

Libya daily security analysis report

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Prepared by:
Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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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

- On Mar 26 the members of the HCS who rejected the 13th amendment renewed their position declaring that “they did not and will not endorse or participate in the formation of the joint 6 + 6 committee with the HoR, due to “the lack of its constitutional basis and the deepening division it could lead to fragmentation and the continuation of chaos.” **COMMENT:** The 13th Constitutional amendment was passed by the HCS in conversational circumstances, with no quorum being achieved before the vote, contrary to HCS protocols. Therefore the continued opposition of those opposed to the amendment is to be expected, however, it is less likely that they will be caught wrong-footed a second time by expecting to achieve their aims through non-attendance at the appropriate session. The issue of the six candidates for the HCS is becoming prolonged, and a concerted effort on the part of objectors may see this become unworkable for the HCS, and derail the entire 6+6 initiative, resulting in the interjection of UNSMIL with SRSG Bathily’s initiative taking on a greater onus. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Security Developments

- The 5+5 meeting concluded in the Rixos in Tripoli on Mar 27. The meeting saw the participation of SRSG Bathily and a wide array of military commanders from both the east and west of the country.
- Open sources report the delay in the completion of the third phase of the Tunisian-Libyan Border Security Project (TBSP) due to increasingly poor relations between the US administration and President Kais Saied. The TBSP was launched in 2016 and was expected to cost \$25 million, which was being provided by the US and Berlin. The project envisages the installation of electronic surveillance systems along Tunisia's border with Libya over nearly 500 km from Ras Ajdir on the Mediterranean coast to Borj El Khadra in the far south of the country. Phases one and two saw this installed from Ras Ajdir to Bin Zar, however, the final phase southwards to Borj el Khadra remains stalled. This is coupled with a general reduction in US aid to Tunisia across numerous sectors, all driven by an assessed regression of democratic rule in the country following Saied’s institutional coup in 2021.

Oil and Gas Developments

- In an interview with the British newspaper The Financial Times, the head of the NOC, Farhat Bengdara said he had the support of both the government in Tripoli and the Commander of the LNA, Khalifa Haftar. He added that, “I can travel to any place in Libya, south, east, west, north, anywhere, and I used to work with all parties, as this type of support is very important for the National Oil Corporation to continue production” and that his goal was to raise production to two million barrels per day over three to five years. **COMMENT:** It is of note that Bengdara divided the nation’s seats of power in terms of the GNU and Haftar, with no reference to either the GNS or the HoR. While this is a correct representation of the ground truth, it is seldom that such a clear differentiation is made in such terms to the international press. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- On Mar 26, Zallaf Oil (NOC subsidiary) and Honeywell signed the first contract for the construction of the Southern Oil Refinery. In a statement, Zallaf announced that “Honeywell – UOP will carry out

the initial engineering works for the refining units, and grant technical licenses to the licensed units.” The entire project consists of two phases, the Front End Engineering Design (FEED) with the second phase being the installation and final tests. The second phase will be negotiated as a separate contract. In an interview on the subject, NOC Chairman Farhat Benghdara asserted that the refinery would be operational in 36 months and would have the capacity to refine 30,000 bpd from the Sharara Field.

Assessment

Political Development

5+5 Meeting concludes in Tripoli

The 5+5 meeting concluded in the Rixos in Tripoli on Mar 27. The meeting saw the participation of SRSG Bathily and a wide array of military commanders from both the east and west of the country. The following were the published outcomes of the meeting:

- The dialogue should be Libyan–Libyan and inside Libya.
- Rejection of foreign interference in Libyan affairs.
- Full commitment to the outcomes of the dialogues between the military and security commanders that were decided during their first and second meetings held respectively in Tunis and Tripoli.
- Rejection of fighting and all forms of violence throughout the entirety of Libya’s territory.
- Continuation of work towards unifying the military institutions through the Chiefs of Staff; unifying the security institutions; and the rest of the state institutions.
- Forming a unified government for all Libyan state institutions.
- Increasing efforts to address the challenges facing those displaced and those affected by fighting and wars.
- Completion of national reconciliation and reparation efforts.
- Commitment to pursue elections and the need for the House of Representatives and the High Council of the State to complete the tasks entrusted to them.

COMMENT: The outcomes themselves do not represent any significant developments or achievements, and are primarily stating an already declared position. However, the success of the event cannot be judged on the outcomes alone. The meeting differed from the traditional 5+5 meetings in that it was significantly expanded, with political and armed group leaders also being present, with a breakfast event on Mar 27 seeing numerous armed group commanders, not directly involved in 5+5 matters attend. In this regard, it represented the largest gathering of eastern and western armed group commanders for a decade and while attendance at the same meeting does not necessarily correlate with a shared position, that such individuals met at all is considered positive. This was not lost on SRSG Bathily who stated that the meeting was “a great trust-building exercise for Libyan security & military actors. I commend the spirit of patriotism participants demonstrated & hope they can be an example to others.” **COMMENT ENDS.**

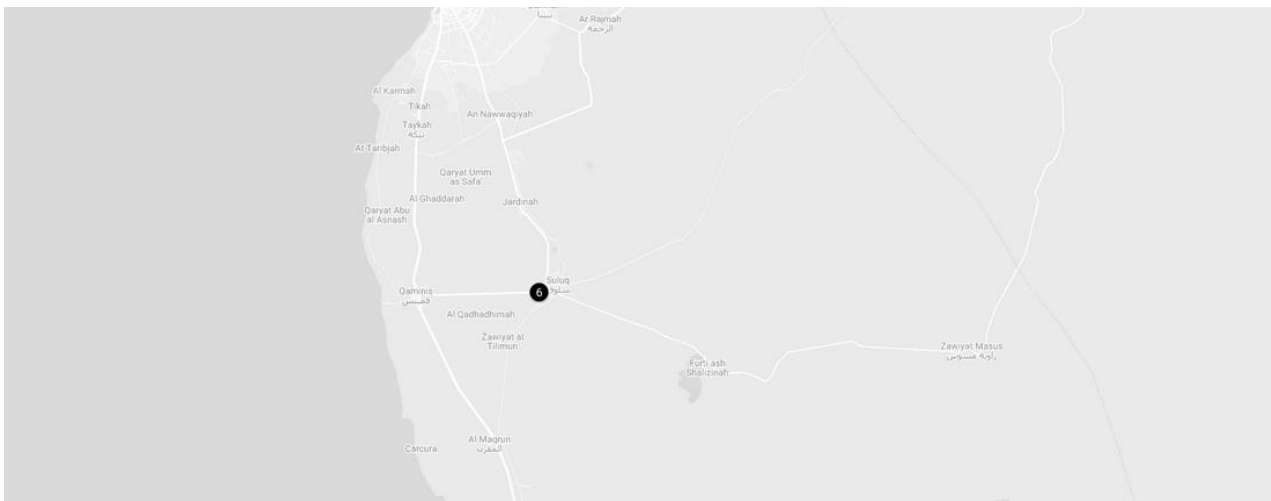
Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



- 1. Security Operation - Mar 26, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Zuwara:** Ras Ajdir-Zuwara SSA raided several locations used for prostitution and arrested an unknown number of prostitutes who were transferred to DCIM Tripoli.
- 2. Armed Robbery - Mar 27 12:00, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara:** A fatal armed robbery was reported against a Nigerian national with cash being stolen.
- 3. Security Operation - Mar 26 15:45, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms:** Khoms security directorate arrested 65 migrants and a Libyan driver during an operation.
- 4. Sabotage - Mar 26, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms:** The MMR was damaged by an attempted illegal connection in the Khoms area. The incident resulted in the loss of several hundred of cubic metres of water.
- 5. Security Operation - Mar 27, Tripoli Province, Rixos:** Increased security related to the 5+5 meeting was reported in the area of the Rixos involving RADA SDF and Brigade 111.

Cyrenaica Region



6. Security Operation - Mar 26 21:00, Benghazi Province, Suluq al-Qaminis: ISA were reported as conducting operations in the Suluq Qaminis area.

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

Country address:
RMT House, Turkish School Road
Sarraj
Tripoli
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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