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LIBYA · DAILY SECURITY UPDATE

# Libya Daily Report

Tuesday, 4 August 2026

*Rival GNU-aligned armed groups spread fighting from Zawiya into Surman, breaching the prison and cutting the coastal highway to Tunisia for most of the day.*

COVERAGE 4 Aug 2026, 00:00–23:59 ISSUED 5 Aug 2026, 07:00

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| 30 | 5 | Surman | ▲ Escalating |
|---|---|---|---|
| INCIDENTS nationwide | FATALITIES confirmed | HOTSPOT Az Zawiyah | TREND (WEST) vs 3 Aug |

**BOTTOM LINE**

Fighting between rival GNU-aligned armed groups spread from Zawiya into Surman. At least three civilians were killed, the Surman prison was breached, and the coastal highway to Tunisia was cut for most of the day. A neutral brigade reopened the road by evening, but the dispute behind the fighting is unresolved.

**Advisory:** no movement on the Janzour–Ras Jedir coastal corridor until 6 August at the earliest. Expect more checkpoint activity and crime while escaped inmates remain at large.

## 01 DAILY ROUND-UP

- **Western coast:** fighting between the Anti-Security Threats Apparatus and the 103rd Infantry Battalion (Al-Silaa) moved from the Zawiya refinery area and Al-Harsha into Surman, with drones reportedly used in residential areas.
- **Prison breach:** a mass escape from the Surman correctional facility. Activists put the number still at large at about 1,200, many facing serious sentences.
- **Government response:** the Chief of Staff ordered all armed formations out of Surman; the 52nd Infantry Brigade deployed as a neutral force and reopened the coastal road.
- **Institutional dispute:** the Benghazi Court of Appeals suspended the Presidential Council's appointments to the General Intelligence Service leadership, widening the east–west dispute over sovereign institutions.
- **Migration:** three rescues at sea off Tobruk and Sirte, 84 people in total. One boat had engine failure and 2 bodies were recovered.

**FIGURE 1 · INCIDENTS BY LOCATION, 4 AUGUST 2026**




*Bubble size = number of incidents; red = at least one fatality.*

## 02 GOVERNORATE OVERVIEW

| | |
|---|---|
| **Az Zawiyah** | Surman: clashes along the coastal road near the prison, Al-Mahajib and the feed |

| | |
|---|---|
| | factory. At least 3 civilians killed and several wounded, including children and a migrant; unconfirmed reports of 5 fighters killed by a drone. The municipality suspended all services. Zawiya: five main roads closed, a 220 kV line damaged and the Red Crescent told residents to stay indoors. Sabratha: the university suspended classes in faculties inside the clash zone. |
| **Benghazi** | The Court of Appeals suspended Presidential Council Decisions 9 and 10 of 2026, which appointed the head and deputy head of the General Intelligence Service. |
| **Al Butnan** | Tobruk coastal security rescued 15 Egyptian migrants from a boat with engine failure and recovered 2 bodies. A separate rescue brought 40 Sudanese, Bangladeshi and Eritrean migrants ashore. |
| **Surt** | Eastern coastal security rescued 29 migrants about 180 nm north of Sirte and handed them to the local anti-illegal-immigration branch. |
| **Al Marqab** | Tarhuna: a former education auditor was detained over payroll fraud, extending the corruption case that led to the mayor's detention on 1 August. |
| **Al Jabal al Akhdar / Al Wahat / Murzuq** | Routine activity: a vegetation fire contained in Al-Balanj, a stolen car recovered in Ajdabiya, and traffic enforcement in Murzuq. |

## 03 RISK AND MOVEMENT ADVISORY

| AREA | RISK | ADVISORY |
|---|---|---|
| **Zawiya – Surman – Sabratha** | HIGH | Suspend movement; shelter in place; account for all staff; hold 72 hours of water, fuel and power. |
| **Janzour – western exit – Zuwara – Ras Jedir** | ELEVATED | Essential travel only, with prior clearance; expect checks for escaped inmates. |
| **Tripoli city** | MODERATE | Normal programming with standard precautions. |
| **Benghazi and East** | MODERATE | Normal programming; track the fallout of the institutional dispute. |
| **South** | LOW | Normal programming. |

## 04 OUTLOOK — NEXT 72 HOURS

LIKELY a tense pause in Surman under the 52nd Brigade, with intermittent gunfire and roadblocks in Zawiya as the armed groups reposition around the refinery.

LIKELY widespread recapture operations and arrests along the western coast linked to the prison breach.

POSSIBLE attacks on energy infrastructure in Zawiya, including stand-off or drone attacks on the refinery and power assets, as the dispute moves from street fighting to economic pressure.

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**WATCH** whether the armed formations actually withdraw from Surman; any statement claiming the drone strikes; power and water restoration in Zawiya.

**About this report.** Prepared by SARI Global's Security & Risk Operations desk for humanitarian planning. Findings are compiled from SARI's Libya incident register, 24/7 GSOC monitoring, field reporting and partner networks, and are advisory rather than definitive. Casualty figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

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