

# 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

May 6 – 12, 2013 (Week 19)



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### At Sea:

- Throughout this reporting week, there was only one report of suspicious activity. Nevertheless, vessels transiting the waters off Somalia and within the region are advised to remain vigilant at all times. Furthermore, it is highly likely that pirate attack groups (PAG's) will continue to make "soft-approaches" on merchant ships transiting the High Risk Area (HRA).
- **5 May 2013** - Tanker reported coming under attack at 0300 UTC while in position 13:04N - 048:30 E, south-southwest of Al Mukalla, Yemen, in IRTC, GoA.

### Key Statistics

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

### Weather Analysis:

- The weather forecast throughout the following week will begin to deteriorate. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will experience increased difficulty in moving around the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden and off the coast of Somalia. Further out to sea, conditions will also worsen. Consequently any pirate groups in the region will likely be using motherships.

### On Land:

- **6 May 2013** - Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for carrying out Sunday's suicide car bomb attack which killed at least ten people and injured several others.

### Domestic News:

- **9 May 2013** - According to a UN official, as many as 3,000 African Union (AU) peacekeepers have been killed in Somalia in recent years in an attempt to end an Islamist insurgency and bring stability to the Horn of Africa nation.
- **8 May 2013** - Sources close to the Somali Federal Government (SFG) have indicated that President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud is planning to conduct a major reshuffle in his administration.

### 2013 Conference on Somalia in London

- **7 May 2013** - UK Prime Minister David Cameron is set to host an international conference on London which will focus on helping Somalia end the more than two decades of conflict that it has endured.
  - The second London conference on Somalia opened as hundreds of Somalis protested outside the conference which was being held in London's Lancaster House.
- **8 May 2013** - According to Somalia's defence minister, his country's armed forces have not received "a single bullet" despite the partial lifting of a United Nations arms embargo, citing that this is due to the fact that the country lacks funds in order to be able to purchase the necessary weapons to defend itself from threats such as al-Shabaab.

### About MS Risk

## Report on Somalia

May 6 – 12, 2013 (Week 19)

### At Sea:

- Throughout this reporting week, there was only one report of suspicious activity. Nevertheless, vessels transiting the waters off Somalia and within the region are advised to remain vigilant at all times. Furthermore, it is highly likely that pirate attack groups (PAG's) will continue to make "soft-approaches" on merchant ships transition the High Risk Area (HRA).
- **5 May 2013** - Tanker reported coming under attack at 0300 UTC while in position 13:04N - 048:30 E, south-southwest of Al Mukalla, Yemen, in IRTC, GoA ([See Map](#)). Four skiffs with three pirates on board each approached the tanker underway in two groups from either side. Two skiffs closed to a distance of 200 meters from the tanker and embarked armed security team fired warning shots, resulting in the skiffs aborting the approach and moving away. This event has been classified as suspicious activity by the IMB.

#### Key Statistics

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### Weather Analysis:

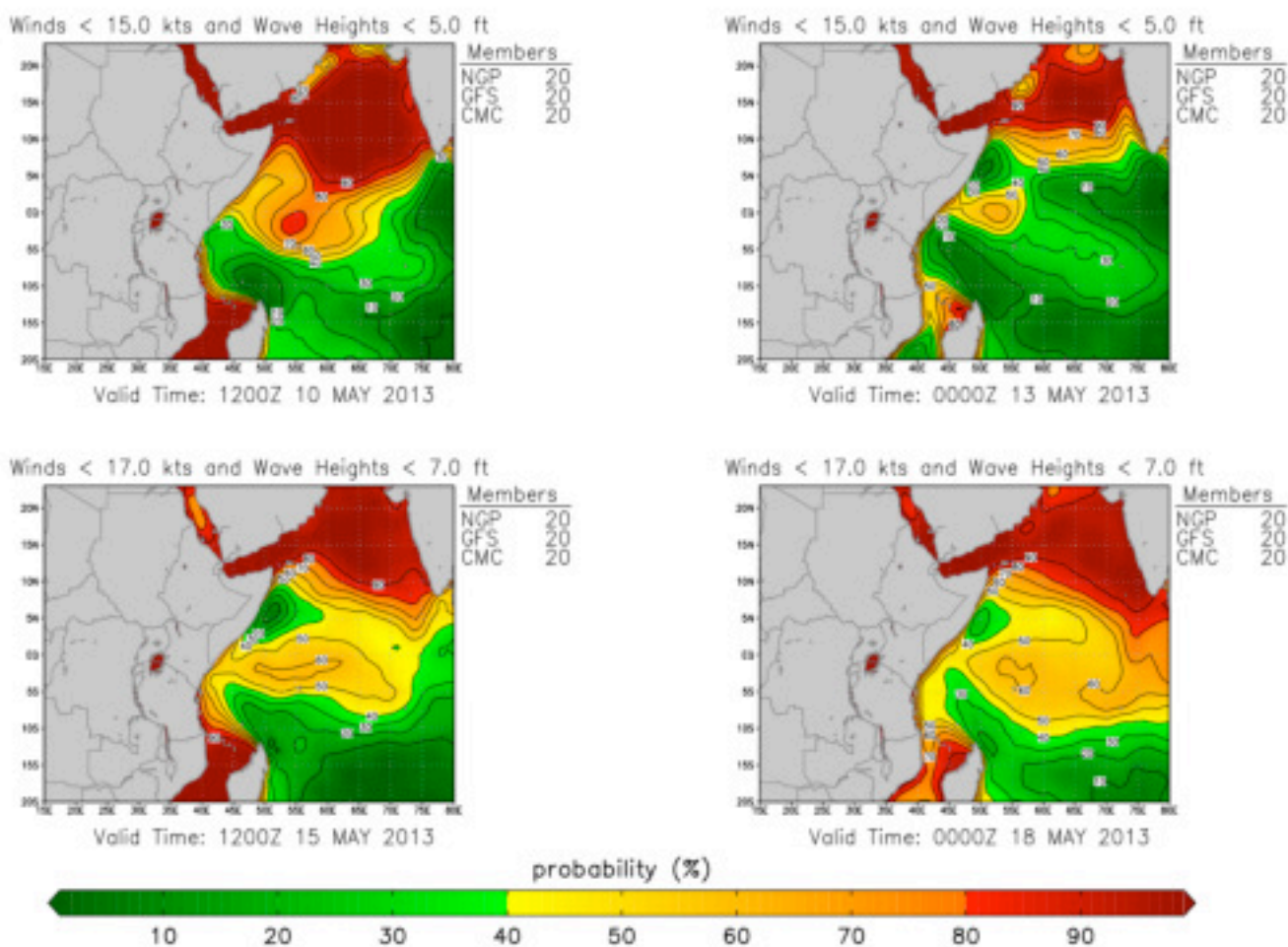
- **Gulf of Aden** - East-northeast winds of 5 - 10 knot and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; in the eastern portion of the Gulf, winds will be east-northeast at 5 - 10 knots with seas of 1 - 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with southwesterly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - West-northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with west-northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - In the western portion of the Gulf, winds will be westerly at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 1 - 3 feet; in the eastern portion of the Gulf, winds will be westerly at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 1 - 3 feet.
- **Somali Coast** - South-southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southerly winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knot 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.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the onset of the Southwest Monsoon season. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of a low pressure. Expect cloudy to mostly cloudy conditions with thunder storms and rain showers throughout the eastern African coastal areas.

## 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 \*\*\*

### 10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013050800



## On Land:

- **6 May 2013** - Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for carrying out Sunday's suicide car bomb attack which killed at least ten people and injured several others. According to official sources, the attack had targeted a convoy carrying foreign officials, all of whom survived the explosion. The death toll from the blast, which occurred at the busy main K4 intersection in the capital city of Mogadishu, has risen to ten, with several others, mostly civilians, sustaining injuries. According to reports, the interior minister's vehicle was in the convoy when the explosives were detonated however the official was not in the car at the time. According to police officer Mohamoud Gurey, "the criminal drove towards the government vehicles and it exploded after it hit one of them." The area was cordoned off immediately by security forces as ambulances rushed to the scene in order to take the injured to nearby hospitals. A pro-al-Shabaab website has quoted its commanders as stating that the extremist group's fighters were behind the attack, vowing that such incidents would continue. The attack came just four days after a security lockdown had been place at the main streets near government installations. It had only been lifted on Saturday. Somali government officials have indicated that the security measure was aimed at preventing "terrorist attacks" that may harm people and their property.

## Domestic News:

- **9 May 2013** - According to a UN official, as many as 3,000 African Union (AU) peacekeepers have been killed in Somalia in recent years in an attempt to end an Islamist insurgency and bring stability to the Horn of Africa nation. The 17,700 strong AU force began deploying to Somalia in 2007 and it includes troops from Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda. By way of comparison, 3,096 UN peacekeepers have died since 1948.
- **8 May 2013** - Sources close to the Somali Federal Government (SFG) have indicated that President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud is planning to conduct a major reshuffle in his administration. According to sources, President Mohamud, who is currently in London where he co-chaired the Somalia conference with UK Prime Minister David Cameron, may be preparing for a major overhaul of his administration. Sources have stated that on his list of changes, the President will return the number of Cabinet members from ten to eighteen, which was the original number of ministers during the former governments. The undersized cabinet appointed Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon defied the 4.5 quota - a formula in which clans share government representation - and forced many ministries to be joined which resulted in twenty-five Deputy Ministers. Sources have indicated that the President may be contemplating to replace Prime Minister Shirdon after the failure to subdue the ongoing Jubbaland state process which has seen international backing from IGAD, including several mentions during the recent Somalia conference in London. In the past, President Hassan has firmly stood against the Jubbaland process in Kismayo. Addressing the Federal Parliament in Mogadishu earlier this month, President Hassan stated that "the Federal Government does not support the current Jubbaland conference in Kismayo." According to one source, the possible reshuffle does not stop at Prime Minister Shirdon, however it may include other officials at the presidential palace however no further indications have been made. The talk of a possible reshuffle of his administration comes at a time when President Hassan is being pledged millions of dollars in order to help his government rebuild Somalia. During the conference, Britain pledged US \$279 million , which included funding for a doubling of the police force. In turn, the United States pledged US \$40 million while the United Arab Emirates pledged US \$50 million in assistance.

## 2013 Conference on Somalia in London

• **7 May 2013** - UK Prime Minister David Cameron is set to host an international conference on London which will focus on helping Somalia end the more than two decades of conflict that it has endured. The conference will focus on rebuilding security forces, developing the country's justice sector and management systems as well as tackling rape which remains to be a taboo subject. International donors are likely to pledge aid in order to help get Somalia's plans moving. In February, Britain announced it would be giving 3 million pounds (US \$4.7 million) in which a large portion of those funds would go towards helping train Somali lawmakers. The meeting, which Prime Minister Cameron is co-hosting with Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, follows similar conferences which have been held in London and in Istanbul, Turkey over the past year amidst growing international concerns that Somalia has turned into a haven for al-Qaeda-linked militants. It also comes just days after at least ten people were killed in a car bomb attack that took place in Mogadishu on Sunday. On Monday, Qatar confirmed that Sunday's suicide attack in Mogadishu had targeted its officials. The four officials were travelling in armoured vehicles belonging to the Somali government when the convoy was attacked. None of the Qatari nationals were injured however ten other people were wounded in the attack. Since then, al-shabaab has claimed responsibility for carrying out the attack. Despite a continued string of attacks in the capital city, there has been a dramatic change in the country over the past year. There is a new government, the first one in more than two decades which has been recognized by the United States, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a number of other key players. In turn, al-Shabaab has lost control of a number of major towns while piracy off the coast of Somalia has fallen dramatically. However massive challenges continue to be present as al-Shabaab still has the capacity to carry out attacks and the Somali government continued to be



dependent on about 18,000 African Union (AU) troops in order to maintain security. Similarly, Somalia is divided into a patchwork of self-governing regions, many of which remain hostile with the central government. In turn, the breakaway state of Somaliland and the semi-autonomous region of Puntland have indicated that they will be boycotting the conference. Delegates from nearly fifty governments are expected to attend the conference, as well

as organizations including the African Union, the World Bank, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Arab League. Also expected to attend is Kenya's new President Uhuru Kenyatta. **Update** - In a post-conference press conference, Prime Minister David Cameron has indicated that Somalia has made "huge progress" in efforts to end more than two decades of

conflict. Mr. Cameron stated that the UK would finance efforts to rebuild Somalia's security forces while Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has indicated that the government will take full control of security by 2015. The Prime Minister further indicated that "I am pleased that Britain will commit £10m (US \$15.5) in order to help develop Somalia's armed forces and £14.5m to double the number of police officers and train judges and lawyers." In turn the European Union (EU) has pledged US \$58 million (£37.3 million) towards the initiative. Mr. Cameron also held talks with Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is attending the conference - his first visit to a Western country since his controversial election in March.

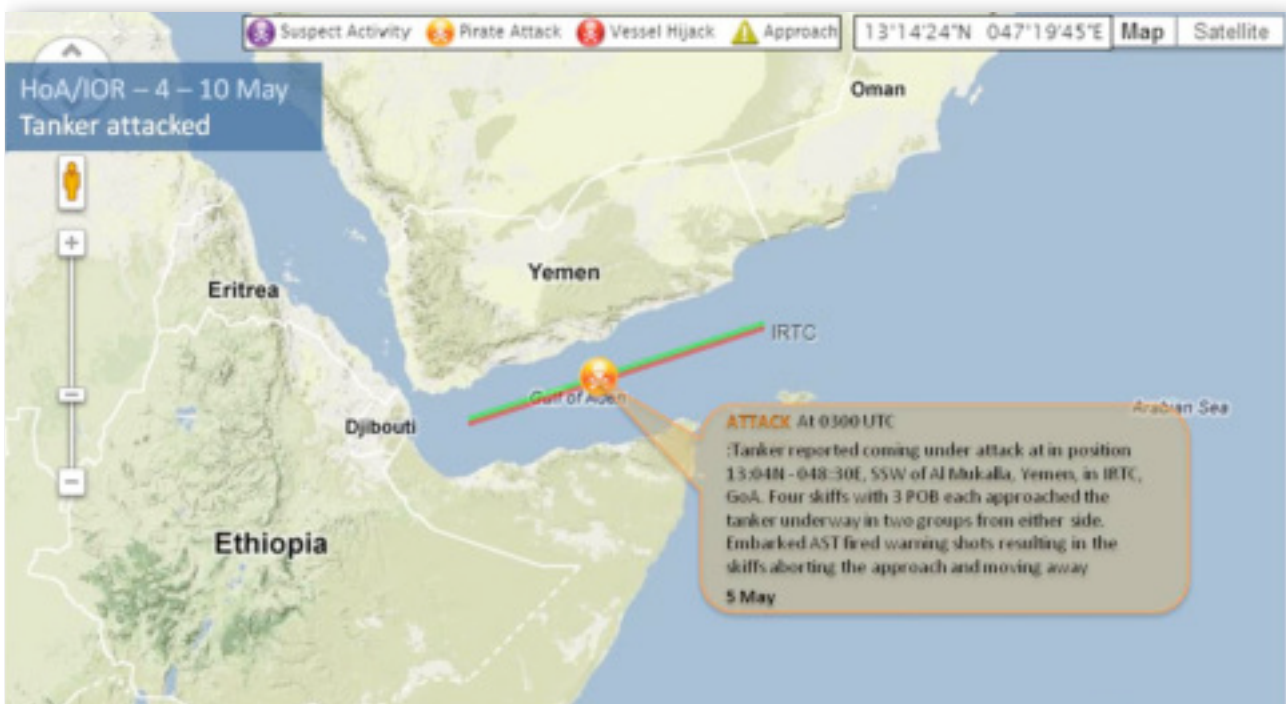
- The second London conference on Somalia opened as hundreds of Somalis protested outside the conference which was being held in London's Lancaster House. Prime Minister Cameron gave the opening address at the conference on Somalia, commending the efforts of the previous government to end the eight-year transition government which "established a proper, legitimate and federal government in its place." The Prime Minister further noted the UK government's alarm over the insecurity in Somalia and the possibility of it spilling over into the UK, warning against "young minds poisoned by radicalism, and they go on to export terrorism and extremism, the security of the whole world...is at stake." Inside Lancaster House, Prime Minister Cameron commended both the international community and Somalia for their efforts in fighting al-Shabaab. He further requested the international communities' support to rebuild Somalia, noting that the Somali Federal Government (SFG) required a multi-pronged approach to rebuild Somalia which "requires government that is transparent and accountable in its use of resources and inclusive and representative of all parts of society." Meanwhile, outside the conference, hundreds of protestors with slogans and billboards were accusing President Hassan of not being inclusive and not being sincere about the reconciliation process and about federalism in Somalia. According to one protestor, "President Hassan has refused to support federalism and has ignored local community requests to build their states." Overall, protestors are stating that President Hassan violated the federal constitution and that he is suppressing federalism.
- **8 May 2013** - According to Somalia's defence minister, his country's armed forces have not received "a single bullet" despite the partial lifting of a United Nations arms embargo, citing that this is due to the fact that the country lacks funds in order to be able to purchase the necessary weapons to defend itself from threats such as al-Shabaab. During a trip to London in support of the conference, Abdihakim Fiqi indicated that Somalia's new leaders aim to train and equip a professional army of about 28,000 soldiers within three years however they are currently lacking the funds. Speaking at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) defence think tank in London, Fiqi indicated that "the arms embargo was lifted almost two months ago and we haven't received a single bullet or one single AK-47 or gun. Nothing. Because of lack of resources." Somali forces currently number in the low thousands, and are poorly equipped and fragmented mixture of state troops and militias struggling to battle al-Shabaab militants, who want to impose their version of Islamic law throughout Somalia. Mr. Fiqi stated that "for the last four months, our soldiers are just sitting back not doing anything. Al-Shabaab are fighting them, engaging them, attacking them. They are just in the defense position...due to a lack of weapons and ammunition." African Union (AU) soldiers have been largely responsible for pushing al-Shabaab militants out of the capital of Mogadishu, and out of other urban centers, in the past two years. However the group is still able to launch major attacks, including a suicide bombing on Sunday which killed at least ten people." Mr. Fiqi declined to provide an estimate for the number of al-Shabaab fighters remaining, however he stated that due to a lack of funding, the group was mired in "leadership wrangling," and was "increasingly weakening, contained and losing ground every day." However al-Shabaab remains to be highly mobile, a reason why Somalia aims to build an army that comprises of agile light infantry units. According to Mr. Fiqi, "our national security stabilization plan indicates up to 28,000 soldiers within three years," which would effectively place the cost of raising such an army at about US \$160



million. The Defence minister is part of a Somali delegation, which includes President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who are attending a conference on Somalia in London.



Map:





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