

Libya daily security analysis report

March 08, 2023

Prepared by:
Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah, confirmed that the GNU is ready to hold parliamentary and presidential elections at a meeting with the Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Abdoulaye Bathily.
- The head of the Presidential Council (PC), Mohammed Menfi, discussed with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Sergey Vershinin, the holding of parliamentary and presidential elections in Libya in 2023 during a meeting on the sidelines of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Doha on March 05, in the presence of the Russian Ambassador to Qatar, Dmitry Dugadkin.
- The Speaker of the HoR, Aguila Saleh, held a meeting with the United States Special Envoy to Libya, Ambassador Richard Norland to discuss the latest developments in the country on March 07. Saleh stated that all the legislation required to hold the country's Parliamentary and Presidential elections were successfully approved through the 13th Constitutional Amendment.
- Minister of Foreign Affairs (GNU), Najla Al-Mangoush, discussed with the member of the PC, Abdullah Al-Lafi, the role of the ministry in supporting the efforts of the PC and the high-level committee of the African Union in making the national reconciliation project a success in Libya.
- Al-Mangoush also met on March 07 with Qatar's ambassador to Libya, Khaled Al-Dosari, who confirmed his country's support for the efforts of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, to hold elections and achieve security and stability in Libya.

Security Developments

- Air traffic controllers staged a short strike during the afternoon of March 08, causing disruption to at least one flight from Mitiga Airport. It was agreed that negotiations would take place regarding the dispute over salaries with the GNU. Further delays are possible.
- There are tensions in Qaryat, south of the Nafousa Mountains after a joint operation on March 07 involving 444 Combat Unit. In response, Zintan mobilised forces to the area in order to "protect" local residents.
- 444 Combat Unit (from Tripoli) mobilized a convoy, including tanks, near Tripoli International Airport during the night of March 07. This may be a reaction to earlier reports that Zintan forces have deployed around Aziziyah.
- Elements of the Tariq Bin Zayid Brigade (LNA) and 444 Combat Unit from Tripoli are active in the area of Ash Shwayrif.

Assessment

Security Developments

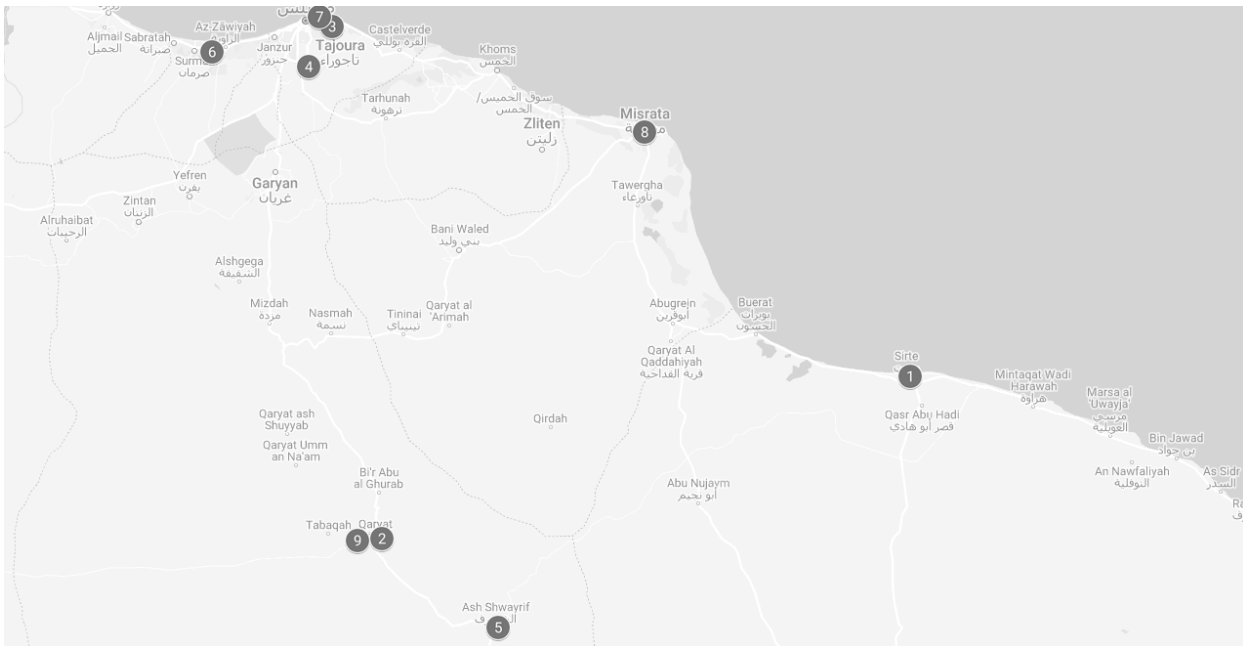
LNA and 444 active around Ash Shwayrif

Elements of the Tariq Bin Zayid Brigade (LNA) and 444 Combat Unit from Tripoli are active in the area of Ash Shwayrif.

COMMENT: 'This is a border area between forces from the LNA and their western counterparts and may support recent reporting of increased cooperation between the two sides. This area has previously seen formal cooperation between the LNA and 166 Battalion from Misrata.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1 Kidnap - Mar 07, Sirte Province, Shabiyat: A member of the Qadhadfa tribe was kidnapped by masked men in a vehicle.

2 Security Operation - Mar 07, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Qaryat: A joint force comprised of 444 Combat Unit, GASO LEF, and CIA launched an operation targeting wanted people and carried out raids on suspected criminal dens and hideouts. The operation started at dawn on the orders of the Attorney General. The operation resulted in clashes, the seizure of weapons, ammunition and vehicles and the arrests of several criminals.

3 Weapons Find - Mar 07 12:40, Tripoli Province, Abdul Rahman Al-Tajouri Primary School: Hand grenades were found in the school area resulting in the evacuation of the facility.

4 Troop Movements - Mar 07 17:30, Tripoli Province, Qaser Bin Ghashir: 444 Brigade mobilised with tanks in the area.

5 Troop Movements - Mar 07 23:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif: LNA forces mobilised in the area.

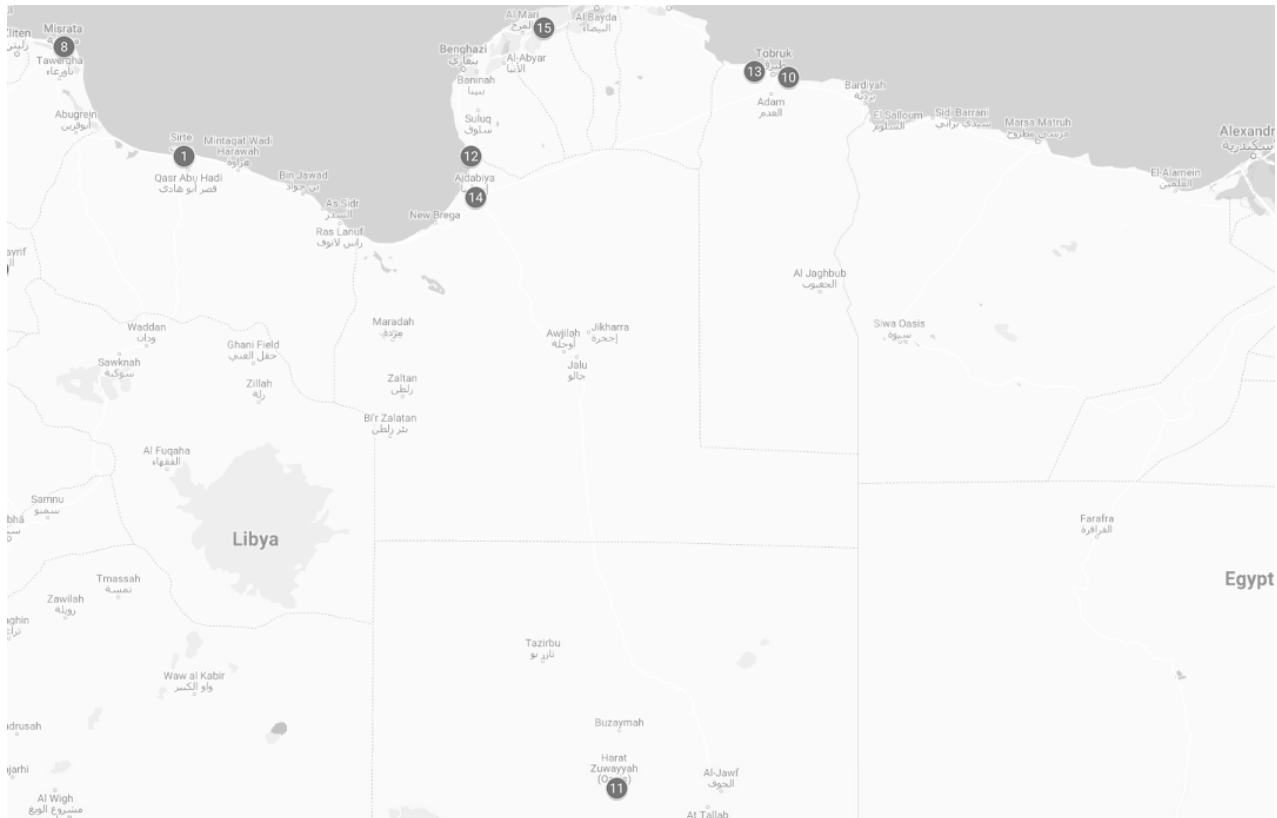
6 Armed Clash - Mar 07 23:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabria: A dispute between extended family members resulted in the deaths of three people with a further three wounded.

7 Demonstration - Mar 08 13:00, Tripoli Province, Mitiga Airport: Air traffic controllers at Mitiga Airport went on strike, resulting in disruption to at least one Libyan Wings flight to Tunis. The situation was quickly resolved with workers agreeing to go back to work to allow time for negotiations with the GNU. This is the latest in a series of protests by various government workers demanding additional benefits and pay. Further disruption to travel (air and road) remains possible in the short term in Tripolitania.

8 Security Operation - Mar 08 15:40, Misrata Province, Al-Qoshi: The Joint Operations Force (Misrata) carried out raids on suspected narcotic dens in the area after establishing a cordon.

9 Troop Movements - Mar 08 17:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Qaryat: Zintan mobilised military forces to Qaryat allegedly to protect locals. This was in response to a security operation in the area the previous day.

Cyrenaica Region



10 Security Operation - Mar 07, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: ISA (Tobruk) began patrols, led by the head of the ISA.

11 Security Operation - Mar 07, Kufra Province, Rebiana: The Department of Relations and Cooperation Eastern Region Branch - Rebiana Security Directorate rescues illegal migrants whose vehicle had overturned in the desert. Two people died in the crash and five others were wounded out of the 17 onboard.

12 Other - Mar 07, Benghazi Province, Shatt Al-Badin: The body of an illegal migrant was found after washing up ashore. Local police and the Libya Red Crescent responded.

13 Security Operation - Mar 07, Al-Butnan Province, Zawayat Al-Murasas: Al Murasas Police carried out static and mobile security operations as per the Tobruk Joint Security Operations Room Instructions. The operation was targeted at wanted people, illegal migration, smuggling and weapons.

14 Troop Movements - Mar 07 13:30, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: LNA forces mobilised in the area.

15 RTA - Mar 08 18:00, Al-Marj Province, Coastal Road Taknis-East Junction: A serious road traffic accident took place on the coastal road east of Benghazi. Five vehicles collided resulting in the deaths of six people at the scene. A baby was still being searched for.

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, 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. The resurgence of Jihadist Salafism in Tripolitania is also a potential source of destabilisation, one which is currently being felt in Tajura and along the north-west coastline including Zawiyah. 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
March 22, 2023	Start of Ramadan (+/-)	
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	Public Holiday
September 27, 2023	The Prophet's Birthday	Public Holiday
October 23, 2023	Liberation Day	Public Holiday
December 24, 2023	Independence Day	Public Holiday

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

Country address:

RMT House, Turkish School Road
Sarraj
Tripoli
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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