

MEMO

DATE: January 10, 2020

SUBJECT: Libya Weekly Update

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

- 30 members of the Libyan military academy were killed in an airstrike by General Haftar's forces. It is important to state these 30 individuals were not officially in the military, which would constitute this attack as a war crime.
- General Haftar has rejected Turkey and Russia's call for a ceasefire in Libya, stating that his military operations will continue.
- Turkey and Russia have called for a ceasefire from both sides on January 12th. This latest call to stop the bloodshed can be seen as a potential to take influence in the region away from Europe and America. If these countries can resolve a political solution, they will have the ability to be king makers in Libya.
- **Russian Aggression:** Russia continues to increase the bloodshed in Libya with mercenaries that are now leading battles in Tripoli. The United States has a growing concern over Russian influence in Libya. Russian involvement has not tipped the scale of the war to General Haftar, rather it has created a bloodier conflict with more civilian casualties.
- President Trump discussed Libya with Egypt President el-Sisi on a phone call. This revelation reflects a growing concern for the current administration to resolve the conflict with a peace negotiation.
- Drone warfare has increased in Libya, which has had a direct result in the increased amount of civilian casualties. General Haftar's forces are to blame for a majority of these strikes, along with a majority of the civilian casualties in the fallout of drone warfare.

AFP (1/9): [Libya's Haftar says military ops won't stop amid ceasefire call](#)

- General Haftar has rejected Turkey and Russia's call for a ceasefire, saying his military operations will continue.

Reuters (1/5): [At least 30 killed in Libya military academy attack](#)

- An airstrike carried out by General Haftar's forces killed 30 people and left 33 wounded at a military academy in Tripoli.
- This aerial bombing was launched against military cadets, not individuals who were in the army, which would constitute as a war crime.

Associated Press (1/6): [UN Envoy Demands End to All Foreign Interference in Libya](#)

- The UN envoy to Libya is calling on the international community to end their foreign interference in Libya.

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- The envoy has made clear that a military solution is not viable, and governments like Russia who are lending mercenaries are worsening the potential for a political solution.

Reuters (1/8): [Turkey, Russia call for ceasefire in Libya on Jan 12](#)

- Turkey and Russia called for parties on both sides of the Libya conflict to declare ceasefire on January 12.
- Both countries are seeking to end the conflict, which they are on opposite sides of. This is also a potential challenge to European leadership on Libya if done effectively.
- American and European indifference has led to the current stalemate the country finds itself in, allowing for mercenaries on the ground. If willing to raise the level of investment, other countries can play king makers in this conflict.

Reuters (1/7): [Exclusive: Russian clinic treated mercenaries injured in secret wars](#)

- A Russian clinic in St. Petersburg with ties to President Putin is now treating Russian mercenaries for injuries abroad.
- Mercenaries in Libya are being treated for wounds incurred on the ground, which has previously gone unreported.
- It is Russian law to report combat injuries to police as it is illegal for Russian citizens to participate in armed conflict as a mercenary.

Bloomberg (12/21): [Libya Security Chief Says Russians Spearhead Tripoli Battle](#)

- Russian mercenaries are playing a leading role in the fight to take Tripoli, leading General Haftar's troops in battles in the city.
- The United States has warned against Russian influence in the conflict, blaming them for an increase in civilian casualties.

Bloomberg (12/26): [Egypt's EL-Sisi, Trump Discuss Libya in Phone Call: Statement](#)

- President Trump and Egypt President el-Sisi spoke and discussed the ongoing conflict in Libya.
- This is a sign of the growing importance Libya is becoming for the current administration, which is seeking to resolve the conflict through political solutions.

Washington Post (12/22): [In Libya, cheap, powerful drones kill civilians and increasingly fuel the war](#)

- There has been an increase in violence and drone strikes on the ground in Libya since the beginning of the conflict.
- General Haftar and his forces are to blame for the majority of death to civilians in Libya as he continues his offensive attacks.

Guardian (12/21): [US 'very concerned' as conflict intensifies in Libya](#)

- The United States is expressing more concern on the conflict in Libya as it continues to grow.
- The intensification of the conflict, which has been largely influenced by Russian mercenaries supporting General Haftar, is not good as Russia increases the use of drones and aircraft.
- The involvement of Russian mercenaries has not tipped the conflict in Haftar's favor as he envisioned, rather it has made the conflict bloodier with more civilian damage.

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