



# Insight Libya

01/12

*Independent monthly news and analysis of security and political risk developments in Libya*

## LIBYA SECURITY & POLITICAL RISK UPDATE - JANUARY 2012

As Libya realigns itself in the aftermath of the civil unrest, 2012 offers opportunities for business to emerge in this post-conflict nation. Oxberry Risk Strategies envisages a climate that is palatable for many organisations to conduct business ventures in Libya, providing the correct information is provided to allow informed decisions to be made and that robust risk management mechanisms are employed. Our Intelligence Management Team maintain a concentrated focus on Libya and the Middle East and the aim of this monthly contribution to the LBBC is to provide succinct information to members that recaptures the events of the month and the impact on the security and political situation.

### Political Situation

Since the National Transitional Council (NTC) announced the formal liberation of Libya in October 2011, the country has seen significant political progress; the most important being the formation of the Libyan Transitional Government on 22 November 2011. In early January the NTC declared a plan to implement a law that would allow a constitutional assembly. Whilst this is a surge forward in creating an autonomous and transparent governing body in a region historically controlled by a dictator, it does raise salient issues such as how to address the immediate needs of the people and implement electoral protocol and procedures. A major hurdle that needs to be addressed is the liaison and co-operation between rival militia groups to focus on supporting what is best for a united nation and not for individual districts or geographical locations. The issues of local resources being controlled by a state and not at regional level remains a concern that deserves close scrutiny and attention; most importantly to contain violent clashes between armed groups as witnessed during the last few weeks of 2011 that isolated the Tunis Road for a period of time.

The situation became critical during January and on 22 January the NTC deputy chief Abdel Hafiz Ghoga resigned from post stating that '[his] resignation is for the benefit of the nation and is required at this stage'. The deputy chief has become the focus for protesters that demand increased openness from the NTC. The resignation is significant as it symbolises that the masses of demonstrators represent the people that seek calm to the volatile and fluctuating environment. Open sources and statements from group leaders suggest the NTC are not in complete control of the country and that the real power is held by regional armed militia group leaders.

Pockets of armed militia, self governing their own regions in isolation will deepen the divide between central and regional assemblies and the way ahead to reconcile these differences needs to be given careful consideration. This is further exacerbated by the decision of the interim government to ban former Qaddafi governmental personalities serving on the panel. A central assembly has been forecasted to be voted in by June. This should allow an assembly to be established that will allow for a government to be devised and implement a constitution within the near future. However, for the constitution to be effective, key issues need to be resolved or advanced to allow a cohesive effort by all stakeholders.



# Insight Libya

01/12

*Independent monthly news and analysis of security and political risk developments in Libya*

## Security Situation

Since the Qaddafi regime has been eradicated, the security situation in Libya has shifted between national armed struggles to regional conflicts between rival factions. These clashes are often incredibly violent and employ the use of capable and heavy weapons. This can be witnessed in the 03 January attacks in Tripoli when combatants from rival militias engaged in armed clashes that resulted in death and injury. The leader of the NTC identified that this precarious situation needs urgent attention to halt further armed conflicts that could become a catalyst for Libya to evolve into a civil war; something that will delay the reconstruction progress indefinitely. At the time of writing, there are frequent armed struggles between NTC supporters and local inhabitants of the former Qaddafi stronghold of Bani Walid.

The recent human rights abuse claims that surrounded the nation in the wake of 2011 prompted the British government to investigate a decision by MI6 (the UK's Secret Intelligence Organisation) that led to two rivals of the Qaddafi political situation being delivered to a prison where they were allegedly tortured by Qaddafi's secret police. Human rights issues plague the country and this investigation may provide a precedent for other organisations of government entities to complete other investigations that the United Nations indentified in the final quarter of 2011.

On 26 January, Amnesty International further endorsed the epidemic issue of abuse surrounding human rights by issuing a statement that reads 'several people had been tortured to death in detention "by officially recognized military and security entities," as well as by "a multitude of armed militias'. Open sources in the international press declare that anti Qaddafi groups have up to 8,000 supporters in detention centres and that human rights issues are critical.