

Libya (5)

Weekly Brief  
11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2017

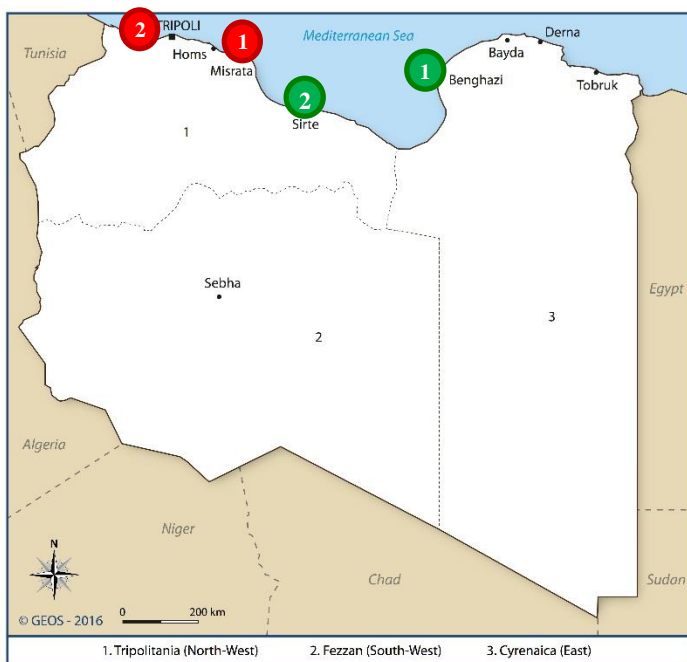


Trend over the previous week		
Crime	→	5
Terrorism	→	5
Kidnapping	→	5
Fighting	↑	5

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

- Tripoli / Security situation still unstable
- Tripoli / Expected progressive return 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

- 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Benghazi (northeast), Benghazi: Visit of the Italian ambassador of the city especially its port and its university.
- 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Misrata (north), Beni Walid airport: Airport authorities visited the military airbase in the aim to assess plan to turn it in a civil airport.
- 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Benghazi (northeast), Benghazi: Announcement by the mayor of Tobruk of the arrest of the CEO of the General Electricity Company of Libya after his flight from Tripoli to Tobruk was



directed to Benina airport (Benghazi). Strong reactions reported. He is accused of being too close to the Tripoli authorities.

**15<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Sebha (centre) : Announcement of the opening of the second round of negotiations with the Special envoy of the secretary of the United nations and committee for House of Representatives (Eastern authorities) and High Council of State (Tripoli authorities).

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Benghazi (northeast), Benghazi: Announcement by the municipality of the starting of the cleaning of the prominent commercial centre in the aim of its reopening.

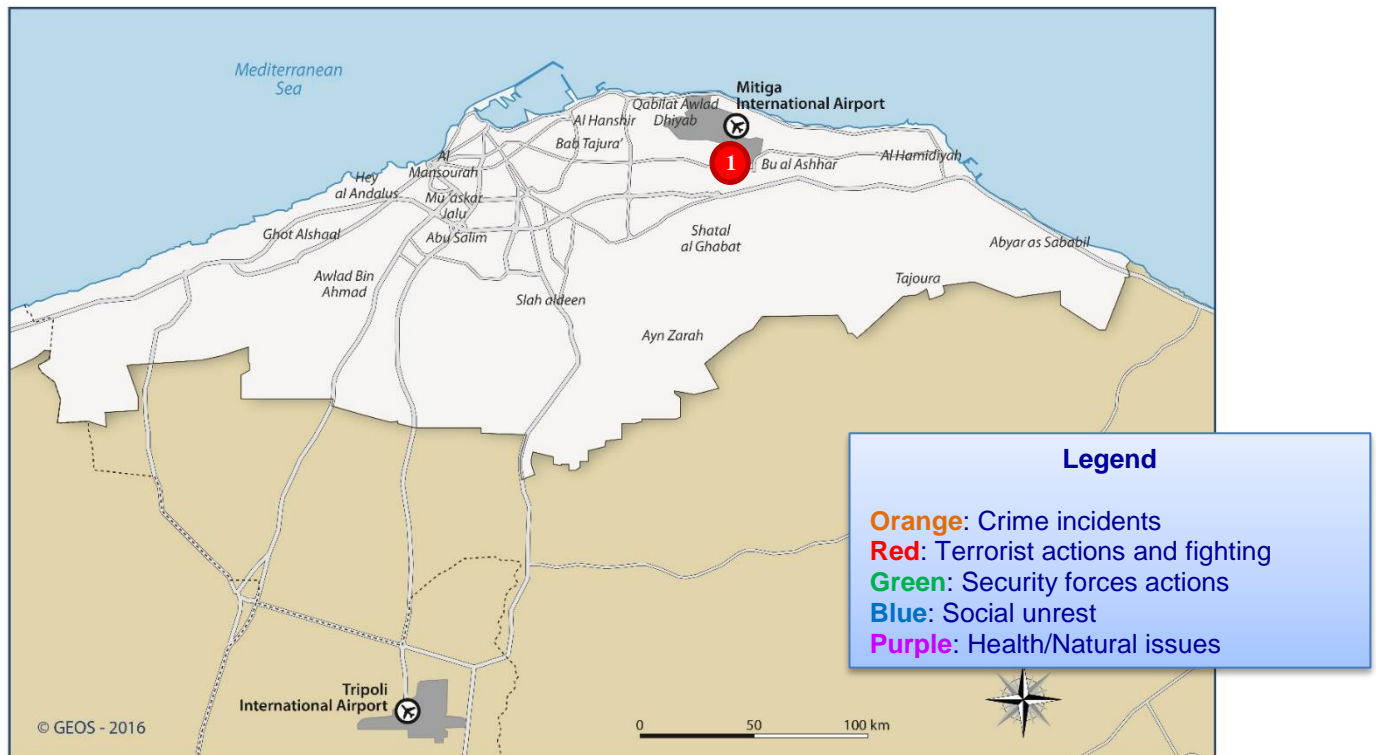
**12<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Benghazi (northeast), port of Benghazi: First oil tanker docking since 2014 after its reopening on 10/01.

**11<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Zawia (north-west), Sabratha: Visit of Prime Minister F.Serraj after the resumption of control of the city by a militia close to the GNA.

**2** **11<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Sirte (north), Sirte: Announcement of the end of the curfew imposed by the forces of Operation Al-Bunyan Al-Marsoos since 10/04.

**1** **11<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Misrata (north), Misrata, Al-Sakt (south): Shootout during a raid led by a Misrata militia targeting radical elements from Ajdabiya. 2 casualties and several wounded among the latter. 24 arrests.

**2** **10<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Shabiyat of Zwara (north-west), El-Jamil: Armed attack targeting a vehicle presumably led by the al-Amu militia (defeat at Sabratha). 4 men belonging to a rival group of Sabratha killed or wounded.



**17<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Tripoli: An armed group loyal to Khadafi located in Wirshiffana (south of Tripoli) threatened in a video posted on Internet to cut off water supply to the capital, demanding the release of one of its member who was arrested few days before.

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**16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Tripoli, district of Arada (East), area of Souq el-Juma, Arada street: Clashes reported resulting in at least 4 casualties and 17 wounded between RADA militia and a criminal group.

## II. Events of the week

**Tripoli / Clashes:** The security situation remains fragile near Mitiga airport in Tripoli as clashes were reported on 10/17 in the morning and the evening, paralyzing the site's activities.

Indeed, the air traffic has been stopped these last hours at the international airport of Mitiga (east of Tripoli) due to clashes between rival militias a few hundred meters away from the site. Exchanges of fire were heard at around 8:30 am (local time) and would be gathered in Arrada street and Ghararat areas located at the south of the airport where different road links have been closed to traffic. Rocket launcher shots were also reported. A provisional assessment mentions at least 4 casualties. Similar incidents had also been signaled on 10/16 in the morning in the same area, provoking air traffic disruption. Thus, gunfire was notably reported near the airport entrance.

These last incidents involve a local criminal group and the powerful RADA armed militia close to F. Sarraj's Government of National Accord. Indeed, this militia would have carried out an antidrug traffic operation against the criminal group on 10/15 in the evening. In retaliation, the latter would have tried on 10/16 in the morning to free his chief jailed the day before by RADA and incarcerated near Mitiga airport (RADA's HQ). This attempt provoked the ongoing violence.

**The exchanges of fire stopped in the early afternoon on 10/17 but started again in the evening in the districts of Ghararat and Suk Juma. Moreover, sensitive areas have been locked by the security forces, supporting the GNA, to secure major institutions like the port area.**

The security situation is still uncertain in the Libyan capital due to the absence of armed forces and a police force institutions, thus reinforcing the multiplication of illegal traffic and autonomous militias.

**National / Diplomacy:** The Head of the dialogue committee of the House of Representatives (HoR) announced on 10/16 that he had suspended his participation in the 2nd round of the UN-led negotiations on the Libyan crisis held in Tunis. The HoR indeed requests written forms from the other negotiation party, the High Council of State (HCS) close to the GNA in Tripoli, to clarify its position on conflicting points including guarantees for forming the future government.

Sources from the meeting confirmed that **the very reason behind the HoR's withdrawal is the objection of the HCS to annul an article of the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) signed in 2015 in Skhirat (Morocco) which states that all military posts would be vacant.** Indeed, while the HCS requests solid confirmation that the future government will not be subject to any political agenda, the HoR wants to keep Marshall Khalifa Haftar, the Head of the Libyan National Army, at his post. Thus, the withdrawal of the HoR reveals the existing tensions between the two negotiation parties regarding who should assume the new functions.

The 2nd round of the Libyan dialogue session started on 10/15 to further discuss the 1st round's results of 2015. The latter saw the committee members from the HoR and the HCS agree on the LPA that creates a new Presidential Council with only 3 members and a separate government.

**National / Security:** In this fragile national context, Marshal Haftar announced on 10/14 that the self-proclaimed Libyan national army (LNA) would control a very large majority of the country, also specifying that an offensive towards the locality Zawia (Shabiyat of Zawia, northwest) would be carried out soon.

This locality is positioned a few kilometers away from the capital and is currently under the control of forces allied to the GNA. **K.Haftar had already uttered this type of threat especially against the capital last July when he had threatened to attack Tripoli. These announcements strongly contribute to the political and security instability of the country and are demonstration of strength.**

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