



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



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KEY DEVELOPMENTS

06 July 2023

Tripoli

- South: Misrata-affiliated convoy movements
- Tripoli Zoo: SSA tests weapons
- Tripoli University: Students denounce scholarship corruption
- Al-Nooflieen: Protest of Hannibal supporters

Nationwide / General

- Dbeibah forms ops. room to secure Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Rd.
- UNSMIL denies upcoming roadmap announcement
- Ankara & Cairo agree on need to hold elections in Libya
- Benghazi: HoR Speaker summons MPs
- Syad: Alleged meeting on GNU-affiliated Coastal Rd. deployment
- Al-Zawiya: Attorney General orders additional arrests
- Paris: 5+5 JMC to reportedly convene

Oil & Gas Update

- PC Office: PC initiative to form Supreme Financial Committee

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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°6486:** South: Misrata-affiliated convoy movements

Reports indicate a military convoy affiliated with a Misrata armed faction passed through Al-Khoms Coastal Road and travelled westwards at approximately 1100hrs on 05 July. Reports indicate the convoy was spotted on Wadi Al-Rabei's 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 Brigade was spotted travelling on the Airport Road's Highway, heading eastwards. The Battalion's convoy was stationed near Al-Furouisiya Bridge at approximately 1630hrs. Unconfirmed reports allege the convoy headed towards Al-Zawiya later that evening.

Analysis/Comment: Of note, the 166 Brigade was part of the joint force formed to reopen the Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Road at the orders of GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah.

Location: Wadi Al-Rabei's main road; Al-Furouisiya Bridge

Incident Date: 05 July

Timestamp: 1400hrs; 1630hrs

Source: Social Media; Untested Social Media

Veracity: B; C

Actors: Misrata armed factions

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Closely monitor details surrounding the movement of convoys from outside the capital.

- **Report n°6487:** Tripoli Zoo: SSA tests weapons

WB sources reported sporadic gunfire heard in Tripoli's Bab Ben Ghashir and Abu Salim areas as a result of the Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) testing weapons at their stronghold of Tripoli Zoo at approximately 0000hrs on 06 July.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Tripoli Zoo

Incident Date: 06 July

Timestamp: 0100hrs

Source: WB

Veracity: A

Actors: SSA

Impact: Low

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

- **Report n°6488:** Al-Nooflieen: Protest of Hannibal supporters

Reports indicate that a number of locals protested outside the rear gate of the Presidential Council (PC)'s HQ in Tripoli's Al-Nooflieen area in the afternoon on 06 July. The protesters were demanding the PC to communicate with the Lebanese authorities in order to release Hannibal Gaddafi.

Location: Al-Nooflieen

Incident Date: 06 July

Timestamp: Afternoon

Source: WB

Veracity: A

Actors: Locals

Impact: Low

Recommendations:

Continue to monitor the motives behind protests held across the capital.

Analysis/Comment: It is worth to mention that 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.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Dbeibah forms ops. room to secure Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Rd.**

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah formed an operations room headed by West Coast Military Region commander Salaheidden Al-Namroush to implement the plan to secure the Tripoli-Ras Ajdir Coastal Road on 05 July. Of note, Dbeibah's orders come in direct response to the brief closures on the aforementioned road in response to the arrest of an Al-Zawiya armed formation member at the orders of the Attorney General.

- **UNSMIL denies upcoming roadmap announcement**

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) discredited "fabricated" reports across local and regional media outlets on a plan to announce a roadmap to elections by UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily on 05 July. The Mission stated that the fabricated reports are part of an ongoing disinformation campaign intended to mislead the Libyan people, urging all media outlets and social media figures to rely on the mission's official website and social media channels for accurate news and announcements. It will be recalled that Bathily emphasised his will to engage with all Libyan stakeholders and relevant national institutions to overcome the contentious issues in the draft electoral laws prepared by the 6+6 Joint Committee to ensure their implementation, paving the way for elections.

Of note, local reports from 05 July claimed an announcement will be made by Bathily in the coming days on a roadmap that includes holding parliamentary and presidential elections by freezing the work of the High State of Council (HCS) and House of Representatives (HoR) and assigning the Presidential Council (PC) to issue a legal framework and electoral laws.

- **Ankara & Cairo agree on need to hold elections in Libya**

Turkish Ambassador to Egypt Salih Multu Sen stated that Ankara and Cairo agree on the need to hold elections in Libya and that an improvement in Turkish-Egyptian relations will strengthen the dialogue in Libya in an interview with Al-Arabiya and Al-Hadath on 05 July. Sen stated that the two countries are discussing how to deal with the Libyan file and ensure the stability and unify of the country. In addition, Sen confirmed progress in confidence building and trust between Turkey and Egypt over the past three to four years and stressed that an improvement in bilateral relations will have a positive impact on security in the Middle East and eastern

Mediterranean. Sen's remarks come after Egypt and Turkey announced that they would raise their diplomatic relations to the level of ambassadors.

- **Benghazi: HoR Speaker summons MPs**

House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh summoned MPs to attend an official session in Benghazi at 1100hrs on 10 July to discuss the proposal presented by the 6+6 Joint Committee tasked with preparing electoral laws. The summoning was preceded by a meeting between Saleh and notables in the Labraq region during which Saleh reiterated that the HoR issued electoral laws on which elections can be held. It will be recalled that High Council of State (HCS) Head Khaled Al-Meshri announced that a roadmap issued by the HoR and the HCS to hold elections will be presented in its upcoming session next week.

- **Syad: Alleged meeting on GNU-affiliated Coastal Rd. deployment**

Unconfirmed reports allege a meeting was held between several western military commanders at the West Coast Military Region headquarters in Syad in the evening on 05 July. The attendees included 52nd Brigade commander Mahmoud Bin Rajab, 444 Fighting Brigade commander Mahmoud Hamza, Stabilisation Support Agency (SSA) commander Abdulghani Al-Kikli, First Support Force commander Mahmoud Bahroun, Misrata's Counter-Terrorism Force (CTF) Reserve Division commander Moukhtar Al-Jahawy and 55th Battalion commander Mummar Al-Dawi, in addition to representatives of the Wershiffanah region. The meeting discussed the security environment in the western region in light of the recent military movements over the past 48hrs, as well as securing the Coastal Road from Tripoli to Ras Ajdir through the deployment of their forces according to reports. In response, reports allege anti-GNU Zintan military commander Osama Juwaili threatened the aforementioned factions in an event the mobilisation on the Coastal Road occurs.

- **Al-Zawiya: Attorney General orders additional arrests**

Reports indicate a member of the 52nd Brigade (Al-Zawiya) charged with several offenses including murder, kidnapping, and torture was arrested in Al-Zawiya at the orders of the Attorney General on 05 July. Conflicting reports suggest the suspect was arrested in Zuwara after entering Libya via the Libyan-Tunisian Ras Ajdir border crossing point (BCP).

Comment: The arrest comes after Attorney General Al-Siddik Al-Sour publicly announced plans to crackdown on wanted suspects in Al-Zawiya following the recent arrest of Al-Kabowar armed formation commander Abdul Raouf Al-Kabou. Such arrests targeting prominent members of Al-Zawiya armed formations will increase tensions between anti-GNU factions within Al-Zawiya and GNU-affiliated forces across other areas of the west including the capital.

- **Paris: 5+5 JMC to reportedly convene**

Reports indicate the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) will chair a high-level meeting in Paris between 16-17 July. According to reports, the meeting aims to finalise an agreement on the formation of a joint force tasked with securing the southern border areas.

Comment: Given France's particular interest in Libya's south, it is not unusual for it to host such a meeting on its grounds. It will be recalled that the GNU and LNA Chief of Staffs requested international support to equip a joint military force tasked with securing the southern

borders as a step towards the reunification of the military establishment during a meeting with the 5+5 JMC in mid March.

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°6489:** PC Office: PC initiative to form Supreme Financial Committee

Presidential Council (PC) Head Mohamed Menfi discussed the Council's initiative to form a "Supreme Financial Committee" to regulate public spending and enhance fiscal transparency including the oversight of oil and gas revenues in a meeting with GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Governor Al-Siddik Al-Kabir, and National Oil Corporation (NOC) Chairman Farhat Ben Guedara on 05 July. Menfi stated that the Committee would comprise all Libyan factions.

Analysis/Comment: The PC's initiative is directly linked to recent calls by LNA commander Khalifa Haftar to form a committee to distribute oil wealth in an equitable manner among all municipalities and thus growing fears of a possible oil blockade in an event Haftar's calls are neglected. The PC-hosted meeting comes after Ben Guedara held meetings with Al-Kabir and Dbeibah over the past 48hrs.

Location: PC Office
Incident Date: 05 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: PC; GNU; CBL; NOC

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