



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS

07 May 2023

Tripoli

- H Bridge: Local taxi driver shot & kidnapped
- Al-Nasr St: Body found
- Tripoli: Celebratory gunfire & fireworks
- Tripoli: Protests

Nationwide / General

- Zintan: Juwaili-affiliated build-up sparks offensive rumours
- US praises Libyan participation in CT training
- Al-Zawiya: Protesters erect tent at Martyrs' Sq.
- Update: Haftar meets Italian Interior & Defense Ministers
- Benghazi: Traffic officer shot
- Ar-Rajmah: Saddam Haftar meets ISA heads
- Benghazi: Tripoli Naval Forces CoS visit

Oil & Gas Update

- Zelten Oil Field: LNA inspection visit

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
- 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°6304:** H Bridge: Local taxi driver shot & kidnapped

WB sources reported gunmen dressed in plain clothing onboard a black Volkswagen Golf chased a local taxi driver onboard a Hyundai Sonata near H Bridge on Tripoli's highway as he headed eastwards at approximately 1530hrs on 06 May. The gunmen opened fire on the taxi driver, causing his vehicle to collide into the concrete barrier near Tripoli Mall in Tajoura 's Al Bivio area. The victim was then kidnapped.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Al Bivio
Incident Date: 06 May
Timestamp: 1530hrs
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Undefined
 assailants
Impact: Low

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

- **Report n°6305:** Al-Nasr St: Body found

The Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) - Tripoli branch discovered a body inside a house near the Shell Petrol Station on Tripoli's Al-Nasr Street on 06 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Al-Nasr Street
Incident Date: 06 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Undefined
 assailants
Impact: Low

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

▪ **Report n°6306:** Tripoli: Celebratory gunfire & fireworks

WB sources reported heavy sporadic gunfire and explosions heard across several areas of the capital, particularly in the west, including Souq Al Jum'aa, Bilash'har, Ain Zara, Ben Ashour, and Al-Dahra between 0200hrs-0330hrs on 07 May. The gunfire and fireworks were heard during a militiaman's wedding in the Souq Al-Jum'aa area.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Souq Al Jum'aa; Bilash'har; Ain Zara; Ben Ashour; Al-Dahra
Incident Date: 07 May
Timestamp: 0200hrs; 0330hrs
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Locals; Local militias
Impact: Low

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

▪ **Report n°6307:** Tripoli: Protests

Reports indicate several employees representing various sectors demanded GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to intervene after being classified as surplus employees in a protest held at the Ben Ashour Garden near the Prime Minister's Office at approximately 1200hrs on 07 May.

In addition to that, several volunteers at the Ministry of Health who worked during the COVID-19 pandemic demanded the GNU to pay their delayed salaries of over two years in a protest held at the Ben-Ashour Garden at approximately 1400hrs on 07 May.

Separately, reports indicate local men denounced foul play regarding candidates' lists in the Youth Local Council Elections in a protest held outside the Ministry of Youth HQ in Tripoli 's Al-Sabaa area, in the afternoon on 06 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Ben Ashour; Al-Sabaa
Incident Date: 07 May; 06 May
Timestamp: 1200hrs; 1400hrs; afternoon
Source: Social Media; WB
Veracity: B; A
Actors: GNU employees; locals
Impact: Low

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

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Zintan: Juwaili-affiliated build-up sparks offensive rumours**

A large build-up of forces affiliated with Zintan military commander Osama Juwaili and the Zintan Military Council was reported in Zintan on 06 May. Video footage documented dozens of technicals mobilised. The reports led to speculation Juwaili is planning an offensive. In response, Juwaili issued a statement confirming his intent to remain committed to a political solution and dismissing the claims. A Misrata convoy including at least two main battle tanks and two M101 Howitzer artillery pieces affiliated with the 111 Brigade was mobilised from Misrata to Tripoli in response to the rumours. Conflicting reports allege the Misrata convoy is due to participate in an ongoing region-wide security campaign targeting criminal hideouts as part of a security plan drafted by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad. Of note, rumours of an offensive in the west remain unfounded as of the 07 May. WB is closely monitoring security atmospherics across the west, including in the capital.

- **US praises Libyan participation in CT training**

Chargé d’Affaires of the US Embassy in Libya Leslie Ordman praised Libyan participation in the US government sponsored counter-terrosim training aimed at strengthening the capacity for “detering, detecting, and disrupting terrorist activities” on 06 May. Of note, the Department of State’s Antiterrorism Assistance Programme offers global counter-terrosim training to support law enforcement officials and first responders to deal with security challenges.

Separately, the US commended the efforts of Libyan military leaders towards establishing a unified army, noting that meetings between the US Embassy’s Defense Attachés and Libyan military leaders highlights US commitment to promote “stability and regional security” on 05 May.

- **Al-Zawiya: Protesters erect tent at Martyrs’ Sq.**

Several locals from Al-Zawiya announced the continuation of their protest and erected a new tent at Al-Zawiya’s Martyrs’ Square in the evening on 06 May. This comes after the protesters’ previous tent was burned down by unidentified assailants earlier that morning. The protesters announced their support for the 15-member committee established by GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) to address the demands of Al-Zawiya Youth Movement, including combating crime and corruption across the city. In a video statement, the protesters announced that they will continue their sit-in at Martyrs’ Square until their demands are met.

- **Update: Haftar meets Italian Interior & Defense Ministers**

The LNA reported Khalifa Haftar met with Italian Minister of Interior Matteo Piantesodi and discussed security cooperation, combating irregular migration, and training programmes during Haftar’s official visit to Rome on 05 May. In addition, Haftar met with Italian Minister of Defense Guido Crosetto and discussed joint efforts to combat extremism and irregular migration, as well as the formation of joint committees to secure Libya’s southern borders.

- **Benghazi: Traffic officer shot**

Reports indicate gunmen affiliated with the LNA's Tariq Ibn Ziyad Brigade shot a traffic officer at Al-Karama Traffic Lights while on-duty in Benghazi in the morning on 06 May. The motive is unknown.

- **Ar-Rajmah: Saddam Haftar meets ISA heads**

LNA Tariq Ibn Ziyad Brigade commander Saddam Haftar met with the newly-appointed Internal Security Agency (ISA) head in the east Osama Al-Darsi and ISA head - Benghazi branch AbdulHameed Al-Ruaid at the LNA HQ in Ar-Rajmah on 06 May, according to reports. Reports indicate Haftar sought to intervene to solve issues between the two ISA heads after several ISA officers under their command were recently arrested in the east, including in Benghazi.

- **Benghazi: Tripoli Naval Forces CoS visit**

Tripoli Naval Forces Chief of Staff and his accompanying delegation met with the Benghazi Naval Forces Chief of Staff at the latter's HQ in Benghazi amid efforts to unify the military establishment including the Libyan Navy on 06 May. The visiting delegation also toured Sousse and Shahat.

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°6308:** Zelten Oil Field: LNA inspection visit

A senior LNA delegation led by Tariq Ibn Ziyad Brigade commander Saddam Haftar inspected the Zelten Oil Field as part of LNA inspection visits of oil installations across the Oil Crescent region on 06 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Zelten Oil Field
Incident Date: 06 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: LNA

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