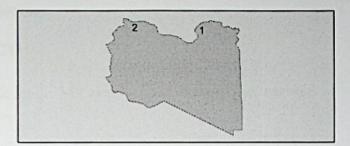


Media Analysis - Libya

15 May 2014

Summary: Production resumes at Elephant and al-Wafa oil fields; Italian Defense Minister calls on European Union and United Nations to assist with illegal immigration crisis; Air Force officer survives assassination attempt in Benghazi; Striking security guards blockade Prime Minister's office in Tripoli



Production Resumes at Elephant and al-Wafa Oil Fields

Production resumed at the Elephant and al-Wafa oil fields, according to the Libyan National Oil Corporation. The resumption of production comes shortly after the Libyan government reached a deal with the Zintani militiamen who have disrupted operations at the fields for months in protest against the extension of the General National Congress term. Sources indicate the government agreed to hold elections for a House of Representatives—a legislative body that will replace the General National Congress—within the next few months, fulfilling one of the militiamen's major demands. The militiamen hope that the House of Representatives, unlikely the Islamist-dominated General National Congress, will be controlled by allied political groups such as the relatively liberal National Forces Alliance.

Based on media reports in: al-Wasat, Libya al-Mustakbal, Libya Herald

Italian Defense Minister Calls on European Union and United Nations to Assist With Illegal Immigration Crisis

Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti called on the European Union and the United Nations to assist with the illegal immigration crisis facing Italy. Pinotti stated that Italy cannot be left alone to cope with the humanitarian emergency and asked the European Union to bear responsibility as well. Pinotti also suggested that the United Nations take on an active role in preventing illegal immigration to Italy via Libyan shores. Pinotti's statements follow a warning by Italy's Central Director for Immigration and Border Police, Giovanni Pinto, that Europe could witness an influx of up to 800,000 illegal immigrants transiting across the Mediterranean Sea in the near future.

Based on media reports in: al-Wasat, Libya al-Mustakbal

Air Force Officer Survives Assassination Attempt in Benghazi(1)

Unknown gunmen tried and failed to assassinate an Air Force officer in Benghazi on the evening of 13 May. The officer escaped the attempt on his life, which occurred as he drove in an area near his house, without injury. The incident marks the latest in a string of attacks targeting state symbols in eastern Libya that has left over 240 people dead since mid-2012. The Libyan government has been unable to stop the violence, causing frustration amongst local residents who generally accuse Ansar al-Sharia, or other anti-government Islamist militias, of carrying out the attacks. Benghazi's Joint Security Room recently launched a new campaign aimed at establishing stability, but the campaign is unlikely to achieve its goal as the Joint Security Room lacks the resources necessary to take on the anti-government Islamist militias in the city.

Based on media reports in: al-Wasat