



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS

04 May 2023

Tripoli

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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°6296:** Tripoli: 444 & 51 meet US military delegation

444 Fighting Brigade commander Mahmoud Hamza and 51st Brigade commander AbdulFattah Al-Khabouli met with a delegation of the US Department of Defense led by U.S. Defense Attache to Libya Navy SEAL Colonel Mark Amblum in Tripoli on 03 May. The meeting follows talks between the visiting delegation and GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad on the same day. The talks are allegedly centred around US military training for Libyan forces amid domestic efforts to form a joint military force between east and west forces.

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: 03 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.

- **Report n°6297:** Hai Al-Andalus: Kidnapping

WB sources reported four gunmen onboard a white Samsung SM3 kidnapped a local man onboard a silver Hyundai Sonata near Haroun Café in Tripoli's Hai Al-Andalus area in the evening on 03 May. There are no further details available, though kidnappings remain generally less common in affluent areas of the capital such as Hai Al-Andalus.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Hai Al-Andalus
Incident Date: 03
Timestamp: Evening
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Undefined assailants
Impact: Low

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

- **Report n°6298:** PM Office: Dbeibah receives Al-Bani

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah received General Authority for Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Head Mohammed Al-Bani at his office on 03 May. Of note, the meeting comes a day after supporters of Libya's former Mufti Sadiq Al-Ghiryani denounced Al-Bani in a protest. The meeting also discredits rumours of Al-Bani's assassination on the same day of the protest.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: PM Office
Incident Date: 03 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: GNU
Impact: Low

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

- **Report n°6299:** Al-Seyaheyya: Brief gunfire

WB sources reported that sounds of brief gunfire was heard in Tripoli's Al-Seyaheyya area, near Ben Gharsa Gas Station, at approximately 1230hrs on 04 May. WB sources added it was a wedding celebration in the aforementioned area.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Al-Seyaheyya
Incident Date: 04 May
Timestamp: 1230hrs
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Unknown
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Identify the motives behind gunfire heard across the capital.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Al-Zawiya: Protesters reopen security directorate after receiving reassurances**

Reports Protesters removed the majority of dirt barricades erected outside of government buildings in Al-Zawiya including Al-Zawiya Security Directorate, in the evening on 03 May. The protesters, escorted by several police officer, issued a video statement outside the

Directorate announcing the resumption of the directorate's work following the security plan drafted by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) for Al-Zawiya and after receiving promises by western authorities that their demands will be met.

Meanwhile, member of the "Correcting the Path Movement" in Al-Zawiya Sinan Jarbou stated that Attorney General Al-Siddik Al-Sour confirmed the issuance of arrest warrants of wanted criminals in Al-Zawiya and communicated with the city's security authorities in this regard on 03 May.

Further, Libya's former Mufti Sadiq Al-Ghiryani demanded an end to armed formations in Al-Zawiya hiring Sub-Saharan Africans to carry out criminal activities on 03 May.

Comment: Western authorities' failure to follow through with their promises regarding the protesters' demands will likely spark another round of civil disobedience and violence in the city that has witnessed a tense security environment over recent months, marked by a series of security incidents.

- **Al-Ajaylat: Two separate drive-by shootings**

Reports indicate unidentified assailants onboard an armoured vehicle (AV) conducted a drive-by shooting targeting a local man inside his vehicle in Al-Ajaylat on 02 May. The man was killed as a result.

Separately, reports indicate a local man's body was found inside his vehicle with signs of a headshot in Al-Ajaylat's Al-Zramga area in the afternoon on 02 May.

- **Rome: Haftar on official visit**

LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar was received by Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Antonio Tajani in an official visit to Rome on 03 May. Haftar may meet with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in the morning on 03 May, according to reports. Reports indicate Haftar's visit seeks to facilitate contact between the eastern camp and Italian authorities after Giorgia did not travel to Haftar's stronghold of Benghazi during her visit to Tripoli in Jan 2023. Of note, this is Haftar's first official foreign visit following increased allegations of the LNA providing military and financial support to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) leader "Hemedti" in the ongoing Sudanese conflict.

- **Benghazi: FSA accusations against Al-Saiqa**

On 03 May, video footage circulated of a Facilities Security Authority (FSA) officer appealing to LNA commander Khalifa Haftar to intervene against what he described as harassment and threats received while on-duty securing a bank by the LNA's Al-Saiqa Special Forces (SF) over recent months.

- **Alleged ISA decision regarding Libyan female travellers**

Unconfirmed reports allege the Internal Security Agency (ISA) issued a new controversial decision mandating Libyan women travelling without a male guardian to obtain a security permit from security authorities prior to travelling on 02 May. The decision has not been issued on the ISA's Facebook page.

Comment: Of note, sources confirmed that Libyan female travellers unaccompanied by male guardians are now required to fill in a form prior to going through passport control in which they must declare the reason for travelling without a guardian. This procedure was recently implemented.

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°6300:** Ben Ashour: PFG Protest

WB sources reported dozens of Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) members dressed in military uniform announced their resignation in a video statement issued at the Ben Ashour Garden near the Prime Minister's Office at approximately 1130hrs on 04 May. The PFG members stressed that they will not be held responsible for the actions of other PFG members following their resignation, while accusing the PFG commander of partisanship and denouncing the GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah's refusal to meet them.

Analysis/Comment: N/A.

Location: Ben Ashour
Incident Date: 04 May
Timestamp: 1130hrs
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