

# 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 21 – 27, 2013 (Week 4)



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### At Sea:

- For the second week in a row, there have been no reports of pirate incidents or hijackings in the High Risk Area (HRA).

### Piracy Related News:

- **23 January 2013** - A number of former pirates in the regions of central Somalia have launched an anti-piracy campaign in order to pursue colleagues who are still in the field to renounce piracy and give up their activities.
- **22 January 2013** - The United States Supreme Court has turned down an appeal from Somali men who were the first people to be convicted on federal piracy charges in nearly 200 years.

### Key Statistics

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

### Weather Analysis:

- The weather forecast throughout the following week will remain to be relatively good for pirate activities to occur. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will be able to move relatively freely in the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Oman. Conditions off the coast of Somalia will remain to be unfavourable for small boats.

### On Land:

- **24 January 2013** - Members of al-Shabaab have demanded the release of all Muslims who are currently being held in neighbouring Kenya on terror charges within the next three weeks, otherwise, they will begin to kill those hostages who are currently being held by the terrorist group.
  - Meanwhile Somali government forces have raided a small village near the provincial town of Jowhar in response to an attack that was launched by militants in Jowhar the night before.

### International Developments:

- **25 January 2013** - Al-Shabaab's Twitter account has been suspended after the terrorist group used the site to threaten to kill Kenyan hostages.
- **24 January 2013** - The trial for twelve Somali pirates who were captured by US forces on 5 January is set to open in Port-Louis, Mauritius on Friday.
- **22 January 2013** - The European Council has extended the European Union's training mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia) for an additional two years.
- **21 January 2013** - The British government has confirmed that the international crackdown on piracy off the coast of Somalia will receive £2.25 million in aid through the United Nations Office on Drugs and crime's counter piracy programme.

### Special Report: Piracy Incidents – December 2012

- **Summary** - December saw the continued descending trend in pirate attacks and robbery incidents at sea across all the High Risk Areas (HRAs). The last month of 2012 saw one hijack being reported and twenty attacks and robberies occurring, with no activity being reported in South America.

### About MS Risk

## Report on Somalia

January 21 – 27, 2013 (Week 4)

### At Sea:

- For the second week in a row, there have been no reports of pirate incidents or hijackings in the High Risk Area (HRA). However merchant vessels are reminded to continue to remain vigilant while transiting through this region and to ensure that self protection measures are in place as Pirate Attack Groups (PAG's) may still be operating in the area. Despite sea conditions being unpredictable, due to the Northeast Monsoon season, sea states for the most part remain conducive to pirate operations.

#### Key Statistics

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

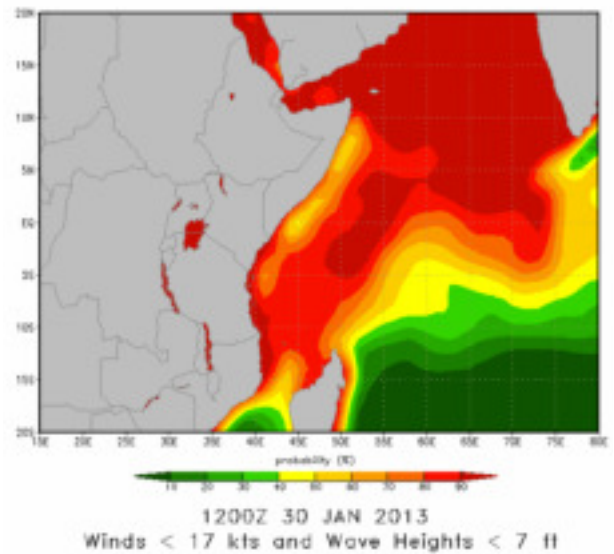
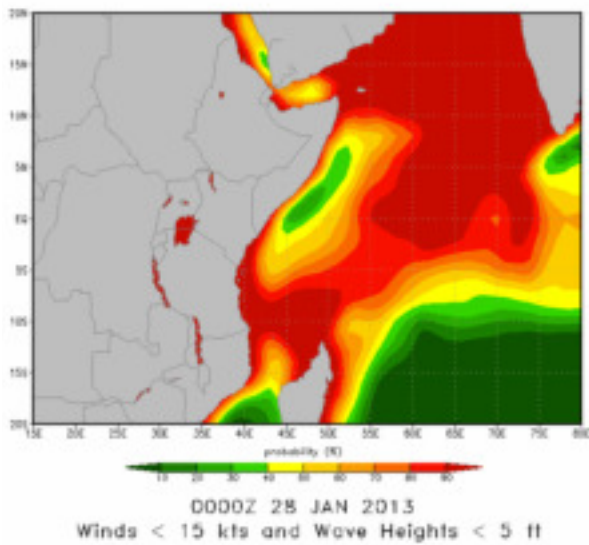
### Piracy Related News:

- **23 January 2013** - A number of former pirates in the regions of central Somalia have launched an anti-piracy campaign in order to pursue colleagues, who are still in the field, to renounce piracy and give up their activities. Reports have indicated that the group of men will reportedly begin touring areas along the pirate-infested coastline in Galgadud and Mudug, including Hobyo, Haradere and Gaan. They are also expected to visit remote areas of Hararere and Hobyo districts where pirates are known to share their ransoms received from hijacked vessels and their crew. Local sources have indicated that former Somali pirate kingpin, Mohamed Abdi Hassan, is leading the anti-piracy campaigners in these regions. Mr. Hassan, who was mentioned in a UN report last year as "a pirate kingpin protected by Somali authorities" and several others announced their retirement from piracy earlier this month.
- **22 January 2013** - The United States Supreme Court has turned down an appeal from Somali men who were the first people to be convicted on federal piracy charges in nearly 200 years. Although defence lawyers had argued that the men were innocent fishermen who had been abducted by pirates and forced to fire their weapons at a U.S. Navy ship, the government indicated that the men had confessed to attacking the USS Nicholas after mistaking it for a merchant ship. At the time of the attack, the Nicholas, which is based in Norfolk, Va., was part of an international campaign to fight piracy in the seas off Somalia. The court has also rejected a separate appeal from another group of Somalis who have yet to be tried on piracy charges. However the court declined to indicate what appeals were denied.

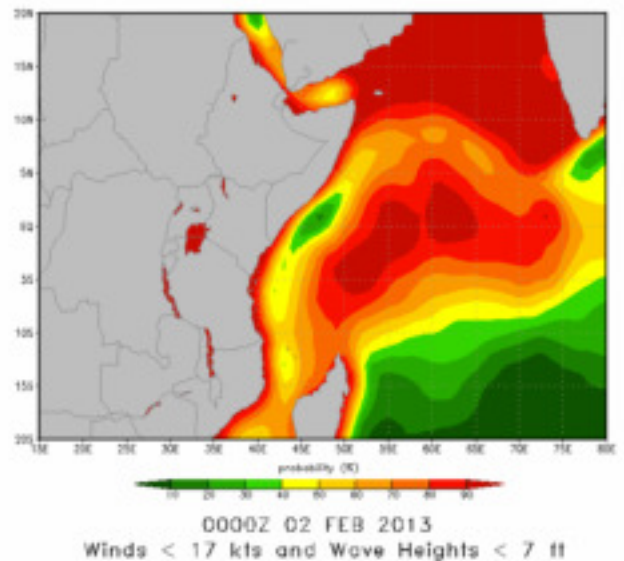
## Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Northeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - East-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - Northwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - North-northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be south-southeasterly at 20 - 25 knots with seas of 8 - 10 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the northern Channel; with east-southeasterly winds of 20 - 25 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

## 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:

- **24 January 2013** - Members of al-Shabaab have demanded the release of all Muslims who are currently being held in neighbouring Kenya on terror charges within the next three weeks, otherwise, they will begin to kill those hostages who are currently being held by the terrorist group. Al-Shabaab later posted on its Twitter account a link to a video of two Kenyan civil servants who were seized from the frontier county of Wajir a year ago. A statement directed at the Kenyan government indicated that the lives of the two civil servants were in grave danger. Mule Yesse Edward, a local administrator, and Fredrick Irungu, who works with the ministry of immigration, were captured in January 2012 when the militants crossed the border into Kenya and attacked an administration police post in Wajir. Several police officers were killed during the attack. The video that was posted on al-Shabaab's Twitter account also contained a still photograph of four other Kenyan hostages who were not identified. Yesse, who spoke in the video, indicated that all the Kenyan hostages that were being held by the group were at risk in Kenya did not meet the demands of the rebels. So far, there has been no response by Kenyan officials in regards to the deadline which has been set by the insurgents. The demands have come just a week after al-Shabaab indicated that they had killed French hostage Denis Alex in order to avenge what it called France's growing persecution of Muslims along with its military campaign against Islamists in Mali. This growing influence of insurgent groups linked to al-Qaeda has resulted in rising concerns in a number of countries, including France. The recent attack on an oil field in Algeria, where a number of foreign hostages were taken, is another indication that such groups are beginning to gain ground in certain regions of the African continent. Nairobi sent its troops across the border in October 2011 in order to pursue al-Shabaab militants after the insurgents had kidnapped western tourists and Kenyan security forces on Kenyan soil.
  - Meanwhile Somali government forces have raided a small village near the provincial town of Jowhar in response to an attack that was launched by militants in Jowhar the night before. Local sources have confirmed that Somali forces raided Bayahow, a small village located 7km from Jowhar which is the capital of the Middle Shabelle region. Although there has been no fighting reported, sources have stated that Somali troops detained a number of persons from the town of Bayahow. Gen. Mohamed Mohamud Saney, commander of the Somali Army's second division has indicated to the media that al-Shabaab militants had attacked Jowhar the night before and that fighting had lasted for nearly an hour. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that five to six people were killed in the attack. Currently, Jowhar remains to be calm as AMISOM peace keeping troops are patrolling the streets of the town in order to boost its security.

## International Developments:

- **25 January 2013** - Al-Shabaab's Twitter account has been suspended after the terrorist group used the site to threaten to kill Kenyan hostages (*See Above*). Al-Shabaab launched its Twitter account in December 2011, shortly after Kenyan troops went into Somalia to combat them. Since then, the group has used this social site as a platform to reach out to potential recruits and to rebut any information that has been released by the African Union peacekeeping force (AMISOM) and the Kenyan Defence Force. Earlier this month, the group had used Twitter to announce that it would kill a French hostage, Denis Alex. They later confirmed the killing through the site. This past week, al-Shabaab's account posted a link to a video of two Kenyan civil servants who are being held hostage in Somalia. The video indicated to the Kenyan government that their lives were in danger unless it released all Muslims held on "so-called terrorism charges" in the country.
- **24 January 2013** - The trial for twelve Somali pirates who were captured by US forces on 5 January is set to open in Port-Louis, Mauritius on Friday. The Mauritian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Arvin Boolell has indicated that all the measures are in place which have enabled the country to receive the first group of Somali pirates. The Minister indicated that "we have honoured our commitments to the international community and the European Union (EU)," adding that once the trial was completed, the pirates would be repatriated to Somaliland in accordance to agreement that was signed.
- **22 January 2013** - The European Council has extended the European Union's training mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia) for an additional two years. The Council indicated that the mission will continue to contribute towards the strengthening of the Somali armed forces so that it will be able to ultimately take over the security responsibilities. Furthermore, given the changing situation in Somalia, the Council indicated that the EUTM will begin to refocus its activities and it will now provide political and strategic advice to the Somali ministry of

defence and the chief of defence forces. It will also advise on developments within the security sector as well as provide specialized military training and mentoring in the training domain. According to the Council, this will aid in laying the foundations for a Somali-owned military training system, with basic and specialized military training that will take place in Somalia. The mission will gradually move training activities from Bihanga, Uganda, to Somalia however this will depend on how the security conditions in the country will develop. Brigadier General Gerald Aherene from Ireland will also be taking over the command. The common costs of the operation, which is set to operate until 31 March 2015, are estimated to be at EUR 11.6 million. EUTM Somalia was first launched in February 2010. Since then, the programme has contributed to the training of about 3,000 Somali troops. It is part of the EU's comprehensive approach for a stable, democratic and prosperous Somalia that is embedded in the EU's strategic framework for the Horn of Africa.

- **21 January 2013** - The British government has confirmed that the international crackdown on piracy off the coast of Somalia will receive £2.25 million in aid through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's counter piracy programme. Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt indicated that while pirate attacks in the region peaked between 2009 and 2011, with an average of 171 sea incidents per year, this number fell to 35 in 2012 however the situation remains to be "fragile and reversible." The Minister continued to indicate that "108 hostages remain in pirate hands, often subjected to terrible conditions with no knowledge of when, or even if, they will be released. So we must stay the course; take the opportunity to press home our advantage and make the waters off the coast of Somalia safe once again." Amongst the projects that the funding will be used for is to finish a new prison in Garowe Puntland which will hold convicted pirates in facilities that meet international standards. The funding will also support a project to tackle corruption in the Somali penal system and it will be used to develop Somali coastguard capabilities.



## Special Report: Piracy Incidents – December 2012

**Summary** - December saw the continued descending trend in pirate attacks and robbery incidents at sea across all the High Risk Areas (HRAs). The last month of 2012 saw one hijack being reported and twenty attacks and robberies occurring, with no activity being reported in South America.

### Key Statistics

- **Horn of Africa: 2 Incidents; 6 Approaches**
- **W. Africa: 8 Incidents; 1 Approach**
- **Asia: 10 Incidents; 1 Hijack**
- **S. America: 0 Incidents**

In the Horn of Africa, two incidents stand out. The first incident involves pirates who boarded a Danish tanker but were unable to control the ship as the crew were secured in a safe room. A Danish warship later arrived on the scene in order to release the crew members however the pirates managed to escape. The second incident involved soldiers from Puntland who were assigned to guard a North Korean ship which was being held in the region for illegally dumping its cargo into the waters off of Puntland. The vessel was later hijacked by four soldiers. It is believed that a pirate gang had paid the soldiers to hijack the vessel however the soldiers later rejoined the police and returned the vessel to Bossaso.

The Gulf of Guinea reported eight attacks during the month of December however it must be noted that under-reporting in the region continues to prevail. There is also a rising concern relating to the number of kidnapping incidents that have occurred during three attacks. Reports have indicated that at least twelve people have been taken hostage, not including the six people from Hyundai Heavy who were released following a ransom payment.

In Asia, a boat and a fully loaded Olympus 99 oil barge were hijacked by pirates in Nenek Strait, Batam, Riau Islands. Both crew members were later marooned on an island. Although the hijackers managed to change the names on both the boats, they were apprehended fifteen hours later by Batam marine personnel and Riau Islands Water Police. A total of eleven pirates were arrested in the incident. A further ten incidents were reported in the region during December. The Merlion Dau was boarded by eight pirates but were later arrested by MMEA. The boarding resulted in the death of the ship's watch dog, who was killed by the pirates. Three other crew members were injured in the attack.



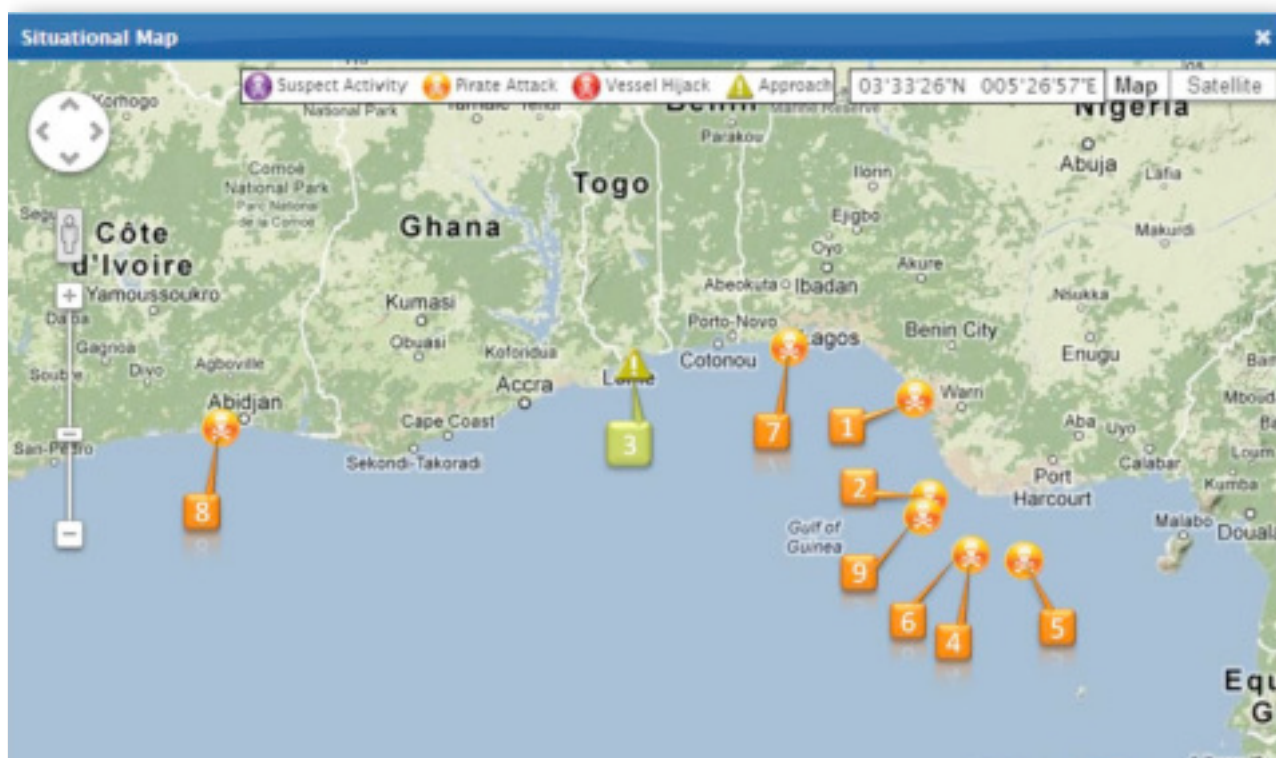
## Horn of Africa

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	8 December			Suspicious Activity - Dhow and 2 skiffs
2	15 December	Agistri	Liberia/Tanker	Approach - dhow launched skiff NE of Muscat, Oman; Weapons seen; Crew in citadel; AST Fired Warning Shots
3	15 December	Torm Kristina	Denmark/ Crude Oil Tanker	NE of Muscat, Oman/Attack, boarded; Crew in citadel/Rescued by Danish Navy
4	18 December	Dae San	N. Korea/ General Cargo	Bossaso anchorage, Somalia/Hijacked by soldiers/returned to anchorage
5	20 December	Tsurumi	Panama/ Tanker	Approach - Skiff south of Bandar e Jask, Iran; Weapons & RPG seen; Helo dispatched
6	21 December	UNK MV		Approach - 2 skiffs ESE of Muscat, Oman chased for 1.5 hours
7	27 December	UNK MV		Approach - 2 skiffs chased MV. Flares fired
8	27 December	UNK MV		Approach - 2 skiffs chased MV. AST Fire
9	30 December			Approach - 2 skiffs chased MV. Flares fired



## West Africa

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	9 December	Gertrude	Rig Spt Vessel	SW of Ajapa Oil Field, Nigeria
2	10 December	PM Salem	Honduras/ OSV	SW offshore Bayelsa, Nigeria/Attack
3	11 December	Faouet	Luxembourg/ Product Tanker	Approach - Lome anchorage, Togo/2 approaches
4	17 December	WAO Brass	Nigeria/Crew Boat	SSW of Cape Formoso, Nigeria/Attack - 3 kidnapped
5	17 December	SP Brussels	Marshall Island/ Chemical Tanker	Off Pennington terminal, Nigeria/Attack - 5 kidnapped
6	17 December	Janice 1	Supply ship	SSW of Cape Formoso, Nigeria/Attack
7	21 December	Manon	Malta/Tanker	Lagos anchorage, Nigeria/Attempt
8	23 December	Madonna 1	Panama/ Chemical	Abidjan anchorage, Ivory Coast/Boarded, Attempted hijacking, crew assaulted
9	23 December	Asso Ventuno	Italy/OS Tug	Off Bayelsa, Nigeria/Attack - 4 kidnapped



## Southeast Asia

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location/Type of Incident
1	1 December	Triton Lark	Panama/Bulk Carrier	Balikpapan Outer anchorage, Indonesia/ Attempted Boarding
2	5 December	K Neptune	Panama/Bulk Carrier	Belawan Roads, Indonesia/Robbery
3	7 December	Puteri	Mongolai/ Tanker	S of Tanjung Pelapas, Malaysia/Robbery
4	8 December	Kore	Russia/ Chemical Tanker	Belawan Roatds, Indonesia/Attempted Boarding
5	10 December	Luminous Halo	Panama/Bulk Carrier	Taboneo anchorage, Indonesia/Robbery
6	11 December	Merlion Dua	St Kitts & Nevis/Tanker	S of Tanjung Stapa, Pengerang, Johor, Malaysia/Robbery, 8 pirates arrested by MMEA
7	14 December	Loreto	Indonesia/ Bulk Carrier	Nantong Working anchorage, China/ Attempted Robbery
8	20 December	Clipper Karen	Bahamas/ Chemical Tanker	Belawan anchorage, Indonesia/Robbery
9	29 December	Sanko Mercury	Liberia/Bulk Carrier	Taboneo anchorage, Indonesia/Robbery
10	29 December	Nord Discovery	Panama/Bulk Carrier	Taboneo anchorage, Indonesia/Boarded, failed robbery
11	31 December	Unknown	Tug and Barge	Nenek Strait, Batam, Indonesia/Hijack, crew marooned, pirates arrested



Map:





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  - Planning and management
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- Project Management
  - Interim security
  - Training
  - Special assignments
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- 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)

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