



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS

02 May 2023

Tripoli

- [Tajoura: Murder](#)
- [Tripoli: SDF deployment](#)
- [Update: 312 arrested in anti-migration campaign](#)
- [Ben Ashour: Protests](#)

Nationwide / General

- [ATC Union suspends sit-in](#)
- [East: Libyan poet arrested/kidnapped](#)
- [Al-Zawiya updates](#)
- [Al-Kufra Emergency Room due to Sudan situation](#)
- [Update: LNA 604 BN kidnaps Gaddafi tribal member](#)
- [Misrata: "Misrata Revolutionaries" demands](#)
- [Al-Wattiyah Airbase: TAF cargo aircraft](#)
- [Musaid BCP: Egypt imposes 100 USD fee on Libyan travellers](#)

Oil & Gas Update

- [Maradah: LNA oil field inspection](#)

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
TRIPOLI	3
NATIONWIDE / GENERAL	5
OIL & GAS UPDATE	7
VERACITY SCALE	8

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°6287:** Tajoura: Murder

WB sources two unidentified militiamen were found murdered in a farm in Tajoura's Al-Nasheea area in the morning on 01 May. There are no further details available.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Tajoura
Incident Date: 01 May
Timestamp: Morning
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Undefined
 assailants
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor the most prevalent forms of crime across the capital.

- **Report n°6288:** Tripoli: SDF deployment

Images across social media outlets showed the increased deployment of the Special Deterrence Force (SDF) across Tripoli at night on 01 May.

Analysis/Comment: While the SDF routinely deploys forces and establishes checkpoints across the city in the evening, the development follows the SDF's controversial arrest of an individual with close ties to Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) commander Abdulghani Al-Kikli, as well as the arrest of four affiliates of Al-Zawiya's Al-Far militia commander Mohamed Bahroun. Both arrests were conducted in Tripoli.

Location: Tripoli
Incident Date: 01
Timestamp: Night
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: SDF
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Closely monitor the increased security presence across the capital.

- **Report n°6289:** Update: 312 arrested in anti-migration campaign

Assistant for Security Affairs at the Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency Mohammed Buraidaa stated that a total of 312 irregular migrants comprising various nationalities were arrested after information was gathered on their whereabouts in Tripoli's Airport Road area on 30 April.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Airport Road
Incident Date: 30 April
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Mol; MoD
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor the most prevalent forms of crime across the capital.

- **Report n°6290:** Ben Ashour: Protests

Reports indicate dozens of elderly man affiliated with former Libyan Mufti Al-Sadiq Al-Ghiryani denounced the head of the General Authority for Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Mohammed Al-Bani, over his disagreement with Al-Ghiryani over the commencement of Eid Al-Fitr, in a protest held outside the Prime Minister's Office in the afternoon on 02 May.

Separately, dozens of Ministry of Higher Education employees demanded their financial dues in a protest held outside the Prime Minister's Office in the afternoon on 02 May.

Sources reported roads remain open including Al-Sekka Road, with the presence of approximately five technicals and ten gunmen affiliated with Security Directorate Support Apparatus.

Update: Rumours circulated over untested social media sources alleged that the head of the General Authority for Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Mohammed Al-Bani, was assassinated in an undefined area in Tripoli, this afternoon 02 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: PM Office
Incident Date: 02
Timestamp: Afternoon
Source: Social Media; WB
Veracity: B; A
Actors: Al-Sadiq Al-Ghiryani's supporters; Ministry of Higher Education
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor the motives behind protests held across the capital.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **ATC Union suspends sit-in**

Head of the General Union of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) Fathi Al-Buseifi announced the end of their sit-in across all airports and gave an ultimatum of 12 May for their demands to be met. The decision came after a meeting between the Union and the Ministry of Transportation, which pledged to address their demands including their inclusion in the unified salary scale.

- **East: Libyan poet arrested/kidnapped**

Reports indicate gunmen affiliated with the LNA's Tariq Ibn Ziyad Brigade arrested/kidnapped a Libyan poet on the road between Suluq and Benghazi on 30 April. The target delivered a satirical poem on Haftar at a wedding celebration in Suluq at an earlier time. In response, the poet's relatives issued a video statement outside Jardas Al Abid Municipality in the evening on 01 May, denouncing the arrest/kidnapping.

- **Al-Zawiya updates**

Member of the "Correcting the Path Movement" in Al-Zawiya Sinan Jarbou reported a relatively stable environment and sufficient fuel supplies in the city, citing an absence of armed presence in the city on 01 May. Jarbou stated that the 15-member committee formed by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohamed Al-Haddad to address the demands of protesters in Al-Zawiya continues to carry out its work. Jarbou stated that the committee's first step will include identifying armed formations and their HQs in Al-Zawiya as well as criminal hideouts, in order to develop a security plan. Of note, the committee is composed of seven military officers from Al-Zawiya, five members of Al-Zawiya Youth Movement, and three notables and elders of Al-Zawiya. In addition, Jarbou confirmed the continued closure of Al-Zawiya Security Directorate by the protesters. Jarbou denounced the GNU's silence and its failure to respond to local demands.

In a related development, Al-Zawiya's Hararat residents announced their support for the demands of Al-Zawiya Youth Movement and the intervention of the "Libyan army" to control the region on 01 May. Beyond Hararat, similar statements were issued over the past 48hrs by residents of Qamoudeh, Bahr Al-Samh, Martyrs' of Issa, and Al-Abshat. Separately, Al-Zawiya's Mayor Jamal Bahr announced support for the Al-Zawiya Youth Movement, though he claimed that the situation in Al-Zawiya has been exaggerated and that the security violations are due to consecutive years of wars and unresolved problems.

- **Al-Kufra Emergency Room due to Sudan situation**

Al-Kufra's Mayor Abdelrahman Aqoub issued a decision to form a 20-member emergency room to follow up on the situation in neighboring Sudan and respond to emergencies including an anticipated influx of displaced persons crossing into Libya and the subsequent need to provide aid on 01 May. Of note, Al-Kufra lies in proximity to smuggling and irregular migration routes on Libya's southeastern borders with Sudan.

In a related development, Head of the Anti-Illegal Immigration Agency Mohammed Al-Khawja ordered increased security patrols along the Libyan-Sudanese border, as well as Al-Awainat land port.

- **Update: LNA 604 BN kidnaps Gaddafi tribal member**

Reports indicate the LNA's 604th Battalion kidnapped a local hailing from the Gaddafi tribe on Sirte's Al-Attarin Street at 2100hrs on 01 May. The victim was onboard his vehicle with his family, before he was forced into a Toyota-type vehicle. According to reports, the man was kidnapped due to his brother appearing in a photograph alongside Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi. The Battalion demanded the victim's family to hand in his mobile device in order to trace the location of the image. It was unconfirmed if the victim, whose identity was unknown, was arrested or kidnapped in a previous version of this report.

- **Misrata: "Misrata Revolutionaries" demands**

Dozens of men self-identifying as "Misrata Revolutionaries" addressed several demands to the GNU including establishing the Misrata Revolutionaries Union and paying former GNA Volcano of Rage Operation members their dues, in a video statement issued outside Martyrs' Hall in the evening on 30 April. In addition, the protesters refused to deal with LNA commander Khalifa Haftar within the framework of reconciliation.

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

A cargo aircraft affiliated with the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) landed at Al-Wattiyah Airbase in the afternoon on 01 May, according to open source tracking platforms. Reports allege at least two other similar cargo aircraft flew to Libya this week as part of the air bridge established by Turkey.

- **Musaid BCP: Egypt imposes 100 USD fee on Libyan travellers**

Director of the Libyan-Egyptian Musaid border crossing point (BCP) Abdulsalam Lamin stated that the Egyptian side is imposing a 100 US dollar (USD) fee on Libyan travellers in their private vehicles passing through the Salloum crossing into Egypt. Lamin stated that the previous fee was 350 Egyptian pounds for entry and 350 Egyptian pounds to exit. In addition, Libyan travellers must pay 250 Egyptian upon entry into Egyptian territory.

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°6291:** Maradah: LNA oil field inspection

An LNA delegation including Tariq Ibn Ziyad commanders Saddam Haftar and Omar Emraja', Southern Operations Room commander Mabrouk Sabhan, 128 Brigade commander Hassan Al-Zadma, Great Sirte Operations Room commander Ahmed Salem, and Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) commander Naji Al-Maghrby were received by the LNA Fighting Maradah Company commander Fatah Allah Al-Abidy during an inspection visit of the oil fields in the Maradah region on 30 April.

Analysis/Comment: N/A.

Location: Oil Crescent Region
Incident Date: 30 April
Timestamp: N/A
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: NOC

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor LNA figures' visit to the oil fields.

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