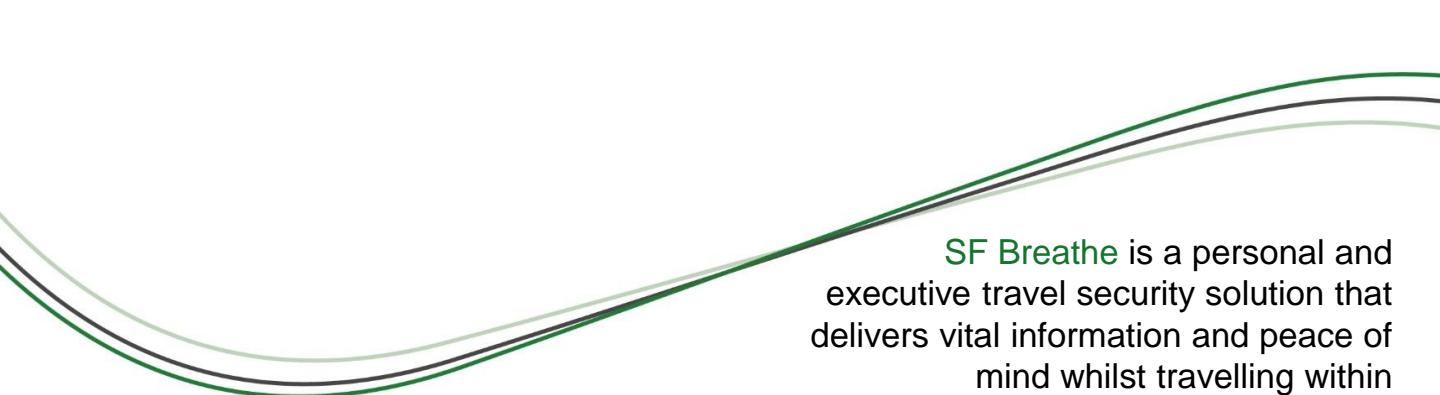


Weekly Situation Report Libya


09th – 15th March 2022

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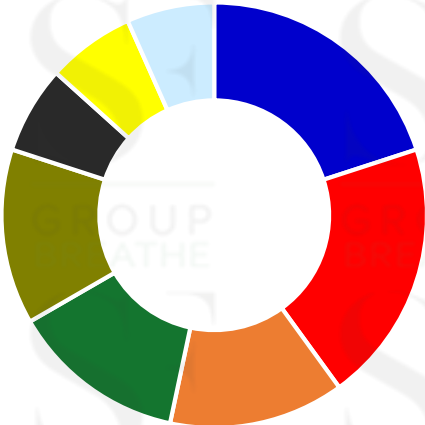
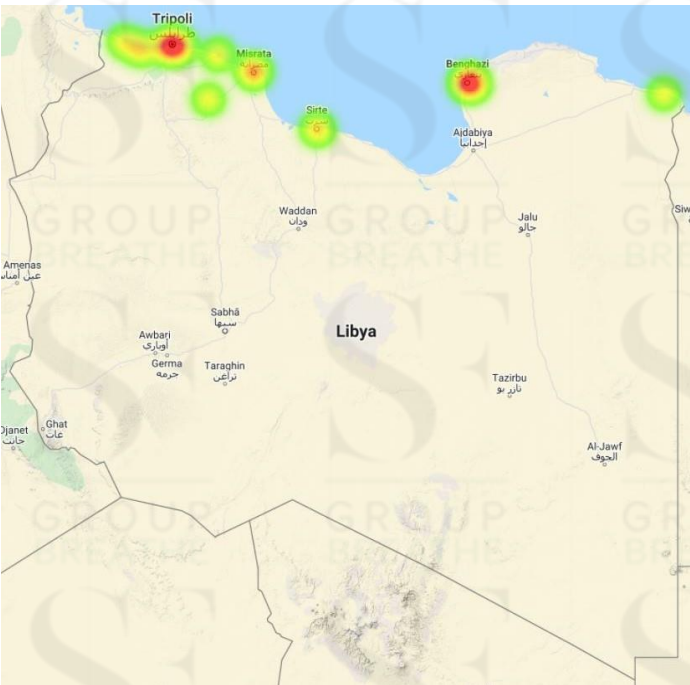


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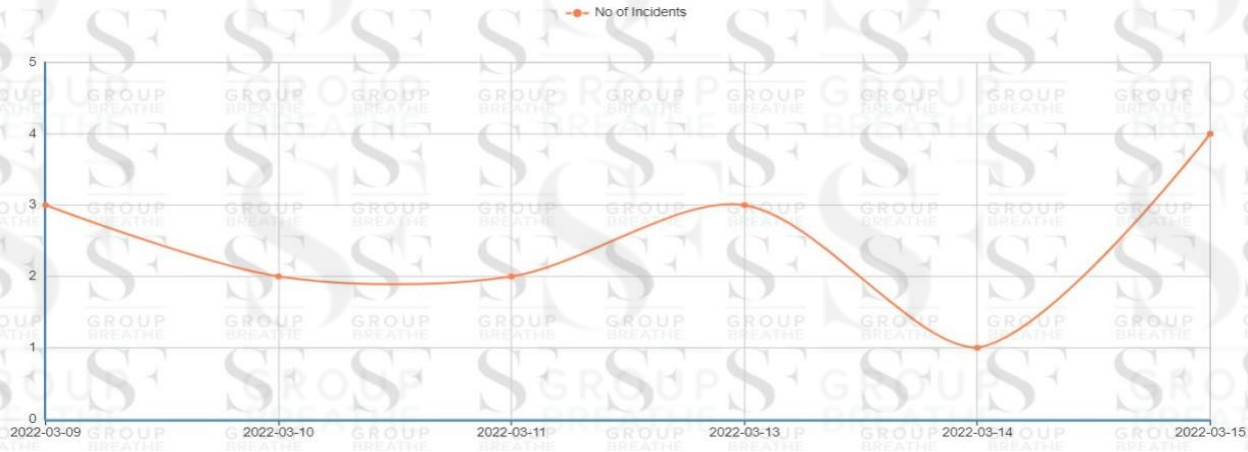
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Weekly Overview



- Gov. Sec. Response (3)
- Human Trafficking (2)
- Killing (2)
- Rebel Activity (1)
- Other (3)
- Trafficking (2)
- Criminal Activity (1)
- Smuggling (1)

Libya



x40

...undocumented migrants arrested in Al Butnan District.



x1

...individual killed after explosive device detonated in Benghazi.



x1,658

...new COVID-19 cases recorded.

Executive Summary

Tripoli

- A large group of troops affiliated with the Government of National Stability (GNS) was sighted in the outskirts of Tripoli, Tripoli District, on 10th March. While no violence was reported, subsequent reports suggested that the forces attempted to access the capital prompting a large mobilisation of armed groups affiliated with the Government of National Unity (GNU).
- On 13th March, two children were reportedly killed after their residence caught fire in Alghasi, Tripoli District. Subsequent reports attributed the fire to faulty electrical appliances.

Elsewhere

- On 15th March, gunmen affiliated with the GNS stormed into the headquarters of the GNU in Benghazi, Benghazi District, and dismissed all the personnel.
- On 11th March, a group of assailants hurled stones at a convoy of militias loyal to Fathi Bashagha and the GNS in Misratah, Misratah District, following their unsuccessful attempt to enter Tripoli.
- An individual was killed after an unexploded ordnance (UXO) detonated in Benina, Benghazi District, on 15th March.

Politics & Miscellany

- During the week, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) confirmed an additional 1,658 cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), bringing the total number of cases in the country to 500,497. An additional 40 deaths were also recorded over the same period, bringing the death toll to 6,354.
- Political tensions escalated in the country after the GNS's unsuccessful attempt to forcefully enter Tripoli, on 10th March, amid the ongoing competition between the GNS and the GNU for the control of the capital.
- On 14th March, a High Council of State (HCS) member identified as Abdelkader Al-Huweili announced that the Council had selected twelve members to the UN proposed joint HCS-House of Representatives (HoR) committee.
- On 11th March, a United States (US) Federal Court in Virginia resumed the trial of Khalifa Haftar which had been paused on 04th November to allow the conduct of the now postponed General Elections.

Last Week's Status



This Week's Status



Next Week's Status



Significant Incidents Summary

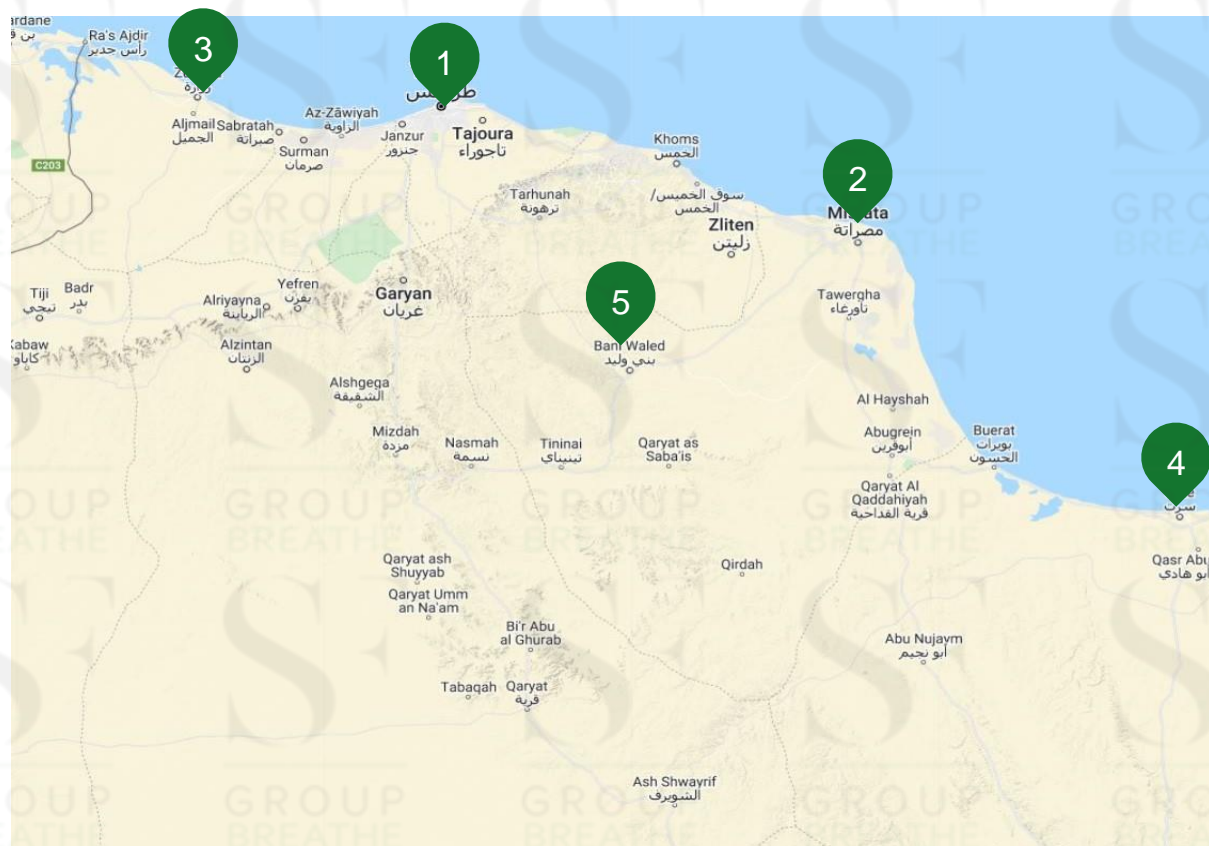


Libya

1. 15/03/2022 – Gunmen storm into GNU headquarters, dismiss personnel, Benghazi, Benghazi District
2. 10/03/2022 – Large mobilisation of GNS and GNU military forces, no violence reported, Tripoli, Tripoli District
3. 11/03/2022 – Assailants hurl stones at convoy of GNS militias, Misratah, Misratah District
4. 15/03/2022 – UXO detonates, one individual killed, Benina, Benghazi District
5. 15/03/2022 – CID rescue foreign nationals, later arrest human traffickers, Zuwara, An Nuqat al Khams District

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region



Tripolitania Region

1. 10/03/2022 – Large mobilisation of GNS and GNU military forces, no violence reported, Tripoli
2. 11/03/2022 – Assailants hurl stones at a convoy of GNS militias, no casualties reported, Misratah
3. 15/03/2022 – CID rescue foreign nationals, later arrest human traffickers, Zuwara, An Nuqat al Khams
4. 15/03/2022 – Three individuals were killed and two others were injured after a building caught fire in Rabat, Sirte
5. 13/03/2022 – Authorities rescue Nigerien national, arrest human trafficker, Bani Walid, Misratah

Analysis

- **On 15th March, gunmen affiliated with the GNS stormed into the headquarters of the GNU in Benghazi, Benghazi District, and dismissed all the personnel.**
- **On 10th March, a large group of troops affiliated with the GNS was sighted in the outskirts of Tripoli, Tripoli District. While no violence was reported, subsequent reports suggested that the troops attempted to access the capital prompting a large mobilisation of forces affiliated with GNU.**

The threat of the eruption of inter-militia conflict dominated the country's operational environment amid continued claims of legitimacy by both the Government of National Unity (GNU) which is headed by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and the Government of National Stability (GNS) which is headed by the House of Representatives (HoR) appointed Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha. Of note, the political standoff between the two governments exposes the country to an increased risk of the escalation of inter-militia conflict as leaders from both governments are affiliated with a network of armed groups operating across the country. Two scenarios of inter-militia conflict remain possible.

The first is characterised by internecine conflict between armed groups within a coalition of forces, in large part due to shifting political interests. Previously on 23rd February, the GNU leader Dbeibah announced the formation of a coalition of armed groups against the HoR; while the GNS dubbed, "Force for supporting the constitution and elections". Among the militia leaders supporting the

coalition is Abdul Ghani al-Kikli, "Ghnewa" – a senior leader in the Stabilization Support Apparatus (SSA) which is a loose coalition of armed groups which reportedly signed a political deal with Bashagha in late 2021. Ghnewa's support for Dbeibah likely demonstrates division within the SSA, further increasing the risk of infighting within the group.

The second scenario entails conflict between rival armed groups, separated by their allegiance to the two governments competing for control of Tripoli. While the GNS attempts to commence State operations in Tripoli, the GNU has reiterated that it will not cede power until the conduct of elections.

During the week, Tripoli's threat environment was marked by heavy state and paramilitary forces' deployment involving military actors allied to both the GNS and GNU forces. On 10th March, a large group of troops affiliated with the GNS was sighted in the outskirts of Tripoli prompting a mobilisation of armed groups allied to the GNU at the entry points to the capital. Subsequent reports indicated that GNU forces, led by the 444th Brigade, successfully denied the GNS troops entry to the capital, forcing them to withdraw towards Misratah where a group of suspected supporters of the GNU hurled stones at the convoy. Although no casualties were reported, the incidents triggered uncertainty resulting in the additional mobilisation of armed personnel across the region.

Meanwhile, gunmen affiliated with GNS stormed into the headquarters of the GNU in Benghazi, Benghazi District dismissing all the personnel before surrendering the premise to the Deputy Prime Minister of the GNS, Ali Ali-Gotrani. The incident likely demonstrates the aggressiveness of the GNS-allied forces further increasing the possibility of a violent power transition given GNU's insistence on elections.

Politics & Miscellaneous

COVID-19 Update

The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) reported an additional 1,658 cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the reporting period, marking a 55.5 per cent decrease in comparison to the previous week. The new cases bring the country's total number of confirmed cases to 500,497. New fatalities decreased by nearly 11 per cent compared to last week, bringing the current death toll to 6,354. Cumulative case numbers over the previous 28-day period currently stand at 24,896, down almost 41 per cent from the previous week.

Political tensions escalate as GNU allied forces deny GNS affiliated armed groups access to Tripoli

Political tensions escalated in the country after the Government of National Stability's (GNS) unsuccessful attempt to forcefully enter the capital of Tripoli, on 10th March. The incident triggered increased military patrols by armed groups operating in the outskirts of Tripoli, further increasing concerns among domestic and regional observers of a heightened threat of escalation of armed conflict amid the ongoing competition between the GNS and the Government of National Unity (GNU) for the control of Tripoli.

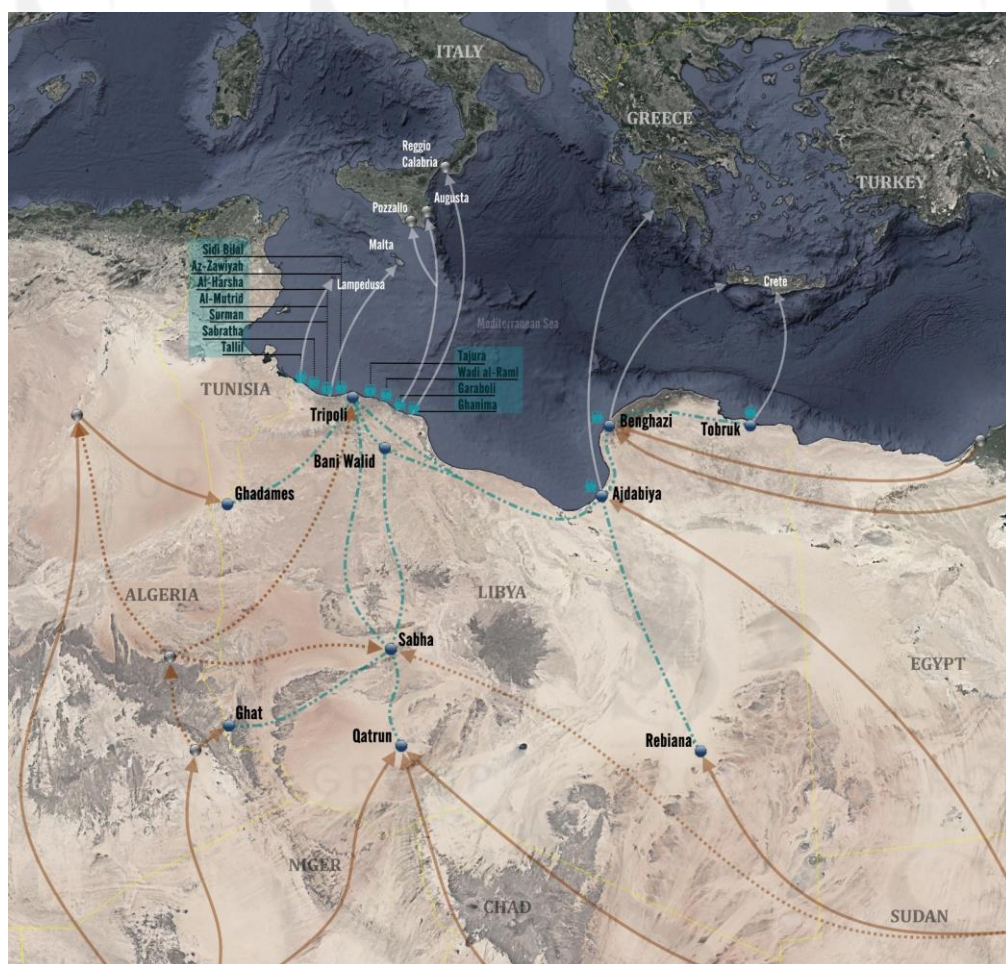
In reaction, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) issued a statement acknowledging the possibility of an escalation of overt conflict while urging the involved parties to refrain from provocative actions and embrace dialogue through the UN good offices. The United States (US) Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland also urged Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and House of Representative (HoR) appointed Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha to exercise restraint and de-escalate the tensions. While forces affiliated to the

GNS later withdrew, Bashagha later confirmed intentions to begin work from Tripoli in the coming weeks, likely indicating a possible invasion into the capital given the GNU's position of not ceding power until the election.

While speaking during a television interview, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Special Adviser on Libya Stephanie Williams stated that the Libyan political institutions lacked legitimacy, adding that elections remains the only possible solution. In efforts to support the conduct elections, she recently proposed the formation of a committee comprising twelve representatives selected from both the High Council of State (HCS) and HoR in equal numbers to develop a constitutional framework to guide the conduct of the oncoming elections. The proposed committee was scheduled to commence work on 15th March and produce the new electoral framework by 01st April. While the HCS supported the initiative, the HoR rejected the move with some citing 'failures' in the current UN-led framework which involves both the HCS and HoR.

On 14th March, a HCS member identified as Abdelkader Al-Huweili announced that the Council had selected twelve members to the UN proposed committee to adequately represent the three regions of the country. He further confirmed that the Council had discussed with Stephanie Williams the reason for including the six additional members. At the time of writing, the HoR had not submitted the names of the individuals selected to join the committee, further indicating their lack of support to the initiative. Meanwhile, the Head of Presidential Council (PC), Mohammed Al Menfi confirmed intentions to adopt a constitutional basis for holding elections in case the HCS and the HoR fail to constitute the joint HCS-HoR committee.

Spotlight Migration



234

...fatalities along
Central Mediterranean
Route.

3,091

...migrants intercepted
by the Libyan coast
guard.

6,123

...migrants being held
in detention centres
across Libya.

574,146

...migrants in Libyan
territory.

212,593

...internally-displaced
persons.

On 11th March, the Libyan Coast Guard intercepted 115 individuals, including 11 women, following two separate search and rescue (SAR) operations in the Mediterranean Sea. The group was later disembarked at the Refinery Point in Az Zawiyah, Libya. Later, on 12th March, at least 19 individuals were reported as missing after their boat capsized in the Mediterranean Sea off the Libyan Coast. Personnel of the Libyan Special Naval Forces rescued six individuals following the incident.

During the reporting period, authorities operating within Libya facilitated multiple evacuation flights from the country. On 14th March, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with International Maritime Organization (IOM) evacuated a family of three individuals to an unspecified country in Europe. Earlier, on 09th March, the Embassy of Bangladeshi in Libya and the IOM jointly repatriated 74 Bangladeshi nationals to their home country. Another group of 34 Egyptian national were repatriated to Egypt by the Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration, (DCIM) on 10th March.

Image of the Week



The Nakheel Road in Bab al-Azizyah area of Tripoli District
(Source: Twitter)

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Threat Rating

Key

“Last period’s status” provides a comparative from which this period’s status can be understood.

GREEN

The overall security situation underwent notable improvements during the previous reporting period

AMBER

The security situation remained constant in the previous reporting period, undergoing little change

RED

There was a decline in the situation over the previous reporting period

“This period’s status” is decided by monitoring trends in comparison to the previous reporting period.

GREEN

There has been an improvement in the overall security situation over the reporting period

AMBER

The overall security situation has remained broadly unchanged over the reporting period

RED

The overall security situation has worsened over the reporting period

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