

Libya Weekly Security Preview

October 04, 2020

Prepared by:
Risk Analysis Team, Libya



ISO 9001:2015
Quality Management
QMS/112016/001

ISO 14001:2015
Environmental Management
EMS/112016/001

ISO 45001:2018
Health & Safety Management
HSMS/112016/001

ISO 18788:2015
Security Operations Management
SMS/022016/001

ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012
Quality Assurance Management
SMS/072014/001

Table of Contents

Outlook	3
Short Term Outlook	3
Medium to Long Term Outlook	3
Executive Summary	3
Political Developments	3
Military Developments	4
Security Developments	4
Oil & Gas	4
Travel.....	4
Regional Developments	5
Threat Matrix	5
Key Dates	5
Country Wide Incident Totals	6
Latest Developments	6
Military Developments	6
Security Developments.....	6
Coronavirus	6
Regional Assessment	7
Tripolitania Region.....	7
Cyrenaica Region	8
Fezzan Region	8
Acronym List	9
GardaWorld	10
Information Services	10
Global Leader in Comprehensive Security and Risk Management.....	10

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.

Outlook

Short Term Outlook

- The pace of political developments is increasing with a growing intent to appoint a new Presidential Council in October during a meeting scheduled to take place in Geneva. The move comes after various meetings aimed at laying the groundwork and the announcement from Prime Minister (GNA) Fayeze Sarraj of his intention to resign at the end of October. The situation remains dynamic with further developments expected over the next month, helping to give shape to the current progress in Libya.
- The above comes as divisions, which have plagued the GNA, continue to hamper the government's ability to govern. These are only likely to be exacerbated over the next month as various actors and factions position themselves and look to raise their profiles prior to potential high-level changes.
- COVID-19 continues an upwards trajectory in Libya although the pace appears to have slowed at present. Movement in and out of the country is now partially resuming with additional protective measures in place however the process continues to evolve and remains dynamic. Local lockdowns remain in use and can be implemented with little to no notice as local and national authorities look to manage the virus.
- Crime, including carjacking's and kidnapping, remain common in many areas of the country with perpetrators exploiting local gaps in security to carry out attacks.

Medium to Long Term Outlook

- Increasing levels of foreign interference have further complicated the situation in Libya while the Turkish military intervention has forever altered the trajectory of the crisis. Russian involvement has attracted the attention of NATO and AFRICOM as concerns grow over the potential for a Russian military presence on the southern flank of NATO. Russia and Turkey are increasingly becoming kingmakers in Libya and are engaged in ceasefire talks as they seek to find a sustainable agreement.
- Although Islamic State suffered significant attrition towards the end of 2019, the group remains a threat in Libya and may exploit the ongoing instability to re-group and regenerate over 2020. Other terrorist factions also remain active with some representing a kidnap threat, especially in more remote areas while some are looking to exploit the current situation to continue their armed opposition of the LNA.

Executive Summary

Political Developments

- Talks in Bouzinka, Morocco finally kicked off on October 02. The talks are the second Morocco talks to take place between the High Council of State (HCS) and the House of Representatives (HoR).
- UNSMIL has called for sanctions to be imposed on anyone hindering the Geneva peace talks. This has angered the Grand Mufti, Sadiq al-Gharyani. He has called for a conference that would bring together "fighters, scholars, and experts," to choose who would represent them in "all upcoming dialogues."
- The "second" Sirte Conference is due to take place on October 10. The conference was described as a "national event in a Libyan city and a serious attempt to lay down a roadmap to solve the Libyan crisis."
- The Interior Minister (GNA) Fathi Bashagha has stated he supports the move of the new authority to Sirte; however, the city must be completely free of any weapons, mercenaries or foreign forces.
- On October 02, the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, called on Turkey and Russia not to intervene in Libyan affairs, stating Libyans should be allowed to resolve their problems themselves, through intra-Libyan dialogue.

- The mayors of 29 municipalities have called for upcoming parliamentary elections to be held no later than February 2021.
- A document exploring possible EU missions in Libya revealed in the media outlined three possible options for the EU to increase its visibility and influence in the country.

Military Developments

- On September 28, “military and police delegations from eastern and western Libya met and began security and military talks, in the framework of the ongoing (5+5) Joint Military Commission talks, with the facilitation of UNSMIL.” The talks took place in Hurghada, Egypt. UNSMIL stated that the dialogue was “characterized by a spirit of transparency and mutual confidence.”
- The Minister of Defence (GNA), Salah al-Namroush, met with the Turkish ambassador and military attaché in Tripoli on September 28. He also met with the Pakistani Ambassador to Libya, Sajid Iqbal on the same day. Namroush then travelled to Istanbul on October 01 to meet with his Turkish counterpart. He was received with full military honours.
- The spokesman for the GNA military, Mohammed Gununu, stated that the LNA, backed by Wagner Group, were fortifying positions around Jufra and Brak Shati Airbases.
- The Director of Moral Guidance (LNA), Major General Khaled Al-Mahjoub, stated on September 29 that 3000 mercenaries, mostly Syrian nationals have departed Libya. This comes as reports have indicated a movement of Syrian mercenaries into Azerbaijan.
- The spokesman for the LNA, Major General Ahmed Mismari, stated that a squadron of bomber aircraft, including MiG-23s and BN Bombers, had been successfully repaired and were now in service.
- Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, commander of the LNA, has issued orders to Colonel Ramadan Mohammed Abu Raqqa to regroup, restructure and reorganize military units in the western region.

Security Developments

- The Joint Force (GNA) arrested a five-member IS cell in Aljmail near the Tunisian border on September 30. The arrests come after an attack on an IS cell in Sabha by the LNA on September 14 in which they killed Abu Moaz Al-Iraqi who was named as the IS “emir” of North Africa.
- Tripoli saw further clashes this week in Tajura and around 7 April Camp in the west of the city between different military units.
- The Attorney General’s office has arrested or charged eight top Libyan officials with corruption, including a minister and several deputy ministers.
- Minister of the Interior (GNA) Fathi Bashagha met with the Turkish Ambassador to Libya, Serhat Aksan, to discuss the amplification of cooperation in the field of security between the two countries.

Oil & Gas

- The Chairman of the Libyan Arabian Gulf Oil Company (AGOCO), Mohamed Shatwan, announced the Sarir oilfield had restarted production following the lifting of the oil blockade on September 30. The field, located in the east of Libya, is considered the country’s largest and was producing over 300,000 barrels per day in 2019.
- The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has issued a report on the “blockaders of the Libya oilfields, ports and other petroleum facilities.” The report names 13 people for various “crimes” including “incitement and calling for oil blockade” and for shutting down various facilities with the date of the alleged offences.

Travel

- The LNA has stated that all flights from Mitiga or Misrata airports to Sabha must first land at Benina Airport in Benghazi for inspection. The order came after an Afriqiyah Airways flight was intercepted

moments before landing by military vehicles at Sabha, which has only recently resumed operations after six years.

Regional Developments

- The Spanish Foreign Minister Arancha Gonzalez Laya stated that Turkish actions in the eastern Mediterranean have “hindered negotiations for the territorial dispute that has ratcheted up regional tensions with Greece.” The comments were made during calls with her Cypriot counterpart Niko Christodoulides in which she expressed her support for Cyprus.
- Greece has backed Cyprus’s calls for fresh sanctions against individuals and companies involved in Turkey’s explorative activities in the Mediterranean.
- On October 01, Egypt and France conducted joint naval drills in the Mediterranean with the Tahya Misr frigate and the Latouche-Treville frigate taking part. The naval drills come as tensions remain high in the Mediterranean with Egypt, Greece, Cyprus and France opposing Turkish expansion in the area, including moves to explore oil and gas.

Threat Matrix

Region	Political	Terrorism	Militancy	Crime	K&R
Tripolitania	High	Moderate-High	High	High	High
Tripoli	High	Moderate-High	High	High	Moderate-High
Cyrenaica	High	Moderate-High	Low	Low-Moderate	Low
Benghazi	High	Moderate-High	Moderate	Low-Moderate	Moderate
Fezzan	High	High-Extreme	High-Extreme	High	High
Sabha	High	High-Extreme	High	High	High

Threat Scale

Minimal

Low

Moderate

High

Extreme

Key Dates

Date	Occasion	Comment
October 2020	Prime Minister Sarraj expected to step down from his role	
October 05, 2020	Berlin II conference on Libya	Germany and UN to be held online
October 15, 2020	Meeting to appoint a new Presidential Council	Geneva
October 23, 2020	Liberation Day	Public Holiday
October 29, 2020	Birth of Prophet Mohammed	Public Holiday
December 24, 2020	Independence Day	Public Holiday
March 2021	Possible Libyan elections	

Country Wide Incident Totals

Region	Incidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Kidnaps	Arrests
Tripolitania	17	1	7	0	9
Cyrenaica	1	0	0	0	0
Fezzan	4	1	0	0	0
Libyan Territorial Waters	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	22	2	7	0	9

Latest Developments

Military Developments

LNA: GNA claims fortification work is ongoing at two LNA airbases

Talks in Hurchada began on September 28 with military and police delegations from eastern and western Libya. The talks came under the framework of the ongoing (5+5) Joint Military Commission talks, with the facilitation of UNSMIL. Upon their completion, UNSMIL stated that dialogue was “characterized by a spirit of transparency and mutual confidence.” The creation of a neutral force to secure Sirte and oil facilities was discussed and a number of key recommendations were made.

Security Developments

Security force clashes in Tripoli

Tensions between security forces have again manifested in armed confrontations this week in Tripoli. Overnight October 01/02, a shooting at a Saraya al-Zawiyah checkpoint near 7 April Camp in Sarraj by a member of General Security (Zintani) sparked clashes in the area.

Over in the east of the capital, the situation between Daman Battalion and the Tajura Lions continued to play out this week. On October 02, Ali Dreder handed himself over to SDF and was imprisoned in Mitiga prison. On October 03, 33 Infantry Battalion contacted Adel Dreder, Ali’s brother. He was summoned and subsequently arrested and told to order Daman Battalion to withdraw from Tajura. 33 Infantry Battalion and the Tajura Lions then moved on Na’am Camp in Tajura, the last remaining Daman camp. Daman was ousted from Na’am and dispersed into Ain Zara.

Coronavirus

The number of new COVID-19 cases has reduced for a third week in a row after peaking at 5,254 in the week ending September 12. Cases this week rose by 4,259 compared to 4,594 from the previous week. The number of deaths associated with the virus stands at 578 with 14,620 active cases at present.

Regional Assessment

Tripolitania Region

Significant Incidents

- Demonstration - Sep 27, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara: A demonstration took place against the power outages with burning tyres blocking a road.
- Arrest - Sep 27, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The director of the Libyan Foreign Bank, Mohammed Bin Yusuf, has been arrested by security forces reportedly as part of ongoing investigations into corruption by the Attorney General's Office.
- Arrest - Sep 27, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The General Director of Production Projects at GECOL has been arrested by security forces reportedly as part of ongoing investigations into corruption by the Attorney General's Office.
- Arrest - Sep 28, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Mayor of Bani Walid, Salim Nwair, was arrested in Tripoli on embezzlement charges.
- SAF - Sep 28 03:00, Tripoli Province, Hadba Al-Mashro: On September 28, tensions escalated to shots fired between 301 Battalion and the Central Security Department (Abu Saleem branch, commanded by Ghneiwa).
- Murder/ Execution - Sep 29 15:20, Al-Murqub Province, Tarhunah: The body of an unidentified person was found in the wider Tarhunah area.
- Armed Attack - Sep 30, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Aljmail: The Joint Force of the Ministry of Defence arrested five people suspected of being IS members including two Tunisians, an African and two Libyans. Four of the cell members were arrested south of Aljmail while the fifth was caught in an ambush on a highway.
- Armed Clash - Sep 30, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: The Joint Force of the Ministry of Defence arrested seized six trucks used to smuggle fuel to Tunisia after clashes with the armed group in charge of the fuel smuggling operations.
- Murder/ Execution - Sep 30 11:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Gharyan: Atef Ziyadah was shot by unknown perpetrators as he travelled through Gharyan.
- Demonstration - Oct 01, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ras Ajdir: A demonstration on the Tunisian side of the border resulted in its closure with Libyan trucks stranded.
- Armed Clash - Oct 01 22:30, Tripoli Province, 7 April Camp: Intermittent clashes involving heavy weapons were ongoing overnight between General Security and Saraya Al-Zawiyah near the Gypsum Gate and 7 April Camp along Gharyan Road.
- Arrest - Oct 02, Tripoli Province, Mitiga Prison: Daman Battalion commander, Ali Dreder, handed himself over to the SDF and was jailed at Mitiga prison.
- Troop Movements - Oct 02, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Forces from Zawiyah mobilised towards Tripoli after clashes between General Security and Saraya Al-Zawiyah.
- Demonstration - Oct 02, Tripoli Province, Tajura: A protest was held in Tajura over the insecurity in the region and the power of armed groups. The demonstration was triggered by recent clashes between the Daman Battalion and the Tajura Lions.
- SAF - Oct 02 11:00, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif: Unknown people shot at a vehicle carrying migrants, killing one person on board.
- Demonstration - Oct 02 21:20, Tripoli Province, Bivio Traffic Lights: Fires were set at the Bivio traffic lights over the deteriorating in living conditions. The road was reopened around 2300hrs.
- Kidnap - Oct 03, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Seven Indian workers are reportedly been held hostage by an unknown group in Libya (exact location unknown).
- Kidnap - Oct 03 11:00, Tripoli Province, Tajura: Three people were arrested for the kidnap of a Moroccan worker. A ransom had been demanded for him.

Cyrenaica Region

Significant Incidents

- Arrest - Sep 28 11:30, Benghazi Province, As Sulmani: An unidentified person was arrested on suspicion of a 2011 murder.

Fezzan Region

Significant Incidents

- Armed Clash - Sep 27 02:00, Sabha Province, Fateh: Unidentified groups were involved in an armed clash involving SAF.
- Murder/ Execution - Sep 27 18:00, Sabha Province, Sukrah: Abdul Salam Omar Othman was allegedly shot by Alsaftul Osama Sassi. Othman was left in a critical condition.
- Crime - Sep 28 12:30, Sabha Province, Wide Street: Hajj Abdul Salam Al-Hudairi was subjected to an armed carjacking in Wide Street.
- Demonstration - Sep 29 15:00, Al-Jufra Province, Waddan: Protestors attempted to block a road with burning debris over ongoing power outages and deteriorating living conditions.
- Security Operation - Oct 01, Ghat Province, Ghat: The Eisen Border Company, 3 Battalion, 128 Brigade, commanded by Captain Salem Bouzariba, conducted a security operation in the border area between Algeria and Libya where the battalion is stationed, including the "Takhrkhoury crossing", the "Anai crossing" and the "Imi Nung Point."
- Crime - Oct 01 15:30, Sabha Province, Hijarah: An armed robbery involving SAF took place against an unknown target.
- Arrest - Oct 03, Sabha Province, Sabha: 116 Infantry Brigade (LNA) arrested a "terrorist cell" for carrying out killing and kidnapping operations of civilians in the area between Sabha and Jufra. The cell comprised seven African nationals and three Libyans who were in possession of four rifles and large amounts of ammunition when they were arrested. There was no resistance offered to the arrest.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 03 15:00, Sabha Province, Sabha: Hossan Issa Al-Azhari was reported to have been murdered by unknown perpetrators.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 03 15:10, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Fejej: The bodies of two unidentified people were found.



Get critical security information
from around the world.

Click here to register for a free account:
garda.com/crisis24



Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in this Report are the views of GardaWorld and constitute a judgment as at the date of the Report and are subject to change without notice. The information and opinions expressed in this Report have been formed in good faith on the basis of the best information and intelligence available at the time of writing, but no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to its accuracy, completeness or correctness. GardaWorld accepts no liability arising out of or in connection with the comments made or the information set out in this Report and the reader is advised that any decision taken to act or not to act in reliance on this Report is taken solely at the reader's own risk. In particular, the comments in this Report should not be construed as advice, legal or otherwise.

Acronym List

AQ - Al-Qaeda
BAM – Al Bunyan Al Marsous (Misratan-led)
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
DDR - Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DF – Direct Fire
DPF – Derna Protection Force (an amalgamation of all militias in Derna, including the MSCD)
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)
IDF – Indirect Fire
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

GardaWorld

Information Services

From our management offices and field offices in strategic locations our constant monitoring of the high-risk environments in which we work is conveyed through our range of risk analysis reports. The reports contain detailed updates, delivering current and relevant ground-truth information to assist both our personnel and our clients in their decision-making.

Our wider risk management solutions provide members of the defense, diplomatic, development, oil & gas and infrastructure sectors operating in potentially high-risk and complex environments with a comprehensive range of risk analysis, intelligence, crisis response, and training services. These services are designed to provide clients with the proactive capability to remain aware in potentially hostile environments and identify risks while strengthening their reactive capacity in emergency situations.

Our current regular reporting geographies include: Nigeria, Mali, Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen on a daily, weekly, fortnightly, and monthly basis.

Through our constant monitoring and predictive threat analysis our Information Services team help you plan for, manage, and respond to risks.

For more information on our security reports or for information about our special-to-task reports tailored to individual client requirements, please contact us: gwinfo@garda.com or contact our regional representative Libya.RAM@garda.com

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

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

Global Leader in Comprehensive Security and Risk Management

GardaWorld Security Services – Middle East & Africa is the international security division of GardaWorld Security Corporation, the world's largest privately owned security company with over 102,000 global staff.

We support clients in emerging, complex and high-risk markets around the world with static security, security consulting, risk analysis and reporting, crisis management and business continuity, mobile security, close protection, training and kidnap for ransom and extortion response solutions.

We work across multiple business sectors to provide protection and security for clients in the extractives, aerospace and defense, critical infrastructure, government and diplomatic and development sectors to secure employees, assets, and reputation so clients can focus solely on running daily operations and growing their business.

Discover more about the markets we serve and to learn how our international security solutions can help you contact us today: gwinfo@garda.com

Security Services - Middle East & Africa

Headquarters

Office 2502, Tower 2, Currency House
DIFC, PO Box 482069
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Regional Office

Battus House,
Turkish School Road,
Tripoli,
Libya

garda.com

Protecting people, assets and reputations worldwide.

GardaWorld is the world's largest privately owned security services company, offering cash services, physical and specialized security solutions and, with the Crisis24 portal, the dissemination of vetted information related to international security. Our operations take us from our head office in Montreal to oil fields in Iraq and to embassies in Africa, as well as through major U.S. financial institutions and Canadian airports.

We work in a variety of sectors, such as financial services, infrastructure, natural resources and retail. We are a partner of choice for private companies, governments, humanitarian organizations, and multinationals with personnel all over the world. By mitigating the risks and allowing our clients to conduct business in complete security, we are strengthening the trust they place in us to protect their staff, their assets and their operations.

