Libya Daily Report

ConocoPhillips

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

12 July 2023

Tripoli

- HCS initial acceptance of roadmap based on 6+6 electoral laws
- MJI: Former GNA Minister arrested
- ACA HQ: Misrata components denounce 111 BDE-sanctioned raid
- Trabelsi defends decision to restructure WM directorates
- Hai Al-Andalus: Sources deny school stormed

Nationwide / General

- Benghazi: HoR session adjourned
- Al-Zawiya: IED attached to telecom tower dismantled
- Al-Zawiya: Murder
- Sabha: Missing man found murdered
- Benghazi: Haftar receives Bathily

Oil & Gas Update

- Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

Key Points
- PC forms financial oversight committee
- HoR yet to ratify election laws
- HCS approves political roadmap

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 outcomes rest on the House of Representatives (HoR) and High Council of State's (HCS) adoption of the political roadmap and electoral laws produced by the 6+6 committee, which stipulate presidential elections must be held within 8 months of the ratification of the electoral laws.

However, the HoR fell short of ratifying the electoral laws produced by the 6+6 committee during its session on 10 July after an altercation between MPs. The dispute was allegedly sparked by MPs closely aligned with Haftar. Against the backdrop of tensions within the HoR, HCS members proposed ratifying the electoral laws produced by the 6+6 committee and sending them directly to the High National Election Commission (HNEC) to move ahead with presidential and parliamentary elections. For its part, the HCS adopted the roadmap for the implementation of the electoral laws in its session on 11 July, albeit with some technical observations. Still, the ball remains in the HoR's court to ratify the laws. Instead, the HoR appears to be laying the groundwork for another roadmap that aims to form a new government.

On 10 July, HoR Speaker Aguila Saleh presented to his deputies a mechanism to form a new limited government tasked with overseeing the transitional period until elections are held. According to the proposal, the process of forming a new government begins with opening the door for the candidacy for the post of Prime Minister for a period of 15 days from the date the roadmap is approved. The winning candidate is required to obtain 15 recommendations from the HoR and 12 recommendations from the HCS and the government is considered to have gained confidence once the Prime Minister obtains the required votes. The newly-elected Prime Minister must then present his cabinet and government programme to the HoR within 20 days from the date of his assignment.

Given the stalemate, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) will reportedly convene key Libyan stakeholders over the next few days to reach a settlement on the electoral laws.

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.

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 nº6504:* HCS initial acceptance of roadmap based on 6+6 electoral laws

The High Council of State (HCS) announced its initial acceptance of a roadmap based on the electoral laws prepared by the 6+6 Joint Committee, pending a few amendments based on technical observations during their 88th session held on 11 July.

Analysis/Comment: The development comes as the House of Representatives (HoR) failed to hold a session on 11 July to discuss the Committee's proposal regarding the electoral laws. It will be recalled that both chambers previously stressed the need for amendments to be made to the electoral laws concluded in the Bouznika-hosted talks held in early June. Meanwhile, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) recently stressed that the electoral laws in their current cannot be implemented in a manner that promises successful elections.

Location: HCS HQ
Incident Date: 11 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: HCS
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
Closely monitor political developments amid efforts by both chambers to form a new limited government.

- *Report nº6505:* MJI: Former GNA Minister arrested

Reports indicate the Internal Security Agency (ISA) arrested former GNA Finance Minister Faraj Boumatri upon arriving at Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) at night on 11 July. Reports suggest the Special Deterrence Force (SDF) prevented the ISA from escorting Boumatri out of the airport, demanding them to disclose the motive behind his arrest or release him. There are conflicting reports over who ordered the arrest. Some reports suggest the arrest was ordered by Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Governor Al-Siddik Al-Kabir after rumours of his replacement by Boumatri, while other reports suggest the arrest was ordered by GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah. Of note, Boumatri hails from the eastern region.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: Mitiga International Airport
Incident Date: 11 July
Timestamp: Night
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: ISA; SDF
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
Monitor the nature of arrests conducted at Tripoli's only functioning airport.

- *Report nº6506:* ACA HQ: Misrata components denounce 111 BDE-sanctioned raid

Residents, notables, and wisemen from Misrata issued a statement on 11 July denouncing the raid on the Administrative Control Authority (ACA) HQ in Tripoli by the 111 Brigade on 10 July. Of note, the Brigade's commander, Abdulsalam Al-Zoubi, and the recently dismissed former ACA Head Sulaimen Al-Shanti, both hail from Misrata. The statement suggests that the Misrata components are surprised over the fact that Al-Zoubi permitted Al-Shanti's replacement despite the two individuals hailing from the same city.

Meanwhile, sources denied that the ACA was raided and reported that Al-Shanti's successor, Abdulah Qaderbouh, faced no resistance when entering the ACA HQ and assuming his duties. Sources reported Qaderbouh entered the HQ escorted by several unidentified armed forces.

Location: ACA HQ
Incident Date: 11 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Misrata components
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
Continue to monitor developments related to the ACA head handover.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

- *Report nº6507:* Trabelsi defends decision to restructure WM directorates

GNU Interior Minister Emad Trabelsi reaffirmed that his decision to restructure the security directorates in the western mountain region came after the formation of a specialised technical committee that worked for three months to draft the reoganisation plan during a speech marking the handobrt over vehicles to security directorates in the western mountain region on 11 July. Trabelsi defended his decision, which prompted mayors from the western mountain to rupture ties with the GNU, stressing that security directorates are organisational institutions whose work lies in organisation procedures and is not linked to geographical borders. Trabelsi stated that the next phase of his ministry's plan will include the reoganisation of the west coast security directorates followed by directorates across all of Libya's regions, noting that the ministry is in constant contact with the GNU Prime Minister and the Attorney General about its decisions related to the reoganisation of security directorates. It will be recalled that GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah recently froze a decision sanctioned by Trabelsi to reoganise the western mountain security directorates after the mayors from the western mountain region ruptured ties with the GNU in protest of the decision.

Location: Martyrs' Square
Incident Date: 11 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: GNU
Impact: Low-Moderate

Recommendations:
Assess how the MoI-sanctioned decision could impact relations between Dbeibah and Trabelsi.

Analysis/Comment: Trabelsi's apparent persistence to press ahead with the implementation of the decision in neglect of Dbeibah's orders and the local response on the ground, could fuel tensions between Trabelsi and Dbeibah in the short-term.

- *Report nº6508:* Hai Al-Andalus: Sources deny school stormed

WB sources denied rumours of unidentified assailants storming the <u>French School</u> in Tripoli's Hai Al-Andalus area in the afternoon on 11 July.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: <u>French School</u>
Incident Date: 10 July
Timestamp: Afternoon
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Unidentified Assailants
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
Follow up on security incidents to assess veracity and motives.

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Benghazi: HoR session postponed**

House of Representatives (HoR) Spokesman Aguila Saleh announced the postponement of the HoR session scheduled for 11 July until 25 July in order to hold further deliberations on the items on the parliament's agenda. Meanwhile, reports allege a pro-LNA bloc within parliament led by Second Deputy Speaker Musbah Douma prevented HoR Speaker Aguila Saleh from holding the 11 July session. While the HoR failed to hold the 11 July session that was due to discuss the electoral laws prepared by the 6+6 Joint Committee, the HCS announced its initial approval of a roadmap based on the 6+6's electoral laws in its regular session held in Tripoli.

- **Al-Zawiya: IED attached to telecom. tower dismantled**

Reports indicate an improvised explosive device (IED) was found attached to a telecommunications tower in Al-Zawiya's <u>Beir Terfas</u> area in the morning on 11 July. The IED was found by a technical team affiliated with a local telecommunications company while carrying out maintenance works on the tower. The technical team informed the 103 Battalion "Al-Selaa" (Al-Zawiya) and the Military Engineering Department on the presence of the IED. The Battalion and Department arrived at the scene and dismantled the IED. While there are no further details available, unconfirmed reports allege the IED was placed with the aim of blowing up the telecommunications tower in protest of the drone antennas installed on top of the tower. It will be recalled that the GNU carried out a security operation against criminals and smugglers across the west coast region throughout June, which included a series of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) strikes on various locations across Al-Zawiya.

- **Al-Zawiya: Murder**

A local man was shot dead in Al-Zawiya's <u>Al-Mutrud</u> area at night on 11 July, according to reports. Unconfirmed reports allege the victim was accidentally shot by his friend.

▪ **Sabha: Missing man found murdered**

Reports indicate the body of a local elderly man who was reported missing over the past 72hrs was found hand-cuffed, bearing signs of torture and a headshot in Sabha's Al-Manshya area in the evening on 11 July. The victim hailed from the Gdadfa tribe, according to reports. There are no further details available. Of note, the incident follows an evident decrease in criminal activity reported in the south, including Sabha, over recent months.

▪ **Benghazi: Haftar receives Bathily**

LNA commander Khalifa Haftar received UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily at his office in Benghazi on 11 July. The two sides agreed on the importance of addressing the contentious issues in the electoral laws prepared by the 6+6 Joint Committee, as well the importance of the buy-in from all national institutions and key stakeholders to reach a political settlement for successful elections.

▪ **Ras Ajdir: Zuwara accuses MoI of misinformation on death at BCP**

The GNU Ministry of Interior (MoI) issued a statement dated on 10 July expressing its regret over the passing of an elderly local woman at the at Libyan-Tunisian Ras Ajdir border crossing point (BCP) who died while waiting in a long queue to enter Tunisia for medical treatment. The Ministry stressed the need to restructure the security forces at the BCP by assigning trained and professional forces to control the traffic movement.

In rejection of the GNU's statement, the Greater Municipality of Zuwara accused the Interior Ministry of distorting facts in a. statement issued on the same day.

Of note, recent reports points to several issues at the Ras Ajdir BCP, including passport system glitches on the Libyan side and claims of Tunisian authorities bringing in large numbers of Sub-Saharan African migrants into Libya via the border.

OIL & GAS UPDATE

Terminal Status

Es-Sider	Operational
Ras Lanuf	Operational
Mellitah	Operational
Zawiya	Operational
Zueitina	Operational
Marsa Brega	Operational
Marsa Hariga	Operational
Bouri	Operational
Jurf	Operational

Es-Sider: Stable terminal operations and security atmospherics reported as of 1700hrs LT.

- ***Report nº6509****: Nothing Significant To Report (NSTR)

Analysis/Comment: N/A

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

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