

1. The Big Picture

Tunis talks set polls date but fail to announce new government

The six-day Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) consultations bringing together 75 Libyan participants in Tunis have successfully set a date for elections (24 December 2021), but failed to appoint a new government to take charge during the transitional period. Virtual talks are set to resume next week, but observers remain skeptic. When judged on its intended objective to lay the roadmap for elections and form a new executive authority, the LPDF has yet to yield significant results.

Regardless of the 18-month deadline, there is much uncertainty and a lack of consensus about what must be done in the run up to elections. Islamist-leaning High Council of State (HCS) members have called for a referendum on the constitution before elections. These calls were echoed by HCS head Khalid Al-Mishri, underlining the potential for future delays and roadblocks.

Critics argue Islamists under pressure in the western region have embraced the UN-led political process but are more likely to delay the transition to elections given these represent a threat to their survival.

Beyond a lack of consensus over government candidates, disagreements run deep on both sides. Local reports suggest participants proposed establishing an electoral college representing Libya's three main regions, though this was rejected by UNSMIL. Meanwhile, participants voted against the political isolation clause, which stipulates that individuals who have had a government position since 2014 are prevented from holding office in the transitional period.

The talks were overshadowed by leaks and corruption allegations, including attempts to influence the selection of government officials on the sidelines of the conference, which have prompted an internal UN investigation according to reports. The allegations remain unsubstantiated but have undermined confidence in the political-track talks.

Away from Tunis, the reality of the Turkish and Russian military presence - the two de facto powerbrokers on the ground - paints a different picture and remains unchanged. The Government of National Accord (GNA) Minister of Defence (MoD) Salaheddin Al-Namroush pursued the rapprochement with Turkey this week with an official visit to Ankara. On 14 Nov, Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar received his Libyan counterpart Al-Namroush in Ankara. Akar noted that his country is closely following the ongoing political talks on Libya, reaffirming his country's commitment to continue military training, support, and advisory services to the GNA. The two sides reviewed progress on the Turkish training programmes delivered to GNA forces in Tripoli.

From Turkey's perspective, the political-track negotiations threaten to undermine its influence across Libya's western region. Observers are of the view Ankara is in favour of delaying elections and sees in the latest UN-facilitated talks attempts by Washington and Paris to undermine its influence. Ahead of a purported visit by Turkish President Recep Erdogan to Tripoli, Turkey will likely seek to cement the current political landscape in the western region. Local reports allege GNA intelligence and security team arrived in Tripoli ahead of a likely visit by Erdogan. According to Turkish media,

Erdogan's visit will last a few hours and is aimed at providing "moral support" to the GNA. As Turkey becomes more entrenched in Libya's west, the likelihood the eastern camp will also carve an alternative political path away from the UN-sponsored process increases.

On the military track, however, there were signs of progress at the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) talks in Sirte. At the time of writing, UN Acting Representative Stephanie Williams arrived in Brega, eastern Libya ahead of 5+5 talks to restructure the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG). The LNA and GNA military delegations convened in their new headquarters in Sirte on 13 November. The talks led to four key agreements starting with the first stage which includes the opening of the coastal road from Misrata to Sirte. The highway, which runs along Libya's Mediterranean coastline, is strategic given it links the eastern and western regions. The agreement includes clearing the Coastal Road to enable safe passage, including the removal of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in cooperation with the UN.

Moreover, the second part of the agreement includes the expulsion of all mercenaries and foreign fighters from the targeted area by opening the Coastal Road and initially transferring them to Tripoli and Benghazi to arrange for their departure from Libyan soil. It remains to be seen how these arrangements will be implemented with the presence of Russian Wagner Group private military contractors (PMCs) and Turkish forces and Syrian brigades in Sirte and Abugrein, respectively.

Many observers argue that given a full withdrawal of foreign forces is unlikely, the JMC talks will only help regulate foreign military presence by repositioning forces away from buffer zones. Of note, the JMC talks proceeded amid GNA claims Wagner Group PMCs and LNA forces were active in the vicinity of Sirte. The fact that GNA and LNA delegations landed in Es Sider before travelling by road to Sirte lent credence to the Wagner Group's control of Sirte Gardabiya airbase.

With this political uncertainty in mind, another escalation is possible within the 18-month timeframe preceding elections. Combat engagement between Libyan National Army (LNA) and GNA forces is unlikely in the western region, but skirmishes remain plausible in central areas such as Ash Shwayrif and/or the southern Fezzan district. A limited escalation immediately followed by a truce will enable Turkey and Russia to cement their positions as architects of a pragmatic solution on the ground to put an end to alternative political frameworks, including the UN-facilitated process.

In a separate development, the reopening of the Ras Ajdir Libya-Tunisia border crossing point, if sustained, after a seven-month closure is expected to boost sentiment and contribute to the informal economy which residents on both sides of the border rely on.

KEY POINTS

- Elections to be held on 24 December 2021
- Tunis LPDF talks fails to appoint new gov
- Purported visit by Erdogan to Tripoli



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2. National Security Map

Reopening of Ras Ajdir Libya-Tunisia crossing; oil production exceeds 1.2 Million bpd

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

1

The Tunisian Ministry of Transport announced the resumption of flight operations between Libya and Tunisia starting 15 November. In a statement, the Ministry noted that the resumption of air travel came as a result of an agreement on a joint health protocol to curb the spread of COVID-19. Meanwhile, the GNA's Interior Ministry announced the resumption of transit traffic at the Libyan-Tunisian border crossing of Dehiba-Wazin on 14 November, as well as the main border crossing of Ras Ajdir.

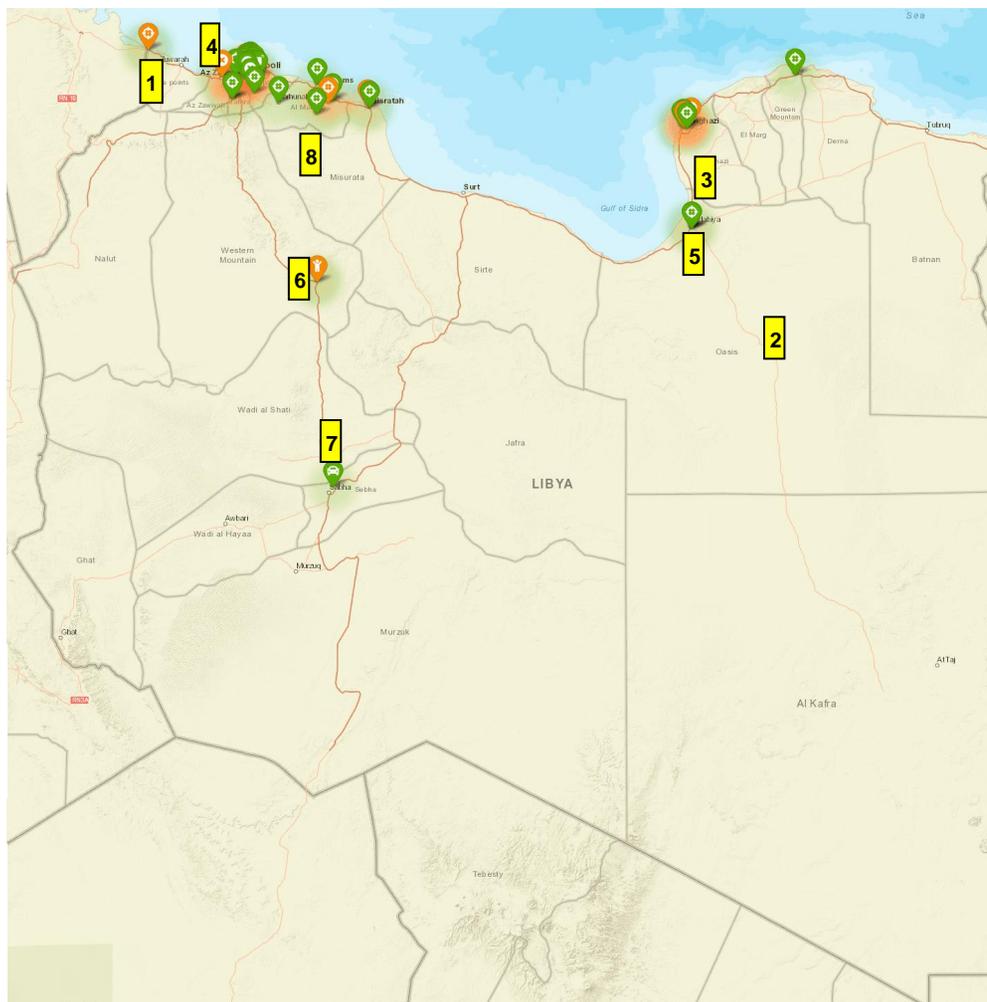
2

Reports suggest a Libyan employee at the Arabian Gulf Oil Company (AGOCO) has been reported missing after leaving the Nafoora Field and arriving in the city of Jalu. His final destination was believed to be the Company's Bayda Field 47. Another Jalu-based Libyan national was also reported missing. LNA patrols carried out search operations on 16 Nov.

3

The LNA Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade reported live-ammunition drills from Ajdabiya to Benghazi over the past week as part of the "Work - Dignity 2020" operation. The drills included specialised artillery battalions, military engineering, special forces, and airborne teams. The Brigade reported deterrent, offensive, defensive, and break-in operations were carried out.

Libya's oil output exceeded the 1.2 million barrels per (bpd) mark, reaching 1.215 million bpd according to a Libyan oil source cited by Reuters on 13 November.



Access LibyAware © Platform

4

The General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) reported an armed attack on the Ruwais Power station by an "outlawed group" and death threats received by the station's operators to forcefully disconnect main power lines on 14 Nov. The attackers fired live rounds, resulting in physical damage and rendering the station inoperable. GECOL later identified the assailants and referred them to security forces.

5

Ajdabiya's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) reported the arrest of a suspect involved in armed robberies targeting migrant workers in Ajdabiya on 12 November. The arrest came after Sudanese and Egyptian workers notified the department on the presence of a red Opel Astra vehicle carrying out armed robberies against their colleagues, including kidnapping the workers, transporting them to the city's outskirts and stealing their belongings.

6

Following allegations foreign nationals were kidnapped in Ash-Shwayrif in the morning on 10 November, WB obtained further information on the incident timeline. Sources confirmed the incident occurred over the past month and involved foreign labourers, likely of Sub-Saharan African origins. One labourer was reportedly shot upon attempting to escape, while another survived and reported the incident to locals. The labourers were in two vehicles, a Toyota and Hyundai.

7

Local reports three armed assailants in a Hyundai Sonata carjacked a Hyundai Tucson vehicle near a petrol station in the "Green Strip" area on the road between Sabha and Brak on 10 Nov. The assailants reportedly fled towards Sabha's Hay Abdulkafi neighbourhood.

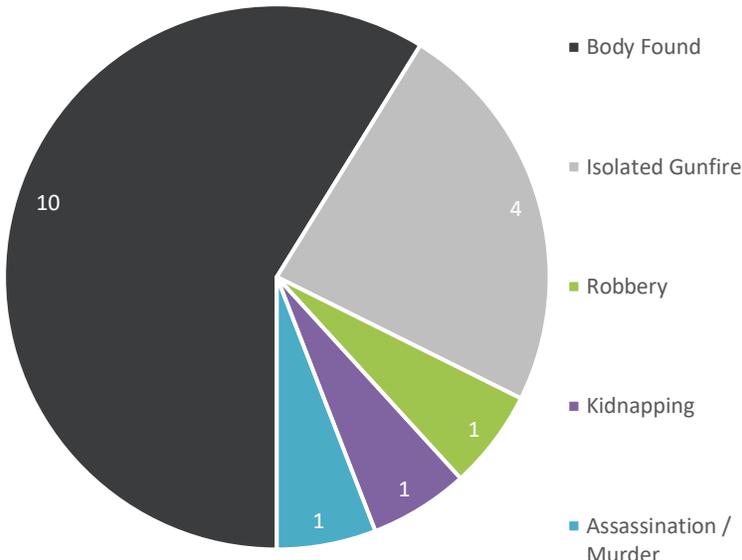
8

Pro-LNA accounts claimed an unidentified unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) targeted five trucks carrying smuggled fuel in Wadi Tejmil, south-west of Bani Walid, in the evening on 08 November.

3. Nationwide Security Analysis

More bodies found in Tarhuna mass graves; surge in Benghazi crime

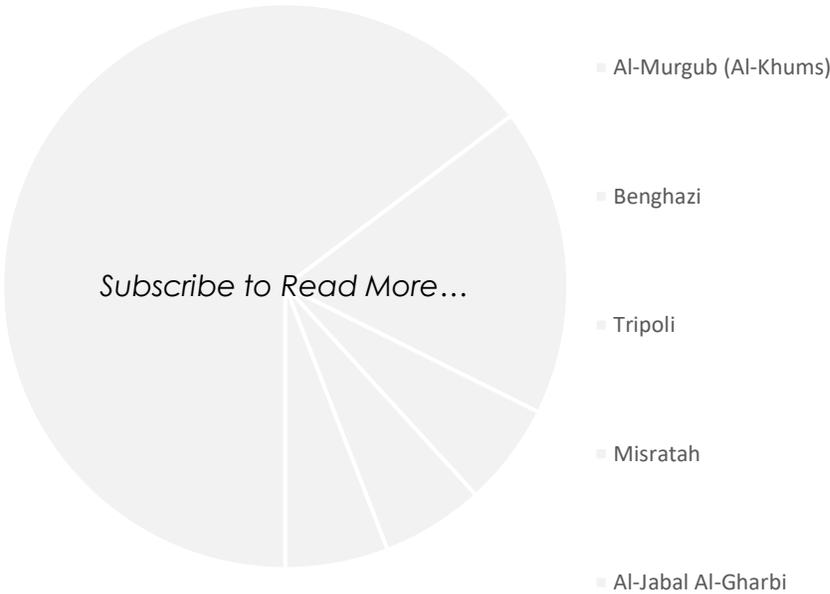
Nationwide fatalities by type of attack (Past week)



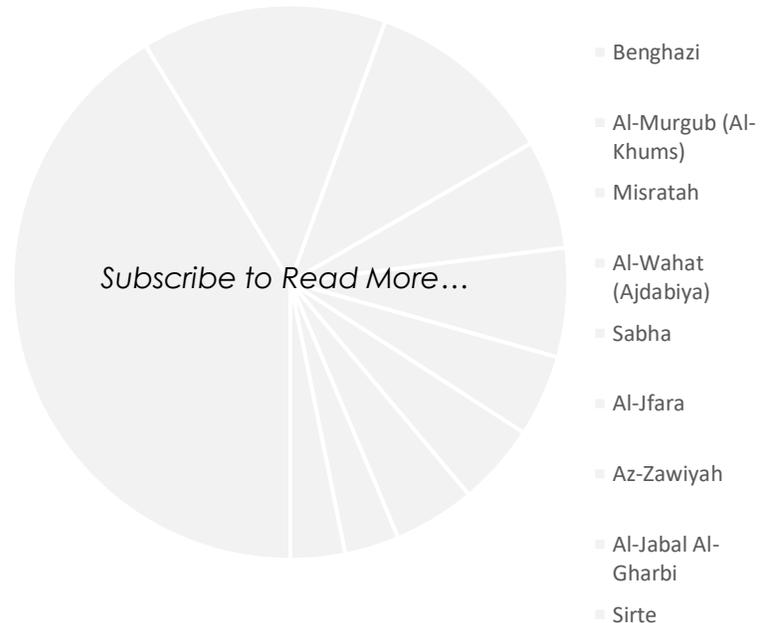
Nationwide incidents by type of attack (Past week)



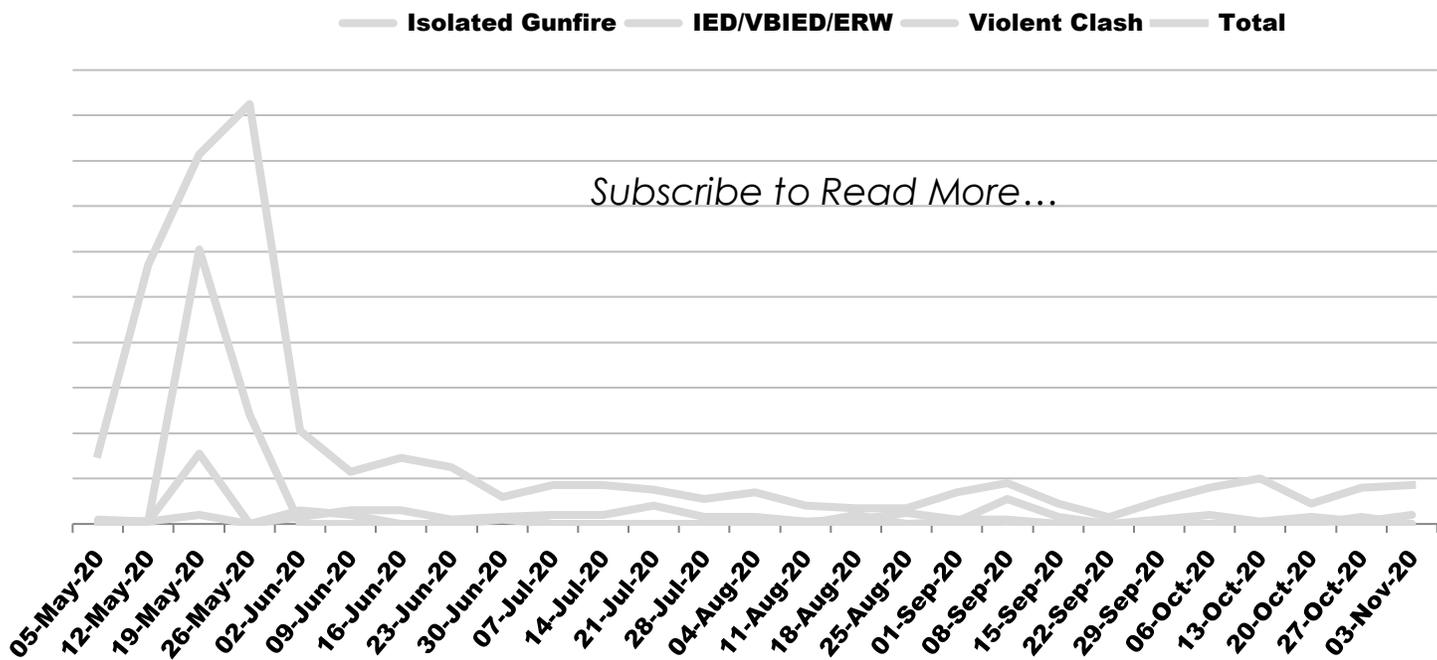
Nationwide fatalities by national district (Past week)



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 17 confirmed deaths in Libya compared with 16 deaths reported last week and 9 the week before. The fatalities recorded this week came as a result of 10 bodies found in mass graves across Tarhunah, four isolated gunfire cases in Benghazi, Misrata, and Tripoli, in addition to 1 kidnapping in the Jabal Al-Gharbi district, 1 assassination in Benghazi, and one robbery attempt in the Al-Murgub district.

In the western region, the highest number of security incidents continues to be recorded in the Tripoli district with a total of 26 incidents. In Tripoli, WB recorded 8 isolated gunfire cases, 6 arrests, 5 robberies, 2 carjackings, 2 IED/VBIED/ERW incidents, 1 assassination, 1 protest and 1 raid.

In the wider western region, WB recorded 7 incidents in the Al-Mugrub district including; 4 robberies, 1 protest, 1 isolated gunfire case and 1 body found. Meanwhile, 2 arrests and 1 act of robbery occurred in the district of Al-Jfara. In the Az-Zawiyah district, WB recorded one arrest, one isolated gunfire case and one robbery. Beyond, WB recorded 2 protests, 1 unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) airstrike conducted in Bani walid, and 1 isolated gunfire case.

In the central region, WB recorded two security incidents in the Sirte district. Reports indicate approximately seven masked gunmen in a Land Cruiser pick-up vehicle raided farms in Sawawah, on the outskirts of Sirte, on 06 November. In the same area, alleged Sudanese Janjaweed mercenaries encountered armed resistance from locals during an attempted burglary in Sawanah on the outskirts of Sirte on 06 November. The incident prompted locals to take up arms and repel the mercenaries from a local school where skirmishes erupted.

Meanwhile, pro-GNA accounts circulated images allegedly showing Russia's Wagner Group private military contractors (PMCs) digging trenches on the Sirte-Jufra road on 14 November, which coincided with talks between the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) held in Sirte. The 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) issued a concluding statement following their first round of three-day talks in their new headquarters of Sirte on 13 November. The sixth round of talks held in Sirte, marking the second meeting on Libyan territory, was centred around the implementation of the 23 October ceasefire agreement.

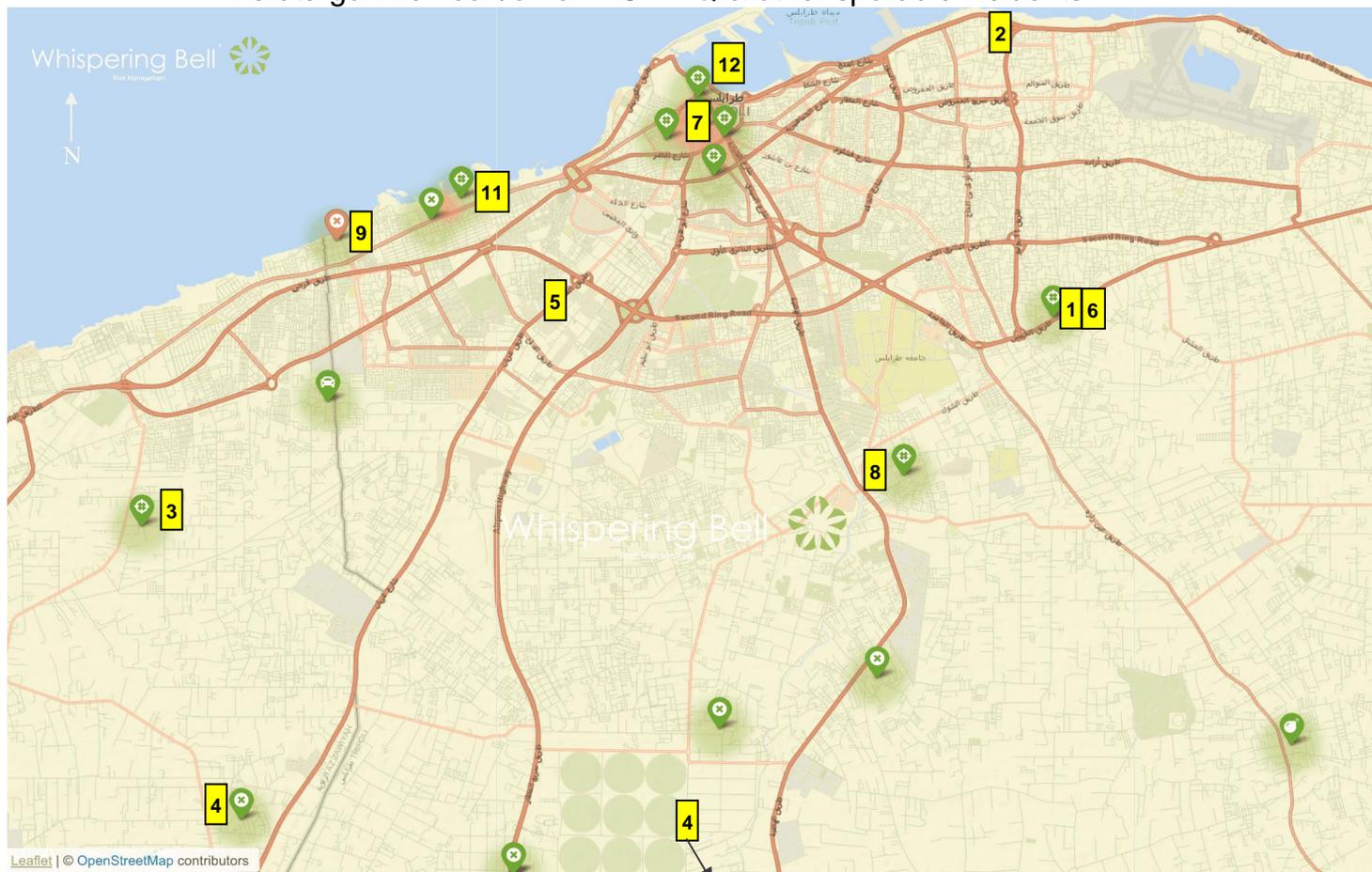
Turning to the south, WB recorded three security incidents in the city of Sabha, which remains a hub for criminal activity in the Fezzan region. This week, WB recorded one kidnapping, one isolated gunfire case and a carjacking. No further incidents were recorded in the region.

The eastern region, similar to last week, was marked by an uptick in security incidents, in the city of Benghazi with eight incidents recorded throughout the reporting period. WB recorded 3 isolated gunfire cases, 2 arrests, 1 carjacking, 1 protest and 1 assassination. The surge in crime comes as the LNA announced a new law enforcement operation to restore security across the city. Notably, this week was marked by the assassination of the female lawyer, activist, & critic of eastern authorities, Hanan Al-Barasi, in broad daylight on Benghazi's 20 Street. The incident sparked widespread criticism over security in Haftar's stronghold. In response, the LNA announced an immediate probe in Al-Barasi's killing. Meanwhile, WB recorded an arrest involving the theft of artifacts in Shahat located in the Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar district, in addition to four security incidents in the Al-Wahat district, including 2 arrests and an isolated gunfire case in the city of Ajdabiya.

Separately, The LNA Tariq Bin Ziyad Brigade released images of its forces carrying out drills from Ajdabiya to Benghazi over the past week as part of the "Work - Dignity 2020" operation, including special teams, specialised artillery battalions, armor, missiles, military engineering, special forces, the Air Force, and the parachute jump team. The Brigade reported deterrent, offensive, defensive, and break-in operations were carried out.

4. Tripoli Neighborhood Report

Misrata gunmen cordon off ACA HQ & other sporadic incidents



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (15 Nov) UAV activity over Souq Al-Jumaa
2. (14 Nov) Parallel currency exchange market trader kidnapped on Beach Road
3. (14 Nov) Vehicle theft ivo Al-Serraj
4. (13 Nov) GECOL: theft of 2000 metre-long copper wires in Qssr Bin Ghashir & theft of 750 metre-long power cables ivo Al-Kreymiya
5. (13 Nov) Carjacking on Third Ring Road
6. (13 Nov) Vehicle theft ivo Al-Sabaa
7. (11 Nov) Gunmen affiliated with Misrata militias cordon off ACA HQ
8. (11 Nov) Director of Ibn Al-Nafaris for Diabetes & Endocrinology referred to Public Prosecution on corruption charges
9. (10 Nov) Eritrean asylum seeker shot dead in shelter in Gergarish; two others injured
10. (10 Nov) TRB release GNA Libyan Media Foundation Head after 3-week detention
11. (10 Nov) Gunmen raid Café di Roma & arrest local man
12. (09 Nov) Salah Badi leads protest against LPDF

Libya Weekly Political and Security Update

Currency exchange market dealer kidnapped

Reports indicate unidentified assailants in a black Hyundai Azera kidnapped a local man in a Mitsubishi Lancer on Tripoli's Beach Road at approximately 1500hrs on 14 November. Gunfire was audible in the area at the time of the incident. According to reports, the victim is a trader in the parallel currency exchange market.

Carjacking on Third Ring Road

Reports indicate four gunmen onboard a Toyota Hilux 2016 model with tinted windows carjacked a silver Toyota Runner 2002 model on Tripoli's Third Ring Road at approximately 1300hrs on 13 November.

Intoxicated men close off Shawqy Street

The GNA Interior Ministry reported the Nawasi Brigade arrested two intoxicated men who closed off Shawqy Street in Tripoli's downtown area on 11 November.

Arrest warrant against Joint Force leader

Tripoli's Public Prosecutor issued an arrest warrant against a GNA-affiliated Joint Force leader, Haroun Sassi, on charges of kidnapping a Libyan businessman and demanding a ransom estimated at 1 million US dollars (USD) 25 October. According to reports, Sassi is considered the right arm of the GNA Western Military Region commander, Osama Juwaili. The arrest warrant was issued on 02 November.

Eritrean asylum seeker shot dead in shelter

The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya, Yacoub El Hillo, strongly condemned the killing of a 15-

year old Eritrean asylum seeker in a shelter in the Gergarish area in the early hours of 10 November. Six men, carrying heavy objects and a firearm, entered the shelter and opened fire, killing the Eritrean asylum seeker and wounded two others. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) confirmed the victim was awaiting resettlement out of Libya. El Hillo called on Libyan authorities to probe into the killing.

Misrata affiliated gunmen cordon off ACA HQ

Reports indicate gunmen affiliated with Misrata militias cordoned off the Administrative Control Authority's (ACA) headquarters on Tripoli's Al-Jumhouria Street at approximately 1500hrs on 11 November. The gunmen cordoned off the Authority's HQ in response to the Administration's intent to dismiss one of its employees who hails from Misrata. The ACA condemned the incident

TRB release GNA Libyan Media Foundation Head

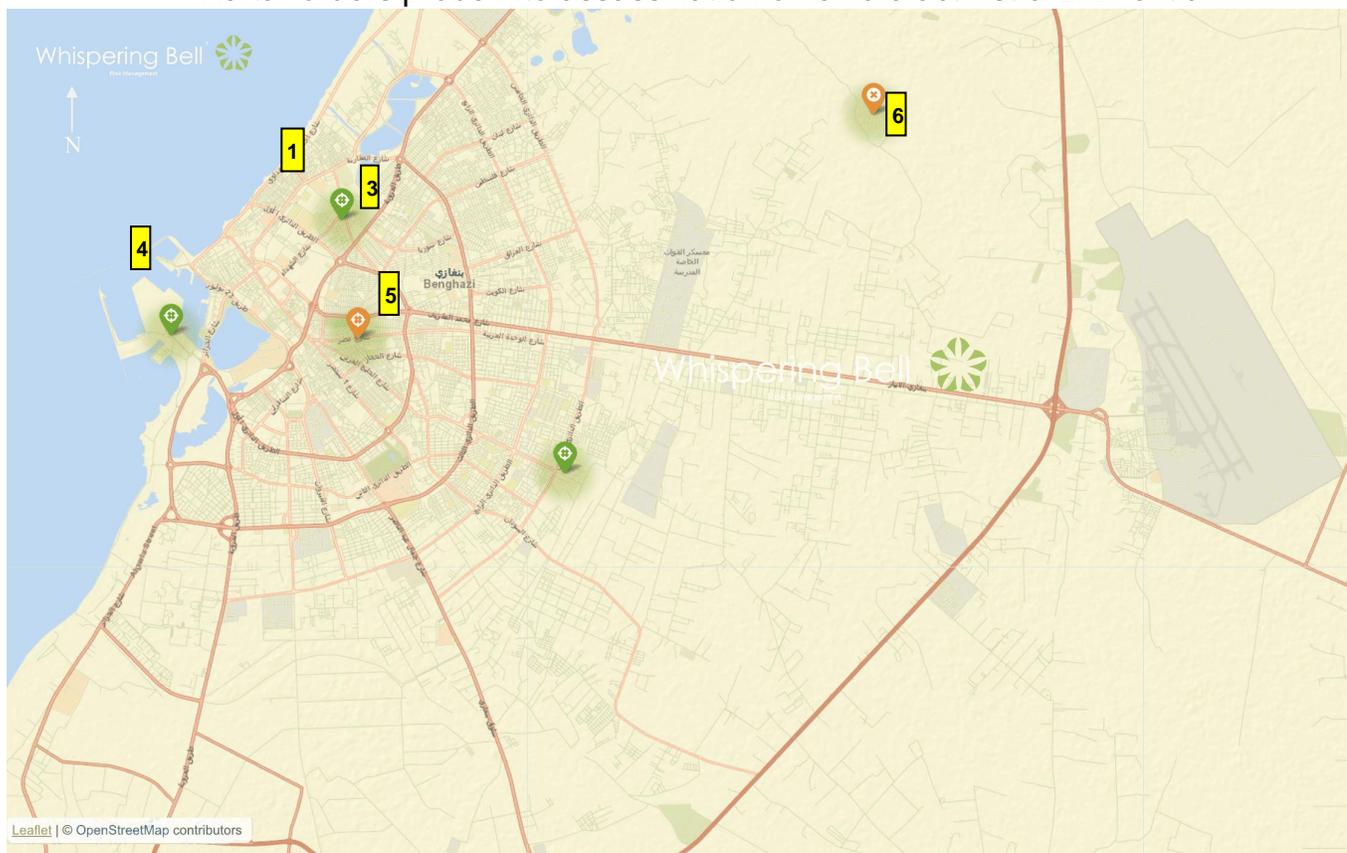
On 10 November, the GNA Libyan Media Foundation Head, Mohammed Baaio, announced his release after three weeks in detention, noting that his detention, which was widely reported as a kidnapping, was a result of a "misunderstanding". The Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB) was behind the detention/kidnapping, fuelled by Baaio's orders to state-run television channels and media outlets to stop publishing content related to Haftar's offensive on Tripoli and refrain from referring to the LNA commander as a "war criminal".

Gunmen raid café & arrest man ivo Hai Al-Andalus

Unidentified gunmen raided a house in Tripoli's Hai Al-Andalus near Café di Roma and arrested a local man at approximately 1400hrs on 10 November.

5. Benghazi Neighborhood Report

Haftar orders probe into assassination of female activist & LNA critic



KEY INCIDENTS

1. (13 Nov) CID arrest criminals behind murder of local man found dead inside his vehicle on Sabri Beach Rd.
2. (12 Nov) Haftar orders mobilisation of all units to support Mol's security op.
3. (12 Nov) Fire breaks out in building due to short circuit ivo Salmani
4. (11 Nov) Customs seize 400,00 tramadol pills concealed as soap
5. (10 Nov) Masked armed man assassinate female lawyer on 20 St.
6. (09 Nov) Two brothers shot dead during dispute with local family in Boudzira

Female lawyer & activist assassinated

At approximately 1400hrs on 10 November, masked men shot dead a lawyer and activist, Hanan al-Barasi, in public on Benghazi's 20 Street a day after she vowed to implicate Khalifa Haftar's son, Saddam, in corruption cases via her personal Facebook page. According to the Benghazi Security Directorate, the perpetrators initially attempted to kidnap al-Barasi from a shop, though they ended up assassinating her, firing multiple shots after she resisted. The gunmen subsequently fled the scene. Images of the victim wrapped in a cloth among the public quickly circulated across social media outlets. The eastern Justice Ministry condemned the killing and vowed to hold perpetrators accountable. Meanwhile, the LNA ordered a probe into the incident. Al-Barasi was prominent for circulating videos of herself speaking of corruption within LNA-controlled territory, including singling out high-profile figures within Haftar's camp. Al-Barasi had also spoken of socially sensitive topics of assault and rape targeting Benghazi women as well as financial embezzlement among LNA-aligned groups. The victim recently reported an assassination attempt against her daughter. The incident would not mark the first time a prominent female figure is targeted for openly criticising eastern authorities in Benghazi, as the House of Representatives (HoR) member Seham Sergiwa remains missing after LNA-aligned masked men kidnapped her from her Benghazi residence on 17 July 2019. The kidnapping came after Sergiwa criticised Haftar in a news interview. Al-Barasi's killing comes amid a recent surge in crime across

Haftar's stronghold of Benghazi, and more importantly comes at a critical juncture during ongoing military and political talks aimed at implementing a nationwide ceasefire and transition to elections. Of note, Hanan hailed from the relatively influential eastern tribe of Al-Barasa.

In response, Al-Barasa tribesmen demanded eastern authorities to immediately identify and arrest the perpetrators behind the killing in a statement issued from Al-Bayda on 11 November. The tribesmen demanded that the details behind her assassination are revealed, while attributing the incident to Benghazi-based militias and criminal gangs. In addition, the statement called on the LNA General Command to reconsider the security of Benghazi and "strike with an iron fist", expressing support for the LNA and confidence in its ability to establish rule of law.

LNA units mobilise to support Mol security operation

On 12 November, the LNA General Command reported that all its military units mobilised to support the Interior Ministry as part of a law enforcement operation launched by the recently-formed Joint Security Committee tasked with imposing security and combating crime in Benghazi. The General Command also reported the formation of a joint military security force tasked with implementing decisions regarding law enforcements and the rule of justice. Of note, the LNA's Chief of Staff (CoS) announced the formation of a mechanism to dismantle armed military organisations and evacuate HQs under their control.

6. What's next

GNA Mol Bashagha SSR efforts reignite tensions in Tripoli

POLITICAL FORECAST

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Acting Head, Stephanie Williams, previously stressed that an agreement on a unified executive authority was a prerequisite to holding elections. In this regard, Williams stated that "ten years of conflict cannot be resolved in one week" after the talks concluded. Williams noted that the participants will resume virtual talks next week to discuss the reformation of the PC and the role of the executive authority, in addition to the question of a constitutional basis for the elections. According to the Libyan Address citing its own sources, representatives of Libyan Islamists participating in the LPDF allegedly told Williams that the GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha is a "red line", while threatening to withdraw from the talks should he not be appointed as head of the new government. In addition, the outlet cited sources in the LPDF's Dialogue Committee alleging immense pressure on Cyrenaica representatives to sign the nomination list, which includes a candidate from the Zawiya militias as well as Fathi Bashagha, as heads in the new government structure. Notably, additional reports circulated alleging vote buying inside the LPDF, with allegations of some participants approaching others to buy their votes. Williams has allegedly launched an investigation into the matter and has threatened sanctions against the spoilers. Locally, House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh met with two tribal delegations in his office in Al-Quba on 10 November. Saleh met with two separate delegations of Al-Obeidat and Al-Ashraf tribesmen to discuss national reconciliation. Of note, Saleh hails from Al-Obeidat tribe. The meetings come as part of efforts to obtain the buy-in of key eastern tribes for his political initiative. Separately, On 14 November the High Council of State (HCS) Head, Khaled Al-Mishri, called for a referendum on a new constitution prior to the holding of presidential elections. Al-Mishri proposed the referendum be held on 17 February, marking the beginning of the uprising against the previous Gaddafi regime.

WHAT OTHER EXPERTS SAY

In an article for *Al-Monitor*, the author, Mohammad Hanafi, discusses Egypt's focus on the safety of its nationals working in Libya, highlighted by a recent meeting between the GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha and Egyptian officials marking his first visit to Cairo. Hanafi highlights how Egyptians have remained a vulnerable target in Libya since the 2011 conflict. "Egyptian workers in Libya have been vulnerable to abuses including kidnapping, torture and killing. The most recent incident occurred in June, when a group of Egyptian workers were kidnapped by militants in the city of Tarhuna, southeast of Tripoli. In 2017, another group of workers was kidnapped and later released thanks to intervention by the Egyptian security services. In 2015, a number of Egyptian workers, mostly Copts, were killed by the Islamic State. Gamal Bayoumi, former assistant minister for foreign affairs and the secretary-general of the Union of Arab Investors, told Al-Monitor, "There are nearly two million workers in Libya and their security is very important to the Egyptian authorities and the national economy." Bottom of Form According to Bayoumi, after the fall of Gaddafi in 2011, many Egyptian workers returned home because they did not feel safe in Libya. He also said that Libya has been suffering a devastating economic crisis for years because of the civil war ongoing since 2011. But he believes many Egyptian workers will return to Libya when stability and security are restored and contribute to the reconstruction of the country. Khaled Okasha, a member of the Egyptian National Council for Combating Terrorism, told Al-Monitor, "Libya's stability and security is very important to Egypt due to the historical relationship between the two countries, Cairo's national security considerations and the presence of a large number of Egyptian workers there. Therefore, the issue of protecting them has topped the agenda of discussions between Egyptian officials and Bashagha." Abdel Moneim Saeed, former director of the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, told Al-Monitor that no government can protect Egyptian workers in Libya because it is a divided country with armed militias, extremist organizations and foreign mercenaries. But progress in the UN-sponsored negotiations offer hope that stability and security in Libya could be restored, and this could enhance the safety of Egyptian workers, he added. Saeed said that Bashagha's visit to Cairo is an important step toward unifying Libya, a constitution that represents everyone and electing a legitimate government that would ensure security. But the process is still in the early stages, he said, adding that Egyptian workers must be very careful for their own safety until stability and security is restored in Libya. Saeed pointed out that the talks between Egypt and the GNA suggests things are heading toward a political solution and an end to the fighting and the civil war. Hoda al-Mallah, director of the International Center for Economic Consulting and Feasibility Studies, told Al-Monitor that Libya's stability will lead to an increase in job opportunities for Egyptian workers. Consequently, he added, there will be a rise in remittances from Egyptians abroad, one of the main sources of national income that has been severely affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus.

SECURITY FORECAST

A heightened security presence is expected across Tripoli ahead of the purported visit by Turkish President Erdogan. Meanwhile, the anti-corruption drive continues to define the security environment across Tripoli with no major security incidents recorded over the past week. Sporadic localized disruptions will continue to accompany arrests as part of this anti-corruption operation. Unconfirmed reports allege the GNA Interior Ministry's Law Enforcement Department is due to carry out an extensive security operation in Tripoli's Al Serraj area in the coming days. For its part, the Nawasi Brigade was relatively active this week with two reported arrests across the capital. In Zawiya, a meeting was held on 09 Nov at the Zawiya Security Directorate HQ to discuss the formation of a joint security operations room bringing together local elements from the General Investigations Department (GID) or Internal Security, Libyan Intelligence Services (LIS), and military intelligence. The meeting was chaired by the head of Zawiya Security Directorate, Brigadier Ali Khalifa Al-Lafi. Meanwhile, tribal tensions between Zintan and Mizdah could have ramifications on the security environment along the Zintan-Mizdah route, where human smugglers have a documented presence. In Benghazi, the environment is projected to remain stable, though sporadic security incidents are likely as the newly-formed Greater Benghazi Security Ops Room begins its operations targeting owners of firearms, including irregular LNA veterans acting in a law enforcement capacity. The return of power across the eastern region has significantly reduced the likelihood of civil unrest similar to the wave of protests in September 2020. In the southern region, incidents continue to be underreported. Sources suggest the security environment in Sabha has deteriorated significantly over the past few weeks, despite the LNA's deployment. Kidnappings of locals have surged, especially elderly males and children whose parents are perceived to have access to cash. Some locals allege a recently-deployed LNA core unit from the east has extorted locals

LIBYANS AND THE ARAB STREET

In a virtual press conference on 13 November, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Acting Head, Stephanie Williams announced that participants of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) agreed to hold national elections on 24 December 2021, which marks Libya's independence day. In addition, Williams noted that the participants reached a preliminary agreement on a roadmap paving the way for national elections as well as the need to establish a new and reformed Presidential Council (PC) and unified government, which will be under the leadership of a separate Prime Minister in order to separate the posts of PC head from the PM. Williams also noted that the participants have been discussing the selection criteria for these new executive positions, noting that neither the UNSMIL nor the international community have proposed or imposed particular names. Meanwhile, Williams announced that the Tunis-hosted LPDF will be extended for a few more days in order to ensure their agenda is fully met. On roadblocks, Williams noted a "large status quo party in Libya", with factions across the country who seek to obstruct the political process and retain their current privileges at the "expense of Libyan people." Williams also noted the role of foreign states in respecting the UN arms embargo on Libya. Williams added that the international community "has the tools at its disposal to – for instance here in the political process – to prevent spoilers, including through the use of sanctions as per the relevant Security Council resolutions. We are going to continue to need their help as we move along here."

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