

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Threat Warnings

- 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. This situation has not subsided with the onset of Ramadan, with many criticizing both the GNU and Brega Marketing Company. Violence has also been reported with at least one shooting at a petrol station in Tripoli.

Political Developments

- US President Biden submitted a 10-year plan to Implement the U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability which included confirmation of US policy on Libya. The document stated that “In Libya, the United States is focusing on laying the groundwork for an elected national government capable of governing, providing services, and maintaining security throughout the country. The United States is pursuing a flexible, adaptive approach focused on community-level programs that can be scaled up as opportunities arise to support national elections; access to security, justice, accountability, and reconciliation; and pre-disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration efforts.” The plan is being implemented under the bipartisan Global Fragility Act and resources will be invested through the Prevention and Stabilization fund to support the plan for Libya and other fragile nations. **COMMENT:** The comments on Libya are part of a wider policy paper that includes numerous nations and are therefore not indicative of a singular US focus on Libya. However, they do serve to reaffirm pre-stated US policy from the highest authority during a period which has seen a notable increase in US engagement within Libya and increased US support for UNSMIL. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- SRSG Bathily commented that if the legislative bodies are unable to come to an agreement on the electoral laws in a timely manner “we will look at what alternative we will find.” Bathily has already stated that the legislative bodies’ committee would have to approve clear electoral laws in June in order for a national vote to go ahead this year.” Bathily accepted that many Libyans “have shown their scepticism about the capacity or the goodwill of the HoR and HSC to deliver on their mandate...this cannot be just another twist in the musical chairs”. On his High-Level Steering Committee, Bathily revealed that this would not sit as a physical body but would involve him meeting with different political, security and civil society groups and representatives. Finally, he warned that there could not be free and fair elections under the currently fragmented security apparatus, however, UNSMIL was working with armed factions and others to reach an agreement on how the vote could take place. **COMMENT:** Both the concepts of the HoR/HCS 6+6 committee and the High-Level Steering Committee have seen significant criticism, with the former being seen as handing the election process to those that have undermined it for many years, and the latter being viewed as a rerun of a previously failed concept. However, the format proposed by Bathily for the High-Level Steering Committee does differ from the LPDF and may allow for more inclusivity. While this may yield some results, should the election laws be taken from the HoR and HCS and become the remit of the High-Level Steering Committee, there will be a requirement for the creation of a physical body if any outcomes are to be agreed upon in a timely manner. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- The Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani commented that efforts to stabilize Libya are being hampered by the presence of Wagner group forces within the country which he alleged are the reason for the surge in migrant boats crossing the Mediterranean. "As in all of Africa, the Wagner Group is a worry. It fuels the flight of people and illegal immigration," Tajani stated. **COMMENT:** While the presence of Wagner Group within Libya remains an issue, the comments from Tajani linking them to the increase in migrant crossings are more indicative of the Italian government's current focus on illegal migration than the actions of Wagner Group. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Security Developments

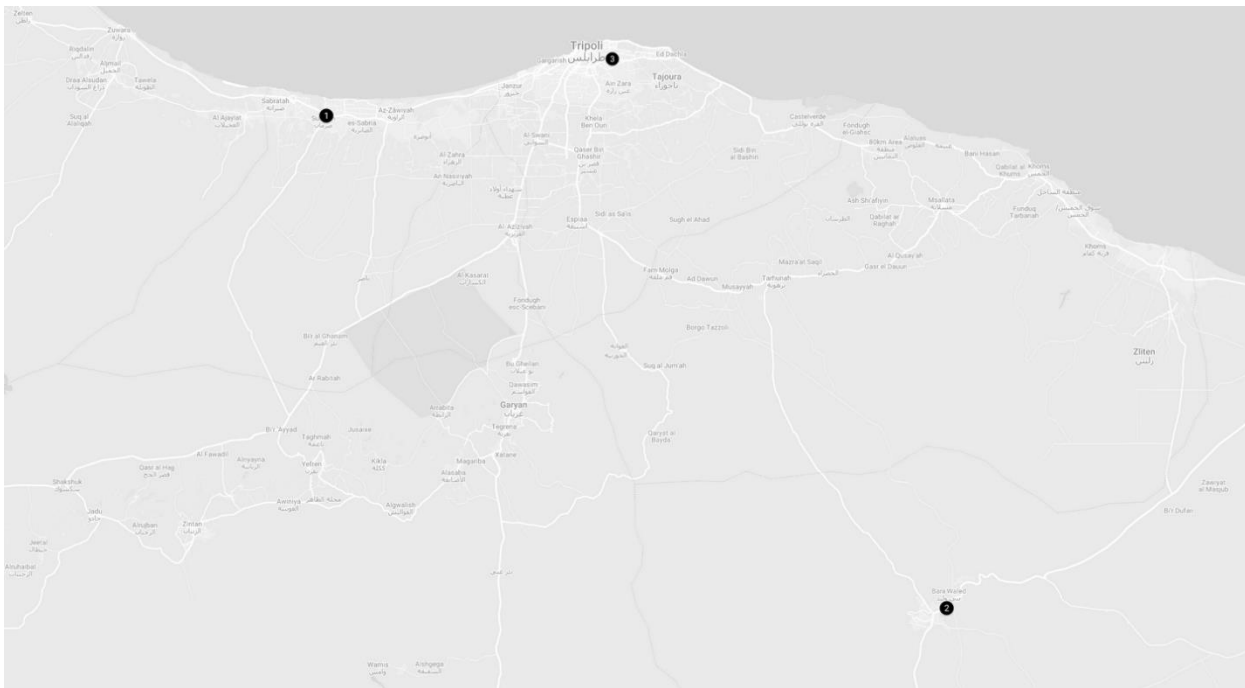
- Open sources reported the release of the Commander of Bani Walid Garrison, Brigadier General Muhammad Bousouda was released by 444 Brigade. Bousouda was reported as being abducted/detained on Mar 23 and neither the reason for his detention nor his release was released.

Oil and Gas Developments

- The United States Geological Survey announced the discovery of two large oil and gas basins in an area stretching between Libya and Tunisia. The first extends along the east Tunisian coast with the remainder offshore extending from Bizerte to Misrata. The second was discovered offshore from Sirte. Initial estimates indicate that the discoveries could see Libya's oil and Gas reserves double, while also seeing Tunisia becoming a major energy producer.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region

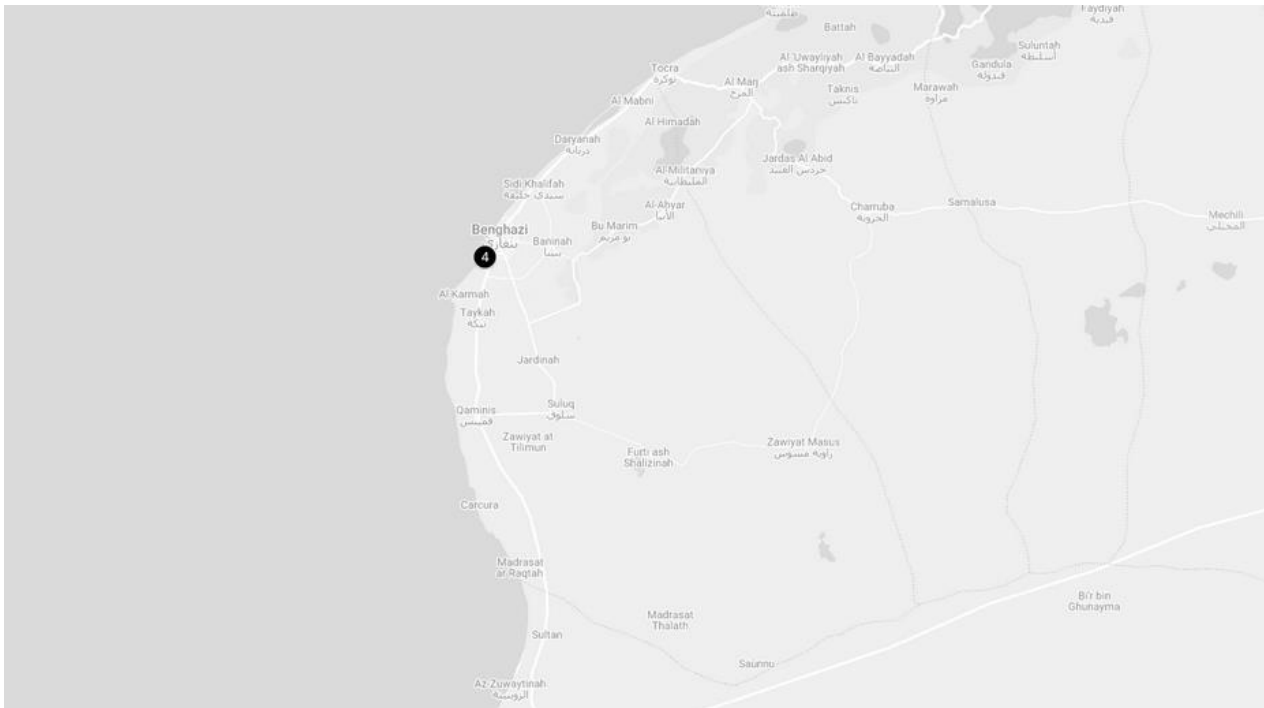


1. Murder/ Execution - Mar 24, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman: An individual named as Samar Oshah Al-Harizi was shot and killed by unknown perpetrators.

2. Kidnap - Mar 24, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: The Commander of Bani Walid Garrison, Brigadier General Muhammad Bousouda was released by 444 Brigade. Bousouda was reported as being abducted/detained on Mar 23 and neither the reason for his detention nor his release were released.

3. Murder/ Execution - Mar 24, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: An individual named as Aqeel Bashir Aqeel was reported as being shot during a quarrel at a petrol station in Tripoli.

Cyrenaica Region



4. Kidnap - Mar 22, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A lawyer named as Rajab Hawall was reportedly detained by an armed actor.

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. 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
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

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