

# Report

## Libya: Security Situation

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Service  
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This report is written by country analysts from Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. It covers topics that are relevant for status determination of Libyan and non-Libyan citizens whose asylum claims are based on the situation in Libya. The target audience is case workers/officers within the decision-making authorities handling asylum claims as well as policy makers in the four countries.

The report is based on carefully selected and referenced sources of information. To the extent possible and unless otherwise stated, all information presented, except for undisputed or obvious facts, has been cross-checked.

While the information contained in this report has been researched, evaluated and analysed with utmost care, this document does not claim to be exhaustive, neither is it conclusive as to the determination or merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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The research for this report was finalised in November 2014 and any event or development that has taken place after this date is not included in the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report is a result of a cooperation project between the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) in Belgium, the Country of Origin Information Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands, the Office for Country Information and Language Analysis (OCILA) of the Ministry of Security and Justice in the Netherlands, Landinfo in Norway and Lifos in Sweden.

The purpose of the project is to present information on the current situation in Libya on selected topics, and is intended to serve the information needs for the assessment of asylum and immigration cases, as well as issues concerning the return of rejected applicants to Libya.

The topics in focus are described in six different reports:

- Security Situation
- Vulnerable Groups
- Militias, Tribes and Islamists
- Judiciary and Security Sector
- Nationality, Registration and Documents

Some issues will be covered in more than one report, as they are interrelated and necessary for the context.<sup>1</sup> In the reports we make use of a transcription scheme for words and names from Arabic to English.<sup>2</sup>

Since the end of the former regime, there has been much on the political development and the security situation in the country, reflected both in media coverage and reports and commentaries published by think tanks, NGO's, aid agencies and other actors. However, despite a large flow of information coming out of Libya, there is a substantial lack of systematic reporting on most issues. When writing reports on the situation in Libya, the main challenge is to identify patterns in the plethora of anecdotal information. An additional challenge when reporting on issues that concern immigration and asylum authorities in European countries, is that these issues do not necessarily receive a lot of coverage at all, not even from other actors with a focus on the human rights situation.

The project mainly relies on written information from open sources. Additional information was gathered through contact with expert sources on Libya during the autumn of 2014. All quoted sources are provided in the sourced list. Some sources have asked to remain anonymous for reasons of security.

The reporting period is 1 October 2013 until 1 December 2014.

The security situation in Libya during the past 14 months is the subject of this report. After a short chronology of political events, the nature of the violence, the parties involved and the main security events will be described. The impact of the violence on daily life will also be discussed. A detailed timeline of security incidents during the reporting period is included at the end. The situation of foreign nationals in Libya is not covered by this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Cross references between the project reports will refer to *Libya: Security Situation*, *Libya: Vulnerable Groups*, *Libya: Militias, Tribes and Islamists*, *Libya: Judiciary and Security Sector* and *Libya: Nationality, Registration and Documents*.

<sup>2</sup> Sada, *Sada transliteration system for Arabic*, no date.



Source: UN Cartographic Section, *Libya*, March 2013.

## 2. POLITICAL CONTEXT

### 2.1 Rising Political Instability

Since the official end of the Libyan uprising on 23 October 2011, successive governments have been unable to restore security in a country where numerous rival and heavily armed militias are active. By the end of 2013, popular discontent was

focussed on Prime Minister Ali Zaydan, who took office on 14 November 2012. On 10 October 2013 he was abducted for several hours in a spectacular operation by the Libya Revolutionaries Operations Room (LROR), a militia under the orders of Nuri Abu Sahmayn, the president of the General National Congress (GNC). At the end of December 2013, a demonstration in Tripoli demanded Ali Zaydan's resignation. The five ministers of the Justice and Construction Party (JCP), the second political party in importance and close to the Muslim Brotherhood, left the government on 21 January 2014. On 11 March 2014, the GNC dismissed Prime Minister Ali Zaydan and named Defence Minister Abdallah al-Thinni as acting Prime Minister. Ali Zaydan left Libya for Germany.<sup>3</sup>

Popular discontent also grew against the GNC, which voted to extend its mandate until 24 December 2014, which in accordance to the Interim Constitutional Declaration of August 2011 was due to expire on 7 February 2014. Supporters opted for an extension of the GNC mandate until a new Constitution was ready, while its opponents were of the view that it lacked right to extend its own mandate. Several thousand Libyans demonstrated in Tripoli and Benghazi to demand the GNC's dissolution. When the suspension of the GNC was proclaimed on 14 February 2014 by former general Khalifa Haftar, its president, Nuri Abu Sahmayn, with no party affiliation but close ties to the Islamist bloc, declared that the GNC was going to call for early elections. Under the new electoral law adopted at the end of March 2014, candidates have to stand as independents and no party lists are allowed.<sup>4</sup>

The constitution drafting process is not making much progress. The drafting of a new constitution was entrusted to a Constitutional Assembly with twenty elected members from each of Libya's three regions – Cyrenaica, Tripolitania and Fezzan. Out of 60 seats, 6 were reserved for ethnic minorities (Toubou, Amazigh and Tuareg) and another 6 for women. The election took place on 20 February 2014 with barely 498,000 voters casting their ballot. It was boycotted by the Amazigh and by some Tuareg and Toubou, who had asked for guarantees concerning their linguistic and other rights. The 48 members who were finally elected started their work on 21 April 2014 in al-Bayda. According to an amendment to the Constitutional Declaration of the National Transitional Council, they had to draft a new Constitution within 120 days.<sup>5</sup>

Prime Minister Abdallah al-Thinni, who resigned after receiving death threats, was succeeded on 4 May 2014 by Ahmad Ma'aytiq, a businessman from Misrata with Islamist backing. Failing at first to obtain the necessary 120 votes from the GNC, Ma'aytiq was able to get the necessary votes, a total of 121, after the session was adjourned. In the absence of the GNC's president, its vice-president declared his election illegal as Islamists allowed late-comers to vote after the results were

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<sup>3</sup> BBC News, *Islamist party quits Libya's government*, 21 January 2014; Reuters, *Premier's brief 'arrest' highlights anarchy in Libya*, 10 October 2013; Reuters, *Libya's PM was embattled even before his brief capture*, 10 October 2013; Reuters, *Libyan islamists urge PM to resign over corruption, security*, 10 October 2013; Reuters, *Libyan parliament sacks PM after tanker escapes rebel-held port*, 11 March 2014; Reuters, *Libyan PM flees country after tanker escapes rebel-held port*, 12 March 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Reuters, *In standoff, Libyans protest over parliament extension*, 7 February 2014; Reuters, *Libya parliament agrees to 'early' election amid public anger*, 17 February 2014; Reuters, *Libyan parliament passes law to organize new elections*, 30 March 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Reuters, *Libya's Berber to boycott committee drafting constitution*, 13 November 2013; Libya Herald, *Tebus announce boycott of Constitutional Committee elections; Tuareg split*, 17 February 2014; Reuters, *Libya's constitution-drafting body starts work*, 21 April 2014; Middle East Constitutional Forum (MECF), *Third Constitutional Amendment of 2012*, 5 July 2012.

proclaimed. However, on 5 May the GNC's president confirmed Ma'aytiq's election as Prime Minister.<sup>6</sup>

The launching of a major offensive on 16 May 2014 against the Islamists of Ansar al-Sharia in Benghazi by former general Khalifa Haftar further increased divisions within the GNC. On 22 May, General Haftar rallied support from several Libyan forces. The Benghazi Special Forces, army officers from the Tubruq Air Base, the al-Bar'asa tribe, former rebel leader Ibrahim al-Jadhran and the National Forces Alliance, the main non-Islamist political party, all announced their support for General Haftar.<sup>7</sup>

Tensions were also rising in Tripoli, where the Zintan militias, who back Khalifa Haftar, attacked the building where the GNC convenes. In response, the GNC's president called the Misrata militias into Tripoli.<sup>8</sup> On 25 May 2014, the GNC confirmed Ahmad Ma'aytiq as Prime Minister but the Supreme Court annulled his election on 9 June.<sup>9</sup> On 25 June 2014, 42 % of Libyans of voting age participated in the election of a 200-member House of Representatives due to replace the GNC. On publication of the results twenty days later, analysts and newly elected candidates predicted a heavy defeat for the Islamists.<sup>10</sup>

## 2.2 Two Rival Parliaments and Governments

On 13 July 2014, heavy fighting broke out between the Zintan and Misrata militias over the control of Tripoli's international airport. Due to the deteriorating security situation in the capital, the UN agencies relocated most of their staff to neighbouring countries. Western embassies closed for an unspecified period and their diplomatic staff were subsequently evacuated.<sup>11</sup>

The confusion around the inauguration of the newly elected House of Representatives deepened the political crisis. Whereas the GNC's president had convened its members in Tripoli on 4 August for a transfer of power, 158 of the 188 newly elected MPs met in Tubruq on 2 August for the new House of Representative's inaugural session. After being sworn in, they elected Aqila Salah Isa, an independent legal expert from the east, as the House's Speaker, thus confirming the overwhelming victory of the nationalist forces over the Islamist forces in the last election. The Islamist fractions supporting the Misrata militias boycotted the inaugural session and denounced the transfer of power from the GNC to the House of Representatives as unconstitutional: according to them,

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<sup>6</sup> Reuters, *Libyan deputy speaker declares election of prime minister invalid*, 4 May 2014; Reuters, *Libya confirms Ahmed Maiteeq as new prime minister*, 5 May 2014.

<sup>7</sup> BBC News, *Libya clashes between rival militias in Benghazi*, 16 May 2014; Reuters, *First Libyan minister backs forces of renegade general*, 21 May 2014; The Guardian, *Khalifa Haftar: renegade general causing upheaval in Libya*, 22 May 2014.

<sup>8</sup> Reuters, *Libyan government warns of new militia threat in capital*, 22 May 2014.

<sup>9</sup> Reuters, *Libyan premier wins congress backing after ex-general's threats*, 25 May 2014; Reuters, *Libyan parliament to respect court ruling that PM vote unconstitutional: speaker*, 9 June 2014.

<sup>10</sup> The New York Times, *Poor turnout in Libyan parliament vote as prominent lawyer killed*, 25 June 2014; Libya Herald, *Elections 2014: Final results for House of Representative elections announced*, 22 July 2014; Libya Business News, *Liberals Defeat Islamists in Libyan Elections*, 22 July 2014.

<sup>11</sup> Reuters, *Militia shells Tripoli airport, U.N. pulls staff out of Libya*, 14 July 2014; Reuters, *U.N. pulls staff out of Libya as clashes kill 13, close airports*, 14 July 2014; Reuters, *U.S. evacuates Libya embassy after 'free-wheeling militia violence'*, 26 July 2014; Reuters, *Canada temporarily pulls diplomats out of Libya amid fighting*, 29 July 2014; Reuters, *France says evacuating nationals in Libya*, 30 July 2014; BBC News, *British embassy in Libya to 'suspend operations'*, 2 August 2014.



the GNC's president should have convened the new parliament for its inaugural session. They accordingly lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court.<sup>12</sup>

The two rival parliaments each appointed a Prime Minister: Abdallah al-Thinni in Tubruq and Umar al-Hassi in Tripoli.<sup>13</sup> On 24 August, the House of Representatives appointed Abdarrazzak Nazuri, an officer participating in Operation Dignity, as the army's new Chief-of-Staff, thus giving to a certain extent its backing to Haftar's offensive.<sup>14</sup> The government in Tubruq announced on 1 September 2014 that it had lost control of most of the ministries, public institutions and state organs in Tripoli after the Misrata militias took over the capital.<sup>15</sup>

Libya's neighbours and the international community were alarmed by the chaotic political and security situation. Ban Ki-Moon appointed Spanish diplomat Bernardino León as head of UNSMIL (UN Support Mission in Libya).<sup>16</sup> On 25 August 2014, the United States and its allies warned Arab countries against any interference in Libya's affairs.<sup>17</sup> One month later, meeting in New York, Jordan's King Abdallah and Egypt's President al-Sisi announced their support for the Tubruq parliament.<sup>18</sup> On 27 September, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution broadening the existing international sanctions to include people who engage in or support acts that threaten the stability or security of Libya, or obstruct the successful completion of its political transition, and recognizing the Tubruq House of Representatives as the country's legitimate parliament.<sup>19</sup>

On 29 September 2014, the two rival parliaments held talks in Ghadamis under UN patronage. A cease-fire was negotiated but it was rejected by Libya Dawn (Amaliyyat al-Fajr), a coalition of militias mainly from Misrata.<sup>20</sup> Fearing repercussions on its own territory, Egypt closely monitors the situation in Libya, and is even suspected, with the United Arab Emirates, of having conducted several air raids targeting Islamist positions in Libya in August and September 2014. President al-Sisi announced on 8 October 2014 that Egypt would help train Libyan soldiers to restore Libya's security.<sup>21</sup> Three days

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<sup>12</sup> Libya Herald, *GNC insists on handing over to House of Reps on 4 August in Tripoli – not 2 August in Tobruk*, 31 July 2014; Libya Herald, *Large majority of House of Representatives' members meet in Tobruk*, 2 August 2014; The New York Times, *In Libya, Parliament Convenes Amid Battles*, 4 August 2014; Reuters, *Libya parliament elects an independent lawmaker as its president*, 4 August 2014.

<sup>13</sup> Reuters, *Rival second Libyan assembly chooses own PM as chaos spreads*, 25 August 2014; Reuters, *Libya's ex-parliament reconvenes, appoints Omar al-Hasi as PM*, 25 August 2014; The New York Times, *Saving Libya, Again*, 11 November 2014.

<sup>14</sup> Libya Herald, *New Chief of Staff appointed by parliament but General Staff refuses to accept order*, 24 August 2014; Libya Herald, *HoR says Operation Dignity under National Army*, 17 November 2014.

<sup>15</sup> Reuters, *Libyan government says has lost control of most Tripoli ministries*, 1 September 2014.

<sup>16</sup> Reuters, *U.N. chief Ban names Spanish diplomat as new Libya envoy*, 14 August 2014.

<sup>17</sup> Reuters, *U.S., allies caution against outside meddling in Libya*, 25 August 2014.

<sup>18</sup> Libya Herald, *Egypt and Jordan announce support for HoR and dialogue but non-interference in Libyan affairs*, 22 September 2014.

<sup>19</sup> UN Security Council, *Adopting Resolution 2174 (2014), Calls for Immediate Ceasefire in Libya, Inclusive Political Dialogue, Prior Notice for Weapons Transfers*, 27 August 2014.

<sup>20</sup> Libya Herald, *Ghadames conference calls for nationwide ceasefire; "a great day for Libya" say Leon*, 29 September 2014.

<sup>21</sup> Libya Herald, *Libya Dawn accuses Egypt and the UAE of Tripoli airstrikes*, 24 August 2014; Libya Herald, *Libya and Egypt pledge closer security partnership*, 8 October 2014.

later, during a visit in Tripoli, Ban Ki-moon called upon all parties to continue negotiations.<sup>22</sup>

On 6 November, the Supreme Court convened in Tripoli and invalidated the election of the Tubruq House of Representatives, arguing that the GNC's committee which prepared the elections was unconstitutional.<sup>23</sup> The United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, Greece, Spain and the United Kingdom announced in a joint communiqué that they would examine the court's decision.<sup>24</sup> In response, Ibrahim al-Jadhran, former head of the Petroleum Facilities Guards (PFG) in the east and leader of the Cyrenaica Political Bureau, threatened to declare Cyrenaica's independence if Western countries recognised the GNC's legitimacy.<sup>25</sup>

### 2.3 Blocking of Oil Sites

Libya's oil production faced serious problems during 2013-2014. The Petroleum Facilities Guards and other staff of oil installations often blocked oil sites to back their demands for the payment of overdue wages or social benefits. Some oil facilities were blocked by people wanting employment. Oil production or transport was sometimes interrupted for months, and export figures declined dramatically. According to an oil company representative, "[i]t's become normal for people who have a grievance to go and shut an oil field, [...] Last week, a group came and demanded they be given jobs."<sup>26</sup>

Political demands were also aired in some cases of occupation. In early November 2013, leaders of an autonomist movement met in Ajdabiya, in the east, to announce the creation of an autonomous government of Cyrenaica. The autonomist movement is led by Ibrahim al-Jadhran, whose men blocked four oil terminals for several months (Ras Lanuf, Zuwaytina, Sidra and Tubruq). Following agreements with al-Thinni's government, to which the autonomists allied themselves, the four oil terminals returned under government control in April and June 2014.<sup>27</sup>

These successive actions significantly affected Libya's oil production, which by mid-October 2014 reached only 1/5 of its level in 2013.<sup>28</sup> Production increased when the eastern oil terminals were reopened, but new closures in November 2014 brought production down again.<sup>29</sup> The al-Sharara oil field, some 60 km from Ubari, reopened in July 2014 after 18 months of intermittent production. On 7 November 2014, it was attacked by an armed group. The al-Fil ('elephant') oil field, which produces 200.000 barrels a day, had to cease production for 10 days because of technical problems and security concerns. During the same period of time, in the east, the Hariga oil terminal was closed down by Petroleum Facilities Guards demanding payment of overdue

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<sup>22</sup> UN News Service, *For any political progress to hold, 'the fighting has to stop,' UN chief declares in Libya*, 11 October 2014.

<sup>23</sup> Reuters, *Libya faces chaos as top court rejects elected assembly*, 7 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Breaking news: Supreme Court rules HoR illegal*, 6 November 2014.

<sup>24</sup> US Department of State, *Situation in Libya*, 7 November 2014.

<sup>25</sup> Reuters, *Libyan rebels threaten to declare independence over rival parliament*, 7 November 2014.

<sup>26</sup> Libya Herald, *Protestors now shut Sirte Oil Company field*, 1 May 2014.

<sup>27</sup> Reuters, *East Libya movement launches government, challenges Tripoli*, 3 November 2013; Libya Herald, *Ras Lanuf and Sidra terminals handed over by Jadhran to Thinni*, 2 July 2014.

<sup>28</sup> Reuters, *Two rival Libyan governments claim to control oil policy*, 17 October 2014.

<sup>29</sup> Libya Herald, *Production stops at El Fil oilfield*, 9 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Production at Sharara oilfield collapses following attacks*, 6 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Petroleum Guards close Hariga oil export terminal over unpaid salaries*, 8 November 2014.

wages. In the second half of November 2014, activities were resumed at al-Fil, Nafura and Abu Tifl oil fields and at the Hariga terminal.<sup>30</sup>

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLENCE

#### 3.1 Nature of the Violence

Since the end of the 2011 uprising, the political and security situation in Libya has been very unstable. The media often talk of a 'chaotic' situation and sometimes even predict the start of a civil war.<sup>31</sup> The armed conflict in Libya is made up of a multitude of regional conflicts with different actors and causes. Some conflicts are getting much media attention, for instance the conflict between militias supporting the House of Representatives and those allied to the GNC, but in several parts of the country other clashes also break out between militias and local tribes. The recent arrival of the Islamic State in Darna is also fuelling concerns about the country's future.

During the reporting period, big cities as well as rural areas have witnessed varying degrees of violence. Violent incidents can be classified as follows:<sup>32</sup>

- Targeted assassinations (especially in Benghazi, Darna)
- Politically motivated abductions (Benghazi, Darna, Tripoli, Sirt)
- Attacks against peaceful demonstrators (Tripoli)
- Fighting with light weaponry among rival militias (Tripoli, Benghazi, Darna, Sirt and other locations)
- Fighting with heavy weaponry among rival militias and use of rockets and mortar fire (Benghazi, Tripoli, Nafusa mountains, Sabha, Ubari)
- Air raids (Benghazi, Tripoli, Darna, Nafusa mountains)
- Public executions and public flogging (Darna)
- Bomb attacks (Tripoli, al-Bayda, Tubruq, Ajdabiya and other locations)

According to UNSMIL and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), there have been numerous attacks in Tripoli and Benghazi since May 2014, often of an indiscriminate nature due to the lack of training and discipline of militia members, the poor quality of weaponry and the spreading of the fighting to residential areas with no prior warning to allow civilians to evacuate.<sup>33</sup> Human Rights Watch (HRW) confirms that some indiscriminate attacks, including

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<sup>30</sup> Libya Herald, *Nafoura oilfield restarts as protesters agree to back off*, 24 November 2014; Libya Herald, *El Fil resumes output as NOC warns on illegal liftings*, 18 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Abu Tifl protesters end oilfield blockade*, 24 November 2014; Libya Herald, *PPG calls off strike, exports resume at Hariga*, 17 November 2014.

<sup>31</sup> The Guardian, *War in Libya: the Guardian Briefing*, 29 August 2014; International Business Times, *Three Years After Gadhafi's Death, Libya Slides Into Civil War As Death Toll Rises In Benghazi*, 20 October 2014; The New York Times, *Strife in Libya Could Presage Long Civil War*, 24 August 2014.

<sup>32</sup> This classification was made by the author on the basis of the Timeline of security incidents (section 5).

<sup>33</sup> Reliefweb, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014.

indiscriminate fighting in Tripoli and to the south-west of the capital, could amount to war crimes.<sup>34</sup>

According to an estimate by HRW, 250 people were killed in politically motivated assassinations between January and September 2014 in Benghazi and Darna. The perpetrators remain unknown. HRW stressed that systematic or generalised killings of civilians by conflicting parties could be considered a war crime.<sup>35</sup>

Non-political crime is also rising in Libya: criminally motivated abductions, armed robberies, carjacking, burglaries, smuggling and trafficking occur frequently. Celebratory gunfire is a significant public safety issue.<sup>36</sup> According to the findings of a survey conducted in Libya by the Small Arms Survey research project, insecurity is the main concern expressed by those who were interrogated, even though they declared their own neighbourhood to be safe. Fighting between militias and tribes, combined with political instability, increases the feeling of insecurity.<sup>37</sup>

### 3.2 Main Actors

There are many different actors behind the violence in Libya.<sup>38</sup> They operate mainly as part of militias groups that emerged during the uprising against the Qadhafi regime or in the period immediately following its downfall. Their importance, legitimacy and influence depend on the context of their creation and on their status as revolutionaries or 'losers' during the uprising, as well as on their geographical, tribal and/or regional affiliation, and their direct or indirect links with political parties. Their standing with the population in their home region is also a contributing factor to their legitimacy and influences. These armed groups continued to multiply after the transition authorities tried to integrate their members within the state security sector by paying them wages, which they are still receiving. Many of these groups have become powerful with numerous local interests, making it difficult for the Libyan state to contain them or impose its authority at a central level.<sup>39</sup>

Most militia groups have forged strong alliances by supporting one or other of the main political parties. Operation Dignity and its satellites sided with the House of Representatives in Tubruq which was elected in June 2014. Libya Dawn and its satellites sided with the remaining members of the GNC, which is still based in Tripoli. The media generally present the situation as a confrontation between Islamist forces on the one hand and anti-Islamist or nationalist forces on the other, but Libya experts think this is an oversimplification and point to the multiple rivalries between towns, clans and security forces, which existed already under the Qadhafi regime and were revived during the 2011 uprising.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Spiraling Militia Attacks May Be War Crimes*, 8 September 2014.

<sup>35</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Assassinations May Be Crimes Against Humanity*, 24 September 2014.

<sup>36</sup> US Department of State, *Libya 2014 Crime and Safety Report*, 30 April 2014.

<sup>37</sup> Small Arms Survey, *Searching for Stability: Perceptions of Security, Justice, and Firearms in Libya*, 31 August 2014.

<sup>38</sup> For further information about militias, see *Libya: Militias, Tribes and Islamists*.

<sup>39</sup> Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Ending Libya's civil war, Reconciling Politics, Rebuilding security*, 24 September 2014, p. 4; Al-Monitor, *Libyan PM says militias outgun military*, 12 August 2014.

<sup>40</sup> Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Ending Libya's civil war, Reconciling Politics, Rebuilding security*, 24 September 2014; German Institute for International and Security Affairs, *Libya's transition: towards collapse*, May 2014, p. 2-3; German Institute for International and Security Affairs, *Fault Lines of the Revolution: Political Actors, Camps and Conflicts in the New Libya*, May 2013; The Washington Post,

### 3.2.1 The Libyan Regular Army

Marginalised under Qadhafi, who favoured his own special elite forces, the regular army is undergoing a reconstruction phase and lacks equipment, arms and military expertise.<sup>41</sup> Its 35,000 soldiers are underpaid.<sup>42</sup> According to the Prime Minister, militias are better armed than regular army units.<sup>43</sup> The main army units comprise of the special forces known as al-Sa'iqa. They were deployed to Benghazi in 2013 where they managed to curb the killings and abductions, which gave them a certain degree of popular support.<sup>44</sup> Al-Sa'iqa, which in theory is answerable to the Ministry of Defence, has sided with former general Haftar's forces in Benghazi against Islamist forces. With the appointment by the Tubruq House of Representatives of an Operation Dignity officer as the army's new Chief of Staff, the forces allied with former general Haftar seem to have been integrated into the regular army, which is operating nominally under the authority of the Tubruq government.<sup>45</sup> However, the official status of the regular army and its relations with former general Haftar's troops remain unclear. In fact, the government in Tubruq has little power and few means to control a national army<sup>46</sup>.

### 3.2.2 Libyan National Army (LNA) / Operation Dignity

Retired general Khalifa Bilqasim Haftar arrived on the conflict scene in mid-May 2014. With his own forces, operating under the name Libyan National Army (LNA), he launched Operation Dignity (Amaliyyat al-Karama) to oust Islamist groups from Benghazi. Regular army units (the al-Sa'iqa Special Forces and the air force units based at Tubruq and Banina (Benghazi)) soon joined his cause, as well as influential local tribes (the Ubaydat, Awaqir and Baraghitha), the Barqa Army (Jaysh Barqa or the Cyrenaica Defence Force), Toubou fighters from Kufra and Tuareg from Ubari. In western Libya, Operation Dignity enjoys the support of the Zintan militias, the head of the military police and the militia of the Warshafana tribe.<sup>47</sup>

Haftar's Libyan National Army has since May 2014 carried out a number of major military offensives in Benghazi against the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, an alliance of Islamist and jihadi groups. In the end of August 2014, the LNA declared that it would take orders from the regular army's new Chief of Staff while maintaining a degree of autonomy. The reintegration of former general Haftar within the regular

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*What's behind Libya's spiraling violence?*, 28 July 2014; Governance and Social Development Resource Centre, *Key actors, dynamics and issues of Libyan political economy*, 27 April 2014.

<sup>41</sup> BBC News, *Guide to key Libyan militias*, 20 May 2014; The Washington Post, *What's behind Libya's spiraling violence?*, 28 July 2014.

<sup>42</sup> Libya Herald, *Chief of Staff asks for higher armed forces salaries*, 25 November 2014; ARTE, *L'échiquier des groupes armés en Libye*, 30 July 2014.

<sup>43</sup> Al-Monitor, *Libyan PM says militias outgun military*, 12 August 2014.

<sup>44</sup> Magharebia, *Benghazi faces tough task securing streets*, 31 July 2013.

<sup>45</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity places itself nominally under new Chief of Staff's command*, 30 August 2014.

<sup>46</sup> For more detailed information, see the report *Libya: Judiciary and Security Sector*, section 5.2.4.

<sup>47</sup> BBC News, *Profile: Libya's renegade General Khalifa Haftar*, 20 May 2014; Al-Monitor, *Hifter campaign reveals power of Libyan Islamist militias*, 5 June 2014; The Washington Post, *What's behind Libya's spiraling violence?*, 28 July 2014; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Ending Libya's civil war, Reconciling Politics, Rebuilding security*, 24 September 2014, p. 21.

army seems to confirm this alliance even though the relationship between the regular army and Operation Dignity remains unclear.<sup>48</sup>

### 3.2.3 Ansar al-Sharia/Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries

Operating in Benghazi and Darna, Ansar al-Sharia is an Islamist militia which wants to fully implement Islamic law in Libya. The group is accused of participating in the violent attacks against the United States consulate in Benghazi in September 2012.<sup>49</sup> In October 2014, some of its members in Darna pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.<sup>50</sup> On 20 November 2014, Ansar-al Sharia in Benghazi and in Darna were added to the UN Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee's list of terrorist organisations.<sup>51</sup>

In order to fight Operation Dignity, Ansar al-Sharia allied itself with a number of militias composed of young Islamist revolutionaries supported by local tribes. This alliance is known as the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, and includes groups such as the 17 February Martyrs Brigade, an important Islamist militia (3,500 combatants partially remunerated by the Libyan Ministry of Defence), Libya Shield Unit no. 1, the Rafallah al-Sahati Brigade, the 319<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, the Free Libya Martyrs Brigade, the Fakhri al-Sallabi Brigade and the Zintan Martyrs Brigade.<sup>52</sup>

### 3.2.4 The Zintan Brigades

The Zintan Revolutionaries' Military Council is named after Zintan, the name of a tribe and a town south-west of Tripoli, and is composed of 23 armed groups from Zintan and the Nafusa mountains. They are grouped into five brigades (the al-Qa'qa' and al-Sawa'iq Brigades being the most well-known) which acquired much prestige from their participation in the liberation of Tripoli in 2011 and the arrest of Sayf al-Islam Qadhafi, whom they are still detaining. They are well supplied with arms and occupied Tripoli's international airport and several army bases in Tripoli until their ousting by Operation Libya Dawn at the end of August 2014. Combatants from the Warshafana tribe (on the capital's western outskirts) also joined the Zintan Brigades.<sup>53</sup> They are currently fighting the Misrata Brigades and their allies to the south-west of Tripoli.

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<sup>48</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity places itself nominally under new Chief of Staff's command*, 30 August 2014; Libya Herald, *HoR reinstates Haftar and Geroushi into the Libyan army*, 24 November 2014.

<sup>49</sup> Reliefweb, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014; BBC News, *Guide to key Libyan militias*, 20 May 2014; BBC News, *Why is Libya lawless*, 15 July 2014; International Business Times, *Libya militia map: a visual breakdown of who controls what*, 16 July 2014.

<sup>50</sup> Libya Herald, *Derna's Islamic Youth Council declares allegiance to Daesh: report*, 4 October 2014.

<sup>51</sup> UN Security Council, *Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee Adds Two Entities to Its Sanctions List*, 19 November 2014.

<sup>52</sup> ARTE, *L'échiquier des groupes armés en Libye*, 30 July 2014; Orient XXI, *Les fausses grilles d'analyse du conflit libyen: islamistes contre libéraux ?*, 6 August 2014; German Institute for International and Security Affairs, *Fault Lines of the Revolution: Political Actors, Camps and Conflicts in the New Libya*, May 2013.

<sup>53</sup> Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC), *Key actors, dynamics and issues of Libyan political economy*, 27 April 2014; BBC News, *Guide to key Libyan militias*, 20 May 2014; Reliefweb, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014; Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Spiraling militia attacks may be war crimes*, 8 September 2014.

### 3.2.5 The Misrata Brigades/Libya Dawn

The Misrata Brigades, from a town that was besieged for six months during the 2011 uprising, are composed of 235 powerful militias and enjoy much prestige nationwide.<sup>54</sup> They possess an extensive arsenal of light and heavy weaponry and their 40,000 combatants (in compare with Misrata's 300,000 inhabitants) have, according to anthropologist Brian McQuinn, "a disproportionate effect on the nation's security, demilitarization, and demobilization".<sup>55</sup>

Some Misrata militias are incorporated in the Libya Revolutionaries Operations Room (LROR), an important coalition of Islamist and anti-Zintan armed groups, mainly known for abducting Prime Minister Ali Zaydan for a few hours in October 2013.<sup>56</sup> The LROR attacked the Zintan Brigades at the international airport on 14 July 2014. This offensive was called Operation Dawn and received support from several militias from Misrata (western Libya Shield, the al-Swihli and Hablus Brigades) and Tripoli (Furzan Janzur and several Islamist militias), a militia from the Mitiga army base, the al-Nawasi Brigade, as well as combatants from the towns of Khums, Massalata, Gharyan, Zawiya, Zuwara, Sabrata, Janzur, Tajura, Suq al-Jum'a, Nalut and Jadu.<sup>57</sup> The Libya Dawn forces, which are purportedly fighting in the name of the revolution against former regime loyalists, are backing the Islamist and revolutionary factions in the GNC, whereas the Zintan Brigades and their allies are purportedly fighting terrorism.<sup>58</sup>

### 3.2.6 Toubou, Tuareg and Arab militias

In the south of the country, influential Arab, Toubou and Tuareg tribes were engaged in local conflicts – for instance in Sabha – which got out of hand to the point that militias from the north had to intervene. The most important militias in Fezzan's capital city are those of the Awlad Sulayman and the Toubou. Other militias are linked to the Qadhadhfa, Warfalla, Hasawna and Mahamid tribes. These militias are controlling security in public buildings and banks, but also in some neighbourhoods. Recurrent fighting between these militias is fuelled by their rivalry for political dominance and access to economic resources.<sup>59</sup>

## 3.3 Major Events

### 3.3.1 Fighting in Sabha

In January 2014, the town of Sabha, some 600 km south of Tripoli, witnessed the most serious fighting in Libya's south since the end of the uprising against Qadhafi. Sabha is the home of to several multi-ethnic tribes, Arabs, Tuaregs and Toubous. In early 2014 a

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<sup>54</sup> BBC News, *Guide to key Libyan militias*, 20 May 2014; International Business Times, *Libya militia map: a visual breakdown of who controls what*, 16 July 2014; Aljazeera, *mapping Libya's armed groups*, 2 June 2014.

<sup>55</sup> McQuinn, B, *After the fall: Libya's evolving armed groups*, 2012, p. 11.

<sup>56</sup> For more detailed information, see *Libya: Militias, Tribes and Islamists*, section 2.4.

<sup>57</sup> Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Ending Libya's civil war, Reconciling Politics, Rebuilding security*, 24 September 2014, p. 22; Al Arabiya, *Libya's army units join rogue general Haftar*, 19 May 2014.

<sup>58</sup> BBC News, *Libya militias 'seize ministries' as al-Thinni reappointed*, 1 September 2014; Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Spiraling Militia Attacks May Be War Crimes*, 8 September 2014; Aljazeera, *Mapping Libya's armed groups*, 2 June 2014; Reuters, *Libyan Congress calls for U.N.-backed ceasefire to end clashes*, 6 August 2014.

<sup>59</sup> Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC), *Key actors, dynamics and issues of Libyan political economy*, 27 April 2014, p. 9; Small Arms Survey, *Libya's fractious south and regional instability*, February 2014.

conflict broke out between the Toubous and the Arab tribe of Awlad Sulayman. The conflict reached its peak when Qadhahfa and Maqarha militias attacked several military bases. The fighting, which resulted in nearly a hundred deaths, ended with the intervention of brigades from Misrata and Zintan.<sup>60</sup> According to Wolfram Lacher, researcher on North Africa at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), the conflict originated in a disagreement dating back to the last weeks of the Libyan uprising between Awlad Sulayman and the Qadhahfa<sup>61</sup>. Sporadic but far less intense fighting was reported in Sabha thereafter (April, June and October 2014),<sup>62</sup> but stopped after some time through outside mediation.<sup>63</sup>

### 3.3.2 Operation Dignity in Benghazi

In Benghazi, Libya's second biggest city, targeted assassinations and abductions have been compromising security on a daily basis since 2012. Victims are former officials of the Qadhafi regime, army and police officers, bank employees, clerics, jurists and pro-democracy activists. The perpetrators remain unidentified.<sup>64</sup> According to Wolfram Lacher, some of these cases are acts of vengeance by Islamists who were persecuted under Qadhafi, in addition to this, unilateral political purges also played a role during the period when the discussions on the Law on Political and Administrative Isolation (PIL) – a law excluding former Qadhafi officials from political participation<sup>65</sup> – had reached a stalemate.<sup>66</sup> The wave of killings in Benghazi in August and September 2014, some of which targeted human rights activists, has been attributed to jihadists, whose influence was declining.<sup>67</sup> In addition, there were also recurrent clashes between 'registered' Islamist militias and the army's Special Forces (al-Sa'iqa).

Mid-May 2014, forces loyal to former general Haftar launched an attack in Benghazi on positions held by Ansar al-Sharia and its Islamist allies, the 17 February Martyrs Brigade and Libya Shield No. 1 in the Hawari, Sidi Fraj, Bu'atni, Qwarsha and Banina neighbourhoods.<sup>68</sup> Fighting resumed with more intensity on 15 October 2014, with former general Haftar expressing his will to put an end to the presence of Islamist militias in Benghazi.<sup>69</sup> Fighting mainly affected the neighbourhoods of Hawari, Bil-Awen, Bu'atni and Qaryunis. Qwarsha, al-Halis and Sabri were hit by shelling.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> Libya Body Count, *Table*, no date; Crisis Group, *Crisis Watch – Libya*, 1 February 2014.

<sup>61</sup> Small Arms Survey, *Libya's fractious south and regional instability*, February 2014.

<sup>62</sup> See section 5.

<sup>63</sup> Libya Herald, *Sebha peace-deal on brink of collapse after clashes leave three dead*, 21 April 2014; Libya Herald, *Eight feared killed in three days of Sebha violence*, 21 June 2014; Libya Herald, *Man dies as locals chase Ansar from Benghazi checkpoint*, 1 October 2014; Libya Herald, *Uneasy peace holds in Sebha*, 15 October 2014.

<sup>64</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Assassinations May Be Crimes Against Humanity*, 24 September 2014.

<sup>65</sup> For more detailed information, see *Libya: Judiciary and Security Sector*, section 3.2.4.

<sup>66</sup> German Institute for International and Security Affairs, *Libya's transition: towards collapse*, May 2014, p. 3; German Institute for International and Security Affairs, *Fault Lines of the Revolution: Political Actors, Camps and Conflicts in the New Libya*, May 2013.

<sup>67</sup> Libya Herald, *Ukrainian kidnapping condemned by Health Ministry*, 24 September 2014.

<sup>68</sup> Libya Herald, *Haftar launches Benghazi attack on Islamists*, 16 May 2014; Libya Herald, *Kidnapping of Benghazi bank manager sparks protests and bank closures*, 10 September 2014; OHCHR/UNSMIL, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014.

<sup>69</sup> Reuters, *Libyan army, residents battle Islamist militants in Benghazi*, 15 October 2014.

<sup>70</sup> Libya Herald, *Two Egyptians killed in Benghazi as fighting rages across city*, 17 November 2014.



According to the Red Crescent, 400 have been killed in the fighting in Benghazi since mid-October.<sup>71</sup>

### 3.3.3 Operation Libya Dawn in Tripoli

The first event disrupting the relative peace that existed in Tripoli following the uprising was the Gharghur massacre. On 15 November 2013, armed combatants from Misrata opened fire on a peaceful demonstration entering the Gharghur neighbourhood, killing 43 and injuring 460, mostly unarmed demonstrators, who were protesting against the presence of illegal armed groups in Tripoli.<sup>72</sup>

The situation in the capital started to worsen considerably on 13 July 2014 with the outbreak of the confrontation between the Zintan and Misrata brigades – which adopted the name Libya Dawn to their offensive – over the control of the airport. Heavy weaponry was at first used only close to the airport, but was later used in other areas as the violence spread to the town of Janzur, 12 km to the east of Tripoli, and then further to more densely populated areas west of Tripoli (Hayy Andalus, Qarqarish and Ghut al-Sha'al). Civilian casualties were high, much of the violence being in all likelihood of an indiscriminate nature, however, no official figures exist. The fighting ended when the airport and subsequently the capital were taken on 23 August 2014 by the Misrata Brigades. On the following day, the airport was the target of several air raids attributed to Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.<sup>73</sup> Egypt immediately denied any military involvement.<sup>74</sup>

The fighting then moved to the Warshafana tribal area, south-west of Tripoli. Residents in this area, who are considered pro-Qadhafi by the Libyan militias, were besieged by the Libya Dawn forces at the end of the summer and the start of the autumn 2014. On 21 September 2014, the main hospital ran out of medical supplies and houses were burned down or bulldozed by militias. Snipers were shooting at passers-by.<sup>75</sup>

### 3.3.4 Darna, a New Enclave of the Islamic State

Darna, a port town in the east of the country, between al-Bayda and Tubruq, is a traditionally religious town where an Islamist movement against Qadhafi appeared in the 1990s.<sup>76</sup> Since the end of the 2011 uprising, Darna has gradually become a jihadi stronghold. The Libyan transitional authorities never maintained control or authority in Darna. Fighting between armed groups regularly occurs, causing civilian casualties.<sup>77</sup> In March 2014, Darna was described by the Libyan press as “particularly dangerous”<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Libya Herald, *Another murder as Benghazi death toll passes 400*, 1 December 2014.

<sup>72</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Militias Kill Unarmed Protesters: 43 Dead, Many Wounded, as Security Forces Stand by*, 17 November 2013.

<sup>73</sup> OHCHR/UNSMIL, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Breaking news: Dawn takes control of Tripoli airport*, 23 August 2014; Libya Herald, *Libya Dawn accuses Egypt and the UAE of Tripoli airstrikes*, 24 August 2014.

<sup>74</sup> Reuters, *Egypt, UAE carried out Tripoli air strikes: U.S. officials*, 25 August 2014.

<sup>75</sup> OHCHR/UNSMIL, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014; Al-Monitor, *Dozens killed in Tripoli suburb under siege*, 14 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Warshafana slaughter continues*, 10 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Zahra hospital shelled and evacuated as fierce Warshafana fighting continues*, 21 September 2014.

<sup>76</sup> The New York Times, *Diverse Character in City Qaddafi Calls Islamist*, 7 March 2011.

<sup>77</sup> International Business Times, *ISIS Establishes Stronghold In Derna, Libya*, 10 November 2014.

<sup>78</sup> Libya Herald, *Navy recruit shot dead in Derna*, 23 March 2014.

and “the most dangerous place after Benghazi”, on account of the high number of political assassinations.<sup>79</sup>

In April 2014, small radical Islamist groups<sup>80</sup> joined forces to create the Shura Council of Islamic Youth in Darna.<sup>81</sup> On 3 October 2014, some members of the Shura Council (the al-Bata’a and Abu Mahjan al-Ta’ifi brigades) declared their allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. In September 2014, fifteen ISIS members visited Darna to rally support.<sup>82</sup>

The Shura Council of Islamic Youth, which has a reputation for violence, gradually took control of Darna. It established a civilian administration as part of the self-proclaimed Cyrenaica Province within the Islamic State. It also created a police force and opened tax bureaus. A squad for the prevention of vice was also created, as well as an Islamic court for the strict enforcement of Islamic law, headed by a Yemeni judge. According to Human Rights Watch, the Shura Council carried out at least three public executions and ten public floggings, notably for alcohol consumption. Political assassinations of officials, judges, members of the security forces, clerics, are also attributed to the Shura Council. Shops selling goods considered ‘immoral’ have been bombed.<sup>83</sup> Many residents have fled Darna.<sup>84</sup>

There are also some jihadi militias in Darna which are not part of the Shura Council, notably the Abu Slim Martyrs Brigade, whose influence seems to be waning.<sup>85</sup>

### 3.4 Current Situation (1 December 2014)

The security and humanitarian situation has deteriorated since the events of May 2014. According to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), Libya was the fourth most volatile African country in November 2014, with 534 conflicts since June 2014, 24 % of which took place between armed groups. The United Kingdom’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office warned that violent clashes between armed groups were possible across the entire country, including in Tripoli, particularly at night.<sup>86</sup>

Armed confrontations have ended in the capital since September 2014. The current situation is considered relatively calm and security has improved, compared to the period prior to the conflict.<sup>87</sup> But things might change rapidly; officials of Operation

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<sup>79</sup> Libya Herald, *Women’s cosmetic shop in Derna bombed*, 1 March 2014; Libya Herald, *Qaddafi regime official murdered in Derna*, 10 September 2014.

<sup>80</sup> The Army of the Islamic State of Libya, local members of Ansar al-Sharia and the private militia of Sufyan Bin Qumu, a former detainee at Guantanamo.

<sup>81</sup> Libya Herald, *Derna Islamist leader killed in Benghazi*, 17 September 2014.

<sup>82</sup> Reuters, *Dozens of Libyans in eastern town pledge allegiance to Islamic State leader*, 1 November 2014.

<sup>83</sup> Libya Herald, *Women’s cosmetic shop in Derna bombed*, 1 March 2014.

<sup>84</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Extremists Terrorizing Derna Residents*, 27 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Ansar Al-Sharia moves to consolidate power in Derna as locals look to liberation by Libyan army*, 26 October 2014; Libya Herald, *Ansar Al-Sharia tightens hold in Derna and formally establishes Islamic Court*, 22 October 2014.

<sup>85</sup> Menas Associates, *Libya: In-fighting between Islamist militias in Derna*, 28 July 2014; Libya Herald, *Derna Islamist leader killed in Benghazi*, 17 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Derna’s Islamic Youth Council declares allegiance to Daesh: report*, 4 October 2014; Libya Herald, *Ansar Al-Sharia tightens hold in Derna and formally establishes Islamic Court*, 22 October 2014.

<sup>86</sup> UK FCO, *Foreign travel advice – Libya*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>87</sup> BBC News, *Insight into life in Libya with BBC’s Rana Jawad*, 29 October 2014; Libya Herald, *Victory is coming to Tripoli – Thinni*, 20 October 2014.

Dignity and the regular army have announced the start of a major military offensive to liberate Tripoli.<sup>88</sup>

Heavy fighting is currently going on in three areas:

- Heavy weaponry is still used in fighting south-west of Tripoli, especially around Kikla, a strategic town giving access to the Nafusa mountains. Libya Dawn reportedly controls the northern part of the town whereas the Zintani Brigades control the other areas.<sup>89</sup> Between 10 October and 24 November 2014, official figures mentioned 140 dead and 450 injured. According to the municipal authorities, the humanitarian situation is catastrophic, as the closure of the road between Gharyan and Kikla has interrupted food supplies.<sup>90</sup> On 22 November, air raids were conducted against targets in Surman and Janzur, two towns to the west of Tripoli.<sup>91</sup>
- Fighting continues in Benghazi and is concentrated in an area just outside the town centre, in the western part of town and in the Bianani and Bu'atni neighbourhoods.<sup>92</sup> Operation Dignity announced its forces had retaken 80 % of Benghazi from Islamist militias.<sup>93</sup> On 26 November 2014, observers noted an improvement in the situation, as ordinary life had resumed in many districts. Snipers were still reported in some areas of the town centre.<sup>94</sup> In the preceding days, the press also mentioned a shortage of medicines, food, cooking gas and other necessities, which are sold at inflated prices.<sup>95</sup> Fighting continued in the abandoned neighbourhoods of Qunfinda and Qawrasha.<sup>96</sup> Approximately 400 persons were killed by the violence between June 2014 and December 2014. An unknown number of civilian victims were caught in crossfire.<sup>97</sup>
- In Ubari, there have been ongoing clashes since 17 September 2014 between the Tuareg allied to Libya Dawn and the main Toubou security force, close to the Tubruq House of Representatives. When negotiations for a truce failed, many civilians left the town. The Toubou reportedly took control of a strategic position from which the Tuareg had been launching their attacks.<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> Libya Herald, *LNA claims "operation to liberate Tripoli" has started; Sorman and Janzur among targets targeted say Zintanis*, 22 November 2014.

<sup>89</sup> Libya Herald, *Red Crescent sends relief aid to Kikla as fighting continues in Warshefana area*, 4 November 2014; Libya Herald, *On the frontline in Kikla, with Libyan Dawn*, 19 November 2014.

<sup>90</sup> World Health Organization, *Libya Crisis – Situation Report no. 3*, 24 November 2014.

<sup>91</sup> Libya Herald, *LNA claims "operation to liberate Tripoli" has started; Sorman and Janzur among targets targeted say Zintanis*, 22 November 2014.

<sup>92</sup> Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview 18 November 2014; World Health Organization, *Libya Crisis – Situation Report no. 3*, 24 November 2014.

<sup>93</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity takes control of Gwarsha gate as fighting goes into seventh day*, 22 October 2014.

<sup>94</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi life getting back to normal*, 26 November 2014.

<sup>95</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi residents face hardships as battle for the city continues*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>96</sup> Libya Herald, *Attack on was "a warning shot" claims Dignity*, 30 November 2014.

<sup>97</sup> Reuters, *About 400 killed in past six weeks of fighting in Libya's Benghazi – medics*, 29 November 2014; AFP, *356 dead in month-old battle for Libya's Benghazi*, 15 November 2014.

<sup>98</sup> Libya Herald, *Fighting in Obari between pro- and anti-Libya Dawn groups*, 17 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Fighting continues in Obari*, 22 October 2014; Libya Herald, *Number of internally displaced in Libya nears 400.000*, 18 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Obari "almost empty" of residents: report*, 21 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Government-aligned Tebu forces win control of the Tendi Mountain*, 23 November 2014.

Along with these serious armed confrontations, targeted assassinations, abductions and intermittent clashes between rival militias still take place in in Benghazi, Tripoli, Darna and other areas. Residents in Darna continue to face abuses from radical Islamist movements, the most important of which has pledged allegiance to ISIS. Several bomb attacks were carried out during the past few months, notably in Tubruq and al-Bayda. These two towns were previously considered safe enough to host the House of Representatives and the Constitutional Assembly.<sup>99</sup>

In the town of Sabha, the cease-fire concluded in October 2014 is still holding and the situation is back to normal. However, the town is still a hub of arms dealing and human trafficking.<sup>100</sup>

More generally, the security situation in small towns and settlements appears to be better than in the bigger towns.<sup>101</sup> A researcher from the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) is of the opinion that big urban areas are more attractive to militias, which are the main source of instability,<sup>102</sup> while adding that much of the violence in Libya is of a rather spontaneous nature and does not target any specific group: civilians are liable to find themselves accidentally in a situation of violence.<sup>103</sup>

The continuously escalating violence, the proliferation of weapons, the presence of ISIS in Darna, the polarisation between the main actors and the absence of any conciliatory moves do not augur well for a positive outcome to the conflict in the near future. On 26 November 2014, the UN Security Council expressed its deep concern over the situation. Noting that there was no military solution, the Council urged all parties to engage constructively in a political process aimed at addressing political and security issues. The conflicting parties have so far ignored all international calls for dialogue.<sup>104</sup>

## 4. IMPACT ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

### 4.1 Civilian Victims

It is very difficult to find reliable and objective figures about the number of civilian casualties during the 2011 uprising. Official sources estimated that 30,000 persons had been killed as a result of the fighting by August 2011.<sup>105</sup> However, the Uppsala Conflict Data Program puts the figures to between 1,914 and 3,466 persons killed in the 2011 uprising, of which between 152 and 168 civilians were deliberately killed by pro-

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<sup>99</sup> Los Angeles Times, *Libya's parliament ducks fighting to meet in eastern city of Tobruk*, 2 August 2014; Libya Herald, *Egypt opens consulate in Tobruk*, 21 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Five killed and 21 injured in Tobruk and Beida suicide bombings*, 12 November 2014.

<sup>100</sup> Libya Herald, *Sebha officials learn more about how to prepare for times of crisis*, 1 December 2014.

<sup>101</sup> Libya Herald, *Hun celebrates 18th annual heritage festival*, 17 November 2014.

<sup>102</sup> EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), email contact, 12 November 2014.

<sup>103</sup> EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), email contact, 12 November 2014.

<sup>104</sup> UN Security Council, *Security Council Press Statement on Libya (26 November 2014)*, 26 November 2014; Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Africa/The Peace and Security Council (PSC), *Dilemma of how to deal with Libya's two parliaments*, 20 November 2014.

<sup>105</sup> The Huffington Post, *Libya: Estimated 30,000 Died In War; 4,000 Still Missing*, 9 August 2011.

Qadhafi forces. These very low figures are explained by the strict definition of unilateral violence used by the Uppsala Program.<sup>106</sup>

The number of civilian casualties during the reporting period is also hard to assess. No specific figures could be found. The press regularly mentions an ‘unknown number’ of civilian casualties or, when giving a figure, does not distinguish between civilians and combatants.<sup>107</sup> According to ACLED, there were far less victims of violence in 2014 than in 2011.<sup>108</sup>

According to UNSMIL and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the only statistical data available are those of the Libyan Ministry of Health. Regarding the fighting in Tripoli, as of 30 July 2014, 214 dead and 981 injured have been counted. A month later, the Ministry of Health reported that 70 persons had died in clashes in Benghazi. UNSMIL and the OHCHR believe that the number of victims is underestimated, but they do not know of any organisation that systematically records the conflict’s civilian victims.<sup>109</sup>

Relying on media reports and official ministerial websites, the *Libya Body Count* website has been counting the victims of the conflict since January 2014, without distinguishing between combatants and civilians. According to this website, between 1 January and 30 November 2014, the highest numbers of deaths were recorded in Benghazi (1,261), Tripoli (499), Kikla (181) Warshafana (147), Sabha (134) and Darna (57). The highest number of casualties fell between July and October (450 to 500 dead per month).<sup>110</sup>

The UNHCR Position Paper of November 2014 does not give any figure of civilian casualties and refers to information from UNSMIL, the OHCHR and Libya Body Count.<sup>111</sup>

## 4.2 Internally Displaced Persons

### 4.2.1 Before May 2014

According to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the 2011 uprising caused the displacement of 550,000 persons.<sup>112</sup> At the end of December 2013, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) estimated the number of remaining internally displaced persons (IDPs) from 2011 to 59,400. In the beginning of 2014, events in Sabha caused 21,000 new IDPs, according to the IDMC.<sup>113</sup> Most of them are living in camps around Tripoli and Benghazi; there are also some smaller facilities in Sirt, Misrata, Tarhuna and Dir. In the spring of 2014, UNHCR announced that 59,425 persons were still in a situation of protracted displacement. Among them, 30,000 from

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<sup>106</sup> Uppsala Conflict Data Program, *UCDP Conflict Encyclopedia*, no date.

<sup>107</sup> See section 5; Libya Herald, *Missile attacks continue in Tripoli as Janzour base is reported destroyed*, 4 August 2014; Libya Herald, *Saturday’s clashes leave more than 20 dead*, 4 August 2014; The New York Times, *British Citizens Flee Tripoli on Ship as 25 Libyans Are Reportedly Killed in Fighting*, 3 August 2014.

<sup>108</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), *Conflict trends (No.32): Real-time analysis of African political violence*, November 2014.

<sup>109</sup> UNSMIL/OHCHR, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014.

<sup>110</sup> Libya Body Count, *Table*, no date; Libya Body Count, *Death by months*, 2014, no date; Libya Body Count, *Death by location*, no date.

<sup>111</sup> UNHCR, *UNHCR Position on Returns to Libya*, 12 November 2014.

<sup>112</sup> UNHCR, *Libya: statistical snapshot*, January 2014.

<sup>113</sup> IDMC, *Libya Figures Analysis*, May 2014.

Tawargha, 9,404 from Sirt, 9,200 from the mountainous regions in the west, more than 6,000 from Misrata, 2,402 from Ghadamis, 1,403 from Nalut, 362 from Bani Walid and 292 from Kufra. In May 2014, there were 63,985 IDPs registered with UNHCR in Libya.<sup>114</sup>

#### 4.2.2 From May 2014 Onwards

The fighting in Benghazi and Tripoli in the summer of 2014 caused a new rise in the number of IDPs. In a briefing of 15 September 2014, UNHCR estimated the total number of IDPs at 175,000: 100,000 from the west (Tripoli), 35,000 from the east (Benghazi) and 40,000 from Tawargha, in secondary displacement.<sup>115</sup> The fighting around the airport in Tripoli caused several tens of thousands of persons to leave their homes. Most of them took refuge with relatives outside the combat zones.<sup>116</sup> According to an estimate of the Tripoli City Council, 12,600 families of Tripoli had been displaced by mid-September.<sup>117</sup> UNHCR believes some of them left Libya for Djerba, Cairo and Istanbul. Others went to live with relatives outside Tripoli or took refuge in Libyan towns such as Zawiya (around 2,000 families), Sirt (at least 120 families), Bani Walid (at least 700 families) and Nalut (260 families). Some IDPs from Tripoli took refuge in the woods and open lands outside the capital.<sup>118</sup> The August 2014 clashes in Benghazi caused residents of the Bu'atni neighbourhood to seek refuge in school buildings, or with friends or relatives in other parts of the city.<sup>119</sup> As of mid-September 2014, 33,654 IDPs were registered with the City Council.<sup>120</sup>

On 30 August 2014, the attack on the al-Fallah IDP camp in Tripoli, which housed IDPs from Tawargha, caused the departure of 5,500 camp residents for Tarhuna and Bani Walid, to the east of Tripoli, and for Zawiya, Surman and Ajaylat, west of the capital. Some others stayed with relatives in Tripoli.<sup>121</sup> Following the fighting in the Warshafana area, most residents left their homes for the towns of Zintan, Tarhuna, Bani Walid and Gharyan. Among the 7,000 IDPs in Gharyan, many took refuge in school buildings or with relatives.<sup>122</sup>

According to figures from UNHCR,<sup>123</sup> as of 20 November 2014, the number of people displaced since May 2014 was more than 393,400, of which 106,000 fled Benghazi (26,500), Ubari (11,280), Kikla (38,640) and Darna (an unknown number) in the preceding month. They took refuge in a total of 35 Libyan towns or cities. More

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<sup>114</sup> UNHCR, *External update*, May 2014; UNHCR Libya, *Fact-sheet – April 2014*, April 2014.

<sup>115</sup> UNSMIL/OHCHR, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014; UNHCR, *Briefing Note – Libya 20 August - 15 September 2014*, 15 September 2014; UNHCR, *Libya: briefing note*, 27 July 2014.

<sup>116</sup> UNHCR, *Libya: briefing note*, 27 July 2014.

<sup>117</sup> Al-Monitor, *Dozens killed in Tripoli suburb under siege*, 14 September 2014.

<sup>118</sup> Libya Herald, *Councils, charities and UNHCR struggle to aid Tripoli refugees*, 18 August 2014.

<sup>119</sup> Libya Herald, *Fighting in south east Benghazi as Ansar renews Benina attacks*, 1 September 2014.

<sup>120</sup> UNHCR, *Briefing Note - Libya 20 August - 15 September 2014*, 15 September 2014.

<sup>121</sup> UNSMIL/OHCHR, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Tawerghan refugee camp a ghost town in wake of attack*, 31 August 2014; UNHCR, *Briefing Note – Libya 20 August - 15 September 2014*, 15 September 2014.

<sup>122</sup> UNHCR, *Briefing Note – Libya 20 August - 15 September 2014*, 15 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Bani Walid remembers*, 25 September 2014.

<sup>123</sup> UNHCR, *New displacement in east, south and west of Libya*, 14 November 2014.

specifically, IDPs from Benghazi and Darna fled to Tubruq, Marj Bayda, Ajdabiya, Misrata and safe areas in Benghazi.<sup>124</sup> According to Benghazi residents, the city's IDPs generally flee to Misrata if they support Libya Dawn and to eastern towns if they support Operation Dignity.<sup>125</sup> IDPs from the west of the country (Kikla, Qal'a) seek refuge in Tripoli, Gharyan and Bani Walid<sup>126</sup>. The town of Ubari has been abandoned by most of its civilian population: the Tuareg fled to Ghat and the Toubou to Murzuq. Only 'Black Arabs' reportedly did not leave the town.<sup>127</sup>

IDPs have found shelter with relatives or friends in calm neighbourhoods and nearby towns. Others, who can afford it, rent rooms. More and more IDPs seek refuge in forests, schools, parks and public buildings. Many host towns have converted schools and residential buildings into shelters. In collaboration with local crisis committees, town councils are playing a crucial part in aiding IDPs, but seem to be overwhelmed by their number. Solidarity between residents of affected neighbourhoods also plays a part: in the West Salmani neighbourhood of Benghazi, residents have organised activities for displaced children.<sup>128</sup>

The 2,500 Tawargha who fled their camp in Benghazi in the middle of October 2014 are living in particularly harsh conditions in parks, schools and car parks in Ajdabiya and nearby towns. They only have tents and plastic sheeting to protect themselves from bad weather.<sup>129</sup>

### 4.3 Freedom of Movement

#### 4.3.1 Roads

Checkpoints have been installed on access roads to towns and on city streets.<sup>130</sup> In November 2013, experts stated that checkpoints are put into place without prior notice, according to the needs of the local militia, and that this greatly complicates traffic on Libyan roads. In August 2013, there were checkpoints on all the main roads leading into Tripoli, on roads between towns and at town entry points. Checks were not carried out systematically, depending on the agenda of the group manning the checkpoint.<sup>131</sup> Serious difficulties to cross checkpoints with humanitarian aid for injured and displaced persons were reported.<sup>132</sup> Analyst Rafaâ Tabib explains that checkpoints (called *bawabat*, "doors" or "gates") are also used by militias to collect

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<sup>124</sup> Libya Herald, *Number of internally displaced in Libya nears 400.000*, 18 November 2014; Libya Herald, *No green light in Green Mountains for General Suleiman Obeidi*, 20 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Benghazinos look after their own*, 28 November 2014.

<sup>125</sup> Resident in Benghazi, email, 1 November 2014.

<sup>126</sup> Libya Herald, *Rising concern for refugees from fighting in the west*, 19 October 2014.

<sup>127</sup> Libya Herald, *Obari "almost empty" of residents: report*, 21 November 2014. Black Arabs are Libyans of African descent, see *Libya: Vulnerable Groups*, section 4.2.4.

<sup>128</sup> Libya Herald, *UNHCR: We need more money to help Libyan refugees*, 10 October 2014; UNHCR, *UNHCR Position on Returns to Libya*, 12 November 2014, p. 5/7; Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Benghazinos look after their own*, 28 November 2014.

<sup>129</sup> UNHCR, *New displacement in east, south and west of Libya*, 14 November 2014.

<sup>130</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi's many faces*, 16 August 2014; Libya Herald, *Central Tripoli streets deserted, no checkpoints, some roads blockaded*, 17 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity takes control of Gwarsha gate as fighting goes into seventh day*, 2 October 2014.

<sup>131</sup> Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber), *AT and Others (Article 15c ; risk categories) Libya CG [2014] UKUT 318 (IAC)*, 14 July 2014, p. 12-13.

<sup>132</sup> IRIN News, *Libya aid push constrained by insecurity*, 1 October 2014.

funds.<sup>133</sup> Several international organisations have confirmed that there are checkpoints everywhere and that militias set them up whenever they feel like it. Crossing procedures are arbitrary and checkpoints regularly change place. Civilians fear checks because of the risk of being identified, rightly or wrongly, as a supporter of a rival militia.<sup>134</sup>

In November 2014, driving on Libyan roads remained difficult and dangerous, especially in the east (but reliable information is scarce) and between cities. Libyans, especially in the east, avoid road travel unless absolutely necessary: travel between the east and the west of the country happens via Egypt or Tunisia. However, the security situation on major roads has improved in western areas controlled by Libya Dawn, especially on the main road between Tripoli and Tunis.<sup>135</sup> According to an analyst from Crisis Group, checkpoints of different militias are hampering road traffic between al-Bayda and Tubruq. She also added that Libyans fear to travel between the east and the west because of stereotypical representations regarding the population of the other region.<sup>136</sup>

### 4.3.2 Border Crossings

According to the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, roads leading to the borders are open but the security situation is always liable to change suddenly, and delays or temporary closures are possible.<sup>137</sup> UNSMIL has confirmed that the Tunisian border, apart from occasional short closures, is open most of the time. Libyans can easily enter and stay in Tunisia for up to three months without a visa or specific reason.<sup>138</sup> Drivers are subjected to an exit tax of 30 Tunisian dinars.<sup>139</sup> The border with Egypt is often closed and a visa is required to stay in Egypt.<sup>140</sup> According to the Crisis Group analyst, no-one crosses the southern borders except migrants and smugglers.<sup>141</sup>

There are three border crossings with Tunisia. According to the Crisis Group, the tribal militias that are in control of border crossings and smuggling routes change regularly in function of the evolving security situation.<sup>142</sup> On the coast road, the Ben Gardane/Ras Jdir crossing was controlled by the Libyan Shield Force (LSF) as of 9 October 2014. At that time, the crossing was described as dirty and disorganised. Food and drinking water were scarce and hygiene was problematic. Libyans wishing to leave their country sometimes had to wait up to 36 hours, as border guards gave priority to friends and well-connected people. The crossing at Wazin/al-Dhahiba is situated near Nalut, in the

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<sup>133</sup> Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF), *Stealing the revolution: violence and predation in Libya*, October 2014.

<sup>134</sup> IOM Regional office, meeting in Cairo, 30 October 2014; Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014; United States Institute of Peace (USIP), telephone interview, 19 November 2014.

<sup>135</sup> IOM Regional office, meeting in Cairo, 30 October 2014; Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014; United States Institute of Peace (USIP), telephone interview, 19 November 2014.

<sup>136</sup> Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014.

<sup>137</sup> UK FCO, *Foreign Travel Advice Libya*, 2 November 2014.

<sup>138</sup> UNSMIL, telephone interview, 12 November 2014; Resident in Benghazi, email, 1 November 2014; IRIN News, *Tunisia prepares for Libya influx despite hardened attitudes*, 12 November 2014.

<sup>139</sup> Libya Herald, *Long waits, high prices and poor facilities at Ras Jdir*, 9 October 2014.

<sup>140</sup> UNSMIL, telephone interview, 12 November 2014; Resident in Benghazi, email, 1 November 2014; IRIN News, *Tunisia prepares for Libya influx despite hardened attitudes*, 12 November 2014.

<sup>141</sup> Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014.

<sup>142</sup> Crisis Group, *Tunisia's Borders (II): Terrorism and Regional Polarisation*, 20 October 2014.



Nafusa mountains. In July 2014, security at the crossing was organised by the Nalut town council, which allowed anyone with a valid passport and the necessary documents to enter or leave Libya.<sup>143</sup> Starting on 24 October 2014, both crossings were closed for three days because of the parliamentary elections in Tunisia.<sup>144</sup> On 29 November 2014, the government in Tubruq authorised the opening of a third crossing at Mashhad Salih, midway between the two abovementioned crossings. This crossing is controlled by Zintan Brigades, who intend to use it to supply their home town.<sup>145</sup>

The situation at the Tunisian border is currently described as calm and under control, and the border is mainly used by third country nationals to enter Tunisia.<sup>146</sup> Most Libyans entering Tunisia are not in search of humanitarian aid but travel regularly between the two countries and stay in hotels in Tunisia.<sup>147</sup> In order to cope with a sudden massive influx of Libyan refugees, the Tunisian government has put an emergency plan into place for the two abovementioned border crossings and the adjoining Libyan governorates.<sup>148</sup>

The total number of Libyans in Tunisia is difficult to assess. According to Crisis Group, more than 600,000 thousand Libyans have been permanent residents in Tunisia since the fall of the Qadhafi regime. Among them are tens of thousands of senior officials from the former regime. The most realistic estimates put between 300,000 and 1 million the number of Libyans with permanent residence in Tunisia.<sup>149</sup>

On the Egyptian side, the main border crossing is at Musa'id/Sallum, 150 km east of Tubruq. It reopened on 3 September 2014 for trucks, Libyan nationals with a visa, persons with close relatives in Egypt and third country nationals with valid travel documents and a visa. The crossing has been closed again to Libyans since 4 November 2014, except those with an Egyptian wife or mother.<sup>150</sup>

### 4.3.3 International Flights

Because of the conflict, Libya's two main international airports are closed. Tripoli's international airport has been closed since 13 July 2014 and the Benina international airport (for Benghazi) since 16 May 2014. All international airlines suspended their flights indefinitely in July 2014, when fighting was raging around Tripoli airport. Airspace in the west of Libya was closed in July 2014 and reopened in October 2014.<sup>151</sup>

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<sup>143</sup> Libya Herald, *Nalut Local Council says crossing to Tunisia is open*, 16 July 2014.

<sup>144</sup> Libya Herald, *Tunisia to close border with Libya for three days as legislative elections take place*, 24 October 2014.

<sup>145</sup> Libya Herald, *Third Libyan-Tunisian border crossing approved*, 30 September 2014.

<sup>146</sup> IRIN News, *Tunisia prepares for Libya influx despite hardened attitudes*, 12 November 2014; Crisis Group, *Tunisia's Borders (II): Terrorism and Regional Polarisation*, 20 October 2014.

<sup>147</sup> UNSMIL, *Concern mounts for refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya*, 5 August 2014; Mangan, F., United States Institute of Peace (USIP), telephone interview, 19 November 2014.

<sup>148</sup> IRIN News, *Tunisia prepares for Libya influx despite hardened attitudes*, 12 November 2014.

<sup>149</sup> IRIN News, *Tunisia prepares for Libya influx despite hardened attitudes*, 12 November 2014; Crisis Group, *Tunisia's Borders (II): Terrorism and Regional Polarisation*, 20 October 2014, p.11.

<sup>150</sup> UNHCR, *Libya crisis – Regional update 1-7 September 2014*, 7 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Egypt bars Libyans from crossing border at Salloum*, 5 November 2014; Resident from Benghazi, email, 1 November 2014.

<sup>151</sup> Libya Herald, *Zuwara OK for international flights even as doubts rise over Libyan airspace*, 20 October 2014; Libya Herald, *Western Libyan airspace reopened for overfly*, 24 October 2014.

Other airports are still operational, notably the former Mitiga airbase, less than 10 km east of Tripoli, as well as the international airport at Misrata, the airport at al-Abraq, 20 km west of al-Bayda, and the Tubruq airport. There are currently no domestic flights between Tripoli and Benghazi and between Tripoli and Tubruq. Travellers between the east and the west of the country have to make a detour via Egypt and Tunisia.<sup>152</sup>

Libyan airline companies (Afriqiyah, Libyan Airlines and Buraq Air) have not suspended their international flights from domestic airports.<sup>153</sup> According to different schedules published on their Facebook page, Afriqiyah Airways flies to Amman, Alexandria, Istanbul, Casablanca, Khartoum and Niamey.<sup>154</sup> Buraq Air resumed its Mitiga-Rabat and Mitiga-Istanbul flights in October 2014.<sup>155</sup>

Egyptian airlines no longer fly to Libya, and Libyan airlines have not been authorised to land in Cairo since July 2014.<sup>156</sup> On 27 November 2014, the Egyptian government closed its airspace to all flights from Misrata and Mitiga, both controlled by Libya Dawn.<sup>157</sup> Libyan airline companies try to circumvent this ban by stopping over in Tubruq or al-Abraq on their way to Alexandria.<sup>158</sup>

Following events in Tripoli last summer, Tunisia has closed its airspace to flights originating from Mitiga, Misrata and Sirt.<sup>159</sup> On 26 October 2014, Turkish Airlines reportedly resumed its daily flight between Istanbul and Misrata.<sup>160</sup> Air Malta introduced weekly flights between Valetta and Djerba – the nearest Tunisian airport to the Libyan border – after Tripoli International Airport was attacked in July 2014. Passengers have to organise their own transport from and to the airport. According to the Libya Herald, Tunisian taxis are allowed to take passengers across the border.<sup>161</sup>

Al-Abraq airport has closed several times. On 15 October, a rocket was shot for the third time at the airport but missed its target. It was last closed on 1 November but reopened after 24 hours.<sup>162</sup> Flights from and to Mitiga airport were suspended on 25 November after two air raids.<sup>163</sup> The Misrata airport is operating, but as it is controlled by the Misrata Brigades, people are reluctant to use it.<sup>164</sup> On 20 November 2014, the

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<sup>152</sup> UNSMIL, telephone interview, 12 November 2014; Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014.

<sup>153</sup> UK FCO, *Foreign Travel Advice – Libya*, 19 November 2014; International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office, meeting in Cairo, 30 October 2014; Libya Herald, *Buraq Air to resume flights on Sunday*, 8 October 2014.

<sup>154</sup> Facebook, *Afriqiyah Airways*, no date; Libya Herald, *Mitiga Airport suspends operations after second strike*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>155</sup> Libya Herald, *Buraq Air to resume flights on Sunday*, 8 October 2014.

<sup>156</sup> Libya Herald, *600 Egyptians turned back at Mitiga Airport after Libya Dawn tightens visa requirements*, 2 November 2014.

<sup>157</sup> Libya Herald, *Egypt bans flights to and from Mitiga and Misrata: “turns back plane”*, 27 November 2014.

<sup>158</sup> Libya Herald, *Egypt refuses more flights from Libya*, 1 December 2014.

<sup>159</sup> Libya Herald, *Tunisia and Egypt ban Libya flights*, 21 August 2014.

<sup>160</sup> Libya Herald, *First Turkish Airlines passenger flight in three months brings back Libyan officers*, 27 October 2014.

<sup>161</sup> Libya Herald, *Air Malta adds additional weekly Malta-Djerba flight*, 11 August 2014; Libya Herald, *No Tobruk flights but Mitiga looking promising, says Air Malta*, 23 October 2014.

<sup>162</sup> Libya Herald, *Labraq airport reopens after 24 hour closure*, 2 November 2014; Reuters, *Libya’s Tripoli airport departs 600 Egyptians*, 1 November 2014.

<sup>163</sup> Libya Herald, *Mitiga Airport suspends operations after second strike*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>164</sup> Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014.

Tubruq government threatened to close Libya's western airspace and to bomb the Libya Dawn controlled airports (Mitiga, Misrata, Zuwara and Sirt) unless they closed.<sup>165</sup> Two air raids were conducted against Mitiga airport in Tripoli on 24 and 25 November.<sup>166</sup>

#### 4.4 Daily Life

##### 4.4.1 Tripoli

Except for an episode of serious violence in Gharghur in November 2013, the situation in Tripoli remained relatively calm during the first months of the reporting period. In early June 2014, a Libyan journalist described the capital as a dangerous place at night, especially in the southern neighbourhoods, but normal during the day, despite some sporadic shooting. Shops remained open and were well-stocked with consumer goods.<sup>167</sup> However, the situation in the capital worsened considerably with the start of the fighting between the Zintan and Misrata brigades for the control of Tripoli's international airport on 13 July 2014. Heavy weaponry was at first used only close to the airport, in the Qasr Bin Ghashir neighbourhood, but later on the violence spread to densely populated neighbourhoods, causing many civilian casualties.<sup>168</sup>

The fighting ended on 22 August 2014 and all the sources consulted (press and international organisations) agree on the fact that the overall situation has improved considerably in the capital since then and that security conditions seem to be stabilizing.<sup>169</sup> According to the BBC correspondent in Tripoli, life has returned to normal on the streets of Tripoli and the situation is relatively calm.<sup>170</sup> Petrol, bread, cooking gas, water and electricity supplies soon became available again. Schools and shops have reopened.<sup>171</sup> While insecurity was high when the Zintan Brigades were in the capital, the situation has greatly improved since their departure. Crimes such as theft, burglary and carjacking are becoming less frequent, but abductions still take place. The improved situation is ascribed to the action of the Crisis Committee of Tripoli's city council.<sup>172</sup> Schools are generally open, except those sheltering IDPs.<sup>173</sup>

##### 4.4.2 Benghazi

Before May 2014, life in Benghazi was close to normal and political rivalries did not affect everyday life. From May to October 2014, fighting took place in some western

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<sup>165</sup> Libya Herald, *HoR threatens to close 4 airports over actions by Libya Dawn*, 20 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Planes and ships in Libya Dawn areas "military targets": High Command*, 22 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Second airstrike on Mitiga*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>166</sup> Libya Herald, *Planes and ships in Libya Dawn areas "military targets": High Command*, 22 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Breaking news: Second airstrike on Mitiga*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>167</sup> Al-Monitor, *Libya, my failing country*, 2 June 2014.

<sup>168</sup> UNSMIL/OHCHR, *Overview of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law during the ongoing violence in Libya*, 4 September 2014.

<sup>169</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office, meeting in Cairo, 30 October 2014; Mangan, F., United States Institute of Peace (USIP), telephone interview, 19 November 2014.

<sup>170</sup> BBC, *Insight into life in Libya with BBC's Rana Jawad*, 29 October 2014.

<sup>171</sup> Libya Herald, *Call goes out for uprising in Tripoli on 15 November*, 3 November 2014; Libya Herald, *HoR and Thinni government suffer de facto erosion of legitimacy on daily basis in Tripoli*, 14 October 2014.

<sup>172</sup> Libya Herald, *HoR and Thinni government suffer de facto erosion of legitimacy on daily basis in Tripoli*, 14 October 2014; Libya Herald, *Victory is coming to Tripoli – Thinni*, 20 October 2014.

<sup>173</sup> International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office, meeting in Cairo, 30 October 2014.

parts of Benghazi but this did not prevent people from leading a relatively normal life. Benghazi University closed during this period because of the proximity of its campus to the 17 February Martyrs Brigade in Qaryunis, where recurrent clashes occurred.<sup>174</sup> The start of the school year 2014-2015 had to be postponed several times.<sup>175</sup>

The situation in Benghazi has worsened since October 2014. Clashes took place in the western parts (al-Sabri, al-Fuhiwat, Tabalino, Qaryunis, Qwarsha), in the centre and in the nearby suburbs.<sup>176</sup> According to a resident in a safe neighbourhood:

*[B]anks are closed. Large shops are closed. Only the convenient shops that locate in safer places are open. Only grocery and pharmacy shops are open. Other types of shops such as clothes are closed. Only very few are open. There are short in gasoline, I can find some gas stations, but I have to wait for long line (30-45min). Usually, I don't need the gas as I move only in my area. There are lacks in pre-pay phone and internet cards. Also, they are lacks in cooking gas cylinders. There are sometimes power cuts when the fighting hits some power stations. We had more than 35 hours power off in last two days. [...] Moving around is dangerous. Most main roads are closed. With lots of checkpoints. The only fear of driving is the random of falling bombs.*<sup>177</sup>

Crisis Group confirms that most shops in Benghazi are operating fairly normally.<sup>178</sup> On 9 November 2014, mobile phone connections were disrupted when a telecommunications mast was damaged during clashes. Road closures have created a shortage of mobile phone and internet cards, which were sold at three times their ordinary rate. Water and electricity supplies were intermittent.<sup>179</sup>

On 25 November 2014, the Libya Herald mentions a shortage of medicines, food, cooking gas and other necessities in Benghazi. Prices are rising and the closing of most banks prevents people from collecting their salary. During daylight hours, people hurry to do their shopping before the curfew, causing traffic jams. After sundown, "there is an eerie quiet—no sounds of normal life. The only sound that breaks the silence is gunfire".<sup>180</sup> An article published the following day reported a lull in the fighting and a return to normal in most parts of Benghazi:

*Life in many districts, such as Salmani, Barka, Kish and Majuri, is now back to near normal with people now confidently venturing out for shopping, family visit and other social activities. Several companies have called staff back to work, although office hours are shortened 8am–5pm to 9am–2pm. People are generally now out on the streets between 7am and 7pm. They are relatively deserted after this. The cars vanish and the shops are shut.*<sup>181</sup>

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<sup>174</sup> Resident in Benghazi, email interview, 1 November 2014; Libya Herald, *University of Benghazi reassures students that files are safe*, 28 October 2014.

<sup>175</sup> Libya Herald, *Few takers as Benghazi schools try to restart*, 28 September 2014.

<sup>176</sup> UNSMIL, telephone interview, 12 November 2014; Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014.

<sup>177</sup> Resident in Benghazi, email interview, 1 November 2014.

<sup>178</sup> Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014.

<sup>179</sup> Libya Herald, *Damage to Al-Madar mast disrupts telecommunications in Benghazi*, 9 November 2014.

<sup>180</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi residents face hardships as battle for the city continues*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>181</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi life getting back to normal*, 26 November 2014.

#### 4.4.3 Other Towns and Regions

The rest of the country seems largely untouched by the fighting, even though most regions are also affected by the general instability. In smaller towns and settlements, daily life is fairly normal.<sup>182</sup>

After the conclusion of a cease-fire in Sabha on 1 October 2014, the press reported a return to normal, with shops, banks, cafes and pharmacies reopening. Many cars could be seen on the streets, people were doing their shopping and petrol stations were operational.<sup>183</sup> The town's cultural festival is due to take place in December 2014 and the restoration of the local fort, which was damaged in January 2014, is under discussion.<sup>184</sup> The Danish Refugee Council-Danish Demining Group (DRC-DDG), one of the rare international organisations present in town, trained officials from Sabha in crisis management in Tunis in November 2014. The problems identified during the training were human trafficking and arms dealing, insufficient basic facilities and services, damaged houses and fuel shortages.<sup>185</sup>

In Tripolitania, in June 2014 shops were open until late at night and few armed men were seen on the streets in Bani Walid.<sup>186</sup> The Libyan and foreign press did not mention any security incidents in Misrata and Zintan, probably because the population backs their respective local militias, which gained legitimacy from their action during the uprising and their ability to guarantee local security.<sup>187</sup>

In Cyrenaica, the town of Tubruq, in the far east of the country, was deemed sufficiently safe in August 2014 for the newly elected House of Representatives' opening session. The Los Angeles Times describes the town as "relatively peaceful".<sup>188</sup> Egypt opened a consulate in Tubruq in September 2014.<sup>189</sup> Primary and secondary schools were closed for two weeks after a series of suicide bomb attacks on 12 November.<sup>190</sup>

In the Fezzan region, no victims were reported in 2014 in Kufra, a town in the south-west where inter-ethnic fighting between Arabs and Toubou occurred between February and June 2012. According to an article published in mid-August 2014 by the Libya Herald, calm and appeasement had returned to Kufra. The conflicting parties are engaged in negotiations and public utilities (electricity, road maintenance) were being provided.<sup>191</sup> The town of Hun, 600 km south-east of Tripoli, celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> annual

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<sup>182</sup> Libya Herald, *Hun celebrates 18th annual heritage festival*, 17 November 2014; Gazzini, C., Crisis Group, telephone interview, 18 November 2014.

<sup>183</sup> Libya Herald, *Ceasefire in Sabha in time for Eid*, 2 October 2014.

<sup>184</sup> Libya Herald, *Murzuk postpones cultural festival; Sebha's to go ahead*, 30 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Damaged Sebha castle is secure; restoration work could start in 2015 says official*, 30 November 2014.

<sup>185</sup> Libya Herald, *Sebha officials learn more about how to prepare for times of crisis*, 1 December 2014; Libya Herald, *Murzuk postpones cultural festival; Sebha's to go ahead*, 30 November 2014.

<sup>186</sup> Al-Monitor, *Libya, my failing country*, 2 June 2014.

<sup>187</sup> Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *Ending Libya's civil war, Reconciling Politics, Rebuilding security*, 24 September 2014, p. 4.

<sup>188</sup> Los Angeles Times, *Libya's parliament ducks fighting to meet in eastern city of Tobruk*, 2 August 2014.

<sup>189</sup> Libya Herald, *Egypt opens consulate in Tobruk*, 21 September 2014.

<sup>190</sup> Libya Herald, *Schools re-open in Tobruk*, 30 November 2014.

<sup>191</sup> Libya Herald, *Peace and reconciliation break out in Kufra*, 16 August 2014.

arts and heritage festival, with many visitors from all over Libya, according to its organisers.<sup>192</sup>

According to the Libya Body Count website, the towns of Tubruq, Misrata, al-Abraq, Qubah, Ras Jdir, Rabta, Zahra, Khums, Ajdabiya, Tajura, Janzur, Sabrata, Mizda and Shahat have each registered less than eight dead due to violence since the start of 2013.<sup>193</sup>

#### 4.5 Access to Health Care

The main problems identified by the World Health Organisation regarding Libyans' (including IDPs) access to health care are the following:<sup>194</sup>

- Restrictions of movement of patients and health workers in conflict areas
- A shortage of medical professionals due to the departure of foreign medical workers (Indian and Filipino health workers constituted 26% of hospital staff in Libya)
- The increase in the number of dead and injured
- The increase in the number of IDPs
- The partial or complete closure of hospitals in or near combat zones<sup>195</sup>
- Serious shortages of medicines, vaccines and medical supplies. Storage depots have been looted and fresh supplies from abroad reach their destination with difficulty.<sup>196</sup>

In mid-October 2014, according to a doctor working for Libya's main healthcare provider, clashes prevented medical workers to reach their place of work, even as many injured were awaiting treatment. "Most roads in the city had been shut by makeshift barriers and local areas are protected by armed residents making it impossible to move freely from district to district. As a result, [...] medics had been forced to stay at home when they were most needed".<sup>197</sup>

One week later, a resident from an area outside the combat zone confirmed the seriousness of the situation:

*[H]ospitals are the real issues. You can't predict if that hospital is open or close. Some hospitals are open in some safer places, but as soon as the fight gets close they close. Some hospitals are open, but there's lack in number of stuff. For example, Al Jymhoria Hospital is the main hospital in Benghazi responsible for babies delivery. Last week, they had to close it as the fighting going around it now in Assabri Area. Some people had to travel 100 Km to Al Marje to deliver their baby there. So, hospital is the most complicated things now".<sup>198</sup>*

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<sup>192</sup> Libya Herald, *Hun celebrates 18th annual heritage festival*, 17 November 2014.

<sup>193</sup> Libya Body Count, *Deaths by location*, no date.

<sup>194</sup> World Health Organization, *Libya Crisis – Situation Report no. 3*, 24 November 2014.

<sup>195</sup> Libya Herald, *Zahra hospital shelled and evacuated as fierce Warshefana fighting continues*, 21 September 2014.

<sup>196</sup> IRIN News, *Libyan health care on life support*, 2 September 2014.

<sup>197</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi Medical Centre struggles to keep up as 75 bodies arrive in five days*, 21 October 2014.

<sup>198</sup> Resident from Benghazi, email, 1 November 2014.

On 23 November 2014, the city's kidney centre urged its staff to resume their work without delay. Benghazi's central blood bank urged residents to donate blood and organised blood collections in partnership with the Red Crescent and the Libyan Scouts.<sup>199</sup>

Only a few international NGOs are present in Libya.<sup>200</sup> Most UN agencies and international NGOs – like UNHCR, International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF, International Medical Corps, International Committee of the Red Cross, Danish Refugee Council and the World Food Program – evacuated their staff to Tunisia in August 2014. Grouped together in the Libya Protection Working Group (LPWG), they coordinate their activities in the field from Tunisia. Their priority is the protection of civilians displaced or affected by the fighting.<sup>201</sup> Several convoys with food and medical supplies were organised in collaboration with local staff still in Libya and local partners.<sup>202</sup> NGOs face difficulties in sending supplies into Libya because of the security situation and road closures.<sup>203</sup> According to information posted on IRIN News in early October 2014, the ongoing fighting in Libya and the combatants' lack of knowledge of humanitarian organisations complicates access by NGOs to injured persons. Community leaders act as intermediaries, but this takes time and does not allow rapid intervention.<sup>204</sup>

Among the rare humanitarian organisations in the field, the Libyan Red Crescent Society is the most active. In Benghazi, its volunteers evacuate Libyan and foreign civilians from combat zones, recuperate bodies after the fighting, run a blood transfusion centre and give first aid to residents and IDPs. The organisation had to move its office in Benghazi three times because of the fighting. In Tripoli and other towns, its activities are mainly centred on IDPs, with distributions of food, drinking water, cooking equipment and blankets.<sup>205</sup> Local councils play an essential part in sheltering IDPs: IDPs were registered and accommodated in 35 towns where the situation remained calm. These towns also sent medical and food supplies to civilians staying close to combat zones. The leader of the IDPs from Tawargha has paid homage to the town of Ajdabiya for its hospitality and the services provided to IDPs.<sup>206</sup> Other local NGOs engaged in a partnership with the international agencies mentioned in the Libya 2014 Humanitarian Call are: Multakana, the Tahir al-Zawi Charitable Foundation, the Psychosocial Centre NGOs of the Psychosocial Network and the Libyan Mine Action Committee. Several Libyan ministries are also mentioned. However, by the end of

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<sup>199</sup> Libya Herald, *Over-worked health workers at risk tending eastern wounded*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>200</sup> UNSMIL, telephone interview, 12 November 2014.

<sup>201</sup> Libya Humanitarian Country Team, *2014 Libya Humanitarian Appeal*, 9 October 2014, p. 6.

<sup>202</sup> Libya Herald, *Councils, charities and UNHCR struggle to aid Tripoli refugees*, 18 August 2014; UNHCR, *Cross-border aid reaches 12,000 displaced civilians in western Libya*, 18 August 2014.

<sup>203</sup> Libya Herald, *UNHCR: We need more money to help Libyan refugees*, 10 October 2014; IRIN News, *Libya aid push constrained by insecurity*, 1 October 2014.

<sup>204</sup> IRIN News, *Libya aid push constrained by insecurity*, 1 October 2014.

<sup>205</sup> International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *Increased violence forces evacuation of Libyan Red Crescent offices, while volunteers continue saving lives*, 25 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Red Crescent evacuates foreign workers and university staff in Benghazi*, 20 October 2014; Libya Herald, *Red Crescent sends relief aid to Kikla as fighting continues in Warshefana area*, 4 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Red Crescent evacuates foreign workers and university staff in Benghazi*, 20 October 2014.

<sup>206</sup> Libya Herald, *Tawerghans honour Ajdabiya's work helping refugees*, 18 November 2014.

August, the Libyan government still had not contributed financially or in kind to relieve the population affected by the violence.<sup>207</sup>

In November 2014, UNHCR estimated that 2 million people are likely to be affected by shortages in food and medical supplies if the fighting continues.<sup>208</sup>

## 5. SECURITY SITUATION: A TIMELINE

The following non-exhaustive chronology presents the main events that occurred in Libya between 1 October 2013 and 1 December 2014.

### 5.1 October 2013-February 2014

Since 2012, targeted murders have been committed in Libya, especially in Benghazi, but also in other towns. Responsibility for these murders is rarely claimed. They target Libyan nationals (military in active duty or retired, police or security officers, journalists, human rights activists, moderate clerics) and foreign workers.<sup>209</sup> Some examples during this period are the assassination of a chief of the military police in Benghazi, who was the first officer under the Qadhafi regime to constitute a group of combatants against the regime; a judge in Darna; an American teacher in Benghazi in December, an official from the passport bureau in Sirt, also in December; a British national and a New Zealand national in Sabrata in early January; the Vice-Minister of Industry in Sirt on 11 January; a political activist in Darna on 15 January; the first public prosecutor of the post-Qadhafi era in Darna on 8 February; and seven Egyptian citizens in Benghazi, also in February.<sup>210</sup> On 29 January, the Interior Minister survived an assassination attempt in Tripoli.<sup>211</sup>

There were also frequent abductions.<sup>212</sup> On 10 October in Tripoli, Prime Minister Ali Zaydan was 'arrested' at the Corinthia Hotel by the Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room (LROR); he was taken from his hotel room and released a few hours later. Two Italians were abducted on 18 January; a South Korean official was abducted on 20 January and released three days later; five diplomats and a staff member of the Egyptian embassy were abducted on 25 January and released the following day; the son

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<sup>207</sup> Libya Humanitarian Country Team, *2014 Libya Humanitarian Appeal*, 9 October 2014, p. 10-11.

<sup>208</sup> UNHCR, *UNHCR Position on Returns to Libya*, 12 November 2014.

<sup>209</sup> Al-Monitor, *Hifter campaign reveals power of Libyan Islamist militias*, 5 June 2014.

<sup>210</sup> BBC News, *Benghazi gunmen kill Libya commander Ahmed al-Barghathi*, 18 October 2013; Reuters, *Two policemen killed in Libya's Benghazi after army vows to restore order*, 9 November 2013; BBC News, *Libya violence: US teacher shot dead in Benghazi*, 5 December 2013; BBC News, *Seven Egyptian Christians found dead near Benghazi*, 24 February 2014; BBC News, *British man and New Zealand woman found dead in Libya*, 3 January 2014; Crisis Group, *Crisis Watch – Libya*, 1 February 2014; Libya Herald, *Breaking News: Former Attorney General reported murdered in Derna*, 8 February 2014.

<sup>211</sup> BBC News, *Libya minister survives assassination attempt*, 29 January 2014.

<sup>212</sup> Reuters, *Libyan PM Zeidan taken from hotel by gunmen-security guards at hotel*, 10 October 2013; BBC News, *Abducted South Korean trade official freed in Libya*, 23 January 2014; Crisis Group, *Crisis Watch – Libya*, 1 February 2014; Tripoli Post, *Kidnapped Egyptian Diplomats Freed in Libya*, 27 January 2014; Libya al-Ahrar TV, *GNC member's son kidnapped in Tripoli*, 22 February 2014; Libya al-Ahrar TV, *Two members of special forces abducted in Benghazi*, 23 February 2014; Tripoli Post, *Residents in Eastern Libya Block Main Highway in Protest of Abduction of 2 Italians*, 19 January 2014.



of a member of the Libyan General National Congress was abducted in Tripoli on 21 February; two members of the Libyan special forces were abducted on 23 January.

November 2013 saw the most serious clashes in Tripoli since the fall of Qadhafi in 2011. Militias composed of former rebels waged street battles with heavy weaponry, creating anger among the population. On 15 November, in what is known as the Gharghur massacre, militia fighters from Misrata fired at unarmed protestors in Gharghur, killing 40 and injuring 450.<sup>213</sup> Faced with public indignation and the threat of more demonstrations, the Misrata rebels left Tripoli. For the first time since the fall of Qadhafi, the Libyan regular army deployed armoured vehicles in the capital to restore security.<sup>214</sup>

In Benghazi, Darna and Sirt, which are partly or entirely controlled by Islamist militias,<sup>215</sup> bomb attacks were carried out against public buildings and buildings housing security services or foreign interests. Three marines were killed and seven wounded on 15 November in clashes with an armed militia near al-Marj.<sup>216</sup> On 21 December, thirteen soldiers, policemen and civilians were killed in the first suicide attack since the beginning of the conflict, at a check-point 50 km from Benghazi.<sup>217</sup> The election of a new constitutional assembly on 20 February 2014 proceeded peacefully. In Darna however, there were bomb attacks against five polling stations and the guard of a school where polling took place was killed.<sup>218</sup>

In January 2014, militias from the north intervened, at the government's request, in a tribal conflict in Sabha. Between 86 and 99 people were killed in clashes between Toubou and Awlad Sulayman. On 18 January, as the conflict was spreading and an airbase was captured by armed combatants believed to be agents of the former regime, security forces were deployed and members of the Misrata and Zintani brigades also intervened at the government's request. The airbase was retaken by the Misrata brigade from the pro-Qadhafi militia on 29 January while the Zintani brigade surrounded the town to prevent the escape of pro-Qadhafi combatants.<sup>219</sup>

## 5.2 March 2014

The head of the military board in Sirt was killed on 1 March.<sup>220</sup> The same day, a cosmetics shop was bombed in the centre of Darna.<sup>221</sup> The following day, a French engineer was killed in Benghazi.<sup>222</sup>

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<sup>213</sup> Reuters, *Heavy fighting rocks Libyan capital as rival militia battle*, 7 November 2013; Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF), *Stealing the revolution: violence and predation in Libya*, October 2014; Deutsche Welle, *Militias take aim at Tripoli protestors*, 16 November 2013; Reuters, *Libya militiamen clash at checkpoint, PM calls for calm*, 16 November 2014.

<sup>214</sup> Reuters, *Libya militia withdrawal tests Tripoli after clashes*, 18 November 2014; Magharebia, *Libya: Troops Enter Tripoli, Misratans Exit*, 18 November 2013.

<sup>215</sup> Al-Monitor, *Hifter campaign reveals power of Libyan Islamist militias*, 5 June 2014.

<sup>216</sup> Libya Herald, *Three marines killed in fighting near Marj*, 28 November 2014.

<sup>217</sup> Reuters, *Suicide bomber kills seven outside Libya's Benghazi*, 22 December 2014.

<sup>218</sup> Reuters, *Blasts shake five polling stations in Libya, no one hurt*, 20 February 2014.

<sup>219</sup> Libya Body Count, *Table*, no date; Libya Herald, *Sebha death toll put at 99 as town still waits for military reinforcements*, 26 January 2014; Libya Herald, *Sebha celebrates airbase re-capture as Qaddafi forces fire on historic castle*, 29 January 2014.

<sup>220</sup> Libya al-Ahrar TV, *Head of Sirte's military council assassinated*, 2 March 2014.

<sup>221</sup> Libya Herald, *Women's cosmetic shop in Derna bombed*, 1 March 2014.

<sup>222</sup> France 24, *Gunmen kill French engineer in Libya*, 2 March 2014.

On 2 March, the situation turned violent when MPs were assaulted by dozens of protestors demanding the dissolution of parliament.<sup>223</sup>

An air force colonel was found murdered to the east of Benghazi on 4 March.<sup>224</sup> On 11 March, the body of an Indian doctor was found on a beach near Darna.<sup>225</sup> Two days later, an official of the Ministry of Health was murdered in Benghazi.<sup>226</sup> On 14 March, a soldier was killed in Benghazi, while gunmen killed four people and injured two in Darna.<sup>227</sup>

On 17 March, a car bomb exploded in front of the military academy in Benghazi at the end of a ceremony, killing at least eight people and injuring dozens.<sup>228</sup>

An Iraqi national was found dead in Sirt on 18 March.<sup>229</sup> On 21 March, a former revolutionary who had recently joined the Navy was found dead in Darna.<sup>230</sup> A Libyan poet was murdered in Benghazi on 23 March.<sup>231</sup> An Air Force officer was killed in Benghazi on 31 March.<sup>232</sup>

### 5.3 April 2014

A former director of education at district level in Benghazi was killed on 6 April.<sup>233</sup> On 9 April, an air force engineer and his daughter were killed in a car blast.<sup>234</sup> On the same day, a member of the Supreme Security Committee was killed in front of his house in Sirt.<sup>235</sup> On 13 March, a staff member of the Interior Ministry was abducted west of Tripoli.<sup>236</sup> The Jordanian ambassador was abducted in Tripoli on 15 April.<sup>237</sup> An advisor at the Tunisian embassy was abducted on 17 April.<sup>238</sup>

On 18 April, clashes erupted in Sirt between forces of the central Libya Shield Force, which is in charge of security in the centre of town, and a group allegedly belonging to Ansar al-Sharia. One member of the security forces was killed and eight were wounded.<sup>239</sup>

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<sup>223</sup> The New York Times, *Frustrated With the Pace of Change, Rioters Storm Parliament Building in Libya*, 2 March 2014.

<sup>224</sup> Libya al-Ahrar TV, *Officer among 3 killed in Libya's Benghazi*, 4 March 2014.

<sup>225</sup> Libya al-Ahrar TV, *Indian doctor murdered in Derna*, 11 March 2014.

<sup>226</sup> Libya al-Ahrar TV, *Health Ministry official assassinated in Benghazi*, 14 March 2014.

<sup>227</sup> Libya al-Ahrar TV, *Seven assassinated in Libya's east since Friday*, 15 March 2014.

<sup>228</sup> Reuters, *Car bombs kill at least eight at Libya army academy in Benghazi*, 17 March 2014.

<sup>229</sup> Libya Herald, *Iraqi killed in Sirte*, 18 March 2014.

<sup>230</sup> Libya Herald, *Navy recruit shot dead in Derna*, 23 March 2014.

<sup>231</sup> Libya Herald, *Two more security officials and a poet assassinated in Benghazi*, 24 March 2014.

<sup>232</sup> Libya al-Ahrar TV, *Air Force officer assassinated in Benghazi*, 31 March 2014.

<sup>233</sup> Libya Herald, *Former local education head shot dead in Benghazi*, 8 April 2014.

<sup>234</sup> Libya Herald, *Car blast kills Air Force engineer, injures family*, 9 March 2014.

<sup>235</sup> Libya al-Ahrar TV, *Security official assassinated in Syrte*, 10 April 2014.

<sup>236</sup> Libya Herald, *Tripoli-Zawia coast road closed at Janzour following kidnapping*, 13 April 2014.

<sup>237</sup> Libya Herald, *Breaking news: Jordanian ambassador kidnapped in Tripoli*, 15 April 2014.

<sup>238</sup> Libya Herald, *Tunisian embassy man kidnapped in Tripoli*, 17 April 2013.

<sup>239</sup> Libya Herald, *Clashes in Sirte leave one dead*, 19 April 2014.

On 20 April, clashes between Toubou and Awlad Sulayman in Sabha left three dead and one injured.<sup>240</sup>

On 29 April, a car bomb killed two soldiers and injured two others in front of the Libyan Special Forces army barracks in Benghazi.<sup>241</sup> On the same day, a former member of the People's Security Organisation under Qadhafi was killed near Darna. An official of the Security Department in Benghazi was killed and a soldier was injured on 30 April.<sup>242</sup>

#### 5.4 May 2014

On 1 May, a driver was killed in a suburb of Tripoli when his car exploded.<sup>243</sup>

On 2 May, gunmen stormed the Libyan Special Forces headquarters in Benghazi, killing six members of the Special Forces and three policemen; fifteen people were injured.<sup>244</sup>

The offices of the Libyan intelligence service in a suburb of Tripoli were assaulted on 3 May by gunmen. One assailant and one guard were killed.<sup>245</sup> On the same day in Benghazi, the head of the Joint Security Room was subject to a failed assassination or abduction attempt.<sup>246</sup> Two days later, an office of the Interior Ministry was bombed in Darna.<sup>247</sup> On 8 May, a colonel of the Libyan intelligence service was shot dead in Benghazi.<sup>248</sup> Also in Benghazi, four soldiers were killed on 11 May by unidentified gunmen.<sup>249</sup> On 13 May, the Jordanian ambassador, who had been abducted a month before, was released.<sup>250</sup> On 15 May, a Benghazi shaykh known for his opposition to hard-line Islamists and two soldiers from the Special Forces were killed in a shootout.<sup>251</sup>

On 16 May, Khalifa Haftar, a retired army general, launched Operation Dignity against the Islamist movement Ansar al-Sharia, which was responsible, according to him, for the bombings and murders of the past few years in the eastern part of the country.<sup>252</sup> Backed by regular army units, he bombed military bases of Ansar al-Sharia and attacked the movement in Benghazi.<sup>253</sup> The operation left at least 79 dead and 141 injured.<sup>254</sup>

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<sup>240</sup> Libya Herald, *Sebha peace-deal on brink of collapse after clashes leave three dead*, 21 April 2014.

<sup>241</sup> The New York Times, *Libya: Jordan envoy is held hostage*, 15 April 2014.

<sup>242</sup> Libya Herald, *Former regime security official killed near Derna*, 30 April 2014.

<sup>243</sup> Libya Herald, *Car explodes in capital's Salahadeen district, kills driver*, 1 May 2014.

<sup>244</sup> The New York Times, *Libya: deadly clash in Benghazi*, 2 May 2014.

<sup>245</sup> Libya Herald, *Attack on Tripoli Intelligence Bureau leave two dead: report*, 3 May 2014.

<sup>246</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi Joint Security Room chief shot at*, 3 May 2014.

<sup>247</sup> Libya Herald, *Police and army pay office bombed in Derna*, 5 May 2014.

<sup>248</sup> The New York Times, *Libya: Gunmen Kill Intelligence Official*, 8 May 2014.

<sup>249</sup> Middle East Eye, *Timeline: Libya in revolution and transition*, n.d.

<sup>250</sup> Middle East Eye, *Timeline: Libya in revolution and transition*, n.d.

<sup>251</sup> Al Akhbar English, *Three dead in Benghazi shootout*, 15 May 2014.

<sup>252</sup> BBC News, *Profile: Libya's renegade General Khalifa Haftar*, 20 May 2014.

<sup>253</sup> Reuters, *Libyan militia clashes with Islamists in Benghazi, 19 killed*, 16 May 2014.

<sup>254</sup> Middle East Eye, *Timeline: Libya in revolution and transition*; Crisis Group, *Crisis Watch – Libya*, 1 June 2014.

The following day, three groups affiliated to the Zintani brigades (the Qa'qa', Sawa'iq and Muhammad al-Madani Battalions) attacked the GNC in Tripoli and forced its suspension as MPs were about to approve Ahmad Ma'aytiq's new government. Ten staff members were abducted and reportedly at least 2 people died and 55 were injured.<sup>255</sup>

On 26 May, Miftah Bouzayd, chief editor of *Burniq*, who regularly criticised the militias for their abuses, was shot dead in Benghazi.<sup>256</sup>

Two days later, the forces of General Haftar bombed Islamist targets in Benghazi.<sup>257</sup> The severed head of a student from Darna was found. According to media reports the student had earlier engaged in an argument with militias at a check-point.<sup>258</sup>

## 5.5 June 2014

On 2 June, Ansar al-Sharia attacked an al-Sa'iq base in Benghazi and forces participating in Operation Dignity took over residential areas. The fighting left at least 18 dead<sup>259</sup> and close to 70 injured. On 4 June, a Swiss Red Cross worker was shot dead in Sirt.<sup>260</sup> The same day, east of Benghazi, General Haftar survived an assassination attempt; four of his men were killed and 23 were injured when an SUV packed with explosives blew up on a military base.<sup>261</sup>

On 8 June, at least 27 people were killed and 70 injured to the east of Benghazi in an exchange of fire between members of the Libya Shield Force and anti-militia demonstrators.<sup>262</sup>

On 11 June, a car bomb suicide attack injured six persons, including three civilians, at a checkpoint some 50 km east of Benghazi; the perpetrator was killed.<sup>263</sup>

Still on June 11, the body of a religious expert, a member of the Dar al-Ifta, the highest religious body in Libya, was found in al-Marj.<sup>264</sup>

On 13 June, clashes in Jarma (west of Sabha) between Arabs and Tuareg left at least nine dead and twelve injured. Two days later, clashes broke out in Sabha between Arabs and Toubou. Two people reportedly died and nine others were injured.<sup>265</sup>

On 15 June, General Haftar's troops attacked several suspected Islamist camps west of Benghazi. Eight to twelve people were killed and sixteen to eighteen were injured.<sup>266</sup> On the same day, Ansar al-Sharia's leader, Ahmad Abu Khattala, who is accused of being behind the attack against the US consulate in Benghazi in September 2012, was

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<sup>255</sup> BBC News, *Libyan parliament comes under gunfire in Tripoli*, 18 May 2014; Reuters, *Troops of renegade Libyan general say behind attack on parliament*, 18 May 2014; Small Arms Survey, *Politics by Other Means: Conflicting Interests in Libya's Security Sector*, October 2014.

<sup>256</sup> Amnesty International, *Libya: Journalist killed for denouncing abuses by armed group*, 29 May 2014.

<sup>257</sup> Middle East Eye, *Timeline: Libya in revolution and transition*, 5 May 2014.

<sup>258</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Extremists Terrorizing Derna Residents*, 27 November 2014.

<sup>259</sup> Reuters, *At least 20 killed, dozens wounded in clashes in Libya's Benghazi: medics*, 2 June 2014.

<sup>260</sup> The New York Times, *Libya: Swiss Red Cross Worker Is Killed*, 4 June 2014.

<sup>261</sup> Reuters, *Gunmen kill Red Cross official in Libya, fire grenade at PM's office*, 4 June 2014.

<sup>262</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi Libya Shield Protests: at least 27 dead*, 9 June 2013.

<sup>263</sup> Reuters, *Suicide bomber hits army checkpoint near Libya's Benghazi: officials*, 11 June 2014.

<sup>264</sup> Libya Herald, *Dar Al-Ifta member in Marj tortured and murdered*, 15 June 2014.

<sup>265</sup> Libya Herald, *Tensions calm in Germa as ethnic clashes erupt in Sebha*, 16 June 2014.

<sup>266</sup> Reuters, *Renegade general launches offensive in east Libya, up to 12 killed*.

captured by American Special Forces in a Benghazi suburb and taken to the United States.<sup>267</sup> On 19 June, Islamist groups launched a missile attack on the Benina airport (Benghazi) and the Tubruq airbase.<sup>268</sup> General Haftar's forces resumed shelling of Islamist positions.<sup>269</sup>

On June 19, fighting started in Sabha between Awlad Sulayman, Qadhadhfa and Toubou tribesmen. During three days of fighting, eight people were killed and at least a dozen were injured.<sup>270</sup> On 22 June, a short resumption of hostilities left one dead and one injured.<sup>271</sup>

On 25 June, when parliamentary elections were held, at least five people were reportedly killed in clashes between government forces and armed militias in Benghazi. The same day, Salwa Buq'ayqis, a lawyer and human rights activist, was murdered in her house. She had recently criticised the growing influence of Jihadists in eastern Libya. Salwa Buq'ayqis' husband, Issam al-Gharyani, an elected member of the Benghazi municipal council, disappeared on the same day in what is also believed to be an abduction.<sup>272</sup>

On 26 June, a car bomb exploded in al-Bayda near the Constitutional Assembly, injuring several persons and causing material damage.<sup>273</sup>

On 29 June, a leader of the Justice and Reconstruction Party (JRP) was abducted on the airport road in Tripoli.<sup>274</sup> A Tunisian diplomat and an embassy staff member who had been abducted earlier were released on the same day.<sup>275</sup>

## 5.6 July 2014

On 2 July, a border security officer was assassinated in Benghazi.<sup>276</sup> On the same day, an air force officer was abducted in Darna. Several shops were also attacked in Darna. On 3 July, one shop was destroyed in a bomb blast. On 7 July, the show-room of a car dealer was destroyed, and on 8 July, a cigarette shop.<sup>277</sup>

On 5 July, three Western engineers were abducted in Zuwara, west of Tripoli.<sup>278</sup>

On 10 July, following a deterioration of the security situation, the UN announces the evacuation of dozens of its staff in Libya.<sup>279</sup>

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<sup>267</sup> Reuters, *U.S. captures suspected ringleader of 2012 attack in Benghazi*, 17 June 2014.

<sup>268</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity continues bombing campaign over Benghazi*, 19 June 2014.

<sup>269</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity continues bombing campaign over Benghazi*, 19 June 2014.

<sup>270</sup> Libya Herald, *Eight feared killed in three days of Sebha violence*, 21 June 2014.

<sup>271</sup> Libya Herald, *Another death in brief resurgence of Sebha violence*, 22 June 2014.

<sup>272</sup> The New York Times, *Where Killings Are Common, Death of Activist Stuns Benghazi*, 26 June 2014; Amnesty International, *Libya must ensure proper investigation after prominent lawyer shot dead*, 26 June 2014.

<sup>273</sup> Libya Herald, *Car bomb attack on Constitutional Assembly*, 26 June 2014.

<sup>274</sup> Reuters, *Gunmen kidnap leading Libyan Islamist party figure*, 30 June 2014.

<sup>275</sup> Reuters, *Kidnapped Tunisian embassy workers freed in Libya*, 29 June 2014.

<sup>276</sup> Libya Herald, *Border security officer assassinated in Benghazi*, 5 July 2014.

<sup>277</sup> Libya Herald, *Series of attacks on Derna's business community*, 8 July 2014.

<sup>278</sup> Reuters, *Three European engineers believed kidnapped in Libya: officials*, 6 July 2014.

<sup>279</sup> Reuters, *U.N. evacuates dozens of foreign staff from Libya*, 10 July 2014.

The main event in July was the battle at Tripoli's international airport. Until then controlled by the Zintani brigades, the airport was attacked on 13 July by the Misrata brigades. The fighting that followed is considered the worst since the clashes of November 2013.<sup>280</sup> According to the Libyan Health Ministry, seven people were killed and 36 injured.<sup>281</sup> On 14 July, the airport was bombed. A Libya official stated that 90 % of the planes were damaged by the attack. Rockets hit the control tower. On 17 July, the airport terminal was hit by several shells.<sup>282</sup> In a communiqué, the Minister of Foreign Affairs called upon the UN Security Council to help Libya protect its oil installations, oil sea terminals and civilian airports lest Libya should become a "failed state".<sup>283</sup>

On the same day, former MP Fariha Barkawi and a member of the National Forces Alliance were killed in Darna by gunmen.<sup>284</sup> On 20 July, a Filipino construction worker was found decapitated in Benghazi, six days after his abduction. He was reportedly killed for being a non-Muslim.<sup>285</sup>

Still on 20 July, fierce fighting resumed over Tripoli airport with heavy anti-aircraft guns, Grad missiles and rockets. Exchanges of gunfire in the Qasr Bin Ghashir neighbourhood led families to flee while others were trapped in their homes.<sup>286</sup> According to the Ministry of Health, 47 people were killed in Tripoli in the past week.<sup>287</sup>

On 21 July, Islamist militants attacked an army base in Benghazi, triggering fierce clashes.<sup>288</sup> On 22 July, at least four soldiers were killed in a double suicide attack against the Special Forces headquarters in Benghazi.<sup>289</sup> The final toll was at least twelve dead and sixty injured.<sup>290</sup>

On 26 July, 23 Egyptian workers were killed when a rocket hit their home.<sup>291</sup>

On 27 July, the US temporarily closed its embassy in Libya and evacuated its staff to Tunisia.<sup>292</sup> The Austrian, Dutch, Japanese and Turkish embassies also closed.<sup>293</sup> The French, German, Dutch, British and US government advised their nationals to leave Libya.

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<sup>280</sup> Reuters, *Heavy fighting breaks out near Libya's Tripoli airport, seven dead*, 13 July 2014.

<sup>281</sup> Reuters, *Seven killed, 36 wounded in clashes in Libyan capital: ministry*, 13 July 2014.

<sup>282</sup> Reuters, *Assassination, airport shelling deepen Libya's chaos*, 17 July 2014.

<sup>283</sup> Reuters, *Libya asks U.N. Security Council for help protecting oil, airports*, 17 July 2014.

<sup>284</sup> Libya Herald, *Former Derna Congresswomen murdered*, 17 July 2014; Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Extremists Terrorizing Derna Residents*, 27 November 2014.

<sup>285</sup> Libya Herald, *Manila orders total evacuation after Filipino worker decapitated in Benghazi*, 21 July 2014.

<sup>286</sup> Reuters, *Heavy clashes erupt over Tripoli airport, at least four dead*, 20 July 2014.

<sup>287</sup> Reuters, *Seven killed in clashes between army and militants in Libya's Benghazi*, 21 July 2014.

<sup>288</sup> Reuters, *Seven killed in clashes between army and militants in Libya's Benghazi*, 21 July 2014.

<sup>289</sup> Reuters, *Suicide attack escalates Libya violence, oil output slips*, 22 July 2014.

<sup>290</sup> Libya Herald, *Libyan Red Crescent recovers bodies of 14 killed in clashes at Saiqa camp in Benghazi*, 22 July 2014; Libya Herald, *At least 14 killed and 60 injured in Ansar Al Sharia counter offensive in Benghazi*, 22 July 2014.

<sup>291</sup> Aljazeera, *Foreigners urged to flee Libya fighting*, 28 July 2014.

<sup>292</sup> Aljazeera, *US evacuates Libya embassy as fighting rages*, 27 July 2014.

<sup>293</sup> Libya Herald, *Western governments tell nationals to leave Libya; Germans and Dutch closing embassies*, 27 July 2014.

On the same day in Darna, members of the Islamic Shura Youth Council publicly executed a Libyan and an Egyptian national who were suspected of a murder committed two days earlier.<sup>294</sup>

On 27 and 28 July, two oil reservoirs of the Brega oil company caught fire when hit by rockets. After burning for two days, the blaze threatened other installations in this oil complex situated on the airport road.<sup>295</sup> The Libyan government called other countries for help to extinguish the huge blaze. Local residents had to evacuate their homes within a 5 km radius.<sup>296</sup>

On 28 July, al-Sa'iqa was forced to abandon its Benghazi headquarters, in the main army base in the region.<sup>297</sup> According to the Reuters news agency, at least 75 bodies, mostly of soldiers, were found after two days of fighting.<sup>298</sup>

On 29 July, Mustafa Abu Shaqur, a former Vice-Prime Minister, was kidnapped by gunmen and released after seven hours.<sup>299</sup> A Filipino nurse was abducted in Tripoli and raped by members of an armed group.<sup>300</sup>

On 30 July, the rival militias who were fighting for the control of Tripoli airport agreed on a temporary truce to allow firefighters access.<sup>301</sup> According to Crisis Group, at least 94 people were killed during the fighting in Tripoli between 13 and 27 July.<sup>302</sup>

The same day, Ansar al-Sharia proclaimed an 'Islamic Emirate' in Benghazi City, but General Haftar contradicted this the following day.<sup>303</sup> Angry protestors forced the Ansar al-Sharia militia to leave a hospital it occupied. The protestors approached the hospital unarmed, in spite of shots being fired in the air and on the ground by militia members. The militia finally withdrew from the hospital to nearby buildings.<sup>304</sup> The following day, it retook control of the hospital.<sup>305</sup> At least 75 bodies, mostly soldiers, were recovered after two days of fighting between Islamist militias and government forces in Benghazi.<sup>306</sup> According to an al-Sa'iqa member, 63 members of the Special Forces were killed and 200 injured during the fighting in Benghazi at the end of July. Dozens of civilians were killed in intense and indiscriminate shelling in Bu'atni.<sup>307</sup>

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<sup>294</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Extremists Terrorizing Derna Residents*, 27 November 2014.

<sup>295</sup> Al-Monitor, *Libya burns, world ignores it*, 29 July 2014.

<sup>296</sup> Libya Herald, *Government requests international help to extinguish Brega oil depot fire and tells resident to leave*, 28 July 2014.

<sup>297</sup> Libya Herald, *Saiqa forced to abandon Benghazi headquarters to Ansar*, 29 July 2014.

<sup>298</sup> Reuters, *Temporary ceasefire in Tripoli, 75 bodies found in Benghazi*, 30 July 2014.

<sup>299</sup> ABC News, *Libyan Official: Assailants Abduct, Free Lawmaker*, 30 July 2014; Libya Herald, *Abushagur freed*, 30 July 2014.

<sup>300</sup> Arab News, *Benghazi declared 'Islamic emirate' by militants*, 31 July 2014.

<sup>301</sup> Reuters, *Temporary ceasefire in Tripoli, 75 bodies found in Benghazi*, 30 July 2014.

<sup>302</sup> Crisis Group, *Crisis Watch – Libya*, 1 August 2014.

<sup>303</sup> Al Arabiya, *Benghazi declared 'Islamic emirate' by militants*, 31 July 2014.

<sup>304</sup> Libya Herald, *Unarmed crowd forces Ansar out of Benghazi hospital*, 30 July 2014.

<sup>305</sup> Libya Herald, *Ansar retake Benghazi's Jala hospital*, 31 July 2014.

<sup>306</sup> Reuters, *Temporary ceasefire in Tripoli, 75 bodies found in Benghazi*, 31 July 2014.

<sup>307</sup> Libya Herald, 11 August 2014, *Sixty-three Saiqa members killed and 200 wounded in July fighting*, 11 August 2014.

On the night of 31 July to 1 August, forces from Operation Dignity shelled an Ansar al-Sharia base in Ajdabiya, south of Benghazi.<sup>308</sup>

At the end of July, the evacuation of foreign workers continued. China and the Philippines evacuated several hundred of their nationals to Malta.<sup>309</sup> France announced the temporary closing of its embassy and the evacuation of its nationals.<sup>310</sup> On 31 July, hundreds of Egyptians tried to leave the country through the Ras Jdir border post between Libya and Tunisia. Libyan border guards fired to disperse the crowd, killing two people.<sup>311</sup> Tunisia announced that it would not be able to receive a massive influx of Libyan refugees because of its weak economy.<sup>312</sup>

## 5.7 August 2014

On 2 August, indiscriminate shelling hit residential areas in Tripoli.<sup>313</sup> One of Tripoli's main fuel depots caught fire when hit by rockets; firefighters were forced back by the fighting.<sup>314</sup>

The following day, the GNC's president, Nuri Abu Sahmayn, accused the Zintani brigades of harbouring former members of Qadhafi's security forces and to present a threat to the country's security; he called upon the Revolutionary Operations Room to eliminate them.<sup>315</sup> The Libyan interim government for its part denounced the attacks with heavy weapons on Tripoli by armed groups using false pretexts.<sup>316</sup> The violence worsened after these contradictory statements were made. On 3 and 4 August, many neighbourhoods along the airport road were hit by missile barrage fire; the number of civilian casualties remains unknown. At Janzur, in the western part of Tripoli, the base of the National Mobile Forces (allied to Operation Dawn and to the local Janzur Knights militia) was taken by the Zintani brigades and the Warshafana militias.<sup>317</sup> The events of 3 and 4 August left 20 dead, among them an unknown number of civilians, and 72 injured.<sup>318</sup> 200 people were reportedly killed in Tripoli during the three weeks of fighting.<sup>319</sup>

On the night of 4 to 5 August, the Warshafana militias backed by the Zintani brigades headed for Zawiya and took control of a military camp. Eight militia members were killed and 60 injured.<sup>320</sup>

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<sup>308</sup> Libya Herald, *Ansar Al-Sharia in Ajdabiya bombed: reports*, 1 August 2014.

<sup>309</sup> Reuters, *China evacuates hundreds of workers in Libya to Malta*, 30 July 2014.

<sup>310</sup> Reuters, *France says evacuating nationals in Libya*, 30 July 2014.

<sup>311</sup> Reuters, *Two Egyptians shot dead in Libya-Tunisia border clash: state media*, 31 July 2014.

<sup>312</sup> Aljazeera, *Tunisia closes door on Libya's displaced*, 2 August 2014.

<sup>313</sup> Libya Herald, *Fighting is renewed as shells continue to fall on Tripoli*, 2 August 2014.

<sup>314</sup> Reuters, *Major Libyan fuel depot ablaze after rocket strike*, 2 August 2014.

<sup>315</sup> Libya Herald, *The GNC and government split on legality of militia attacks on Tripoli*, 4 August 2014.

<sup>316</sup> Libya Herald, *The GNC and government split on legality of militia attacks on Tripoli*, 4 August 2014.

<sup>317</sup> Libya Herald, *Missile attacks continue in Tripoli as Janzour base is reported destroyed*, 4 August 2014.

<sup>318</sup> Libya Herald, *Saturday's clashes leave more than 20 dead*, 4 August 2014.

<sup>319</sup> The New York Times, *British Citizens Flee Tripoli on Ship as 25 Libyans Are Reportedly Killed in Fighting*, 3 August 2014.

<sup>320</sup> Libya Herald, *Warshefana take Camp 27 from Libya Shield*, 5 August 2014.



On 4 August, Egypt started negotiations with Tunisia to facilitate the transit of its nationals who were leaving Libya via Tunisia. According to the Libya Herald, an average of 4,000 Egyptians per day were crossing the border at al-Sallum, the only official border crossing between Libya and Egypt; over one month, 50,000 Egyptians returned to Egypt.<sup>321</sup>

On 5 August, a television crew from Ajdabiya was abducted at a false check-point some 40 km from the town.<sup>322</sup> The same day, 18 Sudanese were killed in rocket fire in Tripoli.<sup>323</sup>

On 6 August, clashes broke out some 20 km from the oil seaport of Zawiya between Warshafana militias and the Libya Shield Force. Sporadic shooting persisted in Benghazi between Islamist fighters and regular forces.<sup>324</sup> On 7 August, firefighters announced that the blaze at Brega's four oil depots was under control.<sup>325</sup>

On 10 August, rockets and artillery shelling hit several areas around Tripoli's international airport.<sup>326</sup> On 12 August, at least five people were killed and families had to flee their homes.<sup>327</sup> During the night, shelling was concentrated on the western part of Tripoli.<sup>328</sup> On the same day, a police and security official was killed in Tajura.<sup>329</sup>

On 11 August, forces of Operation Dignity shelled the port city of Darna, reportedly killing an unknown number of civilians.<sup>330</sup>

On 16 August, heavy artillery clashes between rival militias erupted in Tripoli.<sup>331</sup> In Benghazi, rockets were fired on the Laythi district and near a base of the 17 February Brigade. Air strikes targeted Islamist positions.<sup>332</sup> The following day, a sergeant of Operation Dignity was beheaded in Benghazi.<sup>333</sup>

On 18 August, forces of Operation Dignity shelled positions of the Misrata brigades in Tripoli.<sup>334</sup> During the night, fighting came closer to the centre of Tripoli, which until then had been spared by the violence: rockets hit the commercial districts of Hayy Andalus and Qarqarish, killing three.<sup>335</sup> In Benghazi, clashes between General Haftar's troops and Islamist fighters broke out in the late afternoon.<sup>336</sup>

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<sup>321</sup> Libya Herald, *Over 50,000 Egyptians have fled Libya in past month*, 6 August 2014.

<sup>322</sup> Libya Herald, *TV crew seized outside Ajdabiya*, 5 August 2014.

<sup>323</sup> Libya Herald, *Eighteen Sudanese nationals killed in Tripoli rocket strike*, 6 August 2014.

<sup>324</sup> Libya Herald, *Libya militia clashes spread beyond Tripoli towards Zawiya oil port*, 7 August 2014.

<sup>325</sup> Libya Herald, *Brega Depot fire under control – NOC*, 7 August 2014.

<sup>326</sup> Libya Herald, *Heavy shelling resumes in Libyan capital Tripoli*, 10 August 2014.

<sup>327</sup> Reuters, *At least five killed by rocket fire in Libyan capital: official*, 13 August 2014.

<sup>328</sup> Libya Herald, *Escalation in fighting as tens of shells fall in west Tripoli, residents flee homes*, 13 August 2014.

<sup>329</sup> Libya Herald, *Tripoli security director assassinated*, 12 August 2014.

<sup>330</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity bombs Derna Port*, 11 August 2014.

<sup>331</sup> Reuters, *Fighting in Tripoli after new U.N. envoy unveils plans to visit*, 16 August 2014.

<sup>332</sup> Libya Herald, *Fighting restarts in Benghazi after relative calm*, 16 August 2014.

<sup>333</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity sergeant decapitated in Benghazi*, 17 August 2014.

<sup>334</sup> Reuters, *Renegade Libyan general claims air strikes on Tripoli*, 18 August 2014.

<sup>335</sup> Reuters, *Libyan militia fire rockets into affluent Tripoli residential district*, 19 August 2014.

<sup>336</sup> Reuters, *Renegade Libyan general claims air strikes on Tripoli*, 18 August 2014.

On 20 August, the Shura Council of the Islamic Youth publicly executed an Egyptian national accused of murder on a football field in Darna.<sup>337</sup> In Benghazi, fighting between Operation Dignity forces and Islamist militias killed five and injured sixteen. In the evening, fighting reached the Laythi district.<sup>338</sup>

On 23 August, the Zintani brigades withdrew from their positions in Tripoli at the Tubruq House of Representatives's request, as part of a ceasefire deal negotiated with the GNC.<sup>339</sup> The Warshafana militias withdrew from Janzur.<sup>340</sup> Instead of withdrawing its forces, Libya Dawn took control of the international airport.<sup>341</sup> Fighting was reported in Benghazi, especially in Bu'atni and near Benani airport, but also in several neighbourhoods under Islamist control.<sup>342</sup> An al-Sa'iqa officer was also shot dead in Benghazi.<sup>343</sup>

On 24 August, unidentified warplanes bombed Islamist positions in Tripoli. The airport terminal was set on fire.<sup>344</sup> On the following day, sources reported fifteen dead and 30 injured.<sup>345</sup> Libya Dawn combatants accused Egypt and the United Arab Emirates of the air bombings in Tripoli.<sup>346</sup> They called upon the residents of areas near the airport to return to their homes.<sup>347</sup>

According to an assessment cited by the Libya Herald newspaper, the fighting killed more than 400 People between 1 and 24 August, and 1,200 people since the beginning of 2014.<sup>348</sup>

On 25 August, US officials confirmed that Egypt and the United Arab Emirates were behind the two series of mysterious air strikes in the previous week. The countries had allegedly used airplanes based in Egypt. Egyptian authorities still denied involvement in the airstrikes.<sup>349</sup>

In Tripoli, Zintani sources said that dozens of Zintani residents in Tripoli had disappeared and 280 houses belonging to Zintanis had been set on fire.<sup>350</sup> According to the Zintan town council's spokesperson, prominent community members were

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<sup>337</sup> Libya Herald, *Islamic Youth carries out public execution in Derna*, 20 August 2014.

<sup>338</sup> Reuters, *Heavy fighting erupts in Libya's Benghazi, killing five*, 20 August 2014.

<sup>339</sup> Libya Herald, *HoR member confirms parliament ordered Zintani Tripoli withdrawal*, 25 August 2014; Libya Herald, *Misrata "renege" on pull-back deal*, 25 August 2014.

<sup>340</sup> Libya Herald, *Zintan "ordered" to withdraw from Tripoli by HoR*, 24 August 2014.

<sup>341</sup> Libya Herald, *BREAKING NEWS: Dawn takes control of Tripoli airport*, 23 August 2014.

<sup>342</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity denies loss of Benina and Air Defence base*, 23 August 2014.

<sup>343</sup> Ibid.

<sup>344</sup> Reuters, *War planes attack Libyan capital again as airport terminal is destroyed*, 24 August 2014; Libya Herald, *Tripoli International Airport in flames*, 24 August 2014.

<sup>345</sup> Libya Herald, *Libya Dawn accuses Egypt and the UAE of Tripoli airstrikes*, 24 August 2014.

<sup>346</sup> Ibid.

<sup>347</sup> Libya Herald, *Zintan "ordered" to withdraw from Tripoli by HoR*, 24 August 2014.

<sup>348</sup> Libya Herald, *Tripoli International Airport in flames*, 24 August 2014.

<sup>349</sup> Reuters, *Egypt, UAE carried out Tripoli air strikes: U.S. officials*, 25 August 2014.

<sup>350</sup> Middle East Eye, *Options for Libya's government with Tripoli now controlled by Libya Dawn*, 25 August 2014.

targeted during these attacks; the violence reportedly did not spare ordinary families and civilians. Many families became homeless.<sup>351</sup>

On 26 August, four Christian Egyptian nationals were abducted by gunmen near Sirt, on the road between Tripoli and the Egyptian border.<sup>352</sup>

On 30 August, heavy fighting broke out in Benghazi's Bu'atni neighbourhood between General Haftar's forces and Islamist militias. Rockets were fired at the airport; at least ten soldiers were killed and 25 injured.<sup>353</sup> On the same day, the central Libya Shield Force attacked the al-Falah camp, where Tawargha exiles in Tripoli were housed. One person was killed and three were seriously injured.<sup>354</sup>

In Tripoli, armed robbery was on the rise and hotels were looted.<sup>355</sup>

## 5.8 September 2014

According to officials from Zintan, after Libya Dawn took control of Tripoli, houses of at least 82 Zintani families were attacked and looted and 80 Zintanis were arrested or abducted and some of them disappeared.<sup>356</sup>

Fighting continued in the coastal town of Janzur, west of Tripoli, and in the Warshafana area. The Warshafana were facing the western Libya Shield, the Janzur Knights' Brigade and militias from Zawiya. On 6 September, the fighting in this area killed 12 (including 4 elderly persons) and injured 10.<sup>357</sup> In the period from 7 to 10 September, shelling killed 43, mostly civilians (including 12 children and 4 women) and injured 67. On 9 September, at least 13 persons were killed when a missile hit their house.<sup>358</sup>

On 9 September, a former employee of Qadhafi's secret service was assassinated in Darna by unidentified men.<sup>359</sup>

On the same day, in Benghazi, Operation Dignity forces issued a last call for Islamist combatants to deposit their arms.<sup>360</sup> The following day, a member of the Special Forces in Benghazi declared that 25 soldiers had been abducted and 5 had been killed during an Islamist attack on a check-point.<sup>361</sup>

On 10 September, Toubou and Arab militias from the south were moving towards Benghazi in support of Operation Dignity.<sup>362</sup> The following day, Benghazi residents saw

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<sup>351</sup> Libya Herald, *Libya Dawn accused of taking revenge on Tripoli opposition*, 26 August 2014.

<sup>352</sup> Libya Herald, *Four Egyptian Christians abducted near Sirte*, 27 August 2014.

<sup>353</sup> Reuters, *Heavy fighting in Libya's Benghazi city; airport hit*, 30 August 2014.

<sup>354</sup> Libya Herald, *Tawerghan refugee camp a ghost town in wake of attack*, 31 August 2014.

<sup>355</sup> Libya Herald, *Fierce exchanges between Dawn and Warshefana*, 30 August 2014.

<sup>356</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Spiraling militia attacks may be war crimes*, 8 September 2014.

<sup>357</sup> Libya Herald, *Uneasy calm in Tripoli*, 8 September 2014.

<sup>358</sup> Libya Herald, *Warshefana slaughter continues*, 10 September 2014.

<sup>359</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Extremists Terrorizing Derna Residents*, 27 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Qaddafi regime official murdered in Derna*, 10 September 2014.

<sup>360</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity offers opposing combatants amnesty before Benghazi assault*, 9 September 2014.

<sup>361</sup> Reuters, *Islamists in Libya's Benghazi probably kidnapped 25 missing soldiers: commander*, 10 September 2014.

<sup>362</sup> Libya Herald, *Tebu troops head to Benghazi to reinforce Operation Dignity*, 10 September 2014.

that Ansar al-Sharia and its allies had left some of their positions, notably in the Qwarsha and Qaryunis districts.<sup>363</sup>

After a brief intermission, targeted assassinations resumed in Benghazi. A Salafi imam – brother to a member of the army’s secret service killed in July 2014 – and a policeman were killed on 10 and 12 September respectively in Benghazi. On 11 September, a gold dealer was killed by robbers<sup>364</sup>.

On 12 September, Libya Dawn attacked the Warshafana area (Mamura, Tmayna, Sayad, al-Maya, Ghut Abusaq and Zahra) with heavy weaponry. According to a Warshafana official, the entire area was under siege and residents had to remain indoors. 38 persons were reportedly killed and 80 injured. Provision of medical supplies was interrupted.<sup>365</sup> On the same day, a Toubou student without any known political affiliation was murdered in Darna.<sup>366</sup>

On 14 and 15 September, in a period of 24 hours, at least 19 combatants were killed in Benghazi in sporadic but heavy fighting between Operation Dignity and the Shura Council of Revolutionary Youth. The fighting took place at and around the Benina airport and in a neighbourhood close to Bu’atni.<sup>367</sup> On 15 September, a military airplane destroyed an ammunition depot in a military base close to Gharyan. The attack was claimed by Operation Dignity.<sup>368</sup>

On 17 September, in Ubari, a town in the country’s south-west with a Tuareg majority and the Toubou constituting one quarter of the population, a group of Tuareg from outside of town backing Operation Libya Dawn tried to wrest control of a petrol station from the Toubou. An unknown number of Tuareg were killed or injured.<sup>369</sup> On the same day, there was fighting between Zintan and Gharyan militias to the south of Gharyan.<sup>370</sup>

On 21 September, at least five combatants were killed in Darna in fighting between the Abu Slim Martyrs’ Brigade and the Darna Islamic Youth. One civilian was also killed.<sup>371</sup>

In Benghazi, between 18 and 20 September, several activists and journalists were killed in a series of targeted assassinations. On 19 September, known as ‘Black Friday’, a well-known 18-year old blogger and activist was killed as well as 7 other persons, among them former members of Qadhafi’s security services.<sup>372</sup> A local activist and a Salafi imam were killed on 22 September. These assassinations were attributed to Ansar al-Sharia and its allies, and were supposedly stemming from their inability to retake

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<sup>363</sup> Libya Herald, *Ansar withdraws from Benghazi positions as Operation Dignity forces enter city*, 11 September 2014.

<sup>364</sup> Libya Herald, *Further assassinations in Benghazi*, 12 September 2014.

<sup>365</sup> Libya Herald, *“Hundreds of missiles” rain down on Warshefana area*, 13 September 2014.

<sup>366</sup> Libya Herald, *Student murdered in Derna*, 12 September 2014.

<sup>367</sup> Libya Herald, *At least 19 killed in fierce Benghazi clashes*, 15 September 2014.

<sup>368</sup> Libya Herald, *Warplane destroys Ghariyan ammo dump*, 15 September 2014.

<sup>369</sup> Libya Herald, *Fighting in Obari between pro- and anti-Libya Dawn groups*, 17 September 2014.

<sup>370</sup> Libya Herald, *Blockaded Zintanis clash with Gharianis*, 18 September 2014.

<sup>371</sup> Libya Herald, *Six killed in battles between rival Derna Islamists*, 23 September 2014.

<sup>372</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi mourns as yet another high-profile activist is slain in the city*, 20 September 2014; Libya Herald, *HRW: Assassinations may be crimes against humanity*, 24 September 2014.

Benina airport.<sup>373</sup> Fighting between Operation Dignity forces and Ansar al-Sharia continued in Bu'atni and Qwarsha.<sup>374</sup>

On 22 September, a small explosive device thrown from a car exploded near the Constitutional Assembly in al-Bayda, causing material damage.<sup>375</sup>

On 23 September, in the district of Fashlum in Tripoli, clashes broke out between local youths and a militia from Misrata, killing one of the youths.<sup>376</sup> The following day, unidentified airplanes attacked several Libya Dawn controlled areas in Tripoli.<sup>377</sup> In Benghazi, an aerial attack on a ship in the city's port was claimed by Operation Dignity. The ship purportedly carried weapons for the Islamist militias.<sup>378</sup> On the same day, a writer known for his outspoken criticism of the former regime and for his active role in the revolution was abducted in Tripoli. He was released after six days.<sup>379</sup> On 25 September, Zintani and Warshafana forces took up positions in Aziziyya, a town 55 km to the south-west of Tripoli.<sup>380</sup>

On 27 September, unidentified gunmen killed a man and his wife in Benghazi. An employee of a public television network was killed in Laythi on the same day.<sup>381</sup> The following day, at least one person was killed and two others injured in fighting between rival militias in Tripoli, in the Zawiya district.<sup>382</sup>

Sabha was shaken by several days of serious fighting between Arab tribes (Awlad Sulayman and Qadhadhfa). Houses were burned down and razed and 13 people reportedly died.<sup>383</sup>

On 30 September, three civilians and a former member of the security services were assassinated in Benghazi.<sup>384</sup> In the evening, local residents attacked an Ansar al-Sharia check-point and drove the militants away; an elderly man was killed and three persons were wounded.<sup>385</sup>

## 5.9 October 2014

A cease-fire between Awlad Sulayman and Qadhadhfa took effect in Sabha on 1 October after four days of indiscriminate fighting with heavy weaponry killed 15, including two

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<sup>373</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi mourns as yet another high-profile activist is slain in the city*, 20 September 2014; Libya Herald, *HRW: Assassinations may be crimes against humanity*, 24 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Ukrainian kidnapping condemned by Health Ministry*, 24 September 2014.

<sup>374</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi violence: assassinations and lawlessness as Benina clashes continue*, 23 September 2014.

<sup>375</sup> Libya Herald, *Explosion in Beida near Constitution Drafting Assembly*, 22 September 2014.

<sup>376</sup> Libya Herald, *Clashes in Fashloum*, 24 September 2014.

<sup>377</sup> Libya Herald, *More Tripoli air attacks on Libya Dawn by unidentified warplanes*, 24 September 2014.

<sup>378</sup> Reuters, *Warplane bombs non-oil port in Libya's Benghazi: witnesses*, 24 September 2014.

<sup>379</sup> Libya Herald, *Writer and political activist abducted in Tripoli*, 25 September 2014; Libya Herald, *Kidnapped activist Faraj Abualeshah feared he would be beheaded*, 30 September 2014.

<sup>380</sup> Libya Herald, *Zintan and Warshafana forces take up positions at Azziziya*, 25 September 2014.

<sup>381</sup> Middle East Eye, *Fresh violence rocks Libya as al-Thinni's government sworn in*, 28 September 2014.

<sup>382</sup> Ibid.

<sup>383</sup> Libya Herald, *Clashes continue in Sebha despite ceasefire*, 1 October 2014.

<sup>384</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi violence: four killed in attacks*, 1 October 2014.

<sup>385</sup> Libya Herald, *Man dies as locals chase Ansar from Benghazi checkpoint*, 1 October 2014.

children, and injured dozens. Houses with civilians inside were reportedly also targeted.<sup>386</sup>

In Benghazi, thirty soldiers were killed and eighty injured in two suicide attacks near Benina airport. Heavy fighting – the worst fighting in two years, according to the Libya Herald – broke out on 2 October in this area between Operation Dignity and the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries. Most residents of the nearby neighbourhood of Bu’atni left their homes.<sup>387</sup> On 3 and 4 October, an army officer employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a civilian were killed in Benghazi.<sup>388</sup> The head of the Benghazi International School, a British national, was released after his five-month captivity by a group calling itself the Army of Islam.<sup>389</sup>

On 6 October, armed men vandalised one of the most richly decorated mosques in Tripoli.<sup>390</sup>

On 7 and 8 October, six persons were killed in Benghazi: two ordinary citizens, a radio presenter, an army officer, a former member of the Benghazi Crisis Committee and a member of the al-Sa’iqa Special Forces.<sup>391</sup>

In Tripoli, six members of a family known for its human rights activities were abducted from their family compound near Tripoli Airport.<sup>392</sup>

On 10 October, a reporter of the Alassama TV channel (Alassama is an alternative way of transcribing *al-asima*, “the capital” in Arabic) was abducted by an armed militia.<sup>393</sup>

A *madrassa* in the historical centre of Tripoli was vandalised on 11 October.<sup>394</sup>

In Benghazi, heavy fighting between Operation Dignity and the Shura Council caused a high number of casualties on both sides.<sup>395</sup>

On 13 October, fighting was reported near Gharyan between combatants using heavy weaponry.<sup>396</sup>

On 14 October, extremists attacked a mosque near Tripoli’s historical centre.<sup>397</sup> On the same day, former general Haftar announced his intention to liberate Benghazi completely. On the following day, gunfire could be heard in several parts of the city and air raids were targeting Islamist positions. According to Prime Minister al-Thinni and a spokesman of Operation Dignity, the army managed to take the 17 February Camp.<sup>398</sup>

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<sup>386</sup> Libya Herald, *Ceasefire in Sebha in time for Eid*, 2 October 2014.

<sup>387</sup> Libya Herald, *The chaos of Benghazi’s most battle-scarred area*, 3 October 2014; Libya Herald, *As many as 30 killed in Benghazi suicide attacks*, 2 October 2014.

<sup>388</sup> Libya Herald, *More murders in Benghazi*, 4 October 2014.

<sup>389</sup> Libya Herald, *British Benghazi teacher freed after five-month captivity*, 4 October 2014.

<sup>390</sup> Libya Herald, *Gunmen vandalise Tripoli’s Karamanli Mosque*, 7 October 2014.

<sup>391</sup> Libya Herald, *Radio DJ murdered in Benghazi as six killed in targeted assassinations over two days*, 9 October 2014.

<sup>392</sup> Libya Herald, *Prominent family members kidnapped in Tripoli*, 10 October 2014.

<sup>393</sup> Libya Herald, *Alaseema TV reporter kidnapped in Tripoli*, 10 October 2014.

<sup>394</sup> Libya Herald, *Tripoli’s Othman Pasha Madrassa vandalised*, 12 October 2014.

<sup>395</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi violence: Heavy losses in renewed Benina clashes*, 23 October 2014.

<sup>396</sup> Libya Herald, *Further fierce fighting in Jebel Nafusa*, 13 October 2014.

<sup>397</sup> Libya Herald, *Another Tripoli mosque attacked*, 14 October 2014.

<sup>398</sup> Reuters, *Libyan army, residents battle Islamist militants in Benghazi*, 15 October 2014.

On 15 October, fighting between Zintan Brigades and Operation Dawn continued 30 km south of Gharyan.<sup>399</sup> For the third time in two weeks, a dozen Grad rockets were shot toward the airport at al-Abraq but missed their target.<sup>400</sup>

On 18 October in Benghazi, almost all the residents of the Qaryunis and Busnayb neighbourhoods fled the fighting. 510 families from Tawargha had to abandon the Qaryunis refugee camp<sup>401</sup>.

On the same day, the forces of former general Haftar announced they had taken the town of Zahra, in the Warshafana area, from Libya Dawn<sup>402</sup>.

On 19 October, the director of the National Commission for Relief and Support for Displaced People in Libya was found assassinated.<sup>403</sup> On the same day, a bomb attack targeting former general Haftar's house in the centre of Benghazi killed the passenger of a passing vehicle and injured her friend.<sup>404</sup>

In the suburbs of Tripoli, an old Sufi mosque was vandalised by extremists.<sup>405</sup> On 22 October, combatants from Misrata and Suq al-Jum'a in weapon-mounted vehicles attacked the Egyptian embassy in Tripoli. The same day, four persons were abducted: the local secretary of the Red Crescent, a local councillor, a journalist and an army officer.<sup>406</sup>

In Benghazi, Operation Dignity took control of the entry point to the Qwarsha neighbourhood. Shelling hit the Masakin area, where heavy fighting had been raging for several days. At Fuwayhat, fighting continued near the base of the 17 February Martyrs Brigade. According to local residents, Operation Dignity forces are said to control 80 % of Benghazi (Benina, Bu'atni, Fuwayhat, Majuri, Kish, Buhdayma, Sabri, Sidi Mansur and al-Rajma).<sup>407</sup>

Fighting between Toubou and Tuareg backing Libya Dawn continued in Ubari with sporadic outbursts. Hundreds of local residents fled to nearby villages.<sup>408</sup>

On 22 October, armed men attacked a bank truck near Sabha and stole 500,000 Libyan dinars.<sup>409</sup>

On 23 October, in Benghazi, air raids targeted an Ansar al-Sharia ammunition dump and checkpoint at Benghazi's western entry point.<sup>410</sup> Heavy fighting broke out in the

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<sup>399</sup> Libya Herald, *Fighting continues near Gharian*, 15 October 2014.

<sup>400</sup> Libya Herald, *Labraq airport again undamaged in Grad attack*, 15 October 2014.

<sup>401</sup> Libya Herald, *Tawerghans flee fighting in Benghazi as suicide bomber kills four in Buhdeima*, 18 October 2014.

<sup>402</sup> Libya Herald, *LNA claims advance in Warshefana district*, 18 October 2014.

<sup>403</sup> Libya Herald, *Leading Benghazi social worker slain*, 19 October 2014.

<sup>404</sup> Libya Herald, *One dead and another injured following bomb attack on Haftar's home*, 19 October 2014.

<sup>405</sup> Libya Herald, *Vandals target another historic Tripoli mosque*, 19 October 2014.

<sup>406</sup> Libya Herald, *Four Tripoli kidnappings and Egyptian embassy sacked*, 22 October 2014.

<sup>407</sup> Libya Herald, *Operation Dignity takes control of Gwarsha gate as fighting goes into seventh day*, 22 October 2014.

<sup>408</sup> Libya Herald, *Fighting continues in Obari*, 22 October 2014.

<sup>409</sup> Libya Herald, *Thieves grab half million dinars from Sebha bank truck*, 23 October 2014.

<sup>410</sup> Middle East Eye, *Benghazi suburb evacuated amid fierce battles for control of Libya's second city*, 26 October 2014.

Qaryunis neighbourhood and in other areas near the 17 February camp, which Operation Dignity claimed to have retaken for the second time.<sup>411</sup>

On 25 or 26 October, according to a witness interviewed by Human Rights Watch, eight young men who were caught drinking alcohol at a bachelor party were publicly flogged with forty lashes in Darna.<sup>412</sup>

A public prosecutor was abducted on 26 October in Benghazi.<sup>413</sup> Fighting continued on the University campus and in areas near the 17 February camp. At least 130 persons were killed in street battles during the past ten days.<sup>414</sup>

Two days later, a car bomb exploded in Tubruq near the security services headquarters. One person was injured, according to an unconfirmed source (no-one was injured according to the Libyan authorities). This was the first attack of this kind in Tubruq, which is protected by a security cordon.<sup>415</sup>

On 30 October, fighting in Benghazi continued in Hada'iq, Salmani, Sidi Mansur, al-Jal'a and Qaryunis areas.<sup>416</sup> The army announced it had forced Islamists from the area around the airport and that it now controlled 80 % of Benghazi.<sup>417</sup>

## 5.10 November 2014

On 1 November, an army colonel was killed in Darna.<sup>418</sup> Also in Darna, some fifty Islamists pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, head of the Islamic State.<sup>419</sup>

In Benghazi, fighting intensified in the port area. Residents of the Sabri neighbourhood had to evacuate their homes. In two weeks of fighting, 254 persons were reportedly killed.<sup>420</sup> A convoy of thirty vehicles from Libya Dawn was bombed east of Sirt by pro-government forces.<sup>421</sup> On 3 November, fighting in the port area killed 13; a navy ship was hit by a missile. The Red Crescent evacuated 53 foreign workers and 14 patients from a hospital.<sup>422</sup> Benghazi's commercial port was closed because of the fighting.<sup>423</sup>

On 5 November, three men were abducted in Darna and beheaded. At least one of them belonged to a group of nine masked men who had announced on social media their

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<sup>411</sup> Libya Herald, *Government forces claim victory at 17 February Camp for second time*, 24 December 2014.

<sup>412</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Extremists Terrorizing Derna Residents*, 27 November 2014.

<sup>413</sup> Libya Herald, *Public prosecutor abducted in Benghazi*, 27 October 2014.

<sup>414</sup> Libya Herald, *More heavy fighting in Libya's Benghazi, death toll rises to 130*, 26 October 2014.

<sup>415</sup> Libya Herald, *Bomb explodes inside Tobruk security perimeter*, 28 October 2014; Middle East Eye, *Car bomb in Tobruk marks first breach of Libyan parliament town*, 29 October 2014.

<sup>416</sup> Libya Herald, *Thinni government: Army and youth of Benghazi removing dens of terrorism*, 30 October 2014.

<sup>417</sup> Reuters, *Libyan army says recaptures four barracks in Benghazi*, 31 October 2014.

<sup>418</sup> Libya Herald, *Army colonel gunned down in Derna as he mourns his brother*, 2 November 2014.

<sup>419</sup> Reuters, *Dozens of Libyans in eastern town pledge allegiance to Islamic State leader*, 1 November 2014.

<sup>420</sup> Libya Herald, *Army urges evacuation of area surrounding Benghazi Port*, 3 November 2014.

<sup>421</sup> Libya Herald, *Government forces bomb convoy heading to Benghazi as violence continues*, 3 November 2014; Reuters, *Heavy fighting near seaport of Benghazi, navy ship hit*, 3 November 2014.

<sup>422</sup> Reuters, *Heavy fighting near seaport of Libyan city Benghazi, navy ship hit*, 3 November 2014.

<sup>423</sup> Reuters, *Libya closes Benghazi's commercial port due to clashes: port official*, 4 November 2014.



allegiance to Operation Dignity. Claiming to be speaking on behalf of the “Youth of Darna”, they called the people to take arms against radical militias in Darna.<sup>424</sup>

Following a surprise attack on 5 November by a Tuareg militia affiliated to Libya Dawn, the facilities at the Sharara oilfield were closed.<sup>425</sup> The attackers stole computers and some twenty vehicles belonging to the oil company. On the same day, in Ubari, Tuareg affiliated to Libya Dawn conducted a raid against the town’s main Toubou security force.<sup>426</sup>

On 6 November in Benghazi, fighting continued in Laythi and Sabri; the west of Benghazi (Qwarsha and parts of the town centre) remained largely under control of the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries.<sup>427</sup>

In Tripoli, as civilians were demonstrating against Libya Dawn, fighting broke out in Fashlum. One man was injured by gunfire from a Libya Dawn affiliated brigade.<sup>428</sup>

Still on 6 November, the newly elected mayor of a district in Tripoli was abducted by armed men.<sup>429</sup>

On 9 November, robbers stole 1,700,000 Libyan dinars (USD 1,300,000) from a bank in Tripoli.<sup>430</sup>

On the same day, an attack involving three car bombs targeted a meeting between Abdullah al-Thinni and Bernardino Leon in Shahat, some 15 km from al-Bayda. Five people were injured.<sup>431</sup>

In Darna, fighting broke out in Darna between Islamists and members of a local clan.<sup>432</sup>

On 12 November, in Tubruq, two car bombs exploded on a busy road, injuring 21 civilians. At 30 km from al-Bayda, at the south entrance to the al-Abraq airbase, five soldiers were killed in a suicide attack.<sup>433</sup> In retaliation, air raids were conducted on the same day against positions held by Ansar al-Sharia, killing at least 13, among them a majority of foreign combatants, according to a local hospital.<sup>434</sup> The following day, several car bombs exploded in front of the Egyptian and Emirati Embassies in Tripoli, without casualties.<sup>435</sup>

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<sup>424</sup> Human Rights Watch, *Libya: Extremists Terrorizing Derna Residents*, 27 November 2014.

<sup>425</sup> Reuters, *Libya faces chaos as top court rejects elected assembly*, 6 November 2014.

<sup>426</sup> Libya Herald, *Shahara oilfield attacked: report*, 5 November 2014; Libya Herald, *HoR mediators meet with Tebu leaders over Obari clashes*, 7 November 2014.

<sup>427</sup> Libya Herald, *Hafter declares Benghazi safe despite continued clashes*, 6 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Benghazi violence: City-wide fighting continues*, 5 November 2014.

<sup>428</sup> Libya Herald, *Residents demonstrate against Libya Dawn in Tripoli*, 9 November 2014.

<sup>429</sup> Libya Herald, *Kidnappings continue in Tripoli: head of shipping company reported seized*, 15 November 2014.

<sup>430</sup> Libya Herald, *Sahara Bank robbed in Tripoli*, 10 November 2014; Reuters, *Libya's El Feel oil field shut down, third site within days*, 10 November 2014.

<sup>431</sup> Libya Herald, *Breaking News: PM Thinni and UNSMIL head targeted in bomb attack*, 9 November 2014.

<sup>432</sup> Libya Herald, *Clashes reported in Derna; headless bodies found*, 10 November 2014.

<sup>433</sup> Libya Herald, *Five killed and 21 injured in Tobruk and Beida suicide bombings*, 12 November 2014.

<sup>434</sup> Libya Herald, *Foreign fighters reported slain in Derna air attacks*, 13 November 2014.

<sup>435</sup> Libya Herald, *Egyptian and UAE embassies in Tripoli car-bombed*, 13 November 2014.

The release and return in Italy of an Italian engineer abducted on 5 July was announced on 13 November.<sup>436</sup> The same day, the CEO of the main Libyan shipping company and the dean of the Economy Faculty in Tripoli were abducted.<sup>437</sup>

On 15 and 16 November, fighting erupted at Mitiga airport between supporters and opponents of Libya Dawn. The airport had to close for security reasons. In Tanjura, two supporters of Libya Dawn were killed in a blood feud. In Tripoli, demonstrations commemorated the first anniversary of Gharghur massacre. Libya Dawn reinforced its police presence and shut down the Internet during several hours.<sup>438</sup>

In Benghazi (Hawari), two Egyptian nationals were killed on 17 November when artillery fire hit the bakery where they were working. Fighting continued in Bil Awn, evacuated by its residents on the army's request, as well as in Bu'atni and Qaryunis. Air raids targeted Qwarsha, al-Haylis and Sabri.<sup>439</sup>

On 18 November, in the context of a blood feud between two families with opposed political views, armed men attacked several homes of the rival family in Tarhuna, some 80 km south-east of Tripoli.<sup>440</sup>

On the following day, fighting continued in Benghazi despite a humanitarian ceasefire brokered by UNSMIL.<sup>441</sup> The UN Secretary General's Special Representative for Libya and Bernardino Leon, head of UNSMIL, announced an unconditional humanitarian truce in Benghazi on 19 November from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to allow the Red Crescent to evacuate civilians and retrieve bodies, and to facilitate the removal of sewage from some parts of the city.<sup>442</sup>

On 22 November, the Libyan army's High Command threatened to close the airspace in the western part of the country and to bomb the ports and airports controlled by Libya Dawn if they did not close them. Air raids targeted positions of Libya Dawn west of Tripoli.<sup>443</sup> Two air raids were conducted against the Mitiga airport in Tripoli on 24 and 25 November.<sup>444</sup>

In Tripoli, on 23 November, a police officer was killed in front of his house.<sup>445</sup>

In the centre of Sirt, public buildings were damaged by a strong explosion on 26 November.<sup>446</sup>

The following day, two air raids by Libya's regular air force targeted a camp in Gharyan and another one to the west of Zuwara.<sup>447</sup>

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<sup>436</sup> Libya Herald, *Italian freed in Zuwara four month after kidnapping*, 13 November 2014.

<sup>437</sup> Libya Herald, *Kidnappings continue in Tripoli: head of shipping company reported seized*, 15 November 2014.

<sup>438</sup> Libya Herald, *Two killed in clashes at Mitiga as fighting closes airport*, 16 November 2014.

<sup>439</sup> Libya Herald, *Two Egyptians killed in Benghazi as fighting rages across city*, 17 November 2014.

<sup>440</sup> Libya Herald, *Clashes in Tarhuna*, 19 November 2014.

<sup>441</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi truce fails as fighting rages across the city*, 19 November 2014.

<sup>442</sup> UNSMIL, *UNSMIL Announces Humanitarian Truce in Benghazi*, 19 November 2014.

<sup>443</sup> Libya Herald, *LNA claims "operation to liberate Tripoli" has started; Sorman and Janzur among targets targeted say Zintanis*, 22 November 2014.

<sup>444</sup> Libya Herald, *Planes and ships in Libya Dawn areas "military targets": High Command*, 22 November 2014; Libya Herald, *Breaking news: Second airstrike on Mitiga*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>445</sup> Libya Herald, *Tripoli colonel murdered*, 25 November 2014.

<sup>446</sup> Libya Herald, *Large blast wrecks offices in central Sirte*, 26 November 2014.

In Ajdabiya, an air force commander was killed by unidentified men.<sup>448</sup>

A prominent cleric, member of the Libyan league of Ulama, was abducted in Tripoli.<sup>449</sup>

On 30 November, a girl of 15 was killed in crossfire when her family tried to flee the Laythi district in Benghazi.<sup>450</sup> On the same day, an explosives expert was killed in his house in Benghazi.<sup>451</sup>

### **5.11 December 2014**

On 1 December 2014, a car bomb exploded in a car park of the Security Directorate in Ajdabiya, some 160 km south of Benghazi. The number of casualties is not known.<sup>452</sup>

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<sup>447</sup> Libya Herald, *Air attacks continue in west*, 27 November 2014.

<sup>448</sup> Libya Herald, *Air force commander ambushed and killed in Ajdabiya*, 28 November 2014.

<sup>449</sup> Libya Herald, *Prominent Libyan cleric kidnapped in Tripoli*, 20 November 2014.

<sup>450</sup> Libya Herald, *Attack on was "a warning shot" claims Dignity*, 30 November 2014.

<sup>451</sup> Libya Herald, *Benghazi bomb expert assassinated 1st december 2014*, 1 December 2014.

<sup>452</sup> Libya Herald, *Car bomb explodes outside Adjabiya Security Directorate*, 1 December 2014.

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