

# **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**



## 06 June 2023

# **Tripoli**

Mitiga: Senussi hearing postponed for fourth time

## Nationwide / General

- Bounzika: Electoral laws signing ceremony postponed
- Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar: IS militant arrested
- Al-Namroush & Al-Sour form new security force for Al-Zawiya
- Rome: Scheduled Dbeibah visit
- Benghazi: GNS PM praises LNA-Mol security ops. in east
- Benghazi: Libyan-Tunisian forum commences
- GNU: New Apparatus

# Oil & Gas Update

Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

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# **SUMMARY**

### **Key Points**

- GNU conducts UAV strikes in Al-Zawiya
- 6+6 committee allegedly reaches agreement
- Anti-GNU momentum growing

### **Political**

Whispering Bell continues to assess presidential elections are unlikely in 2023, despite momentum towards the polls. In the current context, Libya stands at the political crossroads of new government announcements.

Political divisions over the way forward in Libya remain centred around the need to form a new government, and whether this must be a brand new executive to supervise the elections, or a government formed via a Government of National Unity (GNU) cabinet reshuffle and/or merger with the parallel Government of National Stability (GNS).

Unconfirmed reports on 30 May allege the 6+6 committee tasked with formulating electoral laws has come to an agreement on the candidacy of dual nationals and military officials, as well as a timeline for elections. According to these reports, the committee agreed to hold parliamentary elections by Dec 2023 and presidential elections the following month in Jan 2024. The committee allegedly agreed to form a new government with a 6-month limited mandate to hold the elections. More importantly, the committee will allegedly allow military officials to run for office and regain their positions if they do not win, and dual nationals to run provided they renounce their second citizenship if they reach the second round or win the elections.

A final announcement by the 6+6 committee is identified as a trigger for escalation. Localised flashpoints are likely across government buildings in Tripoli and other high-profile landmarks known to host political figures. Still, the overall operating environment in Tripoli will remain permissive throughout these heightened political tensions.

## Security

The flare-ups in Al-Zawiya and Tripoli do not warrant a change to Whispering Bell's assessment of security atmospherics as the broader operating environment in the capital continues to be permissive with a low-profile and stringent security measures.

Al-Zawiya remains a No-Go for expats and locals alike as of 30 May. Of note, access to AlZawiya's coastal road is restricted both from the west and east. WB sources reported locals from Al-Zawiya closed off the Coastal Road west of Al-Zawiya between Mutrud and Surman in protest of the GNU's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strikes targeting the west coast at approximately 1400hrs on 29 May. Sources reported the Coastal Road remains closed as of 0730hrs on 30 May. Of note, the development comes a day after locals from Al-Zawiya closed the Coastal road east of Al-Zawiya.

### 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 nº6416: Mitiga: Senussi hearing postponed for fourth time

The Tripoli Court of Appeal postponed the hearing of the verdict against Gaddafi-era Intelligence Chief Abdall Senussi to 17 July for the fourth time due to his alleged failure to attend the hearing on 05 June. Senussi's lawyer stated that his client did not appear before the judiciary due to local and international parties preventing him from reaching the court to prevent a verdict being issued. Unconfirmed reports allege the judge in charge of Senussi's case intended to acquit Senussi of the charges against him, but postponed the verdict due to pressure from the families of the Abu Salim prison massacre (1996). In addition, reports allege the families chanted anti-Senussi slogans outside the court session at Tripoli's Mitiga Airbase.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Mitiga Incident Date: 05 June Timestamp: Unknown Source: Local Media

Veracity: B

**Actors:** Tripoli Appeal Court

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Assess the security ramifications tied to a verdict on Senussi's case.

# **NATIONWIDE / GENERAL**

Bounzika: Electoral laws signing ceremony postponed

Member of the 6+6 Committee Eiz Eldin Qwerib stated that the signing of the final agreement on the electoral laws prepared by the Committee has been postponed until today, 06 June, for logistic reasons.

In a related development, 54 High Council of State (HCS) members rejected any outcomes issued by the 6+6 Joint Committee due to it lacking a constitutional basis and legitimacy in a statement issued on 05 June.

Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar: IS militant arrested

The LNA's Counter-Terrorism Force reported the arrest of a non-Libyan Islamic State (IS) militant operating undercover in Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar district on 05 June. The suspect entered Libya months ago in an attempt to regroup IS militants and restore their presence in-country, according to the Force.

Al-Namroush & Al-Sour form new security force for Al-Zawiya

Attorney General Al-Siddik Al-Sour agreed with West Coast Military Region commander Salah Eddien Al-Namroush to establish a security force tasked with protecting the rights of Al-

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Zawiya's residents and to prosecute the perpetrators behind various crimes on 05 June. The agreement came following a meeting between Al-Sour and Al-Namroush, attended by Ministry of Interior and Defense officials. The newly-formed force will carry out its tasks under the supervision of the Attorney General's Office and a security plan will be implemented according to a specific timetable.

#### Rome: Scheduled Dbeibah visit

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah will conduct an official two-day visit to Rome between 07-08 June, according to Italian news agency Agenzia Nova. It will be recalled that Dbeibah announced an upcoming visit to Italy during the Libya Build Expo held in Tripoli on 22 May.

### Benghazi: GNS PM praises LNA-Mol security ops. in east

GNS Prime Minister Osama Hammad praised the security operations carried out by the LNA in cooperation with all security agencies affiliated with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in the east during a meeting with Interior Minister Essam Abuzreiba at the PM Office in Benghazi on 05 June.

In a related development, Reuters reported eastern-based security forces deported thousands of irregular migrants of Egyptian nationalities at the Musaid border on 05 June. Security forces captured 4k migrants during raids on human smuggling hideouts, according to a security source cited by Reuters. Meanwhile, an Egyptian security source stated that approximately 2.2k out of the 4k Egyptian nationals mentioned were deported as they were in Libya on illegal grounds, adding that among them were those holding other African nationalities. Those deported crossed into Egyptian territory on foot, according to the Egyptian source.

## Benghazi: Libyan-Tunisian Forum commences

The Libyan-Tunisian Forum under the slogan "Reconstruction of the City of Benghazi" commenced at the Garyounis Conference Hall and will take place over the course of four days on 05 June. The Forum is organised by the Benghazi Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture in cooperation with the Supreme Council of Libyan-Tunisian Businessman. The opening session discussed joint business opportunities across economic, trade, and investment fields.

### GNU: New Apparatus

A GNU resolution dated on 22 May, circulated over social media on 06 June, to establish an apparatus called (The National Apparatus for Supporting Force) which is affiliated with PM GNU and it bases in Tripoli.

According to the resolution articles, the apparatus includes the support force members from the formations and battalions of the February 17 revolutionaries to reorganize them and organize their movement, also, the situation of their artilleries, weapons and ammunition according to administrative, legal procedures and legislation in force.

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The apparatus undertakes the following functions:

- Preserving the objectives of the February 17 Revolution.
- Protecting the legitimacy of the state and sovereign institutions and preserving the security and stability of the country.
- Supporting the army as necessary to help secure and protect the Libyan borders and ports.
- Supporting the Ministry of Interior when needed in protecting sovereign headquarters and diplomatic missions.
- Assistance in emergencies and natural disasters.
- Support in securing infrastructure projects and archaeological and touristic sites.

**Analysis/Comment:** The official GNU pages and platforms haven't issued anything in regards, yet. Also, according to the resolution, Ahmed Ali Khalil Issa appointed the head of the apparatus.

# **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 atmospherics reported as of 1700hrs LT.

■ Report nº6417: Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

**Analysis/Comment:** No further information.

Location: N/A Incident Date: N/A Timestamp: N/A Source: N/A Veracity: N/A Actors: N/A

Impact: N/A

Recommendations:

N/A

# **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

Mol 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