

# Libya daily security analysis report

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# Latest Developments

## Political Developments

- Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, Vasily Nebenzya met with the Libyan Permanent Representative to the UN, Taher el-Sonni to discuss the recent developments in Libya and the challenges facing the political track and the electoral process. The two also discussed the role that Russia could play to support Libyan stability and the importance of joint action between the two nations in order to fulfil the aspirations of the Libyan people. **COMMENT:** Russia currently hold the presidency of the UNSC, with Nebenzya already using this opportunity to blame Western actions for the ongoing issues in the Sahel. This is likely to continue for the remainder of the month, with a special session on Libya on Apr 18 being a prime opportunity for Russia to criticize previous NATO action in Libya as a counter to the current efforts, led by the US, to remove Wagner forces from the country. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- The head of the HCS travelled to Istanbul where he met with the Turkish Foreign Minister, Melvut Cavusoglu with the two discussing the election laws and how to ensure the election process was a success.

## Security Developments

- Libya's Attorney General's Office ordered that the former Acting Financial Controller at the Libyan Diplomatic Mission in Egypt be remanded in custody. This was in response to the violation of the rules and regulations for managing public funds by deliberately disposing of millions of Egyptian pounds in contravention of the governing rules and the violation of the requirements of reviewing financial operations and examining their compatibility with financial systems.

## Regional Developments

- Significant fighting erupted in Khartoum, Sudan on the morning of Apr 15 between the Sudanese Army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Force. The developments have been labelled as a coup by the RSF against the current military government of Sudan.

# Assessment

## Civil Conflict Breaks Out in Sudan

Significant fighting erupted in Khartoum, Sudan on the morning of Apr 15 between the Sudanese Army and the Rapid Support Force (RSF). The developments have been categorized as a coup by the RSF against the current military government of Sudan.



Photos: Various Images of Khartoum on Apr 15 – Source: Social media

As with the initial period in any conflict, reporting is confused with various claims being made and disputed by both sides.

The clashes followed a period of increased tension in the Khartoum area after the reported mobilization of RSF forces under Major General Dagalo (Hemeti), who is also Vice President of the ruling military Sovereign Council. Several sources report that in a coordinated attack on the morning of April 15, RSF assaulted several key Sudanese Army locations, the Presidential compound, Meroe military airport and the civilian airport, with footage showing Saudi and Ukrainian civilian aircraft ablaze at the latter. In an interview with Al Jazeera, Dagalo described the current President of the Sovereign Council, Abdel Fattah al Burhan as a “criminal who is destroying the country” and that his troops were winning the battle against the Armed Forces of Sudan. Footage of airstrikes by both fixed and rotary-winged assets in Khartoum has been posted on social media sites, with coverage indicating that fighting is widespread and intense.

**COMMENT:** The RSF is a paramilitary force established in 2013 in response to anti-government rebel movements in Darfur and has been accused of human rights abuses in Darfur and elsewhere. In the four years since the ouster of al-Bashir, the RSF has been involved in over 155 civilian targeting incidents and over 300 reported civilian fatalities. In one incident, a violent crackdown on protesters on Jun 3, 2019 by security forces, including the RSF, over 100 civilians and hundreds were injured.

Its commander Gen Mohamed Dagalo, the deputy head of Sudan's ruling council has been a mainstay in the military and increasingly in the political landscape, having a prominent role in the Omar al-Bashir regime, the transitional civilian administration between 2019 and 2021 and the subsequent military administration (Sovereign Council) which seized power in the military coup in October 2021.

The development is likely to impact the situation in southern Libya given the relationship between the RSF and the LNA, with the former providing forces to the latter in the form of the Janjaweed units. UN investigations detailed the deployment of at least 1000 Janjaweed forces by Dagalo 2019 to secure key sites in the east of the country to free up LNA forces for the then ongoing conflict. It is believed that other Sudanese forces are likely to have entered Libya over the same period, however, no reliable figures on numbers are available.

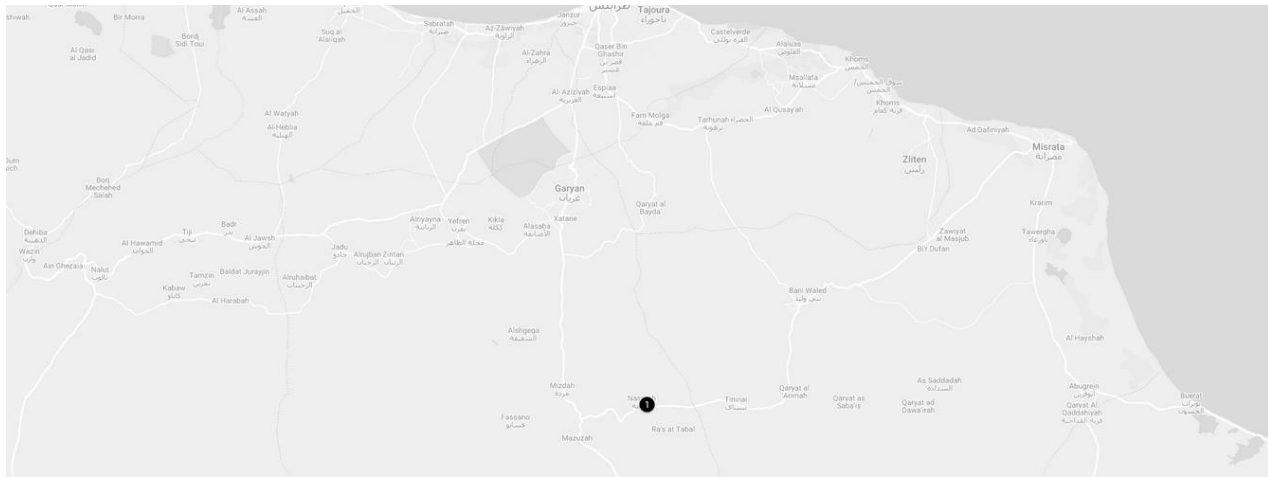
Sudanese forces have remained in the country in one form or another in the intervening years, with the relationship between the Haftar family and Dagalo remaining strong, as evidenced by the meeting of Siddiq Haftar and Dagalo on Apr 12, 2023, following his appointment of honorary President of a Sudanese football club. However, the immediate impact on Libya may not be negative, with the prospect of either a swift victory or a prolonged civil conflict, expected to pull the remaining Janjaweed forces back to Sudan. There are of course less predictable medium and long-term considerations. These include a significant increase in Sudanese illegal migrant smuggling in the southern region thereby impacting the shadow economy of the south and increasing social pressures, the movement of forces of the defeated side into southern Libya (which presumes that the conflict is shortlived) and an increase in the movement of illegal weapons, whether into or out of Libya. While such outcomes would represent a significant negative impact, they remain wholly dependent on how the very unpredictable situation in Sudan develops. **COMMENT ENDS.**



*Photo: Siddiq Haftar meets with Dagalo – 12 Apr*

# Significant Incidents

## Tripolitania Region

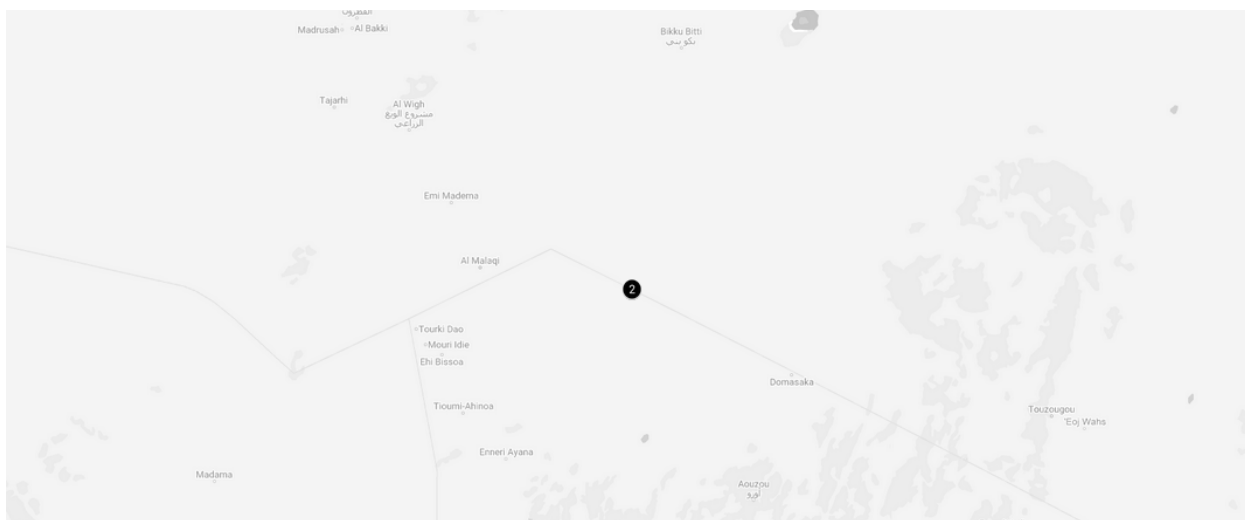


- 1. Arrest - Apr 13 23:00, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara:** Rahba al Duru Battalion (Bogra) arrested several African nationals accused of home invasion.
- 2. Security Operation - Apr 13, Tripoli Province, Tajura:** The GASO LEF seized and cleared three hectares and returned it to its legal owner.
- 3. Security Operation - Apr 13, Misrata Province, Washka:** The Misratan Oil Assets Unit conducted patrols on oil infrastructure in the Krarim, Hisha and Washka areas.

## Cyrenaica Region

NSTR

## Fezzan Region



- 2. Troop Movements - Apr 14 02:30, Murzuq Province, Libya - Chadian Border:** Unconfirmed sources reported an increase in LNA preparedness in the Chad border region. This follows extensive reporting on the increase in LNA border operations in the Salvador Triangle bordering Chad and Algeria.

# 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. SRSG 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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