

**Libya (5)**

**Weekly Brief**  
8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

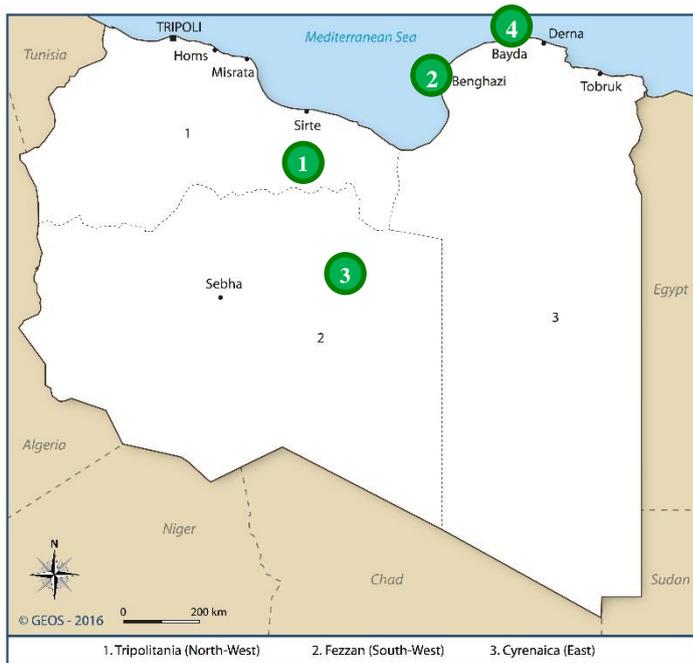


Trend over the previous week		
Crime	→	5
Terrorism	→	5
Kidnapping	→	5
Fighting	↑	5

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
- Cyrenaica / Progressive resumption of the total control of Benghazi by the forces of Marshall Haftar

**I. Major incidents of the week**



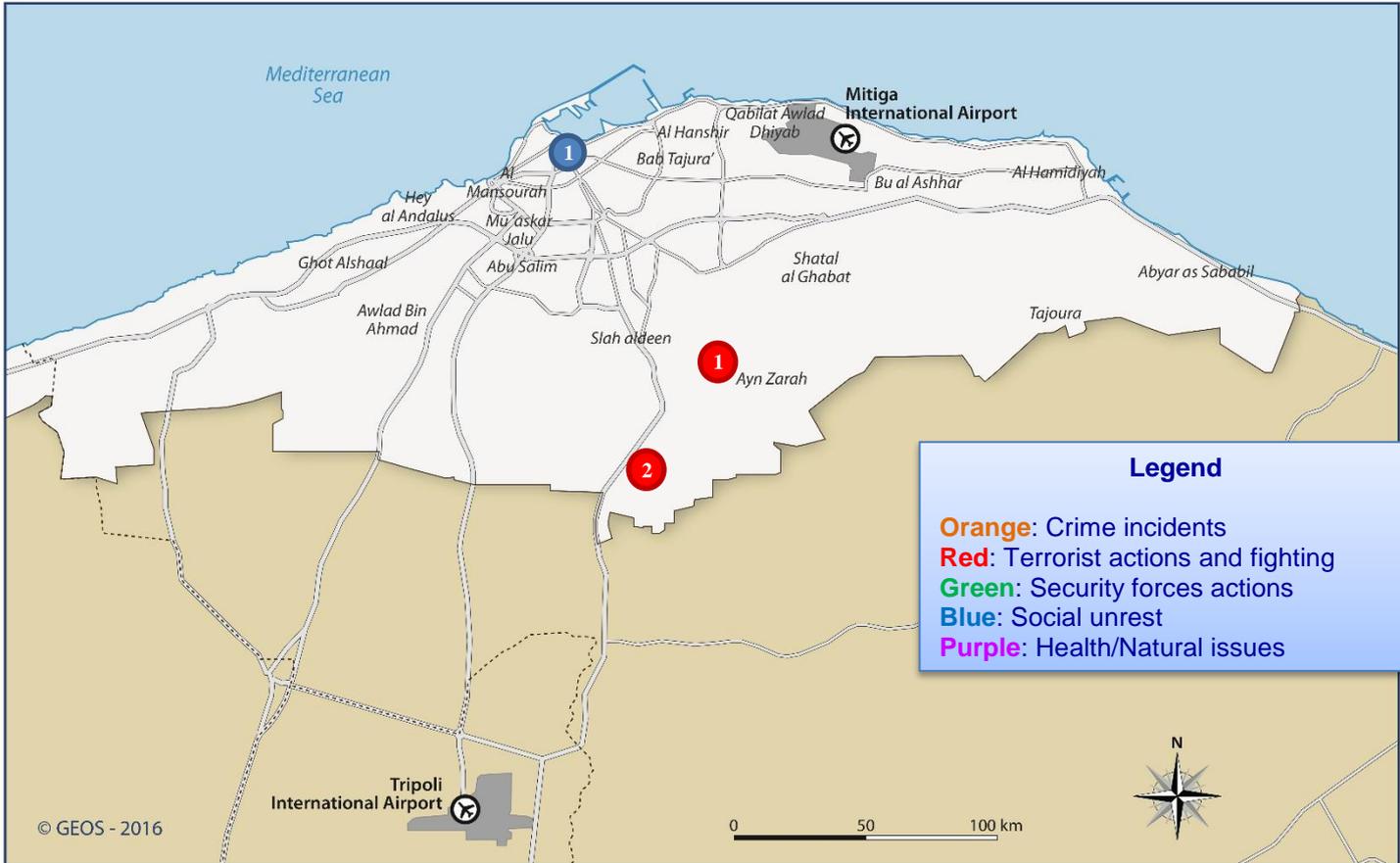
**Legend**

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

- February 13<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Cairo: Meeting between Prime Minister F.Sarraj and Marshal Haftar. Discussions on the implementation of a National Guard on a new political process.
- 1 February 12<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Shabiyat of Sirte (north), southern sector of Sirte, El-Mabrouk: LNA airstrikes targeting jihadist positions.
- 2 February 10<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Shabiyat of Benghazi (northeast), eastern sector of Benghazi, Rajma air base: Announcement of the arrest by the LNA of 42 officers for treason.
- February 9<sup>th</sup> 2017:** The Turkish Prime Minister announces the resumption of flights of the national airline to Libya in the coming days.



- 3 **February 9<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Shabiyat of Jufrah (centre): LNA airstrikes against positions of the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG - pro-GNA). At least 2 dead and 12 wounded.
- 4 **February 4<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Shabiyat of Al-Jabal al-Akhdar (northeast), Al-Bayda: Arrest of 2 senior officers allegedly carried out by LNA forces.



- 1 **February 11<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Tripoli, district of Wadi Rabi and Ain Zara (south): Clashes between militias from Tripoli and Misrata.
- February 11<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Announcement of a dozen new militias supporting the LNG.
- 1 **February 9<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Tripoli, Martyrs' Square: Tenses reported on the account of a military parade of the militias' forces supporting the former Prime Minister, Khalifa Ghwell.
- 2 **February 8<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Tripoli, Habda, Sakheddin and Abusalim neighbourhoods: Sporadic clashes reported around 1700 PM (local time) between several rival militias.

**Upcoming event:**

- **April 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2017:** Libya Investment Summit 2017 – Istanbul.



## II. Events of the week

**Politics / Diplomacy:** The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Angelino Alfano announced on 02/09 that the opening of the Consulate of Italy was currently being examined, in order to strengthen diplomatic links with Libya and to manage the consular work, which is actually done only by the Italian Embassy in Tunisia. This announcement has been made while the special delegate of the United Nations, Martin Kobler who is expected to leave his position shortly, renewed this week his call towards the international chancelleries to re-open their official missions in Libya. **He also confirmed the progressive strengthening of the presence of the United Nations in Tripoli, specifying that building had been selected to welcome the United Nations employees. However, as the security context remains highly unstable in the Libyan capital city, only Turkey and Italy re-opened their Embassies there over the past two months.**

**Politics / South:** A political gathering with the main regional and local authorities of the Fezzan occurred on 02/08 and 02/09 on the Tamanhint air base near Sebha. Deputies from this territory in the Tobruk's Parliament also took part to this meeting. Talks were mainly about the dysfunction of the infrastructures, especially the recurrent electricity or Internet and telecommunication shortages, which often generate local protests. Moreover, the construction project of a refinery near the town of Obari was also discussed during this meeting, as well as the possible future re-opening of the Sebha airport, which could strengthen the region's economic development.

A similar meeting was held on 02/09 between civil society's organizations and deputies of the southern regions. The latter are indeed regularly accused not to attend the gatherings of the Parliament in Tobruk to defend the interest of Libya's southern regions. These last events also happened after the resignation of a member of the Presidential Council (executive structure presiding the GNA), who comes from Sebha, on 01/02, and whose replacement by an official from Fezzan is currently being negotiated.

**Security / Tripoli:** New armed clashes were reported on the afternoon of 02/08 in the South of Tripoli, in the area of Abusalim, Salaheddin and Habdah between Misrata armed militias (close to K.Ghwell) and Gneiwa armed militias (close to GNA). While the day of 02/09 remained relatively calm, sporadic clashes happened again the night between 02/09 and 10. The situation then progressively normalized.



Clashes on 02/08 in Tripoli

## III. Focus of the week

### Militias

The security context was tensed again this past week in Tripoli, following the show of strength displayed by armed militias, which are close to political officials opposed to the government of F.Sarraj (GNA), supported by international community.

### **GEOS analysis:**

*The creation of a new military force, based in Tripoli and named Libyan National Guard (LNG) was announced on 02/09, after the fusion of several militias, most of them being from Misrata and having fought against IS in Sirte during the second semester of 2016. They are commanded by the Brigadier General Mahmud Al-Zigal, and would be close to the former Prime Minister Khakifa Ghwell, who has been accused of power actions in the capital city, especially in January 2017, when several key ministries were temporarily seized by armed troops. Media sources indeed reported that the LNG was initially formed in 2015, by Tripoli's former authorities that were under the direction of K. Ghwell.*

*However, General Al-Zigal officially told that the LNG did not belong to any political authority and would not be subjected to tribal, political or regional conflicts, which currently tear the country apart. He also added that the mission of the LNG would be to secure the capital city, especially official buildings and diplomatic missions, as well as strategic places like airports.*

*The militias, which compose this rival coalition to the GNA also started a military parade near the Martyrs' Square in the centre of Tripoli on 02/09, to show their unity and their strength while 50 vehicles reportedly took part to the parade, thus disputing the legitimacy of the GNA and its authority. The GNA of F.Sarraj spoke out against these last developments on 02/12, saying that they could contribute to emphasize the instability of the security in Tripoli and could cause violent armed clashes. The Libyan Prime Minister also qualified the LNG of "parallel corps to the Presidential Guard", the latter was indeed created by the GNA in May 2016 to protect the State buildings, especially ministries. United States also expressed their concern following this show of strength by anti-GNA forces. Therefore, any travel in Libya remains strongly discouraged, including in Tripoli.*

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- Logistic Assistance
- Crisis management (hotline, etc.)
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**Risk Watch and Analysis Department**  
 45-47 Bd Paul Vaillant Couturier 94 200 Ivry sur Seine - France  
 +33 1 77 74 15 10  
[www.groupegeos.com](http://www.groupegeos.com)

**GEOS Libya**  
 Tripoli – Libya  
 +218 (0) 91 678 5105  
[libye@groupegeos.com](mailto:libye@groupegeos.com)