyan member of the Presidential Council and the GNA, announced to lay down his membership in the PC justifying this step with the attack on his home and the influence of the militias in Tripoli on every political decision.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

27.04., 11.05.: The Airforce of the GNA struck several sites of oil smugglers in western Libya. According to the NOC USD 750 million in revenues are lost due to oil smuggling every year.

02.05.: The High National Election Commission in Tripoli was attacked by two members of the Islamic State killing 16 people.

07.05.: After several units were deployed to Derna in recent months Haftar officially announced the start of the military operation to retake the only city in Eastern Libya not under control of the LNA. By the end of June Haftar announced to have gained full control over Derna and the LNA appointed a new mayor for the town. There is still violent resistance in certain parts of the city.

12.05.: Tubu militias conquered the castle of Sabha from the 6th Brigade, the biggest Arab tribal militia in the city, after the LNA confirmed that the unit is officially part of its alliance. After this turning point in the month long battle in the outskirts of Sebha the situation calmed down as the rival parties agreed on not bringing the fight further into the city center.

25.05.: A car exploded in Benghazi killing seven people and wounding more than 20. According to conflicting reports it remains unclear if it was a car bomb or an unintended explosion. However, amongst the dead was Ezzo Raslan, a notorious commander of the LNA-affiliated Sahawat militia.

14.06.: A militia alliance around Ibrahim Jadran, who was formerly in control of the oil infrastructure in Sidra and Ras Lanuf, expelled the LNA from the sites. The LNA, which controls the facilities since September 2016, conquered them back one week later, however part of the oil facilities was damaged.

06.07.: Emad Trabelsi from Zintan was appointed director of the General Security Directorate in Tripoli causing protests of the big militias in the capital. A few days later the Security Directorate was moved from the ministry of interior to the Prime Minister's office granting it more independence from the influential militias.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

07.05.: The Medical Center in Sabha documented 18 deaths and 85 injuries as a consequence of the clashes in the outskirts of Sabha since February.

15.05.: After clashes in Derna intensified, Human Rights Watch demanded the siege on Derna to be lifted and urged both sides to stick to the rules of war, especially to avoid civilian casualties and not destroy vital infrastructure. UNSMIL stated that in the second half of May alone at least 17 civilians were killed in Derna and hundreds were displaced since the beginning of the offensive.

24.05.: More than 20 migrants were wounded and brought to Bani Walid hospital after a human smuggler tried to stop them from escaping from his hideout by shooting at them.

03.06.: Delegates from Misrata and Tawergha signed a reconciliation agreement to secure the return of the inhabitants of Tawergha to their city, which is a ghost town since 2011. The return to the city was prevented several times by rival forces from Misrata and Eastern Libya.

07.07.: The International Organization for Migration stated that 629 migrants drowned in the Mediterranean in June, making it the deadliest month in 2018.

17.07.: The NGO Proactiva Open Arms accused the Libyan Coastguard of leaving 2 people on a broken boat in the open water letting them die. The Coastguard branch in Tripoli denied these accusations.



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Videoblog „Feichtinger kompakt“
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