

Annex 31: BMC Kirpi 4 x 4 on MV Amazon to Tripoli (18 May 2019)

1. On 30 April 2019, Mr Fathi Bashagha, Minister of the Interior and Defence of the Government of National Accord (GNA), reportedly visited Turkey, where military cooperation between the two countries was discussed.¹²²
2. The Panel received confidential information, and then noted subsequent media coverage (see annex A), that at about 12:00 hours (Local)¹²³ on Saturday, 18 May 2019 a consignment of armoured vehicles was unloaded at the Ro-Ro Terminal on Pier 3 in Tripoli port, Libya, from the motor vessel (MV) *Amazon* (IMO 7702657), then a Moldovan-flagged Ro-Ro cargo vessel.¹²⁴
3. The Panel has identified the armoured vehicles as *Kirpi* 4 x 4 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles manufactured by BMC of Turkey¹²⁵ (see figures 31.1 and 31.2).¹²⁶ Imagery of the interior of the vehicles indicates that these are ‘new’ vehicles (see figure 31.3).

Figure 31.1
BMC *Kirpi* offloading from *Amazon*^a



Figure 31.2
BMC company imagery of *Kirpi*^b



Figure 31.3
Kirpi vehicle interior^c



^a <https://m.facebook.com/100035146145193/posts/130283384819866/#> = .

^b <https://www.bmc.com.tr/en/defense-industry/kirpi>.

^c Confidential source.

4. Although no weapons were observed on the *Kirpi* 4x4 MRAP vehicles, they are designed to be fitted with heavy machine guns if turreted or fitted with specialist weapons mounts. As these vehicles

¹²² www.libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/interior-minister-arrives-turkey-discuss-military-and-security-cooperation.

¹²³ All timings are Local.

¹²⁴ Satellite imagery of the vehicle entering port is at appendix A.

¹²⁵ BMC, Oruç Reis Mahallesi Tem Otoyolu, Atış Alanı Mevkii Tekstil Kent Caddesi No.12, Koza Plaza A Blok 4, Kat No:1004, Esenler, İstanbul, Turkey. www.bmc.com.tr.

¹²⁶ All imagery was originally from a confidential source unless otherwise indicated.

were supplied turreted, the Panel considers that, due to the ease of weapon mounting for the end user, neither paragraph 9 nor paragraph 10 of resolution [2095 \(2013\)](#) applies. Once armed by the GNA their military utility changes from being protective vehicles to vehicles with an offensive capability.

5. Some of the vehicles were then subsequently seen on social media video been driven in convoy through the streets of Tripoli. The Panel has identified that the vehicles were received on behalf of: 1) the Al Somoud Brigade commanded by designated individual Salah Badi (LYi.028) by his assistant Ashraf Mami, of the Al Somoud Brigade; and 2) the Al Marsa militia commanded by Mohamed Bin Ghuzzi, (see figure 31.4).¹²⁷ Vehicles were also supplied to the 33 infantry regiment led by Bashir Khalfalla.

Figure 31.4
Ashraf Mami (L) and Mohammed bin Ghuzzi (R) at Tripoli port on 18 May 2019



Source: https://scontent-mxp1-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t1.0-9/60704862_2223762161005751_3543772288954400768_n.jpg?_nc_cat=108&_nc_eui2=AeEv3DBM4WxxRHSBJPkYNi3bdnI6acveHVAai0vOpoXjughTiKR9dD_oZZelABEFbmeqqPzxIsN2P7RfwzrlHEgd5JBmQ3uhu2ZMaLJjfcQsA&_nc_oc=AQniNnUh1np4_SqOj5d6o2AXmHOPaqIbH2sQqZrQY1dN4rbsr_ClgP2Jc9pg8bv_7Tg&_nc_ht=scontent-mxp1-1.xx&oh=aaff8485e7eeca1d1c7d413531912a0a&oe=5E12151E.

6. The Panel also identified that at least two Ford 2533 commercial trucks equipped with gantries and an empty flatbed, and painted in a military olive green, were also discharged from the vessel (figures 31.5 and 31.6). These were equipped with gantries that were almost certainly designed to support the antennae of a command, control, computers and communication (C4) system for unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV) (see figure 31.7 for comparison). The Panel assesses that these were the vehicles to carry the C4 system for the *Bayraktur* TB2 UCAV.

¹²⁷ <https://almarsad.co/en/2019/06/07/the-case-of-the-illegal-ukranian-flights-from-turkey-to-libya-special-rep7ort/>, and confidential source.

Figure 31.5
Ford 2533 truck offloaded from
Amazon



Figure 31.6
Ford 2533 trucks offloaded from
Amazon



Figure 31.7
Ford 2533 trucks with C4 gantry on
manufacturers' website



Source for 31.9: <https://baykarsavunma.com/sayfa-Komuta-Kontrol--Haberlesme-Bilgisayar-ve-Istihbarat-C4I.html>. Accessed 2 September 2019.

7. The Panel identified that the ship's voyage commenced at Samsun, Turkey, on 9 May 2019, with its declared destination being Izmir, Turkey. The vessel transited the Bosphorous on 11 May 2019 and went 'dark' for the night of 14/15 May 2019 after having been last identified in the vicinity of Izmir port. Izmir is also the location of the Pınarbaşı production plant¹²⁸ of the *Kirpi* 4 x 4 armoured vehicles. The vessel re-appeared on its automatic identification system (AIS) at 12:18 hours on 15 May 2019. It then changed its destination to Tripoli at 15:16 hours on 15 May 2019. Table 31.1 shows the timeline for the vessel's voyage, and the route is illustrated at appendix B.

Table 31.1
Timeline and route of *Amazon*

Port	Arrival		Departure		AIS	Remarks
	Time	Date	Time	Date		
Samsun, Turkey	18:25	21 April 2019	20:47	9 May 2019	✓	-
Bosphoros, Turkey	06:53	11 May 2019	08:41	12 May 2019	✓	Transit
Dikili, Turkey	20:47	13 May 2019	18:01	14 May 2019	✓	At anchor

¹²⁸ <https://www.bmc.com.tr/en/corporate/about>.

<i>Port</i>	<i>Arrival</i>		<i>Departure</i>		<i>AIS</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
	<i>Time</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Date</i>		
Izmir, Turkey	22:09	14 May 2019	12:48	15 May 2019	✓	-
Izmir port area, Turkey	22:56	14 May 2019	12:18	15 May 2019	Dark	Possible Izmir port visit
Egri Liman Channel	16:06	15 May 2019	-	-	✓	Changed destination to Tripoli
Tripoli, Libya	12:02	18 May 2019	-	-	✓	Last AIS log 4:05 hours, 19 May 2010

Source: Confidential.

8. The Panel has confirmed that the vessel docked at Tripoli port, Ro-Ro Terminal on Pier 3, on 18 May 2019 at 12.02 hours and departed on 20 May 2019 at 12:26 hours. The vessel sailed to Samsun port, Turkey arriving at 14:20 hours on 28 May 2019.

9. The vessel is owned by Maya Roro S.A.,¹²⁹ and was operated by Akdeniz Roro Deniz Tasimaciligi Turizm Sanayi ve Ticaret Limited Sti.¹³⁰

10. As a result of this illicit shipment the Moldovan Flag Administration forcibly excluded the MV *Amazon*, MV *Beril* (IMO 7600720) and MV *Mira* (IMO 7637319), all owned or operated by Akdeniz Roro Deniz Tasimaciligi Turizm Sanayi ve Ticaret Ltd STI from the Moldovan Flag Registry, (see appendix C). The MV *Amazon* was subsequently provisionally reflagged under the Togo Maritime Administration on 14 June 2019. On learning of the illicit activities of the MV *Amazon* the Togo Maritime Administration also promptly cancelled the provisional registration on 20 August 2019 (see appendix D).

11. The Panel identified that the vehicles were sold to the Presidency of Defence Industries, as BMC have only directly exported such vehicles to Qatar, Turkmenistan or Tunisia.¹³¹ In a meeting with the Panel on 31 July 2019 the Minister of Interior and Defence, Fathi Bashagha, acknowledged the transfer of *Kirpi* armoured vehicles for the Ministry of Interior through the port of Tripoli on 18 May 2019.

¹²⁹ c/o Akdeniz Roro Deniz Tasimac, Dagilgan Kume Evleri 30/A, Evcil Mah, Akdeniz, 33100 Mersin, Turkey.

¹³⁰ Akdeniz Roro Deniz Tasimac, Dagilgan Kume Evleri 30/A, Evcil Mah, Akdeniz, 33100 Mersin, Turkey. <http://www.akdenizroro.com/filo.html> (the remainder of the website is inaccessible as at 10 June 2019). Note same physical and web address as vessel owner Maya Roro S.A.

¹³¹ Letter to Panel from BMC dated 1 July 2019.

12. The Panel thus finds Turkey, the GNA and Akdeniz Roro Deniz Tasimaciligi Turizm Sanayi ve Ticaret Limited Sti. in non-compliance with paragraph 9 of resolution [1970 \(2011\)](#) for their certain involvement in the procurement and physical transfer of military material to the GNA.