



Weekly update
From 12 May to 18 May 2014

1) Libya

***17-19.05.2014: Testing Times for Libya's Nascent Army**

The bombing of Libya's oldest historic Sufi tomb of Sidi Al-Wushish in Derna, Benghazi, by an unknown group (believed to be Ansar Al-Sharia) last Wednesday, may have provided an additional reason for retired General Khalifa Haftar to march his "Libyan National Army" troops to "rid Benghazi of extremist Islamists", as he put it. General Haftar's offensive was met by the 17 February Revolutionaries in control of Benghazi. The confrontation led to the defection of a nearby air base, from which aircraft took off and bombarded the February Revolutionaries' main base in the town. The confrontation left over 75 killed as pro-Haftar militia also stormed the General National Congress in Tripoli. Abdallah Thinni, Libya's Minister of Defence, called Haftar's move a military coup attempt and instructed the army to neutralise Haftar's troops. The crisis took a grave twist when Wanis Bukhmada, Commander of Special Forces Brigade in Benghazi announced, on Monday, that he had joined General. Haftar's "Dignity Operation".

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2014/05/14/explosion-at-historic-tomb-in-derna/#axzz32CtGnhLq>

<http://www.libyaherald.com/2014/05/20/benghazis-saiqa-special-forces-join-hafters-dignity-operation/#axzz32CtGnhLq>

2) Tunisia (LG)

***17.05.2014: Former Presidential Guard Chief Released from Prison**

Ali Seriati, former director of presidential security under Ben Ali was released last Saturday after three years in prison. Seriati was arrested short after Ben Ali fled Tunisia on 14 January 2014; and was charged of threatening national security. However, no evidence could be produced in court, and hence his release.

<http://www.kapitalis.com/politique/22335-tunisie-politique-ali-seriati-libere-samedi-apres-3-ans-de-prison.html>

***5-18.05.2014: Turbulent Times within Tunisia's Political Parties**

As soon as the Constituent Assembly managed to pass the Electoral Law early this month a series of resignations and crises hit Tunisia's key political parties. What appeared at first as a victory for Nida Tounes with the non-adoption of Article 167 (meant to bar the road to former Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD) party politicians) turned into what some analysts dubbed Ennahda's "poisoned gift" to Beji Caid el Sebsi's party. The latter is battling an internal pre-election power struggle between leftists and the former RCD, the two groups which make up Nida Tounes. Meanwhile, the Democratic Bloc within the Constituent Assembly was shaken by the withdrawal of the Republican Party. Ennahda was not immune to these turbulent times, suffering a double-blow with the resignation from the party of Sahbi Atig, head of its parliamentary bloc, and that of Hamadi Jebali its secretary general and former PM.

<http://www.kapitalis.com/politique/22370-tunisie-politique-nida-tounes-tiendra-son-congres-constitutif-le-15-juin-prochain.html>

<http://www.kapitalis.com/politique/22275-tunisie-politique-al-jomhour-i-tourne-le-dos-a-la-famille-democratique.html>

<http://www.kapitalis.com/politique/22202-tunisie-politique-le-bateau-d-ennahdha-menace-de-naufnage.html>

3) Egypt

***18.05.2014 : 126 Anti-Coup Protesters Sentenced to Ten Years in Prison**

Over one hundred and twenty anti-coup protesters were sentenced to ten years in prison by a Cairo court. Meanwhile, three policemen were killed early Tuesday when an armed group attacked a police checkpoint near Al Azhar University in Cairo.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/19/us-egypt-violence-idUSBREA4I0TW20140519>

4) Sahel

Mauritania:

***13.05.2014: Salafi Detainee dies in Maximum Security Prison**

Marouf Ould Haiba, a Maritanian Salafi involved in the killing of two French tourists in Nouakchott in 2005, died at a maximum-security prison at Salah Edine military base in northern Mauritania. An investigation was ordered shortly after his burial in Nouakchott. Ouald Hiba was transferred to the Sala Edine military base few months ago together with four other inmates who face death or life sentences. The death of Ould Hiba coincided with the visits of the French minister of defence to the West African region and the meeting of the heads of the security services and security of the Nouakchott Process countries in Ouagadougou.

<http://ani.mr/?menuLink=9bf31c7ff062936a96d3c8bd1f8f2ff3&idNews=24567>

<http://ani.mr/?menuLink=9bf31c7ff062936a96d3c8bd1f8f2ff3&idNews=24592>

Mali:

***18.05.2014: Dozens Killed in Clashes between the Malian Army and the MNLA**

Around 36 were killed in clashes between the Malian army and the MNLA in Kidal. The Malian army told AFP that it had regained control of the town Kidal except for an administrative block where the MNLA was holding around thirty office workers hostage. Earlier during the week, fighting broke out between the MNLA and the MAA following a power struggle among the Tuareg movements.

<http://ani.mr/?menuLink=9bf31c7ff062936a96d3c8bd1f8f2ff3&idNews=24618>