



1. The Big Picture

LNA allows exports to resume via Tripoli NOC

This week was marked by the Libyan National Army's (LNA) decision to resume exports from the Eastern ports and subsequently hand back control of the Oil Crescent's four main terminals to the Tripoli-based National Oil Corporation (NOC).

Haftar's decision came amid reports of the Eastern-based NOC under the Interim government, undertaking measures that were perceived as efforts to potentially market oil independently of the Tripoli-based NOC, including the President of the House of Representatives (HoR), Aguila Saleh's order to form a temporary committee to reform and restructure subsidiaries of the Eastern-based NOC.

However, the Libyan National Army (LNA) issued a statement allowing oil exports to resume through the Eastern ports. The Tripoli-based NOC subsequently announced the lifting of force majeure in the ports of Ras Lanuf, Es Sider, Marsa al Hariga and Az-Zuwaytinah after the facilities were handed over to the corporation on July 11, 2018. Following the lifting of force majeure, the NOC stated that production would resume within hours.

There are two factors that have likely contributed to the decision to allow oil exports to resume. First, there is the possibility of a revenue-sharing agreement struck with the Government of National Accord (GNA) and its measures to increase transparency, including the recent request by Fayez Al-Serraj to form an international committee to review the country's revenues and transactions, a move welcomed by both central banks. These measures could have been deemed satisfactory by Haftar, which prompted him to allow oil exports to resume.

The second likely factor is international pressure on Haftar to resume oil exports. Despite Haftar's temporary handover of the Oil Crescent to the Eastern-NOC resulting in support from various local groups, the decision was widely condemned by international actors, noting the Tripoli-based NOC as the legitimate body recognized by the international community and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

While the precise details and circumstances that led to the resumption of exports remain unclear, the decision stands as a positive development following significant losses to the Libyan economy. The underlying reasons behind the agreement remain unclear, though the GNA will likely tread more carefully in sharing oil revenues and increasing transaction transparency.

It remains unclear whether or not the agreement presupposes the dismissal of Sadiq Al Kabir, governor of the Tripoli-based Central Bank of Libya (CBL), an outcome favoured by the LNA and East. However, the recent 3+3 meeting in Rome bringing together international and regional actors discussing the corruption allegations against Al Kabir, would suggest Haftar's push for the dismissal of Al-kabir and the appointment of Mohammed Al-Shukri could be gaining momentum.



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KEY POINTS

- LNA allows exports to resume
- Oil Crescent handed to Tripoli NOC
- Al-Kabir replacement LNA priority

2. National Security Map

Armed group attack control station 186 at Sharara oil field; 4 kidnapped, 2 released

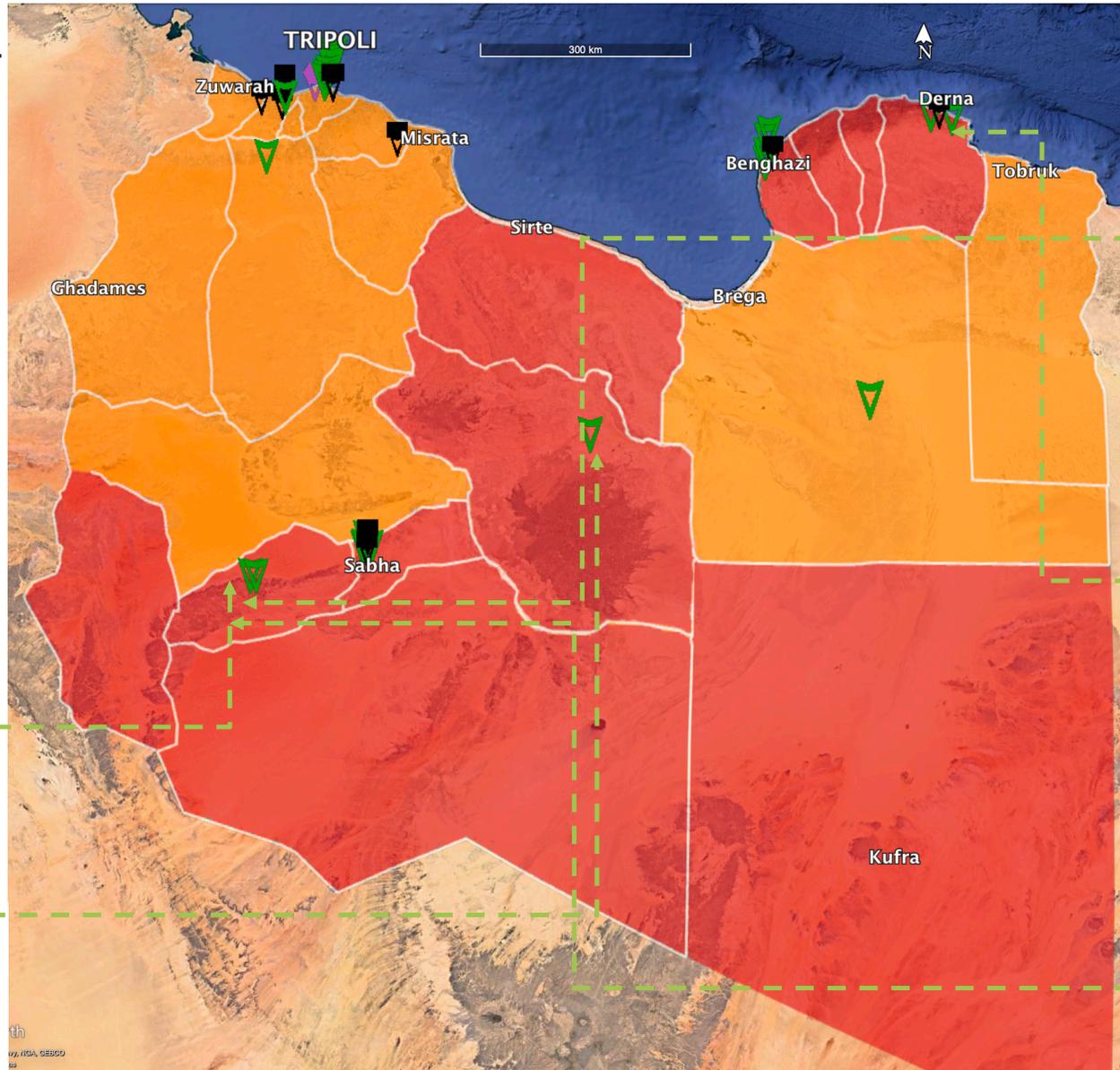
Key

THREAT INDICATORS

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

EVENT INDICATORS

- ⚡ IED | VBIED
- ⚡ Violent Clash
- ⚡ Isolated Gunfire
- ⚡ Other



On 14 Jul, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) confirmed that an unidentified armed group attacked the control station 186 at the Sharara oil field and kidnapped four personnel, noting that two have been released. According to local reports, three out of the four abductees are Libyans, whilst the fourth engineer is of Romanian nationality.

The En Naga Field, operated by Harouge Oil Operations (HOO), was attacked by suspected Islamic State (IS) members, South East of Zillah on 09 Jul. Thus far, there is no further information available and the attackers' affiliation to IS is unconfirmed

Whispering Bell sources reported unidentified assailants stopped two Akakus Oil Operations (AOO) employees at an intersection and carjacked their vehicle, whilst traveling with the employees toward Awbari, after which they were released at approximately 0520hrs on 11 Jul. Sources reported the assailants fled with the carjacked vehicle and released the two employees in an unidentified area near Awbari.

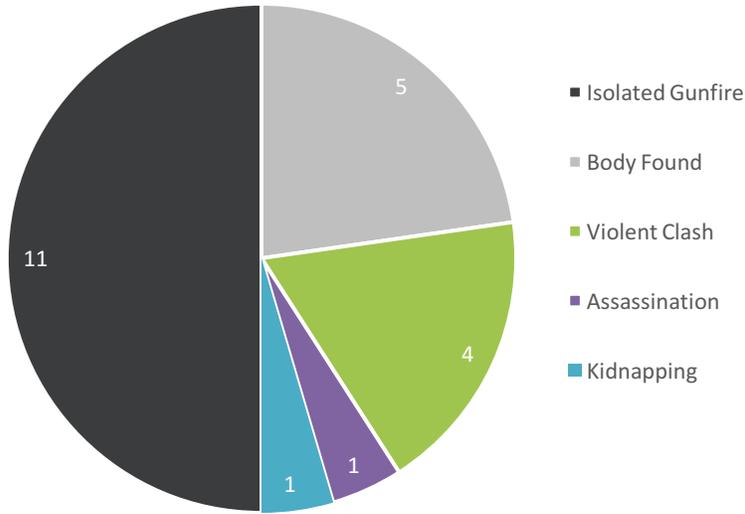
Local reports suggest the Libyan National Army (LNA) killed a prominent militant identified as Mohamed Abdel Hamid Rashid Al-Sol, in Derna's Al-Mughar area on 13 Jul. On 13 Jul, Derna's Al-Mughar area witnessed heavy clashes between the Libyan National Army (LNA) and remnants of the city's militant groups, resulting in the LNA seizing large parts of the area, and subsequently forcing militants to retreat to the centre of Derna's Al-Nafar Street.

On 12 Jul, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) issued a statement announcing the lifting of force majeure at the El-Feel oil field following its closure since 23 Feb 2018.

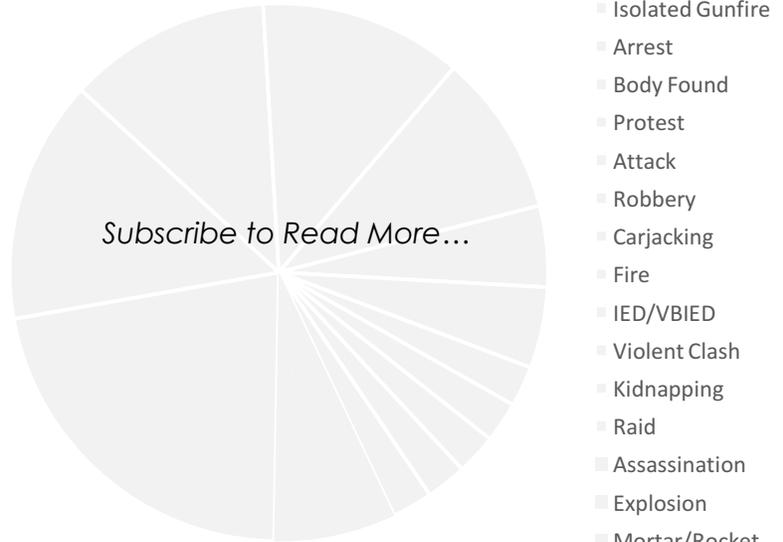
3. Nationwide Security Analysis

Surge in Tripoli security incidents; isolated gunfire across Libyan cities

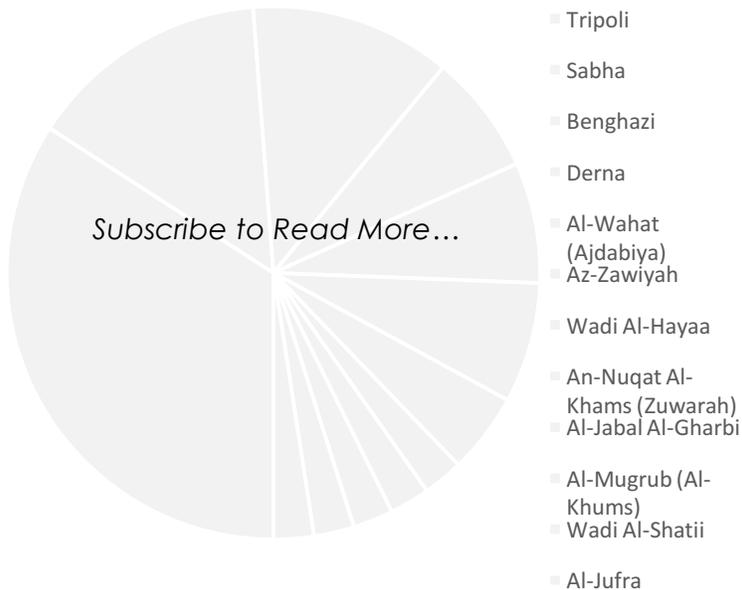
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



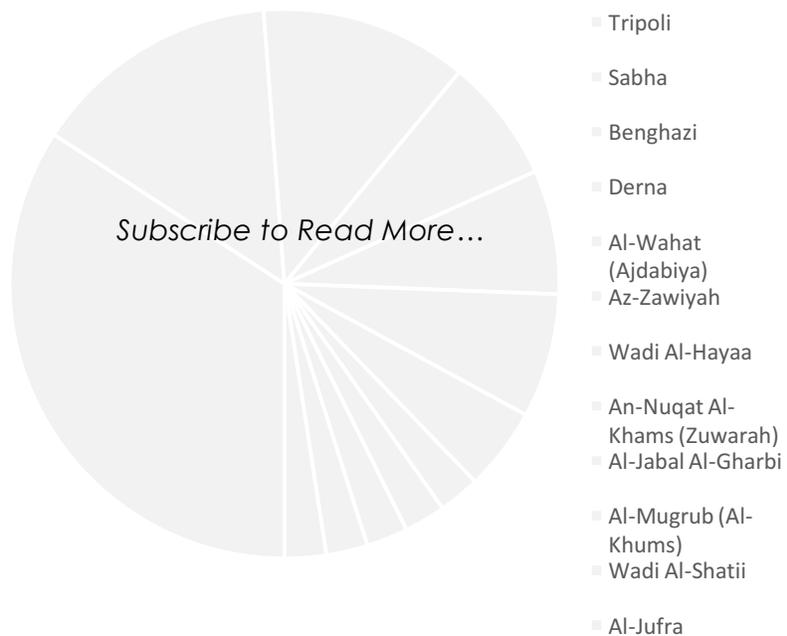
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



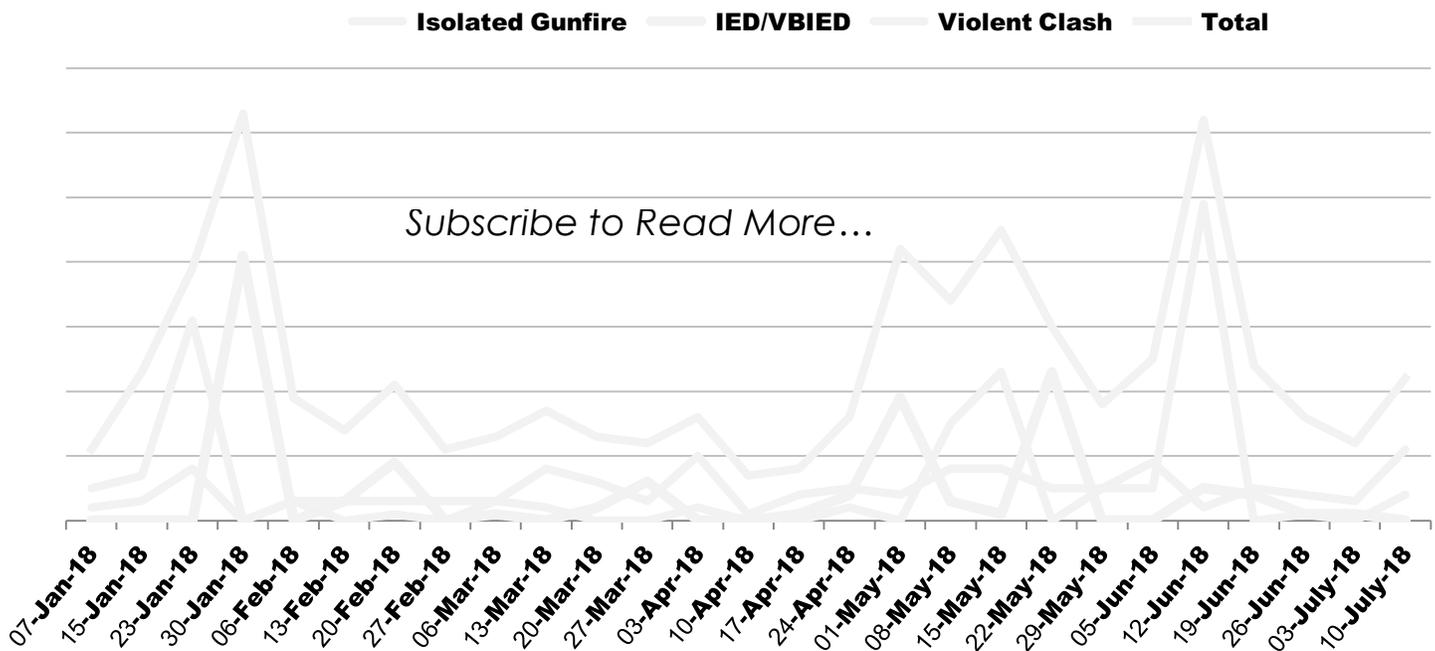
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



Nationwide incidents by national district (Past week)



Nationwide Fatalities by Type of Attack (Past 27 Weeks)



Data Analysis

Whispering Bell recorded this week a total of 22 confirmed deaths in Libya, which compares to 12 deaths reported last week and 16 the week before. This week 5 bodies were found across Libyan cities, with isolated gunfire representing the highest number of fatalities. Several security incidents were reported throughout the country, including 9 cases of isolated gunfire, 5 protests, 4 attacks, 2 robberies, and 2 carjackings.

In Western Libya, Whispering Bell recorded a total of 20 incidents, including 14 incidents in the capital city, Tripoli. Whispering Bell recorded an increase in sporadic security incidents and militia movements across Tripoli. On 11 Jun, Whispering Bell sources reported the Nawasi militia based at Tripoli's Dat El-Imad towers closed off the parking area to the building's personnel due to delayed salary payments, on 11 Jul. The Nawasi militia's grievances and dissatisfaction with issues related to delayed salaries will prove unfavorable to the Government of National Accord (GNA), as Nawasi are nominally under the GNA, and subsequently remain a key component of the government's security apparatus. Meanwhile, in a separate incident, A Spokesman for the Deterrence Apparatus, former Special Deterrence Force (SDF), Ahmed Salem, stated that the recent killing of a wanted man's wife during a house raid was unintentional in Tripoli's Al-Furnaj area at approximately 0100hrs on 10 Jul. The woman was reportedly killed as a result of the exchange of gunfire. On 11 Jul, a video circulated across social media outlets of a relative of the individuals killed during the raid stating that the woman was pregnant, whilst noting that an infant was also injured by the exchange of gunfire.

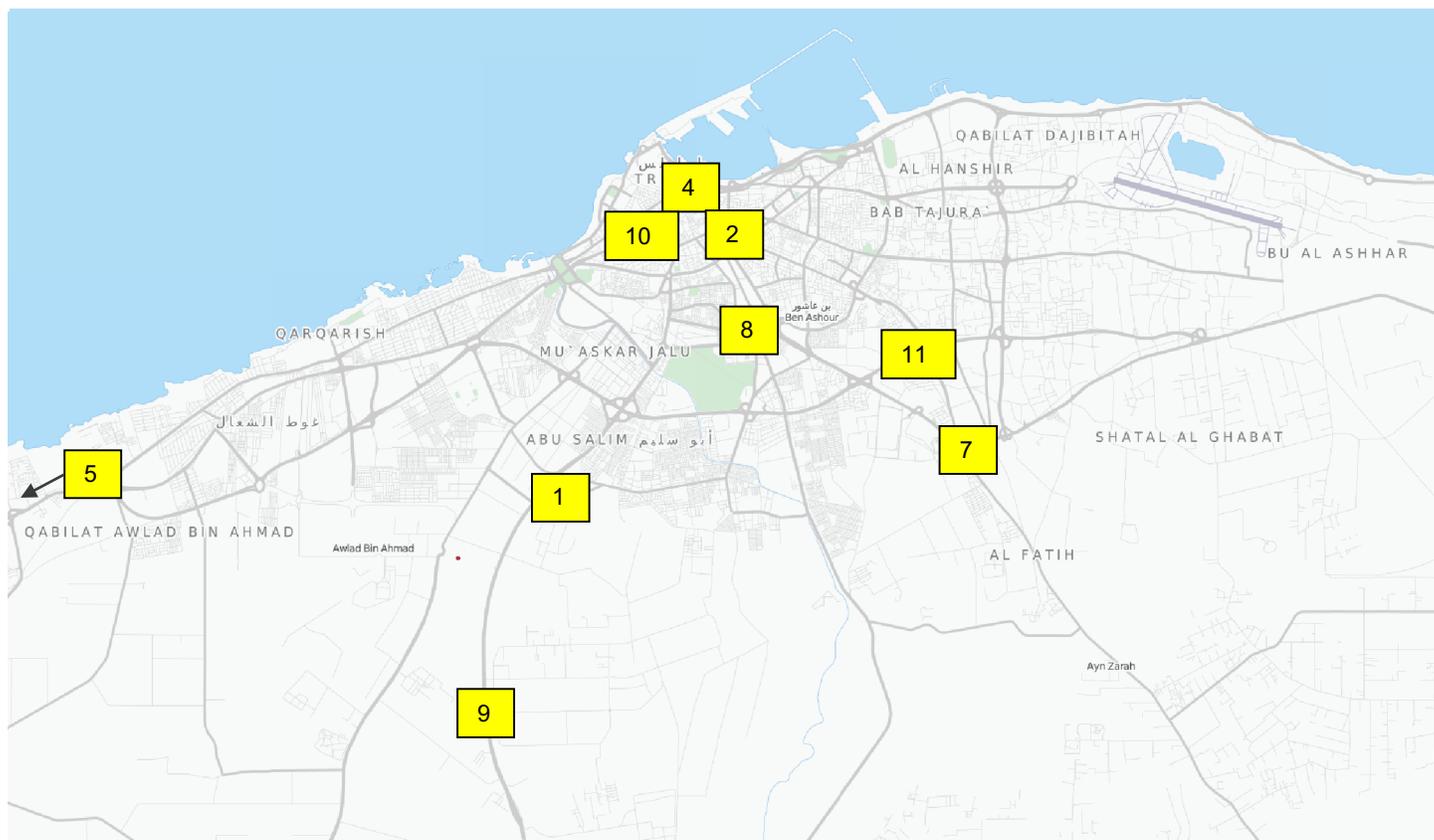
The week in Central Libya reports suggest several electrical power transformers in the Northern field of the Al-Hassouna water facility were subject to acts of sabotage resulting in communication disruptions on 09 Jul.

Turning to southern Libya, On 14 Jul, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) confirmed that an unidentified armed group attacked the control station 186 at the Sharara oil field and kidnapped four personnel, noting that two have been released. According to local reports, three out of the four abductees are Libyans, whilst the fourth engineer is of Romanian nationality. Additionally, the two Libyan abductees released reportedly arrived to Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport, whilst the fate of the remaining two individuals remains unknown. Following the attack, the NOC announced the closure of the oil wells in the surrounding area and the evacuation of all staff, whilst noting an expected loss of daily production amounting to 160,000 barrels per day (bpd).

In Libya's East, a series of security incidents were recorded in Benghazi, including an attack on a bank resulting in 3 deaths, whilst in Derna, a prominent militant was killed by the Libyan National Army (LNA) on 13 Jul.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

Deterrence Apparatus arrest central Security Director; series of protests



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (07 Jul) Carjacking in Hai Al-Akwakh
2. (08 Jul) Eighth Squad protest Trabeli's new position
3. (08 Jul) Protests across Tripoli denouncing Italian interference
4. (08 Jul) Locals protest Trabelsi's new position in Martyrs Square
5. (08 Jul) body found at sea in Syad
6. (09 Jul) Deterrence Apparatus arrest Central Security Director
7. (10 Jul) Deterrence Apparatus raid house in Al-Furnaj
8. (10 Jul) Man's body found in flat in Bab Bin-Ghashir
9. (11 Jul) 2 Artillery shells removed from local's house
10. (13 Jul) Libyan Air Force officer assassinated in front of mosque
11. (13 Jul) Body found in front of Africa University

Central Security Director arrested

Local reports from 09 Jul suggest the Deterrence Apparatus, former Special Deterrence Force (SDF), arrested the Central Security Director in the Ministry of Interior, Mohammed Al-Damjah, on bribery charges. According to reports, Al-Damjah was arrested in front of his house in Tripoli. Whilst reports suggest the arrest is based on corruption allegations, the incident highlights wider tensions in the capital city. Although unconfirmed, there is a possibility the arrest is a move to curb anti-Government of National Accord (GNA) sentiment, potentially highlighting tensions in the capital city amid depleting oil revenues. In May 2018, the GNA issued a decree granting the SDF additional powers, including the right to investigate cases of the misuse of public funds and corruption.

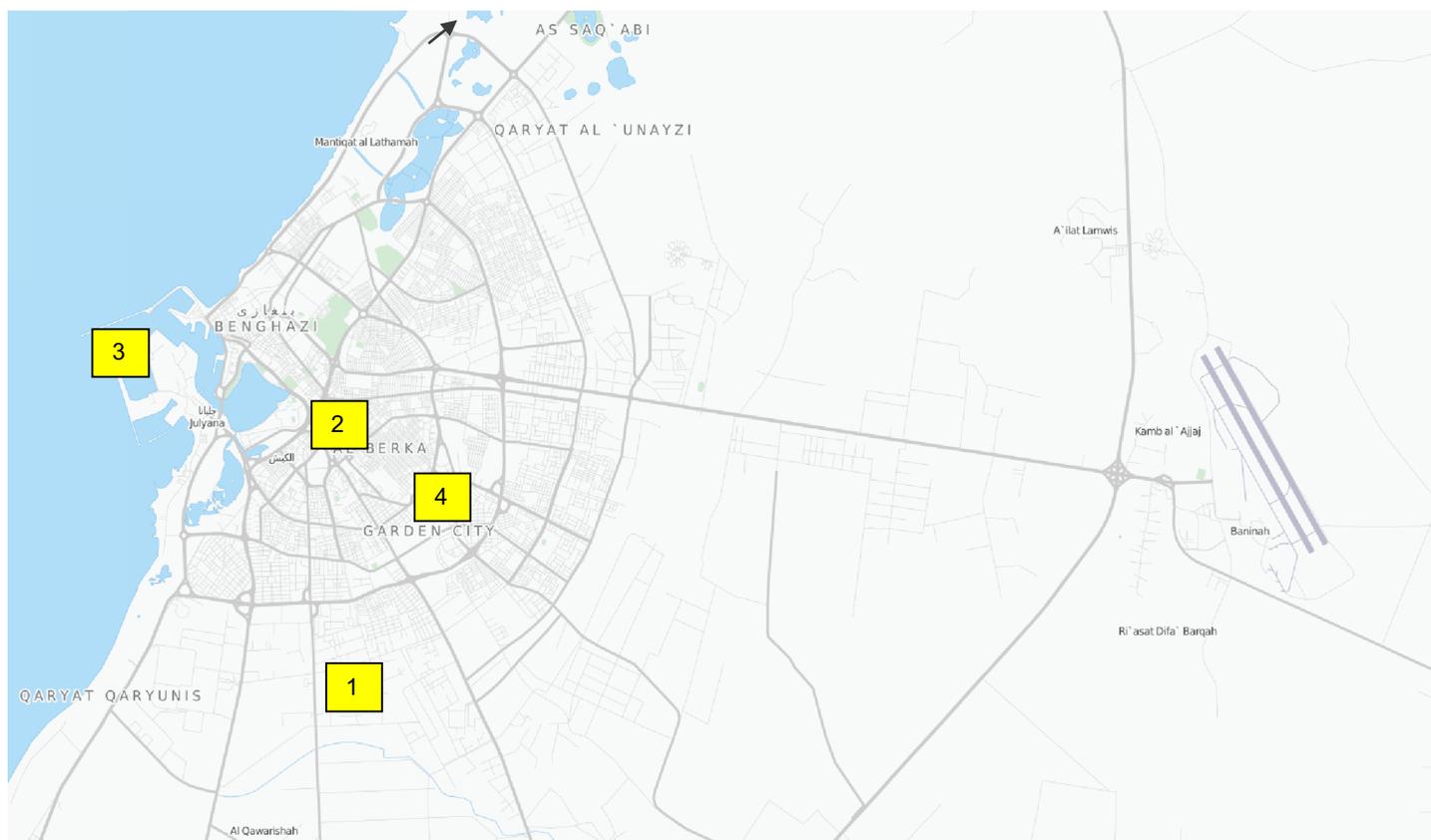
Protests against Trabelsi

Local reports suggest members of the Eighth Squad, affiliated with the Nawasi Battalion, protested in front of

the Headquarters of the Presidential Council (PC) demanding the revocation of the issued decree to promote Emad Trabelsi, the leader of the Zintan Special Operations Force (SOF), as President of the General Security Directorate, at approximately 1530hrs on 08 Jul. According to pictures circulated across social media outlets, the protest was attended by civilians and security forces. Meanwhile, a similar demonstration took place in Tripoli's Martyrs' Square, demanding the dismissal of Trabelsi, at approximately 2000hrs on 08 Jul. Following such reports, the Minister of Interior (MoI) of the PC, Abselsalam Ashour, stated that there were no security breaches and/or violations in the area of the PC's hQ, noting a stabilized security situation. Ashour added that several central security personnel protested at the PC's headquarters, though he claimed issues were resolved. The protest stands as the first indicator of Tripoli's main militias opposing the PC's decision to promote Trabelsi to a position that could potentially question their consolidated power.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Haftar issues arrest warrant for Werfalli; tensions following Werfalli's escape



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (08 Jul) Indiscriminate gunfire injures man in Al-Rahba
2. (08 Jul) Protest against detained and assaulted
3. (08 Jul) LNA arrest several wounded fighters
4. (09 Jul) Attack on military investment headquarters
5. (11 Jul) Small pro-Werfalli protests
6. (12 Jul) Attack on bank in Al-Baraka
7. (12 Jul) Al-Saiqa Special forces seize Benghazi port

Haftar orders arrest of Werfalli

On 11 Jul, Haftar issued an arrest warrant for the Libyan National Army (LNA) Saiqa Special Forces Commander, Mahmoud Al-Werfalli, on charges of escaping from prison while under military investigation for violations. The decision follows Al-Werfalli's escape from prison in Al-Marj on 04 Jul. Al-Werfalli previously handed himself over to Eastern authorities following international pressure from the International Criminal Court (ICC), and for alleged extrajudicial killings and summary executions. On 05 Jul, the ICC issued a second arrest warrant for Al-Werfalli's involvement in alleged war crimes. Al-Werfalli's release is expected to escalate tensions between his supporters and LNA groups.

Gunmen attack bank

Local reports suggest unidentified gunmen attacked the Commerce and Development Bank in Benghazi's Al-Baraka area resulting in the death of at least 3 individuals on

12 Jul. The bank is reportedly controlled by the Libyan National Army (LNA). Neither the identity of the assailant(s) nor the motive behind the attack are known. Unconfirmed reports emerged suggesting the Al-Saiqa Special Forces opened fire in the bank after being prevented from withdrawing large sums of cash, whilst other reports suggest the attack was fueled by a long-standing dispute between two unidentified men.

Sporadic security incidents

Al-Saiqa Special Forces reportedly seized Benghazi's port and stationed in multiple locations in the area. There were no further security incidents reported. Recent reports suggest increased tensions in Benghazi following Al-Werfalli's escape from prison and attack on the Military Investment headquarters in Benghazi on 09 Jul, due to a row with the military investment authority chief, Al-Madani Al-Fakhri. Meanwhile reports suggest small pro-Werfalli protests continued on 11 Jul, resulting in the closure of the Benina Airport Road.

6. What's next

Al-Kabir corruption allegations prioritized in international & domestic talks

POLITICAL FORECAST

This week, Libya witnessed vital political developments that will likely have ramifications on the country's unification discourse. The 3+3 meeting held in Rome brought together international and regional actors to discuss the corruption allegations against the Governor of the Tripoli Central bank, Sadiq Al-Kabir, following Haftar's demand to conduct an international investigation into the use of oil revenues before the reopening of the Eastern ports. Following the Rome meeting, and amid international pressure, Fayeze Al-Serraj called on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to set up an international commission to investigate the use of oil revenues from the East's and West's Central Banks, a call welcomed by the latter. Meanwhile, the parallel Audit Bureau offices announced the formation of a joint committee to monitor public expenditure, subsequently attempting to reduce the divisions within the institutions. Beyond, reports suggest the 3+3 meeting agreed on the holding of only Parliamentary elections by the end of 2018, whilst the Italian Foreign Minister stated that solely Libyans should decide on a fitting timeframe for elections. France, meanwhile, continues to push for elections by 10 Dec 2018 as agreed at the Paris Summit, despite the evident repercussions of holding elections in a volatile security environment.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

In an article for "The Washington Times", the author, Bill Gertz, discusses Russian military activities in Libya, including signs of the potential establishment of a Russian military base in Libya's East. "The push for a Russian military presence in Libya is being led by retired Maj. Gen. Khalifah Haftar, whose militia forces, the Libyan National Army, control eastern Libya. Russian private military forces have been operating in eastern Libya since March 2017, including the RSB Group that has deployed several dozen armed mercenaries to join forces with Haftar militias. News reports from Libya stated recently that the RSB Group mercenaries are engaged in advance work, scouting locations for a Russian military base in Tobruk or Benghazi. In addition to RSB, the notorious Wagner Group of Russian mercenaries also is operating in eastern Libya, reportedly to service Gen. Haftar's Russian-supplied weaponry. Wagner mercenaries also are helping set up an intelligence network for the general's forces. The head of the Libyan government in Tobruk, Prime Minister Abdullah Al-Thini, said in an Arabic news interview June 27 that the U.S., Britain and Italy are "enemies of the Libyan people" because they have backed the forces promoting political Islam in Libya. Observers say the United States should back Gen. Haftar in a bid to prevent Russia from taking control over Libya." said Gertz.

SECURITY FORECAST

This week the capital city witnessed increased sporadic security incidents, including protests against the appointment of Emad Trabelse, leader of the Zintan Special Operations Force (SOF), corroborating Whispering Bell's assessment of potential security incidents over Trabelsi's promotion. Meanwhile, the Deterrence Apparatus arrest of the Central Security Director in the Ministry of Interior (MoI), along with conflicting reports over a house raid killing a man and his wife, may result in further tensions and subsequent sporadic security incidents across Tripoli. Along the Coastal Road, Al-Kani militia of Tarhuna have reportedly withdrew from the Garabouli area, though tensions over the control of checkpoints remain common along the Coastal Road and commonly shift. In the Oil Crescent, following Haftar's handover to the Tripoli-based National Oil Corporation (NOC), force majeure was lifted on Libya's main ports. The Libyan National Army (LNA) will likely increase security in the area following the resumption of operations. Moreover, Libya's South continues to witness security breaches amid reports of alleged Chadian armed groups engaging in illicit activity, which may prompt potential LNA mobilization to the area, in addition to attacks on fields, with the latest attack on the Sharara oil field. Beyond, in Libya's East, sporadic security incidents may persist in Benghazi following Werfalli's escape from prison.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

In an article for "*Refugees Deeply*", the author, Francesca Mannocchi, highlights the statements of four Libyans who explain how the situation in Libya has resulted in an increasing number of Libyans enduring the dangerous journey via sea to reach Europe. "Without connections to the competing corrupt networks who now run Libya there is no legal way out. The only option is to try and contact a smuggler and pay to cross the Mediterranean. "We, the honest Libyans, the ones who fought, are tired and resigned. We contact the smugglers because there is no other way to leave this country." Some 410 Libyans have made the dangerous sea crossing to Italy so far this year, according to the U.N. Refugee Agency, UNHCR. These numbers are still small but represent the breaking of a long-standing taboo among Libyans who feel humiliated to have to smuggle themselves out of their own country. On March 19, the Proactiva Open Arms, a rescue ship operated by a Spanish NGO, intercepted a dinghy carrying three Libyan brothers. They had made the desperate journey to get treatment for their 14-year-old brother, Allah, who is suffering from leukemia. "They are heroes," says Oscar Camps, founder of Proactiva. "They had 200 liters of gasoline and went to sea to give him a chance of receiving proper treatment." In April, the U.N. [Human Rights Office reported](#) that armed groups in Libya are holding thousands of people in arbitrary detention, where torture is rife." said Mannocchi.

About Whispering Bell



Contact Whispering Bell at: +971-4-448-6690 or at ras@whisperingbell.com

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