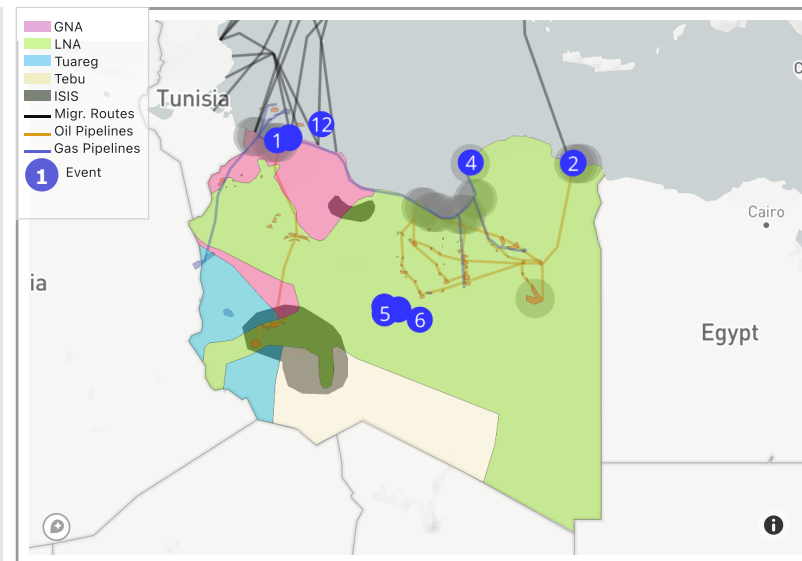


LIBYA CRISIS HORIZON (20 - 26 Dec 2021)



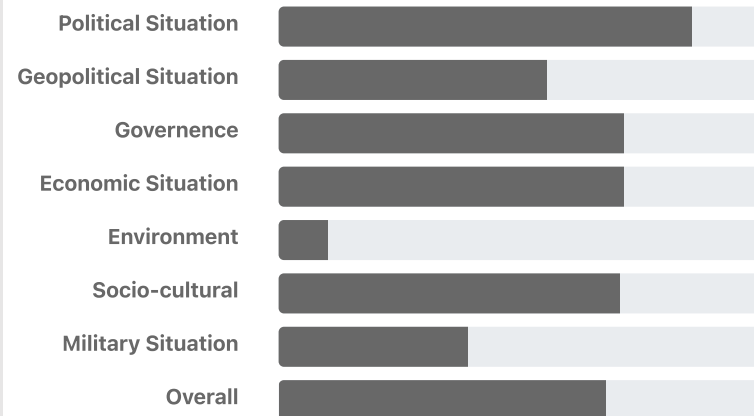
KEY EVENTS

- 1 Libya's NOC Declares Force Majeure On Zawia And Mellitah Crude Exports -Document**
 2021-12-20 Libya's National Oil Corp (NOC) has declared force majeure on crude exports from the Zawia and Mellitah terminals, a document sent to traders and seen by Reuters showed on Monday. [REUTERS](#)
- 2 Libya's Landmark Vote In Doubt As Election Committees Shuttered**
 2021-12-21 The head of Libya's elections commission ordered the closure of committees that would help stage Friday's presidential ballot, adding to mounting doubts that the landmark vote in the OPEC member will take place as scheduled. Personnel who would run voting stations and count the ballots, among other... [BLOOMBERG BUSINESS](#)
- 3 HNEC Proposes Postponement Of Libya's Elections Until 24 January 2022 - Blames Ambiguous Election Law**
 2021-12-22 After weeks if not months of passing the buck, Libya's High National Elections Commission (HNEC) has announced today that it "proposes" that Libya's parliament (the House of Representatives - HoR) postpones the countries planned 24 December 2021 elections until next year. [LIBYA HERALD](#)
- 4 Libya's Tortuous Push For Peace And Elections**
 2021-12-22 Libya's parliament confirmed on Wednesday that parliamentary and presidential elections would be postponed from Dec. 24. [REUTERS](#)
- 5 Libyan Parliament Committee Says Presidential Election Not Possible**
 2021-12-22 Libya's parliamentary electoral committee said on Wednesday it would be impossible to hold the presidential election on Friday, adding that the speaker should start planning a new political roadmap. [REUTERS](#)
- 6 HoR Creates A Committee For A New Post-24 December 2021 Roadmap**
 2021-12-22 With Libya's 24 December 2021 now postponed, today, the Presidency of the House of Representatives (HoR) issued a decision (13/2021) to form a 10-member committee to work on preparing a proposal for a post-24 December 2021 roadmap. [LIBYA HERALD](#)
- 7 Libyans Voice Frustration At Derailed Election**
 2021-12-24 Libyans voiced anger at the delay to the presidential election that was planned for Friday, as factions and political leaders tussled over the perilous path ahead. [REUTERS](#)
- 8 Libya's Interim Government Still Backed By Western Powers**
 2021-12-24 Western powers said they would continue to support Libya's interim government after the delay of a presidential election that had been scheduled for Friday. [DEUTSCHE WELLE](#)
- 9 Libya Urged To Reschedule Presidential Vote 'Swiftly'**
 2021-12-24 The US and four European powers on Friday urged war-torn Libya to quickly set a new date for delayed presidential elections. In a joint statement, they urged the North African country's leaders to "swiftly" name a new date and issue the final list of presidential candidates, which had been a key point of contention in the run-up to the polls that were set for Friday. [FRANCE 24](#)
- 10 UN Continues To Support The Holding Of Presidential And Parliamentary Libyan Elections As Soon As Possible**
 2021-12-24 In a statement on Libya released yesterday by the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, the UN reiterated that it continues to support the holding of presidential and parliamentary Libyan elections "as soon as possible." [LIBYA HERALD](#)
- 11 Williams Strongly Urges Relevant Libyan Institutions And All Political Actors To Focus On The Electoral Process**
 2021-12-24 The Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on Libya, Stephanie Williams, strongly urged in a statement yesterday relevant Libyan institutions and all political actors to focus on the electoral process. Williams is in effect the new UNSMIL head. [LIBYA HERALD](#)
- 12 Ten Former Antagonists, Now Presidential Candidates, Including Hafter, Bashagha And Maetig Gather In Benghazi**
 2021-12-22 The meeting had already anticipated ahead of the official HNEC announcement that the elections would not take place on 24 December this year. Its aim was to anticipate what would, could and should happen post-24 December. Reports have said that the ten discussed the creation of a new government to take over from Abd Alhamid Aldabaiba's Government of National Unity. The ten in effect represent an anti-Aldabaiba front: Khalifa Haftar, Fathi Bashagha, Ahmed Maiteg, Aref Nayed, Abdelmajeed Saif Al-Nasr, Sharif Al-Wafi, Othman Abdul-Majid, Ashur Shuwail, Mohamed Al-Muntasser. Fadeel Lamin [LIBYA HERALD](#)
- 13 Libyans Voice Frustration And Unease Over Poll Delay**
 2021-12-23 At the run-up to the North African country's first-ever presidential election has been overshadowed by angry disputes over its legal basis and the candidacies of several controversial figures. [FRANCE 24](#)
- 14 Armed Groups Deploy In Libya Capital**
 2021-12-21 Armed groups deployed on Tuesday in suburbs of Libya's capital, witnesses and local media said, as the country awaited the postponement of a presidential election supposed to take place in three days. [FRANCE 24](#)
- 15 Militias Mobilise In Libya Capital Amid Tensions Over Election**



AI Powered Crisis Situation

This product is prepared by a group of subject matter experts using a number of open sources with a hybrid methodology that merges both traditional methods and AI-powered, data-driven approaches.



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2021-12-22 Armed groups deployed in the suburbs of Libya's capital on Tuesday, sparking security fears ahead of an expected delay of presidential elections, as three key candidates met in the country's east. [FRANCE 24](#)

16 Putin And Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi Held A Phone Conversation

2021-12-25 Putin and al-Sisi noted the closeness of Russian and Egyptian approaches to the issue of settlement in Libya. Both presidents went on to discuss the pressing issues of Russian-Egyptian relations, agreeing to continue to maintain close contacts in the future, the press service added. [TASS](#)

17 Shipwrecked Migrant Crossings Leave 164 Dead In Mediterranean, Says UN

2021-12-21 Attempted crossing from Libya to Europe surge as authorities carry out deadly crackdown on migrants. More than 160 people drowned in two separate shipwrecks off the coast of Libya in past week, a UN migration official said on Tuesday. [THE GUARDIAN](#)

ASSESSMENT

The role of the Government of National Accord (GNU) was to prepare Libya for elections but it failed; GNU, therefore, is the biggest responsible party for this failure —together with the Presidential Council (PC) and House of Representatives (HoR). Abdul Hamid Dbeibah had promised not to be a candidate but broke that promise; and now willing to continue his government for an indefinite time-frame, just like his predecessor Government of National Accord (GNA). Armed militia groups continue to threaten the democratic electoral process, attacking election institutions and oppressing different voices; HoR failed to prepare a widely accepted legal basis for the presidential and parliamentary elections, PC and governing bodies failed to take initiative and conciliate political, military and financial rivalries, or stop the external meddling to the country. Under these conditions, the December elections were going to be a highly dangerous gamble for Libya. However, postponement of the elections is similarly dangerous and involves the risk of a new wave of armed conflict.

Postponement caused the formation of a highly interesting alliance. Ten of the prominent presidential candidates came together in Benghazi and declared their united position against Dbeibah. The meeting was conducted under the sponsorship of Khalifa Haftar —the leader of LNA and a presidential candidate. Some of his sworn enemies from Western Libya —such as former GNA deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Mateg and Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha, both Misratan— attended this anti-Dbeibah coalition, as well. This unexpected coalition of western and eastern political/military elites may lead to developments that were never seen before. No doubt that it will strengthen Haftar's position in the east. Misratan groups are the most powerful piece of the western Libya alliance. If some of the Misratans pull their support from Tripoli Government away, Haftar gains a golden edge against the GNU.

Under the current conditions, the biggest question is when the elections will really be conducted and who will govern the country until this new election date. Joint statements of the international actors aim to defer unilateral actions for taking the control of Tripoli government. UK Libya Embassy went a step ahead and already declared that they will not accept a parallel government to GNU. Such a swift international pressure against possible spoilers is valuable, however, this is also interpreted as a backing to GNU despite all its wrong-doings and deficiencies. Widely shared anger within Libya against the Embassy of the UK is a sign of the upcoming resistance against the continuation of the current government in Tripoli. Besides, the distrust among Libyan political figures is so formidable that it is not likely that they will find a compromise solution in the short run; the longer the uncertainty the bigger the risk of armed conflict.