

Libya daily security analysis report

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Prepared by:
Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has expressed its desire to reopen its embassy in Libya. This comes after the visit of an Iraqi delegation to Tripoli. They met with National Security Adviser, Ibrahim Bushnaf, who expressed his support for the reopening of an embassy in Tripoli and a consulate in Benghazi.

Security Developments

- Director of the Moral Guidance Department (LNA) General Khaled Al-Mahjoub stated that the ten missing barrels of uranium ore, reported missing by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on March 14, had been found 5km away from the original storage place.
- Minister of the Interior (GNU) Emad Trabelsi gave a press statement following several high-level security meetings in which he stated that the “security plan to secure the capital had begun to show its impact on the ground.”

Infrastructure Developments

- The Ministry of Transport (GNU) signed a memorandum of understanding to start building the transit road project “Misrata – Tamanhint – Agades. This came on the sidelines of the Made in Libya forum at the Niger, the land of promising opportunities and transit trade conference in Niamey. The road is part of a strategy which would see Libya become the link between the Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan countries.

Assessment

Security Developments

LNA: Missing uranium found

Director of the Moral Guidance Department (LNA) General Khaled Al-Mahjoub published a video denying the IAEA’s report that 2.5 tons of uranium ore in 10 barrels had gone missing from a site near Tamanhint. General Mahjoub stated that the missing barrels were found 5km away from the original storage place. The video showed 18 blue barrels in the desert. General Mahjoub stated that the original storage site was a warehouse which had been visited by the IAEA in 2020 and sealed with red wax. It was subsequently raided by a Chadian rebel group likely looking for weapons and ammunition. The barrels were taken and then dumped when it was discovered they did not contain weapons. The IAEA stated it was trying to verify Mahjoub's report.

COMMENT: ‘The IAEA reported that ten barrels were missing from the warehouse in Fezzan on March 14 with it hitting the news on March 16. The IAEA stated they had had to postpone a visit last year due to fighting in the area and were unclear as to how long the barrels had been missing. The LNA has moved quickly to respond, allegedly finding the barrels although there appears to be a discrepancy in numbers (10 missing with 18 found). The missing barrels have made international news and are a potential source of embarrassment for the LNA which is the dominant security provider in the area.’ **COMMENT ENDS.**

Tripoli: Mol security plan update

Minister of the Interior (GNU) Emad Trabelsi gave a press statement on the evening of March 15 following several high-level security meetings in which he stated that the “security plan to secure the capital had begun to show its impact on the ground.” He further stated that security in the capital was “operating more effectively” and that there had been a significant improvement in the financial and administrative situation of the Ministry of Interior (GNU). Trabelsi stated that 9,000 security personnel had been rehired and that the ministry was working to “contain the revolutionaries and armed factions” and was working to integrate them into the country’s security forces.

He added that he had agreed with a number of leaders of “revolutionary” armed groups to give the ministry an opportunity to carry out its duties. This included lifting social protections for wanted criminals who he stated should be handed over to police stations where the ministry would “ensure their legal rights.”

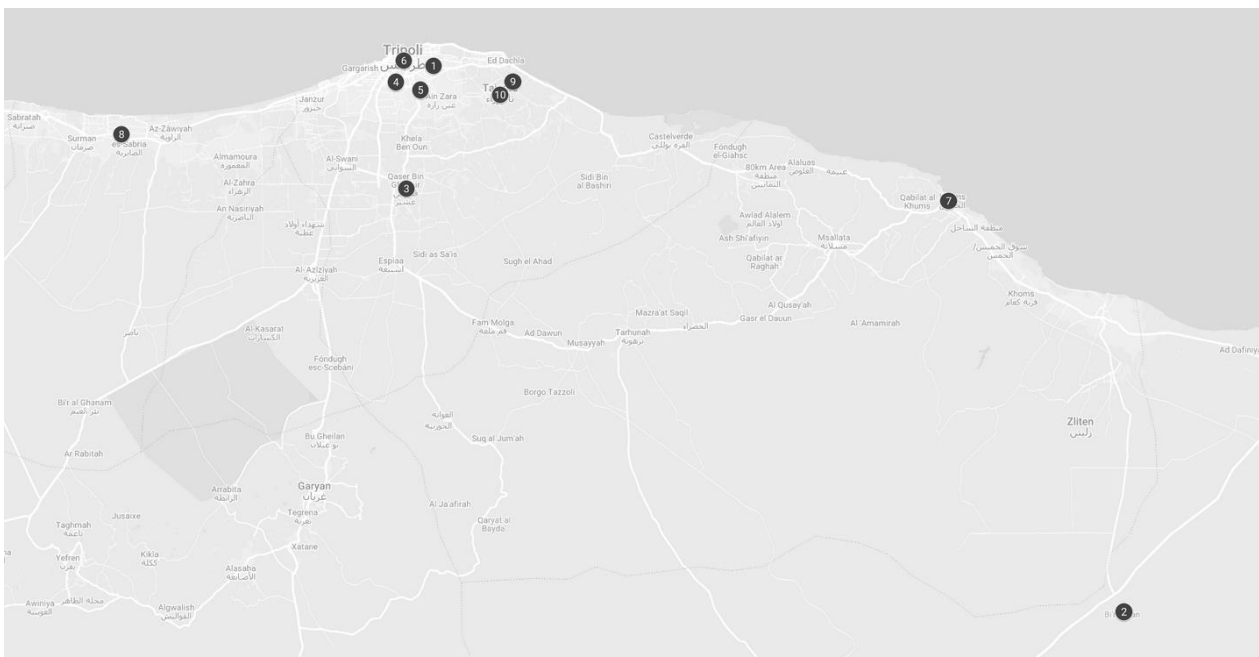
Al-Trabelsi reiterated his ministry's support for holding elections and stated that they would work to “combat illegal immigration” through a strategic plan. He also called on international organizations and the European Union to support his ministry in combating illegal immigration by providing training and equipment programs.

COMMENT: ‘Although the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) comes under the ministry, its likely Trabelsi’s point about working to combat illegal immigration is referring more to the Desert Patrols and Border Guards Service (BGS). The BGS was established last June by Trabelsi and is headed by one of his deputies. The unit has been undermining the DCIM, headed by Mohamed Khoja (who took over from a Zintani commander) a move which triggered a mobilisation from Khoja on March 13 leading to a rapid militarisation of western Tripoli for a number of hours as he carried out a show of force in front of Trabelsi. The focus on illegal migration is also likely designed to shore up Trabelsi’s position by building support in Rome where illegal migration from Libya remains a political priority.

The “rehiring” of 9,000 people, in an already overinflated security sector goes against true SSR/ DDR and strongly suggests Trabelsi is looking to strengthen his, and Zintan’s, military position in the region.’
COMMENT ENDS.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



1 Security Operation - Mar 16, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Security Directorate of Tripoli carried out an operation targeting motorbikes and quad bikes.

2 RTA - Mar 16 10:30, Tripoli Province, Bir Dufan: A vehicle transporting 40 illegal migrants ended up burnt out. Eight people were wounded and transferred to hospital. The rest were taken to a detention facility in Zliten.

UPDATE 3 Armed Attack - Mar 16 13:00, Tripoli Province, Qaser Bin Ghashir: An armed brawl in the Al-Ahdaid market has reportedly resulted in the deaths of two members of 444 Combat Unit. Later reports suggested that the reports were "not completely true" suggesting that they had been inflated. Given the lack of response from 444 it's possible that reports of two of their members being killed are inaccurate.

4 SAF - Mar 16 19:06, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem: Small arms fire was heard in the area.

5 Surveillance - Mar 16 20:11, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A drone was overflying the "western region."

6 SAF - Mar 16 20:38, Tripoli Province, DCIM HQ: Small arms fire were heard in the area.

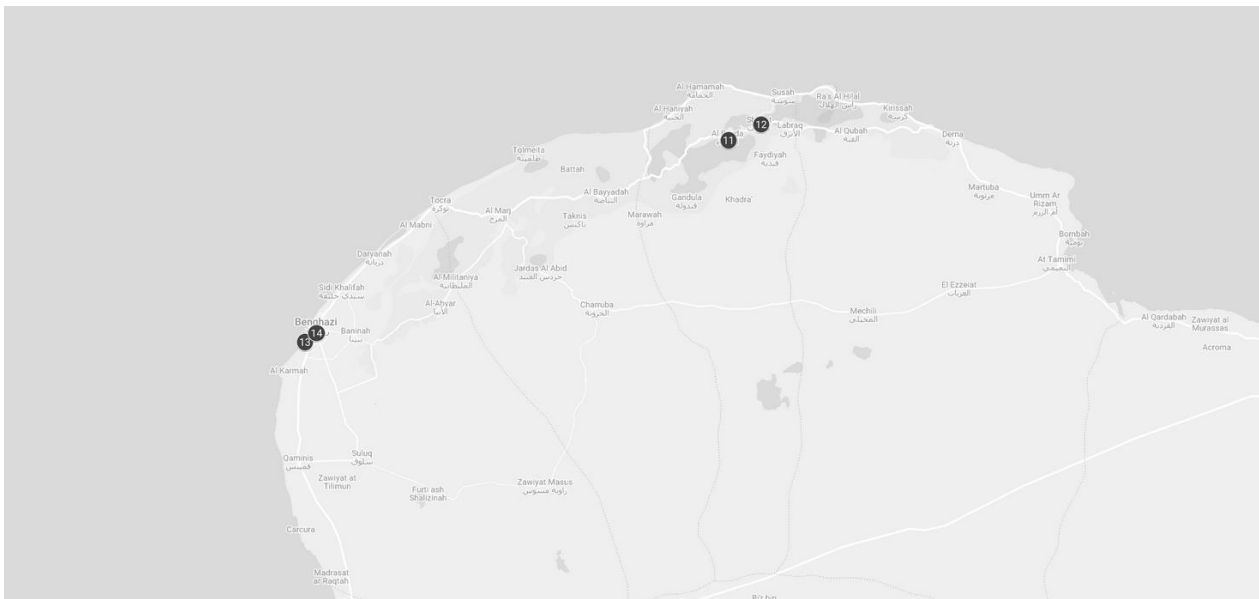
7 Security Announcement - Mar 17, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms: A Turkish warship entered the naval base.

8 Carjacking - Mar 17 01:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Abu Issa: The owner of a vehicle was shot at during an armed carjacking. The perpetrators were mobiles and withdrew towards Es Sabria Agricultural Society.

9 SAF - Mar 17 03:00, Tripoli Province, Rahba Camp (2): Small arms fire was heard in the area.

10 RTA - Mar 17 11:36, Tripoli Province, Tajura: A serious accident occurred after a car crashed while speeding. The occupants were in critical condition and transferred to Tajura Hospital.

Cyrenaica Region



11 Security Operation - Mar 16 00:00, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: The Jebel Akhdar Joint Security Room and the Bayda Security Directorate arrested an unknown number of Egyptian nationals who had acquired a boat with the intention of illegally crossing to Europe.

12 Security Operation - Mar 16 00:00, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Shahat: The Jebel Akhdar Joint Security Room raided a warehouse and freed an unspecified number of illegal immigrants who were being held for ransom.

13 Security Announcement - Mar 16, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: The Benghazi Security Directorate, heads of departments and police stations as well as Deputy Minister of the Interior (GNS) Faraj Gaim, held a meeting to review the recent security operations which have been taking place in Benghazi.

14 RPG - Mar 16 02:00, Benghazi Province, Majouri: A rocket-propelled grenade was fired in the area for an unknown reason.

Fezzan Region



15 Security Operation - Mar 15, Murzuq Province, Umm Al-Aranib: GASO LEF and the Southern Operations Room (LNA) raided and closed illegal petrol stations and confiscated trucks and equipment.

16 Security Operation - Mar 16, Murzuq Province, Murzuq: 10 Battalion (LNA) and GASO LEF deployed to Murzuq to counter fuel smuggling activity.

17 Security Announcement - Mar 16 19:23, Sabha Province, Tamanhint: Director of the Moral Guidance Department (LNA) General Khaled Al-Mahjoub published a video denying the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) report that 2.5 tons of uranium ore in 10 barrels had gone missing from a site near Tamanhint.

18 Security Operation - Mar 16 23:07, Sabha Province, Sabha: The LNA deployed a large force onto the streets of the city.

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

Country address:

RMT House, Turkish School Road
Sarraj
Tripoli
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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