



**Weekly Libya .Xplored Preview**

September 08, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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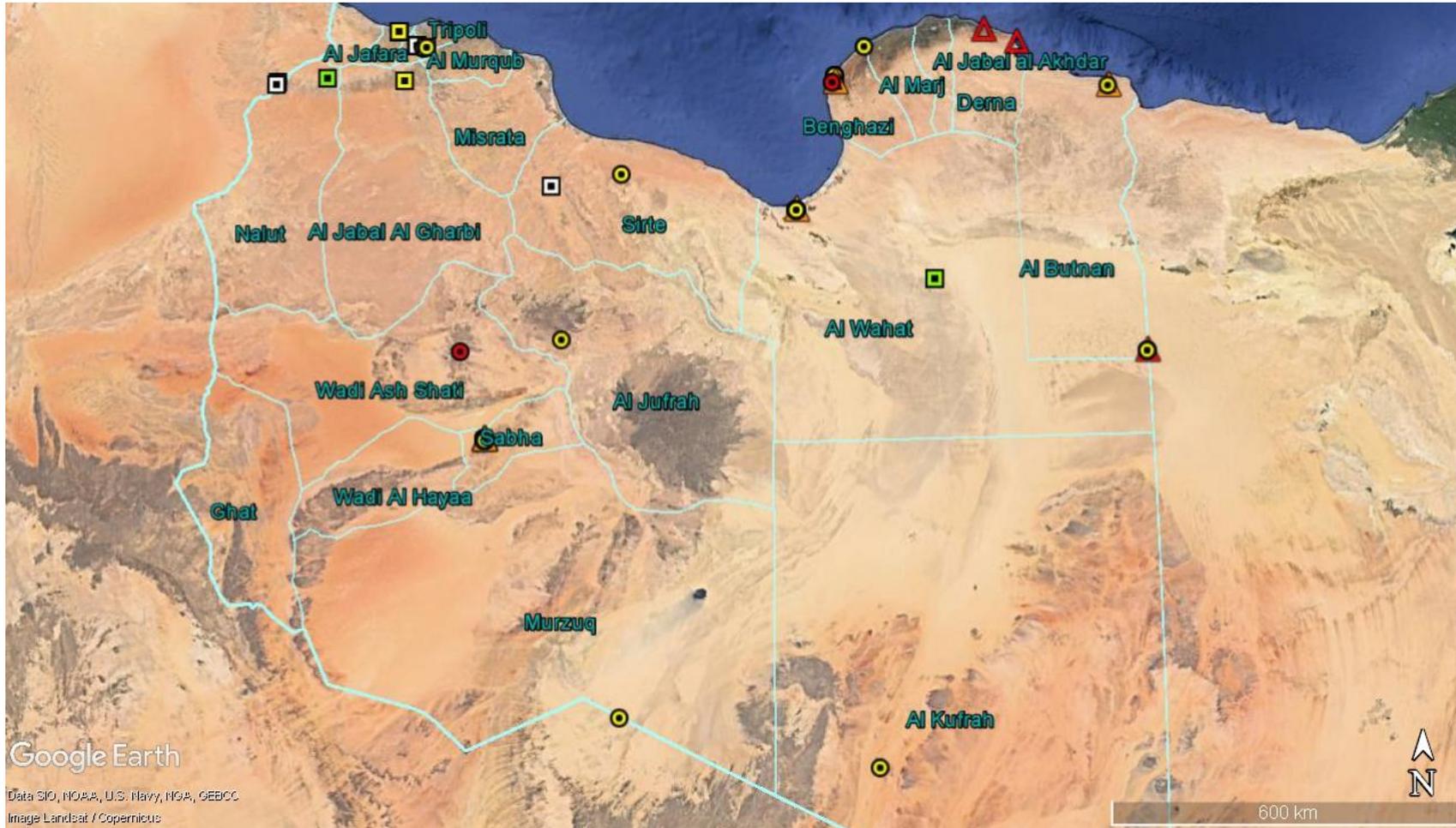
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**ACTIVITY MAP**



IED	SAF	CPX	Suicide	VBIED	IDF	SA Fire	HG/Mine/RPG	Kidnap	Civil Unrest	Crime	Accident	Health

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[3]

		ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management QMS/112016/001 7818	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 SMS/072014/001					
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## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- Political tension is likely to continue following the appointment of the Deputy Minister of Interior; a controversial figure from the Awageer tribe in Benghazi.
- Tensions are high in the oil crescent following an increase in IS activity which has prompted both the LNA and BAM to send reinforcements. An increase in troop levels from BAM and the LNA once again increases the risk of the confrontation between the two with the LNA still perceived as threat to BAM. There is an increased threat towards the LNA held oil installations along the crescent.
- Tripoli is expected to stay calm in the short term. However, clashes around the southern extremities of the city remain possible in the coming weeks.
- Tensions remain elevated along the Zuwara, Sabratah and Zawiyah coastal areas due to a number of issues including a complex security environment involving fuel smuggling and people trafficking.

### Medium to long term outlook

- The political and security environment in Libya continues to absorb the impact of the GCC move to isolate Qatar. The east of the country remains supportive, looking to exploit the situation and reduce the influence of in country opponents, while simultaneously improving international support.
- GNA President Serraj and LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar, remain central to international stakeholders' attempts to unify east and west. However, alternative solutions are being pursued by other entities with opposing factions. As factions move closer to a possible deal, tensions are likely to increase inside Libya, and there is potential for some level of fragmentation of their support bases. As a result, new alliances may be formed as progress leaves some with reducing levels of influence.
- The remnants of the GNC, which has allegedly benefited from Qatari support, remain politically isolated after losing their footprint in the capital at the end of May. Their last attempt to take territory in the capital by force failed when their fighters were forced from Garabuli on July 11, and support appears to be waning. The threat is assessed to be evolving as the GNC, and associated forces adapt to the changing environment. While intent is assessed to remain, especially for the hardliners, tactics may alter.
- There are indications that IS is beginning to regroup in Libya. Some reports suggest fighters from Iraq and Syria are heading to North Africa. The group is reported to be present in a number of areas including south of Sirte, Bani Waled, and Sabratah.

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

### Governance

- The GNA has officially appointed a new military Chief of Staff and a Deputy Minister of Interior. The latter is controversial, being a former LNA Commander and coming from an influential tribe in Benghazi. Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, supported by three members of the PC, has opposed the appointment.
- The French Foreign Minister visited Libya this week to push forward the agreements made at a meeting in Paris, between Haftar and Serraj in July. He held meetings in Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi with most of the key senior leaders in Libya.
- At a ceremony marking the handover of Operation Sophia command from Italy to Spain, the Italian Defense Minister hinted at possible cooperation between the Italian military, Chad, and Niger, to help secure the Libyan border.
- The AU's High Level Committee on Libya will occur on September 9 in Congo. Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso has invited a number of influential Libyan parties that include the GNA President, LNA Commander, Head of the HoR and Head of the HCS. Only the Head of the HoR has confirmed attendance so far.
- The Mayor of Sabha has warned that the city of Sabha is on the verge of an environmental and health catastrophe, due to sewage problems faced by the city, after repeated attacks and robberies targeting the sewage water treatment plant.

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### Security

- The LNA has retaliated against IS by launching airstrikes and ground attacks against suspected IS militants west of Hawara.
- IS fighters took control of Wadi al-Ahmar for a short period, taking three Salafist hostages in the process.
- The Libyan Coastguard has intercepted the second vessel within the space of a week, accused of smuggling fuel from Libya. The Tanzanian flagged “Rex” is alleged to have been carrying over one million liters of diesel.
- The Joint Security Room of Bani Waled have warned of increased IS activity around the city.
- Unconfirmed reports state that militia groups from Misrata and elements of Benghazi Defense Brigades have been gathering in Tarhunah, south east of Tripoli during the morning of September 03. The Local Council of Tarhunah has denied the rumors.
- The Libyan Red Crescent branch of Benghazi has recovered an undisclosed number of dead bodies from a waste dump in Benghazi. The bodies displayed clear signs of torture and had been shot.
- Algerian Military authorities have sent an additional 3000 troops to the Libyan – Algerian border to bolster security in the region and deny any attempts to cross into Algeria.
- LNA’s Omar Mukhtar Operations Room Forces have tightened their siege on Derna by blocking roads leading to the eastern part of the city. .
- NATO is set to open the ‘South Hub’; a new headquarters in the Italian city of Napoli on September 5. The South Hub will be tasked with monitoring the ongoing events in Libya, the North African coast and the Sub-Saharan Africa region.
- The coastal road linking Misrata and Dafiniya district reopened on September 05, after a week of closure.

### Oil and gas

- 16 Foreign employees working at the Sharara Oilfield were allegedly evacuated due to the presence of an armed group in a nearby location. However, conflicting sources stated that the international staff left due to the ongoing closure of the al-Riyayna valve.
- Valves have been reopened on the al-Riyayna pipeline, allowing El Feel, Hamada and Sharara oilfields to reopen. The pipes were closed down two weeks ago by the Rayayina Patrols Brigade.

### Migration

- LNA forces recovered the bodies of 16 migrants found in the desert close to the Egyptian border, approx. 310km south of Tobruk.
- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has called for an end to arbitrary detention in Libya, highlighting various medical and humanitarian problems caused by the practice.
- The Head of the Anti-Immigration Force of the GNA’s Ministry of Interior ordered the closure of several detention centres. The targeted facilities are located in Tripoli, Surman, Khums and Gila. The centers were closed for not meeting humanitarian standards and receiving complaints from local residents.
- The Italian Minister of Interior met with Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar marking the first high level meeting between Haftar and the Italian government. Details of the meeting were not disclosed but are likely to have focused on migration issues.

## KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
16 September 2017	Martyrs Day	
22 September 2017	Hijri New Year	
23 October 2017	Liberation Day	National holiday

**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	High	High

Threat Scale



**LATEST DEVELOPMENTS**

**Governance**

**New GNA appointments cause controversy and political setbacks**

During this reporting period the appointment of a new GNA Deputy Minister of Interior (MoI) from Benghazi, caused an almost instant backlash from the leader of the LNA, Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar and members of the Presidency Council (PC) supportive of Haftar. The appointment is likely seen as an attempt to divide Haftar's support in the Eastern Region and thereby weaken the strength of the LNA.

**AU's High Level Committee on Libya**

The African Union (AU) is to host a High Level Committee on the subject of Libya on September 09, in Brazzaville, Congo. The meeting will be chaired by the Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso and its aim is to advance national reconciliation in Libya. Invitations have gone out to GNA President Fayez Sarraj, LNA Commander Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, Head of the High Council of State (HCS) Abdulrahman Asswehly and Head of the HoR Agila Saleh.

**Security**

**Increased IS activity east of Sirte**

Further IS activity has been reported during the last week in the north-central region of Libya following a string of incidents over the previous fortnight. On September 03, IS took control of Wadi al-Ahmar and abducted three Salafist civilians. According to local witnesses, the group comprised of around 15 vehicles. The fighters appear to have departed quickly, avoiding the certainty of airstrikes that would follow if they remained for a longer period. Their destination is unknown. However, local officials in Bani Waleed reported an increase in IS activity in the area a day later.

**Oil and gas**

**Oilfields reopen following two week closures**

Following a two week closure, the Sharara, El Feel and Hamada oilfields reopened this week. Authorities reportedly reached an agreement with the "Rayayina Patrols Brigade" to open the Rayayina valve on the pipeline.

**Faraj Egaim, Deputy Minister of Interior**

- Member of Awageer tribe
- Former head of LNA "Special Tasks Force" in Benghazi
- Sacked in June 2016 for support of GNA
- Accused LNA command of instigating assassinations in Benghazi

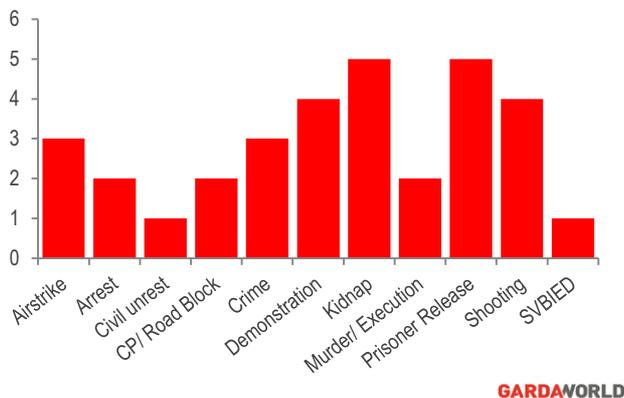


Image: Libya Observer

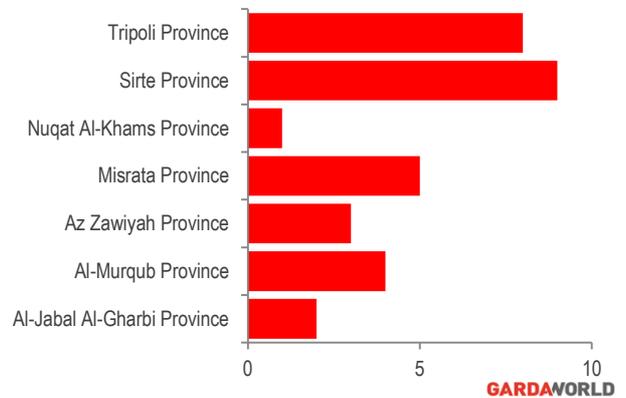
**WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT**

**Tripolitania**

**Incidents by type, August 31 - September 06**

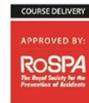


**Incidents by district, August 31 - September 06**



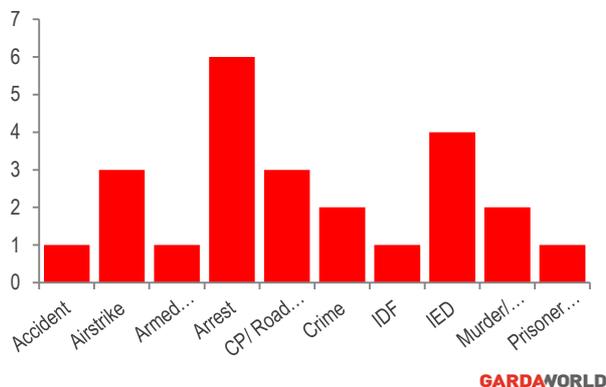
**Significant activity**

- Prisoner Release - Aug 31, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Three Azerbaijani civilians were released from prison in Libya following negotiations between the Libya government and Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry.
- Arrest - Aug 31, Offshore, Offshore: The Libyan Coastguard has announced the capture of a ship, allegedly smuggling over a million liters of diesel. The Tanzanian flagged ship was seized, and its crew of ten arrested. A second Maltese trawler was also seized for alleged illegal fishing.
- Demonstration - Sep 01, Al-Murqub Province, Zliten: A pro-Gaddafi group celebrated the September Revolution. Angry residents tried to disperse the group by setting fire to their cars.
- Airstrike - Sep 01, Sirte Province, Harawah: The LNA conducted airstrikes targeting alleged IS vehicles in El Tesseyen area west of Harawah.
- Demonstration and Armed Clash - Sep 01, Az Zawiyah Province, Harsha: A group of civilians conducted a pro-Gaddafi celebration in Harsha area of Zawiyah. The celebrating group was attacked by an armed group and shots were exchanged leading to the death of two civilians.
- CP/ Road Block - Sep 03, early morning, Sirte Province, Om El-Gendell: Unconfirmed reports state that IS fighters set up a CP east of Sirte.
- Kidnap - Sep 03, early morning, Sirte Province, Wadi al-Ahmar: Libyan media has reported that IS fighters have taken control of Wadi al-Ahmar, east of Sirte and taken three Salafist civilians hostage.
- Airstrike - Sep 03, early morning, Sirte Province, Wadi al-Ahmar: LNA airstrikes targeted alleged IS positions.
- Threat Warning - Sep 04, Sirte Province, Harawah: Locals residing in Harawah have reportedly taken up arms in anticipation of an IS attack on the area.
- Murder/ Execution - Sep 04, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: An Egyptian national was killed in Zawiyah. The deceased was working at a bakery.
- Threat Warning - Sep 05, Misrata Province, Bani Waled: The Joint Security Room of Bani Waled have warned of an increased IS activity around the city.
- CP/ Road Block - Sep 05, Al-Murqub Province, Zliten: The coastal road linking Zliten and Misrata has been reopened after mediation efforts between militia groups from Misrata and Zliten were successful.
- Crime - Sep 06, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Mizdah: Six fuel trucks transporting 250,000l of diesel to Obari were attacked. The assailants detained the drivers and stole the fuel. The drivers were later released.

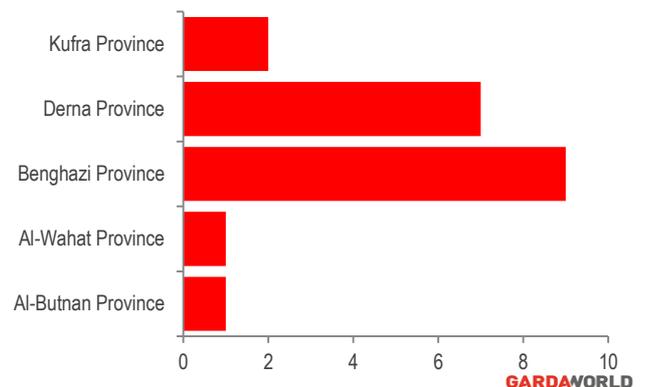


## Cyrenaica

Incidents by type, August 31 - September 06



Incidents by district, August 31 - September 06

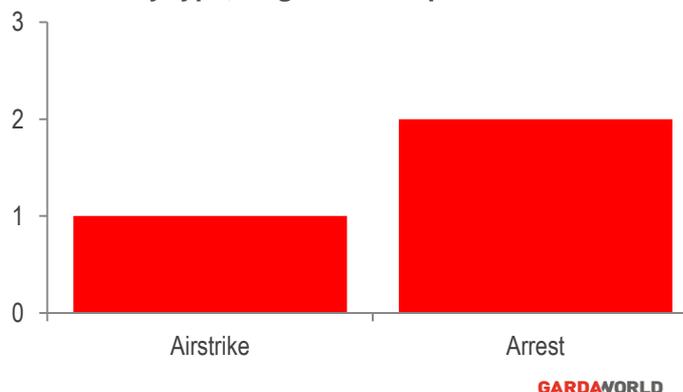


### Significant activity

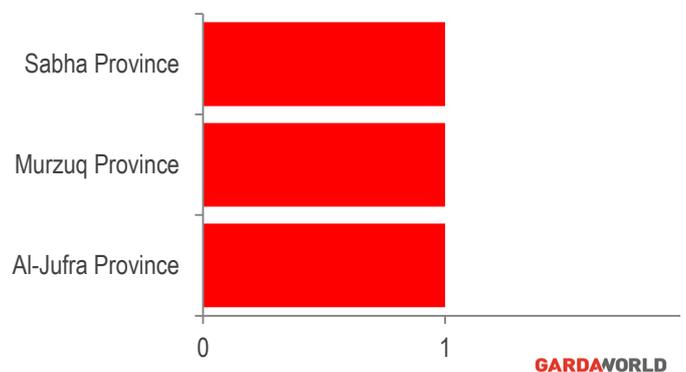
- Arrest - Aug 31, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: The LNA claims to have intercepted a vehicle transporter carrying eight vehicles, three artillery shells and several IEDs in at least one of the vehicles, close to Benina Airport.
- Airstrike - Sep 01, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: The LNA conducted airstrikes against MSCD in Daher al-Hamer south of Derna.
- IED - Sep 03, Benghazi Province, Sabri: A civilian was injured and another died due to an IED explosion.
- Murder/ Execution - Sep 03, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Members of Benghazi's Red Crescent have recovered an undisclosed number of bodies from a waste dump in Benghazi. The bodies had their hands bound and there were clear signs of torture.
- Armed Clashes - Sep 05, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA Special Forces have killed a RSCB member and arrested another during an attempt to escape from the Balady Hotel area.
- IED - Sep 05, Benghazi Province, Qar Yunis: A civilian was injured due to an IED explosion in Qar Yunis.
- Accident - Sep 05, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: LNA patrols have recovered bodies of 16 migrants in the desert approximately 310km south east of Tobruk.
- Arrest - Sep 06, evening, Derna Province, Derna: The LNA navy have intercepted a vessel that strayed into the restricted naval zone imposed by the LNA around Derna as part of the LNA's blockade of Derna.
- Crime - Sep 06, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A doctor at Jalea hospital was attacked and stabbed by a disgruntled member of the LNA.

## Fezzan

Incidents by type, August 31 - September 06



Incidents by district, August 31 - September 06



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**Significant activity**

- Airstrike - Sep 03, Al-Jufra Province, Zillah: LNA airstrikes targeted an IS gathering near Zillah.
- Arrest - Sep 04, Murzuq Province, Qatrun: Members of LNA's Qatrun Operations Room have arrested 61 illegal immigrants.
- Threat Warning - Sep 04, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Sharara Oilfield: 16 foreign employees working at Sharara Oilfield have been evacuated due to the presence of an armed group in a nearby location. Other sources denied the report, stating that the foreign workers left due to the ongoing closure of the oilfield.



## ACRONYM LIST

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  
 MoI - 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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