



**Weekly Libya .Xplored preview**

January 04, 2018

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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**This is an abridged version of the GardaWorld Weekly Libya .Xplored report. To subscribe to our full report or to request a quote for security services in Libya please contact Nicholas Bennett, Regional Director, Libya.**

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**LIBYA ACTIVITY MAP**



IED	SAF	Armed Clash	Suicide Attack	VBIED	IDF	SA Fire	HG/Mine/RPG	CP Incident	Kidnap	Civil Unrest	Crime	Threat Warning	Accident	Military Op	Health	Airstrike

## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- Tripoli remains unstable following the conflict in August/September. A new security plan devised for the city will see a continuation of the instability in the short to medium term while changes are carried out, and deals are done. There remains the potential for further larger-scale conflict.
- The north-west coastline remains unstable with local, national and international actors vying for influence and control. Further maneuvering and potential confrontations are possible in the short to medium term.
- Terrorist groups remain active across Libya and will continue to mount attacks against security forces, governmental and state institutions. They also pose a threat to more symbolic targets as well as the international community. The threat posed by these groups is assessed to have increased in the north-west following an increase in operational tempo.

### Medium to long term outlook

- UNSMIL has attempted to consolidate international support behind its roadmap for Libya and is now looking at holding the National Gathering in January 2019 with elections to follow in the spring. There remain a number of spoilers as well as those supporting the parallel Libyan roadmap which is focused initially on restructuring the Presidential Council. Domestic and international competition and opposing agendas will continue to fuel division and hamper positive progress.
- Some positive changes are being seen in the aftermath of the recent Tripoli conflict, however, militias still retain significant control of the capital. Tripoli will not gain long-term stability until there is political, and military, unification and it will continue to see various stakeholders looking to gain, retain or expand influence in the city.
- A security vacuum in the south ensures transnational and domestic terrorist groupings, as well as foreign mercenaries and rebel groups, have space to regroup, train and create rear support areas. The presence of rebel groups from Chad and Sudan could draw both countries further into the Libyan crisis.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- GNA and HoR aligned security forces are to cooperate and integrate to counter terrorism and organized crime. NA Interior Minister Fathi Bashaagha has authorized all agencies to communicate with counterparts in their respective HoR controlled institutions. Ministers and security officials have also discussed how to link security databases and investigate collaboratively. The GNA interior ministry has announced the formation of a Joint Security Room with GNA and HoR-aligned forces to tackle insecurity in the Fezzan. Steps outlined are suggestive of cooperation, rather than unification, which realistically cannot occur without political unity.
- GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashaagha has spoken of 'financial corruption' in his ministry and has called for the merger of the capital's militias with Libyan security forces. He spoke further of the need to bring all security forces under his ministry. He also said he was preparing a plan to impose security in Tripoli in the first half of 2019.
- The UN Security Council has released its January 2019 monthly forecast. UNSMIL head Ghassan Salamé will brief the Council, as will the chair of the 1970 Libya Sanctions Committee, Olof Skoog. The forecast comments that several communications have called upon UN member states to cease support for and official contact with 'parallel institutions' in Libya. It also says that some countries, including Council members, have not respected this. UNSMIL chief Ghassan Salamé alluded to this activity in his New Year message. He also spoken of his hope that 2019 will see Libyans 'come together for a historic settlement that ends their divisions.'
- February 17 Revolutionaries held their national conference in Zawiyah. The conference rejected any return to military rule and was highly critical of foreign interventions in Libya.

### Security

- LNA's 10th Brigade clashed with likely local militant groups between Ghadduwah and Taraghin and have rescued 20 people from IS in the area. An attack on the 10<sup>th</sup> Brigade HQ on December 27 saw one LNA soldier killed and 14 wounded. Follow-up actions by LNA later in the week saw clashes with armed groups in the area. On January 01, LNA reported the rescue of around 20 captives held by IS. The same day, two suicide attacks

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occurred in Ghadduwah, killing up to three people. LNA chief Khalifa Haftar has since deployed additional forces to southern Libya. LNA aligned forces at Tamat al-Hind, al-Waw and Brak al-Shati are said to have received reinforcements and further equipment.

- The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has reported several incidents of theft and armed robbery in Sharara oil field. One saw a member of staff assaulted and restrained before thieves stole six air conditioning units. The company has framed the incidents as further reason to overhaul security at the site, after the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) assisted Rage of Fezzan protestors with their shut down of the field on December 08. It is possible routine incidents are now being promulgated by NOC to foster support their position.
- The Attorney General’s office has issued arrest warrants for six Libyan nationals and 31 members of Sudanese and Chadian opposition groups. One of the named individuals is Ibrahim Jadhan, whose forces Haftar’s LNA have been fighting in Bani Waled in recent weeks. This move appears motivated by the recent attacks on MoFA and the 10<sup>th</sup> Brigade. It may also be intended to demonstrate a united front against terrorism as part of the heralded GNA/HoR security cooperation. A more cynical reading is that it may be intended to deny Haftar the sole credit some of his recent successes against Islamists in the oil crescent and the Fezzan.

**Infrastructure**

- Farmers in Wati Otba complained of recurring power cuts and called on local authorities to re-activate Ubari power station. Work to reopen the plant has been beset by security failures in the region; in 2017 four foreign engineers were kidnapped. Rage of Fezzan protestors previously issued this demand during their occupation of Sharara oilfield. GNA Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj also said the power station would be reactivated as part of a USD 700 million package to deliver basic services. Ubari officials have increased security for staff at the plant as part of measures to help bring the plant back online.

**Migrant Crisis**

- German NGO rescue ships *Sea-Watch 3* and *Professor Albrecht Penck* remain at sea after rescuing 49 migrants from ‘unseaworthy vessels.’
- The Maltese military has rescued 249 migrants from unseaworthy vessels over a 24-hour period in worsening conditions in the Mediterranean Sea.

**Oil and Gas**

- Rage of Fezzan has threatened to ‘escalate’ protests if demands are not met by January 05. Protesters called for security on the road linking al-Jafra and al-Shuwaif towns, adequate fuel supplies and basic resources for Fezzan’s hospitals. Though the group lifted its 12-day protest on December 20 and allowed staff to re-enter, recent reporting indicates that the group has maintained some presence on the field.
- The commander of the GNA aligned 411<sup>th</sup> Border Battalion has denied media reports that his battalion has seized Sharara oilfield. The battalion’s role is to secure the border and the area outside of the oilfield.
- NOC has reported that recent incidents of looting at Sharara oil field will impact output when production eventually resumes.

**International**

- A Libyan national is among 30 al-Shabab militants killed by Somali Army and US forces in a raid on a militant training camp in Somalia’s Middle Jubba region. Hassan al-Qayadi, also known as Abu Yaha, was one of two foreign nationals killed in the raid. He was said to be a senior member of al-Shabab.

**KEY DATES**

Date	Occasion	Comment
January	National Gathering	
February 17	Libyan Revolution Day	Public Holiday
March – June	UNSMIL proposed timelines for elections	



**THREAT MATRIX**

Region	Political	Terrorism	Militancy	Crime	K&R
Tripolitania	High-Extreme	High-Extreme	High-Extreme	High	High
Cyrenaica	High	High	Moderate	High	High
Fezzan	High	High-Extreme	High-Extreme	High	Extreme

<b>Threat Scale</b>	Minimal	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
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**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**Governance**

**UN Security Council: members have ‘not respected’ calls to cease ‘support’ for ‘parallel institutions’**

The UN Security Council has released its January 2019 monthly forecast. UNSMIL head Ghassan Salamé will brief the Council, as will the chair of the 1970 Libya Sanctions Committee, Olof Skoog. The release notes that several resolutions and statements have called upon UN members to ‘cease support for and official contact with parallel institutions in Libya.’ It also states that some countries, including Council members, have not respected this.

The Libyan Political Agreement in 2015, unanimously endorsed by the 15-member UN Security Council, established the Government of National Accord (GNA) as the internationally recognised interim government of Libya.

**Security**

**Militia activity in Tripoli**

Several clashes have been reported as security operations around Tripoli. On December 27, Zintanis and Abu Saleem Central Security (ASCS) clashed in Tripoli’s Edraiby. Zintanis may have attempted an arrest operation against ASCS

Early on January 01, Rada militia members, accompanied by a committee from Zintan raided the radio building in Tripoli’s Siyahia area to remove a criminal gang originally from Zintan. An exchange of gunfire lasting half an hour occurred before the group surrendered.

In other reporting from Tripoli, an officer of 103rd Battalion was shot and killed in a Close Quarter Assassination (CQA) shortly after returning from a 3-year absence in Tajoura. The Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency also conducted arrest operations in Tripoli’s Ain Zara area.

**GNA and HoR cooperation on national security**

In the wake of the December 25 IS suicide attack at MoFA and the assault on the LNA in Fezzan on December 27, several Libyan leaders have made public commitments to enhance cooperation amongst Libya’s fractured security forces. Ministers and security officials from GNA and HoR have discussed how to link security databases and investigate collaboratively.

It remains to be seen if substantive, effective cooperation can occur across Libya in the short to medium term. Any moves in this direction will be strongly encouraged and supported by the international community.



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## Migrant Crisis

### Migrants remain at sea

German NGO rescue ships *Sea-Watch 3* and *Professor Albrecht Penck* remain at sea after rescuing 49 migrants from 'unseaworthy vessels.' In-keeping with similar incidents, several Mediterranean governments have barred the ships from national ports, including Italy and Malta. The ship's operators have raised concerns for the safety of the migrants and crew in deteriorating weather conditions at sea. They have said that disembarkation in Malta and onward disbursement of people among EU states was the most 'logical option.'

International media has noted that Spain is becoming the most popular destination in the EU for migrant entry by sea since Italy, Greece and Malta closed their ports to NGO rescue ships.

## Oil and Gas

### Sharara security breaches will impact production

NOC has reported that recent incidents of looting at Sharara oil field will impact output when production eventually resumes. The company said on January 01 that 'major operational equipment' including 'transformers and electrical cables' had gone missing. NOC, GNA and the local guard force are still to agree far less implement a new security plan for the field.

## WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

### Tripolitania

#### Significant activity

- Arrest - Dec 28, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency conducted arrest operations in Tripoli's Ain Zara area.
- Demonstration - Dec 30, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Demonstrators gathered outside the GNA PC compound in central Tripoli to demand salary back-payments dating back to 2014.
- Security Announcement - Jan 01, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Rada militia members, accompanied by a Zintan's 'Committee of 200', raided the radio building in Tripoli's Siyahia area to remove a criminal gang purportedly from Zintan. Gunfire was exchanged for at least half an hour before the armed group members turned themselves in.
- Crime - Jan 01, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratha: Sabratha Security Directorate arrested two people linked to drugs trafficking and found to be in possession of 5kg of hashish.
- Murder/ Execution - Jan 01, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: An officer of 103rd Battalion named Nasser Mehat was shot and killed in a Close Quarter Assassination (CQA) in Tripoli, shortly after returning from a longer period of absence from the capital in Tajoura.
- Arrest - Jan 02, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Tripoli security forces conducted several raids around Tripoli to detain illegal immigrants.
- Crime - Jan 03, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Attorney General's office has issued arrest warrants for six Libyan nationals and 31 members of Sudanese and Chadian opposition groups. This includes Ibrahim Jadhan, whose forces Haftar's LNA have been fighting in Bani Waled in recent weeks.

### Cyrenaica

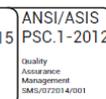
#### Significant Activity

- Murder/ Execution - Dec 28, Derna Province, Derna: Security forces found the severed head of CID member in an area of Derna, following LNA clearance operations against Islamist pockets in the city
- Other - Dec 28, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Benghazi Security Director BG Adel Abdul Aziz Al-Arifi and his Tripoli counterpart BG Salem Al-Seyyed Qaryamdeh reportedly met in Benghazi's Tibesti Hotel in Benghazi on December 29.
- Shooting - Dec 28, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: A bystander was shot and injured in the head during a shooting incident in Tobruk.

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- Arrest - Dec 29, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Benghazi security forces raided an illicit alcohol factory in the city's al-Majouri area.
- Military Operation - Dec 30, Derna Province, Derna: LNA-aligned forces are reported to have seized control of a health centre and a social club in Derna to use as a temporary operations room and a barracks in their clearance operation against the Islamist Derna Protection Force (DPF).
- Arrest - Dec 31, Al-Wahat Province, Albidhan: Security forces in Ajdabiya have arrested a group of illegal immigrants wearing hijabs attempting to enter the city. In a separate incident, three CID members were injured in a Road Traffic Incident (RTI) in al-Bidhan, east of Ajdabiya, as they drove to their duty checkpoint.
- Arrest - Jan 02, Tobruk, Jaghbug: LNA intercepted an SUV near Jaghbug containing 'Turkish made weapons.' A second SUV and its occupants were said to have evaded capture. LNA and HoR-aligned officials have recently accused Turkey of supplying weapons to Libyan Islamist factions and have called variously for UN investigations or boycotts against Turkish goods. Turkey has previously been accused of supplying weapons to Libyan factions, in breach of UN sanctions.
- Crime - Jan 03, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Security forces raided 'games rooms' frequented by teenagers in Benghazi. Officials also called on parents to monitor their children's activities. The incident has parallels with other recent 'morality' raids, targeting alcohol consumption/production, and mixed-gender social environments. Such raids appear to be part of a zero-tolerance security plan to address the broader state of lawlessness in the city. Authorities have been criticized for targeting otherwise harmless social activities.
- Arrest - Jan 03, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: Security forces arrested 9 illegal immigrants, all of whom were found to be in possession of forged documents.

## Fezzan

### Significant activity

- Demonstration - Dec 28, Murzuq Province, Taraghin: Taraghin residents protested in the town to denounce the attack on 10th Brigade LNA by Chadian militants on December 27.
- Kidnap - Dec 28, Sabha Province, Sabha: The GNA Ministry of Justice has condemned the armed attack, abduction and three-hour torture of a judge in Sabha. Abu Bakr Bashir Saleh was later released and was receiving medical care. His assailants were trying to force him to find in their favour.
- Military Operation - Dec 31, Murzuq Province, Taraghin: LNA's 10th Brigade clashed with likely Chadian armed groups between Ghadduwah and Taraghin. LNA are said to have rescued 14 captive Libyan civilians and recovered several vehicles stolen in the attack on December 27.
- Crime - Dec 31, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Sharara Oilfield: The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has reported two armed robberies in Sharara oil field. During one, a civil guard was assaulted and restrained before thieves stole six air conditioning units. A second incident saw thieves force entry into a catering warehouse and steal 'vital' equipment. The company has framed the incidents as further reason to overhaul security at the site, after the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) assisted Rage of Fezzan protestors with their shut down of the field on December 08. It is possible routine incidents are being promulgated by NOC to support their position on security at the site.
- BBIED - Jan 01, Sabha Province, Ghadduwah: Reporting in this period has stated that a two IS suicide attacks occurred in southern Libya. The first appears to have detonated his in Ghadduwah town, causing no further casualties. There are conflicting accounts of the second. It may have occurred during a military raid on a farm in the Ghadduwah area resulting in four fatalities and three other casualties. However, some reporting citing former HoR Interior Minister Ahmed Baraka said that the bomber had been detained and detonated his device in the Ghadduwah police station, causing no casualties. Both attacks followed the successful rescue of around 20 captives from IS by LNA on January 01.
- Kidnap - Jan 01, Sabha Province, Ghadduwah: LNA and aligned forces rescued around 20 people from IS following raids around Ghadduwah, approximately 70km south of Sabha, on December 01. The captives had been taken during previous attacks by the group in al-Fuqaha and Tazrebu. Two other captives were said to have escaped and informed LNA of the location. Captives were held by IS in shipping containers on a farm near Ghadduwah town. One LNA soldier was reported killed in the raid. UNSMIL has welcomed news of the rescue.
- Kidnap - Jan 02, Sabha Province, Sabha: A 10-year-old boy was kidnapped in Sabha. The boy was the son of a local leader. The incident closely follows the kidnap, torture and release of a local judge on December 29 by individuals seeking to influence his decision in a court case.

**ACRONYM LIST**

- AIOR – Anti-IS Operations Room (Sabratah)
- AQ - Al-Qaeda
- BAM – Al Bunyan Al Marsous (Misrata aligned)
- BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade / Saraya Defend Benghazi (SDB) (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
- CBL – Central Bank of Libya
- CNI – Critical National Infrastructure
- GATMJB - Operations Room for the Liberation of the City Ajdabiya and Support for Benghazi Rebels
- GECOL – General Electricity Company of Libya
- GMMR – Great Man-made River
- GNA – Government of National Accord (UN-backed)
- GNC – General National Congress
- HNEC – High National Elections Commission
- HoR – House of Representatives (Tobruk-based)
- IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
- IED - Improvised Explosive Device
- IOC - International Oil Company
- IS - Islamic State
- LIFG – Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
- LNA – Libyan National Army
- LNG – Libyan National Guard
- LPA – Libyan Political Agreement
- LROR - Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
- MoD - Ministry of Defense
- MoF - Ministry of Finance
- MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- MoHE - Ministry of Higher Education
- Mol - Ministry of Interior
- MoJ - Ministry of Justice
- MoO - Ministry of Oil
- MoT - Ministry of Transportation
- MSCD – Mujahideen Shura Council of Derna (AQ aligned)
- NFDK - No Further Details Known
- NGO - Non-Governmental Organization (aid/charity)
- NOC – National Oil Company
- NSG – National Salvation Government (GNC)
- NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report
- PC – Presidency Council (GNA)
- PG – Presidential Guard
- PFG- Petroleum Facilities Guard
- PSC - Private Security Company
- PSD - Private Security Detail
- RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
- RSCB - Revolutionary Shura Council of Benghazi
- RTA - Road Traffic Accident
- SDB – Saraya Defend Benghazi / Benghazi Defense Brigade (BDB) (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
- SDF – Special Deterrence Force/ Rada/ Rada Deterrence Force
- Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck
- UXO - Unexploded Ordnance



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