

1. The Big Picture

Turkey pledges more support for GNA; IS renews allegiance

Turkey's expanding involvement in support of the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) continued to dominate this week's developments, raising concerns over a potential response from Cairo and wider regional intervention to assist the Libyan National Army's (LNA) Khalifa Haftar. On the ground positions saw little to no change, though escalation came in the form of an airstrike targeting a migrant detention centre in Tripoli. The incident, for which both GNA and LNA forces have traded accusations, provoked international outcry. Amid the showdown, the Islamic State (IS) made a reappearance in a propaganda video renewing its pledge of allegiance to its self-declared leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi.

On 05 Jul, GNA PM Fayez Sarraj met with Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a visit to Turkey on 05 Jul. Erdogan reaffirmed Ankara's support for the GNA and called on Haftar's forces to cease combat operations. Initial reports indicate Turkey will provide the GNA with at least eight additional unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), which if confirmed, would be the latest weapons shipment after multiple other documented military hardware deliveries. Turkish involvement in Libya is set to increase because of geostrategic interests that Ankara is seeking to secure in the Mediterranean. Analysts argue that assistance to the GNA is only part of a broader effort to curtail Greece's influence in the Mediterranean and its claims over Libyan territorial waters. Beyond ideological alignment between pro-Islamists in Tripoli and Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP), the Turkish Navy is reportedly seeking to demarcate territorial borders to maximize its leverage in regional negotiations over offshore hydrocarbon resources. In addition, Ankara is set on reviving pending construction contracts and other economic interests worth an estimated \$18 billion.

Meanwhile, as Turkish involvement widened in scope, the Islamic State (IS) reaffirmed its presence this week in a propaganda video released on 06 Jul. The video shows approximately 68 militants renewing their pledge of allegiance "Baya", including the speaker identified as "Abu Musab Al-Libi", in addition to a dozen vehicles in an unidentified desert area. Yet beyond the theatrics, the video corroborates assessments the group's capabilities have been crippled. However, with combat ops in Tripoli now taking centre stage, IS will have plenty of

room to grow and consolidate. At the time of publication, emerging reports indicate a heightened threat of attack in the Sirte district. The group's resurgence in Libya has recently been echoed in statements by a senior US defence official.

In the oil & gas sector, Haftar's comments to Bloomberg reaffirming the LNA's commitment to international legally-binding contracts came in response to questions over eastern-based NOC attempts to market crude independently. The comments were welcomed by the Tripoli-based NOC, which it described as "commitment to the legitimacy of the NOC and its sole right to export Libyan oil in accordance with Libyan law and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions."

However, tensions over the country's resources are far from over and it would be premature to equate Haftar's comments with assurances that a disruption to O&G production is unlikely in the short to medium term. In fact, Haftar's written answers to Bloomberg have emphasized the importance of a fair distribution of O&G revenues. Haftar has underlined the LNA's security function to protect O&G infrastructure, without ruling out the possibility of a concerted political effort by the eastern bloc to access oil revenues. Meanwhile, Haftar denied the LNA seized NOC airports, though he stressed the "right" to use them if deemed necessary given the state of general mobilization. In a direct warning to the NOC, Haftar also called on the NOC not to utilise its resources to support terrorists and armed militias and to "avoid working against the army". Seen from this angle, Haftar's comments fall short of providing concrete guarantees, though they have helped boost confidence in the country's O&G sector. Libya's current production hovers around the 1 million barrels per day (bpd) mark. Platts' latest survey estimates Libya pumped 1.08 million bpd in Jun, representing a 40 kbpd loss from the previous month.

KEY POINTS

- GNA PM visits Turkish President
- IS reemerges in new allegiance video
- Haftar denies LNA role in bypassing NOC



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2. National Security Map

LNA downs GNA L-39 Albatros aircraft; GNA detains two Russians suspected of election interference

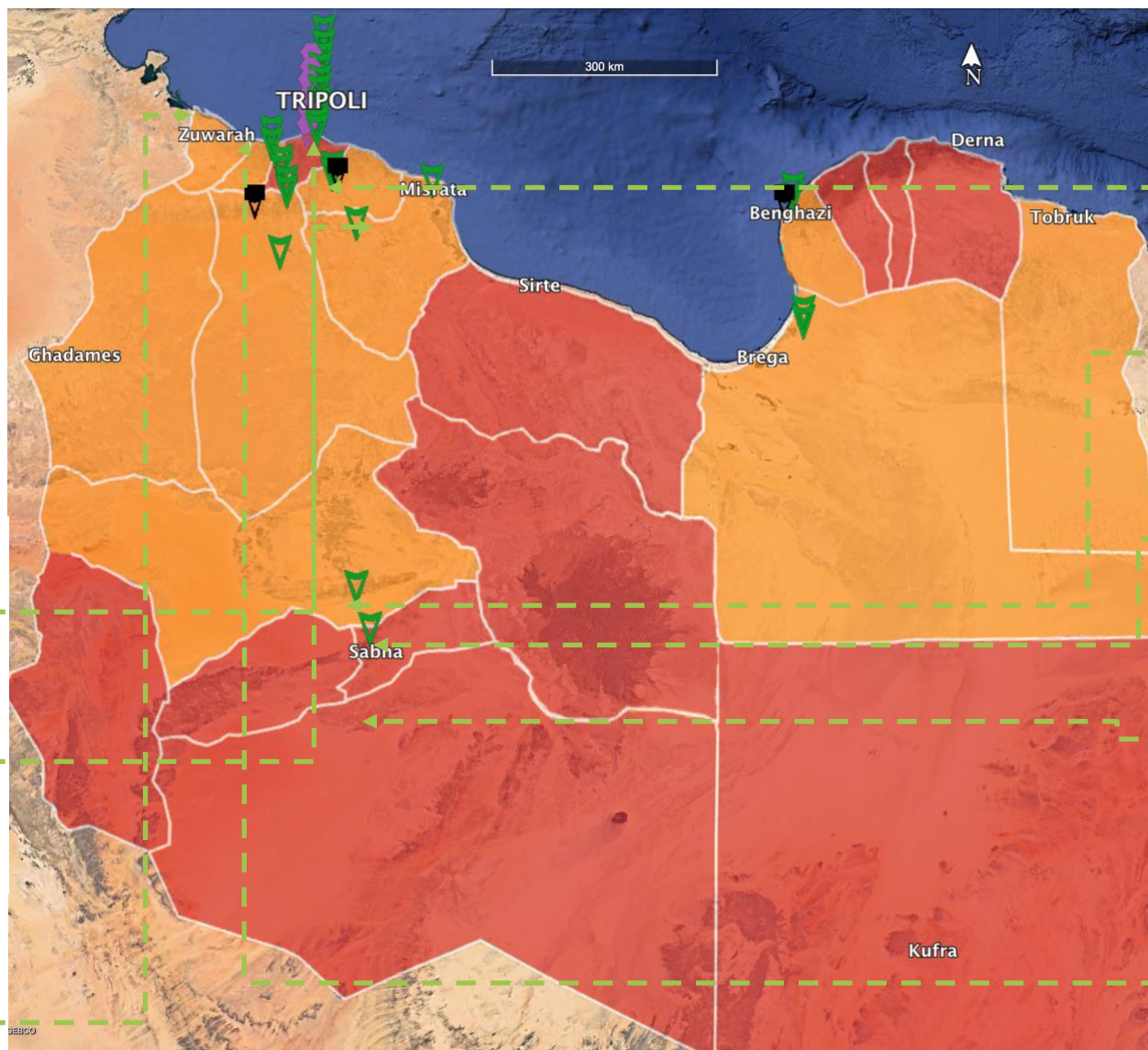
Key

THREAT INDICATORS

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

EVENT INDICATORS

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



LNA spox. Ahmed Al-Mesmari stated a GNA L-39 Albatros aircraft was shot down near Tarhunah at approximately 1930hrs on 04 Jul. The GNA confirmed losing contact with an L-39 aircraft on a combat mission South of Tripoli. Initial reports indicate the aircraft took off from Misrata International Airport (MRA). Two Libyan pilots were killed.

Reports indicate an LNA airstrike targeted a military convoy travelling Southwest of Brak in the evening on 04 Jul, with no further information on the intended target. Separately, an LNA airstrike targeted fuel smugglers near Mizdah in the evening on 04 Jul.

Unconfirmed reports suggest unidentified assailants kidnapped a Lebanese doctor working for the Health Center Al Zyghn in Zyghn, Northeast of Sabha, on 02 Jul. Reports indicate the doctor was kidnapped from his residence with no further information available.

Sources reported armed clashes between locals and Tebu forces in Murzuq in the morning on 06 Jul. Tebu forces led by Hassan Mousa vowed to seize the town and extend GNA control over it. The clashes resulted in the death of a local man and the injury of two others. Conflicting reports suggest the clashes were due to a local dispute between Tebu tribesmen.

At night on 06 Jul, reports indicate a pro-LNA battalion arrested members of a pro-GNA sleeper cell in Sabratabh who were reportedly planning to launch an anti-LNA attack from within, similar to tactics used in the GNA's Gharyan offensive on 26 Jun.

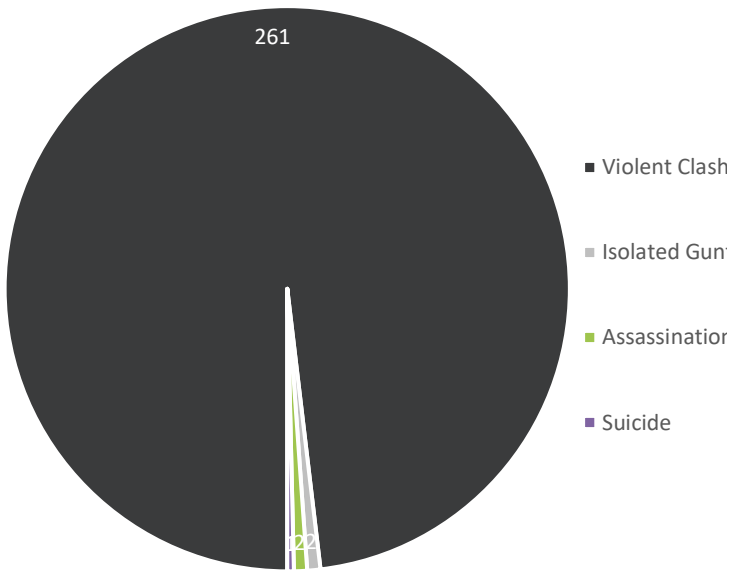
On 05 Jul, Russia's Foreign Ministry stated it is verifying reports of the detention of two Russians in Tripoli accused of influencing upcoming elections in the country. Bloomberg reported GNA law enforcement officers detained two Russians accused of attempting to influence upcoming elections in Libya. Local officials allege the Russian individuals have established contact with Gaddafi's son, Saif Al-Islam.

Reports indicate GNA forces closed the road between Misrata and Bani Waled in the morning on 03 Jul. Initial reports indicate GNA-affiliated Misrata militias cut off vital supplies, including fuel and cooking gas cylinders. No further information.

Tunisian protestors temporarily closed the Coastal Road between Libya and Tunisia (Ra's Ajdir - Ben Gardane) at approximately 1730hrs on 04 Jul. Initial reports indicate security members on the Libyan side of the Ras Ajdir border crossing arrested a Tunisian from Ben Gardane, resulting in the protest. The road was reopened at 2030hrs on 04 Jul.

3. Nationwide Security Analysis Surge in nationwide fatalities due to Tripoli migrant detention centre fatalities

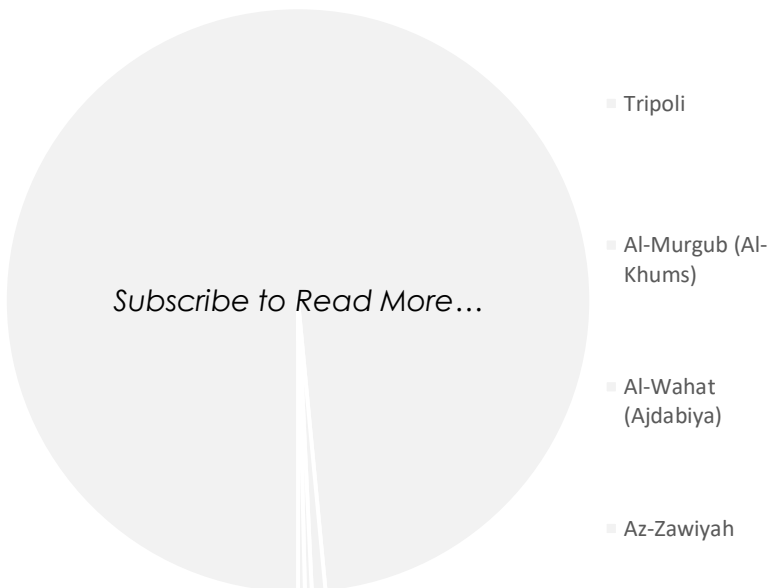
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



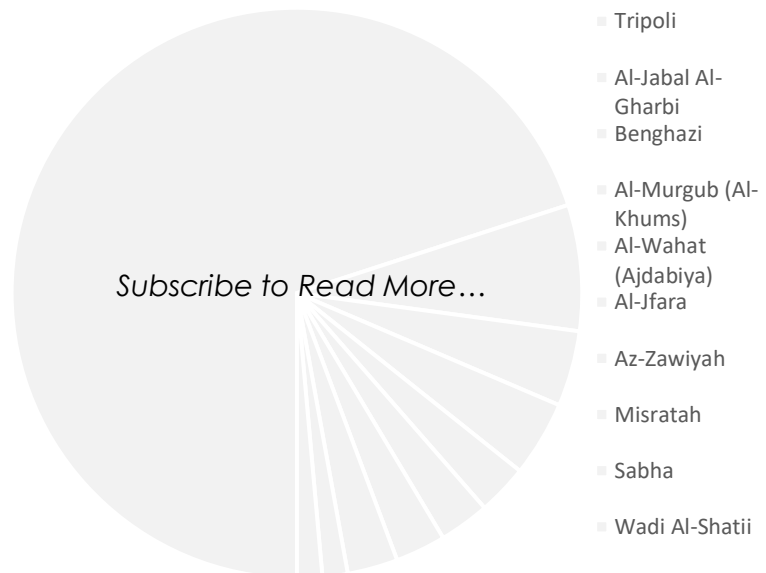
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



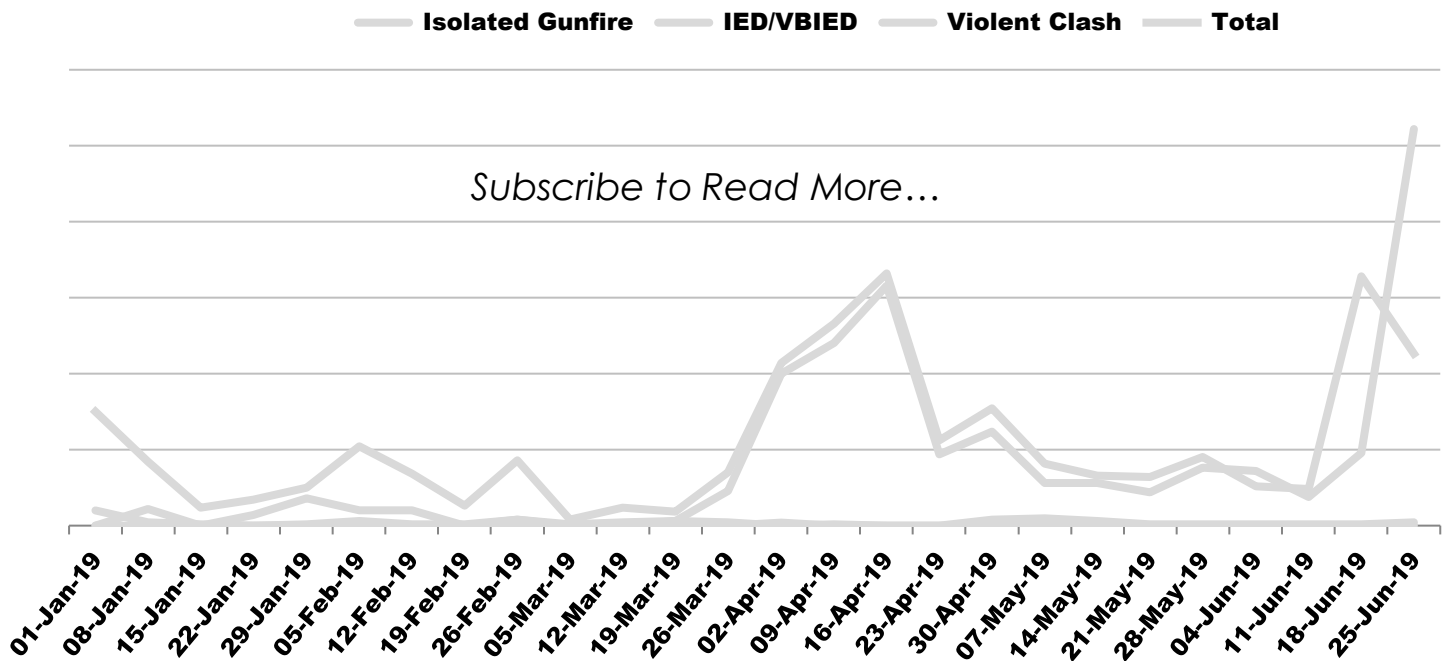
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



Nationwide incidents by national district (Past week)



Nationwide Fatalities by Type of Attack (Past 27 Weeks)



Data Analysis

WB recorded this week a total of 266 confirmed deaths in Libya, which compares to 51 deaths reported last week and 24 the week before. This week marked a sharp increase in nationwide fatalities due to an updated Tripoli casualty toll, with an airstrike hitting a migrant detention centre resulting in 53 fatalities and 130 injuries; the highest recorded death toll as a result of a single incident since the Tripoli offensive began on 04 Apr. Similar to previous weeks, the highest number of fatalities were recorded in Tripoli followed by the wider Western region, with an additional fatality recorded in the Al-Wahat district due to a suicide. In contrast to the pattern witnessed over previous weeks, this week saw a sharp drop in violent clashes recorded in the Tripoli district which would come amid an absence of significant changes in control and limited military activity. Airstrikes marked the highest number of security incidents this week, followed by a surge in arrests, whilst there was a decrease in violent clashes, mortar/rocket shelling incidents, and explosions heard. Similar to last week, WB recorded security incidents across Libya's Western, Southern and Eastern regions, with no incidents recorded in central Libya. Several security incidents were reported throughout the country including, 26 airstrikes, 8 arrests, 6 violent clashes, 5 mortar/rocket shelling incidents, 4 explosions heard, 4 carjackings, 3 robberies, 3 cases of isolated gunfire, 3 attacks, 2 assassinations, 1 raid and 1 suicide.

In Western Libya, WB recorded a total of 61 incidents, including 49 incidents in the capital city, Tripoli, marking a decrease in incidents recorded in Tripoli and in the wider Western region. In Tripoli, WB sources reported a military commander was assassinated as he was leaving a mosque in Tripoli's *Tajoura* area in the early hours of 29 Jun. Initial unconfirmed reports suggest the commander was affiliated with the LNA. On 30 Jun, clashes were marked by a Libyan National Army (LNA) airstrike targeting a Turkish unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) parked at Mitiga International Airport (MJI), resulting in an approximate two-hour closure between 2000hrs-2200hrs. Initial reports indicate MJI's runway was hit. The LNA claims it targeted the UAV as it was preparing for takeoff and destroyed it. Meanwhile, the LNA spokesperson, Ahmed Al-Mesmari, stated that its Air Force (LAF) destroyed the main UAV Operations Room located inside MJI's Airbase. In the wider Western region, Ahmed Al-Mesmari reported a GNA L-39 Albatros aircraft was shot down near Tarhunah at approximately 1930hrs on 04 Jun. The GNA confirmed losing contact with an L-39 aircraft that was conducting a combat mission South of Tripoli. Initial reports indicate the aircraft took off from Misrata International Airport (MRA), with the latest reports indicating two Libyan pilots were killed.

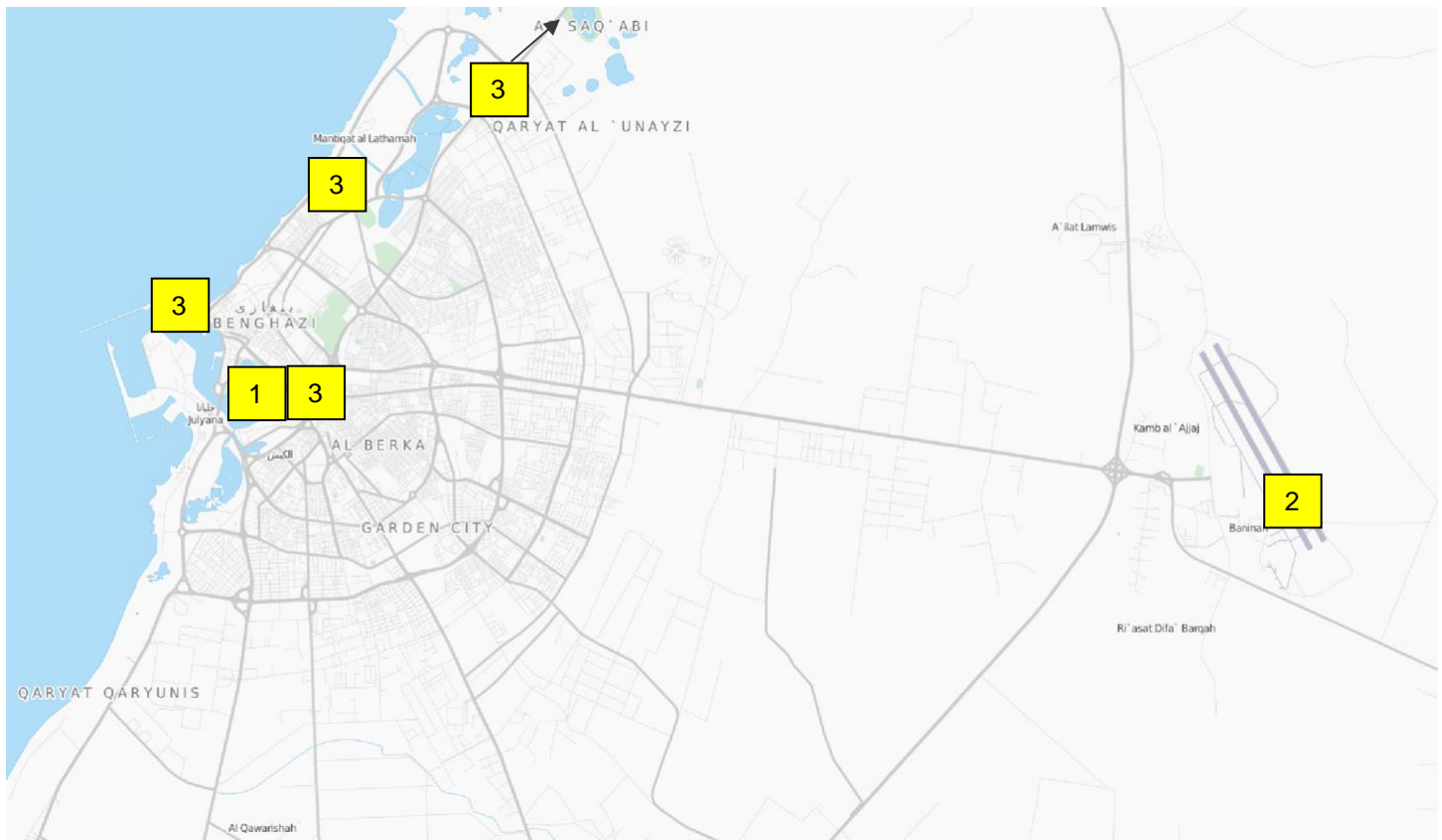
In the central region, no security incidents were reported, though local reports indicate the Presidential Council (PC) Vice President, Ahmed Maiteg, held a security meeting with military and security leaders during his visit to Sirte on 30 Jun. The meeting discussed Sirte's security situation following the outbreak of clashes in the Tripoli district on 04 Apr.

Turning to Southern Libya, reports indicate an LNA airstrike targeted a military convoy travelling Southwest of Brak in the evening on 04 Jul, with no further information on the intended target. Separately, reports suggest a pro-LNA battalion captured a prominent criminal in Sabha's Al-Jadid area on 05 Jul.

In Eastern Libya, indiscriminate gunfire related incidents and arrests were recorded in Benghazi.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Kidnapped Libyan Airlines pilot released & received by colleagues at BEN



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (01 Jul) Indiscriminate gunfire injures two Egyptians nationals
2. (01 Jul) Libyan Airlines confirm release of kidnapped pilot
3. (03 Jul) Crackdown of female beggars' results in arrests
4. (06 Jul) Security inspection tour results in multiple arrests

Multiple criminals arrested

Local reports from 06 Jul indicate Benghazi's Security director, Brig Gen Adel Abdulaziz, toured multiple sites in the city, including the support training camp at Ras Al-Munqar, Al-Sabri Corniche, Suleiman Al-Darrat Complex and the Corniche opposite the courthouse. The patrol led to the arrest of two individuals at the corniche opposite the courthouse, in addition to the arrest of three individuals at the 23rd June Park, all suspected of crimes related to narcotics. Two other drug dealers were also arrested near the Al-Darrat Complex.

Crackdown on female beggars

Reports indicate Benghazi's Women's Police Department launched a widespread campaign to crackdown on beggars, where several female beggars consisting of various nationalities were arrested on 03 Jul. There is no further information available.

Indiscriminate gunfire

Local reports from 01 July indicate indiscriminate gunfire in Benghazi's 23rd July Park, also known as Tibesti garden, resulted in the injury of two Egyptian nationals at approximately 0130hrs on 23 Jul. An unidentified gunman reportedly opened fire in the park. The motive is unknown.

Kidnapped Libyan Airlines pilot released

Local reports indicate the Libyan Airlines spokesman, Izz Aldin Al-Mashnoun, announced the release of its pilot Nawri Al-Atrash, who they claimed was kidnapped by an unidentified armed group on 07 May in Tripoli, and confirmed his arrival to Benghazi's Benina International Airport (BEN). Al-Mashnoun reported that Al-Atrash was received in the airport by his fellow colleagues. Sources reported the release of Al-Atrash on 05 May. Al-Atrash, originally from Benghazi, was kidnapped from Tripoli's Al-Safi Hotel. Past reports indicate the involvement of GNA-aligned forces in a kidnapping incident reportedly fuelled by Al-Atrash's pro-eastern/LNA political views.

6. What's next

LNA to target additional Turkish/GNA assets; renewed LNA offensive

POLITICAL FORECAST

Accusations of foreign interference from both the LNA and GNA continue to undermine short to medium term prospects of a negotiated settlement. However, against all odds, Sarraj's political initiative does appear to have gained traction; not as a conclusive document but a first draft to form the basis of future negotiations and be modified with inputs from the eastern bloc. The House of Representatives (HoR) head, Aguila Saleh, presented five conditions to accept the recent political initiative put forward by GNA's PM, Fayez Al-Serraj. The conditions included a formal decision to prevent the allocation of funds for Tripoli's militias, to subject the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) to representatives elected by the HoR and issue a statement renouncing its current alliances with Tripoli's "terrorist militias", as well as recognising the role of the LNA and its efforts to combat terrorism and extremism and subsequently cease all moves condemning the LNA's military operations in the international arena. In addition, the remaining condition included the release of all detainees held inside militia camps. While it appears highly unlikely these conditions will be met anytime soon, a push is expected by the eastern-bloc to draft an agenda and convert military gains into political interests at a later stage; the formation of a unity government will be the cornerstone of such an endeavor. Internationally, despite reports over a potential military effort to curb Turkey's involvement, Cairo appears to be favouring the diplomatic route for now. Reports indicate President Abdelfattah Sisi held a phone conversation with US President Donald Trump, where the Libyan file was discussed.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

Turkish security analyst Metin Gurcan explores motives and interests behind Ankara's growing support to the GNA. He writes in *Al-Monitor* that Turkey has naval interests to maintain in the Mediterranean and that support to the GNA is not exclusively driven by close alliances between Turkey's Islamists and the GNA's. He argues Libya is part of Ankara's broader Mediterranean plans "Turkey's interest in Libya is more related to strategic balances in the power struggle going on in the eastern Mediterranean. While it is true that Turkey is supporting pro-Islamist groups in Libya, the Turkish actors involved in the conflict are not limited to the Islamist government in Ankara. They have connections with the Turkish military, especially its navy, which is certainly more secular than Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party. For Ankara, the worst-case scenario in the eastern Mediterranean is a possible agreement between Greek Cypriots and Greece on sharing of naval sovereignty areas. This could threaten Turkey's and Turkish Cypriots' rights and interests in naval sovereignty zones in the region, which is believed to be rich in terms of hydrocarbon resources." The author provides further analysis to support his points, arguing that "Thus, Turkey is trying to reach a deal with Libya about coastal sharing to curtail Greece's naval sovereignty claims over the region. This could allow Ankara to increase its influence in the region to counter the pressure stemming from the Greek Cypriot-Greece-Egypt-Israel bloc and confine Egypt to the south." Gurcan concludes by stating "All this shows that Ankara's interest in the Libyan conflict is not based simply on politics or ideology but also on geostrategic concerns. According to Ankara's strategic mindset, if Turkey loses in Libya, it will be tightly confined to a limited area in the eastern Mediterranean. Thus Turkey will likely increase its support to the Tripoli government and its forces in the coming days."

SECURITY FORECAST

MJI remains a target for the LNA given the presence of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) within the Mitiga airbase. GNA forces will likely continue to store UAVs at MJI to be within close range of the frontlines and support forces on the ground. West of Tripoli, Sabratah, Surman, and Zawiya could see internal rifts between pro-LNA and pro-GNA factions, especially given mounting evidence that a negotiation effort is currently being launched by the GNA to win back local support across the West. Separately, the launch of a "second phase" in combat operations appears imminent with the latest LNA reinforcements sent to the Tripoli frontlines. The HoR's announcement of a state of mobilization would corroborate the strong prospect of an escalation, representing a legislative effort to support LNA forces on the ground. However, the likelihood and timeline of escalation remains difficult to ascertain and multiple similar threats were made in the past by the LNA. Similarly, on the GNA side, there could be further attempts to repel LNA units from positions South of Tripoli; in line with recent comments made by GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha. The LNA could therefore exploit GNA positioning and movements to launch coordinated offensives of its own. Meanwhile, in pro-GNA towns near Tarhunah such as Khoms and Msallata, arrests/kidnappings of Tarhunah locals are set to continue, enabling GNA groups to pressure for the release of their own forces and relatives held by the LNA. In the central district of Sirte, sources reported a heightened threat of attack by IS. Turning to the South, GNA-sanctioned armed Tebu groups will continue attempts to infiltrate towns under LNA control.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

Writing for *The Arab Weekly*, Amr Emam discusses the current standoff and Turkey's growing involvement in Libya from Cairo's perspective. He writes "Turkey's open war against the Libyan National Army is giving rise to calls in Egypt for involvement to help the Libyan forces defeat Islamist militias controlling parts of Libya, including Tripoli. The showdown between Turkey and the Libyan National Army (LNA) has become more direct and pronounced following the June 30 arrest by the LNA of six Turkish nationals. The LNA also shot down a Turkish drone over Mitiga International Airport, near Tripoli. LNA spokesman Major-General Ahmed al-Mesmari said the aircraft was en route to an attack on the airport and LNA troops. Turkey vowed to retaliate. The LNA has complained that Turkey provided Islamist militias with armoured trucks and unmanned aerial vehicles. Istanbul reportedly sent military commanders to train the militias and help them stop the LNA's campaign to capture Tripoli. These are serious developments for Egypt, where political and military analysts called on authorities to increase support to the LNA. "The Turkish presence in Libya primarily aims at inflicting harm on Egypt's national security," said retired Egyptian Army General Gamal Eddine Mazloum. "This is why Egypt should not leave the Libyan army alone in this battle." Emam further argues that "Libya is a national security issue for Egypt, which is why it features highly in talks between Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and world leaders, including during the recent G20 summit in Japan where Sisi met with Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, Russian President Vladimir Putin and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres."

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