

# Libya daily security analysis report

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# Latest Developments

## Political Developments

- US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken stated on February 21 that “it is important to get to elections in Libya as quickly as reasonably possible to have a government that has the legitimacy of having been selected by the people.” The comments came during a press conference in Athens with the Greek Foreign Minister.
- President Mohamed Menfi met with the Pakistani Ambassador, Rashad Javid. President Menfi praised efforts by the ambassador to strengthen Libyan-Pakistani relations. For his part, the Pakistani ambassador praised the support and understanding, he received throughout the time of his duty in Libya.
- HoR spokesman Abdullah Blehaq announced on February 21, that the Planning, Finance and General Budget Committee had decided to return the draft budget law to the GNS to amend it.
- The Minister of Social Affairs (GNU), Wafaa Al-Kilani, met with the Director of the Comprehensive Social Welfare Complex in Marj, Abdulhakim Al-Shalmani. Shalmani explained the services they offer including physical therapy and support to children with autism.

## Security Developments

- Various reports have indicated a notable receding of water along the Mediterranean coastline. This includes east and west Libya. One expert stated it was normal (high) tidal activity which was only noticed by people following the earthquakes experienced in Turkey and Syria and the wider region. Another expert suggested it may have been linked to the February 20 earthquake in Turkey, but they needed to carry out more research on the issue.
- Minister of Interior (GNU) Emad Trabelsi along with his Italian counterpart, Matteo Piantedosi, has “launched the work of an Italian-Libyan task force on security and migration, which is a practical tool for exchanging joint measures.”
- Chief of the General Staff, Mohammed Al-Haddad, discussed with a delegation from the British Embassy “joint cooperation, support for the army and provision of training expertise in all fields.”

## Economic Developments

- A large convoy of trucks is preparing to leave Misrata for Niger. The trucks, loaded with goods from Misrata Free Zone, will head to Niger under the slogan “Coming from Libya.”

## Travel Developments

- Al Dakhila Tourist Services Company, the exclusive agent for Misrata Airlines, opened an office in Misrata. Reports indicate an intent to begin direct flights between Misrata and Cairo.

# Assessment

## Political Developments

### **GNU: Social Affairs minister engaged in Marj**

The Minister of Social Affairs (GNU), Wafaa Al-Kilani, met with the Director of the Comprehensive Social Welfare Complex in Marj, Abdulhakim Al-Shalmani. Shalmani explained the services they offer including physical therapy and support to children with autism.

**COMMENT:** 'This is the second known incident of a political relationship between the Tripoli-based GNU and Marj, located in the east of Libya. This comes after Marj authorities requested the GNU establish an Emergency Operations Room following a number of minor earthquakes felt in the area. Despite condemnation by the GNS, the GNU released a convoy of medical equipment, personnel, and ambulances to Marj on February 21.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

## Economic Developments

### Misrata Free Zone to export goods to Niger

A large convoy of trucks is preparing to leave Misrata for Niger. The trucks, loaded with goods from Misrata Free Zone, will head to Niger under the slogan "Coming from Libya." The convoy will be secured in stages by Misratan forces and then the LNA before being received by the Nigerien army. Part of the convoy belongs to merchants Mohamed Al Tahir Issa and Abdullah al-Shibani who are currently under the hospitality of Mohamed Bazoum, the Nigerien Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**COMMENT:** 'This development comes after the release of Major General Abdullah Mansour from Mitiga Prison on February 19. Major General Mansour was the head of the Internal Security Service under the former Gadhafi regime. He had escaped to Niger during the revolution and was offered asylum in 2012 however he was extradited to Libya in 2014 after the Ali Zidane government claimed he was carrying out "subversive acts." Mansour appears to have retained the support of the Nigerien president who was part of efforts to secure his release.

It appears likely that the establishment of a trade route from Misrata Free Zone to Niger was part of those discussions to release Mansour. In addition, it has created another opportunity for cooperation between the LNA and its western counterparts. Both Misratan forces and the LNA are to be involved in the security plan to see the convoy reach the border. The more cooperation, especially when it is financially beneficial to both parties, that can be established can only help towards an eventual reunification of sorts and makes devolving back to civil war again that bit more difficult.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



**1 Security Announcement - Feb 21, Tripoli Province, Janzour:** An SSA office was opened in Janzour. This came after a meeting between the SSA and Janzour Knights. The opening was attended by Mahmoud Bin Rajab (52 Brigade), Lofti Al-Harari (Internal Security), Abdullah Al-Trabelsi (General Security), Mohamed Bahron (al Far) and Hamid Al-Mahid Al-Fagout.

**2 Security Operation - Feb 21 12:37, Misrata Province, Misrata:** The Municipal Guard closed all stores in Al-Aya Street upon instructions from the deputy general.

**3 Arrest - Feb 21 15:55, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Jinan Attia:** Six people were arrested after the clashes in the area came to an end. Clashes erupted on the evening of February 20 after the Zawyah Security Directorate Support Force (Mol) moved into the area in an attempt to arrest two wanted people. At least one Security Directorate member was killed with reports of others being wounded.

**4 Arrest - Feb 21 17:35, Misrata Province, Misrata:** An African national working in a butcher's shop was arrested by the Municipal Guard for combining rotten meat with good meat. The shop has been closed and turned over for investigation.

**5 Troop Movements - Feb 21 18:00, Tripoli Province, Qaser Bin Ghashir:** 22 Battalion, SSA, moved from the Qasr Bin Ghashir area towards the Archery Project, south of Tarhuna. The battalion mobilised on February 20 to take part in a live-fire exercise.

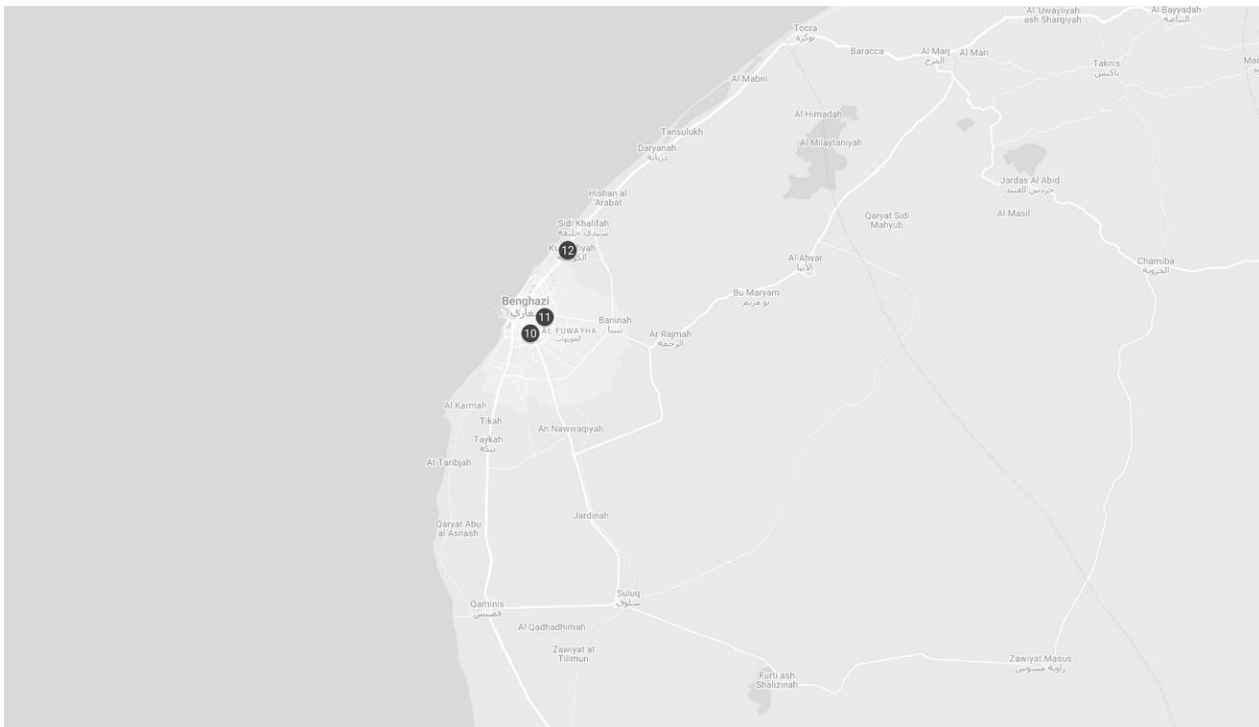
**6 Arrest - Feb 21 20:00, Misrata Province, Misrata:** A man was arrested for slashing tires.

**7 RTA - Feb 21 21:20, Tripoli Province, Draiby:** A vehicle set on fire in the area following a car accident.

**8 SAF - Feb 22 01:02, Tripoli Province, Airport Road:** Small arms fire was heard in the area.

**9 Troop Movements - Feb 22 14:07, Tripoli Province, Tajura:** President Menfi's convoy containing more than 40 vehicles was noted travelling west along the Second Ring Road into Tripoli from Tajura.

## Cyrenaica Region



**10 Security Announcement - Feb 21, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** Flight tracking showed the landing of two US C-17's in Benghazi both of which flew from Ramstein Airbase. A US ARTEMIS surveillance flight was also operating off the coast from Benghazi. This may suggest a high-level US visit to Benghazi.

**11 Security Operation - Feb 22, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** The ISA security operation to seize illegal/ unlicensed weapons remains ongoing in Benghazi. The campaign began on February 17 with a seven-day amnesty. Their media office stated: "Gun control is the guarantee of the people's security." They further stated that the operation was one which locals had been waiting some time for.

**12 Security Operation - Feb 22, Benghazi Province, Kuwayfiah:** Kuwayfiah Police carried out ad-hoc vehicle checkpoints searching for weapons and wanted people as part of the overall Mol security plan.

## 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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