

1. The Big Picture

Uncertainty over ceasefire negotiation prospects

Over the Eid Al-Adha period, the local security environment in Sirte and the central region remained stable despite speculation Government of National Accord (GNA) forces will time the offensive during the religious celebration. But while cautious calm prevailed across frontlines, Libya officially entered the community transmission phase with the highest COVID-19 tally recorded this week, prompting the GNA to impose a full curfew for five days beginning 31 July.

In Tripoli, the week was marked by sporadic incidents across petrol stations due to surging demand for diesel to power generators amid intermittent power outages. On 28 July, sources reported smoke above the Bawabat Al-Jebs area at approximately 1230hrs. Reports suggest locals burned tyres to close off the intersection of Al-Swani main road after an unidentified local militia opened fire at the 7th April petrol station due to long queues. Two similar incidents involving a verbal altercation and gunfire exchange between militiamen were recorded on 30 July and 02 August respectively. In addition, sources reported long queues in front of banks as locals rushed to withdraw cash ahead of Eid Al-Adha.

In relation to the power crisis across the western region, GNA PM Fayez Al-Serraj held an extensive security meeting on 29 July with senior GNA figures, including the Undersecretary of Defence Salah Al-Nemroush, western region commander Major General Osama Juwaili, and Special Deterrence Force (SDF) commander Abdurraouf Kara. The high-level meeting highlights the sensitivity of long-standing power issues, especially given their potential impact on the GNA's public image. The meeting was attended by the incoming board of the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL), which officially assumed its duties this week. The meeting led to the creation of a new force to protect critical infrastructure and support GECOL's load shedding programme. Reports indicate the force deployed on 02 August across sites in Al-Ruwais, Shakshuk, Ajaylat, Al-Kreymiya, Al-Zahra, Al-Zawiya, Al-Harsha and Beir Al-Ghanam, as well as power stations from the Janzour area extending to Misrata including Al-Khoms and Zliten.

Politically, negotiations over a Sirte ceasefire are reportedly encountering major roadblocks. In the latest sign that progress has been limited at the negotiating table, local reports indicate the Libyan National Army (LNA) submitted a new list of demands to Washington. The list reportedly includes the unconditional withdrawal of Turkish forces from Libya, the rejection of all Turkish military bases in-country, the rejection of all negotiations with Turkey, and refusal to withdraw from

Sirte and Jufra, among other demands. Locally, LNA commander Khalifa Haftar reinforced his position as a symbolic figure overseeing local defensive operations to impede a potential advance of GNA forces while the broader political battles are led at the negotiating table between foreign powers. In a speech to the Tarik Ibn Ziyad Brigade, Haftar doubled down on bellicose rhetoric, urging fighters to show "no mercy" when facing Turkish forces.

In the broader diplomatic scene, regional tensions over the Libyan file peaked though little has changed on the ground. Turkey-UAE tensions escalated this week with politically-charged statements and accusations from both sides. Turkey's Defence Minister Hulusi Akar accused Abu Dhabi of meddling in the internal affairs of Libya and Syria. In response, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash warned Turkey to stop interfering in Arab affairs, noting that "colonialist illusions belong to the archives of history". Gargash added that state relations are not conducted via threats.

But against all odds, there are emerging signs of some progress. Locally, at least seven LNA captives were freed as part of a prisoner exchange between GNA and LNA forces in Qaryat on 29 July. The swap was reportedly facilitated by Zintani elements and the Libyan Red Crescent. A day earlier, WB reported 40 prisoners affiliated with the 107 battalion (LNA 106 Brigade Group), hailing from Sabratabh and Surman, were released in Al-Zawiya in the afternoon of 28 July. Some of these captives initially led the LNA's Tripoli offensive in April 2019 but were captured in the vicinity of Bridge 27.

In another positive step, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Acting Head, Stephanie Williams, announced the finalisation of the international audit of Libya's parallel central banks on 27 July. The development is a milestone in the road to unify the parallel institutions; a key demand by pro-LNA tribesmen to lift the blockade on oil and gas exports. Of note, in the O&G sector, the National Oil Corporation (NOC) reiterated its concerns over the militarisation of assets and presence of mercenaries at Ras Lanuf complex, Zueitina terminal, and Zallah oil field on 29 July. The NOC reported a recent increase in the number of mercenaries at Ras Lanuf and military personnel residing inside staff accommodation in Ras Lanuf's residential area.

KEY POINTS

- Audit of parallel central banks to begin
- GNA forms new force to protect power grid
- NOC reports foreign mercenary presence in East



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2. National Security Map

Shelling ivo. Sirte sparks rumours of GNA offensive; NOC reports militarisation of facilities

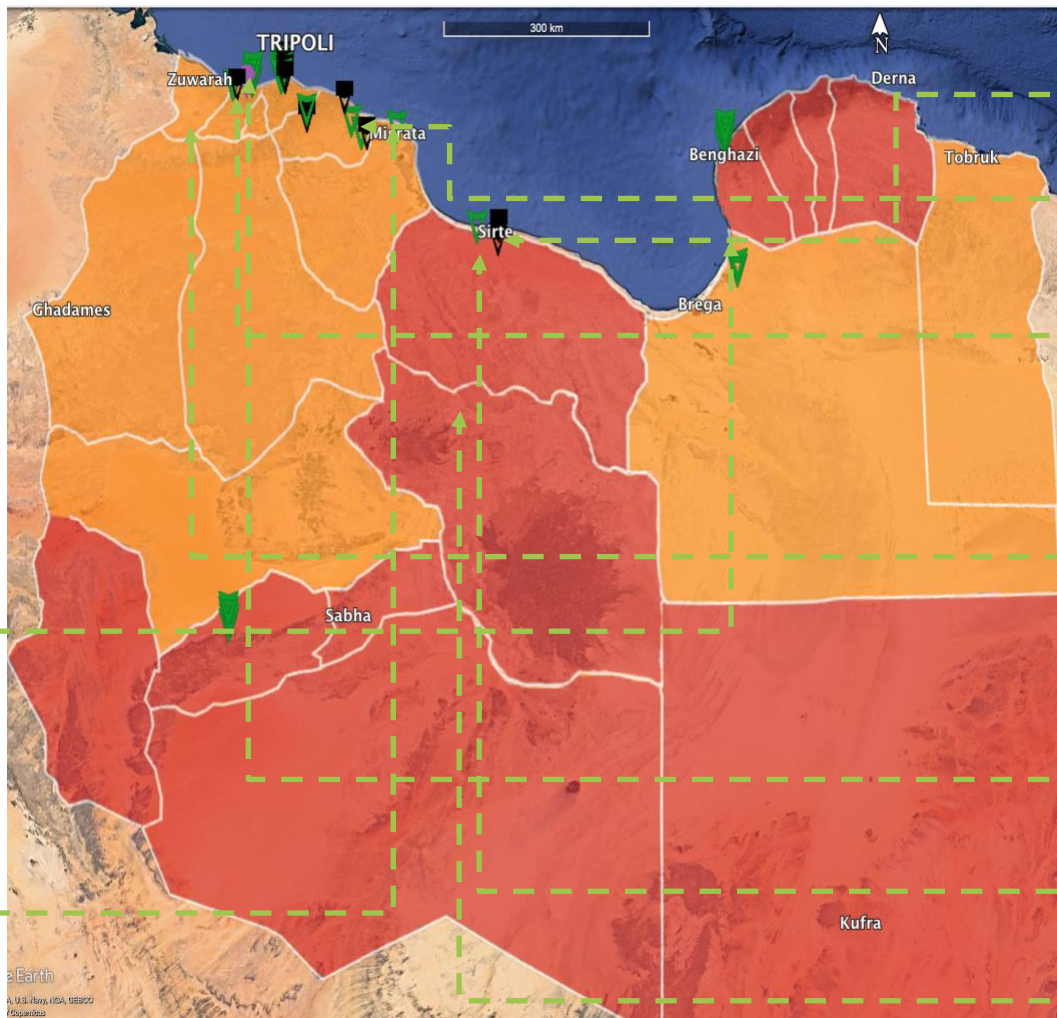
Key

THREAT INDICATORS

- Severe Threat
- High Threat
- Moderate Threat

EVENT INDICATORS

-  IED | VBIED
-  Violent Clash
-  Isolated Gunfire
-  Other



There were reports of sporadic shelling west Sirte in the evening on 01 August. The shelling sparked rumours GNA forces had launched an offensive on Sirte. Later, pro-LNA reports suggested the shelling was due to the arrest of a pro-GNA sleeper cell in an unspecified location. Separately, reports indicate anti-aircraft gunfire was heard from Sirte's Al-Ghardabiya Airbase at approximately 2345hrs on 02 August.

WB sources reported three unidentified assailants onboard a white Daewoo Lacetti shot dead an elderly man in the eastern part of Zliten's Coastal Road near Al-Sab'a's Traffic Lights at approximately 0200hrs on 02 August.

Reports indicate unidentified assailants opened fire on an elderly man and subsequently kidnapped him in Surman at approximately 1330hrs on 30 July. No further details.

Al-Hadath news outlet reported a Turkish Air Force transport aircraft carrying a team of Turkish intelligence officers landed directly at Al-Wattiyah Airbase and remained there for several hours before returning to Turkey on 28 July. Of note, open-source flight tracking software confirmed a Turkish Air Force C-130 cargo aircraft landed directly at Al-Wattiyah Airbase from Turkey on 17 July, marking the second documented Turkish military aircraft to land at the airbase.

Reports indicate two brothers affiliated with a local militia in Al-Zawiya were found killed in an unidentified location in the afternoon on 28 July. According to reports, the brothers were assassinated by Al-Qasab militia.

Satellite imagery from 25 July corroborated reports LNA forces constructed berms along the Sirte-Jufra road, precisely south of the "burnt truck intersection".

Open source video footage purported to show a Russian Wagner private military contractor (PMC) convoy moving from Waddan to join Sirte frontlines on 28 July.

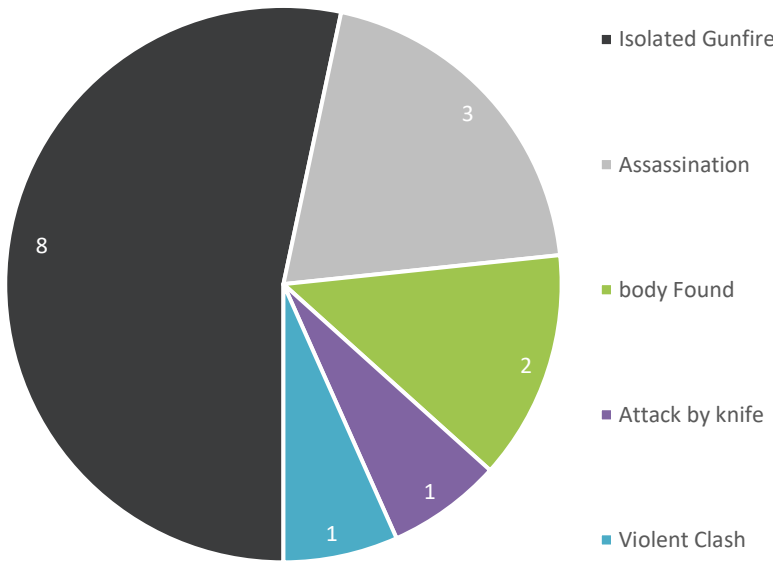
The NOC accused the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) of seizing large quantities of jet fuel from storage tanks at the 103 field airstrip belonging to Zueitina Oil Compay (ZOC). Further, the NOC reported a military aircraft landed at Zueitina terminal on 25 July and unidentified military personnel inspected the runway for military use and later entered the staff accommodation area at the terminal. Moreover, the NOC reported mercenaries are currently occupying the Schlumberger camp close to Zallah oil field.

Reports suggest an Italian military C-130 Hercules aircraft carrying approximately 40 military officers landed in Misrata Airport from Pisa on 31 Aug. The reports indicate some Italian military personnel were denied entry by Libyan authorities over visa entry requirements. The incident stirred controversy across Italian media while local Libyan outlets attributed the case to the Turkish military presence in Misrata.

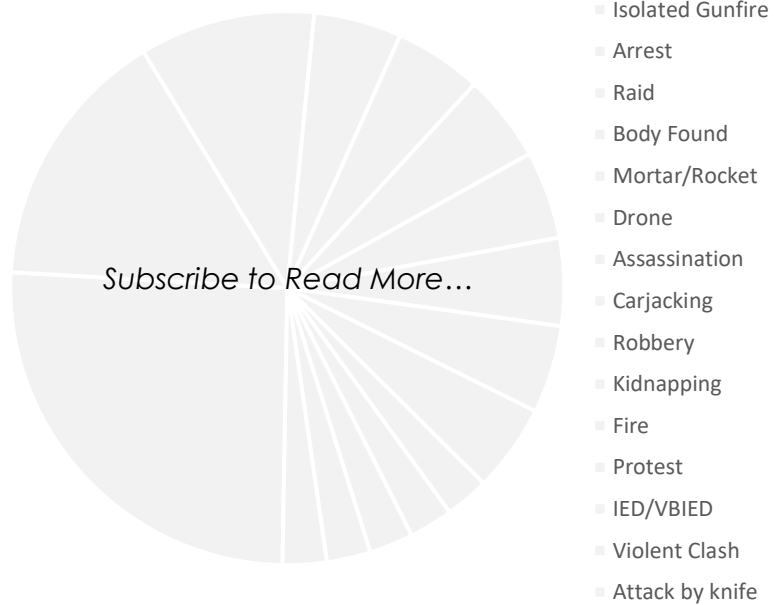
3. Nationwide Security Analysis

Al-Zawiya leads fatalities; gunfire cases on rise in Tripoli & Al-Murgub

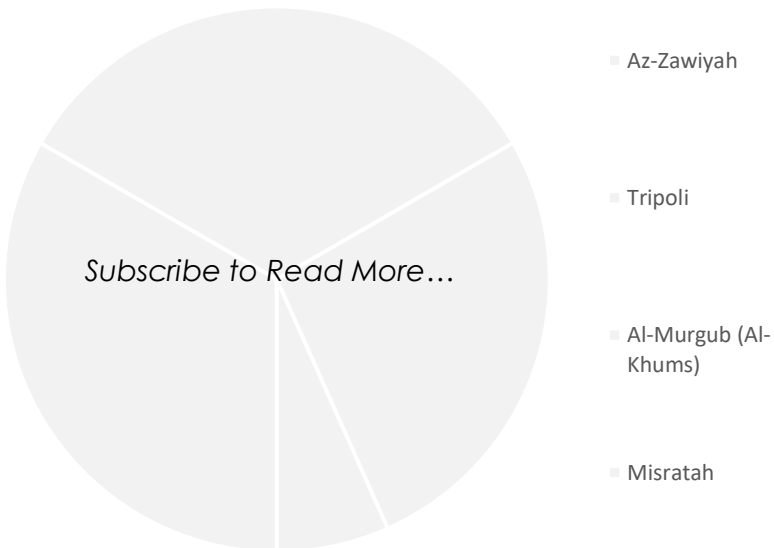
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



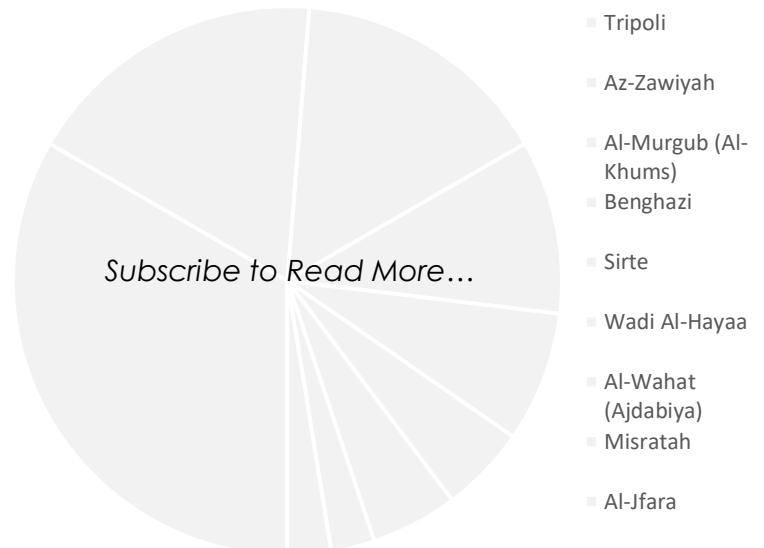
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



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 15 confirmed deaths in Libya compared with 17 deaths reported last week and 17 the week before. WB recorded eight fatalities as a result of isolated gunfire cases in Tripoli & Al-Murgub districts, while three assassinations and one violent clash were recorded out in Al-Zawiya district. In addition, one attack by knife was reported in Misrata, while two bodies were found in Tripoli and Al-Zawiya districts. In Tripoli, WB recorded 4 isolated gunfire cases, 3 raids, 2 carjackings, one body found, one fire, one protest and one robbery.

In the wider western region, WB recorded sporadic security incidents across the districts of Misratah, Al-Murgub, Zawiya, Al-Jfara and Tripoli. While sporadic security incidents were spread across the western region, the majority of incidents were recorded in the capital city. While the highest number of security incidents were reported in Tripoli, this week saw a particular surge in sporadic criminal acts in the Zawiya and Al-Mugrub districts. WB sources reported three unidentified assailants aboard a white Daewoo Lacetti shot dead an elderly man in the eastern part of Zliten, Ås Coastal Road near Al-Sab'a's Traffic Lights at approximately 0200hrs on 02 August. Separately, in an incident that was widely covered across international media outlets, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Khums reported the Libyan Coast Guard shot dead three Sudanese migrants as they attempted to escape from a disembarkation point on 27 July. The migrants were among 70 others disembarking from a vessel that was intercepted and sent back by the Libyan Coast Guard. The IOM Libya chief, Federico Soda, stated that 31 out of the 70 migrants who disembarked were detained and the others reportedly escaped. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) condemned the incident and called for an urgent probe. Further, reports suggest an elderly male individual was kidnapped from his house in Tarhouna's Al-Sagia area in the evening of 29 July.

In the Zawiya district, local reports indicate clashes erupted between militiamen resulting in an unknown number of casualties among them, as well as the injury of an elderly man identified as Taher Shaaban due to a stray bullet hitting his house on Al-Zawiya's outskirts in the Ispan area on 26 July. An affiliate of the Zawiya commander Al-Qasb was reportedly among those killed, while his brother was critically injured. In addition, the nephew of a Zawiya militia leader, Ali Aub Zriba, was also critically injured. The clashes erupted in the Ispan area, which is within proximity to the Al-Zawiya Oil Refinery. Separately, coinciding with the clashes in Ispan, reports indicate the house of Mukhtar Mujahid was attacked by rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) in Sabratah. The attackers hailed from Al-Zawiya and Sabratah, though the motive behind the incident remains unknown. Meanwhile, Rafeek Football Club in Surman reported one of its footballers identified as Adi Oun was kidnapped upon finishing training in another club in Al-Zawiya, Ås Abu Issa area at night on 27 July. The club called on its management and fans to exert pressure on authorities to probe into the kidnapping and facilitate his release. Unconfirmed reports suggest Oun was kidnapped for ransom. Of note, Oun is the son of the Deputy Director of the North Africa Bank - Surman Branch.

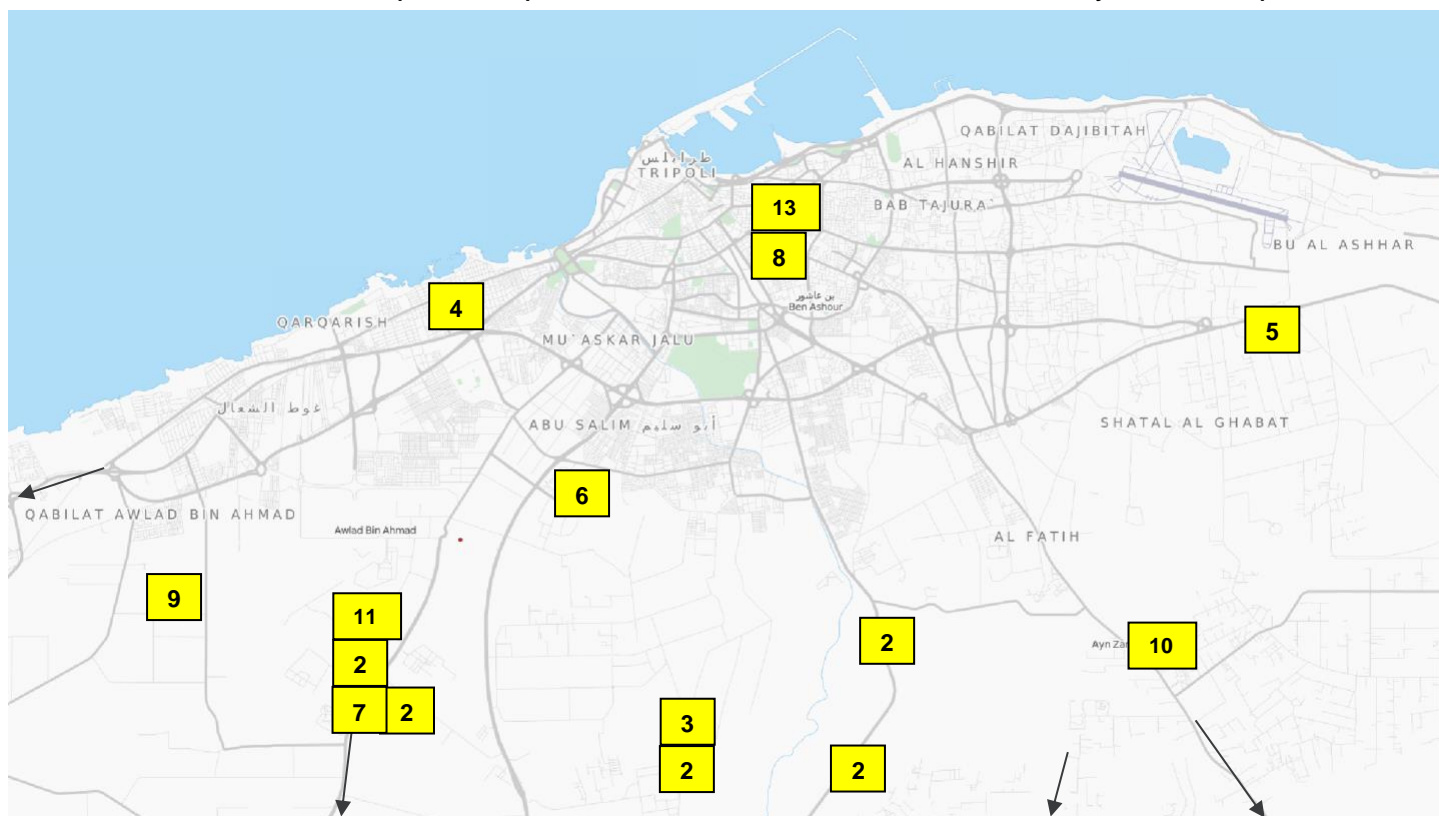
Meanwhile, in the central region, a military build-up in the Sirte vicinity and its surrounding areas continues to dominate the overall security environment as witnessed in recent weeks. Reports of military reinforcements from both sides, reconnaissance missions, and artillery testing continue to circulate. However, despite ongoing GNA threats of an imminent attack on the Sirte-Jufra frontline, the latter has yet to materialise on the ground. There were reports of sporadic shelling west Sirte in the evening on 01 August. The shelling sparked rumours GNA forces had launched an offensive on Sirte. Later, pro-LNA reports suggested the shelling was due to the arrest of a pro-GNA sleeper cell in an unspecified location. Separately, reports indicate anti-aircraft gunfire was heard from Sirte's Al-Ghardabiya Airbase at approximately 2345hrs on 02 August. Meanwhile, pro-LNA reports alleged a Sukhoi Su-24 fighter aircraft entered service and the Sirte-Jufra combat theatre on 02 August.

Turning to the south, there were reports of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) activity over Awbari for two consecutive days between 27-28 July. In a political development, on 28 July a group of activists based in Sabha announced the establishment of the "Fezzan Provincial Council" aimed at bringing together all segments of society, including Arabs, Tebus and Tuaregs far from tribal and regional strife. In the founding statement, the activists stated that the Council's principles include emphasizing Libya's unity and territorial integrity and the necessity of shifting to decentralisation by establishing an entity that governs the Fezzan region with extensive powers and an independent budget. The statement also emphasized the need for Fezzan to be fully represented in any political, economic, military, or security arrangements. In addition, the Council seeks to lay the foundation for national reconciliation and the promotion of coexistence in absence of violence and hate speech. Further, the Council voiced its complete rejection of foreign interference in any form in Libya and stressed the need to solve issues within the country through transparent national dialogue far from "external conspiracies".

In the eastern region, similar to the pattern witnessed last week, a total of six arrests were conducted in the Benghazi and Al-Wahat districts. Four arrests were conducted in Benghazi, while two arrests were reported in Ajdabiya. Ajdabiya's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) raided an illicit alcohol factory located in a residential area and arrested its owner, a Libyan national, on 28 July. Separately, the Ajdabiya Security Directorate arrested two members of security bodies unaffiliated with the Directorate on charges of armed robbery targeting locals in the city on 27 July.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

Militia disputes at petrol stations, situation exacerbated by curfew & power cuts



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (29 July) Al-Serraj agrees to form joint force to protect installations & other key infrastructure
2. (29 July) Joint Force deploys across several CPs to secure entrances/exits of capital
3. (29 July) Carjacking in Al-Hadba Al-Mashro'
4. (28 July) Carjacking in Hai Al-Andalus
5. (28 July) Fire breaks out at auto show due to short circuit in Tajoura's Al-Bivio area
6. (27 July) Two men killed in verbal altercation with Ghneiwa militiamen ivo Abu Slim
7. (27 July) Local militia opens fire at 7 April petrol station killing two civilians
8. (27 July) GECOL's General Assembly holds meeting at PM Office, several amendments made to previous decision regarding company
9. (27 July) Vehicle stolen from in front of house in Al-Serraj area
10. (27 July) Burned body found ivo Ain Zara
11. (27 July) Joint Force raids land occupied by local militia ivo 7 April Camp in Al-Kreymiya
12. (27 July) Long queues in front of banks & petrol stations ahead of Eid Al-Adha period
13. (26 July) General Petroleum Union protest delayed salaries in front of PM Office

Militia disputes across petrol stations

WB sources reported a dispute over fuel between an unidentified male suspect and Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB) members escalated into gunfire exchange at Al-Meshtal petrol station in southern Tripoli in the afternoon on 02 August. The station was subsequently closed. No casualties were recorded.

In a similar incident, sources reported a verbal altercation over fuel between TRB members securing the Bargan petrol station in Tripoli's Ain Zara area and a Misrata militiaman in the evening on 30 August. The station was subsequently closed. No gunfire or resulting casualties were reported. The capital city has witnessed a surge in sporadic security incidents across crowded petrol stations amid petrol shortages during the Eid Al-Adha period. The latter is largely due to the full curfew and the subsequent closure of the majority of stations, as well as power outages. Sources reported over waiting times of up to two hours across the few petrol stations that remain open.

Beyond, WB sources reported smoke was witnessed above the Bawabat Al-Jebs area at approximately 1230hrs on 28 July. Reports indicate locals burned tyres to close off the intersection of Al-Swani main road leading to Bawabat Al-Jebs. The latter came in response to a local militia opening fire at the 7 April Petrol Station due to the long queues resulting in the death of two civilians who succumbed to their gunshot wounds at night on 27 July. The security situation stabilised in the afternoon of 28 July and the intersection was reopened. The newly-formed Joint Force arrested the militiamen behind the shooting in the afternoon on 28 July.

Joint force formed to protect GECOL sites

On 29 July, GNA PM Fayez Al-Serraj held an extensive security meeting where it was agreed to form a joint force to protect installations and other critical infrastructure. As a result of the meeting, the Joint Force agreed with the General Electricity Company of Libya's (GECOL) Weam Al-Abdali to enforce the load shedding programme across various towns. The Joint Force warned against tampering with the power grid across the entire western region, stressing its intention to arrest violators and refer them to prosecution.

Joint Force deploys across several CPs

The Joint Force deployed across several checkpoints on the main roads of Salah Eddien, Khallat Al-Furjan Al-Hadba Al-Mashro', Al-Kreymiya and Al-Swani, to secure the entrances/exits of the capital. Some petrol stations that previously served military purposes were also officially reopened to the public.

Carjackings in Al-Hadba' & Hai Al-Andalus

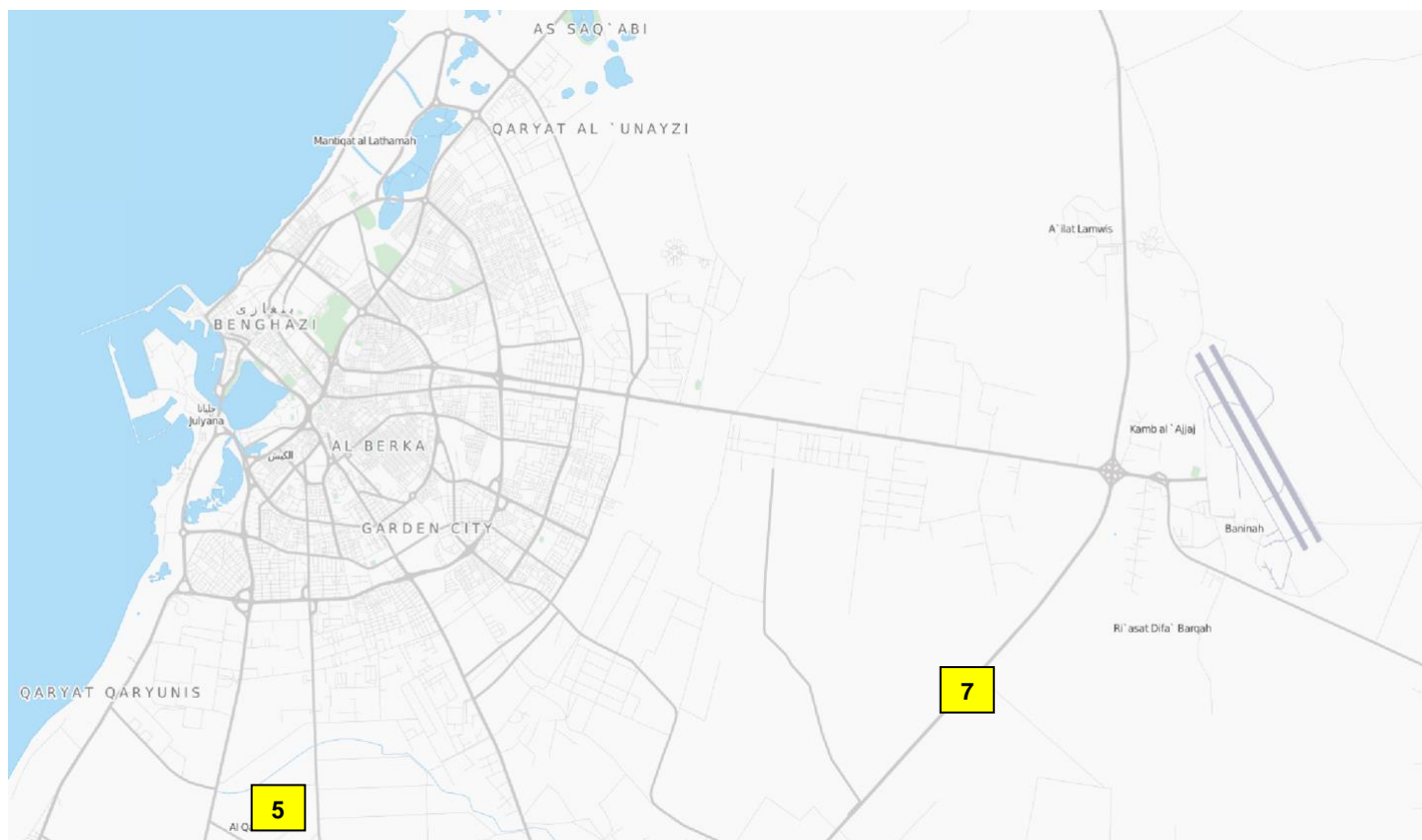
Sources reported two armed male suspects driving a black Hyundai Sonata with tinted windows carjacked a grey KIA Pride was carjacked in Al-Hadba Al-Mashro' area near Hamza Camp on 29 July. Separately, a group of gunmen aboard an unidentified vehicle carjacked a grey KIA Sportage in Tripoli's Hai Al-Andalus area at approximately 0800hrs on 28 July.

Two killed in verbal altercation with Ghneiwa

Reports indicate two men were killed by Ghneiwa militiamen following a verbal altercation in Abu Salim's Hai Al-Akwakh area at night on 27 July. Unconfirmed reports suggest the dispute was related to the curfew imposed across the capital city.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Haftar delivers motivational speeches to Tarik Ibn Ziyad Battalion & 10th Company



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (02 August) Haftar addresses Tarik Ibn Ziyad Battalion & 10th Company
2. (02 August) Canadian Embassy calls for media freedom in response to journalist being sentenced to 15 years
3. (01 August) CID arrests two suspects on looting & armed robbery charges
4. (30 July) Al-Baraka Policemen arrest two suspects on murder charges
5. (26 July) CID arrests criminal gang on robbery charges
6. (26 July) CID arrest criminal gang on charges of armed robberies
7. (26 July) Purported video footage shows Russian PMCs aboard helicopter over Benghazi

Haftar addresses Tarik Ibn Ziyad BN

Haftar addressed the relatively well-equipped Tarik Ibn Ziyad Brigade and its affiliated 10th Company in a Benghazi military camp south Benina on 02 August. Haftar delivered two separate speeches to the Tarik Ibn Ziyad Brigade and 10th Company. In his first speech to the Tarik Ibn Ziyad Brigade, Haftar congratulated the force for their role in "defending" their homeland and condemned the use of foreign mercenaries by GNA forces and Turkey. Haftar's second speech to the 10th Company contained multiple religious references and rejected what was described as Turkish colonization and aggression. Haftar praised the steadfastness of the Brigade and role played by "Salafism", the reform branch in Sunni Islam. Haftar added that "Turks do not deserve our mercy", urging fighters to continue the fight against Turkey. The development would follow similar visits and speeches by the LNA commander in the east, described by local observers as mounting evidence of Haftar's limited focus on defensive operations and scaled-down approach in the aftermath of the LNA retreat from the western region.

Series of arrests

Benghazi Security Directorate reported the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested two suspects on charges of looting and armed robbery targeting civilian vehicles and personal belongings on 01 August. The Directorate stated that the suspects were initially found intoxicated during interrogations, though they later confessed to looting charges across the Airport Road, the highway, and Garyounis Road.

Separately Al-Baraka police members arrested two individuals on murder charges following an arrest warrant issued by the Public Prosecution office in Benghazi on 30 July. According to the Benghazi Security Directorate, the suspects assassinated a Libyan national.

Further, the CID arrested a criminal gang on robbery charges in Al-Qawarsha and Al-Fakat areas on 26 July. In addition, the CID head Ashraf Al-Faidi reported the arrest of a criminal gang involved in armed robberies. The suspects confessed to several crimes targeting locals.

Journalist sentenced to 15 years in prison

On 02 August, the Canadian Embassy in Libya joined the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) calling for media freedom against the backdrop of the sentencing of journalist Ismail Abuzreib to 15 years in prison by a Benghazi-based Military Court. The Embassy noted that media freedom is key to transparency, accountability, and reconciliation in Libya. Meanwhile, the UNSMIL called for Abuzreib's immediate release.

Russian PMCS allegedly spotted SW of Benina

Open source video footage purported to document Russian Wagner Group private military contractors (PMCs) onboard a helicopter over Benghazi, precisely southwest Benina, on 26 July. The PMCs reportedly took off from Benghazi's Benina International Airport (BEN).

6. What's next

Skirmishes in west as negotiations proceed

POLITICAL FORECAST

Reports citing unidentified diplomats suggest Washington proposed a new structure to fill the political vacuum in the absence of an envoy to lead UN talks. According to the reports, Washington proposed appointing a figure to lead negotiations in addition to the UNSMIL envoy role, which remains vacant. Germany's Ambassador to the UN, Christoph Heusgen, told reporters on 30 July that the US "shouldn't stop" UN Secretary General from nominating a successor to Ghassan Salame. Observers argue Washington's proposals are driven by efforts to ensure any incoming UNSMIL candidate maintains neutrality when mediating between parties to the conflict. In a separate development, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin discussed regional developments, including the Libyan file in a telephone conversation on 27 July. According to the Turkish president, the two sides reviewed necessary steps in strengthening bilateral relations and agreed to continue cooperating on regional issues. The phone call would closely follow a joint Turkey-Russia working group on Libya to achieve a lasting ceasefire, with future consultations to be held in Moscow. Meanwhile, US Chargé d'Affaires Joshua Harris visited Misrata to hold talks with the GNA's Deputy Minister Ahmed Maiteeg and Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha and discussed ways to prevent military escalation in Sirte and Al-Jufra, reopening Libya's energy sector, and intensifying efforts to demobilise, disarm, and reintegrate (DDR) "violent militias" as referred to by the US Embassy in Libya. Harris reiterated US support for Libya's sovereignty and the need for "foreign forces and mercenaries" to depart, while expressing the Embassy's readiness to work with Libyan parties who reject foreign interference. Of note, CdA Hariss visited Benghazi to meet with "a range of Libyan officials" to discuss a demilitarized solution in Sirte and Jufra, enabling the NOC to resume its work, and finalise a lasting ceasefire and roadmap for the withdrawal of all foreign forces.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

In an *Al-Monitor* piece, former Turkish military adviser and security analyst Metin Gurcan argues Turkey does not foresee a major military escalation with Egypt and the UAE in Libya. Gurcan argues that Turkey's assessment is based on three factors; Egypt's military capabilities, Turkey's perception of Egypt's willingness to enter a conflict, and the international context. Gurcan further argues that Turkey faces significant challenges to claim air superiority as demonstrated by the attack on Al-Wattiyah airbase in early July, which reduces the likelihood of a large-scale military confrontation. Gurcan writes "Turkish air operations in an offensive to seize Sirte and al-Jufra, which Ankara and its allies have declared as their next targets, could theoretically unfold on three main legs. The first would be the deployment of warplanes in Libya or in a third country such as Malta, from which the jets could reach Libya without air refueling, to provide close air support to ground forces. The second would be the use of air defense systems, including surface-to-air missiles, and electronic warfare means to prevent opposing forces from accessing the route of the offensive. The third would focus on securing aerial and naval logistical corridors between Turkey and Libya. Likewise, those three areas would be the main targets of Egyptian and Emirati air forces."

SECURITY FORECAST

The security environment across Sirte and the central region continues to be marked by preparations for combat engagement by both LNA and GNA forces amid recurring reports documenting the presence of private military contractors (PMCs), including across terminals and other towns. Broadly speaking, there are three competing currents complicating ceasefire efforts. First, a group of GNA and LNA elements that continue to advocate combat to liberate/defend Sirte and the central region. These elements are understood to have limited reach in strategic decisions at the negotiating table. The second group of stakeholders is open to ceasefire negotiations but strongly opposed to Turkey's presence in the western region. In this group, foreign stakeholders are of the view that ceasefire negotiations cannot proceed, or at least be fruitful, until Turkey departs. The third group involves Turkey, and more specifically, its tolerance for a deal that recognizes LNA commander Haftar and upholds the status quo in Sirte and Jufra. A fourth group would be the "mediators" that are open to negotiations as soon as possible and willing to work with the current reality on the ground to reach a compromise, regardless of Turkey's presence in the western region. Proposals to demilitarize Sirte and Jufra would fall under this third category. In Tripoli, further incidents across petrol stations, banks, and other high-profile buildings are possible in the medium term. In the western region, tensions are possible in Zawiya and other towns as the Joint Force under Brigadier General Al-Fitouri Ghrbil continues to carry out anti-smuggling operations. Sources indicate projecting the Joint Force as an inclusive law enforcement group enables the GNA to operate across predominantly tribal areas that would have been difficult to access otherwise or where the tribal element presents significant risks. Meanwhile, the militia affiliated with "Al-Qasab" reportedly killed two brothers in Zawiya on 28 July. The incident was likely in retaliation for the killing of a militiaman affiliated to "Al-Qasab". Similar incidents are possible across Tripoli's western flank in the medium term.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

In an opinion piece published by the *Wall Street Journal*, French academic Bernard-Henri Levy narrates his recent Libya visit. Of note, Levy's visit stirred controversy and his convoy was ambushed while returning from Tarhouna. Levy's visit was criticized by multiple GNA officials and the Tripoli government officially launched a probe to ascertain who invited Levy and secured his entry via Misrata Airport. Pro-LNA reports allege Levy entered the country as head of a public relations company and the visit was vetted by GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha, although the latter formally denied any connections to Levy's visit. In his opinion piece, Levy attributes the incident in Tarhouna to Turkey. He writes "My sole regret—though the advice that produced it proved prescient—was to have forgone a pilgrimage to the deserted, silent pier where in 2011, after a 36-hour voyage with no navigational instruments or landmarks, we had waited for the city authorities. Now, I'm told, that's where "the Turks" operate night and day in defiance of the international embargo, unloading their illegal cargo. I believe, now, that the reason for the ambush lies there. Contrary to what I've read since the Tarhouna ambush from many conspiracists writing from both north and south of the Mediterranean, I entered Libya with a valid visa, duly issued. I was no one's guest and had no intention of immersing myself in disputes between this faction and that, between Tripolitania and Cyrenaica—clashes infinitely less important than seeing Libya's civil society reclaim its destiny. I had no other agenda but to reconnect with Libya's people, to sound an appeal for unity and peace, and to bring back from my trip the report you read here. Yet I might have had something else in the back of my mind—the mistake the West makes by leaving the field open, in Libya and elsewhere, to Turkey and its Islamist ambitions."

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