

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Threat Warning

- PFG (Western Region) issued a statement from Zawiyah Refinery giving 10 days for their salaries to be settled "in line with employees of the NOC." If their demands are not met, they have threatened to close the Zawiyah Refinery and oil sites.

Political Developments

- The HCS announced that they had passed the 13th Constitutional Amendment after a vote in a plenary session on March 02. This was later dismissed by the HCS Rapporteur who claimed the session had not reached quorum.
- An unconfirmed report claimed that Minister of the Interior (GNU), Emad Al-Trabelsi, was stopped and questioned at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport for carrying "a large sum of cash."

Security Developments

- Chief of the General Staff (Western Region) Lt Gen Mohamed al-Haddad and the Chief of Staff (LNA) Lt Gen Abdulrazak Nadouri met with US Africa Command Commander, General Langley, on March 02 on the sidelines of the African Chiefs of Defence Conference.

Assessment

Threat Warning

Zawiyah: PFG threaten to shut refinery and other oil sites

PFG (Western Region) issued a statement from Zawiyah Refinery giving 10 days for their salaries to be settled "in line with employees of the NOC." This included backdating to January and February, health insurance, maintenance of their HQ, new vehicles, clothes, equipment and supplies. If their demands are not met, they have threatened to close the Zawiyah Refinery and oil sites.

COMMENT: 'The western region is currently seeing demonstrations from various public sectors over pay. The refinery security is dominated by Mohamed Kashlaf (aka Qasab), commander of Nasir Company and the PFG and a prominent member of the Abu Hmeria tribe. His units have been involved in recent clashes and tensions in Zawiyah and are assessed as having the ability to shut down the refinery if negotiations are not successful.'

The northwest coastline is seeing increasing levels of destabilisation at present. The threat by the PFG to shut oil sites down will not only trigger negotiations over financial compensation but also serves as a reminder of the control Kashlaf and other key individuals have over the region's oil and gas infrastructure in the wake of the significant foreign investment in the sector announced back in January. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Political Developments

HCS: Amendment passed, but controversy remains

The HCS announced that they had passed the 13th Constitutional Amendment after a vote in a plenary session on March 02. The HCS media office stated that members voted in an emergency session chaired by head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri, "with the approval of the majority of members after a quorum was

completed on the 13th constitutional amendment.” The HCS Rapporteur, Belkasem Dabris, disputed this however and declared that the vote was invalid as the session had not achieved quorum. Another report claimed that the session had not exceeded 60 members.

COMMENT: ‘The HCS has 145 members. It tried voting on the issue three times at the end of February however it was split over whether to accept the amendment in addition to being subjected to demonstrations outside its sessions at the Radisson Blu by the Dar al-Iftar Movement. On February 26, a statement was issued by 54 members stating their refusal to accept the amendment unless a number of changes were made. This backed reports which indicated that the HCS was split with Mishri heading those in favour of adopting the amendment.

The amendment deals with key issues like the system of government in Libya and was passed by the HoR on February 08 before being passed to the HCS for its approval, as per the Libyan Political Agreement of 2015 which requires that both the HoR and HCS agree on key issues like the constitution. Both entities were coming under pressure to make progress on the issue by the SRSG and had been given until the end of February. As a result, despite the lack of progress within the HCS vote, the HoR officially adopted the amendment on February 23 in a bid to stave off moves by the SRSG to begin side-lining both the HoR and HCS.

Despite their attempts, the amendment was largely dismissed by the SRSG at his address to the UN council on February 27. Bathily stated: “Despite repeated attempts by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the High State Council and their delegations to agree on a constitutional basis for elections, disagreements persist. The 13th Constitutional amendment is controversial within the Libyan political class and general citizenry. Moreover, it does not address key contentious issues such as the eligibility criteria for presidential candidates, does not stipulate a clear road map and timelines to realize inclusive elections in 2023, and adds additional contentious issues such as the regional representation in the Senate.”

Bathily then went on to state his intention of creating a new high-level steering panel to facilitate elections in 2023. Bathily explained that: “The proposed mechanism will bring together all relevant Libyan stakeholders. In addition to the facilitation of the adoption of the legal framework and time-bound roadmap to the holding of elections in 2023, the proposed Panel will also provide a platform to advance consensus around related matters, such as election security and the adoption of a Code of Conduct for all candidates.”

His attempts to sideline the HCS and HoR are, predictably, facing resistance from both entities and likely motivated Mishri to push through the HCS’s endorsement of the amendment as they seek to retain control of the political process. Cairo has also indicated its support for the HoR with Saleh suggesting that he wishes to produce a new unified executive first, prior to moving towards elections this year.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

Security Developments

AFRICOM commander meets Libya’s chief of staffs

Chief of the General Staff (Western Region) Lt Gen Mohamed al-Haddad and the Chief of Staff (LNA) Lt Gen Abdulrazak Nadouri met with Commander of AFRICOM General Langley on March 02 on the sidelines of the African Chiefs of Defence Conference, hosted by AFRICOM.

The US Embassy stated: “We are pleased to see the joint Libyan military delegation of General Haddad and General Nadouri attend the African Chiefs of Defense Conference in Rome hosted by US Africa Command Commander General Langley. The US commends their commitment to reunify the Libyan military. We support (the) establishment of a joint unit as a first step. We continue to stand with the Libyan people in their calls for peace, national unity, and full sovereignty to bring about a secure future of economic prosperity and regional stability.”

COMMENT: 'Reports have recently suggested that the US has proposed the establishment of a joint unit to protect oil and gas infrastructure in Libya. Speculation has suggested that this could see western region forces join their LNA counterparts under LNA command. This may be part of US efforts to push Wagner Group, and therefore Russian influence, back from oil and gas infrastructure in Libya to help secure supplies to Europe as the continent tries to pivot away from Russian oil and gas.'



Image: Nadouri, Langley, and Haddad (US Embassy)

Nadouri and Haddad have met on a number of occasions now off the back of the work undertaken by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission which has continued to forge ahead, protecting and promoting the full implementation of the October 2020

ceasefire. It is perhaps of note however that the US Embassy has presented the two generals as being part of a "joint Libyan military delegation," taking their cooperation to another level.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1 Security Announcement - Mar 02, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Zintan: An unconfirmed report claimed that while Major General Jweli was in Benghazi, a French private company flew a plane into the C5 field which is controlled by military forces from Zintan. The same report claimed that Jweli remained on his private plane at Benina waiting for an audience by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar however Haftar went to open the October 15 Military Hospital instead. This remains unconfirmed.

2 Demonstration - Mar 02, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: A small group of people celebrated the 46th anniversary of the Declaration of the Establishment of the People's Authority and the proclamation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, established by Muammar Gadhafi in 1977, ran until the revolution in 2011. This marked an evolution of his regime after taking over in a coup in 1969.

3 Assault - Mar 02, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A man assaulted a Libyan female and threw her in the street in front of people. He was arrested by 444 Combat Unit.

4 Arrest - Mar 02, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: 444 Combat Unit arrested a person for attacking and shooting at the CID in Bani Walid.

5 Arrest - Mar 02, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Mizdah: 444 Combat Unit seized a truck carrying more than 40,000 litres of fuel which was to be smuggled out of the country.

6 Threat Warning - Mar 02, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah Oil Refinery: PFG (Western Region) issued a statement from Zawiyah Refinery giving 10 days for their salaries to be settled "in line with employees of the NOC." This included backdating to January and February, health insurance, maintenance of their HQ, new vehicles, clothes, equipment and supplies. If their demands were not met, they will close the Zawiyah Refinery and oil sites.

7 SAF - Mar 02 02:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Eastern Petrol Station: Small arms fire was used at the Eastern Petrol Station leading to the wounding of Omar al-Dawadi. The victim was taken to Sabratah Hospital. Security forces mobilised in the area in response to the incident.

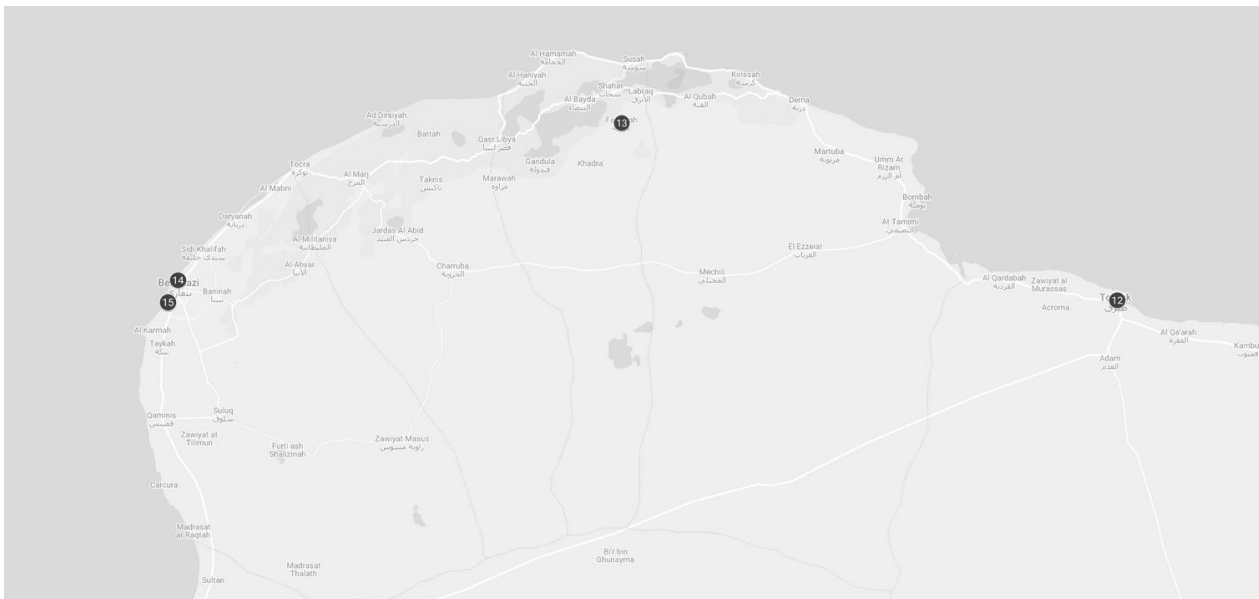
8 Demonstration - Mar 02 11:10, Tripoli Province, Prime Minister's Office: Ministry of Environment employees demonstrated again over their claims they had not been paid for eight years.

9 Security Operation - Mar 02 19:00, Tripoli Province, Althogar: 444 Combat Unit carried out an arrest in the Althogar area.

10 Troop Movements - Mar 02 19:10, Al-Jafara Province, Al-Zalitni: 55 Battalion mobilised at the western located Al-Zalitni junction after 444 Combat Unit came into the Althogar area to conduct an arrest.

11 Threat Warning - Mar 03, Al-Jafara Province, 4 Brigade Camp: A single report has claimed that Major General Jweli's forces (alleged to be around 3,500) have been in receipt of weapons and military training (on light and medium weapons) from France at 4 Brigade Camp. In addition, the camp is also currently home to around 100 fighters under the command of Ayoub Abouras, around 150 fighters under the command of Mohamed Sunduq from Nawasi Battalion, as well as Chadian and Sudanese mercenaries.

Cyrenaica Region



12 Kidnap - Mar 02, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: A five-year-old child was kidnapped for ransom.

13 Security Operation - Mar 02, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Faydiyah: The Shahat Security Directorate arrested the kidnappers of a five-year-old child. The victim was freed by police.

14 Security Operation - Mar 02, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Benghazi Security Directorate stated that civilians were continuing to hand in their weapons with at least two people turning over weapons at Sabri Police Station.

15 Security Announcement - Mar 02, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and a delegation went to open October 15 Military Hospital in Benghazi.

Fezzan Region



16 Security Operation - Mar 02 00:00, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Brak al-Shati: The LNA and GASO LEF carried out a raid on a farm in the agricultural area resulting in an armed clash. The raid resulted in the seizure of vehicles and the burning of materials.

Offshore

NSTR

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, SRSG 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
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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SECURE EVERY DAY

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