



1. The Big Picture

LNA spox. denies Janzour airstrike attribution by UNSMIL

Libyan National Army (LNA) airstrikes against forces loyal to the internationally-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) intensified and continued to expand in Sirte and Misrata. Airstrikes targeting Sirte were recorded almost on a daily basis over the past few days, while Misrata's civilian airport was targeted for the first time since clashes erupted six months ago. Past LNA airstrikes against Misrata were restricted to military targets at the Misrata Air College, adjacent to the civilian airport.

The escalation is part of the LNA's strategy to degrade the GNA's defensive capabilities by attrition. There is mounting evidence that with these airstrikes, the LNA is testing the waters to gauge public reactions to its controlled escalation. In a related development, airstrikes targeted the Equestrian Club in Janzur resulting in at least six injuries, including five children, as well as the death of several horses at approximately 1800hrs on 06 Oct. WB sources reported the airstrike targeted the Fursan Janzour Battalion HQ adjacent to the Equestrian Club. Initial reports indicate shrapnel hit the Equestrian Club.

The airstrike is significant given its proximity to the OEA Village in Janzour where the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) operates. This factor may have contributed to the almost immediate response by the UNSMIL, publicly attributing the airstrike to "General Haftar's forces", in contrast to past statements by the Mission. The UNSMIL added that it dispatched an assessment mission to identify the targeted site and assess the nature of the attack, after which it confirmed that a "fighter jet dropped four unguided bombs on the Equestrian Club and that neither military assets nor military infrastructure were observed at the targeted site."

In response, LNA spokesman Ahmed Al-Mesmari denied any involvement in the airstrikes and referred to the incident as an "internal plot" against the LNA. Al-Mesmari added that its Air Force (LAF) identifies its targets with high accuracy backed by strong reconnaissance and reliable ground information. The incident is the latest to receive widespread condemnation after the targeting of Misrata's civilian airport. At the time of

publication, a US Embassy statement deplored the escalation and attacks on civilian infrastructure.

On the ground, LNA forces advanced on the Al-Aziziya frontline, South of Tripoli, reportedly reaching southern parts of the town. Separately, the LNA gained ground in Khallat Al-Forjan in the past 48 hours, seizing the Yarmook Camp. Local WB sources reported that pro-GNA Ghneiwa militias asked locals in Hadba Al-Mashro' to evacuate as the LNA advances. Conflicting reports suggest Ghneiwa militia formations retreated from their positions South of Hadba Al-Mashro' area.

Meanwhile, in further evidence of the emerging cracks within the GNA, the spokesperson of Salah Badi's Al-Sumood Brigade, Hmeida Al-Juro, stated on social media that the GNA will appoint Badi as the head of Military Intelligence on 06 Oct. There is no further information available, though pro-LNA accounts claim the GNA decision is the result of extortion by gunmen affiliated with the sanctioned Misrata commander. According to the pro-LNA reports, Al-Sumood Brigade gunmen detained the head of the GNA's Defense Minister Office, Saladin Akaza, for several hours to compel him to appoint Badi. The reports allege that Akaza was released after GNA PM Fayez Al-Serraj agreed to the demands.

Separately, in the oil and gas sector, and shortly after the National Oil Corporation (NOC) warned that budget constraints could undermine production, the GNA allocated 1.5 billion Libyan dinars (LYD) to the NOC between 2019-20. The amount is "for projects that contribute in maintenance of current production rates and increase the productive capacity of the oil and gas sector", whilst an additional 300 million was allocated towards the NOC paying off its obligations to other companies. The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) deposited the allocated amount in an "emergency account" for the NOC to spend as planned. The amount was derived from tax imposed on sales of foreign currency.

KEY POINTS

- LNA airstrike targets Misrata civilian airport
- UNSMIL attributes Janzour airstrike to LNA
- GNA allocates 1.5 billion LYD to NOC



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2. National Security Map

AFRICOM airstrike kills 7 IS militants in South; Gunmen raid bank East of Tarhunah

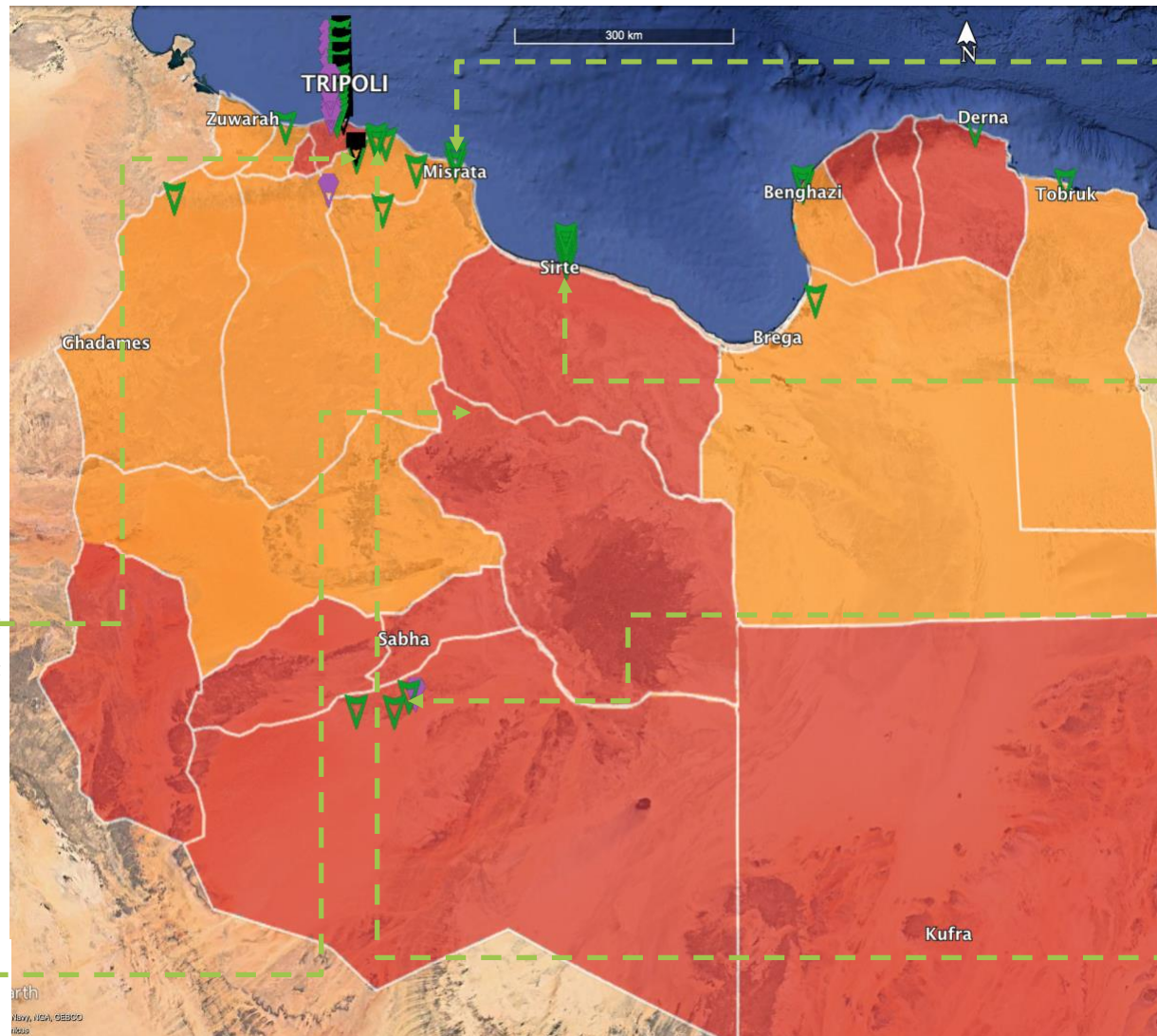
Key

THREAT INDICATORS

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

EVENT INDICATORS

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



Reports indicate a prominent leader of Misrata's Salah Badi-led Al-Sumood Brigade, Hisham Emsimir, was killed with one of his companions on a road linking Tarhunah and Msallata at approximately 1800hrs on 29 Sep. Initial reports indicate Emsimir requested Tarhunah's Al-Kaniat militiamen to assassinate their commander, Mohammed Al-Kani, in return for 10 million Libyan dinars (LYD). The Al-Kaniat militiamen falsely agreed to the offer in an effort to ambush Emsimir in the administrative boundaries between Tarhunah and Msallata. Emsimir reportedly arrived at the location along with a few members of his force, after which skirmishes erupted. The Al-Kaniat militiamen killed Emsimir and transferred his body, cash and vehicle to Tarhunah.

Reports indicate a GNA airstrike targeted an LNA military convoy departing Jufra Airbase, heading towards Sirte, at approximately 0300hrs on 01 Oct.

At approximately 1030hrs on 05 Oct, reports indicate an LNA airstrike targeted the Misrata Air College, temporarily suspending air traffic at Misrata International Airport (MRA). Initial reports indicate a member of the airport's staff was injured and two aircraft were damaged.

For the third consecutive day, Sirte's Protection Force (SPF) reported six LNA airstrikes targeted the administrative HQ of the Great Man-made River (GMMR) Investment Authority, East of Sirte, resulting in physical damage, between 2200hrs-2300hrs on 01 Oct.

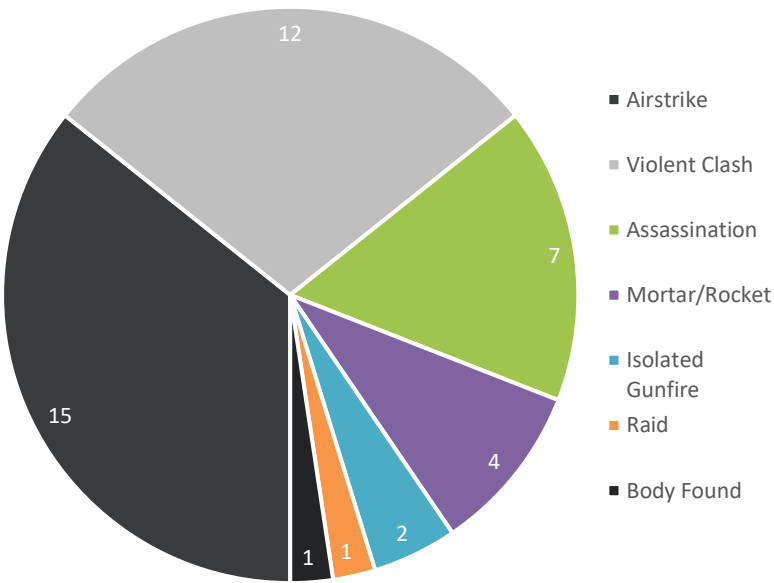
U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM), in coordination with the GNA, declared it killed seven Islamic State (IS) militants in an airstrike conducted in the Southern region on 29 Sep. WB sources reported the airstrike was conducted in the Umm Al-Aranib vicinity. Separately, reports indicate clashes erupted between LNA's Khalid Bin Walid Battalion units, supported by "Martyrs of Umm Al-Aranib" forces, and IS militants in the area between Umm Al Aranib and Qatrun, resulting in the death of 12 IS militants on 30 Sep. Initial reports indicate the IS militants fled from Murzuq following the AFRICOM airstrikes.

Six gunmen raided Al-Jumhuriya Bank Branch in the Dawoon area, East of Tarhunah on 02 Oct. Unconfirmed reports suggest a militant group was involved in the attack. Following the incident, the LNA moved into the area and exchanged gunfire with the attackers, killing at least 1 assailant.

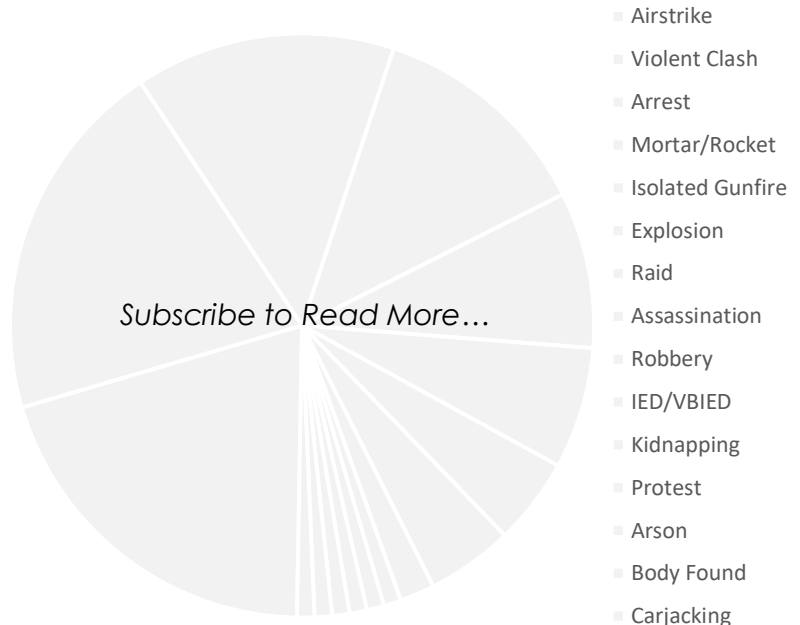
3. Nationwide Security Analysis

Highest number of casualties recorded in Murzuq due to airstrikes & clashes

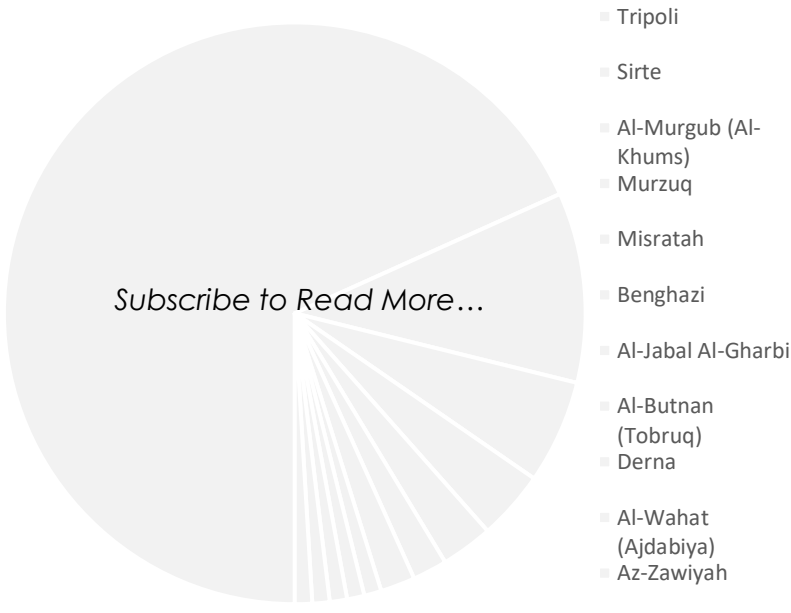
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



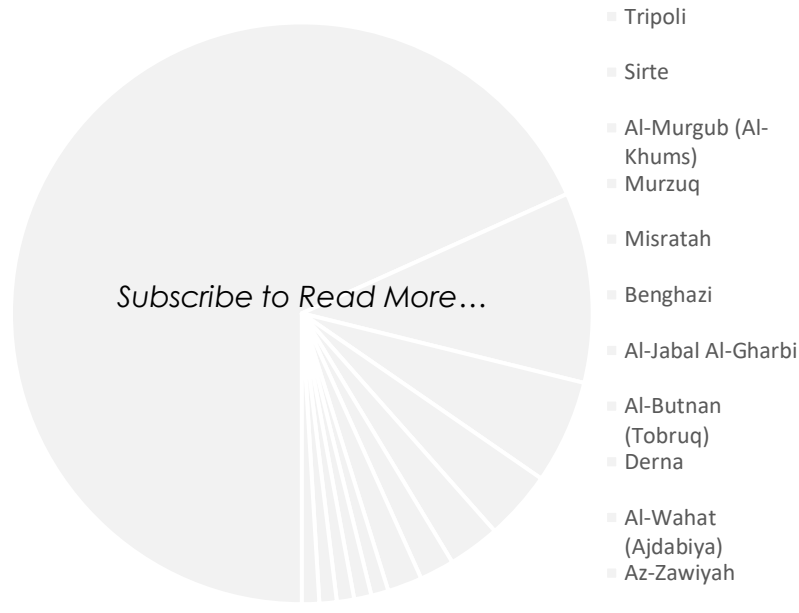
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



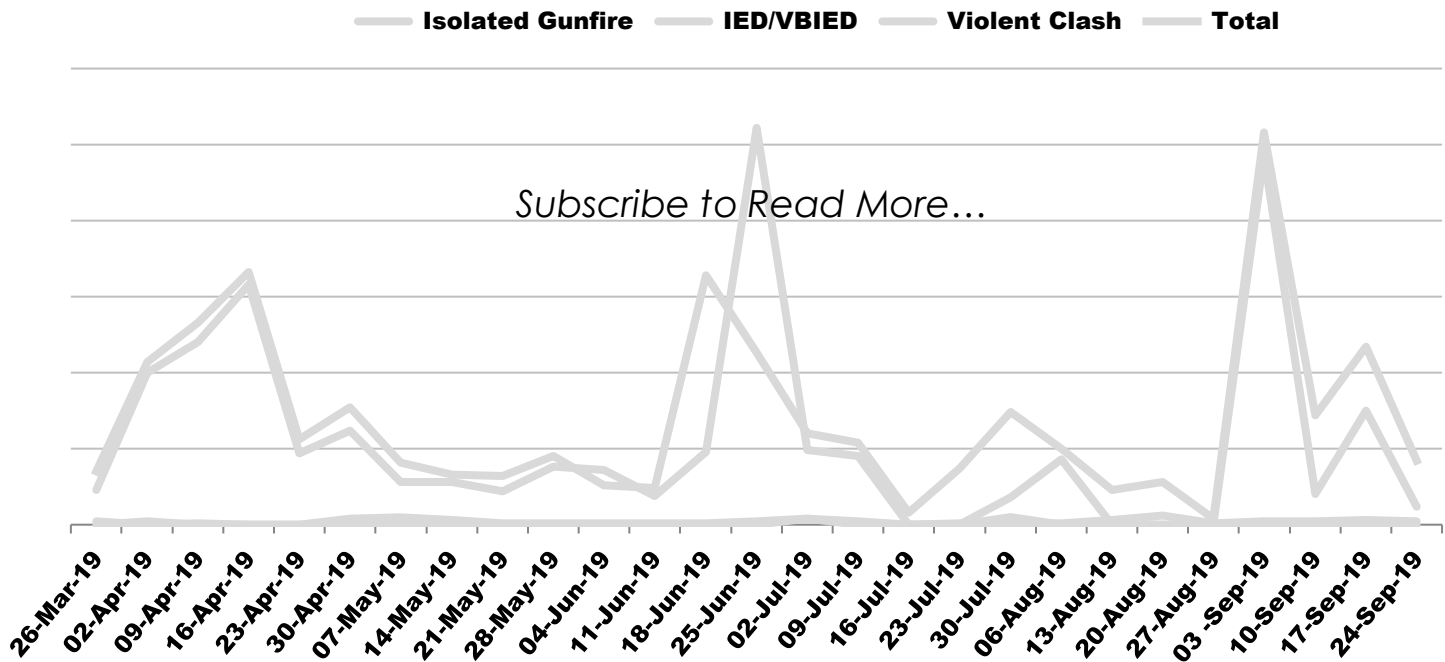
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



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 42 confirmed deaths in Libya, which compares to 117 deaths reported last week and 72 the week before. Unlike the pattern witnessed in previous weeks, this week the highest number of fatalities was recorded in the Murzuq region due to a US Africom Command (AFRICOM) airstrike targeting Islamic State (IS) militants and clashes between Libyan National Army (LNA) units and IS militants in the Umm Al-Aranib area. The second highest number of fatalities was recorded in the Sirte region due to ongoing LNA airstrikes targeting the city. Meanwhile, Tripoli followed Sirte with eight fatalities recorded in the capital this week. The number would likely be much higher if an updated casualty toll of the clashes was available. Meanwhile, with regards to the clashes, this week the number of airstrikes conducted dropped by more than one half, whilst violent clashes increased. In addition, this week saw a surge in arrests carried out across the country, with seven arrests recorded in Tripoli. Meanwhile, the highest number of incidents remained in the Tripoli district, followed by Sirte. In contrast to last week, this week saw five assassinations reported throughout the country, indicating a widened security vacuum. Several security 9 isolated gunfire cases, 7 explosions heard, 5 raids, 5 assassinations, 2 robberies, 1 kidnapping, 1 arson, 1 body found, 1 carjacking, 1 protest, 1 IED/VBIED removed.

In Western Libya, WB recorded a total of 81 incidents, including 71 in Tripoli, marking a slight increase in incidents recorded in Tripoli contrast to the previous week. In Tripoli, sources reported skirmishes erupted between Nawasi and Misrata militias in front of Alfeteh Clinic on the Shat Road in the Souq Al Jum'aa area resulting in one fatality and one injury at approximately 1730hrs on 29 Sep. The confirmed motive behind the dispute remains unclear, though initial reports indicate Misrata militiamen assaulted an employee of the clinic after calling on the latter to assist their affiliate. The incident resulted in a quarrel between the Misrata militia and a security guard at the clinic affiliated with the Nawasi militia. The Special Deterrence Force (SDF) intervened after the Nawasi-affiliated security guard was killed and another was wounded. In the wider West, the Information Office director of Bani Walid's Health Services, Mohammed Abdulniran, reported that the Amshayekh Health Centre, South of Bani Walid, was subject to robbery at dawn on 30 Sep. Separately, the LNA's 9th Brigade raided a farm in the Dawoon area, where they located weapons and ammunition at night on 02 Oct. Initial unconfirmed reports suggest the farm belongs to a military figure from Dawoon who has contact with Misrata as he was affiliated with "Libya's Shield Force Central Region" in 2014 commanded by Misrata forces. Reports suggest the military figure agreed with the GNA to help facilitate their entry into Tarhunah via Dawoon.

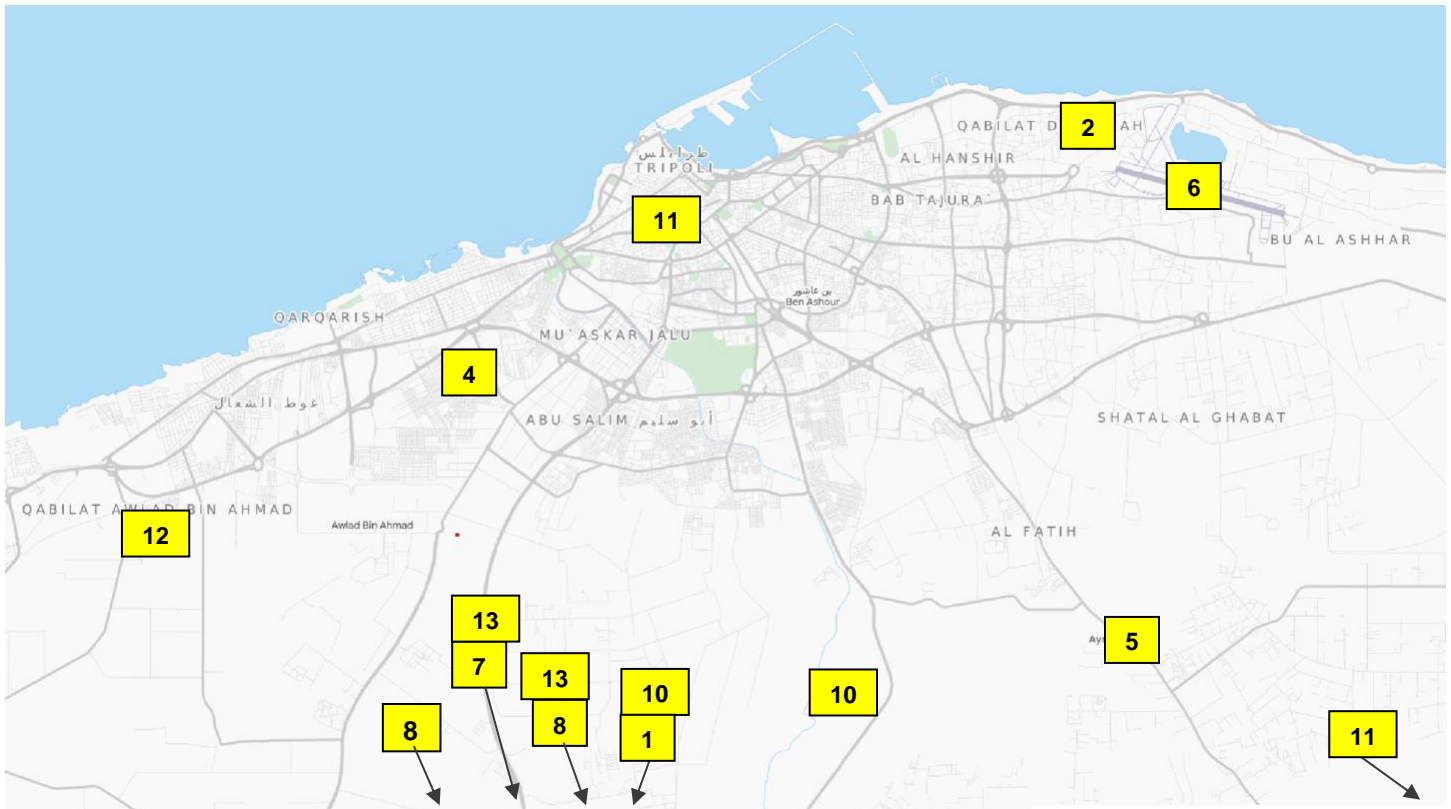
In the central region, the LNA continued to target Sirte with airstrikes this week. Reports indicate the LNA's Air Force (LAF) conducted multiple airstrikes targeting GNA positions in Sirte in the late hours of 28 Sep. including a camp East near the Great Man-Made-River (GMMR). The GNA-aligned Sirte Protection Force (SPF) declared a state of emergency at Sirte's Ibn Sina Hospital after the LNA's airstrikes resulted in 8 fatalities and 15 injuries. Additional LNA airstrikes targeting GNA military positions continued post 28 Sep.

Turning to the Southern region, this week was marked by an US AFRICOM airstrike targeting IS militants in the Umm Al-Aranib area, resulting in the death of seven militants. Separately, Sabha's Joint Security Room carried out patrols in suspicious locations in an attempt to arrest fugitives from militant groups.

In the East, WB recorded a total of four sporadic security incidents marking a more stable security situation in contrast to other regions.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

CCTV footage of man killed in broad daylight sparks local outrage



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (29 Sep) Clashes South of Hadba Al-Mashro
2. (29 Sep) Skirmishes b/w Nawasi & Misrata militias; one fatality & one injury
3. (30 Sep) UNSMIL condemn Nawasi threats directed at Ministry of Finance
4. (30 Sep) Local dispute over accumulation of garbage
5. (30-01 Oct) Clashes South of Ain Zara & on Al-Ztarna-Garabouli frontline
6. (01 Oct) LNA airstrikes target Mitiga Intl Airport; ammunition depot targeted
7. (01 Oct) Misrata militia-affiliated gunmen raid GNA Chief of Staff Office
8. (01-02 Oct) LNA claim advances; GNA claim to repel advance in TIP & Ramla
9. (02 Oct) Two GNA officials kidnapped in unidentified area
10. (03 Oct) Heavy clashes on Hadba Al-Mashro-Khallat Al-Forjan frontlines
11. (03 Oct) Body of burned infant found in pile of garbage in Belkheir area
12. (03 Oct) Verbal altercation escalates into shooting in Al-Serraj; man killed
13. (04 Oct) Clashes continue

Man's killing in Al-Serraj sparks local outrage

The GNA's Ministry of Interior (MoI) called on the Council of Ministers to declare a state of emergency and take extraordinary measures to combat crime and reassure the safety of citizens after a young man was shot dead and his brother was injured in broad daylight in Tripoli's Al-Serraj area on 03 Oct. In a statement, the MoI referred to the incident as "another form of terrorism which does not differ from the extremist groups terrorism nor Haftar's attack on the capital." In addition, the ministry stated that all necessary measures will be taken to arrest those involved in the crime. In a related development, Janzour's Security Directorate reported that the perpetrators were identified and will be brought to justice. Meanwhile, reports indicate one of the killers was handed over by his father, whilst the remaining two suspects remain on the run. Beyond this, WB sources reported friends and relatives of the man killed in Al-Serraj protested in Martyrs' Square at approximately 1900hrs on 05 Oct. Prior to the protest, at approximately 1700hrs, sources reported a civilian vehicle parade in Al Serraj, where they demanded authorities to hold the killer accountable for his crime. The incident has fueled anger among the Libyan public and could result in further unrest.

Misrata militia raids GNA Chief of Staff office

Reports indicate gunmen affiliated with Misrata's "Matyr Hisham Emsimir Battalion" raided an office of the GNA's Chief of Staff in Tripoli's Airport Road area on 01 Oct. Initial unconfirmed reports indicate the raid was allegedly ordered by the GNA's Minister of Interior, Fathi Bashagha, on suspicions that "traitors" were working within the GNA's Chief of Staff office.

On 29 Sep, reports indicate Tarhunah's Al-Kaniat militia assassinated a prominent leader of Misrata's Salah Badi-led Al-Sumood Brigade and Brigade Group commander, Hisham Emsimir, along with one of his companions on a road linking Tarhunah and Msallata.

Two GNA officials kidnapped

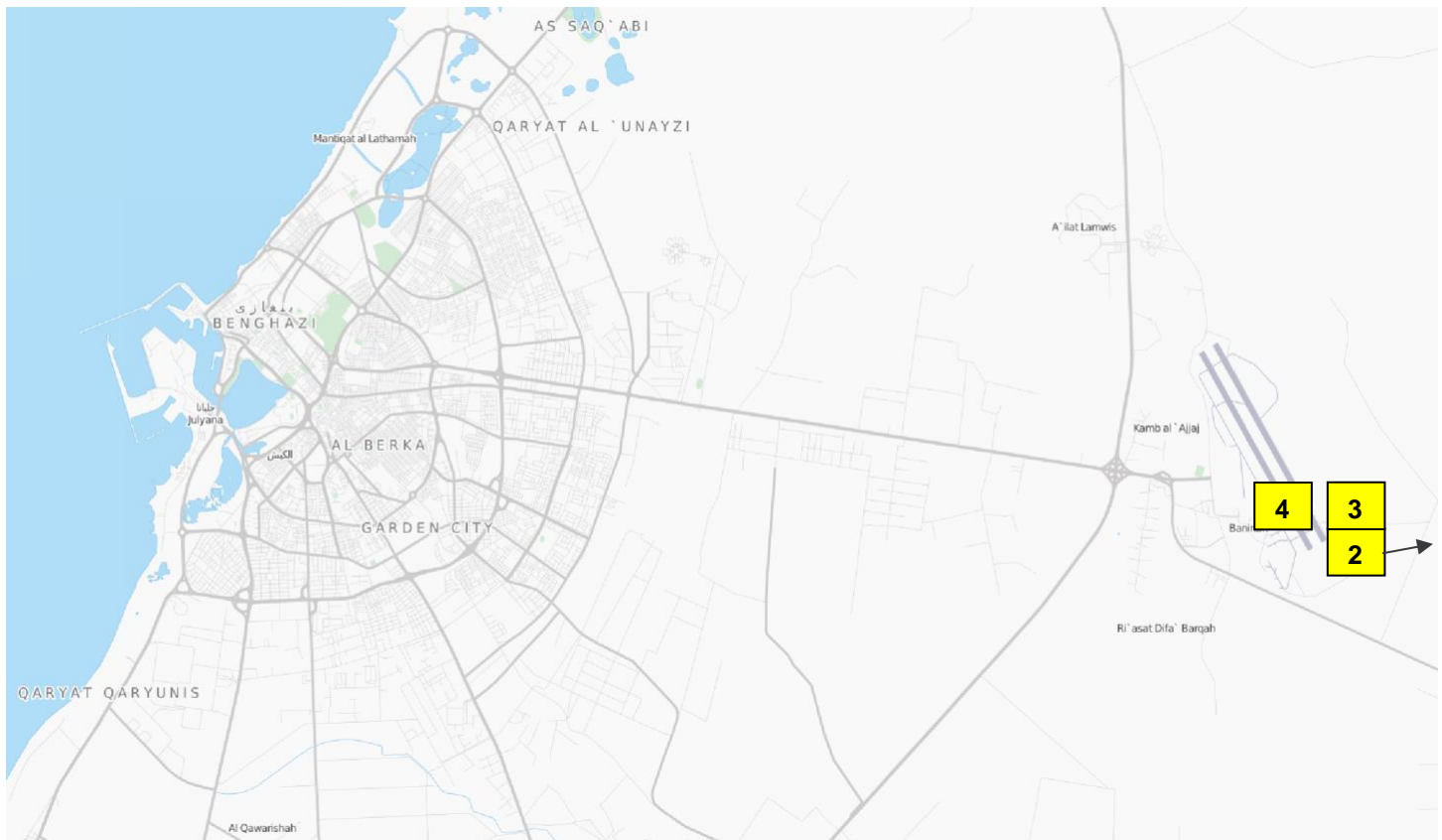
Reports indicate unidentified assailant(s) kidnapped the GNA's Ministry of Defence comptroller, Ashraf Al-Traiki, along with the brother of the GNA's Director of the General Department of Military Accounts, Mohammed Al-Shtiwi, in an unidentified area in Tripoli on 02 Oct. Given their titles, the assailants likely carried out the attack on the basis of financial corruption and/or demands.

Developments on frontlines

The LNA Military Information Division (MID) claimed its units advanced on several fronts in Tripoli after heavy clashes against GNA forces in the morning on 05 Oct, which resulted in LNA units seizing several military vehicles, weapons, ammunition and capturing several GNA forces. Meanwhile, unconfirmed reports emerged suggesting the Ghneiwa militia retreated from the South of Hadba Al-Mashro', frontline after suffering heavy losses within its ranks. Consequently, Al-Zawiya and Misratah militias allegedly took over Ghneiwa's previous positions. Additional unconfirmed reports allege that the Ghneiwa militia leader, Abdulghani Al-Kikli, is preparing to flee Libya and travel to Morocco.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Three Nigerian drug dealers arrested in house raid in Al-Wheishi area



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (30 Sep) CID arrest three Nigerian drug dealers in house raid
2. (04 Oct) Haftar receives HoR head in LNA HQ
3. (04 Oct) Haftar receives Benghazi Municipality Mayor in LNA HQ
4. (05 Oct) Shepherd found killed in farm in Sidi Mansour area

CID arrest three Nigerian drug dealers

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) under Benghazi's Security Directorate captured three Nigerian nationals in possession of cocaine on 30 Sep. In a statement, Benghazi's Security Directorate reported that the suspects were residing in a rented two-story house on the main street of the Al-Wheishi area, where the first floor was supposedly used for the sale and repair of batteries and the second floor for repairing vehicle exhaust systems. The suspects traded narcotics in the rented house, where one gram of cocaine was priced at approximately 350 Libyan dinars (LYD). The CID raided the house and arrested the suspects who confessed to the crime. Many of Benghazi's security incidents are associated with drug-related crime, though cocaine is relatively less prevalent across the country.

Shepherd found killed

Reports indicate a shepherd was found killed in a farm in Benghazi's Sidi Mansour area, near Benina International Airport (BEN), in the early hours of 05 Oct. There is no further information available.

Statistics of arrests carried out in Sep

Benghazi's Security Directorate announced the arrest of 25 wanted individuals and the closure of eight illicit alcohol factories throughout Sep.

Five individuals involved in murder cases were arrested, in addition to 20 others involved in various criminal acts. Meanwhile, eight alcohol factories were seized, and their owners arrested. The directorate also noted traffic campaigns ordering the removal of tinted windows and the inspection of the vehicle's legal documents.

Haftar receives HoR head

The LNA head, Khalifa Haftar, received the House of Representatives (HoR) head Aguila Saleh, in the presence of several LNA figures, at the LNA's HQ in Ar.Rajmah on 04 Oct. Haftar briefed Saleh on the situation on Tripoli's frontlines, as well as the fight against terrorism, armed militias and outlawed groups, according to the LNA's Media Office.

6. What's next

LNA to continue targeting Sirte & Misrata positions

POLITICAL FORECAST

This week was marked by dovish statements from the LNA and its supporters over the upcoming Berlin conference and prospects of a negotiated settlement. In contrast, the GNA seemed less willing to compromise. The GNA listed pre-conditions to participate in the upcoming Berlin Conference, including dealing with the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) and its bodies as the sole basis for any dialogue, and refraining from any interaction with parallel institutions. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) head, Ghassan Salame, expressed hope for a ceasefire in Tripoli as soon as possible, indicating that the only victim in the war is the Libyan citizen. In an interview with the London-based Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper on 06 Oct, Salame stated that prospects of a ceasefire cannot be imposed externally and therefore remains in the hands of Libyans themselves. Salame noted a growing consensus among external factors on the need to return to the political process, including the holding of an upcoming international conference on Libya. Further, Salame noted that there is a de-facto party including all those benefiting from the status quo who attempt to maintain the current situation. On the international front, US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, stated that the Libya mission includes convincing all relevant parties to push forward with the political process. The remark came during a meeting between Pompeo and the Italian PM, Giuseppe Conte, at the latter's residence in Rome, as part of a three-day visit to the capital. According to the PM's office, the meeting discussed strategic relations with Russia and China, and agreed on the need to cooperate on reaching a political solution in Libya. In a separate development, a senior US Congressional delegation met with the US Ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, and embassy staff to discuss the situation in Libya and identify ways in which the US could further contribute to a political solution.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

Writing for *The Arab Weekly*, Libya expert Michel Cousins, explores the recent hardening of Sarraj's political position at the UN General Assembly and how this uncompromising stance might have led US officials to be angered. First, Cousins analyses the recent escalation and writes "Libyan National Army (LNA) Field-Marshal Khalifa Haftar needs to show progress in the fight to strengthen his position ahead of an international conference on Libya in Berlin, possibly before the end of October, analysts said. To that end, there have been renewed attacks in Tripoli, Misrata and Sirte. While the LNA has tried to shift action from near Tarhuna and to the southern edges of Tripoli, there is no sign of an imminent breakthrough." Cousins then explores the political deadlock: "GNA Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj's hard-line position at the United Nations against talks with Haftar seems to have resulted in a cold shoulder from US officials during the UN General Assembly. In the flurry of contacts other leaders had on the margin of the UN meetings, there was no meeting for Sarraj with US President Donald Trump, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo or other top US officials. In what was considered a slap in the face, the only officials Sarraj met with were David Hale, the State Department's under-secretary for Political Affairs, and David Schenker, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs. US displeasure is thought to be linked to the uncompromising position adopted by Sarraj at the General Assembly where he condemned Haftar as a "war criminal" and said there would be no negotiations with him. Sarraj later set out a series of conditions for taking part in talks with the LNA, conditions seemingly designed to be rejected by Haftar. These include the acceptance of the Skhirat Agreement as the sole basis for dialogue and of the GNA as the sole legitimate government; LNA forces to withdraw to their pre-April 4 positions; the military to be under civilian government control; and all countries to cease dealings with parallel institutions -- in other words with the government in Benghazi and the LNA. The hardening of Sarraj's position comes as Haftar's stance appears to be softening. The same day Sarraj addressed the General Assembly, Haftar said dialogue was necessary."

SECURITY FORECAST

The LNA is set to continue targeting positions in Tripoli, Sirte, and Misrata, to gain as much leverage ahead of the upcoming Berlin conference. Tripoli's security environment continues to be dominated by emerging cracks and tensions between militias. The security vacuum was highlighted by the videoed murder of an individual and injury of his brother by a group of gunmen. The GNA Mol's immediate response to the incident and request to declare a state of emergency would highlight an attempt to contain any spillover and fears of a potential broader escalation in the capital. Pro-LNA accounts exploited the opportunity to emphasise that the incident underlines the widening security vacuum in Tripoli. Meanwhile, on frontlines, the LNA's recent advance into Khallat Al-Forjan could be used to gain ground northward in upcoming weeks. Separately, pro-GNA media outlets claimed Russian forces in support of LNA units arrived in Tarhunah to join positions on the frontlines extending from Al-Ztarna to Espiaa and Khallat Al-Furjan. In the central regions, Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous spokesman, Mohammed Al-Ghassari, reported that Islamic State (IS) militants operate within close proximity to Sirte, thus exposing the city to U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) airstrikes. In the South, additional AFRICOM airstrikes are expected. In Benghazi, the security environment remains relatively stable, though the possibility of an attack sanctioned by rival pro-GNA armed groups is extant. In the South, the dean of Sabha's Municipality, Hamed Al-Khayali noted a state of emergency in Sabha following an attack by Chadian mercenaries. Al-Khayali stated that the Chadian mercenaries launched an attack on the city.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

In an article for the *Washington Institute for Near East Policy*, Egyptian journalist Mohamed Maher draws on Egypt's historical involvement in Libya to analyse the current context of Cairo's intervention to stabilize its neighbour. Maher argues that in a context where the United States is seeking to maintain its active neutrality policy and is more conservative in the region, Cairo has stepped up to fill the vacuum. Maher explores how Egypt's Libya policy is mainly driven by security concerns, though combatting the Islamist threat is also part of this policy. Maher writes "Despite a subsequent attitude of passive neutrality on the part of the United States, U.S. diplomats have become slightly more active in recent months. However, these movements have seemed to implicitly accept Egypt's much more active involvement in Libya. In early August, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry discussed the situation in Libya, agreeing on the need to find a political solution to the conflict. This meeting suggested to Egyptians an American desire to potentially coordinate its Libya policy with Egypt in the future." Maher then concludes "Washington has reportedly distanced itself from any sort of involvement in the conflict in Libya. This might be part of President Trump's plan to reduce American intervention in the Middle East and leave problems to other countries in the region and around the world, especially with the disastrous assassination of U.S. Ambassador Christopher Stevens in Benghazi still fresh in American minds. However, Trump's call to Haftar is undoubtedly a sign of American presidential support, albeit superficial, for the LNA's military operation to free Tripoli from the militias' grip. However, it would be beneficial for the United States to take a step back and refrain from throwing blind support behind any party in a deeply complex crisis. American intervention, unless decisive in a way that is unlikely given the United States' past policy on Libya, will only complicate matters further. Maintaining Washington's policy of active neutrality in Libya provides an opening for other countries, such as Egypt, to put their support behind a unified state with a single central government and a single army on Libya's western border. Given the numerous countries now supporting Haftar, waiting for Libya's political landscape to clear up would provide the United States with additional room for maneuver if the United States does wish to adjust its policy in Libya. This passive approach will ultimately safeguard U.S. interests, while avoiding substantial political blows in response to backing Haftar."

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