

# Libya daily security analysis report

March 22, 2023

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## **Table of Contents**

### **Latest Developments 3**

Threat Warnings 3

Political Developments 3

Security Developments 3

### **Significant Incidents 4**

Tripolitania Region 4

Cyrenaica Region 4

Fezzan Region 5

Offshore 5

### **Outlook 6**

Short Term Outlook 6

Medium to Long Term Outlook 6

### **Key Dates 6**

### **Acronym List 8**

# 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 now likely to recede with the beginning of Ramadan on Mar 23.
- 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

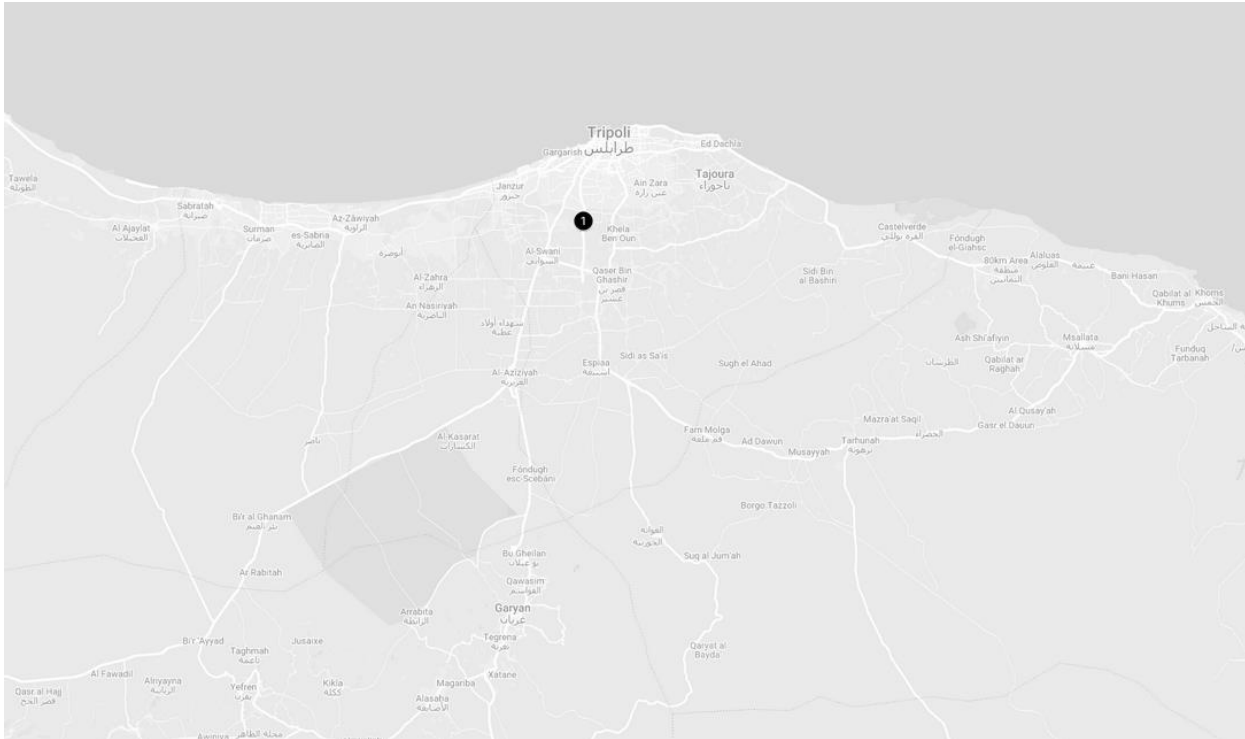
- The Foreign Minister (GNU) Najla Mangoush met with the UAE Ambassador to Libya, Mohammed al Shamsi on Mar 22 with the two discussing bilateral relations between the two nations. The GNU MoFA statement on the meeting said that the Ambassador had expressed the UAE's keenness to see stability in Libya and confirmed their support of SRSG Bathily's efforts to hold elections as soon as possible. Shamsi later met with the President of the Presidential Council, Mohamed Menfi, when the two discussed prospects for joint cooperation and advancing the political process, supporting the national reconciliation project adopted by the council, and reaching elections in 2023.
- The head of the HCS, Khaled Mishri, met with the Italian Ambassador to Italy, Giuseppe Buccino on Mar 22. The two discussed means to solve the current crisis through the holding of elections on a sound constitutional and legal basis.
- The spokesman of the HoR, Abdullah Belhaq announced that the house was summoning the GNS to question it over current expenditures and those of 2022. He revealed that a majority of HoR members called on the GNS to be held accountable following the submittal of the final accounts for 2022. **COMMENT:** The summoning of the GNS may indicate a hardening stance among HoR members to the presence of a government which is primarily a counter to the GNU rather than a functioning executive body. Furthermore, the election of Bashagha as PM by the HoR was itself contentious in its process, and its failure to supplant the GNU only adds to the discontent of some HoR members. The issue of expenditure and finance in general poses the most convenient means to place pressure on Bashagha, however, it is unlikely to lead to any significant change in the makeup or leadership of the GNS. **COMMENT ENDS.**

## Security Developments

- The CTF has announced their intent to increase operations in the southern region to combat groups engaged in fuel, weapons and people smuggling. The group stated that they were conducting their operations on the orders of the Defense Minister (GNU) Dbeibah. **COMMENT:** The CTF have been conducting operations in the southern region previously, however, this latest public announcement indicates their intent to expand such operations. This comes against the backdrop of other western units such as 444 Brigade, which have been operating as far south as Qurayyat. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- The sentencing of 56 individuals accused of IS membership was adjourned until May 29, 2023.
- The GNU Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Muhammad al Haddad, signed a technical agreement to train Libyan Special Forces with his Italian counterpart, Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone. The agreement was signed during Haddad's visit to Rome on Mar 22.

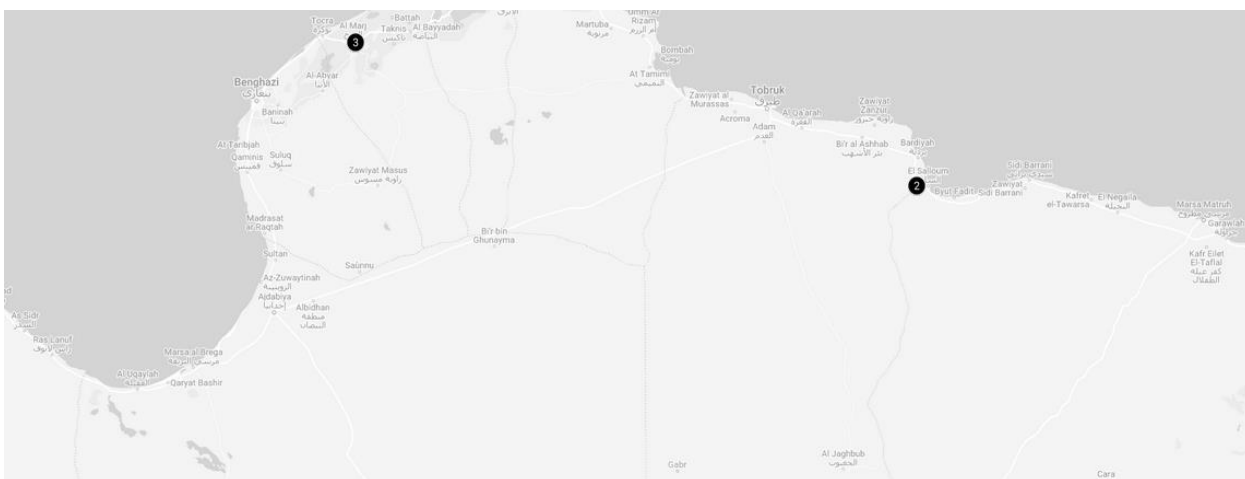
# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



**1. Troop Movements - Mar 21 19:00, Tripoli Province, Equestrian Bridge:** A mobilization of the Security Directorate Support Force Western Branch was reported on the Airport road towards the Equestrian Bridge. The movement was reported as being related to increased tensions with 111th Brigade.

## Cyrenaica Region



**2. Other - Mar 19, Al-Butnan Province, Emsaed Gateway:** DCIM Greater Benghazi Region deported 25 Egyptians via Emsaed Border Crossing.

**3. Security Operation - Mar 21, Al-Marj Province, Marj:** Jardi al-Obaid Security Directorate removed illegal structures including slums in Jadis al-Obaid.

## Fezzan Region



**4. Security Operation - Mar 21 18:00, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Hasawna:** 603 Infantry Battalion were reported as conducting security operations to secure the Hasawna MMR system. The operation was in coordination with the Joint Force of the Central Military Region.

**5. Security Operation - Mar 22, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari:** The LNA's 128 Brigade reportedly security VCP 45 on the Obari-Ghat road.

## 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. SRSB 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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