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# Libyan commander Mahmoud al-Werfalli, wanted by International Criminal Court, killed in Benghazi By Tracey Shelton, wires Posted Thu 25 Mar 2021 at 8:15am, updated Mon 23 Aug 2021 at 3:08pm

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executions and wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged war

crimes, has been shot dead in the eastern city of Benghazi, security sources say.

Libyan commander Mahmoud al-Werfalli, known for carrying out brutal street

having ordered or personally

man alleged to be Werfalli

shooting hooded prisoners

than 40 captives

carried out executions of more

**Key points:** (LNA) figure and loyal to renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar, was killed by Werfalli was shot dead with his assailants who opened fire on his car in a cousin by unidentified gunmen busy street in Benghazi, the officials said. The ICC indicted Werfalli twice for

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief the media. The officials said Werfalli was "shot dead Videos circulated online show a

Werfalli, a senior Libyan National Army

The pair were seriously wounded, before being pronounced dead on arrival at Benghazi Medical Centre, located near the scene of the shooting, another security source said.

with his cousin, Ayman, when unidentified

gunmen opened fire".

A video broadcast by local media showed a man slumped in the driver's seat of a car being transferred onto a stretcher.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which underscored the fragility of the conflict-stricken country.

Warfalli is believed to have been in command of around 5,000 men.



In a video widely circulated in 2018, a man identified as Werfalli was seen standing in front of a row of blindfolded men kneeling in blue jumpsuits in front of the gates

barrage of bullets into their bodies. Other videos and images show fighters

The man walks along the line executing

each of the men before firing another

desecrating the bodies of supposed

and his men raided a car showroom in

Benghazi, smashing furniture and

computers.

Werfalli to the court.

of a Benghazi mosque.

fighters who opposed the LNA. This month, in a video widely circulated on social media, a man identified as Werfalli

ICC chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda told the UN Security Council in November 2019 that Werfalli was enjoying "his liberty in the Benghazi area", having been promoted earlier that year from major to lieutenant colonel in Haftar's force. "For the sake of the women, men and children across Libyan territory who continue

were "aware of and currently verifying reports of the assassination". The Office condemned "the continued violence in Libya" and said their investigations in the country would continue.

Born in 1978, Werfalli was a commander of the Al-Saiqa Brigade, an elite unit that

The LNA released a statement mourning Werfalli's death, describing him as a "hero".

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court told the ABC they

to be at risk of violent crimes, the era of impunity in Libya must come to an end," Ms Bensouda said, calling on authorities to immediately arrest and surrender

defected from Libya's military during the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed dictator Moamar Gaddafi.

### a criminal for his public executions of prisoners — as well as a string of alleged attacks and assassinations — he

Ceasefire brings uneasy peace

"Werfalli championed the cause of the LNA's injured fighters, their families, and the families of those that died during the

escalation from his loyal followers." Following the attack, there was a heightened presence of security forces in Benghazi, with residents across the city saying they heard gun shots. Since 2011, Libya has descended into chaos and has become a haven for Islamic militants and armed groups.

assassination, including the risk of armed

Libyan political analyst Mohamed Eljarh

said while Werfalli was viewed by many as

also had an extensive and loyal following.

"The LNA will now have to deal with the

war," Mr Eljarh told the ABC.

administration in the east.

NIGER

national unity.

potential fallout from Werfalli's

Fighting came to a halt in October when a formal ceasefire was declared between the Tripoli-based government of National Accord and Mr Haftar's rival LNA

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Mahmoud Al-Werfalli was wanted by the ICC for

alleged war crimes. (AFP)

The ceasefire has been followed by the establishment of a new government of

The two rival administrations this month formally handed over power to the new

entity, which is mandated to steer the country to elections in December.

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The LNA controls large swathes of Libyan territory. (ABC News: Graphic by Jarrod Fankhauser)

The North African country has not brought any suspects before the International Criminal Court in the 10 years since it was referred to the ICC by the UN Security

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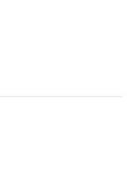
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