



## Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

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Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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**ACTIVITY MAP**



IED	SAF	Armed Clash	Suicide	VBIED	IDF	SA Fire	HG/Mine/RPG	CP Incident	Kidnap	Civil Unrest	Crime	Threat Warning	Accident	Military Op	Health	Airstrike

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**TRIPOLI ACTIVITY MAP**



IED	SAF	Armed Clash	Suicide	VBIED	IDF	SA Fire	HG/Mine/RPG	CP Incident	Kidnap	Civil Unrest	Crime	Threat Warning	Accident	Military Op	Health	Airstrike

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## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- Following announcements by the leader of the LNA, Khalifa Haftar that the LPA has expired and the GNA illegal there approaches a period of uncertainty in the security and political landscape. Tensions are high and groups supportive of Haftar may attempt to push their agenda with more aggressive posturing. Military operations on some scale cannot be ruled out.
- Possible attempts by al-Bougra to re-assert themselves in the Tajura/ Suq al-Juma areas of eastern Tripoli have increased the threat of armed clashes and security force operations.
- Security force operations are expected in the Sirte, Jufra and Wahat provinces as Libya tries to combat a resurgent IS in the area.
- Zawiyah 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.
- Tensions are high in Misrata following the assassination of the city's Mayor.

### 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.
- 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

- The leader of the LNA, Khalifa Haftar, has issued a statement which says that the LPA has now expired and with it, all entities that emerged from it (presumably including the PC, GNA and HCS). He promises that the LNA will now listen to the Libyan people to decide their future.
- Related comments include:
  - The leader of the HoR Agila Saleh reiterated his support for the UN sponsored plan and the importance of national elections.
  - The Nawasi Bde has criticized Haftar, demonstrating continued opposition from militia in Tripoli.
  - The UN's SRSG Ghassan Salamé said that the so called 'expiry date' of the LPA is inconsequential and urged the Libyan people to "refrain from any actions that could undermine the political process."
- A spokesman for Saif Gaddafi has announced that he will run in 2018 elections. However, conflicting reports suggest that he may provide support for another candidate.
- A small protest in Tobruk on December 19 prevented the HoR from discussing the LPA action plan.
- Fawzi al-Nuwairi from Surman was appointed as the new First Vice President of the HoR. He replaces the long-term absentee, Mohamed Shouaib.

- Mohamed Shokri was appointed Governor of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL). However, the HCS, UNSMIL and Tripoli CBL have rejected the appointment. They state the appointments must be made in consultation with the HCS, according to Article 15 of the LPA.

## Security

- The Russian Ambassador to Libya has announced that Russia might consider lifting an arms embargo if Libya has a unified military.
- Several vehicle hijackings and shootings have occurred on the Coastal Highway to the west of Sabratah this week.
- The Mayor of Misrata was abducted and murdered by unknown attackers. His brother was shot in the leg during the incident.
- The PC, HoR, HCS and several international organizations have reacted to the murder. Tensions have now increased in the city and retaliations against those perceived to be responsible, such as the Misratan Military Council, are possible.
- Demonstrations in support of Haftar have been observed, primarily in eastern Libya including Benghazi and Tobruk. A smaller number of Haftar supporters also protested in Tripoli leading to arrests by the Nawasi Bde.
- Clashes occurred in Tajura on December 20 between Daman Bde and TRB. Fighting reignited on a smaller scale during the afternoon of December 21.

## Threat Warning

- Local reporting claims that IS fighters plan to attack vehicles at Tripoli's Matiga Airport.
- LNA propaganda claims that LNA supporters have moved into areas of Tripoli in preparation for military operations. A spokesman for LNA Special Forces also claims that "secret LNA deployments" towards Tripoli are in progress. Security forces in Tripoli have increased their alert state.
- Local reporting in Zawiyah has stated that tensions are increasing and that major clashes in the city are becoming more likely during the coming weeks.

## KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
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

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## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### Governance

#### Haftar: 'LPA has expired'

By far the most reported news of the week has been the announcement from the leader of the LNA, Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar. During a televised six minute address, he said that December 17 marked the expiry of the LPA and on that day "all bodies emanating from it will automatically lose their legitimacy". He claimed that the Libyan citizen has been let down by politicians and called this period a critical stage that could lead to a sharp deterioration in the situation, both regionally and internationally. Haftar said that his "complete obedience" was with the Libyan people and that the LNA remains committed to protecting and defending the people "to the last soldier".

### Security

#### Mayor of Misrata abducted and murdered

On December 17, the Mayor of Misrata, Mohamed Eshtewi, was abducted and murdered by an unknown group as he returned from Misrata airport with his brother. The incident has caused national outrage and raised concerns that the security situation in the city of Misrata is deteriorating. Conspiracy theories on the perpetrators are rife. However, regardless of the identity of the culprits, the fact remains that the incident has caused increased tensions in Misrata and has demonstrated the complexity of the threat even in Misrata, generally regarded as one of the safer operating environments in Libya.

## WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

### Tripolitania

#### Significant activity

- Kidnap - Dec 15, Al-Jafara Province, Warshefana: A man from Warshefana has been accused of kidnapping and murdering his 11-year-old cousin in February this year after the boy's parents were unable to pay a LYD200,000 ransom.
- Murder/ Execution - Dec 15, Tripoli Province, Asbiah: The bodies of two men have been found in Asbiah. One of the men was a former employee of the finance ministry. The men were kidnapped last Saturday in Qasr bin Ghashir.
- Shooting - Dec 15, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ajaylat: An armed group established a IVCP on the Coastal Highway west of Sabratah. At least one person had a vehicle stolen at gunpoint by the group. A female was shot and later died while her vehicle was taken and a male was shot in the leg.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 15 17:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Militia clashed in Zawiyah after three armed vehicles crossed the boundary of another militia.
- Murder/ Execution - Dec 15 02:00, Tripoli Province, Seyaheyya: A man was killed in his house by an unidentified assailant.
- Threat Warning - Dec 16, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A video has emerged supposedly showing LNA supporters in Tripoli. Reports claim that the group will attempt to destabilize Tripoli after December 17.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 14, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Militia clashed to the east of Zawiyah near the Coastal Highway. One policeman was killed.
- Shooting - Dec 15 17:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: A man was shot and killed outside his house in an apparent drive by shooting.
- Murder/ Execution - Dec 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Mohammed Derhobi found dead in the Zawiyat al Dahmani area, after a ransom was not paid.
- RPG - Dec 17 18:24, Tripoli Province, Dahra: An RPG 'air-burst' was reported in central Tripoli near the Waddan Bridge, Dahra. The man was later arrested.
- Murder/ Execution - Dec 17, Misrata Province, Misrata: The Mayor of Misrata, Mohamed Eshtewi was shot and killed as he returned from Istanbul and was driving home from the airport with his brother. Assailants allegedly attacked as he stopped at a traffic light. Eshtewi's brother was also shot and injured in the leg.

- Armed Clashes - Dec 18, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman: Unconfirmed reports have been received of clashes occurring in Surman.
- Demonstration - Dec 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A pro-Haftar demonstration occurred in Tripoli.
- Demonstration - Dec 15, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms: A pro-Haftar demonstration occurred in Khoms. Militia allegedly dispersed protestors by firing into the air and some arrests were made. No casualties were reported.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 20, Tripoli Province, Tajura: Clashes erupted throughout the night between al-Naaba Camp and Daman Camp in the Tajura area. Explosions and SAF was heard into the early morning.
- Flooding - Dec 20-22, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Heavy rain has caused severe flooding in Tripoli.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 21, Tripoli Province, Tajura: Minor clashes erupted in Tajura.

## Cyrenaica

### Significant activity

- Armed Clashes - Dec 13, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: A hospital in Benghazi has reported two LNA soldiers killed and five injured during clashes near the Municipal Hotel.
- Armed Clashes - Dec 17, Derna Province, Derna: MSCD has claimed that clashes occurred between LNA forces and themselves in the Kassarat area, involving heavy weapons. One LNA soldier was allegedly killed and one injured in the fighting.
- Demonstration - Dec 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Pro-Haftar demonstration occurred in Benghazi, Tobruk, Qubba and Shahat. At the protest in Benghazi protestors are thought to have numbered over 1000.
- IDF - Dec 19, Derna Province, Hillah: The LNA alleged launched BM-21 Grad rockets against MSCD in Hillah.
- Demonstration - Dec 19, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: A small protest has occurred in front of the HoR with the aim of preventing HoR delegates from attending the session. The protest was led by Faraj al-Obaidi, a pro-Haftar tribal leader.
- Military Operation - Dec 21, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: The Tobruk security directorate has launched operations around the city, establishing CPs at intersections and roundabouts. The intent is to target criminals in the city.

## Fezzan

### Significant activity

- Military Operation - Dec 15, Murzuq Province, Murzuq: The Murzuq Operations Room has launched an operation targeting fuel and goods smuggling across the Libyan border.
- Kidnap - Dec 19, Sabha Province, Sabha: Three people were kidnapped in Sabha. One of the victims was able to escape.
- CP/ Road Block - Dec 21, Al-Jufra Province, Jufra: IS militants set up a mobile IVCP in the Jufra area. Reports suggest the CP consisted of three vehicles on each side of the road. Civilians were stopped and searched with the intent of finding LNA soldiers.

## 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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