

# Libya daily security analysis report

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# Latest Developments

## Political Developments

- The HoR has opposed the establishment of a high level-steering committee to push forward the political process in Libya. The committee was announced by SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily in his latest address to the UN Security Council on February 27.
- The Social Council of Tribes of the Western Region issued a statement regarding elections, confirming their rejection of any external intervention in Libyan affairs, suggesting a rejection of the SRSG's plans.
- Ahmed Abu Zeid, the Official Spokesman for the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that: "Egypt supports all legitimate institutes in Libya, especially in light of the current circumstances."
- President of the PC, Mohamed Menfi voiced his support for the SRSG's address stating his support for "any clear and detailed international efforts that aim to address the differences over the constitutional base, and meet the aspirations of the Libyan people to choose their leaders."
- Vice President of the PC, Abdullah Lafi, has voiced his support for the SRSG's address to the UN Security Council including comments regarding a lack of legitimacy for Libyan political bodies.
- Efforts are underway to resume the work for the National Seismic Monitoring Network Centre. This comes after a meeting with Prime Minister (GNU) Abdulhamid Dbeibah which discussed the prioritization of the supply of new technology to activate monitoring stations and the development of a central seismic centre in Gharyan.

## Security Developments

- The Naval Operations of the Western Sector seized a ship being used for fuel smuggling off the coast of Abu Kamash on February 28. The seizure was carried out by a joint force between the Al Zawiyah Refinery Guard, the coast guard, port security and the Zawiyah Oil Facilities Guard.
- The former Shahat Security Director, Mohamed Faraj Suleiman al-Hassi, was arrested in Janzour allegedly on the orders of Lofti Hariri, Head of the Internal Security Agency, after a decision was issued to appoint Major General Al-Hassi as Head of the Internal Security Agency.

## Infrastructure Developments

- A new modern mall, called the Mashir Mall, is due to open in Derna on March 03. It has been described as the largest modern commercial complex in the city "with a design that combines modernity and the style of traditional souks." This comes after Derna was affected by armed conflict and a siege prior to the LNA exerting control over the city in 2019.
- GECOL announced on February 28 the arrival of 19 ready-made electric stations at Tripoli Port. The stations have a capacity of 1000kVA and 500 kVA and will be used to improve the generation of electricity around the regions.

## Transportation Developments

- The Greek Foreign Affairs Ministry announced that flights between Benghazi and Athens will launch on March 02. The flights are to be run by Air Mediterranean and Marathon Airlines. The airbridge between the two allies is set to cement trade and economic cooperation as well as business and tourist travel. This comes despite the ongoing ban on Libyan flights into EU airspace.

# Assessment

## Political Developments

### **Cairo doubles down on support to the HoR**

Ahmed Abu Zeid, the Official Spokesman for the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that: “Egypt supports all legitimate institutes in Libya, especially in light of the current circumstances.” He further clarified that Cairo supports the “current constitutional track in Libya, as it is the path leading to Presidential elections in Libya.” He emphasised that Cairo “remains in contact with all its international partners, to support this constitutional path,” adding that “Egypt is looking forward to seeing the HoR and HCS complete their efforts in preparing electoral laws.”

**COMMENT:** ‘This comes after Cairo expressed its support for the HoR’s adoption of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment at the end of February, prior to the SRSG’s address to the UN Security Council. Zeid’s comments strongly suggest that Cairo is doubling down on support for the HoR, undermining the SRSG’s moves to take some control of the political process away from the HoR and HCS in a bid to secure progress towards elections in 2023.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

## Security Developments

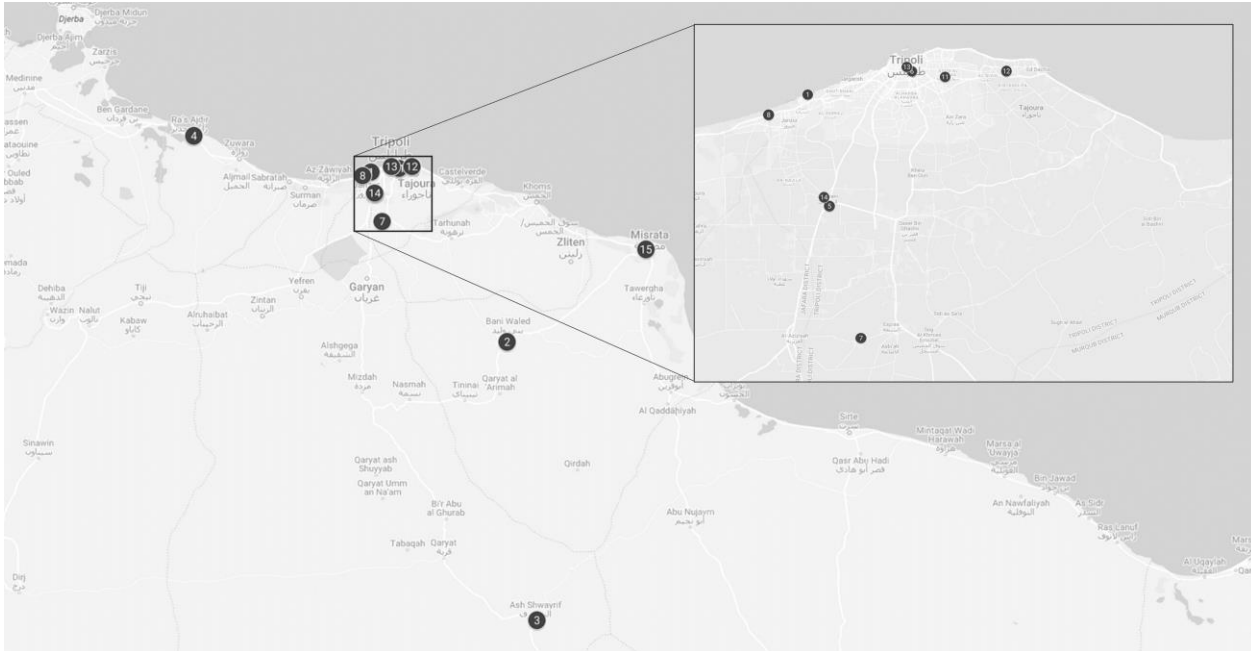
### **Further tensions likely in Zawiyah and along the northwest coastline**

The Naval Operations of the Western Sector seized a ship being used for fuel smuggling off the coast of Abu Kamash on February 28. The seizure was carried out by a joint force between the Al Zawiyah Refinery Guard, the coast guard, port security and the Zawiyah Oil Facilities Guard.

**COMMENT:** ‘The forces listed are heavily influenced by the Abu Hmeria tribe and have been involved in recent tensions and clashes in Zawiyah. They are also involved in fuel smuggling and as such, the seizure of a fuel smuggling ship was likely targeted at a competing armed group. This comes after the targeting of a member of the Kaboat Militia over human trafficking on February 19 by the Qasab Militia (Nasir Company, secures Zawiyah Refinery) which triggered a series of incidents and tensions over the past week. The seizure of the ship is therefore likely to trigger renewed tensions along the coastline, and specifically in Zawiyah.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



**1 Security Operation - Feb 27 13:30, Tripoli Province, Palm City:** The Janzour Knights, along with an inspection committee from different government and municipal departments including the Jafara Sanitation/ Sewage Office and the General Environment Authority carried out an unannounced inspection of Palm City. The team claimed to have found out-of-date food and medicine resulting in the temporary closure of the cafe, supermarket and clinic. The venues were reopened as normal the following morning. This comes amidst increasing tensions between commander of the Janzour Knights, Mohamed al-Baroni, who led the inspection committee, and his deputy Mahmoud Abu Jaafar who lives on the compound.

**2 Demonstration - Feb 28, Misrata Province, Bani Walid:** A small group of people protested the removal of the rubble which had been Bani Walid Fort. This was due to the rubble "marking the location where the fort was bombed by NATO in 2011." In April 2022, the Minister of Culture (GNU), Salama al-Ghweil, discussed the reconstruction of the fort with the head of the Antiquities Authority, Mohaned Faraj Al-Falous, and Mayor of Bani Walid, Younis Al-Azzouzi.

**3 Arrest - Feb 28, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif:** The SSA (Nesmah Branch) seized three diesel smuggling trucks. Those arrested admitted to smuggling fuel daily between Bani Walid and Ash Shwayrif. The tankers are filled in Bani Walid and sold to smugglers for profit in Ash Shwayrif.

**4 Arrest - Feb 28, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Abu Kammash:** The Naval Operations of the Western Sector seized a ship being used for fuel smuggling off the coast of Abu Kammash. The seizure was carried out by a joint force between the Al Zawiyah Refinery Guard, the coast guard, port security and the Zawiyah Oil Facilities Guard.

**5 Security Operation - Feb 28, Tripoli Province, Swani:** The Mol (GNU) seized a machine used for manufacturing drugs which had arrived via a seaport from Europe. The machine was seized in an ambush in Swani and can produce nearly 100,000 narcotic pills a day.

**6 Crime - Feb 28 13:00, Tripoli Province, Mansheya School:** A civilian attacked the Mansheya School in Ben Ashour with stones and metal objects while children were inside. The civilian, who lives next to the school, threatened to return with a weapon. This came after he claimed his window was broken, suggesting he blamed one of the children at the school.

**7 Arrest - Feb 28 16:40, Tripoli Province, Fashloum:** A woman was arrested in a "brothel." She was also accused of witchcraft.

**8 Troop Movements - Feb 28 18:30, Tripoli Province, CP 17:** The Janzour Knights deployed five armoured vehicles to Checkpoint 17. In addition, a further six vehicles, including two armoured vehicles, were deployed around 500m from the checkpoint half an hour later. This comes after the deployment of three armoured vehicles at 1930hrs on February 27.

**9 Crime - Feb 28 19:43, Tripoli Province, Tajura:** Young children were throwing stones from the roof of a building. This resulted in at least one windshield of a vehicle being smashed.

**10 Arrest - Feb 28 20:08, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** SDF arrested HoR MP Abdullah al-Shibani.

**11 Arrest - Feb 28 23:00, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** The former Shahat Security Director, Mohamed Faraj Suleiman al-Hassi, was arrested. He was allegedly arrested on the orders of Lofti Hariri, Head of the Internal Security Agency, by a Janzour armed group, after a decision was issued to appoint Major General Al-Hassi as Head of the Internal Security Agency. Hassi's appointment attempt was allegedly orchestrated by President Mohamed Menfi. Hassi was later reported to have been released on March 01. This came after demands from his old unit in Shahat.

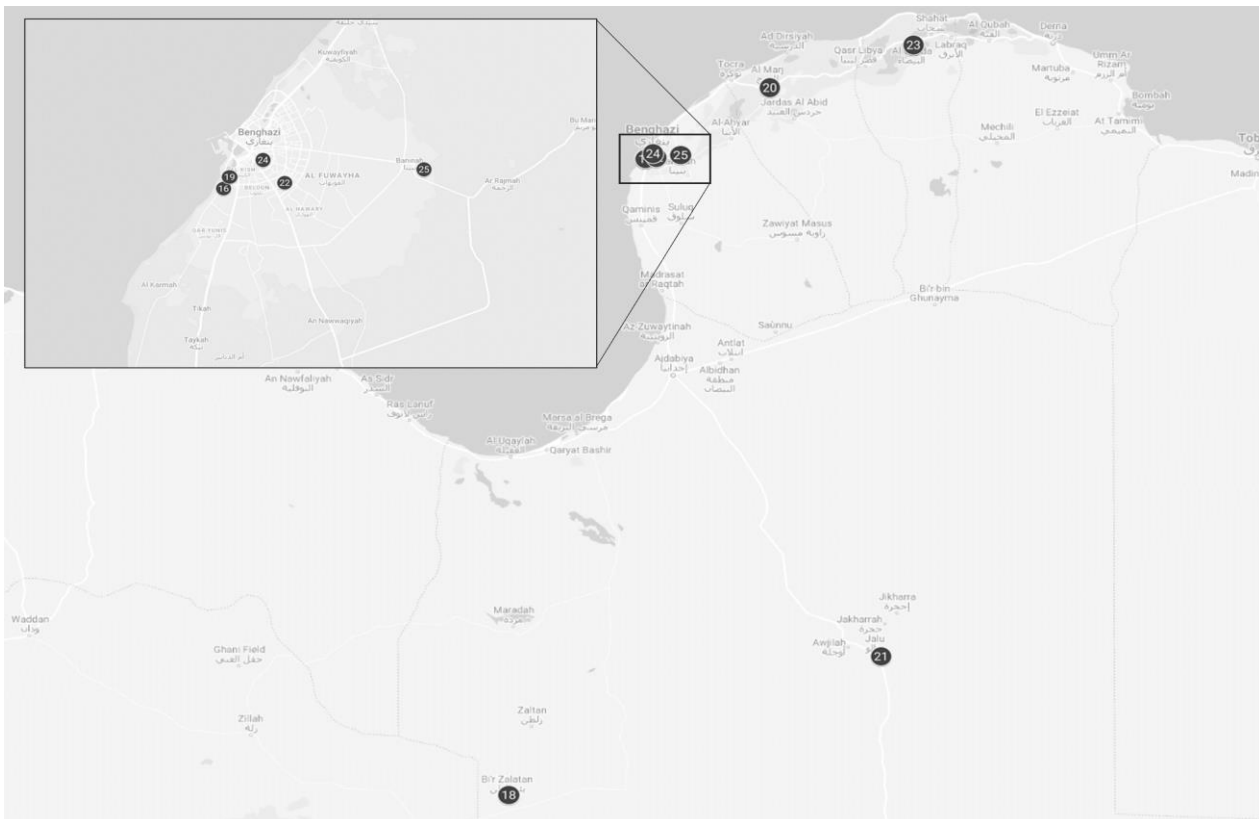
**12 Arrest - Mar 01, Tripoli Province, Tajura:** The Tajura Security Directorate arrested two people on charges of setting fire to a car six years ago in July 2016.

**13 Demonstration - Mar 01 10:40, Tripoli Province, Prime Minister's Office:** Ministry of Environment employees protested again over the lack of salaries for the past eight years.

**14 Demonstration - Mar 01 11:17, Tripoli Province, Swani Bin Adam:** Workers at the rehabilitation centre in the area are staging a strike and sit in until "salaries are increased as per other sectors."

**15 Demonstration - Mar 01 11:51, Misrata Province, Misrata:** A small number of citizens gathered in front of the courts to object to the resumption of a railway project.

## Cyrenaica Region



**16 Security Announcement - Feb 28, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** Brigadier General Khalid Haftar met with the Deputy of the Ministry of Interior, the Attorney General, and a number of other people to discuss cooperation between military and security forces in enforcing the law in Benghazi. This includes the return of citizen's property which have been unlawfully taken.

**17 Other - Feb 28, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda:** Al Bayda Security Directorate denied the closure of a street due to the presence of an IED in a store. The directorate stated that the reports were disinformation

and stated that the city remained stable. This came after some social media pages claimed there was TNT planted in a store and that people needed to avoid the area in front of the Bilal Mosque.

**18 Security Operation - Feb 28, Al-Wahat Province, Samah Oilfield:** The commander of the Sirte Operations Room, Major General Ahmed Salem Atallah, commanded a patrol from Ras Lanuf through Marada and Samah Oilfield. He was accompanied by the operations officer, commander of the Moral Guidance Department (Sirte), and the commander of the Military Police (Sirte) as well as the Director of Security for oil installations.

**19 Security Operation - Feb 28, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** Benghazi Security Directorate raided a network faking dates on expired Ramadan products by placing a 2024 sticker on boxes of various items including cooking oil and cans of food of well-known brands. A Syrian national was arrested in connection with the incident.

**20 Security Operation - Feb 28 00:30, Al-Marj Province, Marj:** The Al Marj Security Directorate carried out increased static and mobile security operations as per the implementation of al-Marj Security Directorate Security Plan No.01 (2023).

**21 Demonstration - Feb 28 11:34, Al-Wahat Province, Jalu:** Local people protested demanding local officials take their responsibilities seriously and "save them from the way of death."

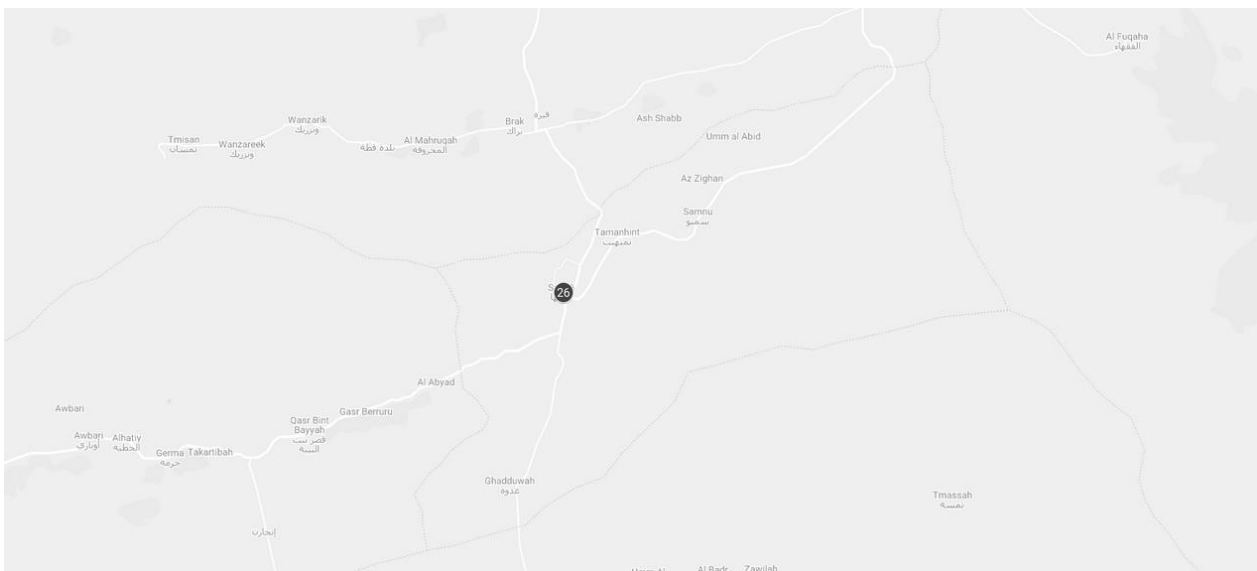
**22 Security Announcement - Feb 28 22:30, Benghazi Province, Bohdema:** Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar visited the area for the first time in nine years. This comes after security operations in Bohdema targeting alcohol and drug dealers, including some members of the LNA.

**23 Arrest - Mar 01, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda:** The Jabal al-Akhdar Joint Security Room arrested an unspecified number of illegal immigrants and migrant smugglers on a desert road south of the mountains.

**24 Arrest - Mar 01 02:30, Benghazi Province, Majouri:** Sharif al-Fassi Al-Aqouri, a member of the LNA, was allegedly arrested for criticising the LNA leadership.

**25 Arrest - Mar 01 11:50, Benghazi Province, Benina Airport:** A civil activist, Ahmed al-Tawati, was arrested at Benina Airport where he was trying to travel to Tripoli.

## Fezzan Region



**26 Security Operation - Feb 28, Sabha Province, Sabha:** The Ministry of Interior (GNS) began to confiscate the contents of illegal fuel stations after the expiration of a deadline given to the owners. This operation was carried out with the Municipal Guard.

## Offshore

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# 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
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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