



## Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

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Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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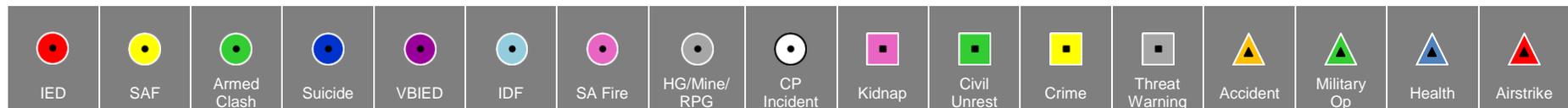
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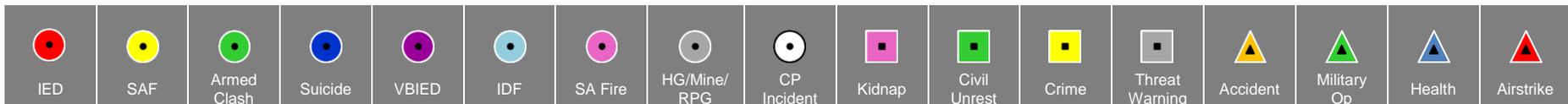
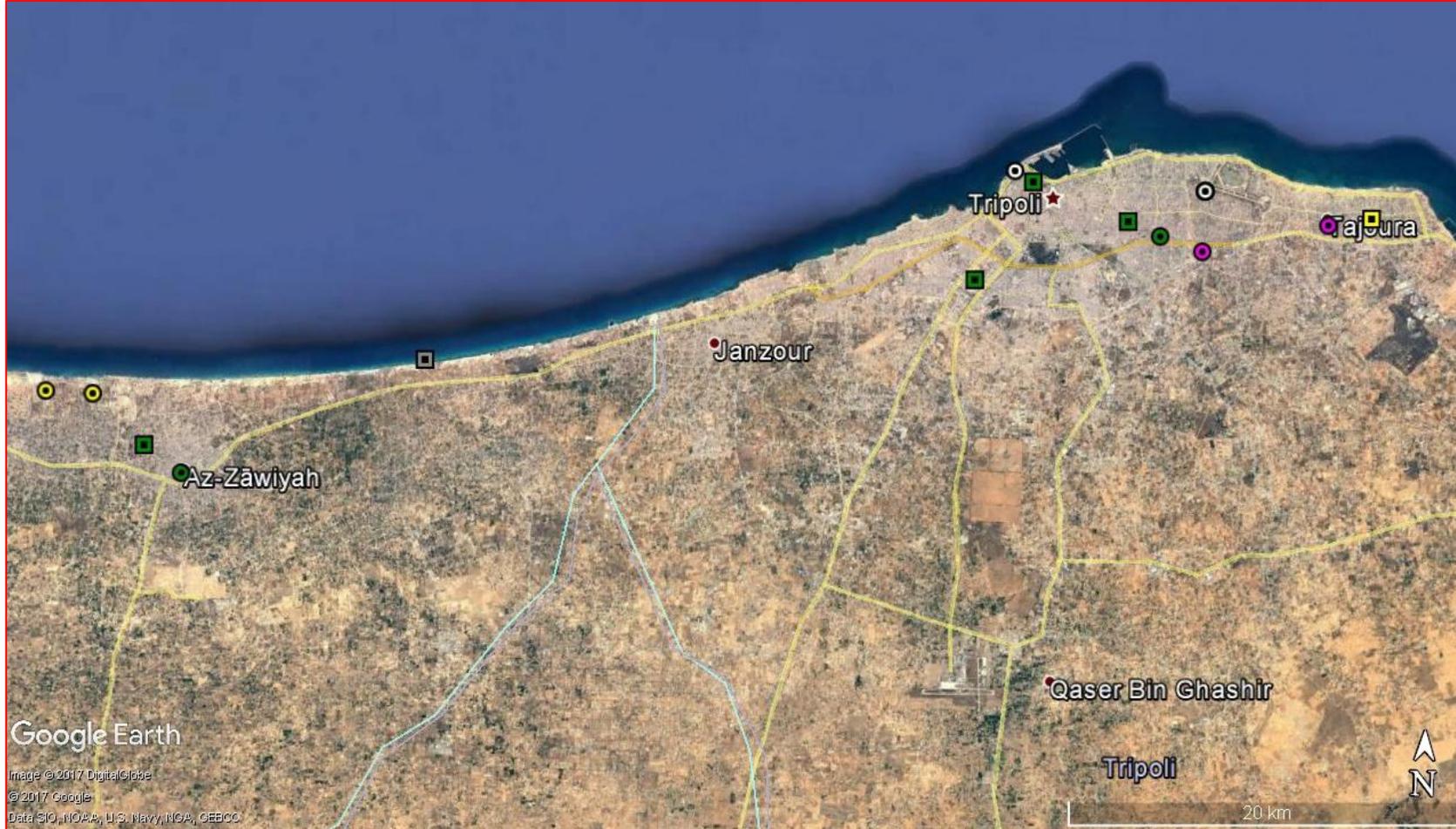
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**ACTIVITY MAP**



**TRIPOLI ACTIVITY MAP**



## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- Zawiya remains tense as various forces look to gain control of the key city. National factions are converging on the city which the LNA state is the key to taking control of Tripoli. Tensions will continue to result in clashes, especially around the refinery area, as the situation evolves.
- Increased tensions are being felt throughout Libya in anticipation of the deadline of December 17, imposed by the leader of the LNA Khalifa Haftar. Although widespread military operations are unlikely, some developments on the political landscape are expected.
- Security force operations are expected in the Sirte, Jufra and Wahat provinces as Libya tries to combat a resurgent IS in the area.
- GNA/ LNA forces around Sabratah and Surman continue to consolidate on recent gains. Existing militias are being subsumed or forced out. There are recent indications that Islamic leaning militias are looking to regain lost influence in the area. Further localized clashes are possible.

### Medium to long term outlook

- While there are some positive indicators that talks over the unification of the military are progressing, the political situation remains divided. Talks in Tunis have not yielded any major progress and have prompted the LNA to reissue its threat to 'liberate Tripoli' should dialogue fail. Issues like Article 8 remain significant hurdles.
- Although the influence wielded by the GNC has reduced over the last six months as militia groups aligned to them have lost ground, other political factions are emerging including the Green Movement and the Monarchists, which could complicate the political situation further. Despite its waning influence, the GNC still retains a support base, some of which is armed and could still prove a threat to any potential deal between the GNA and Field Marshall Haftar.
- IS continues to become bolder, mounting temporary checkpoints, taking over village mosques and launching attacks against security forces. The terrorist organization is reported to be regrouping and may well be receiving manpower into the south of Libya from Iraq and Syria as the 'caliphate' disintegrates. IS will continue to benefit from the lack of political and security unity in Libya with the possibility that they are establishing a fresh alliance with other extremist groups like al-Qaeda.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- Several groups in Libya including the GNA and HCS have condemned the US' decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Protests have already occurred and more are likely in the coming weeks.
- Further talks have discussed adjusting the official Libyan Dinar exchange rate.
- Head of the PC, Fayez Sarraj has held a string of key meetings this week including:
  - With the head of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and the governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL). The group discussed funding from the CBL that could be used to facilitate an increase in oil production.
  - With the Italian Interior Minister, an agreement was made for the formation of a joint operations room between the two countries. The Interior Minister also revealed that €35mn will be donated to tackle illegal migration in Libya.
  - With the President of Egypt, Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi. During the meeting it was agreed that a joint Libyan-Egyptian committee would be established, to hold its first meeting in January 2018.
- Ambassadors to Libya from a host of countries have voiced concerns over the ongoing security issues and reports of migrants being sold as slaves in Libya.
- The leader of the LNA, Field Marshall Khalifa Haftar visited Rome on December 11, for talks with the Foreign Minister and Defense Minister.
- A HoR session was held to discuss electing a new deputy prime minister of the HoR, a new governor of the CBL and implementation of the LPA action plan. Another meeting will be held next week.

- Libya has asked the government of the Philippines to reassess the situation in Libya and consider lifting the ban on Filipino workers in Libya.
- The Libyan Foreign Minister has completed a trip to Moscow. His Russian counterpart has promised renewed economic and business cooperation in 2018.

## Security

- An LNA spokesman has highlighted the dangers of mines and IEDs in Benghazi, listing several areas of the city still at threat.
- The media has estimated that eight LNA soldiers have been killed and 96 wounded during fighting in Benghazi in November 2017. The majority of casualties were inflicted by landmines.
- A pro-Haftar group has destroyed election posters in eastern Libya, calling for Haftar to become president without elections.
- Clashes have occurred in eastern Tripoli between opposing fighters.

## Threat Warning

- The Algerian Foreign Minister has warned of IS fighters travelling from Iraq and Syria to Libya.

## KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
December 10	Sarraj to visit Egypt	Meetings expected with President Fatah el-Sisi
December 11-12	Libya Foreign Minister (FM) visiting Moscow	Meetings to be held with the Russian FM
December 17	Two year anniversary of the signing of the LPA	Seen by some as the deadline for LPA amendments
December 24	Independence Day	Public Holiday
February 17	Libyan Revolution Day	Public Holiday
May 01	May Day	Public Holiday
June 26 – 28	Eid al-Fitr	Public Holiday
September 01	Day of Arafah	Public Holiday
September 02 – 04	Eid al-Adha	Public Holiday

## THREAT MATRIX

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

Threat Scale

Minimal

Low

Moderate

High

Extreme

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### Governance

#### Two year anniversary of the LPA approaches

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The week ahead is likely to be an important time in Libyan politics. December 17, 2015 was the date that the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) was signed in Skhirat, Morocco brokered by the UN SRSG at the time Martin Kobler. To some parties in Libya, there is a belief that the GNA must end, at the latest, two years after it was signed on December 17, 2017. This includes the leader of the LNA, Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, who has warned that if progress is not made by this date, a military solution might be required. As the UN SRSG, Ghassan Salamé, has pointed out, the GNA has still not been given the vote of confidence required by the HoR yet and therefore there is no expiry to it at this time.

If Haftar does not agree that enough progress has been made, his next course of action is debatable. Although military operations cannot be ruled out in the longer term, there have been few indications of imminent operations from the LNA. Perhaps most likely is that some factions in eastern Libya will continue to call for Haftar to be President while the majority continue with the process as it develops.

## Security

### Algerian Foreign Minister warns of IS fighters traveling to Libya

Abdelkader Messahel, the Algerian Foreign Minister, has warned that security forces have identified movements of foreign fighters travelling from Syria and Iraq towards Libya. The statement reinforces previous assessments which suggest that IS fighters, now retreating from Syria and Iraq, could see the remote areas of the Libyan south and central areas, which lack security structures, as an attractive option.

## Oil and gas

### CBL, NOC and PC meet

The leader of the PC, Fayez Sarraj met with the head of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Sadik el-Kabir and the head of the National Oil Corporation Mustafa Sanalla this week. The aim of the meeting appears to have been to convince the CBL to release funds for the NOC to facilitate an increase in oil output.

Following the meeting, Libyan media apparently misquoted Sanalla stating that he had announced that oil output could reach 1.7mn bpd in 2018. The quote was later retracted by the media.

## WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

### Tripolitania

#### Significant activity

- Demonstration - Dec 07, afternoon, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Members of the Palestinian Community in Tripoli protested in Martyrs' Square against the US decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The demonstration was peaceful.
- Demonstration - Dec 08 14:30, Tripoli Province, Martyrs' Square: People protested in Martyrs' Square against the US decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The protest remained peaceful.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 09, 08:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Clashes involving RPG and SAF occurred in Zawiyah.
- Demonstration - Dec 09, Tripoli Province, Fallah: Tawergha IDPs demonstrated in the Falah district of Tripoli against poor living conditions after a fire at the IDP camp on December 06 resulted in damage to 13 shelters.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 10, 03:00, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Opposing fighters clashed between 0300-0500hrs. No casualties were reported.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 13, 15:00, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Fighting erupted behind Matiga Airport between opposing fighters.
- SAFire - Dec 13 15:00, Tripoli Province, Tajura: A Libyan military C-130 plane was allegedly hit by AA fire as it flew over Tajura. Unconfirmed reports state one member of the crew was killed.
- SAF - Dec 14 15:15, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Sporadic shots were heard from Matiga Airport (direction not known).

## Cyrenaica

### Significant activity

- Armed Clashes - Dec 05, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: An LNA Special Forces operation in the area of Municipal Hotel resulted in the deaths of three LNA soldiers.
- Arrest - Dec 07, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Three men were arrested on suspicions of involvement with kidnappings targeting international workers in Benghazi.
- Mine Strike - Dec 08, Benghazi Province, Sabri: A Sudanese girl was killed in a mine detonation.
- Mine Strike - Dec 09, Benghazi Province, Sabri: A landmine detonated in the Sabri area killing two children.
- Sabotage - Dec 09, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Supporters of Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar tore town election posters in Benghazi. The group, calling itself the "17-12 movement" chanted "No elections, Haftar is the president".
- Sabotage - Dec 09, Derna Province, Qubba: Electoral signs were torn down allegedly by supporters of Khalifa Haftar.
- BBIED - Dec 10, Derna Province, Derna: MSCD has claimed that it has shot and killed an IS militant wearing an explosive vest. The incident occurred as the MSCD was conducting operations against an alleged IS cell.
- Airstrike - Dec 10, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: The LNA conducted airstrikes targeting RSCB forces around the Municipal Hotel.
- Kidnap - Dec 10, Al-Wahat Province, Uqaylah: Suspected IS militants kidnapped a man and his two children as they travelled through Uqaylah area. The father was wounded but able to escape. A body found later by security forces from Brega is thought to be one of the hostages.
- UVIED - Dec 11, morning, Derna Province, Derna: A UVIED detonated under a vehicle belonging to a MSCD member. The owner was seriously injured.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 11, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: Further clashes occurred in Sidi Akribesh.
- Kidnap - Dec 12, evening, Derna Province, Derna: A sports journalist was allegedly kidnapped Tuesday evening from his office at the Institute of Mohammed Durra in the Sheha area. Media reports blame MSCD for the abduction.
- Sabotage - Dec 13, Benghazi Province, Benina: Supporters of Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar tore down election posters in Benina, Benghazi.
- Shooting - Dec 13, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: Two LNA soldiers were killed by sniper fire.

## Fezzan

### Significant activity

- Demonstration - Dec 10, Sabha Province, Sabha: Civilians in the Al-Tadamun area of Sabha protested against deteriorating living conditions, marking International Human Rights day. The group called on Sabha Municipal Council to establish a local health care unit, provide drinking water, sanitation, electricity and a school.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 11, morning, Al-Jufra Province, Jufra: Clashes occurred between LNA and other armed groups in the region. No further details known.

## ACRONYM LIST

AIOR – Anti-IS Operations Room (Sabratah)  
 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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