



## Weekly Libya .Xplored Preview

05 May, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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Quality Management  
QMS/112016/001

ISO 14001:2015  
Environmental Management  
EMS/112016/001

BS OHSAS 18001:2007  
Occupational Health & Safety Management  
HMS/112016/001

ISO 18788:2015  
Security Operations Management  
SMS/022016/001

ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012  
Quality Assurance Management  
SAS/072014/001



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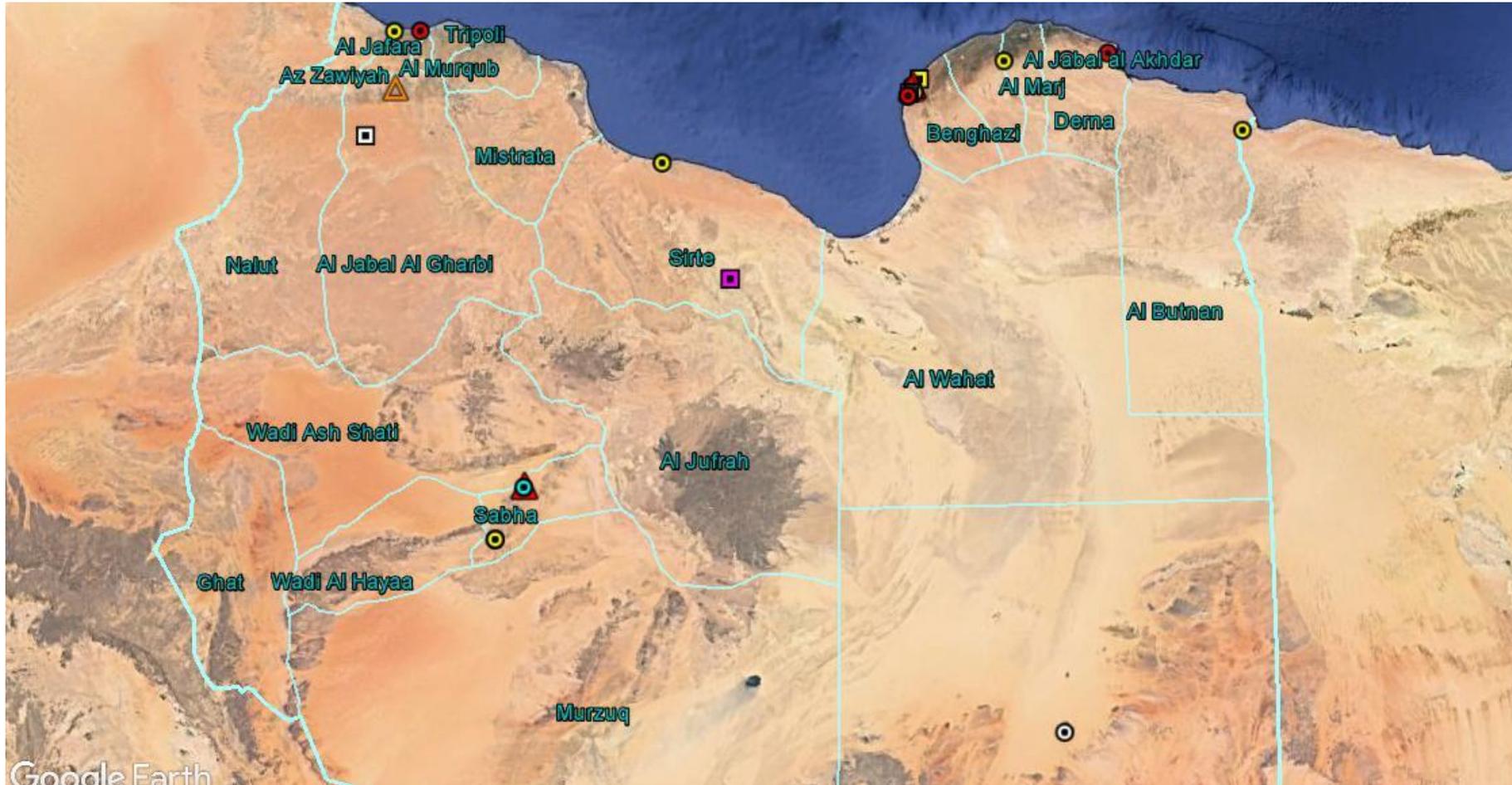
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**ACTIVITY MAP**



<b>MSS GLOBAL</b>		ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management OHS/112016/001	ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management EMS/112016/001	BS OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management HSM/112016/001	ISO 18788:2015 Security Operations Management SOS/072014/001	ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012 Quality Assurance Management SAS/072014/001					
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## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- Fighting continues in Sabha between GNA aligned forces and the LNA. Concerns remain of conflagration along tribal fault lines in the area which may be difficult to contain. Further airstrikes are also possible around Jufra as the LNA looks to disrupt supply lines and reinforcements supporting operations in Sabha.
- The LNA has begun its assault against Sabri and Suq Al-Hout. The operation is expected to be a protracted affair marked by lulls and intense periods of fighting.
- There may be attempts to destabilise the security situation around the strategic Coastal Road, west of Tripoli. The road remains vulnerable and is subject to closure with little to no notice and security incidents involving militia and criminal groups.
- Further 'retaliatory' attacks are possible along the western coast as anti-smuggling operations continue.

### Medium to long term outlook

- A series of meetings at the end of April/ start of May have increased hopes that progress could be made towards breaking the current political impasse. Many hurdles remain, however, including current fighting in Sabha which could still derail the recent tentative progress.
- Opposing ideologies which have been surfacing for some time now in Misrata, are now threatening the city's unity. While attempts are underway to heal the rift internally, the ongoing power struggle between the GNA and the GNC will continue to exacerbate the situation as will the LNA push against Misratan aligned units in Fezzan.
- IS fighters are regrouping in remote areas of Libya including central, south and southwest regions with reports also suggesting they are infiltrating the Great Tripoli area and blending in with the local population. Although their capabilities are severely diminished, reducing their ability to control large areas, the group retains the capability to conduct terrorist attacks. Threats towards city locations such as Tripoli cannot be ruled out, but it is considered more likely that the group will target critical national infrastructure in remote areas, such as some of the more isolated oil fields and facilities in the South West.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- GNA President Fayez Sarraj and LNA Commander, Field Marshal Haftar have met in Abu Dhabi and achieved what has been described as a 'significant breakthrough.'
- UK Foreign Minister Boris Johnston has visited Tripoli in a show of support following the Haftar/ Sarraj meeting with rumours he is also then intending to visit Tobruk.

### Security

- Fighting between the LNA and the Third Force has continued this week in Sabha. The majority of attacks reported came from the LNA as they continue to mount almost daily airstrikes and IDF attacks.
- Awlad Suleiman has been involved in further tribal fighting in Sabha. The fighting was not directly linked to the ongoing fight between LNA and Third Force however and was triggered after a criminal shooting in the city.
- An altercation between armed groups and an IED near Zawiyah along the coastal road has raised tensions. There is potential that a group is looking to trigger militia fault lines along the route to destabilise the area.
- The LNA has begun its assault in Sabri. Opposition forces have launched at least two IDF attacks this week into civilian areas in 'retaliation' for LNA operations.
- Armed clashes took place between Janzour Knights (JK) and the Tripoli Revolutionary Brigade (TRB) in Gargaresh over control of Regatta Compound. Though fighting was brief, the incident highlights the

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persistent threat in the city as a result of inter-militia competition over resources and control, whether they are strategic allies or not.

- The GNC remains a potential source of destabilisation within the capital. A recent report from an unnamed source suggested that GNC aligned commanders in the southern suburbs of Tripoli have discussed an operation to retake lost territory in the city.
- The LNA has taken control of Al Khuwaymat airbase in Wahat Province from the BDB. The base is close to the Kufra border and sits adjacent to the main north/south road.

## KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
15 May 2017	Third anniversary of Operation Dignity (LNA)	Celebrations expected, mainly in the East along with a large military parade
11 June 2017	Anniversary of the Zawia second uprising	
25 – 27 June 2017	Eid al Fitr	End of Ramadan
20 August 2017	Anniversary of the Liberation of Tripoli	
01 – 03 September 2017	Eid ul Adha	Feast of Sacrifice
16 September 2017	Martyrs Day	
22 September 2017	Hijri New Year	
23 October 2017	Liberation Day	National holiday
16 September 2017	Martyrs Day	

## THREAT MATRIX

Region	Political	Terrorism	Militancy	Crime	K&R
Tripolitania	High-Extreme	High	High	High	High
Cyrenaica	Moderate	High-Extreme	Moderate	High	High
Fezzan	High	Moderate	High-Extreme	High	High

Threat Scale

Minimal

Low

Moderate

High

Extreme

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### Governance

#### Haftar and Sarraj hold positive meeting in Abu Dhabi

On 02 May, GNA President Fayez Sarraj finally met with LNA commander, Field Marshal Haftar in Abu Dhabi. The pair last met face to face in January 2015 in Marj and were due to meet in February in Cairo, however at the last minute, Haftar refused. The meeting in Abu Dhabi reportedly came after Haftar was put under pressure by his international backers.

The meeting in Abu Dhabi has been hailed as a success with a statement by the UAE Foreign Ministry stating that the talks had achieved a 'significant breakthrough.' Various reports suggest that the two men have agreed



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to hold elections in March 2018 with rumours now circulating that Haftar intends to stand for President. Reports also indicated that the two discussed reducing the Presidential Council to three members from nine. Although earlier reports had suggested this was to represent the three regions, following the meeting, reports suggested that two of those positions would be taken by the President of the HoR, Aquila Saleh, and Haftar.

**UK: Boris Johnston visits Tripoli following Sarraj/Haftar meeting**

Days after the Sarraj/Haftar meeting, Boris Johnston, the UK Foreign Minister, flew to Tripoli to meet with Sarraj. He was then rumoured to be visiting Tobruk the following day. He was reported to have ‘thrown his weight’ behind efforts to establish a unified and stable government. Following the brief meeting, Johnston stated that ‘Libya’s political and social groups need to seize the momentum offered by the welcome meeting... to set out a path towards Libyan reconciliation and unity.’ Johnston has previously advocated for Haftar to have a role in the new government of Libya.

**Security**

**Sabha: LNA continues to keep pressure on Third Force while further tribal fighting occurs**

The LNA has continued to keep the pressure on Third Force this week by mounting nearly daily artillery attacks and airstrikes against their positions. Third Force has apparently not retaliated suggesting that they lack the capability and support at present to mount any attacks against 12 Brigade in their current positions. Although local negotiations have yet to result in a ceasefire, the issue was raised at the meeting on 02 May between Haftar and Sarraj, which could lead to progress towards a peace deal.

On 04 May, the shooting of a policeman triggered tribal clashes in Sabha between the Hahameed and the Awlad Suleiman tribes. At least 12 people were reported to have been killed and 15 injured. The incident highlights the tribal make-up of the area and why there have been concerns that fighting between Third Force and the LNA could result in conflagration along tribal fault lines.

**Coastal Road: Clashes and an IED near Zawiyah raise tensions**

On 03 May, the coastal road was blocked briefly at the Al Samood Checkpoint, at the eastern entrance of Zawiyah. The road was reported to have been blocked after an altercation between two armed groups. The incident on 03 May was reported to have been resolved however on 04 May, an ‘explosive bag’ detonated at a Warshefana checkpoint near Bridge 27 along the coastal road. The Zawiyah News suggested the device had been planted by people aligned to Abu Obeida (LIFG) in an attempt to trigger a feud between Warshefana and the Janzour Knights.

**Benghazi: LNA begins its assault against Sabri and Suq al-Hout**

On 04 May, the LNA was reported to have begun their assault against Sabri under supporting air cover. The LNA has increased their tempo of operations over the past few weeks in the area, mounting airstrikes and IDF attacks to take out opposition positions identified via reconnaissance. An order also went out for civilians living in the vicinity to leave their homes to avoid becoming casualties. This move appeared to have been influenced by criticism the LNA had received during earlier engagements in Ganfouda and Qawarishah.

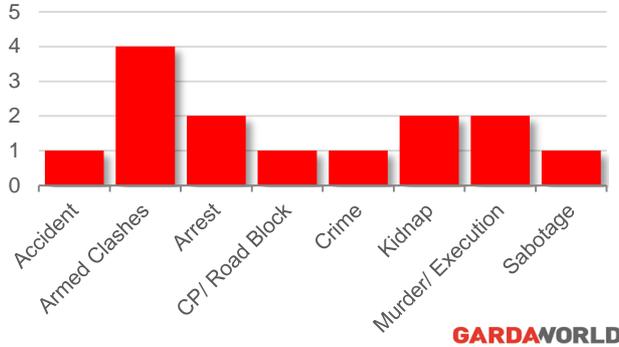
Opposition forces have launched at least two IDF attacks this week into civilian areas in ‘retaliation’ for LNA operations. The attacks are designed to reduce LNA support in Benghazi and stretch resources. Further IDF attacks along with VBIEDs and shootings are possible as supporting elements try to relieve some pressure on those inside rebel-held areas.



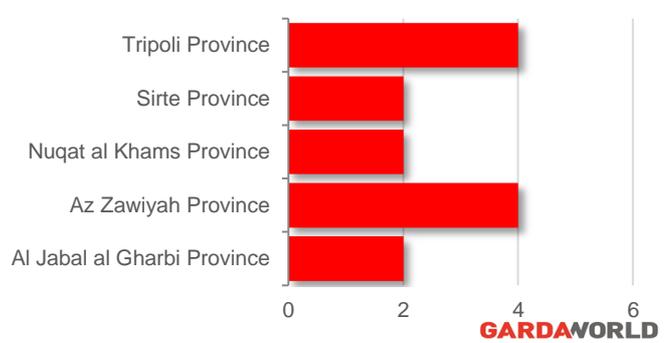
**WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT**

**Tripolitania**

Incidents by type, 27 Apr – 03 May



Incidents by district, 27 Apr – 03 May

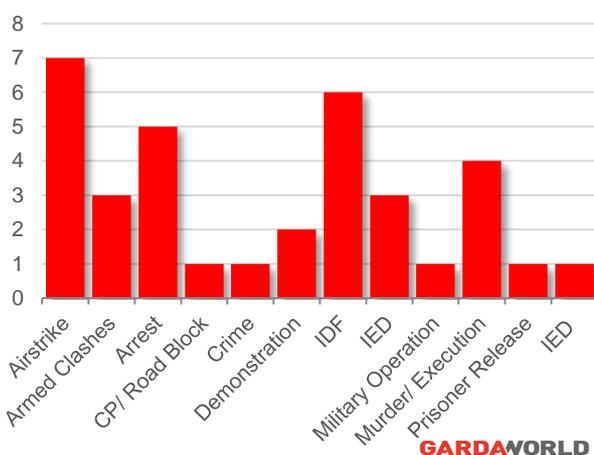


**Significant activity**

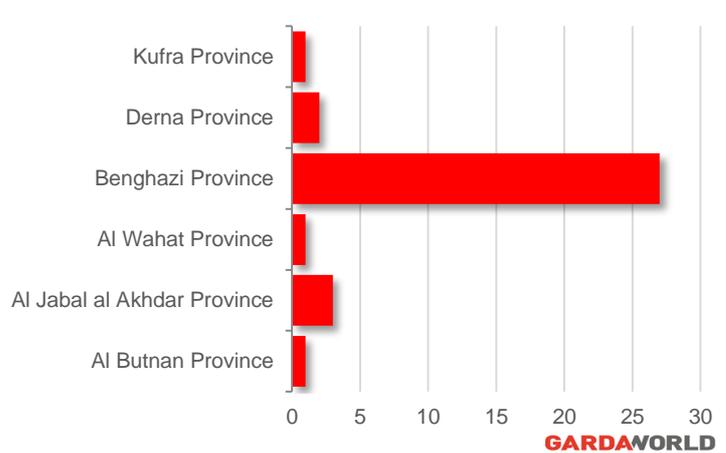
- Armed Clashes - 29 Apr 17, Tripoli Province, Gargaresh: A firefight took place outside the Regatta Compound in Gargaresh between Janzour Knights (JK) and Tripoli Revolutionary Brigades (TRB). TRB were fighting for control of the compound from JZ. No casualties were reported, and the situation was reported to have been resolved within a few hours.
- Armed Clashes - 29 Apr 17, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Matiga Airport: Clashes erupted between Bitti and Anzam groups at Matiga Airport during an anti-human trafficking drive. The situation is reported to have been resolved however tensions may remain.
- CP/ Road Block - 02 May 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Reports indicate that the coastal road was briefly blocked near the eastern entrance of Zawiyah at Al Sumood Checkpoint.
- Crime - 02 May 17, Nuqat al Khams Province, Zuwara: Unknown assailants have reportedly raided a Naval forces compound in the city of Zuwara. The assailants reportedly vandalised the compound and destroyed the equipment there. A spokesperson from the Naval forces in Zuwara, Brigadier Ayoub Qassim has said that the attack is thought to be a retaliatory attack from fuel smuggling gangs due to the recent seizure of two ships off the Libyan coast.
- IED - 04 May 17, Al Jafara Province, Warshefana: Reports indicate that an IED detonated at Twaibiah checkpoint on the coastal road between Tripoli and Zawiyah. The blast caused material damage to the checkpoint, but there were no reports of casualties. The Zawiyah News Page on Facebook is suggesting that the device was emplaced by Zawiyah groups aligned to Abu Obedia (LIFG) in order to trigger a feud between JK and Warshefana.

**Cyrenaica**

Incidents by type, 27 Apr – 03 May



Incidents by district, 27 Apr – 03 May



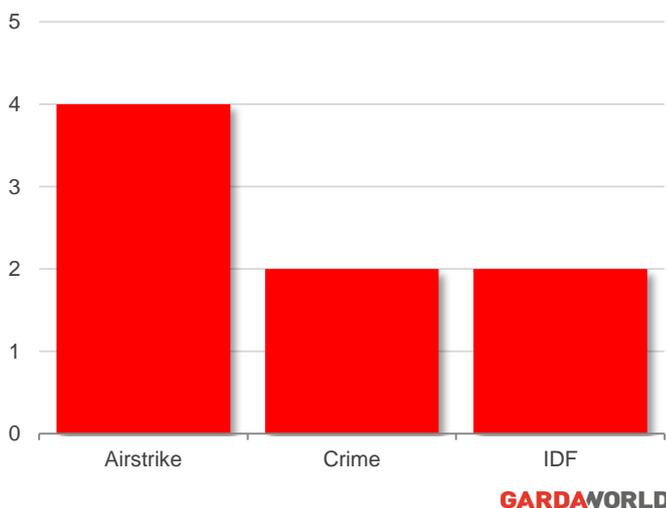
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**Significant activity**

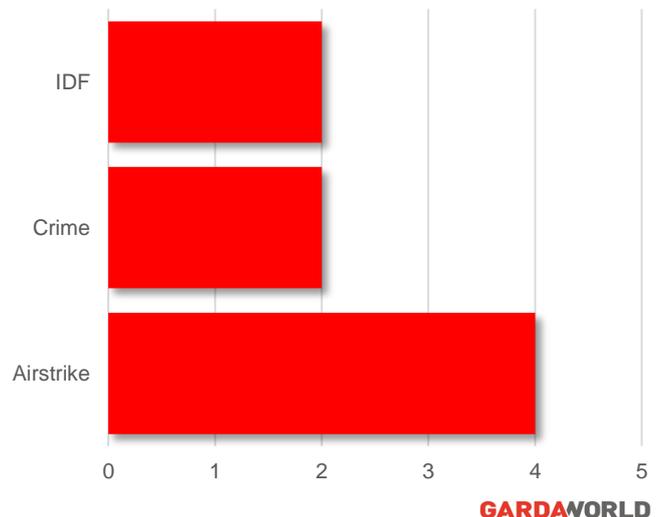
- Armed Clashes - 27 Apr 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Armed clashes took place between the LNA and opposition forces in Sabri. One LNA soldier was killed and a tank destroyed in the fighting.
- IED - 28 Apr 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: RSCB elements have destroyed an iconic building in Suq al-Hout causing anger amongst Benghazi residents. The building is believed to have been destroyed to give RSCB a clear line of fire from the area as expectations of an LNA assault on the area increase. Responding to the anger, RSCB has claimed the building was destroyed by an LNA airstrike.
- Military Operation - 29 Apr 17, Al Wahat Province, Al Khuwaymat: Libyan Air Force Operations Room Commander Brigadier Mohamed Manfour stated that the LNA had taken control of Al Khuwaymat Airport. Martyr Ali Themen Brigade, commanded by Colonel Abdullah Tabaui 'entered the base which was under the control of a BDB Battalion led by Ziad Belam. Manfour denied that the base had been captured by Chadian fighters. The base is located approximately 100km southwest of Sarir Oilfield near the border between Al Wahat province and Kufra province. The airport is located adjacent to the main road running from Kufra to the coast.
- Airstrike - 04 May 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Airstrikes took place against targets in Sabri. LNA reportedly began their advance.

**Fezzan**

Incidents by type, 27 Apr – 03 May



Incidents by district, 27 Apr – 03 May



**Significant activity**

- Airstrike - 28 Apr 17, Al Jufra Province, Sawknah: The LNA launched airstrikes from Brak Shati targeted against the Martyr Ehmouda Genefid Brigade camp in Sawknah. The brigade stated they were about to launch an attack against IS militants who abducted three people from Weddan on 27 April. The brigade stated that there were no casualties but some material damage.
- Airstrike - 02 May 17, Sabha Province, Tamanhint Airport: LNA jets conduct airstrikes against opposition forces stationed at Tamanhint airbase.
- Murder/ Execution - 04 May 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: Yahya Al Mayasy, a police officer from the Awlad Suleiman tribe, was shot and killed during a carjacking/ robbery outside a bank in Sabha. The incident resulted in tribal fighting between the Awlad Suleiman and Hahameed tribes.
- Armed Clashes - 04 May 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: Armed clashes broke out in Sabha, between gunmen from the Mahameed tribe and armed groups from the Awlad Suleiman tribe. These clashes seem to have been instigated when gunmen from the Mahameed tribe killed a Yahya Al Mayasy, a police officer from the Awlad Suleiman tribe during a carjacking outside al Tajari Bank on Gamal Abdel Nasser Street. Fifteen people were killed and 12 wounded during the clashes.

**ACRONYM LIST**

- AAS – Ansar al-Sharia (AQ affiliate)
- AQ - Al-Qaeda
- BAM – Al Bunyan Al Marsous (Misrata aligned)
- BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade / Saraya Defend Benghazi (SDB) (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
- CNI – Critical National Infrastructure
- GATMJB - Operations Room for the Liberation of the City Ajdabiya and Support for Benghazi Rebels
- GECOL – General Electricity Company of Libya
- GMMR – Great Man-made River
- GNA – Government of National Accord (UN backed)
- GNC – General National Congress (Tripoli-based)
- HCN - Host Country National
- HoR – House of Representatives (Tobruk based)
- IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
- IED - Improvised Explosive Device
- IOC - International Oil Company
- IS - Islamic State
- LNA – Libyan National Army
- LPA – Libyan Political Agreement
- LROR - Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
- MoD - Ministry of Defense
- MoF - Ministry of Finance
- MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- MoHE - Ministry of Higher Education
- Mol - Ministry of Interior
- MoJ - Ministry of Justice
- MoO - Ministry of Oil
- MoT - Ministry of Transportation
- MSCD – Mujahideen Shura Council of Derna (AQ aligned)
- NFDK - No Further Details Known
- NGO - Non-Governmental Organization (aid/charity)
- NOC – National Oil Company
- NSG – National Salvation Government (GNC)
- NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report
- PAX - Person, Persons or Passenger
- PC – Presidency Council (GNA)
- PG – Presidential Guard
- PFG- Petroleum Facilities Guard
- PSC - Private Security Company
- PSD - Private Security Detail
- RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
- RSCB - Revolutionary Shura Council of Benghazi
- RTA - Road Traffic Accident
- SDB – Saraya Defend Benghazi / Benghazi Defense Brigade (BDB) (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
- TCN - Third Country National
- Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck
- UXO - Unexploded Ordnance



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