



Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

23 June, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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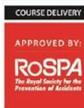


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ACTIVITY MAP



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23 June 2017

OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- Tension has returned to Tripoli following reports of GNC affiliated arm groups returning to the south-east of the capital. Pro-GNA militia has moved into defensive positions and clashes are possible in the coming days.
- Tawergha IDPs were due to return to their homes on June 22 but were turned away. Continued attempts to return to their homes, despite agreements with Misrata, could lead to clashes.
- Eid al-Fitr is expected to begin on June 25, lasting three days. The government is expected to announce a public holiday for the remainder of the week. Celebratory fire is likely throughout the evening marking the end of Ramadan and the following evening of Eid. Staff is advised to remain under hard cover if this occurs.
- Indications of IS activity in Sabratah have been noted. Although unconfirmed at this time, extremist activity could lead to destabilization of the area.
- BDB fighters that have moved north from Jufra are likely to be targeted by LNA forces. This could lead to escalations and tensions between the LNA and BAM/GNA forces in northern Libya.
- The LNA continues its assault against Sabri and Suq Al-Hout in Benghazi. Defensive IEDs, extensive debris and tunnels are expected to complicate the advance.

Medium to long term outlook

- The plans for Zintani militia and IDPs to return to Tripoli could increase tensions within the city in the coming weeks. Tripoli-based militias have already issued warnings against armed groups returning to the area.
- The political outlook remains unclear in the long term. A series of meetings in early May led to hopes that political breakthroughs might be made. However, clashes in the Southern region between the LNA and GNA aligned troops have set the process back. It remains hopeful Fayeze al-Sarraj's visit to the White House later this month might provide some motivation to achieve progress before the visit.
- The LNA now controls much of the east, south and central region. The addition of Jufra Airbase to the LNA's growing list of assets provides a significant increase in reach for the group. As BDB forces move north towards Bani Waleed, Sirte and Misrata it is likely that LNA strikes will follow, with the LNA potentially trying to take control of territory around Bani Waleed in the future.
- IS fighters are regrouping in Libya. Possible activity has been reported in Sabratah, Abu Grain and the area of Bani Waleed. Small groups are also thought to be establishing a presence in remote southern areas of Libya.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- The UN Security Council has approved the appointment of Ghassan Salamé as the new UN envoy to Libya.
- Tawergha IDPs due to return home on June 22, were prevented from travelling to the town by Misratan intervention. Initial reports suggest that the group have returned to temporary camps.
- Representatives from the US Embassy to Libya have carried out checks on the Coastal Highway from Tripoli to Tunisia, during a visit to the Tunisia-Libya border crossing point. According to quotes in local media, they described security measures along the route as excellent.
- The BDB has written to the UN Secretary-General, requesting that urgent action be taken against the UAE and Egypt who, they allege, have broken an arms embargo.
- President Fayeze al-Sarraj has attended meetings in Brussels during the reporting period, with senior officials including the NATO's Secretary General, the EU High Representative, and Prime Ministers from Italy and Malta.
- Sarraj has also met with Zintan delegates for discussions on the topic of Zintani refugees to Tripoli.

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Security

- A convoy of military equipment, under the command of pro-GNC militia and associated with the Libya National Guard, has arrived on the outskirts of Tripoli. Tripoli militias are reported to have moved into defensive positions.
- Pro-GNC “Fakhr Libya” has issued a public statement urging Misratan militias to join them for a military attack against the GNA in Tripoli, with the intent of returning the GNC and NSG to power.
- The IOM has highlighted concerns over 260 Somali and Ethiopian migrants who are allegedly being held to ransom in Libya.
- The head of the Libyan Presidential Guard has made an official request to the UN Security Council for an exemption to the current international arms embargo on Libya.
- Further reports of IS activity have been reported in Sirte Province. As a result, fuel transportation to the Southern region has been suspended raising concerns of fuel shortages and civil unrest. The Mayor of Sabratah has also warned of increased IS activity in the area.
- A suicide attacker detonated a suicide vest targeting an LNA CP near As Sidr. Several artillery shells in the attacker’s vehicle failed to detonate. Only minor injuries were received amongst the LNA troops.
- Crowds have gathered outside banks in towns and cities across Libya over fears of a lack of liquidity ahead of the Muslim festival of Eid al-Fitr. These locations can often be a source of violence as tempers flare. Large crowds and banks should be avoided.
- Flights to Tripoli’s Matiga airport were diverted on Wednesday night after a security incident at the site.

Oil and gas

- Oil production in Libya reached 900,000bpd this week. The head of the NOC expects oil production to exceed 1 million bpd by the end of July.

KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
25 – 27 June 2017	Eid al-Fitr	End of Ramadan
20 August 2017	Anniversary of the Liberation of Tripoli	
01 – 03 September 2017	Eid al-Adha	Feast of Sacrifice
16 September 2017	Martyrs Day	
22 September 2017	Hijri New Year	
23 October 2017	Liberation Day	National holiday

THREAT MATRIX

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



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Governance

UN appoints Ghassan Salamé as the new envoy to Libya

Confirmation was received this week that Ghassan Salamé would be the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNSMIL. The appointment was unanimously approved by the UN Security Council on June 20, after being nominated by the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres. Salamé is expected to start the new role at the end of the coming week, replacing Martin Kobler, whose term expires at the end of the month. The appointment follows a four-month search for a candidate after the UN's first nominated candidate, Palestinian Salam Fayyad, was rejected by the US.

IDP returns

An agreement for Tawergha Internally Displaced People (IDPs) to return to their homes has been blocked on the first day that the agreement was due to be implemented. Despite international plaudits and presidential statements describing it as an example to be followed throughout Libya, the IDPs were forced to return to temporary IDP camps.

Security

Possible military convoy moves towards Tripoli

Concerns in Tripoli this week have been focused on the return of pro-GNC Libya National Guard (LNG) and "Fakhr Libya" militia to the outskirts of the city. Despite questions over this group's capabilities, the alliance has proven on previous occasions that it is willing to conduct offensives into Tripoli despite lacking the military might to take on the pro-GNA groups in Tripoli. Whether or not there is a certain amount of bluff behind the threats remains to be seen. Although the last foray into Tripoli, on May 26, was unsuccessful, this only serves to reinforce the present threat.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tropolitania

Significant activity

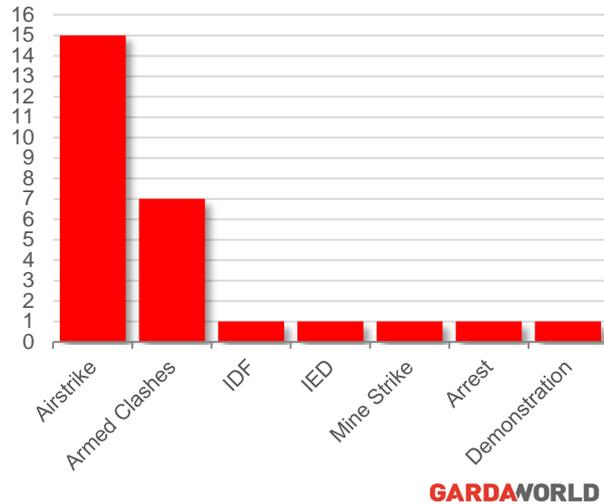
- Kidnap - 16 Jun 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Two senior staff from the Al Mazar Juice Company were abducted by militia.
- Kidnap - 16 Jun 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A former media advisor for the GNC was kidnapped in Tripoli.
- Rescue - 16 Jun 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: 400 migrants were intercepted off the coast of Sabratah and brought into Zawiyah for processing.
- Armed Clashes - 17 Jun 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman: An unknown group shot and killed a militia member in Sabratah. As a result, militia from two families clashed.
- Armed Clashes - 18 Jun 17 11:30, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Clashes have occurred near the Zawiyah Oil Refinery. Armed reinforcements appear to have been called into the area.
- Rescue - 18 Jun 17, Offshore: A Spanish naval vessel has intercepted five migrant boats off the coast of Libya. A total of 526 people were rescued.
- Accident - 19 Jun 17, Offshore: 126 are missing after a boat carrying mostly Nigerian and Sudanese migrants sank off the coast of Libya. The accident occurred after human traffickers stole the motor from the vessel. Four migrants were rescued.
- VBIED - 20 Jun 17 01:00, Sirte Province, As Sidr: A Sudanese or Chadian man detonated a suicide vest as he exited his vehicle at an LNA CP at As Sidra Gate. Only minor injuries were caused to the LNA fighters. It later emerged that the car was packed full of artillery shells, but these failed to detonate.
- Armed intimidation - 21 Jun 17 20:00hrs, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Armed militia working at the airport forced their way into a control tower at Matiga airport causing flights to be diverted to Misrata. Unconfirmed reports claim that shots were fired. Flights were rescheduled as normal the following day.
- Shooting - 21 Jun 17, evening, Sirte Province, Sirte: Unknown assailants attacked BAM troops in a drive-by shooting at Martyrs' Square; two BAM soldiers were injured.

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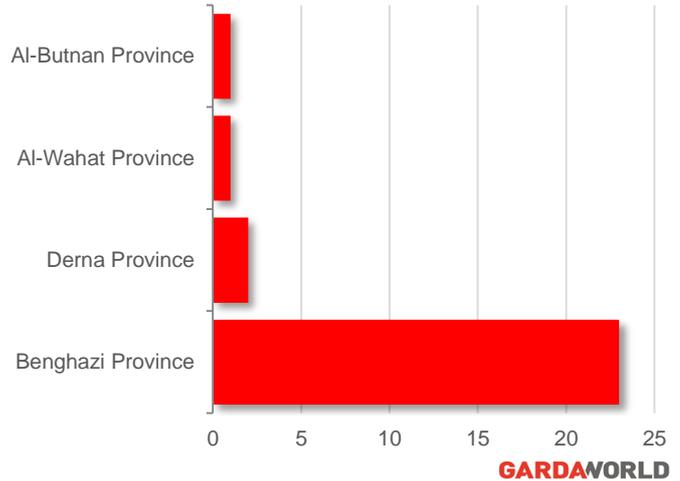
- Robbery - 21 Jun 17, evening, Sirte Province, Wadi Bey: Suspected IS militants stopped and car-jacked two fuel tankers which were heading from Zawia to Sabha. 100,000 liters of fuel were stolen. One driver escaped and a second is still missing. The FGCC has stopped all fuel movements to the southern region in response until roads can be secured.

Cyrenaica

Incidents by type, 15 - 22 June



Incidents by district, 15 - 22 June



Significant activity

- IED - 15 Jun 17, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: A UVIED was attached to a car belonging to an LNA soldier. It detonated injuring two people
- Armed Clashes - 16 Jun 17, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: LNA clashed with RSCB fighters; one RSCB fighter was killed.
- Armed Clashes - 17 Jun 17, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: The LNA has made further progress in Suq al-Hout after taking areas around the Bank of the Republic, Bank of Unity, Al Matheba and the Mafrakas building. Casualty figures were not reported.
- Armed Clashes - 18 Jun 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri and Suq Al-Hout: The LNA has launched further attacks against RSCB controlled areas in Sabri and Suq Al-Hout. Casualties were not reported.
- Airstrike - 18 Jun 17, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: The LNA conducted around 15 airstrikes targeting RSCB positions in Suq Al-Hout and As Sabri.
- IDF - 18 Jun 17, Benghazi Province, Qawarishah: An LNA artillery strike targeted militants in the area. Casualties were not reported.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- IDF - 14 Jun 17 (late reporting), Sabha Province, Sabha: LNA 116th Bn launched artillery strikes against Chadian forces stationed south of Sabha. The locations targeted are al-Jabal Hotel, Bayt Sabha Hotel, (College of Agriculture) Sabha University, and al-Da'uki Camp.

ACRONYM LIST

- AAS – Ansar al-Sharia (AQ affiliate)
- AQ - Al-Qaeda
- BAM – Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous (Misrata aligned)
- BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade / Saraya Defend Benghazi (SDB) (Al-Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
- CNI – Critical National Infrastructure
- GATMJB - Operations Room for the Liberation of the City Ajdabiya and Support for Benghazi Rebels
- GECOL – General Electricity Company of Libya
- GMMR – Great Man-made River
- GNA – Government of National Accord (UN backed)
- GNC – General National Congress (Tripoli-based)
- HCN - Host Country National
- HoR – House of Representatives (Tobruk based)
- IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
- IED - Improvised Explosive Device
- IOC - International Oil Company
- IS - Islamic State
- LNA – Libyan National Army
- LPA – Libyan Political Agreement
- LROR - Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
- MoD - Ministry of Defense
- MoF - Ministry of Finance
- MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- MoHE - Ministry of Higher Education
- Mol - Ministry of Interior
- MoJ - Ministry of Justice
- MoO - Ministry of Oil
- MoT - Ministry of Transportation
- MSCD – Mujahideen Shura Council of Derna (AQ aligned)
- NFDK - No Further Details Known
- NGO - Non-Governmental Organization (aid/charity)
- NOC – National Oil Company
- NSG – National Salvation Government (GNC)
- NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report
- PAX - Person, Persons or Passenger
- PC – Presidency Council (GNA)
- PG – Presidential Guard
- PFG- Petroleum Facilities Guard
- PSC - Private Security Company
- PSD - Private Security Detail
- RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
- RSCB - Revolutionary Shura Council of Benghazi
- RTA - Road Traffic Accident
- SDB – Saraya Defend Benghazi / Benghazi Defense Brigade (BDB) (Al-Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
- TCN - Third Country National
- Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck
- UXO - Unexploded Ordnance



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