

MEMO

DATE: January 30, 2020

SUBJECT: Libya Weekly Update

Below is a summary of the latest top headlines of the week surrounding the news in Libya. Key highlights include:

- **Russia:** Russian mercenaries have continued their activity on the ground in Libya, further growing Russian influence in the region. Recently, Russia has been successful at spreading its influence in Africa, which has raised alarming concerns to American defense officials.
- **Oil:** General Haftar has cutoff Libya's exports of oil, crippling the economy of an oil-rich nation. Libya has lost over \$500 million in the 10-day shutdown, which has some speculating this shutdown could force exports to absolute zero. This is having devastating effects to the citizens of Libya and the Libyan economy, as oil tankers continue to leave Libya empty.
- **Haftar:** General Haftar has continued his offensive on Tripoli after a cease-fire agreement was struck. Haftar's forces launched attacks outside of a school, which resulted in the death of three children, as well as attacks to an airport outside Tripoli.
- **International Community:** The international community is violating an arms embargo that was agreed upon at the Berlin Summit. This is a sign of the ineffective leadership and negotiating skills of other nations. It is a sign that American leadership on this issue could be beneficial, as other countries continue to fail at brokering true agreements.

Reuters (1/26): [Libya's Haftar makes push in western Libya](#)

- General Haftar has continued his offensive on Tripoli after the Berlin summit which aimed to end violence on the ground.
- The truce that was agreed upon has been broken by Haftar as his forces launched attacks on the airport, wounding several citizens and damaging surrounding buildings and tarmacs.

New York Times (1/25): [Several Countries Have Breached Arms Embargo Agreed at Libya Summit: U.N.](#)

- The arms embargo recently agreed upon at the Libya summit in Berlin has been violated by several countries who signed on to the agreement.
- Numerous cargo and armored vehicles have landed in Libya after the embargo was put into place.
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Associated Press (1/28): [Libya says oil shutdown losses reach over \\$500 million](#)

- The shutdown of Libyan oil export by General Haftar has led to a loss of \$500 million over a 10-day period.

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- This news comes as artillery shells exploded near a school south of Tripoli, which resulted in the death of three children.
- The move on Haftar's part is an attempt to cripple the country's economy to then take the country by force.

Bloomberg (1/29): [Tankers Leave Libya Empty as Hopes Fade for End to Blockade](#)

- Oil tankers are leaving Libya empty of oil due to recent blocking of oil exportation by General Haftar's forces.
- Production in Libya is at risk to fall to absolutely nothing if this persists, putting the Libyan economy in danger.

CNBC (1/29): [Russian mercenaries, a CIA-linked general and lots of oil: Explaining Libya's war](#)

- Libya has seen its oil exports fall 75% in a week due to General Haftar's cutting off of oil exports in the country.
- Pipeline closures and blockades are General Haftar's blame, and he is being supported in his quest by Russian mercenaries.

Forbes (1/28): [Libya's Oil Chief Denounces Port Blockades As Crude Output Plummets](#)

- Blockades of Libya's oil terminals by Haftar's forces is putting in danger Libya's ability to export oil.
- There is a growing risk of cutting off virtually all of OPEC members crude oil exports, which will cripple the Libyan state.

New York Times (1/28): [Russia Exerts Growing Influence in Africa, Worrying Many in the West](#)

- Russia's growing influence in Libya is raising a concern as Russia continues to build on their military influence across Africa through increased arms sales and security agreements.
- American officials are "alarmed" by what they call a great power competition, as the current administration struggles to achieve its economic and security goals in the region.
- If the United States were to draw down troops in Africa, this will ultimately lead to a growing influence for Russia and China.

Bloomberg (1/28): [Erdogan Warns Russian Mercenaries in Libya Paid by Abu Dhabi](#)

- Turkey has charged a rare rebuke at Abu Dhabi, claiming that Russian mercenaries fighting on behalf of Haftar are being paid by the country.

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