



Weekly Libya .Xplored preview

January 19, 2018

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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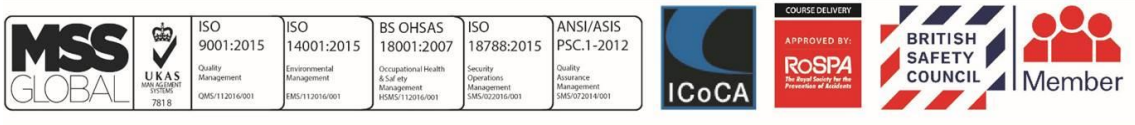


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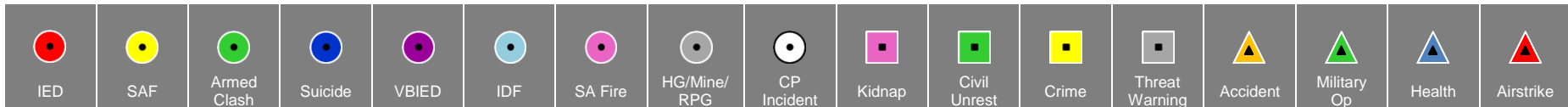
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LIBYA ACTIVITY MAP



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

		ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management QMS/112016/001	ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management EMS/112016/001	BS OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management HSMS/112016/001	ISO 18788:2015 Security Operations Management SMS/022016/001	ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012 Quality Assurance Management SMS/072014/001				
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OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- The Tajura area remains tense and further fighting remains a possibility. Negotiations continue in an attempt to resolve the issue.
- IS has mounted two attempted VBIED attacks in Tripolitania, including one in Tripoli. Both attempts failed, however, they may indicate a change in strategy by the terrorist group. Both devices were to be remotely detonated and targeted against security forces.
- Tensions are building in Zawiyah, and there is a heightened risk of clashes among militia groupings as pressure from Jweli, who has now moved into Surman, mounts in the city.

Medium to long term outlook

- As political talks fail to find any meaningful agreements, the concept of fresh elections has begun to gain traction amongst the political establishment. Deep divisions remain amongst the various factions, and an election blueprint has yet to be agreed. A number of those supporting the idea do not necessarily support the notion of a democratic establishment but are looking to exploit elections in a bid to gain power. The general population also remain skeptical of the political process and remain unclear what they would be voting for, highlighting the lack of structure and agreements currently around the process. The elections will trigger further posturing and maneuvering from various factions.
- IS continues to become bolder, mounting hit and run attacks against security forces and critical national infrastructure. They are also conducting criminal activity to raise funds and to help supply the group. The terrorist organization is believed to be trying to rebuild its capability in Libya and manpower is reported to be heading to the south of the country. IS will continue to benefit from the lack of political and security unity in Libya and may look to establish a fresh alliance with other extremist groups like al-Qaeda.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- Ghassan Salamé has stated that UNSMIL will increase the number of staff it has working in Libya and claimed that UNSMIL had been pivotal to the previous few months relative calm in the country.
- The Libyan High National Elections Commission has announced that over two million voters have now registered for the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.
- The outgoing British ambassador has stated that Libya needs “evolution rather than revolution.” He also underlined concerns over going to the polls too early saying that greater political reconciliation is required so that election results unite, rather than divide and that those who participate, accept the result.
- The HoR has condemned Italy’s decision to increase the Italian troop presence in Libya from 370 to 400. The HoR stated that the move was a “clear violation of Libya’s sovereignty.”
- HCS member Abdulrahman al-Shater has blamed the PC for the attack on Matiga Airport. Shater stated that the “PC is a new dictator in civilian clothing” and that allowing a prison to exist “outside of the judiciary system in a civilian airport was a big mistake.” He also claimed that the PC is not under any legislative control. The HCS later reiterated its commitment to the LPA.
- The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has announced the complete elimination of the Category 2 chemical materials which had been removed from Libya.

Security

- IS launched a failed VBIED attack against the Abu Grain checkpoint in Misrata province on January 11. IS also established two temporary checkpoints on January 13.
- The Tripoli Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) has stated that 1038 crimes were reported in 2017 of which 426 remain unresolved.
- Turkey has denied that the Andromeda was heading to Misrata while the Misrata Free Zone reportedly states it had been made aware of the expected arrival date of the vessel. The ship has now been unloaded while the crew has been remanded in custody. There have been calls for an international investigation into the issue.

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- The Janzour home of suspended GNA Minister of Defense, Mahdi Barghathi was attacked with SAF and an RPG on January 12.
- Two separate kidnappings took place in Sabha involving foreign nationals this week. All were released following the intervention of local political and tribal leaders.
- A significant offensive was launched by 33 Infantry Battalion and its allies against Matiga Prison.
- The Social Council of Warfallah tribes has begun to reorganization security forces in Bani Walid. The Bani Walid Protection Battalion is being disbanded as part of this reorganization. The social council has been administering the cities affairs since the 2011 revolution.
- The LNA has launched “Operation Rage of the Desert” against Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) fighters in the desert border areas of Cyrenaica.

Migration Crisis

- Morocco has commenced the third and final operation to repatriate remaining nationals in Libya. The operation was launched on January 12 to take 338 people home.

Travel

- Matiga airport closed following the offensive on January 15. At present, there are some indications that the airport expects to reopen on January 20.
- Tobruk airport has stated that it is “fully ready to receive aircraft, despite limited possibilities, until the situation at Matiga is resolved.”
- Abu Bakir Furtiyah, CEO of Afriqiyah Airways (until his resignation on January 15), confirmed four of his planes were damaged in fighting at Matiga and is holding the Libyan State responsible for the damage and the company’s expenses.
- Tamanhint airport reopened on January 13. The airport was closed as the LNA begin a campaign to take control a year ago.
- The availability of fuel has again been problematic this week for varying reasons across the country.

KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
February 17	Libyan Revolution Day	Public Holiday
March 19-21	International Conference and Exhibition for rebuilding Benghazi city	
May 01	May Day	Public Holiday
June 26 – 28	Eid al-Fitr	Public Holiday
September 01	Day of Arafah	Public Holiday
September 02 – 04	Eid al-Adha	Public Holiday

THREAT MATRIX

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

Threat Scale



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Governance

The UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salamé, addressed the UN Security Council this week. In his speech, Salamé stated that the UN was “implementing its action plan to create necessary conditions for the completion of Libya’s transition.” Salamé also stated that his mission would be increasing its presence in Libya. Staff would be working in Tripoli but would also be visiting more communities as “it is only by truly understanding the country that we can succeed in the implementation of the action plan and help Libyan citizens put an end to too long a transition,” according to Salamé. Salamé stated that the efforts of UNSMIL have been pivotal to the “relative quiet Libya has enjoyed over the last months.” UNSMIL is focusing on supporting efforts to adopt a new constitution, achieving national reconciliation and elections. The UN is also reported to be launching a humanitarian response plan in the coming week which appears to be focused on the thousands of migrants currently in Libya.

Security

The so-called Islamic State attempted another VBIED attack, this time against a BAM held checkpoint at Abu Grain. The vehicle was driven by a 17-year-old and was stopped a couple of kilometers before the checkpoint by security forces. The driver claimed he was acting under duress and that the group had kidnapped his brother prior to forcing him into driving the device to the checkpoint. He was able to remove the sim card from the mobile phone trigger prior to leaving the vehicle. The group had also conducted a checkpoint along the coastal road between Sirte and Abu Grain the day before. Other IS checkpoints have been reported in Jufra and north of Sabha this week.

Two kidnappings involving foreign staff took place in Sabha this week. Three people working on behalf of IOM were kidnapped north of Sabha on January 12. Two Libyan men were beaten and called traitors for working with foreign companies before being released. They were found by security forces in their car the following day. One foreign female was detained for four days prior to being released. A Ukrainian doctor was also kidnapped as he transited to his clinic in Sabha on January 09. He too was released four days later.

On January 15, a large offensive was launched by Bashir Khalfallah (aka Bashir al-Bogra), commander of 33 Infantry Battalion (al-Bogra militia) against Matiga Airport. Reporting indicated that the operation was aimed at releasing certain prisoners from the RDF run Matiga prison, located near the airport at the old Wheelus military base.

The clashes lasted a number of hours with Khalfallah breaching the airport perimeter. Khalfallah was eventually forced to withdraw without breaching the prison. A truce has been negotiated however the situation continues to evolve and remains unresolved.

Travel

As a result of fighting around the airport on January 15, Matiga airport was closed. A number of jets were damaged, some quite seriously, however damage to the actual airport, which had been evacuated, appears to have been relatively minimal. The airport is now hoping to reopen on January 20. Some flights have been pushed to Misrata airport while Tripoli International was apparently open for emergency flights, medical flights, and VIP flights.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Significant activity

- Armed Attack - Jan 12 04:30, Tripoli Province, Janzour: The home of suspended GNA Minister of Defense, Mahdi Barghathi, was attacked with SAF and an RPG. The attack damaged the home but there were no casualties reported.

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- Armed Clashes - Jan 12, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A commander with TRB, Essam Ka'bour was allegedly stopped at a checkpoint manned by 301 Brigade and was asked for his papers. His brother brought his papers but also turned up with armed support. A shootout ensued in which Ka'bour was killed. His brother may also have been killed while injuries were sustained within 301.
- IEDs - Jan 13, Sirte Province, Sirte: BAM found and defused three IEDs in al-Qubaybah which had been planted by IS in 2016 when they controlled the city.
- Armed Attack - Jan 13 17:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ajaylat: A Salafist group is being blamed for demolishing the Sheikh Amhamed Barakat Al-Ansari Abojaila mosque. The group claimed the mosque contained a tomb.
- Armed Clashes - Jan 15 08:00, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: GNC aligned militias led by 33 Infantry Brigade (al-Bogra) launched a major offensive against Matiga Airport. Al-Bogra withdrew to Tajura and was ordered to disband by the GNA.
- Arrest - Jan 15, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: A number of al-Bogra fighters were arrested during and following fighting at Matiga airport. One commander reportedly confessed that LROR was behind the attack.
- Armed Attack - Jan 15, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: TRB stormed the Rahba Camp, HQ for Zimrina as al-Bogra forces retreated. Zimrina is an al-Bogra aligned commander who was based to the east of Matiga Airport.
- Armed Clashes - Jan 15, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ajaylat: Armed clashes took place in Ajyalat. NFDK.
- Kidnap - Jan 18, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: A young female was kidnapped outside of the university by two men with links to militia groupings. They were allegedly aided by two female students.

Cyrenaica

Significant activity

- CP/ Road Block - Jan 13, Derna Province, Derna: Three fuel trucks were denied entry into Derna by the LNA at the Umm ar Rizam checkpoint as they did not have the correct paperwork. The incident comes after two fuel trucks were allowed in the previous week, the first in around a year.
- Arrest - Jan 14, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Faraj al-Abdali, the director of al-Rahla Oil Company, was arrested at his office by 106 Battalion (LNA). Abdali apparently plans to run in upcoming elections and is the cousin of GNA Deputy Minister of the Interior, Faraj Gaem. He was released on January 16. The head of Youth of Awaqir Tribe Movement in east Libya, Jarih al-Aqwri, has claimed he was arrested and taken to Oan Furjani over his "refusal to pay him LYD 60 million from company funds."
- Armed Attack - Jan 15, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Armed men stormed into the Internal Medicine Department at Benghazi Medical Center and assaulted staff.
- Airstrike - Jan 15, Derna Province, Duhr al-Hamr: The LNA launched airstrikes against MSCD positions in Duhr al-Hamr.
- Kidnap - Jan 15, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: Mohammed Bin Ali al-Senoussi, Dean of the Faculty of Fundamentals of Religion at al-Bayda, was released from captivity on January 15. Al-Senoussi was reported to have been kidnapped on 22 August. The group responsible is unknown.
- Armed Clashes - Jan 15, Al-Butnan Province, Jaghboub: Six LNA soldiers from 106 and 501 Desert Patrol Brigades were killed by JEM near Jaghboub. Another LNA soldier is missing and presumed to have been kidnapped by JEM.
- Armed Clashes - Jan 16, Derna Province, Duhr al-Hamr: An LNA position in Duhr al-Hamr was attacked by MSCD. One LNA soldier was killed in the attack. Further fighting was reported in al-Makhili, southern Derna.
- Airstrike - Jan 18, Kufra Province, Kufra: An airstrike targeted an armed JEM convoy 250km west of Kufra as part of Operation Rage of the Desert.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Kidnap - Jan 12, Sabha Province, Sabha: Three people working for the International Organization for Migration (IOM) were kidnapped by unknown gunmen between Sabha and Brak Shati on January 13. The staff members are reported as Rania Kherma (Spanish-Palestinian), Fayez Khairallah (Libyan) and their

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driver Hassan Mansour, from Sabha. Khairallah and Mansour were both released on January 13 after being beaten and threatened by their abductors. Kherma was released on the morning of January 16.

- CP/ Road Block - Jan 13, Al-Jufra Province, Wadi Alloud: IS established a temporary checkpoint during the early morning.
- CP/ Road Block - Jan 13, Sabha Province, Sabha: IS reportedly set up a checkpoint 100km north of Sabha during the evening. Reports indicate that have a list of people and were looking inside vehicles and at mobile phones.
- Demonstration - Jan 13, Sabha Province, Sabha: Tuareg youth and civil movements held a demonstration in Sabha demanding the right to participate in upcoming elections. Many have been unable to register as they do not have a national ID number.
- Crime - Jan 14, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Haswinah: Armed men stole part of an electrical transformer from a well in Jabal al-Haswinah. Copper cables were also stolen which has led to well 221 becoming unusable.



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
- 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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For more information on how our services can support your business in Libya contact:

Nigel Lea
 Regional Director, Libya:
nigel.lea@garda.com
 M: +44 (0)7880 382865

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Middle East

International Protective Services Headquarters
Office 2502, Tower 2, Currency House
DIFC, PO Box 482069
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

United States

1101 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1725
Arlington, VA, 22209
United States

UK

5th Floor
1, London Bridge
London
SE1 9BG

Europe

37-39 rue des Deux Eglises
1000 Brussels
Belgium

garda.com/ips