

## Context Analysis

It has been another week where the city of Tripoli had to endure the continuation of the battle between different rival militias, leading to indiscriminate shelling of the airport and surrounding areas, which are mainly occupied by civilians. The increasing use of heavy artillery and Grad missiles have caused a high number of casualties, mainly of civilians hit by misguided rockets. During this week, also the Oea Compound in Janzour was hit by a Grad missile, which penetrated the wall of the UNSMIL finance office there. The impact caused major structural damage to the building, as well as to the adjacent building, blowing out doors and windows. It was reported that 10 Grad missiles were fired into the Janzour area, without causing any injuries to people.

On 18 August, unknown aircrafts carried out strikes in Tripoli during the night to destroy the bases of “islamist” militias, allegedly using advanced military aircrafts (Local Media). This was followed by two further airstrikes by unidentified warplanes early Saturday, targeting an army base, a warehouse, the Interior Ministry’s and Chief of Staff Buildings and several other “islamist” militia positions targets. Reportedly Falah and Al Akwakh district were also hit by airstrikes. Initial reports stated that up to 15 fighters were killed and around 30 wounded (Local/International Media).



On 20 August, UNSMIL Sitrep indicated, that travel to the West of Tripoli, to and from the Tunisian border is not recommended. There are many checkpoints to be found along the main roads and vehicles are being stopped and thoroughly checked, and if headed to the city, passengers are being questioned at length about their reasons for going to Tripoli (Internal source).

On 21 August, Egypt and Tunisia closed its airspace to flights coming from Libya’s Mitiga and Misrata airports due to security violations pertaining to these two airports, which almost completely cuts off Libya from international air travel.

On 22 August, national media reported that ten Sudanese were killed when a stray missile hit a house in Karimiya district in Tripoli, Libya, on Wednesday. It is the second incident in Tripoli with a stray missile causing Sudanese casualties in four days. The spokesman for the Committee for Sudanese Stranded in Libya, said that 15,000 Sudanese people live in Karimiya and in the Sunday market area, considering these the two biggest areas with Sudanese inhabitants in Tripoli. The siege on their districts makes it very difficult to survive.

Also on 22 August, local media in Libya reported that 22 Aug 2014 the Libyan Coastguard announced that a boat carrying 170 illegal migrants from sub-Saharan Africa was feared lost at sea off the capital, Tripoli. "We are looking for 170 African passengers on a wooden boat that has foundered off the Guarakouzi area" some 60 kilometres (35 miles) east of Tripoli, a coastguard official told AFP on Friday. "A few miles off the coast, we found the remains of a wooden boat which had had some 200 migrants on board," he said. "We managed to save 16 people and recovered 15 bodies, but the search continues for some 170 people who disappeared at sea..." stressing that the Coastguard was lacking in resources and had only one patrol boat to search for the missing people. (Picture copyright: Reuters/Aimen Elsahli).



On Sunday, the Libyan Coastguard official updated the number of migrants that may have died to 250. "We believe there are still more than 250 bodies trapped underwater," coastguard official told a news agency. "When we went underwater we discovered that the boat is a lot bigger than we thought."

On 23 August, local media in Pakistan reported, that a special flight by Pakistan Airlines was sent to Tripoli and has brought back over 200 stranded Pakistanis from Libya on the day before. Despite the challenging situation in Libya, the Pakistan Mission is fully functional and providing all required assistance to thousands of Pakistani expatriates. The Pakistan Embassy in Tripoli has set up relief camps where over 1,700 Pakistanis are being accommodated and provided as much help as possible.

The media centre of operation "Libya Dawn" declared on 23 August that its (Misrata-led) forces took control of Tripoli International Airport after clashes with Zintan-led forces. Social media posted pictures purportedly showing "Libya Dawn" forces seizing planes parked on the airport's tarmac. If confirmed, "Libya Dawn" achieved the main goal of its operation that it launched on 13 July: to oust the Zintan-led brigades from Tripoli International Airport.



On the same day (23 August), the spokesperson of the former General National Congress (GNC), Omar Hamidan, announced the GNC's decision to temporarily resume sessions "to issue the required laws and take the necessary measures to overcome the current crisis in the country." The decision comes, according to him, to put things in order until the hand-over of authority takes place in line with the Constitution. Hamidan also pointed at the "various violations" committed by the elected House of Representatives (HoR), on top of it the request for international intervention. The GNC decision to resume sessions likely further escalates the controversy over the HoR's legitimacy as it appears to intend the running of a second parliament in parallel to the HoR (UNSMIL Sitrep).

## Internally Displaced

No updates on IDPs have been received from our staff and partners in the field for the current period August 17 - 24. However, the Libyan Delegation which met with IOM in Zarzis on the August 21<sup>st</sup> (see information below) confirmed in principle, that the figures reported for the period August 10-17 are still valid, but expressed concerns about a possible dramatic increase of IDPs in the western communities of Tripoli, due to the recent heavy shelling of those areas.

As a result of the ongoing conflict, thousands of families have been forced to leave their homes and to move on to safer areas inside and beyond Tripoli. Many families reported displaced are currently hosted by local communities or living in shelters provided by the Libyan Red Crescent Society. Since the last report delivered on August 10<sup>th</sup>, the number of displaced families almost doubled due to intensifying armed clashes between the various militias.

As of August 17<sup>th</sup> the numbers of displaced families in entire Libya could be estimated with around 10,000 families, including Tawergha families who have been previously displaced and relocated over the last few days. The following numbers have been reported: Zliten and Alkhoms, 2,000 families; Misratah 500 families; Tarhunah 400 families; Mesilata 300 families; Sook al Khamees 2,000 families; Zweia: 500; Zwara: 500; Sorman, Sabrata and Al Egeilat 2,220 families; Garabolli 300 families; Tajoura 600; Gharian 400 families. The former Tawergha IDPs living in the camps alongside the Airport road have been displaced by the ongoing shelling and destruction of some of the buildings in that area, and are currently hosted by other Tawergha communities.

Humanitarian support is provided by local communities and charity organizations, mainly funded through private donations. IOM Libya is continuously supporting the Multakana Psychosocial Center in Abu Salim and NGOs of the Psychosocial Network in Tripoli, to assess displaced families and distribute Hygiene Kits to IDPs and migrants. IOM is also coordinating a network of civil society organizations based in Tripoli to provide further support to families affected by the conflict or displaced in other areas of the city. Particularly women and children shall be part of the distribution of non-food items and benefit from psychosocial support as an immediate response to the stressful environment they are living in. These organizations were trained by IOM to provide services at community level during the months of January-March and many of them are still effectively operating also under such difficult circumstances.

On August 20, the coordinator of the IOM Psychosocial Team visited about 2,000 citizens from Pakistan, having sought shelter in a school in central Tripoli:

*“The visit by IOM staff, together with the Libyan Red Crescent, was made on their request, as they have been in urgent need of medical support. The situation is very serious indeed: there are more than two thousand male Pakistanis sleeping there in a very crowded place and waiting for support to be repatriated back home.*

*They are in need of food and medical care. IOM and LRC made arrangements for cleaning the area from garbage, as well as trying to provide them with some food, water and hygiene kits. The medical staff of*



*LRC did a quick health screening and sent three of the more severe cases to the hospital. LRC suspects that some of them may have scabies and stated, that they cannot handle them on their own”.*

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, a Libyan Delegation composed of representatives from local councils of the cities of Zwara and Zawiya, the coordinator of the Crisis Committee in Tripoli and representatives of Libyan Red Crescent, arrived at the southern city of Zarzis/Tunisia, in order to meet with representatives of UNSMIL, WFP, IOM and UNHCR.

The coordinator of the Crisis Committee reported that the number of people displaced in 35 cities and villages in Libya amounts now to approximately 56,000 persons as of August 20. These figures do not include migrants and refugees. He mentioned that in some small communities there are more displaced families than original inhabitants. He divided the IDPs in three main categories: 1) Libyans from Tripoli with no social ties in the western communities; 2) Libyans from Tripoli who originally came from the West but they do not have strong social ties anymore and they are reluctant to register themselves as IDPs; 3) Migrants and refugees with a distinction between people who are in transit to leave the country and people who want to stay.

All of them, regardless the category, have been accommodated in houses or public spaces, but Tawarghas families are still denied to have a decent accommodation. Local authorities fear that they would settle down and will not return to their camps in Tripoli, when the clashes will be over. The most pressing needs for support are still medications, food and hygiene kits. In case the situation will even further deteriorate, tents, cooking utensils and sanitation facilities will be needed too.

The delegation also stressed the need of psychosocial support, as well as children and migrant protection. IOM proposed to carry out an intensive 6-day training course for at least 40 social workers from the LRC and local associations already engaged in the assistance to IDPs and migrants. It was also discussed the possibility to organize the training sessions in Zarzis, where the security situation will allow for the safe gathering of trainers and trainees. The Libyan delegation enthusiastically agreed and ensured IOM about the feasibility to move Libyan staff to Tunisia. It was tentatively agreed that two training sessions would be held in the second and fourth week of September, if sufficient funding from the UN Civilian Capacities (CivCap) initiative can be secured.

### **Migrants in Detention**

Since no updated information could have been obtained, the situation is estimated to remain unchanged:

- All DCIM HQ officials are working from home and it is practically impossible to monitor the situation in the migrant’s detention facilities being under their control.
- Most of the centres are still operational, but experience shortage of cooking gas, water and food.
- On individual decisions, the Director of the centres might release all or most of the detained migrants due to the lack of funds and availability of food, sanitary stuff and services to pay for.
- On August 22, IOM Staff in Tripoli reported about a decision taken by a local committee of inhabitants in Gargares, Central Tripoli, to remove by force migrants and refugees who have found shelter in that area. Many of them were previously detained in centres and recently released by the authorities due to the non-availability of food and sanitation services.



It is estimated that between 3,000 and 5,000 persons, mainly of Sub-Sahara African origin, might be currently residing in this area. Libyan residents fear of an increasing rate of robberies and the potential spread of contagious diseases, like Ebola, although according to the National Centre for Control Disease (Ministry of Health) not a single case of Ebola has been registered in Libya so far.

- In the Surman detention centre for females, at least seven cases of severe mental distress have been registered among some of the Ethiopian migrants. IOM has been liaising with the Ethiopian Embassy in Cairo to provide travel documents and assist them for voluntary repatriation. With the support of the IOM staff in Tripoli and the Libyan Red Crescent, their movement from the detention centre to Addis Ababa, via Tunis, is expected to happen within the next few days.

### **Libya-Tunisia Cross Borders Situation**

Since the armed clashes in Tripoli and Benghazi have intensified, there has been a steady flow of Libyans and Egyptian nationals crossing the border through the two main land crossing points Ras Ajdir and Dhehiba towards Tunisia.

On Thursday (21 August), Algerian authorities reopened another border crossing with Libya (BCP Tinalcom in Illizi province) to allow entry for foreigners fleeing the intensifying war that is unfolding in the neighbouring country. Local authorities in Illizi will offer temporary shelters for those displaced by the violence who are from Arab, Asian and African nations, adding the displaced will then be sent to the capital city of Algiers where they will later be deported to their home countries.

This comes just 2 days after Algerian authorities have arrested 200 Syrians, who had been hoping to reach Italy with the help of Libyan Islamists who had promised to smuggle them by boat, as a security source announced on Tuesday. Algeria has deployed some 50,000 troops along its 1,000 km borderline with Libya to thwart potential attacks by armed groups linked to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and to prevent arms smuggling.

### **IOM Response at the Libya-Tunisia Border**

In terms of IOM direct support to migrants fleeing Libya, a group of 28 citizens is currently being processed for repatriation to their home country.

IOM received request from the Government of Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and others to possibly provide support to their citizens in leaving Libya, as well as help with the travel arrangements. Based on the most recent request from the Embassy of Pakistan, to possibly support the repatriation of up to 2000 Pakistani citizens from the embattled areas of Tripoli and Benghazi, a possible agreement with the Libyan Red Crescent is under negotiation, in order to provide on-the-ground transportation services to migrants in need to be reallocated from those areas inside of Libya to a safe haven near or at the border to Tunisia.

### **UN Agencies Response**

On August 21st, a Libyan Delegation composed of representatives from local councils of the cities of Zwara and Zawiya, the coordinator of the Crisis Committee in Tripoli and representatives of Libyan Red Crescent, arrived at the southern city of Zarzis/Tunisia, in order to meet with representatives of UNSMIL, WFP, IOM and UNHCR.

The main purpose of the meeting was to liaise UN Agencies with local associations and LRC to strengthen their capacity to provide support to IDPs, migrants and refugees hosted in the western communities of Libya. Particularly relevant for the meeting was the feasibility of a food shipment by WFP in the concerned communities.

The Libyan Delegation assured WFP that shipping of food via the Zwara and Zawiya ports or through the coastal road is still feasible, since the road between the Libyan-Tunisian border (Ras Ajdir) and Zawiya is in good condition and safe. The delegation confirmed that there are sufficient storage facilities available in Zawiya, allowing the Libyan Red Crescent, with the support of local authorities and NGOs, to provide an immediate and fair distribution of the relief aid to the families in need.

Tunis, August 24, 2014