



## Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

November 10, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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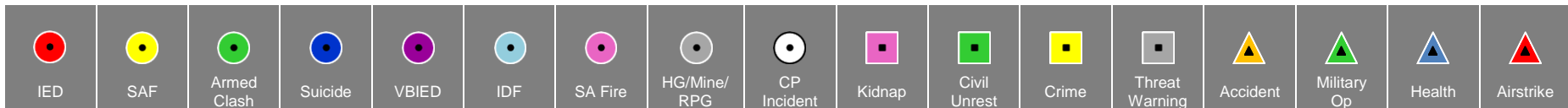
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**ACTIVITY MAP**





**TRIPOLI ACTIVITY MAP**



IED	SAF	Armed Clash	Suicide	VBIED	IDF	SA Fire	HG/Mine/RPG	CP Incident	Kidnap	Civil Unrest	Crime	Threat Warning	Accident	Military Op	Health	Airstrike

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## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- The Zintan Military Council and Tripoli Revolutionary Brigade have claimed control over Warshefana after eight days of fighting. The focus is now moving towards Zawiyah which remains tense with various factions vying for control however there remains the potential for further clashes and security operations within Warshefana.
- GNA/ LNA forces around Sabratah and Surman continue to consolidate on recent gains. Existing militias are being subsumed or forced out. There are recent indications that Islamic leaning militias are looking to regain lost influence in the area. Further localized clashes are possible.
- Smaller militias and criminal gangs may be targeted in Tripoli as the more dominant militias look to consolidate and strengthen their positions. As such, sporadic, localized clashes are possible.

### Medium to long term outlook

- While there are some positive indicators that talks over the unification of the military are progressing, the political situation remains divided. Talks in Tunis have not yielded any major progress and have prompted the LNA to reissue its threat to 'liberate Tripoli' should dialogue fail. Issues like Article 8 remain significant hurdles; however, events on the ground may well overtake political decision making over the next six months.
- Although the influence wielded by the GNC has reduced over the last six months as militia groups aligned to them have lost ground, other political factions are emerging including the Green Movement and the Monarchists, which could complicate the political situation further. Despite its waning influence, the GNC still retains a support base, some of which is armed and could still prove a threat to any potential deal between the GNA and Field Marshall Haftar.
- IS continues to become bolder, mounting temporary checkpoints, taking over village mosques and launching attacks against security forces. IS is reported to be regrouping and may well be receiving manpower into the south of Libya from Iraq and Syria as the 'caliphate' disintegrates. IS will continue to benefit from the lack of political and security unity in Libya with the possibility that they are establishing a fresh alliance with other extremist groups like al-Qaeda.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- The British embassy is preparing to return to Libya according to the British Ambassador who met with GNA President Fayed Sarraj this week.
- The EU has given EUBAM a 16-month mission funded with 17 million Euros. The mission reportedly now has a wider mandate that includes providing guidance on internal policing and the rule of law and justice.
- The ICC chief prosecutor has told the UN that despite warrants for their arrest, three Libyan war crime suspects remain at large.
- The remains of Salman Abedi, who carried out a suicide attack at the Manchester Arena in May, killing 22 people and wounding a further 512, have been flown to Tripoli for a 'secret' burial after Mosques in Manchester refused to bury him.
- Field Marshall Haftar's son has hired a US lobbying firm to 'strengthen his family image in Washington.' A former political advisor to Haftar, who has also accused 'army units' of being responsible for the Abyar massacre, alleges that Haftar's son has paid \$120,000 for a six-month contract with Grassroots Political Consulting to 'advocate for his family' in preparation for 'his potential rule in Libya.'
- Sarraj is in Muscat on his first official visit to Oman. Oman has been involved in various efforts to resolve the Libyan crisis. They also extended political asylum to Gadhafi's widow Safia and three of his children after they had to leave Algeria.
- Sarraj has met with a delegation from the south to discuss the current political situation and the conditions in the south. He also met with a delegation from Kufra to discuss the city's demands related to the service sectors and the treatment of wounded people.



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- Seven municipalities have established a new union; Kufrah, Muradha, Zillah, Ujilah, Tazirbu, Jakarrah and Jaghub. The regions constitute one-third of Libyan territory and have the largest reserves of oil, gas and solar power, freshwater reserves and goldmines. The union calls for a unified political vision and the formation of a political body to represent the area.
- The Libyan dinar lost further value this week and has now broken the LDY 9 to the USD mark. A currency trader commented that there is no one reason for the drop, but fighting in Warshefana is adding to instability and uncertainty.
- Schools in Mashashiya have reopened after six years. IDPs began returning to the area in May after a deal was reached with neighbouring Zintan.

**Security**

- Four expatriates were kidnapped as they travelled between Obari airport and the power station. Reports indicate the kidnappers made it across the border to Algeria.
- GNA aligned forces have gained control over Warshefana after an eight-day battle. The focus may now move towards Zawiyah.
- The commander of 301 Battalion (Misrata) has asked the GNA to intervene in the continued detention of Hannibal Gadhafi in Lebanon.
- The LROR has denounced those military officers who met with the LNA in Cairo to discuss the unification of the military. The officer's expenses were being paid by the PC. Brigadier General Muhammad Gnaidi, an intelligence officer with BAM, has also called the talks 'suspicious.' Gnaidi was sacked this week by the GNA for threatening to launch attacks inside Egypt.
- The LNA has continued to take control of economic resources in the east through the Military Authority for Investment and Public Works.
- RDF conducted a raid on Comic-Con stating it was a 'disgrace to modesty and public morality' and arrested around 20 people. UNSMIL has condemned the raid and called for all those arrested to be released.
- RDF has arrested two men in Sabratah for being 'foreign agents, working with local militias to fuel conflict.' Sabratah is now controlled by the AIOR which is affiliated with the LNA. RDF also recently arrested four MSCD members in Tripoli.
- MSCD has stated that some LNA soldiers have abandoned their checkpoints around Derna in response to the October 30 airstrike in which 15 civilians were killed. They also repelled an LNA attack on November 08.
- The Deputy Interior Minister of the GNA has survived an assassination attempt in Benghazi after a VBIED detonated near his convoy, wounding seven people.
- The death of an RSCB commander in custody in Misrata has resulted in an angry demonstration from his supporters. The cause of death has not been confirmed however bruising and foaming around his mouth has led his supporters to claim he was murdered by security forces.
- Mustafa al-Imam, who was arrested by US Special Forces in Misrata and taken to the US on October 29, has been charged with one count of 'conspiracy to provide material support and resources to terrorists resulting in death.' Imam is accused of involvement in the US consulate attack in Benghazi on September 11, 2012.
- The LNA mounted an offensive against RSCB in Sidi Akribesh this week. By the evening of November 08, Special Forces were claiming to have taken control of most of the district.
- An LNA checkpoint along the Brak Shatti to Jufra road was attacked by unknown armed men. Two soldiers were killed and four were wounded. The attack is assessed to have been carried out by armed smugglers/criminals.
- IS mounted a temporary checkpoint, 70km south of Waddan where they stole cargo from a passing lorry.

**Migrant Crisis**

- One hundred and sixty-five Gambian migrants voluntarily returned home from Libya on November 03.
- Italy has reported that 2,560 people have been rescued over four days this week after a surge in dingy departures from Libya.
- The bodies of 26 women have been discovered in the Mediterranean. Twenty-three of those found were on the same dinghy which also contained men. They are believed to be from Nigeria.
- A further 149 Nigerians have voluntarily left Libya and headed home including 115 men, 29 women, and five children. In the last five weeks, 975 people have now returned to Nigeria from Libya.



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- The Libyan Coastguard and an NGO conducted a rescue near international waters in which five people, including a toddler, died.

### Oil & Gas

- Armed men attacked engineers in the Sharara oilfield, stealing vehicles and mobile phones. Two vehicles were recovered by security forces.
- Protestors from Jakharrad blockaded Wintershall oilfield, claiming that the NOC has not met its demands.

### Health

- The kidney department at Ghat General Hospital was reopened on November 03 after its closure a few days earlier. The department was able to reopen after the arrival of operating materials and technicians to repair faulty equipment.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) is providing emergency health assistance to Ghat. The aid will be sufficient for the needs of 5000 people for three months.

### Travel

- Benina airport posted a statement on their social media page claiming that airport administration will shut the facility if the 'lack of security at the airport persists and if the bad behaviour and misconduct of security personnel in arrivals and departures continues.' Benina Airport Spokesman Tarek al-Kharraz subsequently 'angrily' denied the report.
- Libyan Airlines has suspended flights to Khartoum International Airport until further notice due to 'technical problems related to flight schedules and the hours allocated for the company's aircraft in Khartoum.' Libyan airlines had resumed flights to Sudan in November 2016 after a six-year suspension.

## KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
November 25	Tripoli Marathon	Possible disruptions to movements through the city
December 01	The Prophet's Birthday	Public Holiday
December 24	Independence Day	Public Holiday
February 17	Libyan Revolution Day	Public Holiday
May 01	May Day	Public Holiday

## THREAT MATRIX

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

Threat Scale



## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### Security

#### Warshefana: Zintani forces and TRB claim control after eight-day battle

On October 28, a state of emergency was announced by Warshefana as rumours of an impending offensive began to gain traction, and their forces started to mobilise. GNA President Fayez Sarraj held talks with Warshefana elders in the capital between 01 and 03 of November where Warshefana elders allegedly pledged their support for the GNA, at least publically. A list of demands was also issued by Osama al-Jweli, head of the GNA Western Command and member of the Zintani Military Council (ZMC), which essentially amounted to the handover of the area to his forces.

On November 01, Operation Bashaer al-Ayman was launched by Jweli after he moved his troops to Bir Ganam and towards Aziziyah. Sand barriers were removed at entrances to Warshefana to facilitate the offensive. IDF and RPGs were used to target camps and locations belonging to 4 Brigade around Aziziyah. As well as 4 Brigade, Omar Tantoush's Tribes Army and 405 Brigade were reported to be defending the area against Jweli's troops.

By November 05, the ZMC stated it had taken control of Containers Gate, one of the main entrances to Warshefana from the south. The gate was subsequently dismantled. 4 Brigade, defending Warshefana claimed to have arrested three fighters from opposing forces and seized a number of technicals. On November 06, the Tripoli Revolutionary Battalion (TRB) arrived in Qaser Bin Gasher and took up positions along al-Swani road. Unconfirmed reports suggest they had 145 vehicles, four tanks, and ten armoured cars. TRB began negotiations at a local level however when these failed; they began kinetic operations and eventually took Zahra and the coastal road.

As they continued to secure ground, a number of Warshefana militias also aligned with attacking forces. By the afternoon of November 08, attacking forces were claiming full control over the area and with support from their new Warshefana allies, walked unopposed into the centre of Aziziyah. As the Warshefana defence collapsed, a number of armed elements moved to Zawiyah, including Supporto Battalion. The Janzour Knights reported that 60 armed men had surrendered to them.

#### Benghazi: Attempted assassination of GNA deputy minister of the interior

The GNA Deputy Minister of the Interior, Faraj al-Gaem survived an apparent assassination attempt when a VBIED detonated in Sidi Khalifa, Benghazi on November 05. Seven people, including six people travelling with Gaem were wounded in the attack along with a worker at a nearby restaurant.

Gaem belongs to the Awagir tribe and accepted the position of Deputy Minister in September 2016, against Haftar's wishes, who instructed his support base not to follow any orders issued by the new minister. Gaem previously headed a militia within the LNA until a fall out with Haftar in 2015. It was widely assessed that in offering Gaem the deputy ministers position, Sarraj was looking to disrupt Haftar's tribal support base, where much of his power lies. A week after Gaem took the position; tribal leaders from the Awagir met in Soloug and reaffirmed their support for the LNA. Tensions are expected to increase between Haftar and Gaem as well as potentially internally to the Awagir tribe.

#### Misrata: RSCB commander dies in custody

Mohammed Bakr al-Yedri, an RSCB commander, died in custody in Misrata this week. Pictures of his corpse, shared on social media showed bruising and what appeared to be foaming around his mouth. Although his cause of death has not been disclosed, his supporters have asserted that he was murdered and held an angry demonstration on November 06 outside the Anti-Crime office. The Anti-Crime office is dominated by Salafists, who have in general been asserting themselves in the east as well as more recently in Sabratah and Tripoli.



## WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

### Tripolitania

#### Significant activity

- CPX - Nov 01 22:00, Al-Jafara Province, Aziziyah: Forces belonging to GNA Western Commander Osama Jweil launched an IDF and RPG attack against 4 Brigade camp in Warshefana and a farmhouse in Aziziyah. A child and an elderly woman were reported to have been killed in the attack.
- Armed Clashes - Nov 02 00:01, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah Port: Armed clashes took place between midnight and 02:00hrs around the port and refinery area in Zawiyah.
- IDF - Nov 02, Al-Jafara Province, Aziziyah: GNA Western Command launched an IDF attack against Warshefana positions. Civilians have begun to leave the area with an unknown number reported to have been wounded. There has also been some damage to homes and public buildings.
- Arrest - Nov 03 17:45, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: RDF carried out a raid on Comic-Con which was being held at the Dat al-Imad conference centre and arrested over 20 organisers, participants and guests.
- Armed Clashes - Nov 03, Al-Jafara Province, Warshefana: IDF and clashes took place during the morning.
- Armed Clashes - Nov 05, Al-Jafara Province, Kasarat: Armed clashes were reported in Warshefana. The Zintan coalition stated that it had taken control of the Containers Gate near al-Kasarat, one of the main entrances to Warshefana from the south. They also seized some vehicles and a tank. 4 Brigade fighting for Warshefana claimed to have arrested three fighters from the coalition and seized a number of technicals. Unconfirmed reports suggest the use of GPS-guided 155mm shells are being used in the conflict.
- Arrest - Nov 05, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: RDF has arrested two 'local citizens' in Sabratah for 'being foreign agents, working with local militias to fuel conflict.'
- Armed Clashes - Nov 05 17:30, Al-Jafara Province, Warshefana: Armed clashes took place on the coastal road between Zawiyah and Warshefana. The clashes erupted after a civilian from Zawiyah was kidnapped by FNU al-Kouhli, from Warshefana. The clashes lasted for around an hour.
- Murder/ Execution - Nov 05, Misrata Province, Misrata: Mohammed Bakr al-Yedri, a RSCB commander, died in custody in Misrata.
- Demonstration - Nov 06, Misrata Province, Misrata: Angry residents mounted a demonstration after Mohammed Bakr al-Yedri died in custody. The demonstration was held outside the Anti-crime Office in Misrata.
- IDF - Nov 07, Al-Jafara Province, Wadi al-Hay: The Zintan Military Council (ZMC) launched IDF attacks against opposition forces in Wadi al-Hay.
- Armed Clashes - Nov 07, Al-Jafara Province, Aziziyah: Zintan Military Council clashed with opposition forces in Warshefana near Checkpoint 60.

### Cyrenaica

#### Significant activity

- Shooting - Nov 01, Benghazi Province, Kuwayfayah: A civilian was wounded with indiscriminate gunfire in Benghazi
- Demonstration - Nov 01, Al-Wahat Province, Jakharrad: Protestors have blockaded Wintershall oilfield, claiming that the NOC has not met its demands.
- IDF - Nov 02, Derna Province, Kisara: The LNA mounted an IDF attack against MSCD near al-Kisara, west of Derna.
- Armed Clashes - Nov 02, Derna Province, Wadi Marqus: Al-Awila al-Dam militia fought MSCD in Wadi Marqus during the evening.
- Mine Strike - Nov 02, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Ahmad Bashir al-Awhani died in a mine explosion after he went back to his apartment for the first time in Misrata Street.
- Demonstration - Nov 03, Derna Province, Derna: Residents demonstrated after Friday Prayers against the October 30 airstrike which killed 15 people including women and children.
- Mine Strike - Nov 03, Benghazi Province, Suq al-Hout: Mohamed al-Oreibi, an LNA officer was killed when a mine exploded in Suq al-Hout. Oreibi had been trying to help two civilians caught in another mine explosion when the incident occurred.

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- IDF - Nov 04, Derna Province, Hillah: MSCD mounted an IDF attack against LNA positions in al-Hillah.
- Arrest - Nov 04, Benghazi Province, Sidi Khalifa: Immigration officials found 25 Syrian migrants in a chalet on Sidi Khalifa beach. The 25 included four families. They have been arrested and taken to a shelter in Ganfouda where they are being looked after by the Red Crescent. They were believed to be awaiting a vessel to take them to Europe.
- VBIED - Nov 05, Benghazi Province, Sidi Khalifa: The Deputy Minister of the Interior for GNA, Faraj al-Gaem, was targeted with a VBIED in Sidi Khalifa, Benghazi. The minister was unharmed however seven people, including six members of his staff, were wounded.
- Armed Clashes - Nov 05, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: The LNA clashed with RSCB in Benghazi. RSCB sources claim three LNA soldiers were killed and 13 were wounded.
- Airstrike - Nov 05, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: The LNA carried out airstrikes against the 'last militant stronghold.'
- RPG - Nov 05, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: The Benghazi Radio broadcasting studio was attacked with an RPG wounding a number of people.
- Shooting - Nov 05, Benghazi Province, As Sulmani: Fathi Sa'id (32 years old) was shot in the left leg in front of his home in Salmani. Sa'id was reported to be stable in hospital following the incident which is described as being the result of indiscriminate shooting.
- Shooting - Nov 05, Benghazi Province, Majori: An Egyptian national was wounded by shrapnel from a bullet near his eye during a social event.

**Fezzan**

**Significant activity**

- Arrest - Nov 01, Al-Jufra Province, Jufra: A local radio presenter, Zubair al-Huoni, was arrested after taking part in a demonstration outside of al-Jufra Municipal Council on October 29. Huoni is also an activist who has led a campaign to dissolve the municipal council for poor performance.
- Kidnap - Nov 03 11:30, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari: Four expatriates were kidnapped on the road between the airport and power plant shortly after they had arrived at the airport. Three Turkish nationals working for Enka, the Turkish company involved in the power plant project and a South African national were taken. Unconfirmed sources claim that three vehicles attacked the convoy carrying the victims. Gunfire was exchanged between the attackers and guards before they were abducted. Security forces quickly surrounded the alleged kidnapers.
- Armed Attack - Nov 03, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Brak al-Shati: A 12 Brigade (LNA) checkpoint was attacked on the Brak Shatti- Jufra road by unidentified men. Two soldiers were killed, and four others were wounded.
- Crime - Nov 06, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Sharara Oilfield: Armed men attacked oil engineers as they transited concession 186. Two vehicles and mobile phones were stolen. No one was injured although two engineers were manhandled.



## ACRONYM LIST

AIOR – Anti-IS Operations Room (Sabratah)  
 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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