



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



28 April 2023

Tripoli

- Ghneiwa releases Al-Ittihad Football Club player

Nationwide / General

- Al-Zawiya: Locals reject 52nd BDE intervention, refinery ops. uninterrupted
- Leaf warns Haftar of Wagner's "destabilising" role in Libya
- Al-Meshri accuses GNU of Al-Zawiya negligence
- GNU Economy Ministry urges implementation of '22 decision
- 01 May: Dbeibah declares national holiday

Oil & Gas Update

- Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

CONTENTS

SUMMARY 2

TRIPOLI 3

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL 3

OIL & GAS UPDATE 6

VERACITY SCALE 7

SUMMARY

Key Points

- UN proposes new initiative
- Political tensions to escalate
- Tense security environment in Al-Zawiya

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.

Meanwhile, in Al-Zawiya, local anger against local militias using Sub-Saharan Africans to carry out criminal activity is increasing, sparking civil disobedience.

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°6281:** Ghneiwa releases Al-Ittihad Football Club player

Al-Ittihad Football Club fans received player Mohammed Zaabiya after Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) commander Abdelghani Al-Kikli “Ghneiwa” released him following nine days of detention on 27 April. Zaabiya’s relatives confirmed his return, while claiming that he was detained with no charges against him.

Analysis/Comment: Of note, reports suggest Zaabiya was detained following a verbal altercation with SSA-affiliated gunmen while he was visiting a friend who sustained gunshot wounds in Al-Zawiya Street Hospital.

Location: Unknown
Incident Date: 27 April
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: SSA commander
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to follow up on arbitrary arrests and kidnappings.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Al-Zawiya: Locals reject 52nd BDE intervention, refinery ops. uninterrupted**

In a sign of growing local anger towards militias operating in the city, Al-Zawiya residents rejected the entry of a convoy affiliated with the 52nd Brigade on the pretext of carrying out a security operation in the city ordered by West Coast Military Region commander Salaheddin Al-Namroush on 27 April. Video footage showed a military convoy of approximately 50 technicals and armoured vehicles (AVs) affiliated with the 52nd Brigade led by Mahmoud Bin Rajab passing through Al-Zawiya’s Coastal Road via Bridge 27, heading westwards towards Al-Zawiya at night on 27 April. Al-Namroush instructed the 52nd Brigade to deploy along Al-Zawiya’s Coastal Road at Al-Summoud Checkpoint, Al-Daman Traffic Light, and El-Ghordabia Traffic Light in preparation for a security operation targeting smuggling and drug hideouts. Following the brigade’s entry into Al-Zawiya and its deployment, reports indicate dozens of Al-Zawiya residents protested at Al-Daman Traffic Light in rejection of the 52nd Brigade’s intervention, demanding their withdrawal from the city. Reports allege the protesters threw stones and shot at members of the 52nd Brigade as they withdrew from Al-Daman Traffic Light. As a result of the local response, Al-Namroush and GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohamed Al-Haddad ordered Bin Rajab to withdraw from the city in the early hours of 28 April. Of note, Al-Namroush announced that a plan including successive stages to secure Al-Zawiya will be announced soon in a meeting with Al-Zawiya’s Peaceful Youth Movement. Of note, sources reported the Coastal Road at Al-Summoud Checkpoint was reopened at night on 27 April.

Meanwhile, GNU Oil and Gas Minister Mohamed Aoun confirmed on 27 April uninterrupted operations at Al-Zawiya Oil Refinery after protesters denouncing a deteriorating security environment in Al-Zawiya, blocked several roads within the city including in the Refinery's vicinity on 26 April. Aoun stated that the protesters erected dirt barricades to prevent employees from entering the refinery as well as fuel trucks from leaving the Brega depot, though some were granted entry and continued work. Aoun added that an agreement was reached to remove the barricades today, 28 April.

In the same context, 55th Infantry Battalion commander Moammar Al-Dawi (Wershiffanh) announced his willingness to cooperate with all security agencies in the west including in Al-Zawiya to secure the city, stressing that Al-Zawiya's security is that of Wershiffanah's. Separately, prominent Madkhali-Salafi preacher Sheikh Abu Al-Khitab Tareq Darman Al-Zintani called on locals from Al-Zawiya to expel Tafdiri groups affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood represented by Al-Zawiya's First Al-Isnad Company (Al-Qasab militia), including Bin Rajab and Al-Far militia commander Mohamed Bahroun, accusing them of being aligned with the LNA.

- **Leaf warns Haftar of Wagner's "destabilising" role in Libya**

US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf stressed the urgent need to prevent outside actors, including the "Kremlin-backed" Wagner Group, from further destabilising Libya or its neighbours, including Sudan, in a phone call with LNA commander Khalifa Haftar on 27 April.

Comment: Leaf's remarks are significant as they stand as a direct warning to Haftar over his links to Wagner. The LNA and Haftar have come under increased scrutiny over the past week over allegations of providing financial and military support to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) Mohamed Dagalo "Hemedti" in his fight against the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) led by Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan in Sudan. Haftar is expected to experience further political isolation in an event his involvement in the Sudanese conflict continues to be highlighted by the international community. As a result, threats of Haftar resorting to an oil blockade as a bargaining chip will subsequently increase.

- **Al-Meshri accuses GNU of Al-Zawiya negligence**

High Council of State (HCS) Head Khaled Al-Meshri accused the GNU of neglecting the recent security events in Al-Zawiya, which he stressed are taking place only 40 km away from the Prime Minister's Office on 27 April. Al-Meshri stated that amid the "complete collapse" of security and the encroachment of Libyan territory by irregular migration resulting in the formation of criminal gangs, the GNU has been using state funds and its executive institutions to ensure its own survival.

- **Al-Qubba: Bashagha-Saleh meeting**

GNS Prime Minister Fathi Bashagha submitted a proposed draft law concerning the administration of local government and the establishment of governorates to House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh in Al-Qubba on 27 April. The draft law aims to

deliver services across all municipalities and promote decentralisation, according to the GNS Media Office. The meeting between the two sides discussed the latest political developments in-country, including the GNS' support for the 6+6 joint committee between the HoR and the High Council of State (HCS) tasked with agreeing on electoral laws.

- **GNU Economy Ministry urges implementation of '22 decision**

The GNU Ministry of Economy called on authorities to implement decision no 508 (2022) banning non-Libyans from engaging in commercial, retail, and wholesale activities on 27 April.

- **01 May: Dbeibah declares national holiday**

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah declared Monday 01 May a national holiday on the occasion of International Workers' Day with Sunday 30 April deducted from the employee's annual leave.

OIL & GAS UPDATE

Terminal Status

Es-Sider	Operational
Ras Lanuf	Operational
Mellitah	Operational
Zawiya	Operational (as of 1700hrs LT)
Zueitina	Operational
Marsa Brega	Operational
Marsa Hariga	Operational
Bouri	Operational
Jurf	Operational

Es-Sider: Stable terminal operations and security atmospheric reported as of 1700hrs LT.

- **Report n°6282:** 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