



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



Strictly Confidential & Exclusive for ConocoPhillips Libya



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

18 April 2023

Tripoli

- Tripoli: DSRSG meets MPs
- Tripoli: Trabelsi to restructure security directorates

Nationwide / General

- Fezzan component warns Sudan violence to impact Libya
- Tarhuna: Shooting incident due to harassment
- LNA: Six-member IS sleeper cell arrested
- Bathily to address UNSC on Libya
- Sirte: Bashagha-Al-Qatrani meeting
- Benghazi: Haftar holds iftar banquet

Oil & Gas Update

- Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
TRIPOLI	3
NATIONWIDE / GENERAL	4
OIL & GAS UPDATE	6
VERACITY SCALE	7

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) 13TH 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°6262:** Tripoli: DSRSG meets MPs

DSRSG Raisedon Zenenga discussed the UN SRSG's political initiative to hold elections in 2023 during a meeting with House of Representatives (HoR) members representing Tripoli, Benghazi, Murzuq, and Wershiffnah on 17 April. Zeninga stressed the importance of completing electoral laws in time for holding elections this year. For their part, the MPs discussed the political and security challenges that obstruct progress in Libya.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Tripoli 's HoR 's HQ
Incident Date: 17 April
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: UN; HoR
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor the efforts of the United Nations (UN) to hold elections.

- **Report n°6263:** Tripoli: Trabelsi to restructure security directorates

GNU Interior Minister Emad Trabelsi praised the work of his ministry's employees to maintain security amid a noticeable improvement in security since the launch of the ministry's security plan for the greater Tripoli area during an iftar banquet on 16 April. Notably, Trabelsi stated that security directorates will be restructured according to their geographical area and manpower in order to strengthen the security sector. Trabelsi added that his ministry will extend control over all Libyan ports, starting with the western and northwest regions.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Mol 's HQ
Incident Date: 16 April
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Mol
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue mentoring the Mol meetings.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Fezzan component warns Sudan violence to impact Libya**

Head of the Military Organization and Administration Authority in southern Libya Abdelsalam Al-Busaifi warned that the military escalation in Sudan will have an impact on the situation in Libya unless rapid and serious steps are taken to avoid such repercussions in a statement addressed to the GNU and LNA Chiefs of Staff on 16 April. Al-Busaifi called for the closure of borders and the deployment of military forces across border areas to prevent any infiltration, in addition to using Al-Kufra Airport for aerial reconnaissance missions. Al-Busaifi noted that the southeastern region adjacent to the northern regions of Sudan would be the most affected if the clashes in Sudan spill over into Libya.

- **Tarhuna: Shooting incident due to harassment**

Reports indicate Tarhuna-based Al-Kisher militia shot and injured a local man on Tarhuna's Al-Salat Road in the early hours on 18 April. The victim argued with an Al-Kisher militiaman securing the road, which is crowded with pedestrians and shops. The militiaman verbally harassed the victim's sister. As a result of the shooting, crowds marched towards Al-Salat Traffic Lights, chanting slogans against Al-Kisher militia. In response, the 444 Fighting Brigade intervened and forced the militia to retreat from the city centre towards their base in the Dawoon area. Of note, this faction of Al-Kisher militia is considered part of the Counter-Terrorism Force (CTF) - Tarhuna branch. It is worth mentioning that Mohamed Al-Kisher is the Mayor of Tarhunah Municipality.

- **LNA: Six-member IS sleeper cell arrested**

The LNA's War Information Division reported the arrest of a six-member Islamic State (IS) sleeper cell including women linked to extremists outside of Libya that intended to attack LNA interests in-country on 16 April. The arrest was carried out by the Anti-Terrorism Department and the Internal Security Agency (ISA) in the east after monitoring their movements for two months. The LNA did not disclose the area in which the arrest was conducted.

- **Bathily to address UNSC on Libya**

UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily is scheduled to brief the UN Security Council (UNSC) on the latest developments in Libya at 1600hrs LT on 18 April.

- **Sirte: Bashagha-Al-Qatrani meeting**

GNS Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha met with his deputy for the eastern region Ali Al-Qatrani and discussed the government's work, including launching national development projects at the PM Office in Sirte on 17 April. Bashagha approved several financial allocations. It will be recalled that Bashagha recently launched the "Development of a Nation" initiative for all municipalities at a cost of 1.5 billion Libyan Dinars (LYD).

- **Benghazi: Haftar holds iftar banquet**

LNA commander Khalifa Haftar held a iftar banquet with LNA Operation Dignity leaders on 17 April.

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°6264:** 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