



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



05 May 2023

Tripoli

- NOC Chairman meets CBL Governor & PM

Nationwide / General

- Rome: Italian PM receives Haftar
- Haftar integrates 115 BN into son's brigade
- HoR restructures Misrata Council

Oil & Gas Update

- Al-Zawiya Court of Appeal nullifies Hess' acquisition deal
- Crude output at 1.214 M bpd

CONTENTS

SUMMARY 2

TRIPOLI 3

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL 3

OIL & GAS UPDATE 5

VERACITY SCALE 6

SUMMARY

Key Points

- UN proposes new initiative
- Political tensions to escalate
- Al-Zawiya Youth Movement temp. stop protests

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. Beyond Tripoli, protesters in Al-Zawiya reopened roads and government buildings following civil disobedience sparked by a deteriorating security environment. The temporary stop to the protests came in response to a security plan drafted by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad.

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°6301:** NOC Chairman meets CBL Governor & PM

Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Governor Al-Siddiq Al-Kabir discussed with National Oil Corporation (NOC) Chairman Farhat Ben Guedara, support for the NOC's efforts to increase oil and gas production on 04 May.

Separately, GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah stressed the need to increase oil production to 2 million barrels per day (bpd) in a meeting with Ben Guedara at his office on 04 May. For his part, Ben Guedara praised the GNU's decision to approve an exceptional budget for the oil sector in 2022, which he stated helped overcome issues faced by the NOC and contributed to maintenance projects to stabilise production.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: CBL HQ; PM Office

Incident Date: 03 May

Timestamp: Unknown

Source: Local Media

Veracity: B

Actors: NOC; CBL, GNU

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Continue to monitor the NOC's relations with the eastern and western camps.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Rome: Italian PM receives Haftar**

LNA commander Khalifa Haftar met with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome and FM Antonio Tajani on 04 May. The meetings were centred around the rise in irregular migration across the Mediterranean including from the Haftar-controlled east of Libya, as well as political efforts to stabilise Libya and other African countries including Sudan.

Haftar is due to meet Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi today and continue discussions on the irregular migration issue, according to reports.

Separately, reports allege Haftar also held a secret meeting with US Senator Patty Murray and that this meeting stood as the main reason behind his visit to Italy.

Comment: More than 16k migrants arrived in Italy from Libya since Q1 2023; a 166% percent increase compared to the number of migrants that arrived in Italy in the same period in 2022 according to data from the Viminale published by Italian news agency Agenzia Nova. Approximately 10k of these migrants took off from Libya's east, according to reports.

- **Haftar integrates 115 BN into son's brigade**

LNA commander Khalifa Haftar issued a decision to integrate the 115 Battalion led by Abdelfattah Al-Nathouri into the 106 Brigade led by Khaled Haftar on 04 May.

Comment: The 115 Battalion was led by LNA Chief of Staff Abdulrazak Al-Nathouri's son, which explains the importance of the decision. The development corroborates the fact that the LNA is focusing its efforts on a relatively small number of formations including the 106 Brigade and Tarik Ibn Ziyad Brigade, which now have their own air force battalions and are considered by observers as "an army within an army". This LNA effort helps hedge against a scenario where Haftar would lose leverage as a result of the army unification process currently spearheaded by the UN and international community.

- **HoR restructures Misrata Council**

The House of Representatives (HoR) issued a decision to dissolve the Dignitaries and Wisemen Council Of Misrata (DWCM) which was formed by the National Transitional Council (NTC) in 2015, and ordered Misrata's Mayor to restructure the DWCM on 04 May.

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°6302:** Al-Zawiya Court of Appeal nullifies Hess' acquisition deal

The Administrative Judicial Department of Al-Zawiya Court of Appeal issued a ruling nullifying GNU decision (2022) approving the acquisition of Hess' Waha Oil Company (WOC) concessions to TotalEnergies and ConocoPhillips.

Analysis/Comment: The development will not have an effect on the acquisition deal approved by the GNU in Nov 2022. It will be recalled that Al-Zawiya Court of Appeal issued a similar ruling in Oct 2022.

Location: N/A
Incident Date: 04 May
Timestamp: N/A
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Al-Zawiya Court of Appeal

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor developments related to the Hess' acquisition deal.

- **Report n°6303:** Crude output at 1.214 M bpd

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) reported crude production levels stood at 1.214 million barrels per day (bpd) and condensate production amounted to 18k bpd as of 04 April.

Analysis/Comment: The significant drop in gas condensate is directly due to the recent closure of the Mellitah Industrial Complex for renovation purposes as announced by the NOC.

Location: N/A
Incident Date: 04 May
Timestamp: N/A
Source: NOC
Veracity: A
Actors: NOC

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor Libya's O&G output levels.

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