



## Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

11 August, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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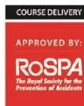
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**ACTIVITY MAP**..... 3

**OUTLOOK**..... 4

**Short term outlook** ..... 4

**Medium to long term outlook** ..... 4

**SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**..... 4

**Governance**..... 4

**Security** ..... 5

**Migrant Crisis** ..... 6

**Oil & Gas** ..... 6

**Travel**..... 6

**KEY DATES** ..... 6

**THREAT MATRIX**..... 7

**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS** ..... 7

**Security** ..... 7

        Sabratah: New military unit creating positive impression, but creating concern for Zawiyah militias. 7

        Benghazi: Attempted assassination against the Magharba tribal leader ..... 7

        Derna: Siege prompts fears of impending humanitarian disaster ..... 7

**WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT** ..... 7

**Tripolitania** ..... 7

**Cyrenaica** ..... 8

**Fezzan**..... 8

**ACRONYM LIST**..... 10

**GARDAWORLD INFORMATION SERVICES** ..... 11

**GARDAWORLD** ..... 11

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**ACTIVITY MAP**



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|  |  | ISO 9001:2015<br>Quality Management<br>QMS/112016/001<br>7818 | ISO 14001:2015<br>Environmental Management<br>EMS/112016/001 | BS OHSAS 18001:2007<br>Occupational Health & Safety Management<br>HMS/112016/001 | ISO 18788:2015<br>Security Operations Management<br>SMS/022016/001 | ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012<br>Quality Assurance Management<br>SMS/072014/001 |  |  |  |  |  |
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11 August 2017

## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- Tensions remain elevated along the Zuwara, Sabratah and Zawiyah coastal areas due to a number of issues including a complex security environment involving fuel smuggling and people trafficking. A recent protest in Zawiyah, which threatened to block fuel supplies to Tripoli and the wider area, may yet result in further incidents.
- BAM has warned of increasing IS activity south of Sirte. The warnings come as the LNA threatens BAM's control over the city. All three forces are present in the area making it a dynamic and complex environment at the current time. Both BAM and LNA have stepped up their activity, increasing the potential for another confrontation.
- Tensions have increased around Derna following the downing of an LNA jet by the MSCD and the execution of its pilot by MSCD. The LNA is now reportedly planning further military action against the city which has also had its siege tightened.
- Remnants of opposition elements in Sabri, Benghazi have regrouped resulting in further fighting. The threat from opposition remnants and IEDs remain in the area, and further incidents are expected as the LNA continues clearance operations.

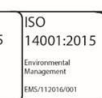
### Medium to long term outlook

- The political and security environment in Libya continues to absorb the impact of the GCC move to isolate Qatar. The east of the country remains supportive of the move and is looking to exploit the situation to reduce the influence and threat from some opponents in country while they look to shape international support.
- GNA President Serraj and LNA commander Khalifa Haftar remain central to international stakeholders' attempts to unify east and west, however alternative solutions are being pursued by other entities with opposing factions. As factions move closer to a possible deal, tensions are likely to increase inside Libya, and there is potential for some level of fragmentation of their support bases. As a result, new alliances may be formed as progress leaves some with reducing levels of influence.
- The remnants of the GNC, which has allegedly benefited from Qatari support, remain largely politically isolated after losing their footprint in the capital at the end of May. Their last attempt to take territory in the capital by force failed when their fighters were forced from Garabuli on 11 July, and support appears to be waning. The threat is assessed to be evolving as the GNC, and associated forces adapt to the changing environment. While intent is assessed to remain, especially for the hardliners, tactics may alter.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- Further talks between Misrata and the east have taken place this week. Delegations visited Cairo for three days with reports suggesting the Misratan delegation believed they had ended positively. Some sources report that the eastern delegation was less enthusiastic although agreements have been made and a further meeting is scheduled.
- A number of politicians and communities have expressed their opposition to the deal between GNA President Fayez Sarraj and the Italians to allow Italian naval assets into Libyan territorial waters in an effort to curb the migration crisis. As well as the issue of sovereignty, those opposing the development are unhappy at the perception the migration issue is being pushed back onto Libya, giving the country another problem to contend with. The issue is stoking anti-Italian sentiment which is likely to continue in the short term.
- Various members of the GNA Presidential Council have made various visits to towns and cities to discuss the issues they face as well as war compensation. The campaign may have been timed to bolster support for the current moves towards unity.
- The new UN envoy Ghassan Salame has arrived in Libya this week and made a number of high profile visits which included the city of Benghazi.





11 August 2017

- A group of Libyan activities, politicians, academics, and journalists have written to the UN Envoy urging him to sack five long-term employees of UNSMIL stating they are considered “enemies to the stabilisation of Libya.” The letter stated that they would oppose UNSMIL until those named are removed.
- Russia has indicated it is focusing on improving economic ties with Libya. Trade is currently worth \$74 million, however, billions of dollars of contracts were signed under the previous regime including a 2.2 billion contract to construct a 550km railway line between Sirte and Benghazi.
- GNA Deputy President Ahmed Maetig has stated he will visit Mashashiyah tribal leaders in Awiniyah in the Nafousa Mountains. The tribe has recently claimed that it is being marginalized and issued a warning it would take action if the situation was not addressed. The tribe has returned to its home area after being displaced during the revolution in recent weeks.
- The Tebu and Awlad Suleiman tribes met in Tripoli with members of the PC to finalise the implementation of the reconciliation agreement.
- South Korea is set to resume contracts in Libya including a number in the power sector including Zuetina (250 megawatts), West Tripoli (1400 megawatts) and Khalij Sirte (1400 megawatts). A plan is to be put in place for the return of South Korean firms and workforce.

## Security

- LNA Commander Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar made a “surprise” visit to Cairo this week. Unconfirmed reports suggest Haftar was hoping to gain Egyptian support in opposing the Italian naval mission agreed with Sarraj. The report suggested Haftar is concerned the development will complicate his alleged intent to take control of Sirte.
- Eighty SBS operators and 40 specialists are deploying to Libya along with US, French and Italian forces to deny IS the opportunity to re-establish a base and to fight people traffickers.
- BAM announced that a “new and unified command for the Libyan Army” would be announced on 14 August. Brigadier General Muhammad Iqnaydi stated they had been in contact with the LNA for around 18 months over the issue. When pressed over their position regarding Haftar being in command, Iqhaydi suggested that the LNA had become “fully aware of the truth of Haftar” and that they would not accept another authoritarian figure. Interestingly, Haftar has recently shown some indication that he has modified his ambitions, at least publically, which may be as a result of Misratan and other stakeholder pressure regarding reconciliation and the unification of the military, allowing some possible progress to be made.
- There are indications that the LNA is looking to bring existing local security forces in Sabha under its control as it consolidates its position. Local dignitaries and tribal leaders are said to be on side as the LNA looks to reorganize and establish new headquarter and administration elements. The LNA has also indicated they are looking to increase wages. The move could well be part of the wider move to unify the national forces.
- The Presidential Guard (PG) has seen its first recruits graduate at a ceremony in front of Sarraj. The PG has struggled to gain traction since it was established in May 2016 however it has recently seen progress. Sarraj stated the PG was not in competition with the military but would become part of the national security forces. The comment suggests that the PG is currently seen as outside the command of the main factions at present who have repeatedly requested that the PC respect the military chain of command.
- LNA Western Region Commander Brigadier General Idris Madi conducted a number of visits to LNA locations in the west including Watiyah Airbase this week. He confirmed a number of aircraft have been refurbished at the airbase and are now operational.
- The siege round Derna has been relaxed slightly to allow in medical supplies following domestic and international pressure over an impending humanitarian disaster in the city. The MSCD had tried to negotiate the release of some of their prisoners in exchange for the return of Colonel Adel Jehani’s body, however, the proposition has been rejected.
- The LNA continue to besiege remnants of the RSCB in Sabri. Some gunfire was reported through the week, but no significant engagements took place. Civilians have started to return to the area as some of the environmental hazards are cleared.
- Protestors stormed a control room at Zawiyah refinery, forcing the production at Sharara oilfield to be reduced. Protestors were attempting to increase pressure on the PC over the arrest of four men from the town in Saudi Arabia. The protest was short lived and did not have the support of the Khadrawi tribal leader who pointed out that increasing pressure on the PC would not translate into pressure on Saudi Arabia.
- Another attempted assassination was carried out against Sheikh Latawish of the Magharba Tribe on 04 August in Benghazi. Seven people including two of the Sheikh’s sons and their cousin were injured in the attack.



11 August 2017

### Migrant Crisis

- The situation in the Mediterranean is evolving significantly. Attitudes to NGOs operating in the area are hardening. These changes are being led by Italy which is coming under increasing pressure as migrants continue to arrive. In recent weeks, a new code of conduct was put in place by Italy in a bid to regulate NGO operations, and the Italian coastguard seized a German NGO vessel for alleged collusion with people smugglers.
- This week, reports indicate that the Golfo Azurro was denied permission to dock in Malta, although the reasons are currently unknown.
- A Spanish NGO vessel was also observed for two days by the Libyan coastguard who reported the vessel was acting suspiciously. The coastguard eventually fired a number of warning shots as the vessel approached Libyan territorial waters. They stated a repeat would see them fire at the ship. The incident underlines the escalating tensions in the area, and further incidents are possible.
- The 'far-right' ship, the C-Star, is now in the Mediterranean and has been denied permission to dock at a number of ports including all those in Tunisia. Although the Tunisians are stating permission is being denied based on the crew's politics, it is also likely looking to avoid the potential for the ship to try and disembark any rescued migrants in Tunisia instead of Italy.
- The arrival of the first Italian naval vessel appeared to trigger a campaign by Libyan seaborne assets to increase the number of rescues, returning migrants to Libya in line with current Italian intent. The IOM stated that between 04 and 08 August 1124 people were rescued by the Libyan coastguard and returned to Libya.

### Oil & Gas

- Schlumberger is to resume work with the Sirte Oil & Gas Company after three years. A specialist foreign firm has carried out security evaluations of Zlitan, al-Jabal, Alwadi, Al-Lhaeen, al-Mugail and other oilfields as well as Brega oil terminal. A security evaluation will also take place on Raguba oilfield.
- Production at Sharara was interrupted due to the protest in Zawiyah on 06 August. Production was gradually shutting down, however, did not stop completely and was restarted the following day.

### Travel

- Libyan airlines announced it would stop accepting all requests for reductions including for those seeking medical treatment and students studying abroad. The new policy applies to all internal and external flights.
- A local construction company in Kufra has volunteered its services at Kufra Airport. The company named al-Naser Building and Construction Co. started carrying out repairs to Kufra Airport's runway on 09 August. The company has stated that the maintenance will conclude in approximately a week. It is expected that flights will resume once the maintenance has concluded.

## KEY DATES

| Date                   | Occasion                                 | Comment            |
|------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 20 August 2017         | Anniversary of the Liberation of Tripoli |                    |
| 01 – 03 September 2017 | Eid al-Adha                              | Feast of Sacrifice |
| 16 September 2017      | Martyrs Day                              |                    |
| 22 September 2017      | Hijri New Year                           |                    |
| 23 October 2017        | Liberation Day                           | National holiday   |

## THREAT MATRIX

| Region       | Political    | Terrorism    | Militancy | Crime | K&R  |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------|------|
| Tripolitania | High-Extreme | High         | High      | High  | High |
| Cyrenaica    | Moderate     | High-Extreme | Moderate  | High  | High |
| Fezzan       | High         | Moderate     | High      | High  | High |

|              |         |     |          |      |         |
|--------------|---------|-----|----------|------|---------|
| Threat Scale | Minimal | Low | Moderate | High | Extreme |
|--------------|---------|-----|----------|------|---------|

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### Security

#### Sabratah: New military unit creating positive impression, but creating concern for Zawiyah militias

A few weeks ago, a call went out in the local mosques asking those who served in the military under the previous regime to join a new unit being raised in Sabratah. The unit is reportedly being backed by locals concerned over recent reports of IS activity in the area. As well as fears for their safety, they also do not want the town, which was once famous for its Roman ruins, to be associated with the terrorist group which had a foothold in the city until early 2016. The new unit has deployed men on the routes into Sabratah and established checkpoints. Reports indicate that the unit has made a good first impression and that local people feel more secure seeing soldiers in fatigues around the town. The new unit is seen as being unaligned to either the GNA or Haftar, however, while that perception may be held by locals, it is unclear who is bank rolling it.

#### Benghazi: Attempted assassination against the Magharba tribal leader

Sheikh Latawish of the Magharba Tribe was subjected to another assassination attempt in Benghazi on 04 August. An IED detonated in a shoe rack at a mosque in Sidi Faraj, injuring seven people including the Sheikh's two sons and their cousin. The attack follows an attempt in November when a vehicle detonated outside the same mosque. Latawish was instrumental in the LNA's successful takeover of the oil crescent in September 2016. A deal was struck between Latawish and Haftar before the operation which saw Latawish leverage his position as head of the tribe to instruct his members within the PFG to join with the LNA. Latawish remains a key influencer in the region and as such, will likely remain a target for dissident groups for the foreseeable future.

#### Derna: Siege prompts fears of impending humanitarian disaster

Following domestic and international pressure, the siege around Derna has been alleviated slightly by the LNA. Medical supplies have been allowed in, and ambulances have been allowed out to refuel. Food and fuel, however, do not appear to be getting through meaning fears of an impending humanitarian crisis remain. Reports indicate that there is no fuel for bakeries and as food supplies run low, hundreds of families are preparing to leave the city.

## WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

### Tripolitania

#### Significant activity

- Demonstration - 04 Aug 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A demonstration was held in Algeria Square, protesting against the arrival of an Italian naval vessel at Abu Sitta. Italian flags were burned and drove over with demonstrators claiming the vessel was in Libyan waters for reasons other than helping the Libyan Coastguard.
- Demonstration - 04 Aug 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Medical workers continued their strike over unpaid salaries. The protest began on 02 August.

11 August 2017

- Armed Clashes - 05 Aug 17 17:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah Port: Two militias clashes in al-Harsha close to the Zawiyah Port.
- Demonstration - 06 Aug 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Relatives of those arrested in Saudi Arabia in connection with the 2014 kidnap of Egyptian diplomats have threatened to block petrol and aviation fuel from Zawiyah Refinery to Tripoli and turned off fuel pipeline valves unless the PC secures the release of the men.
- Demonstration - 07 Aug 17, Misrata Province, Misrata: A demonstration was held to protest against the recent deal made with Italy in an effort to curb illegal immigration.
- Kidnap - 07 Aug 17, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem: Two employees of the Libyan Auditing Bureau have been reported kidnaped. Mohamed Jabry and Mustafa Abusalah were kidnaped from near the Green Hospital following a meeting with reps from the hospital. The Libyan Auditing Bureau has released a statement condemning the kidnapping and stated that "the employees were lured to the meeting, " and this was done in an attempt to pressure the Auditing Bureau into agreeing to approve the provision of a piece of a new medical diagnostic equipment valued at 1.85 million LYD instead of conducting locally provisioned maintenance on the current equipment. The statement also singled out the hospital manager stating that he had previously threatened auditors.
- Demonstration - 08 Aug 17, Nalut Province, Badr: Residents of Badr town have organised a demonstration against what they described as the Italian intervention in Libya.
- Arrest - 08 Aug 17, Misrata Province, Bani Waled: Members of Bani Waled Security Force have reported the arrest of an undisclosed number of criminals following a raid on a compound used by the criminals. An unnamed source in the Security Force stated the seizure of fake 100 dollar bills totaling 2.5 million USD.
- Crime - 09 Aug 17, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Customs officials at Matiga Airport have confiscated approximately 1000 magazine for 9mm pistols. The magazines were being smuggled into the country hidden within a shipment of clothes coming from Turkey. The Shipment was handed to RDF for further investigation.

## Cyrenaica

### Significant activity

- Murder/ Execution - 04 Aug 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A suicide vest exploded after being left on a shoe rack at the entrance to the Atawish Mosque in Sidi Faraj following dawn prayers. The IED is believed to have been intended for Sheikh Latawish of the Magharba Tribe who was near the stand with family members when the device detonated. Seven people including two of his sons, Salha and Belgasem and their cousin, Salem Belhassan were injured in the blast, but the Sheikh escaped unharmed.
- Weapons find - 06 Aug 17, Benghazi Province, Mechili: Security forces found a cache of explosives including landmines
- IED - 07 Aug 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Two roadside IEDs were cleared in Benghazi. The devices had pressure plates across the road.
- Murder/ Execution - 08 Aug 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: The bodies of seven men were found handcuffed showing signs of torture and gunshot wounds to the head in a landfill in Benghazi. Reports indicate all those murdered were people who had been reported missing or abducted in recent days with two reported to have been arrested by LNA Special Forces.
- Airstrike - 08 Aug 17, Derna Province, Derna: LNA helicopters have targeted and destroyed a boat reportedly transporting personnel, weapons, and ammo intended for MSCD.
- Arrest - 08 Aug 17, Kufra Province, Kufra: Members of the Anti-immigration Force of Kufra have reported the arrest of 37 illegal immigrants. The Immigrants are all believed to be Sudanese nationals.

## Fezzan

### Significant activity

- Murder/ Execution - 03 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Mahdia: Ibrahim Rahoma, a Libyan national, age 22 was shot and killed.
- Murder/ Execution - 03 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Mahdia: Masoud Younes Masoud, a Libyan national, born 1992, was murdered.
- Murder/ Execution - 03 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Mahdia: Saed Abdulrahman, a Libyan national born 1991, was shot and killed.





11 August 2017

- Murder/ Execution - 03 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: Abubaker Birney, a Niger national, aged 24 was murdered on the Sabha - Zighen road. Evidence of torture was seen on the body.
- Murder/ Execution - 05 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Jadid: Fatma Abdulsalam, a Libyan national aged 27, was shot and killed.
- Murder/ Execution - 05 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: Amadou Mohamed, a Niger national, was murdered on the Sabha - Obari road.
- Murder/ Execution - 06 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: Ahmed Adam, a Chadian national, was shot and killed on the Sabha - Murzug road.
- Crime - 07 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: The Libyan Insurance Company was broken into and computers were stolen.
- Murder/ Execution - 07 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Mahdia: Ahmed Fawzy, a Libyan national born 1986, was shot and killed.



## ACRONYM LIST

AAS – Ansar al-Sharia (AQ affiliate)  
 AQ - Al-Qaeda  
 BAM – Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous (Misrata aligned)  
 BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade / Saraya Defend Benghazi (SDB) (Al-Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)  
 CNI – Critical National Infrastructure  
 GATMJB - Operations Room for the Liberation of the City Ajdabiya and Support for Benghazi Rebels  
 GECOL – General Electricity Company of Libya  
 GMMR – Great Man-made River  
 GNA – Government of National Accord (UN backed)  
 GNC – General National Congress  
 HCN - Host Country National  
 HoR – House of Representatives (Tobruk based)  
 IDP - Internally Displaced Persons  
 IED - Improvised Explosive Device  
 IOC - International Oil Company  
 IS - Islamic State  
 LIFG – Libyan Islamic Fighting Group  
 LNA – Libyan National Army  
 LPA – Libyan Political Agreement  
 LROR - Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room  
 MoD - Ministry of Defense  
 MoF - Ministry of Finance  
 MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 MoHE - Ministry of Higher Education  
 MoI - Ministry of Interior  
 MoJ - Ministry of Justice  
 MoO - Ministry of Oil  
 MoT - Ministry of Transportation  
 MSCD – Mujahideen Shura Council of Derna (AQ aligned)  
 NFDK - No Further Details Known  
 NGO - Non-Governmental Organization (aid/charity)  
 NOC – National Oil Company  
 NSG – National Salvation Government (GNC)  
 NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report  
 PAX - Person, Persons or Passenger  
 PC – Presidency Council (GNA)  
 PG – Presidential Guard  
 PFG- Petroleum Facilities Guard  
 PSC - Private Security Company  
 PSD - Private Security Detail  
 RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade  
 RSCB - Revolutionary Shura Council of Benghazi  
 RTA - Road Traffic Accident  
 SDB – Saraya Defend Benghazi / Benghazi Defense Brigade (BDB) (Al-Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)  
 TCN - Third Country National  
 Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck  
 UXO - Unexploded Ordnance

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