



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



26 April 2023

Tripoli

- Al-Dahra: Main road closed due to roadworks

Nationwide / General

- Sabratah Municipal Council attacked
- 01 May: ATC strike threat
- FSA tightens grip on foreign security companies
- Al-Zawiya/Tarhunah: Alleged military gatherings
- Al-Zawiya: Buzreiba-Al-Beidja dispute
- Gaddafi political team: Saif in contact with all countries

Oil & Gas Update

- Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

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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) 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°6276:** Al-Dahra: Main road closed due to roadworks

WB sources reported Al-Dahra main road from Shafko Roundabout until Al-Dahra Busses Station Roundabout is closed due to roadworks in the evening on 25 April. The roadworks carried out by Tripoli's Security Directorate and the General Services Company, aims to expand the main road in order to reduce traffic congestion in Tripoli's downtown area. The duration of the roadworks remains unknown.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Al-Dahra
Incident Date: 25 April
Timestamp: Evening
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Tripoli's Security Directorate; General Services Company
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Identify the motives behind the roads closure across the capital.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Sabratah Municipal Council attacked**

Reports indicate unidentified assailants opened fire on Sabratah Municipal Council HQ in the evening on 25 April. Unconfirmed reports allege the attackers are supporters of Libya's former Mufti Sadiq Al-Ghiryani. Additional unconfirmed reports allege the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs - Sabratha office will be targeted next.

Comment: The alleged involvement of Al-Ghiryani supporters increases the prospects of similar politically-motivated incidents across the west in the short-term amid controversy over Al-Ghiryani's fatwa with regard to the commencement of Eid Al-Fitr, causing a split between those who supported the declaration and those considering it a religious offense.

- **01 May: ATC strike threat**

The Air Traffic Control (ATC) Union threatened to enter a strike and suspend air traffic control services across all Libyan airports as of 01 May, if their demands to be included in the unified salary scale as well as the provision of navigational devices are unmet.

- **FSA tightens grip on foreign security companies**

The Facilities Security Authority (FSA) issued a statement at night on 25 April urging foreign security and safety companies operating across Libya to register and obtain special permits to carry out their activity in-country. The FSA added that companies failing to abide will be prosecuted.

Comment: Of note, the FSA has targeted a global security company for allegedly operating without necessary paperwork in Libya, and visited the offices of some of its clients over the past two weeks.

- **Al-Zawiya/Tarhunah: Alleged military gatherings**

Unconfirmed reports allege a military gathering affiliated with Al-Selaa militia was monitored in the Beer Terfas area in the southern suburbs of Al-Zawiya in the afternoon on 25 April. Later that evening, unconfirmed reports a military gathering affiliated with the 444 Fighting Brigade was monitored in Tarhunah's Fam Molqa area in the evening on 25 April in preparation to mobilise towards Al-Zawiya to secure the city at the orders of GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. The Brigade's commander, Mahmoud Hamza, allegedly refused to carry out Dbeibah's orders. The brigade has not issued a statement in this regard thus far.

- **Al-Zawiya: Buzreiba-Al-Beidja dispute**

Reports indicate a dispute erupted between Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) deputy commander Hassan Buzreiba and former Libyan Coast Guard commander Abdulrahman al-Milad aka "Al-Beidja" due to the former's arrest of Al-Beidja's brother in Al-Zawiya. The arrest was sparked by a disagreement over the cost to smuggle irregular migrants, according to reports.

- **Gaddafi political team: Saif in contact with all countries**

The political team of former Libyan leader's son Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi issued a statement on 25 April noting Gaddafi's communication with all countries regarding his electoral campaign, and not just Russia. The statement welcomed dealing and communicating with all countries, including the US and UK, as long as they adhere to non-interference in Libya's domestic affairs. Meanwhile, the statement denied allegations that a foreign country is financing Gaddafi's campaign and described the rumours as "propaganda" by opponents hoping to tarnish Saif's image. The statement noted that while Gaddafi's movements are carefully calculated, this did not prevent him from holding meetings with various parties in Libya.

Comment: It is common for Gaddafi's political team to issue statements on Gaddafi's political efforts following prolonged periods of silence from Gaddafi himself and no confirmed information on his current whereabouts. Such statements do not hold significant political weight on the ground, and instead seek to ensure Gaddafi remains relevant in the current political context.

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°6278:** 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