

# Libya Weekly Security Preview

November 01, 2020

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# Outlook

## Short Term Outlook

- Political activity remains intensified; however, the process is becoming ever more fragmented with UNSMIL working hard to maintain control and momentum. There has been some progress at the various meetings so far, but this will need drawing together into a coherent strategy moving forward. The situation remains dynamic with further developments expected over the next month, helping to give shape to the current situation in Libya.
- COVID-19 continues an upwards trajectory. 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 with local lockdowns still been implemented where needed.
- 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

- The political process is taking prominence and making progress at a national level, however, this progress risks been undermined by local instability and regional dynamics which continue to pull apart the already fragmented Libya. The political turmoil is reshaping power structures in the country and will continue to see individuals and factions positioning themselves as talks continue. While the immediate risk of civil war has subsided, there is increasing rhetoric on both sides. They also continue to invest heavily into their respective militaries which remain entrenched along the Sirte to Jufra line while the October 23 ceasefire agreement could exacerbate tensions.
- Islamic State continues to suffer attrition in Libya and remains mostly dormant from an operational perspective. However, the ongoing fragmentation of the country and political instability will continue to create conditions in which the group could begin to reconstitute some of its capability. There are possible indications of an intent to try and re-establish an operational capability in Tripolitania with a possible aim of increasing tensions during political negotiations. 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

## Military/Security Developments

- Field Marshall Khalifa Haftar received a delegation of Tuareg elders at the LNA HQ in Rajmah on October 26. This comes after the LNA launched an operation down in the south aimed at improving security. The elders praised the LNA for their efforts while Haftar stressed the need for the continued support of the tribes for the LNA.
- Major General Ahmed Mismari (LNA) has branded the signing of an MoU between the Ministry of the Interior (GNA) and its Qatari counterpart as a “clear violation of the recently approved Geneva Agreement.” The MoU was reportedly to combat terrorism, drugs and money laundering and came days after the ceasefire was signed.
- Alexander Malkevich, Chairman of the Russian Foundation for National Values Protection, has claimed that Russian sociologist Maxim Shogali, and his translator Samer Suefan, have been transferred from SDF custody to a Turkish Military Base at Mitiga Airport.
- 110 Battalion (LNA) announced that the Zillah Fighter Company along with 14 armed vehicles were now under their command and opened recruiting in the Zillah area. Unconfirmed reporting also indicates that the LNA’s 177 Bn has started recruiting in the area of Tamzawa close to Brak Airbase. Finally, 116 Battalion (LNA) has begun a 70-day training exercise in Jufra with the newly recruited 19-20 company.

## Political Developments

- The Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has stated that Moscow and Ankara were working on a political solution to the Libyan crisis. Lavrov stated that: “At present, Russian and Turkish experts are contributing to reconciliation between the warring parties in Libya. Joint efforts have succeeded in establishing a ceasefire regime, as well as resuming the activities of the main sector of the country’s economy – oil.”
- UNSMIL held the first virtual meeting of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) on October 26. The first face to face meeting is scheduled for November 09 in Tunis. The virtual meeting followed the publication of the list of 75 names, causing some (expected) controversy in Libya.
- The Social Council of the Tuareg tribes in Libya has denounced the way in which UNSMIL selected members of the LPDF due to “the lack of Tuareg, Ghat and other representation.” The Supreme Council of Libyan Tribes also issued a statement outlining their disapproval of UNSMIL’s peace initiative on Oct 28. The Council’s main point was on the selection of candidates which it described as being dominated by Islamist groups and sidelining national actors and influential social groups.
- The HCS has called for the ceasing of economic relations with French companies. This call includes Total operating in the Al-Waha oilfield. The call is a response to the “insults” made by France “against the Prophet Mohammed.”

## Travel

- Afriqiyah Airways has announced plans to resume flights to Alexandria on November 04 and Khartoum on November 07. Flights to Alexandria will operate on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Flights to Khartoum will operate on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- The Libyan Airports Authority of the Ministry of Transportation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Malta in maritime and aviation cooperation. The MoU outlined the resumption of air travel between the two nations by the carrier Mediava and the need for one of Libya’s airliners to be registered in Malta.

## Maritime

- Reporting indicates that during storms on the evening of Oct 27 one tugboat was sunk in Misrata port when it was crushed between a larger vessel and the dock. In Tripoli port, the Panamanian flagged vessel Lady Haloum ran aground during the storm and its Egyptian crew required rescue. Subsequent reporting indicates that the vessel remained in a good condition and was expected to be towed off the rocks in which it had become stuck.

## Oil & Gas

- The Chairman of the NOC, Mustafa Sanalla announced that production levels have now reached 800,000 bpd with an expectation of reaching 1 million bpd by the end of November and 1.6 million by the end of 2021. This would bring Libya close to its OPEC allocation of 1.7 million bpd, but Sanalla cautioned that this would be dependent on the resources that the NOC received from the Ministry of Finance

## 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	Low	Moderate	Low
Benghazi	High	Moderate-High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Fezzan	High	High-Extreme	High-Extreme	High	High
Sabha	High	High-Extreme	High	High	High

**Threat Scale**

Minimal	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
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## Key Dates

Date	Occasion	Comment
November 02, 2020	5+5 talks	Ghadames
November 09, 2020	Face-to-face talks of the LPDF	Tunisia
December 24, 2020	Independence Day	Public Holiday

## Country Wide Incident Totals

Region	Incidents	Injuries	Fatalities	Kidnaps	Arrests
Tripolitania	39	0	9	1	6
Cyrenaica	4	0	0	1	0
Fezzan	10	2	2	1	1
Libyan Territorial Waters	1	0	3	0	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>

## Assessment

### Political Developments

**UNSMIL: Hopes election date to be agreed at upcoming LPDF**

Acting SRSG Stephanie Williams (UNSMIL) has stated that she expects the upcoming Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) to designate a date for national elections. Williams stated that: “What resonates is a clear and direct desire for there to be elections in as rapid a timeframe as possible.” The UN has said it is imperative to agree on arrangements to hold elections as soon as possible, including by forming a new unified leadership to oversee them.

**GNA: Bashagha discusses “fragile ceasefire”**

Minister of the Interior (GNA), Fathi Bashagha, has cast doubt on the latest ceasefire agreement stating that Libya faces significant challenges. Referring to the ceasefire as “fragile”, Bashagha stated that the biggest challenge would be foreign interference or a lack of international support to help Libya implement the agreement.

Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar he stated, would not pose a threat if his foreign backers abandoned him. Bashagha claims that Haftar's foreign backers have started to review their stance, and that there was a change in the Egyptian position, framing Egypt's interest in Libya as a national security issue due to their shared border. He also claimed a "positive change" from Moscow however Bashagha stated that it was not yet clear if the UAE had shifted its position in the light of Haftar's loss.

#### **US: Norland comments on US position**

The US ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, has reiterated that the US does not support any party in the Libyan conflict. He stated that Libyans were growing tired of war and that there was a growing consensus for a solution via political dialogue, and not military force. He stated his recent visits to Ankara and Cairo were aimed at encouraging both to consult directly as a way to avoid any miscalculations on Libya. Norland also praised Prime Minister (GNA) Fayez Sarraj's decision to step down describing it as an "unprecedented and courageous step" but hoped that he would stay longer until power changes were possible. Subsequently Sarraj retracted his resignation, as had largely been expected. This appeared to have a degree of consensus throughout the GNA with the Chairman of the HCS, Khaled Al-Mishri also calling on Sarraj to remain in his position in order to avoid creating a power vacuum at such a crucial political juncture.

#### **Candidates for the inter-Libyan dialogue criticized.**

On Oct 28 the Supreme Council of Libyan Tribes expressed their concern that talks risked being used as a platform for the Muslim Brotherhood to reassert themselves under the patronage of UNSMIL. Mohamed al-Misbahi, head of the office of the Supreme Council of Sheikhs and Notables of Libya, affirmed that the Council "rejects the fraud of passing the agenda of the Muslim Brotherhood in Libya through the UN mission." Misbahi stressed that the Council did not object to the concept of the inter-Libya dialogue, but rather "the deceitful manner of distorting the will of the Libyans through the UN mission in order to pass the agenda of the Muslim Brotherhood in Libya, by inviting to the forum controversial individuals, some of whom are known leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood." Reportedly of the 75 participants invited to attend, 42 have links to the Brotherhood.

## **Military Developments**

#### **5+5 Military Committee to meet in Libya**

Unconfirmed military sources reported that the 5+5 Military Committee is to meet in Ghadames on Nov 02. The group is expected to discuss the activation of the terms of the ceasefire agreement which includes establishing a common security room in the areas evacuated from the military units, working to limit violations, moving towards merging, dismantling, and rehabilitating armed groups, opening the land crossings and airspace, the exchange of prisoners and restructuring the facilities guards.

## **Coronavirus**

This week saw an increase in new cases with 6,721. The number of deaths now stands at 868 (+94). With cases continuing to climb, there has been talk of further measures for Tripolitania in a bid to try and reduce the spread of the virus, however, as yet there has been no official reporting to support such rumour.

# **Regional Assessment**

## **Tripolitania Region**

#### **Significant Incidents**

- Security Operation - Oct 25 23:00, Tripoli Province, Wadi Alrabea: The General Administration for Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Task Force mounted patrols in the area.

- Armed Clash - Oct 25 22:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Jadida: Clashes between two families belong to Siraj Bensr and Mustafa Sultan erupted after Bensr was murdered by Sultan on October 24. Sultan, who works with the Security Support Force (Ajaylat Branch), has been arrested.
- Armed Clash - Oct 25 19:00, Al-Murqub Province, Alhurudat: Armed groups clashed in the Alhurudat area. One of the groups travelled to the area in 20 vehicles from Bani Walid.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 25 17:40, Tripoli Province, Alfardous Clinic: The body of an unidentified person was left in front of the Alfardous Clinic. NFDK.
- Troop Movements - Oct 25 15:45, Al-Jafara Province, Aziziyah: An unidentified armed convoy mobilized towards Tripoli.
- Arrest - Oct 25 13:00, Tripoli Province, Seyaheyya: An unidentified individual was arrested after an altercation that resulted in the death of another individual. The perpetrator allegedly stabbed someone to death after he had approached his vehicle outside of a mosque to ask him to turn down his music. The perpetrator was reportedly under the influence of alcohol.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 25 12:00, Tripoli Province, Seyaheyya: A man was stabbed to death during an altercation outside of a mosque after asking someone to turn down his music in a car outside.
- Arrest - Oct 25, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ajaylat: Mustafa Sultan who works with the Security Support Force (Ajaylat Branch) was arrested for the murder of Siraj Bensr.
- Troop Movements - Oct 25 16:00, Al-Jafara Province, Zahra Bridge: An armed convoy travelled through Zahra Bridge from the Nafousa Mountains on its way to 7 April Camp in Serraj.
- Arson - Oct 26 22:05, Tripoli Province, Khawaliq: An unconfirmed report states that the Khawaliq Police Station was burned down.
- Armed Robbery - Oct 26 22:05, Tripoli Province, Khawaliq: The Central Support HQ and National Safety Authority were targeted in a robbery. The incident coincided with the unconfirmed report that the Khawaliq Police Station had been burned down.
- Armed Attack - Oct 26 21:30, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Hamada: An armed group reported carried out a raid with SAF in use.
- Security Operation - Oct 26 13:30, Tripoli Province, Swani: The General Administration of the Security Operations (Tripoli Branch) carried out increased patrols in the area.
- Security Operation - Oct 26 13:30, Tripoli Province, Kremiya: The General Administration of the Security Operations (Tripoli Branch) carried out increased patrols in the area.
- Security Operation - Oct 26 13:30, Tripoli Province, Salahuddin: The General Administration of the Security Operations (Tripoli Branch) carried out increased patrols in the area.
- Security Operation - Oct 26 13:30, Tripoli Province, Hay Andalous: The General Administration of the Security Operations (Tripoli Branch) carried out increased patrols in the area.
- Security Operation - Oct 26 13:30, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The General Administration of the Security Operations (Tripoli Branch) carried out increased patrols in the area.
- Kidnap - Oct 27 15:50, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif: A number of Tuareg youths have been kidnapped by unidentified perpetrators. A ransom has been demanded.
- Mass Grave - Oct 27 15:30, Al-Murqub Province, Tarhunah: A further four mass graves have been discovered in Tarhunah.
- Arrest - Oct 28 03:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Aljmail: An individual was arrested accused of threatening people with a firearm. He was also found to be in possession of 21 bottles of alcohol.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 28 01:00, Tripoli Province, Gorji: An unidentified person was shot and killed.
- Arrest - Oct 28 00:00, Tripoli Province, Ras Hassan: An individual was arrested for drug trafficking and was in possession of illegal pharmaceutical pills and an AK rifle.
- Security Operation - Oct 28 13:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ras Ajdir: Mobile and static security operations were reported in the area of the Tunisia/Libya Border.
- Arrest - Oct 28 01:00, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Aljmail: An individual was arrested after threatening locals with a firearm. The individual was found to be in possession of 30 bottles of alcohol.
- Security Operation - Oct 27 12:00, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: The Central support Bani Walid branch was reported to be conducting vehicle checkpoints on the river road in an anti smuggling operation.

- Mine Strike - Oct 28 22:00, Tripoli Province, Wadi Alrabea: A landmine detonation resulted in the deaths of two children.
- Armed Clash - Oct 28 22:30, Al-Murqub Province, Zliten: An armed clash was reported between two unidentified groups. The clash was triggered by an exchange of fireworks.
- Armed Clash - Oct 29 12:40, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Riqdalin: An armed clash was reported between unknown groups
- Unknown Explosion - Oct 29 22:10, Tripoli Province, Airport Road: An explosion and possible SAF was heard in the vicinity of airport road. An armed mobilisation had been noted prior to the incident in the area of Apr 7 camp.
- SAF - Oct 30, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Riqdalin: SAF was reported between unknown perpetrators.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 31 02:00, Tripoli Province, Serraj: The owner of the Al-Marouj juice factory was shot and killed.
- Arrest - Oct 31 13:00, Tripoli Province, Tajura: Two individuals were arrested for the theft of electrical wiring.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 30 14:30, Al-Murqub Province, Tarhunah: An individual named as Abdul Hakim Hamed al-Hamali was shot and killed. He was believed to be a Colonel of the Central Support in Tarhuna.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 30 13:30, Al-Murqub Province, Zliten: An unidentified body was recovered in the Jubarii area.
- Security Operation - Nov 01, Nalut Province, Kabaw: Static security operations were reported.
- Murder/ Execution - Nov 01, Tripoli Province, Hay Andalous: A body was recovered from the shoreline
- Troop Movements - Oct 31, Tripoli Province, Airport Road: An armed group mobilized in the area of the Iron Bridge.
- Security Operation - Oct 31, Tripoli Province, Nasr Forest: Mol forces raided a location near Nasr Forest and recovered a General Security vehicle which had been stolen several days before.
- Murder/ Execution - Nov 01 11:00, Tripoli Province, Bab Ben Ghashir: A body was left at the front of Tripoli Central Hospital.

## Cyrenaica Region

### Significant Incidents

- Kidnap - Oct 25 21:00, Benghazi Province, Fuwayha: Sheikh Miftah Al-Saeiti was reportedly kidnapped.
- Demonstration - Oct 25 22:00, Benghazi Province, Fuwayha: A protest forced a route closure by the Al Saeitat Tribe after the kidnapping of Sheikh Miftah Al-Saeiti.
- Assault - Oct 29 23:30, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A unarmed fight was reported at Al-Jalaa hospital which resulted in damage to hospital equipment.
- Unknown Explosion - Oct 30 04:00, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: An explosion was reported in the area of Al Khalij al Arabi street.
- Security Operation - Oct 24, Offshore, 150NM from Tobruk: Operation IRINI boarded and inspected the MV CAPT ABEDA, a Syrian flagged General Cargo vessel which had departed Akdeniz in Turkey on October 21 for Misrata. The boarding was undertaken by the French frigate LATOUCHE TREVILLE, 150NM off the coast of Tobruk. The vessel was found to be carrying cement and nothing suspicious was found. Operation IRINI has now conducted over 1000 hailing's, 35 friendly approaches (consensual visits aboard merchant vessels) and three boarding's to verify cargo since operations began on May 04.
- Rescue - Oct 26, Offshore, Offshore: The Libyan Coast Guard rescued five people from a shipwreck and transported them to Tripoli. They also recovered three bodies, including a woman.

## Fezzan Region

### Significant Incidents

- Other - Oct 26 07:30, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, El Feel Oilfield: The NOC has lifted the force majeure for El Feel with Mellitah Oil & Gas instructed to gradually return operations to normal levels. This completes the reopening of the oil industry in Libya after the enforced shut down in January.
- Armed Clash - Oct 25 22:00, Sabha Province, Mansheya: Clashes erupted in the Mansheyah area of Sabha, resulting in the injury of two people and a car chase.
- Security Operation - Oct 25 20:00, Sabha Province, CP 17 (Sabha): A joint patrol from the Sabha Triangle and Obari Security Rooms was active in the area from Checkpoint 17 towards Obari.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 25, Sabha Province, Mahdia: Gunmen in a silver Hyundai vehicle shot and killed Hisham Nazhat Al-Ziani on Mahdia Street.
- SAF - Oct 27 01:00, Sabha Province, Mansheya: SAF was in use.
- Carjacking - Oct 27 00:30, Sabha Province, Sukrah: A military vehicle was targeted in an armed carjacking with reports of shots fired.
- Security Operation - Oct 26 21:30, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari: Joint security operations between the Sabha Triangle Joint Security Room and the Obari Joint Security Room continued along routes in the south as they seek to secure the area against crime including armed robberies which were described as a "frequent phenomenon."
- Other - Oct 27 14:00, Al-Jufra Province, Ghani Oilfield: Ghani field resumed production after the force majeure was lifted at Ras Lanuf and As Sidra ports.
- Security Operation - Oct 27 12:00, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Sharara Oilfield: 128 Battalion (LNA) carried out mobile security operations to secure the perimeter of Sharara.
- SAF - Oct 27 23:00, Sabha Province, Mahdia: SAF was in use.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 29 20:00, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Germa: An individual named as Ibrahim al Wafi was reportedly abducted by members of 128th Bde. The individual was reportedly tortured and died later in Sabha hospital as a result of kidney injuries.
- Arrest - Oct 30 13:30, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Brak al-Shati: An individual was arrested for carrying out armed robberies on the highway between Brak and Sabha.
- Kidnap - Oct 30, Sabha Province, Sabha: An individual named as Hassen Abdelhady was kidnapped from an unknown location in Sabha.



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# 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 Organisation (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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