



## Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

August 25, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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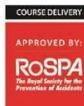
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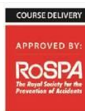


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**ACTIVITY MAP**



## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- The situation in the Mediterranean is growing tense as Italy looks to curb the flow of migrants heading to its shores. The issue is having a ripple effect across the area with neighbouring countries looking to avoid becoming an alternative to Italy and tensions in Libya already high over the issue which many feel is being pushed back to its shores.
- Tensions remain elevated along the Zuwara, Sabratah and Zawiyah coastal areas due to a number of issues including a complex security environment involving fuel smuggling and people trafficking.
- BAM has warned of increasing IS activity south of Sirte with one report suggesting the terrorist organization is regrouping in the area as fighters are pushed out of Iraq and Syria. The warnings come as the LNA threatens BAM's control over the city. All three forces are present in the area making it a dynamic and complex environment at the current time. Both BAM and LNA have stepped up their activity, increasing the potential for another confrontation.
- Tensions have increased around Derna following the downing of an LNA jet and the execution of its pilot by MSCD. The LNA has announced it has begun to advance against the city while a new joint operations room has been established to coordinate with civilian militias.

### Medium to long term outlook

- The political and security environment in Libya continues to absorb the impact of the GCC move to isolate Qatar. The east of the country remains supportive, looking to exploit the situation and reduce the influence of in country opponents, while simultaneously improving international support.
- GNA President Serraj and LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar, remain central to international stakeholders' attempts to unify east and west. However, alternative solutions are being pursued by other entities with opposing factions. As factions move closer to a possible deal, tensions are likely to increase inside Libya, and there is potential for some level of fragmentation of their support bases. As a result, new alliances may be formed as progress leaves some with reducing levels of influence.
- The remnants of the GNC, which has allegedly benefited from Qatari support, remain politically isolated after losing their footprint in the capital at the end of May. Their last attempt to take territory in the capital by force failed when their fighters were forced from Garabuli on July 11, and support appears to be waning. The threat is assessed to be evolving as the GNC, and associated forces adapt to the changing environment. While intent is assessed to remain, especially for the hardliners, tactics may alter.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- Italy has reached out to the east of Libya stating it wants to "intensify relations" after a ban was imposed on Italian companies. Rome also tried to distance itself from the perception it gives most of its support to Misrata and the GNA, issues which have complicated its relationship with eastern authorities.
- UK Foreign Minister, Boris Johnson has visited Tripoli, Misrata, and Benghazi. He urged LNA Commander Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar to honour agreements made in Paris and insisted that Haftar has a "role to play in the political process."
- The Justice and Construction Party (J&CP) has labelled the Grand Mufti as "irresponsible" and accused him of "inviting Libyan bloodshed" after he called those who support the LPA "non-believers." The comments come days after Haftar, and the head of the J&CP made reciprocal comments suggesting their stances towards the other was softening somewhat.
- The Libyan Audit Bureau has stated that Libya has spent \$30 billion in the last five years on fuel subsidies. The subsidies make Libyan fuel one of the cheapest in the world and helps fuel the illegal export of fuel abroad. The Bureau suggested that the subsidies, which have reduced since 2014 due to austerity measures, should be provided to Libyan citizens on a card instead of on the fuel directly, in an attempt to make smuggling less attractive.
- The mayors of Benghazi, Abbyar, Ajdabiya, Kufra, Sahel, Abraq, and Gamenis have all signed a written statement demanding that the elected local councils be reinstated. The mayors acknowledged the role of

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the LNA in fighting terrorism in the eastern region but stated that it is time, especially following the announcement of the liberation of Benghazi, that elected local councils return to the duties that they were elected for.

## Security

- IS mounted an attack against an LNA checkpoint in Jufra at dawn on August 23. Nine soldiers and two civilians were beheaded in the attack leading to widespread condemnation.
- The Joint Deterrence and Intervention Force (Ghnewia) claimed to have foiled a terrorist plot by a group affiliated to the LIFG. The plot allegedly involved the use of poison which would have been placed on car door handles targeted against public figures in a bid to destabilise security in the capital. Those arrested claimed that al-Kani Brigade from Tarhunah was involved in the plot.
- Cooking gas, food, and medicine is now being allowed into Derna through the al-Fatayih area. Pilgrims and students are also being allowed to exit the city. An MSCD source claimed that the body of Colonel Jehani had been returned on August 14 to remove the LNA's reason for tightening the siege. Haftar has also given permission for money to be sent to the city's bank for Eid.
- An uptick in kidnap incidents in Tajoura, Tripoli has been branded "fake news." A young boy was reported to have been kidnapped and murdered after his family failed to pay a ransom. The story caused outrage prompting the local council to deny the incident had taken place. Local civil groups stand by the reports however no proof has been released as of yet. An anti-LNA media outlet has claimed that LNA supporters are trying to destabilise the capital and increase support for Haftar.
- Special Forces commander Major Warfali of the LNA has appeared before a military prosecutor following accusations he has taken part in and directed extra-judicial killings in Benghazi. The LNA claims he remains under arrest while an investigation is carried out.
- Warshefana closed the coastal road following the kidnap of a female student at Tripoli University. The student was kidnapped on August 15 along with three other female students and a female professor. The road to Gharyan was also reportedly blocked in the area.
- The Secretary General of the National Military Initiative, Brigadier Mohamed Kuneidi warned the PC against "interfering in military affairs." Kuneidi also stated that the upcoming weeks would see selection of a unified command for the military. The comments came after a series of meetings were held in Misrata with the aim of unifying the armed forces. There are a number of initiatives ongoing at present by various factions in an attempt to unify the military.
- GNA President Fayez Serraj has stated that the ban on importing arms and ammunition is to be lifted imminently "so the army can do its job and secure the country."
- RDF brought two suspects to court this week, charged with involvement in terrorist attacks in Tripoli including the 2015 complex attack against the Corinthia Hotel.

## Migrant Crisis

- The National Emergency Management Agency in Nigeria confirmed that 138 Nigerians had been deported from Libya. The deportees included 106 women, 21 children, eight men and three babies.
- The IOM has reported that 136 migrants imprisoned in Garanda have been sent home to the Gambia. Almost all of those questioned reportedly stated they were subjected to torture and harassment and that they received poor food. Most had been in prison for over a year.

## Oil & Gas

- Production was disrupted at Sharara for approximately 72 hours after a pipeline was blockaded resulting in a force majeure for loadings at Zawiyah. This is the third incident to affect production in the last few weeks following a car-jacking and a protest in Zawiyah.
- Shell loaded 600,000 barrels from Zueitina in what was the company's first export in five years from Libya.
- Mellita Oil Company has denied that its staff at Wafa have been affected by food poisoning. The company stated that a worker contracted a virus which then spread to other workers but that the situation was brought under control.

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**Travel**

- Sabha airport will be ready “after the installation of all necessary technical and security equipment” according to a statement this week. A flight was being organized to take pilgrims to Tripoli where they will head to Jeddah for the Hajj.
- Flights at Benina Airport in Benghazi were disrupted after workers went on strike demanding 16 months back pay. Reports indicate Haftar intervened to resolve the issue which came five weeks after the airport reopened following the LNA victory over RSCB. The head of finance for the airport also raised concerns over a lack of budget suggesting operations could be affected as a result.
- Workers at Matiga Airport in Tripoli have demonstrated over pay, however, flights were not affected.

**KEY DATES**

Date	Occasion	Comment
31 August - 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	High	High	High	High

Threat Scale



**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**Security**

**LNA: Warfali appears before a military prosecutor**

On August 19, Major Mohammed Warfali appeared in front of a military prosecutor. Warfali has been accused of war crimes in what has become a high-profile case. As a commander of LNA Special Forces in Benghazi, Warfali has allegedly carried out extra-judicial killings of captured opposition fighters. Some of those incidents were filmed and placed online over recent months.

The LNA claimed Warfali had been arrested after the videos first appeared, however, by April 09 it was clear Warfali was still on the front lines in Benghazi. In May, Warfali tendered his resignation as controversy built around him. The resignation was rejected by Special Forces commander Wanis Bukhamada, who promoted him to Major. The UN Panel of Experts claimed in June that Warfali was also involved in the running of secret detention centres outside of Benghazi.

In response, the LNA claimed that an investigation was ongoing, but that it would not take action against one of their soldiers until the investigation was complete. They also complained that they were being held to a higher

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standard than those they were fighting, alleging that the RSCB and other groups had carried out numerous atrocities and not been held to account by the international community.

The situation escalated as further videos appeared online amidst a defiant attitude from the LNA and its supporters. Even in the west of the country, there was a sense that “justice” was being meted out given the atrocities reportedly committed by opposition fighters. Despite some support for his actions, there has also been widespread opposition, and on August 15, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Warfali. The court conceded that until he was proven guilty in a court of law, they were reliant on the local authorities to take action. In response, the LNA claimed that Haftar had ordered an investigation on August 02 and that Warfali had been in prison since then as they attempted to retain control over the situation. The LNA was forced to deny that Warfali had been released on August 23.

### Sabratah: Armed patrols disrupting illegal immigration

The new “Anti-IS Operations Room” in Sabratah has deployed 48 Brigade, with the backing of local tribes, to help patrol the area's beaches in a bid to stop people smuggling from the area. The brigade joins civilians and police who are also trying to stop migrants from leaving the beaches. The local mayor, Hassen Dhawadi, has stated his town is “fed-up with the activities of people-smugglers launching migrants from beaches and is clamping down by mounting armed patrols.” Reports indicate that migrants are being taken to a camp outside the town with some reports suggesting several hundred are now incarcerated there.

Migrants interviewed by the IOM in Sicily have confirmed that it is becoming harder to leave Sabratah as migrants were being stopped by people on the beach before they departed. Although rescues are still occurring off the Sabratah coast, reporting suggests that people smugglers are now beginning to push people towards Khoms, 120km to the west of Tripoli.

## WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

### Tripolitania

#### Significant activity

- Arrest - 18 Aug 17, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem: The Joint Deterrence and Intervention Force (Ghnewia), based in Abu Salem, has claimed to have foiled a terrorist plot by a group affiliated to the LIFG and al-Kani Brigade.
- Demonstration - 18 Aug 17, Misrata Province, Bani Waled: A demonstration was held by approximately 10-15 individuals residents of Bani Waled to denounce the ICC's decision to issue an arrest warrant against the LNA's Major Mahmoud Warfali.
- CP/ Road Block - Aug 18, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ras Ajdir: Tunisian authorities at the border crossing have been preventing Tunisian traders from crossing the border into Libya. According to the Tunisian authorities, this is due to outstanding issues between the Tunisian authorities and Libyan Customs agents.
- Shooting - Aug 20, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Gharyan: Gunmen opened fire on Education official Omar Shankaroo's vehicle as it was parked outside the education building.
- Shooting - Aug 20, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ajaylat: Unknown assailants have fired shots at the Jamhuriya Bank, Jadida Branch, for unknown reasons.
- Shooting - Aug 21 Early morning, Misrata Province, Misrata: The home of the spokesperson for the Misrata Youth Movement, Rajab Saydoon was shot at by unknown assailants.
- Demonstration - Aug 21, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Employees of the Libyan Handling Co. at Matiga airport have conducted a demonstration to demand their outstanding wages. According to the manager of Matiga Airport, flights were not affected by this demonstration.
- Prisoner Release - Aug 22, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Former Prime Minister Ali Zidane has been released. He was arrested on August 13.
- Armed Clashes - Aug 22, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Armed clashes briefly took place between gunmen from Haneish and Khadrawi armed groups. Reportedly the reason behind the clashes was a Khadrawi armoured car driving around areas controlled by Haneish. Due to the clashes, patients in Zawiyah Teaching Hospital were evacuated as a precaution.
- Crime - Aug 23, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: A fuel transport tanker attempting to smuggle fuel towards Tunis has been targeted with SAF and destroyed. A vehicle accompanying the tanker was also destroyed.



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- Rock Throwing - Aug 23, Tripoli Province, Shat Road: Protestors have reportedly thrown rocks at a UN convoy as it drove near Matiga Airport.
- Arrest - Aug 23, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Three employees of Save the Children were detained at Matiga Airport as they arrived in Tripoli. The detained employees are a Pakistani, an Egyptian and a Libyan national.

## Cyrenaica

### Significant activity

- Airstrike - 17 Aug 17, Derna Province, Duhr al-Hamr: The LNA carried out an airstrike in Duhr al-Hamr against MSCD positions.
- IED - 18 Aug 17, Benghazi Province, Ganfouda: An IED planted on Ganfouda beach has detonated causing two deaths and two injuries to civilians in the area. The injured civilians were taken to Jala Hospital.
- Demonstration - 18 Aug 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Civilians have demonstrated in Benghazi's Kish Square to show support for Haftar and the LNA. Demonstrators also denounced the ICC's decision concerning Warfali.
- IDF - Aug 19, Derna Province, Derna: The LNA used anti-tank guided missiles and heavy machine guns to attack MSCD positions on the outskirts of the city.
- Airstrike - Aug 21, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: LNA jets have conducted airstrikes on an MSCD gathering south of Derna. An undisclosed number of vehicles were destroyed. No casualties have been reported.
- Airstrike - Aug 21, Al-Butnan Province, Libya - Egypt Border: Egypt launched an airstrike against a convoy allegedly smuggling weapons and ammunition near the Libyan border. Nine vehicles were destroyed.
- Demonstration - Aug 21, Benghazi Province, Benina Airport: Staff at Benina International Airport have gone on strike over a 16-month delay in the payment of salaries.
- Security Announcement - Aug 22, Benghazi Province, Sabri: The LNA disrupted an alleged plan by RSCB to cut the electricity on the evening of 22 August to help facilitate an escape.
- Airstrike - Aug 22, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: LNA helicopters have targeted a gathering of MSCD forces. No reports in relation to casualties.
- IDF - Aug 22, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: LNA Forces have targeted MSCD positions via heavy artillery.
- Kidnap - Aug 23, Kufra Province, Tazirbu: Bodies of three Libyan nationals have been recovered after being executed. They were reportedly kidnaped by Chadian Rebel Groups and executed when ransoms were not paid.

## Fezzan

### Significant activity

- Armed Attack - 18 Aug 17, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Brak Al-Shati: A checkpoint manned by 12 Bde was attacked at dawn at the Debuwat Agricultural Project. Three soldiers were wounded with one passing away at Sabah medical centre. The LNA claimed that the incident was a robbery and that one vehicle was taken. 12 Bde took the agricultural area in May during their victory against Third Force.
- Armed Clashes - 18 Aug 17, Al-Murzuq Province, Libya - Chadian Border: An armed group reportedly crossed the border from Libya into Chad and launched an attack against a Chadian army unit reconnaissance patrol. 12 soldiers were killed including two senior officers, and several Toyotas were destroyed within the Chadian army unit. One fighter was killed on the attacker's side.
- Demonstration - 19 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: A demonstration was held by approximately 30-40 residents of Sabha condemning the ICC's decision to issue an arrest warrant against the Warfali.
- Armed Attack - Aug 23 06:00, Al-Jufra Province, Jufra: IS members attacked an LNA checkpoint near Fagaha town in Jufra. IS beheaded nine soldiers and two civilians during the attack.



## 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  
 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  
 LIFG – Libyan Islamic Fighting Group  
 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  
 MoI - 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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