

Definition: As with the term “shargawe” above, “gharbawi” is the Arabic word for a cardinal direction, “western” in this case, though it is now associated with certain negative, stereotypical characteristics and is used as a hateful term for people from the western part of the country. In this context, the negative characteristics that the phrase implies include weakness, cowardice, and a lack of honor. Notably, two of the focus groups, in Sabha and Kufra, chose to discuss these terms together in the same conversation as they were classified as being opposite while still being linked by their discriminatory nature.

Why it’s offensive and inflammatory: As with “shargawe,” this term discriminates based on regional origins and may be used by people from the east to insult and demean people from the west while underscoring regional division and discord within Libya. Several respondents also indicated that it can reinforce tribal and racial discrimination and divisions given that regional splits often overlap with these other categories. In its relation to violence, one participant stated that it may be used when someone is specifically “looking for a fight.” Another respondent said that “gharbawi” and other regionalist terms have not previously been particularly linked to conflict, but, “...with the civil war in Libya, it’s growing to be something that incites armed conflict, east versus west.” Additional feedback pointed out that this term is used to demean western Libyans, particularly during times of conflict. This is a significant term and societal cleavage to monitor given the current fighting between Haftar’s eastern-based forces and the western Tripoli forces and government.

Note: About half of the participants in the Benghazi focus group (located in the east) did not agree that “gharbawi” was hate speech. This appears to indicate that this word may be used by some people from the east who are unaware that the term can be insulting or inflammatory to individuals from the west. The other half of the participants in Benghazi said that it was “definitely hate speech.”

Non-offensive alternative terms: لبيبي / Libyan; طرابلسي / Person from Tripoli

9. كرامة / Karama (Dignity)

Other spellings and related references: حقنوري / *Haftoori* (English translation: *of Haftar*); طحالِب / *tuhaliib* (English translation: *algae*); ازلام / *azlam* (English meaning: *Gaddafi follower*); كراميستنا / *karamista*; كلاب حفتر (dogs of Haftar); عبيد حفتر (slaves of Haftar); انقلابي (English translation: *[military] coup*); دكتاتور (English translation: *dictatorship / dictator*); جماعة الكرامة / *jamaat al Karama* (English translation: *Dignity Operation group*)

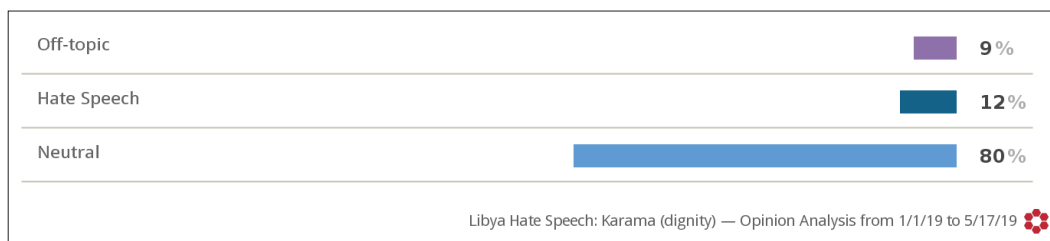


Figure B: The percentage of Twitter posts containing the word “karama” from January 1-May 17, 2019 that have been classified as hate speech, neutral, and off-topic. The large volume of tweets that use the word neutrally highlights the challenge of identifying sample hate speech posts for this term. The use of “karama” as a hate speech term is particularly dependent on whether the