



Whispering Bell

# Libya Daily Report



Strictly Confidential & Exclusive for ConocoPhillips Libya



# KEY DEVELOPMENTS

**16 April 2023**

## Tripoli

- Tajoura: Al-Bugra militia road closure
- Janzur: Isolated gunfire

## Nationwide / General

- RSF/LNA ties allegedly behind Sudan clashes
- Al-Mehsri & Menfi alleged political positions
- LNA confirms military unification talks
- Misrata: Political symposium discusses new gov't.
- LNA 128 BDE border drug seizure

## Oil & Gas Update

- Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

## CONTENTS

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TRIPOLI</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NATIONWIDE / GENERAL</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>OIL &amp; GAS UPDATE</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>VERACITY SCALE</b>	<b>7</b>

# 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°6253:** Tajoura: Al-Bugra militia road closure

The 51st Brigade Al-Bugra militia supported by the Mol Law Enforcement Department deployed forces and restricted motorists' access to Tajoura's dual carriageway to ease pedestrian access to local shops in the evening on 15 April.

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

**Location:** Tajoura  
**Incident Date:** 15 April  
**Timestamp:** Evening  
**Source:** WB  
**Veracity:** A  
**Actors:** 51st Brigade; Mol Law Enforcement Department deployed  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
Continue to monitor the roads closure across the capital.

- **Report n°6254:** Janzur: Isolated gunfire

Sources reported sporadic gunfire in Tripoli's Janzur area at approximately 2200hrs on 15 April, as a result of warning shots fired by Fursan Janzour Battalion servicemen at An-Najila Traffic Lights.

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

**Location:** Janzur  
**Incident Date:** 15 April  
**Timestamp:** 2200hrs  
**Source:** WB  
**Veracity:** A  
**Actors:** Fursan Janzour Battalion  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
Identify the motives behind gunfire heard across the capital.

# NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **RSF/LNA ties allegedly behind Sudan clashes**

Unsubstantiated media reports attributed the violent clashes in Sudan's capital on 15 April between Sudanese armed forces and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalou, also known as Hemedti, to the 11 April visit by LNA commander Khalifa Haftar's son, Al-Sadiq, to Khartoum. Of note, Haftar's son met with Hemedti on 11 April and allegedly settled the Janjaweed mercenaries' outstanding debt.

**Comment:** Regardless of the veracity of the claims, the ongoing clashes in Sudan will have broader ramifications on the RSF's posture in-country, and by extension its presence in Libya. Multiple observers argue RSF forces will likely strengthen their presence in Libya should they suffer a defeat in Khartoum.

- **Al-Mehsri & Menfi alleged political positions**

Reports allege High Council of State (HCS) Head Khaled Al-Meshri supports Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi's political proposal for all candidate to be included in future presidential elections or their exclusion altogether. In other words, Al-Meshri is reportedly opposed to selective exclusion that dismisses specific candidates such as Saif Al-Islam or LNA commander Khalifa Haftar, and not others. Moreover, Al-Meshri supported simultaneous presidential and legislative elections, and allegedly confirmed there is international pressure to specifically dismiss Saif Al-Islam. The HCS Head rejected GNU attempts to hold parliamentary elections only.

Meanwhile, reports allege Presidential Council (PC) Head Mohamed Menfi opposes simultaneous presidential and parliamentary elections. The reports indicate Menfi is actively lobbying to hold parliamentary polls only and assuming the position of president in the interim, whilst actively blocking UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily's initiative.

**Comment:** None of these statements are final. Al-Meshri's political position will likely continue to fluctuate over the next few weeks. Al-Meshri met with Turkish FM Mevlut Cavusoglu in Ankara, Turkey, on 15 April.

- **LNA confirms military unification talks**

On 15 April, the LNA General Command confirmed the recent unification talks held between Chief of Staff (CoS) Abdulrazzak Al-Nathouri and his GNU counterpart Mohamed Al-Haddad over two days in Benghazi on 13 April discussed steps to unify the military institution and salaries, challenges facing military servicemen and cadets, and mechanisms to form a joint force and facilitate the work of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC).

- **Misrata: Political symposium discusses new gov't.**

Reports indicate Misrata influential figures such as former VP Ahmed Maiteeg and Democratic Party head Mohamed Sawan attended a symposium in Misrata where the formation of a new

unified executive authority and the inclusion of LNA commander Khalifa Haftar was discussed on 15 April.

- **LNA 128 BDE border drug seizure**

Desert patrols affiliated with the LNA 128 Reinforced Brigade intercepted 450k hallucinogenic pills onboard five smuggling vehicles travelling from Niger to Libya. The brigade reported the development on 15 April, though the arrest took place on 07 April during desert patrols along the border strip and El-Salvador Pass between Niger, Chad, and Libya.

# 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 atmospheric reported as of 1700hrs LT.**

- **Report n°6255:** Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

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

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

**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**  
N/A

# 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