Forum: Advisory Panel

Issue: Rebuilding infrastructure damaged as a result of the Libyan Civil War

Student Officer: Jullia Kim

Position: Chair of Advisory Panel

Introduction

From the end of 2010 until early 2011, individuals in North Africa and the Middle East began protesting against their governments, beginning in Tunisia and continuing to Libya, Egypt, Syria, Bahrian, Yemen and many others. This series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions across the Middle East during this time period is known as the 'Arab Spring', a term first coined by Western media in early

Caption 1: Anti Gaddafi demonstration, Benghazi, March 2011

2011 after the successful uprising in Tunisia against the former leader Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. During the Arab Spring, Egypt and Tunisia saw a quick transfer of power as a result of largely peaceful demonstrations against entrenched regimes.

In Libya, an uprising against the dictator of 40 years, Muammar al-Gaddafi, led to a civil war and international military intervention. When Gaddafi first came to power, there were advancements in Libya on areas such as elections and freedom, compared to previous regime of Ashour. Despite these advancements, things began to deteriorate quickly with the introduction of power struggles and the rise of Islamic State and Ansar al-Shariah.

The Libyan Revolution began on February 15, in Benghazi. The protest occurred as a result of an arrest of a human rights lawyer, Fethi Tarbel. The protest called for Gaddafi to step down and release political prisoners. However, the Libyan government faced the protestors with security forces, using water cannons and rubber bullets, resulting in a number of injuries. As the protest escalated, with the protest spreading to Tripoli, the government started to use lethal force against demonstrators. Protestors

were attacked with tanks, artillery, warplanes and helicopter gunships. Communications were restricted, with blocked Internet and interrupted telephone service in the whole country.

With the intervention of NATO, authorized by a UN resolution demanding protection of civilians, rebels were prevented from imminent annihilation and began to overtake government forces. Then came the fall of Tripoli, after which Gaddafi went into hiding, although he still claimed that his people were behind him and promised success against the rebels. His dictatorial regime finally came to an end, but many still feared that he might remain powerful enough to orchestrate an insurgency. He met an ignominious end when NTC forces found him hiding in a tunnel and he was executed, followed by a NATO air strike on his convoy at the city of Sirte.

Due to neglect by the government, Libya's infrastructure was already in a poor state even before the revolution. With the occurrence of civil war, the situation is now worsened. It has been predicted by the head of the Libyan Stabilization Team at the country's National Transitional Council (NTC) that rebuilding Libya's infrastructure will take at least 10 years.

Definition of Key Terms

Civil War

Civil war refers to a violent conflict between different groups of people in same country. Usually, it is between a state and organized non-state actors in the state's territory. Hence, civil war is different to interstate conflicts, where states fight with other states, intercommunal conflicts, such as conflicts or riots not involving states, state's repression of individuals that are not considered as organized group, or similar violence by non-state actors, such as terrorism and crime.
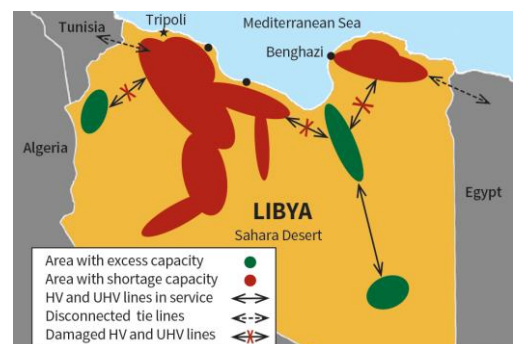
Infrastructure

Infrastructure is the physical system of public works of a state and the resources needed for an activity, such as personnel, buildings, or equipment. Infrastructure is critical to a country's economic development and prosperity.

General Overview

Aftermath of Libyan Civil War

Due to the impact of the Libyan Civil War, hundreds of thousands of people in Libya live in unsafe conditions, with little access to healthcare, food, safe drinking water, shelter, and education. It is estimated that 100,000 people are in need

Caption 2: Map of Libya showing the areas of shortage and excess generating capacity

7

of international protection and 226,000 people are internally displaced.

Impact of Libyan Civil War on infrastructure

Major damage was inflicted upon infrastructure, with community access to basic services such as electricity, water, healthcare and education unreliable and worsening. It is said that damage done to infrastructure and assets owned by the Libyan utility firm General Electric Company of Libya (GECOL) since 2011 as a result of the Libyan Civil War totals US$1.5 billion. Below are examples of infrastructure that has been damaged as a result of the Libyan Civil War and is in dire need of rebuilding and repair.

Transmission lines and substations

The ongoing civil war has damaged numerous 400-kV, 220-kV and 66-kV transmission lines and substations. (Substations fence off areas, step down the voltage in the transmission lines so that it is suitable for the distribution grid.) This has resulted in the transmission system operating as four physically separated systems. Currently, separate transmission systems have reduced generation capacity in the most populated area, northwest Tripolitania, with an electricity demand higher than installed generating capacity. On the other hand, there is now an excess generating capacity in the remaining 3 islanded transmission systems that supply cities such as Benghazi, Adjdabia and Ghadams.

Transmission system operator
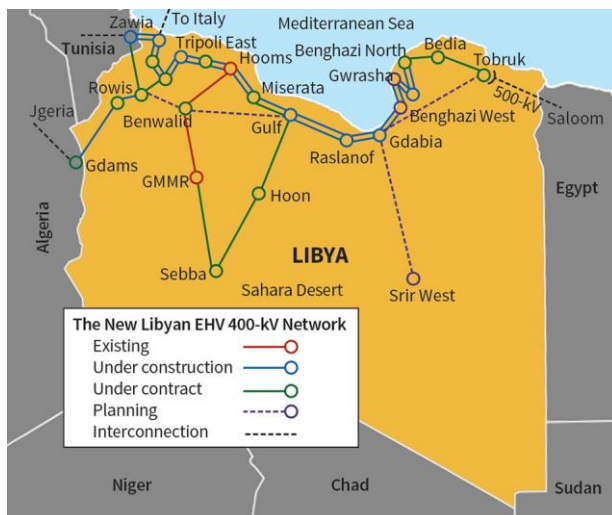
Caption 3: Map of Libya showing the new Libyan transmission system and outlining projects that are existing are under construction

The General Electric Company of Libya (GECOL) is a government owned electric utility that operates the entire power sector in Libya, from electricity generation to public use. The four island networks were built in the early stages of system development. After the unification of the networks in the early 1990s, the entire transmission system operates for around 1.8 million customers across the 1.76 million square kilometers (679,540 square miles) of Libyan territory, with a population of 6.2 million people.

The existing power plants have the available installed generating capacity of 5500MW. Before the 2011 Arab Spring, two renewable projects were taking place: a 100 MW wind farm in the Green Mountain area in the east and a 50 MW solar plant in the Magroun area in the middle of Libya.

However, work on these renewable projects was interrupted by the conflict and they have not yet been completed.

City destruction: Benghazi

Street fighting has caused chaos in militias consisting of al-Qaida-linked militants, IS extremists and previous anti-Gaddafi rebels, fighting against loyal soldiers, internationally recognized by government and their militia allies. Currently in Benghazi, schools are closed, only a few hospitals remain open and food shortage is severe. Citizens of Benghazi line up for hours every day outside bakeries and gas stations.

Caption 4: Taken on March 24, 2015, damaged homes line in a street of Benghazi, Libya. Destruction permeated since the civil war ousted Gaddafi 4 years ago.2014 has been the worst for Benghazi.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The International Criminal Court prosecutor has a mandate to investigate war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide committed in Libya since February 15, 2011, as stated under UN Security Council Resolution 1970. In April, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Mohamed Khaled al-Tuhamy, a former chief of the Internal Security Agency under Gaddafi, for war crimes and inhumane crimes during the 2011 uprising. Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, a son of Gaddafi, was also subject to an arrest warrant issued by the ICC that charges him with crimes against humanity. In 2015, the Tripoli Court of Assize sentenced Gaddafi to death for crimes committed during the 2011 Arab Spring. Although these involvements did not directly tackle the problem of damaged infrastructure, it can be said that the roots of the Arab Spring and the Libyan Civil War were dealt with via these involvements. Though the United Nations was involved in the direct measures to resolve political situation in Libya after the Civil War, it has not had a significant role in rebuilding infrastructure damaged as a result of Libyan Civil War aside from UN Security Council's Resolution 1973 decreeing a Libyan no-fly zone and all measures, short of an occupying ground force, to protect civilians on 17 March 2011.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
February 15th, 2011	Libyan Civil War begins in Benghazi.
February 21st, 2011	UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon holds talk with Gaddafi and demands the conflict to end immediately.
March 1st, 2011	The UN General Assembly adopts a resolution to oust Libya from 47-member Human Rights Council.
March 19th, 2011	NATO starts bombing Libya after a debate in the UN Security Council to impose no-fly zone over Libya. The resolution called for international military action to protect

civilians of Libya.

September 16, 2011	UN Security Council eases sanctions on Libya, on sanction of the national oil company and central bank.
October 20th, 2011	Gaddafi killed after being captured by anti-Gaddafi forces.
October 23rd, 2011	Libya is liberated.

Possible Solutions

Rebuilding oil infrastructure

Before the revolution in 2011, Libya exported 1.6 million barrels of oil per day. In August 2016, however, just over 200,000 barrels per day were exported. This dramatic drop in oil export is due to the damage on oil infrastructure as a result of feuding rival factions, the government and the rebels, and militias after the 2011 revolution and Libyan civil war. As seen above, oil industry was crucial part of Libya's economy. Therefore, stabilizing and rebuilding oil infrastructure is crucial to sustain exports and lead to a more stable Libyan economy. This, therefore, should be resolved first so that Libya's economy is recovered well enough to successfully rebuild other infrastructures damaged as a result of the Libyan Civil War.

Resolving unemployment

The unemployment rate in Libya increased sharply from 13.5 percent in 2010 to 19 percent in 2012 and is still rising to this day. Youth unemployment is currently about 48 percent and female unemployment stands at 25 percent. There are limited opportunities for reintegrating youth and ex-combatants into the labor market. 30 percent of firms reported difficulty in employing a qualified Libyan national as only 15 to 30 percent of Libyan nationals are "skilled." Hence, opening up opportunities of the labor market and providing quality education and training for them to be skilled laborer is fundamental to resolve unemployment. As Libya's unemployment issue is resolved, the economy will revamp, allowing Libya to rebuild its damaged infrastructures after Libyan Civil War.

Restore and improve basic public services

With help from the international community, Libya needs to develop a more diverse market-based economy that does not only rely on its oil and gas sector. Libya should change the management of revenues to make sure that they are used for the interests of the population. For example, using revenues to finance large infrastructure investments will create productive jobs for Libyans in the process, thereby opening up more opportunity to rebuild infrastructure successfully.

Political stability

With further help from the UN and the wider international community, Libya needs to find political stability. Without an end to the Civil War , the situation will only worsen over time, damaging even more infrastructure. The

ongoing instability in Libya even makes investment all but impossible. The root of the Libyan Civil War, political instability, should be solved first and foremost to prevent future damage to infrastructure.

Bibliography

Manfreda, Primoz. "Why Were the 2011 Middle East Uprisings Called the Arab Spring?" Thoughtco., Dotdash, www.thoughtco.com/definition-of-the-arab-spring-2353029.

"2011 Libya Civil War Fast Facts." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 30 Aug. 2018, edition.cnn.com/2013/09/20/world/libya-civil-war-fast-facts/index.html.

"A Timeline of the Conflict in Libya." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 24 Aug. 2011, www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/08/18/libya.timeline/index.html.

Al Jazeera. "Battle for Libya: Key Moments." *GCC News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 30 Apr. 2017, www.aljazeera.com/indepth/spotlight/libya/2011/10/20111020104244706760.html.

"Almost a Decade of Civil War in Libya Continues to Impact Civilians." *The Borgen Project*, 31 Mar. 2018, borgenproject.org/decade-civil-war-in-libya/.

"Benghazi, Where Libya's Uprising Began, Now a Shattered City." *DeseretNews.com*, Deseret News, 2 July 2015, www.deseretnews.com/article/765676626/Benghazi-where-Libyas-uprising-began-now-a-shattered-city.html.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Libya Revolt of 2011." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 14 Feb. 2018, www.britannica.com/event/Libya-Revolt-of-2011.

Daloub, Labib. "Conflict Damage and Reconstruction." *Transmission & Distribution World*, 1 May 2017, www.tdworld.com/overhead-transmission/conflict-damage-and-reconstruction.

"Definition of 'Civil War'." *Take Heed/Pay Heed Definition and Meaning | Collins English Dictionary*, www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/civil-war.

Fasanotti, Federica Saini. "Making Libya's Economy Work Again." *Brookings.edu*, The Brookings Institution, 7 Oct. 2016, www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2016/10/07/making-libyas-economy-work-again/.

Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede. "Civil War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 11 Sept. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/civil-war.

"Infrastructure." *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/infrastructure.

"International Reactions to the 2011 Libyan Civil War." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 14 Nov. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_reactions_to_the_2011_Libyan_Civil_War.

Kasm, Saeb El. "Rebuilding Libya." *The Huffington Post*, TheHuffingtonPost.com, 21 Jan. 2012, www.huffingtonpost.com/saeb-el-kasm/rebuilding-libya_b_1091817.html.

Lacher, Wolfram. "The UN Wants to End Libya's Civil War. Here's the Big Challenge They Face." *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 5 Nov. 2015, www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2015/11/05/why-libya-isnt-just-divided-but-fragmented/?utm_term=.04d2a8f3d2be.

"Libya Crisis: a Decade to Rebuild Libya, Says NTC." *BBC News*, BBC, 26 Aug. 2011, www.bbc.com/news/business-14675948.

"Libyan Civil War." *Fabio Bucciarelli*, www.fabiobucciarelli.com/portfolio-item/libya-civil-war/.

"Libya's GECOL Values Power Infrastructure Damage at US$15bn." *Newsbase*, newsbase.com/topstories/libya%E2%80%99s-gecol-values-power-infrastructure-damage-us15bn.

"Oil Infrastructure in Libya: Key to Rebuilding Its Economy." *The Borgen Project*, 29 Mar. 2018, borgenproject.org/oil-infrastructure-in-libya/.

"World Report 2018: Rights Trends in Libya." *Human Rights Watch*, 18 Jan. 2018, www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/libya.

http://people.duke.edu/~kcb38/ICB/v11summaries/LibyanCivilWar.pdf

http://earlyrecovery.global/sites/default/files/instability_and_insecurity_in_libya_final_0.pdf

Asser, Martin. "The Muammar Gaddafi Story." BBC News, BBC, 21 Oct. 2011, www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-12688033.

"Electrical Substation." Internal Combustion Engine - Energy Education, energyeducation.ca/encyclopedia/Electrical_substation.