

1. The Big Picture

Multiple challenges ahead of Sarraj's new peace proposal

This week, developments on the political scene took precedence over military manoeuvres between rival Libyan National Army (LNA) and Government of National Accord (GNA) forces South of Tripoli. The anticipated escalation has failed to materialize post-Eid. On the ground, clashes intensified in the vicinity of Tripoli International Airport (TIP) when GNA forces attempted to regain ground, but to no avail as LNA forces maintained their position in/near the airport as of 17 Jun.

A newly-announced peace initiative by GNA PM Fayez Sarraj has now come under the spotlight. There is much uncertainty over the peace plan's ramifications and prospects for breakthroughs, and despite having been vetted by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the plan in its current form is unlikely to win the LNA's approval.

In a press conference, Government of National Accord (GNA) PM Fayez Sarraj proposed a "Libyan Forum" to find a peaceful solution to the current conflict. Sarraj also called for parliamentary and presidential elections by year's end, among other milestones within the 7-point plan.

Analysts are of the view that Sarraj's initiative, described as an "act of despair" by eastern-based government PM Abdullah Thinni, comes as part of broader "hasty" attempts to end the conflict on the GNA's terms and reinforce the narrative that it has successfully repelled the LNA's Tripoli offensive. Some pro-LNA voices have argued the timing of the initiative and Sarraj's willingness to negotiate reveals weaknesses within the GNA bloc and reflects recent alleged military losses on the ground.

The main criticism put forward is the peace plan's failure to recognize the LNA in the language used. Symbolically, this means the GNA's proposed plan to bring an end to the crisis does not recognize the main rival force it is currently fighting on Tripoli's southern outskirts. In an interview with Reuters, Sarraj refused to include Libyan National Army (LNA) head Khalifa Haftar in the political process.

Yet, this is precisely why the eastern bloc is unlikely to accept the new peace plan or any other initiative that includes the GNA cabinet in its current form. Instead, from the LNA's standpoint, the focus in the short term will be to gradually consolidate territorial gains before potentially entering ceasefire negotiations at a later stage, and even then, a phased withdrawal from Tripoli's South will be unlikely for the LNA.

While the LNA is yet to officially respond to the peace initiative, some voices within the eastern bloc have already voiced their opposition. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives (HoR) speaker, Aguila Saleh, ruled out the possibility of a Sarraj-Haftar meeting while describing the political process as flawed from 2011 to date. In comments to Asharq Al-Awsat, Saleh confirmed that

elections are a critical objective of the eastern-bloc, though he expected ballot boxes by the beginning of 2020. Sarraj's proposal is therefore by design unlikely to achieve significant breakthroughs as both Sarraj and Haftar continue to refuse to meet.

The peace initiative is an attempt by the GNA to win international support and approval, though it threatens to create new divisions and exacerbate existing ones, including within the GNA bloc and wider Libyan political scene. While the proposal indicates UNSMIL head Ghassan Salame's efforts have borne fruit, it comes amid growing criticism of the UNSMIL's role, especially from eastern-based figures. Nevertheless, the initiative also presents some dilemmas for the LNA, which will find it difficult to oppose an initiative that focuses on elections by year's end, an outcome favoured by the LNA.

Overall, Sarraj's new peace plan could backfire and provide further incentives to the eastern bloc to advocate a counter political effort and speed up LNA efforts to extend its jurisdiction over areas currently under its control. Ultimately, international support or opposition to any political framework could prompt the GNA and LNA to meet "halfway" and steer efforts at a political settlement.

Separately, the conflict continues to threaten the country's oil and gas sector, despite a new sense of normalcy gradually settling in with the clashes. On 13 Jun, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) expressed its concern over increased military presence at the Ras Lanuf terminal. While the NOC made similar statements in the past, this time it deliberately named the commander it accused of such actions. In response, the LNA's Dignity Operations Room spokesman, Brig Gen Khaled Al-Mahjoub, stressed that the LNA's presence in the terminal and other oilfields is aimed at protecting O&G infrastructure from potential terror attacks. The parallel Benghazi-based NOC stated that the "incorrect remarks" made by the Tripoli-based NOC's chairman, Mustafa Sanalla, undermine the company's goals to maintain production levels and export operations, as well as its ability to meet its contractual obligations towards its international partners. The eastern-based HoR's Energy and Natural Resources Committee chairman, Issa Al-Oraibi, also condemned and rejected the Tripoli-based NOC statement.

KEY POINTS

- GNA peace plan fails to recognize LNA
- LNA to reject plan & consolidate gains
- NOC warns Ras Lanuf terminal military use



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2. National Security Map

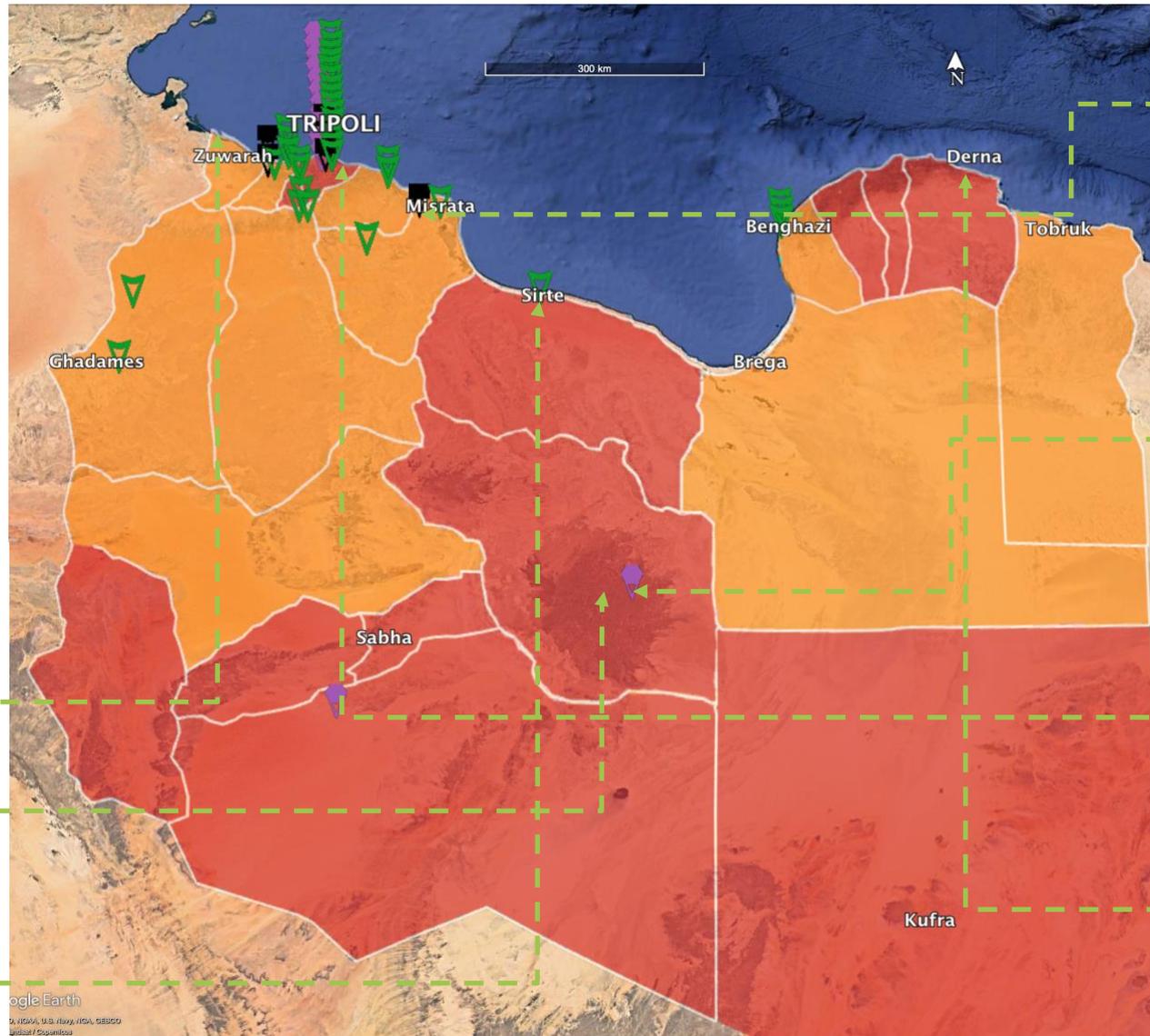
LNA engages IS militants in Haruj area; GNA claims technical failure behind L-39 Albatros crash

Key

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

EVENT INDICATORS

- ★ IED | VBIED
- ▼ Violent Clash
- Isolated Gunfire
- ▼ Other



The LAF Operations Room Commander, Maj Gen Mohammed Al-Manfour, confirmed the downing of a GNA L-39 Albatros aircraft and the death of its pilot, Nuri Ghariani, in the Ad Dafiniyah area, West of Misrata, on 13 Jun. The GNA denied the claim and stated the aircraft crashed due to a technical failure.

WB sources reported the death of approximately 16 Islamic State (IS) militants and the destruction of 11 vehicles by Libyan National Army (LNA) units following clashes between the two sides over the past three days, West of the Haruj Mountains area. Sources reported some LNA units returned to the Southern region following the three-day clashes in the operations.

Sources reported four gunmen driving a Hyundai Verna with tinted windows and dressed in civilian uniform established a fake checkpoint in Garaboli, stopping multiple vehicles in the morning on 15 Jun. Sources reported the gunmen killed a man, assaulted a driver, and wounded another in a gunfire incident.

The eastern-based interim Government's Minister of Interior (MoI), Ibrahim Bushnaaf, held extended meetings with various departments and directorates under the ministry to discuss the security situation across the country, particularly Derna, following recent security incidents in the city.

Ras Ajdir Libya-Tunisia border crossing was temporarily closed for approximately two hours due to an electronic passport system glitch on the Libyan side at night on 13 Jun. The latest reports indicate the border crossing was open and operational as of 15 Jun. A similar brief disruption was reported on 11 Jun.

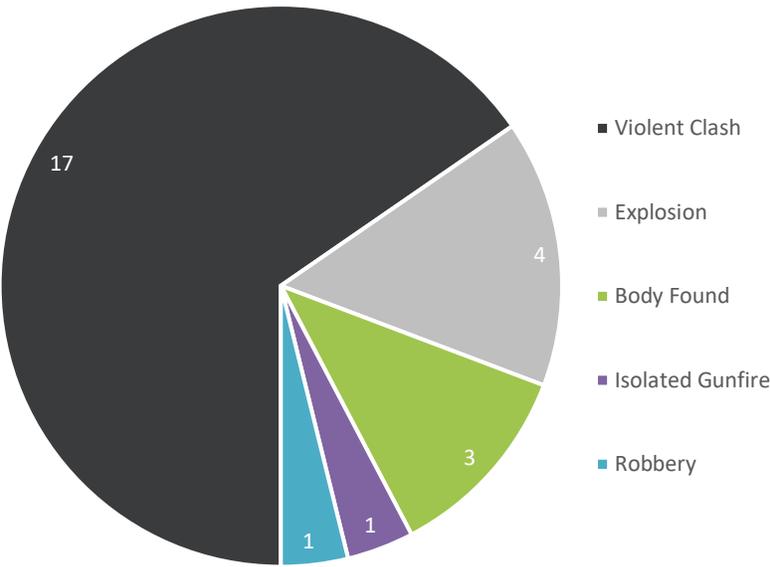
Sources reported a kidnapped man was freed on 12 Jun by pro-LNA units in the Haruj mountains area. Sources reported the abductee was kidnapped by a militant group led by Al-Dernawi, who was later captured and killed.

The Counter-Terrorism (CT) Force, nominally operating under the GNA, arrested an Islamic State (IS) militant in Sirte on 10 Jun. The militant was reportedly found in a hideout in Sirte's Shabia area. The arrest came after his movements were monitored by the force in cooperation with Sirte's Security Directorate.

3. Nationwide Security Analysis

Sharp drop in Tripoli fatalities from clashes due to absence of updated data

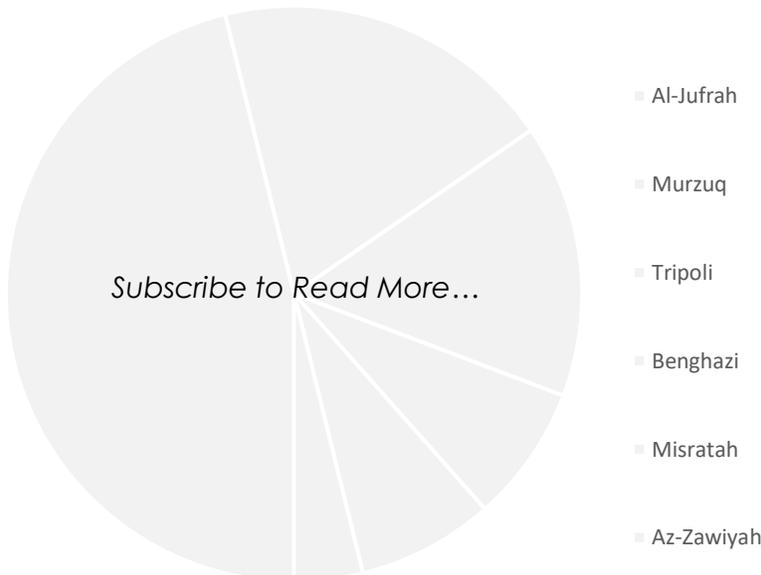
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



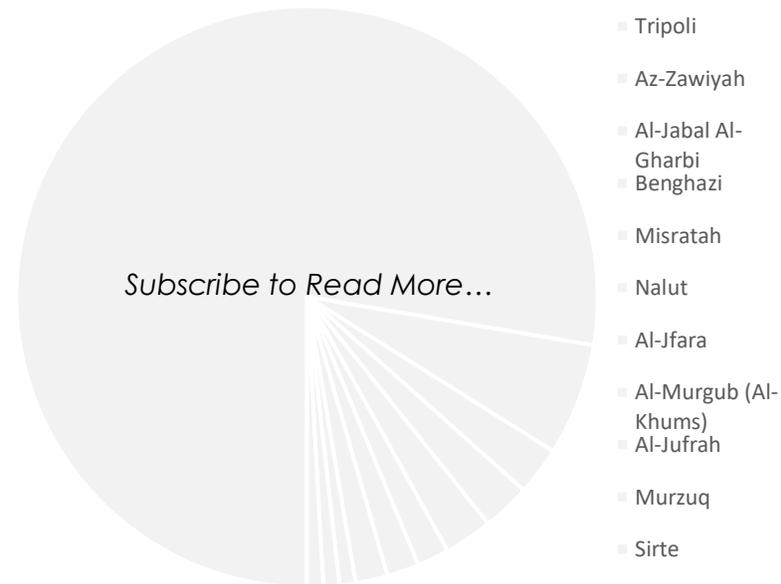
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



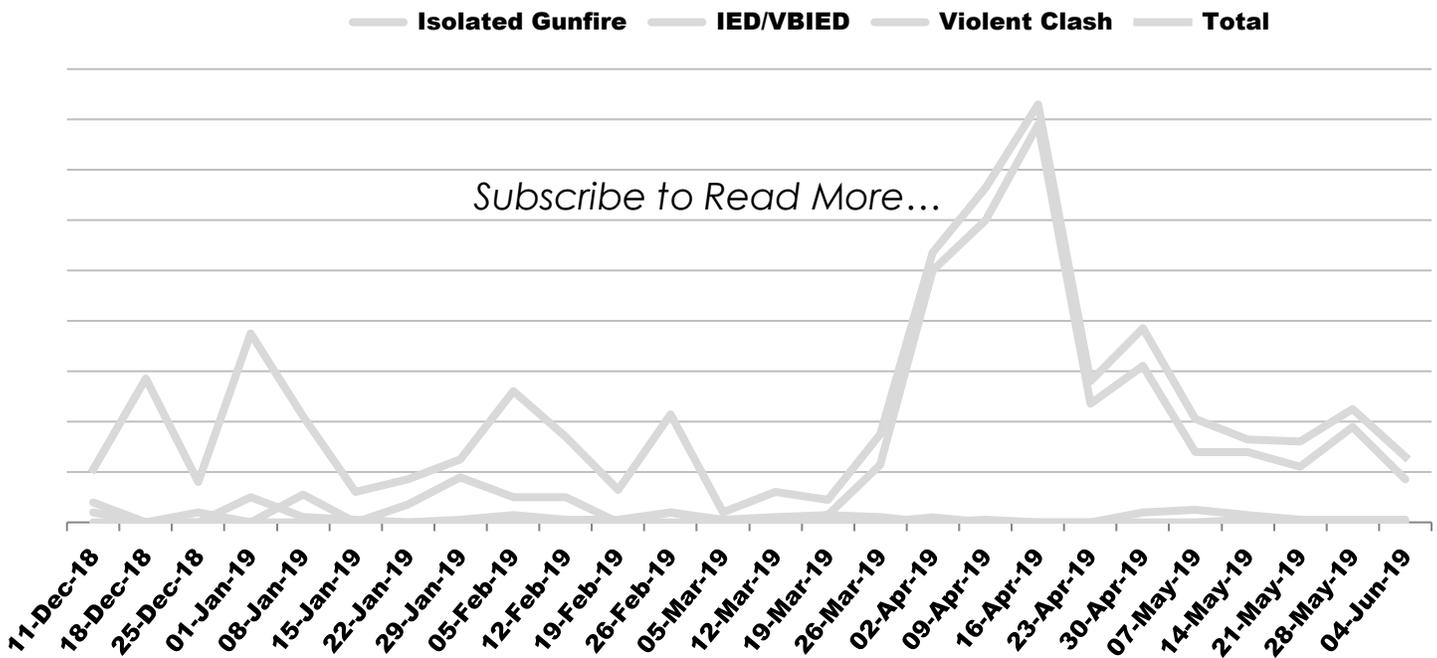
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



Nationwide incidents by national district (Past week)



Nationwide Fatalities by Type of Attack (Past 27 Weeks)



Data Analysis

WB recorded this week a total of 26 confirmed deaths in Libya, which compares to 45 deaths reported last week and 10 the week before. This week was marked by a relative decrease in nationwide fatalities due to the absence of an updated casualty toll from the Tripoli clashes, which if included, would indicate a greater number of fatalities in the Tripoli district. Similar to last week, violent clashes resulted in the highest number of fatalities despite the absence of an updated Tripoli casualty toll, as clashes between Libyan National Army (LNA) units and Islamic State (IS) militants resulted in 12 fatalities in Al-Jufrah district. This week, WB recorded the same number of airstrikes conducted as part of engagement between LNA and GNA forces in Tripoli. A surge in fires recorded in Tripoli and beyond coincided with a recent heatwave. Whilst the majority of security incidents remain dominantly in Tripoli, WB recorded an increase in security incidents recorded in the wider Western region, with Al-Zawiyah representing the highest number of incidents after Tripoli. Several security incidents were reported throughout the country including, 31 airstrikes, 20 violent clashes, 17 explosions, 15 fires, 11 mortar/rocket shelling incidents, 6 arrests, 6 cases of isolated gunfire, 2 cases of bodies found, 1 attack, 1 carjacking, 1 robbery and 1 kidnapping.

In Western Libya, WB recorded a total of 106 incidents, including 87 incidents in the capital city, Tripoli, marking a sharp increase in incidents recorded in the region in contrast to last week. In Tripoli, reports indicate a group of gunmen attempted to carjack a white Samsung vehicle near Aldaran Roundabout, in the Al-Hae Al-Senaea area, though the driver initially managed to escape to the Hai Islami area. The gunmen followed the driver and carjacked his vehicle near the vegetable market. Locals reported the victim is a young vegetable trader and he was selling fruit by his vehicle when the gunmen approached him. No casualties were reported. Meanwhile, in the wider Western region, reports suggest an armed gang killed a jewellery shop owner in a robbery incident, identified as Mukhtar Sanousi Al-Darrat, in Misrata in the morning on 11 Jun. There is no further information available.

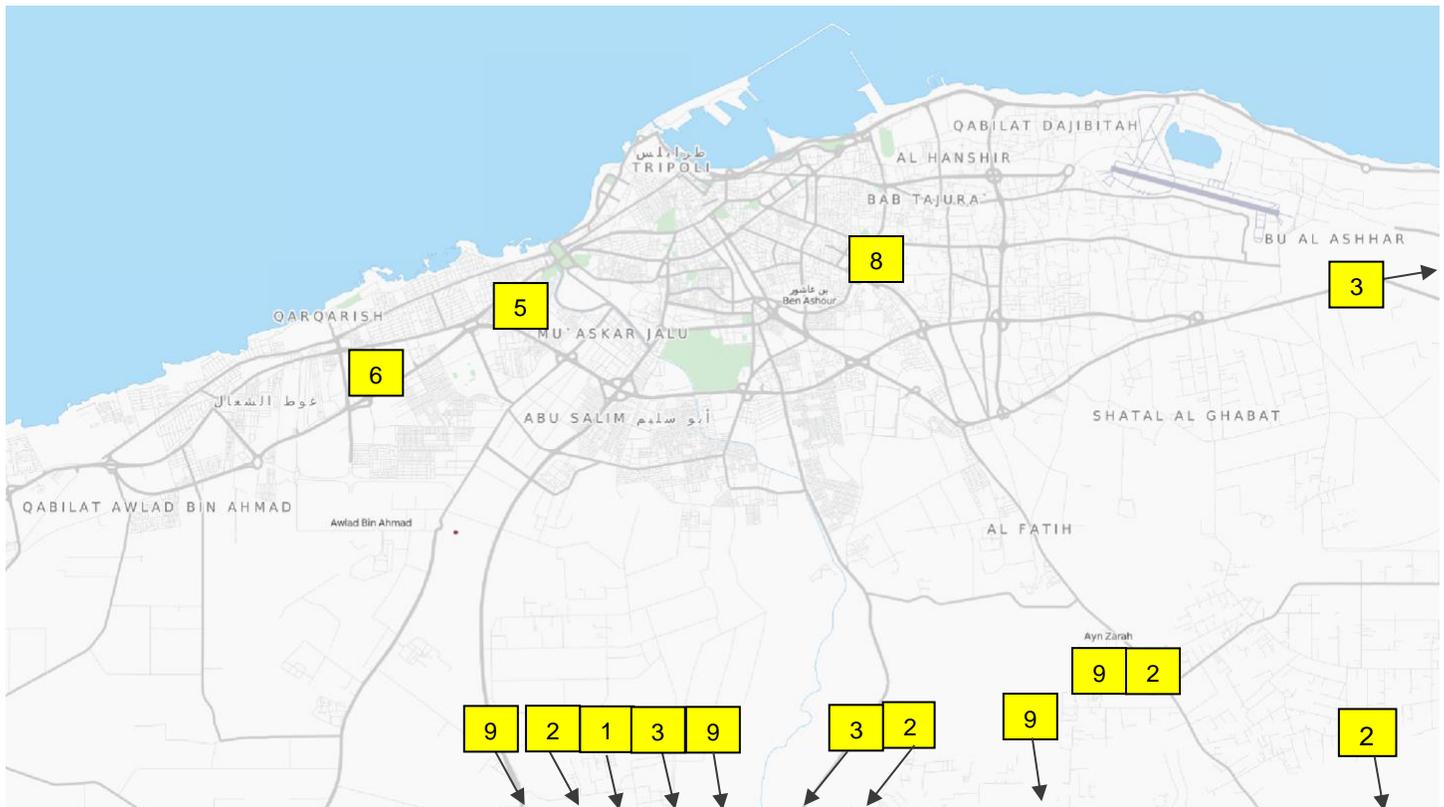
In the central region, on 14 Jun, the Islamic State (IS) reported via its Amaq publication it clashed with Libyan National Army (LNA) units across various locations West of Haruj Mountains (Samnu, Tmassah, Fuqaha) resulting in 30 casualties and the destruction of several vehicles between 12-14 Jun. Meanwhile, the LNA's Military Information Division (MID) reported that at least 12 IS militants were killed in a surprise attack targeting militants identified as "Lonely Wolves" in hideouts across the Haurj Mountains. Separately, the GNA-affiliated Counter-Terrorism (CT) Force announced the arrest of an Islamic State (IS) militant in Sirte on 10 Jun. The militant was reportedly found in a hideout in Sirte's Shabia area. The arrest came after his movements were monitored by the CT force in cooperation with Sirte's Security Directorate.

Turning to Southern Libya, local reports indicate violent clashes between armed groups in Murzuq have resulted in over 20 fatalities since hostilities broke out on the first day of Eid Al-Fitr (04 Jun). On 08 Jun, in response to the violence, the Libyan National Army (LNA)-affiliated Khalid Bin Walid Brigade mobilised towards the area to prevent further escalation.

In Eastern Libya, no security incidents were reported beyond the city of Benghazi.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

Security vacuum widens as clashes protract on Southern frontlines



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (08-09 Jun) Clashes cont in TIP vicinity; Salame calls for humanitarian ceasefire following visit to IDPs
2. (09-10 Jun) No changes on ground; French FM reiterates ceasefire calls
3. (11-12 Jun) Surge in LNA/GNA airstrikes as clashes cont
4. (12-13 Jun) Heavy artillery echoes across central Tripoli; surge in LNA airstrikes
5. (12 Jun) Dispute between militiamen & vegetable trader
6. (12 Jun) Gunmen carjack vehicle of vegetable trader near vegetable market
7. (12 Jun) 11-12hr power cuts due to unequal participation of load shedding
8. (13 Jun) Students protest MoE's decision to commence exams
9. (14-15 Jun) Clashes cont; HoR head rules out peace talks until LNA seizes Tripoli

LNA Tajoura airstrike results in casualties

WB sources reported a growing security vacuum in and around Tripoli as a result of ongoing clashes on Tripoli's Southern frontlines. Over the past 72hrs, WB recorded a significant increase in criminal activity, including carjackings, robberies, and murders, particularly in the Southern and Eastern parts of Tripoli. WB would therefore recommend travellers to limit operations to the Northern central part of Tripoli in the coming days until the security situation stabilises.

On the ground, the 15/16 Jun clashes were marked by reports of and LNA airstrike targeting the former regime's 32nd Brigade Compound in the Tajoura area, near the National Heart Centre, at approximately 1200hrs on 15 Jun. Initial reports indicate that four houses were hit, whilst 10 casualties were recorded, including unconfirmed reports of a man dying of a heart attack due to the successive explosions. Two women and a child were also reportedly among the casualties. The road between the fork leading to the Trucks Road and between the Traffic Light was closed for approximately two hours due to successive explosions which occurred inside the camp storing heavy ammunition.

On the domestic front, in a statement posted via its Facebook page, the GNA reported the adoption of a new phase of a plan to confront LNA units in the capital city, on 15 Jun. The statement reported the

adoption of a new phase of a plan to confront LNA units in the capital city, on 15 Jun. The statement reported the GNA PM, Fayez Al-Serraj, met with the General staff of the Libyan Army chief, Minister of Interior, and military zone commanders and frontline leaders on 15 Jun, to discuss the situation on the ground and fighting in major areas across Tripoli and its nearby cities. The statement did not include the details surrounding the new phase of the plan.

Libyan cardiovascular specialist attacked

Unidentified gunmen attacked, robbed, and threatened a Libyan cardiovascular specialist, identified as Abubakr Al-Ajnaf, at his clinic and residence in Tripoli's Hai Alandalus in the evening on 13 Jun. The gunmen stole all of the victim's belongings, including cash. A video of Al-Ajnaf receiving treatment at a Tripoli hospital circulated in which he stated that citizens cannot be blamed for wanting to leave Libya and seek a living overseas.

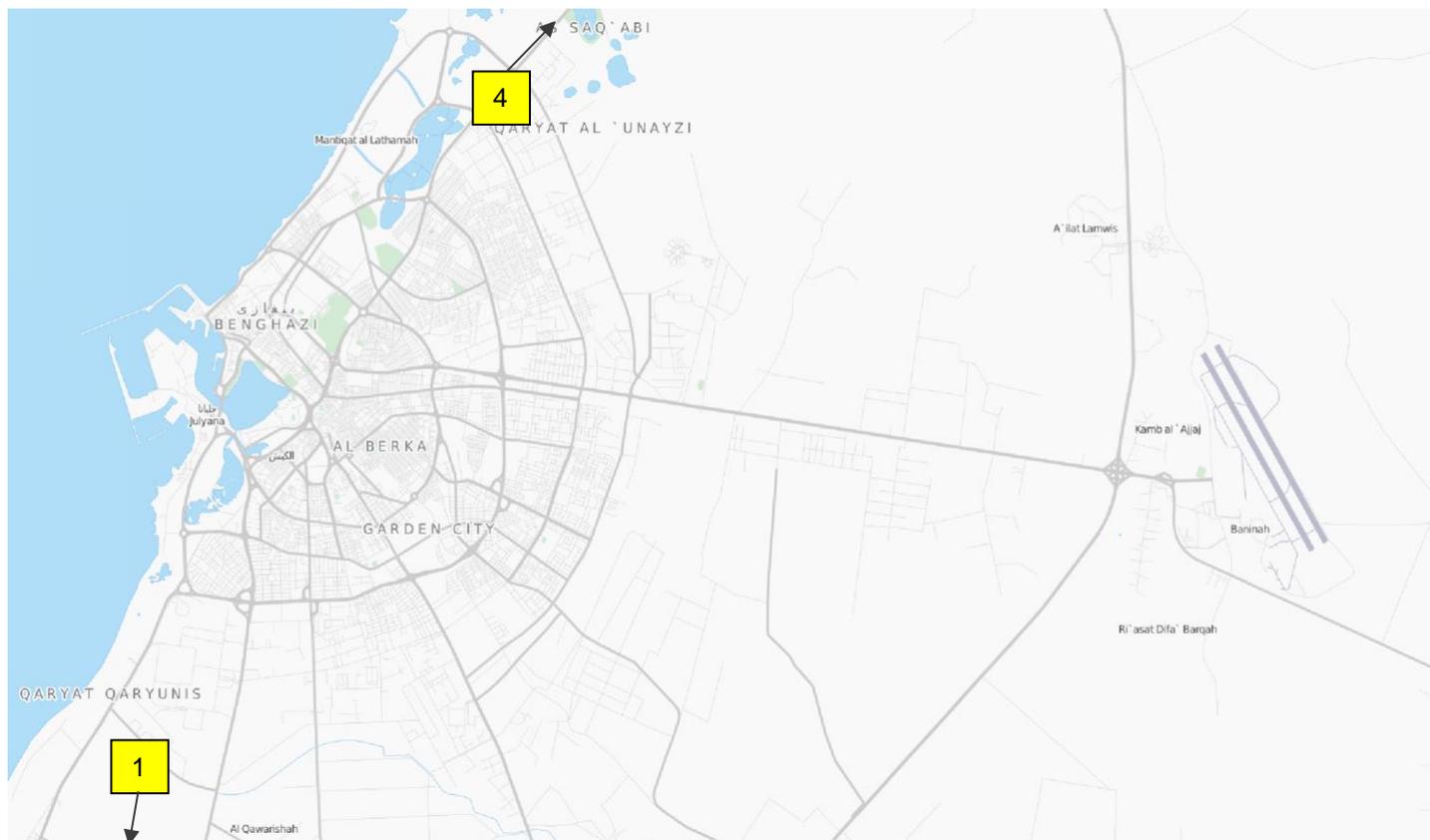
GNA official kidnapped & later released

Sources reported unidentified assailants kidnapped the GNA-affiliated Housing and Facilities Authority chairman, Mahmoud Ajjaj, from his office on 10 Jun. Initial reports indicate that he was released later that evening. The kidnappers demanded Ajjaj to forcefully sign a document that he had previously refused to sign.

adoption of a new phase of a plan to confront LNA

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Militant involved in 2012 US Diplomatic Mission attack found guilty



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (10 Jun) ERW team remove mortar shell from Qanfouda area
2. (12 Jun) MMRA deny reports of water disruptions in city
3. (13 Jun) Militant involved in 2012 US Diplomatic Mission attack found guilty
4. (13 Jun) Kwayfayah Police arrest 13 criminals

Militant arrested

According to the Washington Post, a federal jury found a second militant guilty, identified as Mustafa Al-Imam, in the 2012 attack on the US diplomatic mission in Benghazi that killed four Americans, including former US Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens, on 13 Jun. Al-Imam was found guilty on one count of conspiracy including providing material support to militants, and one count of destroying public property. The jury was reportedly in disagreement over 15 additional 15 counts, including murder and attempted murder. In Oct 2017, US Special Operations Forces captured Al-Imam in Misrata, whilst Ahmed Abu Khattal, believed to be the mastermind behind the attacks, was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment in Jun 2018. In Nov 2018, the Libyan National Army's (LNA) military prosecution head, Ali Madi, revealed details of ongoing investigations into a series of previous assassinations carried out in Benghazi, including Stevens.

Mortar shell removed

Local reports from 10 Jun suggest an explosive remnants of war (ERW) team removed a mortar shell in the Qanfouda area, West of Benghazi. A resident reportedly

reported the presence of a suspicious object in front of a house to the ERW team after which they arrived at the scene and removed it.

Water flow undisrupted

The Great Man-made River Authority (MMRA) denied circulated reports across social media outlets suggesting water was cut off to the city of Benghazi on 12 Jun. In a statement, the MMRA stated that the picture circulating is of station no.600 + 45 which was previously vandalised by a citizen who damaged a concrete wall to install an illegal connection. The MMRA stated that there is no leakage in the station and water supply remains undisrupted in Benghazi

Criminal group arrested

Local reports suggest the Kwayfayah police officers under Benghazi's Security Directorate arrested 13 individuals accused of various criminal cases on 10 Jun. The suspects, involved in drug trafficking and theft cases, included those of Libya, Egyptian, Sudanese and Chadian nationalities. There is no further information available. organization.

6. What's next

Factions begin to voice support/oppose GNA peace plan

POLITICAL FORECAST

Sarraj's new peace plan will likely provide further incentives for the eastern bloc to advocate a counter political effort with a focus on security and led by the African Union (AU) and UN Security Council. Regionally, the Libyan crisis remains at the forefront of tripartite discussions between Cairo, Algiers, and Tunis. A meeting between the three ministers denounced the "the continuous flow of weapons" and the "influx of foreign terrorist fighters", while ruling out the possibility of a military solution to the conflict. Domestically, the Tripoli-based HoR's decision to nullify the position of "Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces" will likely resonate within the eastern-based bloc and widen the rift with the Tobruk-based HoR. On the international front, the Charge d'affaires of the US Embassy in Libya, Natalie Baker, stressed the need to return to the political process during a meeting with a High Council of State (HCS) delegation in Tunis on 13 Jun. Separately, the European Union (EU) Foreign Policy Chief, Federica Mogherini, held a phone conversation with Al-Serraj to discuss the political situation in Libya, in which she emphasized the importance of the UN-led political process, whilst reaffirming no military solution to the crisis. Separately, speaking at a joint press conference with Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui, UNSMIL head Ghassan Salame expressed confidence in a potential political settlement. Salame was quoted in local media stating that political optimism came after several talks held with foreign ministers of UN Security Council (UNSC) member states and prominent Libyan officials, including Khalifa Haftar and Fayez Al-Serraj. Salame was quoted stating that the majority of parties believe that a military solution remains "impossible" in Libya.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

In a comprehensive study for *Democracy Reporting International (DRI)*, authors Emadeddin Badi, Mohamed El-Jarh, and Marwa Farid, explore Libya's transition from 2011 until 2018 from various angles, including power, legitimacy, and the economy. The authors write "Austerity measures introduced in 2015 by the CBL in response to the economic crisis meant that some armed groups would no longer receive state salaries. This made some armed groups resort to devising new schemes to generate revenue. Although the business of illicit arms-trading had already blossomed in Libya after rebels ransacked Gaddafi's arsenals in 2011, the "war economy"¹¹ that emerged in 2014 is symptomatic of the country's legitimacy crisis and a central cause of the state's protracted dysfunction. Fuel subsidies remain in place, despite the state's awareness that oil smugglers have capitalised on them to generate income through transnational smuggling networks. Several residents of the west-ern coastal town of Zuwara, where a fuel-smuggling hub has emerged, have become extremely wealthy through their involvement in the illicit trade. The struggle for monopoly over the black-market business has often triggered fighting between armed groups as well as the closure of the Tunisia-Libya border, including the major land crossing of Ras Jedir. Moreover, some leaders of non-state armed groups have made substantial profits with Letters of Credit (LC) schemes via the CBL. This particular LC fraud consists of failing to import the declared goods. Instead, with the assistance of corrupt customs officials, the dishonest user produces fraudulent bills of lading in order to have the Libyan bank wire the LC's dollar amount abroad, before importing part of that dollar sum in the form of physical cash and selling it on the black market at a much higher ex-change rate than the official rate of ~1.30."

SECURITY FORECAST

While the situation is expected to remain unchanged on Tripoli's southern frontlines, the GNA reported the adoption a new plan to confront LNA units in the capital city on 15 Jun. Details surrounding the new plan have not been made public. Meanwhile, the security vacuum is expected to continue across eastern and western parts of Tripoli. In the Western front, the LNA could attempt to close in on GNA forces via Garaboli; a scenario corroborated by a field visit near Garaboli by Abdusalam Hassi, commander of the LNA Western Region Ops Room. The security environment ivo Coastal road East of Tripoli has deteriorated highlighted by an increase in fake checkpoints, which prompted GNA authorities to deploy forces from Tajoura to Dafniya checkpoint West of Misrata. In the central areas, there is mounting evidence to corroborate the opening of a new front in the Sirte district as part of LNA vs GNA engagement. The Libyan National Army (LNA)-affiliated Ajdabiya Military Operations Room commander, Maj Gen Fawzi Al-Mansouri, was quoted responding to recent rumours of a new LNA front in Sirte. Al-Mansouri stated that he could neither deny nor confirm the reports, adding that the situation would "soon be clear". In the Oil Crescent, local forces remain on high alert to thwart potential attacks in the area. The LNA Ajdabiya Operations Room and Tripoli's Ain Zara front commander, Maj Gen Fawzi Al-Mansouri, referred to the security situation in the Oil Crescent region as "excellent" on 10 Jun. Al-Mansouri stated that the LNA's Saiqa Special Forces, assigned by the General Command to mobilise towards the area. Separately, WB sources reported IS movements in the Saddadah area, near Bani Walid. Turning to the South, armed clashes between tribal components, including Arab and Tebu, will likely continue to prove unfavourable to the LNA's posture.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

In an interview with *Al-Monitor*, the eastern-based interim government foreign minister, Abdul Hadi Al-Hweij, discusses the motive behind the eastern bloc's support for the LNA and outlook should Tripoli fall under LNA control. He argues "The liberation of Tripoli and the west cannot be halted as long as the militias and armed groups have not surrendered their illegal weaponry to the LNA. Hence, we cannot negotiate with whomever was not granted legitimacy by the Libyan people and does not make their own decisions. As I said earlier, we are with our national army in the operation to free the land and Libyan citizens, in order for us to restore security and safety and build a secular and democratic Libyan state where there is rule of law, social and economic justice, where choices are made democratically, and rights and freedoms are respected. Only then will we be able to resume political negotiations, by reactivating and reviewing the provisions of the political agreement signed in Morocco's Skhirat whose annex on security matters affirms the enforcement of security provisions. Unfortunately, the terrorist groups' control over Tripoli has prevented the dismantlement of armed formations as planned in the Skhirat agreement." Further during the interview, Al-Hweij states "We, at the interim government which the legitimate parliament supports, are open to the UN, the Arab League, African Union, UNHCR and others. We have hosted their delegations and held business meetings with heads of states and governments. We were very cooperative with the UN special envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame before it became clear that he is biased toward the other side and accuses the LNA of heading to a civil war. This is while he was a main reason behind the national conference's failure, as he adopted non-objective criteria for the selection of civil society representatives, and excluded parliament and the Libyan interim government. This is not to mention his ambiguous actions and resounding mistakes that do not serve the best interest of Libyan men and women."

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