

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

February 11 - 17, 2013 (Week 7)



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At Sea:

- During this period there were no piracy related incidents that were reported in the High Risk Area (HRA).

Updates:

- **15 February 2013** - Two men who attempted to hijack a Japanese tanker off the coast of Oman have appealed against their ten-year prison sentences.

Weather Analysis:

- The weather forecast throughout the following week will remain relatively good for pirate activities to occur as the Northeast monsoon season begins to subside. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will be able to move relatively freely in the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, as well as off the coast of Somalia. Conditions further out to sea may be more harsher and not favourable for small craft. Merchant vessels transiting the region are cautioned to exercise extreme vigilance as it is highly likely that pirates in the region will use the improved sea conditions to attack and hijack vessels.

On Land:

- **16 February 2013** - At least one person has been killed and another left injured after a car bomb was set off outside a popular beachside restaurant in Mogadishu.
- **15 February 2013** - Reports have indicated that al-Shabaab fighters are claiming to have executed a captured Kenyan soldier and that they have repeated threats to kill five other hostages.
- **14 February 2013** - Heavy fighting between al-Shabaab fighters and Somali government forces has taken place in the district of Baidoa.
- **12 February 2013** - The Governor of Galgudud region, which is located in central Somalia, has called on the Somali government to deploy troops from the African Union to his region.
- **11 February 2013** - Members of al-Shabaab have indicated that they carried out a suicide attack using a car bomb which targeted senior police officials in the central Galkayo region.

Domestic News:

- **11 February 2013** - As the United States continues its push for an end to the United Nations (UN) arms embargo on Somalia, UN monitors have reported that al-Shabaab militants in Somalia are receiving arms from distribution networks which have been linked to Yemen and Iran.
- **9 February 2013** - Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has returned to Mogadishu following his foreign visits abroad where Somalia was formally internationally recognized.
 - Meanwhile according to a UN humanitarian agency, more than 6,300 Somali refugees crossed the border into Somalia, from neighbouring countries, in January of this year.

International Developments:

- **14 February 2013** - Turkey's Parliament has approved a government motion to extend the mandate of Turkish naval ships partaking in anti-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea for another year.
- **9 February 2013** - According to a report issued by the United Nations Security Council, Kenya will reduce its troop presence in Somalia by twenty percent in the coming weeks.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Sightings: 0
- Releases: 0

Report on Somalia

February 11 – 17, 2013 (Week 7)

At Sea:

- During this period there were no piracy related incidents that were reported in the High Risk Area (HRA). Nevertheless, merchant vessels transiting through the area must remain vigilant and ensure that self protection measures are in place as Pirate Attack Groups (PAG's) may be operating in the area. Sea states in some areas within the HRA continue to be marginal as a result of the Northeast monsoon season however small boats may still be operating throughout the region.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Sightings: 0
- Releases: 0

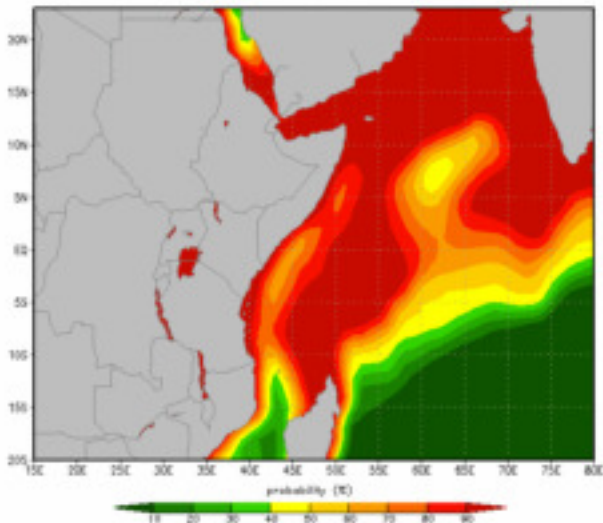
Updates:

- **15 February 2013** - Two men who attempted to hijack a Japanese tanker off the coast of Oman have appealed against their ten-year prison sentences. The two Somali men, who earlier this month were convicted in the first piracy case to be heard in Japan, have filed their appeals with the Tokyo High Court. The Tokyo District Court handed down the ten-year jail term on the grounds that Mohamed Urgus Adeysey and Abdinur Hussein Ali's acts were heinous and typical of Somali pirates who seek to obtain a ransom by taking hostages on the high seas. The two were amongst four African men who arrested in March 2011 in relation to the attack which occurred in the Indian Ocean. Men armed with submachine guns had attempted to seize the tanker, which at the time was operated by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and which had twenty-four crew members on board. The US Navy personnel later captured the men and handed them over to Japan's coastguard, which for the first time applied the nation's new anti-piracy law in order to transport them to Tokyo to face trial. The two other men who were brought to Japan will go through a different trial process as they are believed to be juveniles under Japanese law.

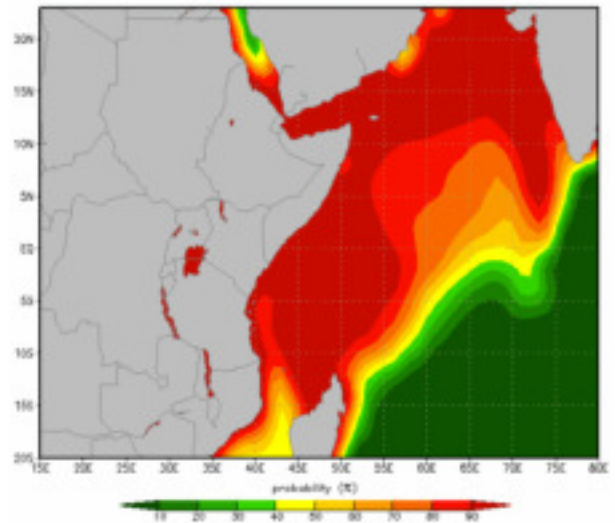
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 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 2 - 3 knots. Current speeds along the Somali Basin average between 1 - 2 knots.

Sea Conditions For This Week:

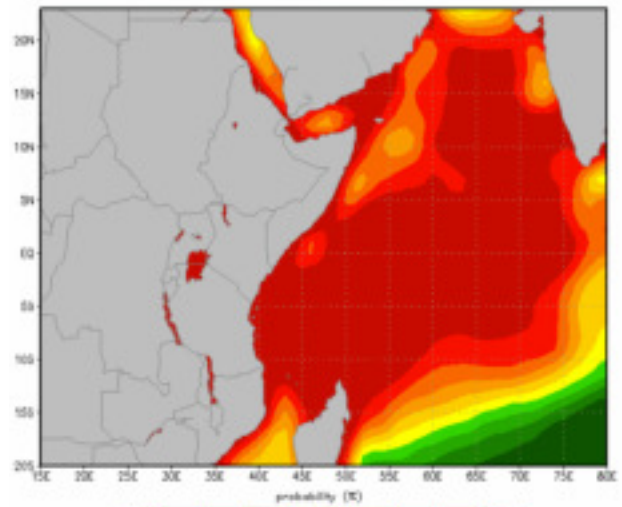


0000Z 18 FEB 2013
Winds < 15 kts and Wave Heights < 5 ft



1200Z 20 FEB 2013
Winds < 17 kts and Wave Heights < 7 ft

*** 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 favourable sea conditions for skiffs and smaller boats ***



0000Z 23 FEB 2013
Winds < 17 kts and Wave Heights < 7 ft

On Land:

- 16 February 2013** - At least one person has been killed and another left injured after a car bomb was set off outside a popular beachside restaurant in **Mogadishu**. The explosion occurred close to Mogadishu's famous Lido beach, which is typically crowded with families. According to police officer Hussein Ali, "the car was laden with explosive and set off in the parking area. The explosion also damaged cars and buildings in the area. No group has claimed responsibility however this attack is similar to those which have been launched by al-Shabaab militants in recent months. The insurgents have vowed to topple newly elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamed, who took office in September after being chosen by the country's new parliament. The attack also comes just days after Somalia's President returned from his foreign visits where Somalia was officially recognized by the international community (See Below).



- 15 February 2013**

- Reports have indicated that al-Shabaab fighters are claiming to have executed a captured Kenyan soldier and that they have repeated threats to kill five other hostages. In a statement that has been released to the public, al-Shabaab has indicated that "while the mujahedeen have executed the serving Kenya Defence Force (KDF) soldier, there is still a chance of securing the release of the remaining five prisoners." The reported execution comes after al-Shabaab issued a statement last month indicating that they had set a 14 February deadline that ordered Kenya, whose troops are fighting al-Shabaab militants throughout Somalia, to release "all Muslim prisoners held on so-called terrorism charges in Kenya." Al-Shabaab, who has previously released videos of the Kenyan civil servants they kidnapped, further indicated that they will execute the remaining five hostages within the next three days unless the Kenyan government gives into their demands. News of the

alleged execution comes on the same day as African Union forces and government troops seized the towns of Janalle, Aw Dhigle and Barire, which are all located 80km southwest of the capital city of Mogadishu. In effect marking the latest blow to al-Shabaab's stronghold in the country.

- **14 February 2013** - Heavy fighting between al-Shabaab fighters and Somali government forces has taken place in the district of **Baidoa**. The attacks, which left at least five people dead and another ten wounded, have coincided with the Somali Federal Government's reshuffling of the regional administration in the Bay region.
- **12 February 2013** - The Governor of Galgudud region, which is located in central Somalia, has called on the Somali government to deploy troops from the African Union to his region. In a statement that was released to the local media, Ahmed Hassan Iyow indicated that his administration had discussed with Somali government officials in regards to the deployment of peacekeepers in the region in order to enhance the security and stability. Members of Somalia's parliament recently visited the area in a tour of the province that focused on assessing the security situation and social developments of the region. The region of Galgudud has witnessed over the past several years fierce battles and attacks that have been staged by al-Shabaab's militants. The call for increased security in the region also comes at a time when al-Shabaab has vowed to recapture the south-central regions, especially the towns of Jowhar and Balcad.
- **11 February 2013** - Members of al-Shabaab have indicated that they carried out a suicide attack using a car bomb which targeted senior police officials in the central Galkayo region. According to Mohamed Abdullahi, a police officer in the town, at least five people have been killed, including the bomber. The incident occurred when a car bomb driver rammed his vehicle into the car that was carrying the deputy police commander of Puntland. According to Mr. Abdullahi, the deputy commander suffered burns on his upper body. The town where the attack occurred straddles the border between the northern breakaway state of Puntland and Galmudug. Although roadside car bombs are to an extent common in Mogadishu, they are rare in Galkayo. However since being forced out of their major strongholds in southern Somalia, al-Shabaab fighters have been moving into the northern regions of Somalia. Consequently it is possible that the northern regions, where a number al-Shabaab militants are now stationed, may see a number of hit and run attacks in the near future. On it's official Twitter account, al-Shabaab claimed that six soldiers were killed and nine others were wounded in the blast which the latest in a string of attacks that have occurred in the region.

Domestic News:

- **11 February 2013** - As the United States continues its push for an end to the United Nations (UN) arms embargo on Somalia, UN monitors have reported that al-Shabaab militants in Somalia are receiving arms from distribution networks which have been linked to Yemen and Iran. The UN Security Council's sanctions monitoring teams have raised their concerns about the links that Yemen and Iran have to supplying arms to al-Shabaab. According to reports, most of the weapons deliveries come into northern Somalia, that is, the autonomous regions of Puntland and Somaliland, after which they make their way down into the southern regions of the country, where a number of al-Shabaab militants remain. Just last month, Yemeni coast guards, along with the US Navy, seized a consignment of missiles and rockets which the Sanaa government has stipulated were sent by Iran. The monitoring group has also indicated that the supply chains in Yemen are largely composed of Somali networks. These reports come at a time when Yemen is asking Tehran to stop backing armed groups on Yemeni soil. Yemen is proving to be of major importance in arming al-Shabaab militants as it is feeding arms into northern Somalia and because it has become a playing field for Iranian interests in Somalia and elsewhere. The UN Security Council's Panel of Experts on Iran, which monitors compliance with the Iran sanctions regime, which includes the arms embargo on Tehran, is currently looking at Yemen and evidence of Iranian arms shipments across Africa.
- **9 February 2013** - Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has returned to Mogadishu following his foreign visits abroad where Somalia was formally internationally recognized. President Hassan landed at the Aden Adde International Airport in Mogadishu where he was met by government officials including Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon, Speaker of Parliament Mohamed Osman Jawari, as well as cabinet officials and MP's. The President returned from visits where he met with the heads of state of the United States, United Kingdom, Egypt and Belgium as Somalia's government was formally recognized by the US for the first time since the collapse of the central government twenty years ago. During his visit to Brussels, President Hassan made a compelling speech stating that Somalia was in need of assistance as it was emerging from war and is currently in the rebuilding stage. After meeting with 27 EU foreign ministers, the EU pledged a more

strengthened campaign that will focus on helping Somalia. An upcoming conference which is set in London, England in May will focus on working out a new deal for Somalia.

- Meanwhile according to a UN humanitarian agency, more than 6,300 Somali refugees crossed the border into Somalia, from neighbouring countries, in January of this year. According to the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the increase in the number of refugees returning to Somalia from Kenya in early January followed reports of increased violence around the Dadaab refugee camps as well as the Kenyan government's announcement on 18 December 2012 that Somali refugees and asylum seekers must return to the refugee camps in the country. The OCHA has stated that "in January, it recorded 6,200 cross-border movements between Somalia and its neighbours, the vast majority from Kenya. This was a jump from the average of roughly 1,200 movements per month recorded in the previous three months." The OCHA has noted that "the numbers do not indicate intentions and many refugees cross back and forth, sometimes to check on property or to find seasonal work. According to the UN Humanitarian agency, following the withdrawal of al-Shabaab militants from key towns in the region, there has been a gradual increase in the number of international aid workers that have been operating in southern Somalia.

International Developments:

- **14 February 2013** - Turkey's Parliament has approved a government motion to extend the mandate of Turkish naval ships partaking in the anti-piracy mission in the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea for another year. The motion will extend for one more year the Turkish Navy's mandate to partake in international anti-piracy missions which will now expire on 10 February 2014. Speaking at a parliament debate prior to the voting on the motion, Turkish Defence Minister Ismet Yilmaz indicated that Turkey had contributed to the anti-piracy task force with thirteen frigates.
- **9 February 2013** - According to a report issued by the United Nations Security Council, Kenya will reduce its troop presence in Somalia by twenty percent in the coming weeks. However the report continues to indicate that a battalion of 850 troops from Sierra Leone is scheduled to be added to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) throughout February and March. As of last November, Kenya had a total of 4,652 soldiers who were assigned to AMISOM. The scheduled reduction of 3,800 Kenyan troops comes amidst allegations that the UN has paid only a small portion of the US \$132 million that it had initially agreed to provide to Kenya by July of this year as reimbursement for the contributions the country has made to AMISOM. According to Kenyan UN Ambassador Macharia Kamau, the UN has paid less than US \$1 million of that sum. The UN Security Council Report has highlighted the fact that Kenyan forces have helped make "significant progress" in securing the port of Kismayo in southern Somalia. According to the report, AMISOM detachments in Lower and Middle Jubba, which consists mainly in Kenyan forces, "have deprived al-Shabaab revenue from seaport taxation, custom duties and smuggling of contraband, notably the import and export charcoal and sugar." The report also warned that "al-Shabaab has intensified its outreach in the region, attempting to establish links with local extremist groups. It continues to recruit fighters in neighbouring countries, train them and facilitate the return of those who want to wage war against their homeland, as demonstrated by the recent spate of attacks in Kenya.

Map:

NATO Shipping Centre Alerts Operation Ocean Shield





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References are always available.

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