



1. The Big Picture

Palermo conference off to an inauspicious start

Amid speculation and conflicting reports over the head of the Libyan National Army's (LNA) participation, Khalifa Haftar, the Palermo conference got off to a shaky start. Some analysts have suggested rumours over Haftar's participation have reinforced his position as a critical figure in Libya's future political roadmap. Overall, the most likely outcome from Palermo will be a renewed commitment to hold elections in 2019 and support to UN efforts, including an amended version of the UN Action Plan and economic reforms. Beyond political rhetoric, commitments, and statements, it would appear too early to assess Palermo's ramifications. There is mounting evidence to suggest success in achieving breakthroughs will very much depend on what happens post-Palermo.

The head of the UN Support Mission in Libya, Ghassan Salame, is expected, however, to continue strongly advocating a National Conference to be held in Jan 2019 and renewed commitment to elections, as declared in a 08 Nov statement to the UN Security Council (UNSC). Speaking on the sidelines of the Conference, Salame clearly laid his political framework for Libya by dismissing plans to hold elections by Dec 2018, focusing instead on the National Conference where Libyans would decide whether elections, will be presidential or parliamentary. If everything goes according to Salame's plan, elections would reportedly be held between "late March and late June".

While the Conference would fall short of guaranteeing immediate solutions to long-standing issues, there are positive aspects that could bear fruit in the medium to long term, provided there is follow-through post-Palermo. With multiple smaller meetings on economic issues and security in Tripoli, Palermo would appear to be have a tactical element that was missing in the May 2018 Paris Summit. By design, Palermo's most

positive aspect would be its acknowledgement of the importance of solving economic and security issues, beyond the political dimension.

As of 12 Nov, the latest reports suggest Haftar arrived in Palermo, though it remains unclear whether he will attend a separate security-focused meeting with foreign leaders of multiple countries, including Russia and Egypt. Although multiple analysts speculated that ambiguity over Haftar's possible presence would cast doubts over Palermo's success, there is reason to believe this only emphasizes the reality on the ground, namely Haftar's exclusive focus on security, a position he is unlikely to compromise on. As a result, and regardless of its aftermath, the Palermo Conference could reinvigorate the Cairo military unification talks. Meanwhile, with expected discussions over Tripoli's new security arrangements, Palermo would also underline the new configuration that has gradually taken shape in Libya after the Aug 2018 Tripoli clashes with an emphasis on the role played by the newly-appointed Government of National Accord (GNA) Minister of Interior, Fathi Bashagha.

Nonetheless, other analysts have noted that skepticism is warranted, arguing that a potential failure to unify institutions and/or hold elections post-Palermo will ultimately attest to the necessity for federalism in Libya. This would be a pragmatically justified stance given the multiple obstacles ahead, including a pending audit of the Tripoli-based Central Bank of Libya (CBL), described as an important step towards the unification of Libyan central banks.



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 - Polls possibly by "Spring 2019"
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2. National Security Map

Anti-IS Ops. Room locate large weapons cache & sleeper cells in Sabratah house raid

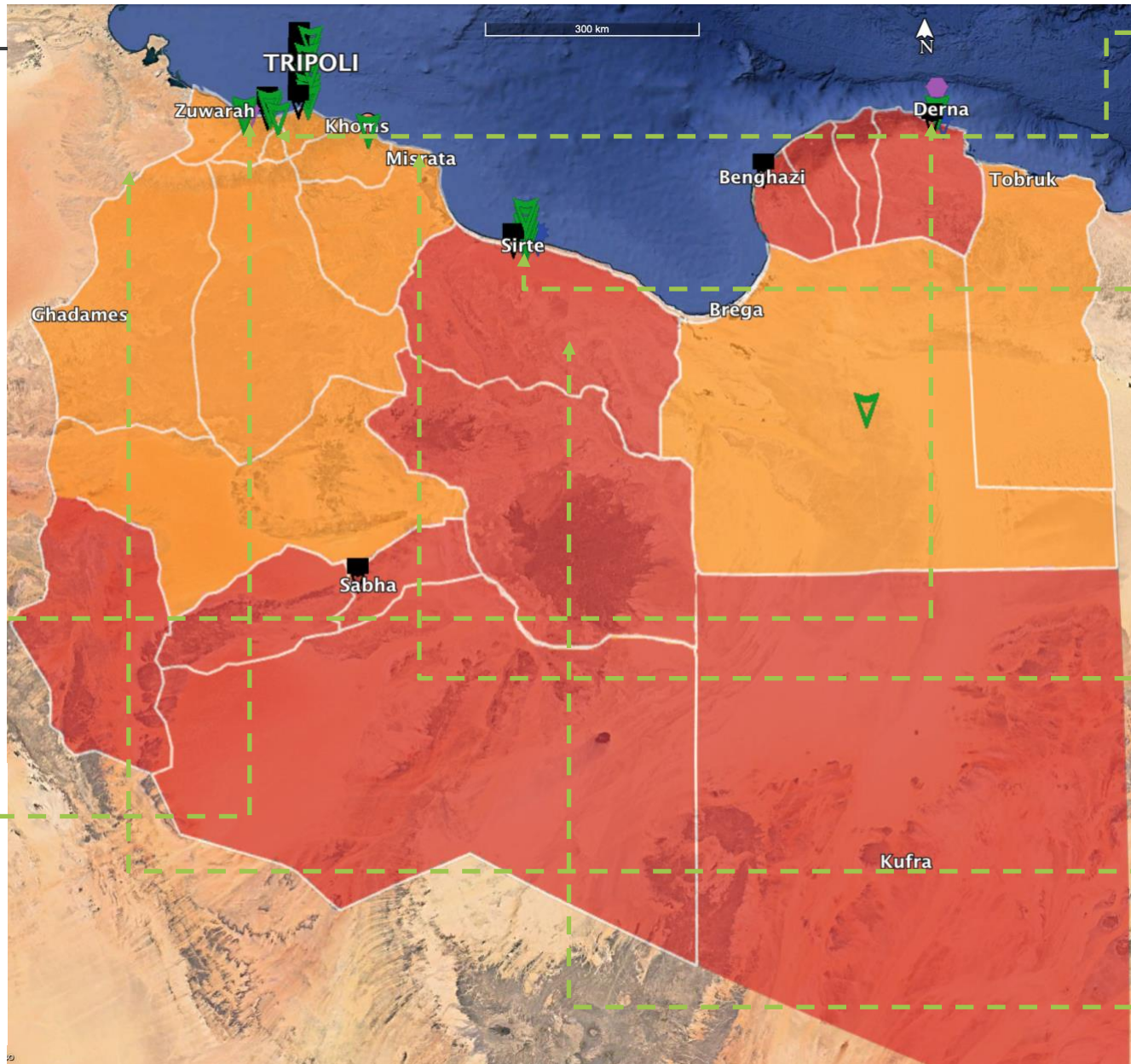
Key

THREAT INDICATORS

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

EVENT INDICATORS

- ★ IED | VBIED
- ◆ Violent Clash
- Isolated Gunfire
- ▽ Other



Two members of the Libyan National Army's (LNA) 210th Brigade were reportedly killed, and eight others wounded, in clashes with militants in Derna's old city on 04 Nov.

Local reports suggest the Anti-Islamic State (IS) Operations Room raided a house and seized a large weapons cache in Sabratah on 09 Nov. The raid reportedly followed intelligence reports of suspicious movements near the house. Investigations conducted by the Anti-IS Ops. Room reportedly indicated the presence of sleeper cells inside houses.

An unidentified militiaman was reportedly killed in a gunfire incident in the Assabriya area, west of Zawiyah, in the evening on 10 Nov.

Unconfirmed reports across untested social media outlets suggest Al-Ammu and Abu Obaida militias gathered near the Diaper Factory, South of Az-Zāwiyah, in an alleged attempt to launch a new attack on Sabratāh in the early hours of 08 Nov. Whilst a renewed offensive on Sabratāh remains unconfirmed, Whispering Bell noted the possibility of retaliation following Al-Ammu militia's retreat after failing to enter the city on 04 Nov.

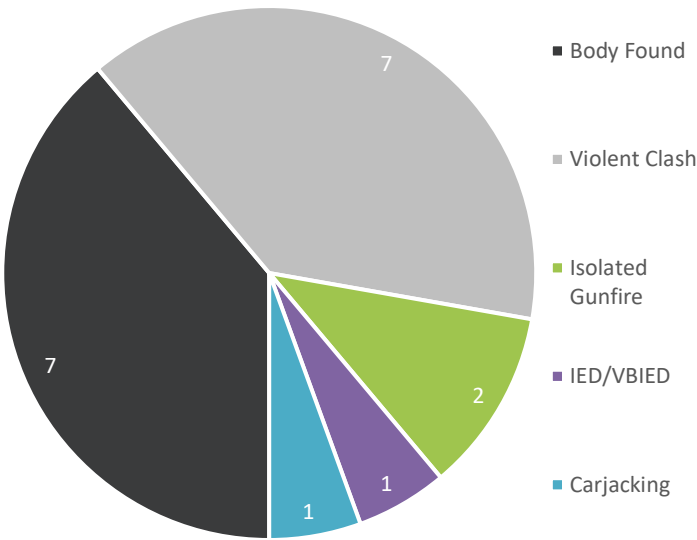
An Ansar Al-Sharia (ASL) militant from Ajdabiya identified as Mousa Ghouma Al-Dalimy was captured in a farm in the suburbs of Misrata at night on 10 Nov. Al-Dalimy is reportedly involved in multiple killings in Ajdabiya and fled in 2016 following the Libyan National Army's (LNA) control of the city.

Reports suggest the Dehiba Wazin Border Crossing was closed on the Tunisian side for an unknown period at night on 10 Nov. The latest reports suggest the border crossing reopened.

The Libyan National Army's (LNA) 128th Battalion conducted desert patrols in the Mabrook Field on 06 Nov.

3. Nationwide Security Analysis Nationwide fatalities decrease; surge in Al-Zawiya & Sirte incidents

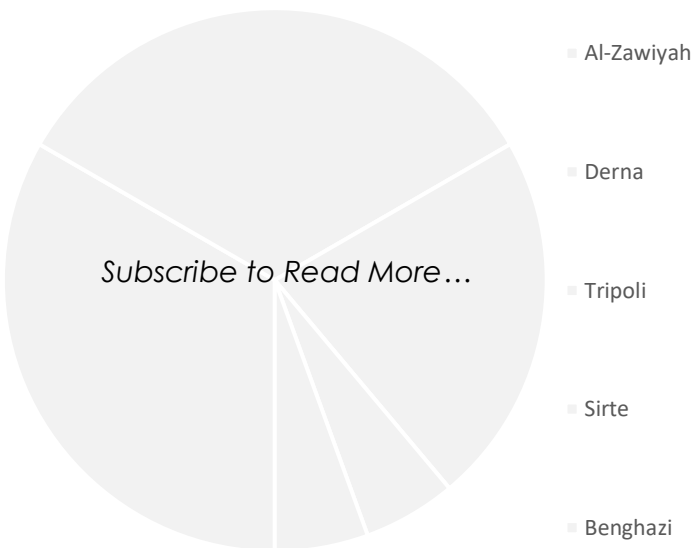
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



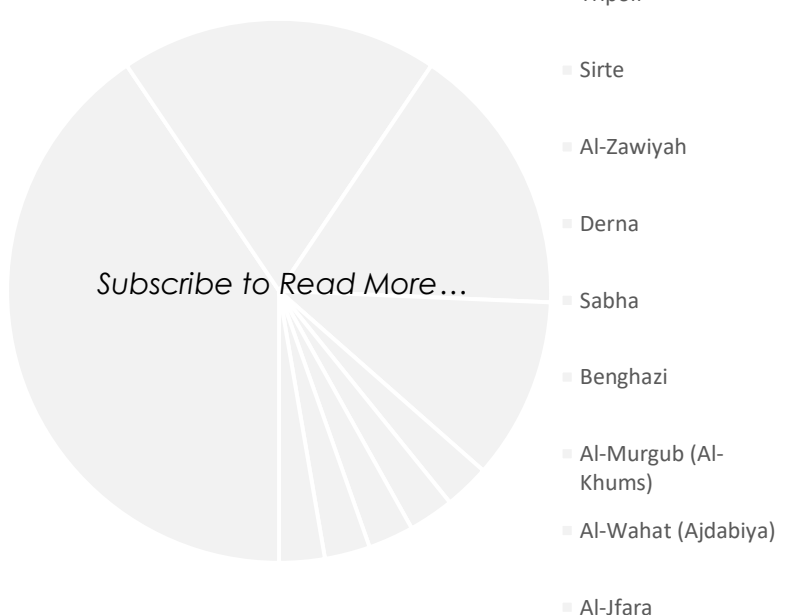
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



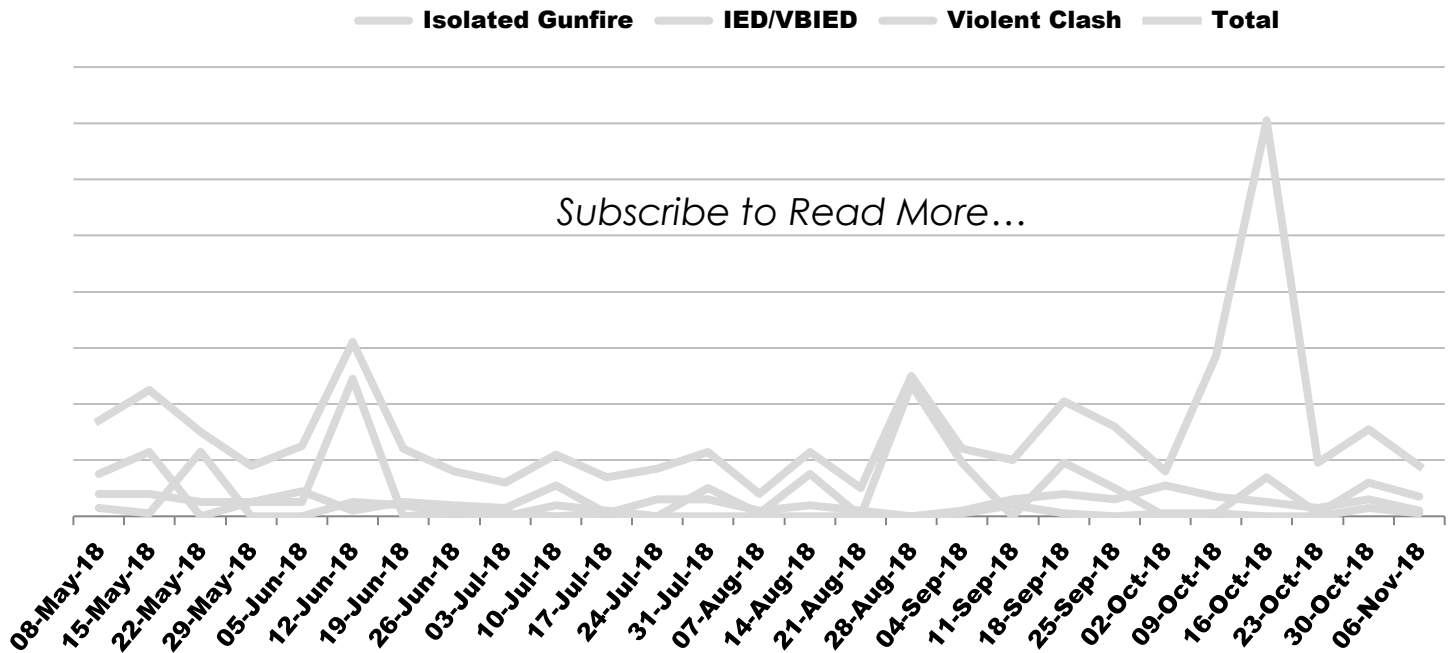
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



Nationwide incidents by national district (Past week)



Nationwide Fatalities by Type of Attack (Past 27 Weeks)



Data Analysis

Whispering Bell recorded this week a total of 18 confirmed deaths in Libya, which compares to 31 deaths reported last week and 19 the week before. While the total number of isolated gunfire incidents increased this week, there were only 2 recorded fatalities from cases of isolated gunfire, relatively compared with 6 in the previous report. Several security incidents were reported throughout the country, including 12 cases of isolated gunfire, 4 robberies, 2 IED/VBIED incidents, 2 episodes of violent clash, 2 kidnappings, 2 raids, and a protest.

In Western Libya, Whispering Bell recorded a total of 23 incidents, including 15 incidents in the capital city, Tripoli. Whispering Bell recorded in Tripoli a likely politically-motivated kidnapping. According to reports, the manager of the Commercial Bank on Tripoli's Independence Street was kidnapped on 06 Nov. Neither the identity of the assailant(s) nor the motive behind the incident are known. The incident follows a United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) condemnation of recurrent attacks on Tripoli's banks and personnel, and the mission's visit to the Aman Bank to assess the impact of ongoing harassment of the bank's staff and customers. The latest reports suggest the bank manager was released and arrived in Tripoli's Arada area in the afternoon on 11 Nov. Meanwhile, in a separate incident, a man's body was found in an unidentified area in Tripoli on 06 Nov. Reports suggest the man was kidnapped on 05 Nov with no further information available.

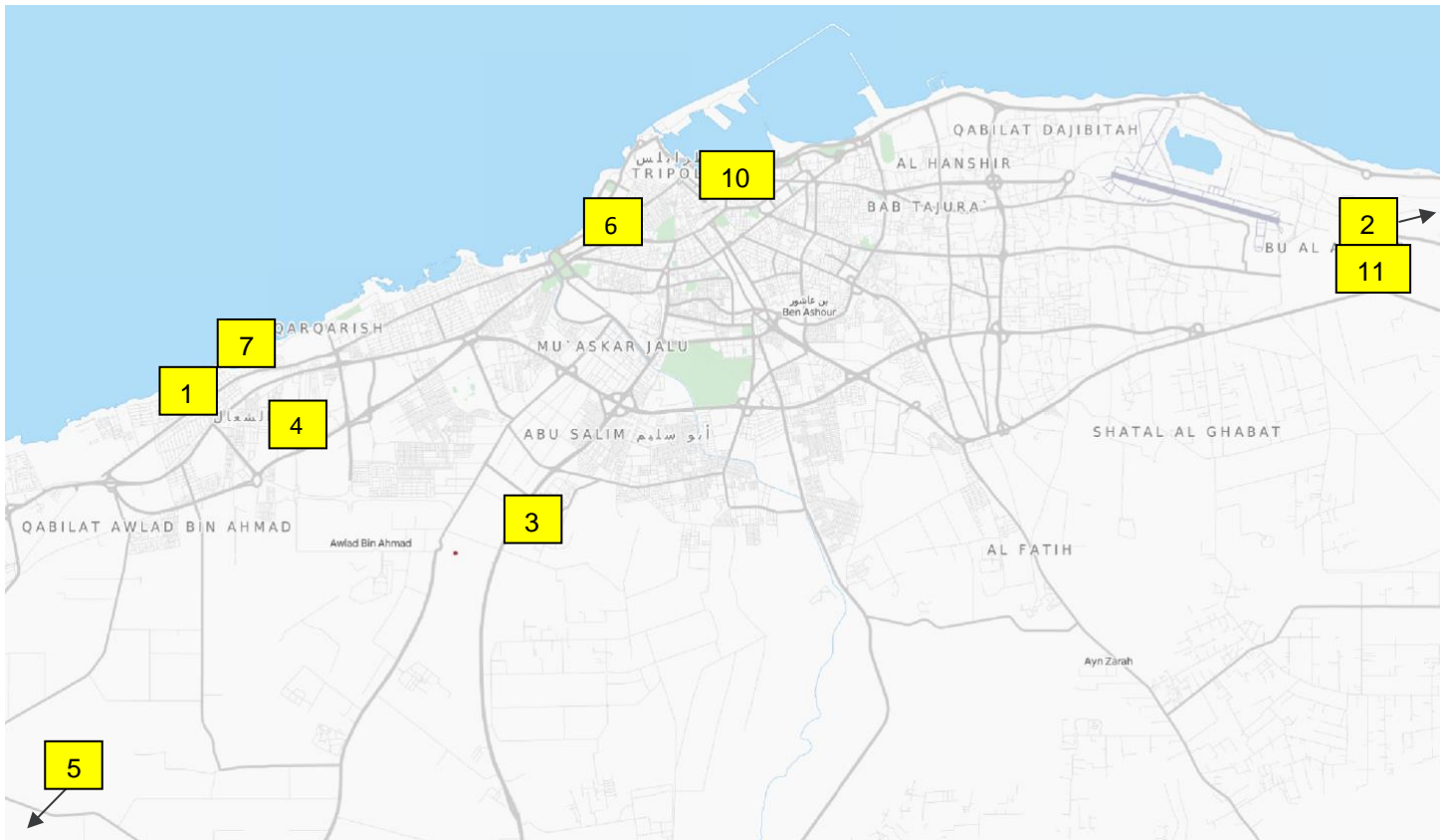
In Central Libya, Whispering Bell recorded an increase in security incidents, especially robberies. Unidentified gunmen raided a bakery and assaulted Egyptian workers, whilst robbing their belongings at gunpoint in Sirte's Al-Zafran area at night on 05 Nov. The gunmen threatened the workers and stole 5,000 Libyan dinars (LYD) before fleeing the scene. The owner of another bakery stated that unidentified assailant(s) raided his bakery and threatened workers at gunpoint, whilst robbing their mobile phones and an uncited amount of cash.

Turning to southern Libya, Whispering Bell recorded a decrease in criminal activity with no fatalities recorded over the reporting period, though Sabha's medical staff continue to be targeted. Reports suggest unidentified assailant(s) opened fire on an orthopedist of Iraqi nationality in Sabha's Medical Centre at night on 04 Nov. According to reports, the victim was subject to an attempted robbery and was subsequently shot, resulting in his injury.

In Eastern Libya, two members of the Libyan National Army's (LNA) 210th Brigade were reportedly killed in clashes with militants in Derna's old city on 04 Nov. Following heavy confrontations in Derna's Al-Mughar area, the latest reports suggest the LNA is in full control of the area.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

Temporary tensions due to SDF attempt to arrest TRB-affiliated member



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (04 Nov) Sporadic gunfire heard in Al-Seyahiya
2. (04 Nov) Body of assistant PFG driver found near Ispan roundabout
3. (04 Nov) Body of man from Bani Walid found near Iron Bridge
4. (05 Nov) Fire breaks out due to short cut in Ghot Al-Shaal
5. (05 Nov) Man killed attempting to prevent carjacking in Agricultural Rd.
6. (05 Nov) UN condemns attack on Jalaa Hospital for women & childbirth
7. (05 Nov) UNSMIL condemns recurrent attacks on Aman Bank
8. (06 Nov) Commercial Bank Manager kidnapped in unidentified area
9. (06 Nov) Body of man previously kidnapped found in unidentified area
10. (07 Nov) Conflicting reports over SDF failed arrest of TRB-affiliate
11. (07 Nov) Road closure due to Al-Bugra & local militia tensions

Potential TRB-SDF tensions

Reports suggest the Special Deterrence Force (SDF) attempted to arrest a Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB)-affiliated Al-Daman militiaman identified as "Ziad Kafu", escalating tensions across Tripoli between 06 Nov and 07 Nov. There were reports of a military gathering and sporadic shots fired in the air by anti-aircraft weaponry at Tripoli's Al-Bivi traffic light at approximately 0000hrs on 07 Nov. According to reports, the SDF raided Kafu's house, though he fled with the help of neighbours at approximately 0000hrs on 07 Nov. Unconfirmed reports indicate that Kafu's failed arrest occurred near Al-Waddan Hotel. Meanwhile, there were reports of sporadic gunfire near Mitiga International Airport at approximately 0100hrs on 07 Nov, whilst the Al-Fath traffic light was closed and a military gathering was reported in front of the Nawasi camp at approximately 0030hrs on 07 Nov. Additional reports suggest an armed gathering affiliated with the SDF on Aarada Road at approximately 0100hrs on 07 Nov, whilst a TRB-affiliated convoy was reportedly travelling in Zawiyat Dahmani at approximately 0030hrs on 07 Nov. Unconfirmed reports indicated an agreement was struck between the

TRB head, Haithem Tajouri, and the SDF's Abdelraouf Kara to arrest Kafu. Additional unconfirmed reports suggest Kafu was operating independently of Tajouri's command with his own small group. The latest reports suggest an SDF spokesman denied reports of armed confrontations in the vicinity of Mitiga International Airport and stated that the tensions were in relation to a "misunderstanding" between the SDF, TRB, and Nawasi militia.

Intelligence head allegedly kidnapped

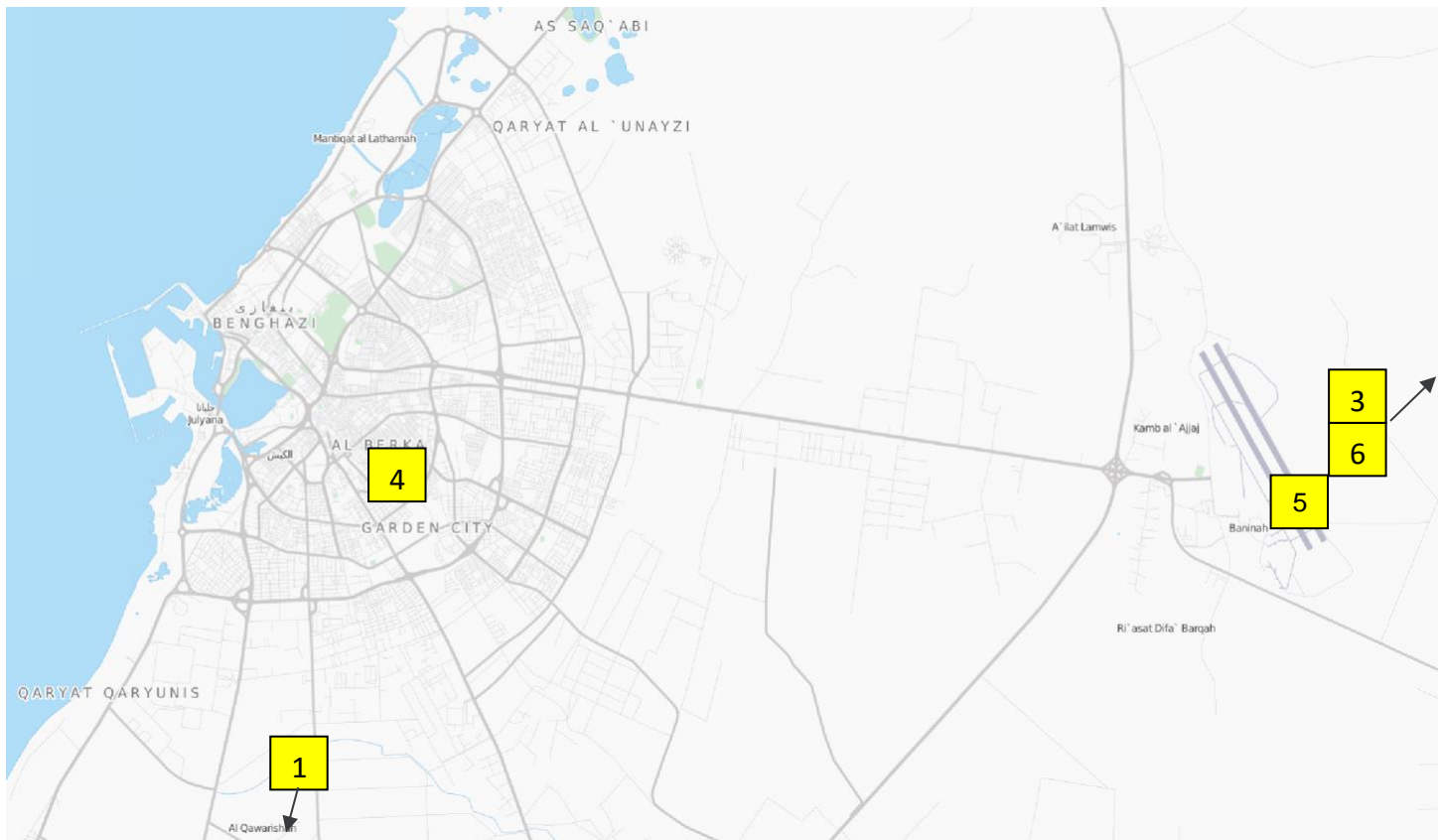
Unconfirmed reports across untested social media outlets emerged over the kidnapping of the newly-appointed Government of National Accord's (GNA) head of Intelligence Service, Abdallah Al-Darsi, from his residence in Tripoli's Radisson Blu Hotel (Al-Mahary) on 05 Nov. Local reports suggest Al-Darsi denied the reports and stated he is currently in Benghazi in efforts to unify the Libyan Intelligence Service.

Al-Bugra militia & local militia tensions

Tensions reportedly escalated between Al-Bugra militia and an unidentified militia in Tajoura resulting in the temporary closure of a service road in the afternoon on 09 Nov. The motive behind the dispute remains unclear.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Italian PM's Ar-Rajmah visit ahead of Palermo Conference denied



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (07 Nov) Man's body found in farm in Budrisa
2. (07 Nov) Seminar on Palermo Conference with ICG Analyst
3. (09 Nov) Haftar receives UK Ambassador in Ar-Rajmah
4. (10 Nov) Indiscriminate gunfire kills man in Buhdima
5. (10 Nov) Benina passengers note security improvements
6. (11 Nov) Italian PM's visit to Ar-Rajmah denied

Italian PM's visit to Ar-Rajmah denied

Local reports emerged suggesting the Italian Prime Minister, Giuseppe Conte, arrived at the Libyan National Army's (LNA) headquarters in Ar-Rajmah on 11 Nov. According to an uncited LNA official, Conte's visit sought to discuss the upcoming Palermo Conference for Libya and Haftar's attendance. However, reports suggest an uncited source affiliated with the Italian government denied Conte's visit to Ar-Rajmah.

Body found

Local reports suggest the body of a 63-year-old man was found with signs of gunshots and stab wounds in his farm in Benghazi's Budrisa area on 07 Nov. Additional reports suggest the unidentified assailant(s) robbed the victim's personal belongings and looted his farm. Neither the identity of the assailant(s) nor the motive behind the incident are known.

Indiscriminate gunfire

Local reports from 10 Nov suggest indiscriminate gunfire resulted in the death of a 26-year-old man in Benghazi's Buhdima area. The victim reportedly died from wounds of a bullet in the neck.

Benina Intl. Airport Improvements

Reports suggest passengers at Benina International Airport observed improvements in the security situation and organization at the airport on 10 Nov. Benina International Airport frequently suffers from temporary closures and operational disruptions fueled by mismanagement and corruption due to militia interference in the airport's operations. On 03 Oct, the Interim Government announced the decision to close Benina International Airport and the subsequent diversion of all flights to Labraq Airport within a week should the security, administrative and operational conditions deteriorate further.

6. What's next

No significant breakthrough in the immediate aftermath of Italy Conference

POLITICAL FORECAST

The upcoming Palermo Conference and its potential outcomes are set to determine the next phase in Libya's political roadmap. The UN Envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame, briefed the UNSC ahead of the conference and stated that a national conference should precede elections, whilst noting an electoral process to commence in Spring 2019. Delaying elections due to the security environment and political fragmentation, has buried the French initiative to hold elections by 10 Dec, subsequently allowing Italy to strike a point over France. Following the Macron-endorsed Paris Summit resulting in rivals verbally agreeing to hold presidential and parliamentary elections, Italy voiced its concerns, which prompted a rival conference "for Libya" not "on Libya". Besides the ongoing rivalry between Italy and France, domestic reports indicate disagreements continue between the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) on the reformation of the Presidential Council (PC), despite a previous announcement of an agreement, including an outlined timetable and process. In his UNSC briefing, Salame stated that the HoR and HCS seek to hinder the election process as it threatens their survival, emphasizing the latest survey results with 80% of Libyans in favor of holding elections. Meanwhile, the Tripoli-based Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Sadiq Al-Kabir, and the Beida-based CBL governor, Ali Al-Hibri, held a meeting on the bank's audit process in the UN headquarters in Tunis on 07 Nov. The meeting was also attended by the UNSMIL's Deputy Head, Stephanie Williams. Consensus was reached on reviewing terms of references (TORs) and the need for swift implementation.

SECURITY FORECAST

This week in Tripoli was marked by militia movements and tensions near Mitiga Airport following conflicting reports of a failed Special Deterrence Force (SDF) arrest attempt of a Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB) member. An SDF spokesman stated that the tensions were due to a "misunderstanding" between the SDF, TRB, and Nawasi militia. Meanwhile, in a sign that militias continue to operate despite new security arrangements, the UN condemned an attack on a hospital resulting in a doctor's injury. The upcoming Palermo Conference and its potential outcomes could spark tensions across the capital. In the wider West, Wersheffana tribes accused Serraj of fueling tensions with Al-Zawiya due to his decision to annex Attuwaybiya to the Zawiyah Municipality. The change in Attuwaybiya's administrative borders could impact travel along the Coastal Road in the short term should tensions escalate further among locals. In the central region, the LNA conducted desert patrols in the Mabrook Field, noting a stabilized security situation. Meanwhile, reports alleged IS was attempting to negotiate with Al-Fuqaha locals the release of 10 abductees in exchange for 2 LNA militants. If confirmed, the case could potentially provide IS with further incentives to kidnap locals. In the South, the 11 Nov deadline set by the Anger of Fezzan Movement to meet the South's demands passed without incidents affecting the Sharara oil field, though the possibility of disruptions remains. In the East, Derna clashes will likely continue between the LNA & militants, whilst in Benghazi security incidents persist, though on a relatively lower scale.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

In an article for the "*Atlantic Council*", the author, Nicola Pedde, provides insights into the upcoming Palermo Conference for Libya and notes the importance of Italy's role in navigating the dialogue between rival factions and the confirmed attendance of key national and international players. "The participation of General Haftar at the Palermo conference would be a remarkable success for Italy, yet his participation is motivated by three conditions. The first is the perception of a changing Italian position, more conciliatory with the counterparts of Cyrenaica, and less willing to unilaterally support the Tripolitanian power holders; including the UN-backed government established in early 2016. The second is the perception of his role as an "indispensable actor" in Libyan politics, strengthened even more by Italy and France's changed perspectives, which has given him an international stage and indirectly a form of political legitimacy. Haftar interprets this change as a weakness, and therefore as an opportunity for him to consolidate his position. The third reason is growing international pressure for a solution to the Libyan crisis. Haftar's closest political allies—such as Russia—have always expressed their support for him, but who do not intend to support the political cost of an indeterminate and potentially worse crisis than the already complex current situation; hence why he may be seeking out new allies." said Pedde.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

In an article for "*Oil Price*", the author, Tsvetana Paraskova, discusses the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) decision to extend the sanctions mandate over illicit trade of crude oil from Libya. "The United Nations Security Council voted to extend until February 15, 2020 the mandate of the Panel of Experts who oversee the sanctions targeting the illicit export of crude oil and refined products from Libya. The Security Council—which adopted a resolution by 13 votes in favor and none against, with abstentions from Russia and China—underlined that the primary responsibility of the Government of National Accord (GNA) is taking appropriate action to prevent the illicit export of petroleum, including crude oil and refined petroleum products, from Libya. The UN Security Council "condemns attempts to illicitly export petroleum, including crude oil and refined petroleum products, from Libya, including by parallel institutions which are not acting under the authority of the Government of National Accord," it said in a statement. At a meeting with Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) earlier this month, the chairman of the UN Security Council Libyan Sanctions Committee, Olof Skoog, confirmed the UN's commitment to prevent and stop illegal exports and sales of Libyan crude oil and refined products, NOC said in a statement on November." said Paraskova.

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