



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



Strictly Confidential & Exclusive for ConocoPhillips Libya

KEY DEVELOPMENTS



08 June 2023

Tripoli

- Unconfirmed: Dbeibah cancels decision to form new security apparatus

Nationwide / General

- Rome: GNU & Italy sign several MoUs
- Zuwara: Ongoing GNU UAV strikes
- ATC Union renews threats
- UNSMIL: Electoral laws require buy-in from all parties
- PC calls on 6+6 to address contested elements
- HCS National Accord Bloc welcomes 6+6 Bouznika outcomes
- Tobruk: GNS announces end of “successful” security ops.

Oil & Gas Update

- Ajkara Gas Plant reoperated

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SUMMARY

Key Points

- 6+6 Committee delay electoral laws announcement
- GNU commence 2nd phase of west security ops.
- Political tensions continue to escalate

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).

The 6+6 committee tasked with formulating electoral laws concluded meetings in Bouznika, Morocco, and a final agreement on the electoral laws is expected to be announced on 06 June in a signing ceremony attended by the heads of Libya's two chambers.

Regardless of the potential consensus reached during the inter-parliamentary discussions, it is assessed the electoral laws will require the final approval of the eastern-based parliament, which will likely delay the path towards elections in favour of a new government.

Meanwhile, it is anticipated all stakeholders will continue to pay lip-service to elections whilst pursuing specific political agendas and securing their interests. A key escalation trigger in the next few weeks will be the 6+6 committee's potential publication of electoral laws that compel presidential candidates to resign from their positions and/or exclude specific candidates.

Security

Stable atmospherics prevail across the country. Political tensions are expected to increase the frequency of sporadic low-impact security incidents across the western region, though the overall operating environment will remain permissive for foreign businesses.

There is mounting evidence to indicate the wave of security incidents in Al-Zawiya is part of a sophisticated anti-GNU campaign to weaken Dbeibah's foothold in the city, expel pro-GNU forces, and make the case for a new interim government. The political nature of the demands by the local protesters lend credence to this assessment. This week the GNU announced the commencement of the second phase of its security operations in the west coast region, which will include a crackdown on wanted suspects. Beyond Al-Zawiya, locals could resort to various forms of civil disobedience in protest of the GNU's operations in their respective areas, including targeting critical infrastructure and disrupting vital operations.

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°6422:** Unconfirmed: Dbeibah cancels decision to form new security apparatus

Unconfirmed reports allege GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah retracted his recent decision to establish the Tripoli-based “National Apparatus of Support Forces” on 07 June.

Analysis/Comment: Of note, a statement attributed to the Presidential Council (PC) dated 05 June ordered GNU Chief of Staff (CoS) Mohammed Al-Haddad not to deal with the Apparatus due to this decision not falling within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defense (MoD).

Location: Tripoli
Incident Date: 07 June
Timestamp: N/A
Source: Untested Social Media
Veracity: C
Actors: GNU
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Follow-up on the development to confirm the authenticity of the decree.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Rome: GNU & Italy sign several MoUs**

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni received her Libyan counterpart, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, and his accompanying delegation including Foreign Affairs Minister Najla Al-Mangoush, Interior Minister Emad Trabelsi, Transport Minister Mohammed Al-Shahoubi, and Minister of State for Communication and Political Affairs Walid Al-Lafi in Rome on 07 June. As anticipated, several memorandum of understanding (MoUs) were signed during the visit including in the fields of oil and gas, joint investment in submerged areas in the Mediterranean basin and areas of the Ghadames base, electricity, migration, border protection, water and sewage treatment plants, and connecting the two countries via a submarine communications cable. The two officials also discussed the possibility of resuming flights between the two countries, as well as organising a Libyan-Italian Economic Forum.

On the sidelines of Dbeibah’s visit, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) announced that a declaration of intent was signed to enhance cooperation in the field of security between the Libyan and Italian Interior Ministries, including strengthening cooperation in border security and the fight against irregular migration by land and sea.

Comment: This is the second meeting between Dbeibah and Meloni in 2023 after Meloni conducted an official visit to Tripoli in Jan during which she met with Dbeibah, but did not travel to the east to meet with LNA commander Khalifa Haftar. Dbeibah’s official visit to Rome comes a month after a similar visit by Haftar to the city, which was centred around combating irregular migration from Libya’s eastern ports to Italy.

It is worth highlighting that neither Oil and Gas Minister Mohamed Aoun nor National Oil

Corporation (NOC) Head Farhat Ben Guedara accompanied Dbeibah on his Rome trip despite an MoU signed on the field of oil and gas. Backlash against Dbeibah from the two aforementioned officials could arise as a result of their exclusion. It will be recalled that Ben Guedara lifted force majeure on all fields and ports following his appointment in July 2022 after a months-long blockade, which appeared to be part of an arrangement between Haftar and Dbeibah for the latter to appoint Ben Guedara in place of Mustafa Sanalla in exchange for ending the oil blockade.

- **Zuwara: Ongoing GNU UAV strikes**

Reports indicate GNU unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strikes targeted several fuel smuggling sites in Zuwara in the evening and night on 07 June. As a result, swirls of smoke were witnessed above the city.

In a separate incident, reports indicate Tunisian authorities prevented Tunisian commercial trucks from entering Libyan territory via the Ras Ajdir border crossing point (BCP) in fear of their exposure to UAV strikes.

- **ATC Union renews threats**

Head of the Air Traffic Control (ATC) Union Fathi Al-Busaifi stated that Union's demands have yet to be addressed and threatened to halt operations in the coming period if their demands continue to be neglected on 07 June.

- **UNSMIL: Electoral laws require buy-in from all parties**

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) stressed that the electoral laws and associated issues require buy-in and support from a broad range of local components to allow elections to take place in a statement issued on the outcomes of the Morocco-hosted 6+6 Joint Committee meetings. The Mission stated that it will continue to work with all relevant Libyan institutions to address the contested elements of the electoral framework, secure the necessary political agreement paving the way for elections, and enable a level playing field for all candidates. The Mission urged all players to refrain from "delay tactics" aimed at prolonging the stalemate and called on them to engage in a spirit of compromise to address all outstanding issues and create a "safer and more conducive environment" to hold elections in 2023.

Comment: Following the failure of the Bouznika meetings, all eyes will be on the scheduled briefing by UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily on the latest developments in Libya at a UN Security Council (UNSC) session on 19 June. Bathily could announce the implementation of his previously announced political initiative as an alternative to the 6+6 Committee, which includes the formation of a high level panel for elections tasked with conducting a successful electoral process.

- **PC calls on 6+6 to address contested elements**

The Presidential Council (PC) called on the 6+6 Joint Committee to address the remaining contested elements of the electoral laws in order to hold simultaneous presidential and

parliamentary elections before the end of 2023, urging all national institutions and forces in cooperation with the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to ensure continued stability for elections to be held and their results to be accepted.

- **HCS National Accord Bloc welcome 6+6 Bouznika outcomes**

The “National Accord Bloc” within the High Council of State (HCS) welcomed the outcomes of the agreement reached on electoral laws by the 6+6 Joint Committee in the Bouznika-hosted meetings and thanked the members representing the two chambers for their efforts to complete the legal framework for the electoral process on 07 June. The Bloc referred to the outcomes of the Bouznika meetings as an important step to accelerate work on achieving elections, calling on all political players and the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to support these outcomes and build on them to pave the way for elections.

Comment: The development confirms a split within the HCS between those who support the outcomes of the Bouznika meetings and those who reject the electoral laws based on the argument that they are not legally binding and lack a constitutional basis.

- **Tobruk: GNS Mol announces end of “successful” security ops.**

GNS Deputy Interior Minister Faraj Egaim stated that a security operation at the Port of Kampot targeting drug dealers and human smugglers resulted in the seizure of over 300 boxes of tramadol pills, over 170 quintals of hash, approximately 12 kg of heroin, and thousands of narcotic pills on 07 June. Egaim claimed that over 90% of irregular migration and drug hideouts have been eliminated in the city. Egaim’s remarks came during a press conference held at the Tobruk Security Directorate during which he announced the end of security operations in Umm Sa'ad, Bi'r al Ashhab, Kambut and Tobruk. In a controversial comment, Egaim stated while his ministry respects the sheikhs and notables of any Libyan region, they do not take permission from them to enter any region.

- **Washington: GBL Governor meets Treasury Dept. official**

US Special Envoy to Libya Richard Norland reported a meeting between Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Governor Al-Siddik Al-Kabir and US Department of the Treasury Deputy Assistant Secretary for Africa and the Middle East Eric Meyer in Washington on 07 June. Meyer discussed with Al-Kabir budget transparency, revenue management, money laundering, among other financial issues according to Norland. Norland stated that with increased oil revenues, Libyans share a common interest to ensure state funds are used in a transparent and equal manner.

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°6423:** Ajkara Gas Plant reoperated

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced on 07 June the reoperation of Ajkharah Gas Plant in contractual area 91, which has been out of service since 2013. The Plant has a daily production capacity of 130 million cubic feet of gas.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Ajkara Gas Plant

Incident Date: 07 June

Timestamp: Unknown

Source: NOC

Veracity: A

Actors: NOC

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Continue to monitor the reactivation of oil and gas infrastructure post-maintenance.

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