



**Weekly Libya .Xplored preview**

March 09, 2018

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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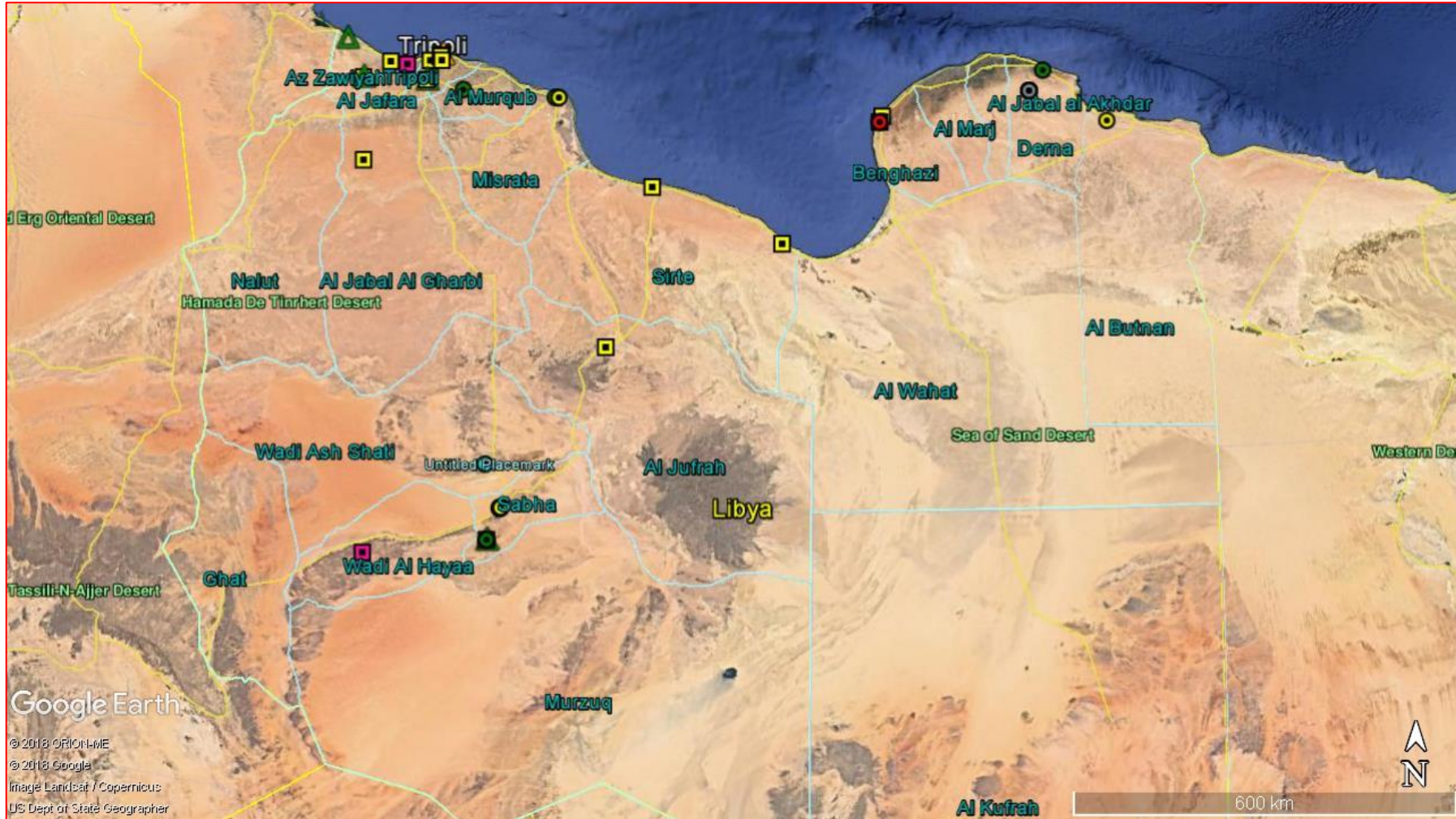
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**LIBYA ACTIVITY MAP**



IED	SAF	Armed Clash	Suicide Attack	VBIED	IDF	SA Fire	HG/Mine/RPG	CP Incident	Kidnap	Civil Unrest	Crime	Threat Warning	Accident	Military Op	Health	Airstrike

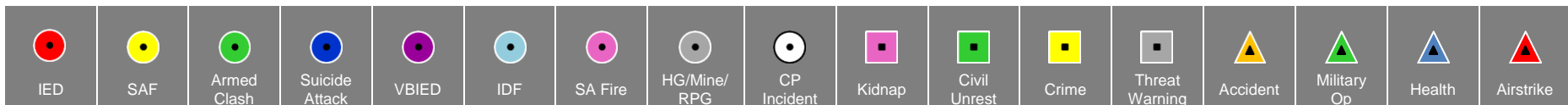
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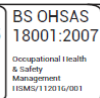
**TRIPOLI ACTIVITY MAP**



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## OUTLOOK

### Short-term outlook

- Heavy clashes are likely to continue in Sabha between the Awlad Suleiman and Tebu tribes.
- The threat to Matiga Airport remains high at present. Al-Bogra linked militia retains the intent to conduct attacks targeting Rada Deterrence Force (RDF) at the site.
- The threat of terrorist attack remains moderate in Tripoli. Recent reports of IS activity in the city cannot be ruled out.
- The threat of LNA operations into Derna has increased. The LNA has launched protracted IDF strikes against MSCD positions and repeatedly threatened to advance into the area.
- The threat in Benghazi is assessed to have increased following VBIED and IED attacks targeting civilians in Mosques on January 23 and February 09, and the subsequent revenge executions by Major Mahmoud al-Warfali of the LNA Special Forces on January 24.

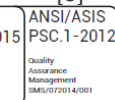
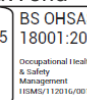
### Medium to long-term outlook

- As political talks fail to find any meaningful agreements, the concept of fresh elections has begun to gain traction amongst the political establishment. Deep divisions remain amongst the various factions, and an election blueprint has yet to be agreed. A number of those supporting the idea do not necessarily support the notion of a democratic establishment but are looking to exploit elections in a bid to gain power. The general population also remain skeptical of the political process and remain unclear what they would be voting for, highlighting the lack of structure and agreements currently around the process. The elections will trigger further posturing and maneuvering from various factions.
- IS continues to become bolder, mounting hit and run attacks against security forces and critical national infrastructure. They are also conducting criminal activity to raise funds and to help supply the group. The terrorist organization is believed to be trying to rebuild its capability in Libya and manpower is reported to be heading to the south of the country. IS will continue to benefit from the lack of political and security unity in Libya and may look to establish a fresh alliance with other extremist groups like al-Qaeda.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- The newly appointed GNA Minister of Interior has announced that Tripoli has now stabilized enough for the return of international contractors.
- The UN SRSG for Libya, Ghassan Salamé said that UNSMIL will open an office in Benghazi. No timeframe was given for the opening.
- The head of the PC, Fayez Sarraj, met with Salamé in Tripoli on March 04. The two officials discussed the political situation, reaffirming their commitment to the LPA action plan.
- Salamé held meetings with representatives from Derna in Tripoli, to discuss the ongoing crisis in the city.
- According to a member of the HoR's Political Dialogue Committee, the HoR has rejected the nomination of the President of the HCS, Abdulrahman Asswehly for membership of a new three person PC.
- The head of US AFRICOM has reaffirmed their commitment to support the GNA and fight terrorist groups in Libya. It assesses IS current capabilities as "dispersed and disorganized and likely capable of little more than localized attacks."
- A HoR representative from Kufra, Jibril Oheida, has alleged that he and a colleague received threats from a tribal group in Tobruk, which forced them to stay away from HoR meetings.
- RDF has announced that it would be willing to extradite Hashem Abedi, the brother of the Manchester bomber, to the UK if requested by Libya's public prosecutor.
- Sarraj met with HoR members from southern Libya in Tripoli on March 01. Sarraj condemned the ongoing clashes in Sabha and called for an immediate ceasefire between the warring parties. The attendees agreed to form a committee to host meetings with the various stakeholders in Sabha.
- UNSMIL has also expressed concerns about the violence in Sabha. A statement said that six civilians had been killed and nine injured. "The hospital was hit repeatedly. Indiscriminate use of weapons in densely populated areas must be stopped," it said.



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### Security

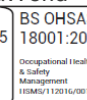
- UNSMIL has reported 13 civilian fatalities and 133 injuries during hostilities in Libya during February 2018. The majority were caused by IEDs, followed by SAF, ERW and then IDF. Most casualties occurred in Benghazi, followed by Sabha and then Warshefana.
- Libyan national Hussein Zayet has escaped from Saudi Arabia according to Libyan media. Zayet has been staying in the Libyan Consulate in Jeddah for several months after two of his associates were arrested during a visit to perform Umrah.
- The Coastal Highway was reopened between Janzour and Zawiyah, however, the route remains insecure.
- Unconfirmed media reports claim that five IS members were arrested by Rada Deterrence Force (RDF) on March 03. The group was allegedly planning attacks in Misrata and Tripoli and had explosive devices and weapons.
- A demonstration after a football match in Tripoli turned violent on March 03. Several protestors were injured and local Tripoli militia members fired into the air to disperse fans.
- A helicopter crashed on take-off at Tripoli's Matiga Airport on March 05. No casualties were reported and flights were unaffected.
- A Pakistani engineer was kidnapped 8km west of Obari on March 02. He was released unharmed on March 05.
- Around 900 people have been displaced during the fighting in Sabha.
- Aerial reconnaissance has been ongoing throughout the week and LNA jets have redeployed to Brak Al-Shati airbase. Airstrikes in Sabha are threatened if a peace agreement is not made.
- Clashes in Sabha have continued to intensify. Artillery, tanks and heavy weaponry in the Nasiriya area are leading to increased casualties.
- Egyptian Air Force, in cooperation with the Egyptian Army and Libyan border guards, has conducted airstrikes targeting vehicles crossing the border into Libya. A spokesman said that eleven vehicles were destroyed, after being spotted carrying weapons and travelling across the border.
- LNA Saiqa forces continue to riot in Benghazi. Their commander, who has been rumored to have been arrested, has called for calm.

### Oil and gas

- Force Majeure was called at Sharara Oilfield after a group closed the pipeline near Zintan on March 04. The pipeline was reopened on March 05.
- Reports indicate that a deal has been made with the PFG to reopen El-Feel oilfield on March 08.

## KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
April 02-12	Tripoli International Fair, Omar Muktar exhibition center	
April 28	Zawiyah Municipal Elections	
May 01	May Day	Public Holiday
May 15 – June 14	Ramadan	Dependent on moon sighting
June 14 – 15	Eid al-Fitr	Public Holiday
August 20	Day of Arafah	Public Holiday
August 21 - 25	Eid al-Adha	Public Holiday



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## THREAT MATRIX

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

Threat Scale

Minimal

Low

Moderate

High

Extreme

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### Governance

#### AFRICOM provides assessment on Libya

On March 09, the commander of US AFRICOM, General Thomas Waldhauser gave the 2018 AFRICOM Posture Statement to members of the US Senate Committee on Armed Services. He provided an assessment on the threats in Libya and outlined AFRICOM's objectives in relation to the country for the coming year. These are to:

- degrade terrorist groups who threaten U.S. interests and threaten to destabilize Libya and the region;
- avert civil war;
- support the political reconciliation process towards a unified central government;
- and assist to curb the flow of illegal migrants into Europe via Libya.

Waldhauser's assessment on Libya was mainly positive with regards to extremists groups but warned of risks from political instability.

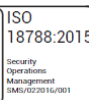
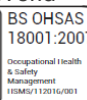
He described IS as still having limited capabilities:

*"Following its late 2016 expulsion from Sirte, ISIS-Libya remains dispersed and disorganized and likely capable of little more than localized attacks. Meanwhile, al-Qa'ida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in Libya maintains a low profile yet still aims to use illicit means to move fighters and weapons and focuses on building influence within Libya's various extremist groups."*

### Oil and gas

#### Force majeure called by NOC at Sharara

Whilst only for a short period, there has been yet another example this week of groups holding the country's oil production to ransom. The oil pipeline running between Sharara Oilfield and Zawiyah Refinery was shut down again in Zintan, allegedly by the same group that closed the pipeline in August 2017. On this occasion the pipeline was closed only for a day, but the stoppage still cost an estimated \$30 million.



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## WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

## Tripolitania

## Significant activity

- Rescue - Mar 01, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Offshore: Libyan Navy rescued 100 immigrants at sea.
- Arrest - Mar 03, morning, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Five suspected IS members were arrested in Tripoli by RDF. Images of suicide vests, explosives and weapons were released, along with video confessions from the men.
- Demonstration - Mar 03, 12:35, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Around 25 people protested in Algeria Square, Tripoli. The protesters remained peaceful with no incidents reported.
- Demonstration - Mar 03, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Protestors became violent after a football match in Tripoli. Several protestors were injured and arrests were made.
- Rescue - Mar 04, Offshore, Zuwara: 94 migrants were rescued off the coast of Western Libya.
- Sabotage - Mar 04, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Zintan: A farmer closed the pipeline running from Sharara to Zawiyah. The pipe had allegedly caused pollution to his land so was turned off in protest.
- Accident - Mar 04, afternoon, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: A Mi-14 Air Ambulance helicopter crashed at Matiga Airport after hitting a powerline on take-off. No casualties were reported and airport operations were unaffected.
- Prisoner Release - Mar 03, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: RDF released a female from Tajura as she was traveling through Matiga. Al-Bogra allegedly threatened attacks against the airport if she was not released.
- Kidnap - Mar 07, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Ayoub Mohamed Magtuf Saqri was kidnapped south of Zawiyah on Wednesday

## Cyrenaica

## Significant activity

- IED Find - Mar 02, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: An IED was found near the Ministry of Education. Security forces defused the device.
- RPG - Mar 01, Derna Province, Derna: RPGs were fired at an LNA location west of Derna.
- Shooting - Mar 01, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: A civilian was shot and injured after a dispute. The man was treated in hospital.
- IDF - Feb 28, Derna Province, Derna: LNA conducted a mortar strike against MSCD positions in Derna.
- Armed Clashes - Mar 02, Derna Province, Daher Al-Hamer: LNA forces clashed with MSCD in south west Derna.
- IDF - Mar 04, Derna Province, Derna: Two women and child were injured when LNA launched artillery strikes against MSCD positions.
- CP/ Road Block - Mar 05, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Several roads were blocked with barriers and burning tires.
- Civil Unrest - Mar 06, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Although not widely reported, Saiga forces are continuing to burn tires and block routes in Benghazi. The telephone network is believed to have been stopped temporarily, perhaps as a means to reduce communications from the dissenting group.
- Mine Strike - Mar 08, Derna Province, Derna: Three LNA soldiers were killed when a mine detonated near Derna.

## Fezzan

## Significant activity

- IDF - Mar 02, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Tamazawa: Mortar rounds struck Al-Majd Primary School north west of Brak Al-Shati.
- Armed Clashes - Mar 02, Sabha Province, Sabha: Armed clashes continued in Sabha between 6th Infantry Bde and Tebu forces.



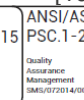
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- Kidnap - Mar 02, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari: A Pakistani engineer, working at El-Feel oilfield and a Libyan Engineer working at Obari Power Station were stopped and kidnapped by an armed group. The Libyan man was released immediately. The Pakistani engineer was released on March 05.
- Military Operation - Mar 04, Sabha Province, Sabha: LNA jets have flown across Sabha, likely in a show of force towards warring tribes in the area.
- Armed Clashes - Mar 04, Sabha Province, Sabha Castle: Clashes occurred throughout the day between 6th Infantry Bde and Tebu forces.
- Armed Clashes - Mar 05, evening, Sabha Province, Sabha: Clashes continued in Sabha between Awlad Suleiman and Tebu.
- IDF - Mar 04, Sabha Province, Sabha Castle: Tebu forces launched an artillery strike targeting 6th Infantry Bde HQ.
- Armed Clashes - Mar 06, Sabha Province, Sabha: Clashes continued in Sabha. Sabha Medical Centre reports three people including one child killed and 12 people injured in the latest clashes.
- Shooting - Mar 07, Sabha Province, Sabha: Two people were killed in a drive by shooting in Sacra area.



**ACRONYM LIST**

- AIOR – Anti-IS Operations Room (Sabratah)
- 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
- 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
- LIFG – Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
- 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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