



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



01 May 2023

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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°6285:** SDF arrests 4 Al-Far affiliates amid Al-Zawiya tensions

Local reports indicate the Special Deterrence Force (SDF) arrested four affiliates of Al-Zawiya's First Isnad Force "Al-Far militia" commander Mohamed Bahroun aka "Al-Far" in Tripoli on 30 April. All four suspects hail from Al-Zawiya. The arrest comes amid efforts to target local militiamen working with Sub-Saharan Africans to carry out criminal activity in Al-Zawiya following recent video footage showing the torturing of locals at the hands of Sub-Saharan Africans. It will be recalled that the aforementioned footage sparked civil disobedience across Al-Zawiya. Reports suggest one of the Sub-Saharan Africans in the video is responsible for raping and murdering a Libyan woman. The victim's body was found with signs of torture inside her vehicle, according to reports. Such claims, if confirmed, are set to exacerbate tensions within Al-Zawiya and increase the prospects of civil disobedience extending to neighbouring western cities.

In a related development, Al-Far published what he described as a "final call" for those involved in the ranks of criminals to surrender themselves before it is too late, assuring Al-Zawiya's residents that this phenomena will be eliminated.

Separately, residents of Al-Zawiya's Gamouda area issued a statement on 30 April announcing their support for the demands of Al-Zawiya's Youth Movement aimed at establishing security in their city and eliminating criminal hideouts.

Analysis/Comment: The SDF-sanctioned arrests come amid a growing anti-Al-Far campaign leading to increasing calls for their departure from the city against the backdrop of their involvement in the recent video footage circulated of various criminal acts. Of note, the GNU has yet to comment on the security situation.

Location: Unknown
Incident Date: 30 April
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media; Social Media
Veracity: B; B
Actors: SDF; Sub-Saharan Africans; Al-Far Militia Commander; Locals
Impact: Low-Medium

Recommendations:
 Assess the prospects for the SDF-sanctioned arrests of Al-Zawiya suspects to impact Tripoli's security environment.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

ATC Union Head: Transport Minister vows to address demands

The head of the Libyan Workers Union, Abdel Salam Al-Tamimi, announced that the air traffic controllers (ATC) will start their previously announced sit-in across all Libyan airports as of 01 May. Al-Tamimi affirmed that the motive behind the sit-in is due to the ATC's exclusion in the unified salary scale, similar to other bodies affiliated with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

In the same context, head of the Air Traffic Controllers Union in Tripoli Nuri Abu Qassem stated that GNU Transport Minister Mohamed Al-Shahoubi contacted the Union regarding their demands and vowed to present initiatives to solve their issues.

Of note, there are no confirmed reports of flight disruptions across Libyan airports at the time of writing (1130hrs LT).

- **Al-Zawiya: Drive-by shooting**

Reports indicate a local man was killed inside his vehicle in a drive-by shooting in Al-Zawiya on 30 April.

- **Sirte: Arrest/kidnapping**

The LNA's 604th Battalion arrested/kidnapped an individual in Sirte in the evening on 30 April.

Comment: While there are no further details available, LNA-sanctioned arrests conducted in Sirte are mostly politically-motivated and target LNA/Haftar opponents.

- **Update on Al-Bayda car explosions**

The Director of Al-Bayda Security, Khaled Al-Basta, revealed details behind two car explosions in Al-Bayda in the morning on 29 April. Al-Basta denied a terror motive, describing the incident as a criminal act and a result of a local dispute. Al-Basta stated that the first vehicle that was blown up impacted another Hyundai-type vehicle within close proximity in which a foreign object was found beneath the vehicle. Al-Basta confirmed that the family involved in the dispute not does not have any political or military affiliations.

- **Saleh calls on 6+6 committee to expedite work**

House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh called on the 6+6 committee formed between the HoR and the High Council of State (HCS) to work towards carrying out the tasks assigned to them as soon as possible on 30 April. Of note, the 6+6 committee is tasked with drafting consensual electoral laws.

Update: A member of the 6+6 committee stated that the committee will convene in Tripoli on 03 May.

- **Cairo: 3 prominent western commanders to reportedly meet Saleh**

Reports suggest Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) commander Abdulhghani Al-Kikli “Ghniwa”, General Security Agency commander, and Special Deterrence Force (SDF)-affiliated 42nd Battalion commander Hakim Al-Sheikh boarded a Burniq Airways flight to Cairo ahead of a meeting with House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh on 01 May. The meeting will allegedly discuss the formation of a new government that will oversee the upcoming elections.

- **Misrata: Juwaili attends meeting with Misrata leaders**

Reports suggest Zintan military commander Osama Juwaili, Misrata military commander Salem Juha, and the Legitimacy Protection Force aligned with the GNS, held a meeting with several leaders of Misrata in Al-Aziziyah on 30 April. There are no further details available.

- **NOC denies involvement in Sudan conflict**

At the time of writing (1145hrs), the National Oil Corporation (NOC) issued a statement denying “allegations” by a media activist on its support for one party against the other in the ongoing Sudanese military conflict via the Al-Sarir Oil Refinery and that it could be subject to international sanctions as a result. The NOC stressed its right to resort to the judiciary in order to preserve its reputation and that of the Libyan state. The NOC stated that the Refinery has a limited production capacity of 10k barrels per day (bpd), which is not sufficient to even cover the requirements of neighbouring Al-Wahat.

Comment: The statement comes in response to media activist Mohammed Buyasser claiming that the NOC is supporting the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Mohamed Dagalo “Hemedti”.

- **Al-Wattiyah Airbase: TAF cargo aircraft**

For the second consecutive day, an Airbus A400M cargo aircraft affiliated with the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) landed at Al-Wattiya Airbase on 30 April.

- **Subul Al-Salam BDE resumes transit permits via Ain Kazit CP**

The LNA’s Subul Al-Salam Brigade's Collection Office resumed granting transit permits to vehicles and trucks heading to Sudan via the Ain Kazit security checkpoint on 30 April. Permits will be verified at the aforementioned checkpoint, after which travellers can continue their journey towards the border triangle between Libya, Sudan, and Egypt.

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 atmospherics reported as of 1700hrs LT.

- **Report n°6286:** NOC: Mellitah Industrial Complex halts ops. for renovation

Full operations at Mellitah Industrial Complex will be temporarily halted for renovation purposes as of 01 May at the orders of National Oil Corporation (NOC) Chairman Farhat Ben Guedara. The NOC stated that the decision follows several delays for “various reasons and circumstances.” The NOC affirmed that all necessary arrangements are in place to compensate for the gas shortage during the hiatus period. The Mellitah Oil and Gas Company confirmed that Ben Guedara green-lighted halting operations at the complex and the Bahr Al-Salam and Wafa fields.

In a separate oil and gas development, the NOC announced that gas pumping from Brega to Al-Khoms resumed at a rate of approximately 100 million cubic feet per day following a 12-year hiatus on 30 April.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Mellitah Industrial Complex
Incident Date: 01 May
Timestamp: N/A
Source: NOC
Veracity: A
Actors: Mellitah Industrial Complex

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
Continue to monitor the progress of the NOC’s plan to increase production by carrying out required maintenance.

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 Tripoli 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
Mol	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