

MEMO

DATE: November 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Libya Weekly Update

Below is a summary of the latest top headlines of the week surrounding the news in Libya. Key highlights include:

- A foreign fighter jet that struck a Libyan refugee center in Tripoli, killing at least 53 refugees, is reported to have been from the UAE or Egypt. There is a high probability that this strike was carried out by these UN members acting in support of General Haftar, which would be an enormous war crime.
- Russian mercenaries, approximately 200 in the past 6 weeks, have been deployed on the ground in Tripoli, as now reported by the New York Times and Washington Post. These forces have been working on behalf of General Haftar's LNA, attempting to grow Russia's influence in the region as the US disengages.
- The ongoing proxy war in Libya has made the fighting on the ground much more complicated. Russia, UAE, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and France have all lent support to General Haftar's forces, with Russia lending the most support both financially and militarily.
- LNA forces conducted airstrikes on a police station and the Interior Ministry Headquarters in Tripoli. The results of this strike included the death of two police officers, as well as injuries to ten civilians on the ground, women and children included.

The Guardian (11/6): [Foreign jets used in Libyan refugee centre airstrike, says UN](#)

- Foreign fighter jets are suspected to have launched a strike on a Libyan refugee detention center, killing at least 53 refugees.
- Only two countries, UAE and Egypt, have the capacity and motive to mount an attack like this, according to the former British ambassador to Libya. UAE and Egypt both have lent support to General Haftar.
- It is probable this attack was carried out by a UN member state acting in direct support of Haftar's armed forces.

New York Times (11/5): [Russian Snipers, Missiles and Warplanes Try to Tilt Libyan War](#)

- Russian mercenaries have been deployed on the ground in Libya, an estimated 200 fighters arriving in the last six weeks, to help General Haftar's offensive on Tripoli.
- Russia is currently pushing far more support than previously to Haftar in attempt to shape the outcome of the civil war.
- This strategic effort on Russia's part is from their previous playbook in the Syrian civil war, employing the Wagner Group on the ground as it previously did.

Washington Post (11/5): [Arrival of Russian mercenaries adds deadlier firepower, modern tactics to Libya's civil war](#)

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- Highly trained, well-armed Russian mercenaries are fighting alongside General Haftar according to U.S. military officials.
- This is the latest escalation in the proxy war, making the fighting more complicated and furthering Russian influences in the region.
- As the United States disengages in the region, Russia has begun to command greater respect, expanding military and diplomatic reach across the Middle East and Africa.

The Week (11/5): [Russia is reportedly 'going all in' on Libya conflict](#)

- Russia has stepped up its efforts in Libya to help General Haftar take the country by force.
- Russia, alongside the UAE, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and France, have backed Haftar in his efforts to take Tripoli.

The Guardian (11/1): [Malta halts shipment of cash destined for Libyan rebel chief](#)

- The Maltese government has seized a shipment of Libyan banknotes en route to General Haftar.
- These notes are thought to have originated in Russia, which has been printing money for General Haftar's unrecognized government.
- This money has been used to fuel the current war on Tripoli, growing Russia's influence in the region.

The Punch (11/6): [Two killed in strike on Libya police station](#)

- Two police officers were killed in an airstrike on a Tripoli police station.
- These attacks are believed to have been carried out by General Haftar's LNA forces, further adding to the list of committed war crimes.

Libyan Observer (10/31): [Libya's Interior Ministry condemns Haftar's warplane attack on its Tripoli HQ](#)

- The Interior Ministry of Libya condemned LNA attacks on the Ministry's headquarters in Tripoli, citing further evidence of criminality on General Haftar's behalf.
- These attacks resulted in civilian injuries. Ten civilians living near the HQ, including women and children, were injured as a result of the airstrike.

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