

Libya daily security analysis report

April 12, 2023

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- In an interview with the Russian Sputnik News Agency, PM (GNS) Bashagha asserted that it was too early to talk about his candidacy in any presidential election. He added that “everything depends on the circumstances and developments that I will take into consideration, the most important of which is supporting the electoral process and the democratic choice in my country, whether through candidacy or contributing to its success from abroad.” **COMMENT:** Unsurprisingly, given his inability to influence the process, Bashagha is taking a very neutral stance on the ongoing 6+6 negotiations and in keeping with the GNU and the PC has opted to voice his support for the election process. However, he has the most to potentially gain from a successful outcome to the current election process given his current position as a leader of a virtual shadow government with limited executive and budgetary authority. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- The Italian Government announced a six-month national to combat the rising numbers of migrants arriving by sea. A special commissioner is expected to be named and initial funding has been approved for 5 million Euro. The reason for the decision was explained as being “to carry out with urgency extraordinary measures to reduce congestion” at a small Italian island as well as the processing and repatriation of migrants who don’t have the requisites to remain. **COMMENT:** The number of migrants arriving on Italian shores has increased significantly, with 31,000 arriving in 2023, compared to 8,000 in the same period for 2022 and 2021. While the reason for the sudden influx can not be determined by one single factor, recent reporting indicates that flights operated by Cham Airlines from Syria to Benghazi have been utilized for the sole purpose of creating a migrant route for onward travel to Europe. This is supported by reports indicating that the majority of migrants arriving in Italy by sea from Libya in 2023 departed from the east of the country, rather than the more familiar embarkation points along the northwestern coastline. This sudden increase, during the term of an Italian government elected on a strong anti-immigration platform, therefore provides ample justification to strengthen border controls and repatriation procedures. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Security Developments

- The LNA have continued their border operations with units from 128 Brigade, TBZ Brigade, 73rd Brigade and the 155th, 10th and 676th Battalions conducting mobile Southern Border Strip. **COMMENT:** The operations have been well publicized, both for their purpose and as a demonstration of inter-unit cooperation within the LNA. It also continues to signal LNA intent to control the borders in areas under their control and counters any potential for MoI Border Force to encroach into LNA areas of control or influence. **COMMENT ENDS.**



Photos -LNA Units form up under Major General Mabrouk -Source: Social media

- In a closed session, the HoR published a new General Intelligence Law. HoR speaker Aquila Saleh referred the law to reorganise the new intelligence service to the General Intelligence Service to implement. The law gives the head of the new Intelligence Service the status of advisor to the head of state and would be directly subordinate to the head of state. Furthermore, the agency would not

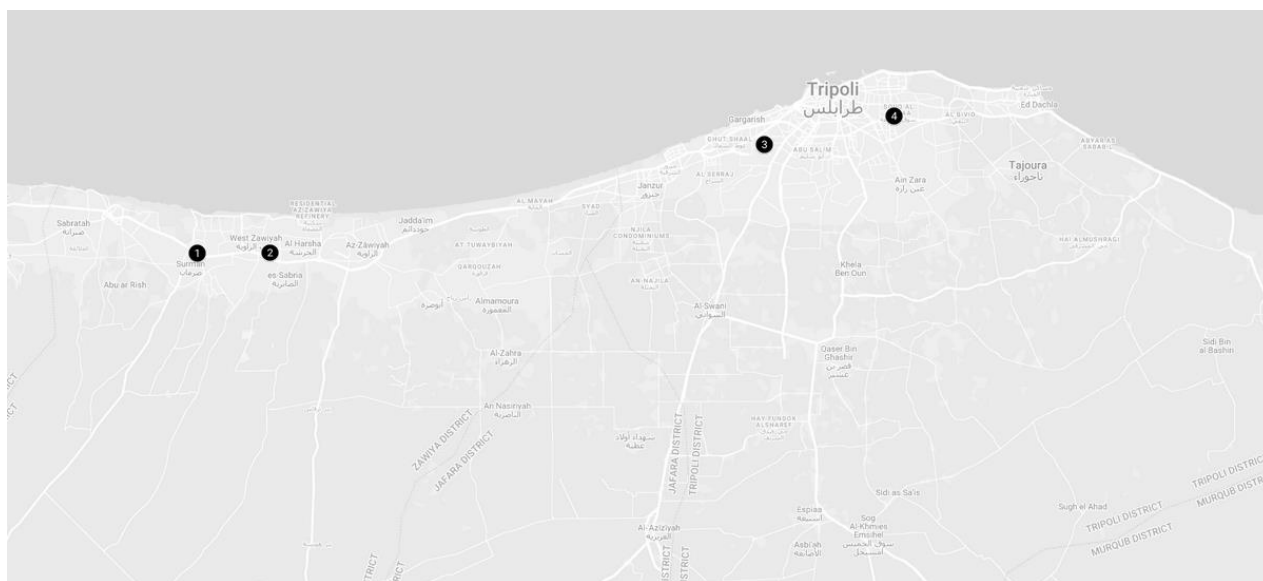
be subject to the oversight of any external body in order to preserve the confidentiality of its work. **COMMENT:** The law appears to further concentrate the power of the state in one individual (the President), one of the key aspects of the 13th constitutional amendment that was strongly contested by those opposed to the amendment. This concentration of power has been a stance enthusiastically promoted by Saleh, with the much contested, and unilaterally adopted election laws for the Dec 2021 elections, also seeing the prerogatives of the President greatly enhanced by allowing the holder to both appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister. The creation and subsequent subordination of the national intelligence agency, with no external oversight, would therefore represent a near 'personal' intelligence asset to a sitting President which could be subject to significant abuses of power in the pursuit of a continuance in office. **COMMENT ENDS.**

Oil and Gas Developments

- The Algerian energy company, Sonatrach, announced that it had made six oil and gas discoveries during the first quarter of this year, including a discovery near the border with Libya. Sonatrach added that it had discovered reserves of oil and gas in the "Ohant" area in the border state of Illizi with Libya, with a daily flow rate of 336,930 cubic meters of gas, and 1,504 barrels of condensate.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



- 1. Kidnap - Apr 11 17:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman:** A child was allegedly kidnapped by an unidentified armed group.
- 2. Arrest - Apr 11, Az Zawiyah Province, Abu Issa:** A Libyan fuel station vendor, a Chadian worker and three customers were arrested at an illegal fuel station.
- 3. Crime - Apr 11, Tripoli Province, Edraiby:** The theft of 105 gas cylinders resulted in the arrest of one perpetrator. The suspect later admitted that the operation had been organised by a Nigerian national.
- 4. Arrest - Apr 12, Tripoli Province, Tripoli:** A US citizen was arrested by the ISA.

Cyrenaica Region

NSTR

Fezzan Region



5. Security Operation - Apr 11 20:00, Murzuq Province, Libya - Niger Border: The LNA's 128 Brigade, TBZ Brigade, 73rd Brigade and the 155th, 10th and 676th Battalions were reported as continuing operations in the Southern Border Strip.

Offshore

NSTR

Outlook

Short Term Outlook

- Libya 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. SRSB Abdoulaye Bathily is attempting to wrest some control away from the two entities in a bid to make progress towards elections in 2023, however, they continue to enjoy the support of key regional and international backers. 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.
- 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. This instability along the coastline may be positively impacted by efforts in Zawiyah to reorganise armed groups which could increase cooperation. 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, the path to elections in 2023 will be fraught with difficulties 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
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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