

Libya daily security analysis report

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- Following the briefing from SRSG Bathily to the UNSC on Feb 19 several sitting members of the council gave statements on the Libya situation. In the main, these echoed long-standing demands, including calls for free and fair elections, respect for human rights, and praise for the continued work of the JMC 5+5.
- The Russian permanent representative to the UNSC, and current president of the UNSC, Vasily Nebenzya, stressed that the most important element is making progress in a sustainable settlement in Libya in the context of a controlled political process and that this is determined by Libyans with no outside interference. He also called on Libyan parties to remain flexible and stressed the importance of “participation of all political forces without any discrimination in the elections.” On security matters, Nebenzya stressed the need to integrate all military units into a unified national army and expressed Russia’s desire to see the removal of all foreign military forces from Libyan soil, adding this must be conducted in a gradual and balanced manner. **COMMENT:** While Nebenzya’s comments are similar to those of other speakers at the meeting, several points are notable and underline that there has been little to no change in the Russian position on Libya. Russia has been well documented as being supportive of Saif Ghaddafi’s candidacy for any future presidential election, and Nebenzya’s call for the participation of all political forces signals that this position remains unchanged. Alongside Haftar, Ghaddafi remains one of the most contentious potential candidates and Russia’s support for Ghaddafi is likely based on lessening Western influence in Libyan affairs, given the well-founded belief that Ghaddafi would be hostile to Western outreach. Furthermore, Russia has long voiced its objection to the removal of Muammar Ghaddafi by the 2011 NATO operation and did not vote to support the UNSC resolution to authorize the use of force, instead abstaining from the vote. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is at pains to continually emphasize the destabilizing role that NATO and the West had on Libya, raising it as a point in nearly all statements on Libya. The comments on the withdrawal of foreign forces also show a consistency in the Russian position, with the gradual and balanced withdrawal concept being voiced on several occasions before. Russia has maintained that unbalancing the opposing forces may prompt the stronger side to resume the conflict, and while this has some currency, it also allows for continued delay given the range of actors involved in the removal of all foreign forces, including those of Russia. **COMMENT ENDS.**
- The Assistant SRSG Raisedon Zeningamet with representatives of the gathering of political parties (the Libya Development Party, the Change Party, the Justice and Construction Party, the Technocrats Party, the National Front and the National Workers Party) to discuss preparations for the elections. The attendees exchanged ideas on avoiding a repeat of the factors that prevented holding elections in 2021 and conveyed what they considered to be shortcomings in the 13th Constitutional Amendment. The attendees called for an electoral system that includes political parties, stressing the importance of taking into account their views in formulating the constitutional and legislative framework for elections.

Regional Developments

- Fighting has continued for a fifth day in Sudan, with the focus appearing to remain on Khartoum, however, conflict has been reported outside the capital, with civilian fatalities being reported throughout the Darfur region and north of the capital around the town of Merowe. A 24hr ceasefire that was announced following pressure from the International Community to allow civilians to leave the conflict zone, collapsed after minutes with Government forces and the opposing Rapid Support Forces blaming each other for not respecting the cessation. Libya’s permanent representative to the UN, Taher al-Soni, raised the issue of the conflict during the UNSC meeting on Apr 18, warning that “The situation in Sudan will undoubtedly have a direct and negative impact, not only on Sudan, but also on Libya and neighbouring countries, especially in the Libyan south.” **COMMENT:** The prospect of foreign forces transiting the Libyan/Sudanese border has been raised on numerous occasions since fighting broke out. Recent reporting indicates that additional LNA forces have been

deployed to the border area with calls to close all border crossing points as was implemented when conflict broke out in Chad. **COMMENT ENDS**,

Security Developments

- Two incidents were reported in the Zawiyah area on Apr 18. In Zawiyah's Martyrs Square SAF (Small Arms Fire) was noted at 1900hrs, with unconfirmed reports of an explosion. Raids were also conducted by the Western Region Security Directorate Support Force targeting smuggled fuel sales on the Coastal Road. During the operation, the force was engaged with SAF in the area of the refinery bridge in Zawiyah.

Economic Developments

- The GNU Minister of Economy and Trade, Muhammad al-Hawij chaired a meeting to discuss the preparations for the 49th Tripoli International Fair with the Indonesian Ambassador to Libya, Did Rafai. The meeting was also attended by the General Authority for Exhibitions, Issam Al-Awl, and the General Manager of the Tripoli International Fair, Islam Jaafar and focused on arrangements for Indonesian firms participating in the event.

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region

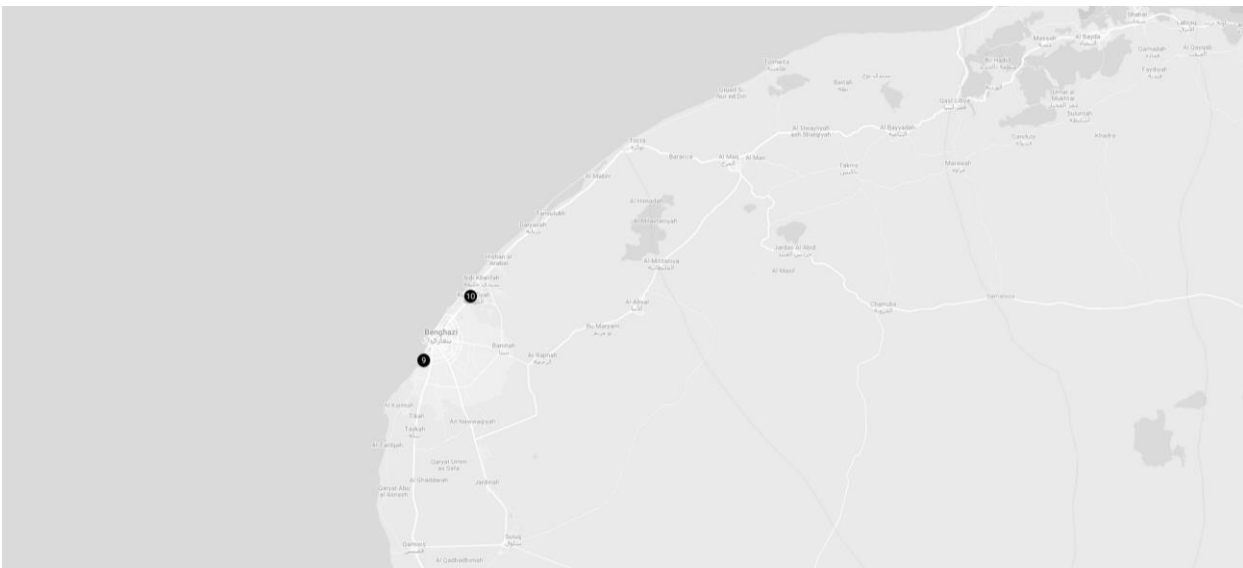


1. Other - Apr 18 23:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratha: A number of bodies of migrants were recovered from the shorefront near Sabrathah. A burnt rubber boat was found nearby.

2. Security Operation - Apr 18, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman: The Western Region Security Directorate Support Force provided security for the delivery of fuel to six petrol stations.

3. **Armed Clash - Apr 18 18:40, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah:** A suspected armed clash, including explosions, was reported in the area of Martyrs Square.
4. **Security Operation - Apr 19 00:00, Tripoli Province, Janzour:** SSA Janzour Branch conducted patrols and VCPs.
5. **Crime - Apr 18 22:00, Tripoli Province, Ghut al-Shaal:** A home invasion was reported in Ghut al Shaal. The perpetrators were alleged to be African nationals.
6. **SAF - Apr 19 01:00, Tripoli Province, Najila:** SAF was reported, along with a possible armed group mobilization.
7. **Security Operation - Apr 18, Sirte Province, Sirte:** ISA Sirte Branch and Sirte Security Directorate shut down a symposium held by the 'Together for the Homeland' political party at approx. 2300hrs on April 18. Suspected party members, Saleh Abdel-Salam Al-Zarrouk and Al-Mabrouk Abdel-Rahman Onaiza, as well as a photographer, were detained.
8. **Security Operation - Apr 18, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Qaryat:** Qayrat Desert Patrols unit was reported as conducting patrol operations.

Cyrenaica Region



9. **Crime - Apr 18, Benghazi Province, Benghazi:** Water pumps and copper wiring were stolen during a home invasion in al-Faakat. A suspect was later arrested.
10. **Crime - Apr 17, Benghazi Province, Kuwayfiah:** Gas Cylinders were stolen during a home invasion. Two suspects were later arrested.

Fezzan Region

NSTR

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 21 - 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
ISA – Internal Security Agency
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
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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