

Report on Somalia

Detailed Weekly Piracy Report and On-the-Ground Analysis



Piracy - At Sea - On Land - Domestic News - International Developments

Report on Somalia ~ SUMMARY

January 1 – 6, 2013 (Week 1)



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At Sea:

- Although the number of attacks in 2012 significantly decreased, the first week of 2013 has proven that despite the onset of the monsoon season off the coast of Somalia, Somali pirates are continuing their attempts to attack and hijack vessels transiting the region.
- **5 January 2013** - A merchant vessel has been attacked while in position 03:00N - 051:52E, approximately 460 miles east-north-east of Mogadishu at 1130Z.
- **3 January 2013** - Robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at 0400 LT in position 22:49N - 070:03E, at the Kandla port anchorage in India.
- **2 January 2013** - Two skiffs approached an Isle of Man VLCC at 1200 UTC in position 24:47.0N- 057:24.0E, approximately 95 nautical miles north-west of Muscat in the Gulf of Oman.
 - Prior to this incident, the vessel had reported a sighting of a single skiff at a distance of 7 nautical miles at 1015UTC in position 24:40N - 057:29.6E in the Gulf of Oman.
- **1 January 2013** - A merchant vessel experienced a suspicious approach near position 02:18N - 046:02E, approximately 42 nautical miles northeast of Mogadishu and 7 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia.
- **30 December 2012** - An MV has reported an approach by two skiffs while in position 13:33N - 050:00E, in the Gulf of Aden

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Sightings: 4
- Robbery: 1
- Releases: 0

Updates:

- **3 January 2013** - After receiving permission to celebrate Christmas with their families back in Italy, two Italian Marines who are facing murder charges in Kerala, India, are expected to reach the state by Friday, which complies with a High Court directive that indicated that the two men must return to India by 10 January 2013.
- **1 January 2013** - The President of Somali's Puntland government, Abdirahman Mohamed Farole, has congratulated the government's anti-piracy forces, the Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF), for safely rescuing the twenty-two hostages on board the MV Iceberg 1 vessel.

Piracy Related News:

- **1 January 2013** - A court in Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland has sentenced three pirates after they were found guilty of holding the newly liberated MV Iceberg 1 and its crew members hostages for nearly three years.

Weather Analysis:

- During the following week, weather conditions in the High Risk Area (HRA) will continue to deteriorate as the full force of the monsoon comes into effect. As such, pirate action groups (PAG's) will likely remain concentrated within the Gulf of Aden as well as off the coast of Oman and into the Gulf of Oman. Over this past week, these regions have witnessed a number of sightings and attacks and therefore they will remain to be favorable for pirates as the calmer sea conditions in the area will enable small skiffs and boats to maneuver

quite easily. As such, vessels transiting through these regions must remain vigilant as it is highly likely that attacks and hijackings will take place in these areas. Further out to sea, water conditions will begin to become harsher and will be more favorable for motherships. Nevertheless, vessels transiting in more open waters must also remain vigilant.

On Land:

- **4 January 2013** - Al-Shabaab militants have reportedly arrested more than one hundred clerics in the town of El-dheer, which is located in the region of Galgadud, after they allegedly refused to recruit fighters for the group.
- **3 January 2013** - Puntland's government forces have repelled an attack by al-Shabaab militants.
- **2 January 2013** - A roadside bomb has hit a Burundian contingent of the African Union forces who, at the time of the incident, were on a patrol in the town of Merka in the southern region of Somalia.

Domestic News:

- **4 January 2013** - The Somali Federal government has announced that the Somali Shilling currency, which was ordered by the previous Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and which was set to be printed in Sudan, will be postponed from entering Somali markets until a later date.

International Developments:

- **3 January 2013** - In 2013, the United States will Chair the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, a partnership which includes nearly eighty countries and international organizations that since 2009 have been working to turn the tide on maritime crime along one of the world's busiest shipping corridors.
- **2 January 2013** - Ethiopia's intelligence agency has confirmed that police have arrested fifteen suspected militants who have allegedly been trained by Islamist rebels in neighboring Somalia and who were plotting attacks in Ethiopia.

About MS RISK

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At Sea:

- Although the number of attacks in 2012 significantly decreased, the first week of 2013 has proven that despite the onset of the monsoon season off the coast of Somalia, Somali pirates are continuing their attempts to attack and hijack vessels transiting the region. Consequently, the shipping industry must continue to boost its efforts to combat piracy in the region despite the number of attacks being on the decline. Pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden and in the Indian Ocean have remained to be a threat to the merchant shipping community and will continue to remain a threat as the new year unfolds. Consequently it is necessary that the maritime community continue to ensure that best management practices are continually being implemented. As of 17 December 2012, there were at least 112 crew members still being held captive on board ships while a further 27 crew members are being held hostage on land. The 27 crew members that are still being detained in Somalia are composed of 2 Danish, 4 Filipinos, 7 Indians, 4 Koreans, 4 Thais, 5 Syrians and 1 Sri Lankan.
- **5 January 2013** - A merchant vessel has been attacked while in position 03:00N - 051:52E, approximately 460 miles east-north-east of Mogadishu at 1130Z. Vessels have been urged to exercise extreme caution while in the vicinity.
- **3 January 2013** - Robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at 0400 LT in position 22:49N - 070:03E, at the Kandla port anchorage in India (*See Map*). The robbers broke into the foc'sle store room and stole the ship's stores. They managed to escape unnoticed.
- **2 January 2013** - Two skiffs approached an Isle of Man VLCC at 1200 UTC in position 24:47.0N-057:24.0E, approximately 95 nautical miles north-west of Muscat in the Gulf of Oman (*See Map*). The two skiffs approached from ahead at 28 and 20 knots respectively. The alarm on the vessel was sounded and the crew members were divided into the wheel house and into the citadel for safety. Although evasive maneuvers were carried out, the skiffs managed to approach the vessel to within 0.2 nautical miles before moving away. Three to four pirates on board (POB) were sighted on both skiffs however no weapons or ladders were seen. The vessel along with its crew members are safe.
 - Prior to this incident, the vessel had reported a sighting of a single skiff at a distance of 7 nautical miles at 1015UTC in position 24:40N - 057:29.6E in the Gulf of Oman. The skiff approached the vessel at about 25 knots. The vessel carried out evasive maneuvers as the crew prepared to seek shelter. The vessel managed to evade being hijacked.
- **1 January 2013** - A merchant vessel experienced a suspicious approach near position 02:18N - 046:02E, approximately 42 nautical miles northeast of Mogadishu and 7 nautical miles off the coast of Somalia (*See Map*). The approach consisted of four skiffs. Currently no other details have been released and the incident is being further investigated.
- **30 December 2012** - An MV has reported an approach by two skiffs while in position 13:33N - 050:00E, in the Gulf of Aden (*See Map*). The skiffs broke off after a flare was fired from the vessel. The vessel is now safe.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Sightings: 4
- Robbery: 1
- Releases: 0

Updates:

- **3 January 2013** - After receiving permission to celebrate Christmas with their families back in Italy, two Italian Marines who are facing murder charges in Kerala, India, are expected to reach the state by Friday, which complies with a High Court directive that indicated that the two men must return to India by 10 January 2013. Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, who were allowed by the Court to go home for two weeks, will board a special flight for Kochi and will leave for Kollam court soon after they have arrived in order to

surrender their passports. Reports have confirmed that personnel from the Defence and External Affairs Ministries of the Italian government will be accompanying the two men on their journey back to India.

- **1 January 2013** - The President of Somali's Puntland government, Abdirahman Mohamed Farole, has congratulated the government's anti-piracy forces, the Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF), for safely rescuing the twenty-two hostages on board the MV Iceberg 1 vessel. President Farole, who visited the PMPF compound which is located on the outskirts of Bossaso, was accompanied by Puntland Parliament's Deputy Speaker Salaad Hared along with Puntland Security Minister Khalif Issa Mudan, Agriculture Minister Mohamud Haji Salah and Deputy Interior Minister Ali Yusuf Ali Hosh. After being saluted by the PMPF soldiers, President Farole addressed the troops and sent his congratulations for the PMPF's efforts in safely rescuing the hostages who hail from Yemen, India, Ghana, Pakistan, Sudan and the Philippines. In his speech, President Farole indicated that "I congratulate you all for your professionalism and patience during the 14-day humanitarian rescue operation which ended in success," adding that "I also extend my sincerest condolences to the family and friends of PMPF soldier Abdirizak Awil Farey, who was killed during the rescue operation." The President has also called on the PMPF forces to continue the anti-piracy campaign, expressing the government's commitment to eradicate piracy in the region. The PMPF is part of the Puntland government forces. It was established in 2010 through a generous assistance from the United Arab Emirates. Its mandate is to fight piracy in which PMPF forces have been deployed to Eyl, Bargal and Hafun, along with several other coastal towns, in order to disrupt the ongoing piracy operations.

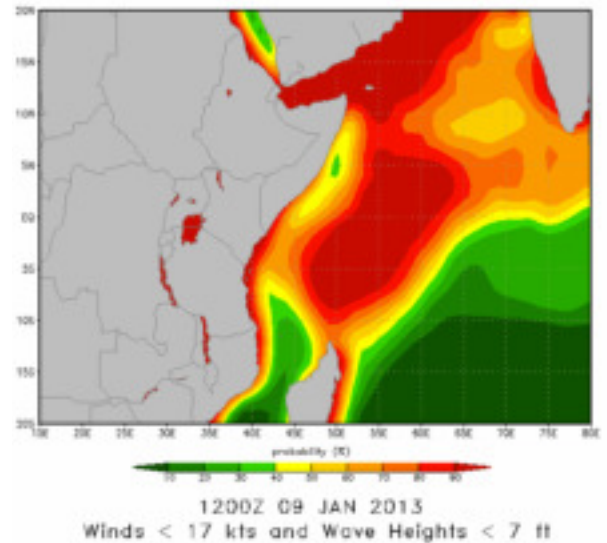
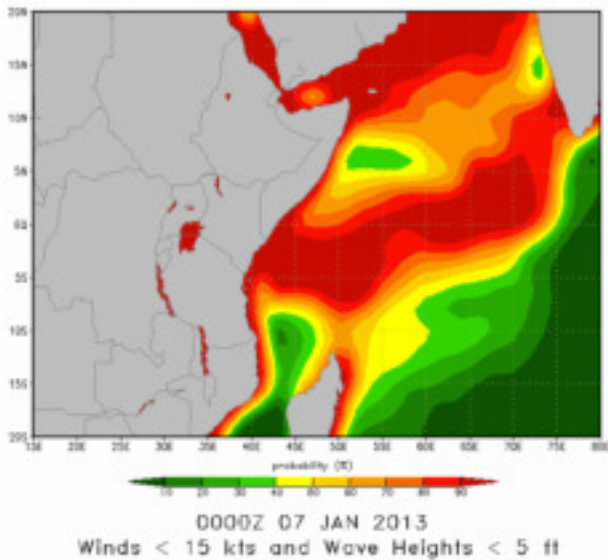
Piracy Related News:

- **1 January 2013** - A court in Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland has sentenced three pirates after they were found guilty of holding the newly liberated MV Iceberg 1 and its crew members hostages for nearly three years. The criminal offense court, which is located near Bossaso, has found Abdihakim Mohamed Jama, Abdikafi Abdul Dirie and Syaid Isse guilty of piracy and kidnapping and has sentenced the men to terms ranging from three to ten years. After days of deliberations, Judge Sheikh Adam Ahmed Mohamed gave the verdict, which found Sayid Isse guilty and which sentenced him to three years. Mr. Dirie and Mr. Jama were each sentenced to ten years in prison. The men were also fined for hijacking the MV Iceberg 1 and its twenty-four crew members on board. In his ruling, the judge also noted that the other individuals who took part in the hijacking are currently being sought out by authorities and if found guilty, they could face up to life in prison. Court documents revealed that the three pirates were arrested by Puntland Government forces on 11 December 2012 after a group of pirates had attacked the forces as they laid siege to the MV Iceberg 1. Puntland Government forces, including the Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF), rescued the hostages on 23 December following a two-week standoff with the pirates on board the Dubai-owned vessel. Upon their release, the hostages gave an emotional press conference in Garowe, the administrative capital of Puntland, thanking the Puntland government for conducting the operation that gave them their freedom after nearly three years of captivity. The Puntland government's operation was the first successful operation that was carried out to free a foreign owned vessel and international hostages being held in Somali waters since Somali piracy increased in 2006.

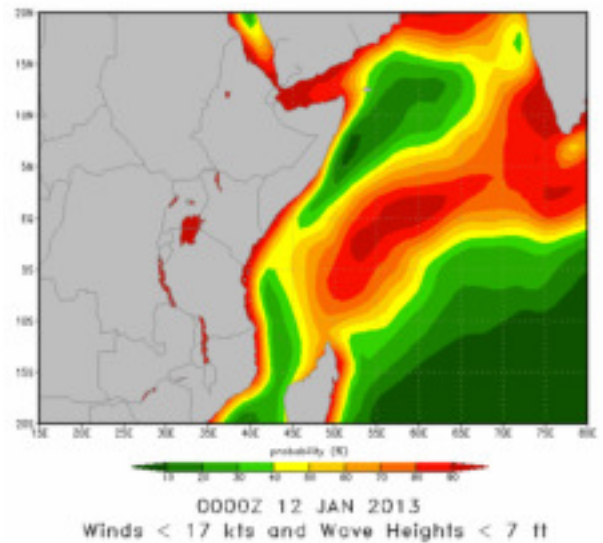
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - East - northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; in the eastern portion, winds will be east-northeast at 5 - 10 knots with seas of 2 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - East - northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with east - northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Northeast winds of 15 - 20 knots, gusting to 25 knots, with seas of 5 - 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 15 - 20 knots with seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - North-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - North-northeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots with seas of 3 - 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots with seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Variable winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; winds will be variable at 5 - 10 knots with seas of 3 - 5 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern Channel; with east-southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The northern Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden and the Mozambique Channel currents are variable with most areas having average speeds of less than 1 knot. Current speeds along the Somali Basin average between 1 - 2 knots.

Sea Conditions For This Week:



*** In this graphic, the green shading represents a reduced likelihood of small boats and skiffs operating in the area due to harsh sea conditions, while the red indicates a higher likelihood of favorable sea conditions for skiffs and smaller boats ***



On Land:

- 4 January 2013** - Al-Shabaab militants have reportedly arrested more than one hundred clerics in the town of El-dheer, which is located in the region of **Galgadud**, after they allegedly refused to recruit fighters for the group. Exiled area

district commissioner, Hussein Mohamed, has confirmed the incident, further noting that most of the victims who were arrested are said to be Koran teachers and others who were offering religious lessons in several of the mosques located in the area. Reports have indicated that the clerics are currently being held in a militant camp in a town nearby. The arrest of these men comes just a week after the leader of al-Shabaab confirmed that the militant group has lost a lot of ground to the allied forces. It also comes after the recent calls made by the government for the surrender of al-Shabaab fighters.

- 3 January 2013** - Puntland's government forces have repelled an attack by al-Shabaab militants. The attack, which occurred around 10:30PM local time in a location approximately 40km southwest of **Bossaso**, resulted in three al-Shabaab members being killed and five other attackers being wounded. One government soldier was also killed in the attack. The attack occurred near to the area where Puntland government forces are manning a remote outpost near the Galgala Mountains. In a separate incident, Puntland troops arrested an al-Shabaab member after he was caught attempting to set up a roadside bomb.
- 2 January 2013** - A roadside bomb has hit a Burundian contingent of the African Union forces who, at the time of the incident, were on a patrol in the town of **Merka** in the southern region of Somalia. According to eyewitness accounts, three civilians were wounded in the attack however there have been no reports



confirming any casualties suffered by the AMISOM troops who were the intended target of the attack. The Vice Governor of Security in the region also indicated to media that no casualties were suffered by the AMISOM forces and he stressed that security operations were currently underway in the town in order to find the perpetrators of the attack. However it is widely believed that al-Shabaab is responsible for this attack. The town of Merka was one of that major al-Shabaab strongholds before they were forced out by Somali national forces who are backed by AMISOM troops.

Domestic News:

- **4 January 2013** - The Somali Federal government has announced that the Somali Shilling currency, which was ordered by the previous Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and which was set to be printed in Sudan, will be postponed from entering Somali markets until a later date. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who recently returned to Mogadishu after a two-day state visit to the Sudanese capital of Khartoum where he held talks with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, indicated to the media in Mogadishu that the newly printed Somali Shilling currency in Sudan, will be postponed pending the strengthening and capacity of financial institutions in Somalia. Financial experts in Somalia have noted that the country's currency has experienced deflation since early 2011, in part due to a shortage of Shilling banknotes within the Somali government. In turn, the Puntland government has also previously warned against injecting Somali markets with the new currency without a planned consultative approach.
- **1 January 2013** - Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud arrived in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, where he was warmly welcomed by Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir. President Hassan was officially invited by Sudan's President in order to attend the 57th anniversary of Sudan's independence from European colonialism. President Hassan's official trip is part of a number of official trips which he has done in recent weeks. They include official visits to East African countries, including Kenya, Djibouti, Uganda, and Ethiopia in which all four countries are IGAD members states and have their forces deployed in Somalia.

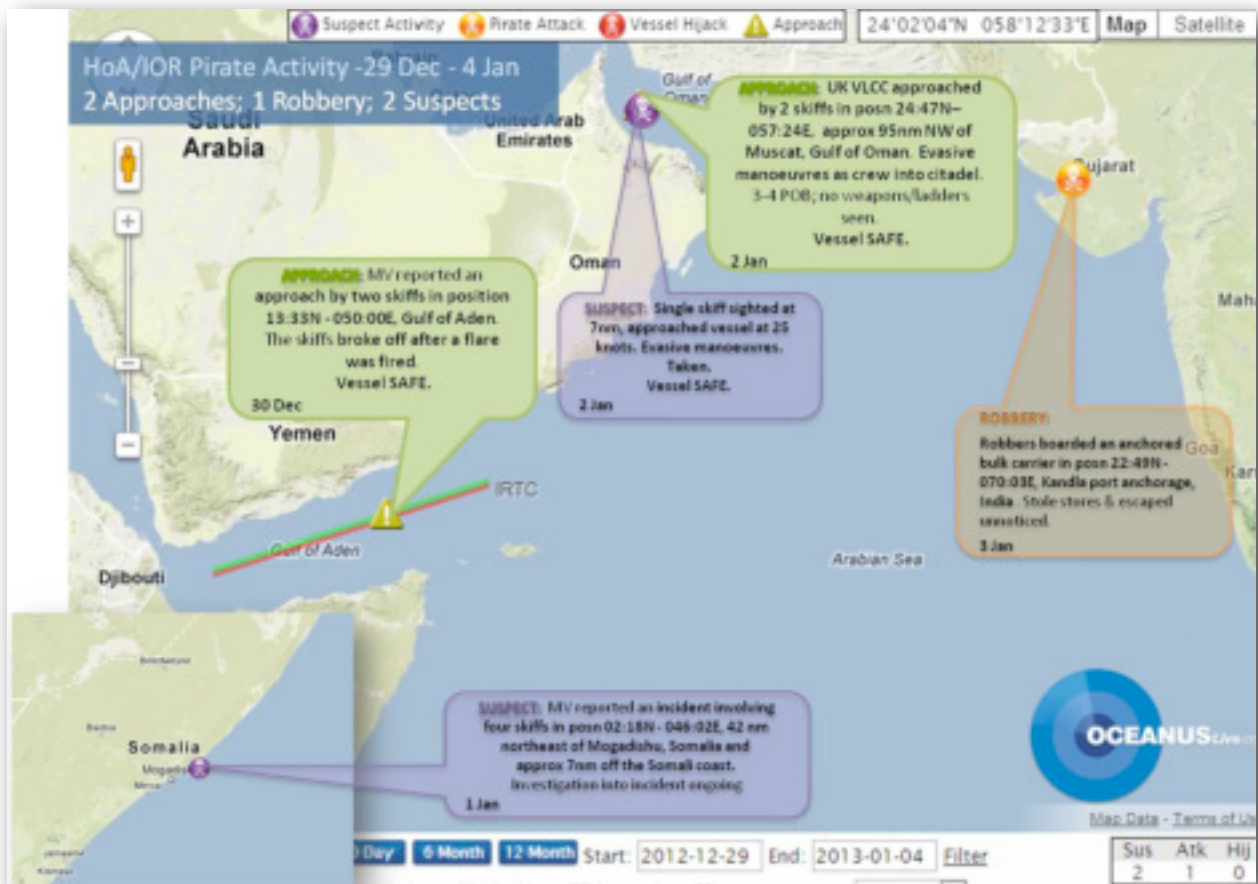
International Developments:

- **3 January 2013** - In 2013, the United States will Chair the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, a partnership which includes nearly eighty countries and international organizations that since 2009 have been working to turn the tide on maritime crime along one of the world's busiest shipping corridors. In a communique that was released following a 11 December 2012 meeting in New York, the Contact Group noted the continued significant reductions in attacks and hijackings and called for a renewed international commitment towards the combatting of piracy through the use of the military, law enforcement and development activities. Amongst the Contact Group's recommendations are:
 - Stressing the need for greater cooperation between all stakeholders, including states, relevant organizations, and the private sector for the prosecution of pirates as well as for the liberation of seafarers from pirate captivity.
 - The Contact Group has called on authorities in Somalia to develop a detailed maritime security strategy that will facilitate close cooperation with the international community to disrupt and counter pirate activity.
 - It underlined the need to maintain the current levels of operational activity, coordination and force generation in order to keep pressure on pirates and to consolidate recent gains.
 - Recognized the need to strengthen mechanisms to prosecute pirates apprehended off the coast of Somalia and reiterated the urgent need to investigate and prosecute anyone who incites or intentionally facilitates piracy operations.
 - Lastly, the Group noted the importance of ongoing work to dismantle piracy networks, with particular focus on the leaders, financiers and the enablers of piracy.
- **2 January 2013** - Ethiopia's intelligence agency has confirmed that police have arrested fifteen suspected militants who have allegedly been trained by Islamist rebels in neighboring Somalia and who were plotting attacks in Ethiopia. These arrests are the latest which have occurred over the past few months. They are the result of what senior officials have called an increasing threat from militant Islam in Ethiopia, which is a country that is predominantly comprised of Orthodox Christians but which has a large minority of Muslims. The National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) has indicated that the militants were arrested following a twenty-day operation which has revealed that they were plotting to set up cells in the eastern town of Harar and in Kemise, which is located in the northeastern region of the country. In a statement released by NISS,

“members of the group were recruited, trained and armed by Somalia’s al-Shabaab and their aim was to wage war and stage attacks inside the country.” Although the nationalities of the suspects have not been released, authorities have indicated that they crossed into Ethiopia from Somalia and Kenya. During the raid, police were able to obtain large amounts of arms, including rifles and grenades, as well as black flags with Arabic inscriptions written on them. Cd’s and video tapes with “jihadist messages” on them were also seized during the operation. From 2006 until 2009, Ethiopia fought Islamist rebels in Somalia. The country sent back troops in 2011 in order to fight al-Shabaab, which effectively opened a third front alongside Kenyan troops in the African Union’s mission.



Map:





ABOUT MS RISK

MS Risk is a privately owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by syndicate 2525 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.

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 - 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

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