



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



03 July 2023

Tripoli

- Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

Nationwide / General

- Al-Meshri: New roadmap next week, elections by March '24
- Al-Zawiya: Abu Zreiba receives HCS Head & GNS Deputy PM
- Lebanon: Hannibal Gaddafi hospitalised again
- Fly Oya launches Tripoli-Dubai route

Oil & Gas Update

- Tripoli: Rumoured Ben Guedara-Dbeibah meeting

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SUMMARY

Key Points

- LNA ready to use oil card in negotiations
- GNS wants to scrutinize NOC finances
- Elections highly unlikely in 2023

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 HoR appointed new heads of the Constitutional Court and Administrative Control Authority (ACA) in a session on 26 June. The move was widely condemned by 6+6 committee members who view the HoR's manoeuvre as an attempt to derail and undermine the progress made on the electoral laws. Observers argue the move was sanctioned by Belqasem, Haftar's son in charge of political affairs. The move to appoint a new head of the Constitutional Court is controversial given the HoR and High Council of State (HCS) previously agreed to freeze all talks pertaining to the court. The HoR move will likely exacerbate tensions with the HCS.

Meanwhile, Russian Ambassador to Libya Aydar Aganin presented his credentials to Presidential Council (PC) Head Mohamed Menfi in Tripoli on 26 June. It is unclear if Ambassador Aganin will now operate from Tripoli, though Russian government officials previously stated he will be temporarily based at Radisson Blu Al-Mahary Hotel. The Russian diplomatic presence will likely seek to counter US influence in Tripoli and across the country.

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.

Oil & Gas

The threat of an LNA-induced oil blockade has significantly increased across all scenarios and is now assessed a likely in the next three months. Against the backdrop of mounting political tension, backchannel negotiations to form a new government, and diplomatic pressure, the LNA may be compelled to utilize the "oil card" to raise its bargaining leverage in the medium term (3-6 months). The LNA is unlikely to directly sanction a blockade but may instead do so by exploiting local grievances to restrict oil exports and exert pressure on the GNU.

TRIPOLI

- **Report n°6478:** 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

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Al-Meshri: New roadmap next week, elections by March '24**

High Council of State (HCS) Head Khaled Al-Mishri announced that the HCS and the House of Representatives (HoR) will issue a political roadmap aimed at holding elections next week, which will include the formation of a new government and electoral laws on 02 July. Al-Meshri provided a new election timeline, stating that elections will be held no later than mid March 2024.

In addition, Al-Meshri stressed that if GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah fails to hand over power to the newly-elected government, alternative measures will be taken. Further, Al-Meshri stated a new head for the High National Election Commission (HNEC) must be elected due to the court rulings issued against the current head.

Comment: Al-Meshri's comments corroborate the diminishing relevance of the 6+6 Joint Committee and the consensus it reached in Bouznika regarding the electoral laws, while also confirming that elections by the end of this year are no longer feasible in the current political climate.

- **Al-Zawiya: Abu Zreiba receives HCS Head & GNS Deputy PM**

High Council of State (HCS) Head Khaled Al-Meshri, accompanied by GNS Deputy Prime Minister Khaled Al-Osta, western tribesmen, and MPs visited MP and Al-Zawiya representative Ali Abu Zreiba in Al-Zawiya's Abu Surra area on 02 July. The visiting delegation extended their Eid Al-Adha greetings. It will be recalled Abu Zreiba claimed his residence was targeted in GNU unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strikes in Al-Zawiya in May 2023, while also claiming that his nephew was injured in these strikes. At the time of the GNU's security campaign, Abu Zreiba called for a war to be declared on the GNU as a result of its operations in his hometown of Al-Zawiya.

Comment: Al-Meshri's appearance alongside Al-Osta comes amid a continued unsteady relationship with GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah and efforts to replace him via the formation of a new limited government.

- **Lebanon: Hannibal Gaddafi hospitalised again**

Reports indicate Hannibal Gaddafi was transferred to a hospital in Lebanon for a second time over recent weeks and is in a critical health condition after going on a hunger strike on 03 June to protest his detention in Lebanon without a trial since 2015. Hannibal's lawyer corroborated his client's second hospital visit.

- **Fly Oya launches Tripoli-Dubai route**

National carrier Fly Oya announced the launch of a new direct route between Tripoli and Dubai scheduled to commence on 22 July with one flight per week every Saturday. Of note, national carriers have announced the launch of similar direct flights between Tripoli and Dubai, though they have failed to materialize.

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°6479:** Tripoli: Rumoured Ben Guedara-Dbeibah meeting

Reports suggest a meeting will be held between National Oil Corporation (NOC) Chairman Farhat Ben Guedara and GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah in Tripoli on 03 July during which the two officials are expected to discuss issues surrounding oil revenue sharing at the source and NOC spending transparency amid reports of the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) withholding the NOC's 2023 budget. Unconfirmed reports allege the meeting could result in the replacement or dismissal of Ben Guedara.

Analysis/Comment: The timing of the rumoured meeting is significant as it comes amid growing calls from the eastern bloc including GNS Prime Minister Osama Hammad for an oil blockade in protest of the GNU's use misuse of energy revenue. It will be recalled that Dbeibah's decision to appoint Ben Guedara's in July 2022 ended a months-long oil blockade orchestrated by LNA-aligned groups.

Location: Unknown
Incident Date: 03 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: NOC; GNU

Impact: Moderate-High

Recommendations:
 Closely monitor the evolution of developments related to the oil blockade and assess threat likelihood and impact.

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