



COI QUERY

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COI QUERY RESPONSE - LIBYA

Security situation in Tripoli between 1 January – 31 October 2021

1. Political developments and security situation

Political developments during the reference period are linked to the signing, on 23 October 2020, of a 'complete and permanent ceasefire' by the 'representatives to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (5+5 JMC)' of the Government of National Accord (GNA) and the Libyan National Army (LNA), following mediation by the United Nations Support Mission in the country (UNSMIL).¹ The agreement envisaged an 'immediate ceasefire'², that 'military units and armed groups shall be withdrawn from all lines of contact and returned to their camps within three months of signature of the ceasefire'³, while 'all mercenaries and foreign fighters shall depart Libyan territory'⁴. Moreover, the two parties agreed to 'form a limited military force composed of regular military personnel operating under an operations room set up by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission to curb anticipated violations'.⁵

In addition, between 2-4 November 2020, representatives of the 5+5 JMC met in Ghadamis, Libya, and 'agreed to establish a Libyan-led and Libyan-owned ceasefire monitoring mechanism', which would be first implemented in 'a defined area in central Libya around Sirte, from Suknah to Abu Qurayn and Bin Jawwad, subject to potential future extension'.⁶

Between 9-15 November 2020, the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) met for the first time in Tunis, Tunisia.⁷ The LPDF 'comprised 75 representatives, including 17 women, from all Libyan regions and political and social constituencies, as well as from the House of Representatives and the High State Council', and adopted a 'political road map, intended to culminate in the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections on 24 December 2021'.⁸ In addition, the LPDF decided on 'a reformed executive authority to lead a government of national unity during the transitional period'. The executive authority would comprise 'a three-member Presidency Council and a separate Prime Minister with two deputies', and 'would be tasked to reunify state institutions and provide security

¹ UNSC, Letter dated 27 October 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 27 October 2020, [url](#), p. 1; Guardian (The), Libya's rival forces sign permanent ceasefire at UN-sponsored talks, 23 October 2020, [url](#); UN News, UN salutes new Libya ceasefire agreement that points to 'a better, safer, and more peaceful future', 23 October 2020, [url](#)

² UNSC, Letter dated 27 October 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 27 October 2020, [url](#), Annex, Section II, para. 1

³ UNSC, Letter dated 27 October 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 27 October 2020, [url](#), Annex, Section II, para. 2

⁴ UNSC, Letter dated 27 October 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 27 October 2020, [url](#), Annex, Section II, para. 2

⁵ UNSC, Letter dated 27 October 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 27 October 2020, [url](#), Annex, Section II, para. 3

⁶ UNSC, Letter dated 29 December 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 30 December 2020, [url](#), para. 7

⁷ Africa News, Tough start for Libya's political forum as talks stall, 16 November 2020, [url](#); UNSC, Letter dated 29 December 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 30 December 2020, [url](#), para. 11

⁸ UNSC, Letter dated 29 December 2020 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 30 December 2020, [url](#), para. 11

and basic services to the population until elections were held'.⁹

On 26 December 2020 and on 6 January 2021, two rounds of prisoner exchanges took place, as part of 'confidence-building measures' agreed upon by the GNA and the LNA.¹⁰ Similar initiatives took place subsequently on 31 March 2021, on 1 April 2021, and on 7 May 2021, when 'combatants and political detainees' were released by both sides.¹¹

In January 2021, as reported by International Crisis Group, the GNA and LNA 'continued to accuse each other of pursuing military build-up' in violation of the October 2020 ceasefire agreement.¹²

On 18 January 2021, the then-Prime Minister Fayez Al-Sarraj established 'a new Tripoli-based security force called the Stability Support Apparatus' (Stabilisation Support Force).¹³ According to media reports, the new force was under Al-Sarraj's direct control, and was to be led by Abdelghani Al-Kikli, head of the Abu Salim Central Security Force¹⁴ (also referred to as the 'Busleem Ghenewa brigade'¹⁵). At the same time, the head of the Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB) militia Ayoub Aburas was selected as Al-Kikli's deputy.¹⁶ Describing the appointments, Amnesty International (AI) argued in February 2021 that 'Libyan authorities have promoted and legitimized leaders of militias that have been responsible for heinous acts of abuse'. Referring to Al-Kikli, AI claimed that it had 'documented war crimes and other serious human rights violations by forces under [Al-Kikli's] command over the past 10 years'. Meanwhile, referring to the Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB) militia, AI claimed that the TRB 'has been involved in arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and torture'.¹⁷

On 5 February 2021, the LPDF selected the members of the new interim executive authority. Accordingly, 'Mohammad Younes Menfi was selected as President-designate of the Presidency Council, while Mossa al-Koni and Abdullah Hussein al-Lafi were selected as members-designate of the Council'. At the same time, Abdul Hamid Mohammed Dbeibah was appointed 'as the new Prime Minister-designate'.¹⁸ On 15 March 2021, the 'new Government of National Unity proposed by the Prime Minister-designate' was 'sworn in by the House of Representatives'.¹⁹

On 21 February 2021, GNA Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha survived an assassination attempt as his motorcade was attacked by armed men outside Tripoli.²⁰

In a March 2021 report, the UN Panel of Experts on Libya, referring to the period 25 October 2019-24 January 2021, highlighted that the 'threat from Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Libya remains moderate'. The source stated that, while members of the group are 'mainly in the southern desert cities of Taraghin, Awbari and Ghadduwah', it also has 'sleeper cells in the coastal cities of Sabratah

⁹ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 19 January 2021, [url](#), para 17

¹⁰ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 19 January 2021, [url](#), para 21

¹¹ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), para. 19

¹² International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch: January 2021, n.d., [url](#)

¹³ Libya Herald, Serraj creates new "Stability Support Apparatus" accountable directly to his office, 19 January 2021, [url](#)

¹⁴ AI, Libya: Ten years after uprising abusive militias evade justice and instead reap rewards, 17 February 2021, [url](#)

¹⁵ Libya Herald, Serraj creates new "Stability Support Apparatus" accountable directly to his office, 19 January 2021, [url](#)

¹⁶ Libya Herald, Serraj creates new "Stability Support Apparatus" accountable directly to his office, 19 January 2021, [url](#); Libya Observer, Al-Sarraj establishes "Stability Support Apparatus" in Libya's capital, 18 January 2021, [url](#)

¹⁷ AI, Libya: Ten years after uprising abusive militias evade justice and instead reap rewards, 17 February 2021, [url](#)

¹⁸ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), para. 2

¹⁹ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), paras. 5,6

²⁰ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch: February 2021, n.d., [url](#); AJ, Libya's powerful interior minister survives assassination attempt, 21 February 2021, [url](#)

and Tripoli'.²¹ More recently, in 'early March' 2021, the 'Joint Security Room of the Government of National Accord coordinated a counter-terrorism operation in southern Tripoli, which led to the arrest of elements reportedly affiliated with ISIL'.²² In August 2021, the UN reported the 'presence and activities of violent extremist organizations, Da'esh and the Organization of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb [...] including in the form of direct threats against civilians and United Nations personnel and attacks against security forces' in all regions of Libya, without giving more details.²³

In April 2021, the 444 Brigade militia, who is 'aligned to the Libyan state', reportedly closed the headquarters of several 'unofficial militia headquarters' located in the Salah al-Din and al-Shouk areas, of south Tripoli.²⁴

In May 2021, a UN report focusing on the period 19 January-11 May 2021, highlighted the 'rivalry and renewed competition among armed groups' which 'resurfaced in Tripoli and the western region in the lead-up to and following the selection of a new executive authority' by the LPDF.²⁵ A similar account was presented by the UN in a later report referring to the period 11 May-25 August 2021, where it was stated that 'rivalry and renewed competition between armed groups over territorial control continued to affect the security situation in Tripoli and north-western towns'.²⁶ The source also highlighted that the Stability Support Apparatus force 'sought to assert control over government institutions in Tripoli and areas along the north-western coastline, having been tasked by the Government of National Unity to manage potential conflicts among armed groups in the area'.²⁷

On 7 May 2021, 'armed militiamen briefly took over a hotel [...] that serves as headquarters for the interim government'²⁸ in Tripoli. While no casualties were reported, the move was described as a display of force by the militia, and a media source further claimed that the militiamen were searching for Foreign Minister Najla al-Manqoush.²⁹ A subsequent June 2021 report by the Jamestown Foundation stated that the 'militants were aligned with Burkan al-Ghadab (Volcano of Rage), a coalition of militias' employed by the GNA in 2019 to defend Tripoli from LNA attacks. The same source highlighted the public statement released by 'Burkan al-Ghadab's media office', where 'the militia insisted that al-Manqoush should be dismissed for calling for the complete departure of all foreign forces and mercenaries from the country, without making an exception for the Turkish military'.³⁰

On 22 June 2021, Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced it was suspending its 'activities in Mabani and Abu Salim detention centres in Tripoli [...] following repeated incidents of violence towards refugees and migrants held there'.³¹ The organisation subsequently resumed its activities in the centres some three months later, according to a press release by MSF issued on 29 September 2021.³²

²¹ UNSC, Letter dated 8 March 2021 from the Panel of Experts on Libya established pursuant to resolution 1973 (2011) addressed to the President of the Security Council, 8 March 2021, [url](#), para. 13

²² UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), para. 41

²³ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 25 August 2021, [url](#), para. 36

²⁴ Libyan Express, The 444th Combat Brigade shuts down another 23 militia headquarters in Tripoli, 21 April 2021, [url](#); Libya Herald, 11 unofficial Tripoli militia dens closed as part of security plan, 14 April 2021, [url](#)

²⁵ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), para. 32

²⁶ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 25 August 2021, [url](#), para. 30

²⁷ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 25 August 2021, [url](#), para. 31

²⁸ AP, Libyan militias briefly take over Tripoli gov't headquarters, 8 May 2021, [url](#)

²⁹ Arab Weekly (The), As they flex muscle, Libyan militias sow doubt about government authority, 11 May 2021, [url](#); AP, Libyan militias briefly take over Tripoli gov't headquarters, 8 May 2021, [url](#)

³⁰ Jamestown Foundation, Burkan al-Ghadab Militants' Display of Force Highlights Deepening Turkish Influence in Libya, 4 June 2021, [url](#)

³¹ MSF, Libya: Recurring violence against migrants and refugees forces MSF to suspend activities in Tripoli detention centers, 22 June 2021, [url](#);

³² MSF, Libya: Medical care resumes in Tripoli detention centres, 29 September 2021, [url](#)

On 22 July 2021, fighting took place between the Special Deterrence Forces (SDF) militia and the Stabilisation Support Force in the central Tripoli neighbourhoods of Ben Ashour and Ras Hassan.³³ While a source reported one civilian death³⁴, another claimed that three civilians had been killed during the fighting.³⁵

On 28 July 2021, a media source quoted unnamed accounts that ‘several members of the Municipal Council of Ain Zara’ had been ‘kidnapped by the Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade’ militia, who ‘stormed the municipality headquarters and assaulted the council members, and then reportedly took them to an unknown location’.³⁶

On 2 August 2021, ‘unidentified armed men’ abducted Rida Faraj Fraitis, the Chief of Staff for the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity (GNU), along with a colleague, ‘following Mr Fraitis’ visit to GNU premises in Tripoli’.³⁷ The two men were reportedly released on 17 August 2021, two weeks after the abduction, while the perpetrators had not been identified.³⁸

On 3 August 2021, an explosion and gunfire were reported ‘in the vicinity of the Islamic Dawa Association, located near Gypsum Road in southwestern Tripoli’.³⁹

On 3 September 2021, armed clashes were reported in the ‘densely populated neighbourhood’⁴⁰ of Salah al-Din in southern Tripoli. According to media reports, the fighting took place between the 444 Brigade militia and the Stabilisation Support Force⁴¹, while ‘gunfire and explosions’ were reported ‘near the military’s Tikbali camp’.⁴² Earlier that week, ‘smaller incidents of friction or clashes’ had been reported in Tripoli, ‘including a gunfight at a state institution’.⁴³

On 21 September 2021, the House of Representatives (HoR), ‘Libya’s eastern-based parliament’⁴⁴, passed a no-confidence motion against the Government of National Unity (GNU). While the ‘Tripoli-based High Council of State, the parliament’s upper house’⁴⁵ dismissed the vote, and the Government was expected to carry on in a caretaker role, the motion was described as a ‘new blow to UN-backed peace efforts’⁴⁶, as well as potentially affecting the upcoming December 2021 parliamentary and presidential elections.⁴⁷

On 1 October 2021, ‘armed men from militias and security forces affiliated with Libya’s Interior Ministry violently broke into homes and temporary shelters in the Gargaresh area in Tripoli’, in what was described as an ‘unprecedented migrant crackdown’. According to Amnesty International, the

³³ Libya Herald, Central Tripoli militia clashes – Interior Ministry says security situation is stable, 23 July 2021, [url](#); Garda, Libya: Clashes erupt between security forces and militia group in Tripoli July 22, 22 July 2021, [url](#)

³⁴ Libya Herald, Central Tripoli militia clashes – Interior Ministry says security situation is stable, 23 July 2021, [url](#)

³⁵ International Crisis Group, CrisisWatch: July 2021, n.d., [url](#)

³⁶ Libya Review, Members of Ain Zara Municipal Council Kidnapped, 28 July 2021, [url](#)

³⁷ UNSMIL, UNSMIL Condemns the Abduction and Disappearance of Senior Government Official, 10 August 2021, [url](#)

³⁸ AP, Libya says senior official released, 2 weeks after abduction, 17 August 2021, [url](#)

³⁹ Garda, Libya: Explosion and shooting reported near Islamic Dawa Association in southwestern Tripoli late Aug. 3, 3 August 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁰ UNSMIL, UNSMIL Expresses Concern Over Armed Clashes In Tripoli’s Salaheddine Area, Calls For Immediate Cessation Of Hostilities, 3 September 2021, [url](#);

⁴¹ Daily Sabah, Concerns grow in Libya as armed clashes break out in Tripoli, 3 September 2021, [url](#)

⁴² Garda, Libya: Clashes reportedly break out between armed groups in Tripoli early Sept. 3, 3 September 2021, [url](#)

⁴³ AJ, Worst Tripoli fighting in a year tests Libya ceasefire, 3 September 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁴ AJ, Libya’s parliament passes no-confidence vote in unity government, 21 September 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁵ DW, Libya: Unity government loses disputed no-confidence vote, 21 September 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁶ AJ, Libya’s parliament passes no-confidence vote in unity government, 21 September 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁷ UNSMIL, UNSMIL Statement On Reports About No-Confidence Motion Against The GNU, 21 September 2021, [url](#); DW, Libya: Unity government loses disputed no-confidence vote, 21 September 2021, [url](#)

forces used ‘unlawful lethal force and other violence [...] firing rounds of live ammunition, damaging belongings and stealing valuables’. While UNSMIL quoted figures by the national authorities of around 4 000 people being arrested⁴⁸, AI stated that ‘over 5 000 men, women and children from Sub-Saharan Africa’ were detained during the raids.⁴⁹

On 8 October 2021, the 5+5 JMC ‘agreed on, and signed a comprehensive Action Plan [...] for the gradual, balanced, and sequenced process of the withdrawal of mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces from Libyan territory’.⁵⁰ According to a report by Reuters, ‘no details or timeline’ were given with regards to the Action Plan, as ‘mercenaries brought by the foreign powers involved in Libya, including Russia and Turkey, remain entrenched on both sides’.⁵¹

Also on 8 October 2021, six African migrants were shot and killed by guards in Al-Mabani detention centre, ‘following a riot and an attempted escape’, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).⁵²

On 22 October 2021, the US-based charity International Christian Concern reported that, ‘since September 30, 2021, at least 17 Egyptian Coptic Christians have gone missing’ from the Gargaresh area of Tripoli. According to the source, ‘friends and family believe they were detained by the authorities, while others believe they were taken by an armed group’.⁵³

On 27 October 2021, gunmen in military uniforms raided the house of ‘Major General Abdel Basset Marwan, commander of the Tripoli Military District’ in the Zenata area of Tripoli.⁵⁴ According to a media source, the perpetrators belonged to an armed group affiliated with the 444 Brigade militia. The same source quoted Marwan, who stated that the 444 Brigade ‘is from outside the military institution, does not adhere to military or hierarchical norms, does not abide by the law and powers, and interferes in tasks that are not within its competence, and they received a large sum of money from the Ministry of Defense illegally and deviated from its path’.⁵⁵

Also on 27 October 2021, the headquarters of the Ministry of Sports in Tripoli were ‘stormed by an armed group, who ‘intimidated the workers, and tampered with the offices and equipment’.⁵⁶

Some of the indicative incidents that occurred in Tripoli during the reference period include:

- On 18 March 2021, one child was killed and another three were injured by a landmine explosion in Ain Zarah area.⁵⁷ Later that month, on 26 March 2021, a man was killed when a landmine exploded in an area south of Tripoli⁵⁸, while on 30 March 2021, ‘an African worker was seriously injured as a result of a landmine explosion [...] in the Ain Zara region’.⁵⁹

⁴⁸ UNSMIL, UN extremely concerned about reports of Killing and Excessive Use of Force against Migrants and Asylum Seekers in Gargaresh, Tripoli, 2 October 2021, [url](#)

⁴⁹ AI, Libya: Unlawful lethal force and mass arrests in unprecedented migrant crackdown, 8 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁰ UNSMIL, Statement Attributable to The Spokesperson for the Secretary-General On Libya, 12 October 2021, [url](#); UNSMIL, UN Welcomes the JMC’s Signing of Action Plan for the Withdrawal of Mercenaries, Foreign Fighters And Foreign Forces, 8 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵¹ Reuters, Libya’s eastern forces say plan agreed to withdraw mercenaries, 9 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵² IOM, IOM Condemns Killing of Six Migrants at Detention Centre in Tripoli, 9 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵³ International Christian Concern, Egyptian Coptic Christians Disappear in Libya, 22 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁴ Asharq Al-Awsat, Libya: Attack on Ministry of Sports, Attempt to Assassinate Military Commander, 29 October 2021, [url](#); Middle East in 24, Tripoli militia struggle intensifies in rejection of the December elections, 29 October 2021, [url](#)

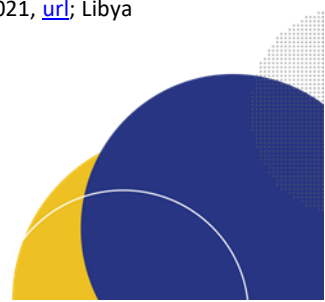
⁵⁵ Middle East in 24, Tripoli militia struggle intensifies in rejection of the December elections, 29 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁶ Asharq Al-Awsat, Libya: Attack on Ministry of Sports, Attempt to Assassinate Military Commander, 29 October 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁷ Xinhuanet, UNICEF voices concern over death, injury of children by landmine in Libya’s Tripoli, 19 March 2021, [url](#); Libya Observer, Child killed, three injured in mine blast in south Tripoli, 18 March 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁸ MEMO, Libya: Landmine kills civilian south of Tripoli, 27 March 2021, [url](#)

⁵⁹ Libya Observer, African worker injured in a landmine explosion, 30 March 2021, [url](#)



- On 8 April 2021, ‘one person was killed and two were injured’ in the Al-Mabani detention center in Tripoli, according to a statement by MSF. MSF quoted unnamed sources, who claimed that high tensions in the ‘severely overcrowded’ facility led to ‘shots being fired indiscriminately into cells where detained people were held’.⁶⁰
- On 13 September 2021, a ‘family of eight members was seriously injured in a landmine explosion south of Tripoli’, according to a local media report.⁶¹
- On 26 September 2021, the head of the National Youth League, Imad al-Harathi, ‘was reportedly kidnapped by unknown armed individuals from his office in Tripoli’.⁶² Al-Harathi was allegedly targeted after he called ‘for demonstrations in support of Libya’s scheduled December [2021] elections’.⁶³

Violent Incidents

Data on violent incidents provided below is based on publicly available figures published by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED).⁶⁴ For the purpose of this COI Query Response, the following types of events were included as violent incidents in the analysis of the security situation: battles; explosions/remote violence; and incidents of violence against civilians. The figures published reflect the situation regarding violent incidents as it was up to and including the extraction date. According to its methodology, ‘the ACLED project often reviews specific periods of conflict or instability [..]. This means that users may find changes to the data in their selected countries or targeted conflicts throughout the year’.⁶⁵

According to the latest available data, between 1 January-29 October 2021, ACLED recorded 90 violent events in Libya, of which: 38 were coded as battles, 21 were coded as explosions/remote violence, and 31 were coded as incidents of violence against civilians. Of the 90 violent events recorded at national level, 29 were recorded in Tripoli (some 32.2 % of total) during the same reference period, of which: 8 were coded as battles, 5 were coded as explosions/remote violence, and 16 were coded as incidents of violence against civilians.⁶⁶

2. Impact of violence on civilian population

Civilian fatalities

The figures on civilian fatalities provided below are derived solely from those violent events that were coded by ACLED as episodes of violence against civilians. It should be noted that these figures are only a subset of the total figure of civilian deaths, since such deaths are also highly likely to occur during other violent incidents.⁶⁷

According to the latest available data, between 1 January-29 October 2021, ACLED recorded 31 incidents of violence against civilians in Libya, which resulted in 17 civilian deaths. Of the 31 incidents of violence against civilians recorded at national level, 16 were recorded in Tripoli (some 53.3 % of total). These resulted in 10 civilian deaths in Tripoli, or around 58.8 % of all civilian deaths

⁶⁰ MSF, Libya: One person dead and two injured in shooting in Tripoli detention centre, 9 April 2021, [url](#)

⁶¹ Libya Observer, Landmine explosion causes serious injuries to eight members of the same family, 13 September 2021, [url](#)

⁶² Republic World, UN Mission In Libya Demands Release Of Activist Abducted By Armed Men From Tripoli, 29 September 2021, [url](#)

⁶³ Daily Sabah, Youth leader urging elections kidnapped in Libyan capital Tripoli, 30 September 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁴ ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project), Dashboard, n.d, [url](#)

⁶⁵ ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project), Methodology, April 2019, [url](#), pp. 1-2

⁶⁶ ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project), Dashboard, extracted on 2 November 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁷ ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project), Codebook, 2019, [url](#), p. 8

recorded by ACLED during the reference period.⁶⁸

Humanitarian Situation

According to UNOCHA, the estimated number of people in need of humanitarian aid in Libya, was expected to grow, from approximately 1.3 million in 2020 to an estimated 1.8 million people in 2021.⁶⁹ The continued conflict, the blockade of the oil sector for most of the year and the COVID-19 pandemic have further debilitated the already weak economic situation in the country. People living in Alkufra, Benghazi, Ejdabia and Tripoli mantikas were most affected with the highest acute severity on average.⁷⁰

Following the ceasefire agreement on October 2020, the residents of Tripoli had to face the damages to their houses but also to infrastructure and municipal buildings caused by the last round of conflict from April 2019 to August 2020.⁷¹ Regular disruptions to water and electricity that last sometimes up to 12 hours, have further eroded people's living standards in Tripoli.⁷² In April 2021, the residents of some neighbourhoods in the municipalities of Abu Salim, Ain Zara and Al-Farnaj in the capital, Tripoli, complained about the interruption in water supply service for several days.⁷³ Attacks on water infrastructure and oil resources have been used to pressure authorities.⁷⁴ On 12 August 2021, gunmen demanding the release of a jailed Gaddafi-era official threatened to sabotage the water network and Libyan authorities had to shut off water supplies to western and southwestern Libya.⁷⁵

Another consequence of the 2019–2020 conflict was the explosive hazard contamination, especially in the southern parts of Tripoli.⁷⁶ According to a UN report 'surveys identified 750 areas that are known or suspected to be contaminated. Most areas had explosive remnants of war contamination, with some suspected to have landmines'.⁷⁷ Between March 2021 and May 2021, 15 people were killed and 5 were injured by explosive contamination in Tripoli and Sirte.⁷⁸ An August 2021 UN report noted that 'Tripoli International Airport remained contaminated with explosive remnants of war'.⁷⁹

Humanitarian Access

A June 2021 UNOCHA report noted that 'Health and Protection were the most impacted sectors with 41 per cent and 27 per cent of all reported [access] constraints respectively. [...] the west faced the biggest impact (57 per cent) of access challenges. Tripoli alone accounted for more than a fifth of all constraints reported'.⁸⁰ As of August 2021, Tripoli and Sebha were the two mantikas that reported the biggest number of access challenges, accounting together for a third of the reported access constraints.⁸¹

⁶⁸ ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project), Dashboard, extracted on 2 November 2021, [url](#)

⁶⁹ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, Libya, January 2021, [url](#), p. 4

⁷⁰ UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, Libya, January 2021, [url](#), p. 23

⁷¹ ICRC, War in cities: Tripoli, Libya, 25 May 2021, [url](#)

⁷² Al Jazeera, War-weary Libyans yearn for end to daily blackouts, 29 August 2021, [url](#); ICRC, War in cities: Tripoli, Libya, 25 May 2021, [url](#)

⁷³ Libya Observer, Residents of some neighborhoods in Tripoli complain interruption of Man-Made river water, 26 April 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁴ UNSMIL, UNSMIL statement on the release of detainees and resumption of water supply, 21 August 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁵ Middle East Eye Libya: Water cut off after sabotage threats over Gaddafi's cousin, 15 August 2021, [url](#); AA, UN hails joint Libyan force to secure water network, 26 August 2021, [url](#)

⁷⁶ UNOCHA, Libya Humanitarian Bulletin (February 2021), 24 March 2021, [url](#), p. 4; UNSC, Letter dated 6 August 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 9 August 2021, [url](#), Annex, para. 32; UNSMIL, Libya- 2020 UN Country Team Results Report, 25 August 2021, [url](#), p. 6

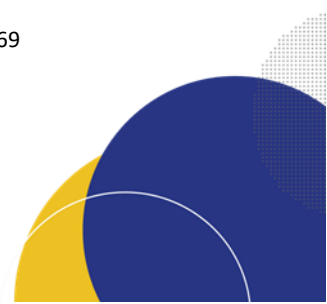
⁷⁷ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), para. 66

⁷⁸ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), para. 66

⁷⁹ UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 25 August 2021, [url](#), para. 69

⁸⁰ UNOCHA, Libya I Humanitarian Bulletin (May 2021), 22 June 2021, [url](#)

⁸¹ UNOCHA, Libya I Humanitarian Bulletin (August 2021), 31 August 2021, [url](#)



3. Displacement

Following the ceasefire in October 2020, there has been a ‘marked decrease in internally displaced people (IDP) numbers’.⁸² As people previously displaced to Tripoli have continued throughout the first months of 2021 to return to their places of origin⁸³, the number of IDPs in the province dropped from 43 725 in January-February 2021⁸⁴ to 37 393 in May-June 2021, moving Tripoli down from previously hosting the largest displaced population in Libya to the second place on this list.⁸⁵ Ján Kubiš, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Libya, and Head of the United Nations Support mission in Libya, reported that ‘In May, some 500 Tawerghan families living in an IDP settlement at the Naval Military Academy in Tripoli were evicted. Two other sites in Tripoli where internally displaced persons, migrants and refugees live are facing forced eviction, with migrants and refugees subjected to harassment and attacks’.⁸⁶

Regarding returnees, IOM data showed that the number of returnees in Tripoli slightly increased from 150 210 in January-February 2021⁸⁷ to 150 945 in May-June 2021⁸⁸. Several sources reported that the presence of explosive hazards and landmines, especially in the southern parts of Tripoli, have presented impediments to return.⁸⁹

As of September 2021, there were 90 954 migrants in Tripoli⁹⁰, while as of 1 November 2021, there were 22 601 refugees in the province⁹¹. UN reports have noted that women migrants and refugees continued to face ‘heightened risk of rape, sexual harassment and trafficking by armed groups, transnational smugglers and traffickers, as well as officials of the Directorate for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) under the Ministry of the Interior’.⁹² In June 2021, reports noted repeated incidents of sexual violence perpetrated against five Somali girls between the ages of 16 and 18 years held in the Shara’ al-Zawiyah detention centre in Tripoli⁹³, while according to a July 2021 report by Amnesty International at least six women reported a pattern of sexual violence and harassment against women and girls being detained in Shara al-Zawiya detention centre.⁹⁴

⁸² UNHCR, Internally displaced persons and returnees in Libya, July 2021, 2 September 2021, [url](#)

⁸³ IOM, DTM, Libya - IDPs And Returnees Report (January- February 2021), Round 35, 27 April 2021, [url](#), p. 14; IOM, DTM, Libya - IDPs And Returnees Report (March- April 2021), Round 36, 11 July 2021, [url](#), p. 7; IOM, DTM, Libya - IDPs And Returnees Report (March- April 2021), Round 36, 11 July 2021, [url](#), p. 6; UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), para. 75; UNHCR, Internally displaced persons and returnees in Libya, July 2021, 2 September 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁴ IOM, DTM, Libya - IDPs And Returnees Report (January- February 2021), Round 35, 27 April 2021, [url](#), p. 14

⁸⁵ IOM, DTM, Libya - IDPs And Returnees Report (May-June 2021), Round 37, 26 August 2021, [url](#), p. 6

⁸⁶ UNSMIL, Remarks to the Security Council by Ján Kubiš, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Libya, and Head of the United Nations Support mission in Libya, 15 July 2021, [url](#)

⁸⁷ IOM, DTM, Libya - IDPs And Returnees Report (January- February 2021), Round 35, 27 April 2021, [url](#), p. 15

⁸⁸ IOM, DTM, Libya - IDPs And Returnees Report (May-June 2021), Round 37, 26 August 2021, [url](#), p. 7

⁸⁹ UNOCHA, Libya Humanitarian Response Plan 2021 (January 2021), 3 February 2021, [url](#), p. 74; UNOCHA, Libya Humanitarian Bulletin (February 2021), 24 March 2021, [url](#), p. 1; UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), para. 75; UNSC, Letter dated 6 August 2021 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, 9 August 2021, [url](#), Annex, para. 32; UNHCR, Internally displaced persons and returnees in Libya, July 2021, 2 September 2021, [url](#)

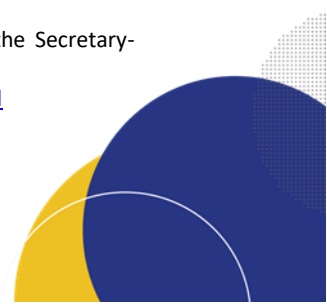
⁹⁰ IOM, Libya Migrants Report (July- September 2021), Round 38, 21 October 2021, [url](#)

⁹¹ UNHCR, Libya Operational Data Portal, last updated 1 November 2021, [url](#)

⁹² UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 11 May 2021, [url](#), para. 50, UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 25 August 2021, [url](#), para. 48, UNSC, United Nations Support Mission in Libya: report of the Secretary-General, 2 September 2021, [url](#), para. 20

⁹³ ABC News, Libyan guards accused of sexually assaulting minors, 20 June 2021, [url](#); UNSC, Report of the Secretary-General, 25 August 2021, [url](#), para. 48

⁹⁴ AI, Libya: Horrific violations in detention highlight Europe’s shameful role in forced returns, 15 July 2021, [url](#)



On 3 and 13 June 2021, guards at the Abu Salim detention centre in Tripoli, indiscriminately opened fire, killing at least seven migrants and injuring more.⁹⁵ Following the increasing violence towards refugees and migrants held in detention, MSF suspended its operations at the Abu Salim and Mabani detention centres in Tripoli, on 22 June 2021, and announced, on 29 September 2021, the resumption of its activities, after receiving assurances from DCIM about the improvement of the conditions in the detention centres.⁹⁶

During the first week of October 2021, more than 5 000 migrants were arrested in the area around the town of Gargaresh⁹⁷ and transferred to already overcrowded detention centres in Tripoli.⁹⁸ Thousands of detainees attempted to escape from a detention centre on 8 October 2021. At least six were killed by prison staff during the breakout.⁹⁹ Following these events, thousands of migrants have camped for three weeks outside a Community Day Centre run by UNHCR in Tripoli, calling for the evacuation of the detention centres in Tripoli.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁵ Guardian (The), Violence towards refugees at Libyan detention centres forces MSF to pull out, 24 June 2021, [url](#); UNSC, Report of the Secretary-General, 25 August 2021, [url](#), para. 53

⁹⁶ MSF, Ongoing violence against detained migrants forces MSF to suspend Tripoli detention centre activities, 22 June 2021, [url](#); MSF, Medical care resumes in Tripoli detention centres, 29 September 2021, [url](#)

⁹⁷ Al Jazeera, Libya's migrant detentions tops 5,000 as crackdown continues, 4 October 2021, [url](#)

⁹⁸ MSF, Thousands beaten up, detained following days of mass arrests in Tripoli, 6 OCTOBER 2021, [url](#); UNHCR, UNHCR Update Libya, 8 October 2021, [url](#)

⁹⁹ Al Jazeera, Libyan detention centre guards kill six migrants amid crackdown, 8 October 2021, [url](#); BAMF, Briefing Notes, 11 October 2021, [url](#), p.7; UNHCR, UNHCR Update Libya, 15 October 2021, [url](#)

¹⁰⁰ UNHCR, No safe place to go for asylum-seekers snared in Libya dragnet, 14 October 2021, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Thousands of refugees and migrants plead for Libya evacuation, 22 October 2021, [url](#)

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