

FACT SHEET LIBYA

23.10.2017 - 05.12.2017 NO. 03



INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

- 23.10: The second round of negotiations to amend the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) ended without concrete results. Nonetheless, UN special envoy Salamé expressed hope that an amended agreement would be adopted before the expiration of the LPA on 17th December.
- 23.10: Egypt once again conducted airstrikes against alleged weapons convoys. President Sisi claimed that due to the defeat of IS in Syria and Iraq, an increased amount of IS combatants are fleeing to Egypt through libyan territory. The US regional command AFRICOM does not see any evidence supporting such a claim.
- 29.10: In Cairo, officers of the Libyan National Army (LNA) and the Government of National Accord agreed on a unified army leadership, the formation of a National Security Council and measures to reintegrate former soldiers.
- 29.10: Accusations of human rights violations and war crimes have increased: An association of Libyan lawyers and Human Rights Watch criticise the failure of the International Criminal Court and demand investigations by a new international body. A British law firm filed a lawsuit for war crimes against Haftar and his sons at US courts.
- 17.11: The US Air Force in coordination with the GNA conducted airstrikes against IS positions in the desert, close to the city of al-Fugaha
- 04.12: UN special envoy Salamé emphasised, that even in 2018 Libya may not be ready for elections due to political and security-related challenges.
- 05.12: In the framework of the EU-AU summit, French president Macron proposed a military engagement of African states in the south of Libya to fight smuggling in the region.

DOMESTIC POLITICS

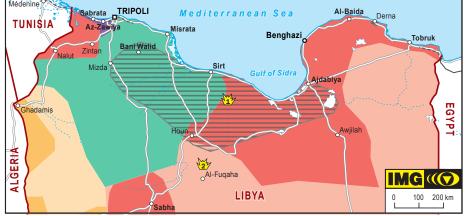
- 6.11: Following the death of a Benghazi Defence Brigades' (BDB) member in a prison in Misrata, protests illustrated the tensions within the Salafist movement. The protesters demanded the release of BDB supporters.
- 05/10.11: After two failed assassination attempts on the PC's deputy minister of interior, al-Gaem, in Benghazi, the LNA took over the building of the interior ministry. Furthermore, it increased the presence in the region of origin of Gaem after the latter had called Haftar to leave Benghazi. An arrest warrant against Gaem was issued, and people associated with him were arrested and suspended from their positions.
- 12.11: The government in Baida ordered the arrest of state employees
- who cooperated with the GNA in Tripoli. The mayor of Tobruk and some other members of the LNA were arrested.
- 15.11: Werfalli, an internationally wanted war criminal, fell out with leading figures of the LNA, followed by an arrest warrant issued against him by the LNA.
- 21.11: The House of Representatives in Tobruk (HoR) adopted the LPA's reform proposal, which plans to reduce the PC to three members, as well as an autonomous post of prime minister. The president of the State Council (SC), Swehli, criticised the non-consultation of the SC in this matter. As a consequence, there have been tensions within the SC.

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

- 26.10: 36 bodies were found tied up in a mass grave in al-Abyar, 50 km southeast of Benghazi. The LNA initiated investigations.
- 30.10: 9 to 15 civilians reportedly died during an airstrike on a house in the south of Derna. Nobody claimed responsibility.
- 02.11: Forces from Zintan, led by PC's commander of the Western district, Juwaili, attacked tribal areas in Wersheffana, under the pretext of fighting crime. This area is considered the refuge of many Gaddafi supporters and that of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi respectively.
- ullet 04.11: The Tripoli Revolutionary Brigades, one of the three dominant militias in Tripoli, as well as local militias from Tarhuna, Janzour and el-Jamil joined
- Juwaili in the Wersheffana campaign. The Military Council of Zintan (ZMC) announced to have gained full control over Wersheffana two days later.
- 06.11: The LNA conducted airstrikes in Sidi Akribesh, a neighbourhood of Benghazi, where the resistance against the LNA persists.
- 13.11: The security committee of Sirte, announced that IS established a temporary checkpoint 20 km south of the city (Bohadi) and that its base lies around 80 km south of Sirte. As a consequence, the LNA conducted two airstrikes in this area
- 25.11: IS supporters attacked a LNA checkpoint in Tisan, 60 km south of Ajdabiya. They killed three soldiers and set the checkpoint on fire.

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

- Numerous protests in African and European capitals erupted, after CNN published a video showing a slave auction. France called for a meeting of the UN Security Council. The PC opened investigations.
- In the course of the Wersheffana campaign there have been numerous accusations of war crimes. Around 480 families, of which a large part returned to their houses shortly after, fled during the clashes.
- Two shut downs of the Man Made River (MMR) led to water shortages in Tripoli. The Maghara tribe tried to achieve the release of a recently arres-
- ted ally through the blockade of the MMR.
- After the Italian coastguard had saved over 1000 migrants from the Mediterranean Sea and the death of 31 off the coast of Libya in mid-November, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) announced the establishment of "safe rooms" for migrants in Libya.
- UNSMIL reported 23 civilian victims of military actions in October. Half of them died during an air strike in Derna. In November there were 6 reported civilian victims.



MAP ANALYSIS

IS is still active in the desert area of central Libya. Its main hub lies south of Sirte. Both the LNA and the US Air Force conducted two precision air strikes against IS positions in the last weeks. While the siege of Derna is still ongoing, the LNA has to fight militant resistance in the Sidi Kribesh neighbourhood in Benghazi. The campaign of the ZMC which is traditionally loyal to Haftar extended with the support of some GNA militias in Wersheffana the influence of the ZMC to the south-western suburbs of Tripoli.

FORECAST

The slow rapprochement between the LNA and several militias from Misrata, as well as between the ZMC and local militias from the greater Tripoli area, will be a decisive factor in the power struggle between Haftar and the Government of National Accord (GNA). The prosecution and elimination of GNA supporters by Haftar's forces in eastern Libya though indicate setbacks in the peace consolidation. The activities of IS stayed on a low-intensity level in the last weeks, however small attacks may occur in the future. The political reconciliation process will demand much effort from all parties. National elections in the course of next year cannot be ruled out. If those will result in more stability or further escalation remains to be seen.

