



Whispering Bell

# Libya Daily Report



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# KEY DEVELOPMENTS



**09 April 2023**

## Tripoli

- Libyan Revolutionaries Union reactivated
- Shat Rd: West Coast Military Region convoy spotted

## Nationwide / General

- Benghazi: 5+5 JMC meeting
- Misrata: Dbeibah-JOF alleged tensions
- Turkish-Russian cooperation to unite Libya military/security forces
- Misrata: GNU fourth regular cabinet meeting
- Sabha: Bathily visit

## Oil & Gas Update

- Aoun: NOC violations in Al-Dahra/Al-Bahi rehabilitation project

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# SUMMARY

## Key Points

- UN proposes new initiative
- Political tensions to escalate
- HCS accepts HoR Constitutional Amendment

## Political

*The absence of a solution to the political deadlock and continuing legitimacy crisis over the GNU's mandate continue to define the context of heightened political uncertainty. In the current context, there are two political initiatives at odds with one another. The pro AI-Meshri bloc within the High Council of State (HCS) recently voted in favour of the House of Representatives' (HoR) 13<sup>TH</sup> constitutional amendment, while key international actors have announced support for the political initiative proposed by UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily.*

*Intense political manoeuvring will likely define the next few weeks against the backdrop of Bathily's proposed formation of a High-level Steering Panel for Libya. Key contentious issues such as the eligibility of dual nationals and military officials to run for president will continue to divide Libyan stakeholders and undermine progress towards a solution to the stalemate.*

*The UN SRSG's proposal is already facing resistance from key domestic actors such as the HoR. Consequently, Whispering Bell assesses actors opposed to the UN-led initiative will double down on their campaigns to form a new unified government as a hedge against the UN push to establish a new dialogue forum. In turn, renewed efforts to form a new government will mount the pressure on the GNU and PM Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. Amid US pressure to hold elections, Dbeibah may be compelled to reshuffle his cabinet and/or organise limited legislative elections. Of note, Dbeibah announced the formation of a government committee to implement and coordinate elections on 09 March, while Bathily provided further details on his proposal to form a High-Level Steering Panel for Libya in a press briefing on 11 March.*

## Security

*Tripoli is operational and continues to present a relatively permissive operational environment. Sporadic incidents will continue to define security atmospherics in the western region. From a security standpoint, the status quo and stable atmospherics are set to remain as is in Tripoli. Low-impact and localised flashpoints outside government offices are possible but are unlikely to escalate or impact business operations. Targeted attacks against HoR MPs, HCS members, and other political figures are likely as political tensions peak over the next few weeks.*

## Oil & Gas

*Disruptions to production are likely despite evidence the LNA is yet to support a coordinated oil blockade. In his latest visit to Libya, US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Burns allegedly reiterated to Haftar the importance of safeguarding oil and gas facilities and production.*

# TRIPOLI

- **Report n°6227:** Libyan Revolutionaries Union reactivated

Dozens of men dressed in plain clothing comprising members of armed formations in the west announced the reactivation of the “Libyan Revolutionaries Union” in a video statement issued from an unidentified area of Tripoli on 08 April in which they announced their rejection of the 13th constitutional amendment, the militarisation of the state, and dual nationals whose hands are stained with Libyan blood to assume sovereign positions. The Union called on the UN to provide support with regard to its demands, noting their support for a peaceful transfer of power to bring an end to the security and political turmoil.

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

**Location:** Unknown  
**Incident Date:** 08 April  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Local Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** Libyan Revolutionaries Union  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Monitor details surrounding the formation of new movements across the capital.

- **Report n°6228: Shat Rd: West Coast Military Region convoy spotted**

WB sources reported a military convoy of approximately 20 technicals affiliated with the West Coast Military Region led by Salaheddien Al-Namroush was spotted near the Tripoli Naval base, heading eastwards, at approximately 1800hrs on 08 April. Unconfirmed reports allege the convoy entered Tripoli’s Mitiga International Airport (MJI).

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

**Location:** Shat Road  
**Incident Date:** 08 April  
**Timestamp:** 1800hrs  
**Source:** WB  
**Veracity:** A  
**Actors:** West Coast Military Region  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Monitor military movements across the capital.

# NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

## ▪ **Benghazi: 5+5 JMC meeting**

The 5-5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) held a meeting in Benghazi bringing together several military and security leaders from the western, southern, and eastern regions in the presence of UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily on 07 April. The meeting aimed at enhancing confidence among the attendees in support of the political process and moving forward with holding elections in 2023 and the acceptance of its results by all parties.

Six points were agreed upon in the meeting including; full commitment to the conclusions of the dialogue between the 5+5 JMC and military and security leaders in Tunis and Tripoli, providing all forms of support to secure elections, supporting the efforts of the 5+5 JMC and its Libyan Liaison Committees on the withdrawal of mercenaries and foreign fighters, addressing the issue of internally displaced persons and missing persons, and exchanging information on the detainees held by both sides and steps to exchange detainees as soon as possible. The LNA released six detainees from the western region held in custody for “security issues” according to the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The attendees announced that they will reconvene in Sabha post Ramadan.

On the sidelines of the 5+5 JMC meeting, Bathily met with a group of notables and social leaders from the eastern region who stressed their commitment to national reconciliation and an inclusive political process that ensures elections are held in 2023.

## • **Misrata: Dbeibah-JOF alleged tensions**

Reports indicate GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah instructed Misrata’s Special Tasks Department affiliated with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to secure the GNU’s fourth regular cabinet meeting in Misrata instead of Misrata’s Joint Operations Force (JOF) due to disagreements with the latter on 08 April. Unconfirmed reports allege the JOF attempted to prevent the Special Tasks Department from entering Misrata International Airport (MRA) to receive the GNU delegation led by Dbeibah, resulting in a verbal altercation between the JOF and the Special Tasks Department and intimidation shots fired into the air. Reports allege Dbeibah is attempting to distance himself from the JOF due to their bad reputation within Misrata, particularly after their involvement in the handover of Gaddafi-era intelligence official and Libyan national Abu Ajila Masoud Al-Marimi to the US in 2022.

In response, the JOF stated that in cooperation with the Misrata Security Directorate and several security agencies, the GNU delegation’s arrival was secured and announced its participation in securing the cabinet meeting. Of note, JOF commander Omar AbuGhadada was among the attendees of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) meeting in the presence of UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily and several military and security commanders in the west and east in Tunis on 15 March. However, AbuGhadada did not attend the follow up 5+5 JMC meetings in Tripoli and Benghazi.

- **Turkish-Russian cooperation to unite Libya military/security forces**

In a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, Turkish Foreign Minister Melvut Cavusoglu stated that his country is cooperating with Russia and other states concerned with Libya to unite Libya's military and security forces on 07 April. The two sides reaffirmed the importance of holding elections in Libya. Meanwhile, Lavrov stated that Russia and Turkey share a common approach with regard to peace efforts in Libya and noted that the two countries are working together to achieve one goal, mainly unifying the Libyan forces as a prerequisite for state-building.

**Comment:** Turkish and Russian support for current efforts to reunite the military establishment via the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) stands as crucial for the success of the UN-endorsed security track.

- **Misrata: GNU fourth regular cabinet meeting**

The GNU issued six administrative decisions in its fourth regular cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah in his hometown of Misrata on 08 April. In a speech, Dbeibah affirmed his government's commitment to creating the appropriate conditions to end the transitional stages via elections in which opportunities for construction and development enhance the chances of the elections' success and the acceptance of its results. Dbeibah expressed support for the UN Support Mission in Libya's (UNSMIL) sponsorship of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) security track leading to "maintaining stability and the prevention of the return to war." Of note, the meeting was attended by Presidential Council (PC) Head Mohamed Menfi and Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Governor Al-Sidik Al-Kabir.

- **Sabha: Bathily visit**

At the time of writing (1130hrs LT), UN SRSG Aboulaye Bathily arrived in Sabha and met with sheiks and notables of the southern region on 08 April. Bathily announced in the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) meeting in Benghazi that he would visit Sabha to ensure all Libyan stakeholders are engaged in the process of overcoming the Libyan crisis. Bathily's visit comes ahead of a scheduled meeting of the 5+5 JMC in Sabha post-Ramadan.

# OIL & GAS UPDATE

## Terminal Status

Es-Sider	Operational
Ras Lanuf	Operational
Mellitah	Operational
Zawiya	Operational
Zueitina	Operational
Marsa	Operational
Brega	
Marsa	Operational
Hariga	
Bouri	Operational
Jurf	Operational

### Es-Sider: Stable terminal operations and security atmospherics reported as of 1700hrs LT.

- **Report n°6229:** Aoun: NOC violations in Al-Dahra/Al-Bahi rehabilitation project

GNU Oil and Gas Minister Mohamed Aoun submitted a complaint to Administrative Control Authority (ACA) Head Suleiman Al-Shanti in a letter dated 05 April, on the correspondence of the Director of the Office of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) Chairman Farhat Ben Guedara to the Waha Oil Company (WOC) Chairman on its agreement to conduct a direct negotiation process with Esnad Libya Oil Services and Halliburton to obtain the best technical and commercial offers for the rehabilitation project of Al-Dahra and Al-Bahi oil fields operated by Waha. Aoun argued that the contract was not presented according to the contracting methods stipulated in the unified contracting regulations in force in companies and entities affiliated with the NOC, in which a team was formed to negotiate directly with a specific party to reach a contractual method in violation of the aforementioned regulations. Aoun stressed that these regulations are approved by the Unified Bid Regulations for the oil sector to ensure transparency and integrity of the procedure during the handling of bids for various projects. Aoun added that the rehabilitation and development of Al-Bahi Oil Field was not among the projects included in the NOC's 2023-25 development programme.

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

**Location:** N/A  
**Incident Date:** 05 Apr  
**Timestamp:** N/A  
**Source:** Local Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** GNU O&G Minister

**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Continue to monitor relations between the GNU O&G Ministry and the NOC.

# VERACITY SCALE

## **A – Reliable:**

**This information is almost certainly true.** A is Reliable, "No doubt of authenticity, trustworthiness, or competency; has a history of complete reliability". It is reported by one or more credible publications, and if an author is listed we have no reason to suspect them to be biased. The reporting is sourced based on widely available or verifiable information. The information is consistent with everything our team knows about this subject.

## **B – Fairly Reliable:**

**This information is probably true. This information is possibly true.** B is "Fairly Reliable" for "minor doubt". It is reported one or more mostly credible publications, and if an author is listed we have no reason to suspect them to be biased on this subject. The reporting is primarily based on verifiable information. The information is mostly consistent with everything our team knows about this subject, but may contain new or surprising information given credibility on the strength of the publication or author.

## **C – Unreliable:**

**This information is probably false.** This information is almost certainly false. "not usually reliable" for "significant doubt," and "unreliable" for "Lacking in authenticity, trustworthiness, and competency; history of invalid information". It appears in social media or an unreliable publication, and may be written by an author that is not known to us or is known to be less reliable. The reporting is thin, largely dependent on anonymous sources or unverifiable accounts from social media or limited access areas. The information is consistent enough with our knowledge of the subject to be possible, but contains sufficient discrepancies to make it seem unlikely. The information is mostly or entirely inconsistent with our knowledge of the subject.



# ACRONYM LIST

AQ	Al-Qaeda
BAM	Al-Bunyan Al-Marsous
BCP	Border Crossing Point
BEN	Benghazi International Airport
BDB	Benghazi Defence Brigade
BPMC	Brega Petroleum Marketing Company
BRSC	Benghazi Revolutionary Shura Council
CBL	Central Bank of Libya
CESF	Constitution and Elections Support Force
CNI	Critical National Infrastructure
CDA	Constitutional Drafting Assembly
DACOCT	Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism
DDR	Disarmament, demobilising and reintegration
DF	Direct Fire
DMSC	Derna Mujahideen Shura Security Council
GACS	General Administration of Central Support
GASO	General Administration of Security Operations
GECOL	General Electricity Company of Libya
GMMR	Great Man-Made River
GNA	Government of National Accord
GNC	General National Congress
GNS	Government of National Stability
GNU	Government of National Unity
GTUC	Greater Trpoli Union Council
HCS	High Council of State
HNEC	High National Election Commission (HNEC)
HoR	House of Representatives
IDF	Indirect Fire
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IOC	International Oil Company
IS	Islamic State
JMC	Joint Military Commission
LAB	Libyan Audit Bureau
LIFG	Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
LNA	Libyan National Army
LPA	Libyan Political Agreement
LPDF	Libyan Political Dialogue Forum
LROR	Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
MJI	Mitiga International Airport
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOGC	Mellitah Oil and Gas Complex
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoO	Ministry of Oil

MoT	Ministry of Transportation
MRA	Misrata International Airport
NEE	No Expected Exposure
NIEE	No Immediate Expected Exposure
NFDK	No Further Details Known
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOC	National Oil Company
NSTR	Nothing Significant To Report
P3+2	France, Germany, Italy, UK, US
PC	Presidential Council
PFG	Petroleum Facilities Guard
RASCO	Ras Lanuf Oil and Gas Processing Company
RPG	Rocket-Propelled Grenade
RTA	Road Traffic Accident
SAF	Small Arms Fire
SSA	Stabilisation Support Agency
SDF	Special Deterrence Force
TPF	Tripoli Protection Force
UNSRSG	United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WOC	Waha Oil Company