

MS | RISK

# Maritime Security Review



Issue No. 7  
19 February 2018

## Table of Contents

INCIDENTS AT SEA .....	3
GULF OF ADEN, ARABIAN SEA, RED SEA.....	4
<b>SPOTLIGHT ON YEMEN</b> .....	9
ACTIVITY REPORTING.....	10
<i>Three Yemeni Soldiers killed in roadside blast</i> .....	10
<i>Defector warns: Houthis are "At their worst"</i> .....	10
<i>Senior party leader assassinated in Yemen's Aden</i> .....	10
<i>UN: Yemeni civilians at mercy of sniping, shelling and airstrikes</i> .....	10
<i>Government/Separatist truce still holds</i> .....	11
<i>Drone strike 'kills six al-Qaeda suspects' in Yemen</i> .....	11
<i>85,000 displaced in ten weeks as violence surges</i> .....	11
YEMEN PROCEDURE.....	12
WEST AFRICA, GULF OF GUINEA.....	14
SOUTHEAST ASIA .....	17
WORLDWIDE .....	21
.....	24
<i>Number of Migrant Crossings to Italy Doubles</i> .....	24
<b>SPOTLIGHT ON LIBYA</b> .....	25
ACTIVITY REPORTING.....	26
<i>Sarraj Sacks Interior Minister, Tripoli gov warns elections may not take place</i> .....	26
<i>Over 2.4 million Libyans register to vote in upcoming elections</i> .....	26
<i>23 killed as truck carrying migrants overturns</i> .....	26
<i>UN experts say political settlement in Libya 'out of reach'</i> .....	27
<i>NOC orders mass arrests in crackdown on fuel smuggling</i> .....	27
LIBYA PROCEDURE .....	28
<b>ABOUT MS RISK</b> .....	29

## INCIDENTS AT SEA

Reporting Period: 12 - 18 February 2018

Region	Current Incidents	Late Reported Incidents	Threat Level
<b>MAIN REGIONS</b>			
Gulf of Aden/Arabian Sea	0	0	Low
Gulf of Guinea	1	2	Medium
Southeast Asia	0	3	Medium
<b>WORLDWIDE</b>			
North America	0	1	Low
Central America/Caribbean/ South America	0	2	Medium
Atlantic Ocean Area	0	0	Low
Northern Europe/English Channel/Baltic	0	0	Low
Mediterranean/ Black Sea	0	0	Low
Arabian Gulf	0	0	Low
East Asia/Indian Subcontinent	0	1	Low
Southern Africa	0	0	Low
Northeast Asia	0	0	Low
Pacific Ocean/Southern Ocean	0	0	Low

**Piracy Levels are determined on a weekly basis as follows:**

- HIGH** 5 or more incidents in the current reporting period
- MEDIUM** 2 – 4 piracy incidents in the current reporting period
- LOW** 0 – 1 piracy incidents in the current reporting period

### PLEASE NOTE:

The information contained in this report is as accurate as possible at the time of publishing. In some cases, however, incidents are updated at a later date as more information becomes available.

We encourage our readers to confidentially report any incidents or suspicious activity to [info@msrisk.com](mailto:info@msrisk.com).

## GULF OF ADEN, ARABIAN SEA, RED SEA



### **WARNING FOR RED SEA, BAB EL-MANDAB STRAIT, AND GULF OF ADEN: HIGH THREAT OF VESSEL HIJACKING**

There remains a high threat of piracy and a risk of vessel damage as the result of maritime conflict in this region. International naval patrols and anti-piracy measures on board commercial vessels have greatly diminished Somali piracy since its peak in early 2011. The international community has significant steps to improve security in the region, including:

- Boosting naval forces in the area
- Requiring ships to take protection measures, such as
  - Reporting in and out of high risk areas
  - Sailing at top speed as far as possible from the Somali coast, and
  - Travelling with armed escorts on board.

Some vessels transiting this region may have increasingly become complacent in the belief that the piracy threat had diminished. However, poverty and other motivating factors for piracy remain. The threat of attack and/or hijacking remains significant as the root causes on the ground in Somalia have not been sufficiently addressed. After five years without a successful attack, analysts say that

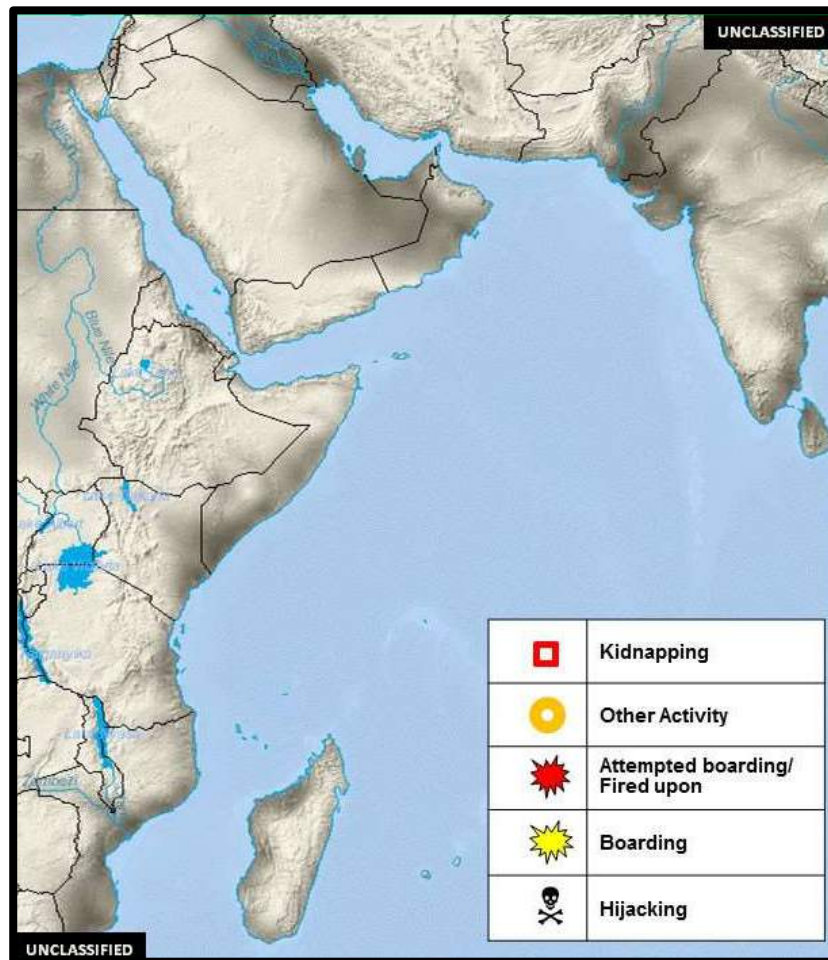
complacency may have set in and this year's successful hijacking is likely to result in potential copycat attacks, as pirate action groups head out in a bid to successfully hijack a commercial vessel.

Masters are advised to remain vigilant at all times inside the HRA and are urged to adhere to guidance and protective measures as set down in BMP4. Sailing yachts should avoid transiting the HRA. Past activity has demonstrated that pirates will attack both large and small yachts transiting this region. While successful attacks and hijackings of merchant vessels have significantly decreased over the past two years, the possibility of attacks and the successful hijacking of sailing vessels continues to remain high. This is due to the reduction of revenue sources from pirated merchant vessels, and the fact that sailing yachts are vulnerable and easier targets. PAG's continue to conduct "soft approaches" on merchant ships transiting the area. Skiffs have approached vessels in order to probe the reaction of the crewmembers and any possible Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) onboard. If the pirate approach does not elicit a response, the pirates will likely proceed with an attack, in which additional skiffs may participate.

Vessels transiting the greater Gulf of Aden region should operate under a heightened state of alert. This is due to increasing tensions in the region, particularly around Bab al Mandab Strait and near Yemen, where fighting has taken a maritime trajectory. The risk for potential for direct or collateral damage to vessels transiting the region is high. These threats may come from a number of different sources such as missiles, projectiles, or waterborne improvised explosive devices. Houthi rebels have claimed responsibility for the 1 October 2016 attack on a UAE vessel. MS Risk advises all vessels transiting this region to report any hostile activities immediately.

Current  
Incidents:

0

**VESSELS HIJACKED**

- No current incidents to report

**UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACKS/ROBBERIES**

- No current incidents to report

**VESSELS FIRED UPON/ATTEMPTED BOARDINGS/ATTACKS**

- No current incidents to report

**VESSELS BOARDED**

- No current incidents to report

**KIDNAPPING**

- No current incidents to report

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY**

- No current incidents to report



**OTHER ACTIVITY**

- No current incidents to report

**MARITIME REPORTING**

- No current incidents to report

**WEATHER FORECAST: GULF OF ADEN, ARABIAN SEA, RED SEA****WEATHER FORECAST VALID FROM 15 - 21 FEBRUARY 2018**

**NORTHERN ARABIAN SEA:** Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots, with seas of 3 – 5 feet.

- **Extended Forecast:** Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet.

**GULF OF OMAN:** Variable winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.

- **Extended Forecast:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.

**GULF OF ADEN:** East-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots, gusting to 25 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3- 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.

- **Extended Forecast:** East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.

**SOMALI COAST:** Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern section of the coastline.

- **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the southern section of the coastline.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN COAST/INDIAN OCEAN:** Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 - 3 feet.

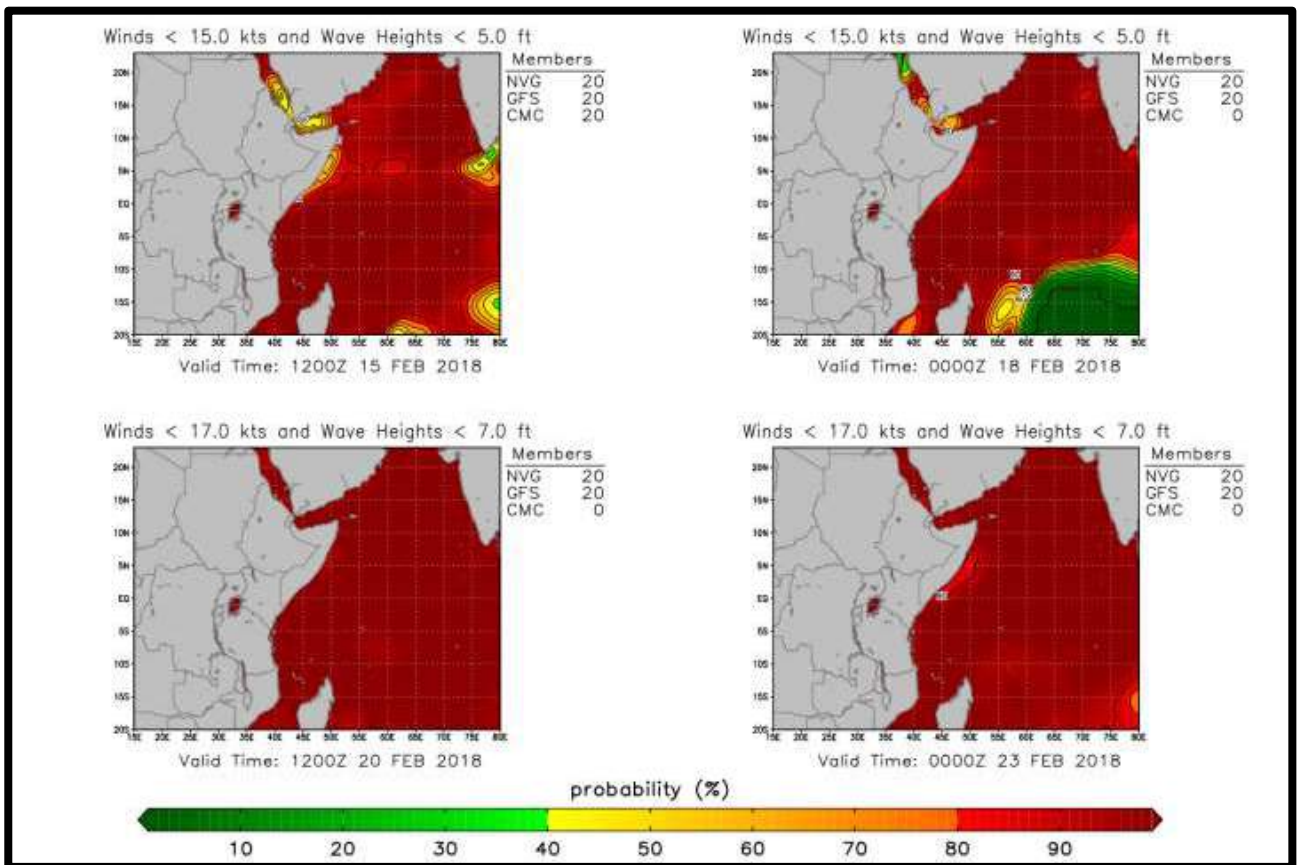
- **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 3 feet.

**MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL:** North-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet in the southern Channel.

- **Extended Forecast:** Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the southern Channel.

**SURFACE CURRENTS:** The northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden currents are variable with most areas having an average speed of 1 knot. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having an average speed of 2 knots. Currents’ speed along the Somali Basin are north-easterly averaging between 2 – 3 knots.

**SYNOPTIC DISCUSSION:** High pressure will dominate the weather pattern over much of the region producing mostly clear skies. Isolated rain showers and thunderstorms can be expected during the forecast as an area of low pressure moves through the region. Expected increased localized wind flow through the Strait of Hormuz due to funnelling effects and occasional shamal winds across the Arabian Gulf.





## SPOTLIGHT ON YEMEN

## PORT STATUS AS OF 18 FEBRUARY 2018

Port Name	Port Status	Risk Level	Notes
Aden Port	Open	High	Curfew: 2000 - 0600
Ash Shihr Oil Terminal	Closed	High	
Balhaf LNG Terminal	Closed	Closed	
Hodeidah Port	Open	High	The Saudi Royal Navy is using a holding area 60 NM west of Hodeidah port for vessels attempting entry into Salif or Hodeidah. Inbound vessels should plan on holding here prior to receiving clearance.
Mokha Port	Open	High	Considered unsafe; no activity reported since August 2015
Mukalla Port	Open	High	Capacity: 2 berths
Ras Isa Marine Terminal	Closed	Closed	
Saleef Port	Open to humanitarian aid	High	Capacity: 2 berths

*Shipmasters and crew are urged to remain abreast of current conditions surrounding all Yemeni ports, and to ensure that security measured aboard vessels are in place.*

## ACTIVITY REPORTING

**THREE YEMENI SOLDIERS KILLED IN ROADSIDE BLAST**

- **16 February** – At least three Yemeni soldiers were killed and several wounded in a roadside bomb explosion in the country's southern province of Abyan on Friday. The blast ripped through a security checkpoint near the main entrance of Mafad area, killing at least three soldiers and wounding several others at the scene. Investigation is underway; no group has claimed responsibility for the roadside bombing yet, but Yemeni government officials blamed the Yemen-based al-Qaeda branch. Al-Qaeda militants are intensifying their drive-by attacks on security checkpoints in the Yemeni southern provinces as UAE-backed government forces increase military operations against their hideouts in the war-plagued Arab country. During the past months, Yemeni government forces and the UAE armed forces operating in the southern province of Aden launched a new anti-terror offensive to root out al-Qaeda militants from their strongholds in neighboring southern province of Abyan.

**DEFECTOR WARNS: HOUTHIS ARE “AT THEIR WORST”**

- **14 February** – Brigadier General Jamil al-Maamari, who defected from the Houthis and went to Aden, told Al Arabiya News Channel that the Houthis are “at their worst” and many officers in Sanaa await the right moment to get rid of them. He added that the Houthis were also restraining officers’ and commanders’ movement as they now suspect everyone. Maamari said he defected because the Houthis did not keep their promises to end the Yemeni people’s suffering and to achieve national partnership. He added that the Houthis neglected state institutions, marginalized people and treated them unjustly and dragged young men into war. Maamari noted that the Houthis do not trust commanders and only want them to act as their media front.

**SENIOR PARTY LEADER ASSASSINATED IN YEMEN’S ADEN**

- **13 February** – An Islamist party leader was shot dead in Aden on Tuesday, according to a local security official. Two gunmen on a motorbike opened fire on Shawki Kamadi, a member of Al-Islah party in Mualla district in Aden, killing him on the spot. The assailants fled the scene. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Aden has recently seen a spate of assassinations that targeted a number of senior members of Al-Islah party. The city has served as a temporary headquarters for the Yemeni government since Houthi rebels overran much of the country in 2014.

**UN: YEMENI CIVILIANS AT MERCY OF SNIPING, SHELLING AND AIRSTRIKES**

- **12 February** – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein on Monday voiced alarm at continuing civilian casualties in Yemen as hostilities increase and spread. “The upsurge in fighting in the south-western Governorate of Taizz is of particular concern. Civilians are under fire on all sides, as Houthi and affiliated forces carry out sniper attacks and indiscriminate shelling, and the Saudi-led Coalition continues to conduct airstrikes. For the civilians in the city of Taizz, the conflict is not just escalating but inescapable,” said Zeid. Among the incidents verified by the UN Human Rights Office, three children were killed when Houthi forces shelled Usayfrah in Al Qahirah district in Northern Taizz on 6 February. On 8 February, a woman working as a field monitor for the Yemen National Commission of Inquiry, Reeham Badr Al Dhubhani, was killed in shelling by Houthi forces on

Al-Lasb area in Salh district. Between 1 and 8 February, the UN Human Rights Office verified that 27 people were killed and 76 injured in Yemen – more than double the number of civilian casualties confirmed during the previous week. The actual figures are likely to be higher. Most of the casualties were attributed almost equally to the warring parties – 48 to the Coalition, and 51 to the Houthi forces. Two were killed by drones, one by Al Qaeda and in one case the perpetrator is unknown. During this period, the UN Human Rights Office also documented sniping and indiscriminate shelling by Houthi forces in frontline areas in Hudaydah and Hajja Governorates, and airstrikes by the Coalition on areas under the control of the Houthi forces, including in Sana'a, Sa'ada, Hudaydah and Amran Governorates.

#### GOVERNMENT/SEPARATIST TRUCE STILL HOLDS

- **11 February** – Efforts by Saudi Arabia and the UAE to calm tensions between the internationally recognised government of Yemen and the secessionist Southern Transitional Council (STC) seem to have made progress, despite both sides blaming the other for deadly clashes that broke out in Aden. High-ranking officials on both sides pledged to de-escalate tensions and asked the coalition supporting the government to investigate the causes of recent fighting, in which at least 29 people died. STC spokesman Lutfi Shatara told the pro-southern Aden al-Ghad newspaper that the council was committed to “de-escalation” and was acting responsibly. He said the Saudi-led coalition was “aware who the obstructing party is,” in reference to the clashes. The internationally recognised government of President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi pledged to maintain the peace. Prime Minister Ahmed bin Dagher said the “mission today is to bridge the gap, heal the wounds and abandon political escalation.” “Based on directives from the president, we will work for social reconciliation in Aden and neighbouring provinces to pave the way for comprehensive national reconciliation,” bin Dagher said. He also called on Saudi Arabia to investigate the cause of the Aden clashes. Fighting broke out January 28 after a deadline set by the STC for Hadi to dissolve the government over allegations of corruption and incompetence passed. Many southern Yemenis said they feel exploited by leaders in the north. That sentiment led to the formation in 2007 of the Southern Mobility Movement, which seeks to have South Yemen once again an independent state.

#### DRONE STRIKE 'KILLS SIX AL-QAEDA SUSPECTS' IN YEMEN

- **11 February** – A drone strike killed six suspected al-Qaeda militants on Sunday in central Yemen, a security official said. The US military is the only force known to operate armed drones over Yemen. The official said the strike happened after sundown and targeted a vehicle in Bayda province. “An unmanned drone - likely American - bombed the group's vehicle in the area of Qayfa, where al-Qaeda is active,” the official told AFP on condition of anonymity. Al-Qaeda's global network remains “remarkably resilient,” posing more of a threat in some regions than the Islamic State group, UN sanctions monitors said in a report.

#### 85,000 DISPLACED IN TEN WEEKS AS VIOLENCE SURGES

- **11 February** – Surging violence across Yemen has pushed some 85,000 people from their homes in the past 10 weeks, with hundreds continuing to flee each day, the UN has said. The UN refugee agency said more than 70 percent of those displaced since December 1 had fled a military escalation in the Hodeida and Taiz governorates on Yemen's west coast. UNHCR voiced particular concern for displaced people remaining in areas close to the hostilities in the two governorates, where conditions are continuing to rapidly deteriorate, “exposing people to violence and disease, without

basic services". The UN agency also said it was observing a spike in new displacements from other frontline areas across Yemen, including in the border governorates of Jawf and Hajjah, and in the oil-rich eastern province of Shabwa.

## YEMEN PROCEDURE

### **MS RISK CONTINUES TO ADVISE EXTREME CAUTION FOR VESSELS TRAVELING THROUGH BAB AL MANDAB, THE GULF OF ADEN, AND THE INDIAN OCEAN.**

In the past year, the battle between the Yemeni government and Saudi led coalition against the Houthi rebels has taken a maritime trajectory. In 2016, Houthi rebels deployed sea mines and unmanned armed vessels in the waters around Yemen. While unmanned drone boats may likely target coalition warships, aquatic mines do not distinguish, and can cause harm to any vessel in the vicinity. Therefore, risk of passage through the region has increased and is likely to rise. There remains a high level of violence and criminal activity ashore. Shipping vessels should remain constantly aware of the situation, including changes to protocol when entering Yemeni maritime waters.

#### **United Nations Inspections**

The UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism (UNVIM) is operational for commercial imports to Yemen.

*Shipping companies or owners delivering to ports not under the control of the Government of Yemen* must apply for permits upon departing from the port of origin of their cargo. Yemen-based importers/traders are required to submit this notification form. More information about the UNVIM program is available here: <https://www.vimye.org/home>.

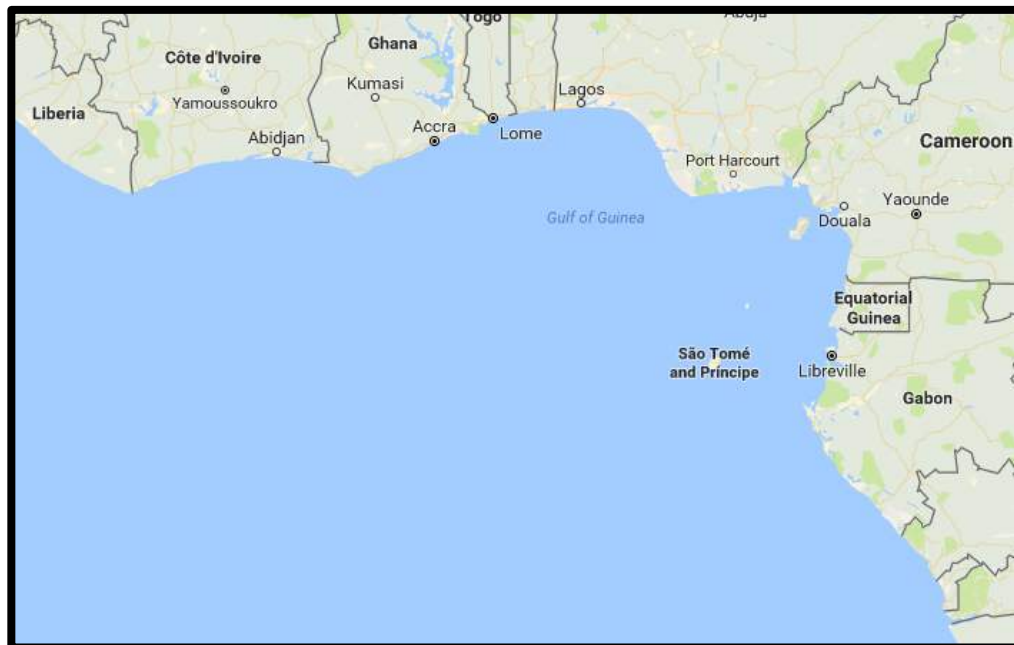
*Vessels applying to go to ports under the control of the Government of Yemen* need obtain permission for entry from the Yemeni Ministry of Transport. This should be done through the ship's agent and/or receivers prior to the vessel's arrival. The form should be completed by the ship's master and sent directly to the Ministry of Transport.

#### **Saudi Coalition Inspections**

All vessels calling at Yemeni ports will only be allowed to enter Yemeni territorial waters following an inspection by the Saudi Arabian coalition forces. Upon arrival outside Bab Al-Mandab, the shipmaster should call the naval forces of the Saudi Arabian coalition by VHF on channel 16 for the arrival registration, and indicate his location (ideally three miles from Bab Al Mandab). Coalition authorities will advise on the anchor position until they provide final approval to enter the port. This procedure will not take more than 48 hours.

Coalition inspectors do not conduct investigation with the crew; contact will be with the ship's master or Chief Officer about the cargo and documents. Once the vessel is permitted into Yemeni ports, the Master will be required to call port control by VHF on channel 14 or 16 for the arrival registration. The shipmaster will be advised the anchor position until the Harbour master confirms berthing prospects.

Coalition forces require AIS to be kept on at all times. The situation is subject to change and vessels should check frequently with local sources for any changes.

**WEST AFRICA, GULF OF GUINEA**Current  
Incidents:**3****WARNING:**

The entire Gulf of Guinea region remains at a high risk to piracy; MS Risk advises all vessels transiting within 100 nautical miles of Tema, Ghana; Lome, Togo; and Cotonou, Benin to remain particularly vigilant.

**VESSELS HIJACKED**

- No incidents to report

**UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACKS/ROBBERIES**

- No incidents to report

**VESSELS FIRED UPON/ATTEMPTED BOARDINGS/ATTACK**

- 2. 9 February (Nigeria – Late Report)** - A merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 03:43 N – 006:45 E, 45 nautical miles southwest of Bonny.

**VESSELS BOARDED**

- No incidents to report



#### KIDNAPPING

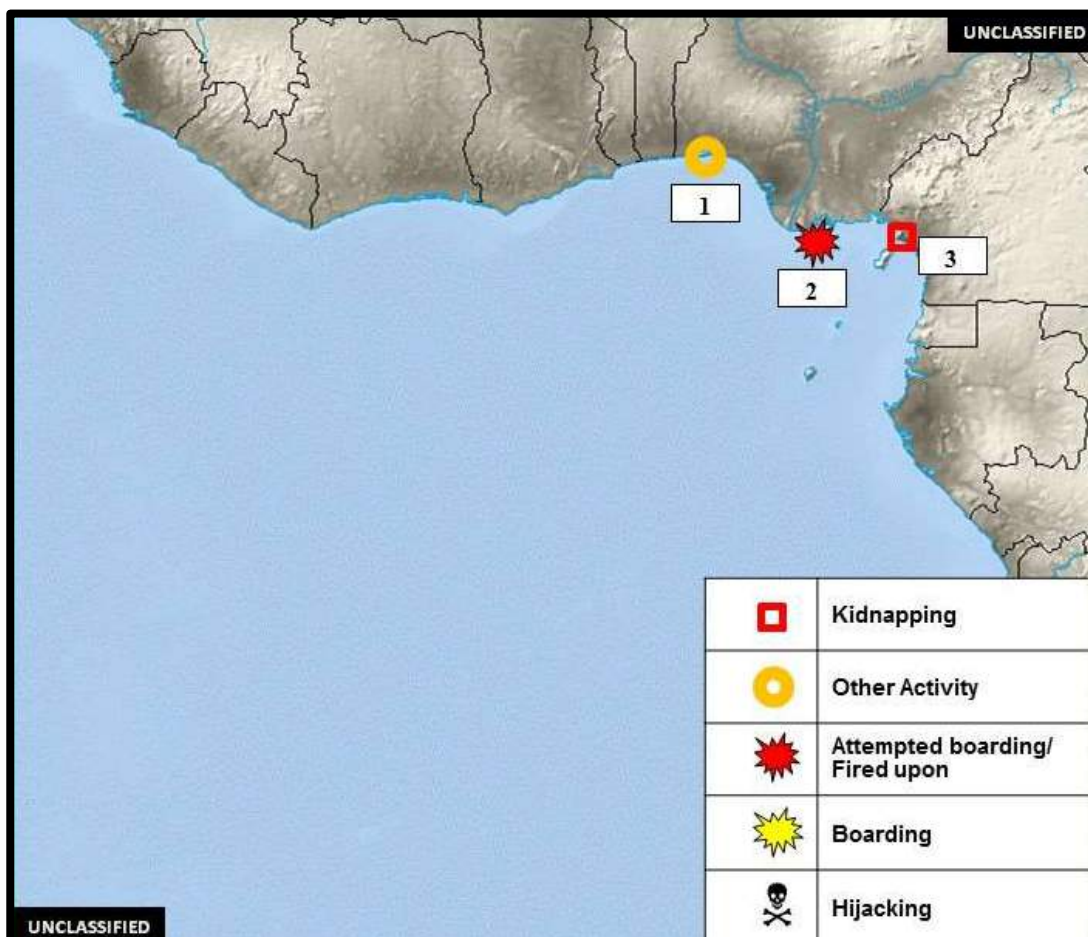
3. **9 February (Cameroon – Late Report)** – Criminals armed with AK47 assault rifles boarded a fishing vessel near position 04:06 N – 008:51 E, 10 nautical miles southwest of Idenao. They kidnapped three crewmembers and escaped. The Cameroonian authorities were notified and are currently investigating the incident.

#### SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- No incidents to report

#### OTHER ACTIVITY

1. **13 February (Nigeria)** – Customs officials stated that they had seized banned drugs, including the powerful pain killer tramadol, which is popular with jihadists. A Nigeria Customs Service spokesman disclosed that four shipping containers of controlled and prohibited pharmaceuticals arrived in Lagos from India.



**MARITIME REPORTING**

- No incidents to report

**WEATHER FORECAST: GULF OF GUINEA****WEATHER FORECAST VALID FROM 15 - 21 FEBRUARY 2018**

**GULF OF GUINEA:** Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet.

- **Extended Forecast:** Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet.

**SYNOPTIC DISCUSSION:** High pressure continues to dominate the weather in the region producing relatively light winds across the Somali Basin. Isolated thunderstorms and rain showers can be routinely expected along the Somali and West Africa coasts with increased southerly wind flow through the Bab el Mandeb Strait due to funnelling effects.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA



Current Incidents:

3

### WARNING:

While in recent months, there have been no reports of kidnapping of crewmembers from vessels while underway in the Sulu-Celebs Sea region, the threat of further such incidents remains high. MS Risk advises all vessels, particularly slow-moving vessels, to re-route where possible. If unable to re-route, we strongly advise vessel Masters and crewmembers to adopt the following measures:

- Maintain a heightened level of vigilance and increase security watch rotations
- Sound the alarm when unknown people are sighted on board the vessel or when suspicious boats are in the vicinity
- Report all incidents and suspicious activity
- Maintain continuous communication with shipping company and with local enforcement agencies
- Avoid confrontation with the perpetrators

Pirate Action Groups (PAG's) operating in this region are likely to target vessels to siphon fuel or oil onto another ship. Masters are therefore reminded to remain vigilant at all times in all regions, including at ports and anchorages. Attacks and robberies can occur at any time. Incidents involving the siphoning of oil/fuel have been on the rise in recent months. Masters are reminded to remain vigilant at all times and to report any incidents, suspicious activity, attacks or hijackings to the local authorities.

#### VESSELS HIJACKED

- No current incidents to report

#### KIDNAPPING

- No current incidents to report

#### UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACKS/ROBBERIES

3. **6 February (Bangladesh – Late Report)** – Four robbers armed with guns boarded a general cargo vessel anchored near position 22:08 N – 091:44 E, Chittagong Anchorage C, and threatened the duty watchman who managed to escape. Alarm was raised, PA announcement made and crew was mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. The incident was reported to the coast guard.

#### VESSELS FIRED UPON/ATTEMPTED BOARDINGS/ATTACK

1. **11 February (Bangladesh – Late Report)** – Five robbers armed with knives in a small boat attempted to board a bulk carrier anchored near position 22:07 N – 091:43 E, Chittagong Anchorage, using hooks attached with ropes. The crew noticed the robbers and informed the Master and prepared the fire hoses to stop the robbers. Upon seeing the alerted crewmembers, the robbers escaped empty-handed.

#### VESSELS BOARDED

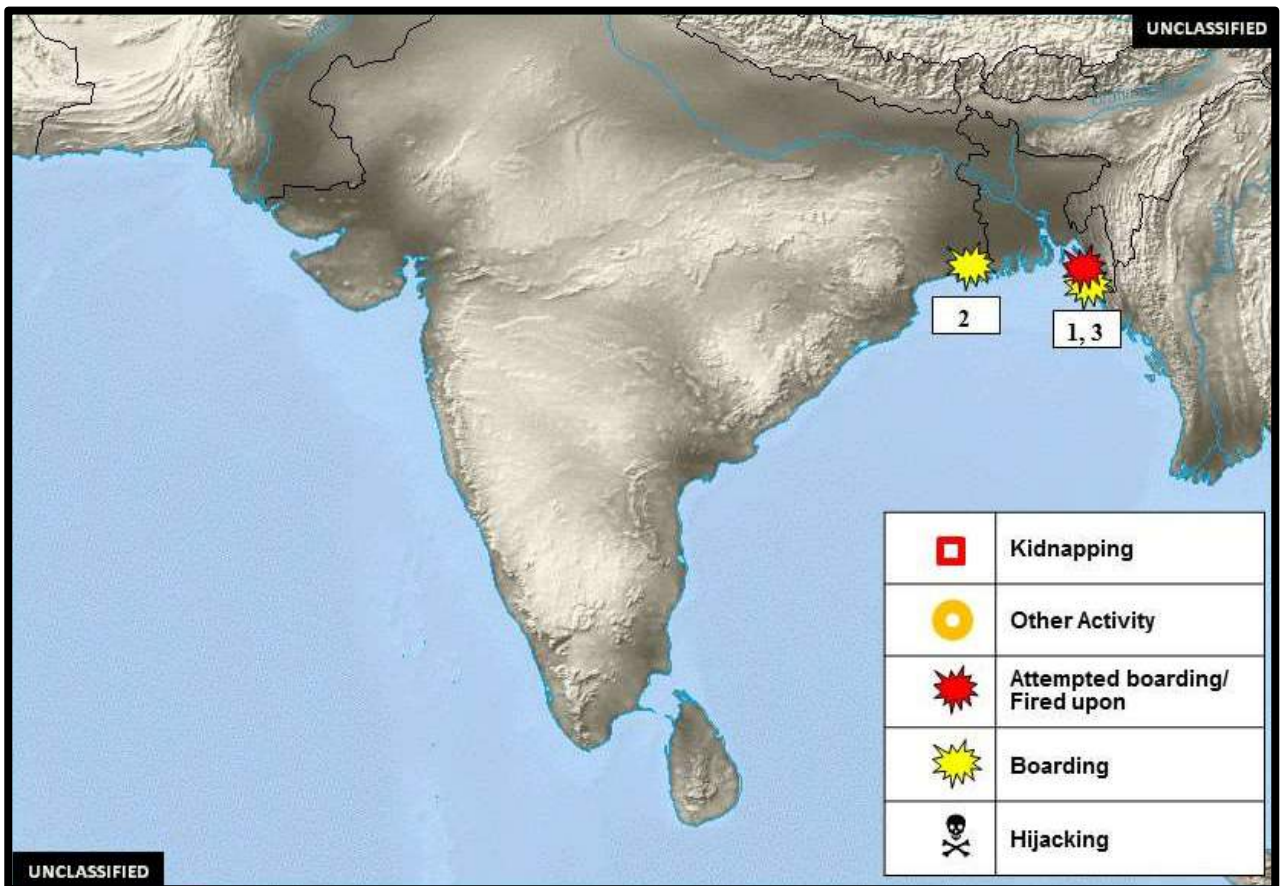
2. **9 February (India – Late Report)** – Duty crewman on routine rounds on board a bulk carrier near position 22:11 N – 088:09 E, Diamond Harbour Anchorage, heard an unusual sound coming from the anchor chain. Upon checking, he saw one robber climbing the anchor chain and two more persons waiting in a small boat. The duty crewman shouted at the robber resulting in the robber aborting the climb and escaping.

#### SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

- No current incidents to report

#### OTHER ACTIVITY REPORT

- No current incidents to report



#### MARITIME REPORTING

- 17 February** - Armed men attacked a Manila-bound cargo vessel in the waters off Sibago Island in Basilan on Friday night in an attempt to abduct crewmembers for ransom. M/V Kudus 1 was navigating the sea from Davao City when armed men on three motorized bancas intercepted the vessel. The vessel's captain Chris Paul Maligmat disclosed that they repelled the attack by splashing boiled water mixed with oil against the gunmen. In retaliation, the attackers opened fire at the vessel, which was carrying assorted steel bars. Two crewmembers sustained minor injuries in the attack. The Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard received a call for help and rushed to the area and escorted the vessel safely to Zamboanga City.

**WEATHER FORECAST: SOUTHEAST ASIA****WEATHER FORECAST VALID FROM 15 - 21 FEBRUARY 2018**

**SOUTHERN SOUTH CHINA SEA:** Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.

- **Extended Forecast:** Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.

**MALACCA STRAIT:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the northern Strait; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the southern Strait.

- **Extended Forecast:** Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots, gusting to 15 knots, and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with northwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet in the southern Strait.

**ANDAMAN SEA:** Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern section; with northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern section.

- **Extended Forecast:** Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern section; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern section.

**SOUTHERN SULU SEA – NORTHERN CELEBES SEA:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet.

- **Extended Forecast:** Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 2 feet.

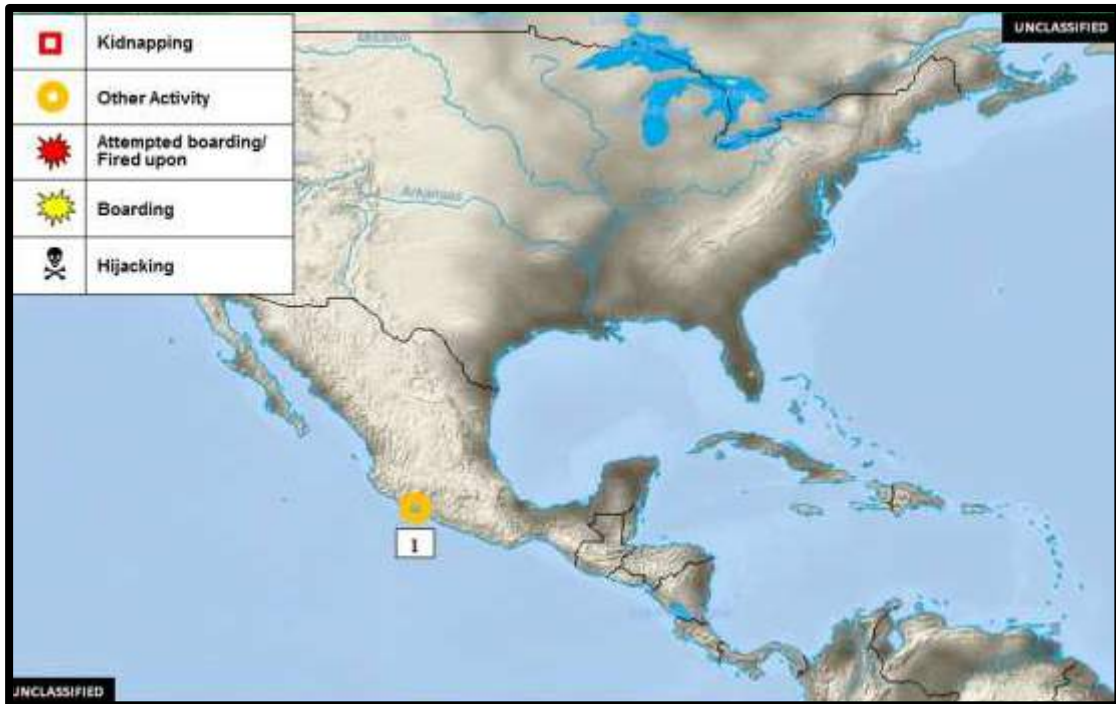
**SURFACE CURRENTS:** Currents in the southern South China Sea, Malacca Strait and Andaman Sea are generally less than 1 knot with a few areas in the southern South China Sea averaging 1 knot.

**SYNOPTIC DISCUSSION:** An area of low pressure moving off of China will produce slightly increased wind flow in the South China Sea. Expect strong gusts in and around scattered thunderstorms, throughout the Malacca Strait and the Andaman Sea due to funnelling effect and daytime heating.



WORLDWIDE

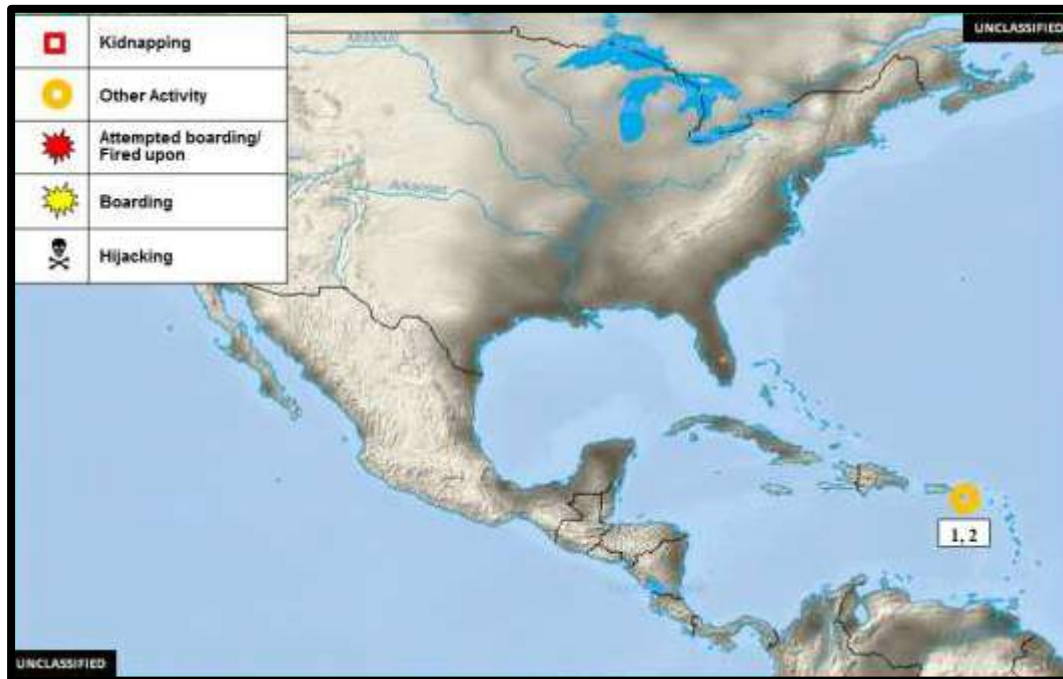
NORTH AMERICA



Current Incidents:  
4

1. **7 February (Mexico – Late Report)** – Forty-two kilos of pure cocaine, packed in two sealed bundles, were found attached to the underwater hull of *M/V VLCS CAUTIN* at Lazaro Cardenas port, by Navy divers. The vessel arrived from Colombia on 6 February.

## CENTRAL AMERICA/CARIBBEAN/SOUTH AMERICA



1. **5 February (US Virgin Islands – Late Report)** – A yacht on E Dock at the American Yacht Harbour had its locked 15-foot dinghy stolen overnight. A police report was made, CCTV cameras recorded the event and police arrested the culprit. The dinghy was found abandoned and returned to the owners.
2. **3 February (US Virgin Islands – Late Report)** – A 16-foot dinghy locked to a yacht was stolen overnight from the Muller Bay area of Red Hook anchorage. A police report was made.

## ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA

- No current incidents to report

## NORTHERN EUROPE/ENGLISH CHANNEL/BALTIC

- No current incidents to report

## MEDITERRANEAN/BLACK SEA

- No current incidents to report

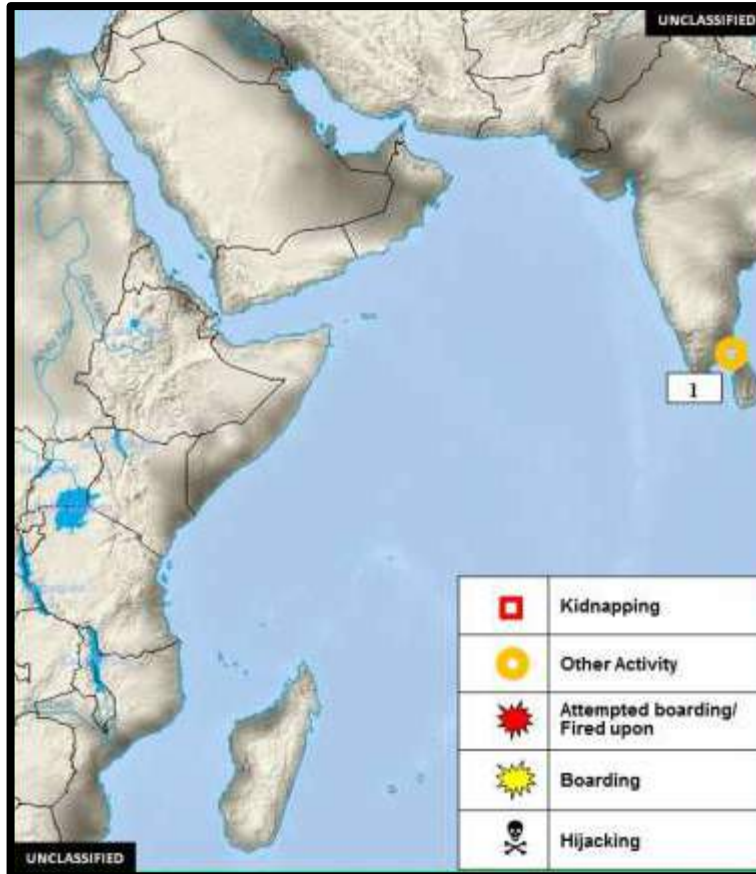
## ARABIAN GULF

- No current incidents to report

## EAST ASIA/INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

- **6 February (Sri Lanka – Late Report)** – Sri Lanka Navy personnel arrested two individuals in the northern seas foiling an attempt to smuggle 3.7 kilograms of gold out of the country. Based on information received by the Navy, a fast attack craft attacked to the Northern

Naval Command apprehended the two smugglers with the gold in the sea area northwest of Kankasanthurai lighthouse. The suspects had concealed 37 biscuits of gold, each weighing 100g, in the dinghy used for smuggling.



#### EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

- No current incidents to report

#### NORTHEAST ASIA

- No current incidents to report

#### PACIFIC OCEAN/SOUTHERN OCEAN

- No current incidents to report

## MIGRATION



Despite the cold winter weather, migrant crossings in the Mediterranean have continued throughout the winter period, with the Western Mediterranean corridor continuing to see migrants trying to reach Spain. The EU's border agency has warned that migrant numbers arriving in Spain are likely to rise this year.

### NUMBER OF MIGRANT CROSSINGS TO ITALY DOUBLES

**14 February** - Latest figures released indicate that the number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean to Italy doubled in a month to reach 4,800 in January. Officials have indicated that fighting near departure points in North Africa coupled with poor weather were to blame for a dip in people-smuggling activities in December 2017, noting however that the overall rate of arrivals is now in line with last year. Data on "irregular border crossings" released by European border agency Frontex on Tuesday indicates that Eritreans made up the largest group of migrants on the route, followed by Pakistanis and Tunisians. However recent months have seen an increasing number of Libyans making the perilous crossing. Meanwhile in Spain, the 1,300 arrivals detected last month was more than 20 percent higher than a year ago. The statistics point to another summer of chaos as increasing numbers of mainly young men seek a new life in Europe. The numbers are again expected to rise as the weather improves.

## SPOTLIGHT ON LIBYA



## PORT STATUS AS OF 18 FEBRUARY 2018

Port Name	Port Status	Risk Level
Port of Abu Kammash	Open	Low
Port of al-Khums (Homs)	Open	Low
Port of As-Sidra (Sirte, Es Sider)	Open	Moderate-High
Port of Benghazi	Open	High
Port of Bouri (offshore port)	Open	Low
Port of Derna	CLOSED	High
Port of El Brega (Marsa El Brega)	Open	Moderate
Port of Hariga	Open	Moderate
Port of Mellitah	Open	Low
Port of Misrata (Qasr Ahmed)	Open	High
Port of Ras Lanuf	Open	Moderate-High
Port of Tobruk	Open	Moderate
Port of Tripoli	Open	High
Port of Zawiya (Zawia)	Open	Moderate
Port of Zueitina	Open	Low

## ACTIVITY REPORTING

**SARRAJ SACKS INTERIOR MINISTER, TRIPOLI GOV WARNS ELECTIONS MAY NOT TAKE PLACE**

- **17 February** – Libya's UN-backed Prime Minister Fayez Al-Sarraj on Thursday carried out a ministerial reshuffle as he relieved Interior Minister Al-Aref al-Khoja from his duties and replaced him with Abdussalam Ashour. Meanwhile, a senior Libyan lawmaker said the UN mission's plan to hold elections in Libya before the end of the year was at risk. President of the Tobruk-based House of Representatives' National Defense and Security Committee Talal Abdullah al-Mayhoub told Asharq Al-Awsat that the parliamentary and presidential elections planned by the UN mission "may not take place this year." He considered the ruling of the Supreme Constitutional Court in the capital Tripoli, which blocked legal challenges from lower courts to a draft constitution on Wednesday, paving the way for a possible referendum on the document and a move toward elections, as "politicized, defective, and totally unconstitutional." Members of a Constitutional Drafting Assembly (CDA) had voted last summer in favor of a draft constitution, but an administrative court in the eastern city of Bayda had ruled that the vote was invalid. The supreme court effectively quashed the Bayda decision by declaring that administrative courts do not have the jurisdiction to rule on matters relating to the CDA. The draft constitution could still face hurdles, including challenges in the supreme court, turnout or approval requirements set by the eastern parliament or House of Representatives (HOR) for a constitutional referendum, and the difficulty of holding a nationwide poll in a country where there are no national security forces. The United Nations and its envoy insist on holding the elections with the explicit support of the UN Security Council by the end of September this year.

**OVER 2.4 MILLION LIBYANS REGISTER TO VOTE IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS**

- **16 February** – Libya's Higher Commission of Elections announced on Friday that the registration of voters at home has been closed, with more than 2.4 million registered voters. Registration for voters abroad will continue until the end of February. Abdul-Hakim Belkheir, vice president of the commission, confirmed that the number of registrants exceeded 50 percent of eligible voters in the country. "The number of eligible voters in Libya is 4.4 million, and we have exceeded half the target number with more than 2.4 million voters," Belkheir said. He pointed to the importance of registration of more than half of eligible voters, "as it gives the voting outputs credibility and results that represent a large segment of the Libyan people." The commission opened the voter registration inside Libya in December 6 for two months, but extended the registration for an additional week to enable more voters to register. Last November, UN Envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame announced that the UN Mission in Libya was seeking to ensure that the elections will be held before the end of September 2018.

**23 KILLED AS TRUCK CARRYING MIGRANTS OVERTURNS**

- **14 February** – At least 23 people have been killed when a truck carrying hundreds of refugees and migrants overturned in northwestern Libya, according to local media reports. Somali and Eritrean nationals were reportedly among those killed in Wednesday's road accident, which occurred some 60km south of the town of Bani Walid. The accident also left at least 124 people injured, 35 of whom needed to be urgently transported to hospitals in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, according to the



Libya Observer. Bani Walid is located 180km southeast of Tripoli. The truck was carrying an estimated 300 people, according to local reports.

#### UN EXPERTS SAY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN LIBYA 'OUT OF REACH'

- **13 February** – The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) confirmed on Monday that arrest warrants have been issued by the Attorney General against fuel smugglers in western Libya. "NOC commends the Attorney General's decision to issue arrest warrants against more than 144 smugglers in western Libya," NOC said in a statement. "Smuggling cost the Libyan economy and citizens hundreds of millions. Those who take part in such serious criminal acts are working against the interests of all Libyans and cause suffering in different cities of our beloved country," the statement added. The
- UN experts say "a political solution in Libya remains out of reach in the near future." The panel of experts said in the summary of a report to the Security Council that despite U.N. efforts to overcome the current stalemate "military dynamics in Libya and conflicting regional agendas show a lack of commitment to a peaceful solution." In December, the United Nations said it was "intensively trying to establish the proper political, legislative and security conditions for elections to be held before the end of 2018." But the panel painted a grim picture of continuing disarray in the country, saying Libya's stability is increasingly linked to regional stability, "notably due to the growing involvement of foreign armed groups from Sudan and Chad." It pointed to an attack in Sudan's western Darfur region by the Sudanese Liberation Army faction led by Minni Minawi in May 2017 before returning to its base across the border in Libya and the "expanded territorial presence of foreign armed groups and their recent involvement in clashes near Tripoli," Libya's capital. "Diversion of public funds, the lack of governance and inability to address Libya's economy are spurring popular discontent and distrust towards Libya's political elites," the panel said. "Starting in 2014, Libyan armed groups, benefiting from political sponsorship, have participated in the widespread diversion of state funds, notably through fuel smuggling and letters of credit." The experts said cells of the Islamic State extremist group continue to operate in central and southern Libya despite the militant group being routed from its stronghold in Sirte in 2016 by militias loyal to the U.N.-backed government in Tripoli. The panel also cited the continued deterioration of human rights from armed groups committing "arbitrary detentions, kidnappings and other severe violations," including those associated with the U.N.-backed Government of National Accord in Tripoli and the rival self-styled Libyan National Army based in the eastern city of Benghazi led by Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter. In addition, "human trafficking is on the rise in Libya," with the country's west and south main hubs where Libyan and non-Libyan armed groups are earning "significant revenues," the experts said. They expressed concern at the possible use of state facilities and state funds by armed groups and traffickers "to enhance their control of migration routes." "International involvement in the migration issue has exacerbated competition between the armed groups," they said. The experts said arms from Libyan stockpiles and weapons acquired after 2011 continue to fall into the hands of Libyan and foreign armed groups, feeding "increasing insecurity." Foreign fighters moving in and out of Libya are exploiting "the uncontrolled proliferation of arms" in violation of a U.N. arms embargo, and criminal networks also have taken advantage of the authorities' inability to enforce import controls to illegally bring weapons into the country, the panel said.

#### NOC ORDERS MASS ARRESTS IN CRACKDOWN ON FUEL SMUGGLING

- **12 February** – The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) confirmed on Monday that arrest warrants have been issued by the Attorney General against fuel smugglers in western Libya. "NOC commends the Attorney General's decision to issue arrest warrants against more than 144 smugglers in western Libya," NOC said in a statement. "Smuggling cost the Libyan economy and citizens hundreds of millions. Those who take part in such serious criminal acts are working against the interests of all Libyans and cause suffering in different cities of our beloved country," the statement added. The

corporation expressed willingness to "submit periodic reports and information on smuggling operations by criminal gangs to the Attorney General's Office." The corporation also expressed hope to arrest "all those who committed crimes against the Libyan people and wasted their wealth, mainly Ibrahim Al-Jathran and all those who colluded with him by supporting and inciting him to close oil ports." Al-Jathran was the leader of the Oil Installation Guards, who closed down major oil ports in eastern Libya for years, before the eastern-based army, led by General Khalifa Haftar defeated and expelled them. Libya has suffered losses over the past four years of more than 140 billion U.S. dollars due to frequent closures of oil fields and ports, smuggling, and low oil prices in global market.

## LIBYA PROCEDURE

The security situation throughout Libya remains fluid. In the absence of a diplomatic solution, MS Risk continues to advise extreme caution to all vessels entering Libyan waters. The ports are an extremely valuable target, and control of these key facilities in Libya have, and could again, change hands with little or no notice. As a result, ports, infrastructure, and other valuable assets remain at a high risk for violent attack by various armed militia groups.

While all working ports are believed to be currently safe for ships and crew, the security situation remains volatile and subject to rapid change. Shipmasters and crews are urged to exercise extreme caution when entering Libyan ports and waters. Vessels are urged to:

- Observe international laws of trading
- Follow official sea navigation routes to any of the working Libyan ports and avoid navigating in the coastal waters of the closed ports.
- In advance of arrival, declare the intended voyage and type of cargo to be discharged/loaded to the local agent, to allow sufficient time to notify the appropriate authorities.
- Stay in contact with local port authorities to receive the most up to date information.
- Vessels should report their schedules to local port agents prior to arrival at any Libyan port, including:
  - A declaration of the vessel's sailing route
  - Whether they are loading or discharging cargo
  - The type of cargo on board

Vessels are urged to apply extreme caution while navigating coastal waters near Benghazi, Derna and Sirte, the last two ports still being closed. MS Risk advises that shipmasters and owners stay up-to-date on the volatile situation in this region.

## ABOUT MS RISK

MS Risk is a privately-owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by a syndicate of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

MS Risk is always mindful and compliant to legislation and guidelines on the use of private security services including, but not limited to the US FCPA (1977), UK Bribery Act (2010), Canadian Bill C-48 (2007), ASX 8 Corporate Governance Principles, and the World Bank/IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Government and Private Security Forces. MS Risk is a signatory of the Swiss government's International Code of Conduct. It is transparent and compliant to market expectations on legal and ethical conduct in the performance of services.

MS Risk has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

### SECURITY CONSULTING

- Risk assessments and intelligence reporting
- Planning and management
- Due diligence and investigations

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- Interim security
- Training
- Special assignments

### CRISIS RESPONSE

- Crisis management
- Business continuity management
- Hostile operations support to commercial interests

### VIRTUAL SECURITY DIRECTOR SERVICE

- For clients lacking a full-time security executive

References are always available.

More information is found at [www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

### 24 HR CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email: [operations@msrisk.com](mailto:operations@msrisk.com)



South Suite, Ragnall House, 18 Peel Road  
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 4LZ

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555

[www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

**Directors**

S.J. Bingham, P.A. Crompton, P.O.J. Tracy

Registered in the Isle of Man No. 007435V