



Whispering Bell

# Libya Daily Report



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# KEY DEVELOPMENTS



**14 July 2023**

## Tripoli

- [Tripoli: Dbeibah-Al-Kabir meeting](#)

## Nationwide / General

- [Al-Meshri threatens escalation against GNU over travel ban](#)
- [UNSMIL statement on oil blockade & HCS travel ban](#)
- [Western Mountains: Anti-GNU road closures](#)
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## Oil & Gas Update

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# 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 n°6514:** Tripoli: Dbeibah-Al-Kabir meeting

Local reports suggest GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah met with Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Governor Al-Siddik Al-Kabir in an unidentified location in Tripoli instead of their usual meeting point at the CBL HQ or Prime Minister's Office on 13 July.

**Analysis/Comment:** While there is no further information available, the reported meeting comes amid reports suggesting former GNA Finance Minister Faraj Boumatri was recently detained upon arriving at Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) at the order of Dbeibah. The Minister was reportedly arrested for his intent to submit his candidacy to the High Council of State (HCS) to replace Al-Kabir as CBL Governor. It is worth noting that Dbeibah has attempted to maintain a harmonious relationship with Al-Kabir since assuming power in March 2021. Al-Kabir's tenure has been unrivaled since assuming the position of CBL Governor in 2011, despite repeated dismissal attempts.

**Location:** Unknown  
**Incident Date:** 13 July  
**Timestamp:** Unknown  
**Source:** Local Media  
**Veracity:** B  
**Actors:** GNU; CBL  
**Impact:** Low

**Recommendations:**

Monitor Dbeibah's maneuvers amid growing anti-GNU rhetoric from the HCS Head & the eastern bloc.

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## NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **Al-Meshri threatens escalation against GNU over travel ban**

High Council of State (HCS) Head Khaled Al-Meshri held GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah responsible for the safety of the Council's members and the President from any verbal or physical assault, confirming that five HCS members were prevented from travelling to Turkey on an official work trip after their passports were confiscated at Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) by the internal Security Agency (ISA) at the order of GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah on 13 July. Al-Meshri claimed that the GNU ordered the LIS to prevent the HCS members from travelling in exchange for large sums of money. Al-Meshri filed a complaint with the Attorney General Office, demanding that legal measures are taken against those responsible.

In his recorded speech, Al-Meshri stressed that any future escalatory measures taken by the GNU against the HCS will be met with escalation. Al-Meshri also accused Dbeibah of refusing to hold elections, while reaffirming the HCS' keenness for the electoral process to take place. In response to rumours Al-Meshri was placed under house arrest on 13 July, Al-Meshri stated that he received threats but his movement was not restricted.

Of note, Al-Meshri held an emergency meeting with heads of HCS committees in Tripoli to discuss the travel ban imposed on their fellow colleagues on 13 July.

**Comment:** The development builds on the existing political dispute between Dbeibah and Al-

Meshri for over a year and indicates how tensions have peaked between the two officials. The incident coincides with an oil blockade orchestrated by Al-Azywa tribesmen in protest of the arrest of former GNA Finance Minister Faraj Boumatri who was recently detained upon arriving at MJI. House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh demanded that those behind preventing HCS members from travelling and the "kidnapping" of Boumatri are brought to justice. While recent weeks revealed growing discord between the two chambers regarding a way forward on the political front, it is clear that the two sides seek to utilise the two aforementioned incidents to build on anti-GNU sentiment and strengthen their argument locally for the need to form a new limited government tasked with supervising elections.

- **UNSMIL statement on oil blockade & HCS travel ban**

On 13 July, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) called on all Libyan authorities and security entities to release all those arbitrarily detained and ensure independent investigations, citing the detention of former GNA Minister Faraj Boumatri at Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) and his transfer to an unknown location as well as the prevention of five High Council of State (HCS) members from travelling via MJI.

In addition, the Mission called for an immediate end to the oil blockade in response to Boumatri's "abduction", warning that Libya's oil and other natural resources should not be used as a bargaining tool in any form of internal dispute. The mission stressed that Libya cannot afford "further division and deterioration."

**Update:** The US Embassy in Libya announced its support for the UNSMIL statement regarding "arbitrary detentions and subsequent reactions" and strongly advised against any actions that can lead to further tensions in a statement issued on 14 July.

- **Western Mountains: Anti-GNU road closures**

Images circulated across media outlets showed protesters burning tyres and blocking off several roads in Nalut in protest of what they described as the GNU's failure to cancel the decision of its Interior Ministry to restructure the security directorates in the western mountain region on 13 July.

In the same context, reports indicate protesters in Mizdah and Al-Shgega announced the closure of the "South-Tripoli Road" in protest of the aforementioned decision on 13 July. The protesters held GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah responsible for the "chaos" that had ensued following the decision.

- **GNS PM directives regarding foreign diplomatic staff**

GNS Prime Minister Osama Hammad called on all political and diplomatic figures, missions, and international institutions to obtain a government approval and coordinate with its government to hold meetings, carry out activities, and tour areas under its control in the eastern and southern regions on 13 July. Hammad stated that his government is following up on such movements without obtaining approval from his government and only coordinating with the "outgoing government" through its Foreign Affairs Ministry. Hammad stressed that his calls are in line with the diplomatic and political norms followed locally and internationally, while warning to take all legal and security measures against violators including lifting immunity.

- **LTT: Cyber attack disrupts services**

Libya Telecom & Technology (LTT) stated that its Data Centre was subject to a cyber attack causing a disruption to the company's services on 13 July. The company stated that they are working to restore services, while liaising with authorities to conduct an investigation into the attack. The company stated that it is taking steps to improve the security of its system to thwart future attacks.

- **HNEC to work on simultaneous municipal elections**

The High National Election Commission (HNEC) announced that it will work in the coming period on issuing executive regulations to put law No. 20 into effect in preparation for holding simultaneous elections across all municipal councils in Libya on 13 July.

# 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 atmospheric reported as of 1700hrs LT.

#### ▪ **Report n°6515:** Oil Crescent tribes threaten blockade

Al-Azwya tribesmen halted production at Sharara, El-Feel, and 108 oil fields in protest of the arrest of former GNA Finance Minister at Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI) and his transfer to an unknown location on 13 July. The aforementioned closures were corroborated by oil engineers and a protester cited by Reuters on 13 July. Sources confirmed the production halt at El-Feel, while production at Sharara gradually dropped. GNU Oil and Gas Minister Mohamed Aoun told Bloomberg that production has come to a complete halt at Sharara on 14 July. Oil production levels dropped by 300k barrels per day (bpd) after reaching a stable rate of approximately 1.2 million bpd mark over recent months, according to a National Oil Corporation (NOC) source cited by local media outlets on 13 July.

In a video statement issued at the 108 oil field on 13 July, the protesters were shown closing a valve and threatening to escalate the situation further if their fellow tribesman, Boumatri, is not released. Meanwhile, leader of Al-Azywa tribe attributed the abduction of Boumatri to Central Bank of Libya (CBL) Governor Al-Siddik Al-Kabir as Boumatri was a candidate to replace him, noting that the Attorney General confirmed that there are no charges against Boumatri. The tribal leader warned that thousands of tribesmen support Boumatri and directed threats to Al-Kabir in the event anything happens to Boumatri. The tribal leader also warned that escalatory measures will include halting water supplies until Boumatri is released and Al-Kabir is dismissed as CBL Governor.

**Location:** Sharara; El-Feel; 108 Oil Fields  
**Incident Date:** 13-14 July  
**Timestamp:** Ongoing  
**Source:** Local Media; Sources  
**Veracity:** B; A  
**Actors:** Tribesmen; HoR; GECOL

**Impact:** High

**Recommendations:**  
 Assess the local appetite for the blockade to extend to additional oil fields and terminals in the coming hours/days.

Separately, components from Awbari including sheikhs, notables, and activists announced their solidarity with the demands of Al-Azywa tribesmen regarding the “abduction” of Boumatri and the subsequent closure of Sharara Oil Field in a video statement issued on 13 July. The protesters stated that production will not resume at the field until Boumatri is released and warned the “militias” behind the incident not to repeat such “mistakes” again.

In the same context, House of Representatives (HoR) Speaker Aguila Saleh demanded that those involved in Boumatri’s abduction be brought to justice and held Dbeibah responsible for Bouamtri’s safety, while condemning both incidents on 13 July.

Meanwhile, the General Electricity Company of Libya (GECOL) appealed to the government and all competent authorities to urgently intervene and address the oil blockade, warning of “serious repercussions” resulting in power outages on 13 July.

There has been no comment from the National Oil Corporation (NOC) on the oil production shutdown as of 1250hrs LT.

**Analysis/Comment:** The development builds on anti-GNU momentum, calls for a blockade, and Government of National Stability (GNS) efforts to administratively seize oil revenues. While the LNA’s position on the latest closure of oil fields remains unclear thus far, it is evident that eastern components are utilizing the GNU’s arrest/abduction of Boumatri to justify an oil blockade that would politically isolate Dbeibah in favour of his dismissal.

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# 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