

Country Review - Libya

July 2023





LIBYA

RISK RATINGS

LIBYA	POLITICAL STABILITY	INSTITUTIONAL	INFRASTRUCTURE	LABOUR	CRIME	TERRORISM	WAR	CIVIL UNREST	KIDNAP	
	POLITICAL	OPERATIONAL			SECURITY					TRAVEL
	HIGH-EXTREME	MODERATE-HIGH			MODERATE					HIGH
	E	H	M	M	H	M	L	H	M	H



OVERVIEW

COVID-19

[Worldometer](#)

POLITICAL UPDATES

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Head of the High Council of State (HCS), Khaled Al-Mishri, pledged to hold elections no later than next November in a televised speech to mark the anniversary of the 17 February Revolution that ended 42 years of individual rule in Libya. "Libya is currently undergoing a transitional phase involving a constitutional declaration amendment that will lead to presidential and parliamentary elections," Al-Mishri said.

The HCS head vowed to achieve constitutional entitlement despite the obstacles "beyond control. "He said the first two years after the revolution were the best, as the nation was proceeding with a clear plan towards building a state. But afterward, the anti-Arab Spring forces from local, regional, and international powers worked tirelessly to quash the revolutions and divide the state, Al-Mishri says.

He called on everyone who worked with the former regime and wanted to be part of the new era to come under the flag and anthem of February. Al also confirmed his rejection of division in Libya and the dominance of the state institutions' heads, saying that whoever heads an institution deals as if he is the guardian of it. He said that the setback in the revolution was due to conspiracies and deviation that were practiced by some, including the sons of the revolution themselves.

Significant developments for July 23

Key Recent developments

Ghaddafi's son moved to hospital after hunger strike

Hannibal Ghaddafi, son of the late Libyan leader Muammar Ghaddafi, has been moved from a Lebanese prison to hospital in "critical condition", Reuters reported, citing Dubai-based Al-Hadath TV. Ghaddafi went on hunger strike last month in protest at his incarceration without trial since 2015. Al-Hadath, which cited unidentified sources, said he had suffered a sharp drop in his blood sugar level.

Libya's Khalifa Haftar names son as the head of new 'Security Units' of Libyan National Army

Libya's eastern warlord Khalifa Haftar on Monday appointed his son as head of the newly created 'Security Units' of the self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA). Brigadier General Khaled Haftar is already the commander of the 106th Brigade, one of the LNA's strongest outfit, and will now serve as chief-of-staff of the new force. Under a decree issued by Haftar on 8 July, the 106th Brigade will be brought under the umbrella of the Security Units. The new force will also include the Khalid ibn Al-Walid Brigade, one of the strongest militias loyal to Haftar under the LNA umbrella.

Italy Allocates €16 Million to Combat Migration in Libya & Niger

Italy designated €16 million to Libya and Niger to tackle human trafficking and manage migration flows. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has allocated €8.5 million to three projects in Libya and €7.5 million to three projects in Niger. These projects aim to train local authorities to manage migration in line with human rights standards, provide courses for migrants and host communities, and facilitate voluntary return operations.

Interior Ministry establishes security stations near border points with Tunisia

The Al-Assa border security sector of the Border Guard Service has conducted desert security patrols to prevent illegal immigrants coming from Tunisia from entering Libyan territory, the Ministry of Interior announced. This comes within the Ministry's plan to secure and protect the Libyan-Tunisian border, and in implementation of the instructions of the head of the border guards. The ministry also confirmed that it had established security stations near the border points from Ras Ajdir to Wazen to prevent any security breaches.

OIL & GAS UPDATES

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Attorney General takes measures to combat Zawia refinery fuel smuggling through security apparatus

The Attorney General met with the chairman of the National Oil Corporation and the commanders of the West Coast military zone and the 52nd Infantry Brigade last Monday at his Tripoli office. The meeting discussed the illegal gains resulting from the smuggling of fuel in the western region and the impact of the irregularities in the work of the Zawia refinery on the growth of these illegal activities. The meeting then dealt with the measures taken by the investigating authority to confront fuel smuggling. The meeting concluded, the Attorney General's Office reports, with implementing the plan to pursue the perpetrators of crimes affecting the country's economy. The two military units also undertook the task of guarding the Zawiya refinery (taking this task away from the current local militias). They also agreed on procedure for locking up those involved in fuel smuggling activity.

Russia's Tatneft: Oil exploration activities in Libya reap good results

Russian TASS news agency cited a senior executive in the Russian Tatneft oil production company as saying that the company saw good results in some wells during oil exploration activities in Libya. In a statement on the sidelines of the Russian-African Summit, the executive officer and deputy general manager for strategic development in the company said that the company would complete its economic assessment of drilling in 2023 in order to understand whether or not it could continue to work in Libya, pointing out that the company drilled wells according to a plan and got a good flow rate in some of them.

NOC agrees with Schlumberger turnkey contract to drill

Libya's state National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced yesterday that in the first of its kind for Libya, a "turnkey contract" to drill three wells has been signed between the NOC's National Well Drilling Company (NWD) and US-based Schlumberger. The NOC said this entails Schlumberger providing the NWD with the necessary support for drilling the three wells for the benefit of Spain's Repsol Exploration Murzuq S.A. (REMSA). Explaining the aim of this contract, the NOC explained that the purpose of the three wells is to increase oil production and enhance collaboration between national and international companies. The two well concessions (NC 115 and NC 186) are in the Murzuq Basin.

SUMMARY

Do not travel to Libya due to **crime, terrorism, civil unrest, kidnapping, and armed conflict.**

Country Summary: Crime levels in Libya remain high, including the threat of kidnapping for ransom. Western citizens have been targets of these crimes.

Political situation: The political situation in Libya remains fragile and the security situation remains dangerous and unpredictable. Uncertainty about when postponed Libyan elections will take place is likely to heighten tensions throughout the country, which may lead to security incidents such as inter-militia clashes and oil blockades.

Humanitarian crisis: The ongoing political impasse and conflict has seriously affected public infrastructure and services, resulting in power cuts, water, fuel, food and cash shortages, absence of medicines, and high inflation.

Crime: There's a very high risk of criminal kidnap for ransom in Tripoli and coastal towns to the West of Tripoli. There's an elevated risk of kidnap for ransom and arbitrary detention by local militias throughout Libya.

Road travel: Road travel within Libya remains highly dangerous. There continues to be a risk of being caught up in outbreaks of hostilities. There's also a high risk of carjacking and robbery.

Air travel: Flights to and from all airports in Libya are likely to be cancelled at short notice.

If you decide to travel to Libya:

- Carry proof of citizenship and valid immigration status at all times.
- Avoid demonstrations and crowds.
- Make contingency plans to leave.
- Consider consulting with a professional security organization.
- Develop a communication plan with family and/or your employer or host organization.

POLITICAL RISK

OVERVIEW

The delay of national elections originally scheduled for December 2021, with no agreement on the new dates nor on the legal and constitutional basis for these proposed elections, has brought a return to political division in Libya. Despite the progress made in 2021 towards ending the decade-long conflict and reunifying competing institutions, the confirmation of a new cabinet by the eastern-based House of Representatives in February 2022 has returned Libya to a state of institutional division with two parallel government administrations in the East and West and negative implications for security, policy making, and economic recovery.

POLITICAL STABILITY

Aldabaiba receives new Russian ambassador to Libya:

Tripoli-based Libyan Prime Minister Abd Alhamid Aldabaiba received the new Russian ambassador to Libya, Aydar Aganin, at his Cabinet office in the capital, Tripoli. The Libyan government reports that Aldabaiba discussed with the Russian ambassador, Russia's resumption of its diplomatic work in Libya, and the two parties agreed to move the work of the Russian embassy to Tripoli next August.

Dabaiba renews his refusal to settle illegal immigrants in Libya:

The head of the government of national unity, Abdul Hamid Al-Dbeibeh, renewed his refusal to settle illegal immigrants in Libya. Dbeibeh said in a press statement in Rome on the sidelines of the International Conference on Migration and Development that one of the most important items of our attendance at the conference is to confirm that Libya is a transit country that temporarily hosts migrants and that the destination for these migrants is Europe.

Putin Highlights Importance of OPEC+ Cooperation with Libya:

Russian President, Vladimir Putin has emphasised the importance of cooperation with Libya, within the framework of the OPEC+ group. Speaking at the Russia-Africa summit, Putin said that the step helps to stabilise the energy market. The Libyan Presidential Council's Head, Mohamed Al-Mnifi, spoke at the summit in St. Petersburg. Al-Mnifi called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Libya, and support for national reconciliation efforts.

OPERATIONAL RISK

OVERVIEW

Libya, a country located in North Africa, is bordered by Egypt to the east, Sudan to the southeast, Chad and Niger to the south, Algeria and Tunisia to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north. Libya gained its independence in 1951. Libya's capital is Tripoli, and its official language is Arabic (although many Libyans also speak English or Italian as a second language). Libya's currency is the Libyan dinar (LYD). The momentous events of 2011, which resulted in the overthrow of a regime that had been in place for 42 years, has descended into political uncertainty giving rise to security issues.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Libyan rivals agree to work together on sharing oil revenues

Libyan political rivals have agreed to form a committee on sharing oil revenues, after the commander-in-chief of the Libyan National Army (LNA), Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, called for “fair distribution” of the country’s resources. Haftar, who backs the country’s eastern administration, had last week acknowledged that “the real solution to the Libyan issue lies in holding presidential and parliamentary elections.” He, however, insisted on the formation of a higher committee to study financial arrangements to “fairly distribute” revenues among municipalities.

Libya lost 340k bpd of crude due to shutdowns

The Libyan Minister of Oil and Gas, Mohammed Oun, said that Libya lost about 340,000 barrels per day (bpd) of its crude production as a result of the closure of the El Feel and Sharara fields, indicating that this would lead to a shortage in the availability of fuel for the Ubari power plant, and the return to load shedding if the closure continued. Speaking to reporters, Oun said that oil facilities must be left out of politics and the acts of closure must be criminalized because the only harm by these actions would affect the people, calling on officials in the east and west not to use oil as a pressing card.

AVIATION

Italian Airlines ITA test flight arrives from Rome at Tripoli's Mitiga airport with PM Dbeibeh onboard

An Italian Airlines (ITA) test flight arrived from Rome at Tripoli's Mitiga airport, carrying Prime Minister Abd Alhamid Dbeibeh. Its arrival ends a hiatus of about 10 years because of the European Union flight ban on Libya.

KPMG assisted Mitiga airport DBOT development plan discussed

The committee in charge of preparing the investment structure proposal for Tripoli's Mitiga Airport held its meeting at the Airports Authority's headquarters, based on the instructions of the Prime Minister, the Libyan Airports Authority reported. The Airports Authority reported that the meeting discussed the committee's proposal for structuring Mitiga's investment project, financing mechanisms and implementation stages, and reviewing the economic feasibility study after adding the required amendments.

TRADE

Government to support private sector in the south, including centre-pivot irrigation projects

Minister Muhammad Al-Hawij of Economy and Trade has approved 16 investment projects for the private sector to operate in different regions, the Economy Ministry said in a statement. The Privatization and Investment Board (PIB), supervised by the Ministry of Economy, hosted the signing ceremony in the presence of its Chairman and directors of relevant departments. Al-Hawij addressed the crucial role of the private sector in promoting local and foreign investment in a way that contributes to the success of the government's development strategy in driving national economic growth. The Ministry of Economy and Trade noted that the investment projects will be implemented under the PIB supervision.

WATER QUALITY

As a primarily desert country, Libya is a place where clean water is one of the most valuable commodities, used for agricultural production and human consumption. Rising sea levels and increased oil drilling have particularly plagued Libya and exposed its already limited and crucial water supply to pollutants and contamination. Oil-rich Libya has been plunged into chaos for the last decade, throughout which public utilities like Tobruk's desalination plant were largely neglected. It has become a struggle for the residents of the Libyan city of Tobruk to gain access to water with the only sea water desalination plant in need of massive repairs.

SECURITY RISK

OVERVIEW

The current insecurity and political uncertainty in Libya have compounded other significant domestic obstacles to investment, such as non-tariff barriers, including the country's unwieldy and corrupt bureaucracy; extensive regulation; and a confusing legal system that discriminates against foreigners. Crimes of opportunity, such as theft, burglary, and purse-snatching occur frequently against foreigners. Criminal gangs have perpetrated killings of politicians and civilians without consequence.

CRIME

Militias aligned with western cities as well as forces aligned with the Libyan National Army (LNA) have committed extra-judicial killings of politicians and civilians without consequence. Many Libyans have been forcibly disappeared. Journalists and other activists have been the targets of attack, exemplifying the collapse of political expression, press, and free speech.

Expect extensive corruption, and indiscriminate violence against civilians. Libya's judicial system is extremely corrupt. There have been thousands of cases of arbitrary arrests without due process. Armed groups often exercise law enforcement duties as they see fit. Both warring parties practice torture in interment facilities. Prisons are overcrowded and do not provide adequate healthcare services. There have been allegations of unlawful killings, sexual violence, and forced labour in Libyan prisons. Militias (even some controlled by the UN-recognized government) have forced children into conscription.

TERRORISM

Attacks could be indiscriminate, including in places visited by foreigners. Extremist groups including Daesh (formerly referred to as ISIL) are responsible for the majority of attacks, which have targeted foreign and diplomatic personnel and premises, international hotels, commercial and oil installations, and government and other official security institutions. Although government - aligned forces, supported by U.S. airstrikes, declared the end of operations against Daesh in Sirte in January 2016, Daesh remain a serious threat to security in Libya. AAS-B and AAS-D officially disbanded in 2017, but fighters and local elements remain.

Each is a coalition of violent religious extremist groups combating the Libyan House of Representatives-aligned forces. ISIS-Libya aims to prevent the formation of a reunified Libyan state, secure control over the country's critical resources, and, ultimately, establish an Islamic caliphate in Libya. It has been active in Libya since approximately 2015, with its original headquarters in Sirte. ISIS-Libya no longer controls territory in Libya but does maintain a low-profile presence throughout much of the country.

KIDNAPPING

There remains a continuing high threat of kidnap from criminal groups, armed groups, and terrorist groups across the whole of Libya. Security precautions do not mitigate the threat.

Terrorist groups including Daesh, Al Qaeda and their affiliates routinely use kidnapping as a tactic and are capable of conducting kidnapping across borders. Terrorist groups within Libya have both intent and capability to carry out further kidnappings. It's a realistic possibility that they will target foreign nationals. Criminal gangs also carry out kidnappings, and there's a realistic possibility that they would sell hostages on to terrorist groups. Foreign nationals have been kidnapped in Libya in the last 12 months. Four foreign nationals were kidnapped in south-west Libya in November 2017 and most recently, 4 foreign nationals were kidnapped in south-east Libya in July 2018. See our Sahel page for information on the regional threat.

There is a threat of kidnapping by groups operating in North Africa, particularly from Libya, Mauritania and groups originating in the Sahel. This includes Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQ-IM) and Daesh-affiliated groups, who may travel across the region's porous border. There is a heightened risk of kidnap in border and remote desert areas of North Africa. Terrorist groups have kidnapped foreigners, government officials and civilians in the region for financial gain and for political leverage. Further kidnaps are likely.

Those engaged in tourism, humanitarian aid work, journalism or business sectors are viewed as legitimate targets. If you're kidnapped, the reason for your presence is unlikely to serve as a protection or secure your safe release. Latest events include:

Drone strikes target Wagner base in Libya

Drone strikes of unknown origin on night targeted an air base in eastern Libya where mercenaries from the Russian paramilitary group Wagner are believed to be stationed, without causing any casualties, according to a military source. The source, who requested anonymity, told AFP that drones "of unknown origin struck the al-Kharrouba air base, located 150 km south-east of Benghazi (east), where elements of the Wagner group are believed to be based". "The strikes caused no casualties", she added. Libya has been in the grip of a major political crisis since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi's regime in 2011.

DRUG CRIME

Penalties for possessing, using, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Libya are severe; convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines. However, drug sales and use are as prevalent in Tripoli as any other large city due to inconsistent enforcement and the lack of a coherent and professional criminal justice apparatus. Driving under the influence can result in immediate detention. Alcohol is also prohibited in Libya, and possessing, using, or trafficking in alcohol can carry severe penalties.

LAW ENFORCEMENT CONCERNS: SECURITY AGENCIES

During the year, the Government of National Accord (GNA) had limited effective control over security forces, and these forces consisted of a mix of semiregular units, tribal nonstate armed groups, and civilian volunteers. The national police force, which reports to the Interior Ministry, has official responsibility for internal security. The armed forces under the Defence Ministry have the primary mission for external Défense and supported Interior Ministry forces on internal security matters. Civilian authorities have only nominal control of police and the security apparatus, and security-related police work generally falls to disparate informal armed groups, which receive salaries from the government and exercise law enforcement functions without formal training or supervision, and with varying degrees of accountability. Members of security forces have committed numerous abuses.

POLICE RESPONSE

The Government of National Unity (GNU) has various ground, air, naval, and coast guard forces under its command. Libyan National Army (LNA) forces under Khalifa Haftar are a mix of semi-regular military units, tribal militias, civilian volunteers, and foreign-supplied troops.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY

ROAD SAFETY

There is a high rate of accidents, as authorities often do not enforce traffic laws. Wind-blown sand affects road visibility. Although it doesn't often rain, when it does, the roads flood. Libyan road infrastructure is not in good condition. It is common to find satisfactorily paved roads in urban areas, but many rural roads are unpaved. Roadside assistance is extremely limited and offered only in Arabic. Street signage is rare and usually written in Arabic.

Expect to encounter militia-run checkpoints throughout Libya. Those manning checkpoints have detained people without reason and will not provide access to a lawyer or a judicial process. The State Department has an extremely limited capacity to assist U.S. citizens detained by militia groups. Roads can close with little or no warning. Libya's land borders with Egypt and Tunisia are subject to periodic closures. Short-term closures of other land borders may occur with little notice.

For detailed, country-specific road and vehicle safety information, read the World Health Organization's Global Status Report on Road Safety.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Taxis are available for hire, but drivers are often reckless, untrained, and usually do not speak English. There are some public transportation options, but service is limited.

MARITIME SECURITY

The LNA requires all maritime vessels in Libyan waters to have its permission to transit. Vessels should proceed with extreme caution when approaching all Libyan oil terminals and ports. Seaports can close with little or no warning.

PERSONAL IDENTITY & HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS

Human trafficking is a significant issue in Libya. Libyan territory is a transit area for asylum seekers hoping to make it to Europe, but those seeking to escape challenging conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia are often forced into prostitution or labour. There have been reports of Libyan brothels procuring Sub-Saharan women from detention centres and pressing them into prostitution.

SAFETY CONCERNS FOR WOMEN TRAVELLERS

There are no reliable statistics on the extent of domestic violence. Social and cultural barriers, including police and judicial reluctance to act and family reluctance to publicize an assault, contribute to lack of effective enforcement. Some local civil society organizations report that women were experiencing higher rates of domestic violence due to COVID-19 curfews and extended confinement at home. Rape survivors who could not meet high evidentiary standards could face charges of adultery. By law, a convicted rapist may avoid a 25-year prison sentence by marrying the survivor, regardless of her wishes, provided her family consents. Migrant women and girls are particularly vulnerable to rape and other forms of conflict-related sexual violence, including forced prostitution and sexual exploitation in conditions amounting to sexual slavery. There was widespread harassment and intimidation of women by armed groups and terrorists, including harassment and arbitrary detention based on accusations of “un-Islamic” behaviour. Armed groups harass women traveling without a male “guardian.” Armed groups have asked men and women socializing in public venues to produce marriage certificates to verify their relationship.

Consider composite scores given to Libya by the UN Development Program (UNDP) in its Gender Development Index, measuring the difference between average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development, and Gender Inequality Index, measuring inequality in achievement in reproductive health, empowerment, and the labour market.

SAFETY CONCERNS FOR LGBTI+ TRAVELLERS

Societal discrimination against LGBTI+ persons persist, and official discrimination is codified in local interpretations of Sharia law. Convictions of same-sex sexual activity carry sentences of three to five years of imprisonment. The law provides for punishment of both parties. There were reports of physical violence, harassment, and blackmail based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Armed groups often police communities to enforce compliance with their commanders’ understanding of “Islamic” behaviour, harassing, and threatening with impunity individuals believed to have LGBTI+ orientations and their families. The threat of possible violence or abuse could intimidate those who want to report discrimination.

SAFETY CONCERNS FOR TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

The Constitutional Declaration addresses the rights of persons with disabilities by providing for monetary and other types of social assistance for the “protection” of persons with “special needs” with respect to employment, education, access to health care, and the provision of other government services, but it does not explicitly prohibit discrimination. The government does not effectively enforce these provisions. IDPs, migrants, and refugees with disabilities were especially vulnerable to poor treatment in detention facilities. Some organizations estimated that up to 13% of citizens may experience some form of physical disability, although GNA estimates were much lower. Years of postrevolutionary conflict also led to a greater incidence of persons maimed by shelling or explosive war remnants.

SAFETY CONCERNS FOR TRAVELLERS BASED ON RACE, RELIGION, & ETHNICITY

Ethnic minorities face societal discrimination and violence. Racial discrimination targets dark-skinned people, including those of sub-Saharan African heritage. Government officials and journalists often distinguish between “local” and “foreign” populations of Tebu and Tuareg in the south, and advocate expulsion of minority groups affiliated with political rivals on the basis they were not truly “Libyan.” Some representatives of minority groups, including representatives of Tebu and Tuareg communities, rejected the 2017 draft constitution because of a perceived lack of recognition of the status of these communities, although the draft explicitly protects the legal rights of minority groups. Tebu and Tuareg communities receive substandard or no services from municipalities, lack national identity numbers, face widespread social discrimination, and suffer from hate speech and identity-based violence. Some members of ethnic minority communities in southern and western Libya reported being unwilling to enter certain courthouses and police stations for fear of intimidation and reprisal. There are regular reports of ethnic minorities being injured or killed in confrontations with other groups.

CONCERNS INVOLVING THE RULE OF LAW, ARBITRARY DETENTION, OFFICIAL HARASSMENT, CORRUPTION &/OR TRANSPARENCY

The law provides criminal penalties for conviction of corruption by officials. The government has not implemented the law effectively and officials engage in corrupt practices with impunity. Numerous reports of government corruption during 2020, but as in 2019, no significant investigations or prosecutions occurred.

The 2011 Constitutional Declaration states that the government shall provide for the fair distribution of national wealth among citizens, cities, and regions. The government struggles to decentralize distribution of oil wealth and delivery of services through regional and local governance structures. There are many reports and accusations of government corruption due to the lack of transparency in the GNA’s management of security forces, oil revenues, and the national economy. There are allegations that GNA officials submitted fraudulent letters of credit to gain access to government funds. The LNA-orchestrated shutdown of the country’s oil sector from January to September 2020 further disrupted the distribution of revenues.

Internal conflict and the weakness of public institutions undermine implementation of the law. Officials frequently engage in corrupt practices with impunity, such as graft, bribery, and nepotism. There are numerous reports of government corruption, including reports that officials engaged in money laundering, human trafficking, and other criminal activities. The government lacks significant mechanisms to investigate corruption among police and security forces.

The Audit Bureau, the highest financial regulatory authority in the country, has made efforts to improve transparency by publishing annual reports on government revenues and expenditures, national projects, and administrative corruption. The Audit Bureau also investigated mismanagement at the General Electricity Company of Libya that had lowered production and led to acute power cuts.

The Transparency International Corruption Perceptions [Index](#) ranks Libya 173 out of 180 worldwide, where 1 means most transparent.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The 2011 Constitutional Declaration provides for freedom of opinion, expression, and press, but various armed groups, including those aligned with the GNA, exert significant control over media content, and censorship is pervasive. The press has very little freedom in Libya and is controlled heavily by the Libyan government, militias, and Libyan Intelligence Services. Unidentified assailants target journalists and reporters for political views. Press freedoms are limited in all forms of media, creating an environment in which virtually no independent media exists.

The internet in Libya is heavily monitored by the Libyan Government, Militias, and Libyan Intelligence Services. The GNA generally does not restrict or disrupt access to the internet or widely censor online content. Selective filtering or blocking of access does exist, even though no reliable public information identifies those responsible for censorship. There are reports that GNA-aligned groups monitor private online communications without appropriate legal authority.

Facebook pages are regularly hacked by unknown actors or closed due to mass reporting and complaints. Social media, such as YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter, play a critical role in official and unofficial government and nongovernmental communications. Facebook remains the main platform government officials, ministries, and armed groups use to transmit information to the public. A significant body of evidence suggests that foreign actors seek to influence domestic opinion and incite violence in the country by spreading deliberate misinformation on social media and other platforms.

Many bloggers, online journalists, and citizens report practicing self-censorship due to intimidation by armed groups and the uncertain political situation.

Freedom of speech does not exist in Libya, and no protections or liberties are given to its citizens or foreign visitors. Freedom of speech is limited in law and practice. The law criminalizes acts that “harm the February 17 revolution of 2011.” The House of Representatives, since its election in 2014, and the GNA, since taking its seat in Tripoli in 2016, have done little to reduce restrictions on freedom of speech. Civil society organizations practice self-censorship because they believe armed groups

would threaten or kill activists. Widespread conflict in major urban areas deepen the climate of fear and provide cover for armed groups to target vocal opponents with impunity.

International and local human rights organizations claim that human rights defenders and activists face continuing threats (including physical attacks, detention, threats, harassment, and disappearances) from armed groups aligned with and opposed to the GNA. Many armed groups aligned with the GNA or LNA maintain databases of persons being sought for their alleged opposition activities or due to their identity. Nongovernmental armed groups, terrorist groups, and individual civilians also regularly harass, intimidate, or assault journalists. Some journalists and human rights activists have chosen to depart the country rather than remain and endure harassment. The international NGO Reporters without Borders reports that all sides use threats and violence to intimidate journalists. Harassment, threats, abductions, violence, and killings make it nearly impossible for media to operate in any meaningful capacity in areas of conflict.

HEALTH CONCERNS

EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES

The emergency line is 1515. Modern medical care and medicines may not be readily available throughout Libya. Libyans usually travel outside of the country for treatment of severe medical conditions.

Most Libyan healthcare providers only accept cash.

VACCINATIONS

Review the CDC Travellers' Health site for country-specific vaccine recommendations. [CDC Travellers' Health](#)

ISSUES TRAVELLING WITH MEDICATIONS

While pharmacies and medical centres are widely available throughout populated areas in Libya, medications (especially for rare conditions) may vary widely in availability and price. Travelers should bring sufficient medication for the duration of their stay in Libya.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

The hot, dry, dust-laden Ghibli is a southern wind lasting one to four days in spring and fall. Dust storms and sandstorms are common. Air quality suffers as a result. Water pollution is a significant problem. The combined impact of sewage, oil by-products, and industrial waste threatens Libya's coast and the Mediterranean Sea.

CYBERSECURITY CONCERNS

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OTHER SECURITY CONCERNS

LANDMINES

Landmines, improvised explosive devices, and unspent ordinance and ammunition from numerous ground offensives are common around populated areas of Libya. Active disposal programs from the United Nations and other organizations are in progress, but the threat persists.

PHOTOGRAPHY

It is against the law to take photos of certain buildings, such as military and government facilities.

ID REQUIREMENTS

Libya does not have formal tourism industry infrastructure. You must always carry your passport with you, or militias could detain you for questioning. To travel to Libya you will require a travel visa to enter the country, only Arab and certain African nationals are exempt from this requirement.

Application for a visa must go to the Ministry of Interior and if you have anything resembling an Israeli stamp or evidence that you entered, left Jordan or Egypt via Israel, you won't be issued with a visa to enter Libya.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE CONCERNS

Libya suffers from widespread power outages, caused by shortages of fuel for power generation.

Libya suffers from desertification and has limited natural freshwater resources. "The Great Manmade River Project," the largest water development scheme in the world, brings water from large aquifers under the Sahara to coastal cities.

Although political and security instability in Libya has disrupted its telecommunications sector, much of its infrastructure remains superior to that of most other African countries. Selective filtering or blocking of internet access occurs, even though no reliable public information identified those responsible for censorship. There were no credible reports that the GNU restricted or disrupted internet access or monitored private online communications without appropriate legal authority in 2019.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

Libya maintains 112 embassies abroad as well as 11 consulates. The Libyan capital Tripoli hosts 47 embassies, and in addition there are 15 consulates in Libya.

[Libya - Embassies & Consulates \(embassypages.com\)](http://embassypages.com)

The Libya Embassy Pages were updated on 18 November 2022

USEFUL INFORMATION

List of holidays in Libya 2023

Date	Day	Name	Type
17 Feb	Friday	Libyan Revolution Day	Public Holiday
1 May	Monday	May Day	Public Holiday
22 Apr	Saturday	Eid al-Fitr	Public Holiday
22 Apr	Saturday	Eid al-Fitr Holiday	Public Holiday
22 Apr	Saturday	Eid al-Fitr Holiday	Public Holiday
28 Jun	Wednesday	Day of Arafah	Public Holiday
29 Jun	Thursday	Eid al-Adha	Public Holiday
29 Jun	Thursday	Eid al-Adha	Public Holiday
29 Jun	Thursday	Eid al-Adha	Public Holiday
19 Jul	Wednesday	Muharram	Public Holiday
16 Sep	Saturday	Martyrs' Day	Public Holiday
27 Sep	Wednesday	The Prophet's Birthday	Public Holiday
23 Oct	Monday	Liberation Day	Public Holiday
24 Dec	Sunday	Independence Day	Public Holiday



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HEADQUARTERS

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REGIONAL

Al Giran, Ghot Shal, Tripoli, Libya

