

**Geollect Comment:**

On 4 August 20, a huge explosion located in Beirut Port inflicted devastating damage to not only the port, but to Beirut's infrastructure and the local population. The cut off date and time of this report states that 100 people have died with around 3,700 people being injured from the blast and many others still declared missing. The 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate that had been stored within Beirut Port is reported to have been stored incorrectly leading to gas escaping from storage multiple times, however, that is not certain at this time. What is certain, is that although ammonium nitrate is traditionally used within fertilizers and explosives, the common industrial chemical needs to be contaminated with other substances to cause an explosion.

The source of the ammonium nitrate traces back to 2013, when the Moldovan flagged M/V Rhosus sailing from Georgia to Mozambique after experiencing technical issues, docked at Beirut Port. After inspection, 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate was discovered in the hold, and the ship was prevented from sailing. Owing to the risks associated with storing the substance onboard the vessel, the cargo was discharged into Hangar 12 of the port warehouses. Media reports have indicated that a number of letters were sent in the following years, asking for guidance and warning that there was a serious danger of storing the goods at the site.

Aerial drone snapshots (Images 4 & 5) show extensive damage to the port and the location of the explosion is highlighted in clarity imagery (Image 6).



**Image 1. Source Twitter:**  
**@Kosmonaut\_Hegel**



**Image 2. Source Twitter: @Air\_Intel**



**Image 3. Sentinel 2 Imagery August, 3, 2020**

*This alert is produced from open source reporting and is intended for high-level situational awareness only. Dates provided may refer to the date reported rather than the date the incident took place. Geollect is not responsible for the accuracy of this open source information.*



Image 4. Source Twitter : @Osinttechnical



Image 5. Source Twitter : @Osinttechnical

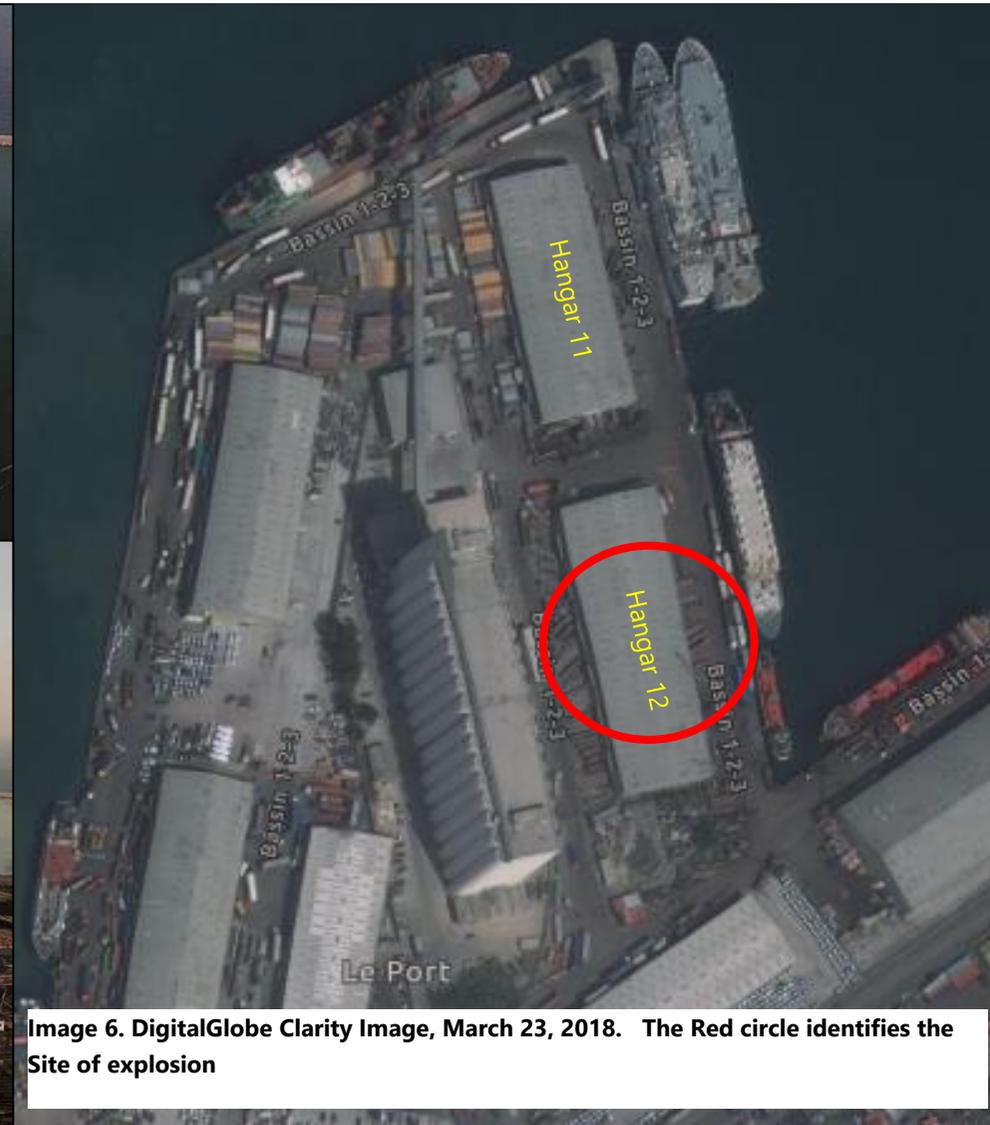
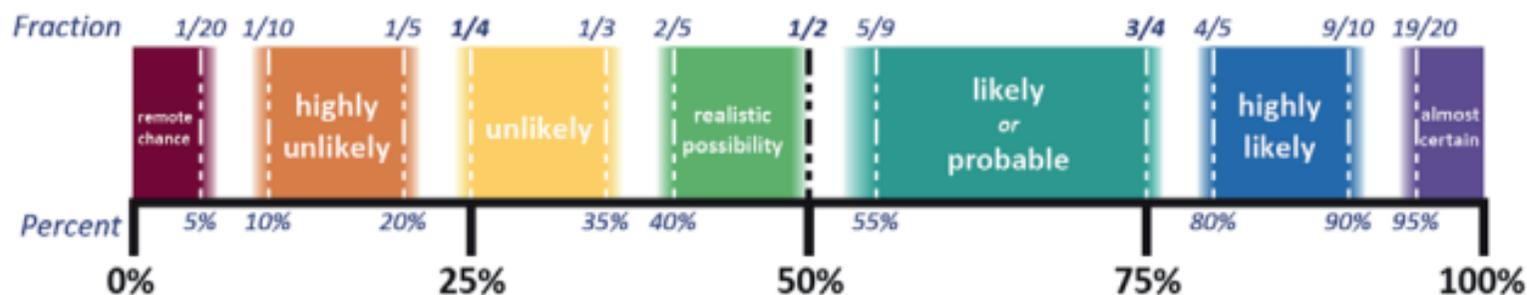


Image 6. DigitalGlobe Clarity Image, March 23, 2018. The Red circle identifies the Site of explosion

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**Geollect Assessment:** *It is highly likely that the explosion that occurred in Beirut Port originated from the vast quantity of ammonium nitrate that had been stored in Hangar 12. Reports suggest that analysis of public records and documents that have been released online, indicate that senior Lebanese officials knew for more than six years that ammonium nitrate was in Beirut Port, it is likely that the ammonium nitrate had been imported from the Moldovan flagged MV Rhosus vessel which arrived into Lebanon in September 2013. With the extent of damage that has already been caused, it is almost certain that Beirut Port will be temporarily closed by the Lebanese authorities, until a full survey and investigation has been implemented to clarify when the port is safe to reopen. Due to the devastating amount of numbers that are injured, Lebanon's medical services will be significantly impacted by the huge sudden influx of casualties, meaning it is likely that the state will need foreign aid and supplies in order to deal with the aftermath.*



Almost all Intelligence assessments contain a degree of uncertainty. In order to avoid any misinterpretation, these intelligence assessments are categorised using the terms outlined in the image below, instead of using numerical probabilities. Throughout all Geollect products the scale of probability is split into these seven categories. The use of this standard ensures analysts can make reliable judgments and avoid inappropriate use of terms.

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