

Libya daily security analysis report

February 23, 2023

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- The HCS was due to meet on February 23 to resume discussion and potentially vote on Amendment 13. In addition, the Dar al-Iftar Movement protested outside for the third day in a row.
- MP Gabriel Ohida has backed the proposal by Speaker Aquila Saleh to establish a 45-member committee to form a new unified executive authority.
- Prime Minister (GNS) Fathi Bashagha has announced the preparation of an “integrated plan and vision for the most destroyed areas with a high population in Sirte.”
- Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah met with the Qatari Ambassador, Khaled Al-Dosari on February 22. Dbeibah assured Dosari that his government "is making efforts, in coordination with the HNEC, to implement the elections according to fair and impartial laws."
- Libya's representative to the United Nations, Taher Al-Sunni, reviewed with his British counterpart, Barbara Woodward, the developments in the situation in Libya.

Security Developments

- The Tripoli Security Directorate published statistics for the number of people arrested in January 2023. This included 163 people of which 21 are accused of criminal cases.
- Chief of Staff (Western Region) Lt. Gen Mohamed Haddad met with the Tunisian ambassador to discuss joint military cooperation. This came after Haddad had met with a British delegation.

Transportation Developments

- Civil aviation groups have threatened to go on strike on March 01 regarding “non-compliance with the unified salaries law.”
- Trucks, banned from using the expressway during the day on Saturday to Thursday in Tripoli, are now being pushed onto smaller roads in the city creating new hazards.

Assessment

Political Developments

HCS: Session to resume discussions on Amendment 13

The HCS was due to meet on February 23 to resume discussion and potentially vote on Amendment 13. The HCS met on February 20 before suspending talks to resume the following day which itself failed to materialize. The sessions have attracted protests from the Dar al-Iftar movement which has demonstrated outside the Radisson Blu for the last three days.

COMMENT: ‘The amendment was passed by the HoR on February 08. The amendment is related to defining the powers of the president and prime minister and the structure and competencies of the legislative authority according to which a constitutional basis for holding presidential and parliamentary elections was approved.

The Dar al-Ifta Movement, associated with Grand Mufti Sadiq al-Ghariani, has been empowered over recent months by Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah while the wider Jihadist Salafist ideology is seeing a resurgence with the return of Abu Obeida and Abdulhakim Belhaj. Despite its empowering by the prime minister, it has its own closely entwined political and religious agenda which is not necessarily aligned with the GNU.

The protest was also supported by some Amazigh elements. This comes after the Supreme Council of the Amazigh of Libya renewed its rejection of what they described as "not giving them the right to participate in the constitutional amendments." **COMMENT ENDS.**

HoR: MP Backs new unified executive plans

MP Gabriel Ohida has backed the proposal by Speaker Aquila Saleh to establish a 45-member committee to form a new unified executive authority. Ohida stated that this would get rid of the two disputed governments "in a way that paves the way for elections." He stated that while the GNS was the product of a Libyan-Libyan process, it was unable to gain international acceptance. He envisaged that this new unified executive would be technocratic with no more than 15 members. Its tenure would be short, but enough time to achieve some key tasks including the facilitation of elections and the distribution of oil revenue fairly amongst the regions. He also claimed that the GNU was "funding certain parties in an uncontrolled manner and without a budget."

COMMENT: 'Speaker Saleh recently raised the possibility of a new committee which would decide on a new unified executive. The plan is very reminiscent of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) of 2020 which led to the creation of the GNU, however with the key difference that the HoR and HCS would dominate the new committee with 15 members each ensuring they could steer the committee towards an agreed solution.

It's unclear how much traction the plan will get with many in the international community reportedly unenthused about repeating the process of creating a new unified executive once again instead of focusing on elections. Despite this, it may have some support domestically with hints that some conversations are taking place about what a new executive would look like.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

GNS: Reconstruction plans taking shape in Sirte

Prime Minister (GNS) Bashagha has announced the preparation of an "integrated plan and vision for the most destroyed areas with a high population in Sirte." Reconstruction is set to begin in the Giza Bahariya district. This will include the removal of rubble as well as construction with the work divided into several phases. Prime Minister (GNS) Bashagha called for the requirements of each stage, in terms of financing and duration be identified, and for various companies to execute the work.

This came during his meeting with the Mayor of Sirte Municipality, Mukhtar Al-Maadani, and members of the Sirte Reconstruction Fund Committee. The meeting was also attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs (GNS), Hafez Gaddour.

COMMENT: 'This comes after pledges from the GNS to begin reconstructing the city which suffered destruction during the 2011 revolution and through the battle to oust IS in 2016. After failing to install itself in Tripoli, the GNS established itself in Sirte which has been touted by some as a possible alternative capital as it sits between Tripoli and Benghazi. The city is also the meeting place for the 5+5 Joint Military Committee. Despite officially working from Sirte, the prime minister also spends a lot of time in Benghazi which is seeing its own boom in reconstruction at present.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1 Security Operation - Feb 22, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Gharyan: The SSA (Gharyan Branch) carried out mobile and static security operations.

2 Arrest - Feb 22, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Gharyan: The SSA carried out an arrest of a person wanted by the Gharyan Joint Operations Room. The person was referred to the Public Prosecutor. The arrest came after the SSA carried out static and mobile security operations in the area.

3 Security Operation - Feb 22, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A number of Egyptian nationals were deported from Tripoli in coordination with the Egyptian Embassy.

4 Arrest - Feb 22, Tripoli Province, Airport Road: The Security Directorate Support arrested a gang of three drug dealers.

5 Murder/ Execution - Feb 22, Al-Murqub Province, Tarhunah: Two people have been identified from the mass graves found around Tarhunah. The first was Saif al-Nasr Ali Al-Vitouri. He was a member of the Ministry of Maritime Defense born in 1990. The second was Hafez Daw Ramadan. He was a policeman at the police training institute. Both were from Qaser Bin Ghashir and had been arrested by Kani Brigade prior to their murders. The brigade has been held responsible for the mass graves found in and around the town after Kani was ousted in mid-2020.

6 Security Operation - Feb 22, Sirte Province, Sirte: The Ministry of Local Government (GNS) launched a campaign to inspect food, vegetables, meat, pharmacies, and clinics in Sirte. The Municipal Guard is to follow up the campaign started by Minister Sami al-Dawi.

7 Unknown Explosion - Feb 22 16:00, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara: A number of unknown explosions were heard in the area.

8 RTA - Feb 22 21:55, Misrata Province, Misrata: Mohamed al-Senousi was injured in a traffic accident at the Hamia junction.

9 Murder/ Execution - Feb 22 23:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Gharyan: A young man aged 18, Asaad Faraj Ohaida, was shot before dying in hospital of his wounds on the morning of February 23.

10 RPG - Feb 23 01:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Members of the 1 Support Division/ Zawiyah CID launched a rocket-propelled grenade attack resulting in the injury of two armed actors. This is the latest incident underlying the destabilisation of Zawiyah.

11 Security Operation - Feb 23 02:30, Al-Murqub Province, Msallata: 444 Combat Unit deployed to several areas of the town.

12 Murder/ Execution - Feb 23 13:50, Misrata Province, Tamina: An unidentified male was murdered.

13 Murder/ Execution - Feb 23 13:52, Misrata Province, Zawiyat al-Mahjoub: A man was killed in a drive-by shooting near the Equestrian Club junction.

14 Demonstration - Feb 23 14:00, Tripoli Province, Radisson Blu Hotel: The Dar al-Ifta Movement protested outside the Radisson Blu against the HCS session to discuss the HoR's Amendment 13 for the third day in a row.

15 Assault - Feb 23 14:25, Misrata Province, Misrata: The headmaster of the Martyrs School of Shatt Aburouya was assaulted by a student's parent.

Cyrenaica Region



16 Security Operation - Feb 21, Al-Wahat Province, Oil Crescent: The Oil Crescent Security Directorate started to implement Security Plan No.01. This includes patrols and ad-hoc vehicle checkpoints aimed at the arrest of wanted individuals and to combat illegal migration.

17 Security Operation - Feb 22, Benghazi Province, Maghaza: Al Maghaza police conducted ad-hoc vehicle checkpoints to target wanted people and to seize firearms.

18 Security Operation - Feb 22, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A local civilian was filmed handing over his AK and two grenades to Mol forces as part of the current amnesty on unlicensed weapons. The civilian was filmed encouraging others to support the operation and hand over their own weapons.

19 Security Operation - Feb 22 23:58, Benghazi Province, Al-Jalaa Hospital (Benghazi): A joint LNA-Mol force has continued to demolish buildings in Benghazi which have been associated with drug and alcohol dealing. This includes kiosks in front of Al-Jalaa Hospital and the Western Salmani General Market.

Fezzan Region



20 Troop Movements - Feb 22, Murzuq Province, Libya - Chadian Border: A local report claimed that LNA forces had withdrawn from a camp along the Chadian border. NFDK.

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, 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
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
BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade (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
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 (2021)
GNU – Government of National Unity (2021)
GTUC - Greater Tripoli Union Council (Tripoli militias and others, established in June 2020)
HCS – High Council of State (Tripoli-based)
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
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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