

Libya daily security analysis report

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Table of Contents

Latest Developments	3
Threat Warnings	3
Developments	3
Security Developments	3
Assessment	3
Security Developments	3
Significant Incidents	6
Tripolitania Region	6
Cyrenaica Region	7
Fezzan Region	7
Offshore	7
Outlook	8
Short Term Outlook	8
Medium to Long Term Outlook	8
Key Dates	8
Acronym List	10

Latest Developments

Threat Warnings

- An unconfirmed report claimed that Major General Osama Jweli had ordered his forces to remain in their camps for the next 48 hours. This comes as the LNA mobilised forces to Ash Shwayrif causing some to speculate the two incidents are connected. Some have also connected the recent deployment of Zintani forces to Qaryat although other reports have suggested this was in response to a security operation by 444 Combat Unit.
- On March 08, Nasser Amer, a field commander with Operation Volcano of Rage, announced that his forces were stood too to counter any movement of Major General Osama Jweli's forces from Ash Shwayrif towards Tripoli.
- 544 families were informed, via a loudspeaker, that they had 72 hours to vacate 68 buildings in the Qoshi area of Misrata on March 08. Local reports indicate that the families of foreign workers will have to leave with families of Libya's given alternative accommodation. Some buildings have already been demolished in the area which saw large drugs raid the same day by JOF.

Developments

- Head of the HCS, Khalid Mishri, met with British ambassador, Caroline Hurndall to discuss the SRSG's latest initiative to move the political process forward in Libya. They also discussed the 13th Constitutional Amendment which was controversially approved by the HCS this week.

Security Developments

- There has been an increase in military movements over the past 72 hours in Tripolitania. Most of this has been attributed to various security operations, however some have begun to speculate that Major General Osama Jweli is planning on linking up with LNA forces which have recently deployed from the south to Ash Shwayrif.
- There is an emerging trend of demolition operations by various security forces across Libya. These operations are targeting locations linked to criminality, those been occupied illegal, built illegally and in some cases, there are suggestions that the homes of people opposing authorities are being demolished. Operations have been reported in Benghazi, Bani Walid, Misrata and Sabha so far.

Assessment

Security Developments

Increased concerns over military movements in Tripolitania

There has been an increase in military movements over the past 72 hours in Tripolitania. Most of this has been attributed to various security operations, however some have begun to speculate that Major General Osama Jweli is planning on linking up with LNA forces which have recently deployed from the south to Ash Shwayrif.

- Mar 05** Tripoli Province, Swani: A large convoy consisting of over 20 armed cars from an unidentified militia moved into the Swani and Ramla areas overnight for "unknown reasons."
- Mar 07** Al-Jafara Province, Warshefana: An armed group mobilised in the area along Azizia Road.
- Mar 07** Misrata Province, Bani Walid: Around 250 armed vehicles, ambulances and blacked out buses arrived in the city.
- Mar 07** Misrata Province, Bani Walid: Armed vehicles belonging to 444 Combat Unit entered Military Factory 51 HQ in the city amidst communication outages and checkpoints along main routes. An announcement was later made that the Public Prosecutor had ordered members of the Law Enforcement Department, and the 444 Fighting Unit to complete arrests in the area to the south of Bani Walid.
- Mar 07** Al-Jafara Province, Aziziyah: Major General Osama Jweli, commander of the Western Mountains Military Region deployed forces in and around Aziziyah. The general has troops at the nearby 4th Brigade Camp although shares the area with his Zintani colleague, Emad Trabelsi's General Security.
- Mar 08** Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Qaryat: Zintan mobilised military forces to Qaryat allegedly to protect locals. This was in response to a security operation in the area the previous day.
- Mar 07** Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif: A large LNA convoy from Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade mobilised to the area of Ash Shwayrif.
- Mar 07** Tripoli Province, Qaser Bin Ghashir: 444 Brigade mobilised with tanks in the area.
- Mar 07** Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: LNA forces mobilised in the area.
- Mar 07** Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Qaryat: A joint force comprised of 444 Combat Unit, GASO LEF, and CIA launched an operation targeting wanted people and carried out raids on suspected criminal dens and hideouts. The operation started at dawn on the orders of the Attorney General. The operation resulted in clashes, the seizure of weapons, ammunition and vehicles and the arrests of several criminals.
- Mar 08** Misrata Province, Bani Walid: Law enforcement and the Tripoli Public Services Company have temporarily suspended the removal of random buildings in Bani Walid and withdrawn from the area. Work is expected to resume in 72 hours. This came as other reports claimed 444 Combat Unit had been ordered to withdraw from the city back to Tripoli.
- Mar 08** Al-Jafara Province, 4 Brigade Camp: A military convoy arrived in Aziziyah, home to Major General Osama Jweli's forces.

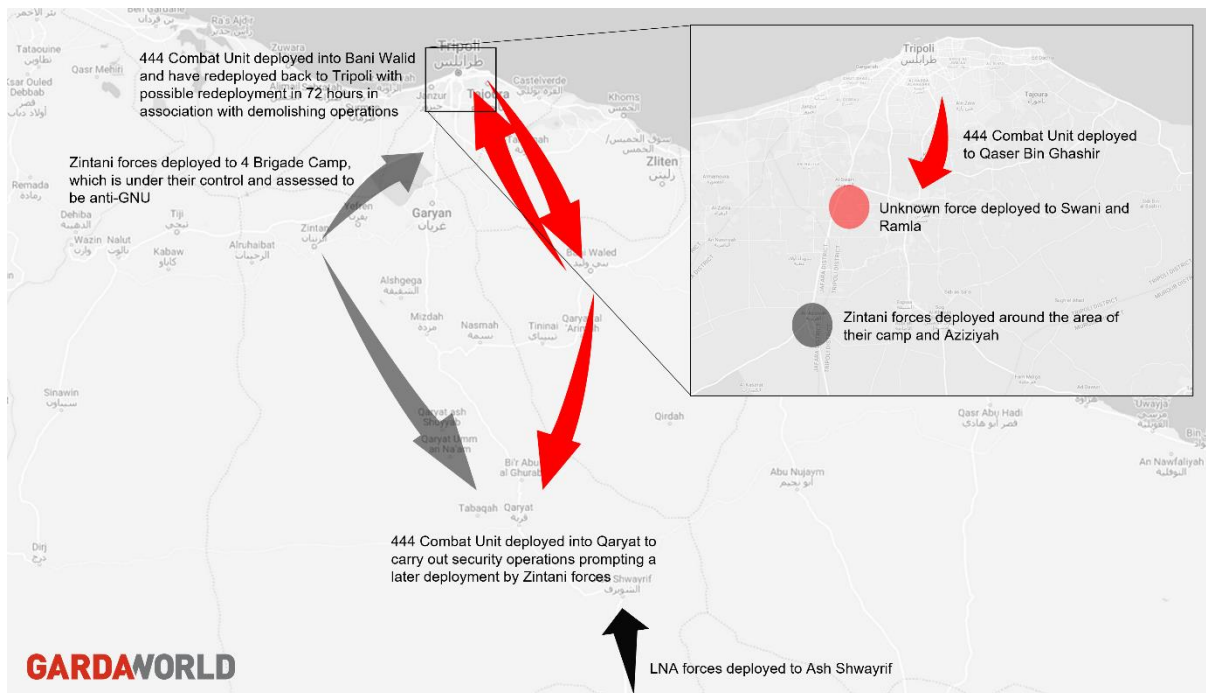
COMMENT: 'There has been an uptick in security operations and troop movements over the past 72 hours in Tripolitania. The below identifies those which have triggered speculation but come against a backdrop of various other security operations in the region including one along the Tunisian border and another in Qoshi, Misrata. The deployment of 444 into Qaryat, allegedly to carry out security operations aimed at criminals, prompted a deployment from Zintani forces, likely to reassert dominance in the area and prevent any attempts to hold the strategic location. In addition, LNA forces mobilised to Ash Shwayrif while Zintani forces also mobilised to the 4 Brigade Camp in Aziziyah.

Essentially all the activity can be interpreted as normal movement or normal security operations, for the most part. The LNA shares the security of Ash Shwayrif (faultline area) with their western counterparts and the area has been the scene of good cooperation between the two after a formal commitment from the LNA and 166 Battalion (Misrata) in 2021. Major General Jweli (Zintani) holds 4 Brigade Camp and therefore movements to and from this location and in the local area are not necessarily of concern, although the intended reconstruction of Tripoli International Airport maybe a factor in deployments and movements around the south of Tripoli. 444 Combat Unit has surged into various areas, including Bani Walid, on previous occasions to carry out operations, and secure areas and in some cases, hold ground.

However, activity over the last few days has triggered speculation that something more maybe ongoing. Jweli, who stood against the GNU in 2022 after being marginalised, has allegedly visited Rajma (home of the LNA) twice in recent weeks while other commanders who also stood against the GNU have also been over in recent days. An unconfirmed report claims that Jweli has now ordered his forces to remain in their camps for 48 hours. In addition, Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar indicated he was still not done with Tripoli

during a visit to 106 Brigade HQ on March 04 to “check its readiness.” A field commander with Volcano of Rage, the operation to repel the LNA’s 2019/2020 offensive on Tripoli, has also stated he stands ready to counter any move north from Ash Shwayrif. Other reporting has suggested Tripoli has once again become the subject of discussions in the east and it comes as the expectation of impending political change this year builds.

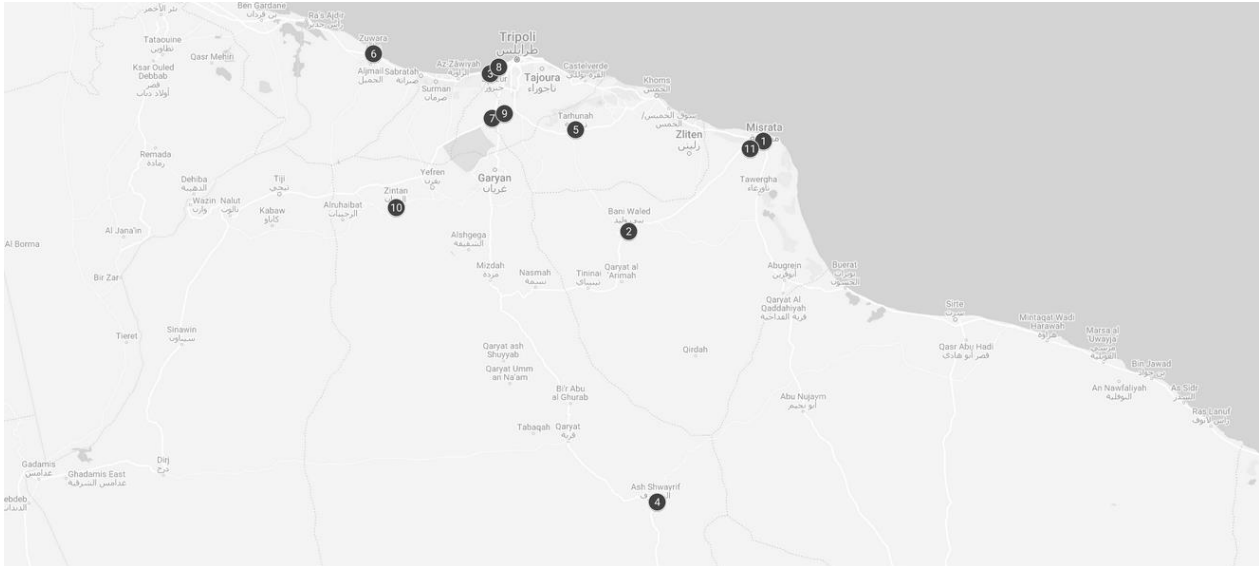
Concerns from the general population in Tripoli of armed escalations around Ramadan, due to start on or around March 22, have spiked in previous years and maybe fuelling some of the current speculation. It’s possible even that the LNA and others will capitalise on this to help build leverage over political negotiations which remain ongoing at this time. What does appear to be missing at present is any notable indication, including increased rhetoric from senior military figures in Libya and key international backers, about a return to conflict, or increased political tensions. Indeed, relations between the 5+5 Joint Military Commission remain good with both chief of staff’s recently meeting in Rome.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**



Graphic: Key movements over past 72 hours

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1 Threat Warning - Mar 08, Misrata Province, Al-Qoshi: 544 families were informed, via a loudspeaker, that they had 72 hours to vacate 68 buildings in the area. Local reports indicate that the families of foreign workers will have to leave with families of Libya's given alternative accommodation. Some buildings have already been demolished in the area which saw a large drugs raid on March 08 by JOF.

2 Security Operation - Mar 08, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: Law enforcement and the Tripoli Public Services Company have temporarily suspended the removal of random buildings in Bani Walid and withdrawn from the area. Work is expected to resume in 72 hours. This came as other reports claimed 444 Combat Unit had been ordered to withdraw from the city back to Tripoli.

3 Security Operation - Mar 08, Tripoli Province, Janzour: The Janzour Security Directorate seized a large number of yellow taxis violating various rules as per Ministry of Interior plans.

4 Threat Warning - Mar 08, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif: Nasser Amer, a field commander with Operation Volcano of Rage, announced that his forces were stood too to counter any movement of Major General Osama Jweli's forces from Ash Shwayrif towards Tripoli.

5 Other - Mar 08, Al-Murqub Province, Tarhunah: The body of Mohamed Ali Abdullah Ajaj, the mayor of Qaser Bin Ghashir, has been identified via DNA as being one of the bodies found in mass graves around Tarhunah. Ajaj was arrested by Kani Brigade in 2019 and his body was found on October 04, 2021 in the Al Mukab site.

6 Arrest - Mar 08, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Zuwara: The SSA (Zuwara) arrested three people in the old town for armed robbery and drugs trafficking.

7 Troop Movements - Mar 08 06:20, Al-Jafara Province, 4 Brigade Camp: A military convoy arrived in Aziziyah, home to Major General Osama Jweli's forces.

8 SAF - Mar 08 09:00, Tripoli Province, Burj Roundabout: Janzour Knights opened fire at the tires of a black KIA Bongo truck which failed to stop at a checkpoint on the al-Burj Roundabout. The driver stopped and was arrested. He was found to be under the influence of drugs but had no known connections to any criminality or terrorism. The incident took place around 500m from Palm City.

9 Threat Warning - Mar 08 15:26, Al-Jafara Province, Aziziyah: An unconfirmed report claimed that Major General Osama Jweli had ordered his forces to remain in their camps for the next 48 hours. This comes as the LNA mobilised forces to Ash Shwayrif causing some to speculate the two incidents are connected. Some have also connected the recent deployment of Zintani forces to Qaryat although other reports have suggested this was in response to a security operation by 444 Combat Unit.

10 Arrest - Mar 09, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Zintan: An Algerian national was arrested for criminal activity with suggestions she was selling drugs online through social media.

11 RTA - Mar 09, Misrata Province, Misrata: A young boy was killed in a road traffic accident.

Cyrenaica Region

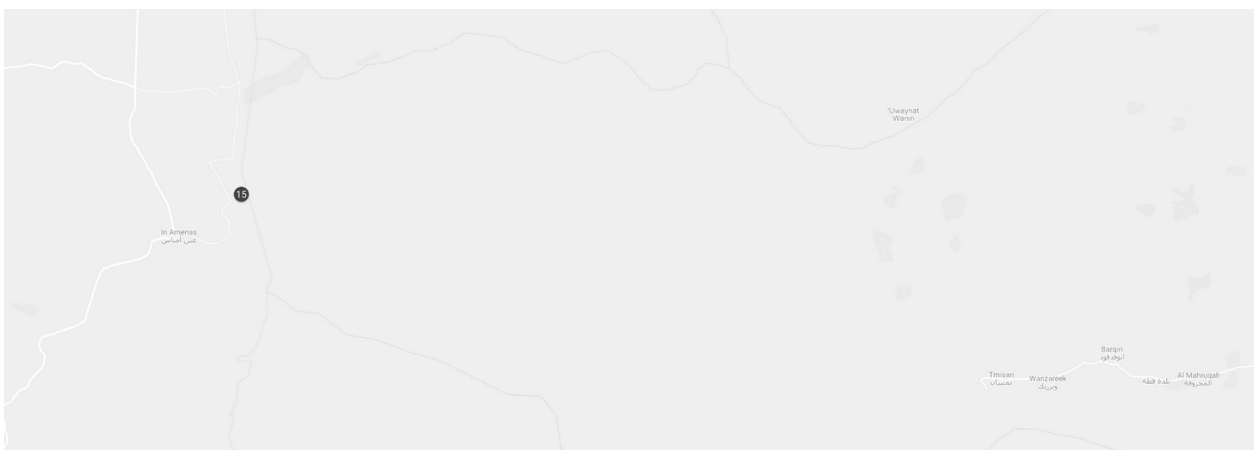


12 Security Operation - Mar 07, Benghazi Province, Sidi Yunis: Female security officers carried out raids on suspected prostitution operations and dens.

13 RTA - Mar 08 15:23, Al-Wahat Province, Jalu: A road traffic accident on the main desert highway claimed the life of Abdullah Mustafa Abdulla Al-Zawai from Barka. The road has been dubbed the "road of death" by some due to the number of RTAs.

14 SAF - Mar 09 01:40, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Central Support Forces opened fire on Al-Akhdar football fans, injuring three people including an elderly man.

Fezzan Region



15 Security Operation - Mar 08, Ghat Province, Libya - Algeria Border: 128 Battalion, commanded by Hassan Maatuq al-Zadma, carried out operations along the Algerian border covering the area from Checkpoint 45 to the Tlemcen area and the Anai border crossing.

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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SECURE EVERY DAY

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