



Intelyse



# LIBYA

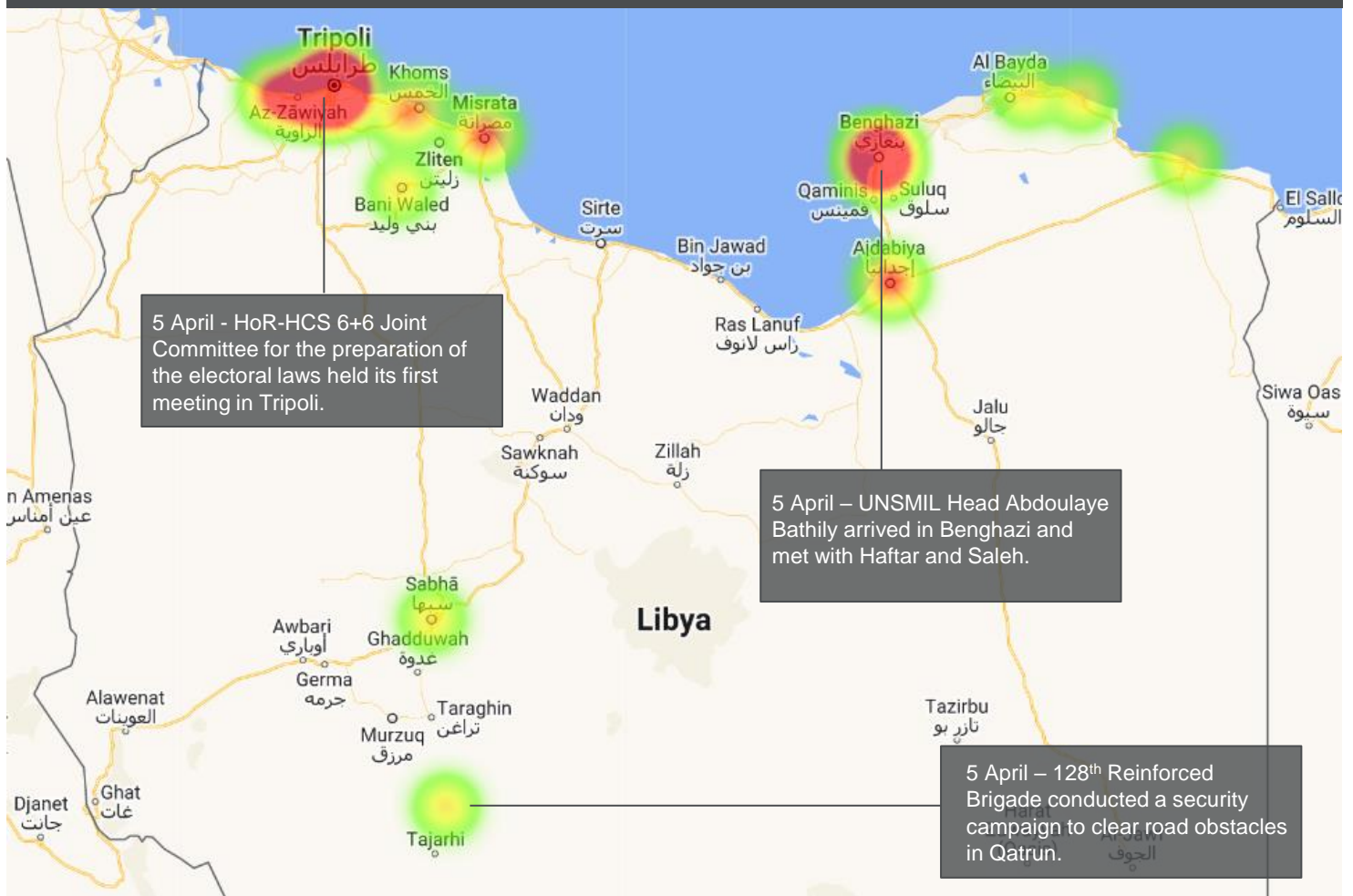
Weekly Political Stability,  
Economic And Security  
Threat Assessment

1-7 APRIL 2023



# COUNTRYWIDE OVERVIEW

FIGURE 1: HIGHLIGHTED INCIDENTS IN LIBYA, 1 – 7 APRIL 2023



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Unconfirmed sources are reporting that GNU and GNS government officials asked the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD) to broker and mediate a meeting.
- LNA representatives from the 5+5 JMC arrived in Zintan and met with Western Military Region commander Osama Juwaili to discuss recent developments in Libya.
- The Tripoli Security Directorate launched its unified communications system for the Traffic Affairs Office, resulting in a slight increase in the recovery of stolen vehicles.

## OUTLOOK

- GNS PM Bashagha stated during a press conference in Sirte that he will only meet GNU PM Dbeiba if he resigns from his position. This indicates that, even if the meeting took place between lower-level attendees, there is still no support for this initiative at the top government level in Libya.
- The visit is part of efforts by the eastern bloc to build stronger relationships and alliances with western actors. For the LNA, strengthening its relationship with Juwaili might be a genuine way to support the east-west rapprochement. However, it might also be a way to develop an ally in the west to potentially challenge Tripoli-based groups in case the current stability ends in the future.
- The trend is assessed to continue in the medium term and can potentially be replicated and implemented by other security directorates.

# COUNTRYWIDE OVERVIEW

## POLITICAL UPDATES

Political actors are using the current phase of stability to develop existing relationships and/or create new ones. In the sections below are some recent examples, but it should also be noted that:

- On 6 April, the 6+6 HoR-HCS Joint Committee to prepare the electoral law held its first preparatory meeting in Tripoli. The HoR-HCS process is not expected to deliver political breakthroughs.
- On 5 April, the head of the Muslim Brotherhood-linked Justice and Construction Party, Imad Al Banani, met with Qatari Ambassador to Libya, Khaled Al Dossari in Tripoli. The meeting discussed the possibility of holding the elections this year.

### Unconfirmed meeting between GNU and GNS officials

Unconfirmed sources are reporting a leak from the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD), the same organization which helped brokering the LNA-GNA ceasefire in 2020. Reportedly, GNU and GNS government officials asked CHD to broker and mediate a meeting.

The meeting was reportedly scheduled for 5 April in Geneva, but there is no confirmation it actually took place. GNS PM Bashagha stated during a press conference in Sirte that he will only meet GNU PM Dbeiba if he resigns from his position. This indicates that, even if the meeting took place between lower-level attendees, there is still no support for this initiative at the top government level in Libya.

The meeting was not held under UNSMIL, which is however welcome to attend. The goal of the meeting would be to find a consensus on how to implement UNSMIL head Bathily's proposals, including elections in Libya.

Intelyse previously signaled attempts to organize elections in Libya before the end of 2023 as a trigger for new instability in the country. This holds true until Dbeiba, Bashagha, Haftar and all the other stakeholders which hold sway on the ground receive guarantees that their power and privileges will not be at stake in case of an election, which seems very unlikely.

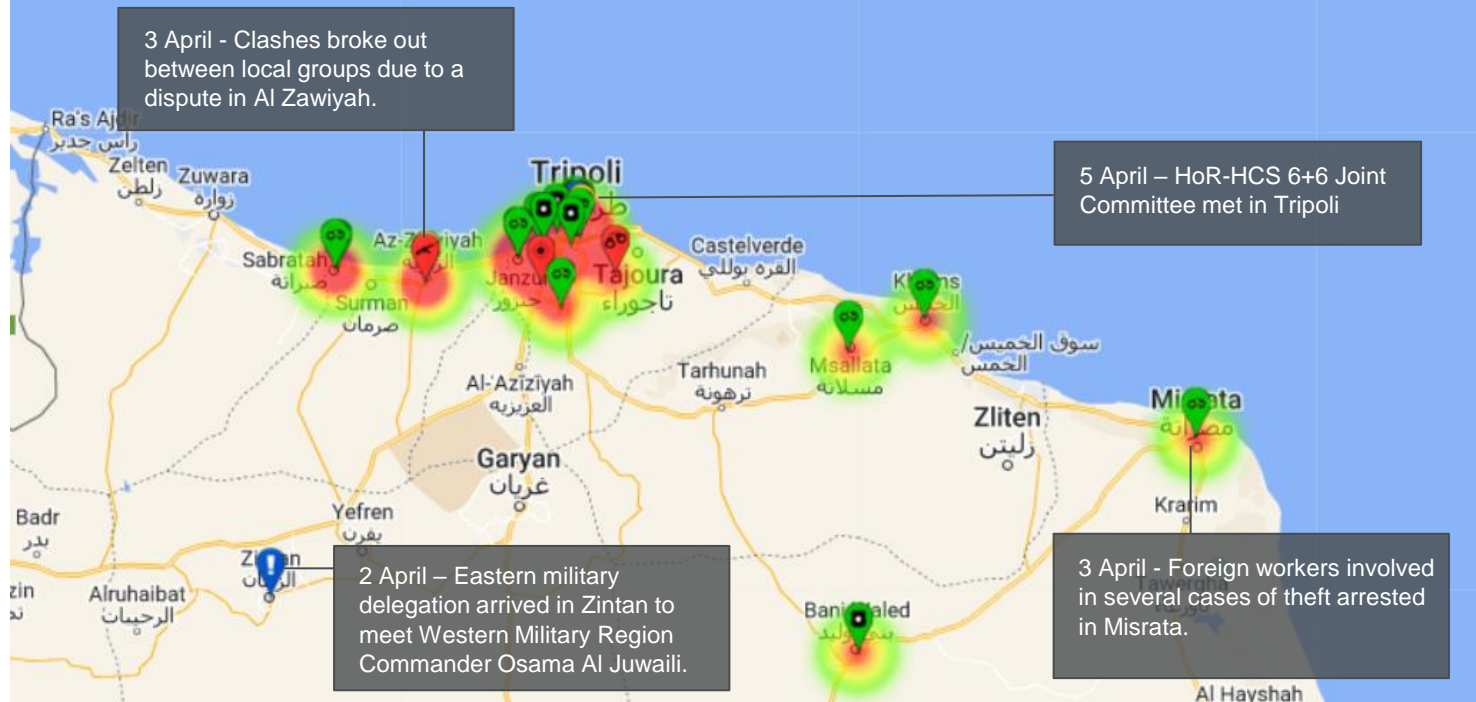
### LNA delegation meets Osama Juwaili in Zintan

On 3 April, LNA representatives from the 5+5 JMC arrived in Zintan and met with Western Military Region commander Osama Juwaili (see pictures below). The meeting covered the recent developments in Libya in the context of the efforts to bridge the gaps between the eastern and western parts of the country. Later reports claimed that the visit to Juwaili was conducted on personal grounds, and has nothing to do with the recent official JMC 5+5 meetings held in Tripoli and Tunisia.

The visit is part of efforts by the eastern bloc to build stronger relationships and alliances with western actors. For the LNA, strengthening its relationship with Juwaili might be a genuine way to support the east-west rapprochement. However, it might also be a way to develop an ally in the west to potentially challenge Tripoli-based groups in case the current stability ends in the future. Between Tripoli, Misrata and Zintan, the latter has always been the closer city to the LNA.



FIGURE 2: HIGHLIGHTED INCIDENTS IN TRIPOLI FROM 1 – 7 APRIL 2023



## SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS IN TRIPOLITANIA

In the past week, the Tripoli Security Directorate launched its unified communications system for the Traffic Affairs Office. The system allows for quick queries and facilitates faster reporting on the status of registered vehicles and those reported missing.

The launch of the system has reportedly resulted in a slight increase in the frequency of recoveries of stolen vehicles in Tripoli and the surrounding areas. This trend is assessed to continue in the medium term and can potentially be replicated and implemented by other security directorates. This development comes in the context of the Mol campaign to monitor vehicles used by both civilians and security agencies in and around Tripoli.

Aside from that, incident activity in the last week did not deviate from normal trends:

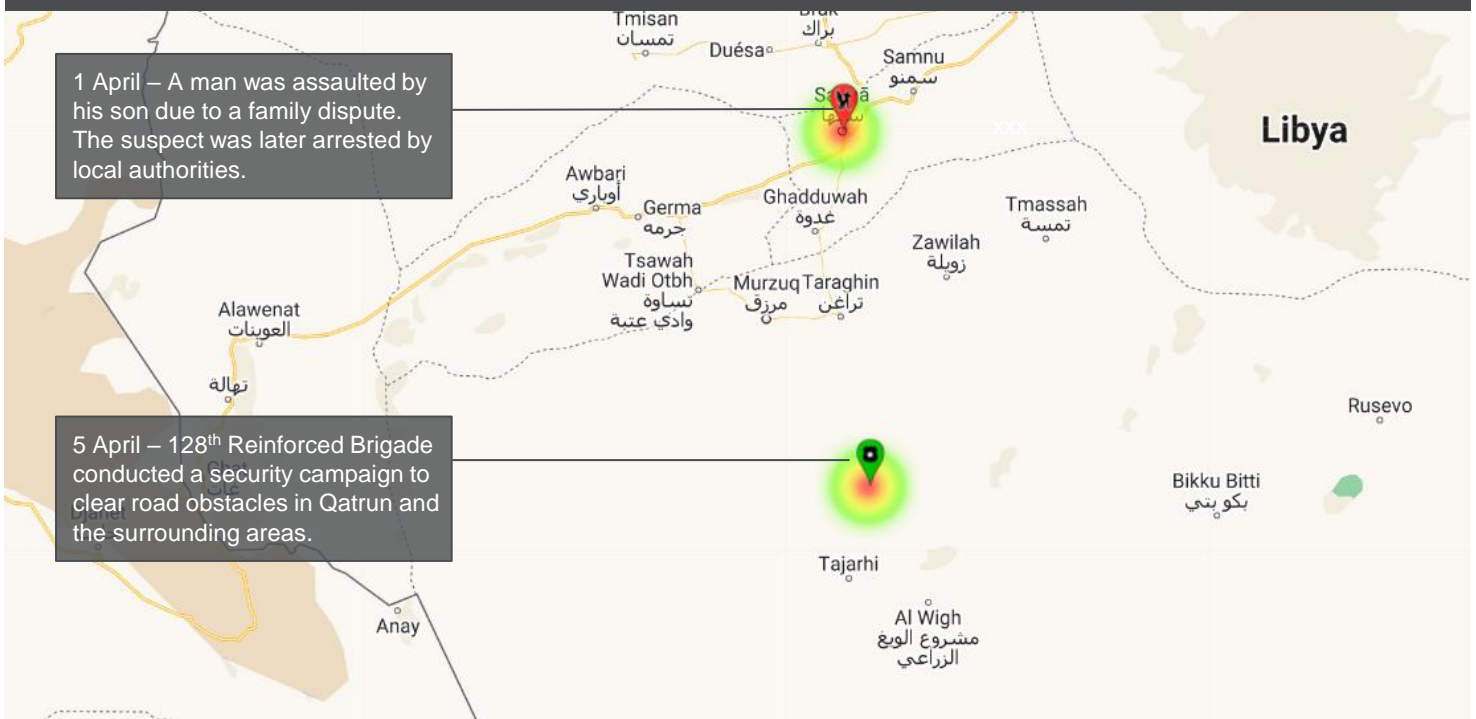
30 March - An unidentified armed group riding on three vehicles detained Internal Security Head Major General Rashid Muhammad Al Rahbani outside his house in Hay Andalus, Tripoli. Unconfirmed reports claim that he is in the custody of the Office of the Public Prosecutor. The accusations against him are unclear.

3 April - Local armed groups clashed in Al Zawiya, likely due to a dispute. Clashes subsided quickly, but low-level militia skirmishes will keep occurring on the western coastal road. Militia violence remains unlikely to escalate significantly in the short term.

3 April - The 444th Brigade raided a criminal den in Bani Walid. One local young man was killed in the raid, which upset the local community, which claimed the operation was carried out without the permission of the Office of the Public Prosecutor. The said operation is part of the usual security activities conducted by the 444<sup>th</sup> Brigade against criminal gangs operating in areas under its sphere of control. The incident is unlikely to develop further.

4 April – The Al Khums Security Directorate recovered a large weapons cache after intervening during a neighborhood dispute in Al Khums. The weapons cache was discovered after security units intervened due to a man firing two RPG shells at his neighbor's house. The incident is unlikely to develop further.

**FIGURE 3: HIGHLIGHTED INCIDENTS IN FEZZAN FROM 1 – 7 APRIL 2023**



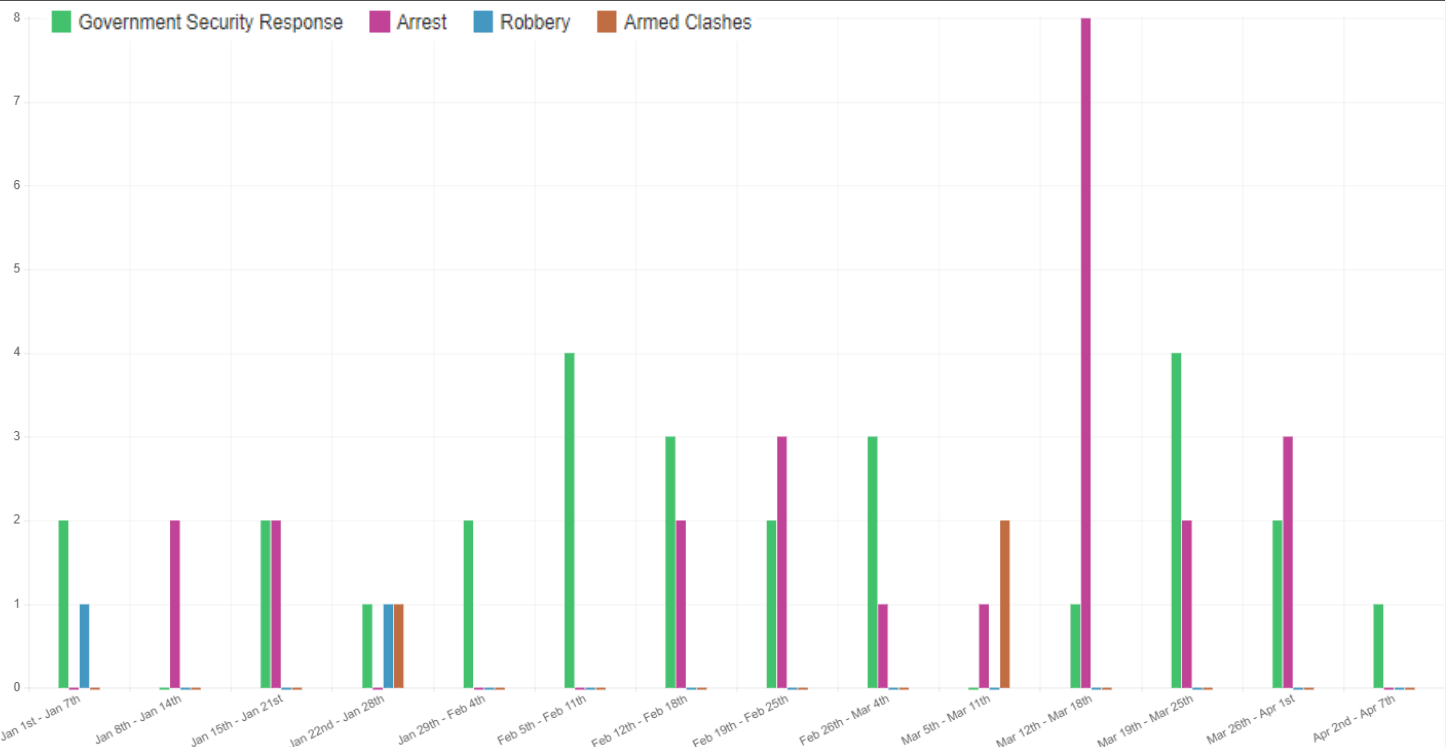
### LNA SECURITY OPERATIONS CONTINUE IN FEZZAN

On 5 April, the LNA 128<sup>th</sup> Reinforced Brigade started clearing obstacles on the roads around Qatron and towards the Al Tom border crossing with Niger. The Brigade said that the move follows instructions of the LNA General Command to allow residents to move more easily across the region.

It remains possible that the move is also meant to enable quicker LNA movements in the area in the context of continued efforts to counter smuggling and illegal activities in the region and to show a security presence.

Other LNA units also deployed desert patrols in Fezzan to the same end.

**FIGURE 4: INCIDENT TRENDS IN FEZZAN 1 JANUARY – 7 APRIL 2023**



**FIGURE 5: INCIDENT TRENDS IN CYRENAICA, 1 JANUARY – 7 APRIL 2023**



## SECURITY ENVIRONMENT IN CYRENAICA REMAINS STABLE

No unusual security activities occurred in Cyrenaica during the reporting period. Incidents in the regions largely remained limited to arrests and government security operations targeting suspects involved in various crimes (see Figure 5).

## UNSMIL HEAD BATHILY MET WITH HAFTAR AND SALEH

UNSMIL head Abdoulaye Bathily arrived in Benghazi and met with LNA Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and HoR Speaker Aquila Saleh on Wednesday, 5 April. The meeting discussed efforts to accelerate holding the elections in Libya. During the meeting, the parties also agreed to intensify reconciliation efforts and continue to engage with the JMC 5+5 to maintain security and stability in the country.

The visit comes as the HoR-HCS 6+6 Joint Committee, tasked with preparing the electoral law, held its first meeting in Tripoli. Bathily knows that unless constant pressure is exerted against Libyan leaders, the political stalemate will likely continue.

## UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN BENGHAZI

The Director of the Media Office of the Municipality of Benghazi, Maher Al Ghariani, was arrested on 6 April 2023 for criticizing the ongoing demolitions which have affected parts of Benghazi. Al Ghariani asked clarifications and transparency on the projects, and “how are the citizens going to be compensated for the loss of public property.”

There is no transparency on the implementation of these projects and Al Maheri’s arrest suggests that the LNA might be involved in the demolitions and the reconstruction, although this cannot be confirmed. There is also still no indication on who is funding the projects, or whether it is the LNA or an external party.

There are several entities involved in the implementation of projects in different capacities, including:

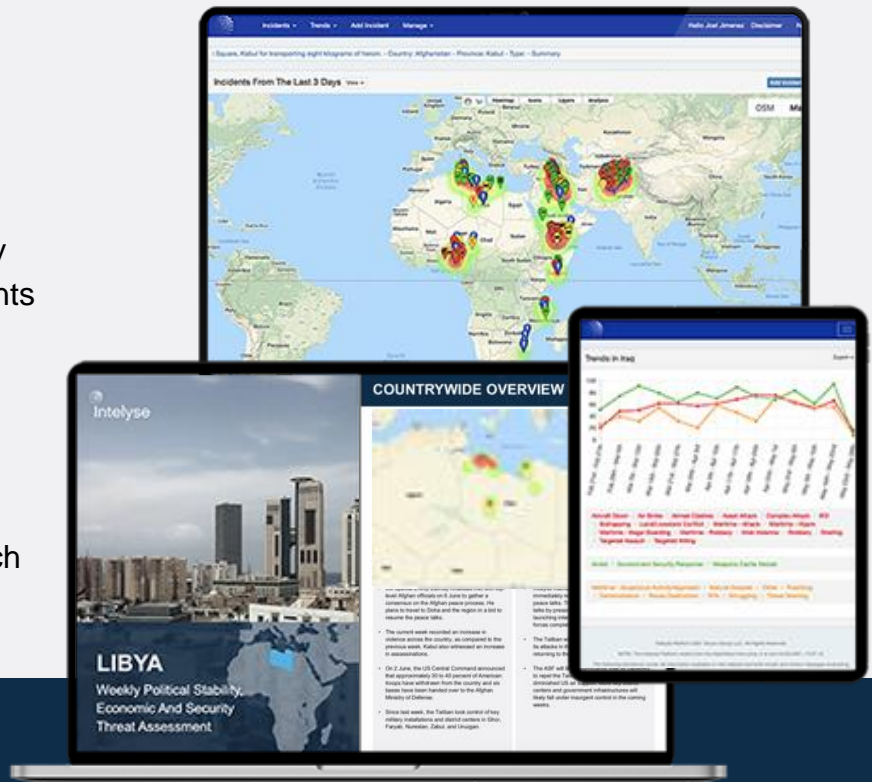
- Benghazi Construction and Stabilization Committee
- Benghazi Platform for Reconstruction (involved in the media space).

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