

# 1. The Big Picture

## Intra-GNA divisions are growing as Sarraj visits Russia



This week's military activity between Government of National Accord (GNA) and Libyan National Army (LNA) forces was marked by an increase in indiscriminate shelling resulting in civilian casualties. While on-the-ground advances continue to be limited to service roads, LNA forces are reported to have reinforced postures across existing positions. GNA forces have threatened to launch an offensive on Tarhunah, the strategic town serving as the LNA's operational command. LNA forces, however, continue to dominate with superior aerial capabilities as highlighted by the frequent reconnaissance sorties and offensive campaigns.

Politically, at the Russia-Africa Summit in Sochi (Russia) GNA PM Fayeza Sarraj was faced with the challenge of sharing the stage with the eastern-based Foreign Minister, Abdulhadi Al-Hweij, who has been very active recently and gained in confidence on the diplomatic front. Analysts are of the view that a group of Russian political stakeholders attempted to lobby for closer ties with the LNA's Khalifa Haftar prior to Sarraj's visit. The analysts suggest Russia's policy on Libya is currently divided between pro-Haftar and pro-GNA interest groups.

Despite the signing of a contract with the GNA, there is mounting evidence to suggest the Sochi visit was not as fruitful as Sarraj would have hoped given he is now having to navigate a complex international political environment where his legitimacy is called into question. Al-Hweij, however, met multiple officials on the sidelines of the Summit, including Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Presidential Representative on the Middle East, Mikhail Bogdanov. These public appearances help cement his role as a minister of the parallel government, lending him further credibility at the expense of the GNA. In a similar eastern-led political effort, a delegation headed by governor of the parallel Central Bank of Libya (CBL), Ali Al-Hibri, visited Greece.

At home, the challenges are real for Sarraj amid growing divisions and infighting within his camp. The deep mistrust between GNA factions was highlighted by the reported arrest of two GNA officials on suspicion of cooperating with the LNA and whistleblowing in the evening on 22 Oct. The Nawasi militia is believed to be behind the arrest of

Colonel Mohamed Al-Fitouri from his home in the Al-Share' Al-Gharbi in Gorji area, and Brigadier General Mohammad Anwar Al-Sharif from his residence in Zawiyat Al-Dahmani area. Al-Sharif operates from Mitiga International Airport (MJI) while Al-Fitouri was based at the headquarters of the GNA's General Staff in Tripoli, according to reports. These arrests are expected to grow more frequent in the medium term, providing an opportunity for the LNA to sow divisions within the GNA camp. Separately, tensions between the Ghneiwa militia and Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB) were recorded this week. Sources reported a dispute between locals and militiamen escalated into an exchange of gunfire and resulted in the injury of a local on Tripoli's Al-Zawiya Street at approximately 2230hrs on 26 Oct. Initial reports suggest the militiamen are affiliated with the Ghneiwa militia and were attempting to arrest a local who is linked to the Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB). The suspect was injured during the arrest attempt and TRB members blocked several roads, whilst firing gunshots in the air.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Mission of Libya (UNSMIL) was accused of supporting the LNA this week, embroiling Ghassan Salame into yet another crisis. The pro-GNA Tripoli Support Force issued a statement alleging the LNA's targeting of field hospitals and medical facilities closely followed a visit by UNSMIL to a GNA field hospital. The statement indirectly accuses the UNSMIL of providing location coordinates to the LNA. The Support Force statement contains threats directed at Salame. In response, the UNSMIL issued a strong statement categorically denying it receives any coordinates for medical facilities or provides any such information to belligerents.

In the southern town of Murzuq, sources reported the security vacuum persists, despite the arrival of the LNA's Khalid Ibn Walid battalion. The sources reported Murzuq residents that fled the town have refused to come back and are skeptical of the alliance between Khalid Ibn Walid battalion and the Tebu-led Martyrs of Umm Aranib battalion.

### KEY POINTS

- Sarraj's Sochi visit not as planned
- Two GNA officials arrested for whistleblowing
- UNSMIL threatened by Tripoli Support Force

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## 2. National Security Map

Release of six doctors detained in Al-Zintan AFRICOM official notes less than 150 militants left in Libya

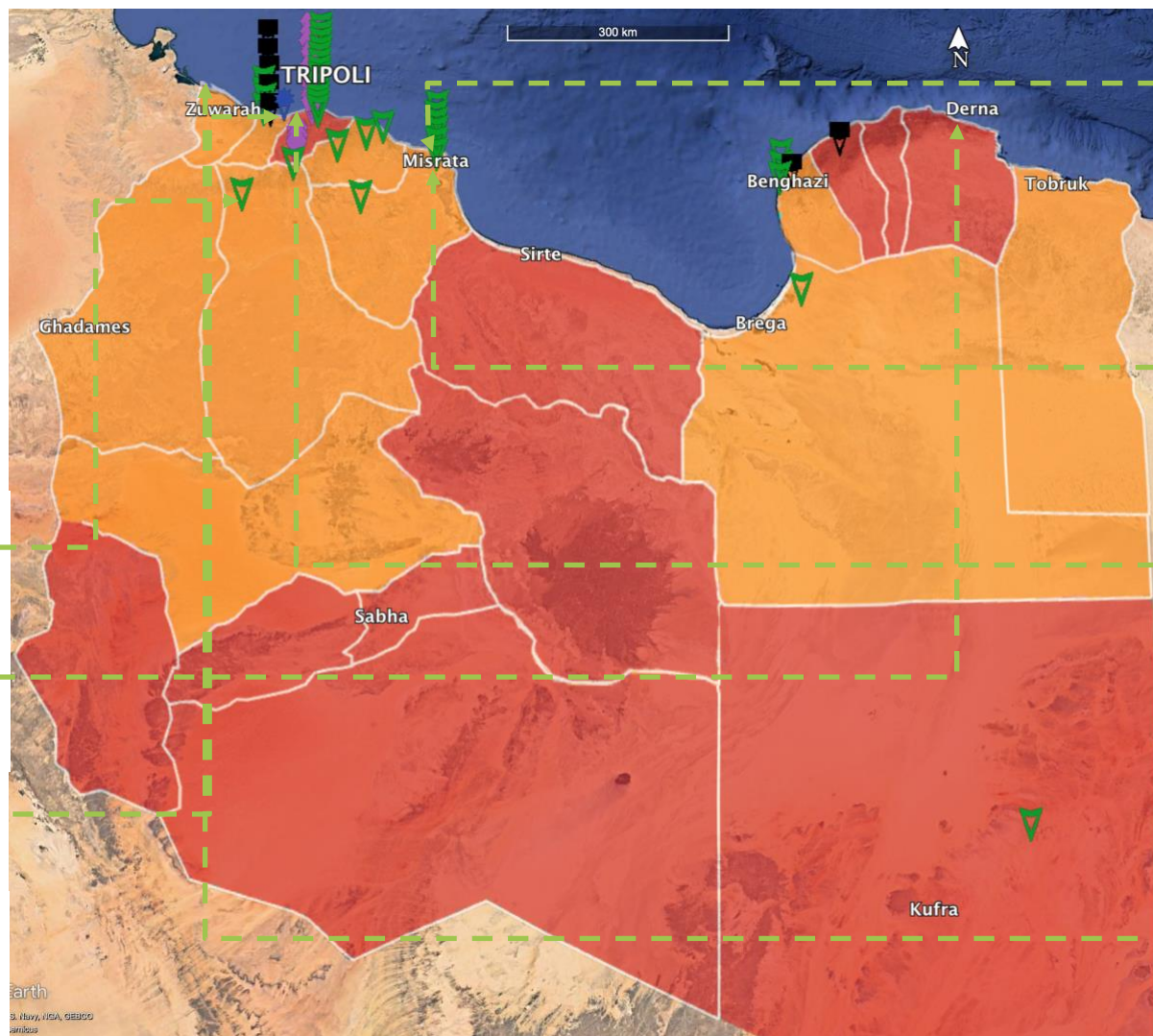
### Key

#### THREAT INDICATORS

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

#### EVENT INDICATORS

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



Reports indicate an LNA airstrike was conducted in the vicinity of Misrata's Aviation College at approximately 0000hrs on 20 Oct. Initial reports indicate a GNA ammunition warehouse was targeted. An additional LNA airstrike reportedly targeted Al-Doofan Checkpoint, South-west of Misrata, in the afternoon on 19 Oct.

Unidentified Misrata armed groups kidnapped/arrested three Bani Waled locals at a checkpoint between the town and Misrata on 20 Oct. Reports indicate the locals were found in possession of a military ID after a regular vehicle inspection. The locals were released on 24 Oct.

Local sources reported a dispute between two local militias in Warshaffana's Mamoura area escalated into armed clashes in the evening on 23 Oct. Source reported a tense security environment in Warshaffana. Checkpoints (CPs) established by militants in civilian uniforms were reported in the area in the morning on 24 Oct. Sources reported travellers were stopped and their IDs checked at a CP near Beir Al-Lef in the morning on 24 Oct. Sporadic gunfire was also reported in the area.

Sources reported the closure of Ras Ajdair Libya/Tunisia border crossing from Libyan authorities at approximately 1945hrs on 23 Oct. The GNA Ministry of Interior (Mol) ordered the closure alleging poor treatment of Libyan travellers on the Tunisian side of the border, which resulted in long queues. Libyan travellers are able to cross back from Tunis to Libya.

Sources reported the release of the six doctors kidnapped in-transit in Zintan on 11 Oct. The doctors were released on 23 Oct and arrived in Tripoli.

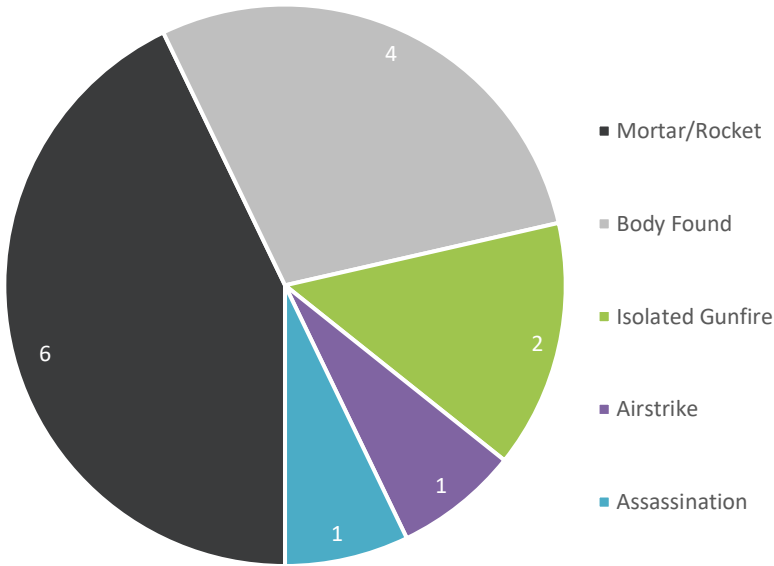
The LNA's 212 battalion handed over "Al-Fatayeh gate", East of Derna, to the Central Support force affiliated with the interim government's Interior Ministry on 22 Oct. During the LNA's offensive operations, the area took centre stage in combat operations.

Gunmen in military uniform raided the Sahara Bank branch in Surman, warning employees and clients to evacuate due to a bomb threat at approximately 1500hrs on 22 Oct.

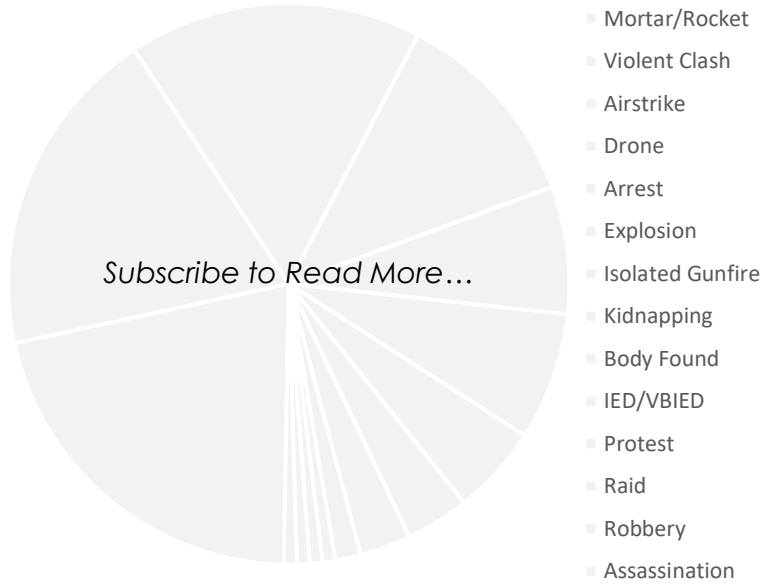
US Africa Command (AFRICOM) Director of Public Affairs Colonel Chris Karns confirmed AFRICOM carried out four airstrikes this year to deny the Islamic State (IS) the capability to regenerate, adding that the total number of militants in Libya is estimated to be less than 150, in an exclusive interview with US media agency VOA.

### 3. Nationwide Security Analysis Indiscriminate shelling on the rise, increasing civilian exposure

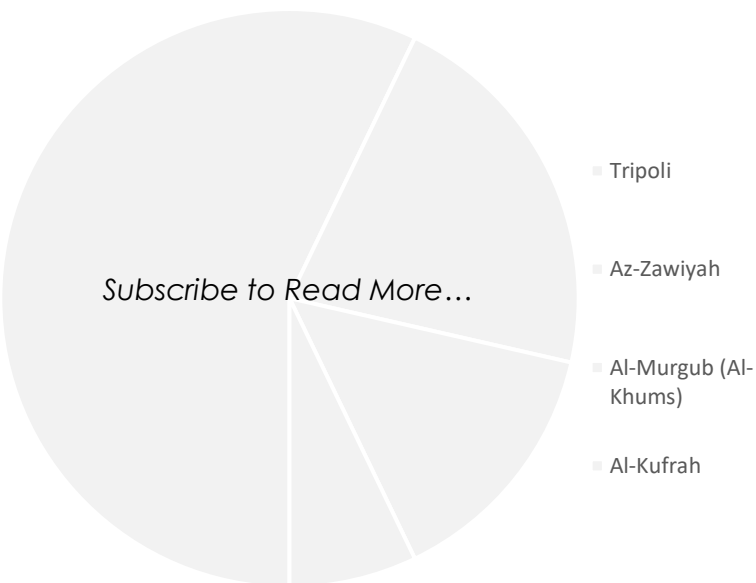
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



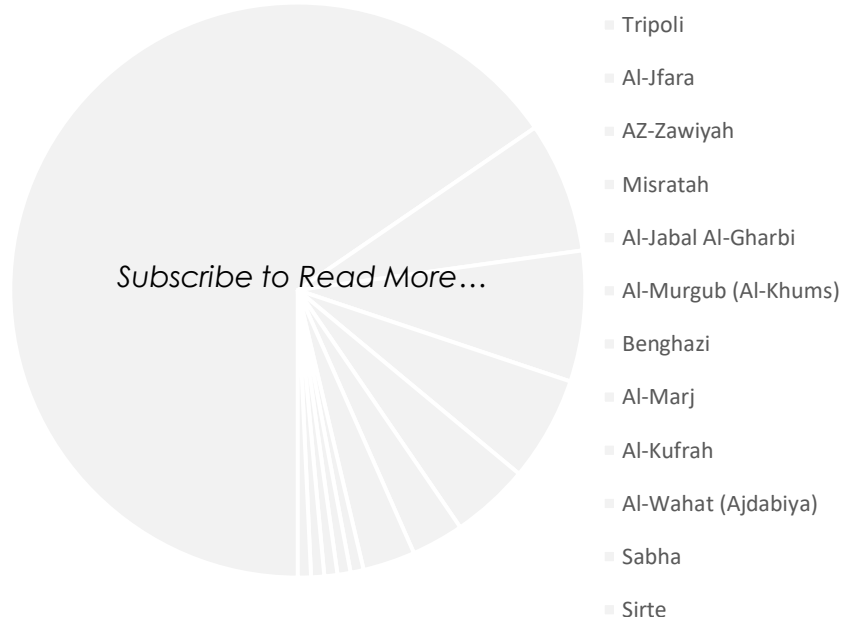
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



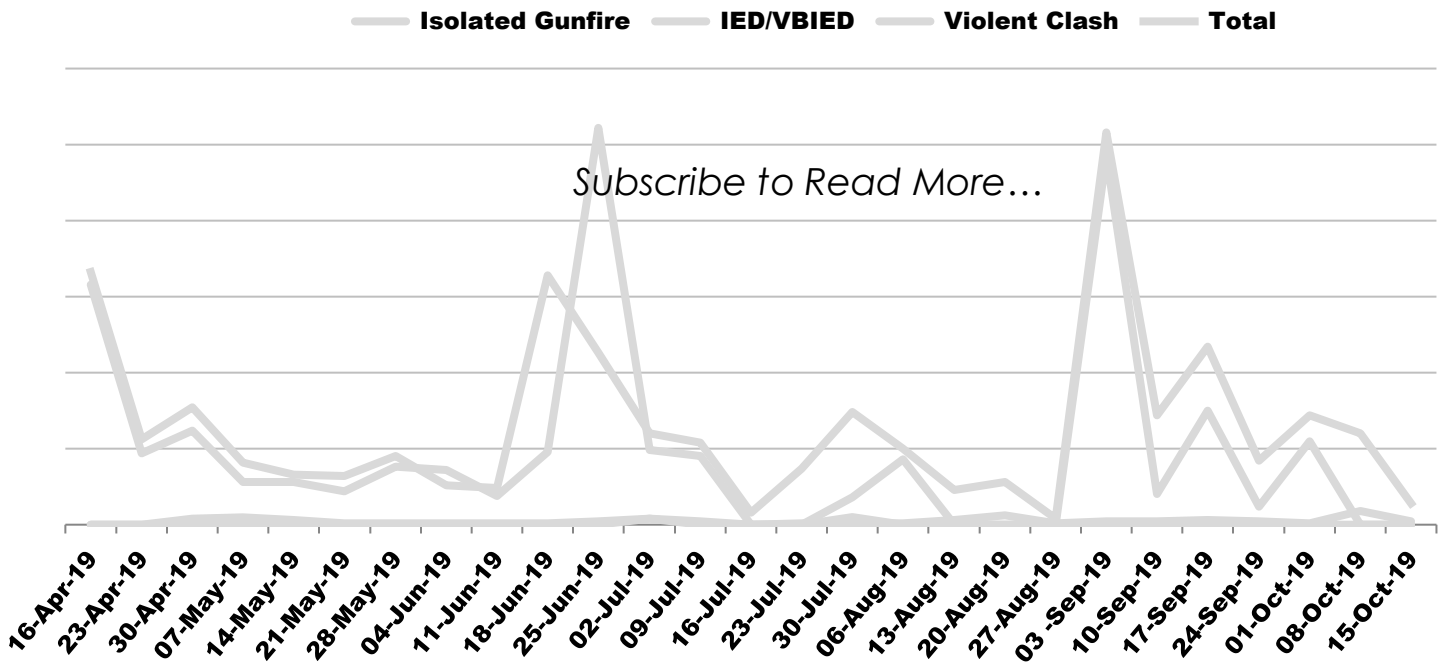
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



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 14 confirmed deaths in Libya, which compares to 60 deaths reported last week and 72 the week before, marking a sharp decrease largely in result of an absent casualty toll of the ongoing clashes in the Western region. This week, two separate mortar/rocket shelling incidents in the Tripoli district resulted in five fatalities, marking a noticeable increase in mortar/rocket shelling incidents exposing civilians across the capital city. The latter was corroborated by this week's data. Meanwhile, this week saw an increase in violent clashes recorded and drones reported flying over Libyan cities, whilst the number of airstrikes and mortar/rocket shelling incidents remained relatively the same. This week also witnessed a surge in kidnappings. Similar to previous weeks, the highest number of security incidents and subsequent fatalities were recorded in the Tripoli district, followed by Al-Jfara and Az-Zawiyah. Meanwhile, arrests remained on an upward spiral, with 6 recorded in Tripoli, 2 in Benghazi, 1 in Sirte and 1 in Ajdabiya. Several security incidents were recorded throughout the country including 29 mortar/rocket shelling incidents, 26 violent clashes, 23 airstrikes, 16 drones reported flying over Libyan cities, 10 arrests, 10 explosions heard, 7 cases of isolated gunfire, 5 kidnappings, 4 separate cases of bodies found, 1 protest, 1 raid, 1 robbery, 1 assassination and 1 IED/VBIED dismantled.

In Western Libya, WB recorded a total of 127 incidents, including 89 in Tripoli, marking an overall increase in security incidents recorded both in Tripoli and the wider Western region in contrast to the previous week. In the Tripoli district, two bodies were found in Gharaboli in the morning on 26 Oct. Initial reports indicate the bodies belong to young individuals and showed signs of gunshots. No further information. Separately, sources reported a parked dark-gray KIA Sportage was stolen in front of Hai Al-Intisar Buildings, North of the Airport Road, in the early hours of 22 Oct. Of note, WB recorded a noticeable decrease in vehicle thefts and carjackings in the past two weeks. Meanwhile, in the wider Western region, reports indicate unidentified gunmen kidnapped an employee of the GNA's General Authority for Martyrs, Missing Persons and Amputees in Al-Heera on 19 Oct. Initial reports indicate the involvement of GNA-affiliated militias who kidnapped the man and transferred him to Tripoli. Beyond, a burnt corpse was found inside a burnt civilian vehicle near Khoms' Soap Factory in the morning on 24 Oct. The latest reports suggest the body belongs to a man in his twenties originally from Msallata. The man was reportedly kidnapped from an unidentified area on 23 Oct. No further information available. Further, the Tripoli Central Hospital received an unidentified body of a man in his forties who suffered from a headshot in the evening on 21 Oct. Initial reports indicate the man is of Moroccan nationality and was shot as he travelling through Al-Zawiyah's Coastal Road at the Al-Harsha Traffic Lights in the Al Harsha area in the afternoon. Locals briefly closed Al-Zawiyah's Coastal Road at the Al-Harsha Traffic Lights at approximately 1230hrs, before reopening the road shortly after in the afternoon. Similar road closures have been reported in the area due to tensions over the release of a family's son's killer.

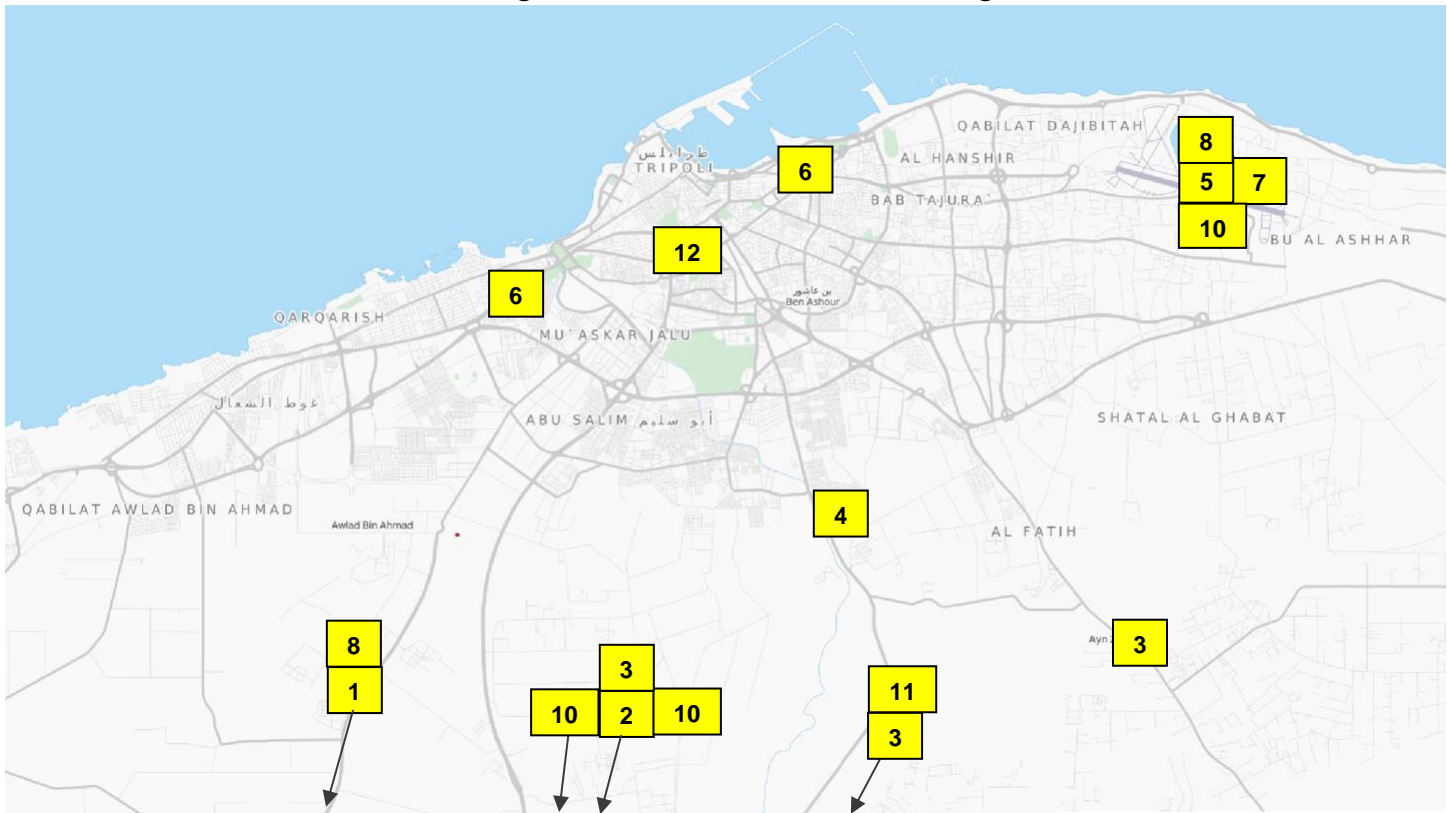
In the central region, this week Sirte's Municipal Guard carried out several raids targeting unlawful gatherings and arrested a number of suspects in possession of narcotics and alcohol on 22 Oct. Separately, local reports indicate an LNA military force arrived in the Sultan area and established several CPs to inspect vehicles on 24 Oct. Reports indicate the LNA force is positioned on the outskirts of Sirte.

Turning to the South, there has been a decrease in sporadic security incidents reported coinciding with reports of the LNA returning to secure the region. In Al-Kufra, reports indicate a shell exploded resulting in the death of a young man on 25 Oct.

In the East, 2 arrests, 1 kidnapping and 1 gunfire-related incident were reported in Benghazi. Meanwhile, local reports indicate a 15-year-old boy was shot in his left hand while attending a horse race in Al-Marj's Al-Kaf area, East of Benghazi, on 21 Oct.

## 4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

### MJI remains target of LNA airstrikes; shelling results in civilian casualties



#### KEY INCIDENTS

1. (19-20 Oct) LNA claim control over Al-Zahra Bridge; sources deny
2. (20-21 Oct) LNA gain ground South of Hadba Al-Mashro
3. (21-22 Oct) Slight LNA advance in Ain Zara & on Hadba-Khallasat frontline
4. (22 Oct) Shells land on Salah Al-Din Buildings; 3 killed & 2 injured
5. (22 Oct) LNA airstrike targets MJ; LNA claim Turkish UAV warehouse targeted
6. (22 Oct) Two GNA officials arrested on suspicion of cooperating with LNA
7. (22-23 Oct) LNA airstrikes target MJ; GNA claim LGB dropped during attack
8. (23 Oct) Shell lands on civilian house on Al-Asfah Street; 3 killed & 8 injured
9. (24 Oct) UAV over MJ; missile allegedly fired in attempt to down UAV
10. (25 Oct) LNA claim control over Wildlife Garden & Hamza Camp; sources deny
11. (26 Oct) LNA claim control over large areas of Al-Yarmook Camp
12. (26 Oct) Ghneiwa affiliates attempt to arrest TRB affiliate; TRB arrive at scene

#### Airstrikes target MJ; ambulance flight operated

WB sources reported LNA airstrikes targeted Mitiga International Airport (MJ) at approximately 0200hrs on 22 Oct. The LNA's general command stated that the airstrikes targeted warehouses used to store Turkish-manufactured unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the airport's military section. The statement noted that the airstrikes resulted in a series of explosions and the destruction of rockets and ammunition. The LNA warned any armed group or militia against threatening the safety of its units by bringing or importing any type of weapon or ammunition from abroad, as well as storing it to use against LNA units or civilians. The LNA reiterated that such weapons and equipment will be targeted "at any time and in any place". Separately, the LNA Air Force (LAAF) targeted MJ at approximately 1630hrs on 22 Oct and at 0100hrs on 23 Oct, bringing the total number of airstrikes to three in two days. The GNA Western Region's Joint Ops Room issued a statement claiming the alleged use of an F-16 aircraft corroborates the involvement of the LNA's foreign backers in an earlier airstrike carried out at approximately 0215hrs on 22 Oct. The statement added that a US-manufactured laser-guided bomb (LGB) of approximately 227 kilograms was dropped during the attack. Pro-LNA accounts reported the latest airstrike targeted a MIG 25 aircraft being refurbished in a warehouse at MJ. Beyond this, pro-LNA local publication Al-Marsad published details of an air ambulance flight carrying two Turkish passengers from MJ to Istanbul Ataturk Airport (ISL) on 22 Oct. Al-Marsad claims the flight was operated hours after the LNA's airstrike targeting MJ's airbase at approximately 0200hrs on 22 Oct. The pro-LNA publication added that the two Turkish passengers were wounded as a result

of the airstrike. Further, Al-Marsad published details of a separate humanitarian flight operated by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on 21 Oct from MJ to Tunis, and carrying two passengers, including a Dutch national. There is little to no evidence to back pro-LNA allegations that the passengers onboard these flights were indeed supporting the GNA and were not civilians being evacuated. Regardless, these investigative reports help reinforce the LNA's narrative and increase the likelihood of additional targeting of MJ in the short term.

#### GNA officials arrested

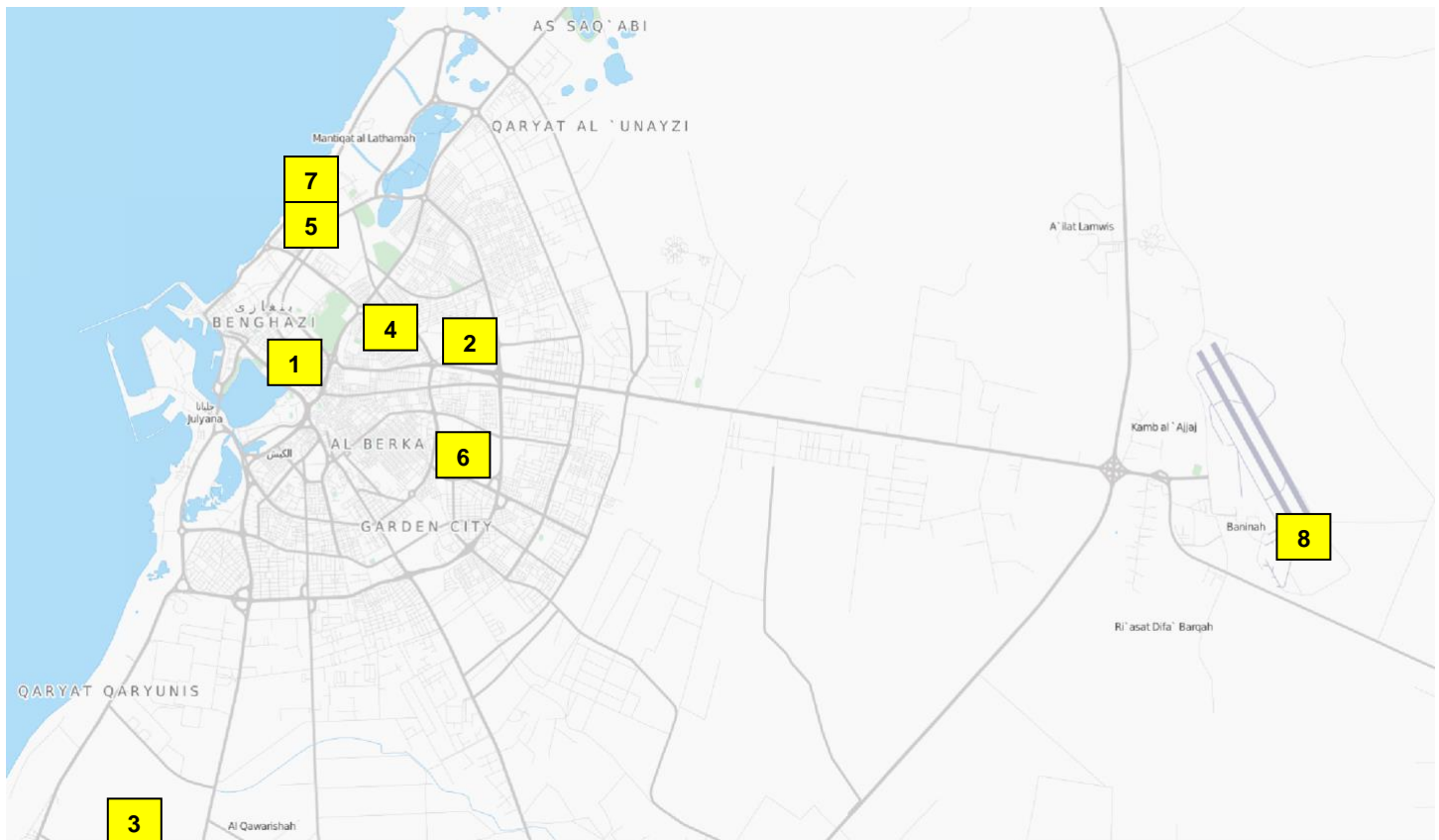
Two prominent GNA officials were reportedly arrested on suspicion of cooperating and leaking intelligence with the LNA in the evening on 22 Oct. The Nawasi militia arrested Colonel Mohamed Al-Fitouri from his home in the Al-Share' Al-Gharbi in Gorji area, and Brigadier General Mohammad Anwar Al-Sharif from his residence in Zawiyat Al-Dahmani area, according to the reports. Al-Sharif operates from MJ while Al-Fitouri was based at the headquarters of the GNA's General Staff in Tripoli.

#### Shelling results in civilian casualties

On 22 Oct, an indiscriminate shell landed on an apartment in the Salah Eddien Buildings resulting in two fatalities and three injuries. Separately, a shell landed on a civilian house in Al-Asfah street in Al-Swani, killing three civilians and injuring eight others at approximately 1400hrs on 23 Oct. The same house was reportedly on 22 Oct.

## 5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

### US Deputy Chief of Mission in Benghazi in first such visit since 2014



#### KEY INCIDENTS

1. (21 Oct) Automobile repair shop used for drug use raided
2. (21 Oct) Over 100 illegal migrants arrested in house raid; 140 vehicles seized in traffic campaign
3. (22 Oct) Armed group kidnap elderly woman from her residence
4. (24 Oct) Indiscriminate gunfire injures two women in Al-Salmi
5. (26 Oct) Landmine detonates resulting injury of man in Al-Sabri
6. (26 Oct) Man killed in clashes with residents of Hadaeq
7. (26 Oct) ERW detonates in pile of garbage near schools in Al-Sabri
8. (26 Oct) US Deputy Chief of Mission meets various Libyan figures

#### Armed group kidnaps elderly woman

Local reports indicate an armed group kidnapped a 68-year-old Libyan woman from her residence in Benghazi's Busnaib area on 22 Oct. The gunmen reportedly stormed the woman's residence and took her to an unknown location. There is no further information available, though the incident would come less than ten days after the bodies of two Sudanese women were found and three others were kidnapped.

#### Indiscriminate gunfire injures two women

Local reports indicate indiscriminate gunfire resulted in the injuries of two women in Benghazi's Western Al-Salmi area on 24 Oct. Reports indicate the victims were indiscriminately shot after walking by a dispute that escalated into an exchange of gunfire in the area.

#### Three separate incidents reported on 26 Oct

A 30-year-old man was injured by shrapnel from a landmine that accidentally detonated behind the Libyan Club in Benghazi's Al-Sabri area on 26 Oct. Separately, clashes between residents of Benghazi's Hadaeq area and a 52-year-old man resulted in the death of the latter. The motive behind the clashes remains unknown. Beyond this, the Ministry of Education of the Eastern-based Interim Government confirmed an explosion near the schools of Omar Farouk

and Sorouh Knowledge in Benghazi's Sabri area on 26 Oct. The ministry noted the absence of casualties and/or physical damage. The explosion occurred during a cleaning campaign carried out by residents of the area, where explosive remnants of war (ERW) detonated in a pile of accumulated garbage.

#### US official in first such visit since '14

In a significant political development this week, the US Embassy in Libya reported a visit by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Joshua Harris, to Benghazi's Benina for consultations with an array of Libyan figures to discuss efforts to end the clashes in Tripoli, as well as seek justice for US victims of the 11 Sep 2014 attack against US diplomatic facilities in Benghazi. During the visit, the US noted its support for domestic efforts to promote Libya's energy sector and reforms indicating transparency in the allocation of Libya's natural resources. Additionally, the US noted ongoing efforts to bring the perpetrators involved in the 2014 attack against US personnel in Benghazi to justice. The visit stood as symbolic given as it was the first to Benina since the US suspended its diplomatic operations in Libya in 2014.

## 6. What's next

### “Berlin Process” to dominate talks as GNA divisions widen

#### POLITICAL FORECAST

The Berlin Process is now taking centre stage, despite multiple challenges ahead in terms of timelines and representation at the Summit. In the first visit of a European delegation since clashes erupted, GNA PM Fayez Al-Serraj, received the German Foreign Minister, Heiko Maas, in Zuwara, where Al-Serraj and his accompanying delegation and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) head Ghassan Salame, were briefed on the upcoming Berlin-hosted International Conference on Libya. In a joint presser held after the meeting, Maas noted his country's support for Salame's three-point plan and efforts to revive the political process by engaging Libyan factions to halt foreign interference. Meanwhile, Salame, along with the Libyan and German FMs, noted that Al-Serraj and Mohammed Sayala were briefed on the progress of the Berlin process. Salame added that a meeting will be held in coming weeks that will pave the way for the Berlin Summit. Salame stated that a follow-up committee will be established after the Summit. The incident highlights Germany's will to push forward with the Berlin conference and subsequently engage with all necessary Libyan stakeholders prior to the summit. Of note, the incident follows a GNA official in Rome, Italy, stating that the conference was pushed back to Apr 2020. On the Eastern front and in an attempt to consolidate its posture, Interim Government FM, Abdulhadi Al-Hweijj, met multiple officials on the sidelines of the Russia-Africa Summit held in Sochi (Russia), including Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Presidential Representative on the Middle East, Mikhail Bogdanov. Beyond this, the military prosecutor of GNA's Ministry of Defense ordered the arrest of four LNA military leaders, including the LNA head, Khalifa Haftar. The military prosecutor claimed that the arrest warrant came after the “only survivor of the Russian massacre of Wagner Group mercenaries” filed a lawsuit against Haftar and accused him of hiring Russian mercenaries involved in the kidnapping and assassination of his relatives.

#### WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

In an article for *The Arab Weekly*, Libya expert Michel Cousins discusses how the National Oil Corporation (NOC) plans to boost production to 2 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2022 and 2.2 million bpd by 2024. “NOC's plan is to raise production to 2 million bpd by 2022 and 2.2 million bpd by 2024. However, it needs both massive investment on the part of NOC and the willingness of foreign oil companies to operate in Libya. NOC officials said the company needs \$15 billion for its 5-year development plan, primarily for new technologies to improve and expand production and to upgrade and expand its pipeline network. The scale of the task has been made worse by various conflicts in the country since 2014. Oilfields, notably the Ghani and Mabrouk fields south of Sirte that were attacked and damaged by the Islamic State militants in 2015, will take years to recover, a NOC official said on the sidelines of the forum. Between them, the fields once produced 400,000 bpd. At the beginning of October, the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) agreed to give NOC \$1 billion towards development needs and, although the money has not been transferred to an account set up for this, officials said they believe it will arrive. Given that the GNA is not going to provide anything near the \$15 billion NOC said it needs, the company is looking for a change in its relationship with the state, including a strong degree of independence. At the forum in Tunis, officials spoke in favour of being able to borrow from the market through bonds and loans, a proposal the well-funded Libyan private sector and banks enthusiastically support. Other proposals include replacing the outdated 1955 Oil Law with one that would reflect a change in the relationship between the corporation and the state; an end to the practice, in operation since 1984, by which oil revenue automatically goes to the state not NOC; a return to the situation in which NOC paid the state taxes and royalties; greater flexibility in exploration and production agreements to reflect that new production fields are likely to be in more difficult areas and will require greater investment by foreign oil companies; and the restoration of a Ministry of Oil”.

#### SECURITY FORECAST

No significant changes have been reported across frontlines, though LNA forces seem to have reinforced their posture in existing positions and doubled down on troops and reinforcements. Control remains fluid, despite conflicting claims of advances from both the LNA and GNA throughout the week. LNA forces are reported to have gained ground on service roads in Ain Zara, Hadba Al-Mashro' and Khallat Al-Forjan, increasing the possibility of a sudden advance into Salah Al-Dein and Sidra road. As a result, a successful LNA advance in Salah Al-Dein and Sidra road could result in sudden retreats by GNA forces on the Ain Zara and Airport Road fronts. Meanwhile, the spokesperson of the GNA's predominantly-Amazigh National Mobile Force, Salim Qashout, stated GNA forces are preparing for an advance and possible siege of Tarhunah in the short term to cut the LNA's supply lines. GNA forces are unlikely to attempt a direct offensive on the town as this would risk expanding frontlines to every area with a Tarhunah tribal presence, including central Tripoli. Separately, photos of prominent Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB) commander, Haitham Tajouri, were circulated across social media. The photos were purported to document his return to Tripoli to support GNA forces on the ground. Tajouri's absence from the frontlines and alleged travel outside Tripoli increased concerns among pro-GNA forces that he had fled fighting, despite an initial appearance in the first months of the clashes. Broadly speaking, the security environment across GNA-controlled territories continues to be undermined by divisions and deep mistrust. On the counterterrorism front, statements by an AFRICOM official confirmed that there are less than 150 IS militants remaining in Libya. The development is significant and would mark a sharp decrease from the 500-700 figure reported between 2016-2018. However, sources continue to report a residual presence of extremist militants on the outskirts of Sabha and in the vicinity of Umm Aranib.

#### LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

*Amnesty International* published its findings of the first in-depth field investigation across the frontlines since clashes began in early Apr, in which it revealed evidence of potential war crimes committed by both rival sides. “Our on-the-ground investigation on both sides of the frontline revealed a systematic disregard for international law fuelled by the continued supply of weapons to both sides in violation of a UN arms embargo,” said Donatella Rovera, Senior Crisis Response Adviser at Amnesty International. “Scores of civilians have been killed and injured as both sides use everything from Gaddafi-era unguided rockets to modern drone-launched guided missiles in attacks that could amount to war crimes,” said Brian Castner, Amnesty International's Senior Crisis Adviser on Arms and Military Operations. Amnesty International investigators were on the ground in Libya from 1 to 14 August and visited both sides of the conflict in and around Tripoli, Tajoura, Ain Zara, Qasr Bin Ghashir and Tarhouna. They interviewed 156 residents, including survivors, witnesses and relatives of victims, as well as local officials, medical workers and members of militias. Some of the attacks documented by Amnesty International were either indiscriminate or disproportionate – meaning they violated fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and could amount to war crimes. In other cases, the presence of fighters at or near civilian homes and medical facilities endangered civilians there. Mitiga Airport – for months Tripoli's only functioning airport – is now closed after being repeatedly targeted by LNA attacks. Nearby civilian homes and a school have also been struck in what appear to be indiscriminate attacks. Amnesty International experts examined craters and munitions fragments at several of these strike sites, pointing to the use of unguided, large explosive weapons. “All sides must take immediate and concrete steps to protect civilians in line with the laws of war and investigate the conduct of their forces. A Commission of Inquiry should be put in place to pave the way for justice and reparation for the victims and their families,” said Donatella Rovera. “Members of the UN Human Rights Council should work together to establish this mechanism as a matter of urgency, which could determine responsibility for violations and preserve evidence of crimes.”

# About Whispering Bell



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