



Intelyse



LIBYA

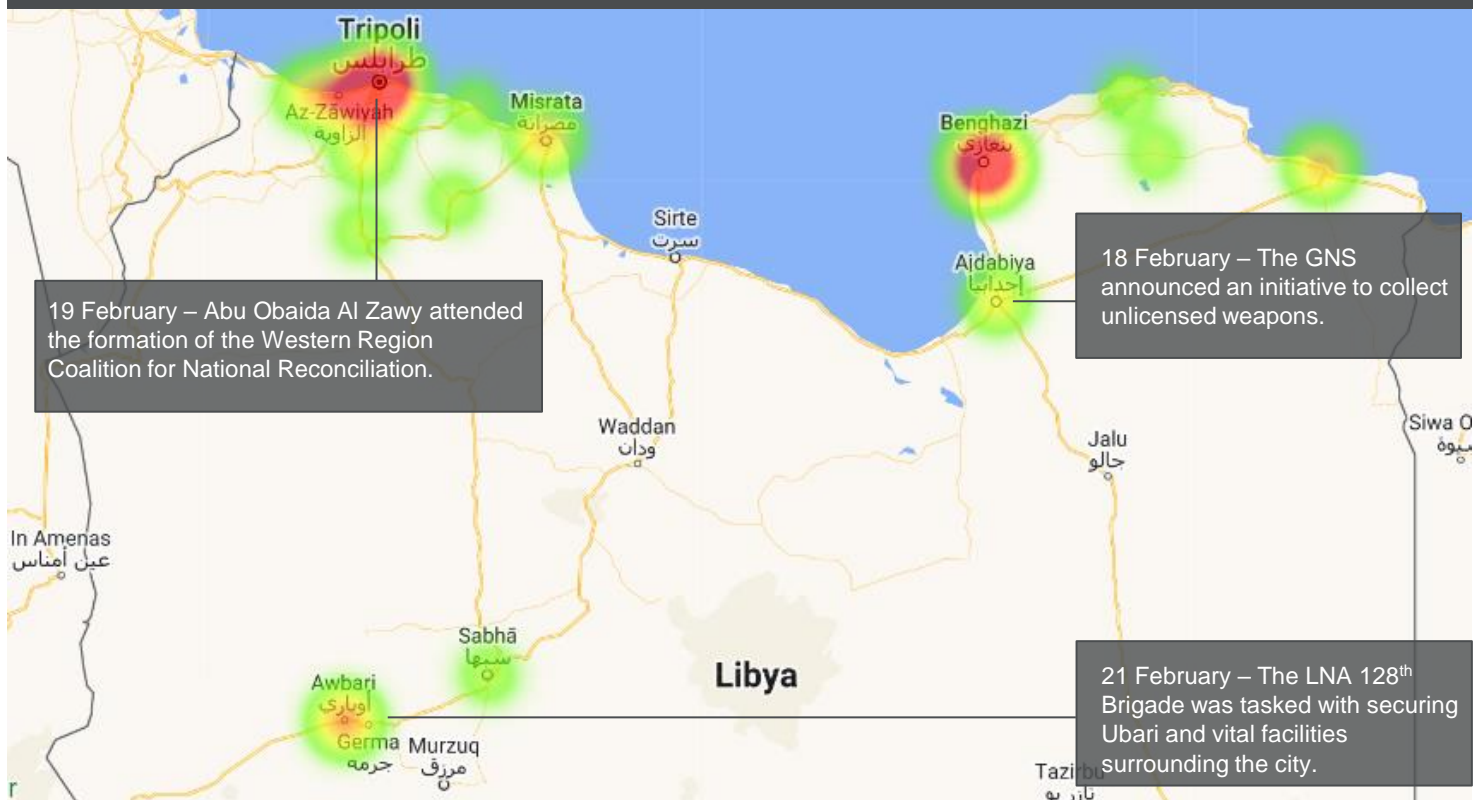
Weekly Political Stability,
Economic And Security
Threat Assessment

18-24 FEBRUARY 2023



COUNTRYWIDE OVERVIEW

FIGURE 1: INCIDENT ACTIVITY IN LIBYA, 18-24 FEBRUARY 2023



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The latest developments indicate ongoing attempts to create momentum for a consolidation of Tripolitania-based socio-political groups as part of the US and UK-led efforts to reduce the likelihood of a destabilization in Libya.
- On 19 February, local sources reported the formation of the Western Region Coalition for National Reconciliation (WRCNR) in the presence of Abu Obaida Al Zawy.
- On 21 February, the SSA inaugurated its new headquarters at the former National Mobile Force camp, northeast of Bridge 17 in Janzour.
- The security environment in Fezzan remains unchanged.

OUTLOOK

- It is too early to say if and how these groups will coordinate with each other. Without shared goals and strategic guidance, single groups are more likely to disband or enter in competition between themselves and with other better-established Tripolitanian groups. Continued US and UK involvement will be key in this regard.
- This seems to confirm that Al Zawy is part of the efforts to consolidate a Tripolitania-based socio-political platform, as initially forecasted.
- It might be assumed that Ghneiwa is merely working to expand the SSA's area of influence, and does not necessarily see the new trends unfolding in the western coastal area (see page 2) as a threat. However, it is too early to confirm this.
- Given the current efforts to marginalize Saif Gaddafi (see page 2), the main trigger for instability in Fezzan currently relates to potential action taken by the Gaddafa tribe, especially in Sabha, in case Saif Gaddafi is excluded from an electoral race or further marginalized politically.

COUNTRYWIDE OVERVIEW

NEW DEVELOPMENTS SUPPORT PREVIOUS ANALYSIS

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

In line with previous analysis, the latest developments indicate ongoing attempts to create momentum for a consolidation of Tripolitania-based socio-political groups as part of the US and UK-led efforts to reduce the likelihood of a destabilization in Libya. A destabilization might originate from Libyan drivers or be actively instigated by Russia via its links to Saif Gaddafi and its control on the Wagner Group, to tilt key EU and NATO members against continuing to support Ukraine (see 10 February Weekly Threat Assessment).

The three main groups emerging from this phase currently are:

- The Union of Libyan Revolutionaries (Zintan), founded on the back of the 11 February Extraordinary Forum of Libyan Revolutionaries.
- The Western Region Coalition for National Reconciliation (Zawiyah), founded on 19 February in the presence of Abu Obaida Al Zawy.
- The 17 February Union of Revolutionaries (Misrata), which on 20 February condemned Saif Gaddafi and claimed to be the legitimate body representing the city's revolutionaries.

It is too early to say if these initiatives will gain traction and if these groups will coordinate with each other. Intelyse considers this possible, given the similar ideological background of the groups. However, it remains to be seen how such groups will organize and split political and economic resources, which will be the greatest source of divisions. Without shared goals and strategic guidance, single groups are more likely to disband or enter in competition between themselves and with other better-established Tripolitanian groups. Continued US and UK involvement will prove key in this regard.

In the longer term, the US and the UK might be looking at building on these efforts to achieve a reunification of Libya under western influence. Notably, in the last week HCS head Al Mishri and HoR head Saleh condemned an unconfirmed American plan to form a committee charged with drafting an electoral law. Further unconfirmed reports also alleged that the US would eventually aim at holding parliamentary elections in Libya and having a Libyan President subsequently elected by the new Parliament.

THE RETURN OF AL ZAWY

Former LIFG operative Abu Obaida Al Zawy (real name Shaaban Hadiya) arrived in Al Harsha, west of Al Zawiyah, on 16 February. He was welcomed by Muhammad Bahroun, a.k.a. Al Far. Al Zawy's arrival comes after an unsuccessful attempt to return to Libya on 5 February, when the GNU ordered to prevent his plane from landing in Zuwara. On 17 February, Al Zawy gave a speech to celebrate the 2011 revolution, and called for a nationwide reconciliation. He stated: "We have to save our country from the mud it has fallen into. If a disagreement or rift occurred between us, it is nothing but an accident."

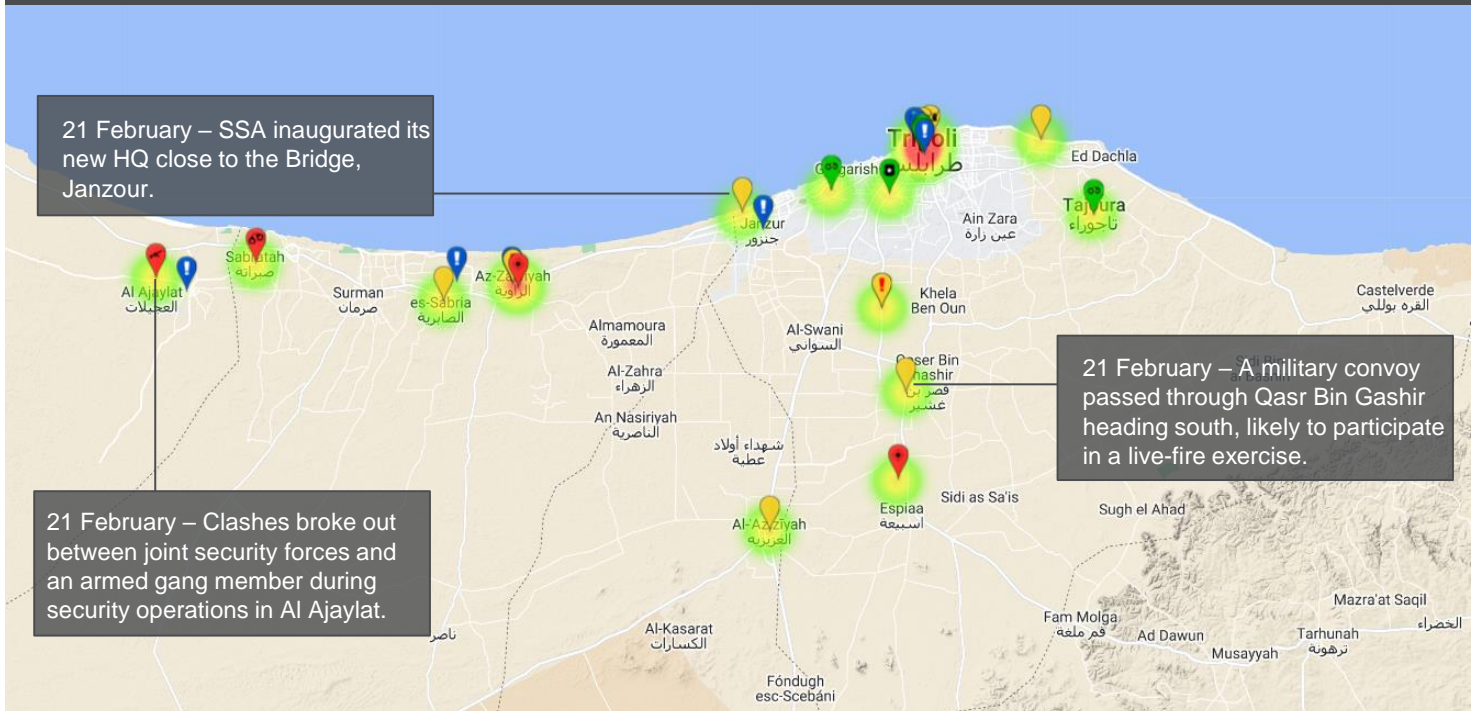
In the same occasion, Al Zawy also claimed: "I returned to Libya because our people in Zawiya see that I am part of the solution." Relatedly, on 19 February local sources reported the formation of the Western Region Coalition for National Reconciliation (WRCNR) in Al Zawy's presence. This seems to confirm that Al Zawy is part of the efforts to consolidate a Tripolitania-based socio-political platform, as initially forecasted (see 10 and 17 February Weekly Threat Assessments).

Intelyse saw no agenda published after the creation of the WRCNR. Therefore, the specific action points of the organization remain unclear, similarly to what was reported after the 11 February Extraordinary Forum of Libyan Revolutionaries. Intelyse will keep monitoring the situation.



Establishment of the Western Region Coalition for National Reconciliation attended by Abu Obaida Al Zawy, 19 February 2023

FIGURE 2: INCIDENT ACTIVITY IN TRIPOLI, 18-24 FEBRUARY 2023



MILITIA UPDATES

- On 21 February, the SSA inaugurated its new headquarters at the former National Mobile Force camp, northeast of Bridge 17 in Janzour. The ceremony was attended by Al Far, Lofti Al Hariri, Al Madghota and other militia leaders. The development follows previous reports of a meeting between representatives of the SSA, the National Mobile Force and the Janzour Knights to discuss future cooperation. The SSA said that the opening of the new branch is part of continuous efforts to carry out its task in securing areas of the country. It is unclear if and how this development is related to the efforts mentioned on page 2. Given the links between Ghneiwa and Al Far, and between Al Far and Abu Obaida Al Zawy (see page 2) it might be assumed that Ghneiwa is merely working to expand the SSA's area of influence, and does not necessarily see the new trends unfolding in the western coastal area as a threat. However, it is too early to confirm this.
- On 20 February, a Joint Security Force from Zawiya Security Directorate and the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) clashed with an armed criminal group in the Jenan Attia area, Al Ajaylat. One police officer was killed in the incident, prompting Muhammad Bahroun, a.k.a Al Far, to release a statement that the security operation in Al Ajaylat will continue until all criminal dens are removed. Al Far's statement indicates the likelihood of further road closures and skirmishes along the coastal road and in the coming days.

THE GNU ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF ABDULLAH MANSOUR

On 19 February, the GNU announced the release of Abdullah Mansour, a former intelligence officer under the Gaddafi regime who had been arrested in 2014. GNU PM Dbeiba thanked the Military Prosecutor and the Attorney General for facilitating Mansour's release.

The release of Mansour seems to put Dbeiba at odds with the efforts to marginalize pro-Gaddafi actors in Libya, expressed by the Extraordinary Forum of Libyan Revolutionaries and the 17 February Union of Libyan Revolutionaries.

This should not be seen as a sign that Dbeiba is necessarily cozying up to the Gaddafists because he is scared by the formation of new political groups in Tripolitania. More simply, it might be a way for Dbeiba to appease pro-Gaddafi groups in Libya amid criticism caused by the extradition of Al Marimi and the failure to release Abdullah Al Senussi.

FIGURE 3: INCIDENT ACTIVITY IN FEZZAN, 18-24 FEBRUARY 2023



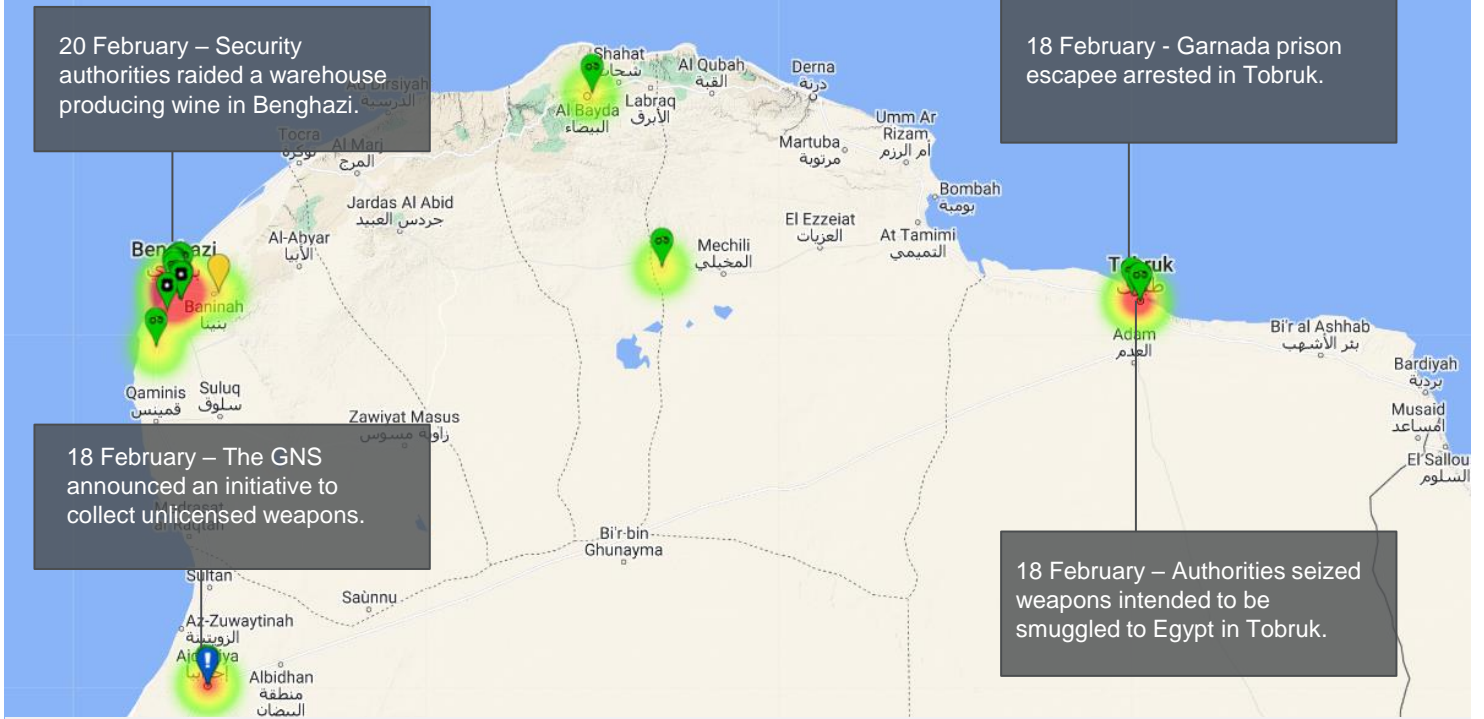
SECURITY SITUATION IN FEZZAN REMAINS UNCHANGED

The security environment in Fezzan remains unchanged. Government security and police operations kept targeting individuals and groups as part of the LNA's efforts to maintain and expand its influence in the region. Low-impact criminal activities including, theft, robbery, smuggling and narcotics trade remain common in the region, but often go unreported. These trends are expected to continue in the foreseeable future. Given the current efforts to marginalize Saif Gaddafi (see page 2), the main trigger for instability relates to potential action taken by the Gaddafa tribe, especially in Sabha, in case Saif Gaddafi is excluded from an electoral race or further marginalized politically. Such action might include sieging government buildings and blocking roads. The LNA would likely crack down on the dissent.

FIGURE 4: SECURITY TRENDS IN FEZZAN 27 NOVEMBER 2022 – 24 FEBRUARY 2023



FIGURE 5: INCIDENT ACTIVITY IN CYRENAICA, 18-24 FEBRUARY 2023



LNA SECURITY OPERATIONS CONTINUE IN EASTERN LIBYA

LNA security operations targeting criminal groups in Benghazi continued during the reporting period. These operations resulted in the uptick of arrests and government security responses recorded in the region and shown in Figure 6 below. Such operations are likely to continue in the coming weeks. Armed clashes between LNA forces and criminal groups remain possible.

Building on the success of these operations, the GNS Ministry of Interior also launched an initiative requiring the holders of unlicensed firearms to hand them over before 22 February. This is supposed to curb criminality. Reports suggested that the initiative received local support, since on 20 February LNA Special Forces were handed over various firearms, ammunition and a rocket.

FIGURE 6: SELECTED INCIDENTS IN CYRENAICA, 18-24 FEBRUARY 2023

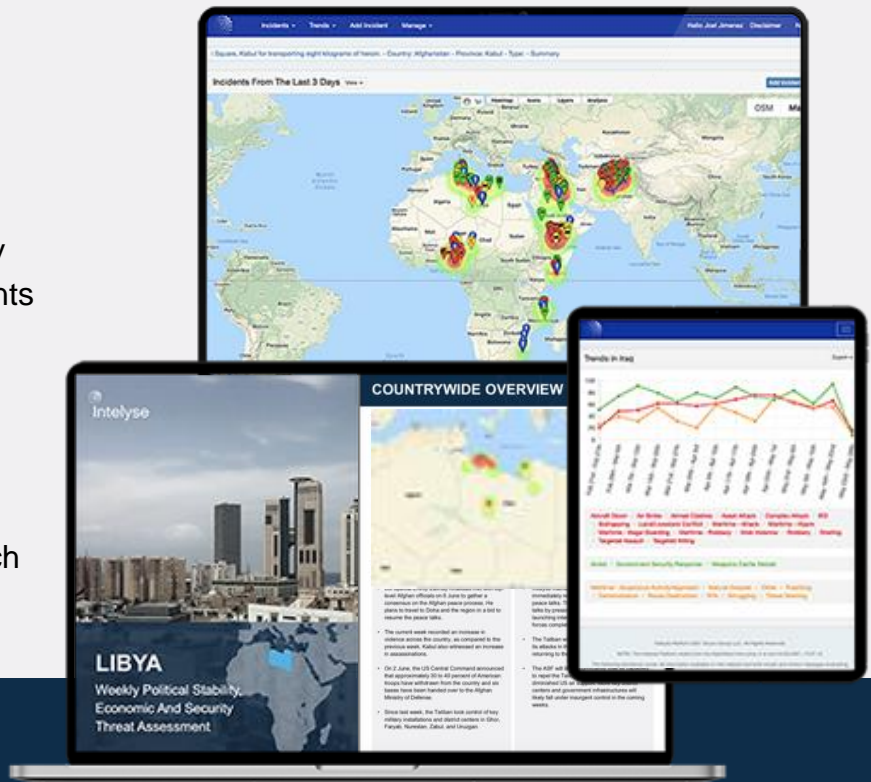


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