



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS

30 April 2023

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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°6281:** Tripoli: SDF allegedly arrests Ghneiwa associate prompting alert status

WB sources reported a military convoy of approximately 20 technicals affiliated with the Special Deterrence Force (SDF) passed through Al-Batata Traffic Lights and headed southwards at approximately 0000hrs on 30 April. Reports allege the SDF convoy entered Hay Demsheq and Abu Salim areas under Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) control, and arrested an elderly man and member of the Reconciliation Committee who has close ties with SSA commander Abdelghani Al-Kikli "Ghneiwa". Conflicting reports suggest the target resides in Al-Hadba Al-Mashro' area. The development sparked a state of alert across Tripoli, according to reports. Sources reported stable security atmospherics in Al-Battata, Hay Demashq, Al-Hadba, and Abu Salim as of 1100hrs on 30 April.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Al-Battata; Hay Demashq; Al-Hadba; Abu Salim

Incident Date: 30 April

Timestamp: 0000hrs; 1100hrs

Source: WB; Social Media; Untested Social Media

Veracity: A; B; C

Actors: SDF

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Assess the probability for tensions to escalate between the two sides and expand beyond.

- **Report n°6282:** Mol HQ: Trabelsi reviews Tripoli security plan

GNU Interior Minister Emad Trabelsi followed up on the first and second phases of the security plan for the greater Tripoli region with the security directors of Tripoli, Tajoura, Al-Jfara, Janzour, and the Four Districts on 29 April. The meeting also discussed security cooperation between the aforementioned directorates.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Mol 's HQ

Incident Date: 29 April

Timestamp: Unknown

Source: Social Media

Veracity: B

Actors: Mol

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

General to monitor details surrounding Mol 's meetings held across the capital.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Al-Zawiya Coastal Rd. reopened, protests continue at Martyrs' Sq.**

WB sources confirmed the reopening of the entire Al-Zawiya Coastal Road over the past 48hrs following days of unrest across the city, sparking civil disobedience including the closure of several roads. However, members of Al-Zawiya Youth Movement continue to protest at Martyrs' Square, where a tent remains erected. The protesters are demanding the implementation of their demands, which include banning the movements of armoured vehicles (AVs) within the city and arresting Sub-Saharan Africans who are hired by militias to carry out criminal activity. Local reports indicate a meeting chaired by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad resulted in an agreement to form a 15-member committee to discuss the demands of Al-Zawiya locals. Meanwhile, reports suggest Al-Zawiya-based militias intend to transfer Sub-Saharan Africans to neighbouring cities such as Al Ajaylat and Sabratah.

Meanwhile, reports suggest the protesters rejected the intervention of the 52nd Brigade to defuse tensions within the city on the basis of its alliance with the east as its commander attended the recent security meetings in Tunis, Tripoli, and Benghazi. Of note, the Western Coast Military Region stated that Al-Haddad and West Coast Military Region commander Salaheddien Al-Namroush ordered with withdrawal of the 52nd Brigade from Al-Zawiya after it was attacked by "outlaws", denying that it shot at local protesters.

In the same context, Al-Zawiya's Criminal Investigation Department (CID) called on locals to support the brigade's intervention while the 103 Battalion "Al-Selaa" militia reported its readiness to participate in securing Al-Zawiya and securing the demands of its residents.

Separately, heavy explosions were heard in Al-Zawiya's Downtown area in the early hours of 30 April. Unconfirmed reports allege celebratory fireworks during a wedding celebration.

- **Al-Bayda: Security Director refutes terror attack claims**

Al-Bayda's Security Director reported that explosions heard in the city were not a result of a terror attack but due to a dispute between two locals in which a vehicle was blown up in the morning on 30 April. The director's statement followed local reports on the presence of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), a damaged truck, in a possible farm. Video footage published across social media outlets also showed another VBIED, black/silver Hyundai Accent, a few meters away from the truck. The footage showed the IED placed under the Hyundai.

- **Al-Zawiya: Kidnapping**

Reports indicate unidentified assailants onboard an unidentified vehicle kidnapped a young boy on Al-Zawiya's Ben Yussuf Road on 28 April. There is no further information available, though the incident comes amid a tense security environment in Al-Zawiya over the past week.

- **Al-Jmail: Militiaman shot dead**

Reports indicate a militiaman was shot dead at a petrol station in Al-Jmail's Hashanah area in the evening on 29 April. Unconfirmed reports allege the militiaman was guarding the station and was killed by his friend.

- **Stuttgart: Norland-AFRICOM commander Libya discussion**

US Special Envoy to Libya Richard Norland met with US Africa Command (AFRICOM) commander General Michael E. Langley and deputy to the commander for civil-military engagement Andrew Young in Stuttgart, Germany, on 29 April. Norland cited a deteriorating regional security situation requiring increased "diplomacy, development, and defense" to support Libya in forming a "civilian-led unified military" capable of protecting Libyan sovereignty and stability.

- **Sabratah Directorate discusses Eid Al-Fitr controversy**

The Sabratah Security Directorate discussed the controversy that occurred over determining the commencement of the Eid Al-Fitr holiday and its repercussions on Sabratah in particular, in a meeting held on 29 April. Sabratah's security director stressed the seriousness and impact of involving religion in politics on the security situation.

- **Cairo: HCS denies Al-Meshri-Saleh meeting**

On 29 April, the High Council of State (HCS) Media Office denied reports of a meeting between HCS Head Khaled Al-Meshri and House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh, stressing that Al-Meshri's efforts are centred around ensuring the success of the electoral process and overcoming the difficulties of the 6+6 committee tasked with agreeing on electoral laws. Of note, reports circulated of a meeting between Al-Meshri and Saleh in Cairo, confirmed by HCS members.

Comment: Of note, the 6+6 committee formed between the two chambers has yet to convene. Cairo will likely increase mediation efforts in the coming weeks for an agreement to take place. The international community has previously stated that an agreement on electoral laws should be in place by the end of June in order for elections to be feasible by end year.

- **Lavrov denounces west 's ineffectiveness to solve Libya crisis**

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov described western efforts to solve the Libyan crisis as "ineffective", citing France's repeated calls for holding conferences to support the holding of elections generating no results. Lavrov called on Western nations to clarify their goals in Libya, Iraq, and other countries during a press conference at the UN HQ in New York on 29 April. Lavrov described a serious violation of a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution that called for a no-fly zone over Libya by NATO, which "bombed the entire country that is now in ruins."

- **Libyan coast: Turkish military exercises**

The Turkish Ministry of Defence (MoD) conducted military exercises for crew of its frigate TCG GOKSU off the coast of Libya, which included air defense exercises and firing from the frigate and helicopter on 29 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°6283:** Crude output at 1.211 M bpd

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) reported crude production levels stand at 1.211 million barrels per day (bpd) and condensate production amounted to 53k bpd as of 29 April.

Analysis/Comment: N/A.

Location: N/A
Incident Date: 29 April
Timestamp: N/A
Source: NOC
Veracity: A
Actors: NOC

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Continue to monitor Libya's crude output levels.

- **Report n°6284:** PFG calls for a protest outside PM Office

Calls over social media by some members of Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) to hold a protest outside the Prime Minister's Office in Tripoli's Ben Ashour area, by all the PFG branches in the morning on 03 May.

Analysis/Comment: Of note, approximately two hundred Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) members held the protest outside

Location: N/A
Incident Date: 29 April
Timestamp: N/A
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: PFG

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Continue to monitor nationwide calls of PFG protests.

the PM Office on 20 March, where they demanded GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to address their demands regarding salary increase, healthcare benefits, and their transfer under the administration of the National Oil Corporation (NOC).

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