



Whispering Bell

# Libya Daily Report



Strictly Confidential & Exclusive for ConocoPhillips Libya

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS



**12 April 2023**

## Tripoli

- US national/Libya Business founder reportedly arrested, conflicting reports
- Unconfirmed: Detained 777, PG & Nawasi members to be released
- Tripoli: HNEC Chairman meets UK Ambassador
- Tripoli: Al-Haddad briefed on 5+5 JMC meetings

## Nationwide / General

- Bashagha remarks on running in elections
- Al-Zawiya: Salafis allegedly arrested/kidnapped during anti-MB speech
- Sirte: Bashagha organises iftar banquet
- Fezzan: LNA General Command confirm desert patrols

## Oil & Gas Update

- O&G Ministry: Emirati company contracted to develop Al-Dahra Field

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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 Al-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°6240:** US national/Libya Business founder reportedly arrested, conflicting reports

Local reports indicate the Internal Security Agency (ISA) arrested US citizen and CEO/founder of the consulting company “Libya Business”, Jeff Wilson, on charges of establishing a secret organisation in Libya. Conflicting reports suggest Wilson was arrested on charges of promoting christianity. Reports indicate Wilson was arrested in an unidentified area of Tripoli.

Of note, the Agency published a Facebook post on 11 April confirming the arrest of a local and a foreign national on charges of promoting christianity, identifying the foreign national with the initials “JDFW” and employee of Gateway Center; an English language school in Tripoli’s Zawiyat Al-Dahmani area.

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

**Location:** Zawiyat Al-Dahmani  
**Incident Date:** Unknown  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Social Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** ISA  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Continue to monitor the most prevalent forms of crime across the capital.

- **Report n°6241:** Unconfirmed: Detained 777, PG & Nawasi members to be released

Unconfirmed reports allege members of the 777 Brigade, Presidential Guard (PG), and the Nawasi Brigade who remain detained in Tripoli since the GNS’s third failed incursion into Tripoli (Aug 2022), will be released soon. Of note, the aforementioned development comes shortly after reports alleged the GNU agreed to allow PG commander Ayoub Abou Rass to return to the capital at the request of the Presidential Council (PC).

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

**Location:** Unknown  
**Incident Date:** Unknown  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Unconfirmed Social Media  
**Veracity:** C  
**Actors:** 777; PG; Nawasi  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Continue to monitor the unconfirmed reports of local militias across the capital.

- **Report n°6242:** Tripoli: HNEC Chairman meets UK Ambassador

High National Election Commission (HNEC) Chairman Emad Al-Sayeh discussed with British Ambassador to Libya Caroline Hurndall the latest developments regarding the electoral process and the Commission's preparedness to implement them on 11 April. For her part, Hurndall affirmed her country's continued support for the commission's efforts to hold elections. Of note, Al-Sayeh met with German Ambassador to Libya Michael Unmecht last week during which the two sides discussed the electoral process. Unmecht reiterated his country's willingness to provide technical and advisory support.

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

**Location:** HNEC 's HQ  
**Incident Date:** 11 April  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Social Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** HNEC  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
Continue to monitor the HNEC meetings regarding the electoral process.

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- **Report n°6243:** Tripoli: Al-Haddad briefed on 5+5 JMC meetings

GNU Chief of Staff (Cos) Mohamed Al-Haddad praised the efforts of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) during a briefing by western member Al-Fitouri Gharbil on their meetings in Tunis, Tripoli, and Benghazi on 11 April. The meeting also discussed the military institution's administrative work.

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

**Location:** Cos ' HQ  
**Incident Date:** 11 April  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Social Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** Cos; JMC  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
Continue to monitor the meetings with JMC, regarding the institution's administrative work, including unify the military establishment.

# NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Bashagha remarks on running in elections**

GNS Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha stated that running in the presidential elections remains a premature matter as it depends on the circumstances and developments that will unfold, the most important of which is support for the electoral process whether through candidacy or contributing to its success from abroad. Bashagha's remarks came in an interview with Russian news agency Sputnik on 11 April.

In addition, Bashagha expressed his belief that the unification of the military establishment is not possible in the coming period, though Libya may witness the formation of joint patrols and committees with specific objectives under the supervision of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) as confidence-building measures between conflict parties. Bashagha affirmed his support for any steps to unify institutions and end division, noting that he was the first to break the east-west political stalemate with his visit to Benghazi in Dec 2021.

- **Al-Zawiya: Salafis allegedly arrested/kidnapped during anti-MB speech**

Unconfirmed reports allege unidentified assailants arrested/kidnapped a group of Salafi men while they were holding a seminar against extremism and Al-Qaeda (AQ) during which they delivered an anti-Muslim Brotherhood (MB) speech in an unidentified area of Al-Zawiya on 11 April.

- **Sirte: Bashagha organises iftar banquet**

GNS Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha organised an iftar banquet for local officials in Sirte on 11 April.

**Comment:** Similar iftar banquets have been organised by Libyan powerbrokers in their respective strongholds throughout Ramadan. The gatherings serve to highlight political allegiances.

- **Fezzan: LNA General Command confirm desert patrols**

The LNA General Command's Media Office confirmed the deployment of a joint force to secure the southern region composed of the 73 Brigade, 128 Brigade, Al-Waw Company, and 672 Battalion, divided into four groups to patrol all southern border areas on 11 April. Southern Operations Room commander Mabrouk Sahban supervised the desert patrols of the joint force at the 128 Brigade Umm Al-Aranib Company HQ, after which they were divided into four groups and deployed across border areas. Western southern border patrols and 672 Battalion published images of the patrols that reached the western southern borders from the El Salvador Pass with Niger and Algeria and Gharnidiga, passing through the Nukhaza point and Tom border crossing with Niger and Wadi Bghara. The Battalion stated that the patrols come to confront any security breaches throughout Ramadan during which outlawed groups are active in irregular migration, drug trafficking, and fuel smuggling.

# 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°6244:** O&G Ministry: Emirati company contracted to develop Al-Dahra Field

GNU Oil and Gas Ministry stated that correspondence between the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and Waha Oil Company (WOC) regarding the development of Al-Daha Field did not indicate that the company in charge of the project is a Libyan company. The Ministry stated the majority of consultative meetings were conducted in the UAE and stated that the contracted company is Emirati and not Libyan. Of note, in an earlier statement issued on 07 April, the NOC denied contracting with an Emirati company to develop Al-Dahra Field, confirming that Esnad Libya Oil Services is a national company registered in Benghazi (2021).

**Analysis/Comment:** N/A.

**Location:** N/A  
**Incident Date:** 07 April  
**Timestamp:** N/A  
**Source:** Oil and Gas Ministry  
**Veracity:** A  
**Actors:** NOC; WOC

**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Continue to monitor nationwide O&G-related developments.

# 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