



**FUTURE**

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**Future Indicators**

# **Lack of Trust:**

## **Indicators of confidence in domestic & international institutions in Libya**



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## Introduction

More than ten years on since Libya's Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's death, and stability still eludes the country. Civil clashes erupt every so often, and international powers continue to compete for control over the oil-rich country. This report illustrates Libyan's perceptions and attitudes towards key domestic and international institutions. It offers a valuable insight into their opinions on performance of their current government (the one intended here is the government led by Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah, as he was the UN appointed Prime Minister approved by all parties then), the parliament, and the active presence of international institutions in their country. The report builds on a rich set of the "World Values Survey," collated between December 2021 and January 2022 with 1,196 interview respondents. The responses were then analysed using the industry-standard IBM SPSS software.



## 1 Lack of confidence in Libya's institutions

The first and most worrying indicator is a total lack of confidence in Libya's institutions – private and public – as well as political factions and civil society. A staggering 96.7% said they do not trust Libyan parties; more than 90% do not believe in the parliament; and 80% said they did not have any confidence in parliamentary elections. When asked about the government at the time of their interviews, 7 out of 10 Libyans (or 70.3%) did not express confidence in al-Dbeibah's government. Similarly, nearly 69.4% of respondents said they did not trust civil servants.

The report also highlights a split within Libya's society when it comes to security institutions. More than half of Libyans said they did not trust their country's security institutions, neither the police nor the military, whereas the other half said they did. This sentiment spells over the judicial system, as nearly 47% of Libyans do not trust their judicial institutions.

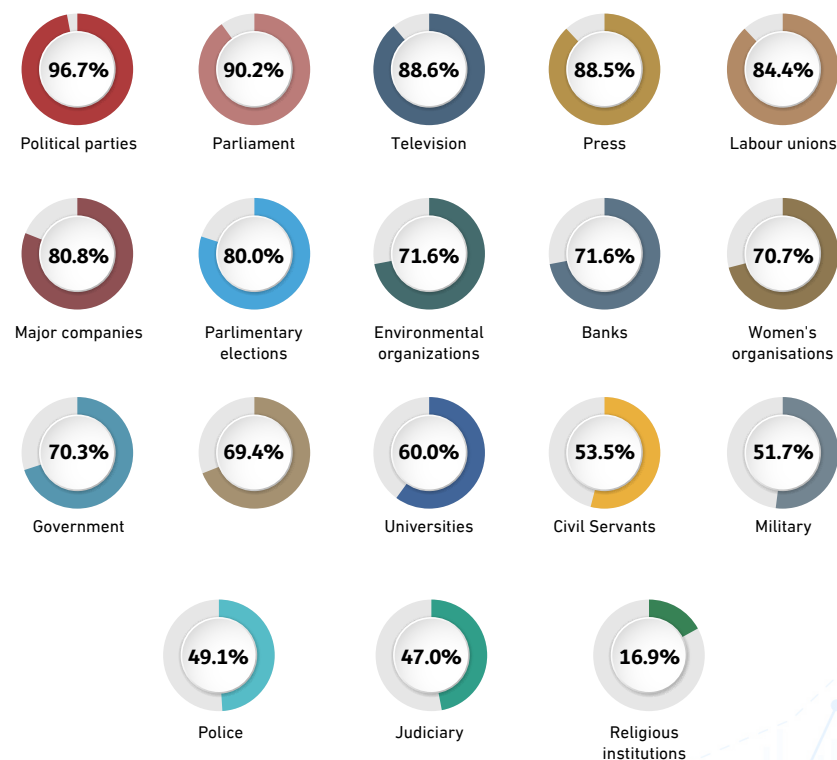
The media sector does not fare any better. 88.6% of Libyans do not believe the news they watch on television or read in the local papers.

Libya's economy also has negatively affected the public sentiment. Worsening economic conditions, chiefly as a direct result of a general absence of security, have left the respondents distrustful of economic institutions including, 84.4% of respondents said they do not trust worker unions, 80% said they do not trust major corporations, and 71.6% do not trust banks.

As Libyans did not show much trust in their government, they did not convey much confidence in civil society organisations either. About 71.6% of Libyans do not trust environmental agencies, while 70.7% of Libyans do not trust women rights organisations, and nearly half do not have confidence in charity and humanitarian organisation.

Yet by comparison, religious institutions seem to be Libyan's last port of confidence, as 83.1% said they trust their religious organisations whereas only 16.9% said they do not.

### Level of Distrust in Libya's Institutions



**Source:** original work by author based on survey analysis of World Values Survey Wave 7 (Note: data collected between December 2021 and January 2022)

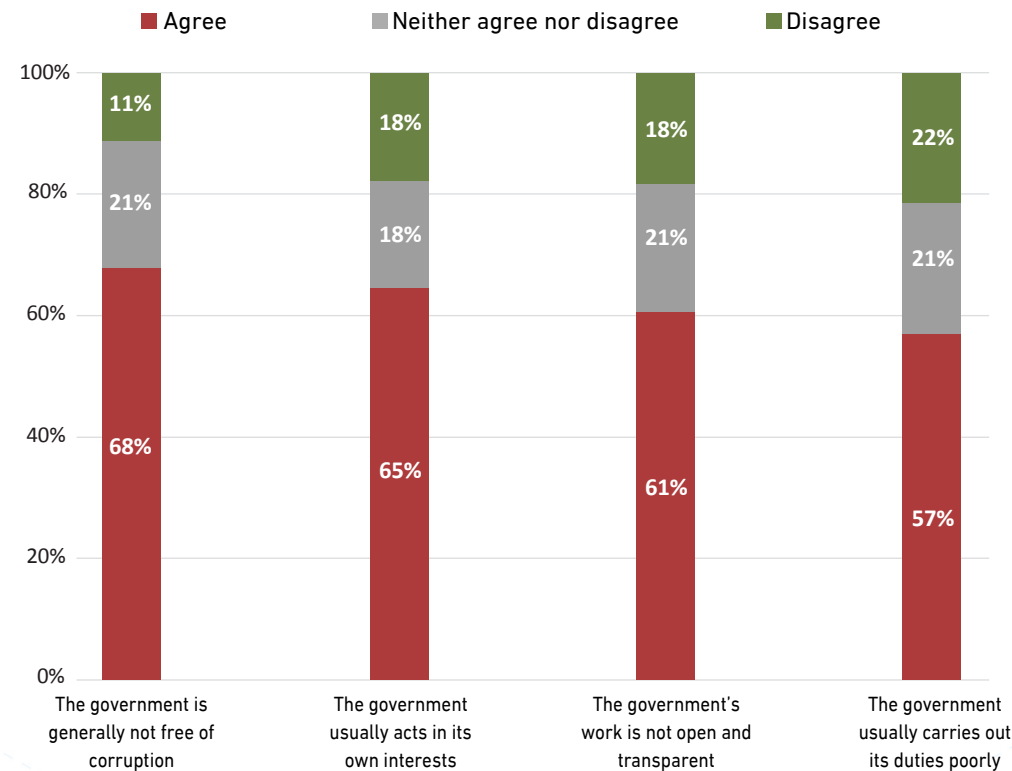


## 2 Distrust in al-Dbeibah's government

Looking closer at the government's performance against survey indicators, we would find that 2 out of 3 Libyans are distrustful of the government and think it is self-serving. Also, more than 68%

believe the government is corrupt, and about 61% (or 3 in every 5 Libyans) said the government lacked transparency, while 57% think the government is carrying out its duties poorly.

### Libyans' Attitudes Towards Dbeibeh's Government



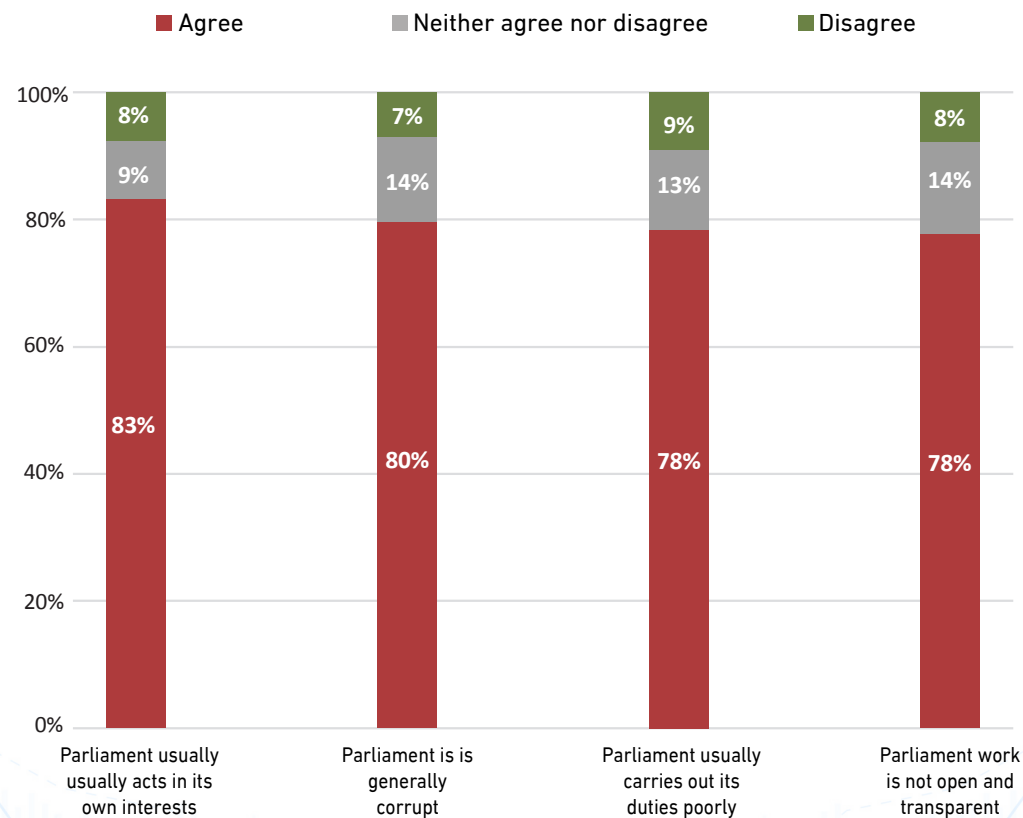
**Source:** original work by author based on survey analysis of World Values Survey Wave 7 (Note: data collected between December 2021 and January 2022)

### 3 Libyans dissatisfied with parliament

Libyans are deeply dissatisfied with the performance of their parliamentarians. Nearly 83% of Libyans believe members of parliament usually act in their own interests, 80% think the

parliament is generally corrupt, about 78% think the parliament carries out its duties poorly, and a similar percentage of Libyans think their parliament is not open and transparent.

#### Attitudes of Libyans Towards Parliament



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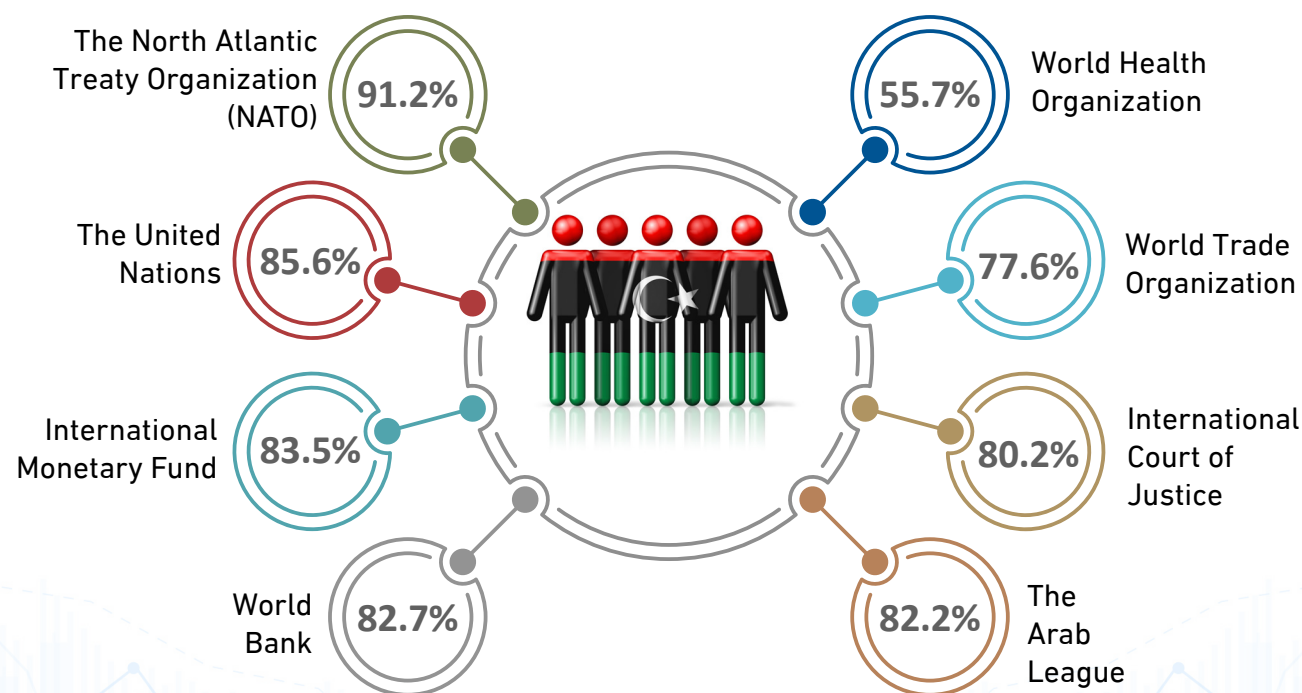
#### 4 Lack of trust in regional and international institutions

Despite an overwhelming presence in their country, virtually all Libyans distrust regional and international institutions. 9 out of 10 Libyans (or 91.2%) do not trust NATO, and more than 85% do not trust the UN or its efforts in their country. Similarly, 80.2% of Libyans said they do not trust the International Court of Justice. Additionally, Libyans are skeptical of international economic

institutions. Respectively 83.5%, 82.7% and 77.6% of Libyans do not trust the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization.

Libyans are divided on health: around 55.7% do not trust the World Health Organizations, while 44.3% do.

#### Libyans' Distrust in International Institutions



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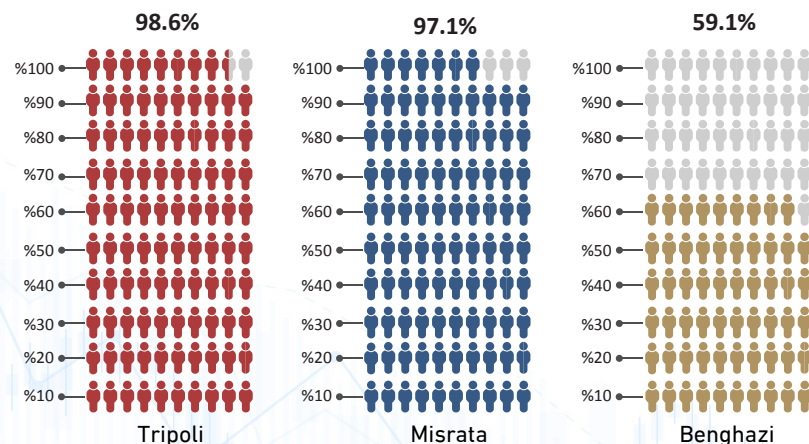
## 5 Trust varies across Libya's major regions

The survey highlights a key factor that has influenced indicators of trust and confidence by respondents across the three largest Libyan cities of Tripoli, Benghazi, and Misrata.

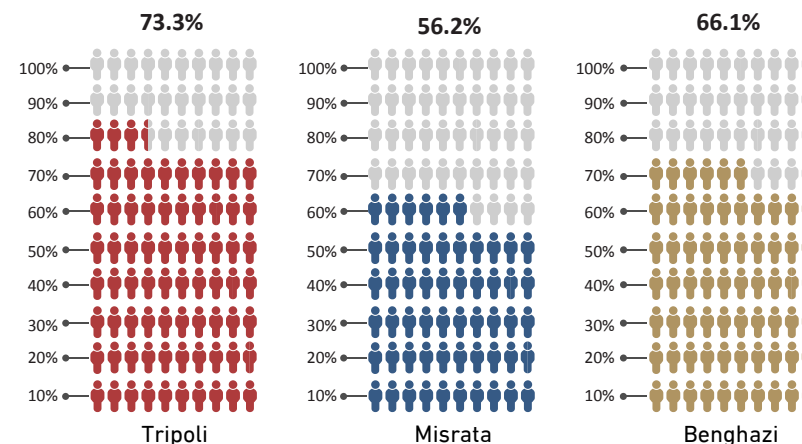
By and large, confidence in parliament is merely non-existent. About 98.6% and 97.1% of respondents from Tripoli and Misrata respectively indicated no trust in their parliament. In Benghazi respondents expressed a bit more leniency towards their parliament in comparison to the other two cities, with about 59.1% showing no confidence in the parliament, though overall the level of distrust remains high.

Respondents from Tripoli trust al-Dbeibah's government the least – a high 73.3%. Benghazi and Misrata followed with 66.1% and 56.2% respectively. Trust in the military institution follows a similar trend. Trust is least present in Tripoli with 80% showing no confidence in the institution, compared to 68.9% and a much lower 26.7% in Misrata and Benghazi respectively.

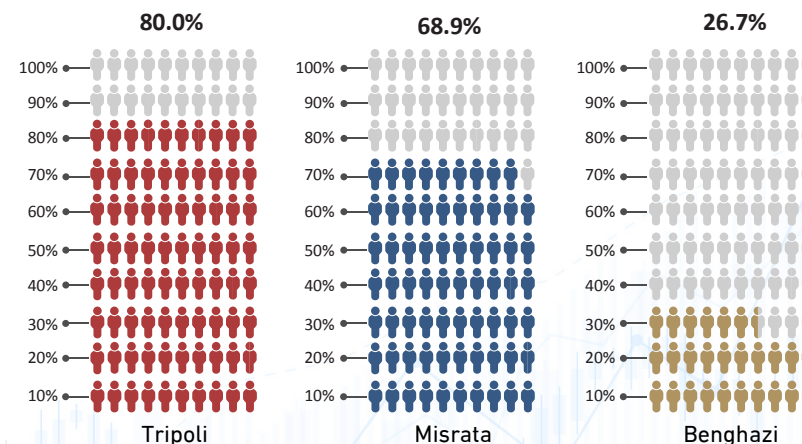
### Distrust in The Parliament by Region



### Distrust in Government by Region



### Distrust in the Military by Region



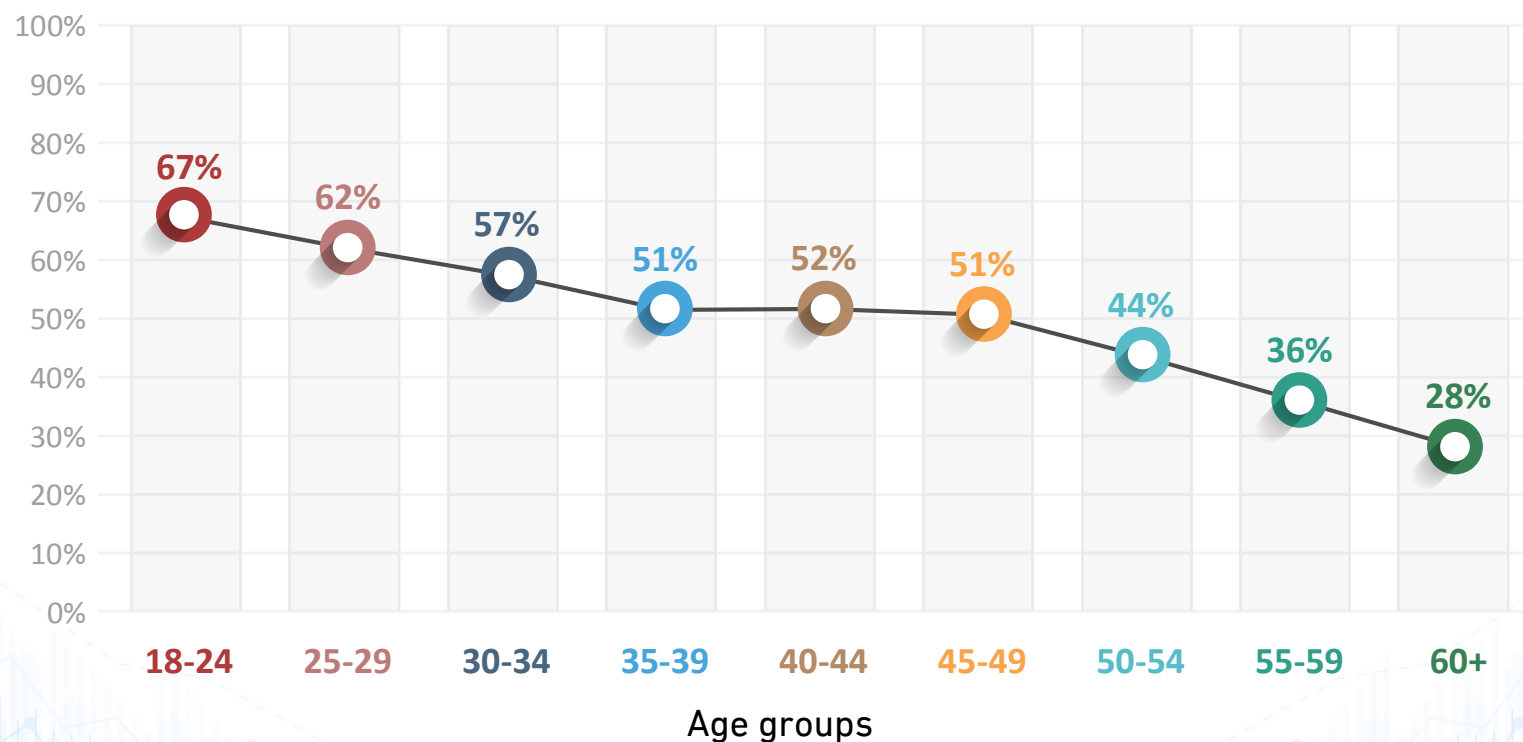
**Source:** original work by author based on survey analysis of World Values Survey Wave 7 (Note: data collected between December 2021 and January 2022)

## 6 Generational differences in trust

Differences in perceptions and attitudes are clearer across generations. The younger generation (18 – 24 years) show little trust in the military, with about 67% saying they do not trust the armed forces. Age and trust go hand in hand with only 28% of

respondents aged 60 years and older saying they did not trust the institution. Trust in parliament and government follow a similar curve, with younger people showing much less confidence in these institutions.

### Distrust in military by age groups



**Source:** original work by author based on survey analysis of World Values Survey Wave 7 (Note: data collected between December 2021 and January 2022)



