

# Libya daily security analysis report

February 13, 2023

Prepared by:  
Risk Analysis Team, Libya



# Table of Contents

<b>Latest Developments</b>	<b>3</b>
Threat Warnings	3
Political Announcement	3
Security Developments	3
Humanitarian Response	3
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>4</b>
Threat Warnings	4
Security Operations	4
<b>Significant Incidents</b>	<b>5</b>
Tripolitania Region	5
Cyrenaica Region	6
Fezzan Region	7
<b>Outlook</b>	<b>7</b>
Short Term Outlook	7
Medium to Long Term Outlook	8
<b>Key Dates</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Acronym List</b>	<b>9</b>

# Latest Developments

## Threat Warnings

- Tensions have increased again in Zawiyah after the expiration of a deadline given by one of the armed groups involved in clashes on February 06 for the CTF to hand over the person they claim is responsible for the death of two of their men.
- Renewed tensions have been reported in Tajura, eastern Tripoli. Tensions were triggered in January and again on February 09 with reports suggesting this is largely due to an alignment of the Martyrs Sabria Battalion with Abdulhakim Belhaj.
- An unconfirmed report claimed that IS elements were gathered around the Tunisian border with the intent to cross into Libya with on small group having already moved to Wazin (border crossing near Nalut). This is single source but comes after another report claimed an IS presence had been noted near Tiji on February 05, resulting in a security force response.
- The Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Marj Municipality requested that the GNU prepare an Emergency Room and provide it with all the necessary medical preparations and facilities in preparation for any emergency. This comes after two minor earthquakes felt in the area on February 09 and 12.

## Political Announcement

- Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah has declared February 16 as a public holiday in lieu of February 17 which falls on a Friday. The holiday is to commemorate the 2011 revolution against the Gadhafi Regime. This is likely to result in gatherings which could include fireworks. This tends to be celebrated in some areas, like Misrata, more strongly than others which were more aligned with the old regime.
- The President of the Presidential Council, Mohamed Menfi, met with Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar in Benghazi “as part of the consultations to complete the electoral process.”

## Security Developments

- Dafiniyah Checkpoint on the coastal road (east) towards Misrata remains closed. This comes after reports of partial and full reopening's suggesting the Samoud Brigade may not be manning the blockade 24 hours a day but currently remains in position.
- The LNA has continued its crack-down on drugs and alcohol dealers in Benghazi with further operations in the Wahieshi area on the morning of February 13.
- The SSA has given a photography course to its media officers. Images appear to show five men in both uniform and civilian clothes being taught skills on cameras as well as mobile phones. This is likely aimed at improving and promoting the SSA's image.

## Humanitarian Response

- The GNU has sent a shipment of medicines and foodstuffs to Turkey in support of those devastated by last week's earthquakes.

# Assessment

## Threat Warnings

### **Zawiyah: Tensions lead to concerns of renewed armed confrontations**

Tensions have increased in Zawiyah after the expiration of a deadline given to 60 Battalion, CTF by an unnamed armed group. This comes after clashes between the two on February 06 when CTF killed two members of the other armed group: Marwan Belkasem Daraa and Asim Al Senussi. In response, the armed group launched an attack on the CTF Headquarters near the 24 Institute resulting in armed clashes and two further deaths from CTF. The unnamed armed group then gave CTF a deadline to handover the person responsible for the deaths of Draa and Senussi, a deadline which has now passed. As a result, the unnamed armed group mobilised to the Zarrouk Petrol Station area.

**COMMENT:** 'Concerns have increased that further armed confrontations could erupt between the two. The clashes on February 06 were originally blamed on the attempted return of Abu Obeida earlier that day however, it appears that this was a non-related issue. Sifaw militia from Harsha was reported to have been involved on February 06 however this remains unconfirmed. CTF is a Misratan-led force however 60 Battalion is likely to be a local militia rebranded as CTF.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

### **Marj: Calls for preparations after two minor earthquakes**

The Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Marj Municipality requested that the GNU prepare an Emergency Room and provide it with all the necessary medical preparations and facilities in preparation for any emergency.

**COMMENT:** 'This comes after two minor earthquakes in the area on February 09 and 12. Marj was levelled on February 21, 1963 and was rebuilt by 1970 close to the old city. The recent minor quakes come after the significant earthquake activity in Turkey and Syria in which over 30,000 people have so far been reported to have died. The incident will no doubt add to concerns in Marj after the two minor shakes felt this week.'

**COMMENT ENDS.**

## Security Operations

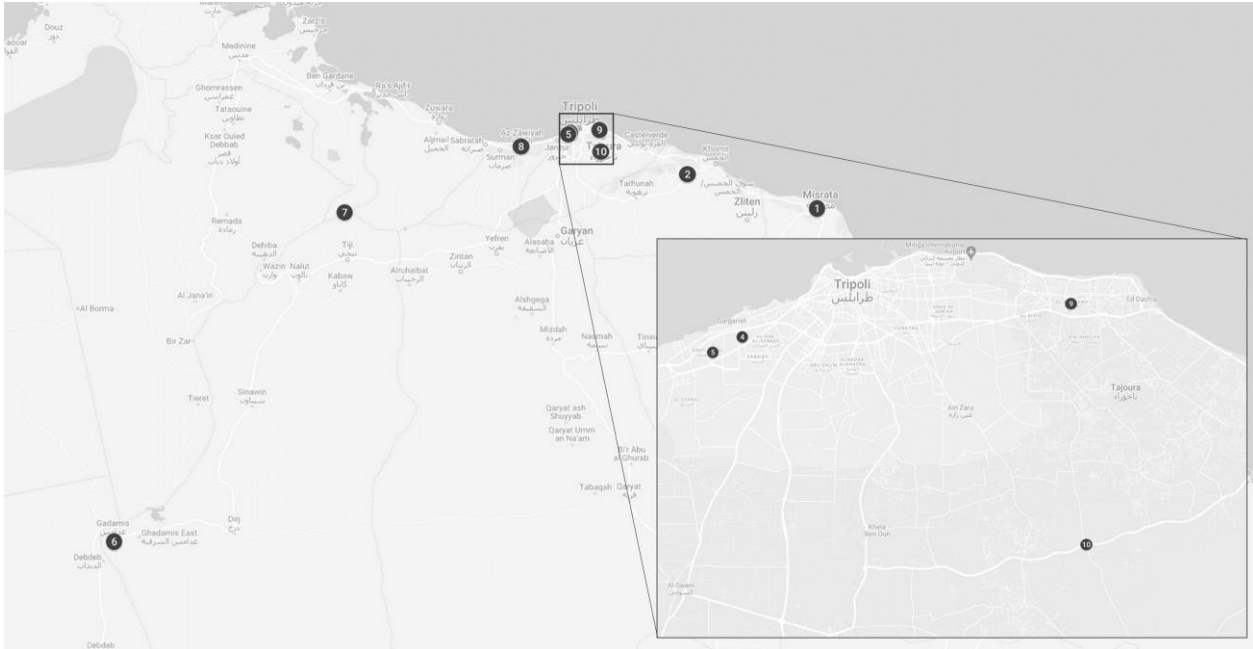
### **Benghazi: Muammer Werfalli goes missing**

On February 13, Muammer Werfalli, brother of Mahmoud Werfalli, was allegedly detained by the Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade (LNA). Werfalli's family contacted Ali Al Mashai, commander of the Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade, who denied the force has Muammer. Muammer's family found his car without its key with no sign of Muammer.

**COMMENT:** 'His brother, Mahmoud Werfalli, was a special forces commander (LNA) who achieved notoriety during the Battle for Benghazi for his videos of extra-judicial killings. After a twin VBIED attack on a Mosque in Benghazi on January 23, 2018, Werfalli took ten prisoners to the mosque the following day, lined them up and executed them personally. While many denounced his actions, Werfalli had a strong support base from his tribe and from Benghazi from people who had lived through the atrocities of the extremist groups the LNA was fighting at the time for control of the city. Werfalli became subject to an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court due to his actions, placing Haftar in a difficult position. He was eventually assassinated on March 22, 2021 along with his cousin in a drive-by shooting in Benghazi. This came after a wave of attacks against businesses in the city, including one against a car dealership owned by the influential Soussi family at the beginning of March 2021.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



**1 Arrest - Feb 12, Misrata Province, Misrata:** A person was arrested in front of the North African Bank in connection to a domestic issue.

**2 Arrest - Feb 12, Al-Murqub Province, Msallata:** 444 Combat Unit arrested Hisham Sweidan, the Mayor of Msallata on charges he headed a criminal gang carrying out armed robberies and kidnappings. 444 seized over 11 cars from his garage stating that they were stolen.

**3 Murder/ Execution - Feb 12 13:30, Tripoli Province, Hay Al-Islamy:** A quarrel resulted in the murder of one of those involved.

**4 Arrest - Feb 12 13:40, Tripoli Province, Hay Al-Islamy:** A person was arrested for the murder of a person during an earlier quarrel.

**5 SAF - Feb 12 18:30, Tripoli Province, Ghut al-Shaal:** Small arms fire was reported in the area.

**6 Security Operation - Feb 12 18:30, Nalut Province, Ghadames:** The Municipal Guard, along with the Food Control Centre, seized around 450kg of Egyptian onions which were unfit for consumption inside a number of stores in the town.

**7 Threat Warning - Feb 12 19:40, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Libya - Tunisia Border:** A single source, uncorroborated report has claimed a "very large force affiliated with ISIS is currently stationed along the Tunisia border ready to cross into Libya." This allegedly follows the ingress of an IS group on February 11 into the Wazin area. The "very large force" is allegedly set to separate into smaller batches and will cross the border and spread around the western region. This comes after a report on February 05 claiming a possible IS presence in the Mukhaizen and Wadi Aloun areas near Tiji, prompting a security force reaction.

**8 Threat Warning - Feb 12 20:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zarrouk Fuel Station:** An armed actor mobilised to the area near the Al Zarooq Petrol Station with an alleged intent to attack 60 Battalion, CTF HQ located near the Institute 24, according to the CTF. This came after the expiration of a deadline given by the armed group for 60 Battalion to handover a person they claim is responsible for the deaths of two of their men; Marwan Belkasem Daraa and Asim Al Senussi, during the clashes on February 06 in Zawiyah. This could spark renewed clashes in Zawiyah.

**9 Threat Warning - Feb 13 01:45, Tripoli Province, Tajura:** Tensions were again reported in the area. Tensions were triggered in January and again on February 09 with reports suggesting this is largely due to an alignment of the Martyrs Sabria Battalion with Abdulhakim Belhaj.

**10 Troop Movements - Feb 13 02:00, Tripoli Province, Al Ameer Junction:** An unidentified armed actor mobilised in the area.

## Cyrenaica Region



**11 Threat Warning - Feb 12, Al-Marj Province, Marj:** The Chairman of the Administrative Council of the Marj Municipality requested that the GNU prepare an Emergency Room and provide it with all the necessary medical preparations and facilities in preparation for any emergency. This comes after two minor earthquakes in the area on February 09 and 12. Marj was leveled on February 21, 1963 and was rebuilt by 1970 close to the old city. The recent minor quakes come after the significant earthquake activity in Turkey and Syria in which over 30,000 people have so far been reported to have died. The incident will no doubt add to concerns in Marj after the two minor shakes felt this week.

**12 Security Operation - Feb 12, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk:** The General Administration for Criminal Research seized 380kg of marijuana, over a million tablets of Tramadol and cigarettes have been smuggled into Libya. Various weapons and ammunition was also seized during the operation.

**13 Arrest - Feb 12, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** A drug dealer named Naveen Equin was arrested by police in a sting operation using undercover police officers. This is part of an ongoing crackdown against drug and alcohol dealing in the city.

**14 Other - Feb 12, Benghazi Province, Bohdema:** Following security operations in Bohdema, reports indicate that the LNA targeted a localised social media source which has now begun posting pro-LNA content. It is assessed that the profile is likely now under pro-LNA actor control. The same has been seen for Sabha and Awbari and so follows a pattern that the LNA is controlling the information space.

**15 Armed Robbery - Feb 12 13:30, Benghazi Province, Bohdema:** An individual was subjected to an armed robbery and had cash stolen by two people mobile in a white Avanti.

**16 Arrest - Feb 12 13:40, Benghazi Province, Bohdema:** Two people were arrested for an earlier armed robbery of an individual. They were in possession of a firearm, illegal substances, and military clothing.

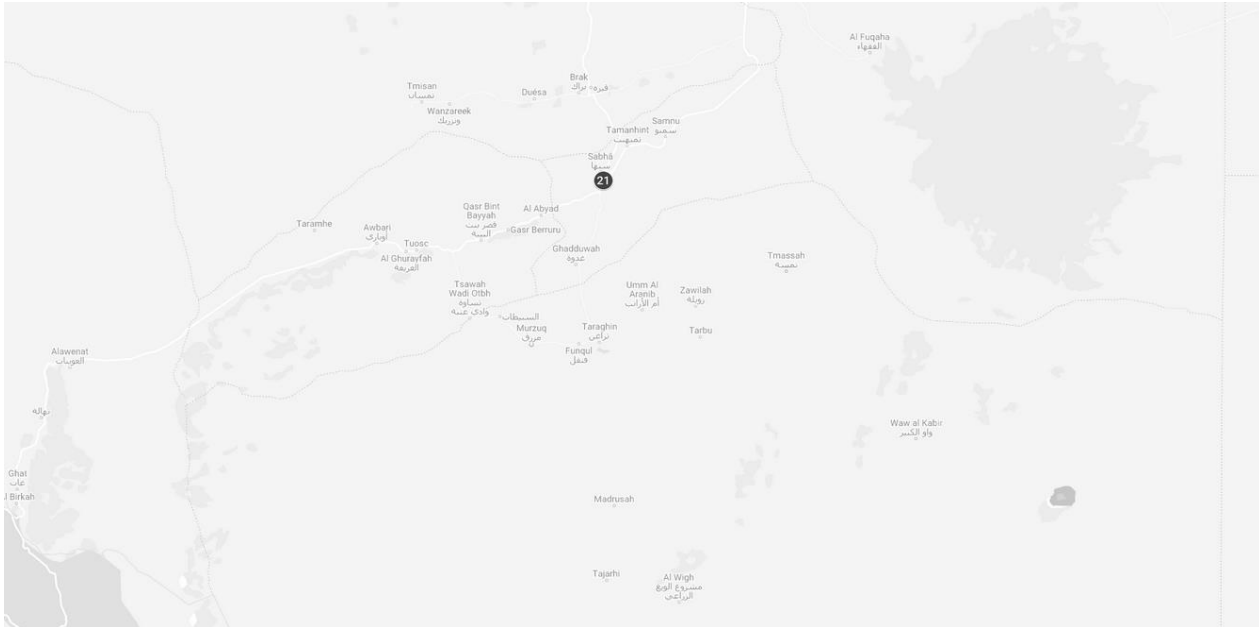
**17 Arrest - Feb 12 14:30, Benghazi Province, Suluq:** The LNA arrested former Military Intelligence Support Commander, Salah Bulgeib, as well as a number of Al Awgir youth. This came after a meeting of the tribe where various speakers demanded the establishment of a special military council for the tribe, and the dismantling of government bodies. They further threatened to escalate if elections were not held in 2023.

**18 Security Operation - Feb 13, Benghazi Province, Wahieshi:** A booth and associated vehicle were burned in Wahieshi by security forces. The booth had allegedly been used to sell drugs from. Other buildings were also destroyed by heavy plant for being associated with drugs and alcohol. This is a continuation of raids against drug and alcohol dealers in the Bohdema and Wahieshi areas.

**19 Arbitrary Arrest - Feb 13 01:00, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** Muammer Werfalli, brother of Mahmoud Werfalli, was allegedly detained by the Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade (LNA).

**20 Security Operation - Feb 13 09:00, Benghazi Province, Wahieshi:** Homes were destroyed by the LNA in the area. The homes had been raided on February 11 as part of an anti-corruption operation against alcohol and drug dealers. Communications were also restored in the area after being purposefully disrupted due to the operation.

## Fezzan Region



**21 Security Operation - Feb 12 18:00, Sabha Province, Indian Company Area:** Security Forces "removed" a petrol station inside the Indian Company at the Obari Junction and confiscated all its contents. The station was described as illegal, and the removal came after the owner had been instructed to evacuate and remove the contents.

# Outlook

## Short Term Outlook

- Libyan remains locked in a political impasse with two governments, both of which are slowly weakening. The House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) continue to dominate the current political scene, with their efforts to resolve key issues like the constitution taking centre stage. After years of backtracking however, SRSB Bathily has made clear that without real progress, the two risk entities risk being sidelined. Various factions are beginning to position themselves for expected change in 2023 as the UN continues to push towards elections, while regional and global issues, not least the Ukraine offensive, continue to shape the international communities' agendas in Libya.
- Although more settled at present, the security situation in and around Tripoli remains fundamentally unstable. After significant changes to the capital's security makeup in August and September 2022, new faultlines are emerging as militia commanders continue to consolidate their positions. This includes expanding their influence through ministries and other state apparatus. In addition, plans to reconstruct Tripoli International Airport threaten to destabilise the delicate balance of power in the city with Misratan entities looking to claim significant influence over the location. Armed groups

in Tripoli continue to be empowered via financial, military, and political means, ensuring they will continue to exert significant influence over the political situation.

## Medium to Long Term Outlook

- The solution to Libya's political impasse remains elections for many stakeholders with UNSMIL attempting to develop a new pathway. Realistically, elections are unlikely to occur in 2023 however, there is a real chance that much-needed groundwork could be achieved. While UNSMIL heads efforts towards elections, other international stakeholders are prioritising more short-term objectives as they look to shape not just Libya, but regional and global issues.
- Terrorist groups remain active but contained in Libya. Islamic State (IS) will continue to present a threat to security forces, primarily in the south, and may re-establish the capability to mount sporadic attacks along the coastline in the future. The group continues to suffer from years of attrition and is more likely focused on providing support for more active IS theatres in sub-Saharan Africa. Al-Qaeda-aligned groups remain active in the country with their integration into societies in the south and some armed groups in the Tripoli area potentially posing a longer-term issue for Libya.

# Key Dates

Date	Occasion	Comment
February 17, 2023	Revolution Day (2011)	Public Holiday
April 22 - 24, 2023	Eid Al-Fitr (+/-)	Public Holiday
May 01, 2023	May Day	Public Holiday
June 27, 2023	Arafat Day	
June 28 – 30, 2023	Eid Al-Adha	Public Holiday
July 19, 2023	Islamic New Year	Public Holiday
September 16, 2023	Martyrs' Day	



# Acronym List

AQ - Al-Qaeda  
BAM – Al Bunyan Al Marsous (Misratan-led)  
BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade / Saraya Defend Benghazi (SDB) (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)  
CBL – Central Bank of Libya  
CESF - Constitution and Election Support Force  
CNI – Critical National Infrastructure  
DACOCT - Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism (SDF)  
DDR - Disarmament, demobilising and reintegration  
DF – Direct Fire  
GASO – General Administration of Security Operations  
GACS – General Administration of Central Support  
GECOL – General Electricity Company of Libya  
GMMR – Great Man-made River  
GNA – Government of National Accord (2016)  
GNC – General National Congress (2012)  
GNS – Government of National Stability  
GNU – Government of National Unity (2021)  
GTUC - Greater Tripoli Union Council (Tripoli militias and others, established in June 2020)  
HCS – High Council of State  
HNEC – High National Elections Commission  
HoR – House of Representatives (Tobruk-based)  
IDF – Indirect Fire (mortars/rockets)  
IDP - Internally Displaced Persons  
IED - Improvised Explosive Device  
IOC - International Oil Company  
IS - Islamic State  
JMC – Joint Military Commission  
LIFG – Libyan Islamic Fighting Group  
LNA – Libyan National Army  
LPA – Libyan Political Agreement (2015)  
LPDF - Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (2020)  
LROR - Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room  
MoD - Ministry of Defense  
MoF - Ministry of Finance  
MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
MoI - Ministry of Interior  
MoJ - Ministry of Justice  
MoO - Ministry of Oil  
MoT - Ministry of Transportation  
NFDK - No Further Details Known  
NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation (aid/charity)  
NOC – National Oil Company  
NSG – National Salvation Government (GNC)  
NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report  
P3+2 – France, Germany, Italy – UK, US  
PC – Presidency Council (GNA)  
PG – Presidential Guard  
PFG - Petroleum Facilities Guard  
RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade  
RTA - Road Traffic Accident  
TIP – Tripoli International Airport  
SSA – Stability Support Authority  
SAF - Small Arms Fire  
SDF – Rada Deterrence Force/ Special Deterrence Force/ Rada  
UXO - Unexploded Ordnance

# The GardaWorld Difference



**122,000+**

employees

**45**

countries with  
operations &  
infrastructure

**\$3B+**

in revenues

**22,000+**

clients

## About GardaWorld

**At GardaWorld, we're security people. Which makes us peace-of-mind people.**

We're the trusted partners you count on, when it really counts. We're the guards, patrollers, support staff and consultants who uphold the highest standards to protect what matters to you. Getting it right the first time, every time. Providing high-quality service on a global scale, with local insights — so we know what to anticipate and how to respond, at any level of risk. We're the eyes and ears and minds who are ready to act smart and act fast, with the vast experience and extensive training to plan and prepare, to monitor and manage, on your terms, on your turf, to your satisfaction, earning our reputation by earning your trust. Bringing reliability, consistency and transparency to your security operations. We're the experts who attend to the smallest details, so you can focus on the bigger picture. The security people who work hard so you can rest easy — and confidently look forward to every day.

## SECURE EVERY DAY

**Country address:**  
RMT House, Turkish School Road  
Sarraj  
Tripoli  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

**GARDAWORLD**

[garda.com](http://garda.com)