



## Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

30 June, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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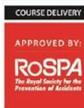


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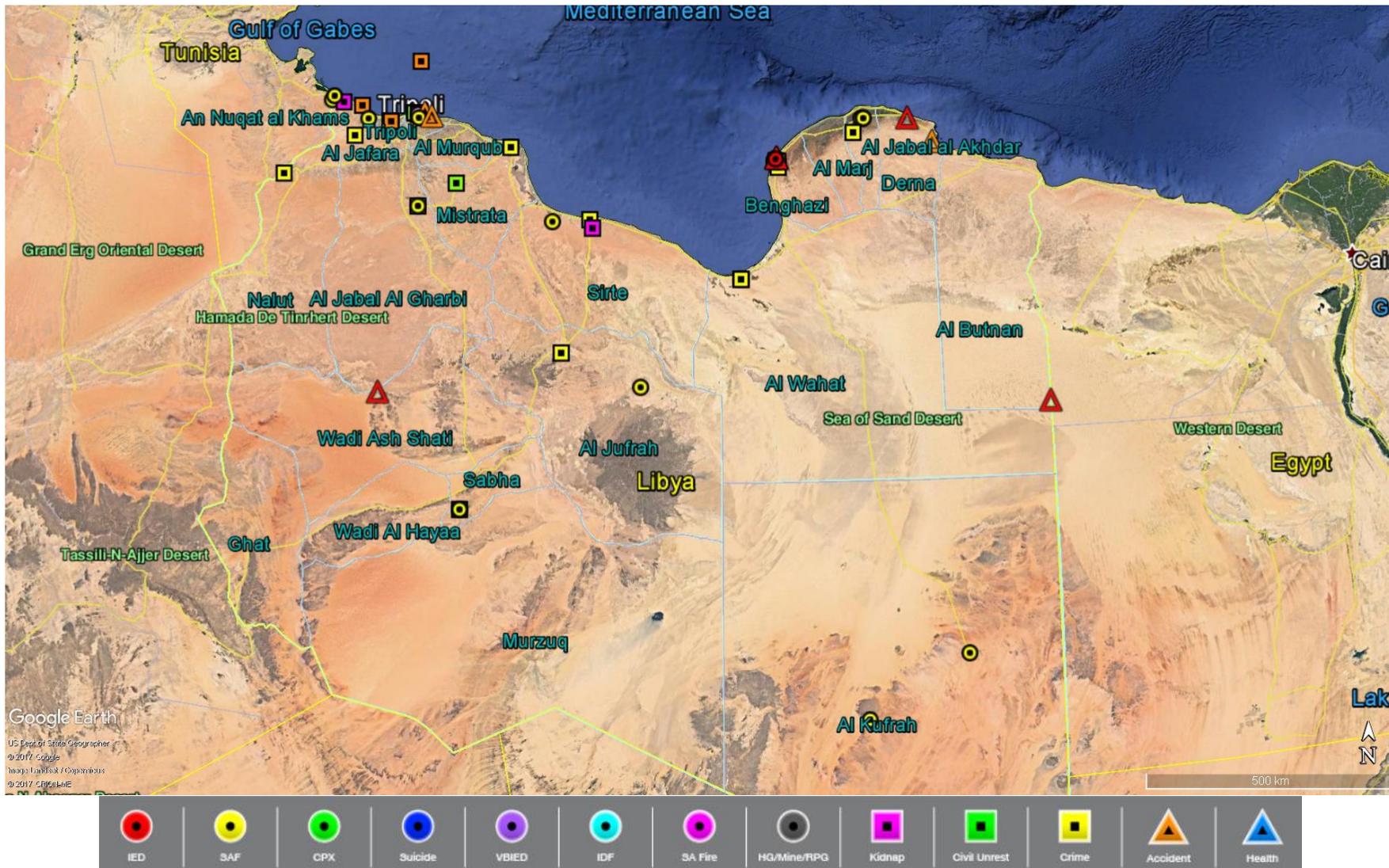
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**This is an abridged version of the GardaWorld Weekly Libya .Xplored report. To subscribe to our full report or to request a quote for security services in Libya please contact [Nigel Lea, Regional Director, Libya](#).**

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**ACTIVITY MAP**



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<b>MSS GLOBAL</b>	<b>UKAS</b> MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 7818	ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management QMS/112016/001	ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management EMS/112016/001	BS OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management OHS/112016/001	ISO 18788:2015 Security Operations Management SOS/022016/001	ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012 Quality Assurance Management QAS/022016/001	<b>ICoCA</b>	<b>COURSE DELIVERY</b> APPROVED BY: <b>ROSPA</b> The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents	<b>BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>ISOa</b>
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30 June 2017

## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- Tensions are currently increasing in Zawiyah. In addition to militia competing for dominance over the city, criminal networks involved in human trafficking and smuggling threaten operations.
- Further protests and civil unrest are possible in Tripoli over deteriorating living conditions. A recent incident of self-immolation has the potential to galvanize disaffected members of the population.
- The ongoing liquidity crisis has increased the potential for flashpoints and civil unrest at, or near, to banks/financial institutions throughout Libya.
- Extensive power cuts are expected in the coming week, as a heatwave results in increased energy demands. This could lead to increased public disaffection.
- Concerns remain in Tripoli following reports of GNC affiliated armed groups returning to the southeast of the capital.
- The LNA now faces opposition only in the Sabri district of Benghazi following successful operations in Suq Al-Hout. 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 possible. However, minimal progress has followed and attempts by Zintani politicians to broker a new meeting appears to have been unsuccessful.
- 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. The LNA now appears likely to move further north in pursuit of BDB forces near Bani Waleed.
- IS fighters are regrouping in Libya. Possible activity has been reported in Sabratah, Abu Grain and the area of Bani Waleed. Cells are also thought to be established in Tripoli but are likely to be maintaining a low profile at this time.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- The leader of the LNA has again called for Tripoli to be "liberated." The statement was echoed by an LNA spokesman who demanded political progress before the end of the year.
- The head of the PC and Prime Minister of the GNA, has accepted an invitation from officials in Zintan, who offered to host meetings between him, the leader of the LNA and President of the HoR. Neither of the other two parties have responded to the invitation as yet.
- Several groups and individuals have given Eid messages on the subject of peace and reconciliation in Libya during the reporting period.
- The UAE Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army has visited Libya. Details were not made public but discussions are likely to have included the UAE's continued support for the LNA/HoR.
- A restriction on Libyan nationals entering the US is to be reintroduced following a recent US Supreme Court ruling.
- The Italian embassy has announced that it will begin issuing visas from Tobruk on July 9. However, the Defence and National Security Committee has declared the Italian Ambassador "persona non-grata" in the east.
- Protestors in Bani Waleed and Sabha have called for Saif al-Islam Gaddafi to lead the country.
- The LNA has appointed a new commander of the Central Military Region associated with the former regime.
- GECOL has warned of load shedding power cuts in areas including Tripoli during the coming week as a heat wave sweeps across Libya.

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### Security

- The Coastal Highway west of Tripoli remains a high risk area following an attack against an UNSMIL convoy and injuries to two Diplomatic Police officers. The local council has warned of long-term closures of the strategic route if the government does not provide additional security.
- A man has died in Tripoli after setting himself on fire during a protest in Martyrs' Square. The incident has the potential to spark further demonstrations and civil unrest.
- Minor clashes have occurred in Tripoli between opposing militias. Escalation is unlikely but cannot be ruled out.
- The LNA has claimed that it now has complete control of Suq Al-Hout, Benghazi. IED clearance operations continue in this area and LNA offensives are now increasing in Sabri.
- An LNA spokesman has announced that Jufra Airbase is now fully operational for use by the LNA fleet of jets.
- The BDB has announced that it is ready to dissolve and move fighters under state control. The group has asked that the government take up its cause.
- Civilians are being enlisted into a new military formation in Sabratah due to increasing levels of criminality, militancy and terrorist activity in the area.
- Clashes have occurred in Sabha between Tebu and Qadhahfha tribes, marking the beginning of Eid.
- The head of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), has reported that 17 tankers of fuel have been attacked and hijacked in the past week in the Brak Al-Shatti area.
- Following the end of Ramadan, there has been a spike in illegal migration attempts to cross the Mediterranean; an estimated 10,000 migrants were rescued during the week.

### Oil and gas

- Libya's oil output has exceeded one million bpd for the first time in four years.

## KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
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

Threat Scale



## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

## Governance

## Eid al-Fitr political messages

The end of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr celebrations this week, have provided an opportunity for political leaders in Libya to give strategic messages of intent, as well as several calls for national reconciliation. He said that now was not the time for political agreements and these must wait until all regions of Libya are “liberated”. He also highlighted the expiration of the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) in December 2017 and suggested that the LNA might not even wait until this happens before action is taken. This part of the message was reinforced later in the week when the LNA spokesperson, gave “stakeholders” six months to resolve the political situation in Libya. Although it is not spelled out clearly, the implied threat appears to be for military action if this deadline is not met. The other key statement from the reporting period came from the BDB. As Ramadan approached the end of the month the group distanced itself from terrorist activities and offered to put its fate in the hands of the “relevant authorities”. The BDB also offered their fighters up to join a conventional armed forces, but with an implied condition that the authorities take on the objectives of the BDB.

## Security

## Insecurity on the Coastal Highway; UNSMIL convoy attacked

During the reporting period two serious security incidents have occurred on the Coastal Highway raising questions over the continued use of the route. The first incident was an attack on a CP at Bridge 17, held by the Janzour Knights (JK) near Saaid. The incident appears to be motivated by criminal intent, because a vehicle was stolen from the CP, leaving one militia member killed and a second wounded. The incident led only to a temporary closure of the highway, but warnings from the local municipality followed, stating that the road could be reclosed if the government was unable to provide additional security.

The second incident presents a significant setback for international organizations working, or planning to work, in Libya. A convoy of around five armored vehicles, made up of UNSMIL and Diplomatic Police vehicles, was attacked as it returned from Surman to Tripoli, along the Coastal Highway in Zawiyah. Two vehicles were disabled in the attack and minor injuries were sustained by two members of the Diplomatic Police. The Coastal Highway remains a high risk route which should be avoided where possible.

## WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

## Tripolitania

## Significant activity

- Armed Clashes - 22 Jun 17 17:30, Tripoli Province, Janzour: An armed group attacked a Janzour Knights CP and stole a vehicle. One JK militia member was killed and a second was injured. The road was closed at the 17th Bridge CP, for approximately 2 hours, as a security measure to protect road users.
- Shooting - 23 Jun 17, evening, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara: An armed man blocked the road in a vehicle and opened fire on Col. Bashir Hadi Hasnawi near his home. Both Hasnawi and his daughter were killed. A man was later arrested for the shooting, which is thought to have been motivated by revenge.
- Arrest - 25 Jun 17, Sirte Province, Wadi Bey: BAM forces arrested a suspected IS militant in a raid intended to retrieve two fuel tankers hijacked on 21 June south of Sirte. Another militant escaped.
- Kidnap update - 25 Jun 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Khaled Tabib, kidnapped in Tripoli on June 16, was released on 25 June 2017. No further details were provided.
- Rescue - 25 Jun 17, Offshore: An Irish Naval vessel rescued a total of 606 migrants from inflatable boats found drifting around 40km off the coast of Libya. A further 106 were rescued by another NGO operating in the area.
- Demonstration - 24 Jun 17, evening, Misrata Province, Bani Waleed: A protest in Bani Waleed called for Saif al-Islam Gaddafi to lead Libya.
- Robbery - 26 Jun 17, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Nasmah: Armed men tried to steal a vehicle from security guards at a water pumping station; one guard was injured.

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- Demonstration - 26 Jun 17, evening, Tripoli Province, Martyrs' Square: A protester died after setting himself on fire at a protest in Martyrs' Square due to deteriorating living conditions.
- Armed attack - 28 Jun 17, 1430hrs, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: A UNSMIL convoy escorted by Diplomatic Police, was attacked while returning to Tripoli from a visit to a detention center in Surman. Assailants used SAF and RPG's damaging and stopping two UN vehicles. Two DP soldiers were injured.

**Cyrenaica**

**Significant activity**

- Airstrike - 23 Jun 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: The LNA conducted airstrikes against RSCB positions in Sabri.
- Armed Clashes - 23 Jun 17, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: LNA units mounted an offensive in Suq Al-Hout. Reports suggest that the group now control all of this area leaving only Sabri. Six LNA soldiers were killed and 12 injured in the fighting.
- Armed Clashes - 25 Jun 17, Kufra Province, Al-Jawf: The LNA has reportedly launched attacks against militants in Al-Jawf near the Egyptian border. According to a statement the LNA targeted a group of foreign mercenaries in the area.
- Mine Strike - 27 Jun 17, morning, Benghazi Province, Sabri: A land mine detonated; three soldiers were injured.
- Airstrike - 27 Jun 17, Al-Butnan Province, Libya-Egypt Border: Egyptian Air Force have reported targeting and destroying 12 vehicles thought to belong to smuggling gangs active in the border area. The time, location and number of casualties inflicted during the incident is not known.
- Armed Clashes - 28 Jun 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: The LNA has increased operations in Sabri; three LNA soldiers have been killed.

**Fezzan**

**Significant activity**

- Airstrike - 21 Jun 17, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Hasawneh: Unconfirmed sources claim that a foreign aircraft conducted an airstrike on a column of 7-10 armed vehicles, thought to be linked to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).
- Armed Clashes - 25 Jun 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: Armed clashes broke out between Tebu and Gadadfa tribes in the City Center; one person was killed and five wounded in the clash.
- Demonstration - 27 Jun 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: A group of former regime supporters displayed posters in support of Saif Gaddafi.



**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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