



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



Strictly Confidential & Exclusive for ConocoPhillips Libya



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

09 July 2023

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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°6491:** Tajoura components reject Dbeibah visit

The Tajoura Revolutionaries Gathering announced their refusal of a scheduled visit by GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah to Tripoli's Tajoura area in the afternoon/evening on 09 July, accusing Dbeibah of empty promises with regard to their repeated requests. Reports indicate Dbeibah is scheduled to attend the reopening ceremony of Al-Houma Mosque following its renovation. At the local level, Tajoura's residents accuse the GNU of not providing the same level of support for their municipality as that of other municipalities in the capital.

Analysis/Comment: The development does not stand as the first time Tajoura's social components have spoken out against Dbeibah. Given the incident coincides with mayors of the western mountain rupturing ties with the GNU, Dbeibah must carefully address the situation with his opponents in his stronghold of the west, particularly amid domestic efforts to replace his government.

Location: Al-Houma Mosque
Incident Date: 09 July
Timestamp: Afternoon/evening
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Tajoura Revolutionaries Gathering
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor relations between the GNU & Tripoli municipalities.

- **Report n°6492:** Tripoli: Explosions heard due to fireworks

WB sources reported fireworks were heard across several areas of Tripoli including Souq Al Jum'aa, Abu Salim and Ghut Shaal in the evening on 08 July. The firework explosions were in celebration of the return of pilgrims to the homeland. The first batch of pilgrims landed at Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) and were received by GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah in the evening on 08 July, which caused traffic congestion near the airport on the Beach Road.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Souq Al Jum'aa; Abu Salim; Ghut Shaal
Incident Date: 08 July
Timestamp: Evening
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Locals
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Identify the motives behind explosions heard across the capital.

- **Report n°6493:** Al-Ittihad Football Club: Protest

WB sources reported dozens of Al-Ittihad Football Club fans denounced the Club's exposure to bribery by the Libyan Football Federation (LFF) in a protest held outside the LFF HQ in Tripoli's Al-Sabaa area in the evening on 08 July. The protesters sabotaged parts of the HQ, which was closed and empty at the time of the incident.

Location: LFF HQ
Incident Date: 08 July
Timestamp: Evening
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Locals
Impact: Low

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

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

▪ **Report n°6494:** Tajoura: Drugs seized

GNU Ministry of Interior (MoI) seized 2 kg of suspected cocaine off the coast of Tripoli's Tajoura area on 08 July.

Analysis: No further information.

Location: Tajoura
Incident Date: 08 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Local security
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor drug-related crime.

▪ **Report n°6495:** Tripoli: SDF Raids NACC

Reports of raiding the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)'s HQ in Souq Al Jum'aa area, by SDF in the afternoon on 09 July. Initial reports indicate that the SDF members forced the employees to not leave the building, before they took a number of files and documents and fled the scene.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Souq Al Jum'aa
Incident Date: 09 July
Timestamp: Afternoon
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: SDF
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Identify the motives behind the raids across the capital.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

▪ **UNSMIL welcomes PC fiscal transparency initiative**

The UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) welcomed the Presidential Council's (PC) decision to establish a "High Financial Oversight Committee" to ensure transparency in the spending of public funds and a fair distribution of resources on 08 July. The Mission took note of the "political consensus" reflected in the Committee's membership comprising the House of Representatives (HoR), High Council of State (HCS), Central Bank of Libya (CBL), GNU, LNA, Audit Bureau, Administrative Control Authority (ACA), National Oil Corporation (NOC), and the Presidential Council (PC). The mission stated that the initiative will facilitate a level-playing

field for all candidates in the elections. Of note, the PC's initiative has also been welcomed by various international actors.

- **Ras Ajdir BCP: Dbeibah orders security reshuffle**

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah instructed the Ministry of Interior (Mol) to replace all members of the security services and employees at the Libyan-Tunisian Ras Ajdir border crossing point (BCP) in a decision issued on 08 July. Of note, the decision closely follows measures taken by the Mol to restructure security directorates in the western mountain region, which has been rejected by several groups in the region resulting in the closure of security directorates.

Comment: If implemented, the decision is expected to fuel tensions between the GNU and armed formations controlling the border, including those from Zuwara. Retaliation by such groups could come in the form of road closures along the Coastal Road leading to critical oil and gas infrastructure, including the Mellitah Industrial Complex.

- **Western Mayors rupture ties with GNU**

Mayors of western mountain municipalities ruptured ties with the GNU in protest of the Ministry of Interior's decision to restructure security directorates in the western region on 08 July. The announcement comes shortly after various social components from Nalut and Jadu announced the closure of security directorates in their respective cities. It will be recalled that GNU Minister of Interior Emad Trabelsi stressed that the aforementioned decision was final and irreversible.

Update: One of Alasaba town's sheikhs was subjected to a failed assassination attempt on a road in Al-Asaba town by undefined assailants in the afternoon on 09 July.

- **Benghazi: Haftar receives high-level AU delegation**

LNA commander Khalifa Haftar received a high-level delegation from the African Union (AU) headed by Congolese Foreign Minister Jean-Claude Jakoso at his office in Benghazi on 08 July. The meeting discussed the national reconciliation file and the latest developments in-country, according to the LNA's Media Office. The visiting delegation held talks with officials in Tripoli including GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, Presidential Council (PC) Head Mohamed Menfi. and High Council of State (HCS) Head Khaled Al-Meshri in separate meetings prior to their trip to Benghazi.

- **Gharyan: Gunfire incident**

Reports indicate unidentified assailants shot dead one individual and injured two others in Gharyan's Al-Klayba area in the early hours of 07 July. There are no further details available.

- **Benghazi: 106 BDE batch graduate**

LNA 106 Brigade commander Khaled Haftar attended the graduation ceremony of a new batch of the Brigade at their camp in Benghazi's Qaryounis area in the morning on 08 July.

- **Ajdabiya: Municipal elections chaos**

The municipal elections for Ajdabiya city were held, as polling stations were opened in several schools in the city between 0800hrs-1800hrs on 08 July. Reports indicate that there were violations and abuses occurred in some of the polling stations. Additional unconfirmed reports alleged that these violations amounted to the threat of weapons in some of the polling stations, by LNA supporters.

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°6496:** Crude output at 1.207 M bpd

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) reported crude production levels stood at 1.201 million barrels per day (bpd) and condensate production amounted to 54k bpd as of 06 July.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: N/A
Incident Date: 06 July
Timestamp: N/A
Source: NOC
Veracity: A
Actors: NOC

Impact: N/A

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

- **Report n°6497:** NOC Chairman reportedly not seeking PM post

Local media outlets citing sources close to National Oil Corporation (NOC) Chairman Farhat Ben Guedara denied rumours that the latter is seeking to assume the post of Prime Minister in the new limited government sought to be formed by the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) to oversee the transitional period until elections are held. According to the sources, Ben Guedara is concentrating his efforts on mediating between parties to reach consensus on a mechanism that guarantees the fair distribution of the state's wealth.

Location: N/A
Incident Date: 08 July
Timestamp: N/A
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: NOC

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor developments related to the NOC chairmanship.

Analysis/Comment: The development follows rumours of Ben Guedara's intention to resign from his current post, which have proven unfounded thus far.

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