



Whispering Bell

Libya Daily Report



Strictly Confidential & Exclusive for ConocoPhillips Libya



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

17 July 2023

Tripoli

- Ghut Shaal: Carjacking attempt
- Salah Eddien: Military convoy movements
- PM Office: GNU PM receives UN SRSG
- PM Office: Protest

Nationwide / General

- 444 Fighting BDE engage drug traffickers
- Garabolli Coastal Rd: Al-Bugra-Misrata tensions
- Al-Ajaylat: Arrest
- Al-Jmail: Alleged skirmishes
- Misrata Municipal Council reject new tribal body
- Benghazi: ISA issues travel ban
- Al-Assah: Security patrols
- GNS declares public holiday

Oil & Gas Update

- June: O&G revenues production levels

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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°6518:** Ghut Shaal: Carjacking attempt

WB sources reported armed young men onboard a white Hyundai Elantra and a silver Mercedes E320 conducted a carjacking attempt on a black Hyundai Azera driven by a local man on the 3rd Ring Road in Tripoli's Ghut Shaal area at night on 16 July.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: 3rd Ring Road
Incident Date: 16 July
Timestamp: Night
Source: WB
Veracity: A
Actors: Unidentified
 Assailants
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor the most prevalent forms of crime conducted across the capital.

- **Report n°6519:** Salah Eddien: Military convoy movements

Reports indicate an unidentified military convoy was monitored on Salah Eddien's main road at approximately 1800hrs on 16 July. There are no further details available.

Analysis/Comment: No further confirmation.

Location: Salah Eddien
main road
Incident Date: 16 July
Timestamp: 1800hrs
Source: Social Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Unknown
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor details surrounding military movements across Tripoli.

- **Report n°6520:** PM Office: GNU PM receives UN SRSG

GNU Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah received UN SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily at the Prime Minister's Office and discussed holding successful elections based on the electoral laws produced by the 6+6 Joint Committee on 16 July. The two sides agreed that all actors must cooperate to meet the aspirations of the Libyan people. For his part, Bathily stressed the importance of preserving social cohesion to ensure stability and the holding of elections.

Analysis/Comment: No further confirmation.

Location: PM Office
Incident Date: 16 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: GNU; UN
Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor details surrounding high-profile meetings held in Tripoli.

- **Report n°6521:** PM Office: Protest

At least a dozen of locals protested outside the Prime Minister's Office in the afternoon on 17 July, demanding information on the fate of the elderly local woman that went missing while performing Hajj in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

Analysis/Comment: No further confirmation.

Location: PM Office
Incident Date: 17 July
Timestamp: Afternoon
Source: Local Media
Veracity: B
Actors: Locals
Impact: Low

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

NATIONWIDE / GENERAL

- **444 Fighting BDE engage drug traffickers**

The 444 Fighting Brigade intercepted a convoy consisting of several armoured vehicles (AVs) engaged in drug trafficking following clashes that resulted in the destruction of the convoy, six fatalities within the smugglers' ranks, and three arrests on 16 July. All of the suspects were non-Libyans. Two 444 Fighting Brigade members were also injured. The Brigade stated that the development comes within the framework of its ongoing security operations targeting smuggling hideouts across Libya's desert. Of note, the Brigade does not usually disclose the areas in which its operations took place.

In a related development, Libyan Journalist Mahmoud Al-Mesrati claimed that the 444 Fighting Brigade engaged the LNA's 177 Battalion. Reports allege the skirmishes broke out north of Adri village in the Wadi al Shatii District

Comment: The incident possibly explains the mobilisation of several military convoys affiliated with the 444 Fighting Brigade in Bani Walid, Qaryat, and nearby remote/desert areas in the morning on 15 July.

- **Garaboli Coastal Rd: Al-Bugra-Misrata tensions**

A state of tension was reported between the 51 Brigade "Al-Bugra" and an armed formation from Misrata on Garaboli's Coastal Road, prompting an increased deployment by the 51 Brigade in the Gharaboli Bridge vicinity and at the Gwea Traffic Lights in the evening on 16 July. In a related incident, heavy sporadic gunfire was heard in Qasr Al-Akhyar and Alalua villages. Unconfirmed reports allege tensions arose after the 51 Brigade seized plots of lands in Qasr Al-Akhyar. It will be recalled that the Law Enforcement Department prevented encroachment on state-owned forests and lands in Qasr Al-Akhyar at the order of the Attorney General on 13 July.

- **Al-Ajaylat: Arrest**

A military convoy affiliated with the MoD's 103 Battalion "Al-Selaa" (Al-Zawiya) arrested two members of an armed formation from Al-Ajaylat on the desert road south of Al-Ajaylat in the early hours of 17 July, according to reports. Acts of retaliation in protest of the arrest are probable within the next 24-48hrs.

- **Al-Jmail: Alleged skirmishes**

Unconfirmed reports allege skirmishes broke out between the 103 Battalion "Al-Selaa" (Al-Zawiya) and the First Support Force (Al-Zawiya) over administrative borders in the southern suburbs of Al-Jmail at night on 16 July.

- **Misrata Municipal Council reject new tribal body**

The Misrata Municipal Council rejected the formation of the "Misrata Tribes Council" and warned against such measures sowing discord and destabilising the city, referring to the decision as a call for "abhorrent tribalism" in violation of the law in a statement issued on 16 July. The statement stressed that the Council of Elders and Notables of Misrata is the only body established by the Municipal Council and is concerned with following up on social issues within the city and its relations with other municipalities. The Municipal Council threatened to take legal action against the establishment of any other body equivalent to the Council of Elders and Notables of Misrata.

- **Benghazi: ISA issues travel ban**

Benghazi's Internal Security Agency (ISA) imposed a travel ban on Saeed Rashwan, a member of the Preparatory Committee for the National Reconciliation Conference due to take place in the Republic of the Congo on 19 July. The incident closely follows Tripoli's ISA preventing five High Council of State (HCS) members from travelling on a work trip to Turkey via Tripoli's Mitiga International Airport (MJI).

Of note, President of the Republic of the Congo Denis Sassou Nguesso chairs the African Union (AU) High-Level Commission on Resolving the Crisis in Libya. The upcoming conference seeks to bridge the rift between Libyans in line with holding elections.

- **Al-Assah: Security patrols**

The Border Guards reported ongoing security patrols on the Libyan-Tunisian border near Al-Assah on 16 July. The Guards received dozens of Sub-Saharan African irregular migrants crossing into Libyan territory from Tunisia over the past 72hrs.

- **GNS declares public holiday**

GNS Prime Minister Osama Hammad declared 19 July a public holiday and 20 July a holiday to be deducted from one's annual leave on the occasion of the Islamic New Year. Health facilities and security institutions are exempt from this decision. Of note, the GNU has yet to issue a statement in this regard.

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 atmospherics reported as of 1700hrs LT.

- **Report n°6521:** June: O&G production levels

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) announced on 16 July that Libya produced over 35 million barrels of crude and over 1 billion cubic meters of natural gas for the month of June.

Analysis/Comment: No further information.

Location: N/A
Incident Date: 16 July
Timestamp: Unknown
Source: NOC
Veracity: A
Actors: NOC

Impact: Low

Recommendations:
 Continue to monitor Libya's oil and gas production 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