

1. The Big Picture

Al-Wattiyah airbase targeted during Turkish defence minister visit

Developments this week underline the growing uncertainty over what's next in Libya. Negotiations to resume oil and gas production were initially off to a good start but are now facing major roadblocks. Turkey, for its part, continued to expand its military footprint across the western region with a high-profile visit by its defence minister. While so far Ankara appeared hesitant to press ahead with its offensive on Sirte and Jufra in the central region, a series of airstrikes targeting Al-Wattiyah airbase have likely prompted Turkey to assess its options, underlining the risk of a broader escalation. Observers argue the airstrikes, claimed by the Libyan National Army (LNA), bear the hallmarks of an unidentified foreign power, a view articulated by the Government of National Accord (GNA).

On 03 July, Turkish defence minister Hulusi Akar made an unannounced visit to Tripoli, where he met Government of National Accord (GNA) PM Fayez Al-Sarraj on 03 July. Akar was accompanied by Chief of Staff of Turkey's armed forces, general Yasar Guler. The visit is symbolic and comes as Turkey seeks to expand the scope of its security cooperation memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the GNA, including with the establishment of permanent bases at Al-Wattiyah and Misrata.

Akar and the Turkish delegation landed at Mitiga International Airport (MJI), where an official military ceremony was held on 03 July. Akar and Guler were welcomed by GNA Deputy Defence Minister Salaheddin Namroush, GNA Chief of Staff Mohammed Al-Sharif, GNA Navy commander Abdulhakim Abuhalia, and Turkish Ambassador to Libya Serhat Aksen. Of note, the Turkish delegation was preceded by Naval Forces Chief of Staff Admiral Adnan Ozbal's visit to Tripoli's Abu Sittah naval base on 30 June.

The Turkish delegation's first stop was to the joint Libyan-Turkish military operations room in Tripoli, established as part of the bilateral security agreement signed in November 2019. The visit highlighted the scope of Turkish military presence in Libya, which observers argue likely exceeds the publicly-announced figures. In a symbolic political move, Akar formally rejected the Cairo ceasefire initiative.

To local audiences and the average Libyan citizen, these visits are emphasizing the transactional nature of Ankara's relationship with the GNA. Turkey's involvement is seen as directly strengthening Misrata's posture across the western region, which may have ramifications on relations between Misrata and GNA factions in the western region from Zawiya and Tripoli.

In addition, a new agreement was reportedly signed, though its details are yet to be made public. Unidentified sources quoted by Middle East publication Al-Arabiya indicate the new agreement includes the establishment of a Turkish military contingent and base in Libya, and diplomatic immunity to Turkish officers. Local reports allege

as part of the agreement, four new Turkish commands have been agreed, including an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) mission command, an air force task group, a land forces task group, and an air defence task group.

But just as Turkey sent clear signals it will deepen its military presence in Libya, at least nine airstrikes targeted Al-Wattiyah on 05 July, the strategic airbase southwest Tripoli. The airstrikes closely follow the reported deployment of air defense systems by Turkey. The development equally sent a clear message that Turkey's moves will not be left unchecked in Libya.

The incident could be a prelude to additional tit-for-tat airstrikes between Turkey and LNA foreign backers against high-profile targets. Turkey could retaliate with an airstrike targeting Jufra airbase, though the stakes would be high given the documented presence of Russian assets. There are multiple questions left unanswered, including attribution and extent of damage. At the time of writing, no official confirmation was given by Turkey, but this is likely due to the fact it is yet to formally recognize its presence at the base and could do so as part of the reported defence pact with the GNA.

In the oil and gas sector, optimism over a deal to resume production was short-lived after the National Oil Corporation (NOC) confirmed force majeure is maintained across terminals. WB's analysis in last week's report holds true; parallel negotiations resulted in competing demands and no sustainable agreement is in sight in the short term. The NOC denied reports that O&G proceeds will be held in an account under international supervision. This was a core demand by the pro-LNA eastern tribes behind the blockade.

In further evidence of the dim prospects for resumption, NOC Chairman Mustafa Sanallah condemned the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) for continuing to block exports. Sanallah reported the presence of a foreign armed group at Es Sider airfield on 05 July. The development would come amid reports a tanker is en route to Es Sider to lift crude from storage.

For its part, the LNA is gradually displaying a more bellicose rhetoric and banking on the prevailing calm across Sirte frontlines to consolidate posture among local audiences after setbacks in the western region. LNA commander Khalifa Haftar engaged in a relatively rare inspection of barracks and delivered a speech to forces in Benghazi's Qaryounis on 04 July. A day later thousands took to Al-Keesh Square to denounce Turkish intervention and support the Cairo declaration.

KEY POINTS

- Turkey to respond to Al-Wattiyah airstrikes
- NOC Chairman condemns militarisation of assets
- Ankara deepening military footprint in West



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2. National Security Map

Airstrikes target Al-Wattiyah Airbase; Akakus Oil describes security environment in Sharara

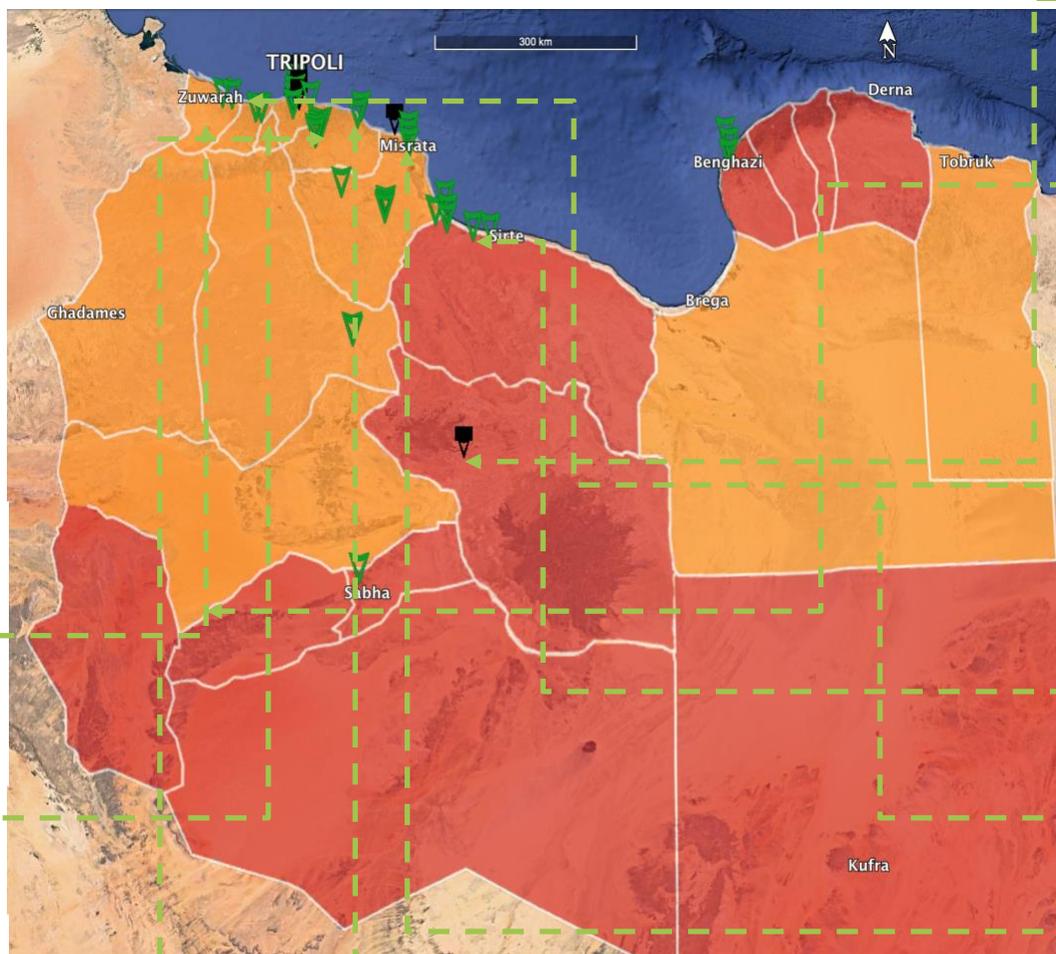
Key

THREAT INDICATORS

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

EVENT INDICATORS

- ★ IED | VBIED
- ♦ Violent Clash
- ▲ Isolated Gunfire
- ▽ Other



At least nine airstrikes targeted a MIM-23 Hawk air defence system and other radars at Al-Wattiyah Airbase in the early hours of 05 July. Pro-LNA accounts reported the airstrikes targeted Turkish assets, including a Koral electronic warfare system, a land-based transportable electronic warfare system, a newly deployed MIM-23 Hawk air defense system, and a medium-range surface-to-air missile. An unidentified Turkish defence official corroborated the destruction of some air defence systems.

Local warning of crime recorded on the Ras Lafah road between Tripoli and western mountains via Al-'Aziziyah. The warning comes after unidentified assailants opened fire on an ambulance in a failed carjacking attempt in the evening on 03 July.

Pro-GNA accounts reported relatives of those abducted or killed by the LNA's Ninth Brigade (Al-Kaniat) held a protest in an unidentified location in Tarhuna on 04 July. The protestors called on elders of the eastern region to reveal the fate of their abducted relatives, particularly after receiving reports of their alleged detention in undisclosed prisons in the east.

An unidentified assailant shot and killed a local in front of his residence in Jufra's Houn in the morning of 03 July. Local reports allege the assailant is of Chadian origin and a mercenary fighting in LNA ranks. The incident sparked local tensions.

Akakus Oil Operations (AOO), the local operator of Sharara oil field and other Murzuq concessions, sent a letter to the local Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) at Sharara on 02 July. In the letter, AOO denies PFG claims that the local security environment is stable at the field. AOO claims LNA brigades, Russian Wagner private military contractors (PMCs), and other foreign fighters are all present in the field. AOO further claims LNA commanders operating as PFG are present within Sharara's "green zone". The letter then lists all recorded security incidents at the field since January 2020.

A military convoy of approximately 19 trucks loaded with military assets and Turkish servicemen was spotted on Sabratah's Coastal Road travelling westwards at night on 30 June. Reports suggest the convoy was en route to Al-Watiya Airbase. Open source photographs document a convoy spotted in the vicinity of Sabratah at night.

At approximately 2300hrs, LNA forces fired heavy artillery/mortar rocket rounds towards GNA positions west Sirte on 02 July.

The Arabian Oil Gulf Company (AGOCO)-operated Messla Oilfield resumed production with an output of 10,000 barrels per day (bpd) to be used for local demand rather than export, according to Reuters citing two sources at the field on 30 June.

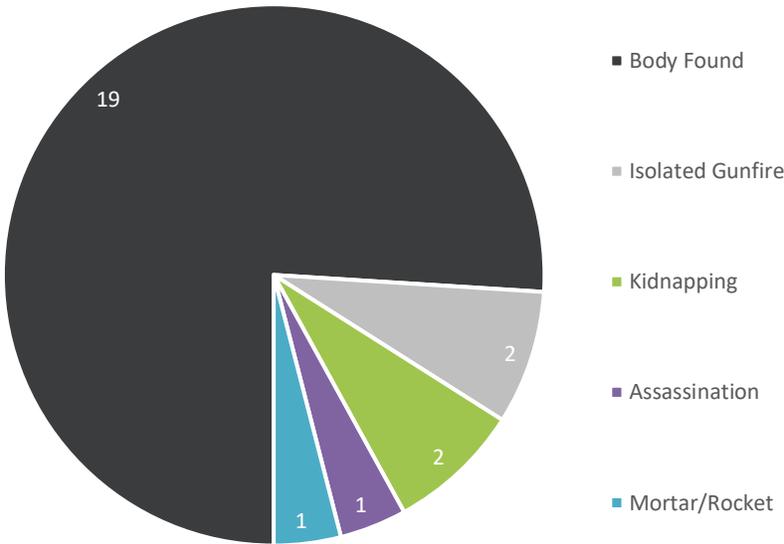
Angry protesters set tyres on fire near Misrata's General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) office to protest power cuts at approximately 0200hrs on 04 July.

The Special Deterrence Force (SDF) raided the Anti-Crime HQ controlled by a pro-GNA local militia led by Jalal Abusubaa and arrested militiamen present on-site in Khoms on 30 June.

3. Nationwide Security Analysis

19 bodies found in Tarhuna’s mass graves; Tripoli dominated by protests

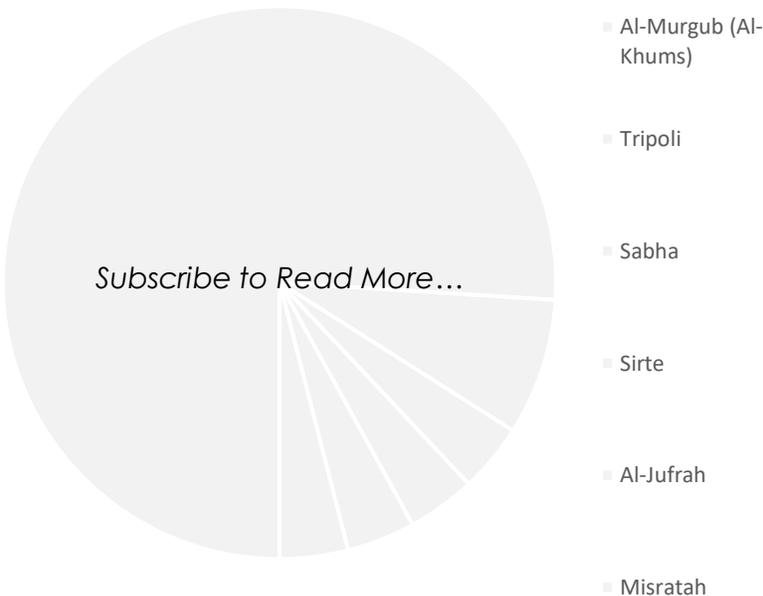
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



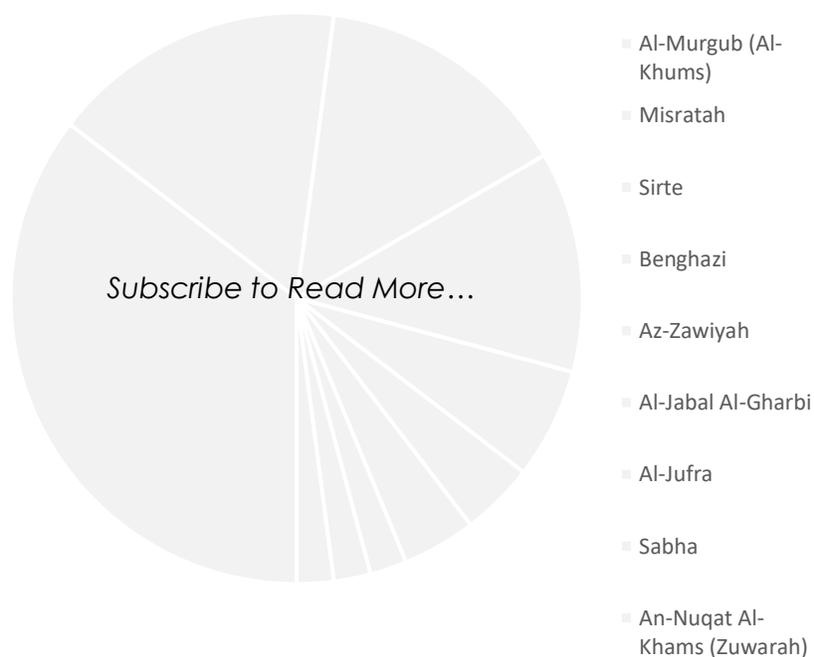
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



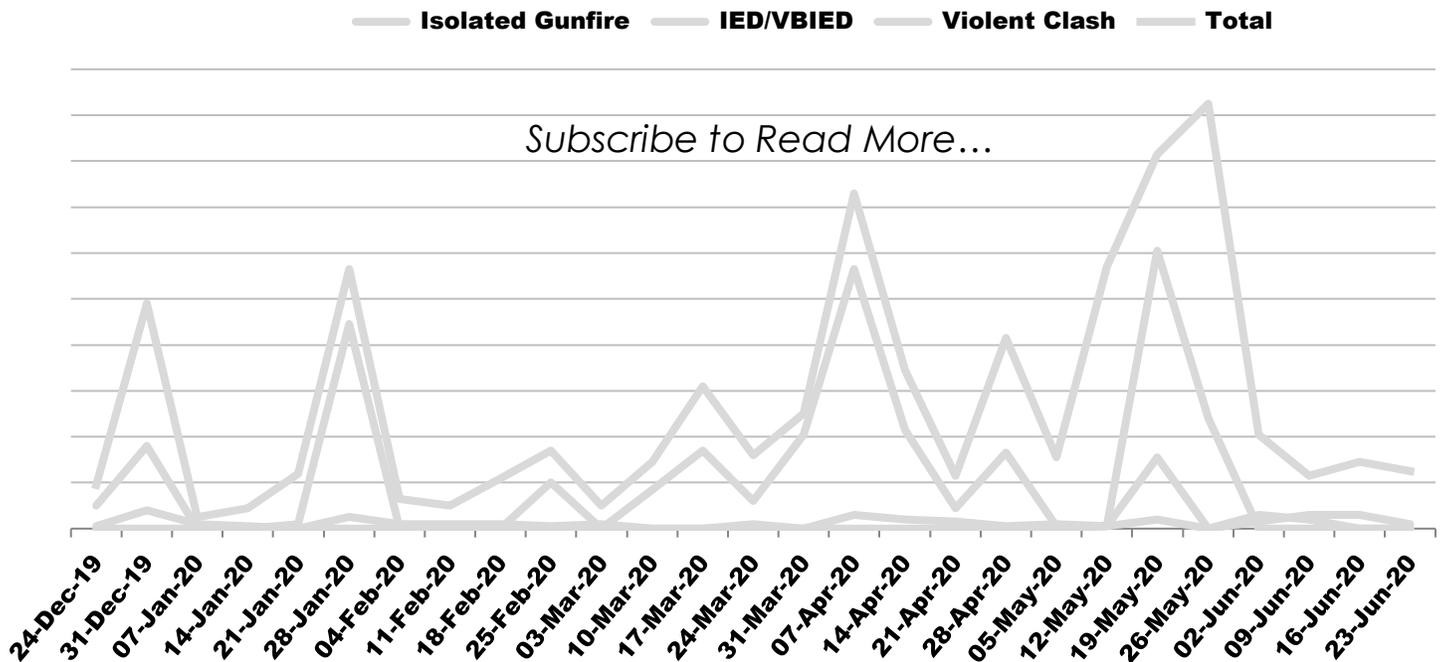
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



Nationwide incidents by national district (Past week)



Nationwide Fatalities by Type of Attack (Past 27 Weeks)



Data Analysis

WB recorded this week a total of 25 confirmed deaths in Libya, which compares to 29 deaths reported last week and 23 the week before. WB recorded three separate cases of bodies found amounting to 19 fatalities, all recovered in Tarhuna. Meanwhile, two fatalities were recorded as a result of gunfire-related incidents in Houn and Misrata areas. Beyond, two fatalities were recorded in Tripoli as two men detained by the Ghneiwa militia died of torture in prison. Separately, a man was assassinated in Sabha, while a shelling incident killed a civilian in the Sirte district. In Tripoli, WB recorded seven protests, four kidnappings, three isolated gunfire cases, one IED/VBIED incident, one arrest, and one act of sabotage.

In the wider western region, WB recorded ongoing sporadic opportunistic crime across Al-Murgub, Az-Zawiyah, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi and Misrata districts. WB recorded a total of six airstrikes claimed by the Libyan National Army (LNA) across the Sirte, Misrata, and Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi districts. In the Al-Murgub district, the security environment in Tarhuna remains dominated by ongoing discoveries of bodies found in mass graves across the town. This week a total of 19 bodies were recovered in three separate incidents. Meanwhile, pro-LNA accounts reported unidentified assailants shot dead a man identified as Abdessalam Al-Fitouri in front of his residence in a drive-by shooting in the Dafiniyah area, west Misrata, at night on 27 June. The man is reportedly originally from Benghazi and affiliated with the Benghazi Revolutionaries Shura Council (BRSC). Separately, reports indicate a policeman stopped a female lawyer at Al-Summoud Checkpoint located at the eastern entrance of Al-Zawiyah at approximately 2000hrs on 28 June. The woman refused to handover her vehicle papers, prompting the policeman to refer her to the nearest police station on charges of breaking the curfew. The woman argued her job title gives her immunity and grants her permission to travel freely during curfew hours. Following a series of phone calls made by the woman, the policeman was arrested. Beyond, the Misrata Security Directorate reported the arrest of a suspect involved in murders, kidnappings, shootings, and armed robberies targeting civilians and military barracks on 25 June. Following interrogations by the Security Task Force's investigation team, the suspect confessed to the charges against him.

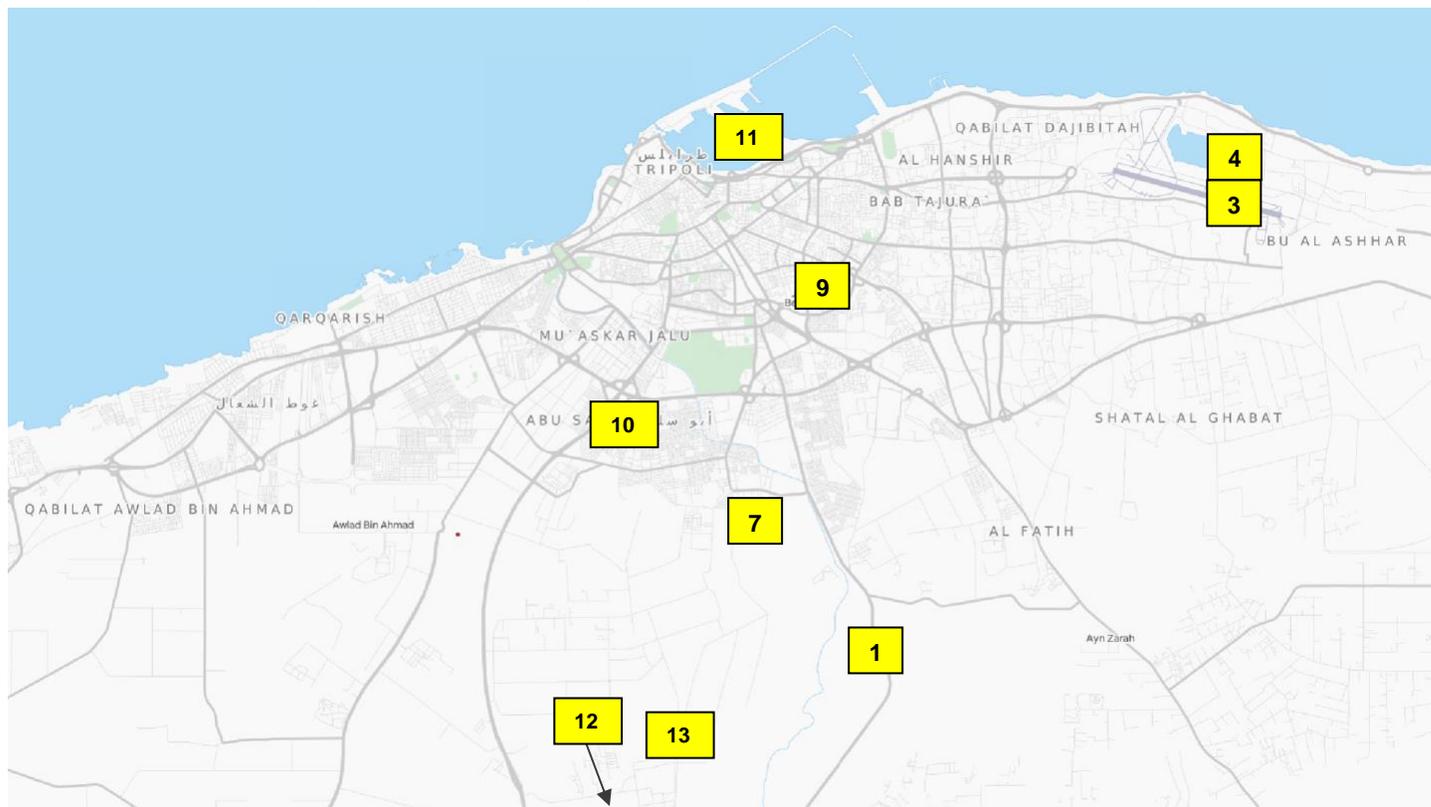
Meanwhile, in the central region, sources reported a cautious calm continues to prevail across Sirte's combat theatre, despite intermittent heavy artillery shelling on 02 July. At approximately 2300hrs, LNA forces fired heavy artillery/mortar rocket rounds towards GNA positions west Sirte. WB recorded a total of four mortar/rocket shelling incidents in the Sirte district throughout the reporting period, along with one LNA airstrike targeting a Government of National Accord (GNA) convoy in Al-Weshka. WB recorded an additional act of robbery on Sirte's Gulf Steam Station. In regard to shelling, pro-GNA accounts reported indiscriminate shelling by LNA forces resulted in the death of a civilian and the injury of another in the areas of Wadi Azkir and Al-Sabaey, west of Sirte, on 29 June. Besides military activity, the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) reported the Sirte Gulf Steam Station was subject to theft and tampering on 28 June. The Company's media office reported the theft of a 1.5 MB emergency diesel generator loaded on a vehicle, 12 wireless devices, 15 gas cylinders, and a 52-inch screen located in the control room. In relation to COVID-19, the Sirte Municipal Council implemented a curfew from 1800-0600hrs after a letter from Sirte's medical authorities cautioning against a surge in coronavirus cases in Sirte's environs.

Turning to the south, WB recorded one gunfire-related incident in Sabha. Reports indicate a local man was killed in an unidentified location in Sabha in the evening on 28 June. Details surrounding the incident remain limited. Separately, Akakus Oil Operations (AOO), the local operators of Sharara oil field and other Murzuq concessions, sent a letter to the local Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) at Sharara on 02 July. In the letter, AOO denies PFG claims that the local security environment is stable at the field. AOO claims LNA brigades, Russian Wagner private military contractors (PMCs), and other foreign fighters are all present at the field. AOO further claims LNA commanders operating as PFG are present within Sharara's "green zone". The letter then lists all recorded security incidents at the field since January 2020. Beyond security developments, a rise in COVID-19 Cases across the south, notably Sabha, continue to strain the city's limited medical facilities/staff.

In the eastern region, Benghazi's security environment remains dominated by arrest campaigns. WB recorded a total of three arrests in the city throughout the reporting period. While two of the arrests targeted drug dealers and a prominent thief, the third arrest targeted three suspects involved in the assassination of two locals from the Tsawah Wadi Otbh area in the south on 27 June. The suspects were caught in possession of large amounts of cash. The arrest came after the Tsawah Police Station received a complaint from a father regarding the killing of his son and nephew in their vehicle in front of the Tsawah Municipality building. The three suspects fled to Benghazi from Murzuq and resided in a farm in the Sidi Khalifa area. The suspects confessed to the charges against them.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

Daily protests against power cuts; two men die of torture in Ghneiwa prison



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (04 July) Deminers detonate two landmines in garden in house in Salah Eddien
2. (04 July) MoI holds first meeting to unify security directorates and police stations at HQ
3. (04 July) MoI aircraft resumes ops. from MJI
4. (03 July) GNA PM receives Turkish Defence Minister & CoS, military ceremony held at MJI
5. (02 July) MoI announces new INTERPOL office in Tripoli
6. (02 July) Suspected LNA sympathizer dies under torture in Ghneiwa-controlled prison
7. (02 July) Man dressed in military uniform fires sporadic shots into air in Al-Hadba Al-Ghasi
8. (01 July) Two Libyan drug dealers arrested in unidentified area
9. (30 June) Gunmen kidnap/arrest GNA Undersecretary for Diwan affairs
10. (30 June) Man dies under torture in Ghneiwa militia-controlled prison in Abu Slim
11. (30 June) GNA PM receives Turkish Naval Forces Cos in Abu Sittah Naval Base
12. (30 June) Bashagha discusses completing maintenance of TIP with Transport Minister
13. (29 June) Skirmishes b/w Ghneiwa militia & 301 BDE over Ghneiwa-controlled site

First MoI meeting to unify directorates

On 04 July, the GNA Interior Ministry held its first meeting aimed at preparing a unified organisational structure for security directorates and police stations headed by the assistant undersecretary for Security Affairs and Chairman of the committee, Mohammed Al-Madaghi. The meeting comes as part of a renewed push to enact security-sector reforms led by Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha.

Unit at Tripoli South Power Station reactivated

The General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) reported the sixth unit of the Tripoli South Gas Power Supplier Station was repaired and entered the power grid with a capacity of 47 MW on 03 July after more than a year. GECOL reported the development was facilitated by its allocation of the delayed 2019 budget. In addition, GECOL reported the seventh unit is due to enter the power grid in the coming week after undergoing necessary maintenance. Of note, WB recorded seven protests against power cuts across Tripoli throughout the past week.

MoI aircraft resumes operations from MJI

A B-300 Beechcraft aircraft owned by the GNA Interior Ministry resumed flight operations from Mitiga International Airport (MJI) on 04 July, according to local reports. The aircraft will operate emergency flights and other protocol missions, in line with the recent decision by the Libyan Civil Aviation Authority (LYCAA) to extend the airspace closure over Libya with the exception of domestic flights, air ambulance, repatriation, and cargo operations.

New INTERPOL office opens in Tripoli

As part of the GNA Ministry of Interior's (MoI) security-sector reforms, Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha will

announced the opening of an INTERPOL office in Tripoli on 02 July. The development is significant and grant Libyan law enforcement authorities access to criminal databases, as part of INTERPOL'S I-one capacity-building initiative. Bashagha described the opening of the new office as a milestone in combatting terrorism, organized crime, and human trafficking. Of note, INTERPOL officially resumed its work in-country in August 2018 after Libya paid its membership dues.

Two men die under torture in Ghneiwa prison

Reports suggest Ghneiwa militiamen tortured and killed a suspected LNA sympathizer in an unidentified area of Tripoli in the evening of 02 July. The victim was reported missing over the past week. WB recorded a similar incident on 30 June, when a man died under torture at a Ghneiwa controlled prison in Abu Salim.

GNA official kidnapped/arrested in armed raid

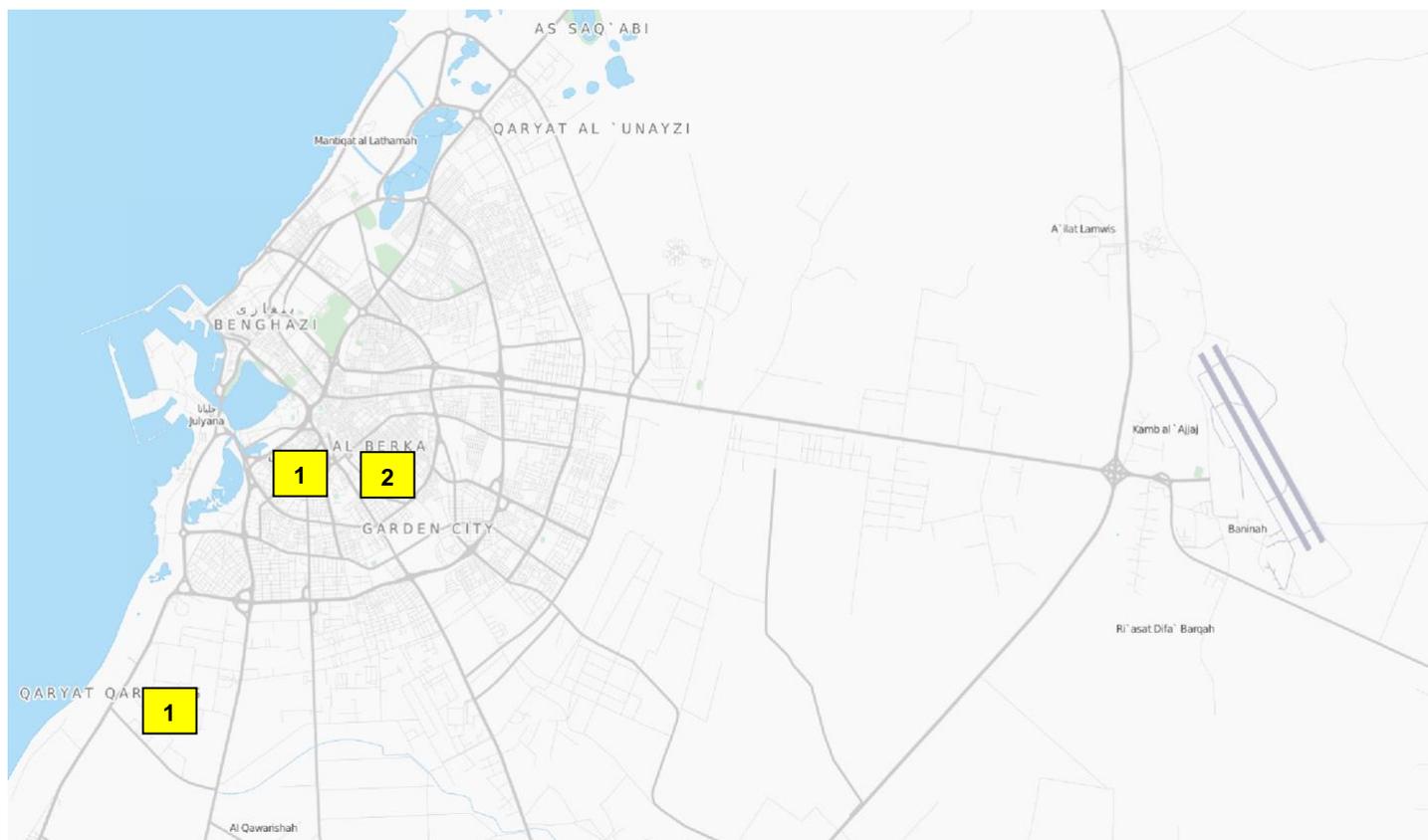
Reports indicate unidentified gunmen raided the GNA's Ministry of Local Government in Ben Ashour and arrested/kidnapped the Undersecretary for Diwan Affairs, Saleh Sakloul, at approximately 1500hrs on 03 June. Unconfirmed reports suggest Sakloul was released later that evening.

Militia skirmishes

Skirmishes erupted between the Ghneiwa militia and Misrata's 301 Brigade in Al-Hadba Al-Mashro' area between 1930-1800hrs on 29 June. Reports indicate a dispute over the handover of the Agricultural Police HQ under Ghneiwa control. Ghneiwa militiamen gathered at Al-Sharif Mosque Roundabout, while the 301 Battalion gathered near Hamza Camp. Unconfirmed reports suggest the skirmishes resulted in several injuries. Of note, Hamza camp is currently under the control of the 301 Brigade.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Thousands attend anti-Turkey demonstration in Al-Keesh Sq; Haftar inspects barracks



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (04 July) Haftar inspects military barracks ahead of planned demonstration in Al-Keesh Square
2. (04 July) Two suspects arrested on charges of armed robberies
3. (02 July) Three drug dealers arrested after being stopped by CID
4. (29 June) Wanted criminal arrested in police ambush

Haftar tours barracks; anti-Turkey demonstration

Reports indicate the LNA head Khalifa Haftar carried out an inspection visit of military barracks in Benghazi on 04 July. An LNA military parade was held during Haftar's field inspection in Benghazi's Qaryounis area. The development comes amid similar field visits across LNA barracks to monitor their readiness.

The inspection came ahead of a planned demonstration in Benghazi's Al-Keesh Square at 1700hrs on 05 July. Thousands of demonstrators denounced the GNA and Turkey under the banner "large popular demonstration against Turkish colonisation". The protest proceeded peacefully, though an increased security presence was reported in the area.

Series of arrests

The Benghazi Security Directorate reported the arrest of two suspects on charges of armed robberies on 04 July. Two locals filed a police complaint after being subject to an attempted armed robbery in front of a school in the Al-Barkah Police Station vicinity. The criminals were onboard a Hyundai vehicle and threatened the victims at gunpoint to hand over their cash and personal belongings.

Separately, the Benghazi Security Directorate reported the arrest of three drug dealers aboard a black KIA after being stopped by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on 02 July. The suspects were caught in possession of various narcotics, an unknown amount of money and a Kalashnikov rifle.

Further, the Benghazi Security Directorate arrested a wanted criminal involved in the theft of houses, companies, and warehouses storing building materials on 29 June. The suspect attempted to escape during the police ambush.

6. What's next

New Turkey-GNA defence agreement; possible airstrikes in Jufra

POLITICAL FORECAST

Highlighted the deepening fragmentation between Libya's east and west, House of Representatives (HoR) speaker Aguila Saleh visited Moscow while the Turkish defence delegation was in Tripoli. Saleh's diplomatic push aims to rally support around the Cairo ceasefire initiatives. Further visits to European countries are reportedly scheduled in the next few weeks. The political momentum appears to be gradually shifting in favour of the Cairo initiative, placing further pressure on the GNA to reform and Turkey to enter negotiations. This was clearly highlighted by Algerian President Abdelmajid Tebboune in comments to French media. Tebboune emphasised the GNA has been "surpassed" and elections and a new constitution are needed, laying bare the assumption that Algiers has sided with Turkey and reinforcing an alignment with France over Libya. Meanwhile, on 03 July, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov confirmed his country's decision to reopen its diplomatic representation in Libya. The diplomatic Mission will be led by charge d'affaires Dzhamshef Boltaev and temporarily based in Tunis. Lavrov specifically mentioned the Mission will cover the entire country, without elaborating on whether it will be based in Benghazi or Tripoli. The uncertainty led to speculation Russia was signaling its intent to base the Mission in Benghazi. The comments were made during an official visit by Saleh to Moscow on 03 July, accompanied by interim government foreign minister Abulhadi Al-Hweij. Saleh met with Lavrov and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Representative to the Middle East, Mikhail Bogdanov. During the consultations, Saleh reiterated commitment to the Cairo declaration. Separately, Saleh received the Greek Prime Minister, Nikos Dendias, in Tobruk on 01 July. Dendias reaffirmed that the only solution to solve the Libyan conflict was through expelling foreign powers, particularly Turkish forces in which he condemned "Turkish intervention in Libya." Dendias discussed the possibility of reopening a Greek consulate in Benghazi.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

In a *Financial Times* piece, Michael Peel, Andrew England, Victor Mallet, and Laura Pitel, take a closer look at the dispute between Paris and Ankara over Libya, and its ramifications on the EU bloc. The authors argue France's policy in Libya shifted from support for Haftar to a more neutral stance backing a political resolution. The shift was a direct result of Ankara's intervention which prompted Paris to recalibrate, according to the authors, though this has not been welcomed by some, not all, European allies. The authors cite the recent example of the spat within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) between Paris and Ankara. Of note, France temporarily suspended its participation in NATO's naval operation Sea Guardian off Libya's coast over a standoff with a Turkish ship on 10 June. France's Defence Ministry stated that France extended a letter to NATO on its temporary suspension of its participation in Sea Guardian on 01 July. A French Ministry official stated that France wants NATO allies to adhere to the arms embargo on Libya after accusing Turkey of repeated violations. In addition, France called for the establishment of a crisis mechanism to prevent a similar incident. Separately, France's Foreign Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, stated that European Union (EU) Foreign Ministers are scheduled to meet on 13 July to discuss Turkey, warning that new sanctions on Ankara may be considered. The upcoming meeting comes at France's request.

SECURITY FORECAST

Sources reported cautious calm continues to prevail across Sirte's theatre, despite intermittent artillery shelling. The past weeks continue to be marked by sporadic incidents. While no emerging trends can be ascertained with a high degree of confidence, the sporadic nature of incidents is indicative of the uncertainty in the western region in the aftermath of the LNA's offensive. While no clear patterns have emerged as of 06 July, tensions are expected to continue evolving along the three main axes of security-sector reforms by the GNA's Interior Ministry, the expanding Turkish presence and potential local discontent, and recurring grievances the lack of services. In line with the first axis, the Special Deterrence Force (SDF) has conducted some arrests across the western region. These arrests would closely follow a meeting between GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha and SDF commander Abdulraouf Kara. While the GNA's demobilization strategy is unknown, rumours can raise tensions between armed groups fearing a loss of influence, especially relatively smaller groups with long-standing tensions. However, Turkey's military presence will now likely act as a deterrent, limiting the likelihood of major shifts in alliances in GNA ranks. Meanwhile, across the western region, the power crisis continues to expand. The General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) director, Ali Sassi, requested GNA security forces to support its efforts to implement the load shedding programme across areas identified as challenging. In a letter dated 01 July, GECOL listed areas in the western region where it is encountering significant challenges to implement load shedding to ease demand off the power grid. The areas that have categorically refused the load shedding programme and repeatedly attacked substations include Zintan, Al-Rujban, Al-Riyayna, and Jadu. It is interesting to note these areas were either supporting the LNA or only loosely aligned to the GNA. In Zawiya, GECOL failed to implement the load shedding programme due to repeated violations and armed attacks.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

In a televised address on 01 July, controversial cleric and pro-Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG) preacher Sadiq Al-Gharyani warned pro-GNA fighters against surrendering their arms to the GNA as part of the so-called "demobilization" programme. Al-Gharyani urged his audiences to continue the fight, criticizing the GNA for its weakness and inability to build a state. Further, Al-Gharyani cautioned against the recent GNA proposition to integrate support forces and form the National Guard. Al-Gharyani added that individuals loyal to the revolutionaries should lead state institutions and similar organisations. The speech highlights renewed attempts by the LIFG and GNA hardliners to ensure their survival amid shifting sands in Tripoli. It remains to be seen how the GNA hardliners will respond to Gharyani's call to oppose GNA reforms. Of note, on 01 July, GNA Chief of Staff Mohammed Al-Sharif proposed the formation of the 'National Guard' to Prime Minister Fayez Al-Serraj with the aim of integrating auxiliary/support forces. The proposal indicates the new military/security body will be under Al-Serraj's direct command and headquartered in Tripoli. The National Guard will be tasked with confronting threats to the "civilian state" and supporting GNA forces in repelling any attacks by outside forces. The proposal added that the force will be headed by an officer with a rank of Colonel at lowest and appointed by Al-Serraj himself. The selection process will be through recruitment, appointment, transfer, mandate or circulation while it is to be independent of any other military entity. The proposal mirrors similar initiatives that led to the formation of the Presidential Guard (PG). Of note, the PG was never able to garner influence and remained limited in its functions relatively compared with other more influential militias and armed factions.

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