



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS



05 July 2023

Tripoli

- Mol HQ: WM Mayors reject Mol restructuring of security directorates
- Hamza Camp/Edraiby: Weapon testing & UAV activity

Nationwide / General

- GNU forms joint force to reopen Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Rd.
- Berniq Airways launches Benghazi-Dubai route

Oil & Gas Update

- CBL HQ: CBL Governor receives NOC Chairman
- Crude output at 1.204 M bpd

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SUMMARY

Key Points

- LNA ready to use oil card in negotiations
- Haftar supports oil revenue committee
- HCS to propose new roadmap for next week

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).

Multiple proposals and roadmaps are now making the rounds after the 6+6 committee's failure to break the political deadlock and produce electoral laws that are unanimously approved. High Council of State (HCS) Head Khaled Al-Mishri announced that the HCS and 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. 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.

Security

Stable atmospherics prevail across the country. An uptick in tensions was recorded along the coastal road westwards from Al-Zawiya to Ras Ajdir. Travellers are advised to exercise caution and factor potential disruptions in journey management plans. Reports indicate armoured vehicles (AVs) affiliated with Al-Sel'a and Al-Kabowata armed formations mobilised towards the Rass Youssef Gate and closed off the Coastal Road near the Mellitah Industrial Complex at approximately 0500hrs on 04 July in protest of the arrest of Al-Kabowar armed formation commander Abdo Al-Kabou (Al-Zawiya) at the orders of the Attorney General on several charges including murder, drug trafficking, and smuggling. The arrest was conducted at the LibyanTunisian Ras Ajdir border crossing point (BCP) on 04 July. Reports indicate an armed formation from Zuwara intercepted the convoy carrying the suspect and managed to release him. The tensions have led to rumours the GNU is planning to seize control of the Ras Ajdir border crossing.

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°6483:** MoI HQ: WM Mayors reject MoI restricting of security directorates

In a press conference held at the GNU Ministry of Interior (MoI) HQ on 04 July, GNU Interior Minister Emad Trabelsi announced the restructuring of security directorates in the western mountain regions following the formation of a specialised committee that worked on a reorganisation plan over the past months on 04 July. Trabelsi stated that the plan includes the merging of several security directorates divided into three categories; the east mountain security directorate based in Gharyan, the western mountain security directorate based in Nalut, and the central mountain security directorate in Al-Ryanna in addition to the Ghadames Security Directorate as it is a border area. Trabelsi stated that these directorates will be provided with similar support to that of the Tripoli Security Directorate and will include police stations, criminal investigation departments, rescue and traffic departments. In response to criticism over his decision to reorganize the western mountain security directorate into three districts instead of nine, Trabelsi stressed that the decision is final and irreversible. Trabelsi stated that the coming period will see the restructuring of security directorates in the west coast and eventually across Libya's regions.

In addition, Trabelsi stated that the MoI will open the border towers along the border strip between Libya and Tunisia from the Ras Ajdir border crossing point (BCP) in the north until Dehiza-Wazen BCP in the south. Further, Trabelsi stated that the MoI will launch a security campaign against irregular migration, noting cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation to organise foreign workers in Libya.

In response, Mayors of the western mountain region municipalities called on the Nafusa Mountains, western region, and GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to prevent Trabelsi from implementing this decision, accusing the minister of ignoring the geographical and tribal composition of the region. The mayors warned that Trabelsi's decision will sow divisions and revive tribal strife in the region.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: MoI HQ
Incident Date: 04 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: MoI; Mayors
Impact: Low

Recommendations: Assess the possible ramifications tied to the MoI's latest decision within the security sector.

- **Report n°6484:** Hamza Camp/Edraiby: Weapon testing & UAV activity

WB sources reported heavy sporadic gunfire in Tripoli's Al-Hadba Al-Mashro' area as a result of the 111 Brigade testing weapons at Hamza Camp at approximately 0100hrs on 05 July.

Separately, sources monitored an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) over Tripoli's Edraiby area at approximately 1900hrs on 04 July.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Hamza Camp; Edraiby
Incident Date: 05 July; 04 July
Timestamp: 0100hrs; 1900hrs
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: 111 Brigade; Unknown
Impact: Low

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

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **West: GNU forms joint force to reopen Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Rd.**

The Office of Attorney General Al-Siddik Al-Sour confirmed the transfer of wanted suspect Al-Kabowar armed formation commander Abdul Raouf Al-Kabou (Al-Zawiya) to its headquarters in Tripoli with the support of the Directorate Support Force in the Region, the Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA), and the Law Enforcement Department who managed to arrest the suspect in Zuwara and reopen the Coastal Road between Tripoli and Ras Ajdir on 04 July. Al-Kabou is wanted on charges of murder, drug trafficking, and fuel smuggling.

The arrest came after GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah ordered the commanders of 12 military and security agencies to form a force consisting of 450 armoured vehicles (AVs) to reopen the Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Road and coordinate and inform West Coast Military Region commander Salah Eddien Al-Namroush of developments periodically on 04 July. The force included the 444 Fighting Brigade, 111 Brigade, 52 Brigade, 166 Battalion, SSA, Special Deterrence Force (SDF), Zintan General Security Apparatus, Joint Operations Force (JOF), Counter Terrorism Force (CTF), Combating Security Threats Force, supported by the Electronic Flight Apparatus. Dbeibah's orders came in direct response to the road closures along the Coastal Road to protest the arrest of Al-Kabou.

The latest reports indicate the Sabratah-Zuwara Coastal Road near the Mellitah Industrial Complex was reopened in the morning on 05 July and the Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Road remains open as of this morning.

In response, local media outlets citing military sources stated that Zintan military commander Osama Juwaili's forces were stationed in Al-Swani and Al-Aziziya to repel any movements by the Dbeibah-formed joint force in protest of using force against political parties under the false pretext of combating smuggling. According to the sources, Juwaili stands ready to military confront any change in political positions, warning that the military build-up in the western

region could result in an “all-out war.” Reports of a brief closure on the main road linking House of 60 and Bi'r 'Ayyad intersection at the bottom of the Western Mountains by Juwaili-affiliated Zintan armed factions between 0700hrs and 1000hrs of this morning on 05 July. Reports indicate the closure was in protest of the GNU's decision to form a joint force to restore traffic on the coastal road from Tripoli to Ras Jadir.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to defuse tensions, Al-Sour met with delegations from Al-Zawiya and Zuwara to assure them that proper procedures were taken and presented them with evidence against Al-Kabou on 04 July.

In a related development, sources monitored the movement of several military convoys across Tripoli at night on 04 July and in the morning on 05 July. At approximately 0300hrs on 05 July, a military convoy affiliated with the 166 Battalion passed through Tarasana traffic light on the Beach Road and headed westwards. Reports indicate the convoy came from Misrata and was headed towards Al-Zawiya. At approximately 2300hrs on 04 July, a military convoy affiliated with the MoD's 22 Infantry Battalion passed Bab Al-Salam Roundabout and headed eastwards. At approximately 2230hrs, a military convoy affiliated with the SDF passed Sidi Al-Masry Roundabout and headed westwards. At approximately 2100hrs, a military convoy affiliated with the Zintan General Security Apparatus was spotted on Al-Swani main road, heading southwards. At approximately 2030hrs, a military convoy affiliated with the 444 Fighting Brigade passed Khallat Al-Furjan traffic lights and headed northwards.

Separately, unconfirmed reports allege the 55 Battalion (Wershiffanah) and Abu Zreiba armed formation (Al-Zawiya) mobilised in their strongholds of Al-Zahra and Abu Sourrah areas at night on 04 July following the arrival of the GNU-sanctioned joint force on Janzour coastal road in the evening/night on 04 July.

At approximately 1100hrs on 05 July, reports indicate a military convoy affiliated with a Misrata armed faction passed through Al-Khoms Coastal Road and travelled westwards. Reports indicate the convoy was spotted on Wadi Al-Rabei main road heading westwards at approximately 1400hrs on 05 July. Simultaneously, an additional military convoy of approximately 30 technicals and armoured personnel carriers (APCs) affiliated with Misrata's 166 Battalion was spotted travelling on the Airport Road's Highway, heading eastwards.

Comment: Dbeibah's decision to form a large-scale joint force to arrest a prominent military commander from Al-Zawiya sets to increase existing tensions between Al-Zawiya components and the GNU, particularly following the backlash the government received over its military operation in Al-Zawiya which included a series of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strikes on the city throughout June. In an event Juwaili's threats are confirmed, as well as rumours of GNU-affiliated mobilisations on the Coastal Road, the military balance will be altered and could have broader ramifications on the security environment in the west. Otherwise, the military movements are directly linked to the aforementioned arrest and tensions are thus expected to deescalate.

▪ **Berniq Airways launches Benghazi-Dubai route**

On 04 July, Berniq Airways announced the operation of a flight from Benghazi to Dubai on 17 July at a one-time single-ticket price of 1 Libyan dinar (LYD).

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°6485:** CBL HQ: CBL Governor receives NOC Chairman

Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Governor Al-Siddik Al-Kabir received National Oil Corporation (NOC) Chairman Farhat Ben Guedara in Tripoli on 04 July.

Analysis/Comment: While reports indicate the meeting discussed efforts to increase oil and gas production, the two officials likely discussed tensions surrounding the east's growing calls for an oil blockade from in protest of the misuse of energy resources by the GNU and CBL. Ben Guedara's meeting with Al-Kabir comes a day after he held talks with GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah.

Location: CBL HQ
Incident Date: 04 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: CBL; NOC

Impact: Moderate-High

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

- **Report n°6485:** Crude output at 1.204 M bpd

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) reported crude production levels reached 1.204 million barrels per day (bpd) and condensate production amounted to 54k bpd on 04 July.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: N/A
Incident Date: 04 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: NOC
Veracity: A
Actors: NOC

Impact: N/A

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

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