



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



03 May 2023

Tripoli

- Tripoli: Al-Haddad receives US military officials
- Tripoli: 6+6 Committee convenes; HCS postpones session
- Tripoli: Investment portfolio owners protest

Nationwide / General

- Ongoing tensions in Al-Zawiya, recon. missions over west
- Saleh: Divergent views on presidential eligibility criteria
- INTERPOL withdraws LIA Chairman arrest warrant

Oil & Gas Update

- PM Office: PFG Protest

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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°6292:** Tripoli: Al-Haddad receives US military officials

GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad received a delegation of the US Department of Defense led by U.S. Defense Attache to Libya Navy SEAL Colonel Mark Amblum in Tripoli on 02 May. The meeting discussed bilateral military relations, during which Al-Haddad praised the role of US AFRICA Command (AFRICOM).

Analysis/Comment: The meeting comes amid pressure by Washington to support the formation of a joint Libyan military force between eastern and western forces. There have been several recent statements by US officials highlighting America's will to partner with a unified Libyan army under a democratically-elected civilian authority representing all Libyans.

Location: MoD 's HQ
Incident Date: 02 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: GNU MoD and US DoD
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 General continue to monitor details surrounding high-profile meetings held across the capital.

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- **Report n°6293:** Tripoli: 6+6 Committee convenes; HCS postpones session

The 6+6 Committee composed of representatives from the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) convened in Tripoli on 02 May. The meeting resumed talks on drafting electoral laws. Information regarding the outcome of the meeting remains limited.

Separately, HCS member Amina Al-Mahjoub stated that the HCS failed to convene due the absence of a quorum in Tripoli on 02 May. Al-Mahjoub stated that the session was postponed indefinitely. The 02 session was due to discuss establishing a mechanism for selecting sovereign positions.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Tripoli HoR 's HQ
Incident Date: 02
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: HoR; HCS
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor details surrounding HoR/HCS meetings held across the capital.

- **Report n°6294:** Tripoli: Investment portfolio owners protest

Reports indicate several elderly men and owners of investment portfolios demanded the GNU to expedite the payment of their overdue dividend payouts in a protest held near the Prime Minister's Office in the afternoon on 02 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: PM Office
Incident Date: 02 May
Timestamp: Afternoon
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: investment portfolios
Impact: Low

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

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Ongoing tensions in Al-Zawiya, recon. missions over west**

Reports indicate unidentified assailants conducted a drive-by shooting targeting an unidentified militiaman at Es-Sabria Traffic Lights in Al-Zawiya at night on 02 May. As a result, the militiaman was wounded. There are no further details available.

Separately, explosions were heard in various areas of Al-Zawiya as a result of alleged unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) strikes targeting criminal hideouts. Additional unconfirmed reports allege several police stations in Al-Zawiya including Al-Harsha Police Station, Es-Sabria Police Station, Abu Issa Police Station, and Al-Mutrud Police Station received evacuation orders at night on 02 May.

Meanwhile, UAVs affiliated with the GNU Defence Ministry were heard flying over several areas of Sabratah, Surman, and Al-Zawiya in the early hours of 03 May. Reports indicate the aerial reconnaissance missions come as part of a plan drafted by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohamed Al-Haddad at the orders of Presidential Council (PC) Head Mohamed Menfi, to combat crime and secure the aforementioned areas.

Of note, Menfi chaired a meeting attended by GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, Al-Haddad, and the committee tasked with following up on the security environment in Al-Zawiya in the evening on 02 May. Al-Haddad briefed the attendees of the results of his meetings with various factions. For his part, Dbeibah stressed that the committee's goal is to establish security within Al-Zawiya and implement the demands of the protesters represented by Al-Zawiya Youth Movement. Meanwhile, Menfi stated that the state's agencies are working to implement the demands of Al-Zawiya's people, whether related to service provision or security. The meeting was preceded by talks between Dbeibah and Menfi on Al-Haddad's plan to secure Al-Zawiya.

Comment: The meeting in Tripoli stands as the first official response from the PC and GNU regarding the recent security unrest in Al-Zawiya. The GNU has been largely criticised over its silence regarding Al-Zawiya as it continued to conduct a business as usual approach in negligence of the unfolding situation in Tripoli's neighbouring city.

- **Saleh: Divergent views on presidential eligibility criteria**

House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh confirmed that the electoral laws for presidential and parliamentary elections are ready, while noting his regret over the High National Election Commission (HNEC) and the High Council of State's (HCS) failure to provide feedback on the amendment of the electoral laws. Saleh reaffirmed the need to allow all Libyans to participate in the elections, stressing that the success of the elections depends on opening the door for all candidates to participate without exception. Saleh stated that while he calls for candidates with dual nationality to renounce their foreign nationality after winning in the elections, HCS Head Khaled Al-Meshri demands that candidates renounce their foreign nationality prior to running.

- **INTERPOL withdraws LIA Chairman arrest warrant**

Libyan Investment Authority (LIA) Media Advisor Louay Al-Qariu stated that an arrest warrant against LIA Chairman and Executive Director Mohamed Hassan was permanently withdrawn based on a decision issued by the General Secretariat of INTERPOL on 02 May. It will be recalled that Hassan was being interrogated over the disappearance of an estimated two billion euros (EUR) from Euroclear Bank. At the time, GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah accused Belgium of attempting once again to seize Libyan funds.

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°6295:** PM Office: PFG Protest

WB sources reported dozens of Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) members announced that their protest outside the Prime Minister's Office will be postponed until 04 May at 0900hrs, in a video statement issued at the Ben Ashour Garden at approximately 1300hrs on 03 May. The PFG members called on all PFG branches to participate in tomorrow's protest.

Analysis/Comment: N/A.

Location: PM Office
Incident Date: 03 May
Timestamp: 1300hrs
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: PFG

Impact: Low

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

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