

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 15 – 21, 2013 (Week 16)



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At Sea:

- After several weeks of increased activity and movement in the High Risk Area (HRA), this week has seen no attacks or sightings being reported in the region.

Updates:

- **16 April 2013** - Italy has opposed India's decision to appoint its anti-terrorism agency to investigate the high-profile case of Italian marines who have been accused of killing two fishermen.

Key Statistics

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

Piracy Related News:

- **16 April 2013** - Having joined the EU Naval Force just over a week ago, the crew of the Swedish Ocean Patrol Vessel HSwMS Carlskrona has been busy conducting counter-piracy patrols over the last week.

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:

- **18 April 2013** - During the early morning hours on Thursday, a man died after reportedly attempting to plant an improvised explosive device (IED) at a main intersection in Mogadishu.
- **16 April 2013** - About 200 Somali police officers are set to be deployed to Buurhakaba this week, a move which will mark the town's first police presence since it was liberated from al-Shabaab in February of this year.
- **15 April 2013** - Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has stated that foreign fighters were likely involved in Sunday's bomb and gun attacks that were carried out in Mogadishu.

Domestic News:

- **16 April 2013** - Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has declared a new phase of war to eliminate al-Shabaab after the militant group claimed responsibility for Sunday's suicide attack in Mogadishu.

Regional Reporting:

- **18 April 2013** - The Speaker of Djibouti's Parliament Idiris Arnaud Ali has announced that Djibouti will be sending additional troops to Somalia in order to join its contingent that are currently serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).
 - Kenya's Red Cross has confirmed that gunmen in the eastern Kenyan town of Garissa have shot dead eight people as they attacked a restaurant.



International Developments:

- **15 April 2013** - Two New Jersey men have each been sentenced to at least twenty years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiring to join an armed Islamic Group in Somalia which has ties to al-Qaeda.

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At Sea:

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Updates:

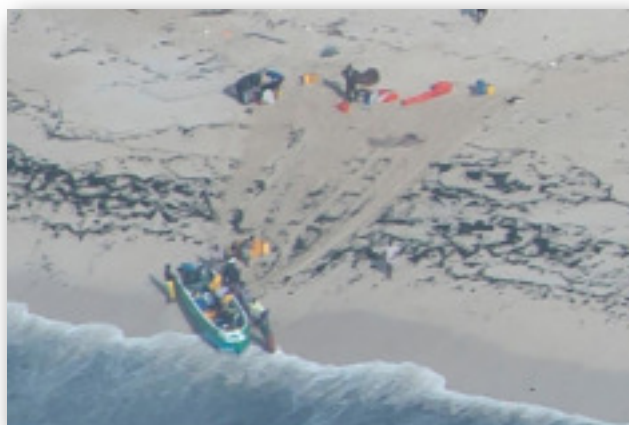
- **16 April 2013** - Italy has opposed India's decision to appoint its anti-terrorism agency to investigate the high-profile case of Italian marines who have been accused of killing two fishermen. India's announcement of this decision on Tuesday has sparked fresh concerns that the men could face the death penalty. Attorney General G.E. Vahanvati has confirmed that the Indian government has put the anti-terrorism National Investigation Agency (NIA) on the case because the usual investigating body, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), was overburdened. However Italy has disputed this move, noting that the NIA only had the jurisdiction to investigate terrorist crimes, not regular criminal cases. Italy now fears that the NIA may invoke a maritime security law, which attracts a mandatory punishment of death. According to Italy's senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi, "if there is a simple road, why not take it? NIA cannot probe. Especially when India has given an assurance to the Italian government about this." Mr. Rohatgi's remarks pertain to the Indian government's assurance to Italy that the two marines would not be executed. The Supreme Court is due to decide on Monday whether the marines' case should be investigated by the NIA or the CBI. Attorney General Vhanvati has further indicated that the government has now set up a special court, as was directed by a Supreme Court ruling in January, in order to try the two Italian marines. He also noted that the NIA would complete all investigations within the following sixty days however he was ambiguous about what laws the men would be charged under.

Key Statistics

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

Piracy Related News:

- **16 April 2013** - Having joined the EU Naval Force just over a week ago, the crew of the Swedish Ocean Patrol Vessel HSwMS Carlskrona has been busy conducting counter-piracy patrols over the last week. One of these routine patrols resulted in the vessel's helicopter spotting a skiff being launched from the Somali coast last Friday. Having passed over the location of the skiff and having taken images of the men and the equipment on board, the Carlskrona's operations team then ordered the helicopter crew to maintain a close watch over the skiff in order to assess whether it would venture further out to sea. After some time, and aware that the helicopter was observing them, the skiff sailed back towards the Somali coast. Once reaching land, the men on the skiff were seen removing their equipment and the skiff was later overturned. No fishing activity was observed in the skiff or on the beach. The HSwMS Carlskrona later resumed her counter-piracy patrols further out to sea.



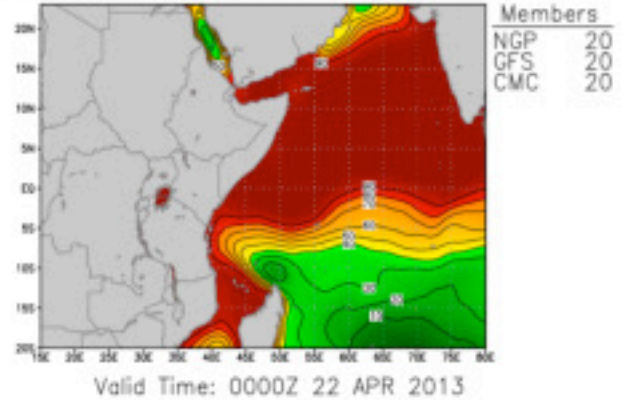
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - East-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be east-northeast at 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - East-northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots with seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 6 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 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; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be west-northwest at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 1 - 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - West-northwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-northwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - South-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - East-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - West-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** - South-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; with north-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The Northern Arabian Sea and 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.

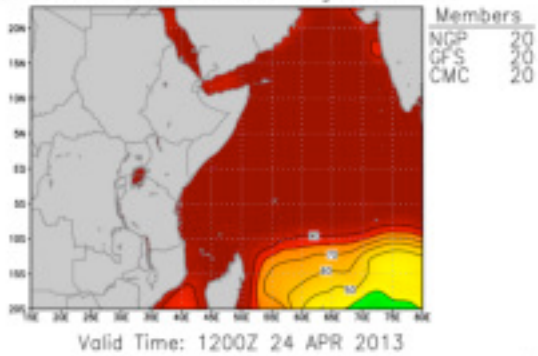
Sea Conditions For This Week:

*** 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 ***

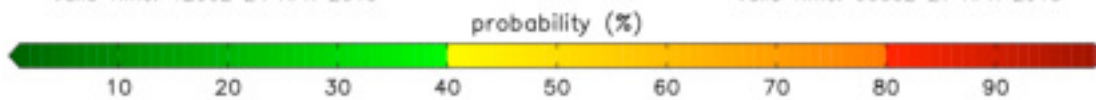
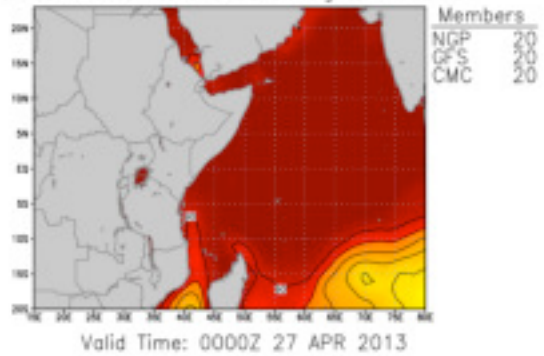
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft

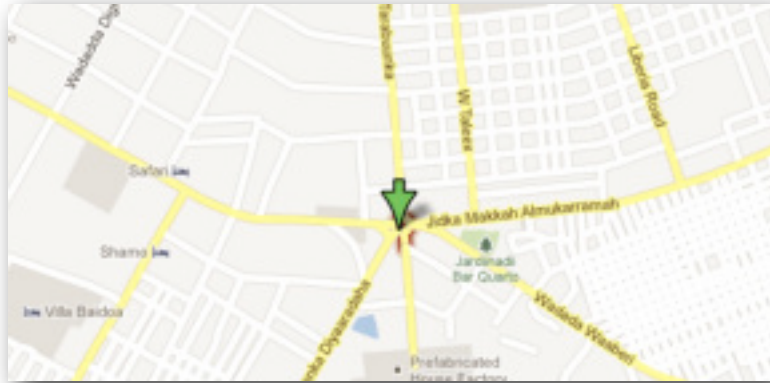


Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



On Land:

- **18 April 2013** - During the early morning hours on Thursday, a man died after reportedly attempting to plant an improvised explosive device (IED) at a main intersection in Mogadishu. Authorities in the capital city have indicated that shortly after dawn prayers, a man's body was located in the middle of Turabunka and KM4 intersection in Mogadishu's Hodan district. No other civilians were injured or killed as the intersection was empty at the time when the IED had detonated. According to local sources, the impact of the blast was



heard throughout the city. Later on in the day, authorities confirmed that they had arrested seven co-conspirators and that the case is still pending further investigations. The intersection of Turabunka and KM4 in Mogadishu is one of the city's busiest and it is frequented by a number of students who attend the local schools in the area. This most recent incident comes just days after Sunday's Courthouse massacre, where over thirty civilians were killed. The coordinated attacks, which included multiple blasts and a car bomb, has since been claimed by al-

Shabaab who have threatened that more attacks will occur in the capital. The attack also comes just one week after the United Kingdom's Foreign Office issued a warning to citizens of a possible attack in Mogadishu that would target foreigners. With Mogadishu still recovering from Sunday's attack, Somalia's President Hassan has promised to revamp security in all government and public institutions in Mogadishu. Furthermore, all security institutions have been put on high alert following the latest incidents and threats of continued attacks.

- **16 April 2013** - About 200 Somali police officers are set to be deployed to Buurhakaba this week, a move which will mark the town's first police presence since it was liberated from al-Shabaab in February of this year. According to District Commissioner Ahmed Mohamed Yusuf, police forces are expected to arrive in the town within the next four days noting that "since the liberation from al-Shabaab, the military forces of Somalia and AMISOM have been taking care of the security of the town, but now the need is for the police force."
- **15 April 2013** - Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has stated that foreign fighters were likely involved in Sunday's bomb and gun attacks that were carried out in Mogadishu. At least thirty-five people have died in the suicide bombings that occurred in the city's main courts and near the airport. Another fifty-eight were injured. Although initial reports had indicated that two Turkish aid workers were amongst those who were killed in the explosion near the airport, Turkish diplomats have since confirmed that none of their citizens died in the attack, however three Turkish people were wounded in the incident. Al-Shabaab have claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack, stating that "yesterday's (Sunday's) blasts eliminated the dreams of the puppet government." On Monday, African Union and government forces launched a major operation against the militants. AU troops and Somali forces blocked off streets and searched houses across the city in order to flush out any suspected militants. Somali police official Mohamed Hassan has indicated that more than 400 people were detained. Prime Minister Shirdon also indicated that "several experienced" foreign fighters were among the attackers, however he did not identify their nationalities. Local media have reported that one of the suicide bombers was a Somali-Canadian named Mahad Ali Dhoore. He was responsible for detonating a car bomb on a road near



the heavily-fortified airport. Earlier in the day, nine gunmen had been involved in an assault on the city's local government in which six of them had detonated suicide vests. Sunday's bombing attack has been one of the worst to occur in Mogadishu since al-Shabaab militants lost control of the city to AU and government forces in August 2011.

Domestic News:

- **16 April 2013** - Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has declared a new phase of war to eliminate al-Shabaab after the militant group claimed responsibility for Sunday's suicide attack in Mogadishu. Shortly after an urgent late-night meeting on Sunday with the National Security Committee, President Hassan indicated that "I want to declare that the government of Somalia is now on a new stage of fight against anti-peace elements in our country." Calling on citizens throughout the city to help security forces in their efforts to arrest al-Shabaab members in hiding.

Regional Reporting:

- **18 April 2013** - The Speaker of Djibouti's Parliament Idris Arnaud Ali has announced that Djibouti will be sending additional troops to Somalia in order to join its contingent that are currently serving under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Speaker Ali stated that "Djibouti will reinforce its troops in Somalia soon to boost the security and stability there," further noting that "our forces are there to lend a hand to the rebirth of Somalia, and we are proud of that. Somali is not alone since Djibouti is there." The deployment of Djiboutian troops to Somalia is intended to prevent a security vacuum after the possible withdrawal of Ethiopian troops which are not part of AMISOM. Last month, al-Shabaab recaptured two towns after Ethiopian troops vacated them, sparking increasing concerns that a possible withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from the country would leave pockets of the country with no security support.
 - Kenya's Red Cross has confirmed that gunmen in the eastern Kenyan town of Garissa have shot dead eight people as they attacked a restaurant. According to the Red Cross, at least eight people were killed while five others suffered gunshot wounds and have since been evacuated to a local hospital. Regional police chief Charlton Mureithi, has indicated that the attack took place at a restaurant known as the Kwa Cheg, adding that an investigation was taking place in order to establish who was behind the attack. Since sending troops to neighbouring Somalia in late 2011 in pursuit of al-Shabaab militants, the east African nation has suffered a series of grenade and gun attacks. Although the wave of attacks on the capital city of Nairobi, the port city of Mombasa and Garissa had tapered off in recent weeks, this latest incident demonstrates that the new government of President Uhuru Kenyatta will still be forced to wrestle with the ongoing issues of insecurity.

International Developments:

- **15 April 2013** - Two New Jersey men have each been sentenced to at least twenty years in prison after pleading guilty to conspiring to join an armed Islamic Group in Somalia which has ties to al-Qaeda. Mohamed Alessa was sentenced to a twenty-two year prison term while Carlos Almonte was given a twenty-year prison term. During the trial, attorneys representing 23-year-old Alessa and 27-year-old Almonte had sought to portray the two men as troubled youths spurred to radicalism under the influence of a man who was actually an undercover officer working for the New York City Police Department. Federal prosecutors sought to counter that portrayal by arguing that the two were dangerous, calculating, would-be terrorists who were bent on joining an overseas organization in order to kill "disbelievers in Islam." Furthermore, prosecutors indicated that the two had carried videos on their cellphones of American soldiers being beheaded and considered Maj. Nidal Hasan, the alleged perpetrator of the worst mass shooting on a US military installation at Fort Hood, in Texas, a role model.

Map:





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 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
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References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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