

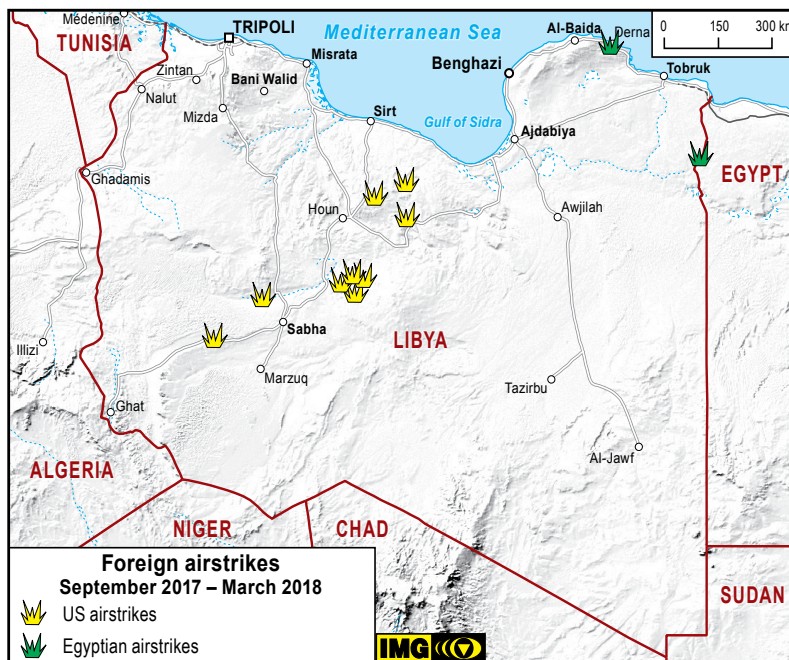
The election of Khaled al-Mishri, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood, to the chairman of the High Council of State (HCS) will bring new dynamics in the dialogue between the east and west of Libya, especially in the context of Haftar's ongoing treatment in Paris and the uncertainty regarding his current health status. Haftar has not been seen in public in the last few weeks.

The killing of two high-ranking al-Qaeda commanders in an US-airstrike in the southern city of Ubari is an expression of the US strategy in Libya, which does merely go beyond isolated air strikes against terror networks. The ongoing construction of a US drone base in Agadez, Niger, can be explained in

this context, particularly due to the Islamic State and al-Qaeda establishing a permanent foothold in southern Libya.

The clashes in the outskirts of the capital of the Fezzan, Sebha, are continuing since several weeks, causing dozens of victims. Numerous attempts to establish a sustainable ceasefire failed. Simultaneously, the LNA launched Operation *Law Enforcement* in southern Libya, which is directed against foreign militias, and deployed troops to Kufra and the surroundings of Sebha.

The number of migrants passing Libya decreased significantly since February 2018. Nevertheless, dozens died trying to reach Europe.



MAP ANALYSIS

The United States bombed 9 targets in the last seven months, focusing on the central and southern parts of Libya, where the Islamic State and al-Qaeda have their strongholds.

Egypt on the one hand, targeted Derna with airstrikes in October 2017, where there is still a terrorist network which is regularly active in Egypt. On the other hand regular bombardments are executed in the Egyptian-Libyan border region targeting transnational militias and weapon convoys.

FORECAST

Haftar's ongoing treatment in Paris and the uncertainty of his state of health are a major game changer in Libya, especially in the eastern parts of the country. Possible successors are the LNA chief of staff Nazouri and Haftar's long term ally General al-Hassi. Haftar's sons and members of his Furjan tribe will continue to be major players. The new leader of the LNA not only has to be able to control all the militias in the LNA, but also have the backing of the most powerful tribes in the east and have good contacts to Cairo, Moscow, Dubai and Paris.

If the latest developments regarding Haftar and Mishri as power brokers will bring productive outcomes in the political dialogue remains to be seen, however, the power constellation in Libya changed significantly in recent weeks.

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.

INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

27.02.: The deputy head of the Sudanese intelligence service accused rebel groups in his country of destabilising the region with their border-crossing illegal activities. Shortly afterwards a Darfuri militia commander was detained for, amongst others, recruiting child soldiers for the fight in Libya.

07.03.: In his speech at the US-defence committee General Waldhauser, the head of AFRICOM, lined out the 3 strategic goals of the United States in Libya: fight terrorism, help stabilize the country and contain migration to Europe.

21.03.: Ghassan Salamé, the UN special envoy for Libya, reported to the UN- Security Council that the planned amendment of the Libyan Political Agreement is becoming less important in the face of nearing elections.

24.03.: The US killed two high ranking al-Qaeda members in an airstrike in southern Libya, near Ubari.

27.03.: Around 30 members of the Libyan coastguard from Tripoli finished the second stage of a three-stage training with the Italian coastguard. The last stage will end in May.

04.04.: Libya, Niger, Chad and Sudan agreed on establishing joint operation mechanisms to fight organised crime in the bor-

DOMESTIC POLITICS

07.03.: The government in eastern Libya prohibited the transmission of foreign radio channels arguing that foreign powers, that want to divide the country, have to be curtailed.

11.03.: The HCS passed the election law on to the House of Representatives (HoR) Thus far the law was not passed by the HoR.

13.03.: The former Libyan ambassador to the UAE, Aref Nayed, who has close ties to Haftar, announced his intention to compete at the presidential elections. The following week the lawyer of Saif Gaddafi announced in Tunis that Saif would compete as well, although he was not seen in public since years.

15.03.: The Libyan attorney general issued arrest warrants and travel bans against 60 board members of Libyan oil distribution companies that are supposedly involved in fuel-smuggling activities. Some were detained already.

28.03.: Delegates from Zintan started a diplomatic offensive and received a delegation from the rival city of Misrata. Three weeks later another reconciliation meeting took place in Zintan with delegates from Zuwara.

29.03.: The short time abduction of the mayor of Tripoli is just one example for the poor security situation in Tripolitania. Shortly afterwards, the mayor of Aziziya was abducted.

05.04.: Local gatherings started under the label "al-multaqa al-watani" in Zuwara and Benghazi. These discussion sessions are to take place in dozens of cities in the course of the next weeks and serve as preparation for the UNSMIL-sponsored National Dialogue Conference that is planned after Ramadan.

08.04.: Khaled al-Mishri from the Justice and Construction Party, which is close to the Muslim Brotherhood, followed Abdu-rahman Swehli from Misrata as elected chairman of the High Council of State.

09.04.: The High National Election Commission ended the registration process for elections abroad with 2.4 million Libyans, around 60% of the population eligible to vote, being registered.

14.04.: In Tripoli members of a conference demanded the reinstallation of the Libyan constitution from 1969. By the end of last year two similar conferences were held in Gharyan and Beida.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

24.04.: The Fursan al-Janzour Brigade from a suburb of Tripoli blocked the coastal road west of the capital after attacks by local militias and accused the Presidential Guard, which is in charge of protecting the road, of fleeing the fight. One week later the GNA announced to have gained full control over the coastal road again.

05.03.: After ICC wanted Mahmud al-Werfalli, a leading commander of the Saiqa militia in Benghazi, was detained, Saiqa members blocked roads and caused riots in the city. Werfalli was officially detained several times but was afterwards seen in public moving freely.

14.03.: Abdelbasit al-Marwan, who is a close ally of the powerful tripolitanian militia commander Abdelrauf Kara, was appointed military commander of the capital by the Government of National Accord.

19.03.: After the LNA set foreign militias in the south an ultimatum to leave Libya, the LNA started *Operation Law Enforcement* in southern Libya, deployed units to Kufra and near Sebha and established a no-fly zone. According to an LNA statement, first airstrikes targeted Chadian militias south of Sebha.

09.04.: After sporadic clashes in the southern suburbs of Sebha lasted for weeks, several negotiation committees failed to negotiate a sustainable ceasefire deal. However, the 6th Brigade in Sebha, the most powerful militia, declared a unilateral ceasefire. After two weeks of relative calm clashes between Tubu and Arabs continued.

10.04.: Khalifa Haftar, the commander of the LNA, was brought to Paris for medical treatment after he allegedly suffered a stroke and cerebral bleeding. His state of health remains unknown.

18.04.: A car bomb at the outskirts of Benghazi targeted the LNA Chief of Staff, General Nazouri. However, Nazouri was not hurt.

21.04.: The LNA Air Force bombed a camp in western Libya close to Sadada, where members from the Benghazi Defence Brigades and the Petroleum Facility Guards are allegedly stationed. Up to now the LNA limited its area of operation to eastern and southern Libya.

22.04.: Clashes between militias in Benghazi caused two casualties. Benghazi witnessed several riots in the last few weeks.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

04.03.: During the clashes in parts of Sebha 120 families had to flee their homes and were temporarily accommodated in other parts of the city.

01.04.: UNSMIL reported 13 civilian casualties in February. 10 civilians died due to gunfire in Sebha and Benghazi, 122 additionally were injured in Benghazi alone. 5 civilians died in March and 11 were wounded, which is significantly less than in the last two months. Four of them died in clashes in Sebha and one man died due to an explosion in Benghazi.

14.04.: UNHCR announced that 1.1 million Libyans, around 20% of the Libyan population, are in need for humanitarian aid.



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