

1. The Big Picture

Short-lived Eid truce as LNA redeploys forces southward

This week, the war theatre between Libyan National Army (LNA) forces and their Government of National Accord (GNA) rivals continued to expand. Soaring temperatures, rising commodity prices, and lengthy power cuts contributed to a slowdown in activity on the ground. But while Tripoli frontlines saw limited engagement, LNA airstrikes hit targets in Misrata and Murzuq. Meanwhile, efforts by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) head, Ghassan Salame, to reach a truce during Eid Al-Adha period bore fruit after the GNA's conditional acceptance and a belated LNA approval to temporarily halt combat operations. Salame's endeavor was, however, short-lived as reports of truce violations emerged within the first day of Eid on 11 Aug.

Yet as attention was turned towards Tripoli, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack targeted a UNSMIL convoy in Benghazi killing three staff members and wounding at least seven others on 10 Aug. The terrorist attack has undermined confidence in Benghazi's security environment, adding pressure on the Khalifa Haftar-led LNA to investigate an incident in its eastern stronghold, miles away from Tripoli. The LNA will likely seek to project security capabilities in the short term with arrests and reshuffles within local law enforcement. In addition, the resumption of tensions in Murzuq has prompted LNA forces to redeploy and mobilize. The eastern-based interim government stated a newly-formed force will be sent to the Southern region to secure oil and gas infrastructure, and will be deployed along Libya's borders with Chad, Niger, Sudan, Egypt, and Algeria. The force, representing the third to be sent by the interim government, will also join other mobile desert patrols and fixed CPs in the region.

Both the Benghazi attack and Murzuq engagement raise serious questions over the LNA's posture on Tripoli frontlines, especially given that the anticipated northward offensive into Tripoli's city centre has so far failed to materialise. On the GNA side, divisions continue to widen undermining Tripoli forces' unity of purpose, as highlighted by rising opportunistic militia activity. The Bab Tajoura Brigade, led by Azhari Fnan, attacked the HQ of the General Investigations Department (GID) in Tripoli on 08 Aug. The GID is the internal security organization maintaining important databases of wanted individuals.

More broadly, while LNA and GNA forces are now set to resume fighting, questions remain over their respective postures five months into the conflict. Given this context, both GNA and LNA will now turn to political

manoeuvring to cripple the enemy. To compensate for the limited military gains, the LNA will now look to transform what it has achieved so far on the ground into political credit. The conflict could therefore enter a new stage where the LNA consolidates its political credibility and outreach via the eastern-based interim government, while undermining the GNA's legitimacy. As combat operations become limited in scope, the LNA could begin to place its bets on political efforts to oust the Presidential Council (PC) and GNA PM Fayeza Sarraj's cabinet. Such eastern-led political efforts have already been initiated and are only set to intensify in the medium term. While political manoeuvres will gradually take centre stage in this new phase, fighting is unlikely to stop and will likely continue in the medium term.

In Tripoli, the GNA will look to hold on to the remaining political cards in its deck to ensure its survival and mitigate the impact of growing divisions between nominally-aligned groups in the West. One way for the GNA to raise morale has been to distribute cash. Sarraj allocated 40 million LYD to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on 06 Aug. In addition, Sarraj instructed the MoD to grant 3000 LYD to each soldier and auxiliary force member engaged against the LNA. Yet, even the 3000 LYD allowance resulted in tensions between pro-GNA forces under the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and MoD, as most Tripoli-based militias were excluded given they are under the MoI.

On the international front, the week was marked by an interesting joint statement from France, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States welcoming the announcement of a truce, urging factions to abide by the UN arms embargo, and condemning the Benghazi VBIED attack. Analysts argue the statement is interesting because it stands as the first joint statement bringing together the five states. In addition, the statement mentions readiness to "assist the UN Mission in monitoring the observance of the truce and address any attempt to break it." The latter was interpreted as a potential call for a peacekeeping intervention in Libya.

KEY POINTS

- LNA airstrikes in Misrata & Murzuq
- VBIED attack targets UNSMIL in Benghazi
- Political moves set to intensify in new phase



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2. National Security Map

Production resumes at Sharara field; LNA downs GNA L-39 Albatros aircraft in Misrata

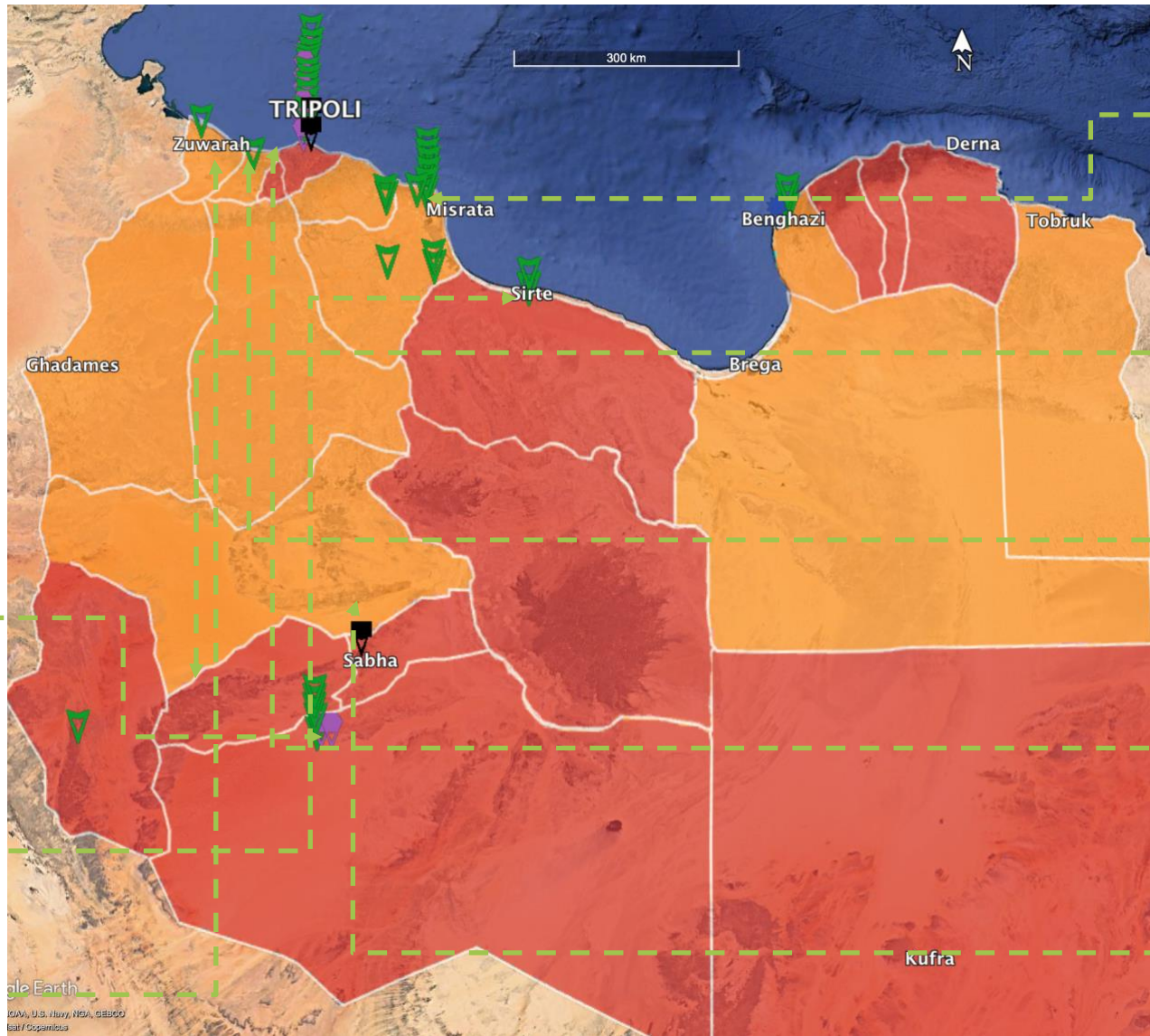
Key

THREAT INDICATORS

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

EVENT INDICATORS

- ✦ IED | VBIED
- ✦ Violent Clash
- ✦ Isolated Gunfire
- ✦ Other



The LNA Air Force (LAF) carried out three airstrikes targeting Misrata's Aviation College, adjacent to Misrata International Airport (MRA), at approximately 1400hrs on 07 Aug. The LNA Dignity Ops Room declared that a GNA Aero L-39Z0 Albatros was destroyed after it landed on the Aviation College runway.

Reports indicate production at the Sharara oilfield, Libya's largest oilfield, resumed on 08 Aug after a closed valve was reopened near Zawiya. Production is expected to gradually reach pre-closure levels.

The anti-narcotics and anti-smuggling bureau under Sabratah's Security Directorate raided a warehouse with large quantities of narcotics and alcohol in Surman on 08 Aug. The drug bust is reported to be one of the largest in the Western region to date.

Reports indicate unidentified Az-Zawiya militias kidnapped two Brega Petroleum Marketing Company (BPMC) fuel truck drivers as they transported jet fuel from Az Zawiya Oil Refining Company to MJJ this week. The drivers were later released but the trucks remain in possession of the Zawiya militias.

Unidentified gunmen from Brak attacked a station of Libya's Great Man-Made River (GMMR) project in the Wadi al Shatii District, disconnecting infrastructure feeding the southern network on 06 Aug. The attack resulted in power outages across the Western and Southern regions.

Reports indicate the death toll from the LNA's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strikes in Murzuq reached 43. The LNA claimed responsibility for the airstrike, but noted the targets were Chadian opposition militants that attacked the city. LNA spox Ahmed Mismary stated that Tebu leader declared that "Hassan Mussa" led an offensive to capture Murzuq using and entered the town from three separate fronts using tanks.

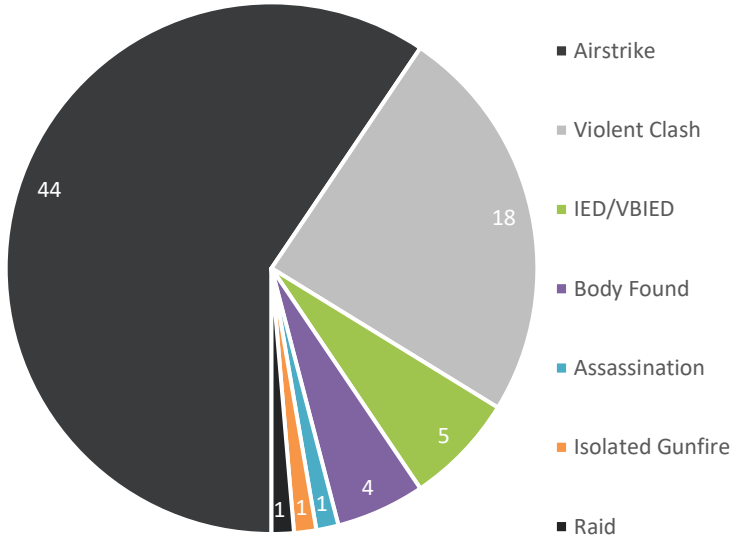
The Counter-terrorism (CT) force, nominally operating under Misrata, arrested two suspected Islamic State (IS) militants in Sirte on 06 Aug. No further information. The CT force was recently accused by the LNA of cooperation with militants, including Benghazi Revolutionaries Council (BRSC).

Sources indicate Zuwara International Airport (WAX) is now operational and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) has been granted permission to land at the airport.

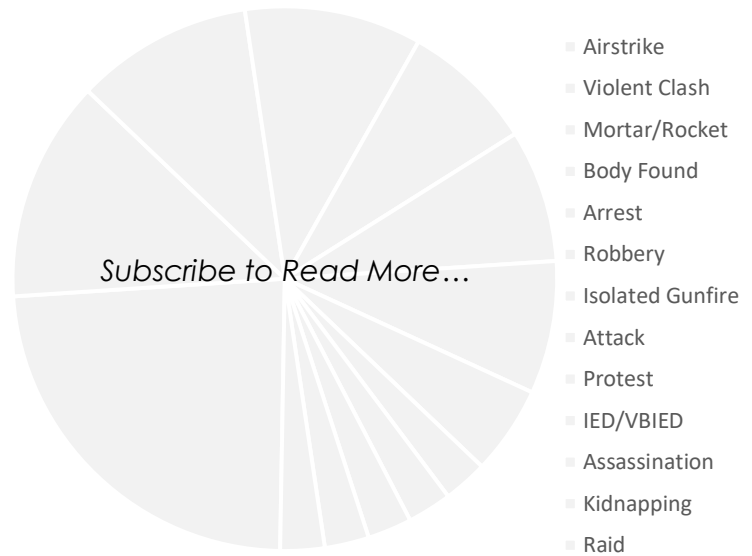
3. Nationwide Security Analysis

Nationwide fatalities double on Murzuq death toll; fewer incidents in Tripoli

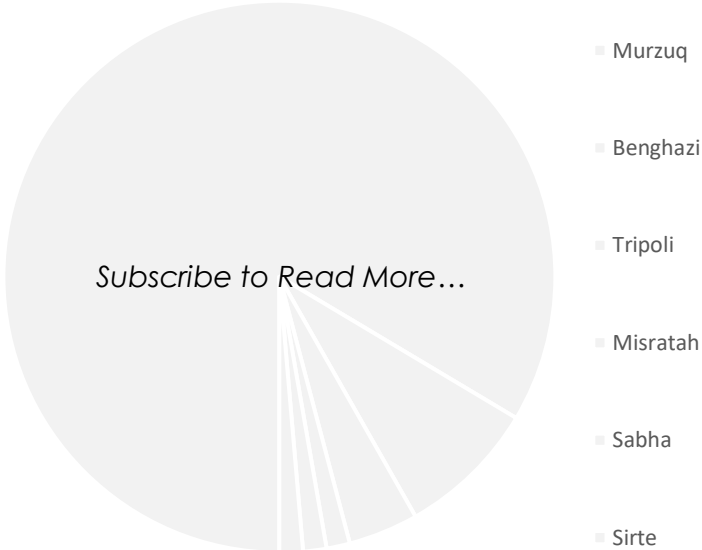
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



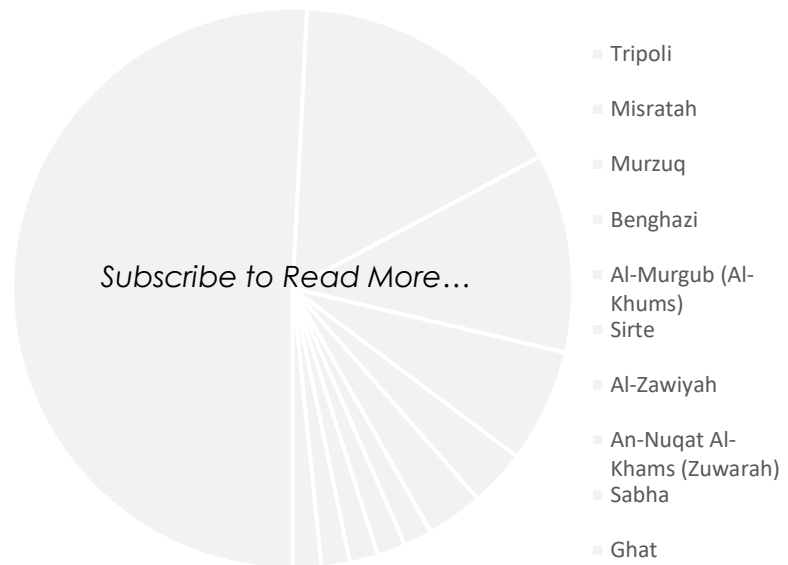
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



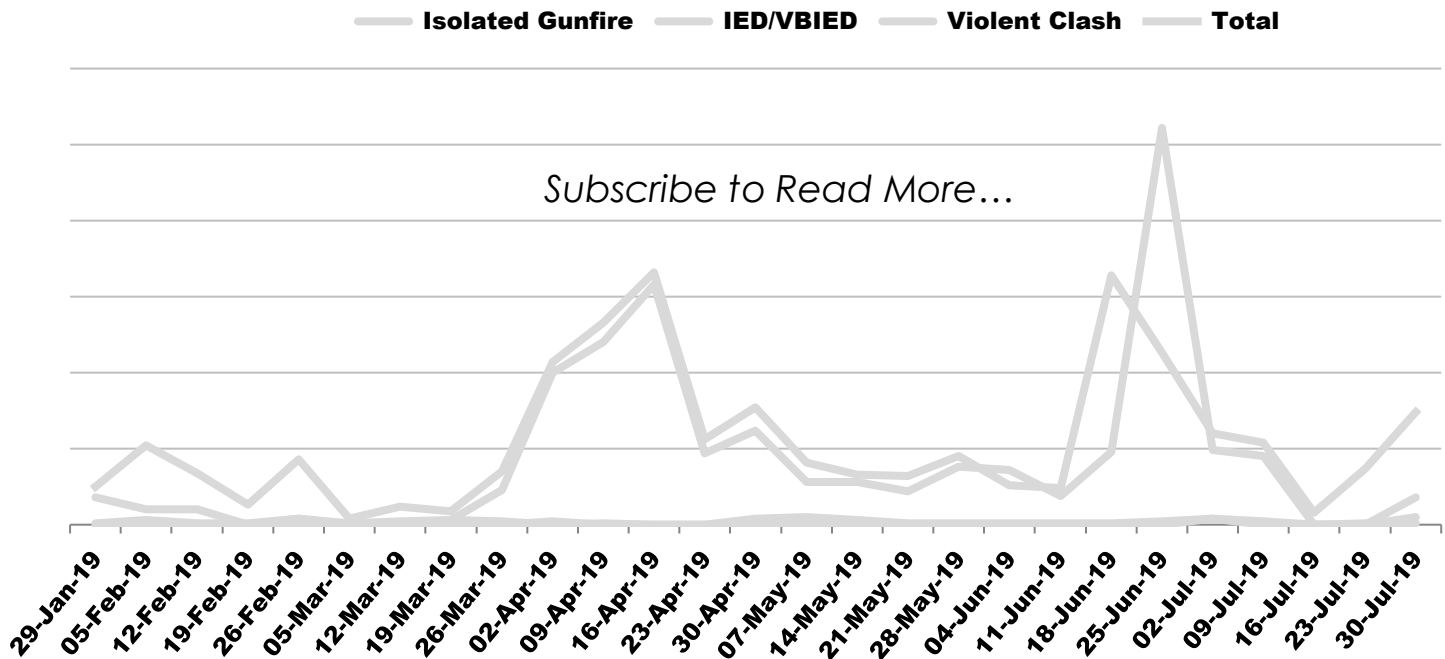
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



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 74 confirmed deaths in Libya, which compares to 37 deaths reported last week and 8 the week before. The number of nationwide fatalities has doubled relatively compared with the past week. This sharp increase was mainly due to the high number of fatalities from the LNA airstrike in Murzuq and deaths from the Tebu-led offensive on the city, which together account for more than 2/3 of the overall fatalities. Meanwhile, in the absence of a reliable fatality count, Tripoli clashes continue to be omitted from the data set. In Tripoli, the limited military activity leading up to the Eid Al-Adha break was highlighted by a significant decrease in the number of LNA and GNA airstrikes. In addition, Tripoli saw fewer violent clash outbreaks and isolated gunfire cases this week, though the district continues to represent the highest number of incidents. Several security incidents were reported throughout the country including 9 airstrikes, 4 mortar/rocket incidents, 3 cases of isolated gunfire, 3 robberies, a kidnapping, and the IED/VBIED attack in Benghazi.

In Western Libya, WB recorded a total of 47 incidents, including 31 in Tripoli. In Tripoli, standard criminal activity continues to dominate non-engagement areas. Reports suggest a 2019 grey KIA Sportage vehicle was stolen while parked in front of a house in Tripoli's Gorje area in the morning on 04 Aug. Separately, a red Tundra vehicle was stolen while parked in Al-Noofleen area, at approximately 2000hrs on 07 Aug. Further, sources suggest the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) of Qerqarish and Ghut Shaal arrested three armed criminal suspects driving a white Toyota Camry vehicle with tinted windows at approximately 1530hrs on 08 Aug. The gunmen were arrested on Qerqarish's main road, near Al-Rahela Gas Station. No further information available. Moving eastward, WB sources reported unidentified gunmen established a fake checkpoint (CP), stopping travellers and stealing their belongings on a road South of Gharaballi and Ghwea, near Ruwajeh School on 09 Aug.

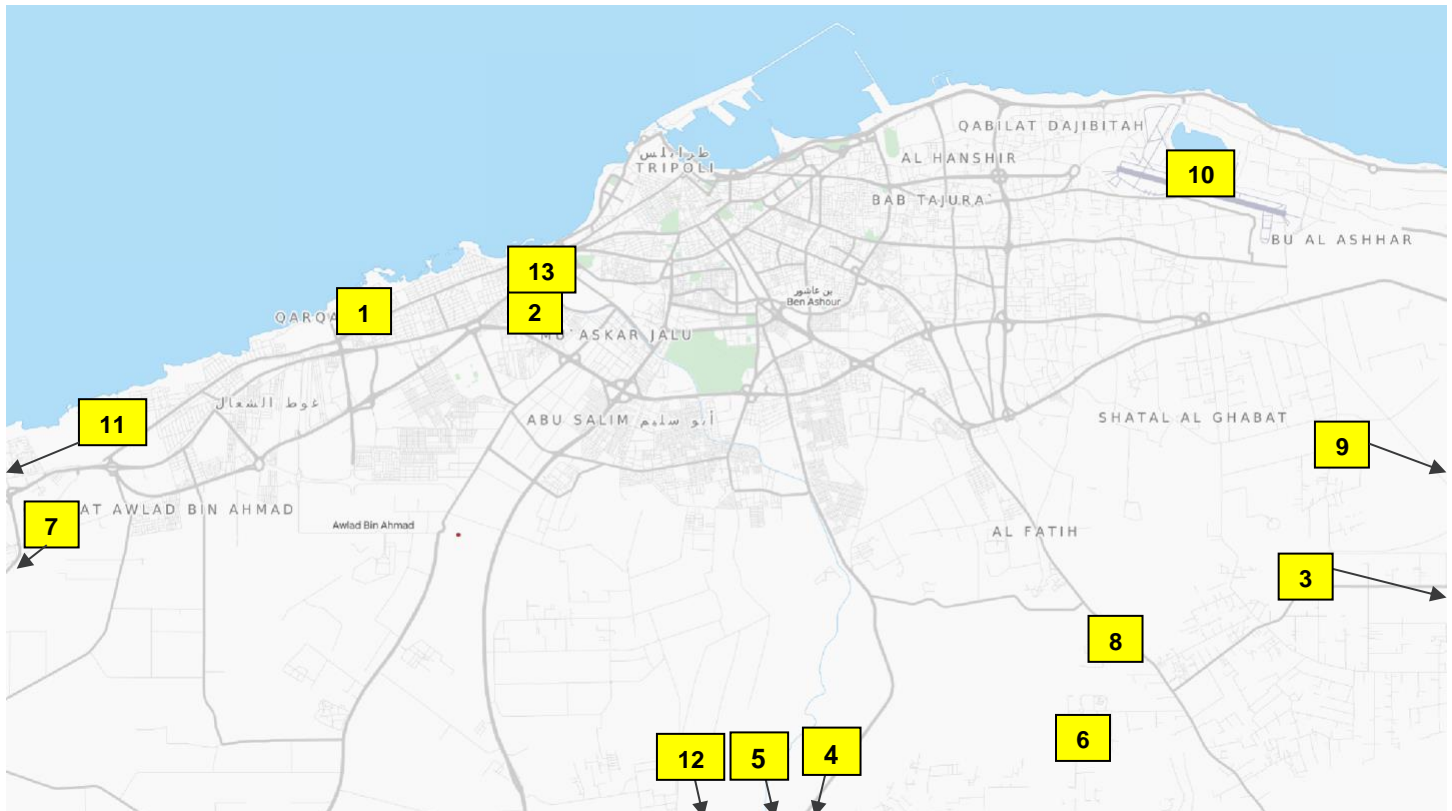
Meanwhile, in the central region, the Counter-terrorism (CT) force, nominally operating under Misrata, arrested two suspected Islamic State (IS) militants in Sirte on 06 Aug. Reports suggest the two suspects have been transferred for questioning to Misrata. No further information is available.

Turning to the Southern region, Murzuq's security environment continued to dominate the landscape as clashes between Tebus and local Ahali tribes gained in momentum, prompting the LNA to redeploy forces to the region in a new campaign to establish the rule of law. Separately, the week was marked by reports of growing local grievances in the South over power outages, the lack of liquidity, and rising cooking gas prices. Dozens of locals in Alawenat organized a protest to voice these grievances on 07 Aug. The locals claim power cuts have lasted for five consecutive days, making them unable to use electricity to cook while the price of cooking gas cylinders reached 90 LYD.

In Eastern Libya, the security situation remains tense after the VBIED attack targeting the UNSMIL convoy. The attack has undermined confidence in the city's security environment. Separately, reports suggest a Sirte local was found killed in the southern suburbs of Benghazi on 04 Aug. Initial reports suggest the killed man was a merchant travelling frequently between Sirte and the eastern region to sell his goods. The unidentified gunmen reportedly carjacked his vehicle. No further information.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

Sixth recorded MJI airspace closure; Bab Tajoura militia attacks GID HQ



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (04 Aug) Misrata militia commander assassinated in Al-Seyaheyya
2. (04 Aug) Kia Sportage vehicle stolen while parked in Gorje area
3. (05 Aug) LNA airstrikes target GNA positions on Beer Osta Milad road
4. (05 Aug) Indiscriminate shelling reported near Tadamon FC roundabout
5. (05 Aug) Clashes resume in Khallat Al-Furjan
6. (06 Aug) LNA airstrike targets GNA positions at Ellewy crossroad
7. (06 Aug) Isolated gunfire due to dispute between locals in Al-Jaafra
8. (07 Aug) LNA airstrike targets GNA; clashes resume
9. (07 Aug) LNA airstrike targets Al-Daman battalion position in Tajoura
10. (07 Aug) Grad shells target MJI & temporarily disrupt air traffic
11. (07 Aug) Shots fired during local dispute due to long queues at petrol station
12. (08 Aug) Clashes resumes near Tripoli International Airport (TIP)
13. (08 Aug) Bab Tajoura Brigade storms GID HQ

MJI Grad shelling results in 6th airspace closure

WB recorded two additional airspace closures from Grad shelling at Mitiga International Airport (MJI), Tripoli's only-functioning airport, bringing the total number of disruptions at MJI to six in the past two weeks. WB sources reported air traffic was temporarily suspended at MJI on 07 Aug after Grad missiles landed inside the airport at approximately 1730hrs. Flights later resumed at approximately 2030hrs. There were no reported casualties or physical damage to infrastructure, though some flights were diverted to Misrata International Airport (MRA), while others redirected back to Tunis. Reports indicate a Libyan Airlines aircraft was landing when the shells were fired. Four days later, shells landing in the airport resulted in flight cancellations and airspace closure at approximately 1000hrs. Flights were later resumed at approximately 1900hrs. Images published on social media purported to show physical damage to a runway. It is worth mentioning that the past six airspace closures have been attributed to Al-Bugra militia.

Bab Tajoura Brigade storms GID HQ, expels head

The Bab Tajoura Brigade, led by Azhari Fnan, attacked the HQ of the General Investigations Department (GID) in Tripoli's Edraiby, firing live bullets towards the building and prompting the head of the GID, Rashid Al-Rujbani, and other officers to flee on 08 Aug. Reports suggest Al-Rujbani fled Tripoli to his hometown of Al-Rujban. Unconfirmed reports suggest the dispute is over the management of the GID database. It is worth mentioning that the GID acts as the domestic intelligence agency under the GNA and maintains a

Database of wanted individuals. In 2018, WB sources reported tensions between Bab Tajoura's Fnan and the GID after the militiaman attempted to gain hold of the database.

Man dies during Ghneiwa arrest attempt

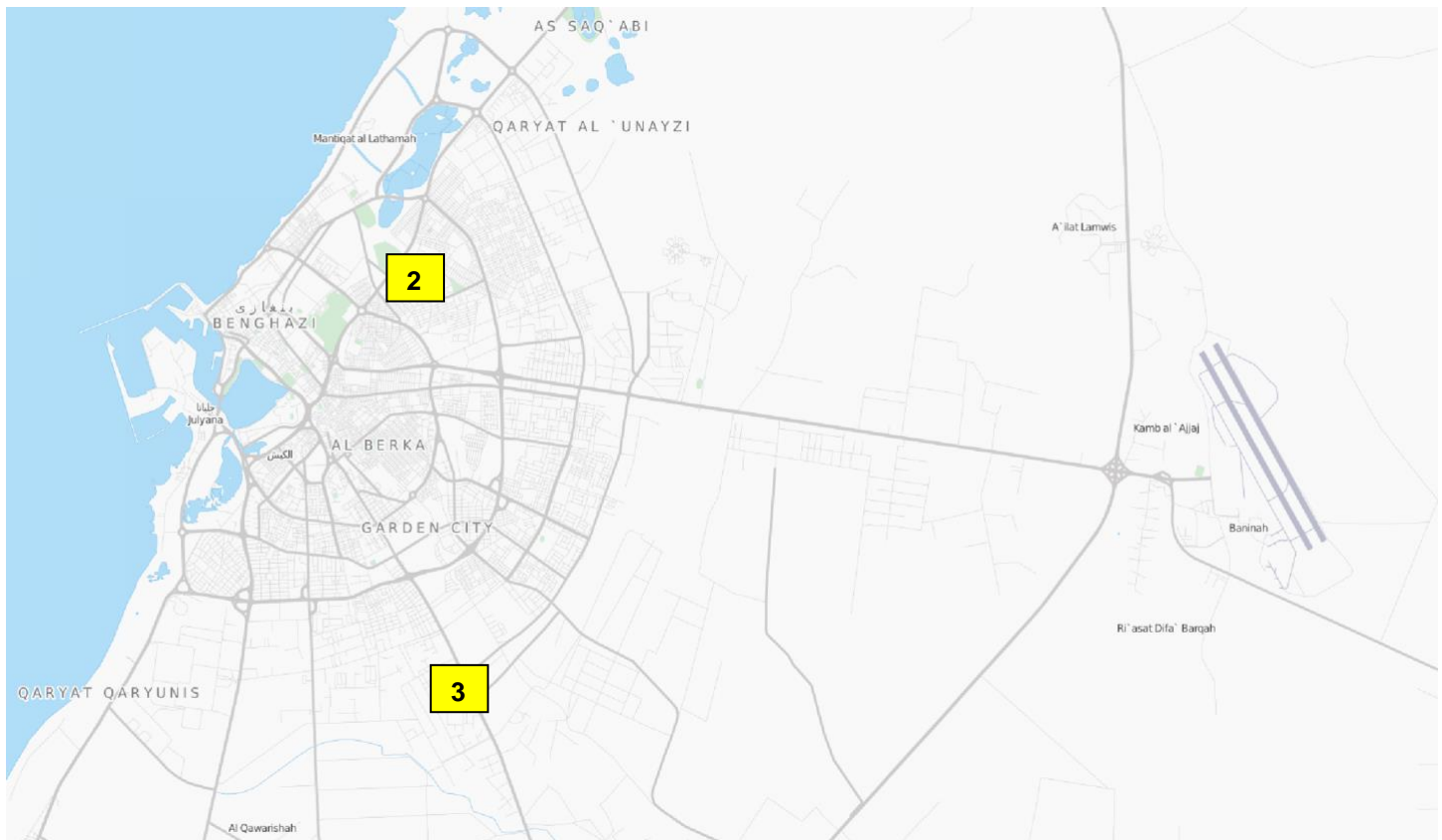
Ghneiwa militiamen raided a flat in Tripoli's Hai Al-Akuwakh, in the Abu Salim area at approximately 1730hrs on 07 Aug. Reports suggest the militiamen attempted to arrest a man who lived with his family, prompting him to jump from the third floor of the residential building to escape. The man later succumbed to his wounds on his way to a hospital. No further information.

Tortured GNA official's body found

Reports of a body with signs of torture and gunshots delivered to Tripoli Central Hospital in the afternoon on 08 Aug. Reports indicate the body belonged to Walid Tarhuni, an official at the GNA Ministry of Justice, kidnapped by Ghneiwa militiamen in the past week. His body was allegedly found in front of the GNA Ministry of Justice building. Tarhuni is originally from the eastern city of Al Bayda. Local reports suggest a pro-LNA TV presenter, Mohammed Imtallal, incited Tarhuni's abduction and accused him of collaborating with the GNA.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

VBIED attack targets UNSMIL convoy & undermines confidence in security



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (04 Aug) Merchant from Sirte found killed in southern suburbs (unknown)
2. (05 Aug) Traffickers arrested with Tramadol pills in Salmani
3. (10 Aug) VBIED targets UNSMIL convoy on Huwary road

VBIED targets UNSMIL convoy

Reports confirmed that a UNSMIL convoy was the intended target of the VBIED attack near Benghazi's Arkan Market and the Commerce & Development Bank on Huwary Road on 10 Aug. The attack resulted in the death of three UNSMIL staff members, while wounding at least seven Libyan civilians. Thus far, there have been no claims of responsibility for the attack, despite initial reports alleging that the Islamic State (IS) or Benghazi Revolutionaries Shura Council (BRSC) is involved. The attack received widespread condemnation from international and domestic organizations. On 11 Aug, UN Security Council (UNSC) Member States issued a statement condemning the attack and reiterating the importance of holding the perpetrators accountable.

Traffickers arrested with Tramadol pills

Benghazi's Criminal Investigations Department (CID) arrested three narcotics traffickers in Benghazi's [Salmani](#) neighbourhood on 05 Aug. The traffickers were found with at least 10 boxes of Tramadol pills, an opioid analgesic, and cannabis resin hidden in a blue BMW vehicle. The non-medical use of opioids is common across Libya.

Sirte merchant found killed

Reports suggest a Sirte local was found killed in the southern suburbs of Benghazi on 04 Aug. Initial reports suggest the killed man was a merchant travelling frequently between Sirte and the eastern region to sell his goods. The unidentified gunmen reportedly carjacked his vehicle. No further information.

Unconfirmed: LNA official kidnapped/arrested

Reports suggest the head of the LNA's Military Intelligence apparatus, Ramadan Albarasi, was kidnapped from his residence in Benghazi on 30 Jul. Conflicting reports suggest Albarasi was arrested after his refusal to appear in LNA-sanctioned investigations over the loss of Gharyan in combat operations. There is little to no information to ascertain the veracity of the reports. WB is monitoring closely local reports.

Terrorist track pursued in kidnapping case

The eastern-based interim government interior minister, Ibrahim Bushnaf, stated that authorities are pursuing the terrorist track in their initial investigations into the kidnapping of House of Representatives (HoR) member Siham Sergwa in Benghazi on 17 Jul. Bushnaf added that investigations are ongoing and the precise motive behind the incident is yet to be ascertained. Sergwa's kidnapping has resulted in nationwide condemnation and backlash, with multiple claims that the incident was fuelled by her condemnation of the LNA's Tripoli offensive.

6. What's next

Pressure mounts on PC/GNA; positions on the ground remain unchanged

POLITICAL FORECAST

In the aftermath of the truce violation, anti-Salame sentiment is expected to grow. Pro-GNA factions are already accusing Salame of misinterpreting the GNA's statement of conditions to abide by a truce as an acceptance of the UNSMIL's truce call. As combat operations become limited in scope, the LNA could begin to place its bets on efforts to oust the Presidential Council (PC) and Sarraj cabinet via political means. This week was marked by a consolidated eastern-led political effort, compensating for the limited military activity in Tripoli. The Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) speaker, Aguila Saleh, requested support from the African Union (AU) and African parliaments to form a new unity government with a temporary mandate until parliamentary and presidential elections are organized. His comments came during a conference of African heads of parliament in Johannesburg, South Africa. Saleh also emphasized that the Tobruk-based HoR is the only legitimate entity, while downplaying the GNA's legitimacy. Separately, reports suggest the eastern-based interim government's foreign minister, Abdulhadi Al-Hwajj, addressed a letter to all diplomatic missions urging them to cease their support to the "non-legitimate" GNA and side with the LNA instead. It is worth noting that the eastern-based interim government's foreign ministry recently opened an office in Benghazi. The letter would highlight a clear political effort by the East to assert legitimacy, concurrent with LNA military operations on the ground. Separately, Italy's ambassador to Libya, Giuseppe Buccino Grimaldi, was quoted in Italian media stating prospects of an agreement between the LNA's Haftar and GNA's Sarraj are bleak, despite efforts to persuade Haftar during Salame's recent visit to Benghazi.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

Writing for Ahram Online, Kamel Abdallah explores the recent southward expansion of Libya's conflict and potential outlook. Abdallah writes "The war theatre in western Libya has expanded in recent weeks and now stretches from the southern suburbs of Tripoli to Murzuq, the Toubou stronghold in the far south, passing through the strategic Al-Jufra Airbase in central Libya, which is controlled by the Libyan National Army (LNA) commanded by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar. Although the forces fighting for the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) gained an advantage when they took the strategic town of Gharyan (100km south of Tripoli) at the end of June, they still have not managed to drive the LNA and its allied militias from the southern outskirts of the capital, especially the arc between Qasr Bin Ghashir, the airport and Khallat Al-Furjan. GNA forces might share a common hatred for Haftar, but mistrust between their various militia components threatens their cohesion and unity of purpose. The LNA, in turn, is short of fighters and funds, its long supply lines are vulnerable, and it lacks sufficient control over allied forces, such as the militias from Tarhuna, which served as a major body of the strike force in the Tripoli offensive. While fighting persists in the vicinity of the capital, attention has shifted southward in recent weeks. Last week, GNA forces launched a drone strike against Al-Jufra Airbase which is a forward staging point for the LNA in its campaign against GNA forces in the capital. The LNA retaliated with a strike against Misrata Airbase, signalling the possibility of a further expansion in the scope of the conflict. Attention also turned further south to Murzuq where fierce clashes have erupted between militias allied with the GNA and militias allied with the LNA, which had secured control over Murzuq in February."

SECURITY FORECAST

As the LNA redeploys southward in Murzuq, it will likely continue to rely on air combat missions in the western region, specifically targeting Misrata to exploit growing rifts between Misrata factions and other Tripoli-based militias. The LNA will continue to claim that sympathisers within the capital's city centre have carried out assassinations of militia leaders, in line with recent reports over LNA intent to arm sleeper cells within the capital to carry out targeted assassinations against militia leaders and their assets. Separately, Misrata is likely carefully assessing a response to the LNA's latest airstrikes. Reports indicate that a meeting took place in Misrata city in the immediate aftermath of the airstrikes, between militia leaders who agreed to conduct an armed attack on the Jufra District, where LNA-controlled Al Jufrah airbase is located. In addition, a spokesperson of the Sumoud Brigade led by Salah Badi threatened that the "response will be harsh". Divisions within Misrata would be highlighted by reports (unconfirmed) suggesting unidentified militias raided several flats in Misrata's 11 Luglio neighborhood, arresting locals suspected of aiding the LNA by providing coordinates to facilitate airstrikes. Meanwhile, WB sources have reported a heightened threat of attack by the Islamic State (IS) targeting oil infrastructure, government buildings, foreign assets, and ports across major Libyan towns. On the tribal front, Zintan's position vis-à-vis the GNA is set to continue to fluctuate, as highlighted by a recent statement holding the Tripoli-based government responsible for the Tebu-led assault on Murzuq. The Zintani tribal statement pointed the fingers at a "GNA governance model" as the cause of Murzuq's tensions, claiming the GNA empowers militia leaders to subdue local populations. Zintanis will remain divided over their support for the GNA.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

In a letter addressed to UNSG Antonio Guterres, the "Sons of Libya Group" urges for the withdrawal of recognition of the Presidential Council and the GNA, listing a number of reasons. The letter reads "We, the Sons of Libya Group, a pan-Libya group of intellectuals, political activists, and media workers, hereby submit this proposal to Your Excellency, for your urgent perusal and consideration. We call upon the United Nations to withdraw its recognition of Libya's Presidential Council and its Government of National Accord for several reasons; the most important of which are the following: 1) The Presidential Council is not elected, and has not been appointed or endorsed by an elected body. It does not reflect the will of the people, which is the basis for legitimacy. 2) The Presidential Council has twice failed to win the vote of confidence of the members of the elected legislative body, the Libyan House of Representatives (HoR), for its government. Moreover, the members of the Government of National Accord have not been sworn in before the elected Libyan House of Representatives (HoR). 3) The Presidential Council lost all the lawsuits against it in the Libyan courts, which, in several cases, ruled that the Presidential Council has no legal capacity, and that its decisions, actions, and procedures are all void and invalid, and thus are considered economic crimes that do not fall into the statute of limitation. 4) The Presidential Council has lost one third of its members through either resignations or boycotting; thus it issues resolutions without the consensus stipulated in the Skhirat Libyan Political Agreement. The absence of a third of the members of the Presidential Council means it does not exist as a fait accompli."

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