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United Nations Support Mission in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolutions [2510 \(2020\)](#), [2542 \(2020\)](#), [2570 \(2021\)](#) and [2702 \(2023\)](#), covers political, security and economic developments in Libya. It provides an overview of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the country and of the activities of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) since the issuance of the previous report ([S/2024/301](#)), dated 9 April 2024.

II. Political and security-related developments

2. On 16 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL, Abdoulaye Bathily, tendered his resignation, which the Secretary-General accepted effective 15 May. The newly appointed Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Stephanie Koury, assumed the role of Officer-in-Charge of UNSMIL on 16 May. UNSMIL continued its engagement with Libyan and international actors to identify a consensual pathway to move the political process forward and facilitate the holding of inclusive presidential and legislative elections, in line with Security Council resolution [2702 \(2023\)](#).

A. Implementation of the intra-Libyan dialogue tracks

3. On the political track, there was no progress towards resolving the contested issues in the electoral laws, including the mandatory second round of presidential elections; the linking of parliamentary elections to the successful holding of presidential elections; the formation of a new unified government to lead the country to elections; and ensuring an inclusive electoral process.

4. On 30 April, the President of the High Council of State, Mohamed Takala, announced the imminent formation of a technical committee to amend the electoral laws, as outlined in the final communiqué of the meeting convened by the League of Arab States on 10 March. At the time of reporting, that committee had not been formed. On 8 May, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aguila Saleh, stated that the House and the High Council of State were close to reaching an agreement on



the mechanism for the formation of a new government. On 8 July, the League of Arab States invited the heads of the Presidential Council, the House of Representatives and the High Council of State for a meeting, to be held on 15 July, in follow-up to the first tripartite meeting in Cairo. On 11 July, the head of the High Council of State, in a letter to the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, declined the invitation, citing a lack of progress by the House of Representatives in resolving outstanding issues. In that letter, he also indicated that the High Council of State dialogue with the House of Representatives would be suspended until outstanding issues, notably in relation to the national budget, had been addressed. The head of the High Council of State also declined to attend a meeting, proposed by Morocco, of the heads of the Presidential Council, the House of Representatives and the High Council of State that was to be held in Morocco.

5. On 6 June, some members of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State met in Misratah in follow-up to the informal consultations held in Tunis in February 2024 (S/2024/301, para. 3). In a statement issued after the meeting, the participants affirmed that the electoral laws were implementable as the basis for organizing elections. On 18 July, more than 100 members of the House of Representatives and the High Council of State met in Cairo. In their closing statement, they reaffirmed their commitment to holding presidential and parliamentary elections in accordance with the electoral laws adopted by the House of Representatives and to presenting a road map outlining the remaining steps towards elections, including the establishment of a new, unified government.

6. On 28 July, the Speaker of the House of Representatives announced that nominations were being accepted for Prime Minister in a new unified government. The Speaker urged qualified individuals to submit their candidacy documents at the Office of the Rapporteur of the House in Benghazi between 28 July and 11 August, and he invited members of the House of Representatives and High Council of State to endorse qualified candidates. In a statement issued on 28 July, the High Council of State rejected unilateral steps and reaffirmed that consensus is the only viable means for a successful political process.

7. The Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs engaged in extensive consultations with Libyan political and military leaders to seek views on overcoming the prevailing stalemate and advancing the political process across various tracks. She also met with representatives of civil society, women, young people, tribal leaders, political parties, academics, businesspeople and security actors from across the country to foster inclusiveness in the political process and ensure the sustainability of its outcomes. Interlocutors generally expressed a desire for a broader political dialogue involving not only the institutional leaders that would address prevailing divisions and monopolies over power through the organization of elections as soon as possible.

8. On the economic track, the technical committee established by the House of Representatives (S/2024/301, para. 15) continued to work on a unified budget for the country for 2024. On 9 July, six members of that committee indicated in a letter that they had not reviewed the final draft of the budget being considered by the House. Also on 9 July, the President of the High Council of State issued a letter urging the House of Representatives not to discuss the law on the budget until after it had held consultations with the High Council of State, as required under the 2015 Libyan Political Agreement. On that same day, the President of the Presidential Council issued a letter in which he urged the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the High Council of State and the Governor of the Central Bank to adhere to the constitutional requirements for approving the budget law, including by consulting with the High Council of State on the draft law.

9. On 10 July, in a closed session, the House of Representatives adopted a law approving a “supplementary allocation” of nearly 89 billion Libyan dinars (\$18.4 billion) to the general budget of 90 billion Libyan dinars (\$18.6 billion) adopted earlier in 2024. That law makes no reference to the work of the inclusive technical committee on a unified budget. Also on 10 July, the House of Representatives-designated prime minister, Osama Hammad, hailed the general budget for 2024 adopted by the House and expressed the hope that it would be the first step towards unifying all State institutions. On 11 July, the President of the High Council of State, in a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, rejected the adoption of the budget, asserting that the draft law had not been referred to the High Council of State for a binding opinion in accordance with article 19.2 of the Libyan Political Agreement. In a separate letter addressed to the Governor of the Central Bank of Libya, he requested that the Governor not implement the budget.

10. On the security track, UNSMIL continued to support the efforts of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission to implement the 2020 ceasefire agreement. On 30 and 31 May, UNSMIL held a workshop on a code of conduct for military and security actors from across Libya, with the aim of promoting professionalism, accountability and the protection of civilians. On 6 June, the Ministry of Defence submitted the finalized code of conduct to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Presidential Council for approval.

B. International Follow-up Committee on Libya of the Berlin process

11. The International Follow-up Committee on Libya of the Berlin process and its working groups continued to serve as the overall framework for international support to the intra-Libyan dialogue tracks.

12. The co-chairs of the working group on international humanitarian law and human rights (the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Nations) continued to support Libyan efforts to promote respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In that connection, the co-chairs raised issues with the various Libyan authorities, including, inter alia, arbitrary detention targeting political opponents and dissenting voices and their families; drawing attention to the need for expanding civic space; and promoting freedom of expression, assembly and association.

13. On 27 June, the co-chairs of the economic working group (Egypt, the United States of America, the European Union and the United Nations) met for the first time since October 2023 and reviewed Libyan efforts to prepare a unified budget, advance economic and financial reforms, and foster private sector growth. The co-chairs committed to reviving support for Libyan actors in addressing financial and economic challenges, promoting stability and generating economic opportunities for the Libyan people.

14. On 11 July, the co-chairs of the security working group (France, Italy, Türkiye, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the African Union and the United Nations) continued discussions on how to support the security track, including through renewed consultations with the 5+5 Joint Military Commission. The co-chairs also discussed the organization of the next meeting of the security working group, which had previously convened in Tripoli on 24 May 2023 and Benghazi on 24 July 2023.

C. International and regional engagement

15. Throughout the reporting period, UNSMIL engaged with regional and international actors to mobilize support for the United Nations-facilitated political process to enable inclusive and credible national elections. In addition to a diplomatic briefing in Tripoli on 18 June, the Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs held bilateral meetings with representatives of the diplomatic community in Tripoli and Tunis, seeking their views on how to overcome the political impasse, safeguard Libyan unity and sovereignty, and facilitate the reunification of Libyan institutions. In her meetings, she underscored the importance of a common stance by the international community in support of these goals. In July, she met with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Morocco in Rabat, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt in Cairo and senior United States officials in Washington, D.C. In August, she is scheduled to meet the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria in Algiers and the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Türkiye in Ankara.

D. Situation in the western region

16. On 11 April, tensions escalated in Tripoli following heavy exchanges of gunfire between, on the one hand, the Stability Support Apparatus, which is nominally affiliated with the Presidential Council and is a rival of the Deterrence Agency for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism, and, on the other hand, the Judicial Police, which is mandated with the protecting the judiciary and is nominally affiliated with the Ministry of Justice and allied with the Deterrence Agency for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism. The incident, reportedly triggered by arrests of elements from both sides, did not result in casualties.

17. In an effort to ease tensions, security actors met in Tripoli on 30 April, with support from the Presidential Council, the Government of National Unity and local elders. Between 4 and 15 May, a series of meetings reportedly led to a de-escalation of tensions between the leaders of the 444th Brigade and the Deterrence Agency for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism, who had been at odds since August 2023.

18. On 27 April, the Acting Minister of the Interior, Imad al-Trabulsi, organized a gathering of 40,000 security forces personnel at the site of Tripoli International Airport that was attended by the Prime Minister, Abdulhamid Al Dabiba, the Vice-President of the Presidential Council, Abdullah Al Lafi, and the Chief of the General Staff of the Libyan Army, Mohamed al-Haddad, as well as several senior military and security officers. In his speech, the Acting Minister of the Interior reiterated that Tripoli-based armed groups would withdraw from public spaces in the capital and hand over security responsibilities to the regular police.

19. On 18 April, sympathizers of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi organized a military parade in Zintan. They issued a statement in support of his candidacy for the presidential elections and called for a unified government to take the country to national elections.

20. The situation in Zawiyah and the surrounding areas remained fragile, marked by sporadic clashes between armed groups. On 7 May, the killing of a man by a stray bullet in Jamil, south of Zuwarah, sparked confrontations between a Zawiyah-based armed group affiliated with the “Anti-Security Threats Agency”, on the one hand, and the 103rd Infantry Battalion, on the other. On 18 May, clashes broke out in Zawiyah between two armed groups reportedly linked to the “Anti-Security Threats Agency” and the Zawiyah branch of the Stability Support Apparatus. The clashes followed the arrest of affiliates of the “Anti-Security Threats Agency” who were handed over to the Deterrence Agency for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism in Tripoli. One person was reportedly killed and six others injured as a result of the incident. On

5 June, armed clashes were reported in Jamil between the 103rd Infantry Battalion and another Zawiyah armed group close to the “Anti-Security Threats Agency”, reportedly resulting in one person being seriously wounded. On 23 July, armed clashes erupted again in Zawiyah between local armed groups. Several civilian casualties and significant material damage were reported, including indirect damage to passing vehicles. The Red Crescent in Zawiyah and the city’s emergency services evacuated 40 families to safer areas. The clashes continued until local elders negotiated a ceasefire.

21. UNSMIL documented the killing of a 10-year-old child on 15 May in Karimiyah, in southern Tripoli, as a result of clashes between armed groups. On 5 June, armed men affiliated with the Judicial Police reportedly opened fire on a family of three in Tripoli, killing the father and his son and injuring the mother. The Office of the Attorney General announced the arrest of suspects and opened an investigation. On 7 June, the victims’ family members gathered in protest outside the Tripoli Security Directorate. The deaths stoked public anger and drew widespread social media criticism of the Judicial Police and the Deterrence Agency for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism.

22. Following a meeting between the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior of Tunisia, Khaled Nouri, on 12 June, the acting Minister of the Interior announced that the Ras Jdir border crossing between Libya and Tunisia would reopen on 13 June for humanitarian, emergency and medical situations, as well as diplomatic missions, and to the wider public on 20 June. His announcement prompted the mobilization of Zuwarah forces and residents, who reportedly claimed that no agreement had been reached with the acting Minister of the Interior regarding security arrangements at the crossing point and in the surrounding area. On 19 and 23 June, Zuwarah forces and residents blocked the coastal road from Millitah to Ras Jdir, cordoning off the crossing point to protest against their marginalization and the lack of infrastructure in their area. As a result, the acting Minister of the Interior twice postponed the reopening of the border crossing point, once on 20 June and then again on 24 June. Following mediation by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Libyan Army, Salah al-Namrush, and a reported agreement between the stakeholders on the security arrangements at the border crossing, the Ras Jdir border crossing was reopened fully on 1 July. It was later closed on various occasions because of sporadic clashes.

23. On 16 July, clashes broke out between two local armed groups in Tajura’, east of Tripoli. The clashes lasted several hours and resulted in the death of at least one civilian and the temporary closure of main roads. Local and national mediation efforts succeeded in de-escalating the situation by the following morning.

E. Situation in the eastern region

24. On 13 April, there were reports of clashes in Benghazi between subunits of the Tariq bin Ziyad Brigade and the 166th Brigade. Both brigades, which are affiliated with the Libyan National Army, reported injuries among their ranks. The clashes reportedly erupted when the Tariq bin Ziyad-affiliated subunit attempted to take over a military camp in central Benghazi under the control of the 166th Brigade. Elements of the 166th Brigade were reportedly arrested.

25. On 27 April, the Minister of the Interior in the House of Representatives-designated government issued a decision to form a joint security unit in the Kufrah region, in south-eastern Libya. The unit, comprising local security authorities from Kufrah, Rabyanah and Tazirbu, has been tasked with combating organized crime and addressing the rising number of migrants and refugees, primarily from the Sudan. The

mayors of these cities welcomed the establishment of the unit and emphasized the need for greater security.

26. On 15 May, the Libyan National Army announced on social media preparations to establish a military complex near Benghazi, which would include a seaport and a military airport, for advanced training and security studies.

27. On 16 May, a military parade was held in Benghazi to mark the tenth anniversary of Operation Dignity. The parade was attended by the General Commander of the Libyan National Army, Khalifa Haftar, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the House of Representatives-designated prime minister, as well as diplomatic and military representatives.

F. Situation in the southern region

28. On 28 May, armed clashes erupted in Sabha between the 101st Infantry Battalion of the Libyan National Army and the Sabha Criminal Investigation Department. The incidents reportedly followed the arrest by the Criminal Investigation Department, at the request of the Attorney General in Tripoli, of the chair and members of the Sabha Municipality Fuel Crisis Committee for alleged corruption and involvement in fuel smuggling. On 29 May, the Minister of the Interior of the House of Representatives-designated government formed a committee to investigate the incident following a meeting with security leaders in Sabha. In parallel, mediation efforts by elders and local security actors helped to defuse tensions.

G. Violent extremist organizations and organized criminal networks

29. Smuggling and trafficking in persons remained vital sources of revenue for violent extremist organizations and local and transnational organized criminal networks. On 14 May, the 444th Brigade reported that three of its members had been killed in the desert in the southern part of the western region during an anti-drug smuggling operation, in which a consignment of 5 million narcotic pills was allegedly intercepted.

30. On 8 June in Misratah, during an arrest operation, the Joint Operations Force exchanged fire with a suspected violent extremist element, who was taken to hospital. The Joint Operations Force released a statement claiming that the suspect had been wanted for alleged involvement in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on the Zlitan Security Directorate and another armed attack in Zlitan that occurred in 2022.

31. On 14 June, in Tripoli, Abdulmajid Maligtah, a prominent political figure and director of the Libyan Public Private Partnership Company, was targeted in an assassination attempt using an explosive device in a parked car. No casualties were reported. The Attorney General and the acting Minister of the Interior launched an investigation into the incident.

H. Economic situation

32. On 20 April, the Central Bank of Libya instructed banks to replace 50-dinar banknotes with other denominations before the end of August 2024, and also nullified counterfeit versions in circulation, effectively removing 50-dinar banknotes from the market. Those measures were aimed at restoring the declining value of the Libyan dinar. As at August, the exchange rate in the parallel market had stabilized at 7 Libyan dinars to the United States dollar, compared with 7.2 Libyan dinars per United States

dollar in March. The official exchange rate remained at 4.8 Libyan dinars per United States dollar.

33. On 24 April, courts of appeal in South Tripoli, Benghazi and Misratah accepted complaints against Speaker of the House of Representatives decision No. 15 (2024), which imposed a temporary surcharge of up to 27 per cent on official foreign exchange transactions. The complainants argued that the Speaker did not have the authority to issue such orders. The three courts ordered an immediate suspension of the surcharge pending a full judicial review. However, the Central Bank of Libya continued to apply the surcharge in official foreign exchange transactions.

34. Oil production in Libya remained steady at around 1.2 million barrels per day. The National Oil Corporation and the Petroleum Research Centre of Libya jointly organized an international conference under the theme “Technology of oil, gas and sustainable energy”. The conference was held in Tripoli from 22 to 24 April. Libyan officials and representatives of foreign companies delivered statements in which they highlighted the use of new technologies in oil and gas production to reduce carbon emissions and stressed the importance of investing a portion of the oil revenues of Libya in renewable energy sources.

35. On 10 May, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded its consultation with the Libyan authorities in Tunis pursuant to article IV of the Articles of Agreement of IMF. In a statement issued on 11 July, the Executive Board of IMF noted that hydrocarbon production is projected to reach 1.5 million barrels per day by 2026, and that GDP is estimated to grow by nearly 8 per cent in 2024 and then increase at lower rates in subsequent years, with declining fiscal and external balances in Libya over the medium-term because of a projected decline in global oil prices. In addition, the Executive Board emphasized the need to strengthen fiscal and monetary policy coordination and promote inclusive private sector-led growth, and it recommended that efforts be made to increase transparency, improve tax administration and enhance the public financial management framework. The Executive Board also underscored the need for a durable political settlement to underpin continued progress on the reunification of the Central Bank of Libya.

III. Other activities of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya

A. Electoral support

36. UNSMIL and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to provide technical support to the High National Elections Commission, with a focus on the conduct of the municipal council elections. In April and May, UNSMIL and UNDP helped the Commission develop a mechanism for exchanging data between the voter registry and the civil registry, in preparation for municipal voter registration.

37. Following a meeting between the Chair of the Commission, Emad al-Sayeh, and the House of Representatives-designated prime minister on 21 May, the House of Representatives-designated government allocated 10 million Libyan dinars to cover the costs of preparing for the municipal elections. The Commission received the funds on 26 May.

38. On 8 June, the High National Elections Commission started the voter registration process for the municipal elections for 60 out of the 106 municipal administrations the mandates of which have expired or are expiring in 2024. According to the Commission, during the first three weeks of the process, most registration centres in eastern and southern Libya were not allowed to open based on

verbal instructions from the security authorities. On 25 June, the House of Representatives-designated prime minister gave assurances to the Chair of the High National Elections Commission that he would facilitate the opening of the registration centres in those areas. On 30 June, all in-person registration centres were open. The voter registration process closed on 13 July, with a total of 209,496 persons (61,153 female, 148,343 male) having registered. Preparations commenced to launch the nomination process for candidates, which is planned for August.

39. On 27 May, the High National Elections Commission, with the support of UNSMIL, UNDP and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), held the second conference on women and elections, the focus of which was legal reforms to support women as candidates. The conference was attended by about 60 Libyan women from across the country, as well as the Minister of State for Women's Affairs, Houria al-Tarmal, and the Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs.

B. Human rights, transitional justice and the rule of law

40. On 8 July, during the fifty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, an interactive dialogue was held on the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [52/41](#), on the technical assistance and capacity-building activities that the Office had carried out, in cooperation with UNSMIL, to improve human rights in Libya from April 2023 to March 2024 ([A/HRC/56/70](#)). In that report, OHCHR recommended, inter alia, that the Libyan authorities proceed with the implementation of all the recommendations of the Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Libya; increase cooperation with OHCHR and UNSMIL; ensure accountability and justice for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law; and take immediate steps to protect and promote the rights of women, human rights defenders, civil society actors, journalists, intellectuals and other persons at heightened risk of human rights violations and abuse.

1. Rule of law

41. UNSMIL observed the continued arbitrary use of laws to curtail the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. On 2 May, the Criminal Investigation Department of the House of Representatives-designated ministry of the interior launched a campaign directed at individuals involved in “defamation, insults and slander” under the 2022 cybercrimes act. The Internal Security Agency arrested several individuals between 1 and 3 May, including some who were active on social media, as part of this campaign. Those individuals were later released. On 11 June, a trial commenced for 15 individuals on various charges, including proselytizing, apostasy, violations of the cybercrimes act and “acts against the State”, some of which are punishable by death under article 207 of the Penal Code. According to witnesses, the cases were marred by serious due process concerns, including the extraction and public broadcast of forced confessions, allegations of torture and ill-treatment in detention, and inadequate legal representation. The presiding judge postponed the trial on grounds that five of the defendants did not have legal representation.

42. On 9 May, the Judicial Police announced the release of 388 prisoners pursuant to Supreme Judicial Council decision No. 56, which grants amnesty to prisoners under certain circumstances. However, the amnesty excluded pretrial detainees, who constitute more than 60 per cent of the prison population. The number released was disproportionately small in comparison to the more than 20,100 detainees currently under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice. Many eligible individuals, including political prisoners and dissidents, remain incarcerated.

43. UNSMIL delivered a training session on 21 May for the human rights monitoring team of the Ministry of Interior, with a view to strengthening its capacity to document violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.

44. On 28 July, the Darnah Criminal Court delivered its judgment in the criminal trial related to the collapse of the Wadi Darnah and Abu Mansour dams as a result of the catastrophic flooding that occurred following Storm Daniel in September 2023. The court sentenced 12 of the 16 defendants, who were responsible for managing the dam facility and the city, to long-term imprisonment and ordered them to pay compensation to the victims.

2. Unlawful deprivation of liberty, detention and torture

45. Unlawful deprivation of liberty, including incidents of abduction, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests and detention, continued to occur, as did torture, ill-treatment, coercive interrogation practices, public release of forced confessions, unlawful killings and deaths in State custody, including killings and deaths that occurred in the custody of armed groups integrated into the official law enforcement and security architecture.

46. On 19 April, Ali Misbah Abu Sabihah, head of the Fazzan Tribes and Cities High Council and a representative of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi in reconciliation matters, was arrested in Qurdah al-Shati', north of Sabha, by the Internal Security Agency. He was taken to Sabha and then transferred by way of Tamanhint airport to Benghazi, where he was reportedly detained at the Internal Security Agency headquarters. He was released on 20 July. On 26 April, Al-Zayn al-Arabi al-Dardir, a member of the Constitution Drafting Committee and the Justice and Construction Party, was arrested by the Internal Security Agency in Awbari. He was released on the same day and then re-arrested a few hours later and forcibly transported to Benghazi, where he remains in arbitrary detention. On 17 May, the Security Information Office of the House of Representatives-designated ministry of interior reported the disappearance of a member of the House of Representatives on 16 May in Benghazi. Subsequently, the Speaker of the House of Representatives issued a directive to the Defence and National Security Committees of the House and to the House of Representatives-designated ministry of interior to intensify the investigation into the disappearance. At the time of reporting, his whereabouts remained unknown.

47. On 17 April, a 25-year-old soldier died from torture while imprisoned by a Libyan National Army unit south of Sabha. On 19 April, a political activist died under unknown circumstances while detained at the Benghazi headquarters of the Internal Security Agency. UNSMIL called for a transparent and independent investigation into his death, the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals arbitrarily detained and an end to kidnapping, disappearances and arbitrary arrests. On 30 June, the Masamir tribe confirmed the death of a 44-year-old man following his abduction in Bayda' by unknown men on 2 June. The tribe also confirmed that his body had been handed over to them by elements of the Military Prosecutor's office at Jala' hospital in Benghazi, where it had been reportedly dropped off by unknown individuals shortly after the man had been abducted. On 8 July, another political activist was abducted in Misratah by unidentified armed men. The Misratah Municipal Council and community representatives issued a statement urging the city's security and law enforcement agencies to investigate the abduction and secure his safe and immediate release. On 8 July, UNSMIL called for the activist and all arbitrarily detained individuals to be released. He was eventually released on 11 July. The identity of his abductors remains unknown. Also on 11 July, the Internal Security Agency arbitrarily arrested a journalist in Tripoli, after the media outlet for which he works issued reports alleging corruption by State officials. Following his release on 14 July, the Internal Security Agency published the journalist's alleged "confession"

on its social media page, in which it disclosed his sources. On 16 July, the Internal Security Agency arrested at least two other individuals in connection with the case.

3. Migrants and refugees

48. Libya remained a country of destination and transit for migrants and refugees. According to the International Organization for Migration, the number of migrants in Libya stood at 725,304 as at May 2024. During the reporting period, 6,105 migrants and refugees were intercepted attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Libya. From 1 January to 13 July 2024, the Libyan Coast Guard intercepted 10,463 migrants and refugees at sea and returned them to Libya, with 401 persons reported dead. Migrants and refugees who disembarked at Libyan ports to which United Nations humanitarian agencies have access received life-saving humanitarian assistance. As at 14 July, 4,331 migrants and refugees, including 183 children (152 male, 31 female), were being arbitrarily detained in official detention centres throughout Libya. As at July 2024, armed groups operated six unofficial detention centres where over 3,000 people are estimated to be arbitrarily detained and to which the United Nations do not have access.

49. Migrants and asylum-seekers continued to be expelled from Tunisia near the areas of Nalut, Tiji and Ghadamis in Libya. From June 2023 to July 2024, a total of 10,925 migrants and refugees were intercepted at the Tunisia border by the Ministry of the Interior of Libya and the Libyan Border Guard, with 29 deaths recorded and at least 80 individuals still missing. The Libyan authorities continued to transfer people to facilities where they are arbitrarily detained and subjected to human rights violations. Those facilities include the Assah detention facility operated by the Libyan Border Guard, detention centres operated by the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration in Tripoli and Bi'r al-Ghanam, an unofficial detention centre. As at 1 August, the Libyan Border Guard had intercepted 450 migrants and refugees at the Libya-Algeria border who had been expelled from Algeria.

50. As at 2 August, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had registered 22,677 Sudanese refugees (7,218 men, 5,131 women, 5,665 boys and 4,663 girls) out of an estimated 96,061 total refugees arriving in Libya since the conflict in the Sudan had begun in April 2023. Most Sudanese refugees reached Kufrah through irregular crossings along the southern border of Libya, either directly from the Sudan or through Chad, while a minority made their way from Egypt. As at 2 August, the total number of Sudanese refugees registered in Libya was 42,487, including both those who had arrived before and after the start, in April 2023, of the conflict in the Sudan.

51. On 17 July, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, attended the Trans-Mediterranean Migration Forum in Tripoli. Several Heads of State and Government participated in the event, which was organized by the Government of National Unity. In a statement issued on 17 July, UNSMIL welcomed the Forum as an important opportunity to take forward a human rights-based approach to migration governance. In addition, the Mission stressed the need for a concerted international effort based on shared responsibility and full respect for human rights to address current challenges, and called on the Libyan authorities to adopt a comprehensive legal and policy framework on migrants and refugees in line with the country's international human rights and international refugee law obligations.

52. Human rights violations against migrants and refugees, in particular those in detention, continued to occur. Approximately 39 boys from Somalia, the Sudan, the Niger and Nigeria continued to be detained in dire conditions in the Dhaman detention centre. UNSMIL also received reports of migrants and asylum-seekers being

arbitrarily arrested and detained in abhorrent conditions in Bi'r al-Ghanam, with guards engaging in persistent patterns of abuse, exploitation, forced labour, extortion, torture and other forms of ill-treatment. Serious human rights abuses continued against migrants and refugees arbitrarily detained in a facility used for human trafficking near Sabha. The facility, formerly known as the Jabal Hotel, is reportedly operated by guards affiliated with the Libyan National Army.

53. On 7 and 8 May, UNSMIL trained 20 civil society actors, including 6 women, to monitor, report on and advocate for the protection of the rights of migrants in Libya.

4. Transitional justice and national reconciliation

54. UNSMIL continued to support a Libyan-led, rights-based and people-centred reconciliation process, and it advocated for the adoption of a comprehensive legal framework that would lead to the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms in Libya, in line with international standards and reflecting the needs and demands of victims. As the result of a meeting convened by UNSMIL, in collaboration with the Presidential Council, in Tunis on 22 and 23 April, members of the House of Representatives and the legal committee of the Presidential Council agreed to consolidate various draft laws into a single, unified draft law on transitional justice and national reconciliation. However, on 5 May, the High Council of State rejected the draft reconciliation law prepared by the Presidential Council, emphasizing that a new legal framework was not needed because Act No. 29 on Transitional Justice had been adopted by the General National Congress.

55. From April to June, UNSMIL and UNDP held consultations in Tripoli with the families of missing persons from across Libya, with the participation of approximately 40 family members from Murzuq, Tawurghah, Tarhunah, Tripoli, Benghazi, Kufrah and Darnah. These consultations were aimed at raising awareness of rights and the procedures for submitting a case before the General Authority for the Search and Identification of Missing Persons. On 12 and 13 June, as part of the same programme, UNSMIL and UNDP organized a training session in Tripoli for representatives of 20 civil society organizations on the most effective techniques for documenting cases of missing persons and interviewing victims.

C. Security Sector

1. Support for Libyan planning for interim security arrangements and the unification of security forces

56. From 27 to 29 May, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in partnership with the Ministry of Defence, organized a workshop on strengthening the protective environment for children affected by conflict. The participants proposed bills to raise the age for recruitment into the armed forces to 18, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Participants also recommended the development of a handover protocol for children involved in armed conflict and military actions.

2. Arms and ammunition management

57. Concerns persisted over the high levels of landmine and explosive remnants of war contamination in Libya, coupled with insufficient mine action capacity. On 23 April, nine children, one of whom was a girl, were injured by an explosive remnant of war in Awbari, in the south. On 16 May, an explosion at an ammunition storage site in Ghiran, Misratah, scattered shells over a 2 km radius. No casualties were reported. Two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) conducted clearance and risk education activities for nearby communities. On 23 May, an unidentified explosive

device detonated on Airport Road in Tripoli, seriously injuring three children. In Mizdah, a scrap collector died on 10 June from injuries sustained while tampering with a suspected heavy bomb; another scrap collector was injured while cutting an explosive remnant of war from collected scrap metal on 1 July. On 22 June, in Ayn Zarah, Tripoli, a landmine detonated, injuring two foreign workers, one of whom later died. On 22 June, the explosive ordinance disposal unit of the forensic police neutralized three anti-personnel mines in Ayn Zarah.

58. On 6 June, UNSMIL concluded the final phase of a crime scene management training course for the Libyan forensic police, improving the evidence handling skills of 16 officers, including 2 female officers.

59. On 25 April, UNSMIL and the Libyan Mine Action Centre co-chaired the implementing partners meeting in Tunis to discuss contamination and the suspension, since 10 August 2023, of the operations of three NGOs in Benghazi and Sirte. On 2 July, after advocacy by UNSMIL and international partners, the Criminal Investigation Department of the House of Representatives-designated ministry of the interior released the confiscated assets of the three NGOs.

60. On 9 May, the Libyan Mine Action Centre marked International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in Tripoli. Around 200 participants from various sectors attended the event, at which the Centre announced plans to develop a Libyan mine action strategy.

3. Implementation of the ceasefire agreement

61. UNSMIL continued to provide support to Libyan counterparts for the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. UNSMIL pursued its engagement with the 5+5 Joint Military Commission and the liaison committees from Libya, Chad, the Niger and Sudan to facilitate information exchange on mercenaries present in Libya. UNSMIL also engaged with the head of the subcommittee on security arrangements of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission to agree on modalities for field visits to security checkpoints along the coastal road, including to review the work of the joint police force.

D. Empowerment of women

62. Facilitating wider engagement and participation of women in the political process and public institutions remained a priority for UNSMIL. During the reporting period, UNSMIL, in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and UN-Women, provided technical support to the State Ministry for Women's Affairs in preparation for the national review on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (Beijing+30), and engaged with civil society representatives to encourage their participation in the review process. On 26 April, on the occasion of National Women's Day, the State Ministry for Women's Affairs announced a plan to develop a national strategy for Libyan women.

63. On 23 and 24 May, UN-Women, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Planning organized a two-day workshop on inclusive public finance management for government officials. The participants, 22 women and 2 men, received training on how to increase public access to financial services, with a particular focus on women's access.

E. Youth and peace and security

64. On 14 May, the Deputy Special Representative, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, launched the Mission's #YouEngage youth strategy in Ghadamis, Daraj and Awal, with 50 young men and women in attendance. The aim of #YouEngage, which is focused on training, advocacy and networking, is to empower young people across Libya through a series of online and in-person workshops.

65. On 5 June, World Environment Day, the first cohort of the Mission's "Ra'idat" pilot training programme graduated. The training programme equipped 30 young women from diverse backgrounds from across Libya with skills in communications, leadership and advocacy, with a view to elevating the voices of young people and enhancing their engagement on key issues.

F. Coordination of international assistance

66. On 28 May, United Nations agencies launched the 2024 Response Plan for Sudanese Refugees in Libya. The response plan, which will benefit 195,000 beneficiaries, including an expected 149,000 Sudanese refugees and 1,000 third-country nationals, as well as 45,000 host communities, covers health and nutrition, protection and food security, and requires \$48.6 million in total financial resources. At the time of writing, the plan was 21 per cent funded.

67. On 23 July, the Deputy Special Representative, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, convened a high-level dialogue among United Nations agencies, the Libyan Ministers of Planning and Local Governance, and international partners on collaboration under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023–2025. Participants assessed joint action, results and recommendations for collective work and reaffirmed the need for increased government financing for sustainable development, including through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, with a view to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the peacebuilding agenda for all people in Libya.

G. Humanitarian, stabilization and development assistance

68. The United Nations emergency humanitarian response to the September 2023 floods in Darnah and affected areas ended in June 2024 with the closure of the fully funded flash appeal and a transition to recovery and reconstruction. United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners continued to address residual humanitarian needs through targeted assistance.

69. From 21 to 23 May, the Deputy Special Representative, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and the Chief of Mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees conducted a joint mission to Benghazi and Darnah. Discussions with local authorities and communities were focused on transitioning the humanitarian flood response to coordinated recovery and reconstruction efforts, as well as on humanitarian support for Sudanese refugees in Libya. Also on 18 July, the Deputy Special Representative, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, led an integrated inter-agency mission to Kufrah to better assess the humanitarian and protection needs of Sudanese refugees and advance the United Nations response in Libya in coordination with local authorities, host communities and refugees.

IV. Deployment of the Mission and security arrangements

70. UNSMIL maintained an average presence of about 299 civilian staff members, comprising 91 national staff, 208 international staff and 5 United Nations Volunteers. Of those, 281 staff were stationed in Tripoli, 1 in Benghazi, 17 in Tunis and one in Sabha. UNSMIL also maintained three government-provided personnel, one located in Tripoli and two in Tunis. UNSMIL international staff and its offices continued to be accommodated at the Oea compound in Tripoli, protected by the United Nations Guard Unit. The annual United Nations Guard Unit rotation was conducted in May 2024. A total of 234 troops departed, while 230 troops arrived as the incoming contingent.

V. Implementation of the recommendations of the 2021 independent strategic review

71. UNSMIL continued its efforts to implement the outstanding recommendations of the 2021 independent strategic review of. Taking into account political, security, operational and logistical considerations, UNSMIL and the United Nations country team continued to advance efforts to increase their footprint and other enabling capacities in Benghazi and Sabha. One UNSMIL international staff member has been permanently deployed in Benghazi, with recruitment for other positions currently under way. From 17 to 20 April, UNSMIL conducted a joint assessment mission to Sabha to further assess the security environment and options for the establishment of a United Nations office in Sabha.

72. On 10 and 11 June, UNSMIL and the United Nations country team organized a joint workshop with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime on conflict and security dynamics in southern Libya to inform the United Nations engagement in the south of the country.

VI. Observations and recommendations

73. The prevailing political stalemate and parallel governing institutions, along with the current trajectory towards further political division in Libya, are deeply concerning. Unilateral actions and the ongoing stalemate have further undermined trust among the parties and created conditions for greater entrenchment of positions by Libyan stakeholders, which contributes to the perpetuation of the status quo. Continued support for efforts by the Deputy Special Representative for Political Affairs to re-energize the political process through inclusive consultations remains critical, while building on the steps taken by the former Special Representative to facilitate a political agreement on all the contested issues that must be addressed in order to arrive at a political agreement that makes it possible to hold free, fair and inclusive elections that meet the aspirations of the Libyan people.

74. Libya has become a ground for rivalry among regional and international actors motivated by geopolitical, political and economic interests, as well as competition extending beyond Libya. This development is a threat to sovereignty and stability of Libya and an obstacle to the work of UNSMIL. I reiterate my call to regional and international partners to find common ground on a way forward and to support Libyan efforts to reach a political agreement, facilitated by the United Nations. I also urge regional and international partners to refrain from pursuing unilateral, parallel and uncoordinated initiatives, and to remain united in support of United Nations efforts

to resolve the political crisis in Libya, in line with the Security Council resolution [2702 \(2023\)](#).

75. Municipal elections are fundamental to effective, representative governance at the local level, and they can be a stepping stone to electoral processes at the national level. The High National Elections Commission has made commendable progress in advancing the organization of municipal elections this year, despite financial constraints. It is crucial that the Libyan authorities continue supporting the Commission's efforts to hold pending elections in the remaining municipalities without hindrance, including by providing the requisite funds, facilitating an enabling environment and making available other necessary assistance in a timely manner.

76. I welcome the efforts by the Presidential Council and the House of Representatives to work towards a unified draft transitional justice and national reconciliation law that upholds victims' rights and adheres to international standards. I call on all relevant bodies to engage with each other in the same spirit, so that the legislation can be adopted based on consensus. The United Nations reiterates its commitment to work in partnership with the African Union to support a Libyan-led, rights-based and people-centred reconciliation process.

77. Unlawful deprivation of liberty across Libya, with incidents of kidnapping, enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests and detention, must cease. I call on the Libyan authorities to institute transparent and independent investigations into all deaths in custody and disappearances in Libya, enable the immediate and unconditional release of all individuals arbitrarily detained and demonstrate a resolute commitment to ending the practices of abduction, disappearance and arbitrary arrest and detention. In addition, there must be a concerted effort to protect and expand civic space, thereby fostering an environment conducive to advancing the political process for all of Libyan society.

78. I also urge the Libyan authorities to meet their international and national human rights obligations and adopt a comprehensive legal and policy framework on migration that prioritizes the human rights, dignity and well-being of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. Such a framework needs to address the issues of decriminalization of irregular entry, exit and stay, non-custodial measures as alternatives to detention and increased protection from arbitrary detention, forced labour, slavery and trafficking in persons.

79. Despite living in a country rich with natural resources and immense human and economic potential, the Libyan people continue to suffer economically. It is high time that Libyan stakeholders depoliticize the economic and financial debate and adopt a technical and practical approach to public spending, socioeconomic development and reconstruction that is grounded in equity, transparency and accountability. Unilateral steps taken in relation to the 2024 budget have further undermined trust among the Libyan institutions and entrenched divisions. I encourage the continuation of inclusive Libyan efforts that advance transparent, equitable and accountable State resource management for the benefit of the Libyan people, contributing to greater stability. In addition, the full implementation of the recommendations arising from the United Nations-facilitated 2021 international audit of the Central Bank of Libya, including reactivating its Board of Directors, is essential to maintaining the integrity of the Central Bank and its ability to enact effective monetary policy that can stabilize the country's economy.

80. I thank my former Special Representative, Abdoulaye Bathily, the Officer-in-Charge of UNSMIL, Stephanie Koury, and the staff of UNSMIL and the United Nations country team for their dedicated efforts and support to the Libyan people. I reiterate my gratitude to the United Nations Guard Unit in Libya, generously provided by the Government of Nepal.