

1. The Big Picture

Political talks face roadblocks; GNA PM delays resignation

The week starting 26 October was dominated by growing uncertainty over the upcoming UN-sponsored political dialogue scheduled for 09 November in Tunis. The security environment, however, remains largely unchanged.

Three developments over the reporting period have directly challenged the settlement path presented by the UN and possible move towards elections in the medium term. First, mounting opposition from local stakeholders across the political spectrum in the immediate aftermath of the publication of the list of 75 attendees.

Moreover, the signing of a security memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Government of National Accord (GNA) and Qatar on 26 October, was described by critics as a clear violation of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) ceasefire recently signed in Geneva.

Third, GNA PM Fayeze Al-Serraj announced on 30 October he will remain in office until political negotiations conclude, reversing a previous resolution to step down by the "end of October". The announcement cast doubt on the potential timeframe for an end to the transitional period, which threatens to reignite civil unrest across Tripoli and the western region amid "voter fatigue" and disengagement by the average Libyan.

In relation to local actors' receptiveness to the UN-sponsored negotiations, multiple civil society organisations and powerbrokers condemned what they described as a lack of representation at the Tunis-hosted Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF). The pro-Gaddafi Libyan Tribal Union (LTU) criticized the UN Mission (UNSMIL), accusing it of sowing divisions between Libyans by selecting "controversial" candidates, and calling for a boycott of the talks.

In GNA ranks, opposition to negotiations came from hardliners who are of the view the UN process fails to hold Libyan National Army (LNA) commander Khalifa Haftar accountable for the Tripoli offensive. Salah Badi, the Misrata-based Sumoud Brigade commander under international sanctions, appeared in a video from Misrata condemning those "criminals" who have "surrendered" to the United States and Acting UN SRSG Stephanie Williams. Badi claims Misrata is under siege and only 20% of "real fighters" are left in the city. Badi further complained he is unable to procure a weapon, adding that pride and honour are only obtained by fighting.

Meanwhile, hardliner and pro-Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) cleric Sadiq Al-Gharyani urged Libyans to take to the street to denounce the upcoming political dialogue, claiming that negotiations will surrender the country to Haftar. Al-Gharyani added that those engaged in negotiations are "selling the country" to the international community, which will enable Haftar to rule the country. In a related development, revolutionaries and other GNA Volcano of Rage auxiliary forces under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) took to Tripoli's Martyrs' Square on 31 October, calling on the GNA to formally approve the formation of the Libyan National Guard.

Turning to another significant development this week, GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha and Foreign Minister Mohamed Syala inked a security MoU covering counterterrorism (CT), drug trafficking, and anti-money laundering (AML). The MoU, signed during an official visit to Doha on 26 October, has a three-year renewable term.

Observers described the MoU as an attempt by Qatar, a Turkish ally, to consolidate its foothold in the western region so as to hedge

against a loss of influence when, and if, the UN-sponsored settlement process brings about a new unity government that leans towards the LNA and east. The LNA spokesperson, Ahmed Al-Mismary, described the MoU as a "malicious" attempt to undermine the recent ceasefire deal, which stipulates military and training agreements must be frozen until a new unity government is sworn in.

In the third significant event over the reporting period, GNA PM Fayeze Al-Serraj delayed his resignation until the political-track talks conclude. The announcement came a day after the High Council of State (HCS) called on the PM to remain in office until a new Presidential Council (PC) is elected in order to avoid a "political vacuum and maintain Libya's stability." Similarly, UNSMIL and the Tripoli-based House of Representatives (HoR) called on Al-Serraj to delay his resignation, citing the "higher interest." Meanwhile, Support Forces of the GNA's Sirte Operations Room made a similar request for Al-Serraj to remain in power, while calling on current PC members to carry out an effective ministerial reshuffle.

The GNA premier delivered a speech after landing at Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) following official visits to Turkey and Italy on 02 November. In his first public appearance after announcing he will remain in office, Al-Serraj appealed to all Libyan parties to engage positively in the upcoming political talks and place the nation's interest above all. Al-Serraj emphasized that elections remain the most effective solution to ending the Libyan crisis, while noting however a desire by many Libyan factions to enter a new transitional phase, which he stressed must be accelerated and completed without further delay.

In brief, the optimism that accompanied the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) ceasefire signed in Geneva may be short-lived. While military talks have proven a success so far, the political-track talks will have to overcome the roadblocks listed in this report. With no clear timeline for a transitional period, Egypt, Turkey, and other international powerbrokers with conflicting interests, will likely continue to manoeuvre to steer outcomes in the medium term, prolonging the political deadlock.

Uncertainty over the next steps was clearly underlined in the GNA Interior Minister's change of tone. Initially describing the ceasefire as a national achievement, Bashagha later warned the agreement is "fragile" and its implementation will be difficult amid foreign destabilizing foreign intervention, in remarks to the Financial Times.

This context creates an opening for Haftar to build on local frustration with political initiatives to engage in power-projection displays and form an alternative political roadmap led by pro-LNA tribes. Of note, Haftar received a delegation of Tuareg tribal elders on 26 October. The LNA commander stressed the importance of Libyan tribes in supporting the LNA's war on terrorism. The meeting followed a statement by the Tuareg tribesmen denouncing UNSMIL's selection of participants in the political dialogue.

There is mounting evidence pro-LNA stakeholders are of the view the LNA's participation in military talks has been sufficient. In the absence of breakthroughs at the negotiating table, the pro-LNA voices argue political dialogue needs to be conducted between Libyans, away from UN-sponsored initiatives.

KEY POINTS

- GNA PM says he will remain in office
- Opposition to LPDF talks in Tunis
- GNA signs security MoU with Qatar



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2. National Security Map

Oil output reaches 800k bpd; GNA to reportedly release detained Russian nationals

Legend

Impact Indicator

- Low Impact
- Medium Impact
- High Impact

Incident Type

-  IED/VBIED/ERW
-  Isolated Gunfire
-  Violent Clash
-  Carjacking
-  Airstrike / UAV
-  Mortar/Rocket
-  Kidnapping
-  Other



(Map Source: Whispering Bell Platform)

1

Reports indicate an LNA-affiliated MiG-29 conducted a reconnaissance mission between Sirte and Al-Jufra at approximately 2100hrs on 27 October.

2

Local reports indicate residents of Jalu protested petrol and diesel shortages, calling on the House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh and LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar to intervene to solve a month-long fuel crisis.

3

The GNA Mol drafted a security plan to secure the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) meetings due to be held between 02-04 November in Ghadames.

4

The GNA Mol reported the local INTERPOL office conducted a field inspection of Al-Khoms Port in the presence of Minister Fathi Bashagha between 24-25 October. The Ministry added that those in charge of the inspection took the fingerprints of a number of expatriate workers at Al-Khoms Port to check against an INTERPOL database.

5

Reports indicate an unidentified truck mounted with a tank was reported travelling on the Coastal Road from Misrata heading towards Abugrein at approximately 1700hrs on 27 October.

6

Reports indicate locals blocked the gate of the Brega Petroleum Marketing Company's (BMPC) warehouse in Misrata to obstruct the movement of trucks in protest against the smuggling of petrol and diesel in the morning on 27 October.

7

The GNA's Health Ministry reported the discovery of four new mass grave sites in Tarhuna on 27 October.

Local reports indicate the Russian Foundation for National Values Protection Chairman, Alexander Malkevich, stated that the Russian sociologist Maxim Shogali, and his translator Samer Suefan, were transferred from the Special Deterrence Force (SDF)-controlled Mitiga prison to a Turkish military base at Misrata International airport (MRA). The GNA has agreed to release the Russian nationals, according to Bloomberg.

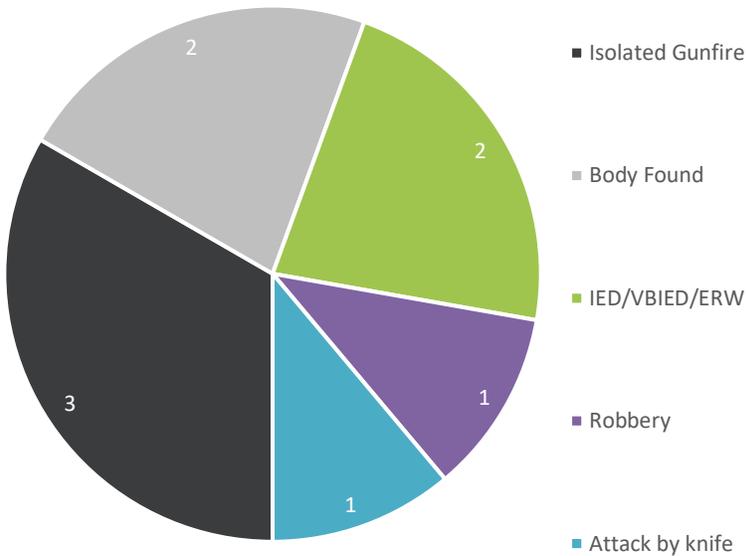
Libya's oil output stood at approximately 800,000 barrels per day (bpd), according to a Libyan oil source cited by Reuters on 31 November.

On 28 October, Libya and Malta signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the aviation field and maritime transport, according to the Libyan Airports Authority (LAA). The MoU included an agreement to resume flights between the two countries operated by the Mediterranean Aviation Company (Medavia), provided that the necessary COVID-19 precautionary measures are in place and monitored. The agreement also included the registration of a Libyan Airlines-owned aircraft in Malta in order to bypass the European Union (EU) flight ban on Libya, in addition to the support of Maltese institutions in improving the efficiency of Libyan cadres in the aviation field and across airports.

3. Nationwide Security Analysis

Vehicle thefts on rise in Tripoli; no security incidents in central region

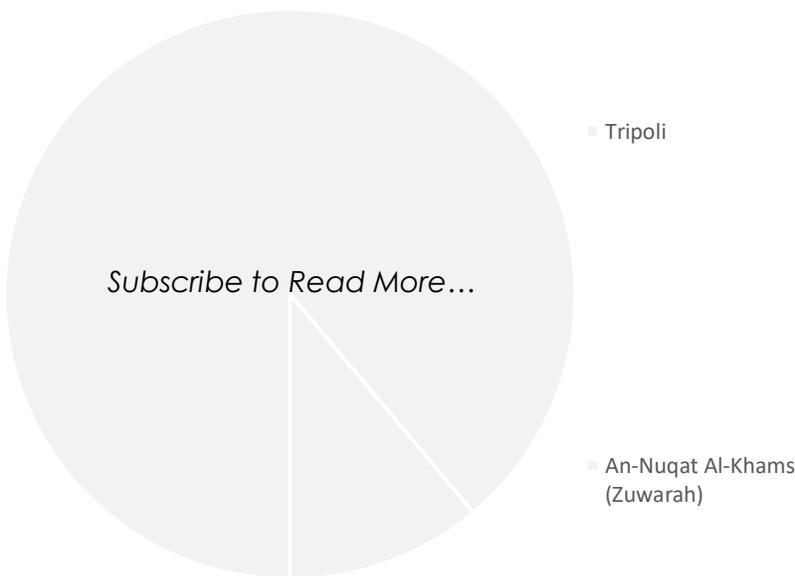
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



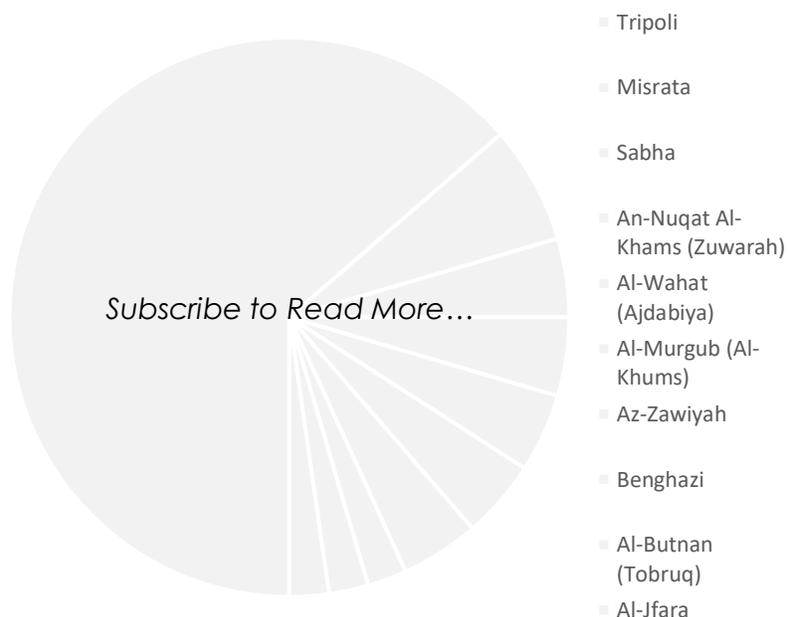
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



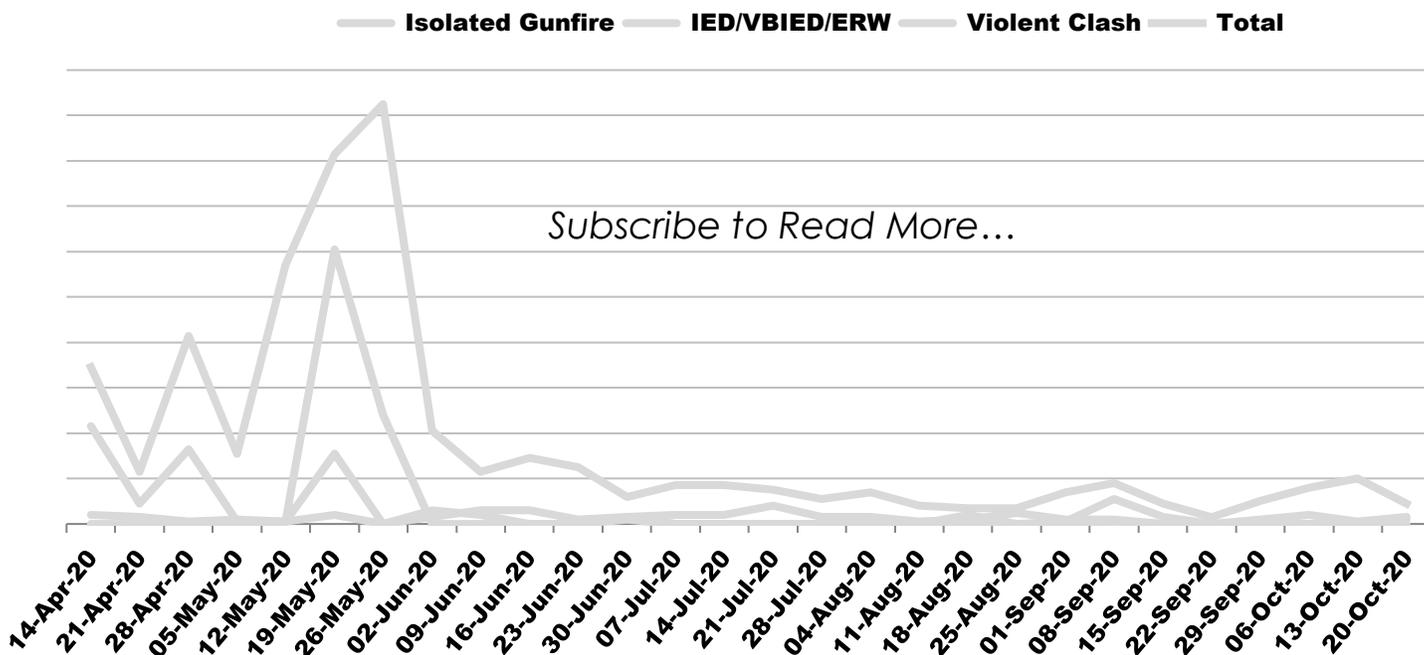
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



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 9 confirmed deaths in Libya compared with 20 deaths reported last week and 16 the week before. The fatalities recorded this week came as a result of 2 gunfire-related incidents, 2 cases of bodies found, 2 IED/VBIED/ERW incidents, 1 robbery, and 1 attack by knife, all recorded in the capital city. In addition, an isolated gunfire case resulted in one fatality in Al-Ajaylat located in the An-Nuqat Al-Khams district.

In the western region, the highest number of security incidents continues to be recorded in the Tripoli district with a total of 28 incidents. In Tripoli, WB recorded 8 robberies, mostly including the theft of parked vehicles, 5 arrests, 3 fires, 4 isolated gunfire cases, 2 cases of bodies found, 2 protests, 1 mortar/rocket incident, 1 explosion, 1 IED/VBIED/ERW incident, 1 attack by knife, and 1 kidnapping. This week, 8 out of a total of 9 fatalities were recorded in Tripoli.

In the wider western region, WB recorded three security incidents in the Misrata district, including two protests held in Bani Walid and Misrata, as well as an arrest in Misrata. In the Az-Zawiyah district, WB recorded an arrest in Sabratah and a vehicle theft in the Janzour vicinity. In the An-Nuqat district, WB recorded two isolated gunfire cases in the city of Al-Ajaylat. Beyond, two isolated gunfire cases were recorded in Zliten and Tahrana located in the Al-Murgub district. Meanwhile, an arrest was conducted in the Al-Jfara region.

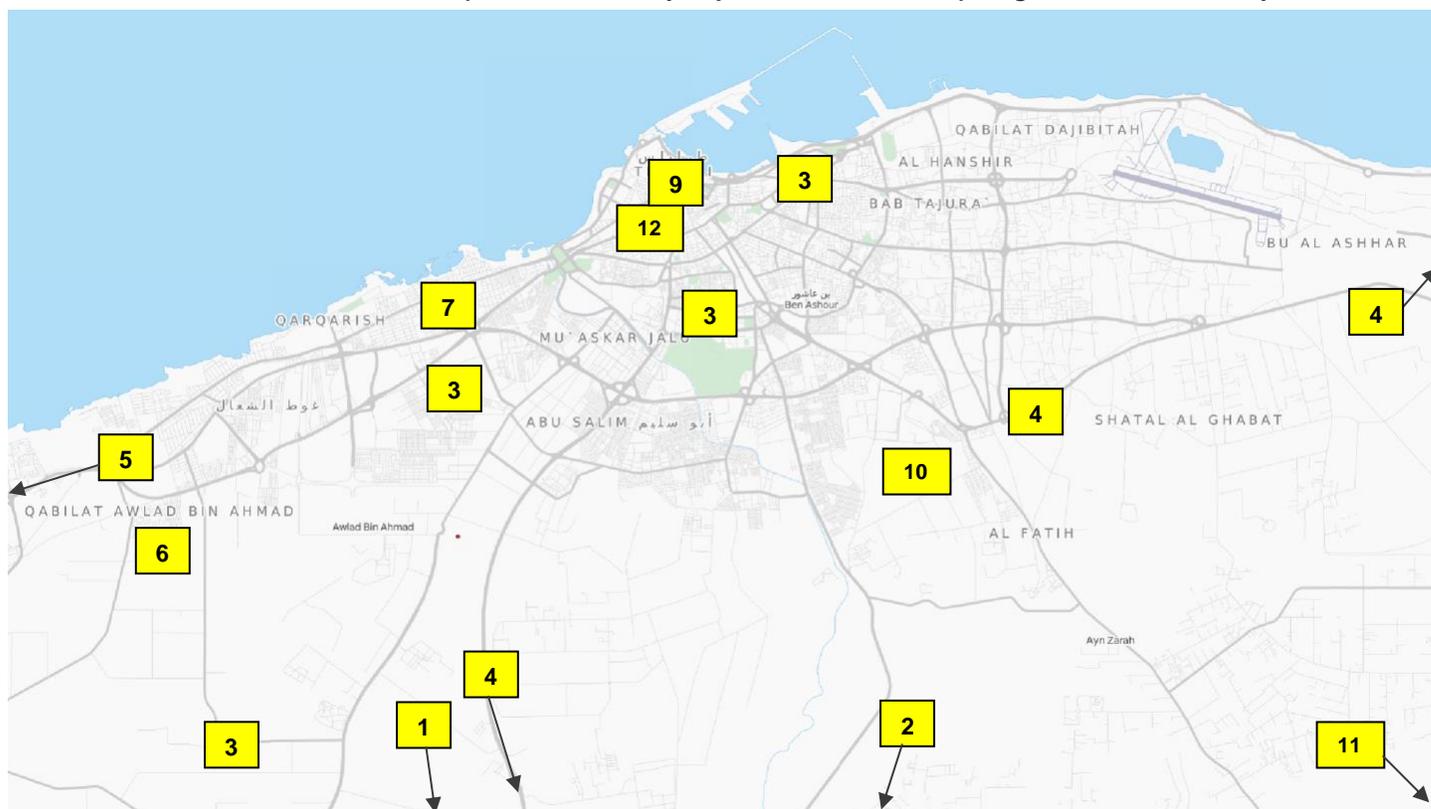
In the central region, WB recorded no security incidents in the area throughout the reporting period. Meanwhile, WB recorded movements in the area. Reports indicate an unidentified truck mounted with a tank was reported travelling on the Coastal Road from Misrata heading towards Abugrein at approximately 1700hrs on 27 October. In addition, reports indicate an LNA-affiliated MiG-29 conducted a reconnaissance mission between Sirte and Al-Jufra at approximately 2100hrs on 27 October. Further, the LNA's 116 Brigade carried out live ammunition drills in Jufra on 27 October. The brigade is reportedly comprised of Chadian elements integrated into the LNA as support forces.

Turning to the south, WB recorded two security incidents in the city of Sabha. Reports indicate operators of the Sabha Power station evacuated the station in order to preserve their safety after unidentified assailant(s) assaulted the on-site staff and threatened them against entering the site to perform their duties on 24 October. The motive is unclear, though it is likely tied to grievances over power shortages in the region. Separately, WB sources reported unidentified gunmen fired a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) into the air causing an explosion to be heard in Sabha at approximately 1930hrs on 25 October. There are no further details.

In the eastern region, WB recorded a total of four security incidents across the east throughout the reporting period. In the Al-Wahat district, WB recorded an arrest and a protest in the city of Ajdabiya. Meanwhile, in the Al-Butnan district, WB recorded an arrest in Tobruk. Further, WB recorded an arrest in Benghazi. In Ajdabiya, the Libyan Independent Media Organization condemned the arrest of the journalist and photographer, Salah Manbeh Al-Zwei, in Ajdabiya and demanded his release on 28 October. The Organisation stated that Ajdabiya's Internal Security Agency arrested Al-Zwei in violation of the law on 26 October. The statement noted that many peaceful opponents, including journalists, were subject to unjust military trials and sentenced to death or to years in prison, noting that the organization documented 33 cases of arbitrary detention, 11 of whom were women who were tried before military courts in Benghazi. In addition, local reports indicate residents of Jalu protested against shortages of petrol and diesel, calling on the House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh and LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar to intervene to solve a month-long fuel crisis. The protesters denounced the price of a litre of gasoline reaching three Libyan dinars (LYD) on the black market. Meanwhile, in Tobruk, local reports indicate forces affiliated with the LNA's Control Authority arrested drug and hard currency smugglers south of Tobruk on 26 October. The first smuggler was seized in possession of 20,000 tramadol pills on the desert road, gate 200, leading towards Tobruk. The second smuggler was seized in possession of a large quantity of hard currency. Further in Benghazi, skirmishes reportedly erupted between unidentified individuals inside the emergency department of Benghazi's Al-Jalaa Hospital, resulting in the destruction of the hospital's facilities and medical equipment in the evening on 29 October.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

Man killed & spouse critically injured after attempting to resist robbery ivo Al-Serraj



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (31 Oct) Skirmishes erupt between Ghneiwa militia & 301 Battalion on Sedi Saleem St.
2. (31 Oct) Man kills nephew & brother in family dispute in Qasr Bin Ghashir
3. (31 Oct) Four vehicle thefts recorded
4. (31 Oct) images of Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi spooted in Tajoura, Airport Rd, & Souq al-jumaa highway
5. (31 Oct) Hyundai vehicle stolen in Janzour
6. (30 Oct) Masked men break into house in Al-Serraj, kill owner & critically injure spouse
7. (30 Oct) Body of illegal migrant who drowned at sea found in Hai Al-Andalus
8. (29 Oct) 35 injuries due to fireworks during Mawlad Al-Nabawi
9. (29 Oct) Locals take to Marytrs' Square to denounce anti-Islam campaign
10. (29 Oct) KIA vehicle stolen on Al-Shouk Road
11. (28 Oct) IED explosion kills two children in Wadi Al-Rabei
12. (28 Oct) Wanted criminal involved in kidnapping and gunfire incident arrested
13. (27 Oct) Heavy storm hits Tripoli; trees uprooted, poles knocked down & civilian properties damaged

Turf wars between Ghneiwa & 301 Battalion

WB sources reported skirmishes erupted between Misrata's 301 Battalion and the Ghneiwa militia on Tripoli's Sedi Saleem Street, linking the Airport Road with Al-Kremiya, during which heavy sporadic gunfire was audible in the Airport Road and Al-Kremiya between 2230hrs-2330hrs on 31 October. Reports indicate the skirmishes come as part of long-standing turf wars between the two militias. Of note, heightened tensions were reported between the two sides on 23 September allegedly over territorial control between the Airport Road and Al-Hadba Al-Mashro'.

House owner killed after resisting robbery

Reports indicate four masked men broke into a house for the purpose of theft, though the house owner attempted to resist the burglary thus resulting in his death and the injury of his spouse in Tripoli's Al-Serraj area at approximately 0400hrs on 30 October. The victim's spouse is in a critical condition. WB has recorded a noticeable increase in criminal activities in the Al-Serraj vicinity, notably vehicle thefts, robberies, and kidnappings.

IED explosion kills two children

An improvised explosive device (IED) detonated resulting in the death of two children in a farm in Tripoli's Wadi Al-Rabei area at approximately 1730hrs on 28 October.

35 injuries due to fireworks in Mawlad Al-Nabawi

Tripoli's Burn and Plastic Surgery Hospital received 35 individuals injured due to firework explosions during the celebrations commemorating the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) birthday (Mawlad Al-Nabawi) on 29 October, marking a significant decrease in contrast to the previous two years. The injuries varied between superficial burns and minor wounds, according to the

Hospital. All cases were subsequently treated.

Man shot dead near Al-Sharara Petrol Station

WB sources reported unidentified assailants shot dead a local man near Al-Sharara Petrol Station on Tripoli's Gorji Street at approximately 2345hrs on 27 October. Given the incident's proximity to a petrol station, the incident may have been linked to a dispute over refuelling. Long queues across the capital's petrol station often result in tensions and subsequent gunfire-related incidents.

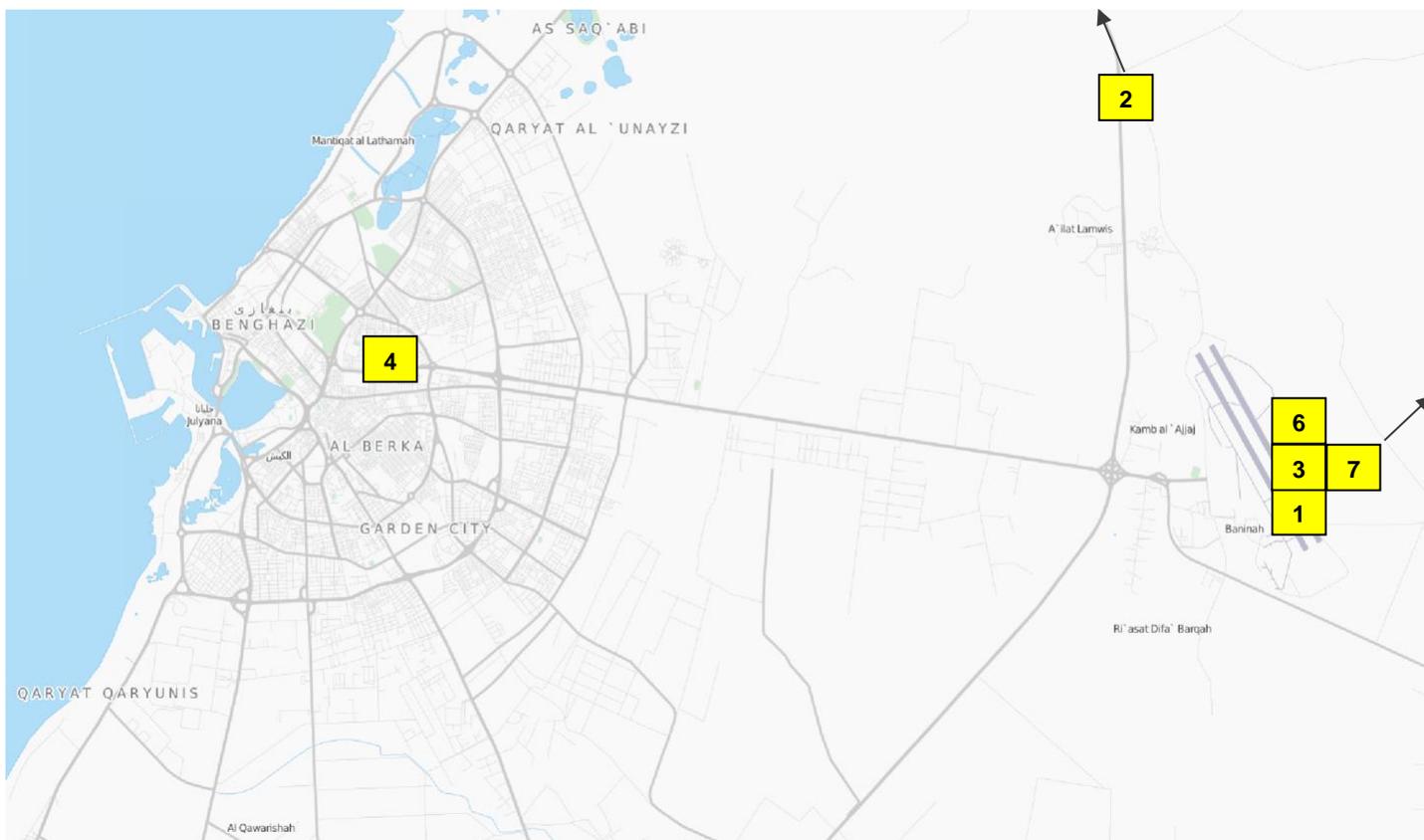
GNA CoS & MoD inaugurate training centre

Reports indicate a training centre was inaugurated at the Hamza Camp in the afternoon on 01 November. GNA Defence Minister Salaheddin Al-Namroush and Chief of staff (CoS) Mohamed Al-Haddad visited the camp and oversaw training of Misrata 301 forces in an official ceremony. Reports indicate GNA military spox. Mohammed Gnounou was also present.

Sources reported twelve AV pick-up vehicles, ten white Toyota Hilux 2700i's and two khaki Land Cruiser pick-ups, were spotted under the Airport Road Bridge "Iron Bridge" at approximately 1115hrs. At approximately 1330hrs, reports indicate a military gathering affiliated with the Ghniwa militia was spotted near the Bab Azzizziya Roundabout. At approximately 1400hrs, sources reported a military gathering comprising several military vehicles accompanied with masked gunmen affiliated with the Ghniwa militia in the Airport Road area, specifically at the Airport Road Traffic Lights, in front of the GNA Interior Ministry and under the Airport Road Bridge.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Skirmishes erupt at Al-Jalaa Hospital; flights to resume b/w Benghazi & Egypt/Sudan



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (07 Nov) Afriqiyah Airways to resume flights between Benghazi & Khartoum
2. (05 Nov) LNA General Command orders western region units to mobilise at Sidi Khalifa Plastics Factory
3. (04 Nov) Afriqiyah Airways to resume flights b/w BEN-HBE
4. (29 Oct) Al-Jalaa Hospital facilities & staff subject to assault
5. (26 Oct) interior Minister appoints seven new directorate heads across east
6. (25 Oct) Al-Saeitat tribesmen gather at Benina Airbase demanding release of detained Sheikh
7. (25 Oct) Haftar receives Tuareg tribal delegation

Western region units ordered to mobilise

The LNA General Command issued a mobilisation order for western region units on 30 October. The western region units are to mobilise at the Sidi Khalifa Plastics Factory, Benghazi, at 1000hrs LT on 05 November. Of note, the western region units currently present in the east include the LNA's Tarhunah 9th Brigade under Al-Kaniat's command. The reason behind the mobilisation order is unclear, though it would follow efforts by the LNA to integrate and restructure formations.

Skirmishes at Al-Jalaa Hospital

According to reports, skirmishes erupted between unidentified individuals inside the emergency department of Benghazi's Al-Jalaa Hospital, resulting in the destruction of the hospital's facilities and medical equipment in the evening on 29 October. There are no further details, though sporadic attacks targeting hospital facilities and medical staff remain a common phenomenon across Libyan cities, commonly in retaliation for the death of relatives/affiliates.

Afriqiyah Airways to resume BEN-HBE flights

Afriqiyah Airways announced the resumption of flights from Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) to Egypt's Alexandria (HBE), and Benghazi Benina International Airport (BEN) to HBE from 04 November. Flights from MJI to Khartoum (KRT) are also set to resume on 07 November. The HBE flights will be operated on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. KRT flights will be operated on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Timings and schedules may vary. The developments come after approval received from Egypt's aviation authorities.

Tribesmen demand release of detained Sheikh

Reports indicate a dozens of young men from the Al-Saeitat tribe gathered at the Benina Airbase gate and closed the road to demand the release of the detained Sheikh Muhammad Miftah Al-Saeiti in the morning on 25 October. Reports suggest Al-Saeiti was arrested after making anti-LNA statements in August 2019.

Haftar receives Tuareg tribal elders

The LNA commander, Khalifa Haftar, received a delegation of Tuareg tribal elders on 26 October. The delegation praised the efforts of the LNA forces in securing all southern cities, as well as ongoing operations to combat crime and cross-border smuggling operations, according to the LNA. For his part, Haftar stressed the importance of the role of Libyan tribes in supporting the LNA's "war to eliminate terrorism and extremist groups."

Bushnaaf appoints 7 new security heads

The Interim Government's Interior Minister, Ibrahim Bushnaf, appointed seven new officers to assume the post of directors across several security directorates in the eastern region on 26 October. The move comes against the backdrop of rising tensions in the east, and Benghazi in particular, after local officials were accused of lax security procedures. An uptick in crime and the civil unrest have raised local expectations of a more stable security environment across cities in the east.

6. What's next

Political tensions result in sporadic security incidents

POLITICAL FORECAST

UN SRSG Stephanie Williams, stated that she expected the ongoing Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) talks being held virtually and directly in Tunisia will result in consensus on a date to hold national elections, in comments made to Reuters on 27 October. Williams pointed to an apparent desire to hold elections in the nearest possible timeframe, while warning that the new executive authority agreed upon must have a "clear focus" to prepare for elections. Separately, Al-Serraj's decision to delay his resignation was described by observers as a result of Turkey's lobbying. Of note, in late September, Turkish President Recep Erdogan expressed regret over the premier's planned resignation. Erdogan stated that talks with the GNA were scheduled with the aim of turning "this issue towards the direction it needs to go". Internationally, Germany's Foreign Minister, Heiko Maas, voiced his hope over Al-Serraj continuing his duties for the duration of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), noting that the German Chancellor Angela Merkel backed his plea. Of note, Al-Serraj previously announced his intent to step down by the end of October in favour of a new executive branch agreed upon in the peace talks held in Morocco's Bouznika region. Meanwhile, regionally, the HoR-HCS delegations, also known as the "13", will reportedly reconvene in Morocco this week to finalise the agreement on sovereign positions and discuss the upcoming political-track talks in Tunis. Reports suggest outcomes of the HoR-HCS Bouznika meetings have already been vetted by HoR Speaker Aguila Saleh and GNA PM Fayez Al-Serraj. Locally, a meeting was held between the Tripolitanian Society and representatives of the federalist movement from Cyrenaica, the Barqa Society, and Fezzan on 26 October. The meeting discussed the current political situation and rejected UNSMIL's selection of candidates for the upcoming political-track talks in Tunis. Of note, the secessionist movement has been gaining momentum against the backdrop of a power vacuum across Libya's historical districts of Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, and Fezzan. However, the movement continues to lack support relatively compared with other actors within the political spectrum. The eastern federalist movement is often criticised and accused of hidden agendas by the pro-LNA support base.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

Libya expert and *RUSI* Associate Fellow, Alison Pargeter, explores the latest political developments in-country and how a new "willingness to re-engage" at the negotiating table may not necessarily translate into lasting peace. Pargeter mentions the latest peace momentum as proof that sides of the conflict have come to the realization that no party is strong enough to win the war. However, the author argues there are deeper problems further down the road, including emerging concerns over the legitimacy of the UN-sponsored LPDF talks in Tunis and selection of the 75 candidates. Further, Pargeter argues the UN-sponsored ceasefire deal is pragmatic because it spreads power along geographical lines, though this could backfire as existing divisions risk being overemphasized. Lastly, Pargeter underlines the fact that east/west partisanship is a factor undermining resolution prospects. She writes "While the new spirit of dialogue may result in a new roadmap, the Tunisia forum is unlikely to break the endless cycle of mistrust. Worse, it could end up creating another governance structure that is lacking in clout and legitimacy and that will be viewed by Libyans as another cynical move by the international community to force a solution that will not serve the country's best interests."

SECURITY FORECAST

Tripoli saw an uptick in vehicle thefts, with at least 8 recorded incidents involving parked vehicles. Meanwhile, reports indicate several images of Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi were spotted in Tripoli's Tajoura, Airport Road, and Souq Al-Jumaa highway on 31 October. While the explosive remnants of war (ERW) threat has decreased after June 2020, two children were killed in an explosion in a farm in Tripoli's Wadi Al-Rabej area at approximately 1730hrs on 28 October. Moving on, the turf wars between Misrata's 301 and Ghneiwa militia are yet to take on a broader political dimension, though this could change in the medium term, especially given the latest accusations by Salah Badi, which threaten to ignite Tripoli-Misrata tensions. Turning to the operating environment, the opening of air and land routes continues. Afriqiyah Airways announced the resumption of flights from Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) to Egypt's Alexandria (HBE), and Benghazi Benina International Airport (BEN) to HBE from 04 Nov. Flights from MJI to Khartoum (KRT) are also set to resume on 07 Nov. Meanwhile, a resumption of flights from Malta to Libya is imminent, after an MoU was signed between Libya and Malta to operate flights by the Mediterranean Aviation Company (Medavia) on 28 Oct. In Tarhunah, sources reported tensions between locals and armed formations controlling the city. Reports allege the Support Force, under Tarhunah Security Directorate, is arbitrarily targeting locals and others with suspected links to the LNA. The Support Force is reportedly under the influence of Faisal Al-Naaji and Muhamad Al-Ouya. Of note, there are long-standing tensions within the Al-Naaji Martyrs Battalion dating back to 2014, when the Al-Kaniat family evicted Al-Naaji tribesmen from the town. Al-Naaji have since had issues with other local families who remained in Tarhunah. In the eastern region, the death of Saiqa SF commander Maj. Gen. Wanis Bukhmada, will likely reverberate in LNA ranks given his symbolic posture, possibly leading to a vacuum in the Saiqa SF. Bukhmada intervened in the past to defuse tensions between LNA formations. In Feb 2018, tensions reportedly escalated into skirmishes between the Saiqa SF and 106 Brigade, after Saiqa commander Mahmoud Warfalli surrendered himself to the LNA. In this incident, Bukhmada reportedly intervened to appease tensions.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

In a *Human Rights Watch (HRW)* piece, Hanan Salah argues the latest UN-sponsored Geneva ceasefire fails to provide critical elements of transitional justice, including accountability to bring about a permanent settlement in Libya. Salah argues "What the agreement does not provide is a clear commitment and a pathway to accountability for the serious crimes and other abuses perpetuated by the conflict parties with support of their foreign backers. This includes indiscriminate attacks that killed civilians, destruction of critical infrastructure, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, and unlawful killings. One other flaw in the agreement is the demobilization and integration of fighters into state security forces. In addition to establishing strict vetting procedures to disqualify anybody accused of committing serious crimes, there should also be a commitment to hold them accountable for these crimes."

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