

5 November 2015

Review of ‘Responses to Libya Country of Origin Information Requests’

**Prepared for the Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI) by
Dr Alan George (King’s College, University of London)**

(A) Introduction

1. This review assesses ten recent Home Office ‘Responses to Country of Origin Information (COI) Requests’ relating to Libya prepared by the Home Office, on the basis of instructions from the Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI).

2. The invitation to tender for this work stipulates that it will entail:

(i) Assessing the extent to which information from source documents has been appropriately and accurately reflected.

(ii) Identifying additional sources;

(iii) Noting and correcting any specific errors or omissions of fact.

(iv) Making recommendations for general improvements;

3. In undertaking this Review, I have been conscious that ‘Responses to Country of Origin Information (COI) Requests’ are intended to function as reference works for Home Office officials deciding asylum and humanitarian protection claims.

(B) About the Author

4. Alan George gained his first degree, in geography, from Oxford University in 1970. He obtained his Master’s degree (on Middle East geography) at Durham University in 1972, and his PhD, on Syria, also at Durham in 1978. Since 1984 he has worked as a freelance journalist, researcher and expert witness in political asylum cases involving the Middle East. As a journalist, he contributed to a wide range of UK and international publications including the *Observer*, the *Independent* and the *Guardian*, and he frequently commentates on Middle Eastern affairs for radio and television. He is a former Head of Research at the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce and a former Assistant Director of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU). His publications include *Syria: Neither Bread Nor Freedom* (Zed Books, London, 2003); *Jordan: Living in the Crossfire* (Zed Books, London, 2005); *Fortschritt oder Lahmung: Baschar al-Assads Syrien*, a chapter in Hartmut Fahndrich (Ed.) *Verebte Macht: Monarchien und Dynastien in der arabischen Welt*, Campus Verlag, Frankfurt/New York, 2005; and *Patronage and Clientelism in Bashar’s Social Market Economy*, a chapter in *The Alawis of Syria: War, Faith and Politics in the Levant*, published by Hurst & Co this year. In 2003-2013 he was a Senior Associate Member of St Antony’s

College, Oxford University. In November 2013 he was appointed Senior Visiting Research Fellow in the Institute of Middle Eastern Studies at London University's King's College.

(C) Organisation and summary

5. I comment on the ten Libya-related 'Responses to Country of Origin Information (COI) Requests' in date order, under separate sub-headings comprising the key identifying information for the Responses.

6. With certain exceptions, these ten 'Responses to Information Requests' offer generally accurate and up-to-date information on their respective topics, to the extent that such information exists in publicly available sources.

(D) Comments

Country	Libya
Category	Non-state armed groups
Subject (up to 6 words)	Tripoli Airport – militia control
Key words (up to 3 words)	Kidnap, return, Gaddafi
Date of response	17 February 2015
Reference number	02/15-082

7. Several references are made to a militia group named 'Mosrata', and the claimant had stated that this group controlled Tripoli airport along with other militias. This is confused. Misrata (not 'Mosrata') is Libya's third largest city. Militias from Misrata dominate Tripoli and constitute the majority of members of an Islamist-leaning militia alliance named Libya Dawn.

8. At Paragraph 1, the Foreign Office Travel Advice for Libya should be updated. The most recent Advice is dated 8 September 2015.

9. At Paragraph 1: 'The Islamist militant group "Dawn of Libya" then gained control...' **This should be:** 'The Islamist-leaning militia alliance "Libya Dawn", which is dominated by groups from Misrata, then gained control...'

10. At Paragraph 2: **Should be:** 'A joint report by Belgium, The Netherlands, Norway and Sweden provided analysis on Libya's major militia groups.¹ BBC News provided a guide to key Libyan militias.² Many militia groups were from Misrata.

11. At Paragraph 3: Update, using the latest Foreign Office Travel Advice for Libya.

Country	Libya
Category	Non-state armed groups
Subject (up to 6 words)	Association with British army
Key words (up to 3 words)	Association with British army
Date of response	30 April 2015
Reference number	04/15-122

12. I think it would be useful to add a more recent report outlining Ansar al-Sharia's present status because the report quoted at Paragraph 3 is now quite old and might leave the mistaken impression that Ansar al-Sharia has been expelled from Benghazi. In addition, the group now has a new leader. I would suggest the report in the *Long War Journal* blog at <http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2015/06/ansar-al-sharia-libya-fights-on-under-new-leader.php>.

Country	Libya
Category	Religion, ethnicity
Subject (up to 6 words)	Persecution of Elshwhidi
Key words (up to 3 words)	Persecution of Elshwhidi
Date of response	25 June 2015
Reference number	06/15-123

13. I have no comment on this Response, other than to note that alternative spellings of 'Elshwhidi' include 'Al-Shweidi' and 'Al-Suweidi'.

Country	Libya
Category	Women, children
Subject (up to 6 words)	Education services and general conditions
Key words (up to 3 words)	Education services and general conditions
Date of response	1 July 2015
Reference number	06/15-148

14. At Paragraph 1, the Foreign Office Travel Advice for Libya should be updated. The most recent Advice is dated 8 September 2015.

15. I would suggest replacing Paragraph 2 with appropriate excerpts from the briefing paper for the UN Secretary-General by Bernardino Leòn, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of UNSMIL, dated 26 August 2015 (see <http://unsmil.unmissions.org/Portals/unsmil/Documents/SRSG%20Briefing%20UN%20Security%20Council%2026%20August%202015.pdf>).

16. I would suggest adding the following reports, which are more recent than those at Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the existing document:

'6. A *Reuters* report dated 13 January 2015, entitled 'Aid agencies fear Libya public services collapse, hospitals suffer' (see <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/14/us-libya-collapse-idUSKBN0KN00D20150114>). This records:

Falling oil revenues and intensifying fighting across Libya mean the humanitarian situation is worsening and basic public services may collapse, aid agencies said...

... Antoine Grand, head of the Red Cross Libya delegation, said that although basic public services were still functional across Libya, the opening of new front lines could have "heavy humanitarian consequences".

... Ghassan Khalil, the United Nations children's fund (UNICEF) special representative in Libya, said that children were suffering from disruption to their school attendance and experiencing stress because of the conflict...

"Public facilities, schools, private properties and residential areas are reported to widely suffer from indiscriminate shelling with low state capacities to address the risks."

7. *Libya: Humanitarian Impact of the Conflict*, a report from ACAPS (Assessment Capacities Project) with the support of Save the Children Italy, dated 5 June 2015 (see <http://acaps.org/img/documents/s-acaps-sdr-libya-humanitarian-impact-of-the-conflict-5-jun-2015.pdf>). In its section on education in 2014-15 this states:

Children have been suffering from disruption to their school attendance and experiencing stress because of renewed conflict in 2014. There is reportedly low state capacity to address the risks to public institutions' disruption (Reuters, 01/2015). A December 2014 assessment showed that 21% of displaced school-aged children do not attend school (this varies across locations). The main challenges include closed schools, insecurity, and lack of space in local schools. Schools are also used as IDP shelters. Some 20% of IDPs are school-aged children who do not have access to education (UNICEF 03/2015). Children of refugees and asylum seekers face even more difficulties, with the major constraint being lack of resources to pay for tuition, books, etc. (Inter-agency, 12/2014)

8. *Education under fire: How conflict in the Middle East is depriving children of their schooling*, a UNICEF report dated 3 September 2015 (see http://www.unicef.org/mena/Education_Under_Fire.pdf). This claimed that 2 million Libyan school-aged children were not attending school as a result of the country's conflict (although this was vehemently denied by Libya's Education Ministry; see Paragraph 9). The report states:

In Libya, intensive fighting in 2011 resulted in prolonged disruption to the education system and damage to school facilities and equipment. Since the resurgence in fighting in 2014, more than half of internally displaced and returnees in the east of the country reported that their children do not attend school. In addition, many schools in the north-east and south of the country are reported to be hosting internally displaced people. In the eastern city of Benghazi, enrolment rates dropped by 50%. Out of 239 schools, only 65 are functioning....

... As the violence gripping Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Libya continues to deepen, and with no end in sight to other, more enduring conflicts in Palestine and Sudan, there is every reason to fear that the huge number of children already out of school across the region will continue to grow.

9. Libya's Education Ministry reacted angrily to the 3 September 2015 UNICEF report. The online *In Libya* news website reported (see <http://in-libya.com/language/en/education-ministry-rejects-the-unicef-report-about-the-libyan-children/>):

The Education Ministry in Libya has rejected a report recently published by the UNICEF reporting that 2 million children in Libya were unable to go school due to civil war...

...In statement, ... the Education Ministry has pointed out that the report is inaccurate and carries untrue numbers. It stated that within the last four years the total number of pupils went to elementary schools are just one million.

Additionally that the total number of Libya total population is only 6 million.

As regard for Benghazi city, which is suffered from bloody war last year, the Ministry has set up special programs for students were unable to join schools in 2014-2105 in order to compensate it and join other students for the upcoming studying year of 2015-2016.

“Also we have managed to establish temporary schools for displaced students in the neighboring countries such as Tunisia and Egypt with coordination with the Libyan embassies there,” explained Samir Jornaz, media coordinator at the Ministry. “Yet, it is true that armed clashes happened recently in different parts of the country which made our work more difficult,” he added.’

Country	Libya
Category	Religion, ethnicity
Subject (up to 6 words)	Sufis in Libya
Key words (up to 3 words)	Sufi'ism, Salafists
Date of response	6 July 2015
Reference number	06/15-153

17. This Response needs to be proof-read properly. It is **riddled** with errors. By way of example, the quotation from the Foreign Office report at Paragraph 1 contains the following errors:

- in the second line, ‘Salafists’ is repeated;
- in the third line ‘to be’ is repeated;
- in the fourth line ‘destruction’ is repeated;
- in the fifth line ‘shrine in’ is repeated.

18. At Paragraph 5, the excerpt from the State Department’s *International Religious Freedom* report for 2013 should be retained (although the claim that it is the ‘latest’ such report should be deleted) because it provides better details about attacks on Sufi shrines etc than the latest such report, which is for 2014. A Paragraph 6 should be added, however, citing material from the *International Religious Freedom* report for 2014.

Country	Libya
Category	Religion, ethnicity
Subject (up to 6 words)	Atheism
Key words (up to 3 words)	
Date of response	04/09/2015
Reference number	09/15-015

19. Paragraphs 1-6 should be updated, using the latest State Department’s *International Religious Freedom* report, which is for 2014, although I realise that this won’t alter the substance of the material presented.

20. Paragraph 11 should be updated from the equivalent State Department report for 2014 (see <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/236824.pdf>), although the actual content will be identical.

21. Paragraph 12 should be updated from the equivalent Freedom House report for 2014 (see <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-net/2014/libya>), although the actual content will be identical.

22. I’m uncertain how footnotes 11 and 12 could have access dates of ‘September 2014’ when this Response is dated September 2015. Possibly these re typographical errors?

Country	Libya
Category	Women, children
Subject (up to 6 words)	Situation of women and children
Key words (up to 3 words)	Situation of women and children
Date of response	24 September 2015
Reference number	09/15-080

23. I would suggest adding some or all of the following paragraphs, with excerpts:

5. The UN Children’s Fund’s (Unicef’s) March 2015 *Libya Humanitarian Situation Report* (see http://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_Libya_Sitrep_March_2015.pdf), which is the latest such report, records that, as of December 2014, there were 393,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Libya; that 290,400 children were affected adversely by the conflict; and that 20 per cent of school-aged IDPs had no access to education. The report states:

The escalation of violence has led to civilian casualties, displacement, destruction of public infrastructure and the disruption of basic social services and child protection systems. Intense fighting in urban areas of Tripoli and Benghazi has exposed children to high levels of violence and has displaced an estimated 393,000 people including an estimated 290,000 women and children. Many have experienced the loss of relatives or friends, have been forcibly displaced or have had their homes or possessions damaged or destroyed.

6. The UNICEF report notes that Libya under Qadhafi had ‘a strong track record in basic service delivery’ and had ‘historically provided extensive subsidies and boasted nearly

universal access to education and health services'. The report continues:

Thanks to this existing infrastructure, the country has been able to weather a number of shocks (including many of the effects of the 2011 revolution). But as successive transitional governance arrangements have been unable to consolidate their hold on power, the existing system is being increasingly stressed. Oil production, which pays for 95% of government expenditures, has plummeted, forcing Libyan officials to run up a \$22 billion deficit in 2014. Forecasts for the 2015 deficit are even worse, as a drop in global oil prices compounds the shortfall in production. Unless the political crisis is resolved, these increasing financial constraints could pose serious risks to Libya's ability to continue to provide essential services.

7. The report notes:

Due to the relatively strong service provision in health and WASH [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene] these sectors have so far not required humanitarian support in the post 2014 period. However, UNICEF is reviewing preparedness in these sectors should the situation dramatically deteriorate over the coming months.

8. A Reuters report dated 13 January 2015, entitled 'Aid agencies fear Libya public services collapse, hospitals suffer' (see <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/14/us-libya-collapse-idUSKBN0KN00D20150114>), states:

Falling oil revenues and intensifying fighting across Libya mean the humanitarian situation is worsening and basic public services may collapse, aid agencies said...

... Antoine Grand, head of the Red Cross Libya delegation, said that although basic public services were still functional across Libya, the opening of new front lines could have "heavy humanitarian consequences".

Hospitals are suffering from a shortage of medical supplies and the flight of foreign workers, there are frequent fuel, power and water shortages, food prices have risen and people have problems withdrawing money from banks, he said...

... Ghassan Khalil, the United Nations children's fund (UNICEF) special representative in Libya, said that children were suffering from disruption to their school attendance and experiencing stress because of the conflict...

... Civilians across Libya face violence, damage to their property, kidnapping, and increased rates of crime, according to Martin Vane, Danish Refugee Council country director in Libya.

Vane said many unexploded mines, bombs and shells had been reported throughout conflict-hit cities.

"Public facilities, schools, private properties and residential areas are

reported to widely suffer from indiscriminate shelling with low state capacities to address the risks."

9. *Libya: Humanitarian Impact of the Conflict*, a report from ACAPS (Assessment Capacities Project) with the support of Save the Children Italy, dated 5 June 2015 (see <http://acaps.org/img/documents/s-acaps-sdr-libya-humanitarian-impact-of-the-conflict-5-jun-2015.pdf>), states:

*It is estimated that two million people, almost one-third of the total population, may have been affected by the conflict in Libya, due to displacement, the disruption of food, fuel, water, and medical supplies, as well as electricity, gas, healthcare and public services...
...There were at least 400,000 IDPs in Libya in December 2014. Approximately 290,000 are women and children. IDPs are scattered across 35 towns and cities. They are either hosted by relatives and local communities, or sheltering in public buildings.*

10. In its section on healthcare issues in 2014-15, the ACAPS report records:

***Access:** Hospitals are both overcrowded with patients and have reduced capacity, following the exodus of foreign workers (Interagency Rapid Assessment 12/2014). In August, the Ministry of Health warned of a possible collapse of the health system after the evacuation of 3,000 health workers originating from the Philippines and India, accounting for 80% of Libya's hospital staff (WHO, 01/10/2014).*

The movement of patients and health workers is difficult in conflict-affected areas, and many hospitals have closed due to insecurity (Interagency Rapid Assessment 12/2014). In Benghazi, access to medical care remains a major problem in many areas. A number of hospitals have been shelled, including the Benghazi Medical Centre and the Jumhuriya Hospital. Armed groups also occupied a number of medical facilities, among them Hawari General Hospital (UN Security Council 26/02/2015).

Access to healthcare is viewed as being particularly difficult for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the very sick – who are presumably in the greatest need of healthcare ACAPS Secondary Data Review: Libya 11 services. For migrant workers, access to health services is reportedly particularly constrained. Key challenges are lack of resources to buy medicine and pay for health services. Migrant workers in the east reported that access to public health service facilities is more constrained than to private facilities. For refugees and asylum seekers, about half reported constraints in accessing health services, mainly due to lack of money to pay for services (Interagency Rapid Assessment 12/2014). Migrants and asylum seekers do not have access to vaccinations. No healthcare is provided in militia-run detention centres (PI 05/2015).

***Availability:** A shortage of medicines and medical supplies has been reported by WHO. IDP/returnees have highlighted shortage of supplies in some areas and increased prices of medicine (Interagency Rapid*

Assessment 12/2014). The shortage of medical supplies has been an ongoing problem, not only in hospitals and health centres in Tripoli and Benghazi, but also in medical facilities in towns hosting significant numbers of IDPs such as Az Zawiyah and Ajdabiya. Most warehouses storing medicines in Tripoli were located in areas where fighting has been particularly intense, putting them out of reach. Even where access to warehouses has been possible, supplies have been looted. Imports have been severely hampered by the closure of Libyan airspace and difficulties in overland access (IDMC 30/03/2015). Gynaecological care capacity seems to be an issue in some places. The sudden influx of wounded following fighting or attacks meets some hospitals underprepared and overstretches their capacities.

Vaccinations: *Some reports suggest that cold chains cannot be guaranteed. In August 2014, IOM reported that vaccines had been stolen from warehouses*

11. In its section on education in 2014-15 the ACAPS report states:

Children have been suffering from disruption to their school attendance and experiencing stress because of renewed conflict in 2014. There is reportedly low state capacity to address the risks to public institutions' disruption (Reuters, 01/2015). A December 2014 assessment showed that 21% of displaced school-aged children do not attend school (this varies across locations). The main challenges include closed schools, insecurity, and lack of space in local schools. Schools are also used as IDP shelters. Some 20% of IDPs are school-aged children who do not have access to education (UNICEF 03/2015). Children of refugees and asylum seekers face even more difficulties, with the major constraint being lack of resources to pay for tuition, books, etc. (Inter-agency, 12/2014)

12. *Education under fire: How conflict in the Middle East is depriving children of their schooling*, a UNICEF report dated 3 September 2015 (see http://www.unicef.org/mena/Education_Under_Fire.pdf) stated that 2 million Libyan school-aged children were not attending school as a result of the country's conflict (although this was vehemently denied by Libya's Education Ministry; see next paragraph). The report states:

In Libya, intensive fighting in 2011 resulted in prolonged disruption to the education system and damage to school facilities and equipment. Since the resurgence in fighting in 2014, more than half of internally displaced and returnees in the east of the country reported that their children do not attend school. In addition, many schools in the north-east and south of the country are reported to be hosting internally displaced people. In the eastern city of Benghazi, enrolment rates dropped by 50%. Out of 239 schools, only 65 are functioning....

... As the violence gripping Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Libya continues to deepen, and with no end in sight to other, more enduring conflicts in Palestine and Sudan, there is every reason to fear that the huge number of children already out of school across the region will continue to grow.

13. Libya's Education Ministry reacted angrily to the UNICEF report. The online *In Libya* news website reported (see <http://in-libya.com/language/en/education-ministry-rejects-the-unicef-report-about-the-libyan-children/>):

The Education Ministry in Libya has rejected a report recently published by the UNICEF reporting that 2 million children in Libya were unable to go to school due to civil war.

The report, titled by "Education under Fire", has stated that thirteen millions children were unable to go to schools because of armed clashes in the Middle East and North Africa.

In statement,...the Education Ministry has pointed out that the report is inaccurate and carries untrue numbers. It stated that within the last four years the total number of pupils went to elementary schools are just one million.

Additionally that the total number of Libya total population is only 6 million.

As regard for Benghazi city, which is suffered from bloody war last year, the Ministry has set up special programs for students were unable to join schools in 2014-2105 in order to compensate it and join other students for the upcoming studying year of 2015-2016.

"Also we have managed to establish temporary schools for displaced students in the neighboring countries such as Tunisia and Egypt with coordination with the Libyan embassies there," explained Samir Jurnaz, media coordinator at the Ministry. "Yet, it is true that armed clashes happened recently in different parts of the country which made our work more difficult," he added.

14. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's *Report to the Security Council* on children and armed conflict, dated 5 June 2015 (see http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/926&Lang=E&Area=UNDOC), states:

116. The security situation in Libya deteriorated sharply in 2014, particularly in the fourth quarter of the year. Internal armed conflicts erupted in various parts of the country, including in its two largest cities, Tripoli and Benghazi. Humanitarian and monitoring access remained severely limited owing to security reasons and relief operations were suspended almost entirely following the relocation of United Nations international staff out of the country.

117. Although no verified information on the recruitment and use of children was available, concerns persisted over the association of children with armed militias...

...118. The United Nations received numerous reports of indiscriminate shelling by all parties to the conflict, as well as of the deliberate destruction of homes in Warshafana [a district of Tripoli] and Benghazi. Following the escalation of the conflict in May, the United Nations received reports of about 30 children killed across the country, but the actual number is likely to be underreported.

119. The shelling of hospitals in Tripoli and Benghazi severely affected children's access to health care. Both the Al-Afya Hospital and the Tripoli Medical Centre were hit by shells in July and August, respectively. In November, four medical staff were reportedly abducted from the Hawari General Hospital but managed to escape, while another was shot dead, resulting in the resignation of many staff.

120. Reports of the use of schools and hospitals by armed groups were also a cause for concern. For instance, in Benghazi, Ansar al-Shari'a reportedly took control of the General Hospital and placed snipers on the roof. Many schools in eastern Libya had been closed since May due to the security situation, including those hosting internally displaced persons.

121. In the West, armed groups, either affiliated with the Libya Dawn coalition or rival armed groups from Warshafana or Zintan, abducted children in the aftermath of the fighting in Tripoli, as well as during the fighting in Warshafana. In addition, human rights defenders reportedly received threats from armed groups that their children would be abducted and killed if they did not stop their work.

Country	Libya
Category	Legal system, judiciary
Subject (up to 6 words)	Arrest warrant
Key words (up to 3 words)	Arrest warrant
Date of response	28 October 2015
Reference number	10/15-094

24. I would suggest replacing the ITN report at Paragraph 1 because it erroneously refers to a 'Higher Security Commission'. In fact, the 'Higher Security Committee' or 'Supreme Security Committee'(SSC) is an agency of the Interior Ministry comprising nominally loyal militias. The SSC was intended to be a temporary entity but it was never named 'Temporary Higher Security Committee' as the Response's prelude suggests. I would suggest replacing the ITN report with an excerpt about the SSC from *Building Libya's Security Sector*, a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace publication dated August 2013 (see <http://carnegieendowment.org/2013/08/06/building-libya-s-security-sector>).

25. At Paragraph 2 it is stated that no information could be found about the '2nd Reinforcement Battalion, Dreby Division'. I, too, could find no such information. I have no way to be sure, but it seems to me possible, at the least, that the word 'Dreby' may be a mis-transliteration of the Arabic word 'daraba', meaning 'strike' when used in conjunction with 'force' or 'division'; and that the 'Dreby Division' is in fact a militia

strike force. This can be clarified by reference to the arrest warrant that prompted this Information Request.

Country	Libya
Category	Non-state armed groups
Subject (up to 6 words)	Ar Rujban
Key words (up to 3 wds)	
Date of response	25/09/2015
Reference number	09/15-077

26. Paragraph 1 of this Response must be amended significantly. Fighters from the town (and tribe) of Rujban, in the Nafusa Mountains south west of Tripoli, have been involved in armed conflict with neighbouring militias. I refer to an article in the respected online *Libya Herald* entitled ‘Zintan, Zawia and Rujban strike peace deal’, dated 14 July 2015 (see <https://www.libyaherald.com/2015/07/14/zintan-zawia-and-rujban-strike-peace-deal/>). The *Libya Herald* is fully accessible only by subscription and I have therefore not been able to see the full article. The initial paragraphs state:

In the latest in a series of local peace deals, elders from Zintan, Zawia and Rujban agreed to an immediate ceasefire and a mutual pullback of fighters.

The agreement was concluded this afternoon at a meeting in Bir Ghanem. It contained a pledge that all three towns would never attack each other again. It also provided for an end to arrests at checkpoints. It was further agreed that there would be no pursuit of rival fighters, except for those who were suspected of crimes.

27. Another article, entitled ‘Zawia, Zintan, Rujban and Wershifanah exchange detainees’, dated 8 May 2015, was published by the Libyan News Agency (see http://www.lana-news.ly/eng/news/view/75702/Zawia_Zintan_Rujban_and_Wershifanah_exchange_detainees). This referred to a prisoner exchange between ‘Zawia area on one hand and Zintan, Rujban and Wershifanah on the other’. I would note that Zintan is definitely allied with the Tobruk-based government, and it would follow that Zintan’s allied militia would be similarly aligned.

28. Another report, dated April 2015, refers to Rujban having been attacked by a Libya Dawn aircraft (see Libya’s Zintan airport attacked by unidentified warplane, <http://www.airport-technology.com/news/newslibyas-zintan-airport-attacked-by-unidentified-warplane-4546075>). Libya Dawn is a militia alliance that supports the Tripoli-based government. The report would suggest that Rujban is allied to the internationally-recognised Tobruk-based government.

Country	Libya
Category	Legal system, judiciary
Subject (up to 6 words)	Military service call-up
Key words (up to 3 words)	Military service call-up
Date of response	9 October 2015
Reference number	10/15-036

29. At Paragraph 2, I would note that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there has been no military conscription in Libya since the February 2011 uprising that toppled the Qadhafi regime. Some individual units of the national army have survived the past five years of conflict but do not constitute a coherent and cohesive national force.