

Libya daily security analysis report

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Prepared by:
Risk Analysis Team, Libya

Table of Contents

Latest Developments	3
Threat Warnings	3
Political Assessment	3
Security Assessment	3
Assessment	3
Political Developments	3
Significant Incidents	4
Tripolitania Region	4
Cyrenaica Region	5
Fezzan Region	6
Offshore	6
Outlook	6
Short Term Outlook	6
Medium to Long Term Outlook	7
Key Dates	7
Acronym List	8

Latest Developments

Threat Warnings

- Further earthquake activity has been felt in Marj. The earthquake took place to the south of Crete, an area which sees frequent seismic activity. Another two earthquakes took place around 150km north of Tripoli in the Mediterranean Sea however these were not felt on land.

Political Assessment

- SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily met with German Foreign Minister, Annalena Baerbock, in Berlin. SRSG Bathily stated that they had called on Libyan institutions to focus on preparing for presidential and parliamentary elections in 2023. This is part of a tour by the SRSG of European capitals with recent visits undertaken to Rome and Paris.
- The Speaker of the HoR, Aquila Saleh, has proposed the formation of a committee of 45 members to undertake the task of forming a unified executive authority “under international supervision.”

Security Assessment

- Dafiniyah Checkpoint on the Coastal Road (east) has reopened after an alleged deal was struck between the GNU and Samoud Brigade.
- Clashes broke out in Gharyan after an attack on Hira Checkpoint with reports indicating this was an attempt to force its reopening. The clashes also affected Abu Rashadat Checkpoint to the northwest of Gharyan.
- The Ministry of Interior (GNS) has announced the enforcement of Cybercrime Law No.5 2022. Two females have already been arrested under the law in Benghazi. While the law covers things like online fraud, it is open to possible abuse with a morality clause allowing for interpretation by law enforcement.

Assessment

Political Developments

HoR: Proposal to form a new committee to form a new unified executive

The Speaker of the HoR, Aquila Saleh, has proposed the formation of a committee of 45 members to undertake the task of forming a unified executive authority “under international supervision.” The call came during a speech at the annual conference of the Council of Libyan-American relations on February 16.

Saleh explained that the committee would consist of 15 members of the HoR and 15 from the HCS as well as 15 independents and specialists. This new unified executive would be tasked with providing citizens with basic services, solving problems, assisting the HNEC with organising elections, expelling foreign forces and distributing wealth to the three regions.

COMMENT: ‘The proposal sounds similar to the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) from 2021 which sought to empower a committee to appoint a new unified executive, a process which led to the establishment of the GNU. The key difference here is that the HoR and HCS would form a significant element of the committee, giving both entities a great deal of influence in the choosing of any new executive.

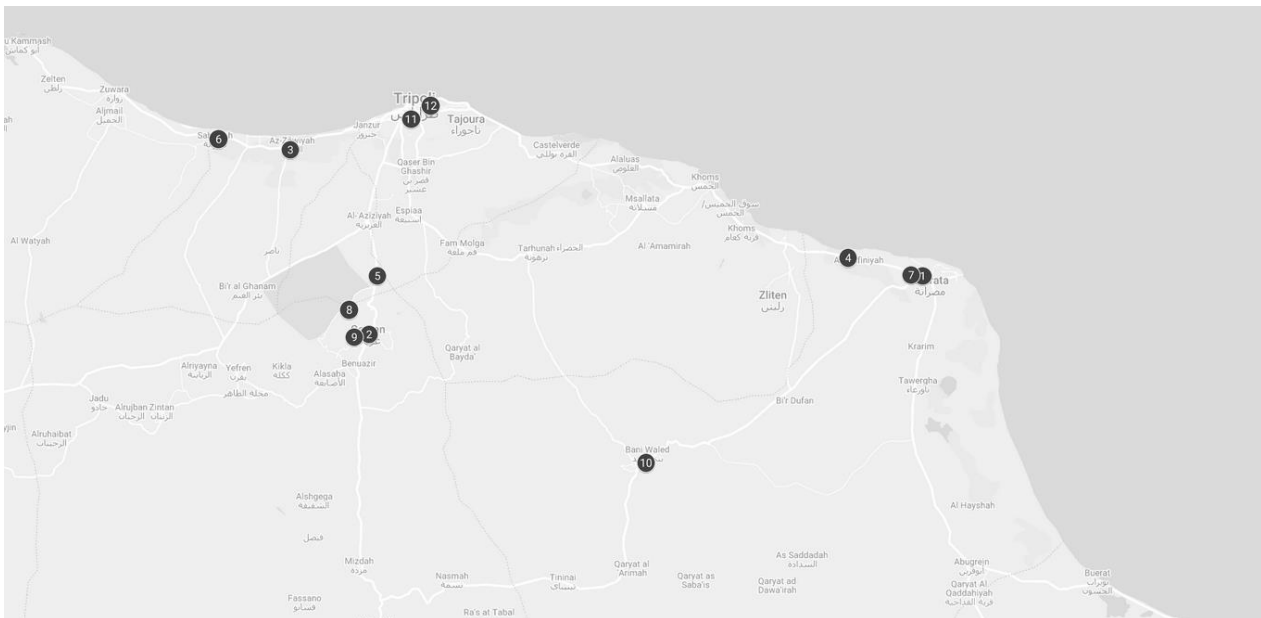
It’s unclear how much support this proposal will gain with recent reports indicating a lack of interest, at least from some key elements within the international community, in pursuing yet another attempt at an interim

unified executive instead of elections. In particular, the US is assessed to be prioritizing stability while the UN pursues elections in the longer term. Turkey is assessed to be opposed to any sudden moves in Libya before its own presidential and parliamentary elections in June but may support another interim government in the medium term assuming it can guarantee a favourable outcome for Turkish relations with Libya. Meanwhile, Egypt may align with Saleh's plan to enable it to pursue its economic and strategic interests in Libya, exploiting its ongoing dysfunction.

Despite this lack of enthusiasm from some stakeholders, the HoR and HCS, both of which are invested in maintaining the status quo, likely remain focused on trying to outmanoeuvre the SRSG's attempts to push for elections, and see another interim executive in which they can wield significant influence, as a way to extend the status quo under the guise of progress.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1 Security Operation - Feb 15, Misrata Province, Misrata: GASO Special Task Department secured engineers working on the "railway project". Structures planned for demolition were identified during operations.

2 Security Operation - Feb 15, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Gharyan: The SSA-Gharyan Branch secured the opening of youth hostels as per the Gharyan Security Directorate security plans.

3 UPDATE Kidnap - Feb 16, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Six Egyptian Coptic Christians were detained by an armed group at an entry checkpoint to Zawiyah. The detention, reported by the victims' families, comes on the 8th anniversary of the massacre of 21 Coptic Egyptians in Sirte by IS likely adding to the families' concerns regarding the incident. Later reports suggest that the kidnappers have demanded 15,000 LYD for each person (around \$18,000 in total). The victims are from Al-Harja Qibli village in Al-Balina town, Sohag, Upper Egypt.

4 CP/ Roadblock - Feb 16, Misrata Province, Dafiniyah: The Dafiniyah Checkpoint was reopened, again, this time after alleged reassurances from the GNU "to pay outstanding dues." This comes after an escalation earlier in the day which saw Samoud Brigade start closing down a back road being used by the public to circumvent the checkpoint. The checkpoint was closed on February 11 with the closure characterised by partial and full reopenings however this is the first time a reopening has been backed by reports of an alleged deal.

5 Armed Attack - Feb 16, Al-Jafara Province, Hira: GACS allegedly attacked Hira Checkpoint in a bid to force its reopening. The checkpoint was closed by an armed group on February 14.

6 Political Announcement - Feb 16, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: Posters in support of Dr Saif al-Islam have appeared in Al-Alaqa, Sabratah.

7 Accident - Feb 16 16:00, Misrata Province, Misrata: A vehicle trying to circumvent the Dafiniyah Checkpoint set on fire after overheating.

8 Armed Clash - Feb 17 00:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Abu Rashadat: An armed clash erupted between the Gharyan Brigade and GACS. The clashes came after an alleged attack Hira Checkpoint in which three policemen were killed.

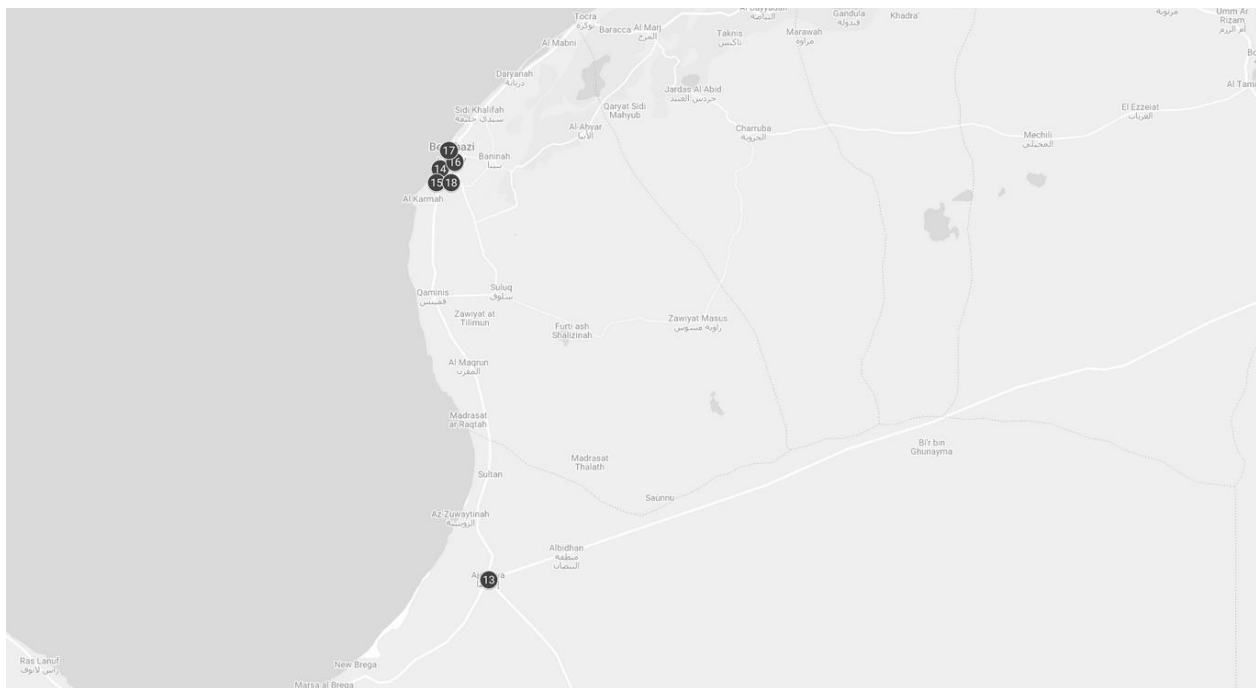
9 Political Announcement - Feb 17 00:30, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Gharyan: Gharyan began celebrating 17 February by lighting a large torch in their Martyr's Square while fireworks were released.

10 Armed Attack - Feb 17 05:00, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: An unidentified actor opened fire from a vehicle with tinted windows onto a GASO LEF unit near the Al-Sakia Store.

11 Accident - Feb 17 11:32, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem: A fire gutted a carpet shop in the area. The fire was extinguished by the National Safety Authority.

12 Troop Movements - Feb 17 12:59, Tripoli Province, 20 Ramadan Street: An armed convoy was static along 20 Ramadan Street. The convoy included technicals as well as armoured troop carriers, armoured 4x4 and a possible mobile operations room. The route was reported as closed on February 16, likely to facilitate security arrangements for celebrations to mark revolution day on February 17.

Cyrenaica Region



13 Security Operation - Feb 16, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: 152 Mechanised Infantry Battalion (LNA) and 40/40 Special Task Forces secured southern areas of Ajdabiyah.

14 Security Announcement - Feb 16, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: The Deputy Minister of Interior (GNS) has announced the activation of the Cybercrime Law No. 5 stating that the ministry "will start using the latest deterrent technologies, and that arrest and habeas corpus operations started on February 15 for anyone whose behaviour or actions constitute a violation of public morals or other crimes of extortion, fraud, and sorcery spread through social networking sites."

15 Assault - Feb 16, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A teenager stabbed his brother with a knife, resulting in the victim being admitted to intensive care at Al-Jalaa Hospital. The perpetrator was then arrested after his father turned him in.

16 Arrest - Feb 16 18:30, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Haneen Al-Abdali was arrested by Ministry of Interior Forces (GNS) on charges relating to "cases, violating honour and public morals, and for violation of Cybercrime Law No.5 of 2022."

17 Arrest - Feb 16 18:30, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Ahlam Yemeni, a popular actress, was arrested by the Ministry of Interior Forces (GNS) under the new Cybercrime No 5 Law of 2022.

18 Arrest - Feb 17 01:10, Benghazi Province, Qawarishah: Benghazi Criminal Investigation raided an apartment after neighbours complained of suspicious movements. The raid allegedly uncovered a brothel and the flat owner, a female, was arrested along with another three women.

Fezzan Region

NSTR

Offshore



19 Earthquake - Feb 16 23:49, Mediterranean Sea, 220km NE of Tripoli: An earthquake was detected in the area. The quake measured 3.7 at a depth of 10km.

20 Earthquake - Feb 17 11:04, Mediterranean Sea, 246km North of Tripoli: An earthquake was detected 246km north of Tripoli in the Mediterranean Sea. The quake measured 3.8 on the Richter Scale at a depth of 10km.

21 Earthquake - Feb 17 11:30, Mediterranean Sea, 70km south of Crete: Another earthquake was felt in Marj. The quake was centered just south of Crete and measured 3.8 on the Richter Scale at a depth of 8.8km. To put this in context, there have been 11 quakes in the area of Crete over the past 24 hours however only two were above 3 on the Richter scale. In the past 30 days, there have been 230 quakes with 44 above 3 on the scale. However, this is the latest in a series felt in Marj and will add to concerns in the area in the aftermath of the devastation caused in Turkey and Syria on February 06.

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

Country address:

RMT House, Turkish School Road
Sarraj
Tripoli
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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