

GEOS



Libya

WEEKLY BRIEF

April 05th - April 11th, 2023



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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

POLITICS: This week, another meeting of the JMC took place in Benghazi, and brought together military and security leaders from Libya's western, southern and eastern regions. The meeting was also attended by the Head of the UNSMIL, Abdoulaye Bathily, who delivered the opening remarks. Similarly to the previous meeting that took place in Tripoli, this gathering aimed to bring together both sides of the JMC alongside military leaders from around Libya in order to exchange views and strategies and potentially increase the level of cooperation.

In his opening statement, Bathily stressed his hopes for a code of conduct outlining a favourable political environment that would be agreed upon by all members of the meeting. He described the gathering as a symbol of unity, and a symbol of a new sovereign Libya. He called for reconciliation between the two sides and reiterated his plea to the group to ensure security during elections, in particular for women candidates and voters.

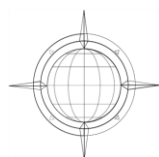
On 08/04, the JMC issued a conclusive statement summarizing the agreements following the conference. Six points were agreed upon in the meeting, as outlined in the statement released by UNSMIL:

- 1) « Expressed full commitment to the conclusions of the dialogue between the 5+5 JMC and the military and security leaders in Tunis & Tripoli.
- 2) Re-affirmed the readiness of the attendees to provide all forms of support to secure all stages of the elections.
- 3) Supported the efforts of the 5+5 JMC and its Libyan Liaison Committees on the withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign fighters.
- 4) Initiated practical measures to start addressing the problems of internally displaced persons and missing persons and ensure their safe return through coordination among the concerned security agencies in the various regions of Libya.
- 5) Exchanged information on the detainees held by both sides and considered practical steps to exchange detainees as soon as possible.
- 6) Expressed appreciation for the initiative of the General Command to release six detainees from the western region who are held in custody for security issues. »

It was announced that a follow-up meeting would take place in Sebha after Ramadan.

Following the meeting, several national and international actors welcomed the event. On 08/04, during a meeting with Bathily, the US Ambassador and Special Envoy to Libya, Richard Norland, commended the JMC meeting and their efforts to agree on the departure of foreign forces in Libya. On the same day, the GNS' Prime Minister, Fathi Bashagha, declared in a press statement his full support for the meeting, describing it as an important step towards unifying the military and security institutions in the country. He added that this unification was essential to having a competent government capable of holding elections.

Assessment: As several meetings of the JMC have recently been observed in Tunis and Libya, a desire for further cooperation between eastern and western military leaders seems to arise which could help advance the electoral process in Libya, with both sides eager to make a show of support for Bathily's efforts and do not want to be seen as hindering the political transition. The Head of the UNSMIL has declared that improved security conditions were among the primary goals to be achieved for a successful holding of elections in Libya, which appear to be a major point of the recent meetings held by the JMC. Bathily's presence during the meeting highlights his continued diplomatic efforts in the context of the UNSMIL initiative to expedite the Libyan electoral process and involve local actors in the process.



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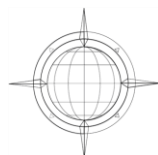
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POLITICS: Two meetings involving the newly formed 6+6 Committee between the HoR and the HCS took place in the past week, underlining an effort towards advancing the electoral process.

On 05/04, the Committee held its first meeting at the HCS' headquarters in Tripoli. They reportedly discussed the functioning of the Committee, and the tasks it has to fulfill. A few days later on 09/04, several members of the Committee met with the Head of the HNEC, Imad Al-Sayeh, in Tripoli. During the meeting, they discussed matters such as technical issues pertaining to the drafting of the electoral laws based on international standards, on constitutional provisions in the 13th amendment, and the distribution of seats. They agreed to maintain regular communication between the HNEC and the 6+6 Committee so that the HNEC can provide technical and legal advice facilitating the work and accelerates the issuance of electoral laws, in order to reach the implementation of the electoral road map planned for this year. The 6+6 Committee is scheduled to meet in Tripoli this week.

Assessment: The launch of meetings of the 6+6 Committee represents a new stage in the evolution of the electoral process, and a step forward towards the drafting of electoral laws, on which future meetings of the Committee will likely focus. Debate within the Committee will likely arise due to continuous uncertainty over some aspects of the laws, such as eligibility criteria for presidential candidates, which could slow down the dialogue.



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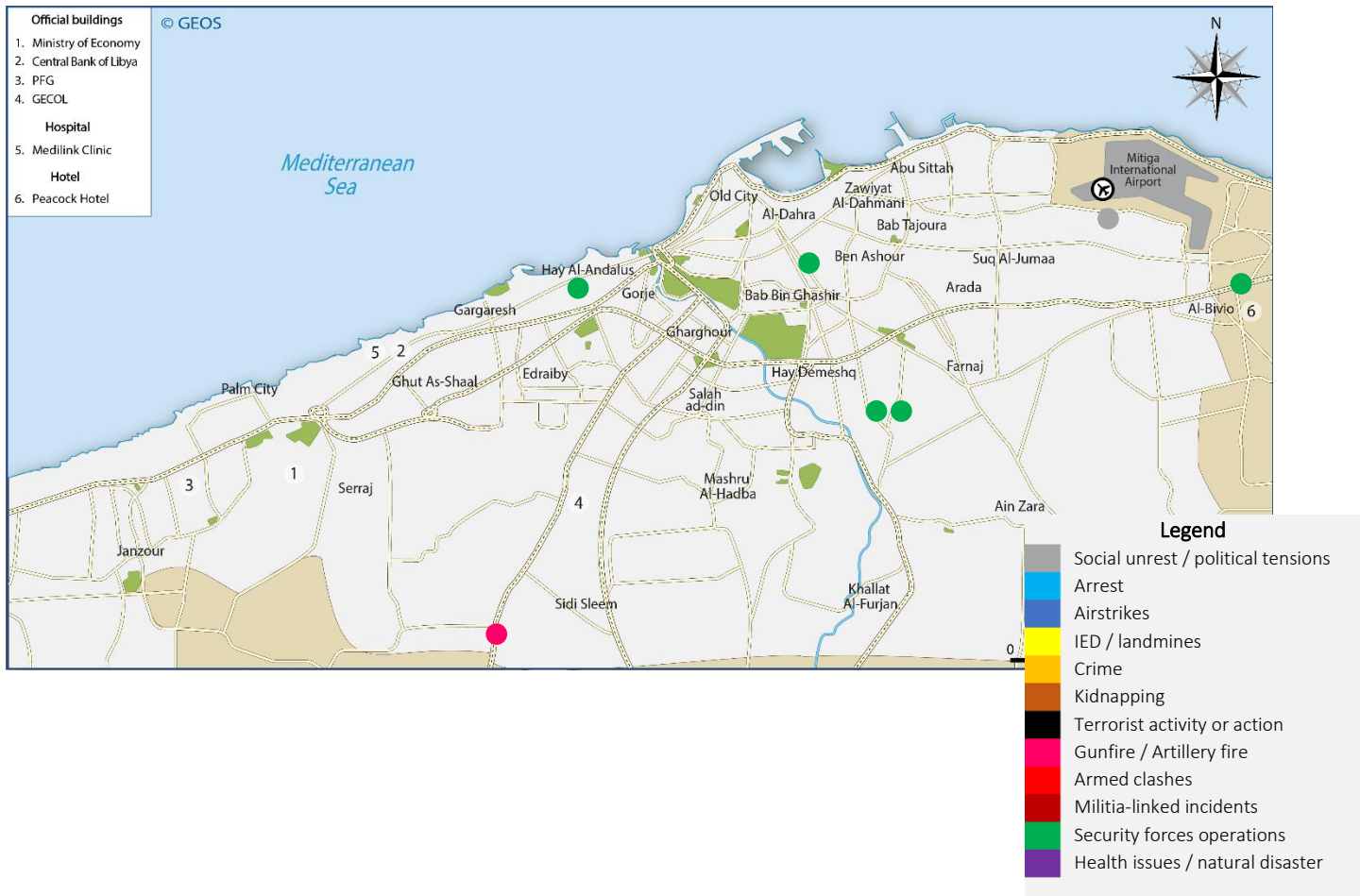
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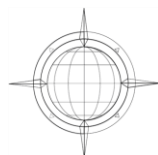
SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

TRIPOLI



Main incidents of the week

	April 11th	Tripoli: On 11/04, an American national was allegedly arrested by the Internal Security Agency (ISA), presumably in Tripoli. He is accused of setting up an organization spreading Christianity in Libya.
	April 11th	Tripoli: On 11/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tripoli. He is accused of armed robbery.
	April 10th	Tripoli: On 10/04, 2 Nigerians nationals were arrested by security forces in Tripoli. They are accused of assault and murder of another Nigerian national.
	April 7th	Tajoura: A foreign national from an African country and a civilian were arrested by security forces in Tajoura on 07/04. They are accused of kidnapping.
	April 6th	Tripoli, Al-Andalus: On 06/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Tripoli's Al-Andalus neighbourhood. He is accused of impersonating a police officer to commit theft and extortion.
	April 5th	Tripoli, Gypsum Gate: On the evening of 05/04, unidentified gunfire was heard in Tripoli's Gypsum Gate area. No further information was available.



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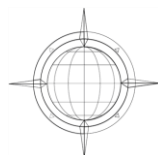
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Outlook

- **High tensions between armed groups, risk of armed clashes and of retaliatory attacks** (targeted killings, kidnappings);
- **Increased risk of protests** linked to the political transition process and the deterioration of socio-economic conditions;
- **Latent terrorist threat in the capital;**
- Volatile security environment due to the **high circulation of weapons among the population;**
- Pursuit of the **reinforcement of the security apparatus and anti-criminal operations**, especially in the city's southern outskirts;
- **Risk of ERW and IED explosions** in the southern outskirts.



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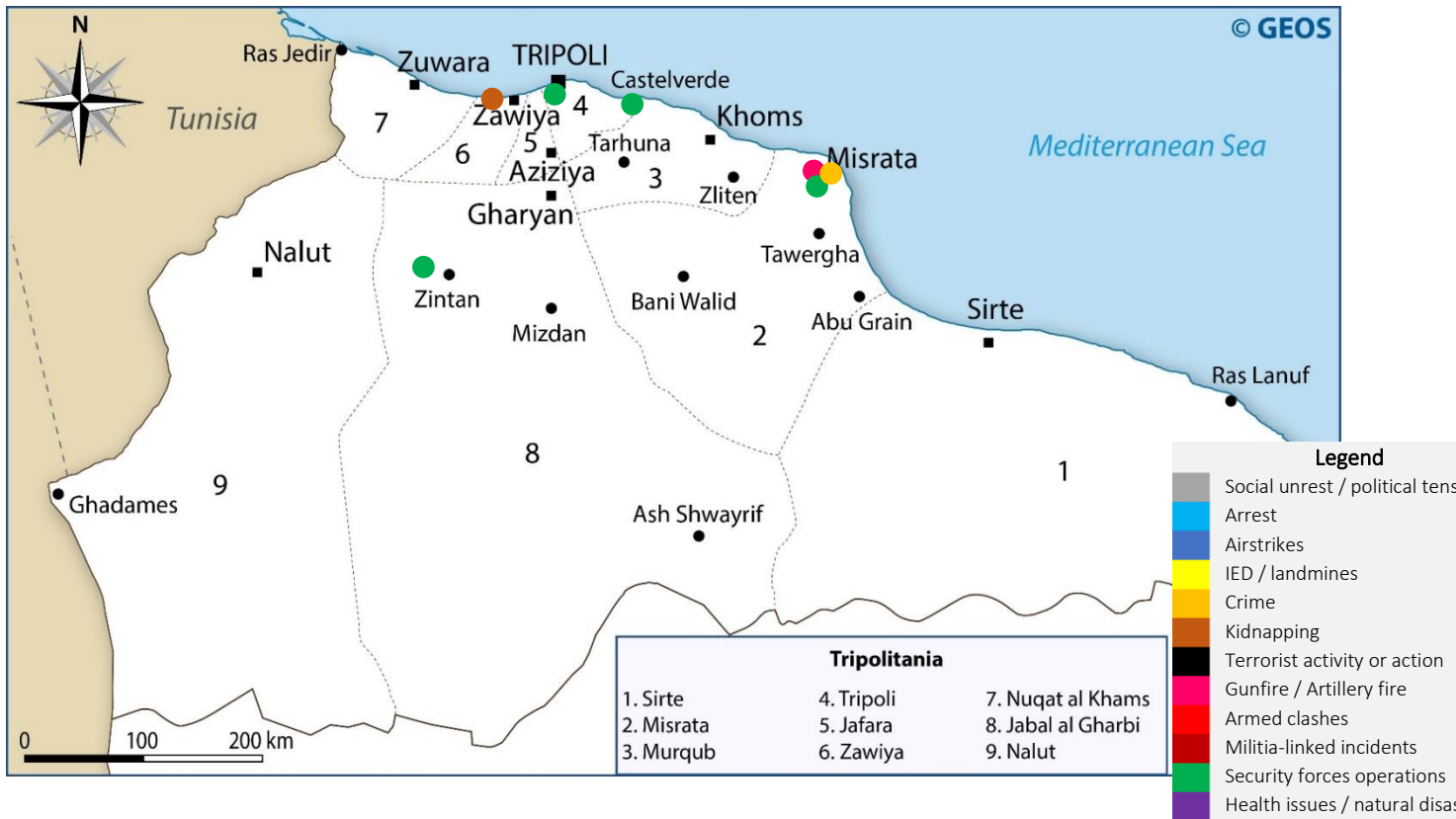
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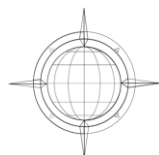
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TRIPOLITANIA



Main incidents of the week

April 11 th	Tripolitania, Surman: On 11/04, a civilian was kidnapped by unknown perpetrators in Surman. No further information available.
April 11 th	Tripolitania, Misrata: In the early hours of 11/04, a number of football supporters of a Tripoli club were injured when they were assaulted by supporters of a Misrati football club on Misrata's Coastal Road, whilst on their way to Benghazi. Some of the injured were transferred to hospital.
April 10 th	Tripolitania, Castleverde: On 10/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Castleverde. He is accused of assault and shooting.
April 9 th	Tripolitania, Qaser Bin Ghashir: On 09/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Qaser Bin Ghashir. He is accused of theft and arson.
April 9 th	Tripolitania, Jadu: On 09/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Jadu ordered by the Libyan Attorney General. He is accused of fraud amounting to LYD 600,000.
April 7 th	Tripolitania, Misrata: On 07/04, 3 foreign nationals from African countries were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Misrata. They are accused of drug trafficking.
April 6 th	Tripolitania, Misrata, Zawayat Al-Mahjoub: In the late hours of 06/04, unidentified gunmen reportedly opened fire on the convoy of the GNU's Prime Minister, Abdulhamid Dbeibah, with light weapons and RPGs, in Misrata's Zawayat Al-Mahjoub area. Dbeibah had reportedly come to the area to attend a competition.



SECURITY: On the evening of 06/04, the convoy of the GNU's Prime Minister, Abdulhamid Dbeibah, was targeted whilst on a visit to Misrata to attend the Nama International competition for memorizing the Holy Quran. According to social media sources, unidentified gunmen opened fire in the vicinity of the convoy with light weapons and RPGs in Misrata's Zawiyat Al-Mahjoub area, near the Al-Mahjoub Mosque. It allegedly forced Dbeibah to leave before the end of the ceremony. No reaction was given by the GNU's media office.

Assessment: Whilst the motive for the gunfire remains unclear, social media sources suggested that the gunmen were opposed to Dbeibah's presence in the city, and his visit caused division amongst the population. This incident is a reminder that despite having a significant support base in Misrata, his hometown, GNU's Abdulhamid Dbeibah continues to face some opposition both among the population and local armed groups, illustrating the complexity of Libya's dynamics when it comes to allegiances among political and security actors.

Outlook

- Tensions between armed groups which can lead to targeted attacks (drive-by shootings, kidnappings) and escalate into armed clashes, notably in the localities west and south of Tripoli and along the western coastal road;
- Tensions linked to the continued presence of mercenaries and foreign armed forces;
- Risk of sporadic clashes between security forces and criminal groups during anti-criminal operations;
- Risk of demonstrations linked to insecurity, the deterioration of socio-economic conditions, and the ongoing political divide;
- Risk of blockades of oil sites;
- Latent terrorist risk.



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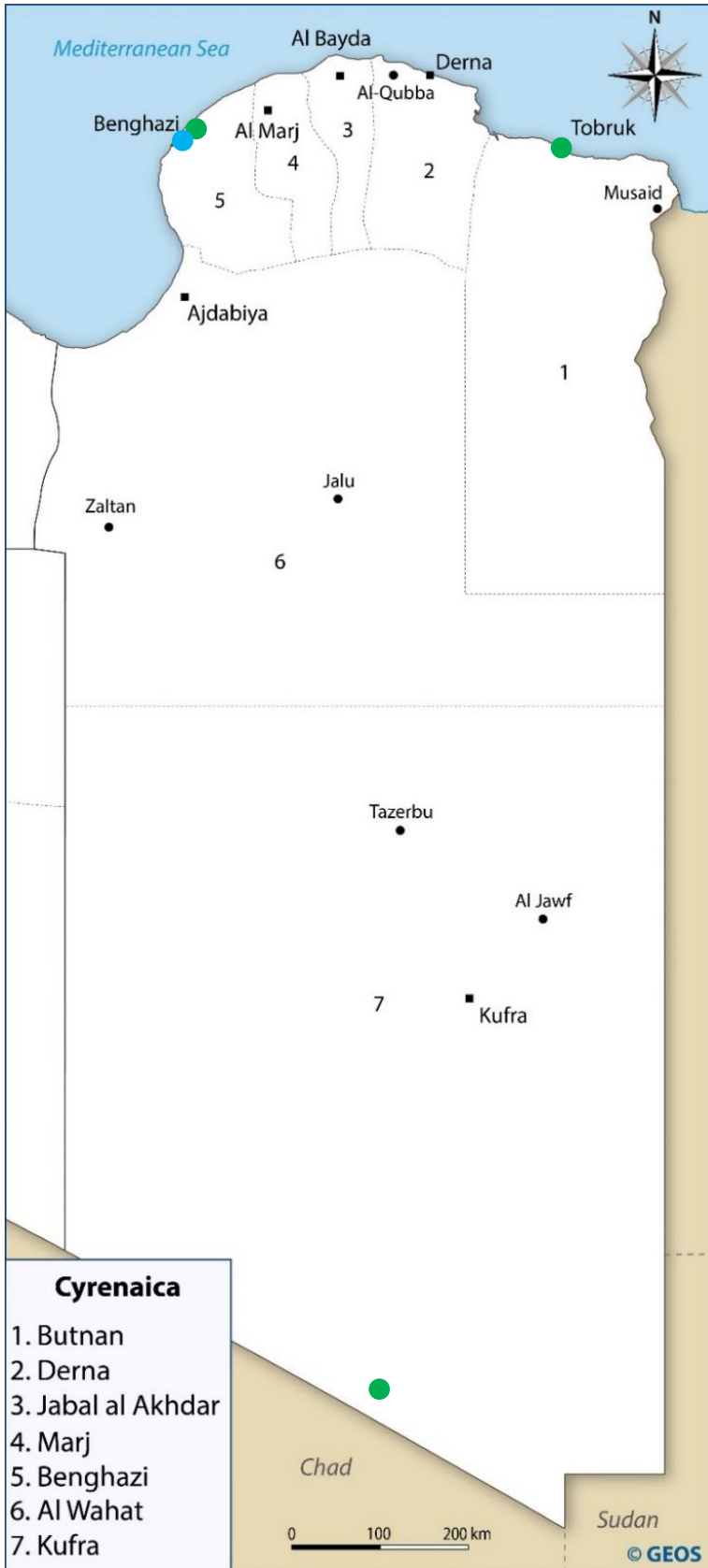
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CYRENAICA



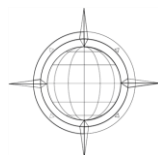
Legend	
	Social unrest / political tensions
	Arrest
	Airstrikes
	IED / landmines
	Crime
	Kidnapping
	Terrorist activity or action
	Gunfire / Artillery fire
	Armed clashes
	Militia-linked incidents
	Security forces operations
	Health issues / natural disaster

Main incidents of the week

	April 11th	Fezzan and Cyrenaica, various locations: On 11/04, a joint desert patrol led by the LNA's Southern Operations Force and including units of the LNA's 128th brigade, of LNA's Tariq Ben Ziyad Brigade and several other brigades, was deployed in several locations along Libya's southern border strip, reportedly in border areas extending from Algeria through Niger to Chad, in order to control the security and stability of the region.
	April 8th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi: On 08/04, 4 foreign nationals from African countries, including Nigeria, were arrested by security forces during a security operation in the Al-Hawary neighborhood of Benghazi. They are accused of drug trafficking and prostitution.
	April 7th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi: On 07/04, a journalist was arrested and detained by an unidentified armed group in Benghazi, after he criticized a demolition campaign in the city on social media.
	April 5th	Cyrenaica, Tobruk: On 05/04, 20 civilians were arrested by security forces in Tobruk. They are accused of harassment on women.

Cyrenaica

- 1. Butnan
- 2. Derna
- 3. Jabal al Akhdar
- 4. Marj
- 5. Benghazi
- 6. Al Wahat
- 7. Kufra

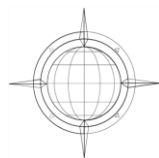


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Outlook

- **Latent tensions between LNA-affiliated units** leading to sporadic skirmishes and targeted attacks/killings and retaliations;
- **Tensions between the LNA and the population/local tribes;**
- **High crime rate** in Benghazi;
- **Increase in protests** linked to insecurity, the deterioration of socio-economic conditions and the political transition process;
- **Risk of blockades of oil sites.**



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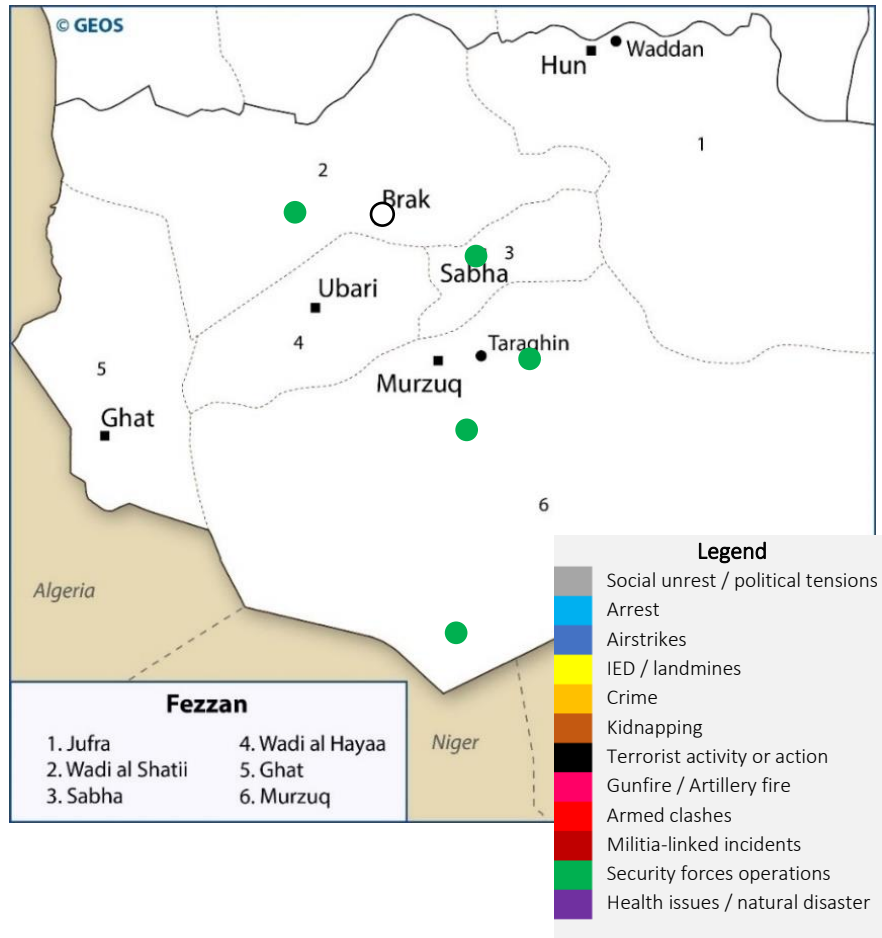
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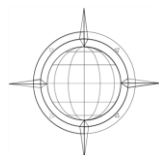
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FEZZAN

Main incidents of the week	
April 11 th	Fezzan and Cyrenaica, various locations: On 11/04, a joint desert patrol led by the LNA's Southern Operations Force and including units of the LNA's 128th brigade, of LNA's Tariq Ben Ziyad Brigade and several other brigades, was deployed in several locations along Libya's southern border strip, reportedly in border areas extending from Algeria through Niger to Chad, in order to control the security and stability of the region.
April 10 th	Fezzan, Brak: On 10/04, 7 illegal migrants were killed and 19 were injured in a road accident in Brak. The injured were transferred to hospital.
April 5 th	Fezzan, Various Locations: On 05/04, 21 foreign nationals and 3 civilians were arrested, 310,000 liters of petrol in their possession were seized, and 307 illegal fuel stations were closed, due to illegal fuel supply activity, by the LNA's 10th Battalion during a security campaign in Sebha, Umm Al-Aranib, Wadi Al-Shati, and Qatrun, ordered by the Public Prosecution. The suspects are accused of fuel trafficking.



SECURITY: This week, a large security campaign targeting fuel smuggling took place in various areas of Fezzan. On 05/04, 21 foreign nationals and 3 civilians were arrested by security forces supported by the LNA's 10th Battalion during a security campaign in Sebha, Umm Al-Aranib, Wadi Al-Shati and Qatrun, ordered by the Public Prosecution. 310,000 liters of petrol in their possession were seized whilst 307 illegal fuel stations were closed due to their illegal fuel supply activity. The arrestees are accused of fuel trafficking.



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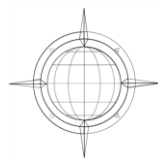
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Assessment: Similar operations were recorded recently in Fezzan, such as on 15/03 in Umm Al-Aranib when security forces targeted smugglers hideouts and illegal gas stations and seized fuel trucks used for smuggling. Libya's southern region has been experiencing a scarcity of fuel, made evident by the long queues in front of petrol stations reported recently in Fezzan and a few protests where demonstrators accused authorities of failing to provide fuel to Fezzan on a regular basis, such as in Ghat last January. Low access to basic commodities such as fuel has further aggravated smuggling, contributing to the rate of criminality in the area and explaining the increasing number of security operations aimed at curbing this trend. Previous efforts by security forces against fuel smuggling had mostly been noticed in western Libya but in recent months, security campaigns of this type have gained visibility in the Fezzan region, often carried out by local security forces or LNA forces.

Outlook

- **Very high criminal rate in Sebha:** regular attacks targeting properties (carjackings, armed robberies) and people (drive-by shootings);
- **Risk of protests and blockades of oil sites** to denounce the deterioration of life conditions and ongoing political divide;
- **Latent terrorist risk in the region;**
- **Latent tribal tensions** which can lead to skirmishes or retaliation acts between tribes or with LNA forces in the area;
- **Tensions between the GNU and the LNA due to military deployments;**
- **Deteriorated situation along the Chadian border and continued incursion of Chadian armed groups.**

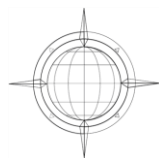


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ACRONYM LIST

AAS – Ansar al-Sharia	LIA – Libyan Investment Authority
ACA – Administrative Control Authority	LNA – Libyan National Army
AFRICOM – United States Africa Command	LPDF – Libyan Political Dialogue Forum
AGOCO – Arabian Gulf Oil Company	LSM – Libyan Stock Market
AQ – Al-Qaeda	MBL – Muslim Brotherhood in Libya
AV – Armoured Vehicles	MoD – Ministry of Defence
bpd – Barrel per day	MoF – Ministry of Finance
BPMC – Brega Petroleum Marketing Company	MoFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CP/(I)VCP – Check Point / (Illegal) Vehicle Check Point	MoH – Ministry of Health
CBL – Central Bank of Libya	MoI – Ministry of Interior
CID – Criminal Investigation Department	MoJ – Ministry of Justice
CoI – Chief of Intelligence	MoO – Ministry of Oil
ERW – Explosive Remnants of War	MoT – Ministry of Transportation
EU – European Union	NCDC – National Centre for Disease Control
EUDEL – Delegation of the European Union to Libya	NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
FACT – Front for Alternance and Concord in Chad	NOC – National Oil Company
GECOL – General Electrical Company of Libya	O&G – Oil and Gas
GMR – Great Man-Made River	PAX – Person or Passenger
GNA – Government of National Accord	PC – Presidency Council
GNC – General National Congress	PFG – Petroleum Facilities Guard
GNS – Government of National Stability	PM – Prime Minister
GNU – Government of National Unity	PMCs – Private Military Contractors
HCS – High Council of State	RADA SDF – RADA Special Deterrence Forces
HNEC – High National Election Commission	RPG – Rocket Propelled Grenade
HoR – House of Representatives	SSA – Stabilization Support Authority
HVT – High-Value Target	TPF – Tripoli Protection Force
ICC – International Criminal Court	TRB – Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade
IED – Improvised Explosive Device	TURAF - Turkish Air Force
IDP – Internally Displaced Person	UAV – Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
IOM – International Organization for Migration	UN – United Nations
IS – Islamic State	UNSMIL – United Nations Support Mission in Libya
JMC – Joint Military Commission (5+5)	UAE – United Arab Emirates
JTF – Joint Task Force	USA – United States of America
	UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
	VBIED – Vehicle-borne improvised explosive device
	WHO – World Health Organization

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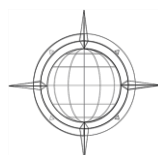
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