



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



10 May 2023

Tripoli

- FSA CPs & security presence
- Al-Hadba Al-Mashro: 111 BDE tests weapons
- Al-Jebs: Increased Zintan presence
- Al-Shaab Port: Tripoli-Istanbul cruise line
- PM Office: Dbeibah receives Shakshak

Nationwide / General

- Benghazi: Al-Saiqa SF serviceman targeted
- Al-Ajaylat: Skirmishes
- Sirte: Anti-LNA activist arrested
- Al-Ghiryani Erdogan support
- Garaboli Coastal Rd. reopened
- Ras Ajdir BCP: Commercial traffic resumes
- Wershiffanah: 55th BN commander receives Economy Minister
- Al-Qubbah: Saleh receives GNS Deputy Mol

Oil & Gas Update

- Crude output levels at 1.222 M bpd
- Dahra Oil Field: PFG HQ inaugurated

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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°6317:** FSA CPs & security presence

WB sources reported a security presence affiliated with the Facilities Security Authority (FSA) manning checkpoints across several areas of Tripoli, including at the Seaport Roundabout, Tuesday Mall Roundabout, and Gheiran Roundabout at approximately 0700hrs on 10 May. The checkpoints were manned alongside other armed formations including the Special Deterrence Force (SDF), Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA), and Zintan General Security Apparatus. The majority of vehicles are stopped at the FSA-manned checkpoints, particularly armoured vehicles (AVs), vans, and taxis. The drivers' IDs and vehicle documentation are checked.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Seaport Roundabout; Tuesday Mall Roundabout; Gheiran Roundabout
Incident Date: 10 May
Timestamp: 0700hrs
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: FSA; SDF; SSA; Zintan General Security Apparatus
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Monitor the nature of the FSA's newly-reported presence across the capital.

- **Report n°6318:** Al-Hadba Al-Mashro: 111 BDE test weapons

For the second consecutive day, WB sources reported sporadic gunfire heard across Tripoli, particularly in the south, including the areas of Airport Road, Al-Hadba Al-Mashro, and Hai Al-Entisar as a result of the 111 Brigade testing weapons from their camp in Al-Hadba Al-Mashro at approximately 0000hrs on 10 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Al-Hadba Al-Mashro
Incident Date: 10 May
Timestamp: 0000hrs
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: 111 Brigade
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to identify the motives behind gunfire heard across the capital.

- **Report n°6319:** Al-Jebs: Increased Zintan presence

WB sources reported an increased security presence of the Zintan General Security Apparatus near the World Islamic Call Society headquarters in the afternoon on 09 May. The Apparatus is securing the Society's newly-elected board as they commence their duties.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: World Islamic Call Society headquarters

Incident Date: 09 May

Timestamp: Afternoon

Source: WB

Veracity: A

Actors: Zintan General Security Apparatus

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Continue to monitor details surrounding increased armed presence across the capital.

▪ **Report n°6320:** Al-Shaab Port: Tripoli-Istanbul cruise line

The “Kevalay Queen” ship docked at Al-Shaab Port on 09 May in preparation for the launch of the first cruise line between Tripoli and Istanbul on 11 May. An inauguration ceremony of the Tripoli-Istanbul cruise line was held at the Port. Director General of Al-Shaab Port Mosbah Habibi stated that the Tripoli-Istanbul route will be conducted every 10 days, noting that several other companies have shown interest in establishing cruise lines between Tripoli and other Mediterranean ports. Ticket prices range from 530 Libyan dinars (LYD) to 760 LYD, and the journey will take approximately 72hrs depending on weather factors. Passengers have a baggage allowance of 70 kg. The ship has a capacity of 810 passengers.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Al-Shaab Port

Incident Date: 09 May

Timestamp: Unknown

Source: Local Media

Veracity: B

Actors: Al-Shaab Port Officials

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Continue to monitor the nature of commercial relations between Libya & Turkey.

▪ **Report n°6321:** PM Office: Dbeibah receives Shakshak

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah discussed four service and development files with Audit Bureau Head Khaled Shakshak at his office on 09 May. The files included government spending, mechanisms for activating public bidding for medical supplies and establishing new schools, as well as supporting the stability of the electrical grid via the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL).

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: PM Office

Incident Date: 09 May

Timestamp: Unknown

Source: Local Media

Veracity: B

Actors: GNU; Audit Bureau

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Monitor Dbeibah's relations with senior officials.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Benghazi: Al-Saiqa SF serviceman targeted**

Reports indicate unidentified assailants onboard a white Mitsubishi targeted an affiliate of the LNA Al-Saiqa Special Forces in a drive-by shooting in Benghazi's Shabneh area on 09 May. The target was killed as a result.

- **Al-Ajaylat: Skirmishes**

Skirmishes erupted between two unidentified armed forces, resulting in the death of one of them in Al-Ajaylat's Al-Shabika area in the evening on 09 May.

- **Sirte: Anti-LNA activist arrested**

Reports indicate the LNA's Tariq Ibn Ziyad Brigade members arrested a political activist and alleged supporter of Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi in an unidentified area of Sirte on 09 May.

Comment: Sources reported an ongoing LNA-sanctioned security campaign targeting critics across LNA strongholds, possibly in the run up to potential presidential elections.

- **Al-Ghiryani Erdogan support**

Libya's former Mufti Sadiq Al-Ghiryani called for providing all kinds of political, financial, and media support to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Turkish elections on 09 May.

- **Garabolli Coastal Rd. reopened**

WB sources reported Garabolli Coastal Road was reopened at the Garabolli Traffic Light after dirt barricades were removed in the afternoon on 09 May. Of note, Garabolli's residents closed the aforementioned road in demand of roadworks and the restructuring of their municipal council.

- **Ras Ajdir BCP: Commercial traffic resumes**

Reports indicate commercial traffic including the transportation of goods, resumed at the Libyan-Tunisian Ras Ajdir border crossing point (BCP) on 09 May. Sources reported the return of lengthy waiting times of 8-10 hrs following the resumption of commercial traffic.

- **Wershiffanah: 55th BN commander receives Economy Minister**

55th Battalion commander Muammar Al-Dawi (Wershiffanah) received GNU Economy Minister

Mohamed Al-Hweij on 09 May. Al-Hweij presented Al-Dawi with a strategic plan for the establishment of a new international exhibition in a 450k square metre land in the Ghout Bousaq area.

Comment: *The fact that government ministers meet with leaders of western armed formations signifies the extent to which such groups exercise control over state bodies.*

- **Al-Qubbah: Saleh receives GNS Deputy Mol**

House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh received GNS Deputy Interior Minister Faraj Egaim on 09 May. The meeting discussed the security situation in-country during which Saleh emphasised the need to impose security throughout Libya in cooperation with the LNA.

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°6322:** Crude output at 1.222 M bpd

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) reported crude production levels stood at 1.222 million barrels per day (bpd) and condensate production amounted to 18k bpd as of 09 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: N/A
Incident Date: 09 May
Timestamp: N/A
Source: NOC
Veracity: A
Actors: NOC

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor Libya's oil and gas output levels.

- **Report n°6323:** Dahra Oil Field: PFG HQ inaugurated

A senior LNA delegation led by Tariq Ibn Ziyad Brigade commander Saddam Haftar inaugurated a new Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) headquarters in Dahra Oil Field on 09 May.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Dahra Oil Field
Incident Date: 09 May
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: LNA

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor PFG-related developments.

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