

# 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

March 25 - 31, 2013 (Week 13)



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### At Sea:

- After several weeks of minimal or no activity off the coast of Somalia and throughout the High Risk Area (HRA), a number of incidents were reported over the past week, centering on the northeast Somali coast, into the Gulf of Aden and up along the Omani coast. Suspected pirates were also seen off the coast of the southern tip of India while a vessel reported a boarding and failed robbery attempt off the coast of Tanzania. Another robbery was reported in the Mediterranean Sea, near the coast of Egypt. Over the last few months, the recorded levels of reports have been at the lowest over the past few years, resulting in authorities warning that while pirate attacks and hijackings were on the decline, a resurgence of activity was highly possible. Amongst this week's incidents which should be noted is the report of a suspected mothership off the Indian west coast. This is the first report of its kind for more than a year. Another significant report which demonstrates that although pirates have been pushed back in their activities across the region, they are still an extant danger, was the reported attack on a fishing vessel just a few nautical miles off the coast of Somalia. While this week's reports does not necessarily indicate that pirates in the region are commencing a resurgence of attacks, these reports give credence to the warnings of remaining vigilant and not becoming complacent which have been issued over the past six months. These reports do however indicate that pirates in the region are nevertheless beginning to increase their movements and numbers in an attempt to successfully hijack a vessel. This recent activity may be the result of ransom payments which were received after the release of two vessels at the beginning of the month. With sea conditions off the coast of Somalia having stabilized after the most recent monsoon seasons, this trend of increased pirate sightings and attacks is likely to continue and increase over the coming months as Somali pirates attempt to break a six-month dry spell.
- **29 March 2013** - A Marshall Islands tanker has reported sighting a suspicious dhow towing four white skiffs at 1815LT in position 14:31.2N - 053:19.1E in the Gulf of Aden, outside the Eastern end of the IRTC.
- **28 March 2013** - An oil tanker reported two skiffs making a high speed approach at 0500 UTC in position 16:10N - 056:10E, approximately 138 nautical miles southeast of Salalah, Oman.
  - Meanwhile a fishing vessel came under attack by pirates while in position 11:52N - 051:18 E, around 11 nautical miles west-northwest of Raas Casey, Somalia.
- **27 March 2013** - (Indian Ocean) Product tanker reported a suspected mothership vessel at 0330 LT in position 07:40N - 074:14E, approximately 167 nautical miles west-southwest of Thiruvananthapuram, India.
  - Meanwhile in the Arabian Sea, a Marshall Islands bulk carrier reported two suspicious skiffs approaching the vessel from the stbd quarter at a speed of 19 knots and 22 knots at 0910 LT in position 21:04.7N - 059:42.1E, around 30 nautical miles of the coast of Oman.
- **26 March 2013** - (Mediterranean Sea/Robbery) Six robbers in a boat armed with knives came alongside a berthed Container ship at 1745 UTC in position 31:14.4N - 032:18.1E, in Port Said West Terminal, Port Said, Egypt.
- **25 March 2013** - Panama-flagged oil tanker reported being approached by a group of five boats at 0730 UTC while in position 14:01.4N - 051:33.2E, in the Gulf of Aden.
- **24 March 2013** - (Boarding/Attempted Robbery) A berthed Liberia-flagged container ship, the **JPO Sagittarius**, was boarded by a single robber via the forward mooring ropes at 0100 UTC while in position 06:50.5N - 039:17.8E, Berth No. 11, Dar es Salaam Port, Tanzania.

### Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 1
- Sightings: 5
- Robbery: 2
- Releases: 0

## Updates:

- **26 March 2013** - Italy's Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi has resigned in protest of his government's decision to send two Italian marines, who have been accused of killing two Indian fishermen, back to Delhi, India in order to face trial.

## 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 freely in the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Oman as well as along the Somali coast. Further out in the Indian Ocean, sea conditions will also be relatively good, enabling motherships to venture further out to sea.

## On Land:

- **28 March 2013** - Reports have indicated that flights at Somalia's Aden Adde International Airport have halted completely. Furthermore, government workers, businessmen and passengers have been ordered not to enter the airport as AIMSOM troops conduct a thorough security search inside Mogadishu's airport.
- **27 March 2013** - Politicians from Somalia's Middle Shabelle region have arrived in Jowhar in order to assess the security and humanitarian conditions in the regional capital city.
  - Meanwhile two men were killed Wednesday morning during a deadly armed robbery that occurred in the Puntland port city of Bossaso in northern Somalia.
- **26 March 2013** - Meanwhile Somali Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has arrived in Kismayo on what his office has termed the next stage of his tour of the country.
- **25 March 2013** - Somali gunmen have killed a female radio journalist in Mogadishu, adding to a list of murders and attacks that have been occurring in the capital city over the past few weeks.

## Domestic News:

- **29 March 2013** - According to the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), a military tribunal in Somalia has convicted an alleged al-Shabaab militant of killing journalist Hassan Yusuf Absuge.
- **28 March 2013** - Somalia's President has confirmed that his government is expected to receive its first shipment of light weapons within two months after the United Nations Security Council partially lifted an arms embargo in order to strengthen the security forces who are fighting al-Shabaab militants.

## International Developments:

- **29 March 2013** - The United Kingdom's Minister for Africa, Mark Simmonds, has announced plans to host a trade and investment conference for Somalia in London during a planned security meeting that will be held in the UK's capital in May 2013.
- **21 March 2013** - A Somali man, who was detained by the United States military in the Gulf of Aden two years ago, has pleaded guilty to supporting Islamist militants in the region.

## Report on Somalia

March 25 – 31, 2013 (Week 13)

### At Sea:

- After several weeks of minimal or no activity off the coast of Somalia and throughout the High Risk Area (HRA), a number of incidents were reported over the past week, centering on the northeast Somali coast, into the Gulf of Aden and up along the Omani coast. Suspected pirates were also seen off the coast of the southern tip of India while a vessel reported a boarding and failed robbery attempt off the coast of Tanzania. Another robbery was reported in the Mediterranean Sea, near the coast of Egypt. Over the last few months, the recorded levels of reports have been at the lowest over the past few years, resulting in authorities warning that while pirate attacks and hijackings were on the decline, a resurgence of activity was highly possible. Amongst this week's incidents which should be noted is the report of a suspected mothership off the Indian west coast. This is the first report of its kind for more than a year. Another significant report which demonstrates that although pirates have been pushed back in their activities across the region, they are still an extant danger, was the reported attack on a fishing vessel just a few nautical miles off the coast of Somalia. While this week's reports does not necessarily indicate that pirates in the region are commencing a resurgence of attacks, these reports give credence to the warnings of remaining vigilant and not becoming complacent which have been issued over the past six months. These reports do however indicate that pirates in the region are nevertheless beginning to increase their movements and numbers in an attempt to successfully hijack a vessel. This recent activity may be the result of ransom payments which were received after the release of two vessels at the beginning of the month. With sea conditions off the coast of Somalia having stabilized after the most recent monsoon seasons, this trend of increased pirate sightings and attacks is likely to continue and increase over the coming months as Somali pirates attempt to break a six-month dry spell.
- **29 March 2013** - A Marshall Islands tanker has reported sighting a suspicious dhow towing four white skiffs at 1815LT in position 14:31.2N - 053:19.1E in the Gulf of Aden, outside the Eastern end of the IRTC. ([See Map](#)). Embarked armed security guards on board the vessel stood and displayed their weapons. Precautionary measures were taken and at 3 nautical miles away from the vessel, the dhow changed course, increasing speed and eventually moving away from the tanker.
- **28 March 2013** - An oil tanker reported two skiffs making a high speed approach at 0500 UTC in position 16:10N - 056:10E, approximately 138 nautical miles southeast of Salalah, Oman ([See Map](#)). Crew members on board the oil tanker reported seeing 4 - 5 pirates on board the skiffs. Embarked armed security team stood to and fired warning shots resulting in the skiffs aborting their approach. The high traveling speeds of the skiffs and the general location indicates that this Pirate Action Group (PAG) may have been responsible for an attempted attack on a Marshall Islands bulk carrier the day before ([See Below](#)). It is highly likely that this pirate group will remain in the region, likely off the coast of Oman and into the Gulf of Oman. Consequently any vessels transiting this region should remain on high alert.
  - Meanwhile a fishing vessel came under attack by pirates while in position 11:52N - 051:18 E, around 11 nautical miles west-northwest of Raas Casey, Somalia ([See Map](#)). A counter-piracy forces vessel was in the vicinity at the time of the attack. A helicopter was shortly dispatched overhead. Fishermen on board the vessel spotted 7 - 15 pirates on board the attacking vessel which had a red hull. The fishing vessel has since been reported safe. It is possible that at the time of the attack, the pirate vessel had just left Somalia, embarking on a mission to hijack a vessel transiting through the region. It is possible that the vessel may remain within the Gulf of Aden or Gulf of Oman region over the coming days. Any vessels transiting through the High Risk Area are advised to remain vigilant.
- **27 March 2013** - (Indian Ocean) Product tanker reported a suspected mothership vessel at 0330 LT in position 07:40N - 074:14E, approximately 167 nautical miles west-southwest of Thiruvananthapuram, India ([See Map](#)). The suspected craft sailed on parallel course with the closest approach being one nautical mile. Embarked armed security team was placed on high alert. The suspected mothership has been

### Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 1
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described as having a white hull. Six small boats were seen on the deck. Ten pirates were sighted on board and weapons were also seen. Once the mothership spotted the security guards on board the tanker, it moved away to the south. It is possible that this mothership is still active in the region. As such, any vessels transiting off the coast of India should be on high alert.

- Meanwhile in the Arabian Sea, a Marshall Islands bulk carrier reported two suspicious skiffs approaching the vessel from the stbd quarter at a speed of 19 knots and 22 knots at 0910 LT in position 21:04.7N - 059:42.1E, around 30 nautical miles of the coast of Oman ([See Map](#)). The skiff crossed the bow then came back. Two more skiffs approached the bulk carrier from the port bow at high speeds, later moving to the stern before moving away completely. The alarm on board the bulk carrier was raised and the crew was mustered into a safe area. The skiffs came within 1 nautical mile of the vessel however no warning shots were fired. The vessel has been reported safe however it is highly likely that these skiffs will remain in the region over the coming days.
- **26 March 2013** - (Mediterranean Sea/Robbery) Six robbers in a boat armed with knives came alongside a berthed Container ship at 1745 UTC in position 31:14.4N - 032:18.1E, in Port Said West Terminal, Port Said, Egypt ([See Map](#)). Four robbers proceeded to board the vessel and injured an on-board security guard. The robbers stole the ship's stores and transferred them onto their boat. The incident was reported to the local police however no arrests have been made so far. Any vessels transiting in this region, or docking at the Port Said should be aware of a possible robber being active in the area.
- **25 March 2013** - Panama-flagged oil tanker reported being approached by a group of five boats at 0730 UTC while in position 14:01.4N - 051:33.2E, in the Gulf of Aden ([See Map](#)). A dhow and four skiffs were spotted travelling at a speed of 8 knots, closing in on the vessel within 8 cables. Armed security team on board the oil tanker stood to and displayed their weapons. This resulted in the approach being aborted as the dhow and skiffs moved away. The dhow had a light-colored hull while the skiffs were dark colored. No personnel were sighted on the dhow however each skiff had 2 - 3 pirates on board. No weapons or other paraphernalia were sighted. The International Maritime Bureaus has categorized this incident as a possible "routine maritime activity," or as a "soft approach," a technique which has been increasingly used by pirates in the region whereby they approach a vessel in order to verify if armed security guards are on board. If armed guards are on board, then they typically will abort the approach however if no security is visible, then they will begin to approach and attack the vessel. This technique has been used in order to ensure greater safety for the pirates on board the skiffs and dhows, as many have been injured or killed during gun battles between them and security guards on board vessels. In turn, it enables pirates to save their ammunition, thus keeping the general costs of piracy down.
- **24 March 2013** - (Boarding/Attempted Robbery) A berthed Liberia-flagged container ship, the **JPO Sagittarius**, was boarded by a single robber via the forward mooring ropes at 0100 UTC while in position 06:50.5N - 039:17.8E, Berth No. 11, Dar es Salaam Port, Tanzania ([See Map](#)). The duty officer noticed that the robber was threatening another officer with a knife. The duty officer immediately reported the incident to the SSO who raised that alarm and informed port control. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew being alerted, the robber jumped into the sea and escaped empty-handed in a boat. Shore security guards arrived to investigate however the robber was not apprehended. Any vessels transiting in this region, or docking at the Dar es Salaam Port, should be aware of a possible robber being active in the area.

## Updates:

- **26 March 2013** - Italy's Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi has resigned in protest of his government's decision to send two Italian marines, who have been accused of killing two Indian fishermen, back to Delhi, India in order to face trial. On Tuesday, Foreign Minister Terzi announced that he was resigning due to the fact that his voice had gone "unheard" by Prime Minister Monti and his caretaker administration in regards to the case. He indicated that "I can no longer be part of this government...I am resigning because I have maintained for 40 years and I maintain more forcefully today that the honor of the country, its armed forces and the





Italian diplomacy must be safeguarded. I am resigning because I support the two marines and their families.” In response, Prime Minister Monti indicated that he was surprised of this announcement, noting that he had met with Mr. Terzi earlier on Tuesday and that the foreign minister had not mentioned his intentions of quitting. Meanwhile Defence Minister Giampaolo Di Paola has confirmed that he will not be stepping down over this crisis as he does not want to “abandon a ship in difficulty.” Speaking to MP’s shortly after Mr. Terzi’s announcement, the Defence Minister stated that “I have always acted for the good of the marines and Italy. If I haven’t managed that, I ask forgiveness from everyone, and first of all from both of them...It was me who told them about the decision to return them to India.” Over the past several months, Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone have been shuttled back



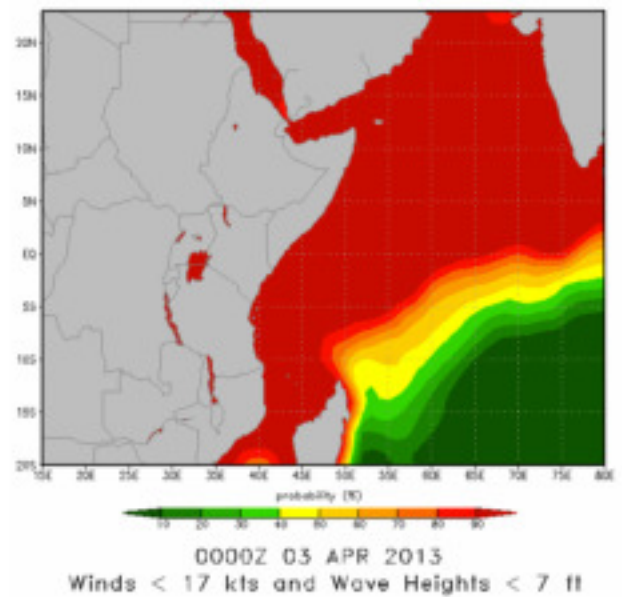
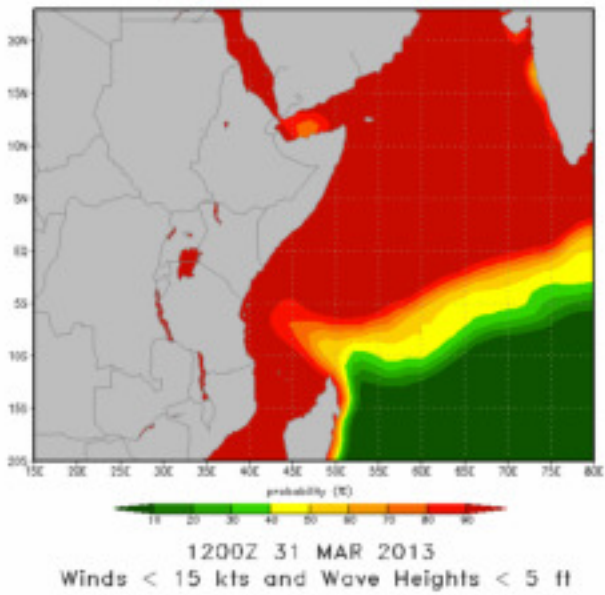
and forth between Italy and India as the two governments argued over the legal consequences of the crime that was allegedly committed in international waters. The Indian government had allowed them to return to Italy in order to vote in last month’s elections. However when they failed to return after four week’s leave, India’s Supreme Court ruled that Italy’s ambassador would be barred from leaving the country. In response, Italy announced last Thursday that it had decided to send the marines back to Delhi in order to

stand trial. The diplomatic dispute also comes at a time when Italy is battling its own political crisis after last months’ inconclusive election results.

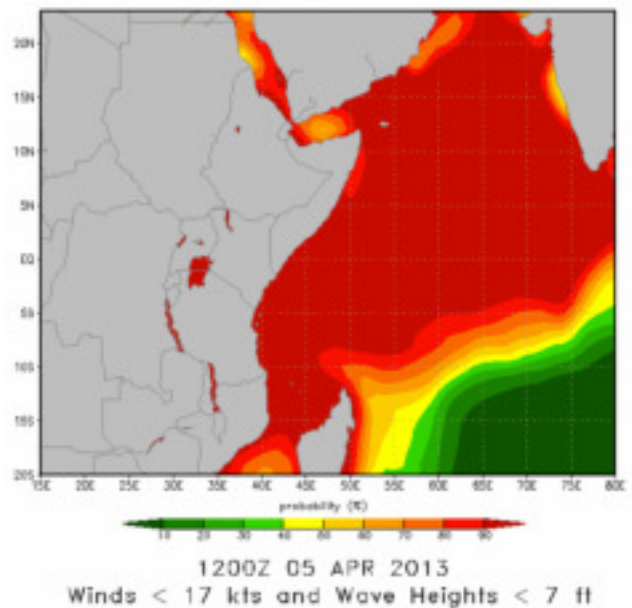
## Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - East-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - West-northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1- 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Easterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - Northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - West-northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - East-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet, with occasional thunderstorm activity.
  - **Extended Forecast** - South-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - South-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southerly at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Surface Currents** - The Northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden currents are northeasterly 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:**

- **28 March 2013** - Reports have indicated that flights at Somalia's Aden Adde International Airport have halted completely. Furthermore, government workers, businessmen and passengers have been ordered not to enter the airport as AIMSOM troops conduct a thorough security search inside Mogadishu's airport. The closure comes after reports surfaced that a vehicle containing explosives had been spotted inside the airport. The workers at the airport reported immediately to the local authorities and AMISOM troops have since been ordered to handle the security situation. Varied reports have indicated that they type of vehicle which contained the explosives was reportedly a water tanker while other reports have suggested that it was a small vehicle. Activities at the airport have stopped completely and there are currently no flights coming in or out of the country.
- **27 March 2013** - Politician's from Somalia's Middle Shabelle region have arrived in Jowhar in order to assess the security and humanitarian conditions in the regional capital city. Security throughout the city was increased in preparation for the delegation's arrival who were met by hundreds of Jowhar residents who came out to greet the politicians and to demonstrate their support for the federal government. Parliamentary committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman Abdikadir Osoble led the twelve-member delegation, which is scheduled to meet with local leaders and the regional administration. This is the first high-level delegation to visit the city since Somali and African Union troops liberated Jowhar from al-Shabaab in December 2012.
  - Meanwhile two men were killed Wednesday morning during a deadly armed robbery that occurred in the Puntland port city of Bossaso in northern Somalia. According to officials from the Puntland police, gunmen raided the Kaah Express company's main office in Bossaso, killing a company official and a watchman. Sources also indicated that at least two other persons were wounded in the attack while police officials have confirmed that the attackers escaped with "around US \$20,000 in cash." Although the attackers escaped with the money, Puntland Police Commander Col. Osman Hassan Afdalow has indicated to local media that the police have identified the attackers and that they are currently pursuing them. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that the armed robbery was organized by a businessman who was reportedly robbed in South Africa by persons belonging to the same clan as the owners of Kaah Express. This is the first time that a money-wiring company in Bossaso has been robbed in a deadly attack.
- **26 March 2013** - Meanwhile Somali Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has arrived in Kismayo on what his office has termed the next stage of his tour of the country. He had previously visited the central regions in mid-February of this year where he had reached an agreement on regional stabilization with with Ahlu Sunna wal Jama'a. Earlier this month, he had also negotiated an agreement on federalization, security, economic and social issues with the Puntland government. On his arrival in Kismayo with his delegation, which includes three ministers, four deputy ministers and twelve MP's, Prime Minister Shirdon stated that "we are here to listen, so we can govern better, regardless of the volatile security situation, we managed to come to Kismayo. It has been only five months ago that al-Shabaab were terrorizing our people in this city." The Prime Minister further indicated that the delegation also wanted to "show our support for the Somali army and AMISOM forces which were successful with their mission to defeat al-Shabaab and to secure the region." The Prime Minister has also stressed that he desires to reach out and to demonstrate to the people how much the government is willing to move Somalia forward. During this visit, the Prime Minister will be holding talks on reconciliation, federalization and stabilization with the Kismayo city interim administration, clan leaders and civil society groups throughout the city.
- **25 March 2013** - Somali gunmen have killed a female radio journalist in Mogadishu, adding to a list of murders and attacks that have been occurring in the capital city over the past few weeks. Rahmo Abdukadir, who worked for the private Radio Abduwaq station, was shot late on Sunday by two men. Witnesses reported that she was approached by several men before they fired repeatedly at her. According to reports, "two men armed with pistols shot the woman...they fired their guns five times before fleeing...there was another girl who accompanied the victim but the gunmen did not target her, she ran away screaming for help." In 2012 alone, at least eighteen media workers were killed, double the worst year on record and second only to war-torn Syria. However there have been no charges relating to the killings. Rahmo Abdukadir is the third journalist to be killed this year.

## Domestic News:

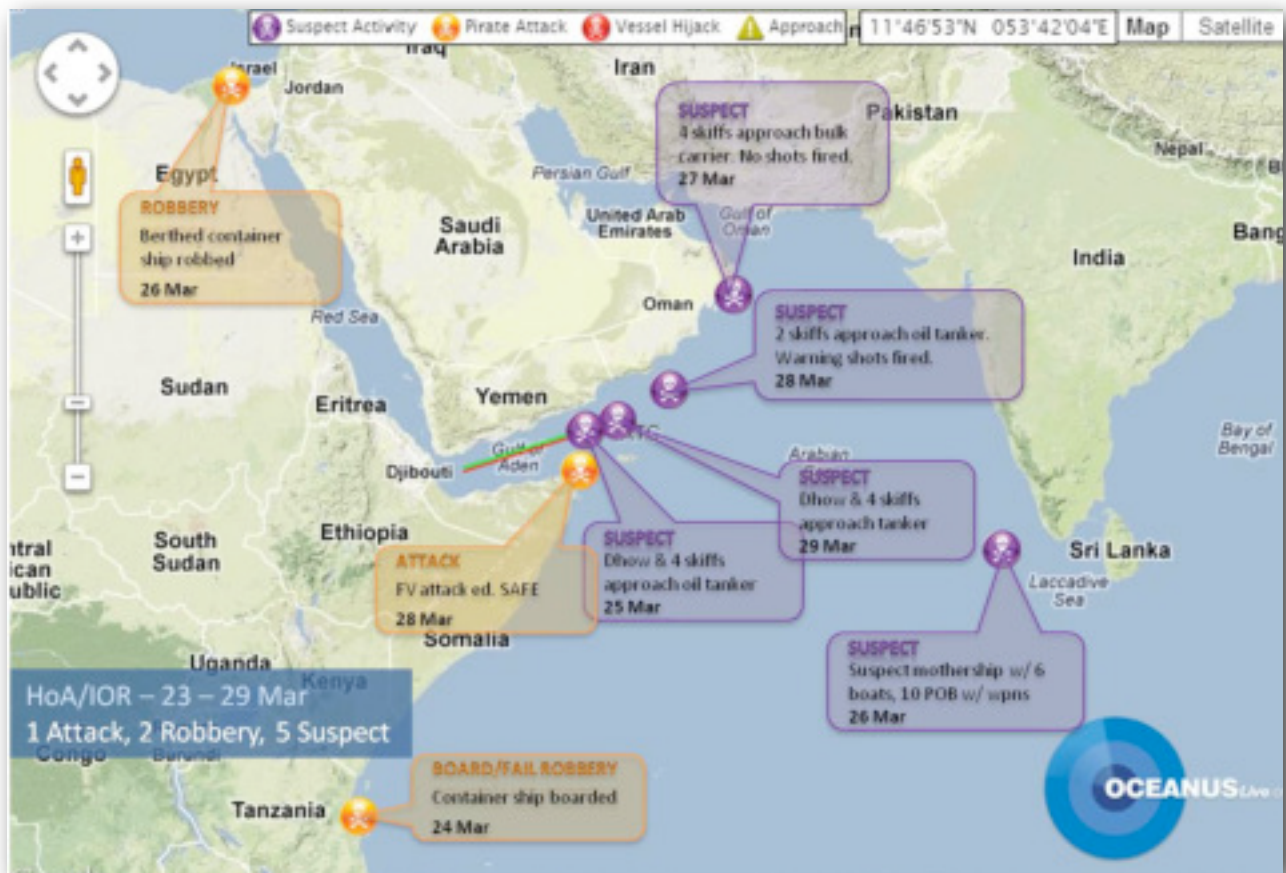
- **29 March 2013** - According to the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ), a military tribunal in Somalia has convicted an alleged al-Shabaab militant of killing journalist Hassan Yusuf Absuge. Absuge, who worked for Radio Maanta as head of programmes, was killed in Mogadishu on 21 September 2012. Al-Shabaab later claimed responsibility for his murder, stating that they had accused him of “spying against Allah’s forces.” Adan Sheikh Andi Sheikh Hussein, who was put on trial before a military tribunal as an al-Shabaab fighter, was found guilty of murder and has been sentenced to death. Beth Costa, IFJ General Secretary (NUSOJ is an affiliate), has indicated that ‘we hope that the investigation and prosecution of this case signal the commitment to eradicate the impunity for crimes against journalists in Somalia...many families of Somali journalists who died in violence deserve justice. This conviction raises their hopes of achieving that and they should not be let down.’ According to reports, during the trial, the presiding judge indicated that there was compelling evidence against Mr. Hussein, including the murder weapon which had been on the accused man when he was arrested by security forces. The tribunal was also shown message exchanges on his mobile phone which showed him discussing the journalist’s murder with his superiors. According to the NUSOJ’s General Secretary, Omar Faruk Osman, this is the first case of a journalist’s murder being resolved by Somali authorities. In 2012, Somalia was ranked as one of the deadliest countries for journalists, in which at least eighteen journalists and media staff were killed over the course of the year. So far this year, at least three journalists have been killed, with the most recent attack occurring earlier this week (See Above).
- **28 March 2013** - Somalia’s President has confirmed that his government is expected to receive its first shipment of light weapons within two months after the United Nations Security Council partially lifted an arms embargo in order to strengthen the security forces who are fighting al-Shabaab militants. Aware of international wariness in regards to sending arms to a country that remains to be volatile and which is already awash in weapons, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud indicated that he knew that the world was closely watching how his government would manage the fresh inflow of arms. During an interview in Doha, after taking part in his first Arab Summit which focused on Syria and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, President Mohamud stated that “we take full responsibility. The world is looking at us and monitoring us. We are not worried about getting supplies, we’re concerned about the management of these supplies.” He further added that the first shipment of weapons, which will include automatic assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, was set to arrive within the next two months. The UN resolution has left in a place a ban on surface-to-air missiles, large-caliber guns, howitzers, cannons and mortars as well as anti-tank guided weapons, mines and night-vision weapon sights. Furthermore, the President indicated that Somalia was approaching different states for the weapons, mainly small arms and ammunition. He stated that “we’re looking for equipment that is fit for...the internal security of the country. But in the future Somalia is a very big country with a long coastal line and open air, so we may need bigger arms.” While the United States has supported the move, other Security Council members have been wary about completely lifting the ban on a country where al-Shabaab militants are still able to launch major attacks. During the Arab Summit, President Mohamud also indicated that his country needed about US \$450 million in order to fund small development projects across Somalia’s seventy-two districts in order to help move the country from aid dependence towards economic recovery.

## International Developments:

- **29 March 2013** - The United Kingdom’s Minister for Africa, Mark Simmonds, has announced plans to host a trade and investment conference for Somalia in London during a planned security meeting that will be held in the UK’s capital in May 2013. During a meeting with Somali residents in London, Mr. Simmonds indicated that the security improvements achieved in Somalia had effectively opened up new and exciting business opportunities. Mr. Simmonds noted that “many diaspora organizations are already going back to invest. We want to encourage that, and also to demonstrate to non-Somali UK businesses the opportunities that exist across South Central Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland.” The trade and investment event is aimed at supporting inward investment into Somalia.
- **21 March 2013** - A Somali man, who was detained by the United States military in the Gulf of Aden two years ago, has pleaded guilty to supporting Islamist militants in the region. According to US prosecutors, Ahmed Abdulkadir Warsame, who has been described as being in his mid-20’s, pleaded guilty to a nine-count indictment over his extensive involvement with al-Shabaab and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. Both organizations are classified as terrorist groups by the United States government. The plea, which was made

in December 2011 but which was only unsealed now, also included weapons possession and dealing and conspiring to teach bomb making. Mr. Warsame faces a sentence of up to life in prison. He was initially detained in April 2011. According to a statement released by US prosecutors, he was questioned “for intelligence purposes for more than two months.” After agreeing to waive his rights, “he spoke to law enforcement agents for several days.” He was brought to Manhattan in July 2011. Manhattan federal prosecutor Preet Bharara has stated that “the capture of Warsame and his lengthy interrogation for intelligence purposes, followed by his thorough questioning by law enforcement agents, was an intelligence watershed.” The federal prosecutor went on to state that “Warsame’s capture, cooperation, and prosecution is a major victory for the United States, for its citizens, and for justice.” According to acting assistant attorney general for national security John Carlin, Warsame was “a critical link between two foreign terrorist organizations and was an operational terrorist leader, commanding hundreds of fighters.”

Map:





## About MS Risk

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  - 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)

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