

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 8 – 14, 2013 (Week 15)



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At Sea:

- **11 April 2013** - A Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier reported suspicious activity by three skiffs at 0745 UTC in position 14:30.60N - 042.10E, in the Red Sea. The three skiffs, which had 3 - 4 pirates on board each, trailed the vessel for thirty minutes.
- **10 April 2013** - MV approached by a fishing dhow (large with a brown hull and brown exterior, suspected mother ship however not confirmed) at 1210 UTC in position 11:45.8N - 045:06.9E.
- **9 April 2013** - Panama-flagged tanker was approached by a suspected PAG around 1100UTC while in position 13:27.1N - 050:08.9E in the Gulf of Aden, approximately 90 nautical miles south-southeast of Mukalla City, Yemen.
- **8 April 2013** - At 16:30LT in position 13:22N - 049:35E, one dhow with four skiffs in tow were sighted five nautical miles on the starboard side of a vessel transiting through the region.

Key Statistics

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

Updates:

- **9 April 2013** - Official sources have confirmed that India notified Italy on Tuesday that preparations to set up a special court to try two Italian marines facing murder charges over the deaths of two fishermen were at “an advanced stage.”

Piracy Related News:

- **12 April 2013** - A Japanese court has sentenced a Somali man to eleven years in jail for the attempted hijacking of a Japanese tanker. The man was one of four men who attempted to hijack the tanker just off the coast of Oman in 2011.
- **11 April 2013** - According to report issued by the World Bank, ending Somali piracy requires a shift from reliance on security at sea to targeting those on land who enable the lucrative business to thrive.

Weather Analysis:

- The weather forecast throughout the following week will remain relatively good for pirate activities to occur. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will be able to move relatively free in the the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. Further out to sea, conditions will worsen.

On Land:

- **14 April 2013** - At least nineteen people have been killed in bomb and gun attacks in the Somali capital.
- **10 April 2013** - Al-Shabaab has confirmed that they executed a woman on Monday in the rebel-held town of Bulo Burte in Hiraan region, citing that she had allegedly been spying for Somalia's National Security Agency (SNSA).
- **8 April 2013** - The Chairman of the Somali Islamic Scholars Council Sheikh bashir Ahmed Salad has survived an assassination attempt in Mogadishu.

Domestic News:

- **13 April 2013** - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recognized the Somali government after a break in relations for a period of two years.
- **11 April 2013** - Kenya and Somalia have agreed to work closely in consolidating peace between the two neighbouring countries.
- **9 March 2013** - Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has received Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon in Addis Ababa.
- **8 April 2013** - Police in Mogadishu have been placed on a high alert following the recent warning by Britain's Foreign and commonwealth Office (FCO) that terrorists are in the final stages of planning attacks in Mogadishu.

International Developments:

- **8 April 2013** - President Barack Obama took the first step on Monday towards providing US military assistance to Somali forces after a United Nations arms embargo was eased last month.

About MS Risk

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April 8 – 14, 2013 (Week 15)

At Sea:

- 11 April 2013** - A Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier reported suspicious activity by three skiffs at 0745 UTC in position 14:30.60N - 042.10E, in the Red Sea (*See Map*). The three skiffs, which had 3 - 4 pirates on board each, trailed the vessel for thirty minutes. Skiff description: one was white-hulled and two were dark hulled; no weapons or other paraphernalia were sighted. One skiff closed within 1 nautical mile in order to observe the MV while the other two skiffs remained at 1.5 nautical miles away from the vessel, observing it and moving in a northwards direction. Embarked armed security guards on the vessel mustered to the deck and displayed their weapons. The suspect craft aborted the approach. The vessel is safe.
- 10 April 2013** - MV approached by a fishing dhow (large with a brown hull and brown exterior, suspected mother ship however not confirmed) at 1210 UTC in position 11:45.8N - 045:06.9E (*See Map*). Dhow was approximately 2.5 nautical miles from the port side of the vessel. Two small skiffs appeared after approximately ten minutes of observation. The mother ship had approximately 3 - 4 pirates on board while the first skiffs, which had a white hull, had 2 - 3 pirates on board. No weapons were sighted.
- 9 April 2013** - Panama-flagged tanker was approached by a suspected PAG around 1100UTC while in position 13:27.1N - 050:08.9E in the Gulf of Aden, approximately 90 nautical miles south-southeast of Mukalla City, Yemen (*See Map*). One mothership and two skiffs were trailing the tanker for around twenty minutes. Embarked armed guards displayed their weapons, forcing the suspected PAG to abort its approach.
- 8 April 2013** - At 16:30LT in position 13:22N - 049:35E, one dhow with four skiffs in tow were sighted five nautical miles on the starboard side of a vessel transiting through the region (*See Map*). At 17:00 LT, another dhow towing four skiffs was sighted. They maintained position at the time. Six to seven pirates on board were reported. The vessel has since been reported safe.

Key Statistics

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

Updates:

- 9 April 2013** - Official sources have confirmed that India notified Italy on Tuesday that preparations to set up a special court to try two Italian marines facing murder charges over the deaths of two fishermen were at “an advanced stage.” Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh gave the reassurance to his Italian counterpart Mario Monti who had requested an update on the plans for the trial of the two marines, Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone. During the conversation, Prime Minister Singh indicated to Mario Monti that the process of setting up the special court was “at a fairly advanced stage,” and that more details would be known next week when India’s Supreme Court is due to hold a hearing on the matter. During the conversation, Prime Minister Singh also voiced his appreciation for Rome’s decision to return the two men “to enable the judicial process to move forward.” India’s attorney-general is due to report back to the Supreme Court on 16 April with regards to the setting up of the special court in New Delhi which will try the two marines, who face murder charges over the killing of two fishermen in February last year. Over the course of the last year, Italy’s government has been concerned that the trial of the two men would get bogged down in India’s slow legal system.

Piracy Related News:

- 12 April 2013** - A Japanese court has sentenced a Somali man to eleven years in jail for the attempted hijacking of a Japanese tanker. The man was one of four men who attempted to hijack the tanker just off the coast of Oman in 2011. They were captured by US Navy personnel and handed over to Japan’s coastguard. The men, who were armed with submachine guns, attempted to seize the Mitsui OSK Lines tanker. The three other men have already been sentenced. The 21-year-old, who has not been named because of his

age at the time the crime was committed, pleaded not guilty. During the trial, he claimed that the small boat he was aboard was adrift and he had asked for help from the tanker. However testimonies from the other men led the judge to believe that he was part of the attempted hijacking. Two of the men were earlier given a jail sentence of ten years. The other man, also a juvenile at the time, was given a sentence of five to nine years. During this case, Japan applied its new anti-piracy law for the first time and transported the four men to Tokyo in order to face trial.

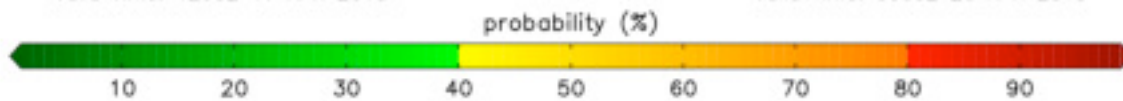
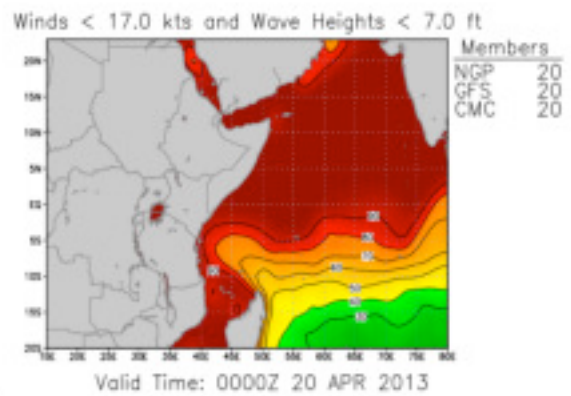
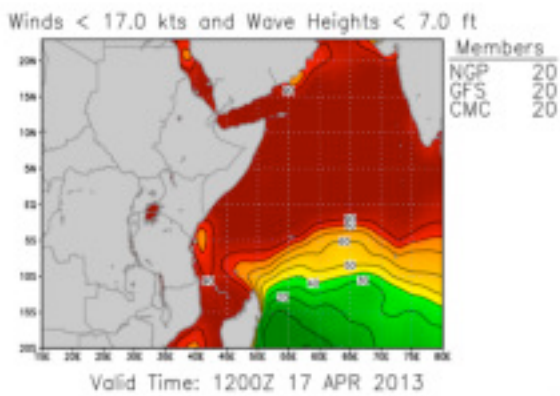
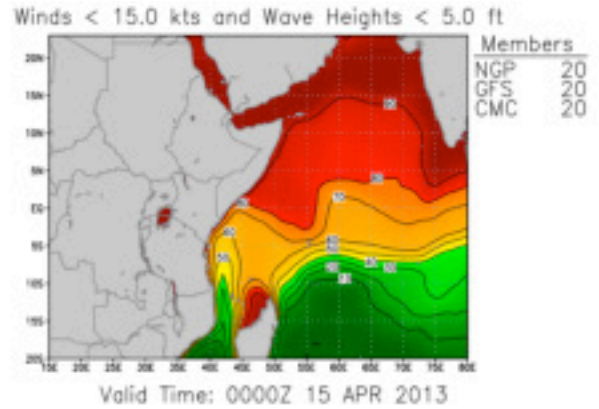
- **11 April 2013** - According to a report issued by the World Bank, ending Somali piracy requires a shift from reliance on security at sea to targeting those on land who enable the lucrative business to thrive. Without such political solutions, attacks in the waters off Somalia will likely return. In a report released on Thursday, the World Bank indicated that although the number of attacks has markedly fallen since 2011, costly measures, such as patrols by international warships in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean are not a long-term solution to the issue. Instead, efforts should focus on tackling the problem on land and solutions should shift attention from the “perpetrators to the enablers of piracy,” noting that a long term solution is “first and foremost political.” The report further indicated that “pirates rely on onshore support to conduct negotiations and to secure safe access to coastal territories. In turn, politically powerful figures capture large portions of the profits associated with piracy.” The report calculated that since 2005, between US \$315 - \$385 million has been paid in ransoms. However the cost to world trade is even greater, noting that while an estimated US \$53 million was paid on average annually in ransoms since 2005, that was dwarfed by the estimated US \$18 billion yearly loss to the world economy in terms of increased cost of trade.

Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - 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.
 - **Extended Forecast** - East - northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; in the eastern portion of the Gulf, winds will be 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** - South-southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with south-southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - West-southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; winds in the eastern portion of the Gulf will be west-southwest at 10 - 15 knots and seas will be at 1 - 3 feet.
- **Somali Coast** - East-southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots with seas of 2 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots with seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - West-southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Expect thunderstorm activity to occur throughout the region, this is due to the Tropical Cyclone Imelda. Winds will be south-southeast at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 2 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - South-southeast winds continuing to be at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Expect thunderstorm activity throughout the region due to Tropical Cyclone Imelda. Winds will be southerly at 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the northern Channel. In the southern Channel, winds will be 15 - 20 knots with seas at 4 - 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeasterly winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be at 20 - 25 knots with seas of 7 - 9 feet.
- **Surface Currents** - The Northern Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden currents are northeasterly with most areas having average speeds of 1 - 2 knots. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable, having average speeds of 2 - 3 knots. Current speeds in 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:

- **14 April 2013** - At least nineteen people have been killed in bomb and gun attacks in the Somali capital. Sixteen people, including nine attackers, are believed to have died after gunmen stormed the city's main courthouse buildings. According to local sources, armed intruders entered the court and began firing, after which there was an explosion. A gunfight followed as security forces exchanged fire with the attackers. Witnesses near the incident have indicated that at least one car bomb was used in the attack. Witnesses reported that the attackers were dressed in Somali military uniform. Police were seen trying to escape the violence from the upper floors of the building by breaking windows and climbing out. Some were said to be senior officials. Ugandan troops, who are part of the African Union force that is stationed in Mogadishu, arrived at the scene shortly after the shooting began. Since the attack, the Somali government has confirmed that nine gunmen had been involved in the assault and that all of them had been killed. Furthermore, six of them detonated their suicide vests during the attack. The courthouse is located in one of the busiest parts of Mogadishu and the area was full of people at the time of the attack as Sunday is a regular working day in Somalia. Later in the day, a second bomb was detonated outside a building housing security forces on the road located near the airport. It was set off just as a convoy carrying Turkish aid workers passed. Two Turkish aid workers were killed in the blast, along with the attacker. While Mogadishu has seen a rise in violence over the past few months, Sunday's attacks are the worst seen in Mogadishu since al-Shabaab militants were pushed out of the city by AU and Somali forces in August 2011. Since then, the Islamist group has launched a number of attacks in the capital, with attacks occurring on a more regular basis in the last few weeks. In a statement released by the Somali government, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud condemned the latest attacks, stating that they were "nothing but a sign of desperation by the terrorists." He further noted that "Somalia is moving and will keep moving forward and will not be prevented (from achieving) a peaceful and stable Somalia by a few desperate terrorists."
- **10 April 2013** - Al-Shabaab has confirmed that they executed a woman on Monday in the rebel-held town of Bulo Burte in Hiraan region, citing that she had allegedly been spying for Somalia's National Security Agency (NSA). According to local sources, Ayan Mohamud Aseyr, a 20-year-old, was publicly executed at a main square by a firing squad. Hundreds of residents flocked to the execution site after the terrorist group had publicized the execution on loudspeakers throughout the town. The chief judge of an al-Shabaab court in the Hiraan region indicated at a public gathering that a long investigation had recognized that the woman had been spying for the government's intelligence agency, stating that "the woman has led to the killing of seven local and foreign Jihadists in their strongholds in south and central Somalia." The judge further added that al-Shabaab would not hesitate to deal with people who have been found working with the Somali government and AU forces in the country. Ayan Mohamud Aseyr was kidnapped from a vehicle by al-Shabaab militants while she was on her way to Mogadishu from Beledweyne, which is the capital city of Hiraan region and which is located some 206 miles (332 km) north of Mogadishu.
- **8 April 2013** - The Chairman of the Somali Islamic Scholars Council Sheikh bashir Ahmed Salad has survived an assassination attempt in Mogadishu. Reports have indicated that a bomb exploded inside the cleric's car as he was driving to his office which is located in the Hodan neighborhood of Mogadishu. No one was hurt in the explosion and Sheikh Ahmed Salad has since blamed al-Shabaab for the attack, adding that the militant group has in the past assassinated a number of clerics. Since the attack, Council spokesperson Sheikh Nur Barud Gurhan has called on al-Shabaab to cease targeting innocent Somalis. The council has also called on members of the group to surrender its arms and to join the peace process. So far, no comments regarding the attack or statements made by the council have been made by al-Shabaab.

Domestic News:

- **13 April 2013** - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recognized the Somali government after a break in relations for a period of two years. Although the recognition could enable the IMF to provide technical support and policy advice to the impoverished state, it is unlikely that it will lend money to Somalia until it clears a US \$352 million (£230 million) debt it owes to the organization. A statement released by the IMF indicated that "the International Monetary Fund today recognized the federal government of Somalia, headed by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, paving the way for the resumption of relations after a 22-year interval." Furthermore, it stated that "the decision is consistent with broad international support and recognition of the

Federal Government.” Although Somalia has been a member of the IMF since August 1962, the years of civil war mean that there was no government with which the fund could deal with.

- **11 April 2013** - Kenya and Somalia have agreed to work closely in consolidating peace between the two neighbouring countries. Kenya’s President Uhuru Kenyatta, who held talks on Tuesday evening with visiting Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud, assured the Somali leader that Nairobi will continue to work with his country’s leadership in order to consolidate peace and security in Somalia. President Kenyatta also stressed that the two countries will engage politically on a regular basis in order to deal with a number of regional matters, indicating that “the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) will soon be launched and implemented for the mutual benefit of the two countries.” The Kenyan leader also indicated that the two governments will work closely to realize sustainable peace in Somalia, the Horn of Africa and the region, noting that the decision by Kenya to move into Somalia and be part of the African Union peacekeeping force was born out of the realization that a stable Somalia was good for the people of that country, Kenya and the entire region.
- **9 March 2013** - Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn has received Somalia’s Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon in Addis Ababa. The two officials held talks that focused on bilateral relations between the two governments as well as cooperation between the two countries in the security sector. During the discussions, Prime Minister Hailemariam stated that peace and stability in Somalia contributed to maintaining peace in the Horn of Africa. He further emphasized that the Ethiopian people and government will continue to strengthen its overall support until Somalia enjoys sustainable peace and stability. In turn, as Chair of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Ethiopia will also do all that is possible towards sustaining peace and stability in Somalia. The Somali Prime Minister, who was accompanied by a number of ministers, also met with the president of the Ethiopian Somali Regional State, Abdi Mohamud. Prime Minister Shirdon is currently on a tour, visiting a number of IGAD states in order to thank and congratulate AMISOM and IGAD member states on their efforts to stabilize Somalia. Prior to departing from Mogadishu last week, the Prime Minister indicated to local media that the tour was to thank the efforts made on the part of a number of IGAD states that Somalia was back on track and ready to play an important role in regional development. Discussions held in these countries of the next few days are expected to focus on regional security, trade, improving human rights, greater partnership and development.
- **8 April 2013** - Police in Mogadishu have been placed on a high alert following the recent warning by Britain’s Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) that terrorists are in the final stages of planning attacks in Mogadishu. Col. Abdullah Hassan Barise, Somali police spokesman and head of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has indicated to journalists in Mogadishu that security forces have been put on alert in the city and has urged the public to remain vigilant and to aid them in countering any attempted attacks. He further noted that security throughout the capital city has intensified around locations including government installations, public places, including hotels, all of which may be targeted by terrorists. While the overall security of Mogadishu has improved since al-Shabaab fled the city after a joint military offensive in August 2011, bombings and assassinations are still frequent. Last week, a bomb exploded in Mogadishu, outside the headquarters of Somalia’s Dahabshiil Hawala and Bank. The attack wounded at least two people and occurred just hours after members of al-Shabaab had ordered that the company cease operations in those areas that are still controlled by the group.

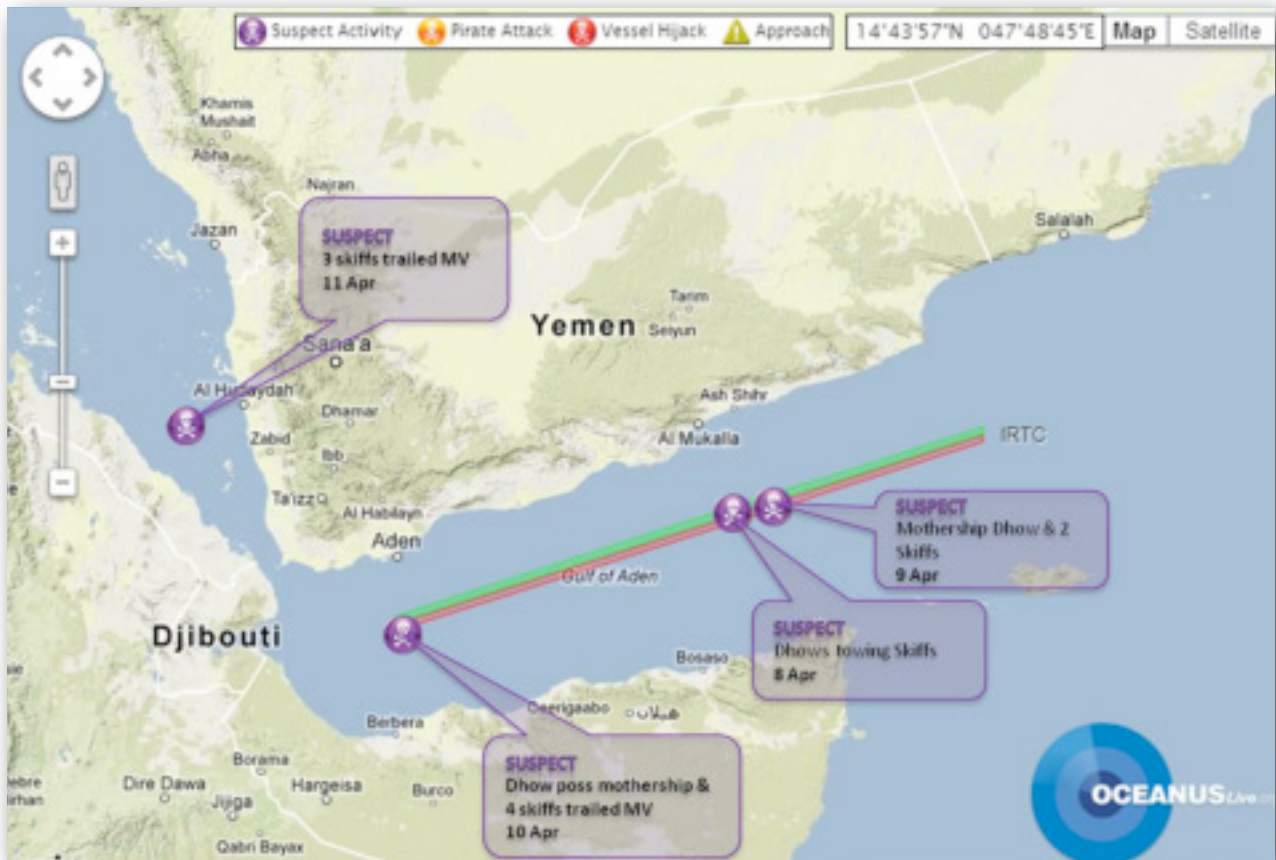
International Developments:

- **8 April 2013** - President Barack Obama took the first step on Monday towards providing US military assistance to Somali forces after a United Nations arms embargo was eased last month. President Obama signed a determination stating that having the legal capacity to offer defense equipment to Somalia was in the national interest of the United States and could promote peace and stability in East Africa. National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden indicated that the move will allow the US Secretary of State to consider provision of arms to Somalia however it does not signal a decision to provide specific assistance. Hayden noted that “the United States is committed to being a long-term partner in assisting the defence forces in Somalia to become professional military forces.” The announcement comes just days after President Obama renewed sanctions on Somalia for a period of one year. President Obama issued a letter on Thursday citing that sanctions would be extended for a period of one year due to the ongoing stabilization process that is occurring in Somalia. A press release has indicated that “although the US recognition underscores a strong commitment to Somalia’s stabilization, it does not remove the importance of US sanctions, especially against



persons undermining the stability of Somalia. Back in January, the US had officially recognized Somalia after twenty-two years of transitional governments. The extension of the sanctions comes just one month after the UN Security Council lifted an arms embargo. It also comes at a time when the UK government issued a warning, urging their nationals to leave Somalia immediately due to security threats. A statement issued by the Foreign Commonwealth Office stated that an imminent attack in the capital of Mogadishu would be carried out by terrorists.

Map:





About MS Risk:

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References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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