



**Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview**

September 01, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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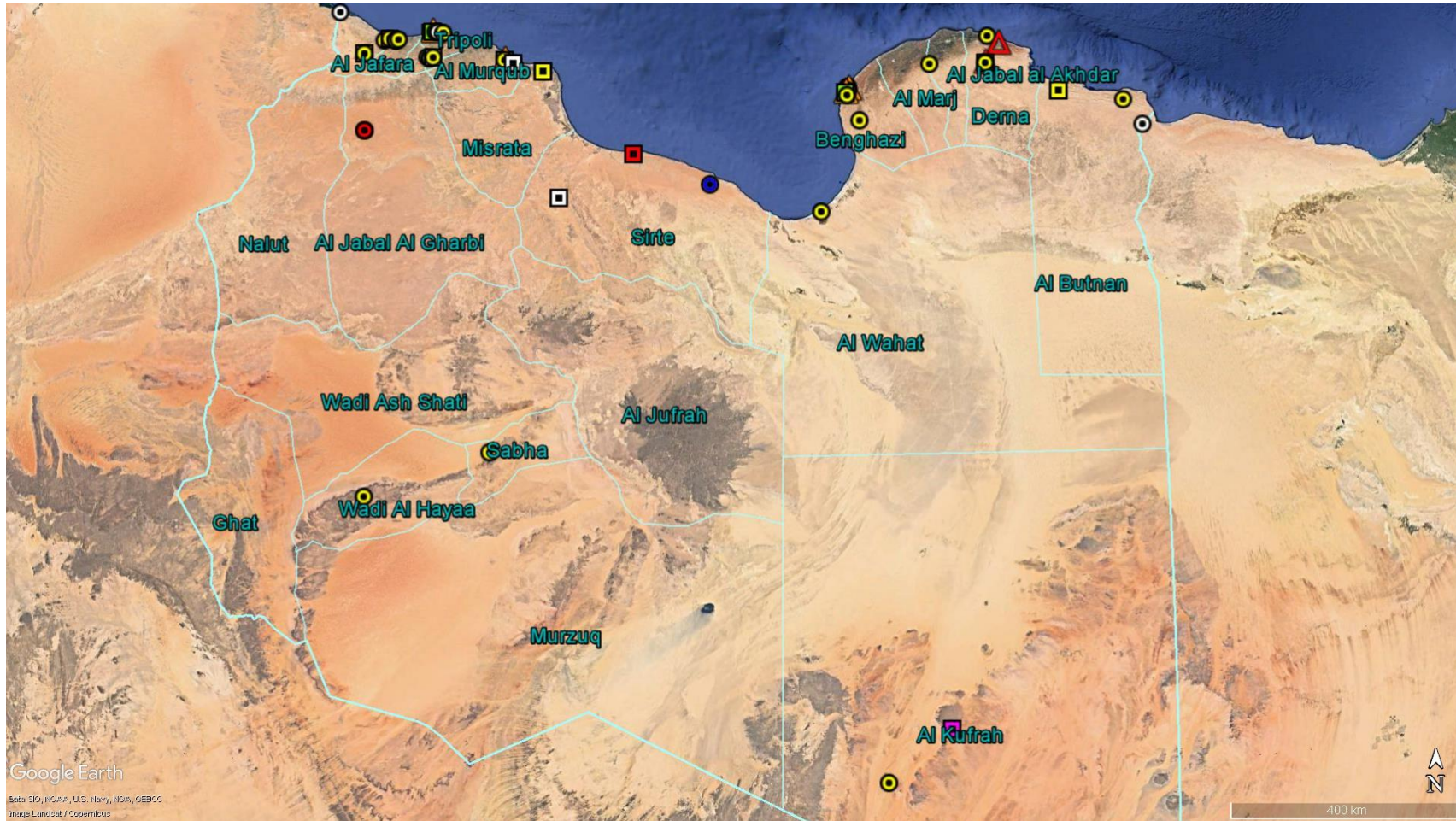
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**ACTIVITY MAP**



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<b>MSS GLOBAL</b>		ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management QMS/112016/001 7818	ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management EMS/112016/001	BS OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management HMS/112016/001	ISO 18788:2015 Security Operations Management SMS/02016/001	ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012 Quality Assurance Management SMS/072014/001					
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## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- Tensions are high in the oil crescent following an increase in IS activity which has prompted both the LNA and BAM to send reinforcements. An increase in troop levels from BAM and the LNA once again increases the risk of the confrontation between the two with the LNA still challenging BAM's control over Sirte. There is an increased threat towards the LNA held oil installations along the crescent.
- There is potential that various factions in Libya may look to exploit a possible reduction in capability over the Eid period to further their agendas and there is an increased risk of attacks.
- Further fighting is possible in the Suq al-Khamis area, south of Tripoli after al-Kani Brigade launched an attack against civilians in the town. The involvement of Salah Badi and TRB could result in an escalation.
- 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.
- Tensions increased around Derna after an LNA jet was shot down and the pilot executed by MSCD. The LNA announced it has begun to advance against the city while a new joint operations room has been established to coordinate with civilian militias.

### 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, looking to exploit the situation and reduce the influence of in country opponents, while simultaneously improving 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 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 July 11, 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.
- There are indications that IS is beginning to regroup in Libya. Some reports suggest fighters from Iraq and Syria are heading to North Africa. The group is reported to be present in a number of areas including south of Sirte, Bani Waled, and Sabratah.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- LNA Commander, Field Marshall Khalifa Haftar, has claimed that he has "no political ambitions".
- GNA President Fayez Sarraj held talks with the Sudanese president and established a political consultation committee between the two countries. The two discussed human trafficking, the presence of Sudanese mercenaries in Libya and cross-border crimes.
- The UN Envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame has made his first address to the UN Security Council regarding Libya. Salame articulated four challenges; a lack of agreement over the transitional period outlined in the LPA, the draft constitution, the elections, and the construction of a political package that would bring an amended LPA, the constitution and the general election together. Salame has also met with LNA Commander Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar this week.
- The president of the EU has stated that the EU should be prepared to pay Libya 6 billion Euros to help stop the flow of migrants to Europe. The statement came as EU and African leaders met in Paris for a mini-summit on ways to control the crisis.

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### Security

- The LNA has stated that they will not hand over Major Mahmoud Warfali to the ICC unless he is accused of carrying out “international crimes.” He confirmed that Warfali remains under investigation and has been under arrest since August 02.
- The LNA has again looked to increase pressure on current negotiations, stating that they would give officials “six months” to end the crisis from July 23, otherwise, the LNA would take action. The statement is similar to previous threats of action throughout the year.
- Another clash has taken place along the Libya – Chad border between Chadian rebels and the Sabel as Salam Battalion.
- Armed clashes have occurred south of Tripoli, predominantly in the Suq al-Khamis area between al-Kani Brigade and opposing fighters. The situation escalated after Salah Badi and TRB became involved. Further fighting is possible.
- Both BAM and the LNA are sending reinforcements to the Oil Crescent after IS posted a video showing them manning checkpoints along the Abu Grein to Jufra road. Two kidnap victims, believed to have been taken from checkpoints in the area, were also shown in the video.
- A SVBIED detonated at an LNA checkpoint near Nawfaliyah in the oil crescent. Four people were killed and several others wounded. IS has claimed the attack.
- Hashem Abedi, the younger brother of the Manchester bomber, is expected to appear in court within two months in Libya.

### Travel

- Sabah airport is ready to resume operations after Eid. Initial flights are expected to take place during daylight hours.

## KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
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





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## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

## Governance

**Ghassan Salamé gives first address to the UN Security Council**

The UN Envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salamé addressed the UN Security Council this week for the first time since his appointment in June. He highlighted the growing frustrations of the people in Libya, especially in the financial sector. Salamé highlighted four areas which would need to be prioritized to achieve progress in Libya:

- The LPA's transitional period.
- The constitution.
- National elections.
- An overarching political package to tie in the first three points.

Finally, Salamé hinted at an action plan to be presented at an upcoming session of the UN General Assembly by the Secretary General António Guterres in September.

## Security

**Armed clashes south of Tripoli kill eight and wound two**

During the week, clashes have occurred in areas to the south and south east of Tripoli, resulting in several fatalities. The situation remains tense, and the fighting has drawn in larger groups from other areas. Although the confrontation appears to be calming at present, it remains possible that clashes will reignite. The reasons behind the clashes remain unconfirmed at this time, but early indications suggest that some groups have attempted to challenge the dominant group in the area, perhaps encouraged by outside influences

**Oil Crescent: BAM and the LNA send reinforcements**

On August 27, an IS video appeared online showing them manning a checkpoint along the Abu Grein to Jufra road, checking cars and lorries. The video claimed that they had been conducting similar activity for the previous eight months. In response, both BAM and the LNA have announced they are sending reinforcements to the Oil Crescent. Later in the week, IS claimed responsibility for a SVBIED attack against an LNA checkpoint in Nawfalyah, which resulted in four fatalities.

## WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

## Tripolitania

**Significant activity**

- Demonstration - Aug 25, Tripoli Province, Martyrs' Square: A demonstration took place in Tripoli's Martyr's Square to denounce the GNA's Fayez Sarraj and the LNA's Khalifa Haftar.
- Armed Clashes - Aug 26, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ajaylat: Armed clashes broke out once again between two rival militant groups in the city of Ajaylat. SAF and RPG rounds were used during the clashes. No casualties were reported.
- Crime - Aug 27, Tripoli Province, Hay Andalous: A civilian was carjacked by unknown assailants while driving through the Hay Andalous area near Al-Mayit mosque.
- Armed Clashes – Aug 27, Tripoli Province, Asbiah: Clashes occurred in the Asbiah area, south of Tripoli between al-Kani Brigade and the Ragea't tribe. The clashes follow a series of raids in the Suq al-Khamis area by al-Kani which resulted in the death on one man.
- CP/Road Block - Aug 27, Sirte Province, Abu Nujaym: IS released a video claiming they had been manning checkpoints along the Abu Grein to Jufra road in the oil crescent for the last eight months.
- Arrest - Aug 27, Offshore: The Levant, a Liberian flagged Greek owned tanker, was seized by the Libyan coast guard for allegedly trying to smuggle six million liters of oil.
- Blockade - Aug 27, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Zintan: the PFG blockaded the el-Feel pipeline in Zintan.

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- Accident - Aug 27, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms: A migrant boat attempting to reach European shores has washed up on the beach of Khoms. The boat was carrying 150 migrants from African nations. Ten migrants died.
- Arrest - Aug 22, Misrata Province, Misrata: Security forces from the city of Misrata have arrested Osama Jodhran, brother of the previous PFG Commander Ibrahim Jodhran, as he was attempting to travel to Turkey.
- Accident - Aug 27, Tripoli Province, Martyrs' Square: A civilian was shot and injured while queuing at the National Commercial Bank branch of Martyrs Square. A security guard fired some shots from a pistol to disperse the crowd gathered at the bank, striking the civilian in the head.
- Shooting - Aug 28, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: A fuel truck driver was killed after being shot at by unknown assailants while driving around Sabratah.
- Crime - Aug 28, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms: Six unknown bodies were dropped off at the Khoms Local Municipality. The bodies belong to unidentified African migrants.
- Rescue - Aug 29, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: The Libyan Navy has rescued 164 migrants off the coast of Sabratah.
- Armed Clashes - Aug 29, Tripoli Province, Suq Khamis: Armed clashes occurred between al-Kani Brigade and local forces assisted by TRB elements. These clashes resulted in four deaths and five injuries.
- SVBIED - Aug 31, Sirte Province, Nawfaliyah: A Suicide VBIED detonated at an LNA checkpoint near Nawfaliyah in the oil crescent. Four soldiers were killed and several others wounded. IS has claimed the attack.

## Cyrenaica

### Significant activity

- Demonstration - Aug 25, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A demonstration took place in Benghazi in support of LNA Special Forces Commander Major Mahmoud al-Warfali following the ICC arrest warrant.
- Arrest - Aug 24, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: Security forces in Shahat arrested a suspected member of IS at the eastern entrance to al-Bayda.
- Kidnap - Aug 24, Kufra Province, Kufra: Eleven kidnap victims were released after being taken on the Kufra to Jalu road a week earlier. Six of the victims were Tebu, and five were from the Zuwiya tribe.
- Demonstration - Aug 25, Derna Province, Derna: A demonstration took place in Derna against the ongoing LNA siege on the city. Demonstrators called upon UNSMIL to urgently intervene.
- Arrest - Aug 23, Benghazi Province, Suluq: A retired member of the military was arrested at his home by assailants, thought to be part of a security force.
- IED - Aug 27, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Three people were wounded in three separate IED explosions in Sabri.
- Crime - Aug 28, Evening, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: A civilian was stabbed by two unknown assailants, on Airport Road in Tobruk, who were attempting to steal his vehicle.
- Airstrike - Aug 29, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: LNA jets have conducted airstrikes against an MSCD arms depot.
- Airstrike - Aug 30, Derna Province, Derna: The LNA conducted air strikes against MSCD in Dahra al-Hamra, south of Derna.

## Fezzan

### Significant activity

- Armed Clashes – Aug 26, Libya-Chad Border: Armed clashes took place near the border between Chadian rebels and Sabel as-Salam Battalion. Seven rebels were killed and two members of the Sabel al Salam Battalion. Two vehicles were also destroyed.
- Murder/ Execution - Aug 29, Sabha Province, Manshia: Commander of the Special Security Force has been shot and killed.

## ACRONYM LIST

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  
 Mol - 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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