



Whispering Bell

# Libya Daily Report



Strictly Confidential & Exclusive for ConocoPhillips Libya

# KEY DEVELOPMENTS



**13 April 2023**

## Tripoli

- [Update on US national detained in Tripoli, DoS comments](#)
- [Tripoli: Meeting to settle financial conditions of military personnel](#)

## Nationwide / General

- [Bashagha denies deal with Dbeibah to resign](#)
- [Al-Zawiya: Al-Selaa allegedly intervenes to defuse Abou Rass-Tajouri tensions](#)
- [HoR approves new law regulating LIS ops.](#)
- [Benghazi: Scheduled GNU CoS visit](#)

## Oil & Gas Update

- [Crude output at 1.215 M bpd](#)

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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°6245:** Update on US national detained in Tripoli, DoS comments

The Internal Security Agency (ISA) published video footage of the confessions of a local female and a male US national detained on charges of promoting christianity during which they confessed to the charges against them on 13 April. The ISA identified the US national with the initials "SBO" who works as an assistant director at the Gateway Center; an English language school in Tripoli's Zawiyat Al-Dahmani area. The Agency stated that the US national, along with his spouse, were part of an organisation promoting christianity called "Assemblies of God", encouraging Muslims to convert to Christianity. The US national confessed to using his home as a place where "Libyan Christians" could openly practice Christianity. Meanwhile, the Libyan national claimed that she was tasked with persuading fellow Libyans to convert to Christianity. The video footage also included a third local male who confessed to receiving financial support from the US national after joining the organisation.

In a related development, a Department of State (DoS) spokesman told CNN that the DoS is aware of reports of a US national being detained by a "militia" in Tripoli on 12 April. The spokesman stated that when a US national is detained overseas, the Ministry works to provide all forms of required assistance.

In response to the DoS spokesman describing the ISA as a militia, the agency issued a statement defending the legality of its institution and outlining its duties.

**Analysis/Comment:** The incident confirms the sensitivity surrounding the topic of religion in Libya given the religious composition of the Libyan society and the importance placed on Islamic teachings. The development is gaining traction and is currently at the centre of public debate in Libya.

**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°6246:** Tripoli: Meeting to settle financial conditions of military personnel

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah held a meeting with Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad and several ministers and discussed the financial conditions of military personnel including the unified salary scale on 12 April. Finance Minister Khaled Al-Mabrouk assured the Defence Minister that all financial procedures had been completed to settle the status of military personnel and implement the unified salary scale for MoD employees.

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

**Location:** MoD 's HQ  
**Incident Date:** 12 April  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Social Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** GNU  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Continue to monitor details surrounding high-profile meetings held across the capital.

## NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Bashagha denies deal with Dbeibah to resign**

GNS Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha denied rumours of a deal struck with GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to resign from his post in exchange for a position as head of a security institution in an interview with Asharq Al-Awsat on 12 April. Meanwhile, on the removal of Russia's Wagner Group from Libya, Bashagha stated that the latter is a priority for the US and its European allies, stressing however, that their calculations would not be solely focused on this matter.

- **Al-Zawiya: Al-Selaa allegedly intervenes to defuse Abou Rass-Tajouri tensions**

Reports indicate the MoD-affiliated 103 Battalion "Al-Selaa militia" (Al-Zawiya) commander Othman Al-Lahab received Presidential Guard (PG)/Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade (TRB) commander Ayoub Abou Rass in an unidentified area of Al-Zawiya over the past 48hrs. Reports allege Al-Lahab sought to reconcile between Abou Rass and 777 Brigade commander Haithem Al-Tajouri, though Abou Rass refused the efforts and accused Tajouri of being the sole reason behind divisions within the TRB's ranks and the deterioration of its reputation. Reports allege Abou Rass informed Al-Lahab of his return to Tripoli following coordination with prominent Tripoli-based armed formations including the Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) and the 444 Fighting Brigade. Of note, reports allege Abou Rass' new armed formation will be located at the World Islamic Call Society.

**Comment:** Abou Rass' return to Tripoli, if confirmed, could upset the current military balance in the capital that has maintained relative calm.

- **HoR approves new law regulating LIS ops.**

The House of Representatives (HoR) approved a new law (2023) regulating the operations of the Libyan Intelligence Service (LIS), including granting the head of the agency the post of an advisor to the head of state with regard to the country's security and safety who is directly accountable to the head of state. According to the law, the agency will not be subject to any oversight body to maintain the confidentiality of its work, instead a secret oversight committee will be formed by a presidential decree. The agency will consist of a president, two deputies, and a secretary-general, as well as a sufficient number of managers and employees who will undergo a one-year probationary period. Those appointed in the agency cannot hold dual nationality nor have naturalised parents, while the wives of the occupants should not be foreigners unless they hail from an Arab nation.

- **Benghazi: Scheduled GNU CoS visit**

GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohamed Al-Haddad is due to visit Benghazi today to meet with his LNA counterpart to continue discussions on the unification of the military establishment and the formation of a joint force.

# 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°6247:** Crude output at 1.215 M bpd

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) reported that current crude production levels stand at 1.215 million barrels per day (bpd) and condensate production amounted to 54k bpd as of 12 April.

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

**Location:** N/A  
**Incident Date:** 12 April  
**Timestamp:** N/A  
**Source:** NOC  
**Veracity:** A  
**Actors:** NOC

**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
 Continue to monitor  
 Libya's crude output  
 levels.

# 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