

# Libya daily security analysis report

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# Latest Developments

## Political Developments

- Fathallah Al-Saiti, head of the Political Communication Committee in the HoR, met with Saif Gaddafi to discuss “recent political developments and the holding of elections within a short period.” Saiti initiated the meeting as part of efforts to “end the current political impasse.”
- A low-profile meeting allegedly took place on March 14 between the Speaker of the HoR, Aquila Saleh, and Abdulhakim Belhaj in Amman, Jordan. The meeting was said to have been coordinated by Abd al-Basit al-Badri, Libya’s ambassador to Jordan. This comes after a high-profile official visit to Jordan by Saleh.
- Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar met with the French Special Envoy, Paul Soler, and the French Ambassador, Mustafa Mahraj at the LNA General Command HQ in Rajma. Soler affirmed Paris’s support for the SRSG’s 2023 elections initiative. This comes after Soler spent the previous week in Tripoli meeting with President of the PC, Mohamed Menfi, Prime Minister (GNU) Dbeibah, head of the HCS, Khaled Mishri and the Minister of Foreign Affairs (GNU) Najla Mangoush.
- President Mohamed Menfi received a delegation from the Karaghla Tribe as part of his national reconciliation efforts. The delegation stated their support for the unity of Libya and the unification of state institutions.
- The Spanish Ambassador, Javier Garcia-Larrache, announced the return of more than 30 Spanish companies to Libya. The announcement came during a meeting with the Minister of Economy (GNU), Mohamed al-Hweij, in Tripoli.

## Security Developments

- Elements of the Border Guards Service have deployed to Ghadames. The service, under the command of Mohamed al-Marhani, is a unit established by Minister of the Interior (GNU) Emad Trabelsi in June 2022.
- Trabelsi also held a meeting to discuss his plans to secure Tripoli and its surroundings. His security commanders covering Tripoli, Jafara, Janzour, Tajura and the Four Areas were in attendance.
- Over 2 million narcotic tablets being smuggled into Libya were found at Misrata port, two days after 1.7 million tablets were found in similar circumstances at the port. In both cases, the tablets had been hidden inside vehicles being transported aboard the ships.
- Demolitions have begun in the Qoshi area of Misrata. This could result in tensions and demonstrations by affected local residents.

## Oil & Gas Developments

- Chairman of the NOC, Farhat Bengdara met with the advisor to the US President and coordinator for Middle East affairs in the National Security Council, Brett McGurk, at the White House in Washington. This comes as the US prioritizes the security and increase of supply from Libya as Europe looks to pivot away from Russian supplies.
- On March 14, reports indicate that crude oil production reached one million and 203 thousand barrels daily, while condenser production reached 53 thousand barrels daily over the previous 24 hours.
- Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) protested outside the prime minister’s office on March 14 to demand an adjustment in their salaries. This comes after PFG at Zawiyah Refinery threatened to go on strike and gave the GNU 10 days to meet a series of demands, including a pay increase, on March 02 and the PFG at Mellitah gave similar demands and a seven-day deadline on March 05. Both of which would have given the GNU until March 12. Although they have not gone on strike, the demonstration strongly suggests the issue remains unresolved.

# Assessment

## Security Developments

### Zintan: BGS deploys to Ghadames

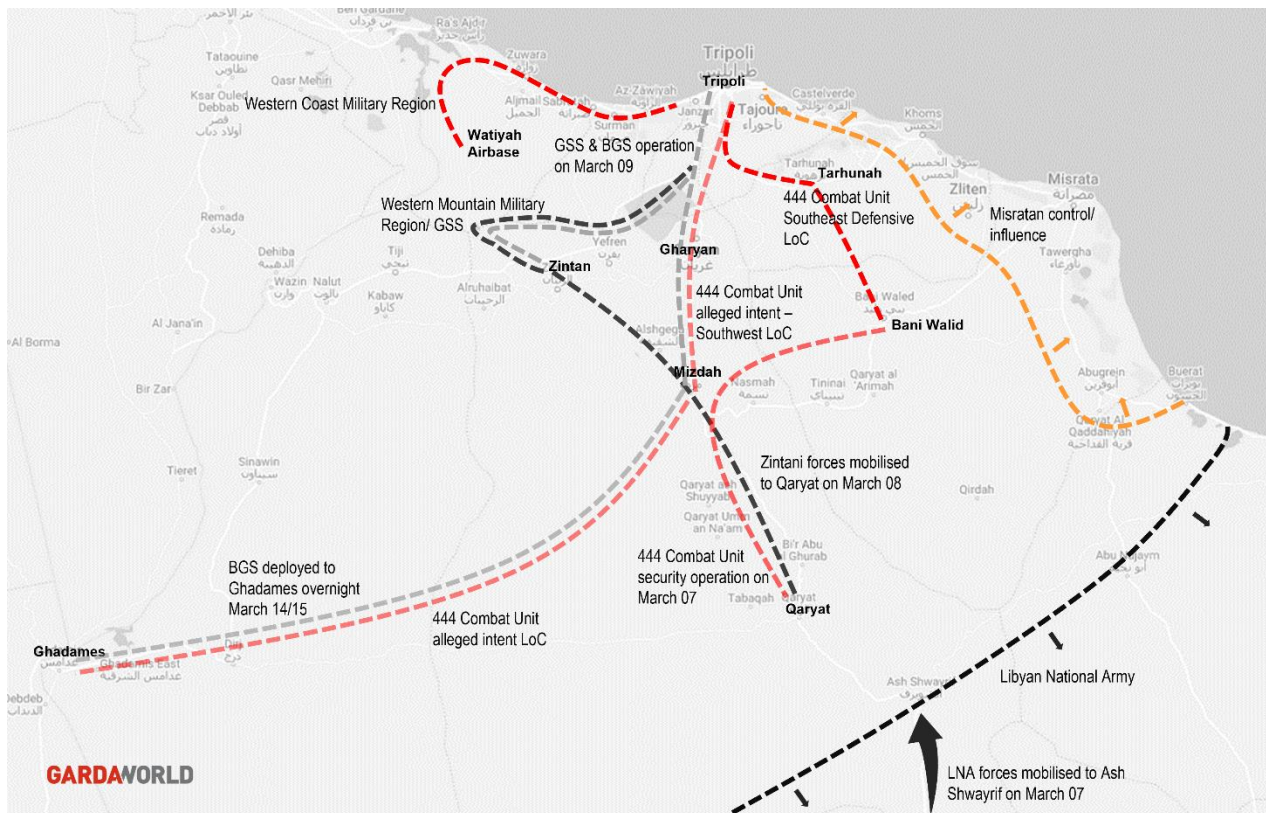
Elements of the Border Guards Service (BGS) deployed to Ghadames overnight March 14/ 15.

**COMMENT:** 'The service, under the command of Mohamed al-Marhani, is a unit established by Emad Trabelsi in June 2022. The deployment comes after a standoff between Trabelsi and the DCIM under the command of Mohamed Khoja in Tripoli on March 13. Tensions have built between Minister of the Interior, Emad Trabelsi, and Khoja after Trabelsi began making a series of moves aimed at undermining Khoja, reducing his power and influence, and pulling it into the Zintani sphere of influence. This deployment suggests that Trabelsi is determined to continue with his expansionist plans.



Image: BGS deploying to Ghadames (Social Media)

The deployment to Ghadames also follows unconfirmed reporting from March 10 that 444 Combat Unit was intent on deploying to Mizdah and Ghadames to create a new line of control as part of a strategy to contain Lt Gen Osama Jweli, another Zintani commander who is currently anti-GNU. 444 was also reported to have an intent to create a new line of control from Tripoli through Gharyan and into Mizdah. However, these areas have also seen a recent push from General Security Service (Trabelsi) and the BGS on March 09 with the forces establishing checkpoints and security locations along the route.

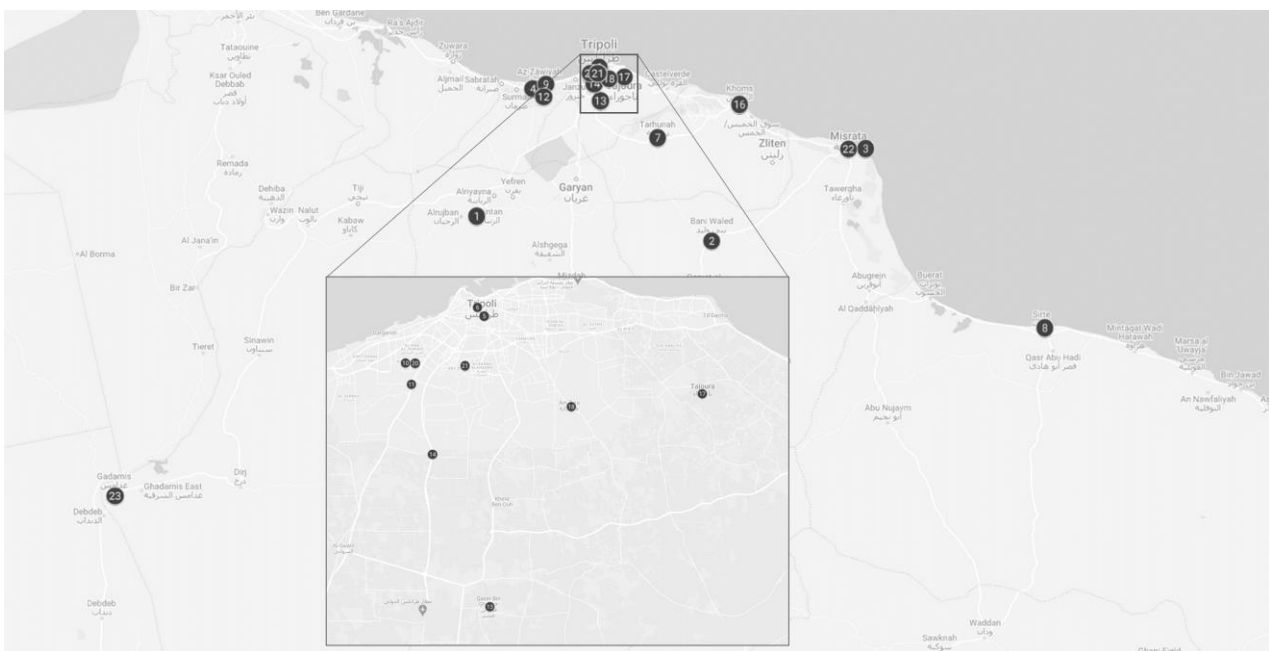


Graphic: Recent movements/ lines of control in Tripolitania along with assessed 444 Combat Unit intent

It's becoming more likely that Trabelsi, while clearly expanding his influence and territory in Tripolitania, is moving to protect and grow Zintan's sphere of influence. He may well have mobilised to create new lines of control south from Tripoli to Mizdah and now Ghadames to block any possible intent by 444 Combat Unit which could have impacted wider Zintani interests including those down in the southern oilfields where they retain influence and smuggling/ organised crime operations moving between the south and coastal areas. While on the surface Zintan may appear divided, its social cohesion will continue to ensure an overarching strategy to protect and promote the city's interests as it navigates the unpredictability of a fractured Libya. This strategy however is likely to exacerbate tensions with other armed force commanders in Tripoli and could see Trabelsi come under increasing pressure in the capital.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region



**1 Arrest - Mar 12, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Zintan:** Zintani Security Directorate in cooperation with the Western Mountain Military Region pursued Musab Al-Qarj who was mobile in his car. Qarj escaped briefly to a nearby house and exchanged fire with police officers but was arrested. Police seized his machine gun. Qarj is famous locally for closing off the valves at Rayayna, shutting in Sharara oilfield. In March 2022, an armed group led by Mohamed Al-Bashir Al-Qarj, closed off the valves.

**2 Security Operation - Mar 13, Misrata Province, Bani Walid:** 444 Combat Unit and GASO LEF resumed demolition operations on structures which allegedly violate public and private property rights.

**3 Security Operation - Mar 14, Misrata Province, Misrata Port:** The Joint Operations Force seized over 2 million narcotic tablets hidden inside vehicles aboard the Italian-flagged GRAND TEXAS, a vessel sailing from Antwerp, Belgium with 2,400 vessels onboard. The tables were found in identical see-through bags with some hidden inside the lining of a van. This comes after the find of 1.7 million Xanax tables on March 12 at the port. Those had also been smuggled inside vehicles being transported onboard a ship coming from Belgium.

**4 Security Announcement - Mar 14, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** Abu Obeida reportedly held a meeting with various Zawiyah commanders to discuss "uniting all military forces to fight criminals and bandits in the city." Abu Obeida returned to Libya in mid-February with the stated intent of establishing a military capability. This is likely part of a strategy to re-instate himself at the heart of military power in Zawiyah. Abu Obeida adheres to Jihadi Salafism.



**5 Demonstration - Mar 14, Tripoli Province, Prime Minister's Office:** Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) protested outside the prime minister's office to demand an adjustment in their salaries.

**6 Security Announcement - Mar 14, Tripoli Province, Ministry of Interior:** Minister of the Interior (GNU) Emad Trabelsi held a meeting to discuss his plans to secure Tripoli and its surroundings. His security commanders covering Tripoli, Jafara, Janzour, Tajura and the Four Areas were in attendance.

**7 Mass Grave - Mar 14, Al-Murqub Province, Tarhunah:** Two further victims of the mass graves in Tarhunah have been identified as a result of DNA analysis. The first victim identified was Hamza Shoaib Masoud Al-Mabrouk who was born in 1986. He was kidnapped on September 16, 2019 from his residence in Al-Jumua Market, Tarhuna by Kani Brigade. His body was discovered in the mass graves at the site of Al-Jumah Market. The second victim was named as Muhammad Mohamed Faraj Maatouq who was born in 1991. He was kidnapped on September 15, 2019. He was also taken from his residence in Al-Jumah Market, Tarhuna, and found in the mass graves at Al-Jumah Market site.

**8 Demonstration - Mar 14, Sirte Province, Sirte:** Teachers continued to protest in Sirte which is experiencing a partial shut-down of educational facilities as a result of the protests.

**9 Kidnap - Mar 14, Az Zawiyah Province, Jadda'im:** A suspected kidnapping was caught on CCTV in the area of Semafo Jadda'im along the Coastal Road (West).

**10 Troop Movements - Mar 14 11:19, Tripoli Province, Draiby:** Emad Trabelsi's forces deployed to the area.

**11 Troop Movements - Mar 14 13:05, Tripoli Province, Gypsum Gate:** A Zintani military force deployed to Gypsum Gate.

**12 Troop Movements - Mar 14 13:10, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** A military force mobilised from Zawiyah to Tripoli. The force is said to be in support of DCIM commanded by Mohamed Khoja.

**13 Crime - Mar 14 14:30, Tripoli Province, Qaser Bin Ghashir:** Three Chadian nationals carried out a home invasion. They were caught in the act and arrested.

**14 RTA - Mar 14 15:30, Tripoli Province, Airport Road:** Six members of one family, including two boys and two girls, died in a car accident on Airport Road.

**15 Assault - Mar 14 15:30, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms:** A physical attack took place.

**16 Assault - Mar 14 15:40, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms:** Following a physical attack, police carried out a raid on the home of the perpetrator, seizing weapons and ammunition. This included four rifles, an RPG with shells, magazines, a walkie-talkie, and body armour.

**17 Surveillance - Mar 14 16:30, Tripoli Province, Tajura:** A drone was reported over the area after taking off from Mitiga.

**18 Surveillance - Mar 14 16:31, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara:** A drone flew over the area.

**19 Surveillance - Mar 14 16:32, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem:** A drone flew over the area.

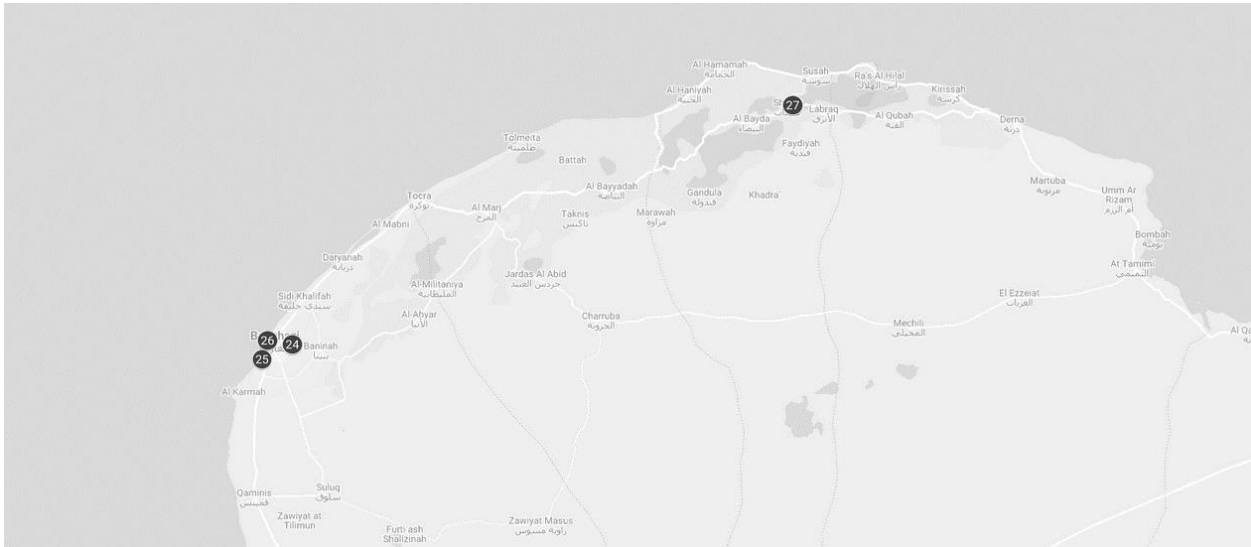
**20 Surveillance - Mar 14 16:33, Tripoli Province, Draiby:** A drone flew over the area.

**21 RTA - Mar 14 23:52, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem:** A road traffic accident occurred when a car hit a concrete separation barrier near the hospital.

**22 Security Operation - Mar 15, Misrata Province, Al-Qoshi:** The Misrata Cleaning Services Company announced the start of demolition and removal of buildings by order of the Attorney General in cooperation with the Inventory Committee and the Security Services. The plans have already drawn protests from locals affected by the demolitions.

**23 Troop Movements - Mar 15 00:27, Nalut Province, Ghadames:** Border Guards Service (Ministry of Interior - GNU) under the command of Muhammad al-Marhani deployed into Ghadames. The force comes under Minister of the Interior, Emad Trabelsi.

## Cyrenaica Region



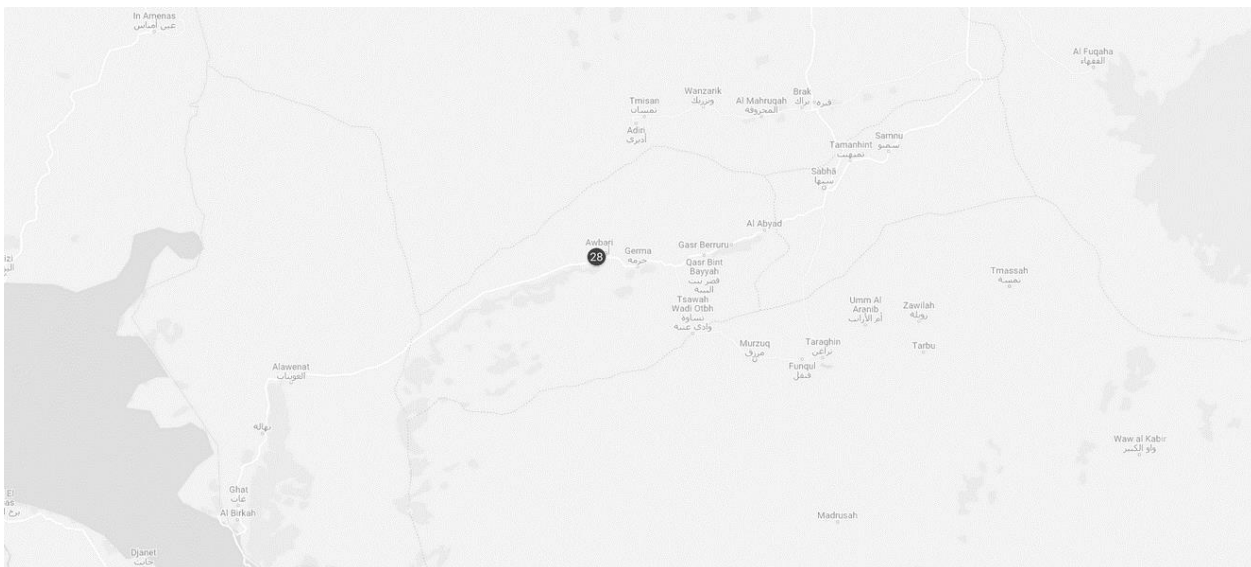
**24 Arrest - Mar 14, Benghazi Province, Boatni:** Boatni Police arrested a Libyan and Sudanese national for stealing copper wire.

**25 Arrest - Mar 14 21:15, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** Benghazi Security Directorate stopped and searched a vehicle which was found to be carrying a notable number of bottles of alcohol. Two people were arrested.

**26 Demonstration - Mar 14 22:30, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** Al Ahly Football club fans set several fires on the pitch in their main stadium in protest at their elimination from the club championship. The fans demanded the resignation of the club's board of directors.

**27 Demonstration - Mar 14 23:15, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Shahat Municipality Headquarters:** Locals angry over housing loans demonstrated outside the municipal headquarters. The Shahat Security Directorate closed the headquarters in order to protect it as tensions increased. The Council of Elders of the Hasa tribe called for a need to renounce violence and put down sedition after the municipal council building was closed by the Security Directorate. They further demanded the dismissal of the dean and members of the municipal council.

## Fezzan Region



**28 Security Operation - Mar 14 01:10, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari:** The Obari Security Directorate deployed security patrols in cooperation with the regional security forces in order to maintain security in the city. This comes after the LNA carried out raids on March 12 in the Sharb area of the city which caused some temporary destabilisation after locals pushed back and demanded they leave.

## 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, 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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