

GEOS



Libya

WEEKLY BRIEF

April 19th - April 25th, 2023



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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- POLITICAL-MILITARY:** The eruption of the ongoing conflict in Sudan on 15/04 has prompted reactions among political and military actors in neighboring Libya, amid growing concerns about the potential impact of the Sudanese situation on the stability of the whole north-African region. Among such reactions it is worth mentioning that of the GNU's Foreign Minister, Najla El-Mangoush, who called her Sudanese counterpart, stressing the need for dialogue between Sudan's conflicting parties and affirming that the GNU would be available to assume a mediating role in an effort to put an end to the conflict through the establishment of a political process.

During this week, the LNA clarified its stance towards the crisis in Sudan, especially in response to circulating allegations suggesting its indirect involvement in the neighboring country's new conflict and its support for one of the belligerents, namely the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) headed by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. The LNA strongly denied such allegations.

On 20/04, in a statement read by its spokesperson Ahmed Al-Mesmari and signed by its Head Khalifa Haftar, the General Command of the LNA called on Sudan's conflicting parties to halt hostilities immediately and prioritize stability and national interest through renewed dialogue aimed at ending the crisis. The same statement affirmed support for the unity, stability, and security of Sudan, and rejected any allegations circulating on media about the LNA's supporting one Sudanese side against the other. Furthermore, the LNA declared its readiness to play a mediating role towards peaceful dialogue in the neighboring country, amid ongoing contacts with interested parties, and asked for the formation of a mediating committee with the participation of Arab League and AU members.

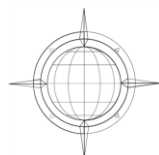
From the Sudanese side, a denial of the LNA's involvement in Sudan's crisis, and especially its support for Dagalo's forces, came on 22/04 from the Head of the Sudanese Armed Forces, Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, who declared that Haftar had call him to deny such allegations.

Further denying any involvement of LNA affiliates in the recently erupted Sudanese conflict, one of Khalifa Haftar's sons, Al-Siddiq Haftar, declared on 23/04 that his recent visit to Sudan in early April, during which he briefly met with Dagalo at an iftar dinner, was not of political nature. Al-Siddiq Haftar declared that he was in Sudan only at the invitation of Al-Merrikh Sporting Club, of which he became honorary president, and that no matters other than the club were discussed at the mentioned dinner.

Reactions to the instability in Sudan came also as concrete actions from military and security forces operating in the south-east of Libya, especially in terms of border security. On 20/04, the LNA-affiliated Subul Al-Salam Brigade, which mainly operates in the desert areas of southeastern Libya, announced the suspension of commercial movements at the Ain Kazit crossing on the Libyan-Sudanese border, in the Al-Aweinat area.

On the same day, amid concerns regarding the potential spillover of the conflict and new entrances of armed groups into the Libyan territory from south and southeast, the Security Directorate of Rebiana, in in southeastern Libya, expressed its readiness to deploy police patrols along borders with Sudan and Chad, adding that security services in Rebiana and Kufra are doing their best for the security of border areas. On 24/04, Libyan media reported a full closure of the border with Sudan by LNA forces and a precautionary increase of deployment of LNA troops in the Kufra area.

Assessment: The conflict erupted in Sudan does not have consequences on Libya's security in the current framework. Nonetheless, the risk of a cross-border spillover of the conflict – though currently unlikely – should not be excluded if the crisis were to be prolonged. Furthermore, one should consider the continuing presence of some Sudanese and Chadian armed elements in southern Libya, whose allegiances could be pledged to



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different sides and who could align themselves with different Sudanese warring parties, bringing the conflict into Libyan territory.

- ✦ **DIPLOMACY:** This week, the UNSMIL continued to promote Libya’s electoral process and political dialogue through a declaration by its Head and UN Special Envoy to Libya, Abdoulaye Bathily, following the latter’s briefing on the situation in Libya at the UN Security Council on 18/04.

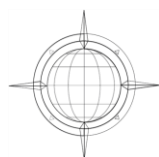
On 21/04, in his message for Eid Al-Fitr wishes at the end of Ramadan, Bathily called upon all Libyans political actors, including “military and security leaders, notables, societal representatives, institutions and authorities”, to embrace a “spirit of compromise” with the goal of establishing a “clear and unified pathway” to peace and stability in the country. The statement, which also included a call on Libya’s women and youth to participate in the electoral process, mentioned as well as the need for a release of those “arbitrarily detained all over Libya as a critical foundation for confidence-building and for establishing a comprehensive, rights-based reconciliation”. Concluding his statement, the Head of the UNSMIL reiterated the goal of holding Libyan elections in 2023, encouraging “all stakeholders to rally behind the UN’s comprehensive approach” towards such objective.

The inclusion of the widest possible range of actors within Libya’s revived electoral process has been over the past months one of the main points of the UN’s plans to facilitate peaceful transition in Libya and the reunification of its institutions. The recently launched new UNSMIL initiative for elections in Libya, aiming at the establishment of a clear roadmap for elections by mid-June 2023, as clarified by Bathily in March, also includes plans for the creation of a High-Level Steering Panel, which will consist of diplomatic shuttling between different political, security, and civil society groups and representatives. The stakeholders considered by the UNSMIL do not include only top-level political and military figures but also civil society elements and representatives of cultural components and tribal leaders.

In line with this approach that pays attention to minorities, the UNSMIL Coordinator and Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Libya, Raisedon Zenenga, following his previous meeting with a delegation of Tuareg notables, held talks this week with a delegation from the Amazigh Supreme Council (ASC) on 19/04. The meeting revolved around the UNSMIL’s initiative for elections in 2023, for which the Amazigh representatives expressed their support. The Amazigh delegation stressed the need to grant rights to their community and addressed their concerns over elections and the representation of the Amazighs and their citizenship status.

It is worth noting that in February the ASC officially rejected the HoR-passed 13th constitutional amendment, on which the current HoR-HCS 6+6 Committee talks are based, claiming that the document did not take into account all Libyan actors – including minorities.

Assessment: This week saw a continuation of the UNSMIL’s promotion of the electoral process in Libya, with some specific attention to minority components of the local civil society, which have recently been vocal about political developments in the country, demonstrating the relevance they maintain for the success of a peaceful political and institutional stabilization.



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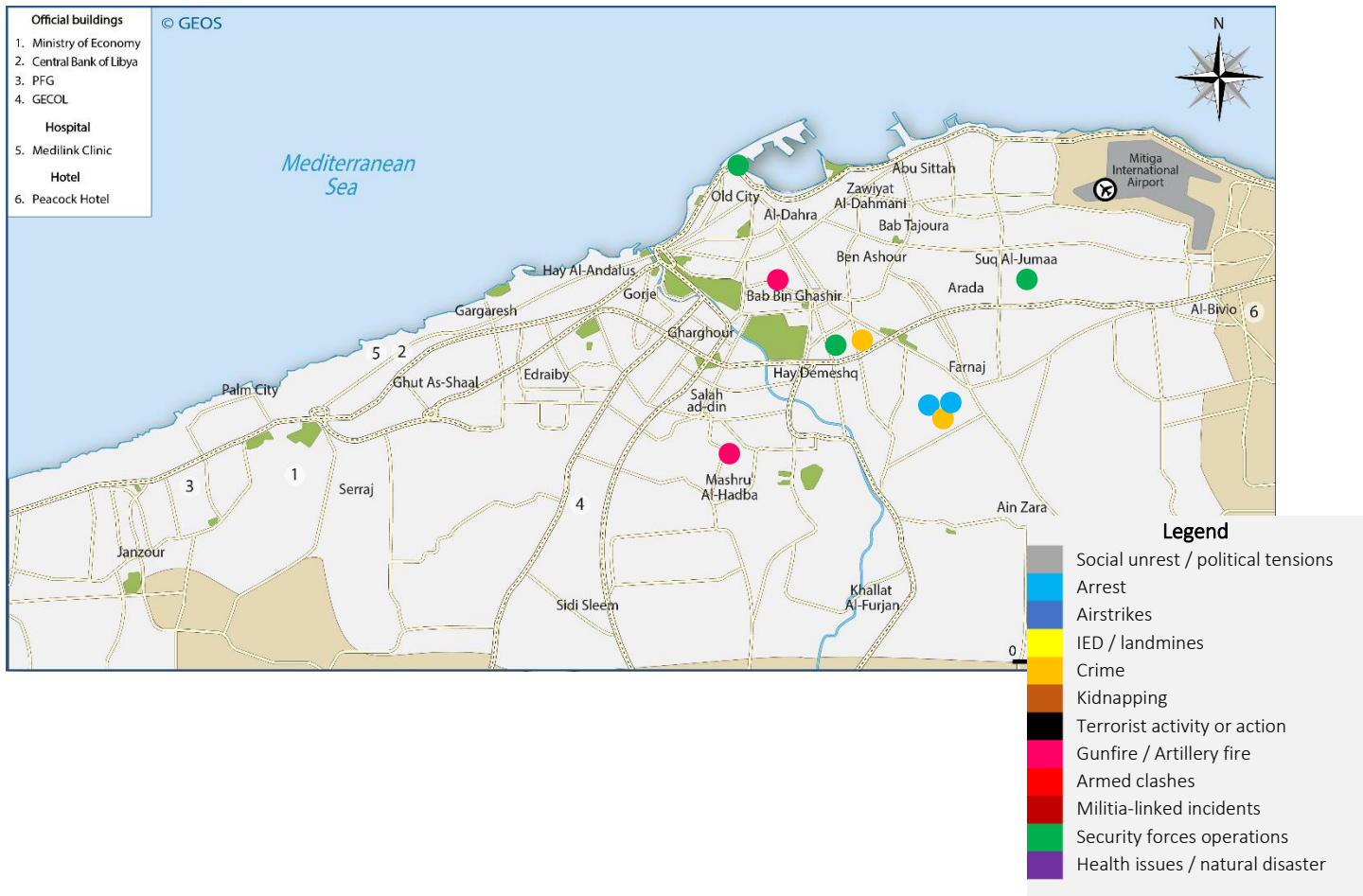
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SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

TRIPOLI



Main incidents of the week

April 25 th	Tripoli, Suq Al-Jumaa: On 25/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tripoli's Suq Al-Jumaa area. He is accused of shooting and murder.
April 24 th	Tripoli, Al-Hadhba area: On 24/04, unidentified shooting was heard in Tripoli's Al-Hadhba area. No further information available.
April 23 rd	Tripoli: On the evening of 23/04, a civilian was injured when an individual allegedly linked to the SSA-affiliated Ghneiwa Brigade opened fire at him due to a quarrel in Tripoli. The injured was transferred to hospital and his brother, involved in the quarrel, was temporarily arrested.
April 21 st	Tripoli: In the morning of 21/04, a number of sheikhs and imams were arrested by an unidentified armed group after giving the Eid sermon in Tripoli. No further information was available.
April 21 st	Tripoli: On 21/04, a civilian was injured when an unidentified perpetrator opened fire at him due to a quarrel in Tripoli. The injured civilian was transferred to hospital.
April 20 th	Tripoli: On 20/04, a Libyan football player was arrested and detained by an unknown armed group, allegedly members of the SSA-affiliated Ghneiwa Brigade, in Tripoli. The reason for his arrest is unknown.
April 20 th	Tripoli: On 20/04, 2 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tripoli. They are accused of theft amounting LYD 160,000.



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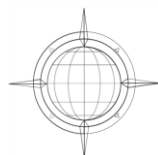
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	April 19th	Tripoli, Old City: On 19/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tripoli's Old City near Al-Mina Roundabout. He is accused of assault on a Police officer.
	April 19th	Tripoli, Bab Al-Aziziyah: On 19/04, gunfire was heard in the neighborhoods of Mansoura, Abu Salim, Bab Ben Ghashir and Bab Al-Aziziyah. It later appeared the event could be linked to ongoing trainings conducted at Camp 77, located in Bab Ben Ghashir. No further information was available.

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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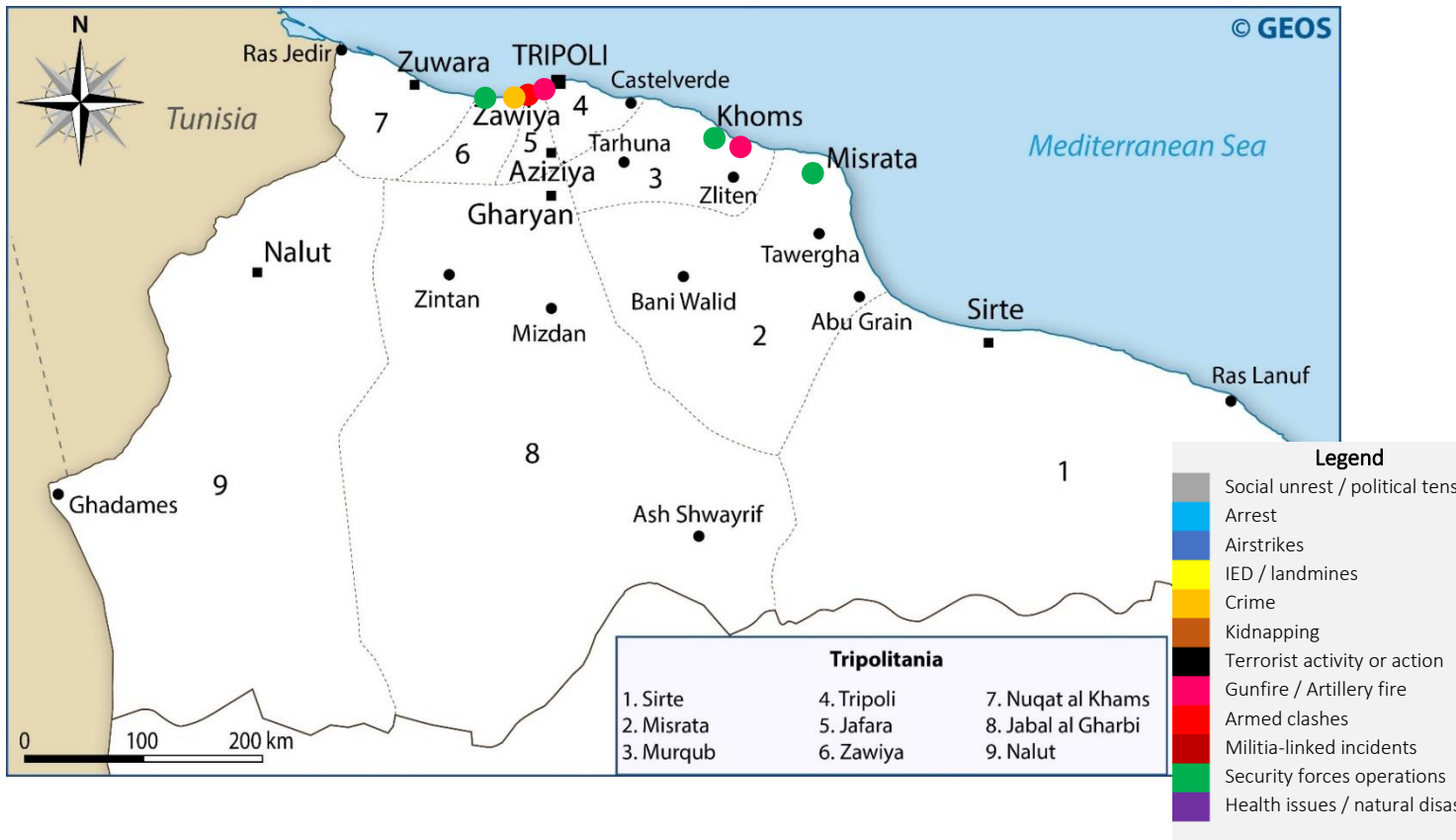
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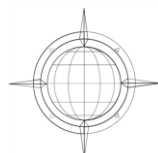
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TRIPOLITANIA



Main incidents of the week	
April 24 th	Tripolitania, Zliten: On the evening of 24/04, Zliten’s Waadi Kaam gate was closed due to the eruption of shooting by an unidentified armed group in the area. No casualties were reported, and the gate was reopened a few hours later.
April 23 rd /24 th	Tripolitania, Zawiya: Around midnight between 23/04 and 24/04, 4 civilians were reportedly killed when clashes erupted between local armed groups, Zait and Awais, in Zawiya. A number of RPG shells fell on civilians’ houses. According to social media sources the clashes erupted on the background of the killing of a Zait member the day before in Zawiya, allegedly by an Awais member. Fighting stopped at dawn following an agreement between the two armed groups.
April 22 nd	Tripolitania, Zawiya: On 22/04, a civilian was killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire at him in Zawiya.
April 22 nd	Tripolitania, Khoms: On 22/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Khoms. He is accused of murder.
April 19 th	Tripolitania, Sabratha: On 19/04, 2 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Sabratha. They are accused of fuel smuggling.
April 19 th	Tripolitania, Misrata: On 19/04, 4 civilians were arrested and 4 trucks transporting 140,000 liters of fuel were seized by security forces in Misrata. They are accused of fuel smuggling.
April 19 th	Tripolitania, An-Najila: In the early hours of 19/04, unidentified shooting was heard in An-Najila and a number of unidentified armed vehicles and gunmen were seen allegedly gathering in the city.



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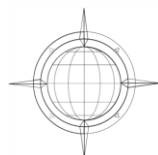
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SECURITY: In the night between 23/04 and 24/04, new clashes were witnessed in Zawiya between two local armed groups, Zait and Awais. 4 civilians were reportedly killed as a result and a further 6 civilians were injured, as various types of weapons were used including RPG shells, which fell on civilians' houses in the area. According to social media sources, clashes were sparked after a leader of the Zait armed group was killed the day before in Zawiya, on 22/04, allegedly by the Awais armed group. Fighting lasted until dawn and stopped following an agreement between the two groups, as the area reportedly returned to a cautious calm. The Libyan Red Crescent announced on 24/04 that 20 stranded families had been evacuated following the incident.

Assessment: Zawiya continues to represent one of the most dangerous parts of Tripolitania due to the frequency of the clashes taking place in the city as well as their intensity, having a strong impact on the security situation in the area and on the lives of residents of the city. Although calm was restored in the region after the reported truce of 24/04, it is most likely that similar clashes will reoccur in Zawiya due to the heavy tensions between armed groups in the city. The reason behind the killing of the armed group member on 22/04, reportedly at the origin of the dispute, remains unknown, yet it is possibly linked to territorial disputes between the two entities as is often the case in the area. Over the past months, the situation in Zawiya has been deteriorating and no significant changes point to an improvement of the situation in the near future.

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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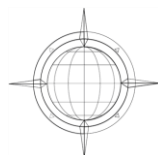
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CYRENAICA



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	
	<p>April 24th</p> <p>Cyrenaica, Benghazi, Al-Kish: On 24/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi's Al-Kish neighborhood. He is accused of armed robbery.</p>
	<p>April 23rd</p> <p>Cyrenaica, Benghazi: On 23/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi. He is accused of kidnapping and assault. Investigation is ongoing.</p>
	<p>April 23rd</p> <p>Cyrenaica, Benghazi, Bouatni: On 23/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi's Bouatni neighborhood. He is accused of drug trafficking, theft, and assault. Investigation is ongoing.</p>
	<p>April 20th</p> <p>Cyrenaica, Benghazi, Al-Salam: On 20/04, 4 Egyptian nationals were killed, and 7 others were injured in a road accident in Benghazi's Al-Salam neighborhood. The injured were transferred to hospital.</p>
	<p>April 20th</p> <p>Cyrenaica, Benghazi, Al-Berka: On 20/04, 2 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi's Al-Berka neighborhood. They are accused of torture and murder.</p>
	<p>April 19th</p> <p>Cyrenaica, Benghazi: On 19/04, 8 Nigerian nationals were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi. They are accused of prostitution.</p>
	<p>April 19th</p> <p>Cyrenaica, Tobruk: On 19/04, 3 civilians and 30 illegal migrants from Egypt were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tobruk while they were attempting to reach Europe. The Libyan civilians were accused of human smuggling.</p>



April 19th

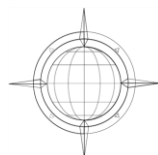
Cyrenaica, Tobruk: On 19/04 3 civilians were killed and 9 others were injured when a quarrel broke out between two families in Tobruk. The injured were transferred to hospital.

SECURITY: On 19/04, a violent quarrel broke out in Tobruk’s Al-Manara neighbourhood, between two families related to the Al-Masameer tribe, minutes before the call to prayer. 3 civilians were killed and 9 were injured, and the latter were taken to hospital. The reason for the quarrel is unknown.

Assessment: This incident highlights a resurgence of violence in the area of Tobruk and poses a threat for civilians and bystanders in the city. Although the security situation in the city was recently stable, security threats remain present as the city previously often witnessed occurrences of murders, kidnappings, and shootings. Precautions should be taken in Tobruk as outbursts of violence such as this one might recur.

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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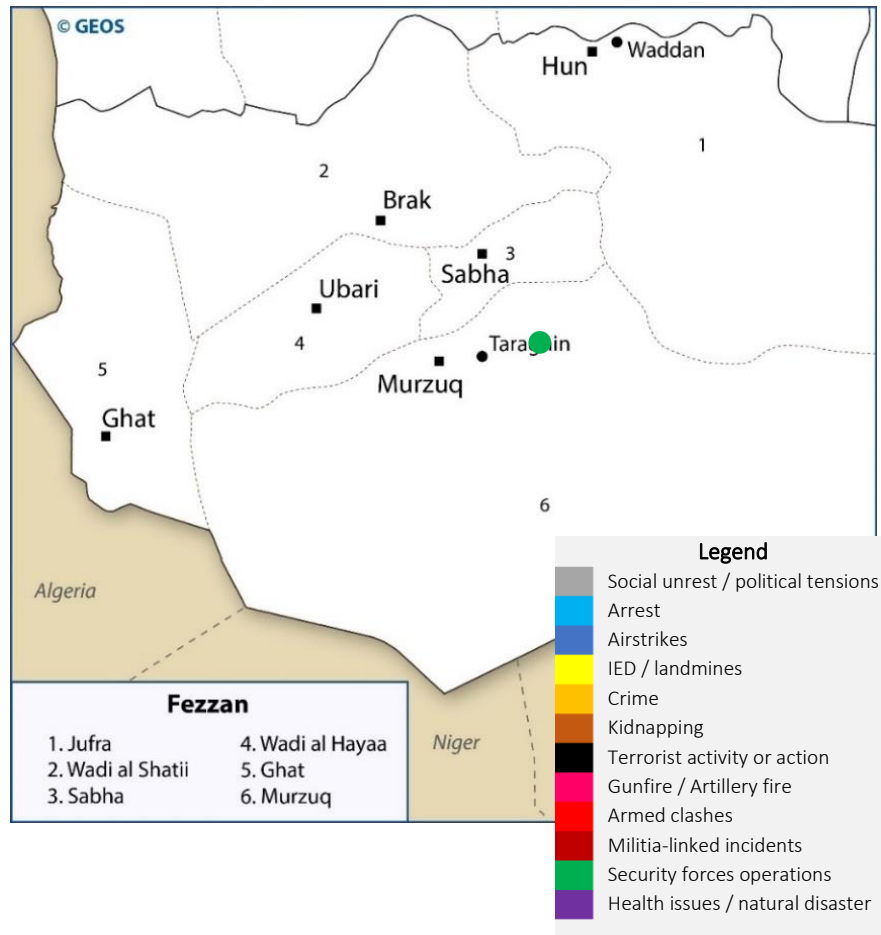
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FEZZAN

Main incidents of the week

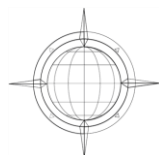
April 23rd

Fezzan, Umm Al-Aranib:
On 23/04, 30 illegal migrants of Nigerian nationality were arrested when a hideout was raided by the LNA's 676th Battalion in Umm Al-Aranib. They are accused of illegal entry into Libyan territory.



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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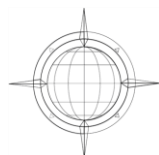
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OFFSHORE

- ✦ Offshore: On 25/04, 11 illegal migrants were killed when their boat sank off the coast of Castelverde while they were trying to reach Europe.
- ✦ Offshore: On 23/04, the bodies of 11 illegal migrants were found off the coast of Sabratha after their boat had sunk the day before while they were trying to reach Europe.
- ✦ Offshore: On 22/04, 17 illegal migrants were killed when their boat sank off the coast of Sabratha while they were trying to reach Europe.
- ✦ Offshore: On 19/04, 5 illegal migrants were intercepted by the Libyan Coast Guard and brought back to Tripoli port while they were attempting to reach Europe.

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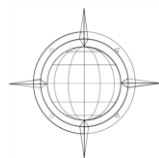
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ACRONYM LIST

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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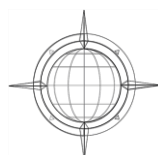
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	Sea, air and land solutions



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