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Very high

LIBYA

MONTHLY BRIEF

April 2023



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GENERAL

POLITICAL: Libya's political process continued to show some progress in April. On 04/04, the Head of the UNSMIL, Abdoulaye Bathily, met with the Head of the HoR, Aguilah Saleh, and the Head of the LNA, Khalifa Haftar, in Benghazi. Not much information was shared on the content of their meeting, apart from the fact that they discussed Libya's latest political developments. The meeting was met with heavy criticism on anti-LNA media over Bathily's perceived proximity with the LNA and the specific date of the meeting, coinciding with the fourth anniversary of the start of the 2019-2020 conflict. Bathily had however previously underlined that he was in contact with the Head of LNA, when, at the end of March, he had mentioned in an interview Haftar's support for the UNSMIL's initiative.

Bathily also attended the JMC meeting that took place this month in Benghazi, involving military representatives from all Libyan regions. The meeting aimed at bringing together both sides of the JMC and Libyan military leaders to exchange views and strategies towards better cooperation. Bathily opened the meeting by giving a speech in which he described the gathering as a symbol of a new sovereign and united Libya, called for reconciliation between the two sides, and solicited them to ensure security during elections.

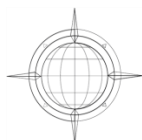
The meeting led to a conclusive statement issued in which six points were agreed upon, namely: continuity of the dialogue that had started in previous meetings in Tunis and Tripoli; provision of all forms of support to secure the elections; supporting the efforts of the 5+5 JMC and its Libyan liaison committees on the withdrawal of foreign fighters; practical measures to address the problems of internally displaced persons in Libya; exchange of information on detainees held by both sides; and appreciation for the initiative of the LNA to release six detainees from Libya's western region held in custody for security issues.

- ✦ **Meetings held by the UNSMIL and the JMC this month, following those held in Tunisia and Libya, highlighted a desire for cooperation between eastern and western military leaders aimed at advancing the electoral process in Libya, especially through the improvement of security conditions.**

POLITICAL: Advancement of Libya's political process was also made clear by the progress made on the side of HCS-HoR dialogue. This month saw the activation of the 6+6 HCS-HoR Committee, a body established under February's 13th constitutional amendment, aimed at developing election laws and a clear roadmap to elections. On 05/04, the committee held its first meeting at the HCS' headquarters in Tripoli, where they discussed the functioning of the committee and the tasks it has to fulfil. They later met with the Head of the HNEC, Imad Al-Sayeh, and agreed to maintain regular communication with the HNEC, so that the latter can provide technical and legal advice to facilitate their work and accelerate the issuance of electoral laws. During a UNSC session on Libya in New York on 18/04, Bathily declared that he had urged the leaders of both institutions to expedite the work of the 6+6 Committee, and to publish a timebound work programme, and announced that electoral laws must be completed in time for the HNEC to begin implementing the electoral process by early July.

- ✦ **In its first meetings, the 6+6 Committee appeared devoted to taking a new step in the electoral process, with the objective of having elections this year. However, one should not exclude the potential emergence of differences within the Committee, which could slow down the dialogue, likely in relation to uncertainty on aspects such as eligibility criteria for presidential candidates.**

MILITARY: This month, the GNU's Chief of Staff, Mohamed Al-Haddad, met with the LNA's Chief of Staff, Abdulrazzaq Al-Nadhuri, in Benghazi. On 13/04, the two officials held a meeting during Al-Haddad's official visit to the city, aimed at discussing the unification of the military sector in Libya, with the participation of a



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Franklin Tower 23rd floor - CS 20093 - 100-101 Terrasse Boieldieu

92 042 La Défense Cedex - France

+33 (0) 1 77 74 15 10

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number of military leaders from eastern and western Libya. They discussed the creation of a joint force that would represent a first step towards unification and that would support and protect the holding of elections.

In July and October 2022, the two leaders had met in Tripoli and in Tunis, agreeing with the 5+5 JMC to name a single chairman for the commission, and continuing talks on the framework to unify the military institution in Libya. In early March, they had met once more on the margins of the African Chiefs of Defense Conference in Rome, with the Commander of US AFRICOM, Michael Langley. They reportedly discussed the process of reunification of the military and mentioned the formation of a joint force to protect the country's borders.

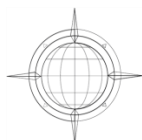
- ✦ **Meetings between the Chiefs of Staff of the LNA and the GNU represent steps on the road to Libya's military reunification. The activation of the dialogue, during which they confirmed their provision of all forms of support for elections, could help activate and speed up the reunification of the military sector, despite the matter still being a contentious one. Lack of progress on this file would continue to represent an important hurdle for security in Libya and for stability of the country's state institutions.**

DIPLOMACY: April was also characterised by the UNSMIL's diplomatic efforts for the inclusion of the widest possible range of actors within Libya's electoral process, which has been one of the main points of the UN's initiative aimed at facilitating the adoption of a "time-bound roadmap to the holding of elections this year", by mid-June 2023. This initiative also pushes for the creation of a High-Level Steering Panel, consisting of diplomatic shuttling between different political, security, and civil society groups and representatives. It is under this framework that this month, the Head of the UNSMIL, Abdoulaye Bathily, and the UNSMIL Coordinator and Deputy Social Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Libya, Raisedon Zenenga, held meetings with representatives of minorities in Libya.

On 09/04, Bathily visited Sebha, where he met with military and security leaders covering parts of southern Libya, and later met with notables and social leaders of the region, who demanded an end to the marginalisation of the south and a fairer distribution of resources. They also demanded an adequate inclusion of the southern region in consultations about the electoral process. He met with local representatives, civil society groups and students' unions at the University of Sebha, who called for elections to be held this year.

On 16/04, Zenenga met with a delegation of Tuareg notables and civil representatives to discuss the need for the inclusion of cultural components in Libya's political process and an equal representation of the South in Libyan institutions. On 19/04, he held talks with a delegation from the Amazigh Supreme Council (ASC) and discussed the UNSMIL's initiative, for which the Amazigh expressed their support, and stressed the need to grant rights to their community, whilst addressing their concerns over elections and the representation of the Amazigh and their citizenship status.

- ✦ **This month saw a continuation of the UNSMIL's diplomatic work. Bathily and Zenenga met various Libyan actors in concordance with the UNSMIL's approach aimed at facilitating political dialogue via the inclusion of representatives of all parts of Libya in its initiative. By paying attention to minorities, the UNSMIL showed dedication to understanding the array of demands coming from around Libya and within local civil society, demonstrating commitment to the success of a peaceful political and institutional stabilisation through the holding of elections based on a consensual framework.**



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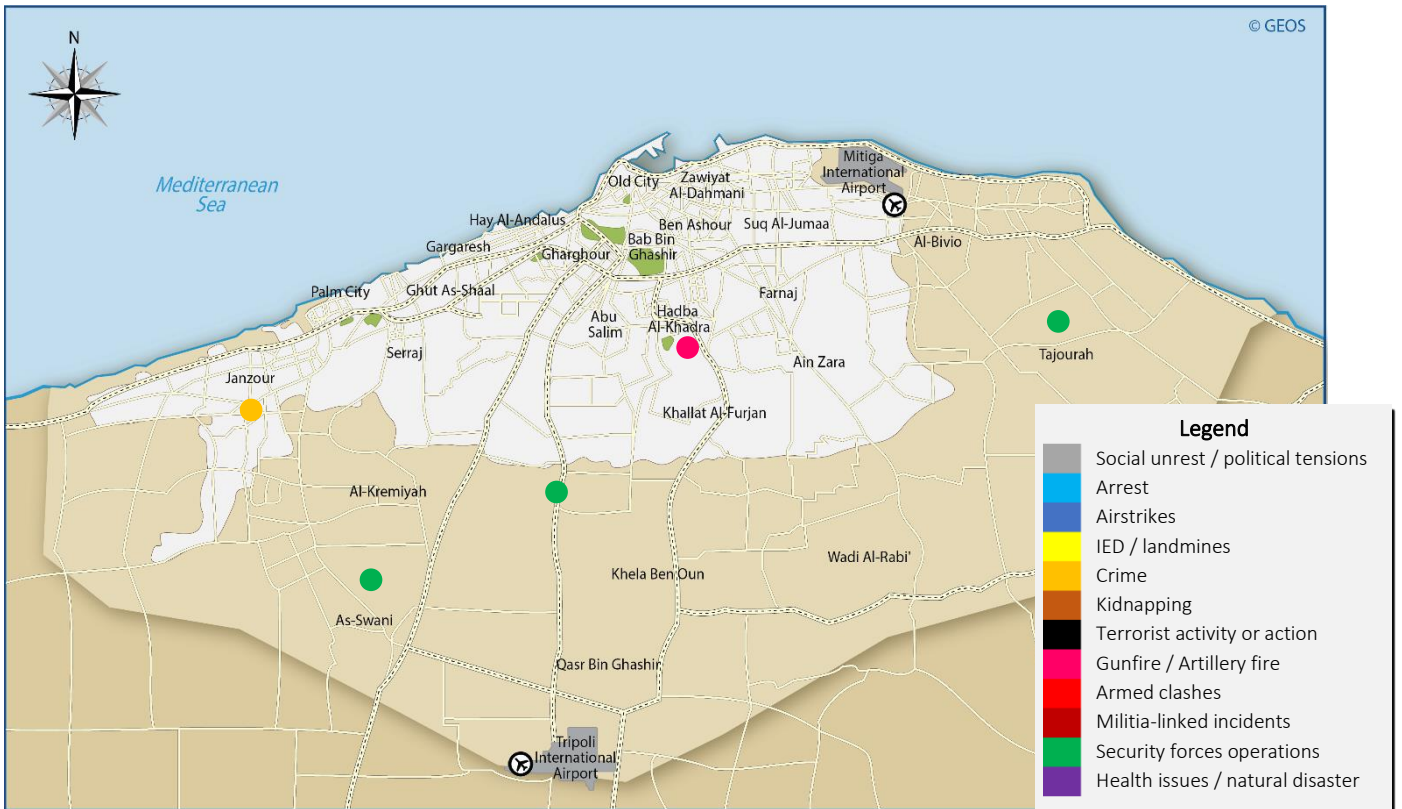
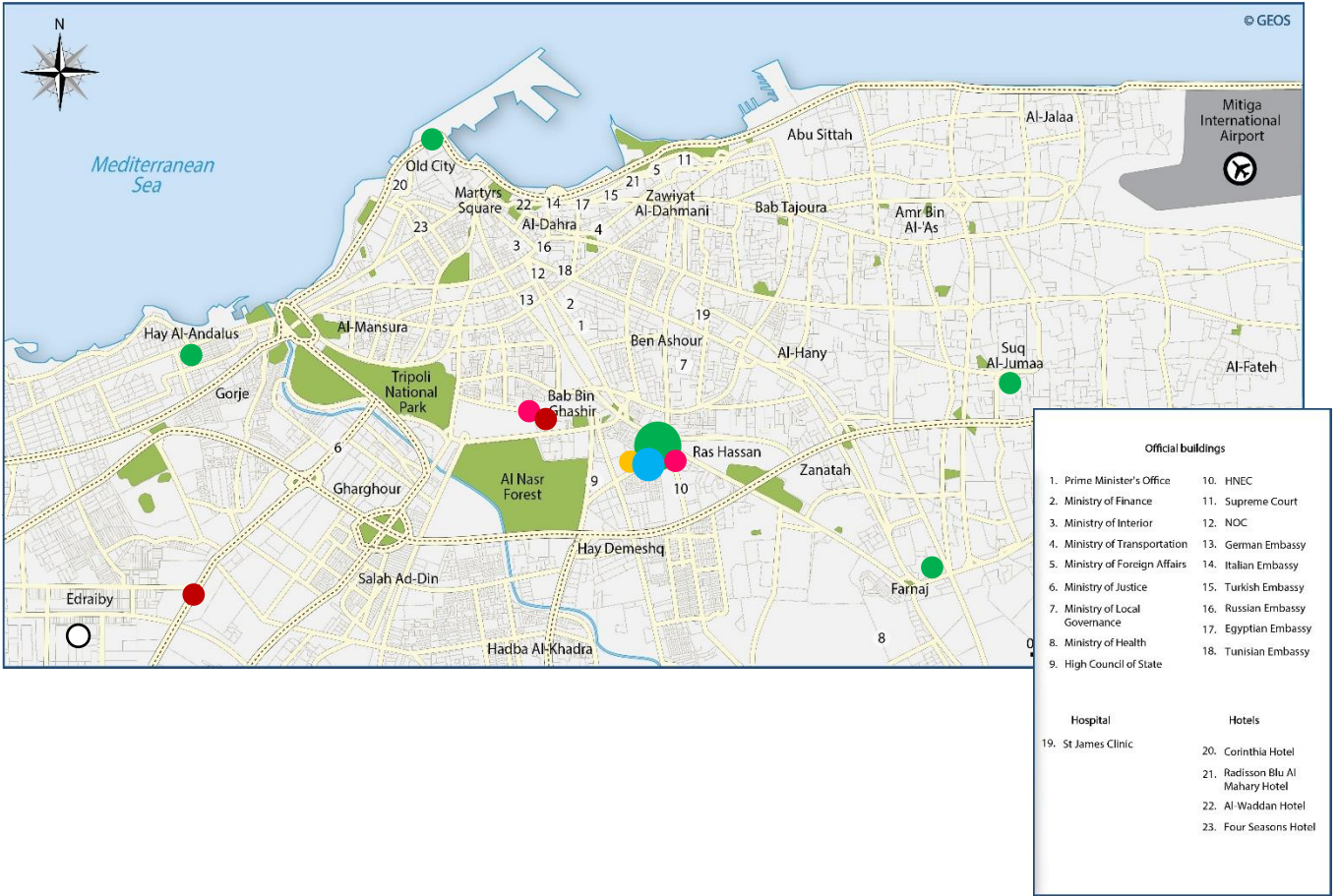
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TRIPOLI

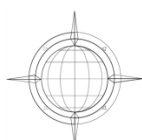


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Main incidents of the month

April 30 th	Janzour: On 30/04, a civilian was injured during an armed robbery perpetrated by 3 gunmen in Janzour. The injured was transferred to hospital.
April 30 th	Tripoli, Tripoli International Airport Road: On 30/04, around 300 illegal migrants were arrested when an immigration hideout was raided during a security operation carried out by a joint force of the GNU MoD's 111 th Brigade, the Anti-Illegal Immigration Authority and Tripoli's Security Directorate on Tripoli International Airport Road (south).
April 30 th	Tripoli: On 30/04, 4 members of forces affiliated to Mohamed Bahroun, also known as Al-Far, were arrested by the DAOCT (Rada) in Tripoli. No further information available.
April 29 th	Tripoli, Bab Ben Ghashir: In the late hours of 29/04, an armed convoy of about 40 vehicles belonging to the DAOCT (Rada) was seen near Tripoli's Bab Ben Ghashir neighbourhood and reportedly raided the area. Social media sources reported that they arrested a close associate of the Head of the SSA-affiliated Ghneiwa Brigade, Abdulghani Al-Kikli. A state of emergency was allegedly declared in some areas of the capital.
April 29 th	Tripoli: On 29/04, a civilian was arrested by the SSA in Tripoli. He is allegedly accused of criticizing a religious leader in a video posted on the social media platform, TikTok.
April 28 th	Tripoli: On 28/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Tripoli. He is accused of fraud amounting to USD 80,000.
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.
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 a number of mosques around 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 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.
April 19 th	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 Island. He is accused of assault on a Police officer.
April 19 th	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 training at Camp 77, located in Bab Ben Ghashir. No further information was available.
April 18 th	Tripoli: On 18/04, a civilian was killed, and 3 others were injured when a fire broke out in their house near the World Islamic Call Society building in southwestern Tripoli.
April 16 th	Tripoli: On 16/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Tripoli. He is accused of murder.
April 16 th	Tripoli, Tripoli International Airport Road: On 16/04, an armed convoy reportedly belonging to the GNU MoD's 444 th Brigade was seen passing on Tripoli International Airport Road (south).
April 15 th	Tripoli, Al-Swani: On 15/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Tripoli's Al-Swani neighborhood. He is accused of murder.
April 13 th	Tripoli: On 13/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Tripoli. He is accused of murder.
April 12 th	Tripoli: On 12/04, an American national was reportedly arrested by the Internal Security Agency (ISA), presumably in Tripoli. He is accused of proselytism. This arrest comes a day after another US citizen was detained by the ISA on similar charges. Both individuals are said to be employed at the Gateway School of English and are suspected of using the school to convert Libyans to Christianity. No further information was available on their whereabouts.



April 11 th	Tripoli: On 11/04, a US 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 11 th	Tripoli: On 11/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Tripoli. He is accused of robbery.
April 10 th	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 7 th	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 6 th	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 5 th	Tripoli, Gypsum Gate: On the evening of 05/04, unidentified gunfire was heard in Tripoli's Gypsum Gate area. No further information was available.
April 4 th	Tripoli: On 04/04, 3 civilians were arrested by security forces in Tripoli. They are accused of assault.
April 4 th	Tripoli: On 04/04, 5 civilians were arrested and a number of narcotic tablets amounting to LYD 15,000 were seized by the SSA in Tripoli. They are accused of drug trafficking.
April 1 st	Tripoli, Al-Farnaj: On 01/04, 2 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tripoli's Al-Farnaj neighborhood. They are accused of storming, assault, murder and robbery amounting to LYD 70,750.

ARRESTS: In April, expatriates from European countries and the US were arrested in Tripoli. On 11/04, 3 foreign nationals from Ireland, Croatia, and Romania were arrested by DAOCT forces, also known as Rada, at Mitiga International Airport together with 4 Libyan nationals. They were employees of the security company Gardaworld, in charge of protection for EUBAM, and were reportedly accused of illegal possession of firearms in public, as well as conducting security activities without appropriate permits.

The latest case was the arrest of 2 US nationals which were detained by the Internal Security Agency (ISA) on 11/04 and 12/04. Both were employed by the Gateway School of English and were reportedly accused of using the school to convert Libyans to Christianity. Potential tensions with the US were reportedly prevented by the mediation of the GNU's leadership, which successfully organized the release of the two Americans. According to local social media sources, they were repatriated together with two other US citizens.

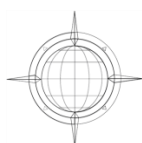
The arrests of expatriates in Tripoli during the month, showed the need for expats and travellers in Libya to remain vigilant and avoid any implication in unsanctioned activities, including religious and political ones.

→ **Potential strengthening of controls on foreign travellers by security forces in the short term**, and increased attention to the activities of expats in Tripoli following recent arrests.

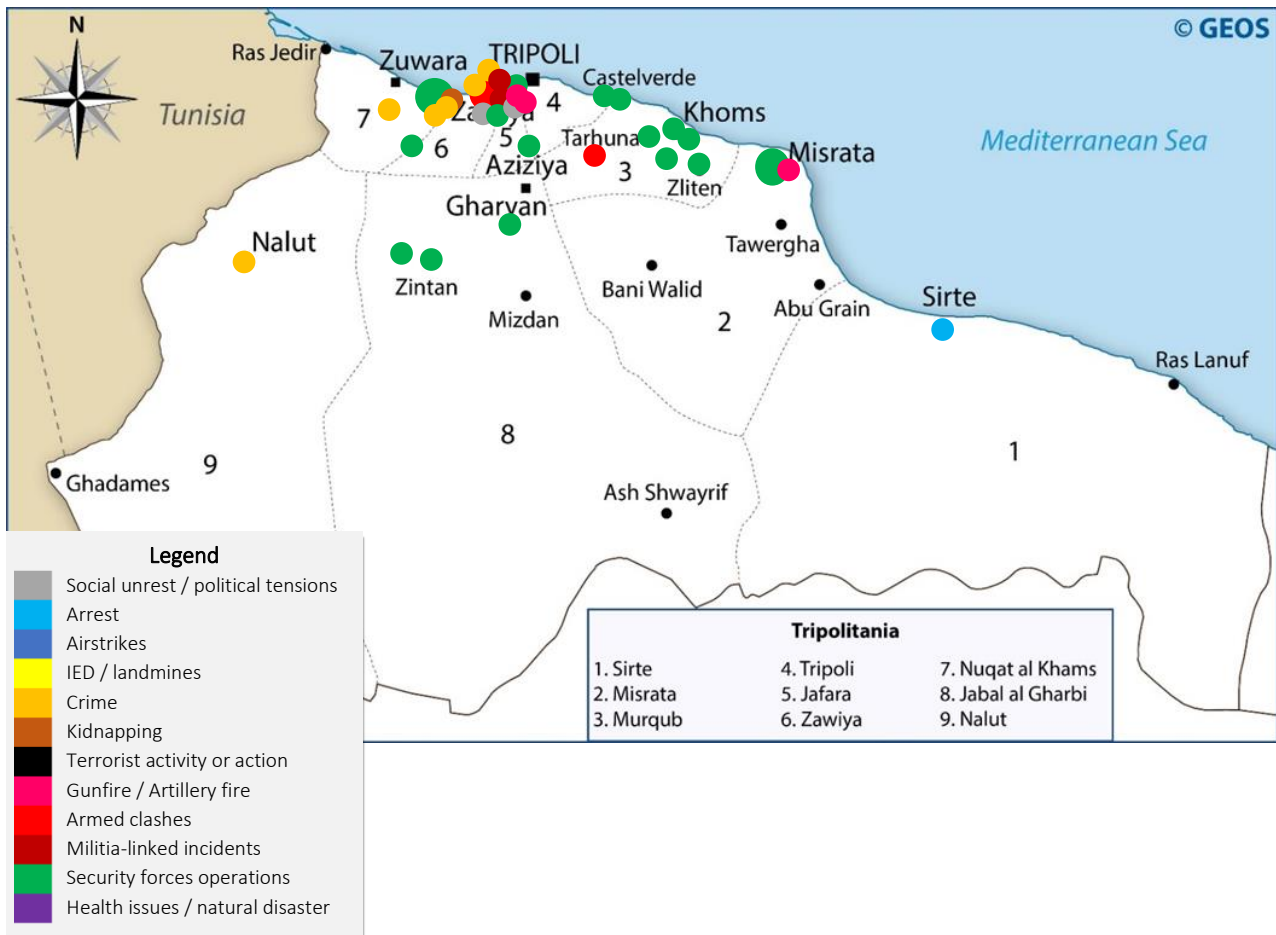
CRIME: In April 2023, Tripoli saw again a significant crime rate and relatively frequent security operations against criminal activities. Crime-related incidents mainly involved gun violence, including cases of murders and shooting. Security operations during the month illustrated the threat posed by gun violence in Tripoli. This was the case on 01/04, when security forces arrested 2 civilians accused of assault, murder, and robbery. Later in the month, other cases of arrests for murder were recorded. On 19/04, a civilian was detained on charges of assaulting a police officer in Tripoli's Old City. Among incidents showing the persistence of gun violence were also the arrest of a civilian on 11/04 on charges of armed robbery and, on 23/04, the injuring of another civilian by an individual allegedly affiliated to a local armed group, who opened fire at him in a quarrel.

Crimes recorded in the capital continued to testify to a widespread use of firearms and a potential risk for bystanders whenever gun violence is perpetrated in public areas.

→ **Likely persistence of criminal activities in the city**, especially involving gun violence.



TRIPOLITANIA



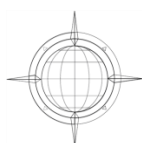
Main incidents of the month	
April 30 th	Tripolitania, Sabratha: 2 civilians were arrested on 30/04 by security forces in Sabratha. They are accused of murder and drug trafficking.
April 30 th	Tripolitania, Sabratha: On 30/04, a civilian was killed and 2 were injured when unidentified gunmen opened fire at them in Sabratha. No further information available.
April 30 th	Tripolitania, Sirte: On the evening of 30/04, a civilian was reportedly arrested and detained by the LNA's 604th during a security operation in Sirte. The reason for his arrest is unknown.
April 29 th	Tripolitania, Sabratha: On 29/04, 3 civilians were arrested during a security operation by security forces in Sabratha. They are accused of shooting and murder.
April 29 th	Tripolitania, Sabratha: On 29/04, 3 civilians were arrested during a security operation by security forces in Sabratha. They are accused of armed robbery.
April 29 th	Tripolitania, Jumayl: On 29/04, a civilian was killed by unidentified gunmen in Jumayl. No further information available.
April 28 th	Tripolitania, Sabratha: On 28/04, a civilian was killed when an armed quarrel took place between civilians in Sabratha. No further information available.
April 28 th	Tripolitania, Al-Ajaylat: On 28/04, 2 civilians were arrested when a hideout of drug trafficking was raided by the DAOCT (Rada) in Al-Ajaylat. They are accused of drug trafficking and escaping prison.
April 28 th	Tripolitania, Zliten: On 28/04, 3 civilians were arrested by security forces in Zliten. They are accused of shooting at Zliten's Waadi Kaam gate and injuring a citizen.



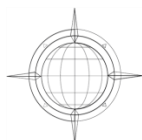
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April 27 th	Tripolitania, Zawiya: A number of civilians continued to protest in Zawiya on 27/04, blocking access to the city from the Coastal Road, as well as access to the Municipal Council building, and to the Zawiya Oil Refinery, denouncing deterioration of security in the city. The GNU MoD's 52nd Brigade was deployed to remove roadblocks and ensure security. The 52nd Brigade withdrew hours later, allegedly after some of the protestors forced it to leave, accusing it of involvement in the security crisis in the city. Roads and facilities, including the Zawiya Oil Refinery, were reportedly reopened following mediation by the local Council of Elders with protestors and other civil society components.
April 27 th	Tripolitania, Castelverde: 21 illegal migrants, including Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Egyptian, and Indian nationals were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Castelverde on 27/04. They are accused of attempting to reach Europe illegally.
April 27 th	Tripolitania, Wadi Kaam: 3 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Wadi Kaam on 27/04. They are accused of shooting and injuring a civilian.
April 27 th	Tripolitania, Zawiya: Thousands of people protested in Zawiya's Martyrs' Square, in front of the Zawiya Security Directorate and in other areas of Zawiya in the early morning of 27/04, blocking roads and setting fires, denouncing the deterioration of security in the city and demanding the resignation of the local Security Director, following the circulation of a video in which Libyan youths in Zawiya are tortured by foreign nationals from African countries. Western and eastern accesses to the city along the Coastal Road were blocked. Protesters also blocked access to Zawiya Oil Refinery by setting earth mounds, denouncing oil smugglers' activity in the city. Students in Zawiya closed schools and demonstrators announced a continuation of the protest on the same day.
April 27 th	Tripolitania, Zawiya: In the early hours of 27/04, a number of wanted foreign nationals from African countries were arrested and a number of firearms were seized by security forces during a security operation in Zawiya. They are accused of various crimes and illegal possession of firearms.
April 26 th	Tripolitania, Kikla: On 26/04, 1420 liters of illegally trafficked liquor were seized by security forces during a security operation in Kikla.
April 26 th	Tripolitania, Khoms: On 26/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Khoms. He is accused of murder.
April 26 th	Tripolitania, Nalut: A civilian, reportedly from Zintan, was killed and 2 others were injured by unidentified gunmen in unclear circumstances in Nalut on 26/04.
April 26 th	Tripolitania, Misrata: On 26/04, 50 Kg of cocaine were found on the seashore and seized by security forces during a security operation east of Misrata.
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	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, Khoms: On 22/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Khoms. He is accused of murder.
April 22 nd	Tripolitania, Zawiya: On 22/04, a civilian was killed when unidentified gunmen opened fire at him in Zawiya.
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, 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, 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.
April 18 th	Tripolitania, Zawiya, Coastal Road: On 18/04, unidentified gunmen opened fire at security forces while they were raiding illegal fuel selling places on the Coastal Road in Zawiya.
April 18 th	Tripolitania, Tarhuna: In the early hours of 18/04, a civilian was injured when clashes reportedly erupted between an armed group affiliated to Faraj Al-Kushar, a Tarhuna armed-group leader, and members of the CTF in Tarhuna. Unidentified gunmen opened fire leading to the injury of the civilian, and the GNU MoD's 444th Brigade intervened to stop the clashes. Social media sources reported that the clashes took place in the middle of the busy city, causing panic among civilians.
April 15 th	Tripolitania, An-Najila: On 15/04, unidentified shooting was heard in An-Najila. No further information available.
April 15 th	Tripolitania, Zintan: On 15/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Zintan. He is accused of murder and shooting.
April 14 th	Tripolitania, Nasmah: On 14/04, a civilian was arrested, and a fuel truck used for smuggling was seized by the SSA during a security operation in Nasmah. He is accused of fuel smuggling.
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. 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 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, Zawiyat 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 Zawiyat Al-Mahjoub area. Dbeibah had reportedly come to the area to attend a competition.
April 4 th	Tripolitania, Zawiya, Coastal Road: In the afternoon of 04/04, an armed convoy of 50 armed vehicles, belonging to an unidentified armed group, was seen moving towards west Zawiya, passing through Zawiya's Coastal Road.
April 3 rd	Tripolitania, Zawiya: In the late hours of 03/04, clashes erupted between unidentified armed groups in Zawiya's central district on Al-Daman Street. No casualties were reported.
April 3 rd	Tripolitania, Wadi Kaam: On 03/04, a civilian was arrested, and a large number of weapons were seized by security forces during a security operation in Wadi Kaam. He is accused of shooting RPGs at his neighbor's home and illegal possession of weapons.
April 3 rd	Tripolitania, Misrata: On 03/04, 3 Nigerian nationals were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Misrata. They are accused of armed robbery.
April 1 st	Tripolitania, Al-Aziziya: On 01/04, a Sudanese national was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Al-Aziziya. He is accused of murder.
April 1 st	Tripolitania, Zawiya: In the late hours of 01/04, clashes were renewed in Zawiya's Al-Harsha neighborhood, reportedly between an armed group affiliated to Mohamed Bahroun, also known as Al-Far, and another local armed group. No further information available.
April 1 st	Tripolitania, Zawiya: In the early hours of 01/04, 3 individuals were injured when clashes erupted between unidentified armed groups in Zawiya's Al-Harsha neighborhood.



PROTEST: In late April, civil unrest erupted in Zawiya as a large protest by residents denounced the persisting insecurity in the city, demanding security forces to intervene to improve security in the city. The early hours of 27/04 saw the beginning of demonstrations in various parts of Zawiya, including burning of tires, roadblocks, and closures of the main accesses to the city from east and west along the Coastal Road. The insecurity condemned by protestors had already been denounced in protests held in Zawiya in late 2022. At the end of December, the Coastal Road had been blocked by demonstrations in Zawiya following the killing of a family of civilians in front of a school in Al-Harsha neighborhood. After that, the GNU's MoI reacted by enhancing the presence of security forces in the area and forming a Joint Security Room for Zawiya, which started to operate in January. Nonetheless, more recently, another demonstration was recorded there on 31/03, when a number of civilians accused security forces and the municipality of being unwilling to stabilize the situation.

However, the situation did not seem improved in April. This month saw sporadic armed clashes in Zawiya, opposing different local armed groups, possibly engaged in crime and fighting over retaliations or territorial disputes. On 01/04, clashes erupted in Al-Harsha neighborhood, proving again a high risk for the safety of civilian residents amid exchanges of fire. On 23/04, 4 civilians were killed amid clashes between two local armed groups. On 19/04, Joint Security Room members were subjected to shootings during a security operation against illegal fuel selling.

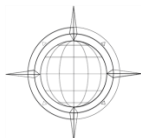
The protests of 27/04 were linked to this persistence of insecurity and violence, though they were sparked by the circulation of a video in which unidentified African foreigners, seen by the protestors as members of gangs operating in the city, were torturing Libyan nationals. The 27/04 protest had among its promoters a civil society organization called Zawiya Youth Movement (ZYM), joined by thousands of demonstrators. They closed access to the city and temporarily blocked the entrances of the Municipal Council building and the Zawiya Oil Refinery. Some protestors reportedly forced the GNU MoD's 52nd Brigade to withdraw from the city, following its deployment to secure it and remove roadblocks, accusing it of involvement in the security crisis.

In a statement, the ZYM demanded the dissolution and restructuring of the MoI's Joint Security Room working in Zawiya, the election of a new Municipal Council, the restructuring of security at Zawiya Oil Refinery to prevent fuel smuggling, the closure of gas stations involved in illegal fuel trafficking, and the punishment of the African foreigners torturing civilians in the video. They also accused elements of the security forces of taking part in smuggling activities together with African foreigners' criminal groups.

In the late hours of 27/04, roads and facilities, including the Zawiya Oil Refinery, reopened in parallel with the mediation by the local Council of Elders with protestors and other civil society components. The GNU's Oil Minister confirmed that the refinery's activities had not been disrupted. The Commander of the GNU MoD's West Coast Military Region, Salah Al-Din Al-Namrush, met with a ZYM delegation, stating the willingness of his forces to ensure security of citizens and state institutions and to combat fuel smuggling and corruption. He announced the start of a comprehensive security plan for Zawiya with the cooperation of civilians. The GNU MoD's stance on the Zawiya file was confirmed by its Chief of Staff, Mohamed Al-Haddad, in the days after the protest, when he also met with demonstrators and delegations from Zawiya. On 29/04, the formation of a 15-member committee including military officials and civilians from Zawiya was announced. The goal of the committee will be discussing security in Zawiya and the demands of the protestors.

The security situation in Zawiya remains unstable due to the significant presence of criminal groups, especially those involved in human and fuel smuggling. The April protest showed how such presence, linked to cases of violence and gunfire, as well as to shortages of fuel at gas stations, has continued to affect the daily life and safety of people in the city, leading to unrest and risk of declining trust in security forces.

- **Persisting tensions in Zawiya**, as sporadic clashes between armed groups remain likely;
- **Possibility of renewed protests** if no improvements in the security situation are achieved.



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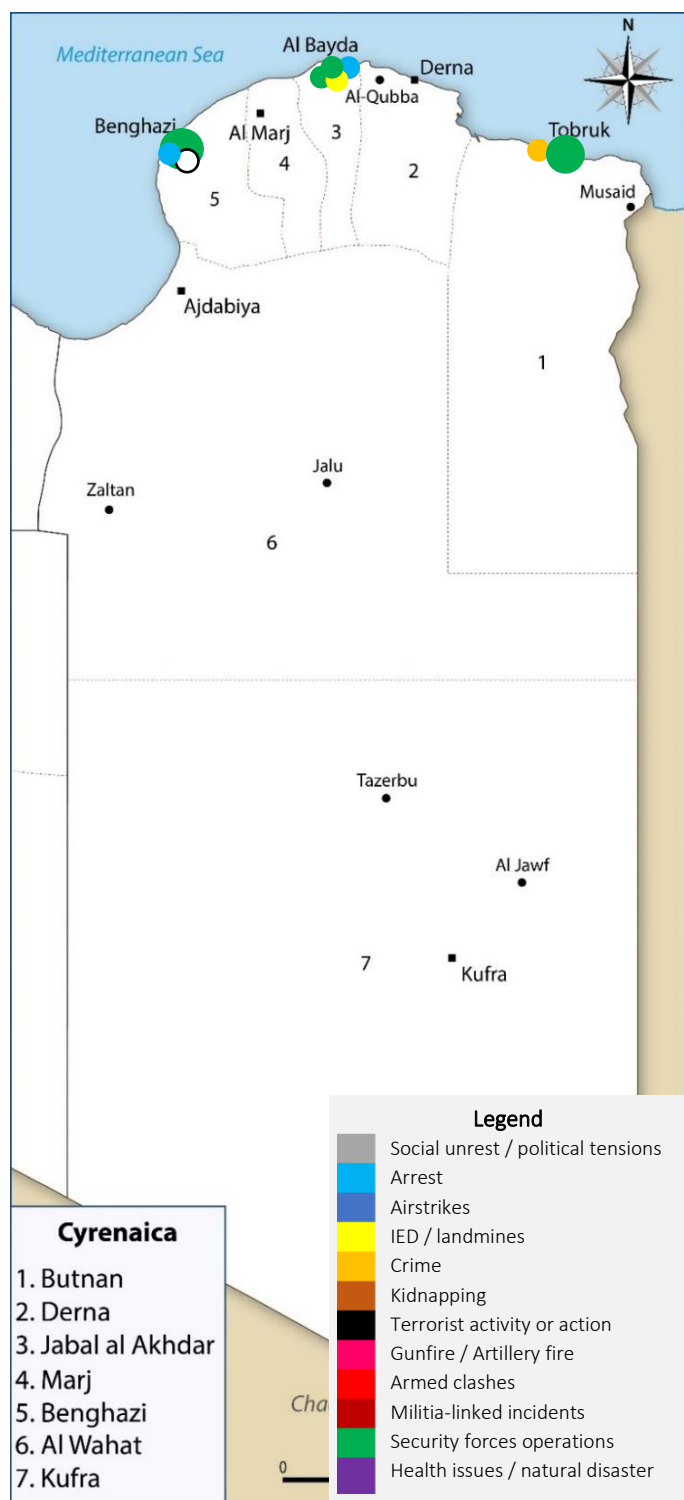
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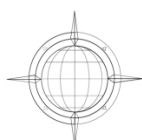
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CYRENAICA



Main incidents of the month

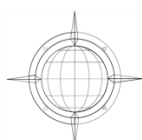
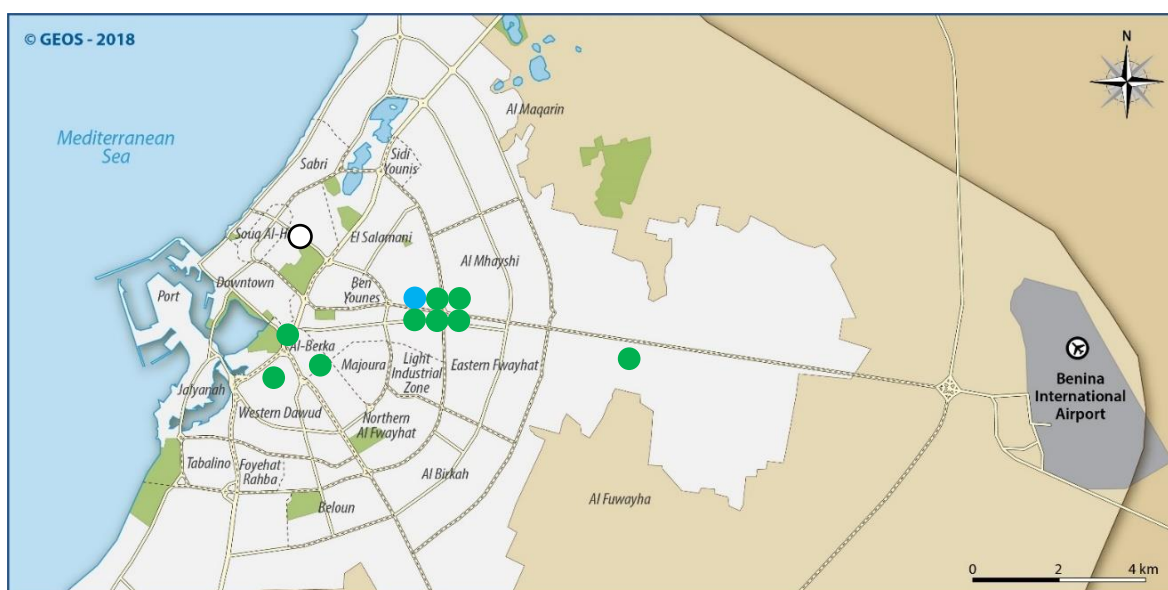
Apr. 30 th	Cyrenaica, Al-Bayda: On 30/04, 2 civilians were arrested by security forces in Al-Bayda. They are accused of kidnapping and assault.
Apr. 30 th	Cyrenaica, Al-Bayda: On 30/04, an explosion reportedly took place in Al-Bayda as a result of a quarrel between two civilians. No casualties were reported.
Apr. 29 th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi: On 29/04, a number of foreign nationals from African countries were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi. They are accused of prostitution.
Apr. 27 th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi: A civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi on 27/04. He is accused of armed robbery and assault.
Apr. 26 th	Cyrenaica, Al-Bayda: On 26/04, a number of civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Al-Bayda. They are accused of armed robbery.
Apr. 24 th	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.
Apr. 23 rd	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.
Apr. 23 rd	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.
Apr. 20 th	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.
Apr. 20 th	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.
Apr. 19 th	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.
Apr. 19 th	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.
Apr. 19 th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi: On 19/04, 8 Nigerian nationals were arrested by security forces during a security



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	operation in Benghazi. They are accused of prostitution.
Apr. 16th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi: On 16/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces in Benghazi. He is accused of armed robbery. Investigation is ongoing.
Apr. 15th	Cyrenaica, Tobruk: On 15/04, 8 Sudanese and Nigerian nationals were arrested when a hideout was raided by security forces in Tobruk. They are accused of prostitution and drug possession.
Apr. 13th	Cyrenaica, Tobruk: On 13/04, 3 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tobruk. They are accused of armed robbery.
Apr. 8th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi: On 08/04, 4 foreign nationals from African countries, including Nigeria, were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi's Al-Hawary neighborhood. They are accused of drug trafficking and prostitution.
Apr. 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.
Apr. 4th	Cyrenaica, Benghazi, Al-Sabala: On 04/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Benghazi's Al-Sabala neighborhood. He is accused of arson.
Apr. 2nd	Cyrenaica, Tobruk: On 02/04, 3 civilians were arrested by security forces during a security operation in Tobruk. They are accused of armed robbery.
Apr. 1st	Cyrenaica, Al-Bayda: On 01/04, the Mayor of Al-Bayda, Abdullah Amtoul Al-Barasi, was reportedly arrested and detained by security forces at the Al-Abraq Airport in Al-Bayda, reportedly for safety reasons.



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SECURITY: In April 2023, Benghazi saw a relatively low number of violent crimes. The number of security forces operations also continued to go down significantly, potentially indicating an improvement of the security framework. In March, security operations were more focused on cracking down on illegal migration than in previous months and while this continued in April, it was less common in Benghazi compared to operations against violent significant crimes such as assault, prostitution, and armed robberies.

This was made especially clear several times as security forces have cracked down more on prostitution. In fact, the highest number of arrests were recorded in one operation for April in Benghazi was on 19/04, when 8 Nigerian nationals were arrested and accused of prostitution. Similar operations were held on 08/04 and 29/04, with all three times involving foreign nationals from African countries as well being paired with accusations of drug trafficking. Often the number of people arrested is unreported, but it is usually an entire ring involving several people, making up far more arrests than against lone offenders.

However, that does not mean security efforts to arrest those accused of other crimes have stalled in Benghazi. Crimes that are typically rarer have occurred more frequently this month than in previous months. In fact, more violent offenses like arson, assault, armed robberies, kidnapping, and murder ended up being reported as targets of security operations far more frequently than non-violent crimes like drug trafficking.

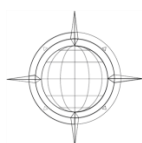
- **Persistent risk of violent crimes in Benghazi relatively low**, mainly due to ongoing security campaigns and cooperation between police and LNA, likely to continue in the near future.
- **Strengthening of law enforcement against significant crime**, likely to lead to an increase in the number of security operations against armed robberies, assault and prostitution.

SECURITY: In April, Tobruk has had a far fewer incidences reported than in Benghazi. This is unsurprising considering Tobruk's smaller population. Nonetheless, it is worth noting that in March, only a single incident, a protest, had been reported in Tobruk. Indeed, Tobruk has seen a larger increase in significant crime and security operations that overtakes the number of the first 3 months of the year combined.

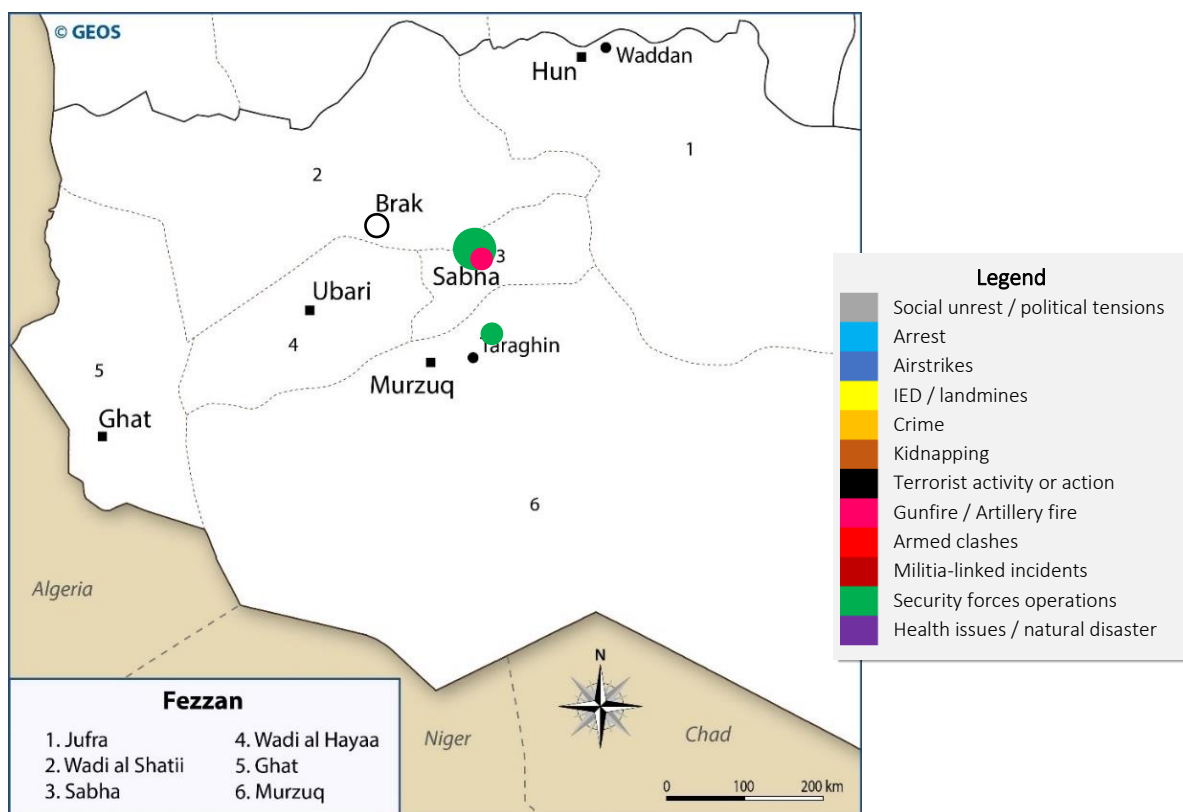
This was highlighted in this month's deadliest incident in Tobruk when on 19/04, 3 civilians were killed, and 9 others were injured after a quarrel broke out between two families. While this was the most significant case of violence in the city this month, other incidents were recorded, pointing at different security threats in the city. For example, on 03/04 and 13/04, 6 civilians were arrested and accused of armed robberies. 20 more civilians were arrested on 05/04 under the accusation of harassing women. Considering the higher number of security operations, it is either possible that crime has increased, prompting more frequent response by security forces, or that security forces have simply rejuvenated their efforts to arrest criminals.

Tobruk also experiences many issues regarding illegal migration and criminal activity from foreign nationals. This month, a security operation was conducted on 15/04, resulting in the arrest of 8 Sudanese and Nigerian nationals accused of prostitution and drug possession. Efforts to stop illegal migration were also led by security forces on 19/04 when 3 Libyans and 30 illegal migrants from Egypt were arrested, with the Libyan civilians accused of human smuggling. Overall, reports of civilian clashes, relatively frequent security operations against significant crime, and the fight against illegal migration and human trafficking, all signalled the persistence of relevant sources of insecurity in Tobruk, despite its remaining safer in comparison with larger Libyan cities.

- **Continuing risk of inter-civilian clashes**, increasing an underlying risk of social tensions.
- **Strengthening of law enforcement against significant crime**, likely to lead to an increase in the number of security operations against illegal migration and armed robberies.

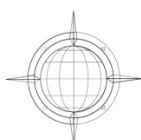


FEZZAN



Main incidents of the month

April 23 rd	Fezzan, Umm Al-Aranib: On 23/04, 30 illegal migrants of Nigerian nationality were arrested by the LNA's 676 th Battalion in Umm Al-Aranib. They are accused of illegal entry into Libyan territory.
April 14 th	Fezzan, Sebha: On 14/04, 450 000 narcotic tablets were seized by the LNA's 128th Brigade during a security operation near Sebha.
April 14 th	Fezzan, Sebha: On 14/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Sebha. He is accused of armed robbery, murder and drug trafficking.
April 11 th	Fezzan: On 11/04, a joint desert patrol led by the LNA's Southern Operations Force and including units of the LNA's 128 th 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 Qatron, ordered by the Public Prosecution. The suspects are accused of fuel trafficking.
April 2 nd	Fezzan, Sebha: On 02/04, a civilian was arrested by security forces during a security operation in Sebha's Sukkara neighborhood. He is accused of assault.
April 1 st	Fezzan, Sebha: On 01/04, unidentified shooting was heard in Sebha. No further information was available.



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SECURITY: April witnessed a relatively low number of incidents in the Fezzan region. While this is not unusual for this sparsely populated region, data gathered this month confirmed the continuation of law enforcement efforts by LNA forces in the area. The few security operations recorded in Fezzan by local journalistic and social media sources were all led by LNA formations on the background of the new deployment of large desert patrol coordinated by the LNA's Southern Operations Room. This joint military patrol – which started operations during this month – includes LNA brigades, including the 128th, the 73rd, and the Tariq Ben Ziyad (TBZ) and several battalions. The LNA's joint desert patrol was announced on 11/04 as a measure to enhance border security in along the southern border, and a new instrument against human trafficking, drug trafficking, and fuel smuggling, which are all criminal phenomena having concerned this part of the country for years.

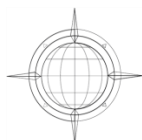
These smugglers' groups are armed and capable of exchanging fire with security forces, representing a significant threat to security. Furthermore, the intense fuel smuggling activity in Fezzan to diversions of the fuel supplies and shortages at the local level, repeatedly sparking protests over the past year. This month, the LNA led several security operations against fuel smuggling in the region. A security campaign culminating on 05/04 was conducted by LNA in various towns of southwestern Libya. During this coordinated operation, at least 24 individuals, including 21 foreign nationals, were arrested, 310,000 liters of petrol were seized, and 307 illegal fuel stations were closed on charges of illegal fuel supply activity.

Drug trafficking is another significant threat targeted by units of the LNA's joint desert patrol. For example, on 14/04, 450,000 narcotic tablets were seized by forces of the LNA's 128th Brigade near Sebha. The operation also included an exchange of fire between criminals and LNA members, proving the threat posed by traffickers' groups and their capability to engage in combat with security forces.

Moreover, human smuggling and illegal migration were the targets of the LNA's law enforcement activity in Fezzan during the second half of April. On 23/04, a hideout was raided by the LNA's 676th Battalion in Umm Al-Aranib, resulting in the arrest of 30 illegal migrants.

April's developments showed a continuation and probably a strengthening of the LNA's policing role in southwestern Libya, evidence by the launch of the new joint patrol. Nonetheless, it is worth noting that the number of security operations in Fezzan had been already relatively high in March, when LNA forces conducted security operation in the Sebha and Ubari areas, including the arrest of an individual accused of links with terrorist organizations. Although no terrorist attacks were recorded in Libya since May 2022, the four attacks perpetrated last year between January and May were all in Fezzan, as well as most of the terrorist attacks recorded in Libya in 2021. While the terrorist presence in Fezzan is now significantly weakened compared to some years ago, the latent risk of terrorist activities in the area should not be underestimated.

→ **Likely continuation of security campaigns led by LNA forces** against fuel trafficking, drug smuggling, human trafficking, illegal migration, and terrorism in the next months.



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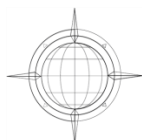
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ACRONYM LIST

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



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