

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- The Constitutional Circuit Court of the Supreme Court ruled that the HoR Law, issued in December 2022 to establish a new 13-member constitutional court in Benghazi, is unconstitutional.
- The Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni met with the President of the UAE, Mohamed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, to review the strategic partnership between their two countries on March 04. She stressed the importance of Libya to Italy and pointed out the “critical and very important role” that the UAE can have in stabilising Libya. She also discussed the Rome’s plan, “Mattei Plan,” for Africa.
- Speaker of the HoR, Aquila Saleh, met with the Chargé d’Affaires of the Japanese Embassy to Libya, Masaaki Amadera, and discussed the situation in Libya. Reportedly, the two discussed the need for a unified executive authority.

Infrastructure Developments

- The Great Man-Made River (GMMR) Authority has initiated several projects on the Al-Hasawneh – Al-Jafara Plain – Al-Sirir – Al-Qardabiya – Sirte lines, where work had been suspended for the last ten years. The work aims to maintain wells in water fields and repair damaged or sabotaged valves.
- The Head of the Steering Council of Benghazi Municipality, Al-Saqr Omran Bojwari, met with a delegation from Daewoo to discuss the completion of the Al-Salawi integrated facilities project and Benghazi’s sewage stations as well as further projects which have been suspended for the last 12 years.

Assessment

Political Developments

Constitutional Circuit Court ruled HoR law as unconstitutional

The Constitutional Circuit Court of the Supreme Court ruled that the HoR Law, issued in December 2022 to establish a new 13-member constitutional court in Benghazi, is unconstitutional. This ruling is considered the first appeal after the circuit returned to work to consider the appeals submitted to it.

COMMENT: ‘The HoR law was widely seen as an attempt to replace the circuit court in Tripoli in a bid to dominate the judicial authorities in Libya. This came after a growing realisation of the importance of the judiciary in deciding the future of Libya through the electoral process in 2021. The HoR is not the only entity however to try and exert influence over the judiciary. In August 2022, the GNU prompted the General Assembly of the Supreme Court to reactive the Constitutional Circuit Court which had stopped work in May 2016. The HoR had suspended their attempted implementation of their new law after the head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri, broke off negotiations until the law was repealed.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

HoR: Saleh talks new unified executive with the Japanese Chargé d’Affaires

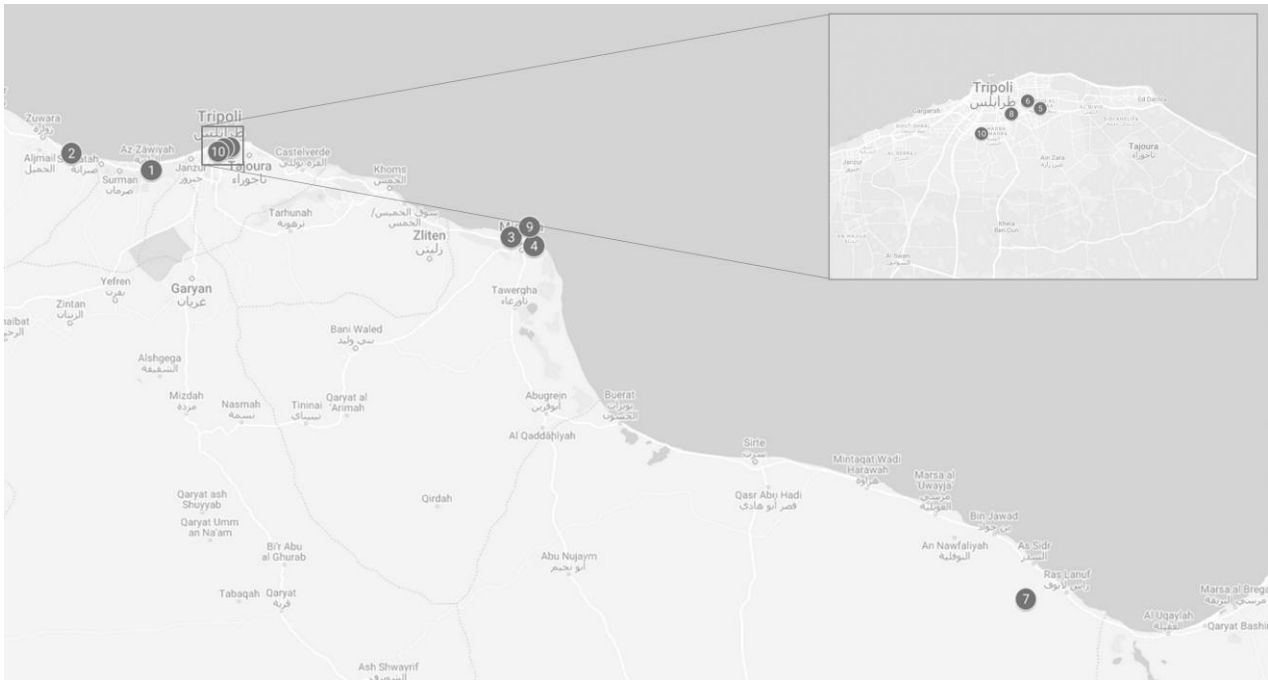
Speaker of the HoR, Aquila Saleh, met with the Chargé d’Affaires of the Japanese Embassy to Libya, Masaaki Amadera, and discussed the situation in Libya. Reportedly, the two discussed the need for a unified executive authority “whose task is to implement the electoral process according to the will of the Libyan people.”

COMMENT: ‘Saleh is currently pushing for the creation of a new unified executive and has suggested a new committee is formed of 45 members which will decide on the composition. This would see the GNU and GNS dissolved, and the new executive tasked with several things but most importantly, moving to the country

to elections. The creation of a new unified executive does not appear to have gained the support of UNSMIL, and other international stakeholders like the UK and US, with some seeing it as an unnecessary distraction towards the pursuit of elections.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1 Security Operation - Feb 27, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Zawiyah CID seized a fuel tanker and arrested the driver. Given the involvement of security forces in fuel smuggling in the area, this suggests a move by CID/ al-Far against competitors in the area.

2 Threat Warning - Mar 05, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Mellitah terminal: PFG (Western Region) members from Zuwara and Sabratah have joined their colleagues from Zawiyah Refinery and stated they would close down Mellitah Oil & Gas in seven days unless the GNU gave them a pay rise along with other concessions including vehicles and uniforms. This came after the PFG at Zawiyah Refinery gave the GNU ten days to meet their demands on March 02. This gives the GNU until March 12 to meet the PFG's demands.

3 Arrest - Mar 05, Misrata Province, Misrata: A man and woman were arrested after trying to steal sheep from a farmer. The two stated that they were trying to get married.

4 Crime - Mar 05, Misrata Province, Misrata: A man stole three iPhones from a shop. He remains wanted by police.

5 Demonstration - Mar 05, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Libyans Against Normalisation Alliance protested under the slogan: "For Al-Aqsa Mosque, Al-Qudis, and Palestine, in rejection of normalisation with the Zionist entity." Around thirty people turned out for the protest.

6 Security Announcement - Mar 05, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: 12 Indian nationals have been rescued from Libya by their embassy. The men, mostly from Punjab, had lost their jobs during the pandemic and were lured to Libya by an agent in Dubai who promised them well-paying jobs. Upon arrival, the men were sent to a construction site and forced to work 15-hour days, not paid, not fed properly, and physically assaulted if they refused to comply. Each person had taken out loans to facilitate their travel after initially being promised jobs in Dubai. Upon reaching Dubai, they found there was no work and were invited to go home or go to Libya.

7 Crime - Mar 05 13:00, Sirte Province, Wadi Matrathen: 302 Battalion members (LNA) allegedly stole power cables from residential areas in the Wadi Matrathen area. This follows similar reports on February 19,

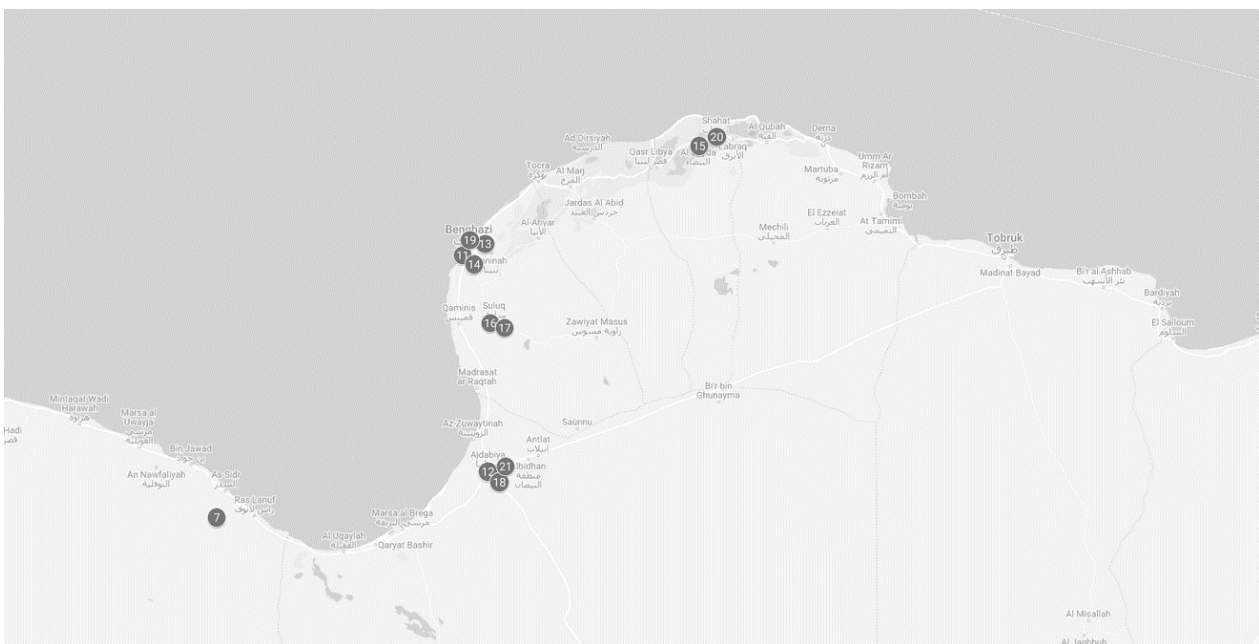
in which 302 Battalion members were arrested for stealing wire in the Wadi Matrathen area. As a result of the arrest, 302 Battalion then attacked the Ras Lanuf Security Directorate in a bid to free their colleagues. On September 04, 2022 the battalion clashed with 166 Battalion at Ras Lanuf. The incidents suggest 302 Battalion is becoming a problem in the local area which may attract the attention of LNA General Command.

8 Demonstration - Mar 05 15:52, Tripoli Province, Ras Hassan: A protest took place outside the Al-Madar Company.

9 RTA - Mar 05 18:19, Misrata Province, Misrata: A truck belonging to a cleaning company overturned in from the Al-Ahli Club.

10 Arrest - Mar 05 21:16, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem: The Municipal Guard in Abu Saleem seized a truck loaded with around 62,000kg of onions coming from Egypt. The onions were allegedly unfit for human consumption and had been heading to the wholesale market in Janzour. This is the latest report of food being unfit for human consumption being confiscated by security forces either at restaurants or on the way to markets over the past couple of weeks in Tripolitania.

Cyrenaica Region



11 Assault - Feb 28, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A woman, arrested for prostitution, assaulted a female police officer, breaking her arm. The perpetrator was later freed by two men.

12 Kidnap - Mar 04 10:00, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: A child was kidnapped in front of a café.

13 Security Announcement - Mar 05, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: An unconfirmed report claimed that Haythem Tajouri had travelled to Benghazi. Tajouri was the commander of 777 Battalion based in central Tripoli prior to being ousted in clashes on August 27, 2022. This comes after another unconfirmed report claimed Major General Osama Jweli, commander of the Western Mountain Military Region, travelled to Benghazi on March 02. Jweli had found himself on the same side as Tajuri and lost his own positions in the capital during the clashes.

14 Security Operation - Mar 05, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: 210 Battalion (LNA) showcased a large amount of drugs and alcohol which had been sized during operations. The items were then burned.

15 Security Operation - Mar 05, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: The Department of Relations and Cooperation Eastern Region Branch carried out ad-hoc vehicle checkpoints to seize vehicles which violate regulations and laws.

16 Security Operation - Mar 05 06:00, Benghazi Province, Suluq al-Qaminis: The Qaminis-Suluq Security Directorate carried out security operations, including snap vehicle checkpoints in the area to the south of Benghazi.

17 Arrest - Mar 05 06:10, Benghazi Province, Suluq al-Qaminis: The Qaminis-Suluq Security Directorate arrested perpetrators in possession of suspected stolen copper wire as well as illegal immigrants.

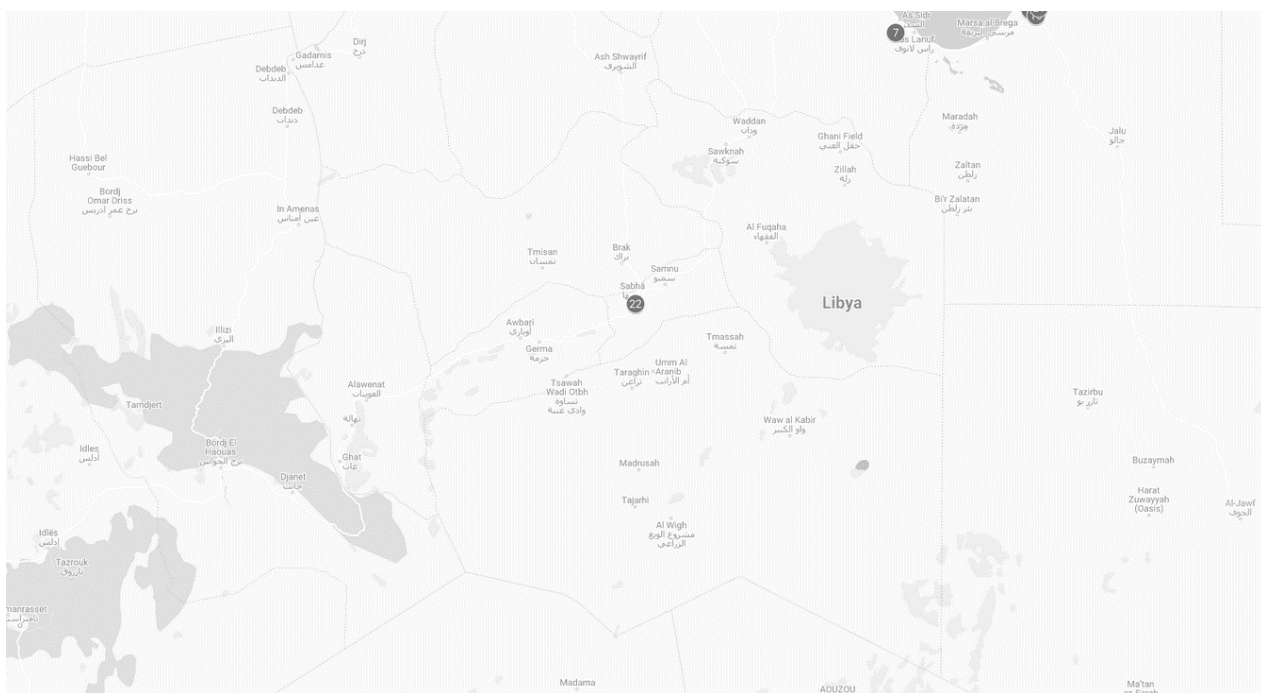
18 Arrest - Mar 05 10:00, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: ISA arrested a gang of six people for the kidnapping of a child the previous day from in front of a café. The group have been charged with kidnapping and sexual exploitation of children. ISA found a number of videos of other children believed to have been kidnapped by the group.

19 Security Operation - Mar 06, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: The Department of Relations and Cooperation Eastern Region Branch carried out a raid and arrested 32 illegal immigrants (Egyptian and Chadian nationals). One of those arrested was wanted in connection with a drug trafficking case.

20 Murder/ Execution - Mar 06 00:00, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Shahat: A man was shot dead and his body was mutilated.

21 Arrest - Mar 06 09:30, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: ISA arrested Mofthah Bonwara, assessed to be Mohammed Mofthah Bonwara, in the area. Bonwara is a former member of the Benghazi Defence Brigade (BDB), an umbrella group of Jihadist-Salafi groups which were dislodged from Benghazi and Derna by the LNA from 2014.

Fezzan Region



22 RTA - Mar 05 16:00, Sabha Province, Hijarah: Abd al-Salam al-Hamr Al-Fakhri, a member of 10 Battalion (LNA) and a member of the Fuel Crisis Committee, was hit by a car and killed while directing traffic at the International Efforts Station for Oil Services on the route between Hijarah and Quwaira al-Mal.

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
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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