

# Libya daily security analysis report

March 21, 2023

Prepared by:  
Risk Analysis Team, Libya



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# Latest Developments

## Threat Warnings

- Protest activity in Tripolitania is escalating and becoming more intense. The region has been seeing an increase in the frequency of demonstrations in the run-up to Ramadan. This trend is likely in part driven by the upcoming holy month as well as the expectation of political change this year which gives a closing window for groups to secure concessions from a possible outgoing government.
- Fuel queues in Tripoli have also been driven in part by Ramadan with many people in the capital preparing to drive to their hometowns to spend at least some of the upcoming holy month with family. As a result, the demand for fuel has increased which has also likely sparked some level of panic buying as well.

## Political Developments

- US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Barbara Leaf, visited both Benghazi and Tripoli during her visit on Mar 20 meeting with PM (GNU) Dbeibah, Foreign Minister Mangoush, LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar and the House of Representatives Speaker Aquila Salah.
- Turkish Foreign Minister, assured his Egyptian counterpart, Sameh Shoukry, that the maritime jurisdiction agreement between Turkey and Libya was 'not against Egypt's interests.' Cavusoglu also defended Turkish military presence in Libya, asserting that their presence posed no threat to Egypt and that they were only there due to the invitation of the legitimate government. **COMMENT:** While the ongoing outreach between the two nations has widely been welcomed, the rapprochement is in its very early stages, and such a thawing of relations between the two has seen reversal before. The issue of maritime demarcation will remain contentious, with the beginning of exploration operations likely to exacerbate the issue. The border also remains an issue between Egypt and Libya, with Libya issuing a strong refusal to accept the unilateral declaration of the maritime border by Egypt. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- On Mar 20 the HoR voted on the selection of six representatives for the 6+6 committee. The representatives were named as Jalal Al-Shuwaidi and Ezzedine Al-Mnifi for the Cyrenaica region, candidates Miloud Al-Aswad and Ezzedine Qwereb for the Tripoli region, and candidates Saleh Qelma and Bouslah Shalabi for the Fezzan region.

## Regional Developments

- In a meeting in Cairo the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul-Gheit discussed the latest developments in Libya, with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mikhail Bogdanov. The talks discussed the enhancement of security and stability throughout the region with Bogdanov outlining their stance on Libya, Yemen, Syria and Lebanon.

# Assessment

## Political Developments

### Senior US delegation visits Benghazi and Tripoli

US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Barbara Leaf, arrived in Benghazi on March 20 with a delegation that included Ambassador Richard Norland, and Chargé d'Affaires Leslie Ordeman. During her time in Benghazi, she met with LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar, and separately, HOR Speaker Aquila Saleh. A release from the General Command stated that the meeting discussed “the importance of supporting the efforts of the United Nations mission through coordination with the House of Representatives and the High Council of State to prepare the electoral laws required to pave the way for holding presidential and parliamentary elections before the end of 2023.” However, the role that Wagner Group plays in the region appears to have been a key point of the Leaf/Haftar meetings with the former discussing the “recent designation of Wagner as a transnational criminal organization, stressing its destabilizing and predatory role in Libya and the region.”

During her meeting with Saleh, the two discussed the recent achievements of the House of Representatives including the progression in the completion of the necessary legislation for conducting elections and the election of members of the Joint Committee to prepare election laws per the 13th Constitutional Amendment. Leaf once again stressed the need to support the current strategy laid out by SRSG Bathily and the necessity of holding parliamentary and presidential elections in 2023.

The meetings with both Foreign Minister Mangoush and later with PM Dbeibah saw a similar focus on the political developments in Libya and the importance of uniting international and local efforts and supporting the efforts of the United Nations Mission to Libya to reach the elections.

**COMMENT:** The visit by Leaf is significant, and the official readouts from the meetings likely obscure much of the content. The meeting with Haftar is likely to have been focused on the removal of Wagner Group from Libya. Unconfirmed commentary indicates that Haftar is open to the proposal, on the proviso that the US and its allies guarantee that their removal would not see a renewed Turkish-led or supported effort into areas currently under the control of the LNA. The reduction of Wagner's presence throughout Africa, but particularly in Libya has been an openly stated US position to the point that is framed as a separate issue to that of the general removal of foreign fighters.

Her meetings with the key political leaders will have been focussed on ensuring that they support the current UNSMIL proposal to hold elections in 2023, and work with SRSG Bathily rather than undermine both him and the UN mission in order to thwart elections and remain in position. Therefore her physical presence will have been primarily designed to send a clear message of increased US engagement and scrutiny within Libya, which while this has been growing for some time, appears to have entered a new tempo in 2023.

**COMMENT ENDS.**

# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



- 1. Murder/ Execution - Mar 20 17:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** A male, named as Mutsin al-Qamoudi was shot and killed in a barbers shop in Omar al Mukhtar street.
- 2. Demonstration - Mar 20 11:00, Tripoli Province, Prime Minister's Office:** A demonstration by PFG members was reported at the PM's office. The group was calling for salary adjustments.
- 3. Other - Mar 20 14:00, Misrata Province, Bani Walid:** Several tons of munitions were destroyed in a controlled explosion at Wadi Memom to the east of Bani Walid.

## Cyrenaica Region



- 4. Other - Mar 20, Al-Butnan Province, Emsaed Gateway:** A group of 17 Egyptians were deported through the Emsaed Border Crossing Point by DCIM Shahat Branch.

## Fezzan Region

NSTR

## Offshore

NSTR

# Outlook

## Short Term Outlook

- Libya 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. SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily is attempting to wrest some control away from the two entities in a bid to make progress towards elections in 2023, however, they continue to enjoy the support of key regional and international backers. 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.
- 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. This instability along the coastline may be positively impacted by efforts in Zawiyah to reorganise armed groups which could increase cooperation. 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, the path to elections in 2023 will be fraught with difficulties 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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### Country address:

RMT House, Turkish School Road  
Sarraj  
Tripoli  
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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