

1. The Big Picture

Ceasefire deal: cautious optimism ahead of political talks

The Government of National Accord (GNA) and Libyan National Army (LNA) delegations attending the UN-brokered 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) talks in Geneva signed a formal document enabling a nationwide permanent ceasefire with immediate effect on 23 October.

The agreement builds momentum towards a settlement, though the next few months will be crucial to ascertain how, and if, the agreement will be consolidated on the ground. It is important to note the ceasefire is geared towards a pragmatic power-sharing arrangement, not necessarily a peace agreement to reconcile differences between stakeholders.

On paper, the agreement stipulates the withdrawal of all armed forces, local and mercenaries, across all frontlines within 90 days and the suspension of all training (domestic and abroad) and other defence agreements until a new Libyan government is sworn in.

In practice, however, there are implementation challenges ahead of the political-track talks in the next few days. A key issue is whether the retreat of forces, including mercenaries whose presence has not been formally recognized, will be realistic within the 90-day deadline. Of note, there continues to be a lack of trust between GNA and LNA forces on the Sirte-Jufra axis, which makes a retreat of forces unlikely in the short term.

A key area of uncertainty is how Turkey will respond to the agreement given it presents a direct threat to Ankara's military presence on the ground. The agreement could lose its relevance in the medium term if Turkey, and Russia's Wagner private military contractors (PMCs), continue to maintain their positions on the ground. Of note, one of the earliest responses to the agreement came from Turkey's President Recep Erdogan, who told reporters the agreement "lacks credibility" and was made at technical level, with no representation from top-tier stakeholders. The comments were described by observers as clear opposition from Ankara, casting doubt over the agreement's prospects, especially if Egypt and France press ahead with their political initiative to involve Libya's neighbours in a new negotiation round.

Meanwhile, in a direct response to the agreement's clause over the suspension of all forms of military training, the Turkish Ministry of Defence reported on 24 October its military training of Libyan forces continues under the security agreement signed with the GNA in November 2019. In the medium term, Turkey will likely deepen its engagement via the GNA Minister of Defence (MoD) and pro-Turkey stakeholders in the western region to offset a possible loss of influence if/when a new unity government is formed.

The agreement has received mixed responses from GNA stakeholders, in another indicator of the split within the GNA coalition. For his part, GNA Deputy PM Ahmed Maiteeg welcomed the agreement in a statement dated 23 October, emphasizing his intent to implement the agreement's outcomes and criticizing the GNA's past engagements, which according to him failed to produce any tangible results. For his part, GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha welcomed the agreement.

Moreover, the GNA's military spokesperson Mohamed Gununu expressed reservation about the LNA's commitment to a ceasefire, citing the continued presence of over 5000 mercenaries, including Russian Wagner Group PMCs on the Sirte-Jufra axis. Gununu added that he distrusts a peace process that fails to hold accountable those that ordered the Tripoli offensive, including LNA commander Khalifa Haftar, whom he described as "war criminal".

The ceasefire agreement addresses the military dimension of the conflict and cements the de facto situation on the ground since June 2020. However, the broader political and economic crises will be covered in Tunis as part of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) kick-started on 26 October. The LPDF is expected to bring about a new government by November, paving the way for GNA PM Fayez Al-Sarraj's resignation. However, the LPDF faces an uphill struggle to reach consensus between stakeholders.

The optimism brought about by the ceasefire agreement is balanced by shifting alliances and emerging opposition to the political-track talks. In GNA ranks, the Tripoli Protection Force (TPF) coalition, the Sirte-Jufra Ops Room commander Ibrahim Bait Al-Mal, and other local stakeholders rejected the LPDF. On the LNA side, Zidan Zadmah, a pro-LNA Awlad Sulayman stakeholder, refrained from attending citing the presence of "terrorists" in the LPDF.

While opposition is common to all political processes, there is a risk those who are sidelined from negotiations will take up arms again. There is a significant gap in the interests of stakeholders engaged in negotiations and others on the ground who hold more influence but lack the international recognition. At the grassroots level, armed factions continue to exert influence.

Meanwhile, under pressure to demobilize, multiple armed formations are rebranding to ensure their survival in the new Libyan landscape. A previously-undocumented coalition called the "Civilian Coalition of Support Forces" made its appearance this week. The coalition is comprised of Volcano of Rage elements. In Misrata, Muslim Brotherhood (MB) members reportedly announced their collective resignation and dissolution of the local group. Observers are of the view the move underlines upward pressure on the group, though it equally highlights intent to integrate the political spectrum.

Broadly speaking, four main power blocs are emerging across the north-west. A pro-Turkey base led by GNA MoD Salaheddin Al-Namroush and CoS Mohamad Al-Haddad; the "reformists" with GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha and Deputy PM Ahmed Maiteeg; a Tripoli-dominant status quo coalition represented by the politically-active TPF and the Greater Tripoli Union Council (GTUC); a Misrata-dominant group comprised of field commanders on the Sirte-Jufra axis and other anti-reformist hardliners, including Volcano of Rage elements.

Turning to the oil & gas sector, production is expected to reach one million barrels per day (bpd) in four weeks after force majeure was lifted at Es Sider, Ras Lanuf, and Al-Feel oil field. However, absent a conclusive revenue-sharing mechanism, intent to utilize oil as a bargaining chip remains high. Haftar is likely adopting a wait-and-see approach to assess whether a new unity government is able to advance the LNA's interests and secure a fair-share of the oil revenue. Should international negotiations fail to produce concrete outcomes on the ground, a closure could be initiated by the LNA to pressure Turkey to withdraw forces or for other ends. The resumption of production was hailed by GNA Deputy PM Ahmed Maiteeg, who called for urgent economic reforms. Of note, Maiteeg told regional media that discussions are establishing a unified 2021 budget allocation between east and west. This could explain why the LNA is extending its control in the southern region to claim a larger share of the budget for 2021.

KEY POINTS

- Oil: FM lifted across all fields & terminals
- Production to reach 1 million bpd in 4 weeks
- New coalition formed in west; Misrata MB resign



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2. National Security Map

NOC lifts FM at Es-Sider & Ras Lanuf terminals; unidentified airstrike conducted in Al-Jaghboub

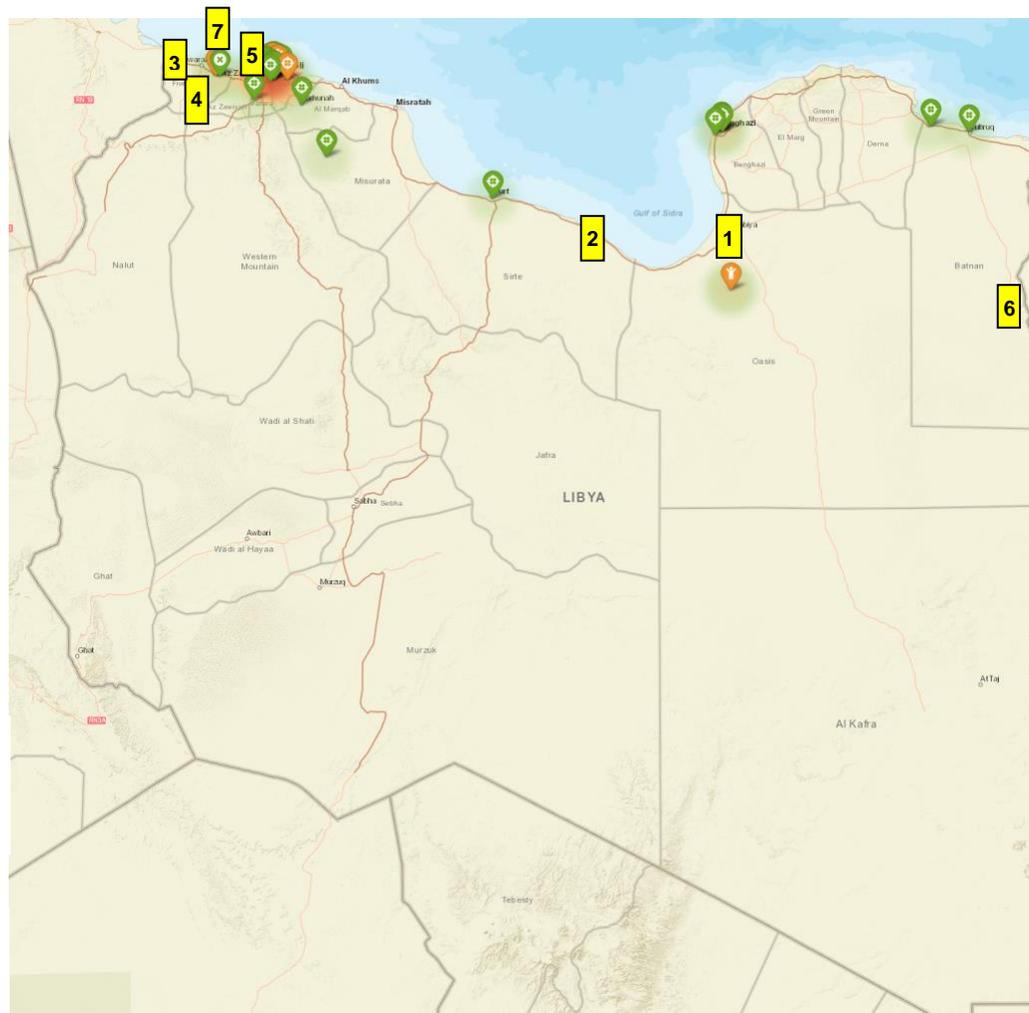
Legend

Impact Indicator

- Low Impact
- Medium Impact
- High Impact

Incident Type

- ⊕ IED/VBIED/ERW
- ✕ Isolated Gunfire
- ⚡ Violent Clash
- 🚗 Carjacking
- ✈️ Airstrike / UAV
- 🚀 Mortar/Rocket
- 👤 Kidnapping
- ⊕ Other



(Map Source: Whispering Bell Platform)

Reports indicate operators of the Sabha Power station evacuated the station in order to preserve their safety after unidentified assailant(s) attacked on-site staff and threatened them against entering the site to perform their duties on 24 October.

1

Ajdabiya's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) freed a group of Sudanese workers who were kidnapped for ransom by a Chadian criminal gang in the city on 23 October.

Pro-Gaddafi tribal Sheikhs from Zliten, Al-Khums, Al-Alous, Qasr Al-Akhyar and Garabolli issued a statement on 25 October calling on the GNA Prime Minister, Fayez Al-Serraj, to release the former Libyan leader's son, Al-Saadi Gaddafi, claiming he was acquitted three years ago.

2

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) lifted force majeure on crude oil exports from Es Sider and Ras Lanuf on 23 October. Libya's oil production is expected to reach 800k barrels per day (bpd) in the next two weeks and surpass a million bpd in four weeks, as per the NOC's statement.

3

Tunisian PM Hichem Michichi approved the reopening of the Ras Ajdir Libya-Tunisia border crossing point (BCP) in a ministerial session on 23 October.

4

A Turkish Air Force C-130 cargo aircraft was reported landing at Al-Wattiyah airbase at approximately 1000hrs on 23 October.

5

WB sources reported a meeting was held between the 55th Battalion "Al-Dawi" militia commander, Muammar Al-Dawi, and commanders of Al-Zawiya militias in Wershiffan's Qarqouzah area in the morning on 20 October. Unconfirmed reports suggest the Al-Esnad Force commander, Mohammed Bahroun also known as "Al-Far", attended the meeting. Reports indicate the meeting was held in light of recent tensions between the 55th Battalion and the 3rd Battalion "Al-Leffa militia".

6

Reports allege an unidentified airstrike killed two Libyan men on a hunting trip near the Libyan-Egyptian border in a desert area of Al Jaghub village on 18 October. The airstrike targeted the men's vehicle. Pro-GNA accounts allege the airstrike was conducted by the Egyptian Air Force, though this was not corroborated by Egyptian authorities.

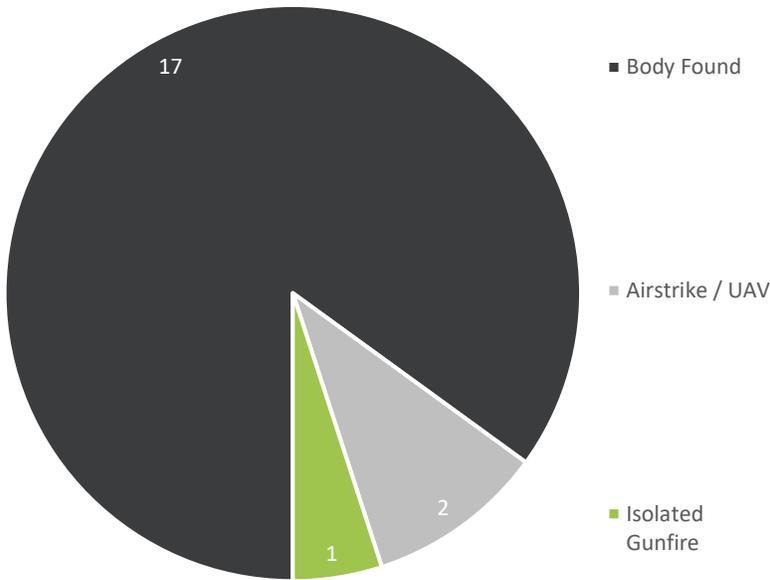
7

Reports indicate a militiaman affiliated with Al-Ammu militia from Sabratah was kidnapped by Al-Shalfouh militia at the Ras Yussuf Checkpoint, the entrance of Al-Ajaylat, at approximately 1800hrs. At approximately 1900hrs, Al-Shalfouh militia moved towards the Najma wa Halal Checkpoint on Sabratah's Coastal Road, where skirmishes erupted with Al-Ammu militia. Al-Shalfouh militia later retreated back to their town of Al-Ajaylat, with reports suggesting their intent to extend their control over the area.

3. Nationwide Security Analysis

Ongoing discovery of bodies in Tarhuna mass graves dominate fatality tally

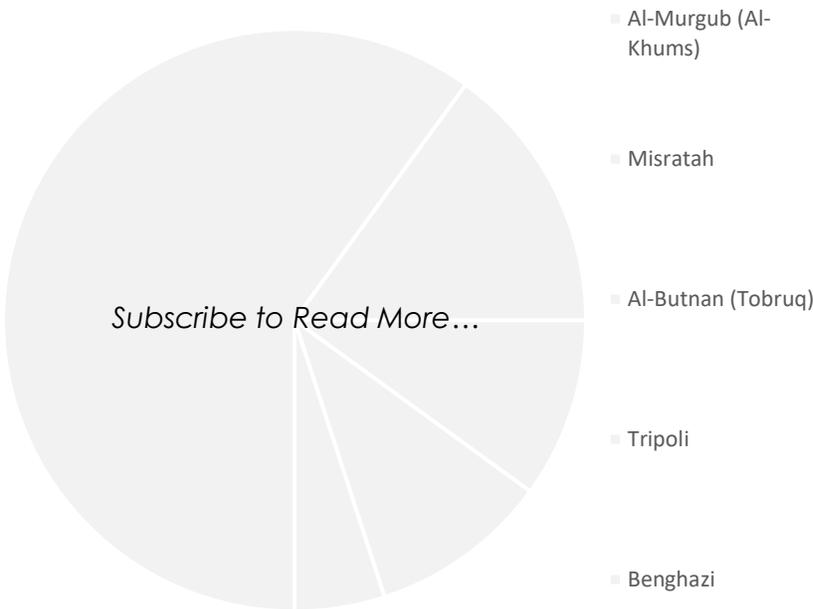
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



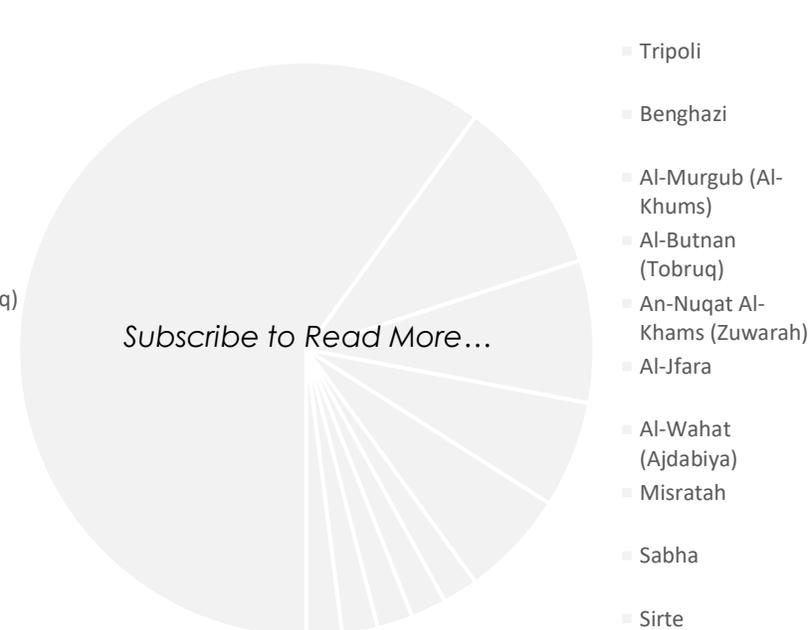
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



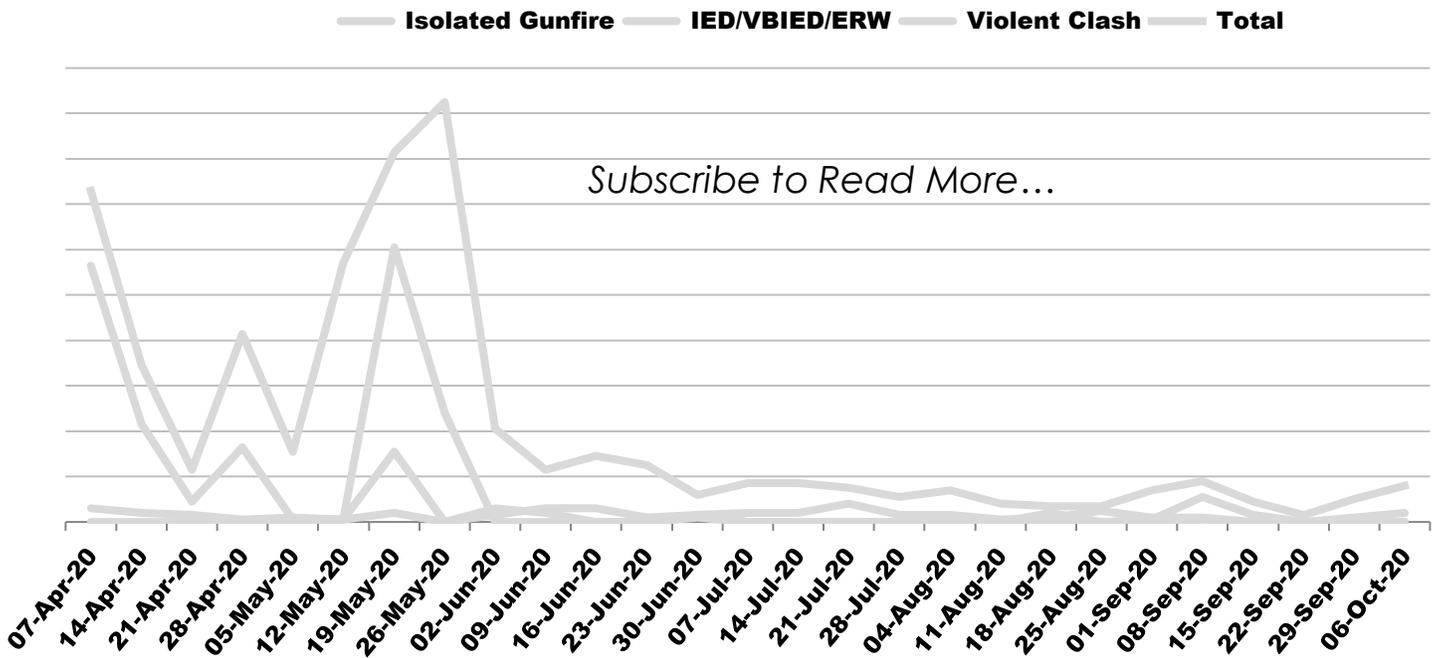
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



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 20 confirmed deaths in Libya compared with 16 deaths reported last week and 10 the week before. The fatalities recorded this week came as a result of 17 bodies found, including 12 bodies found in Tarhuna, 3 bodies found in Bani Walid, 1 body found in Tripoli, and one body found in Benghazi. Beyond reports of bodies found across the country, the remaining three fatalities were due to an isolated gunfire case in Tripoli, in addition to an unattributed airstrike conducted on the Libyan-Egyptian border area resulting in the death of two Libyan hunters.

In the western region, the highest number of security incidents continues to be recorded in the Tripoli district with a total of 30 incidents. In Tripoli, WB recorded 11 robberies, mostly involving the theft of civilian vehicles, 6 arrests, 2 raids, 2 kidnappings, 2 isolated gunfire cases, 2 reports of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) activity, 1 IED/VBIED/ERW incidents, 1 explosion, 1 case of a body found, and 1 carjacking. Beyond Tripoli, WB recorded 4 security incidents in the Al-Murgub district, including 2 robberies, 1 arrest, and case of a body found. In the Al-Jfara district, a robbery involving the theft of high-pressure power cables was recorded. In the An-Nuqat Al-Khams district, WB recorded a total of 3 incidents, including a carjacking, an isolated gunfire case, and a kidnapping.

In the central region, WB recored a single security incident in Sirte. Unidentified assailants raided an electronics shop and stole mobile phones on Sirte, Aôs Madar Street at approximately 1600hrs on 23 October. Meanwhile, reports indicate an ongoing fuel crisis amid shortages in Sirte, thus increasing the prospects of civil unrest, including protests and road closures. In addition, the GNA's Sirte-Al-Jura Security Operations Room reaffirmed that the main and secondary roads in the southern region of Abugrein and Al-Weshka leading towards Al-Jufra are permanently closed. The Room note that travellers are not allowed to pass through the aforementioned roads, except with prior approval. On 09 July, the room declared the area from Abugrein to Bouret Al-Hasoun, passing through Al-Weshka, a military exclusion zone (MEZ).

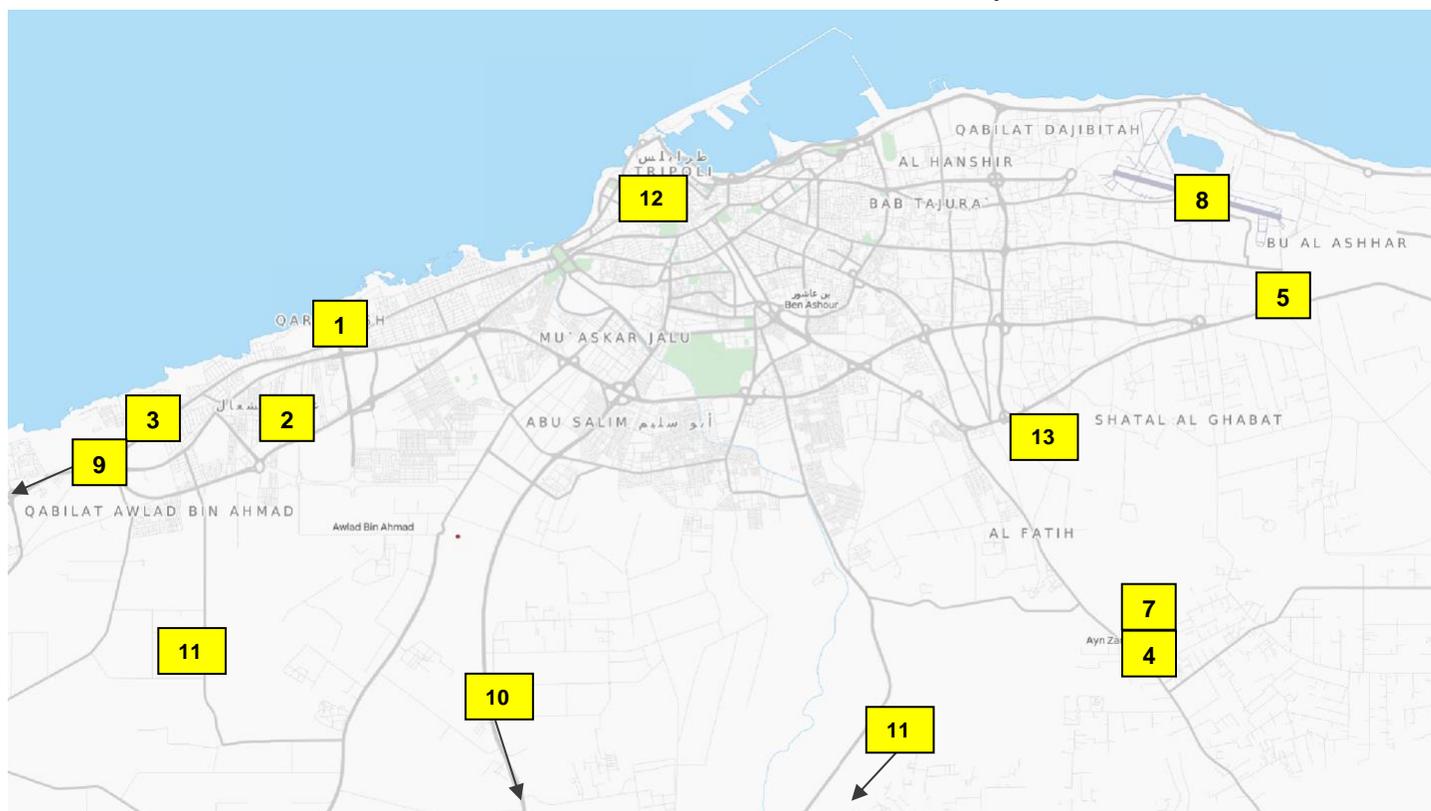
Turning to the south, WB recorded a single security incident in Sabha. Pro-GNA accounts reported dozens of protesters affiliated with the southern region's "Revolution of the Poor" civilian movement, denounced deteriorating living conditions in Sabha and the southern region as a whole, and held banners against the LNA commander Khalifa Haftar on 16 October. The protesters stated that since the LNA seized the south in January 2019, the black market for fuel has soared, and Sabha Airports remains closed due to the LNA's recent obstruction of a flight from Tripoli to Sabha. Video footage purported to document long lines at petrol stations in Sabha.

Separately, following the establishment of checkpoints extending from Ash-Shwayrif to Sabha to Al-Jufra, reports indicate LNA forces established checkpoints along the roads linking the villages of Mizdah, Ash Shwayrif, and Brak.

In the eastern region, WB recorded a total of nine security incidents throughout the reporting period. Five incidents were recorded in Benghazi, three in the Al-Butnan district and one in the Al-Wahat district. In Benghazi, WB recorded two arrests, one isolated-gunfire related case, one case of a body found, and one act of sabotage. Notably, local reports indicate an outlawed group carried out an armed attack on the media advisor to the House of Representatives (HoR) speaker, Abdul Hamid Al-Safi, in an unidentified location in Benghazi on 20 October. Al-Safi is in a stable health condition, according to a post published on his official Facebook account. No further details were disclosed on the identity of the perpetrators or the motive behind the incident. Meanwhile, following reports of the suspension of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) head Ashraf Al-Faidy on harassment charges involving the wife of an Al-Awaqeer tribesmen identified as Jabril Al-Farsi, locals from the Al-Awaqir tribe attacked and sabotaged a number of shops belonging to Al-Faidy's family, including the cake shop in Benghazi's Airport Road area on 20 October. In the Al-Butnan district, this week was marked by reports suggesting an unidentified airstrike killed two Libyan men on a hunting trip near the Libyan-Egyptian border in a desert area of Al Jaghub village on 18 October. The airstrike targeted the men's vehicle. Pro-GNA accounts allege the airstrike was conducted by the Egyptian Air Force, though the development was not corroborated by Egyptian authorities. In addition, the Tobruk Military Region Media Office reported security forces positioned at the 100 Gate south of Tobruk thwarted a smuggling operation involving narcotic pills and cannabis resin (hash) on 22 October. The security forces ambushed the smugglers onboard two four-wheel vehicles, though one of the vehicles managed to flee. The Office stated that the security operation comes within the framework of tasks assigned by the Tobruk Military region under the commander of Salem Miftah Al-Rafadi to combat smuggling operations in the city. Further, local reports indicate Tobruk's Joint Security Room raided a den of illegal migrants and subsequently arrested 14 illegal migrants of Egyptian nationality south of Ain Al-Ghazalah on 20 October. Turning to the Al-Wahat district, Ajdabiya's CID freed a group of Sudanese workers who were kidnapped for ransom by a Chadian criminal gang in the city on 23 October. The Department received a report from a Sudanese national on the kidnapping of his fellow countrymen in return for a large ransom. The criminals were seized in a police ambush. The abductees were subject to torture for several days.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

UNSMIL calls for unconditional release of arbitrarily detained GNA media official



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (24 Oct) Unidentified body found wrapped in blanket on Nawas Beach in Gergarish
2. (25 Oct) Unidentified men dressed in plain clothing conducts arrests in Ghut Shaal
3. (24 Oct) Intoxicated man arrested for stabbing Imam to death in Al-Seyaheeya
4. (24 Oct) Ain Zara Police station arrest criminal gang involved in house robbery & kidnap/rape of woman
5. (24 Oct) Man arrested for opening fire & injuring 3 police officers at Al-Bevi traffic light
6. (24 Oct) Resident of Al-Zintan shot dead by unidentified gunmen near Al-Hadid Bridge
7. (24 Oct) Gunmen dressed in military uniform steal 15K LYD from local in Ain Zara
8. (23 Oct) Afriqiyah Airways operates first commercial flights from Tripoli to Benghazi
9. (23 Oct) Vehicle theft ivo Janzour
10. (22 Oct) Vehicle theft near Naqliya Camp
11. (21 Oct) Two separate vehicle thefts in Al-Serraj and Khallat Al-Furjan areas
12. (21 Oct) SDF arrests two men concealing the trade of drugs through the selling of fireworks
13. (20 Oct) Libyan Media Corporation head, two sons & female employee arrested/kidnapped

Libyna Media Corporation head arbitrarily arrested

Pro-LNA accounts reported the two sons of the GNA Libyan Media Corporation head, Mohammed Baaio, were released by the Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB) a day after they were kidnapped along with their father from their house in Tripoli's Saaba area. In addition, the reports suggest Baaio's relatives in Misrata gave the TRB field commander, Ayoub Abu Ras, who is believed to be behind the kidnapping, a deadline lasting only a few hours to facilitate Baaio's release.

Tensions over Baaio's kidnapping came amid additional details linked to the motive behind the incident. The High Council of State (HCS) spokesman voiced the Council's refusal of Baaio's decisions surrounding the removal of the GNA's Volcano of Rage logo and other rhetoric associated with the Tripoli offensive across news channels, with reports pointing to a growing campaign to oust Baaio and replace him with a Muslim Brotherhood (MB) affiliate by the Libya Panorama Channel and the al-Raed network, which are considered to be the media arms of the MB-affiliated Justice and Construction Party (JCP). Notably, Baaio's kidnapping has also been widely linked to his accusations against the director of the Libya Al-Ahrar channel, Suleiman Dougha, involving the alleged embezzlement of 35 million Libyan dinars (LYD) allocated by the former Ali Zeidan government to establish a state news channel. Shortly after reports Baaio received threats, the media official was reportedly kidnapped alongside his two sons by Abu Ras. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) deplored what it referred to as an "unlawful arrest", while confirming the release of Baaio's two sons and the newly appointed female head of programmes at Libya al-Wataniya TV, Hind Ammar.

Tripoli Security Directorate conduct two arrests

On 24 October, the Tripoli Security Directorate reported the arrest of an intoxicated man on charges of killing an Imam at Tripoli's Al-Seyahheya Mosque. The Directorate reported that the perpetrator parked his vehicle in front of the mosque and turned up the radio, prompting the Imam to request that the music be turned down. Subsequently, the perpetrator stabbed the Imam to death. In addition, the victim's brother was present at the scene and also suffered injuries to the head.

Separately, the Directorate stated that the Ain Zara Police Station members arrested a criminal gang consisting of four individuals, including two brothers, on charges of kidnapping and raping a woman after bulgaring her house on 21 October. The arrest came after the victim's spouse accompanied by his wife filed a complaint at the station.

Libyan doctor arrested/kidnapped

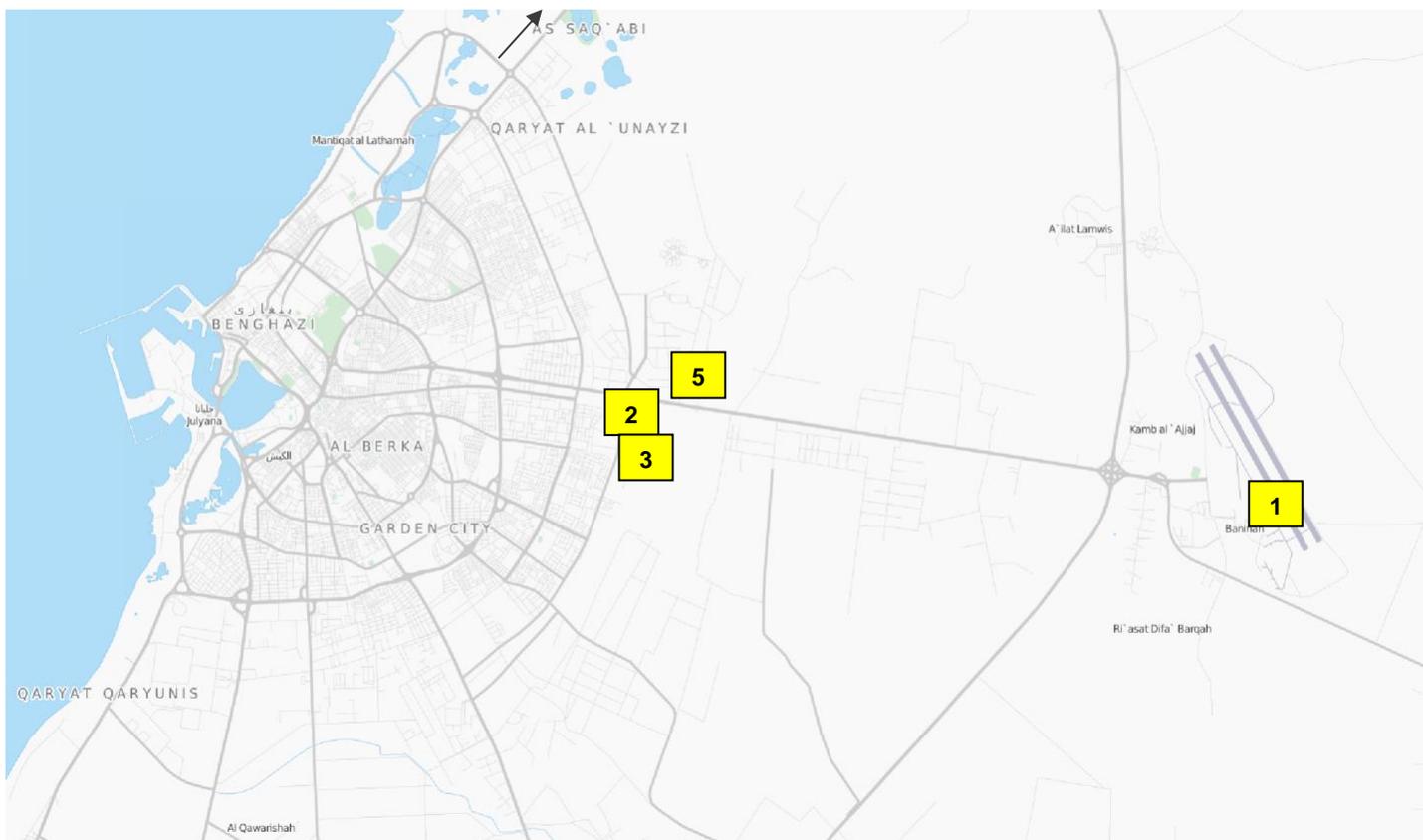
Pro-LNA accounts reported a force of the GNA's Interior Ministry security apparatus assaulted and arrested/kidnapped a Libyan doctor working at a COVID-19 centre at the Tripoli University Hospital on 19 October. Reports indicate that the Tripoli University Hospital director ordered the security apparatus to assault the doctor. As a result, the staff closed down the centre to denounce their colleague's arrest/kidnapping.

Tajoura Lions BN raid clinic to kidnap director

Reports indicate gunmen affiliated with the Tajoura Lions Battalion raided Al-Reiada Clinic in Tajoura's Beir Al-Osta Milad area in the afternoon on 20 October. The gunmen raided the clinic with the intention of kidnapping its director, though he was not present. Several medical staff were assaulted by the gunmen.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

BEN receives first commercial flight from Tripoli; HoR adviser subject to armed attack



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (24 Oct) Buraq Air operates flight from MJJ to BEN
2. (24 Oct) Benghazi Security Directorate arrests thieves targeting shops in Al-Leithi area
3. (24 Oct) Al-Obeidat tribe renew call for revenge against former NTC Chairman on charges of being behind killing of Abdel Fatah Younes
4. (23 Oct) Afriqiyah Airways operates first commercial flight between MJJ & BEN
5. (20 Oct) Armed attack on HoR media advisor in unidentified area
6. (20 Oct) Al-Awaqeer tribe attack shops belonging to suspended CID Head
7. (19 Oct) Benghazi Security Directorate suspends CID head
8. (19 Oct) HoR dep. speaker & Fezzan Parliamentary Bloc condemn Aguila Saleh call to hold session in Benghazi

Afriqiyah Airways operates TIP-BEN flight

Buraq Air announced the resumption of direct flights between Tripoli and Benghazi as of 25 October, with two flights operated per day except for Saturday. The airlines reported the departure of its first flight from Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJJ) to Benghazi's Benina International Airport (BEN) at 1120hrs on 24 October, while the second flight is due to depart from BEN at 1600hrs on 25 October, returning to MJJ.

Of note, Afriqiyah Airways operated its first commercial flight between MJJ and BEN on 23 October. This is the first flight to transport ordinary civilians; a previous test flight was operated on 16 October, though it transported aviation officials. The flight landed successfully, and passengers were seen adhering to social distancing measures. Flights on this route are scheduled on Mondays and Fridays.

Thieves arrested

The Benghazi Security Directorate reported the arrest of a criminal gang involved in armed robberies targeting three shops on Al-Khaleej Street in Benghazi's Al-Leithi area on 24 October.

HoR Media Advisor exposed to armed attack

Local reports indicate an outlawed group carried out an armed attack on the media advisor to the House of Representatives (HoR) speaker, Abdul Hamid Al-Safi, in an unidentified location in Benghazi on 20 October. Al-Safi is in a stable health condition, according to a post published on his official

Facebook account. No further details were disclosed on the identity of the perpetrators or the motive behind the incident.

CID head suspended; Al-Awaqeer tribe attack shops

Following reports of the suspension of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) head Ashraf Al-Faidy on harassment charges involving the wife of an Al-Awaqeer tribesmen identified as Jabril Al-Farsi, locals from the Al-Awaqir tribe attacked and sabotaged a number of shops belonging to Al-Faidy's family, including the cake shop in Benghazi's Airport Road area on 20 October.

Of note, the Benghazi Security Directorate announced the suspension of Al-Faidi and his subsequent referral for questioning on 19 October. The suspension came at the orders of the director of the Security Directorate, Adel Abdulaziz. Alaa Omran Bujwari was assigned as Al-Faidi's replacement. In response, reports indicate a large military convoy affiliated with the Al-Awaqir tribe led by Jabril Al-Farsi moved towards the CID headquarters after Al-Faidi was reportedly charged with kidnapping Al-Farsi's spouse. Reports indicate a state of tension among the tribe despite Al-Faidi's arrest by the LNA's Tareq Ibn Ziyad Battalion

Body of LNA officer found

Benghazi's CID found the remains of a body in Benghazi's Qanfouda area on 19 October. Reports indicate that the body belongs to an LNA officer who fought against the Islamic State (IS) in the area in 2016.

6. What's next

Local tensions over LPDF; Turkey deepens engagement in North-West

POLITICAL FORECAST

Locally, observers anticipate the ceasefire agreement and upcoming LPDF consultations will likely widen the rift within the GNA. Meanwhile, LNA commander Khalifa Haftar is yet to comment on the ceasefire deal, though LNA spox Ahmed Al-Mismari affirmed the LNA's "full commitment" to the ceasefire agreement, adding the "ball is now in the other party's court." Observers argue Haftar can order the creation of a new government independently of the LPDF's outcomes and claim Turkey's continued presence is a violation of the agreement in the medium term. The Ceasefire agreement effectively formalizes the de facto ceasefire on the ground since June 2020, but its signing could impact outcomes of the political-track talks, and Libya's settlement process altogether. In other local developments, the Tripoli-based House of Representatives (HoR) called for a meeting to discuss the split of the parliament and pursue reunification efforts at a neutral venue in Libya on 20 October. Meanwhile, despite rejection by the Deputy Speaker, the Parliamentary Assembly, and the Fezzan Parliamentary Bloc, the eastern-based HoR held a session in the presence of 23 members of parliament in Benghazi on 19 October. Notably, following a vote, the MPs announced the rejection of the Interim Government's resignation and the subsequent continuation of its duties. On the diplomatic front, France and Egypt are reportedly considering a joint initiative bringing together Libya's neighbours to build on the UN peace process. Separately, in a follow-up statement, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo welcomed the ceasefire agreement and emphasized that all foreign fighters must leave within 90 days. Looking ahead, in a scenario where Turkey rejects outcomes of the UN-brokered ceasefire, an agreement between Moscow-Ankara may overshadow the ceasefire. This is especially true given Russia is able to manoeuvre at the UN Security Council (UNSC) to veto the adoption of the Geneva agreement.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

Hafed Al-Ghwell, for *Arab News*, argues that while the latest momentum towards peace in Libya is positive, it should be met with cautious optimism given the complexity of the Libyan crisis and diverging interests at stake. Al-Ghwell argues that "there is some risk of violence escalating within those camps even as the leadership or senior figures break bread in summits far from home." The author further writes that "Each new development means new alliances, while talks descend into itemized grievances or interests of the various stakeholders. Their conclusions mean little to most Libyans who remain locked out from political processes." The author concludes by stating that "Unfortunately, even if some form of political agreement is reached, it will still lack legitimacy because it was not crafted via an inclusive process that draws on input from as many voices as possible, including those without weapons. Power sharing works only where there is significant grassroots mobilization for it, involving the crippled yet still effective municipalities and what remains of an impartial civil society at risk of being weaponized to drive specific political agendas. Diktats from the top have little influence on the ground, and only set the stage for spoilers and detractors to dig in, expand their reach and, ultimately, intensify resistance to any negotiated settlements, as we have seen before in Libya."

SECURITY FORECAST

Threat levels are expected to increase in the immediate aftermath of a possible announcement of a new executive authority, especially in Tripoli and Misrata. In fact, the publication of the official 75 list of attendees has received mixed responses from both pro-LNA and pro-GNA stakeholders. In relation to domestic travel, the resumption of Afriqiyah Airways and Buraq Air flights on the MJI-BEN route has contributed to positive sentiment. Afriqiyah Airways is also expected to resume flights to Alexandria on 04 November. Further, the 5+5 JMC ceasefire agreement stipulates the reopening of the Sirte-Misrata coastal road, the central/southern axis of Misrata-Abugrein-Jufra-Sabha-Ghat, and the Gharyan-Shwayrif-Sabha-Murzuq axis. A reopening of these roads is expected to expand domestic land travel options. However, the GNA's Sirte-Jufra Ops Room reaffirmed that the main and secondary roads in the southern region of Abugrein and Al-Weshka leading towards Al-Jufra are permanently closed. The Room note that travellers are not allowed to pass through the aforementioned roads, except with prior approval. On 09 July, the room declared the area from Abugrein to Bouret Al-Hasoun, passing through Al-Weshka, a military exclusion zone (MEZ). Meanwhile, a reopening of the Ras Ajdir Tunisia-Libya border crossing is imminent after Tunisian authorities formally approved the reopening from the Tunisian side, though no official confirmation has been issued from the Libyan side. A valid PCR test (72 hrs) is required. Of note, the GNA's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported an initial agreement was reached with its Tunisian counterpart to outline an urgent unified health protocol between the two countries, which will be shortly followed by the reopening of airspace between Libya and Tunisia. The two sides also agreed to reopen the land border crossings. The agreement came during a meeting held at the headquarters of the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the southern region, sources reported a stable security environment, despite anticipation the LNA's large deployment and law enforcement operations will ignite local tensions.

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) published a statement on the 5+5 permanent country-wide ceasefire agreement signed in Geneva on 23 Octobr. The statement reads "The 5+5 JMC met face to face for the first time from 19- 23 October 2020. As a result of this process, the parties agreed that, within a maximum period of three months, all military units and armed groups on the frontlines shall return to their camps and that all mercenaries and foreign fighters shall depart from all Libyan territories -- land, air and sea. The ceasefire does not apply to UN-designated terrorist groups. With immediate effect and until the new unified government assumes its functions, all military agreements on training inside Libya shall be suspended and training crews shall leave Libya's territory. The Agreement establishes a Security and Operations Room which shall propose and implement special security arrangements to secure the areas cleared of military units and armed groups. The Agreement also foresees the establishment of a limited military force of regular military personnel under the Security and Operations Room to deter violations of the ceasefire. The parties agreed, with support and participation of the United Nations, to immediately start the identification and categorization of all armed groups and entities on the entire Libyan territory, whether integrated into state institutions or not. A mechanism and conditions shall be developed to ensure reintegration, on an individual basis, of their members into state institutions. Through the Agreement, the parties reconfirmed their commitment to implement the confidence building measures agreed earlier this week with regard to the full opening of land and air routes throughout Libya; as well as measures to curb hate speech and incitement to violence by media and social media platforms; to facilitate the exchange of detainees and to develop a proposal for the restructuring of the Petroleum Facilities Guards. The Agreement foresees the establishment of a mechanism to monitor, jointly with UNSMIL, the implementation of the Ceasefire Agreement. The parties requested UNSMIL to forward the Ceasefire Agreement to the Security Council and to request the Council to adopt a resolution to ensure compliance of all internal and external parties with this permanent countrywide ceasefire. UNSMIL will reconvene the 5+5 JMC in the coming days to support the implementation of the Agreement and to launch the work of the sub-committees to address DDR, security arrangements, and counter-terrorism cooperation, in addition to a national effort aimed at unification of the armed forces. As UNSMIL congratulates the Libyan people for this historical achievement to secure a more peaceful and prosperous future for their country, it pays tribute to the many Libyans who have sacrificed their lives, those who have lost loved ones, who have been injured and displaced, as a result of this long conflict."

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