



**THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE  
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL  
ORGANIZED CRIME**

# **The Human Conveyor Belt:**

***the Industrialisation of Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Post-  
Revolution Libya***



092372 8722

On my way to success  
Laba Cudi give me  
Olanla is involu

So this is love  
like you are  
Italy

IOM  
DIM

METRO

METRO

# IMMEDIATE POST-REVOLUTION LANDSCAPE 2011 – 2013

1. Market liberalisation and “new entrants”.
2. The Syrian market shaping smuggling dynamics.

Pay in advance

Industry is connected better to international  
*hawala*.

3. Smuggling business shifts from reactive to  
proactive



# MILITIAS TAKE CONTROL



# POST-2012 / MILITIAS TAKE CONTROL

1. By end of 2012, Militias started creating protection racket around smuggling.
2. Situation is most acute in the border areas.
3. No longer free market but experienced smugglers see their capacity expand beyond anything seen before.
4. By 2014, industry is able to move 170,000 people out of Libya irregularly.



# COASTAL REORGANISATION

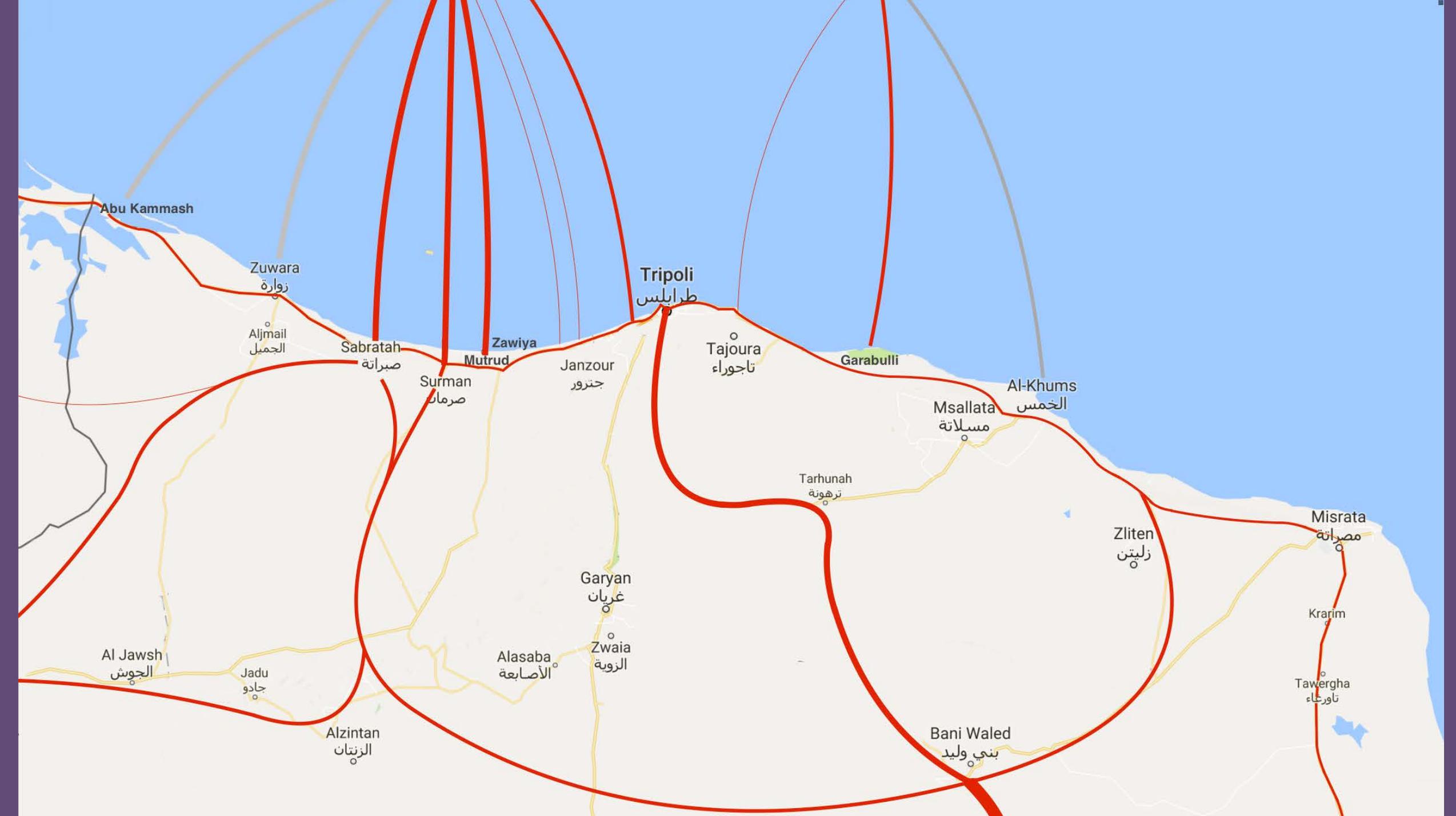
1. Zuwara shuts down human smuggling.
2. Human smuggling seen as a threat to identity
3. Dynamic civil society.
4. Ebola scare and other irrational fears.
5. Zuwara has important alternatives both on the Tunisian border and at sea



# FLOWS DISPLACED EASTWARD

1. Important Zuwaran smugglers move to Sabratha
2. Activity increases across Sabratha, Surman and Mutrud.
3. Some coastguards shaking down smugglers.
4. Growing boat recovery business activity increases.





Abu Kammash

Zuwara

زوارة

Aljmail

الجميل

Sabratah

صبراتة

Zawiya

Mutrud

Surman

صرمان

Janzour

جنزور

Tripoli

طرابلس

Tajoura

تاجوراء

Garabulli

Al-Khums

الخمس

Msallata

مسيلاتة

Tarhunah

ترهونة

Misrata

مصراتة

Zliten

زليتن

Krarim

Tawergha

تاورغاء

Al Jawsh

الجوش

Jadu

جادو

Alzintan

الزنتان

Alasaba

الأصابعة

Garyan

غريان

Zwaia

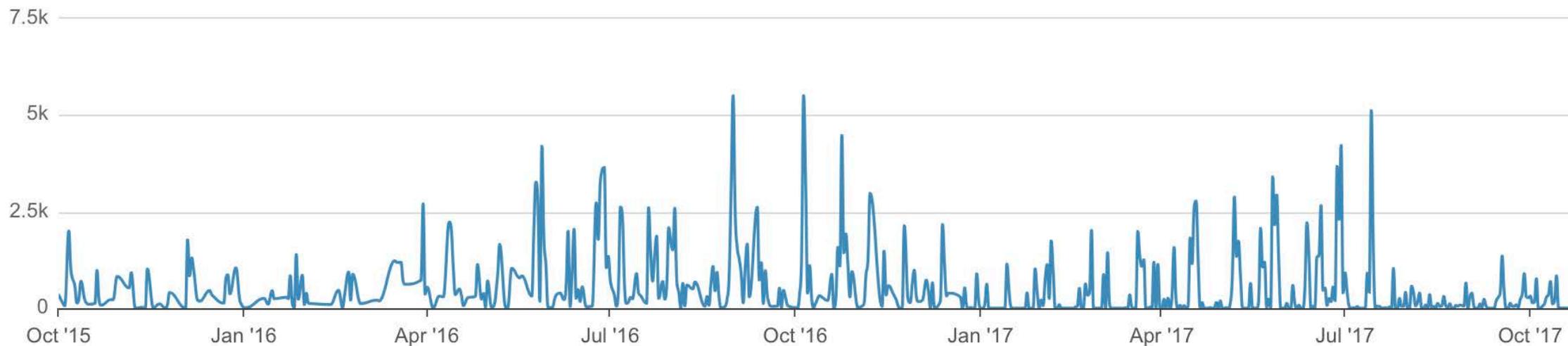
الزوية

Bani Waled

بنى وليد

## Sea arrivals by day

JSON 



Source:  
UNHCR

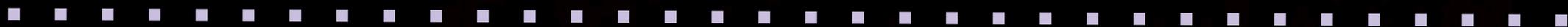


# MILITIA CO-OPTION

1. Militias involved in human smuggling turned to policing it.
2. Militia co-option is not new, but has intensified.
3. New order means militias will commodify migrants within the security stream: capture, detention, exploitation.
4. The new paradigm destabilised west coast region and turned a local conflict into a national confrontation.



# MILITIAS CO-OPTION



“Right now in Libya, you are either in the smuggling business or in the anti-smuggling business” -

Smuggler in major coastal militia, August 2016





Thanks. Questions?

Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime  
[www.globalinitiative.net](http://www.globalinitiative.net)

