

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Threat Warning

- Marj has experienced its third minor earthquake since February 09. Derna also experienced a minor quake on February 06. As a result of the seismic activity, the GNU agreed to establish an emergency room in Marj in preparation for any potential intensification of activity. This comes after significant earthquakes in Turkey and Syria on February 06. Marj was destroyed by an earthquake in 1963 and rebuilt nearby in 1970.

Political Developments

- German Ambassador Michael Ohnmacht met with Chief of the General Staff, Mohammed Haddad, in Tripoli on February 14. Ohnmacht described his meeting as constructive and stated that “we reaffirm our support for the UN Envoy, Abdoulaye Bathily, to find a political solution for the country.”
- The GNU has appointed Mohammed Younis as their new ambassador to Italy succeeding former ambassador Omar Al-Tarhouni. Younis has previously held the position of spokesperson for the GNA, and the Minister of State for the Families of the Martyrs, Wounded and the Missing Affairs.
- Norwegian Ambassador Hilda Klimtsdal met with Vice-President of the Presidential Council, Abdullah al-Lafi. The two discussed political developments and the results of the preparatory forum for national reconciliation which is expected to lead to an “inclusive conference.”
- A delegation from Benghazi travelled to Kufra to help solve some of the problems in the city, including reconciliation amongst opposing groups.
- A Dassault Falcon 900EX jet belonging to the GNU flew from Tripoli to Abu Dhabi on February 14. Unconfirmed reports have suggested that Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah was onboard on an unannounced visit to attend a “covert” meeting with Colonel Saddam Haftar (LNA) and the head of Emirati Intelligence.

Economic Developments

- The Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) opened a subsidiary in London on January 16. The LIA already has a representative office in London called the LIA Advisory Services UK (formerly known as Dalia Advisory). The office was opened in 2009 and is headed by LIA Chairman Ali Mahmoud Hassan and Deputy Chairman Youssef Ahmed al-Mabrouk. It's unclear what the purpose of the new office will be.

Oil & Gas Developments

- Minister of Oil & Gas (GNU), Mohamed Aoun, has denied that his ministry has barred two British oil and gas companies from working in Libya. The two companies were named as: the Oil and Gas Systems Limited Company and the Oil and Gas Services Company Limited. Aoun stated that all foreign companies looking to invest in Libya needed approval from the Privatization and Investment Board (PIB) which has nothing to do with the Ministry of Oil.

Humanitarian Response

- A Libyan plane landed at Lattakia Airport in Syria on February 15, loaded with 40 tons of foodstuffs including tins of food and milk as well as medical equipment, beds, and mattresses. Lattakia has so far received 29 planes including 12 from the UAE, nine from Benghazi, three from Belarus, three from Russia and two from Iran.

Assessment

Political Developments

Kufra: Benghazi high-level delegation visit

A delegation from Benghazi travelled to Kufra to help solve some of the problems in the city, including reconciliation amongst opposing groups. The delegation from Benghazi was headed by the Sheikh Al-Senussi Al-Haliq, head of the Political Council and Public Relations of the Zway tribe, and Mayor Faraj Haftar, mayor of the Al Furjan tribe. The delegation arrived on February 14 and was received by a large delegation of notables from Kufra when they landed. The delegation aims to help “solve some of the problems in the city” which includes reconciliation.



Image: Benghazi delegation arriving in Kufra (Social Media)

COMMENT: ‘Kufra is dominated by the Zway tribe. Out of around 55,000 people in the area, approximately 42,000 people are from the Zway. A further 8,000 are from the Tebu and 5,000 people are from non-Zway Arab tribes.

There are long-standing tensions between the Zway, which came to dominate the area in the 1840’s, and the Tebu who were dislodged after being in the area for centuries beforehand.

After significant tensions following the revolution which led to a period of clashes in 2012, the city has calmed over the last few years. Recent reports have attributed this, in large part, to cooperation over human trafficking and smuggling in the area which has helped increase the local standard of living. This cooperation however papers over the social cracks to a large degree with the Zway continuing to dominate the political and security space with the Tebu largely marginalised.

Kufra itself is a strategic location, situated in the Sahara Desert and has been an important trading post, sitting alongside a travelling route, for centuries. It dominates south-eastern Cyrenaica and was part of the Tebu Sultanate prior to domination by the Zway. The Italians conquered the area in 1931 and built Buma Airfield, now Kufra Airport. The location’s importance was amplified to the Italians in the Second World War after the Suez Canal was closed to their shipping, forcing travel routes to the skies, using Kufra as a key refuelling stop. As a result, it attracted the attention of the allies, who later took the area in the Battle of Kufra in 1941. The area was largely pro-revolution in 2011 and is now politically and militarily influenced by eastern authorities including the LNA.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

UAE: Dbeibah allegedly travels to Abu Dhabi

A Dassault Falcon 900EX jet belonging to the GNU flew from Tripoli to Abu Dhabi on February 14. Unconfirmed reports have suggested that Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah was onboard on an unannounced visit to attend a “covert” meeting with Colonel Saddam Haftar (LNA) and the head of Emirati Intelligence.

COMMENT: ‘Colonel Haftar has a well-established relationship with the Dbeibah family, although this is usually said to be through Ibrahim Dbeibah, with the UAE a key interlocuter between the two. In the seven days previously, the jet has travelled to Antakya, Ankara, Adana, and Istanbul in Turkey as well as Benghazi. There is no confirmation of who is onboard or whether Colonel Haftar is in the UAE at present however previous meetings have resulted in key developments like the replacement of the head of the NOC making this bilateral relationship one of significant interest, and therefore speculation, to Libyan stakeholders.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



- 1 Troop Movements - Feb 14 15:00, Al-Jafara Province, Aziziyah:** An armed group mobilised in the area. The area is dominated by Zintani forces.
- 2 SAF - Feb 14 15:03, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara:** Small arms fire in the area was associated with a wedding.
- 3 RTA - Feb 14 18:35, Tripoli Province, Airport Road:** A road traffic accident resulted in a traffic jam in the area.
- 4 CP/Roadblock - Feb 14 23:00, Misrata Province, Dafiniyah:** Reports indicate that Dafiniyah Checkpoint was reopened by Samoud Brigade. The force had closed the checkpoint on February 11 over alleged non-payment of entitlements.
- 5 Troop Movements - Feb 14 23:00, Tripoli Province, Al Bugra Camp:** The Rahba al-Duru Battalion and 51 Infantry Brigade mobilised in the area with medium weapons. Both forces are heavily influenced/controlled by Bashir Bugra and have ongoing tensions with the Martyrs Sabria Battalion.
- 6 Accident - Feb 15 13:20, Tripoli Province, Fornaj:** A large amount of smoke was reported near Fornaj Power Station.

Cyrenaica Region



- 7 Security Operation - Feb 14, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda:** Ministry of Interior (MoI) forces, under the direction of Deputy Minister of the Interior (GNS), Faraj Gaim, carried out raids on drug dens in

the city. The force involved was led by the Head of the Security Directorate Rescue Department Captain Rabih Afkirin and Security Directorate Director, Major Khalid Al-Basta. This comes after similar raids by MoI and LNA forces in the Bohdema and Waheishi areas of Benghazi.

8 Other - Feb 14, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Walid Werfalli (dressed in military fatigues), brother of Muammer and Mahmoud Werfalli, called on the Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade to "respect their sacrifices and what they gave for Benghazi." He further stated that his family were unable to travel abroad. This comes after the apparent kidnap/ detention of Muammer Werfalli. Their brother, Mahmoud, an LNA commander, was assassinated in March 2021. He was subject to an ICC arrest warrant due to his alleged involvement in extra-judicial killings in Benghazi during the battle for Benghazi.

9 Security Operation - Feb 14 14:56, Benghazi Province, Wahieshi: The home of Ahmed Gamaika, a member of the LNA, was demolished and a car was burned by the LNA as part of their operation against drug and alcohol dealers in the area.

10 Arrest - Feb 14 17:00, Benghazi Province, Wahieshi: Five Egyptians accused of being drug dealers were arrested as part of the ongoing security operations in the area.

11 Security Operation - Feb 14 18:00, Benghazi Province, Majouri: The Special Task Force, Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade (LNA) demolished the Al Hawl family house which had allegedly been used to deal drugs. This comes as part of a wider push against drug and alcohol dealers in Benghazi and Bayda.

12 Earthquake - Feb 15 09:27, Al-Marj Province, Marj: Another minor quake was felt by residents in Marj. This is the third in recent days and has prompted an emergency room to be established in preparation for any intensification of seismic activity.

Fezzan Region

NSTR

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

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SECURE EVERY DAY

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