

Libya (5)

Weekly Brief
9th – 16th August, 2017

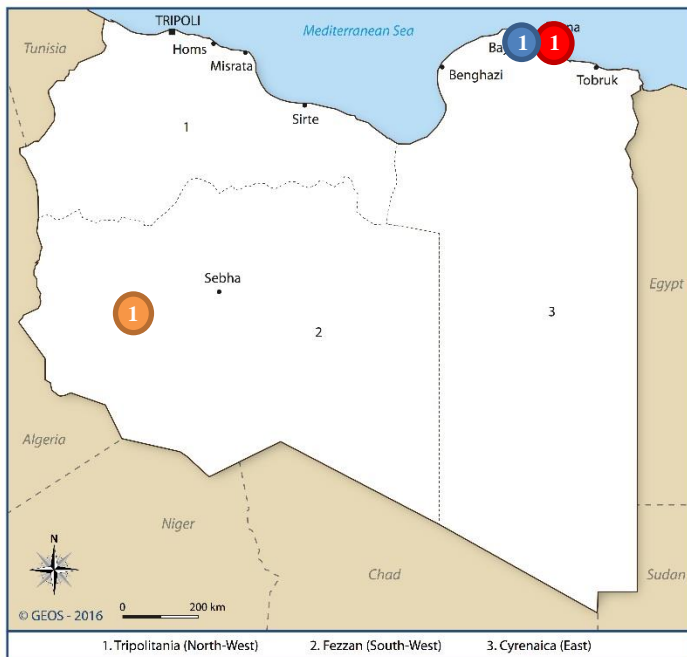


Trend over the previous week		
Crime	→	5
Terrorism	→	5
Kidnapping	→	5
Fighting	→	5

Risk rating: 1: **Low**; 2: **Moderate**; 3: **Significant**; 4: **High**; 5: **Very high**

- Tripoli / Security situation still unstable
- Tripoli / Expected progressive return in the coming months of the United Nations
- Gulf of Sirte (north) / Strategic site takeover by the LNA but volatility of the local context
- Cyrenaica / Progressive resumption of the total control of Benghazi by the forces of Marshall Haftar
- South / Instability in Sebha and Jufra areas

I. Major incidents of the week



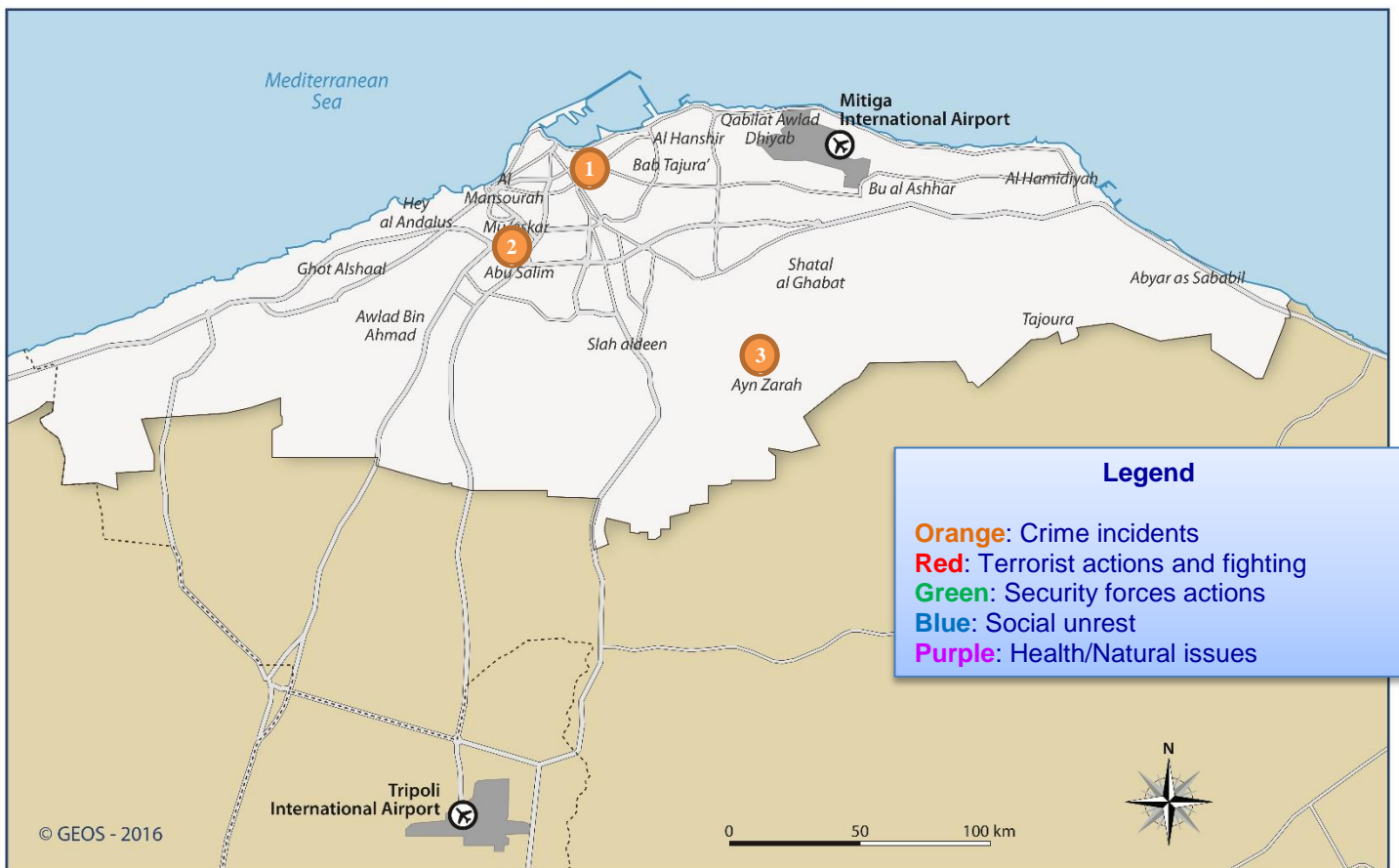
Legend

- Orange: Crime incidents
- Red: Terrorist actions and fighting
- Green: Security forces actions
- Blue: Social unrest
- Purple: Health/Natural issues

- 1 **16th August 2017:** Shabiyat of Derna (northeast), Derna: Continuation of the siege of the city by the LNA provoking a preoccupying humanitarian situation.
- 14th August 2017:** Moscow: Meeting between Marshal Haftar and the Russian ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs.



1	<p>12th August 2017: Shabiyat of Wadi Al Hayaa (southwest), site of Sharara: Announcement of a decrease of the oil production due to a recent multiplication of robberies within the site.</p>
	<p>10th August 2017: Shabiyat of Benghazi (Northeast) Benghazi: Visit of the Head of United Nations Support Mission in Libya, Ghassan Salame. Meeting with military officials including Abdul-Rahman Abbar (military mayor of the city).</p>
	<p>10th August 2017: National: Presidential council linked to the GNA denounced the siege of the city of Derna.</p>
1	<p>10th August 2017: Shabiyat of Derna (northeast), axis between Derna and Martouba: Clashes between elements of the LNA and residents during a gathering for fuel supplies.</p>
	<p>9th August 2017: Shabiyat of Derna (northeast), Derna: The LNA authorized a supply of medicines while the humanitarian situation inside the city is preoccupying.</p>
	<p>9th August 2017: Shabiyat of Al Djabal al Gharbi (northwest), Zintan: Visit of the Prime Minister Sarraj in this city supporting the authorities of the East.</p>



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| 1 | 13th August 2017: Tripoli, district of Dahra (Centre): Arrest of the former Prime minister, Ali Zidan, by a militia after a warrant launched by the Tripoli prosecutor. |
| 2 | 11th August 2017: Tripoli, district of Abu Salim (South): Kidnapping of 2 employees of the Audit bureau during their work concerning a project of contract with an hospital. One of them currently detained and the other released. |
| 3 | 11th August 2017: Tripoli, district of Ayn Zarah (South): Assassination of 3 militiamen of the Tripoli Revolutionaries brigade (pro-GNA). Risk of tensions. |

II. Events of the week

Tripoli / Situation: In Tripoli, the situation was marked by rumours within the population initiated between the 10th and 13th August concerning a potential fuel crisis due to localised power shortage. Gas stations were indeed affected by a disruption of their activities. The Fuel and Gas Committee nevertheless tried to reassure the residents saying that 68 million liters of fuel were available in the capital to avoid a fuel shortage and movement of panic. However, no major protest, violence or tensions were reported during this week.

Moreover, the security context remains very fragile in Tripoli as illustrated by the assassination of 3 militiamen of the powerful Tripoli Revolutionaries brigade (pro-GNA) led by Haithem Tajouri. Risk of renewal tensions and acts of reprisal could be reported in the next few days.

In addition, former Prime Minister, Ali Zidan, (in office between November 2012 and March 2014) was arrested on 08/13 in Tripoli, in unclear circumstances, while he was present in the city to take part in negotiations with the head of Presidential Council, Fayeze Sarraj, according to Libyan sources. He was thus apprehended by gunmen, alleged members of the Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade near a hotel on Khaled Ben Waled Street (Dahra district, downtown) before being taken away to an unknown location. **Members of this powerful militia allegedly acted after an arrest warrant issued by the attorney general without real backing of the GNA, showing its important autonomy despite its support of the latter.**

Derna / Operation: The humanitarian situation in the town of Derna (Shabiyat de Derna, northeast) has deteriorated considerably in recent days, while the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army (LNA), which is involved in the fight against terrorism in the framework of Dignity operation, continues its siege.

The spokesperson of the Dignity operation indeed announced on 08/14 the preparation of a ground operation targeting the city of Derna (Shabiyat of Derna, Northeast), against the elements of the Derna Shura Council (radical islamists). This one planned to take control of strategic areas of the city as the districts of Wadi Al-Naqa and the western entrance of Derna where the insurgents are positioned. The Libyan official also revealed that a joint operation room was created in Ain Mara, located less than 40 km away from the West of Derna, where this ground operation will be launched in the next coming days (no date has however been officially announced). Moreover, this operation will also be supported by the aviation of the Dignity operation.

The context in Derna remains very fragile due the constant antiterrorist operations of the Dignity operation led by Marshall Haftar. This situation provoked a siege of the city of around 130 000 citizens. The Derna local Council indeed issued a message of alert to local and international organisations as the Arab league and the United Nations to denounce the current situation and especially the humanitarian and sanitary conditions and the lack of supplies of medicines, food or fuel.

The situation has remained fragile in Derna in recent years due to the continuation of Operation Dignity, which is fighting terrorist groups and jihadists who are still entrenched in certain areas of the city. The latter was in fact under the control of radical Islamist groups such as the Shura Council from 2014 until June 2015, before the liberation of a large part of the city by the LNA.

However, the siege of these recent days has further undermined the local situation, particularly on the humanitarian level.



National / Migration: The main non-governmental organisations announced this week the suspension of their activities concerning the rescue operations of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. This initiative intervened after threats against their security launched by Libya Coast guards and the decision of the Libyan authorities to forbid the navigation of these organisations in its waters.

The Libyan ministry of Navy of the GNA indeed announced on 08/10 the creation of an exclusive military area in the Libyan waters accessible only to humanitarian vessels, which have been officially authorized. This area of rescue and research was clearly delimited by the Libyan authorities and is located at 390 km away from the Libyan coast.

This announcement also took place while Italian authorities have recently multiplied demands concerning a better taking of control of the migration flows by Libya, including the control of the roads of passing in its Southern borders and through a better cooperation with its neighbours. The Italian ministry of the Foreign Affairs also claimed important economic investment of the European Union in Libya to deal with this migration crisis. In the same way, Marshal Haftar, also spoke in a press interview for an investment of 20 billion USD for the 20 coming years. Moreover, the Italian Interior ministry confirmed during a meeting on 08/15, the major role of Libya, which is to contain the migration flow from this country to Europe.

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- Understand the situation
- Protect your teams
- Operational assistance
- Transportation and Logistics
- Technical Expertise

Our solutions :

- Security training
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- Logistic Assistance
- Crisis management (hotline, etc.)
- Technical assistance



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