

1. The Big Picture

LNA's Tripoli offensive falls apart; Moscow to curb Ankara's expansion

The Libyan National Army (LNA) under Khalifa Haftar's command has retreated from Tripoli, reversing territorial gains accumulated since it first launched its offensive in April 2019. The development signals the end of the battle for Tripoli after more than 2500 fatalities, though further escalation is expected across the central region in the next few weeks. After repelling Haftar's forces from Tripoli district and later extending control over the LNA's Tarhunah stronghold with no reported engagement, Government of National Accord (GNA) forces supported by Turkey are now moving to lock in gains further east towards Sirte, raising concerns fighting could expand to the Oil Crescent region.

These radical changes in the Libyan combat theatre between 03-06 June are the result of the GNA's offensive posture since at least March 2020. The question ahead is whether the GNA and Turkey are intent on, and capable of, completely turning the tide of war.

Politically, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi announced a ceasefire initiative in Libya as of 08 June, in a joint presser from Cairo alongside Haftar and House of Representatives (HoR) speaker Aguila Saleh.

The Cairo ceasefire initiative aims to halt further GNA/Turkey advances into the east. The initiative cements Haftar's losses but introduces the threat of an Egypt-led military intervention to deter GNA forces from pursuing further advances. In fact, reports allege Egyptian military vehicles have been spotted travelling towards the Libyan border. It was not immediately clear whether Egypt was doubling down on its military support or mobilizing to secure its borders. The LNA likely favours more Egyptian involvement to prop up its capabilities and recover from recent setbacks, though it remains to be seen whether Haftar has enough bargaining leverage to convince Cairo to risk a military deployment that would run counter to Moscow's interests.

Both Turkey and GNA PM Fayez Al-Serraj officially rejected the proposal. At this stage, Ankara and the Tripoli government have publicly declared their intent to pursue the offensive towards Sirte and Al-Jufra. While the statement initially raised concerns fighting could expand to the Oil Crescent, there is mounting evidence to indicate Turkey is unlikely to go against Moscow's interests in the east. The GNA publicly declared intent to control the entire country, but this is not a realistic target and the claims are deliberate to raise the GNA's leverage in negotiations.

Regardless, the Sirte national district will take centre stage in the medium term as both Turkey and Russia delineate the boundaries of their spheres of influence in Libya.

LNA forces remain in control of Al-Jufra airbase and GNA forces would run the risk of spreading themselves too thin if further advances are pursued eastward. Of note, GNA forces briefly entered Sirte on 06 June before retreating west due to LNA airstrikes and local resistance.

More importantly, Moscow continues to maintain leverage in the east and south by holding key positions in Sirte and Al-Jufra airbase, respectively. Of note, the presence of Wagner private military contractors (PMCs) has been reported in Sirte and Al-

Jufra airbase, which enables Moscow to halt any GNA/Turkey incursion into the south. The retreat of Wagner PMCs from Tripoli sheds light on Moscow's objective to compel Haftar to sit at the negotiating table.

WB's analysis of Russia's policy objectives continues to hold, and the latest developments laid bare the widely-held assumption that Moscow's support for Haftar is unconditional. In fact, there is reason to believe the latest developments are the result of a sideline agreement between Russia and Turkey, whereby Moscow agreed to pull back Wagner PMCs and refrained from providing air cover to LNA forces retreating from Tarhunah. However, Moscow has since consolidated its position in Sirte and Al-Jufra. In addition, Moscow has reorganized forces and reportedly deployed Syrian factions to Libya to fight in its ranks throughout May.

In brief, a permanent ceasefire in Libya is now in the hands of Russia and Turkey. While the UN-led 5+5 joint military commission (JMC) talks may resume in the medium term, negotiations will ultimately be bypassed in favour of a settlement under Russia's and Turkey's own terms. Looking ahead, most observers agree Haftar has limited prospects to hold a seat in a future unity government.

In the meantime, internal GNA divisions are expected to resurface in the next few weeks. Politically, signs of divisions are emerging at the GNA cabinet level over next steps. Conflicting messages were sent by GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha and Deputy PM Ahmed Maiteeg in relation to the Sirte offensive. Observers argue Maiteeg, who has just returned from an official visit to Moscow, is of the view the Sirte offensive would undermine the GNA's relations with Russia. For his part, Al-Serraj's symbolic visit to Turkey on 04 June cements the GNA's gains and sends a clear message Ankara's support continues and will likely increase in the medium term, a move that further undermines Europe's reach in Libya. It remains to be seen how the GNA will manage these competing visions and external stakeholders.

So far, the presence of LNA forces on the outskirts of Tripoli was the glue holding GNA armed factions with conflicting interests together. The GNA's political posture will be put to the test in the medium term, both in Tripoli and newly-captured areas. In Tripoli, long-standing tensions between armed factions and Bashagha will increase in the medium term. Bashagha will find it more difficult to delay security-sector reforms after LNA forces retreated, especially given high expectations from Washington, which has recently stepped up its condemnation of Russia's role in Libya. Bashagha will continue to face challenges in implementing Washington's vision to curb Russia's influence in-country if Turkey reaches another settlement with Moscow. Overall, the GNA cabinet will continue to face an uphill struggle to enact reforms, without which it will remain incapable of extending control over new areas in the west, including Tarhunah, Bani Walid, and Ash Shwayrif.

KEY POINTS

- GNA repels LNA from Tripoli & moves east
- Moscow consolidates in Al-Jufra & Sirte
- Cairo proposes ceasefire but GNA rejects



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2. National Security Map

GNA forces on outskirts of Sirte after Tarhuna & Bani Walid; Sharara resumes production

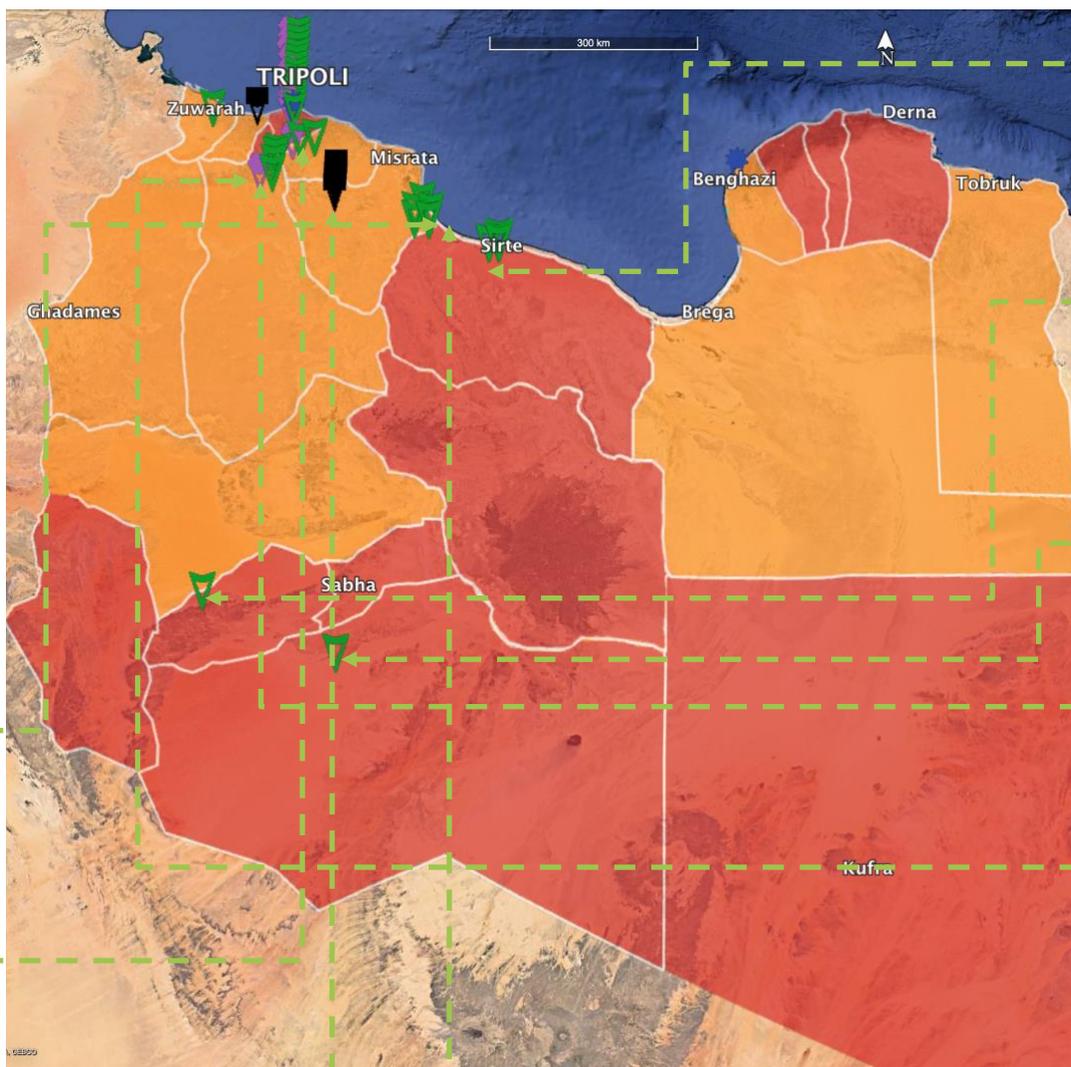
Key

THREAT INDICATORS

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

EVENT INDICATORS

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



GNA forces continued with their expected push towards Sirte after claiming Al-Weshka in the afternoon on 06 June, Pro-GNA accounts reported an advance on the Sirte Coastal Road from Buerat and Wadi Jarif areas towards the city center via Sabaa Road, in the afternoon on 06 Jun. GNA forces entered the city, reaching the Zaafaran area, before retreating westwards due to LNA airstrikes. Meanwhile, the LNA spokesman, Ahmed Al-Mesmari, reported a counter-attack targeting Al-Heesha area, east of Misrata, on 06 June.

GNA forces officially entered Tarhunah at approximately 0800hrs on 05 June with no engagement reported in the town. The GNA's peaceful entry was coordinated from four separate fronts, including east of Tarhunah via Dawoon. Meanwhile, reports confirmed the arrival of retreating LNA forces to Al-Jufra airbase on 05 June.

GNA forces advanced towards Bani Walid on 05 June, capturing Bani Walid Airport before later controlling the entire town.

The GNA military spokesperson, Mohamed Gnounou, confirmed five airstrikes were carried out south Sirte on 06 June. Local reports indicate a GNA UAV strike targeted a civilian vehicle in Sirte's Abu Hadi area, killing all onboard at approximately 0130hrs.

An unidentified armed group stormed Sharara oil field and demanded the expulsion of the Petroleum Facilities Guards (PFG) securing the field on 06 June. The attack was repelled. Sharara gradually resumed production after the reopening of a valve at the Hamada oil field feeding the Zawiya oil refinery on 05 June. Sources confirmed Sharara's reopening came via negotiations with local PFG guards on-site. Sources denied the involvement of Ali Kanna, the GNA commander in the south, in the reopening. In addition, Al-Feel oil field reopened on 07 June.

Reports indicate suspected Islamic State (IS) militants raided a house and killed its owner and four children in Taraghin, south of Sabhā, in the morning on 03 Jun.

On 02 June, the GNA military spokesman, Mohammed Gnounou, reported five airstrikes targeted the town of Alasaba recently seized by LNA forces. Gnounou reported the airstrikes resulted in 12 fatalities within LNA ranks, in addition to the destruction of seven military vehicles.

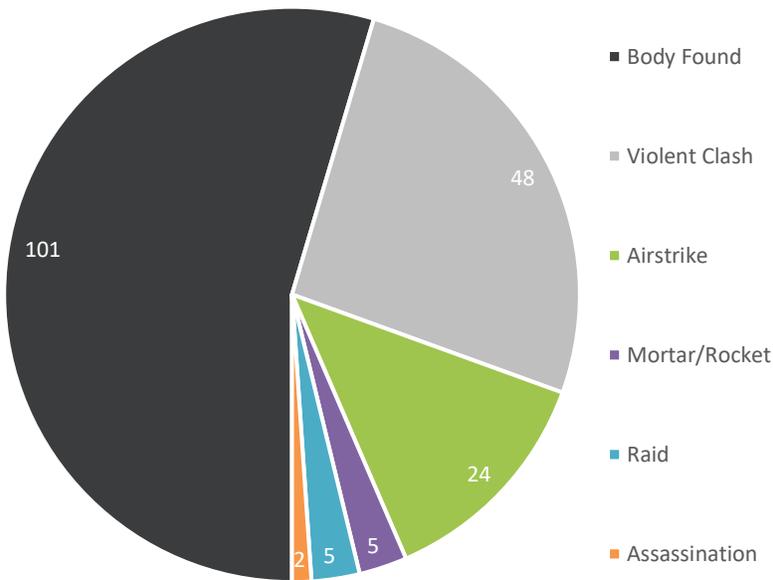
Gunmen affiliated with Zawiya and Gharyan armed factions aboard a convoy of several military and civilian vehicles raided a residential area in Alasaba in an attempt to carry out burglaries. Skirmishes erupted between the gunmen and locals in the afternoon on 06 June. The locals killed two gunmen and captured three others, while the remaining perpetrators fled the scene. In an act of retaliation, Gharyan militiamen kidnapped two locals from Alasaba later that night.

On 06 June, the GNA's Sirte-Jufra Ops room announced a new operation dubbed "Victory Paths" to seize Al-Weshka, Buwayrat Al-Husn, Sirte, and Al-Jufra.

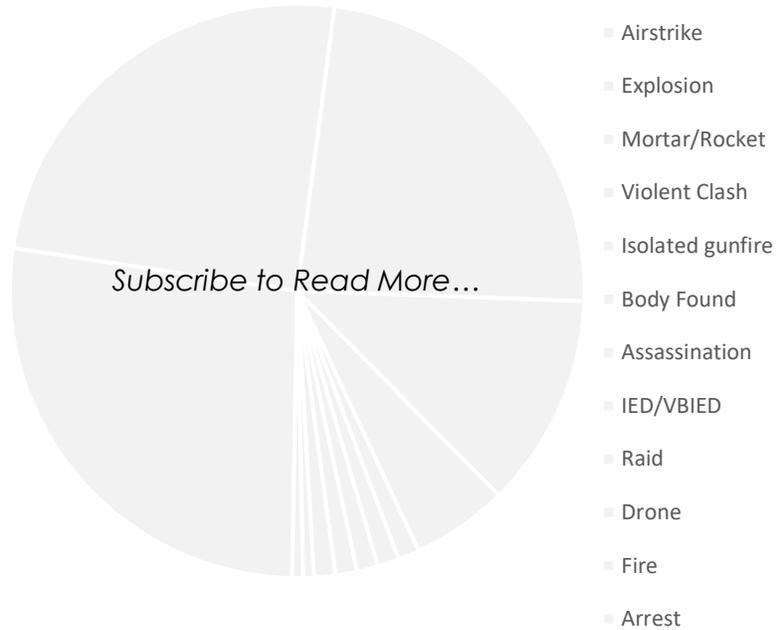
3. Nationwide Security Analysis

Surge in LNA airstrikes ivo Gharyan; 100 Bodies found in Tarhuna Hospital

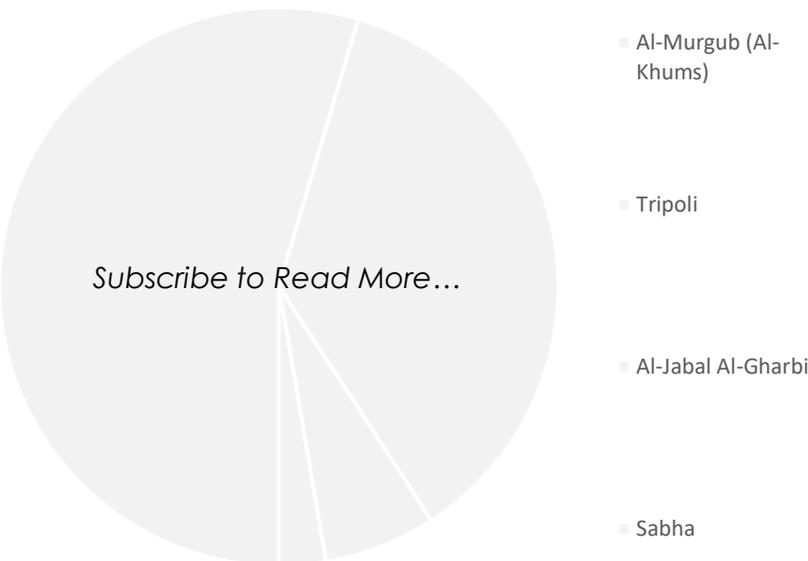
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



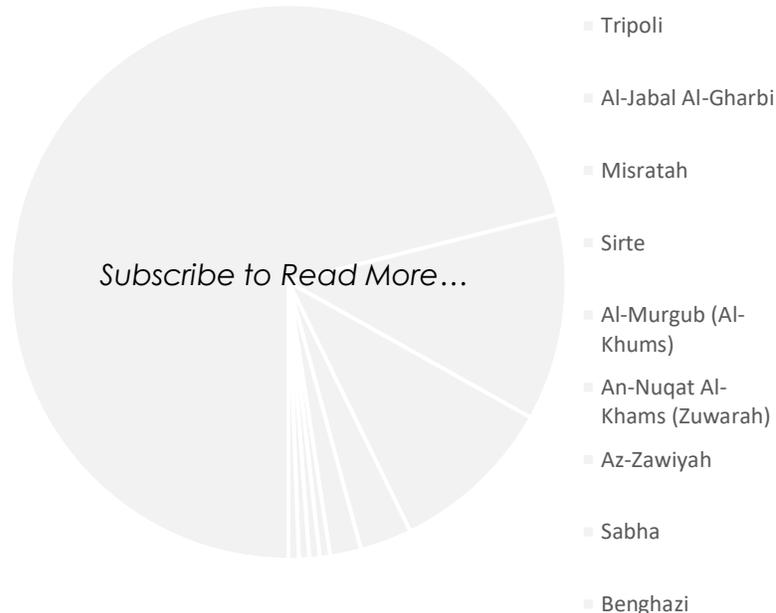
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



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 185 confirmed deaths in Libya, which compares to 163 deaths reported last week and 114 the week before. One hundred bodies were found in the Tarhuna General Hospital by GNA forces after entering the town. Meanwhile, an additional body was found in Tripoli's Salah Eddien area. Separately, violent clashes concentrated in the Tripoli International Airport (TI) vicinity resulted in the death of 48 LNA units, according to pro-GNA reports. Meanwhile, GNA airstrikes resulted in 24 fatalities, including 12 civilians in Tripoli's Qasr Bin Ghashir area and 12 fatalities among LNA ranks due to an airstrike targeting Alasaba. Five civilian fatalities were recorded as a result of indiscriminate shelling in Tripoli's Tuesday Mall vicinity. An additional five fatalities were recorded among a family due to a suspected Islamic State (IS) raid on their house in the Taraghin area, south of Sabha. Meanwhile, two assassinations were recorded in the Tripoli and Al-Murugub districts throughout the reporting period.

In western Libya, WB recorded a total of 159 incidents, including 118 in Tripoli marking an increase in security incidents recorded in the west in contrast to the previous week largely due to the GNA's push across the west following the LNA's retreat in Tripoli towards the central region. In Tripoli, WB recorded 38 mortar/rocket incidents and 38 audible explosions as a result, 20 violent clashes, 15 airstrikes, 2 raids, 2 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) flying over Tripoli's airspace, 1 isolated gunfire case, 1 IED/VBIED incident, 1 arrest and 1 body found.

In the wider western region, the security environment was dominated by a GNA push to seize LNA-controlled areas following their full control over the Tripoli district. GNA forces moved on to enter Tarhunah, Bani Walid, and temporarily entered Sirte. WB recorded a total of 45 airstrikes throughout the reporting period, with the GNA continuing to claim aerial superiority highlighted by an increased number of airstrikes conducted in contrast to that of the LNA. This week, the LNA conducted 15 airstrikes out of the total 45. The airstrikes accounted for 24 fatalities, including 12 civilians and 12 LNA units. A GNA airstrike targeting Al-Manara Road in Tripoli's Qasr Bin Ghashir area resulted in 12 civilian fatalities. Meanwhile, a GNA airstrike targeting Alasaba resulted in 12 fatalities among LNA ranks. Separately, LNA units downed a total of eight GNA-operated UAVs over the Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi, Tripoli and Bani Walid districts. The LNA's Media Office reported three GNA-operated UAVs were downed over Bani Walid on 30 May. The first UAV was downed in the morning and the other two later that evening. In addition, pro-LNA accounts reported the downing of a GNA-operated Turkish unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) near Bani Walid Airport. In regard to LNA airstrikes, GNA positions were targeted in Gharyan in the morning on 01 June and at night on 31 May. Pro-LNA accounts reported the 01 June airstrike targeted a GNA military camp in Gharyan's Abo-maade area. Meanwhile, reports indicate an exchange of shelling targeting Al-Heera in the morning on 01 June. Meanwhile, pro-LNA accounts reported several airstrikes targeted GNA positions in Abugrein, Wadi Zamzam, and Al-Qaddahiyah villages throughout the day on 30 May. Separately, the GNA's Health Ministry reported that 100 civilian bodies, including women and men, were located in the Tarhuna General Hospital with signs of torture and gunfire on 05 June. Meanwhile, pro-LNA accounts reported looting and other sporadic security incidents upon the entry of GNA forces to Tarhunah.

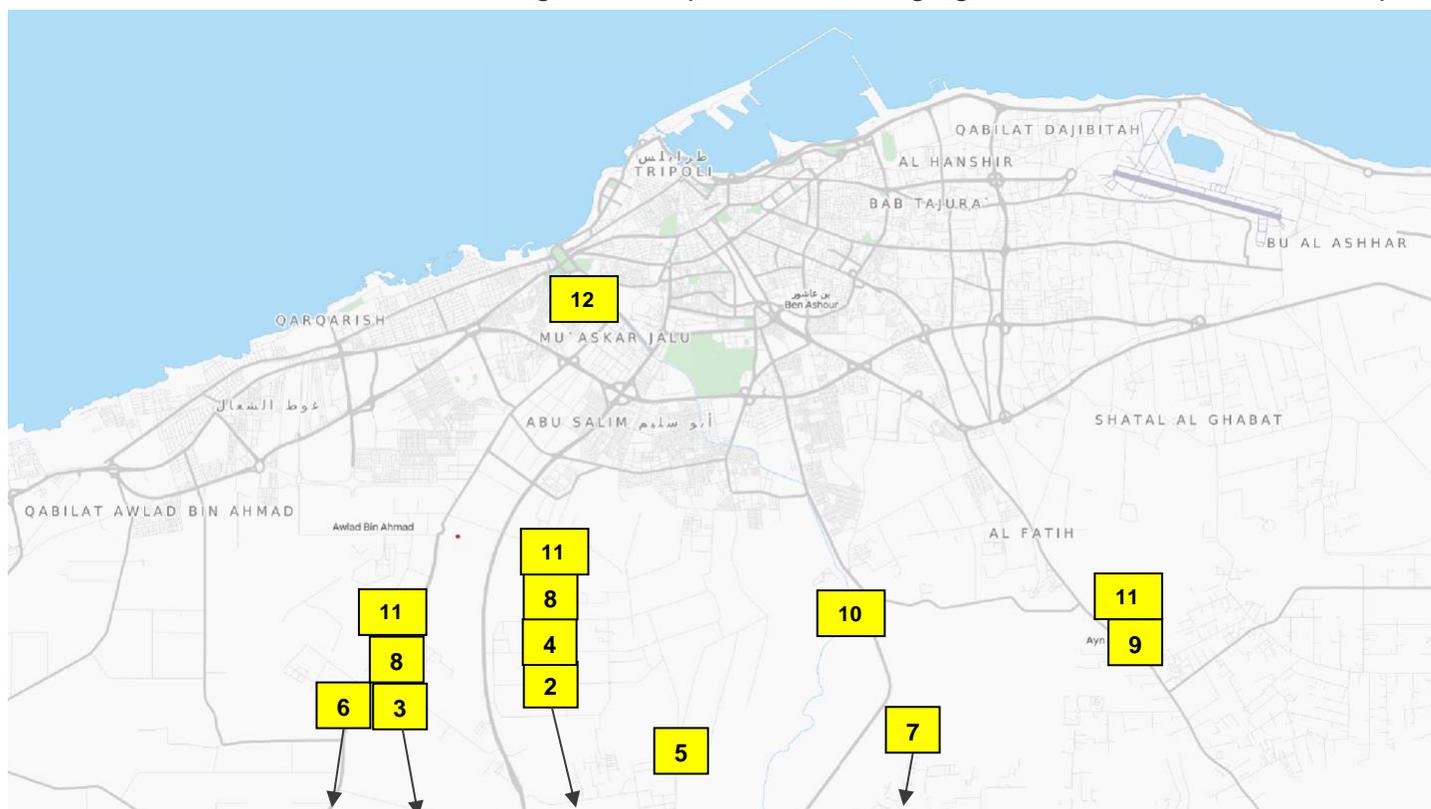
Meanwhile in the central region, the security environment remains fluid in the Sirte vicinity and its nearby areas after the GNA announced a new operation dubbed "Victory Paths" to seize Al-Weshka, Buwayrat Al-Husn, Sirte, and Al-Jufra. WB recorded a total of five GNA airstrikes targeting LNA positions to the south of Sirte on 06 June as they temporarily entered the city and later retreated. Local reports indicate a GNA UAV strike targeted a civilian vehicle in Sirte's Abu Hadi area, killing all onboard at approximately 0130hrs on 06 June.

Turning to the south, the security environment was dominated by reports of a suspected IS militants raid on a house, killing its owner and four children in Taraghin, south of Sabha, in the morning on 03 Jun. The target's identity and the motive behind the incident remain unknown.

In the eastern region, this week was marked by pro-LNA accounts reporting the Interim Government's Internal Security Apparatus thwarting a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack targeting an unspecified key location in Benghazi on 02 June. Reports indicate security forces arrested the perpetrators. There are no further details. Separately, unverified pro-GNA accounts reported the House of Representatives (HoR) speaker, Aguilah Saleh, survived an alleged assassination attempt upon his arrival in his hometown of Al-Qubbah from a recent trip to Egypt in the early hours of 02 June. The reports allege the failed assassination attempt was carried out by a group of gunmen, with one suspect stating that the assassination was ordered by Khalifa Haftar's son, Saddam. Reports allege one of the gunmen was killed and two others were arrested, while the remaining suspects managed to flee. Beyond, reports documented the arrival of Tarhunah internally displaced people (IDPs) to Ajdabiya and Bin Jawad. Some Tarhunah IDPs were also provided shelter and welcomed by locals in Sirte.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

GNA seizes TIP & greater Tripoli district bringing end to LNA offensive on capital



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (07 June) GNA extends curfew for additional ten days until 16 June
2. (03-04 June) GNA forces seize TIP & claim control over Tripoli's administrative borders
3. (02 June) GNA forces seize Al-Ramla & announce Tripoli Intl. Airport liberation Op.
4. (03 June) GNA military spok. reports three airstrikes on Tripoli International Airport (TIP)
5. (03 June) Ghniwya militia allow displaced families to return to homes in Hadba Al-Mashro
6. (03 June) Female abductee released by joint security force in raid on place of captivity
7. (03 June) GNA airstrike targeting Qasr Bin Ghashir's Al-Manara Road kills 12 civilians
8. (02 June) GNA forces seize Al-Ramla & announce Tripoli Int. Airport Liberation Op.
9. (01 June) Mol-affiliated demining teams remove ERW from in areas within Ain Zara
10. (01 June) Decomposed body found in the Salah Eddien area
11. (31 May) LNA: attacks on Al-Ramla, TIP & Ain Zara axes repelled for eight consecutive day
12. (31 May) Indiscriminate shelling targets Tuesday Mall vicinity & nearby areas; 5 killed & 7 injured

GNA regains full control over Tripoli borders

The Government of National Accord (GNA) military spokesman, Mohammed Gnounou, reported all of Tripoli District's administrative borders are under GNA control, with the exception of Garabolli as of the morning of 04 Jun. The announcement came after GNA forces seized Tripoli International Airport (TIP) following heavy clashes in the airport's vicinity between the afternoon-evening of 03 June, forcing an Libyan National Army (LNA) retreat to Tarhuna, followed by Bani Walid and later to the central region, effectively bringing an end to their offensive on Tripoli. Of note, Gnounou announced the beginning of an operation to liberate TIP on 03 June.

GNA airstrike kills 12 civilians ivo Qasr Bin Ghashir

In a series of GNA airstrikes conducted in Tripoli, an airstrike targeted a residential area on Al-Manara Road in Qasr Bin Ghashir, killing 12 civilians at approximately 2130hrs on 03 June.

Joint security force frees female abductee

The GNA's Interior Ministry confirmed the return of abductee Wissal Menah to her family house after a joint security force freed her from her place of captivity in the morning on 03 June. The Ministry reported the operation was carried out by a joint security force, including the Jfara Security Directorate, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Special Deterrence Force (SDF). The perpetrators were arrested. No further details were disclosed. Of note, the public launched a social media campaign using the hashtag "Save-Wisal", which gained significant momentum across Libyan platforms.

Decomposed body found ivo Salah Eddien

The National Safety Authority found an unidentified decomposed body in a house in Tripoli's Salah Eddien

area in the evening on 01 June.

ERW removal process begins in Ain Zara

Local reports indicate demining teams affiliated with the GNA's Interior Ministry began the process of removing explosive remnants of war (ERW) in areas of Ain Zara recently recovered by GNA forces on 01 June. The Mol reported LNA forces planted the ERW. Meanwhile, authorities have called on displaced families to delay the process of returning to their homes in previous engagement areas as the threat of ERW remains high.

Gunmen conduct carjackings in southern Tripoli

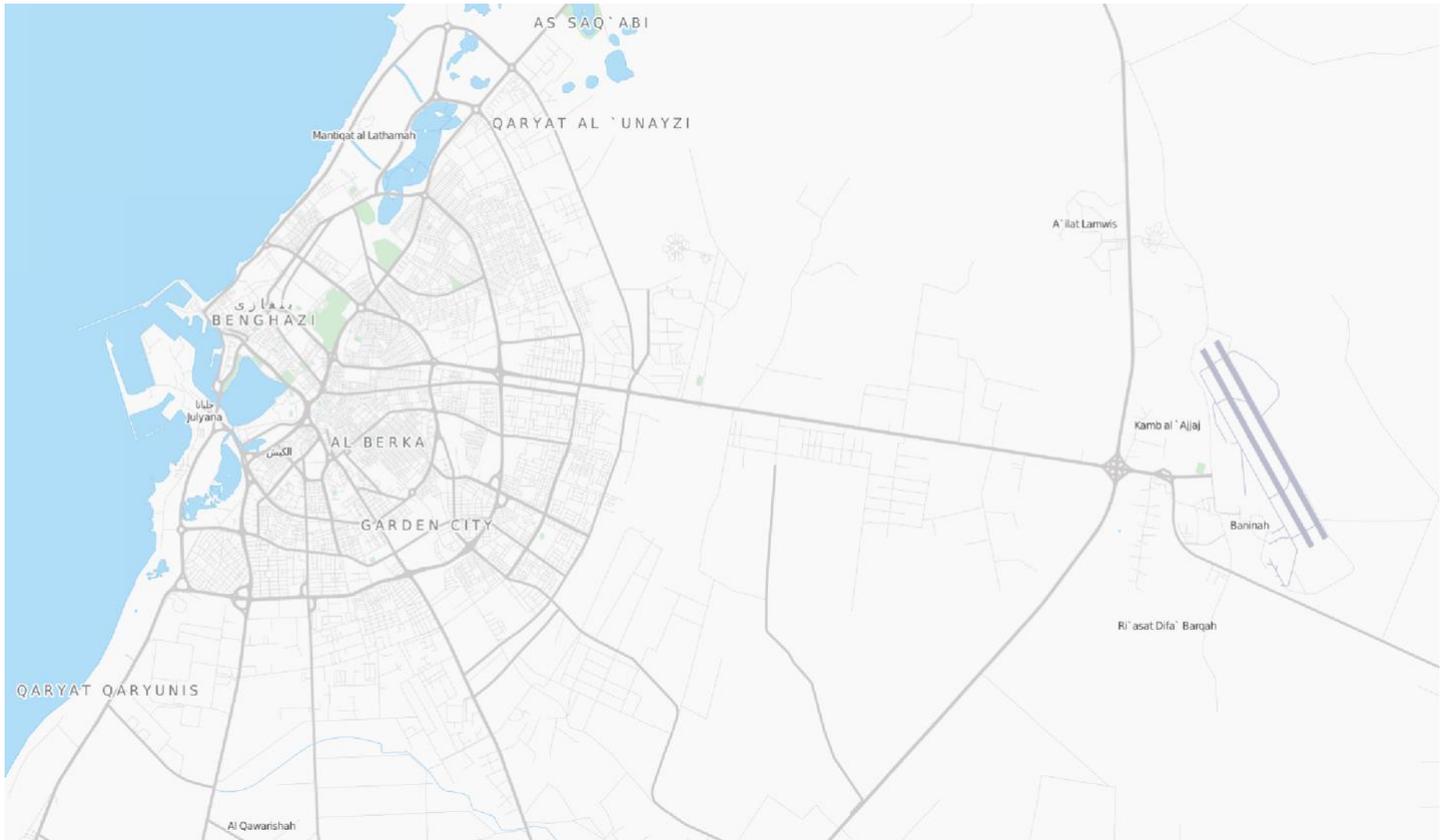
WB sources reported a group of gunmen driving a white KIA Lotze with tinted windows is scouring the area between the Airport Road's Al-Forousiya Bridge, Sedi Saleem Road, and Al-Kremiya over recent days. Reports indicate the gunmen recently carried out several carjackings in the aforementioned areas.

GNA extends curfew until 17 June

The GNA extended the current curfew from 1800-0600hrs for an additional ten days effective 07 June until 16 June. In a statement, the GNA reiterated that all mosques, cafes, restaurants, and all shopping outlets are to remain closed during curfew hours, with the exception of grocery shops. In addition, all types of gatherings remain banned. Beyond the west, the GNA announced a total curfew in the southern region and a ban of movement between cities. The curfew extension followed the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) reporting 17 new cases of coronavirus in Libya, bringing the total number of cases in-country to 256 as of 06 June.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Internal Security Apparatus thwart VBIED attack targeting unknown location



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (03 June) Benghazi Security Directorate: revised curfew timings
2. (03 June) Morality Police increase presence as part of security plan
3. (03 June) Benghazi-based NOC condemn Turkish plans to begin oil exploration in eastern Mediterranean
4. (02 June) VBIED attack thwarted in key location

Curfew timings revised

On 03 June, the Benghazi Security Directorate announced revised curfew timings from 1900-0600hrs as per the request of the residents and the directives of the Benghazi Security Director, Adel Abdulaziz. The Directorate reaffirmed that the curfew imposed is in line with efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus pandemic in the east. Of note, the previous curfew was from 1800-0600hrs.

VBIED attack thwarted in key location

Pro-LNA accounts reported the Interim Government's Internal Security Apparatus thwarted a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack targeting an unspecified key location in Benghazi on 02 June. Reports indicate security forces arrested the perpetrators. There are no further details.

NOC condemns Turkish-GNA maritime deal

The parallel Benghazi-based National Oil Corporation (NOC) condemned recent statements by Turkey's Energy Minister, Fatih Donmez, on the probability of his country beginning oil exploration in the eastern Mediterranean within three to four months through a Turkish-GNA maritime deal signed in late 2019. Donmez, speaking at a ceremony marking the launch of Turkey's Faith oil-and-gas drilling ship to the Black Sea, stated that Turkish Petroleum (TPAO), which had applied for an exploration permit in the eastern Mediterranean, would commence operations in areas under its license after the process was completed. Donmez added that Turkey's new Kanuni drill ship will go to the Mediterranean later this year. In response, the Corporation threatened to take all legal

measures to nullify the agreement, noting that it stands in violation of the Libyan Oil Law, including article no.1 on the methods by which concessions and exploration agreements are granted to a foreign partner. The Corporation added that the agreement violates the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which states that land and maritime border agreements is a matter of regional sovereignty and cannot be concluded if one of the countries suffers from exceptional circumstances, noting that the Presidential Council (PC) does not enjoy the legitimacy to arrange such a deal as it remains unrecognized by the House of Representatives (HoR).

6. What's next

Major escalation in Sirte; LNA resumes & increases combat sorties

POLITICAL FORECAST

The Cairo initiative is gradually gaining momentum as a first step to = a new round of negotiations and return to the Berlin Process. President El-Sisi emphasized the importance of disbanding all armed groups in the western region. For his part, Haftar called for the formation of a new unity government and emphasized the regional ramifications of Turkey's involvement in Libya. Meanwhile, Saleh reiterated commitment to continue the fight against militias in the capital until all state institutions are unified. In the east, LNA morale is low after recent setbacks and the rift has been growing between Haftar and Saleh. Pro-LNA accounts accused Saleh of "conspiring" against Haftar to convince Egypt to withdraw LNA forces from Tripoli. These allegations remain unsubstantiated but would add to existing tensions between Saleh and Haftar. Moscow will likely exploit these rifts to its advantage in the eastern region to produce desired outcomes. Attempts by Saleh to lead negotiations could result in local backlash. Of note, unverified reports allege Saleh survived an assassination attempt in the east. On the diplomatic front, the US Embassy in Libya reported its country is looking forward to "voices in the east" being incorporated into a political dialogue following the resumption of 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) ceasefire talks. The Embassy welcomed efforts by Egypt and other countries supporting a return to the United Nations (UN)-led political process and a ceasefire declaration. The US called on all sides to "participate in good faith to halt the fighting and return to the UN-led political negotiations". Observers are of the view the statement, specifically the mention of "voices from the east", is indicative of the lack of acceptance of Haftar in future negotiation talks.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

Kirill Semenov, an analyst specializing in the region, explores the extent of Russia's involvement in Libya and prospects of a Turkey-Russia entente. In an *Al-Monitor* piece, Semenov argues that Russia continues to operate in the Libyan theatre under the veil of plausible deniability. Part of Moscow's tactics include using Damascus and Bashar Al-Assad's regime to advance its military interests in Libya in support of the LNA without raising its exposure in-country, according to the author. The piece explores the recent delivery of fighter aircraft to LNA forces as a case in point of Moscow's likely involvement via the Syrian regime. Semenov argues that "Moscow is consistent in its plan to withdraw political support for Hifter, who constitutes a major impediment to the peace process launched at the Berlin conference on Libya. Apart from wanting Tobruk and Tripoli to engage in direct talks, Russia seeks to see the promotion of House of Representatives speaker Aguila Saleh's peace plan prepared by Russian experts. Ankara, in turn, realizes that it will be hardly possible to get the upper hand over the LNA while it is supported by Russia. Thus, Moscow and Ankara must have agreed on the necessity to relaunch the Berlin peace process kick-started in January 2019, but on their terms, which would secure a leading role for Russia and Turkey in the Libyan settlement."

SECURITY FORECAST

In relation to the commercial environment in Tripoli, the end of combat is expected to boost business sentiment and benefit commercial entities with operations on the ground. The threat of indiscriminate shelling is reduced, though it will likely take a few weeks before explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams clear up engagement areas further south. COVID-19 restrictions will continue to limit movement, especially given the recent surge in cases. Travel options will remain restricted in the short term. While Mitiga International Airport (MJI) could resume operations in the short term, the airport sustained significant damage as a result of heavy LNA shelling. In Tarhunah, the GNA MoI will continue to face an uphill struggle to maintain law and order amid revenge killings and other criminal activity reported in the town. Similar dynamics are expected to unfold in towns recently captured by the GNA. As a result of the GNA's weak command and control over forces, disputes over spoils of war and tensions between armed groups are expected to increase in the medium term, especially between Zawiyah/Zintan, Misrata/Tripoli, Tarhunah/GNA, among others. In the central region, escalation is likely and control remains fluid in the vicinity of Sirte. GNA forces are expected to attempt additional incursions, though it remains to be seen whether Moscow will intervene to bolster the LNA's posture. In the southern region, alliances will likely continue to shift though the LNA will look to build on its presence in Al-Jufra airbase to halt any GNA advance southward. The resumption of production at Sharara and Al-Feel could be temporary if LNA forces maintain air cover in the south as alliances in the area remain susceptible to shift.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

Reuters published a report, citing multiple anonymous sources, suggesting Russia doubled down on its hiring of former Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters that pledged allegiance to the Assad regime throughout May 2020. The report reads: "New recruits to the Russian effort in support of Haftar included 300 from the Homs area, among them former Free Syrian Army fighters, according to one of the two senior opposition sources, and some 320 from the southwest, a third source said. The pace of hiring increased as Libya's fighting intensified and the war in Syria died down, the regional source said. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which reports on the Syrian conflict using a network of sources on the ground, more than 900 Syrians were recruited by Russia to fight in Libya in May. The fighters are trained at a base in Homs before going to Libya, according to the sources who cited salaries ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a month. The movement of fighters into Libya violates a U.N. arms embargo and the U.N.'s acting Libya envoy on May 19 urged the Security Council to stop "a massive influx of weaponry, equipment and mercenaries". Many former Syrian rebels stayed behind in areas recovered by Damascus and its Russian allies, signing agreements that required them to pledge loyalty to the state. But their lives remain tightly restricted and monitored by the authorities."

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