

# Libya daily security analysis report

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# Latest Developments

## Political Developments

- Major General Abdullah Mansour was released after nine years in prison and immediately flew by private jet to Niger, accompanied by the Minister of Labour (GNU) and the President of Niger's cousin.
- A convoy loaded with medical equipment, ambulances, and a team from the Emergency Medical Centre as well as other medical equipment assembled by the GNU set off from Tripoli towards Marj in the east.
- The HCS suspended its session until February 21 when they will continue to discuss Amendment 13. Reports indicate they have agreed to form a committee to consider the amendment passed by the HoR last week. This came as a protest was held outside the Radisson Blu where the meeting was held.
- The African Union is organizing a national reconciliation conference on Libya in the latest effort to break the political stalemate and restore stability in the country. The announcement followed a meeting of the African Union High-Level Committee on Libya.
- The deputy in the Presidential Council, Abdullah Al-Lafi, agreed with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abi Ahmed, to activate the Libyan-Ethiopian joint committee, and to discuss ways to return the Ethiopian embassy to work in the capital, Tripoli.

## Security Developments

- Tensions have again spiked in Zawiyah, this time between the Qasb and Kaboot militias. This comes after tit-for-tat kidnappings which saw both mobilize forces on February 19. The city is likely to see ongoing destabilization in the short to medium term with the return of Abu Obeida along with expected significant investment from the oil and gas industry, some of which is expected to affect Mellitah.
- Traffic police in Tripoli have begun an operation to stop trucks using the expressway between 0700-1700hrs Saturday to Thursday in a bid to reduce traffic and improve traffic flows.
- MoI forces in the east have continued a push to confiscate unlicensed weapons. The operation, which includes an amnesty, began in Ajdabiya and has now moved to Benghazi.

# Assessment

## Political Developments

### **Major General Mansour heads to Niger upon his release from Mitiga Prison**

During the evening of February 19, Major General Abdullah Mansour was released from Mitiga Prison. He immediately flew by private jet to Niger, accompanied by the Minister of Labour (GNU) and the President of Niger's cousin. The President of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum, as well as the President of the Presidential Council, Mohamed Menfi, were involved in advocating for his release. An unconfirmed report claimed that following the release, Niger released Libyan funds frozen in the Bank of Niger.

Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah announced his release stating: "I call on all Libyans to support reconciliation efforts aimed at lifting injustice from everyone and everywhere, the citizen is one as the homeland." He thanked the Attorney General and the Military Prosecutor for their response to the efforts made by various parties to release Mansour.

Spokeswoman of the PC, Najwa Heiba, stated that the “execution of the judicial ruling is another step towards strengthening confidence on the national judiciary to execute justice.” She further stated: “We commend the efforts of all those who cooperate with the work of the Presidential Council to strengthen trust between Libyans and prepare the conditions for the success of reconciliation.”

The Sheikhs of the Awlad Sulieman Tribe stated: “We value the role of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar in releasing Major General Abdullah Mansour in mediation with the Presidential Council.”

Celebrations were noted in Major General Mansour’s hometown of Harawah in the oil crescent where supporters travelled to his home firing celebratory small arms from the back of trucks. In Sirte, similar celebrations were seen with fireworks being let off.



Image: Major General Mansour on his way to Niger

**COMMENT:** ‘Major General Mansour was the head of Internal Security under the former Gadhafi regime. He and his family left Tripoli the same day as former leader Muammar Gadhafi during the revolution in 2011. While the major general went to Niger, his family initially went to Algeria before traveling to Morocco and Tunisia. They finally settled in Italy where they claimed political asylum after realising the situation was not going to be temporary. In 2012, Major General Mansour was offered political asylum in Niger however he was extradited to Libya in 2014 along with Saadi Gadhafi, a son of the former leader. This came as the Ali Zidane government in Tripoli claimed Mansour was plotting “subversive acts.”

Both Mansour and Saadi were initially detained at Habda prison and allegedly faced extreme conditions including torture. Haythem Tajouri, then leader of the Tripoli Revolutionary Battalions (TRB), later attacked the prison, dislodging Khalid Sherif (LIFG) and his armed group in 2017. Conditions for leaders of the former regime improved significantly under Tajuri’s tenure however between him losing control of TRB and his release, Mansour appears to have been moved to Mitiga Prison under SDF.

His release comes after Saadi Gadhafi was released in September 2021. He also immediately left the country, heading to Istanbul. It also follows the extradition of Abu Agila Masoud, another former regime member who has been accused of involvement in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. The extradition, to the US, caused notable domestic damage to Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah and stoked increased pressure from various tribes and other groups with fears that other incarcerated former regime members may also be extradited.

The move will go some way towards reconciliation in Libya, a significant foundation for any future political stability. Calls for the release of other key former regime leaders are likely to follow Major General Mansour’s release.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**



Image: Medical convoy in Tripoli prior to departure for Marj

#### **GNS: GNU medical support denounced**

A convoy loaded with medical equipment, ambulances, and a team from the Emergency Medical Centre as well as other medical equipment assembled by the GNU set off from Tripoli towards Marj in the east.

**COMMENT:** ‘This is part of the response from the GNU after Marj Authorities requested an emergency operations room was established in February 12 following several minor earthquakes in the area. The GNU support to Marj has been denounced by the GNS.

The GNS technically covers the Marj area and it's unclear why local authorities approached the GNU. It's unclear if they had initially approached the cash-strapped GNS first, however the GNU would view the request as an opportunity to project influence into the east and undermine the legitimacy of the GNS.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



**1 Mass Grave - Feb 19, Al-Murqub Province, Tarhunah:** Yet another mass grave has been identified near Tarhunah. The grave is off Salem Bin Ali Road with excavations expected to begin on February 21. Although the discoveries have reduced in frequency, the area has yielded a significant number of mass graves connected to the tenure of Kani Brigade which was dislodged from the city mid-2020 after it had aligned with the LNA.

**2 Demonstration - Feb 19, Tripoli Province, Janzour:** Golden Spark Company for Oil Services “Al-Sharara Oil” employees protested at the parking lot of the company’s HQ in the Janzour area. The employees denounced the decision of Brega Oil and Gas Marketing Company director and judge, regarding stopping supplying fuel at the gas stations affiliated with Sharara Oil Services Company, due to issuing a court ruling against its owner for his involvement in corruption cases, on 18 February.

**3 RTA - Feb 19 12:58, Sirte Province, Ras Lanuf:** A car accident along the coastal road resulted in one of the vehicles being gutted by fire after all the occupants had escaped. Five people in the other vehicle were wounded.

**4 Troop Movements - Feb 19 14:25, Misrata Province, Misrata:** An unidentified convoy mobilised with heavy weapons, tanks and ambulances along the coastal road.

**5 Arrest - Feb 19 15:30, Sirte Province, Wadi Matrathen:** Members of 302 Battalion, under the command of Wahida al-Qabisi, were arrested for the theft of wire in the Umm al Qandil and Wadi Matrathen areas.

**6 Crime - Feb 19 16:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Mizdah:** Unidentified perpetrators attempted to steal wire from a Libyana Mobile Phone Company tower.

**7 Armed Attack - Feb 19 16:00, Sirte Province, Ras Lanuf:** 302 Battalion members launched an attack on the Ras Lanuf Security Directorate after members of their battalion had been transferred there after an arrest for stealing wire. The attack resulted in the release of those arrested.

**8 Security Operation - Feb 19 16:30, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Mizdah:** The General Administration of Electric Police responded to an attempted robbery of wire from a Libyana Mobile Phone Company tower.

**9 Prisoner Release - Feb 19 19:56, Tripoli Province, Mitiga Prison:** Major General Abdullah Mansour was released after nine years in prison and immediately flew by private jet to Niger, accompanied by the Minister of Labour (GNU) and the President of Niger's cousin. Mansour had been the head Internal Security Service under the Gadhafi regime.

**10 Kidnap - Feb 19 20:45, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah Port:** A young man, Miloud Al-Mukhtar Hassan, associated with the Kaboot Militia, was allegedly taken by members of the coastguard which belong to the Abu Hmeria tribe. Hassan was taken after he returned from an apparent failed attempt at reaching Europe on the migrant route. He was taken due to an old feud between the Abu Hmeria and Kaboot. It's possible the incident could spark some localised destabilisation in the Zawiyah area.

**11 Troop Movements - Feb 19 20:55, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** Forces aligned with al Qasab (Abu Hmeria) militia and the Kaboot Militia began to mobilise following tit-for-tat kidnappings.

**12 Kidnap - Feb 19 20:55, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** Abdul Moneim Al-Baara, a member of the al-Qasab Militia was kidnapped by the Kaboot Militia in response to the kidnap of Miloud Al-Mukhtar Hassan. Kaboot was accused of kidnapping and killing Al-Baara.

**13 Demonstration - Feb 19 21:30, Sirte Province, Sirte:** Fireworks were set off in celebration of the release of Major General Abdullah Mansour.

**14 Demonstration - Feb 19 22:33, Sirte Province, Harawah:** Celebrations were held in the town after the release of Major General Abdullah Mansour. This included celebratory small arms fire from supporters sat in the back of trucks.

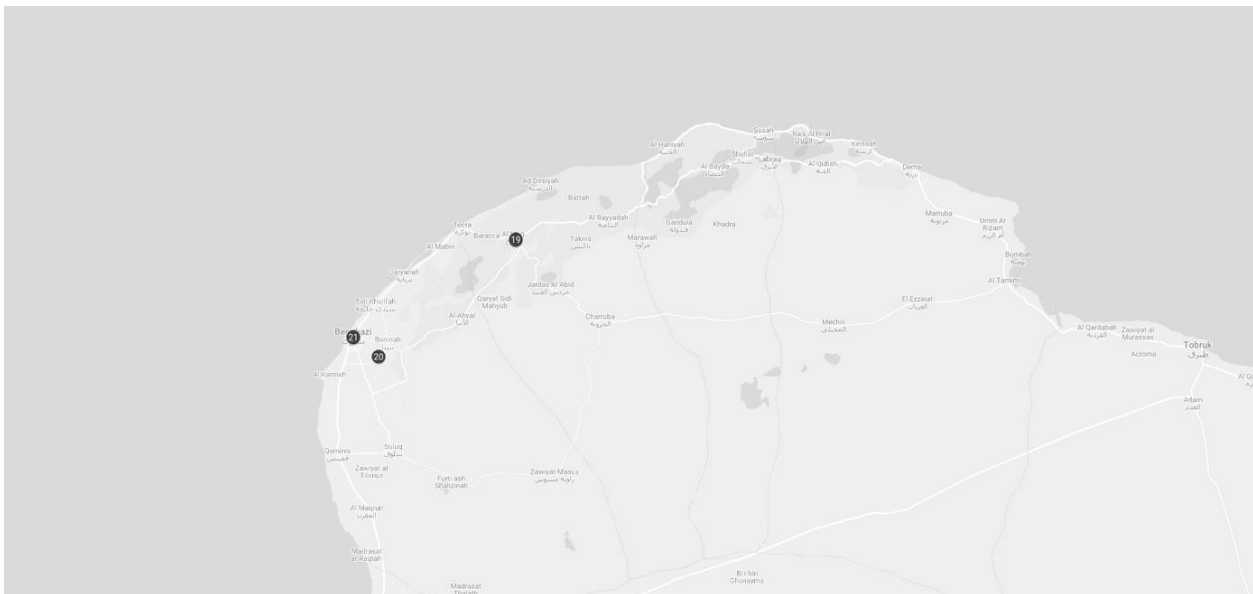
**15 Murder/ Execution - Feb 19 23:00, Tripoli Province, Suq al-Sabet:** An unidentified body was found in the area.

**16 Troop Movements - Feb 20 11:53, Tripoli Province, Salahuddin:** A military convoy allegedly belonging to 22 Battalion (Ghnewia) was mobile from the Hay al-Damascus area towards Salahuddin. The convoy was mobile down airport road and included tanks on low loaders.

**17 Demonstration - Feb 20 13:00, Tripoli Province, Radisson Blu Hotel:** The Dar Al-ftar held a protest outside the Radisson Blu while the HCS were in session discussing Amendment 13.

**18 Security Operation - Feb 20 16:00, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** Tripoli Traffic Police have begun to implement a new decision to ban truck drivers from using the expressway between 0700 and 1700hrs every day with the exception of Fridays.

## Cyrenaica Region



**19 Political Announcement - Feb 19, Al-Marj Province, Marj:** A convoy loaded with medical equipment, ambulances, and a team from the Emergency Medical Centre as well as other medical equipment set off from Tripoli towards Marj in the east.

**20 Security Announcement - Feb 19, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** Prime Minister (GNS) Bashagha has discussed the establishment of a cybercrime department. This comes after the implementation of Cybercrime law no.5.

**21 Security Operation - Feb 20, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** Mol forces have continued to confiscate unlicensed weapons. An amnesty is also in place.

## Fezzan Region

NSTR

## Offshore

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, SRSG 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
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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