

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

June 17 – 23, 2013 (Week 25)



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At Sea:

Unsuccessful Attacks/Boardings/Robberies

- **21 June 2013** - Vessel reports being approached by three skiffs at 0500 UTC while in position 15:02N - 041:42E approximately 73 nautical miles west-northwest of Al Hudaydah, Red Sea.
- **14 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - Maltese-flagged tanker reports aggressive approach by one skiff with four possible pirates on board at 1237 UTC while in position 12:36N - 043:25E, BAM/Red Sea.
- **13 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - MV reported suspicious skiffs while in position 13:05N - 043:09E, south Red Sea.

Key Statistics

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

Suspicious Activity

- **13 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - MV reported suspicious skiff in position 12:42N - 043:16E, BAM, Red Sea. Skiff came within 0.5 nautical miles of the vessel.
- **11 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - MV reported a suspicious single skiff at 0730 UTC in position 12:36N - 043:19E, BAM, Red Sea.
- **9 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - MV reported suspicious activity in the vicinity at 0730 UTC while in position 12:27N - 044:20E, southwest of Aden, Yemen in the Gulf of Aden.
 - MV reported suspicious activity in the area at 0845 UTC while in position 12:34N - 043:27E BAM off the coast of Yemen.

Weather Analysis:

- The weather forecast throughout the following week will remain relatively poor for pirate activities. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will be able to move relatively freely within the Gulf of Aden and over the past several weeks, a number of skiffs and pirate action groups (PAGs) have been sighted in the region. Due to the onset of the Southwest monsoon season, PAGs have sought shelter within the Gulf and as the monsoon continues, it is highly likely that pirate groups will remain there. Consequently any vessels transiting this region are reminded to remain vigilant. Further out to sea, conditions will be less favorable for the pirates. The seas off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Oman and further out will continue to be rough. Nevertheless, any vessels transiting this region should remain vigilant as mother ships with pirates on board may be patrolling these waters in a bid to hijack a vessel.

On Land:

- **20 June 2013** - Witnesses have reported that heavy fighting has taken place between rival factions of Somalia's militant Islamist group al-Shabaab near the key coastal town of Brava.

- **19 June 2013** - Witnesses reported they heard a loud explosion and then gunmen firing weapons entered a United Nations office in the Somali capital city of Mogadishu.
- **17 June 2013** - Police have arrested hundreds of suspected al-Shabaab fighters in Mogadishu's Hodan and Howlwadag districts on Monday after a mortar attack on Sunday targeted the presidential palace in the capital city.
 - Meanwhile reports from the city of Beledweyne, which is the capital of the Hiran region, have confirmed that federal government troops have gained control of a number of districts in the city after forcing al-Shabaab insurgents out.

Regional Reporting:

- **20 June 2013** - A grenade attack has killed at least ten people in the north-eastern region of Kenya, close to the borders with Somalia and Ethiopia.
- **17 June 2013** - Photographs posted on al-Shabaab's Twitter account of two Kenyan police officers abducted last month are authentic according to Dadaab District Commissioner Albert Kimathi.
 - Meanwhile Kenyan police have shot dead two suspected militants on Monday who they say were planning attacks in the country on behalf of al-Shabaab.

About MS Risk

Report on Somalia

June 17 – 23, 2013 (Week 25)

At Sea:

Unsuccessful Attacks/Boardings/Robberies

- **21 June 2013** - Vessel reports being approached by three skiffs at 0500 UTC while in position 15:02N - 041:42E approximately 73 nautical miles west-northwest of Al Hudaydah, Red Sea. Weapons and ladders were sighted on board the skiffs at they approached the vessel at a high speed. Armed security guards on board the vessel stood to and fired warning shots. The skiffs aborted their approach and moved towards another MV located 2 nautical miles Starboard. Armed security guards on board the first vessel observed the other vessel taking evasive action. When last seen, the skiffs were paralleling the course of the second MV.
- **14 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - Maltese-flagged tanker reports aggressive approach by one skiff with four possible pirates on board at 1237 UTC while in position 12:36N - 043:25E, BAM/Red Sea. Skiff paralleled the MV's course then moved towards the vessel at a high speed, approaching the vessel to within 500m. Armed security team on board the vessel displayed their weapons, resulting in the skiff moving away. The tanker has been reported safe.
- **13 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - MV reported suspicious skiffs while in position 13:05N - 043:09E, south Red Sea. Approximately twenty skiffs surrounded the vessel. The Master of the vessel ordered the crew members into the citadel. Armed security guards on board fired warning shots. The incident lasted 20 - 30 minutes before the skiffs moved away. The vessel has been reported safe.

Key Statistics

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

Suspicious Activity

- **13 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - MV reported suspicious skiff in position 12:42N - 043:16E, BAM, Red Sea. Skiff came within 0.5 nautical miles of the vessel. Eleven possible pirates on board were seen however no weapons or ladders were observed. Armed security guards on board the MV deployed however they did not fire any warning shots.
- **11 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - MV reported a suspicious single skiff at 0730 UTC in position 12:36N - 043:19E, BAM, Red Sea. Single skiff at CPA 2.3 nautical miles carrying out bow-crossing manoeuvres. No pirate paraphernalia was observed.
- **9 June 2013 (Late Reporting)** - MV reported suspicious activity in the vicinity at 0730 UTC while in position 12:27N - 044:20E, southwest of Aden, Yemen in the Gulf of Aden. Four to six skiffs were observed with one skiff passing across the bow of the vessel on a number of occasion. No armed security guards were deployed and no direct threat to the vessel was made.
 - MV reported suspicious activity in the area at 0845 UTC while in position 12:34N - 043:27E BAM off the coast of Yemen. Four to six skiffs were observed with one skiff passing across the bow of the vessel on numerous occasions, but there was no overt threat. No armed security guards deployed. It is highly likely that this pirate action group is the same one that attacked another vessel nearby. Any transiting vessels are cautioned to remain vigilant in this region.

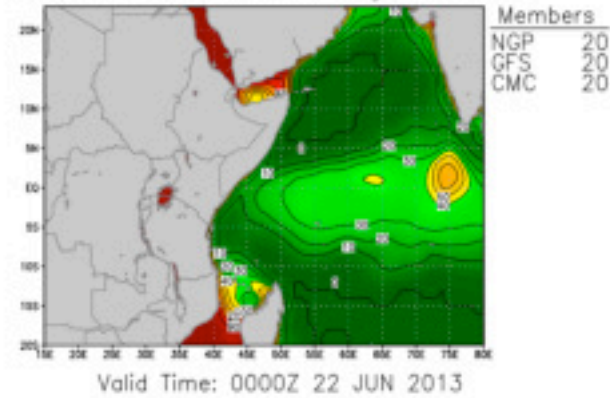
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Easterly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - West-northwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet; with winds of 25 - 30 knots and seas of 12 - 15 feet in the northeast corner of the country.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet; with winds of 25 - 30 knots and seas of 10 - 12 feet in the northeast corner of the country.
- **Arabian Sea** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** - North-northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern Channel; with northwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 3 - 5 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 central African coastal areas.

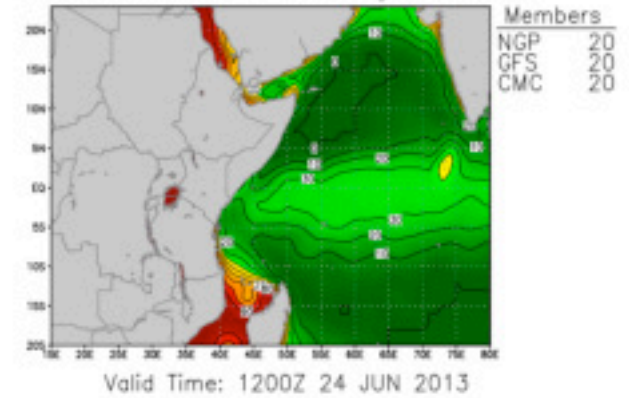
Sea Conditions For This Week:

10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013061912

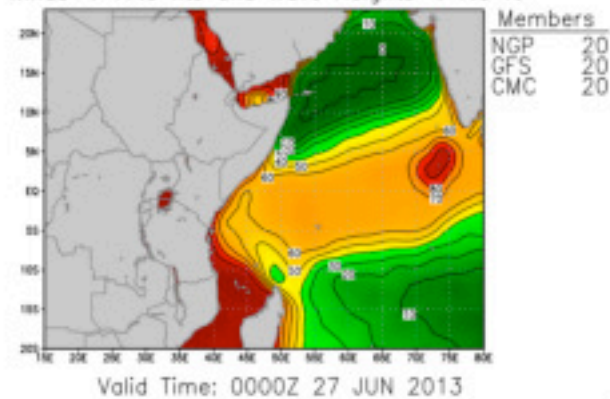
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



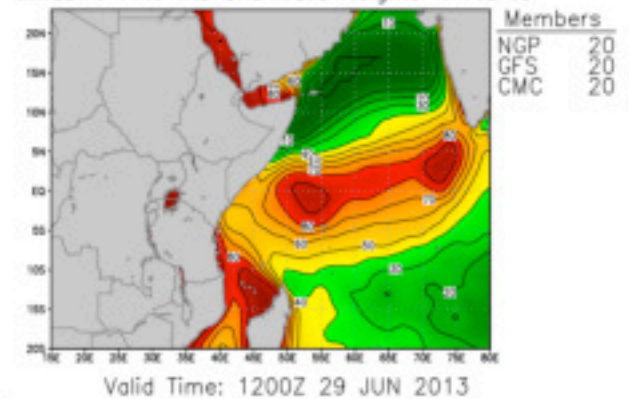
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



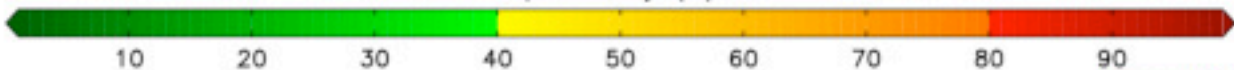
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



probability (%)



*** 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:

- **20 June 2013** - Witnesses have reported that heavy fighting has taken place between rival factions of Somalia's militant Islamist group al-Shabaab near the key coastal town of Brava. Six militants, including two foreigners were killed in the gun-battle that occurred at dawn. Although al-Shabaab has denied that there had been any fighting within its ranks, if confirmed, this would be the first clashes to have occurred between rival factions of the al-Qaeda-linked group since it launched an insurgency in 2006. The fighting also comes one day after at least fifteen people were killed in an attack that was carried out by al-Shabaab on the UN offices located in Mogadishu. Residents in Brava have indicated that the atmosphere in the town is tense following the gun-battle which occurred on the outskirts of the town which is located 220 km (140 miles) down the coast from Mogadishu. Since losing control of many other towns and cities to African Union (AU) and government forces, al-Shabaab has turned Brava into one of its main bases in the region. While the exact cause of the fighting remains unknown, there has been a long-running power struggle within the militant group and it involves its leader Ahmed Abdi Godane and ex-spokesman Muktar Ali Robow. Reports have indicated that Robow is said to be more moderate than Godane and that he opposes links with al-Qaeda.
- **19 June 2013** - Witnesses reported that following a loud explosion gunmen firing weapons entered a United Nations office in the Somali capital city of Mogadishu. . According to on the ground sources, soldiers from the African Union (AU) force and from the Somali army fought the men inside the office building, with witnesses reporting that the gun-battle lasted more than an hour. Reports also indicate that a suicide bomber blew up a car at the entrance to the office and four gunmen entered shortly afterwards, Sources are reporting that al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the attack, an al-Shabaab official stated that "our commandoes have attacked the UN compound...we set off an explosion



and have entered the compound, where we are fighting with the infidel forces." Residents in the area have fled and some buildings in the immediate area have been seriously damaged by the vehicle explosion. Some people have also been reportedly wounded in the blast however no official numbers have been released.

Furthermore it is unclear whether any UN officials have been caught up in the gun battle. The UN has only recently expanded its operations in Mogadishu, after years when its Somalia mission was based in neighboring Kenya due to security concerns. This is the first time the UN offices have been attacked since it re-launched its mission. The UN Development Programme office is next to the heavily fortified airport in southern Mogadishu. **Update** - The United

Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed outrage over a “despicable” attack that was carried out by Islamist militants on the UN office in Somalia, which killed fifteen people. A spokesman for the UN Secretary-General also stressed that the UN “would not be deterred from delivering its mandate” in Somalia. The attack has also been condemned by the fifteen-member UN Security Council, which reiterated its “determination to combat all forms of terrorism.”



Interior Minister Abdikarim Hussein Guled has indicated that at least fifteen people have been killed, including four foreign security workers, four local guards and seven militants. Two of the dead worked for South African weapons firm Denel. A police official has also indicated that three civilians died after being caught in the crossfire. All seven al-Shabaab gunmen died during the attack and officials have indicated that forces have secured the compound. The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently looking into reports that three British nationals are amongst the dead. Al-Shabaab has posted on its Twitter account that sixteen UN workers, including three Britons, two Kenyans and a South African were killed during the attack, stating that it had targeted nothing but poverty, dependency and disbelief.” AMISOM has described the attack as “cowardly” while Somali Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon Saaid has praised the speed of the security forces’ response.

- **17 June 2013** - Police have arrested hundreds of suspected al-Shabaab fighters in Mogadishu’s Hodan and Howlwadag districts on Monday after a mortar attack on Sunday targeted the presidential palace in the capital city. Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for launching the mortars, which targeted Villa Somalia and the resident of Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon. Via their Twitter account, the militant group indicated that the mortars had all landed within the president palace, killing at least four “African Crusaders and several apostates,” referring to the African Union (AU) troops and the Somali federal government. However witnesses have reported that the mortars missed their intended targets and instead landed on nearby civilian residences. The number of casualties in the attack has not been confirmed. This is the second attack that has been carried out on the president palace in the past two months. The attack also coincided with President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud’s return to the country from the United Kingdom, where he met with British Prime Minister David Cameron a head of the G8 Summit which was held in Northern Ireland. While al-Shabaab has not indicated the reasoning behind the attacks, many believe that the timing of the attack is in reaction to Somalia’s growing ties with the West, a relationship which al-Shabaab strictly opposes.
 - Meanwhile reports from the city of Beledweyne, which is the capital of the Hiran region, have confirmed that federal government troops have gained control of a number of districts in the city after forcing al-Shabaab insurgents out. The districts of Baro and Luq Jenow are now under the control of the federal government troops after militants withdrew their forces. Eye witnesses in the city have indicated that government troops, along with AMISOM forces and troops from Djibouti, have since established bases in the two districts in order to maintain security. Large parts of Hiran region remain to be under the control of al-Shabaab however government officials in the region are currently expanding their efforts to retake the occupied districts.

Regional Reporting:

- **20 June 2013** - A grenade attack has killed at least ten people in the north-eastern region of Kenya, close to the borders with Somalia and Ethiopia. According to reports, more than twelve



people were injured in the attack which occurred in Mandera county, some 30 km (18 miles) from the town of Banisa. One report has indicated that the attack occurred at a camp for displaced people. This attack follows fighting that occurred on Friday between two clans in the same area, in which at least six people died. Hundreds are reported to be fleeing the region. Police have indicated that more officers have been deployed in the region. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack however some reports are indicating that the suspects are

believed to be from Ethiopia and that they were targeting a car that was carrying a Banisa town commissioner.

- **17 June 2013** - Photographs depicting two Kenyan police officers abducted last month which were posted on al-Shabaab's Twitter account are authentic according to Dadaab District Commissioner Albert Kimathi. Al-Shabaab's post also read that "these two Kafirs now bring the total number of Kenyan PoWs to 7, after one was executed a few months ago." The commissioner has identified the two officers as Fredrick Chirchir and Josephe Wambugu. The two men were abducted during raids that were carried out on two police stations in Damajaleh last month. The Commissioner stated that "it is unfortunate the group claims that the two offers are prisoners of war, yet they were abducted away from the battlefield." However he expressed relief that some of the government officers abducted from Kenya are still alive, noting that "we do not know who was killed yet as the group claims but it raises hope all may be alive." The Commissioner added that the Kenyan government is currently working on providing psychological counseling to the victims' families. In the initial raid that occurred last month, al-Shabaab militants killed six people, including a fifteen-year-old boy, two officers, a Red Cross official and two civilians. Since a recent string of cross border attacks, security has been increased in the villages located along the Kenyan border with Somalia.

- Meanwhile Kenyan police have shot dead two suspected militants on Monday who they say were planning attacks in the country on behalf of al-Shabaab. During a dawn raid on a house in the port city of Mombasa, police shot terror suspect Kassim Omolo Otieno after he defied orders to surrender and returned fire. Kisauni deputy divisional Police Chief Joseph Sanguit confirmed that Otieno engaged in a shootout with police and was shot dead. Police also arrested Otieno's wife, who had provided them with information that led them to the home of the second suspect, Salim Mohammed Nyiro, also known as Abdullahi. According to senior police officer Thomas Sangut, "he, too, defied and tried to draw a gun...but our officers gunned him down." Coast police officer Aggrey Adoli described Otieno as a "dangerous terrorist," stating that "the man was armed with grenades and rifles when he was confronted." In a search that was carried out on his home after he died, police recovered two grenades, a pistol and an AK-47 as well as ammunition and improvised explosive devices. Police in Kenya have been following Otieno for more than a year, ever since he returned from Somalia, where he was an al-Shabaab trainer and bomb-making expert. According to officer Sangut, "he has been changing resident all the time. Today we would trace him in Kenya, tomorrow we would hear he is in Somalia. He is the main man who has been behind the radicalizing and training of Kenyan

youth in Somalia. We had information that he had come back here to plan terrorist attacks in Mombasa and Nairobi.” Kenya has suffered a series of grenade and gun attacks since it sent troops into neighboring Somalia in October 2011 in order to pursue insurgents it blames for kidnapping security personnel and Western tourists from its territory. The attacks, which have targeted the capital city of Nairobi, Kenya’s Indian Ocean coast as well as its border with Somalia have rattled investors and tourists in what is east Africa’s largest economy.

Map:





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 - Crisis management
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References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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