

# 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

April 1 – 7, 2013 (Week 14)



*Follow us on Twitter @ MS Risk\_Security for regular updates on topical security events and issues.*

### At Sea:

- After a second consecutive week of sightings and attacks in waters off the Horn of Africa, it seems very likely that Somali piracy will soon emerge from the relative downtime that has been experienced over the past six months, with a number of experts stating that it will be no surprise to see piracy return to the Gulf of Aden. According to a number of experts, despite the presence of navies and armed guards, the basic foundations of piracy still exist in the region. Consequently Somali pirates will be able to mobilize for new attacks quickly as they will be compelled to earn more money after months of no successful hijackings. Although over the past few months, a number of big pirates have stepped away from their previous activities, the sharp increase of activity in the region over the last two weeks has demonstrated that there remains to be a large number of pirates who will continue to carry out the attacks. In turn, once pirate gangs begin to pick up targets and successfully manage to hijack vessels, then the long-established pirate investors, leaders and negotiators will likely be involved again as they attempt to gain more profit. Over the past few years, Somali pirates have not been forced to change their tactics as they were successful in hijacking a large number of vessels, which in turn provided them with a suitable return. However with an increase in naval presence over the past few months, coupled with a greater presence of armed security on board vessels transiting the region, Somali pirates in the region will need to evolve their methods and tactics. Although we do not know exactly what form the innovations will take, it seems to be clear that the intentions and desires of Somali pirates to hijack vessels in the region is far from over and that their capacity has not fully diminished.
- **4 April 2013** - Cayman Island-flagged tanker reported suspicious craft at 0900 UTC in position 13:39N - 050:46.2E, in the eastbound region of the IRTC in the Gulf of Aden.
- **3 April 2013** - Panama-flagged bulk carrier reported sighting a lifeboat with 5 skiffs at 0745 LT in position 21:49.4N - 060:06.5E, approximately 95 nautical miles from Masirah Island, Oman.
  - Meanwhile the crew of a Liberian-flagged tanker spotted a lifeboat at 1520 LT while in position 21:56.01N - 060:06.26E, approximately northeast of Masirah Island, Oman.
- **2 April 2013** - An MV was attacked by a single skiff at 0700 UTC while in position 00:52.7N - 044:01.7E, approximately 115 nautical miles northeast of Kismayo, Somalia.
  - Meanwhile an MV reported sighting 2 dhows, one towing 3 skiffs, while the second towing 4 skiffs in position 13:6.95N - 051:21.45E.
- **1 April 2013** - MV reports the latest sighting of a suspicious dhow with 4 skiffs in tow at 0550 UTC while in position 13:57.3N - 051:22.5E, course: 125 at speed 7 knots.
- **30 March 2013** - Nato Indian Ocean Task Force was involved in the dramatic rescue of a bulk carrier. During the early morning hours, off the island of Masirah, Oman, a Liberian-flagged bulk carrier, the Atlantic Confidence, reported having a fire in the engine room and requested assistance.

### Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 1
- Sightings: 5
- Releases: 0

### Updates:

- **2 April 2013** - India's Supreme Court has withdrawn its earlier order barring the Italian ambassador from leaving India after diplomatic tensions had increased over the return of two Italian marines who have been accused of killing two Indian fishermen.

### On Land:

- **2 April 2013** - Reports have indicated that a high-ranking al-Shabaab commander Mohammed Abdu Saidi was killed last week in an ambush by Ugandan troops serving under AMISOM in the lower Shabelle region.
- **1 April 2013** - African Union (AU) troops have confirmed that the main road from Somalia's capital city to the strategic south-western city of Baidoa has been totally recaptured from Islamist militants.
  - Meanwhile, a bomb has exploded outside the headquarters of Somalia's largest bank, wounding at least two people.

### Domestic News:

- **5 April 2013** - Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has embarked on a regional tour to neighbouring Djibouti, Ethiopia, Uganda and Burundi.

### International Developments:

- **5 April 2013** - A senior African Union official has confirmed that a military contingent from the Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) has arrived in Somalia in order to bolster the African Union Mission in Somalia.
- **2 April 2013** - Gunmen have shot dead two Kenyan policemen in what is the latest attack to have occurred in the border regions with Somalia.
- **1 April 2013** - After twenty-two years of closure, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has announced that the United Arab Emirates intends on re-opening its embassy in Somalia.

### About MS Risk

## Report on Somalia

April 1 – 7, 2013 (Week 14)

### At Sea:

- After a second consecutive week of sightings and attacks in waters off the Horn of Africa, it seems very likely that Somali piracy will soon emerge from the relative downtime that has been experienced over the past six months, with a number of experts stating that it will be no surprise to see piracy return to the Gulf of Aden. According to a number of experts, despite the presence of navies and armed guards, the basic foundations of piracy still exist in the region. Consequently Somali pirates will be able to mobilize for new attacks quickly as they will be compelled to earn more money after months of no successful hijackings. Although over the past few months, a number of big pirates have stepped away from their previous activities, the sharp increase of activity in the region over the last two weeks has demonstrated that there remains to be a large number of pirates who will continue to carry out the attacks. In turn, once pirate gangs begin to pick up targets and successfully manage to hijack vessels, then the long-established pirate investors, leaders and negotiators will likely be involved again as they attempt to gain more profit. Over the past few years, Somali pirates have not been forced to change their tactics as they were successful in hijacking a large number of vessels, which in turn provided them with a suitable return. However with an increase in naval presence over the past few months, coupled with a greater presence of armed security on board vessels transiting the region, Somali pirates in the region will need to evolve their methods and tactics. Although we do not know exactly what form the innovations will take, it seems to be clear that the intentions and desires of Somali pirates to hijack vessels in the region is far from over and that their capacity has not fully diminished.
- **4 April 2013** - Cayman Island-flagged tanker reported suspicious craft at 0900 UTC in position 13:39N - 050:46.2E, in the eastbound region of the IRTC in the Gulf of Aden ([See Map](#)). Four dhows and 11 skiffs were sighted. A coalition US Warship was informed. The dhows and skiffs were sighted around 1.5 nautical miles off the port bow. Weapons were shown by the embarked security team. The group of small craft remained stationary, making no further attempts to approach.
- **3 April 2013** - Panama-flagged bulk carrier reported sighting a lifeboat with 5 skiffs at 0745 LT in position 21:49.4N - 060:06.5E, approximately 95 nautical miles from Masirah Island, Oman ([See Map](#)). Two skiffs came within 1 nautical mile and appeared to observe the vessel prior to returning to the group. Embarked armed guards on board the vessel stood to and displayed their weapons. The two skiffs moved away shortly afterwards.
  - Meanwhile the crew of a Liberian-flagged tanker spotted a lifeboat at 1520 LT while in position 21:56.01N - 060:06.26E, approximately northeast of Masirah Island, Oman ([See Map](#)). Master of the vessel prepared to maneuver and turn to a different course. Suddenly two white skiffs were sighted approaching the boat at high speeds from the east. Skiffs eventually abandoned the approach and continued passage. It is highly likely that these two skiffs are part of the group of five skiffs which had attempted to attack a Panama-flagged bulk carrier earlier in the day. Any vessels transiting through the region are cautioned to remain vigilant.
- **2 April 2013** - An MV was attacked by a single skiff at 0700 UTC while in position 00:52.7N - 044:01.7E, approximately 115 nautical miles northeast of Kismayo, Somalia ([See Map](#)). The skiff was white in color with eight pirates on board. The skiff fired at the vessel and armed security guards on board the vessel fired warning shots in return. The vessel managed to evade being hijacked.
  - Meanwhile an MV reported sighting 2 dhows, one towing 3 skiffs, while the second was towing 4 skiffs in position 13:6.95N - 051:21.45E ([See Map](#)). First dhow approached the vessel at 4 nautical miles, and passed the vessel bow, towing 3 skiffs. Dhow had a light blue hull however the number of pirates on board was not ascertained. No weapons or pirate equipment were seen on board. The vessel continued to head southwest. The second dhow approached the vessel at 1 nautical mile, and passed it at the stern. The dhow had a white-hull with 8 - 10 pirates on board. No weapons or pirate equipment were

### Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 1
- Sightings: 5
- Releases: 0

seen. The dhow also continued southwest. Both dhows held the same course and speed. The master of the MV adjusted course in order to create a greater distance between the vessel and the second dhow. The MV has been reported safe however the two dhows are likely to remain in the general area. As such, any vessels transiting the region are reminded to remain vigilant.

- **1 April 2013** - MV reports the latest sighting of a suspicious dhow with 4 skiffs in tow at 0550 UTC while in position 13:57.3N - 051:22.5E, course: 125 at speed 7 knots ([See Map](#)). No boarding equipment or weapons were sighted and no direct approach was made however photo imagery has identified the dhow as the same suspicious dhow which was sighted on 29 March 2013 in the Eastern end of the IRTC in the Gulf of Aden.
- **30 March 2013** - Nato Indian Ocean Task Force was involved in the dramatic rescue of a bulk carrier. During the early morning hours, off the island of Masirah, Oman, a Liberian-flagged bulk carrier, the Atlantic Confidence, reported having a fire in the engine room and requested assistance. Upon receiving the message, Admiral Antonio Natale, Commander of the NATO Task Force, promptly ordered the nearest vessel under his command, the frigate USS Nicholas, to proceed at maximum speed and to assist. Several minutes later, the Captain of the Atlantic Confidence ordered his crew members, which were comprised of twenty-one Turkish nationals, to abandon ship, assessing that the fire was now out of control. The U.S. Frigate took command of the rescue operation and dispatched its helicopter to cover the 80 miles to the vessel and to assess the immediate needs and damage. Upon reaching the scene, the crew on board the helicopter reported back to the frigate that the merchant vessel was already partially sunk but still floating. After verifying that the survivors appeared to be safely in life-boats, and did not require immediate medical assistance, the NATO frigate coordinated the embarkation operations on board an oil tanker, the Pluto, which was transiting in the area. The oil tanker was also manned by a Turkish crew and it will now assist in providing the safe onward passage for all the survivors. **Update** - Recent sighting reports of a lifeboat northeast of Masirah suggest that the craft may be from the Atlantic Confidence which caught fire 150 nautical miles southeast of Masirah Island. The vessel sank at 0655 UTC in position 20:12.94N - 061:26.02E ([See Map](#)). Caution is advised on approaching the lifeboat if it is sighted.



## Updates:

- **2 April 2013** - India's Supreme Court has withdrawn its earlier order barring the Italian ambassador from leaving India after diplomatic tensions had increased over the return of two Italian marines who have been accused of killing two Indian fishermen. Ambassador Daniele Mancini had been initially barred from leaving India last month after Rome confirmed that the two marines would not be returning back to India after receiving a four week leave in order to vote in the Italian elections. However the two marines have since returned to India and on Tuesday, the Supreme Court requested the government to set up a special court in order to try the marines. The court has indicated that it would hear the matter again on 16 April 2013. The marines returned to India on 22 March 2013 in an Italian military plane, accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister Staffan de Mistura. The Italian government accepted the marines return to India after it has received assurances from the Indian government in regards to the men's treatment and their human rights. This has also resulted in an ease of diplomatic tensions between Delhi and Rome. The two marines are accused of shooting the fishermen off the Kerala coast in February 2012. At the time, they had been guarding an Italian oil tanker and have indicated that they mistook the fishermen for pirates. Italy has also always insisted that as the shooting had taken place in international waters the men should be tried in Italy.



## On Land:

- **2 April 2013** - Reports have indicated that a high-ranking al-Shabaab commander, Mohammed Abdu Saidi, was killed last week in an ambush by Ugandan troops serving under AMISOM in the lower Shabelle region. According to Uganda contingent Public Information Officer Henry Obbo, "he fell as his group lost out to us in a battle at Salini, some 70 kilometers southwest of Mogadishu, where the al-Qaeda-linked group lost to us a military long-range communication gadget and an assortment of weaponry and uniforms." According to Mr. Obbo, Saidi commanded some 30 - 50 fighters in the Bay region. His group had been isolated from the other militants in the north after AMISOM troops had liberated the towns of Jannale, Awdhigle and Barire.
- **1 April 2013** - African Union (AU) troops have confirmed that the main road from Somalia's capital city to the strategic south-western city of Baidoa has been totally recaptured from Islamist militants. It is the first time that the two cities have been linked in more than two years. The last portion of the 241 km (149 mile) road from Mogadishu to Baidoa was successfully secured on Monday. A statement released by the African Union indicated that "this significant move not only allows for free movement of the population, but also opens up this key supply route and allows for the provision of humanitarian aid."
  - Meanwhile, a bomb has exploded outside the headquarters of Somalia's largest bank, wounding at least two people. The attack occurred just hours after al-Shabaab militants had ordered that the company cease operations in areas that are controlled by the militant group. According to local reports, the doors were ripped off at the office in Bakara market and at least two guards have been injured in the incident. Police captain Nur Hassan has indicated that "a remote-controlled bomb planted in front of Mogadishu's Dahabshiil bank and money transfer headquarters injured two guards." Earlier during the day, a number of al-Shabaab members had walked into the Dahabshiil branches in areas of Somalia under the group's control, demanding that they close their offices and accusing the company of working for aid agencies that have been banned in their territories. Money transfer firms like Dahabshiil are vital to the Horn of Africa country's fractured economy, which lacks a developed banking sector due to the twenty years of civil conflict the country has endured. Although police have yet to identify who exactly is behind the blast, they have indicated that a mobile phone attached to the device was used in order to detonate it. Dahabshiil has declined to comment on the attack and on the threats made by al-Shabaab.

## Domestic News:

- **5 April 2013** - Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has embarked on a regional tour to neighbouring Djibouti, Ethiopia, Uganda and Burundi. He will head a high level delegation which includes Defence Minister Abdihiin Haji Mohamud Fiqi and Homeland Security Minister Abdikarim Hussein Guled. The Prime Minister, who left for Djibouti on Wednesday, has indicated that during his tour, he wants to discuss issues including regional security, trade, improving human rights, greater partnership and development with Somalia's neighbors. The Somali delegation was welcomed in Djibouti by Prime Minister Abdoulkader Kamil Mohamed. Shortly after meeting with President Ismail Omar Guelleh, and holding talks with government officials, the delegation will travel to Ethiopia. During his visit in Djibouti, the Somali Prime Minister indicated that the new Somalia highly regarded the strong and healthy relationship it had with its neighbours and the time had come to "thank and congratulate AMISOM and IGAD member states on their efforts to stabilize the country." The official tour by the Somali Prime Minister is set to boost relations with East African countries which have contributed troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Since his election last fall, the Prime Minister has embarked on a tour throughout the southern regions of Somalia. After concluding the second phase of his tour within Somalia, the Prime Minister embarked on a tour of the East African region.

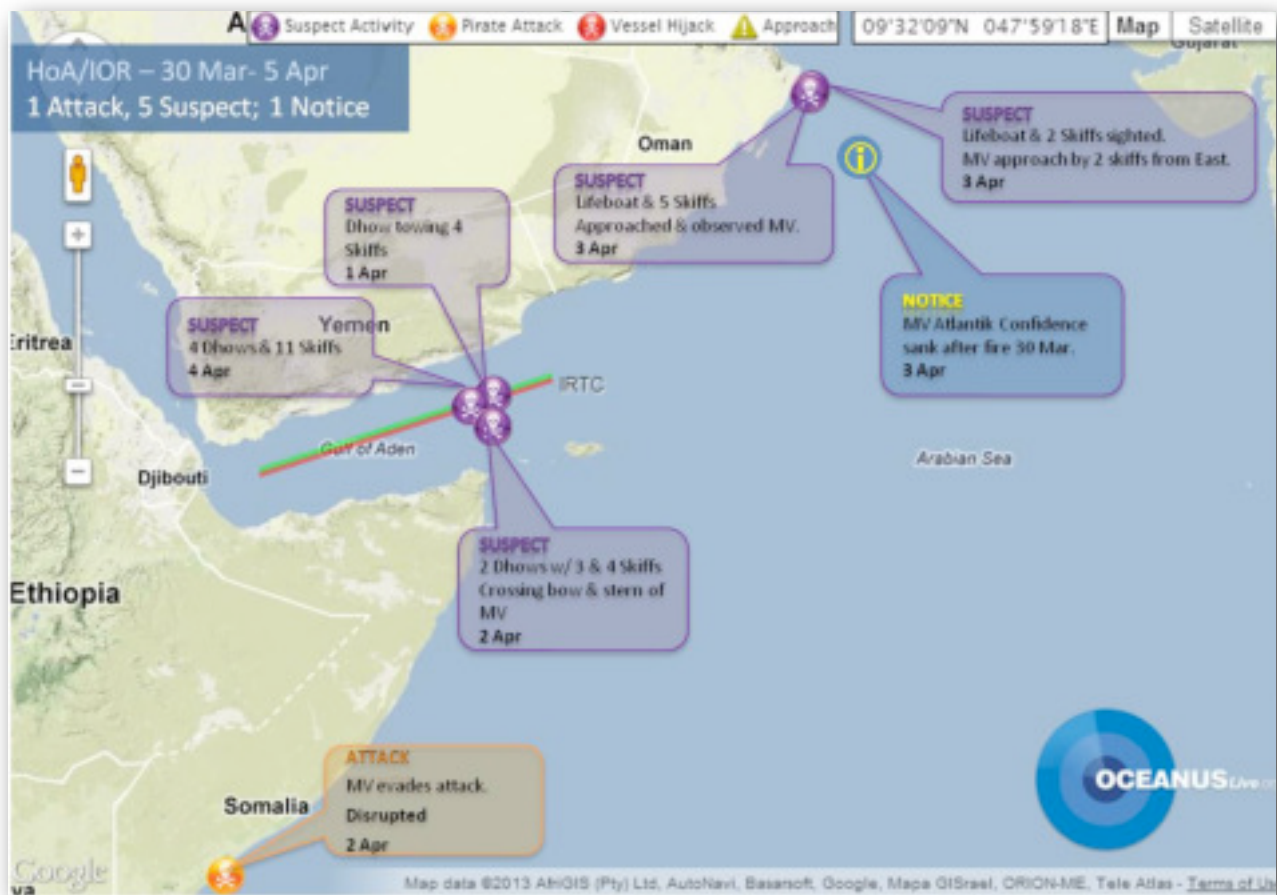
## International Developments:

- **5 April 2013** - A senior African Union official has confirmed that a military contingent from the Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) has arrived in Somalia in order to bolster the African Union Mission in Somalia. This is the first battalion from West Africa to join the Somali peacekeeping mission. It is also expected to trigger a withdrawal from the Kenyan battalion which is stationed in southern Somali. AU's Special Representative Mahamat Saleh Annadif has stated that the Sierra Leonean army was approved by both the UN Security

Council and the African Union's Peace and Security Council in 2012. The deployment of Sierra Leon's army effectively makes the country the first West African nation to formally join the ongoing military operation in Somalia. The Sierra Leonean troops will form the fifth contingent after Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda.

- **2 April 2013** - Gunmen have shot dead two Kenyan policemen in what is the latest attack to have occurred in the border regions with Somalia. According to regional police chief Charlton Mureithi, "the officers were attacked while on patrol...two of them were killed, and the other one has been taken to hospital with injuries." Kenya has suffered a number of attacks ever since its troops invaded southern Somalia in late 2011 in order to attack al-Shabaab militants who had taken over the region. However over the past few months, these border incidents have increased as attackers have targeted a number of security officials and civilians along Kenya's border with Somalia. In turn, militants have set off bombs and thrown grenades in the capital city of Nairobi. These attacks have regularly been blamed on members of al-Shabaab, or on their sympathizers, however the extremist group has not specifically claimed responsibility for the attacks.
- **1 April 2013** - After twenty-two years of closure, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has announced that the United Arab Emirates intends on re-opening its embassy in Somalia. During a meeting with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the Crown Prince indicated that the United Arab Emirates would like to resume operations of its Mogadishu embassy by the end of 2013. The Somali President also thanked the Emirati government for its consistent support of Somalia's reconstruction, emphasizing the significance of recent security gains across Somalia, stating that "we need to further develop and maintain stability, while at the same time making serious reforms within our security forces."

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.

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)

Telephone: +44 162 462 6400

---

MS Risk Limited, South Suite Ragnall House, 18 Peel Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 4LZ.  
Tel: +44 1624 626400 Directors: S.J. Bingham,  
V.K. Prentice, P.O.J. Tracy. Registered in the Isle of Man No 007435V

---

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555  
[www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)