



Weekly Libya .Xplored Preview

June 07, 2019

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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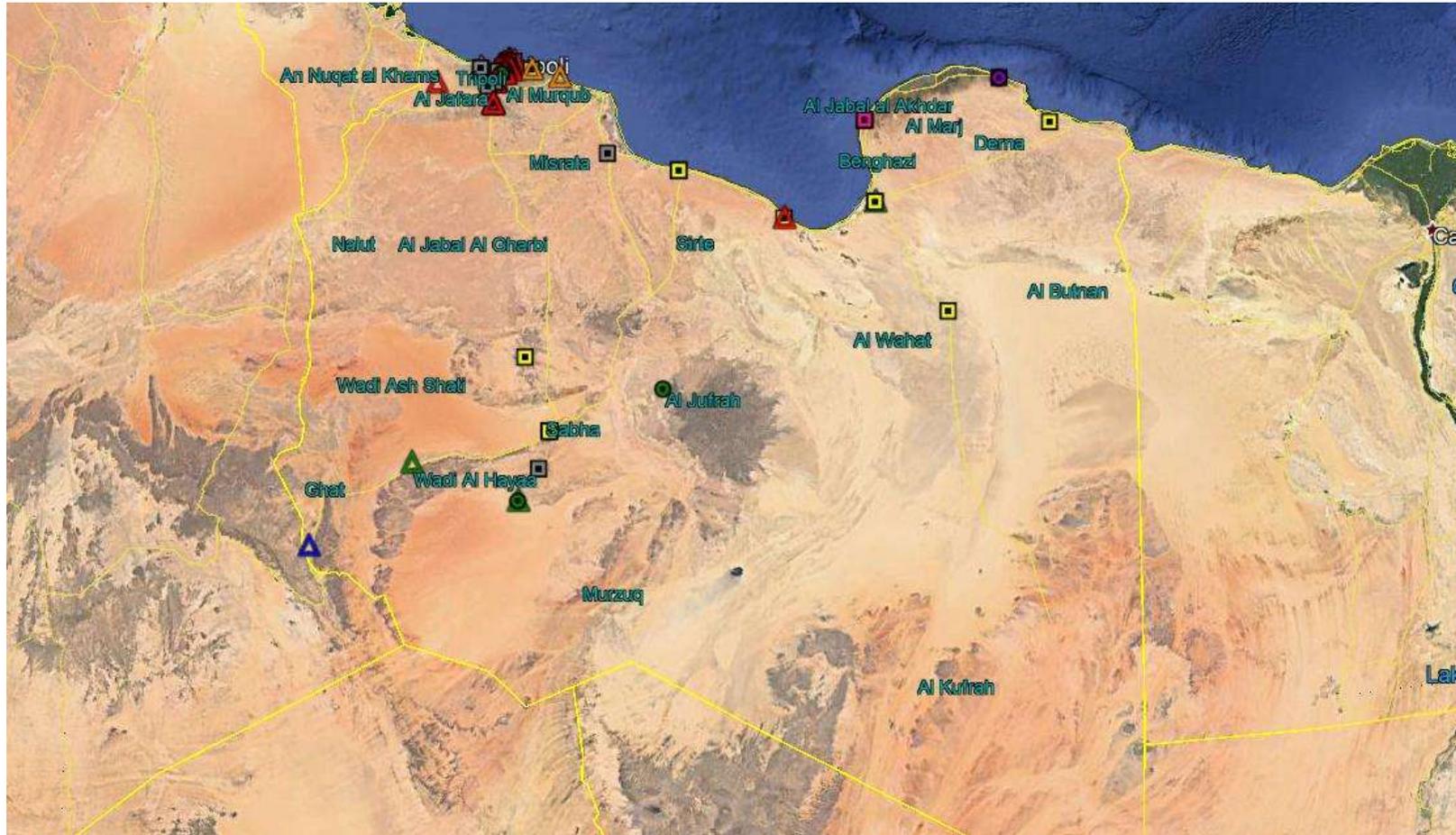
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LIBYA ACTIVITY MAP



TRIPOLITANIA ACTIVITY MAP



OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- Operation Flood of Dignity, launched against Tripoli by the LNA, is set to continue. The situation remains dynamic with ground exchanging hands frequently between the combatants. Although focused on Tripoli, efforts by both sides to sever supply lines will see a continuation of fighting outside of the capital.
- The situation around Tripoli has the potential to cause conflagration in the northwest as well as Jufra with various groups being drawn into the fight. There is also the potential for various armed groups, including terrorists, to exploit security weaknesses caused by the fighting in Tripolitania, across Libya.
- Although there has been some international pressure to halt the fighting, this has not yet gained traction and various external supporters are looking to exploit the opportunities presented by the conflict to further their own agendas or to protect their influence. Any serious human rights breaches in or around Tripoli could harden international resolve to push for a cessation, however for now, international support from various states will continue to fuel the fighting.
- Terrorist groups remain active across Libya and will continue to mount attacks against security forces, government, and state institutions. Sirte and Fezzan have seen recent reassertions of presence. They also pose a threat to more symbolic targets as well as the international community. The conflict in Tripoli may provide opportunities for IS or others to plan and execute terrorist attacks in Tripolitania.

Medium to long term outlook

- The LNA push for control of Libya is altering the balance of power and has resulted in a significant setback for the political process. The outcome of the conflict will be a main factor in determining how and when the political process resumes. The conflict will likely see a shifting of allegiances and various deals as groups and individuals look to protect their spheres of influence and status. It will also impact on factional influences with some empowered by the conflict, and others degraded.
- With security focus on the Tripoli offensive, the power vacuum that had helped incubate terrorist organizations and criminal gangs, is returning to the Fezzan, and has the potential to incubate transnational terror groups from across the Sahel region.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Religious and Cultural

- After the crescent moon was seen in the small town of Samnu in Southern Libya, Libya announced June 04 to be the first day of Eid Al-Fitr. Municipalities across Libya introduced additional security measures ahead of the Eid al-Fitr period. This is common practice to maintain public order during a major religious festival.

Operation Flood of Dignity/Volcano of Rage

- Combat operations have persisted throughout the week, over the Eid Al-Fitr period, though at a reduced intensity. There are mounting indications of renewed offensives in the post-Ramadan period, though additional fronts and substantial, enduring territorial changes appear unlikely.
- The LNA has targeted military assets at Mitiga Airport on two consecutive nights this week. The LNA maintain it has targeted Turkish provided and operated armed UAVs. Airport officials confirmed that the strikes did not impact civilian facilities or operations. Further incidents of this nature are likely.

Governance

- US President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed the situation in Libya in an informal meeting on June 05. They have reportedly agreed to discuss the issue further at the G20 summit in Tokyo in late-June. GNA Deputy PM Ahmed Maiteeq has been highly critical of the lack of clarity of the US position; State Department officials maintain that the US supports the UN-brokered GNA. Maiteeq's comments in the *Washington Times* followed LNA messaging claiming that Khalifa Haftar will meet Trump in Washington DC in mid-June.
- In related reporting, Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui on June 03 met with US ambassador Donald Blome. A statement from Jhinaoui stressed 'the importance of stopping all forms of military escalation' and

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resuming UN-sponsored peace talks. Jhinaoui also warned that 'chaos' in Libya could have serious implications for the stability of the entire region.

Security

- Chadian militants reportedly conducted an attack in the city of Murzuq on the evening of June 06. Five people were killed.
- An unknown armed group attacked Al-Jufra province's Al-Fuqaha town, which has been subject to several attacks attributed to IS or other armed groups, at around dawn on June 03. No casualties were reported; though attacks often result in fatalities and abductions, similar attacks in the south have been repelled by local militia and security forces.
- A dual VBIED attack in Derna on June 02 killed three and wounded 18.

Humanitarian/Migrant Crisis

- The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the conflict in Tripoli had caused 607 fatalities and 3261 injuries since it started (in southern Tripoli) on April 04. The WHO also reported on May 31 that 39 civilians had been killed and 117 wounded in the conflict. It was also reported that 90,500 people have been displaced and 400,000 people remain within 1km of current front-line locations.
- Latest reporting from Ghat has stated that four deaths and 30 other casualties have resulted from severe flooding in the southwestern town, near the Algerian border. Heavy rains between May 28 and June 05 have seen 70% of the town flooded, affecting 20,000 people and displacing 2,500. Flooding on local roads and damage to infrastructure have also hampered humanitarian access. Rainfall continues but is decreasing in intensity. The GNA stated it had allocated LYD 10m to assist with release efforts.
- UNHCR reported that as of June 03, 55,493 asylum seekers and refugees were registered with the agency in Libya, including 4,058 individuals in (accessible) Libyan detention centers.

Travel

- Local sources have reported long queues at petrol stations, with at least one tailed back over 1.5km. There have been no reported interruptions to fuel imports caused by the conflict, though the sea state delayed the arrival of a tanker into Tripoli's port. The arrival coincided with the immediate pre-Eid period when people stock up for the public holiday. Exploitative rumormongering by black-market actors may have exacerbated the situation. The GNA's Presidential Council established a fuel crisis committee to regulate distribution. People have been prevented from filling multiple jerry cans, likely in efforts to deter black market sales and to reduce waiting times. Those with military style jerry cans have also been turned away.

KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
July	AU/ UN International Conference on Libya?	Addis Ababa
August 11	Arafat Day	
August 12-14	Eid al-Adha	
September 01	Islamic New Year	
September 16	Martyr's Day	
October	AU proposed elections	Considered unlikely at present
October 23	Liberation Day	
November 10	Birthday of the Prophet Mohammed	
December 24	Independence Day	

THREAT MATRIX

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

Threat Scale

Minimal	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Operation Flood of Dignity/Volcano of Rage

Overview

Overall activity remains down from last week and a peak in mid- to late-May, with around 80 incidents reported compared with around 120 last week and 180 the week preceding. However, a steady increase in activity driven principally by LNA and some GNA airstrikes has been evident following an almost complete drop-off in reported incidents over June 01 to 02. Despite continuing clashes and signs of increasing activity following Eid, assessed territorial control remains the same as reported over the preceding two weeks. There are mounting indications of a post-Eid LNA push.

Ground Operations

Fighting has been most intense around Khallet Al-Farjan, with similar clashes reported in Ain Zara and the Airport Road. Yarmouk Camp was contested, and eventually claimed by the LNA. Beyond Tripoli, the GNA on May 31 also declared large swathes of the Swani to Aziziyah axis a 'military zone' and were said to have evacuated homes in the area. Control of this section of the Gharyan-Swani road has been in constant flux throughout the conflict, so the announcement could signal renewed GNA intent to secure the route post-Ramadan, or GNA anticipation of a forthcoming LNA assault from the adjacent Tarhunah-Qaser Bin Ghashir axis. Single-source reporting has claimed that GNA-aligned forces are staging north of Gharyan, home to the LNA logistic hub, possibly for a forthcoming GNA assault. Sand barriers were also reported around Swani, possibly in anticipation of a forthcoming LNA one. Latest indications are that the renewed offensives will begin in the next 48-72 hours.

Air Campaign

Air operations have again reduced, with more strikes again attributed to LNA than GNA. LNA continue to target ammunition stores with precision capability, while the GNA has maintained pressure on the LNA's Gharyan logistics hub and supply routes. Air activity has switched from appearing principally to support troops in combat, back to principally targeting GNA capabilities and logistics sites.

The most significant incidents were two strikes on consecutive nights in the military side of Mitiga Airport against what the LNA claimed to be Turkish provided and operated armed drones. Both hit part of the facility away from the runway or the passenger terminal. Civilian operations were not affected in either strike.



WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Significant activity

- SAFire - May 31, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Gharyan: Unconfirmed LNA reporting claims that LNA shot down a Turkish drone following several purported strikes against residential areas in Gharyan. Available reporting does not specify the location of the downed airframe.
- IDF - Jun 01, Tripoli Province, Swani: Artillery fire reportedly impacted in and around civilian residences in Swani late on the morning of June 01; no injuries were reported.
- Arrest - Jun 02, Sirte Province, Sirte: An individual was reportedly arrested in Sirte for organising festivities during Ramadan.
- SAFire - Jun 01, Al-Jafara Province, Aziziyah: The GNA claimed to have downed an Emirati drone. Prior reporting has seen credible claims that both the UAE and Egypt have assisted with LNA precision strikes. However, available imagery does not support the reported claim, depicting part of a UAV with an upside-down UAE flag accompanying the English text 'Made in UAE.'
- Shipwreck - Jun 02, Tripoli Province, Garabuli: A migrant boat capsized 14 miles from the coast of Garabuli. The Libyan Coastguard rescued 75 people. A woman and a child reportedly died before the rescue, and 25 other people remain missing.
- Shipwreck - Jun 02, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms: A migrant boat capsized 74 miles from the coast of Al-Khoms. The Libyan Coastguard rescued 85 people, including 5 women and 5 children. Those rescued were said to have been Arab, African and Bengali.
- Arrest - Jun 04, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A three-member armed robbery gang was arrested in Tripoli on June 04.
- Other - Jun 03, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Salah Al-Raqi'i, undersecretary of GNA ministry of housing and a field commander of Fursan Janzour militia, was reportedly killed in clashes with the LNA near Tripoli International Airport (TIP) on June 03.
- The Al-Adad media outlet said he was accused of committing many crimes of kidnapping, extortion and seizure of public money in the region of Janzour through the militia and led by the Minister of Housing in the Government of the Accord. He was reportedly appointed agent of the Ministry of Housing under pressure from the militias."
- RPG - Jun 03, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: An unconfirmed report stated that an RPG struck a residential building in Tripoli's Damascus district on June 03.
- IDF - Jun 05 05:30, Tripoli Province, Qaser Bin Ghashir: Rocket artillery impacted Qaser Bin Ghashir
- Other - Jun 05, Tripoli Province, Airport Road: Unconfirmed reporting from the LNA claimed that GNA Western Military Zone Commander Osama Al-Jweili was injured in recent clashes around Tripoli International Airport.
- Arrest - Jun 05, Sirte Province, Ras Lanuf: An HoR Mol security patrol reportedly stopped a car carrying contraband in Ras Lanuf. The car was reported to be travelling from Sabha to Benghazi, carrying explosives, electrical cables, forged documents and alcohol.
- Shipwreck - Jun 05, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: The Libyan Coast Guard reported the rescue of 80 migrants from a rubber boat with no engine approximately 65 miles from the coast of Zawiyah. The migrants were brought back to Zawiyah and handed to the Immigration Control Bureau.
- SAF - Jun 06 02:00, Tripoli Province, Old City: Gunfire was reported on Omar Al-Mukhtar Street in central Tripoli at approximately 0200hrs.
- Arrest - Jun 06, Sirte Province, Sirte: A joint operation by the Libyan Coast Guard in cooperation with Al-Banyan Al-Marsour (BAM) and the Sirte Protection Force (SPF) reportedly arrested 16 Egyptian Nationals in Libyan territorial waters.
- Arrest - Jun 06, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Around 125 people were rescued in two separate coast guard operations off the coast of Zawiyah and Tripoli on June 05.
- IDF - Jun 07 06:45, Tripoli Province, Al-Habda Al-Khadra: Outgoing IDF was reported in the vicinity of Al-Habda Al-Khadra directed towards LNA positions on the Airport Road axis at around 0645hrs.
- IDF - Jun 07, Tripoli Province, Airport Road: IDF was exchanged between GNA positions in the airport road axis and LNA in Tripoli International Airport.

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- Other - Jun 07, Tripoli Province, Swani: A GNA Military Region source reportedly said Al-Swani residents supported the LNA; this corroborates an earlier report from separate, usually reliable source.
- Other - Jun 07, Misrata Province, Abu Grain: The GNA Operation 'Volcano of Wrath' Ops Room reported that at 0530hrs it was pursuing LNA-linked forces from Wadi Abu Nujaym and al-Baghla southwest towards Wadi Ash Shwayrif.
- Arrest - Jun 07, Tripoli Province, Garabuli: The Libyan Coast Guard detained 82 migrants from other African nations at the Garabuli coast.
- IDF - Jun 07, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara: IDF exchanges were reported in Ain Zara area.

Cyrenaica

Significant activity

- Crime - May 31, Al-Wahat Province, Jalu: Thieves stole unspecified electrical materials from transmission lines near Jalu, leading to a localized power outage.
- Security Announcement - May 31, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Benghazi security forces are reported to have heightened security ahead of the end of Ramadan.
- VBIED - Jun 02, Derna Province, Derna: Two VBIED detonations are reported to have wounded at least 18 people in the eastern town of Derna, approximately 300km from Benghazi. At least one of the explosions may have targeted the LNA's Suleiman Bahalti Battalion HQ. However, conflicting LNA reports also stated that the explosions targeted another location. Another account suggested three people were killed and 18 injured. This follows a report on May 30 of an IED detonation near the town's Department of Criminal Investigation and Drug Control. No casualties were reported.
- Crime - Jun 02, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Security forces raided a house in Tocra, north of Benghazi, seizing 65 pieces of hashish on June 01. The drugs gang using the house reportedly escaped.
- Arrest - Jun 02, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: Ajdabiya police arrested a man in possession of 1,400 Tramadol pills on June 02.
- IED - Jun 04, Derna Province, Derna: An IED detonation was reported in Derna close to a local police station on the morning of June 04. No casualties were reported. This follows a fatal VBIED attack on June 02 and another IED attack on May 30.
- Troop Movements - Jun 04, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: The LNA has reportedly mobilized its Thunderbolt Special Forces Battalion via Ajdabiya towards the Oil Crescent after reports of 'hostile movements' at 0500hrs on June 04.
- Security Announcement - Jun 05, Derna Province, Derna: Shahat's Security Directorate of increased security following three recent IED attacks in Derna.
- Arrest - Jun 05, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: Three Egyptian nationals were re-arrested on June 05 after escaping from a prison in Ajdabiya on May 31.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Crime - Jun 02, Sabha Province, Sabha: Two local men were reportedly shot and killed during an armed robbery in Sabha in which the assailants also stole LYD 1m. Al-Jadid residents later attended a demonstration to protest the killing of the two men and the theft of the funds. The two men were named as Hamid Albadawi and Mohammed Abdulaziz. Reporting indicates that they were local leaders that had withdrawn the money from a local bank on behalf of several depositors and were set to distribute the funds to their owners. The system has been implemented locally owing to cash shortages, to avoid excessive queues and public order issues around banks.
- Demonstration - Jun 01, Sabha Province, Sabha: Sabha residents from the city's Al-Jadid district on June 01 protested the killing of two council members and the theft of local salaries by armed robbers earlier in the day.
- Security Announcement - Jun 03, Sabha Province, Ghadduwah: The HoR's Mol has announced plans to establish a security center in Ghadduwa. This follows recent reporting of increasing violent crime in Sabha and armed group or terrorist activity around the Fezzan.
- Armed Attack - Jun 03, Jufra, Al-Fuqaha: An unknown armed group attacked Al-Jufra province's Al-Fuqaha town, which has been subject to several attacks attributed to IS or other armed groups, at around dawn on



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June 03. No casualties were reported; though attacks often result in fatalities and abductions, similar attacks in the south have been repelled by local militia and security forces. Press reports allege that perpetrators also committed the fatal armed robbery in Sabha on June 01. LNA sources have reportedly insisted that the blame must lie with Islamic State and not criminal gangs.

- Environmental Disaster - Jun 04, Ghat Province, Ghat: Severe floods hit the southern town of Ghat on the Algerian border on June 03. An unknown number of casualties were reported, as was widespread damage/disruption to public utilities and infrastructure. The floods will further impact Ghat's humanitarian situation; the Municipal Council of Ghat had already warned on May 28 of critical shortages of fuel and cash. The High Social Council of the Libyan Tuareg appealed to local, national and international organizations for assistance.
- Sabotage - Jun 04, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Hasawna: Reporting on June 04 stated that Wells 85 and 88 of the GMMR in Al-Hasawneh, north of Sabha, were attacked on June 02. This closely follows another act of theft/sabotage on well 88 reported on May 30. The activity appears to be looting amidst a general state of lawlessness in the area, rather than an attempt to deliberately restrict Tripoli's water supply.
- Armed Attack - Jun 03, Sabha Province, Sabha: IS claimed on June 03 to have inflicted several casualties on LNA fighters and seized weapons in an attack near 'Checkpoint 400' on the Sabha-Jufra road.
- Armed Attack - Jun 06, Murzuq Province, Murzuq: A Chadian armed group reportedly attacked the city of Murzuq on the evening of June 06, resulting in five deaths and 30 other casualties.
- Troop Movements - Jun 07, Murzuq Province, Murzuq: The LNA's Khalid bin Walid Battalion deployed force elements to secure Murzuq on June 07, in response to reported attacks by Chadian militia in the area.



ACRONYM LIST

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
DACOCT - Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism
DF – Direct Fire
DPF – Derna Protection Force (an amalgamation of all militias in Derna, including the MSCD)
GATMJB -
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
MoI - 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 – Rada Deterrence Force/ Special Deterrence Force/ Rada
Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck
TPF – Tripoli Protection Force (TRB, Nawasi, Bab Tajoura Brigade and Ghneiwa umbrella group)
UXO - Unexploded Ordnance

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For more information on how our services can support your business in Libya contact:

Nicholas Bennett
Regional Director, Libya:
Nicholas.Bennett@garda.com

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Middle East

International Protective Services Headquarters
Office 2502, Tower 2, Currency House
DIFC, PO Box 482069
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

United States

1101 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1725
Arlington, VA, 22209
United States

UK

Two London Bridge
London
SE1 9RA

Europe

37-39 rue des Deux Eglises
1000 Brussels
Belgium

garda.com