

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

July 1 – 7, 2013 (Week 27)



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At Sea:

Hijackings

- None reported during this period

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **4 July 2013** - MV reported being closed to four cables by suspected pirates in two skiffs at 0950 UTC while in position 12:59.6N - 043:06.7E, in the South Red Sea/BAM.

Key Statistics

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

Weather Analysis:

- The weather throughout the following week will continue to be affected by the Southwest Monsoon. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will experience increased mobility throughout the Gulf of Aden and in the waters of Mozambique. Waters off the coast of Oman and further out to sea, water conditions will worsen. The Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea will continue to have calmer seas. Consequently, this region will likely see a number of pirate skiffs over the coming week.

On Land:

- **1 July 2013** - It has been reported by residents in Berhane that Kenyan war planes bombarded military bases last night in the lower Jubba region of Somalia.

Domestic News:

- **4 July 2013** - An apparently accidental publication of a diplomatic letter has exposed a rift between the Somali Federal Government and Kenyan troops.
- **2 July 2013** - Somalia's government has demanded that Kenyan troops stationed in the volatile port city of Kismayo be replaced, as the government in Mogadishu has accused them of backing a militia force that opposes the central Somali government.
- **1 July 2013** - Somalia's Federal Government has called for a neutral force in the disputed port city of Kismayo as it accuses Kenyan forces that are stationed in the city of backing on militia against others in the ongoing fighting to gain control of the strategic southern city.

International Developments:

- **1 July 2013** - According to a confidential United Nations report, an Iranian ship laden with arms seized by Yemeni authorities in January may have also been bound for Somalia.

About MS RISK

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At Sea:

Hijackings

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **4 July 2013** - MV reported being closed to four cables by suspected pirates in two skiffs at 0950 UTC while in position 12:59.6N - 043:06.7E, in the South Red Sea/BAM. Eight pirates armed with machine guns were sighted. The vessel's armed security guards fired warning shots and the skiffs moved away. The Pirate Action Group (PAG) may still be operating in the area. Consequently any vessels transiting this region are reminded to remain vigilant.

Key Statistics

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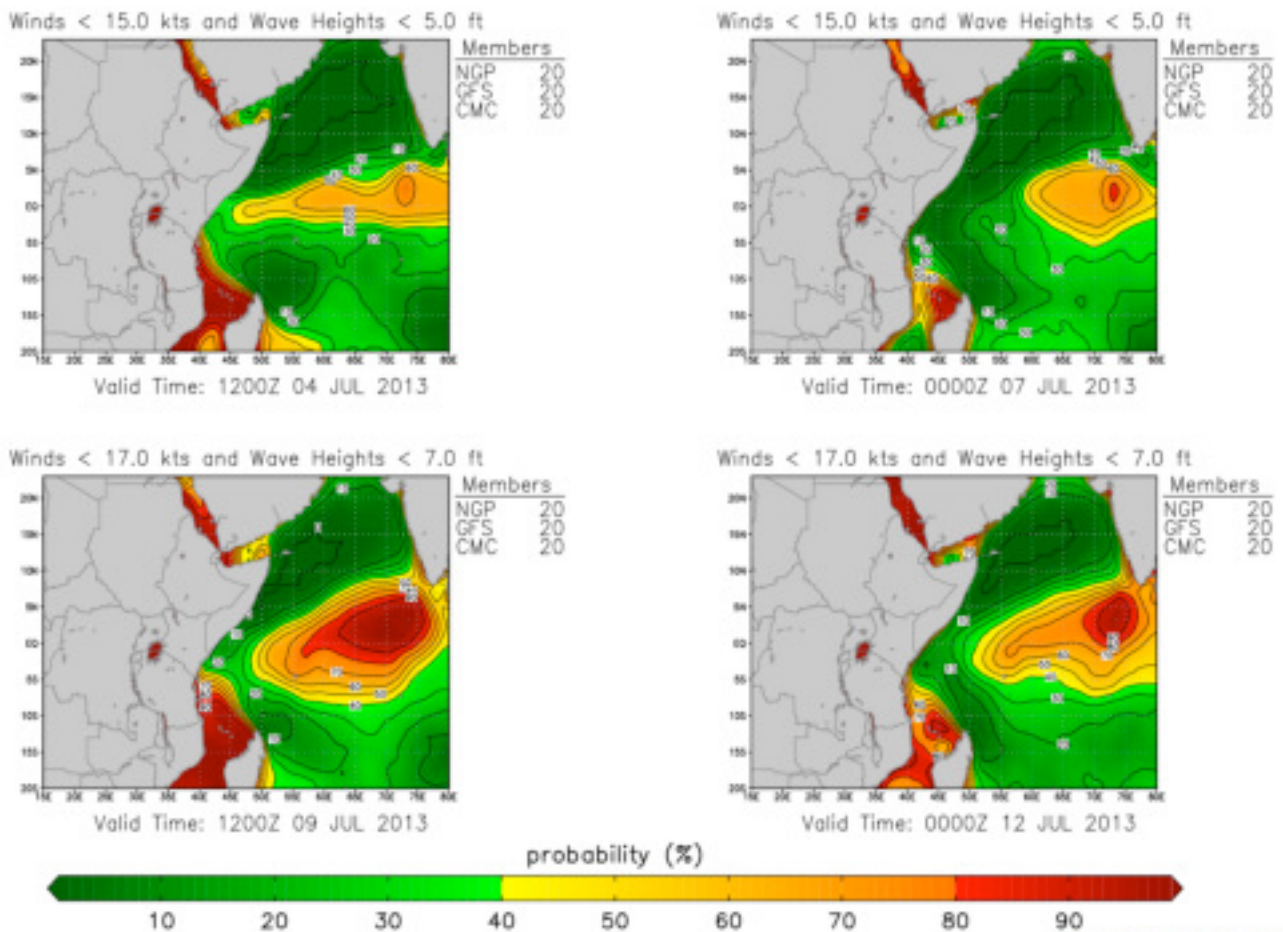
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Southwest winds of 15 - 25 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the western section of the Gulf, with southwest winds of 15 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 25 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 - 25 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Easterly winds of 15 - 25 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - West-northwest winds of 15 - 25 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet, with southwest winds of 25 - 30 knots and seas of 12 - 15 feet in the Horn of Africa region.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet, with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet in the Horn of Africa region.
- **Arabian Sea** - Southwest winds of 15 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - South-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - East-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the northern Channel, with north-northwest 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 - 6 feet in the northern Channel, with northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 6 feet in the southern Channel.

- **Surface Currents** - The north Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden currents are variable with most areas having an average speed of 1 knot. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having average speeds of 2 knots. Current speeds along the Somali coast average between 1 - 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the southwest monsoon season. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of strong high pressure system. Expect clear to partly cloudy conditions throughout the central African coastal areas.

Sea Conditions For This Week:

10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013070200



*** 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:

- 1 July 2013** - It has been reported by residents in Berhane that Kenyan war planes attacked military bases last night in the lower Jubba region of Somalia. Col. Abshir Abdi Hashi, who is amongst the officials in Berhane who confirmed the attack, has indicated that planes had specifically targeted the SNM bases in a region of the town which is situated 60 km (37 miles) from the port city of Kismayo. Col. Hashi also noted that the military bases were completely destroyed by the planes and that some soldiers were injured and there were also a number of civilian casualties and the destruction of many properties. This latest attack comes at a time when the Somali Federal Government has accused Kenyan troops of backing one of the militia members against other clans in Kismayo.

Domestic News:

- 4 July 2013** - An apparently accidental publication of a diplomatic letter has exposed a rift between the Somali Federal Government and Kenyan troops. The letter accuses the Kenyan army of causing recent factional fighting, which has left at least sixty-five dead in Kismayo. Kenyan troops



are in Somalia as part of the African Union (AU) force currently battling Islamist militants in support of the United Nations-backed government. Kenyan authorities have yet to comment on the letter. The letter, titled "Extremely Urgent - Kismayo conflict," is from the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Fawzia Yusuf Adam. He is also the deputy prime minister to the African Union. The letter accuses Kenyan troops, who are part of the AU's peacekeeping force, known as AMISOM, of not being neutral peacekeepers and that instead, they are attempting to create a buffer state, known as Jubbaland, within Somalia, which will be run by local politicians that they can control. It further states that the Kenyan Defence Force (KDF), which is backed by one Somali faction but not others, arrested a senior Somali army officer and used heavy weapons in civilian areas. According to the letter, the "incompetence" of the Kenyan commander of AMISOM in southern Somalia is said to have caused an outbreak of recent fighting in Kismayo which has led to a "preliminary" count of 65 dead and 155 injured. According to on-the-ground reports in Mogadishu, the letter appears to have been emailed to journalists accidentally after someone had mistakenly included the Prime Minister's "press contacts" in the email recipients' list. The letter calls for the "immediate deployment" of a multinational African peacekeeping force to take over control in southern Somalia in a bid to calm the situation, which threatens to destabilize a region of the country which continues to be threatened by al-Shabaab militants. Although the Kenyan AMISOM contingent was recently reinforced by several hundred troops from Sierra Leone, Sierra Leoneans are "embedded" inside the

Kenyan units. As such, the KDF continues to be the dominating force in this region of Somalia, which has been classified by AMISOM as “Sector 2.” While the letter highlights the need for a multinational deployment in the region, it does not go as far as to say that Kenyan troops should be replaced. Instead, it pointedly states that new “political officers” should be appointed for the area “whose nationalities will be different from the AMISOM contingent in Sector 2.” Although Kenyan authorities have not yet officially responded or made any comments pertaining to the newly released diplomatic letter, the Kenyan army has previously insisted that it was neutral in its dealings with Somalia and that it was only attempting to bring peace to its neighbor. However this is not the first time that Kenyan troops have been accused of backing a militia force which opposed the central Somali government in Mogadishu. Over the past several weeks, authorities in Somalia have accused Kenyan troops of supporting militia soldiers “in violation of their mandate,” as well as attacking civilians and arresting a top government army commander. These accusations culminated in the Somali government demanding several days ago that Kenyan troops stationed in Kismayo be replaced. With the accidental release of this confidential diplomatic letter, it appears that this time the Somali government’s accusation may confirm suspicions in the region that while Kenya’s troops are a part of AMISOM, they may also have their own agenda - to create a buffer zone to prevent further cross-border attacks which have plagued region ever since Kenya deployed troops in Somalia in 2011. Kenyan forces seized Kismayo, which is located 480 km (300 miles) south of Mogadishu, from al-Shabaab in October 2012. Currently, there are several self-declared presidents of Jubbaland and the central government in Mogadishu does not recognize any of them. Although Somali and AU forces have driven al-Shabaab militants out of a number of major cities, its fighters still control the smaller towns and rural areas located in central and southern Somalia, where they have been able to launch attacks within government-controlled territory.

- **2 July 2013** - Somalia’s government has demanded that Kenyan troops stationed in the volatile port city of Kismayo be replaced, as the government in Mogadishu has accused them of backing a militia force that opposes the central Somali government. Calling for a “more neutral African Union force,” Somalia’s information ministry accused the troops of supporting militia soldiers “in violation of their mandate,” as well as attacking civilians and arresting a top government army commander. Abdishakur Ali Mire has called for an “immediate replacement” of Kenyan troops by AU forces from other nations. In a statement released by his office, Mire said “there was a targeted offensive against civilians and the SNO (Somali National Army) command centre in Kismayo by the AMISOM Section Two Forces,” further noting that “Kenyan forces arrested and mistreated” the government army commander in Kismayo. AMISOM’s sector two, the Kismayo region, is manned by more than 4,000 Kenyan troops as well as a small contingent from Sierra Leone. A number of rival factions have been battling for control of Kismayo, which is a strategic and economic hub in the southern Jubbaland region: these include former Islamist chief Ahmed Madobe, who in May appointed himself “president” of Jubbaland; and Bare Hirale, a former Somali defence minister who also leads a powerful militia. The Kenyan troops, who invaded Somalia in the fall of 2011, back Madobe’s control of the region. However, since Mogadishu’s central government does not recognize the title of “president,” or the region of Jubbaland, the Kenyan troops have been seen as opposing the central government they are mandated to support. The region of Jubbaland lies in the far south of Somalia and borders both Ethiopia and Kenya. Control of the region is split between multiple forces, including clan militia, Kenyan and Ethiopian troops and al-Shabaab militants. The region is viewed by Kenya as a key buffer zone to protect its borders which have seen a number of attacks carried out al-Shabaab militants and supporters of the al-Qaeda-linked group in recent months. The Jubbaland region is also rich in farmland and possesses a lucrative charcoal industry. Since the collapse of the central government in 1991, Kismayo has changed hands more than a dozen times.
- **1 July 2013** - Somalia’s Federal Government has called for a neutral force in the disputed port city of Kismayo as it accuses Kenyan forces stationed in the city of backing one militia against others in the ongoing fighting to gain control of the strategic southern city. Late on Sunday, Somalia’s information ministry indicated that the country wants a “more neutral force” in the city that is home

to a contingent of militiamen and where five clan leaders have all declared themselves president. This recent statement is the strongest yet to have been released by the Somali government which has in the past sometimes accused Kenyan forces of taking sides in the Kismayo conflict. On Monday, Kenya denied any charges of taking sides in conflict, with Kenyan army spokesman Col. Cyrus Oguna stating that “Kenya is there...to promote security and the rebuilding of Somalia...those allegations are false and do not have any foundation whatsoever.” For the past few weeks, militias have been fighting to gain control of Kismayo, resulting in a number of clashes that have killed an unknown number of people. Regional and international leaders have called for peace in the region, with Catherine Ashton, European Union foreign police chief, indicating on Monday that the fighting in Kismayo “appears to have caused the loss of innocent civilian lives.” Urging “all parties to immediately refrain from violence, exercise restraint, and let political processes be used to resolve outstanding differences.” Strategically, the port city of Kismayo is important for Kenya as the country is seeking a friendly buffer zone near its border with Somalia, which is one of the main reasons it sent troops to Somalia to fight al-Shabaab militants in late 2011. However, the rival militias now at war with one another appear to be more interested in the economic value of Kismayo as its port generates large and reliable income and has been the export point of Somali-made charcoal. After another round of intense fighting on Sunday, it now appears that fighters from the Kenya-backed Ras Kamboni brigade, led by Ahmed Madobe, had taken the upper hand over rival militias led by former warlord Barre Hirale. According to Somalia’s deputy information minister, Abdishakur Ali Mire, the Ras Kamboni brigade managed some gains with the help of Kenyan troops operating in Kismayo under the African Union Banner. Ahmed Madobe, who is supported by Kenya, is the leader of the Ras Kamboni brigade, which fought alongside Kenyan forces which took control of Kismayo from al-Shabaab militants last year. He is a key power broker around Kismayo, however he is not backed by the federal government in Mogadishu. Madobe formed a local administration without giving much of a role to the central Somali government and in May of this year, he was named president by this body. Adding to the chaos, four other clan leaders have also declared themselves president of the region, however none is supported by the central government in Mogadishu. A statement released by Somalia’s deputy information minister accuses AMISOM Section Two, which is a contingent of African Union forces operating in Kismayo, of launching “a targeted offensive against civilians” and of arresting Col. Abbas Ibrahim Gure, a Somali army officer sent to Kismayo by the central government. The continued fighting in Kismayo has in many ways distracted from the overall aim of fighting al-Shabaab which continues to launch lethal attacks around the country, and in the capital city of Mogadishu.

International Developments:

- **1 July 2013** - According to a confidential United Nations report, an Iranian ship laden with arms seized by Yemeni authorities in January may have also been bound for Somalia. On January 23 of this year, Yemeni forces intercepted the ship, the Jihan 1, off the coast of Yemen, indicating that it was carrying a large cache of weapons, including surface-to-air missiles that were being smuggled from Iran to insurgents in Yemen. The confidential UN report, which was put together by the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea, cited Yemeni officials as stating that it was possible that the diesel the ship was carrying could have been intended for shipment to Somalia. In the report, the monitoring group, which tracks compliance with Security Council sanctions, raised concerns about the flow of weapons to Islamist al-Shabaab militants since the UN Security Council eased an arms embargo on Somalia’s fragile Western-backed government earlier this year. Although the report did not explicitly state that weapons on the ship were headed for Somalia, one UN Security Council diplomat has indicated that if it were true that the diesel was intended for Somalia, then it could not be ruled out that other cargo on the ship, including weapons, may have also been intended for the Horn of Africa nation. In response to the report, Alireza Miryousefi, a spokesman for Iran’s UN mission, has rejected the suggestion that Iran could be connected in any way with

arms supplies to al-Shabaab, stating that “these are some baseless allegations and ridiculous fabrications about the Islamic Republic of Iran,” further noting that “this alleged report by the Monitoring Group on Somalia on arms shipments from Iran carries no basis or the minimum rationality.” In turn, a Western diplomat has also noted that the fact that there were 16,716 blocks of C4 explosive on the Jihan 1 suggested a potential connection between Iran and al-Shabaab in Somalia, as Huthi rebels, unlike al-Shabaab, were not known to use C4. The UN report also indicated that according to Yemeni security officials, the arms and ammunition were well-packed in small containers concealed inside several large compartments filled with diesel fuel, stating that “Yemeni officials indicated that this arms contingent was to be delivered to the Huthi rebellion in northern Yemen...however the Monitoring Group concluded that some of the Jihan 1 cargo could have been intended for delivery in Somalia,” adding that “when asked about this, security officials confirmed that the diesel could have been bound for Somalia...members of the crew have also divulged to a diplomatic source who interviewed them in Aden that the diesel was bound for Somalia.” This latest experts’ report has indicated that Yemen was the top source of arms in Somalia. The monitoring group wrote that authorities in Puntland had indicated that one reason they had passed a law banning Yemeni petroleum imports was due to the ease with which arms were smuggled in diesel containers like the ones on the Jihan 1. The report also noted that “additional evidence indicates the involvement of an individual entity based in Djibouti as part of a network that supplies arms and ammunition to al-Shabaab in Somalia.” As a result, al-Shabaab remains strong despite the fact that the militant group has been driven out of a number of cities and towns. The report highlighted that “the military strength of al-Shabaab, with an approximately 5,000-strong force, remains arguably intact, in terms of operational readiness, a chain of command, discipline and communication capabilities....at present, al-Shabaab remains the principal threat to peace and security in Somalia.” Concerns are also rising about the possible export from Somalia of know-how in the manufacture of suicide vests and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to neighboring Kenya and Uganda. The Monitoring Group reported it had analyzed a suicide vest discovered in Kenya in March of this year which was similar to ones being used by al-Shabaab, which “suggests a transfer of know-how between al-Shabaab in Somalia and al-Shabaab members or its sympathizers operating in Kenya.”

Map:





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References are always available.

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