

# GLOBAL PIRACY REPORT

*Detailed Weekly Piracy Report and On - The - Ground Analysis Focusing on Somalia, the Gulf of Guinea, Southeast Asia and South America*

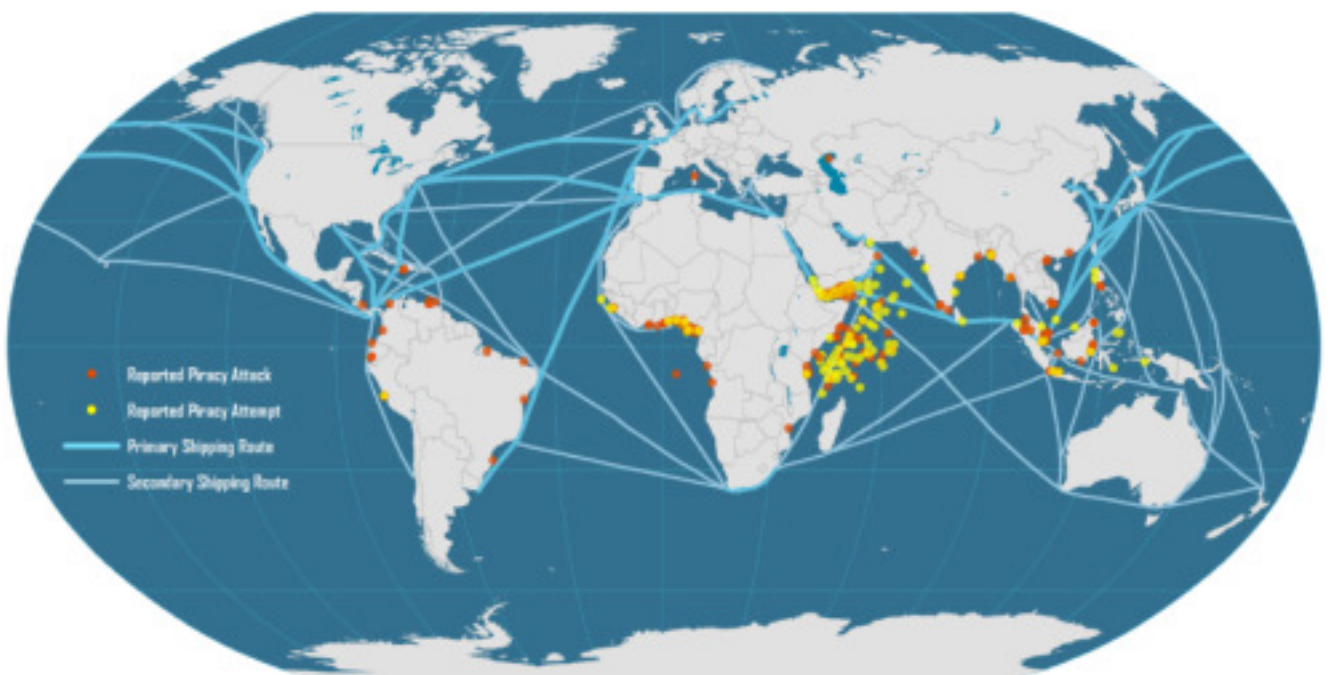
# SUMMARY

September 2 – 8, 2013 (Week 36; Edition 1)

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## List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

- **Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:** 1 approach incident reported (September 4)
- **Somalia-Indian Ocean:** No current incidents to report
- **Southeast Asia:** 1 robbery reported (September 3)
- **South America:** No current incidents to report
  
- ***North America:*** No current incidents to report
- ***Central America-Caribbean:*** No current incidents to report
- ***South America:*** No current incidents to report
- ***Atlantic Ocean Area:*** No current incidents to report
- ***Northern Europe-Baltic:*** No current incidents to report
- ***Mediterranean-Black Sea:*** No current incidents to report



# SOMALIA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- No hijackings reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- No attacks or robberies reported during this period.

## Updates

- **4 September 2013** - A US Federal Judge announced on Wednesday that she will release an alleged Somali pirate ahead of his trial, which is scheduled for this Fall, indicating that it was “pretty extraordinary” to hold someone presumed innocent in jail for more than two years. US District Judge Ellen Huvelle stated during a hearing that she will issue an opinion Thursday pertaining to the release of Ali Mohamed Ali. She further indicated that upon his release, Mr. Ali will be subject to 24-hour monitoring while awaiting his trial, which is scheduled to begin with jury selection on 31 October 2013. Mr. Ali has been accused of negotiating a ransom payment during a November 2008 hijacking of a Danish merchant ship in the Gulf of Aden. This is the second time that District Judge Huvelle has ordered Mr. Ali released pending trial. The first instance was in July 2012, after the government appealed one of her pretrial rulings in the case. However an appeals court quickly reversed her ruling, effectively ordering Mr Ali to remain in custody. In this latest ruling, the government indicated that it would again appeal, noting that Mr. Ali posed a flight risk. However his lawyer, Matthew J. Peed, has noted that his client did not attempt to flee when he was out for ten days last year and that he has been locked up since April 2011.

## Piracy Related News

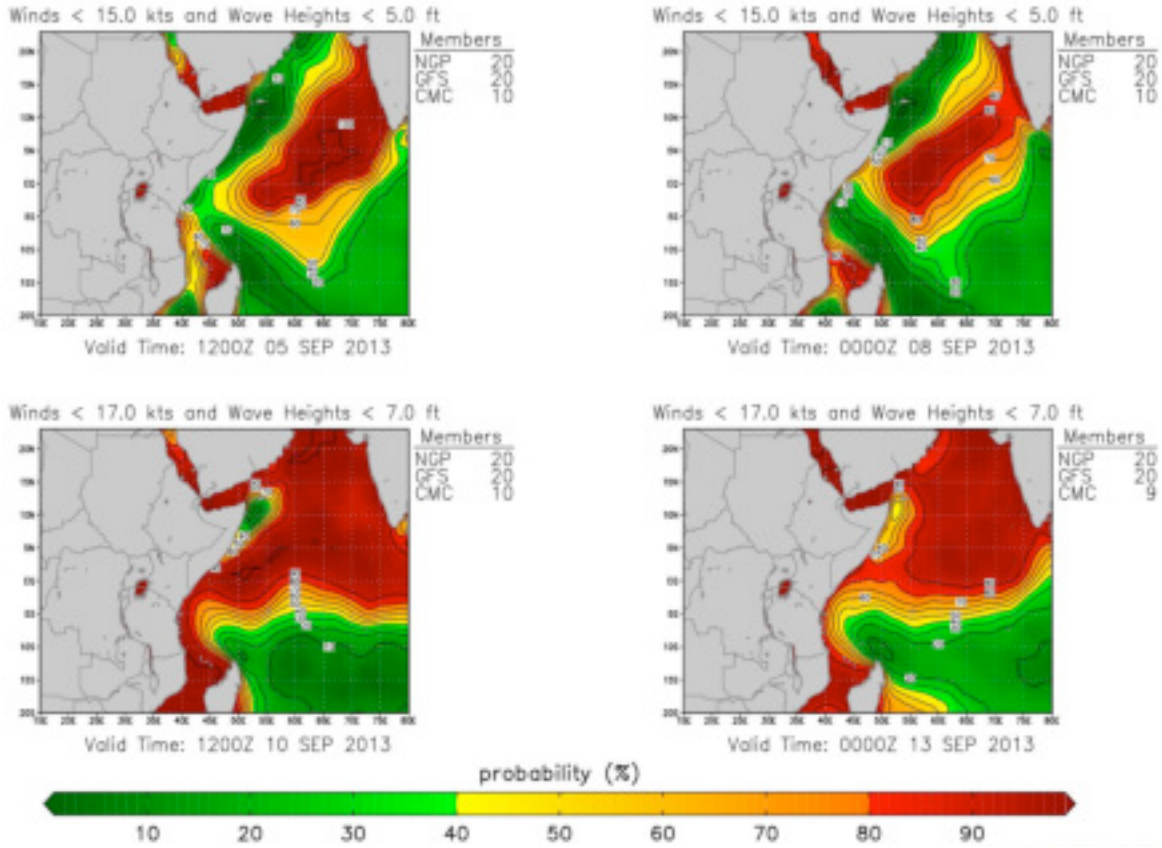
- **2 September 2013** - A High Court in Malaysia has sentenced three Somali nationals to ten years in jail each, while four others have each been sentenced to eight years after they pleaded guilty to firing at Malaysian soldiers in the Gulf of Aden two years ago. Judge Datuk Mohd Azman Husin handed down the ten-year prison sentences to Ahmed Othman Jamal (30), Abdil Eid Hasan (22) and Abdi Hakim Mohd Abdi (22). The four other Somalis sentenced to eight years jail each are all underage. The judge also ordered the men to serve out their sentences from the date of their arrest on 20 January 2011. When deciding the sentences, Judge Mohd Azman indicated that the court had taken into account their guilty pleas, background, threat to the world community and other factors, and found that ultimately, the jail sentences the men received, including the juveniles, were appropriate.

## Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Aden** - West-southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Southeast 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 5 - 7 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - South-southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with south-southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - 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 vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet; with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
- **Arabian Sea** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - East-southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the northern channel; with east-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the southern channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Easterly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the northern channel; with easterly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the southern channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The northern Arabian Sea and GOA currents are variable with most areas having an average speed of 1 knot. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having an average speed of 2 knots. Currents speeds along the Somali basin are northeasterly, averaging between 1 - 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the southwest monsoon season, with low pressure producing partly to mostly cloudy skies with rain showers and thunderstorms. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of a low pressure. Expect partly to mostly cloudy conditions throughout most of the central African coastal areas.

## Sea Conditions for the Following Week

### 10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013090300



\*\*\* 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-The-Ground Analysis

- **7 September 2013** - Police have indicated that explosions at a popular restaurant near the parliament building in Somalia's capital city have resulted in the deaths of at least fifteen people. According to local residents, the blasts occurred during the lunchtime hours at The Village restaurant, which was busy at the time of the incident. Local reports have suggested that a car bomb was detonated outside the restaurant and that a suicide bomber then blew himself up amongst the crowd that gathered at the scene. The restaurant, which is located about 1 km (0.6 miles) from the presidential palace, is not within the city's security zone and is particularly popular with government workers and journalists and has been previously targeted by militants. Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for this latest attack, stating that "successful operations were carried out in Mogadishu's Hamarweyne district." The restaurant is managed by Somali businessman Ahmed Jama, who returned to Somalia from the UK in 2008. The restaurant had previously been targeted by two suicide bombers last September, which resulted in fourteen people being killed. One of the many expatriates who has returned home in a bid to rebuild the war-torn country, Mr. Jama has vowed that he will not give up after this latest attack, stating that "my decision was to do something and as long as I live, I will continue - I'm a business guy with restaurants and I'm going to continue with that."
- **6 September 2013** - Al-Shabaab's Twitter account has been suspended for a second time this year. In a statement released to journalists, the group denounced the move, calling it "futile." Although al-Shabaab's feed is still running, it is highly likely that the group will set up a new account within the coming days or weeks. While so far, there has been no information pertaining to why the account was closed, the militant's group @HSMPress1 account was most recently used on Tuesday, when it used Twitter to claim responsibility for an ambush of the President's convoy. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohmaud was unhurt in the ambush and his office has played down the incident, stating that the president was unharmed as the device had exploded some distance away from the convoy. This statement prompted al-Shabaab to post the "next time, you won't be as lucky." This threatening message may have forced Twitter to shut down the account as the company has a policy that accounts can be suspended if users publish threats of violence. They can also be blocked if they use Twitter for unlawful purposes or illegal activities. The group's previous English account, @HSMPress, was suspended in January after it was used to threaten to kill Kenyan hostages. The group had also posted at the time that it would kill a French hostage, a move which was later tweeted by the group as having been carried out. A number of analysts have indicated that while the United States has in the past sought to close al-Shabaab's Twitter account, they have lacked the legal means to force Twitter to do so. Al-Shabaab's Twitter account was launched by the group in December 2011, shortly after Kenyan troops went into Somalia to drive the militant group out.
- **3 September 2013** - Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud escaped uninjured Tuesday after an ambush on his heavily armored convoy by al-Qaeda-linked Islamist militants in what is the latest attack to target the internationally backed leader and his government. At the time of the attack, the President was travelling in armored convoy from the African Union force (AMISOM). Al-Shabaab gunmen have since claimed responsibility for the ambush on the President's convoy, which took place near the small settlement of Buffo, close to the port of Merka. The area, which is located 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of the capital, is a former al-Shabaab stronghold that was captured from the militant group one year ago. Although al-Shabaab militants claimed to have destroyed a number of convoy vehicles with rocket-propelled grenades, officials have stated that the attack failed and that all members of the presidential entourage were safe. The reports were confirmed by Somali army official Mohamed Qorey, who indicated that "gunmen tried to disrupt the president's trip...but I can confirm the president and his delegation are well and reached their final destination of Merka for meetings with the local community." Diplomatic sources have also downplayed the attack, stating that it consisted only of a roadside bomb. Following the attack, residents in Merka

reported that the President had appeared in the port city, where he greeted officials and residents as he toured the town. This is the second time that a president has been ambushed by militants. In May 2012, al-Shabaab fighters ambushed the convoy of Mohamud's predecessor, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, who escaped the attack unharmed. While Somalia's central government, which was elected in August 2012, has made some progress in Mogadishu, it continues to have minimal concrete influence outside the capital city. While the government was the first to be given global recognition since the collapse of Somalia's hardline regime in 1991, officials in the country have been dealt a number of setbacks in recent months, which have included a number of al-Shabaab attacks, accusations of rape against the army and AU soldiers and a withdrawal by aid workers as a result of a wave of kidnappings and killings.

## Domestic News

- **3 September 2013** - Officials in Somalia indicated on Friday that international investigators commissioned by the country's government have cleared it of corruption accusations levelled by United Nations monitors. The accusations, which were made by the United Nations Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea in July of this year, indicated that Mogadishu's central bank had become a "slush fund" for political leaders and that the current governor played a central role in irregularities surrounding unaccountable disbursements of cash. A formal response by the Somali government to the UN report, which was dated August 30, stated that "what is crystal clear is that the Monitoring Group's allegations have no basis in fact." So far there have been no comments made by the UN Monitoring Group. The Central Bank of Somalia Governor, Abdusalam Omer, has denied the allegations against him. The government statement noted that "the Monitoring Group's obsessive and unrelenting attacks on Central Bank Omer that he was complicit in pervasive corrupt activities are contrary to all of the evidence uncovered by the investigative team." The statement also accused the UN monitoring team of failing to make contact with key officials and gather a complete body of evidence before making its accusations.

## International Developments

- **3 September 2013** - United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has warned that despite progress over the past year, Somali could slide back into being a failed state. He has called on UN members, including countries not involved in aiding the Horn of Africa nation, to provide the African Union-led peacekeeping force with attack helicopters, armored troops carriers and other support in order to root out al-Shabaab which has proven to remain a strong force capable of carrying out attacks in the capital city and throughout other regions of the war-torn country. In a report to the Security council, Mr. Ban stated that "the political, security and development gains made so far in Somalia are still reversible," adding that the al-Qaeda-linked militant group "continues to undermine security throughout the country, including Mogadishu." He further noted that "allowing al-Shabaab to continue its training and conduct terrorist activities from bases in Somalia will not only undermine peace in Somalia, but also that of the wider region." The AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is endorsed by the UN Security Council and is meant to pave the way for an eventual UN force to take over the peacekeeping mission, however a timeline for that takeover cannot be created yet as the security situation throughout the country continues to be unstable. Most recently, the United Nations itself was adversely affected by the security situation in Mogadishu after al-Shabaab militants attacked the UN compound there on 19 June, killing a UN Development Programme staffer along with three UN contractors, four Somali guards and at least six Somali bystanders. This recent incident was the first direct attack on a UN building in Somalia since 2008. Since then, the international aid group Doctors Without Borders has pulled out of Somalia, citing increasing dangers throughout the country as the main reason behind its withdrawal.

## Map





# GULF OF GUINEA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- No hijackings reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **4 September 2013** - A speed boat approached a chemical tanker underway with intent to board the vessel at 1515 LT in South of Pennington Oil Terminal, Nigeria. The alarm was raised, the crew were alerted of the incident and the vessel made evasive maneuvers in order to prevent the boarding. The pirates attempted to board the vessel using hooks attached to a rope. The on board security team fired warning shots at the boat and the pirates retaliated by returning fire. Facing resistance, the pirates aborted the attempt to board the vessel.

## Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The Gulf of Guinea is currently under the influence of high and low pressure systems, bringing strong southerly winds and moisture into the area. Expect mostly cloudy conditions with rain showers and possible thunderstorms.

## Piracy Related News

- **6 September 2013** - The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) confirmed on Friday that fifteen Filipino sailors on a Greek-owned tanker have been rescued by Nigerian Naval Forces just one day after their ship was hijacked by pirates last month. The Filipino crew members on board the MT Norte, which was seized by armed men on the evening of August 16, were released on August 17 after Nigerian forces launched a rescue operation. Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez has indicated that all the crew members were "unharmful and safe" and that following the successful rescue operation, they were brought to the Nigerian Naval Base in Warri state where they were debriefed. Mr. Hernandez further indicated that the men returned to their vessel on Thursday and that they are currently en route to the Nigerian city of Lagos.

# SOUTHEAST ASIA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- No hijackings reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **3 September 2013** - Six robbers disguised as fishermen boarded a chemical tanker at anchor at 2110 LT in Vung Tau Anchorage, Vietnam. The Duty AB saw the robbers and informed the bridge. The alarm was raised and the crew were moved to safety. Realising the crew had been alerted the robbers fled, having looted the ship's stores. All crew have been reported safe.
- **28 August 2013 (Late Report)** - Six robbers boarded an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier (name has been withheld) via the anchor chain and hawse pipe by removing the cover and anchor lashing at 2330 LT in Cam Pha Anchorage, Vietnam. The robbers cut open the padlock to the forecastle store and stole the contents. The Duty Officer on board the vessel noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with the stolen ships stores. The incident was reported to the local police who boarded the ship to investigate the incident.
- **27 August 2013 (Late Report)** - Sixteen robbers in two boats approached an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged container ship, the Nadir, at 2025 LT in Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh. Five robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship and began to lower the ship's stores into their boats. The Duty Officer on board saw the robbers, raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Seeing the crew had been alerted, the robbers escaped with the stolen ship stores. Incident was reported to the Coast Guard.
- **18 August 2013 - (Late Report)** - While underway, unidentified persons onboard 2 - 3 small wooden boats approached and boarded the barge, M3320, which was being towed by a Malaysia-flagged tugboat, the Bahtera Mulia, at 2024 LT, about 5.6 nautical miles south of Tg. Setapa, Malacca Strait. The general alarm was sounded and the VTIS East were contacted. The ship radioed the Navy and Police Coast Guard and after some time, the robbers left the barge. At the time, the tug and barge were en route from Malacca to Labuan, with a cargo of oil rig spare parts.
- **17 August 2013 (Late Report)** - While at anchor, 10 robbers armed with parangs (Malay machete) and wearing face masks approached a Honduras-flagged product tanker, the Moresby 9, at 2045 LT, approximately 1.83 nautical miles southeast of T Ramunia, Indonesia. The robbers approached in two speed boats, one white and one grey. They boarded the vessel and tied the crew up in the mess room. The robbers ordered the Master to continue sailing. Whilst underway, the robbers sighted an approaching MMEA vessel and escaped over the port side. The MMEA searched the ship for any remaining robbers. A broadcast warning was made to advise vessels passing in the vicinity to keep an anti-pirate watch. The vessel and crew members have since been reported safe.
- **4 August 2013 (Late Report)** - While at anchor, robbers boarded a Hong-Kong-flagged product tanker, the St. Micheaelis, at 0002 LT in position 22:11N - 091:41E, Chittagong Anchorage. The robbers boarded the vessel from astern. When the alarm was raised, the crew locked themselves in

the superstructure. The Bangladeshi Coast Guard and port authorities were informed of the boarding and a Coast Guard vessel was sent to patrol the area around the vessel. The vessel has been reported safe.

## Summary of Piracy Incidents in Southeast Asia (August 2013)

### *Summary*

There were a total of 12 piracy incidents in the Asia – Pacific region during the month of August, 2013. 6 of these occurred in Indonesia, a decrease from 9 in July. This is still the highest occurrence of incidents in the month of August in South East Asia since 2010.

By far the most serious incidents this month appear to have occurred in Bangladesh, when in two separate attacks over 30 local fishermen were taken hostage by pirates. Subsequent police operations appear to have released some of these hostages and killed some of the pirates in fire fights, but about two-thirds of the kidnapped fishermen seemingly remain under pirate control. Violent robbery and hostage taking of local fishermen has been a recurring problem in Bangladesh, though a heightened risk to foreign shipping is not currently anticipated.

There were no reported incidents in the East Asia or Pacific regions.

### *Incidents Occurring By Country*

Indonesia – 6

Bangladesh – 5

Vietnam – 1

Total Incidents: 12

### *Reported Incidents*

2<sup>nd</sup> August, Indonesia – tanker DANAI 6 boarded approximately 9nm north of Bintan Island. Six pirates, armed with knives and guns, boarded ship and tied up the crew, before escaping with valuables.

4<sup>th</sup> August, Indonesia – GARNET EXPRESS boarded and robbed at an undisclosed anchorage.

10<sup>th</sup> August, Indonesia – STAR MANX boarded at Samarinda Anchorage. A total of 8 robbers boarded the ship, assaulted the third officer and threatened him with a knife, before escaping in a speedboat with stolen stores.

10<sup>th</sup> August, Bangladesh – KOTA HARTA boarded at Chittagong Anchorage. 3 robbers spotted by crew, and escaped

14<sup>th</sup> August, Bangladesh – two fishing trawlers hijacked along the Meghna river, and 21 fishermen kidnapped. Authorities secured the release of 10 soon after.

15<sup>th</sup> August, Bangladesh – 3 fishing trawlers attacked by pirates in along the Meghna river. One fisherman injured when pirates opened fire, and trawlers looted. 15 fishermen subsequently kidnapped by the pirates. It is believed these individuals remain hostages.

16<sup>th</sup> August, Bangladesh – HENRIETTE SCHULTE boarded by armed robbers at Chittagong Anchorage. Boarders spotted by alert crew, and escaped overboard with stolen stores.

23<sup>rd</sup> August, Indonesia – an anchored bulk carrier boarded at Muara Berau anchorage. Five armed robbers boarded and threatened a crew member with a knife, before escaping with stolen stores.

23<sup>rd</sup> August, Indonesia – TEQUILA SUNRISE boarded at Samarinda Working Anchorage and stores stolen.

23<sup>rd</sup> August, Indonesia – berthed carrier boarded at Belawan port. Robbers successfully escaped with stolen property.

27<sup>th</sup> August, Bangladesh – 16 robbers, some armed, boarded a ship berthed at Chittagong Anchorage. After crew mustered, robbers escaped with stolen stores.

28<sup>th</sup> August, Vietnam – anchored carrier boarded at Cam Pha anchorage, robbers escaping with stores when discovered.

# SOUTH AMERICA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- No hijackings reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- No reports of attacks or robberies during this period.



## About MS Risk

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References are always available.

More information is found at [www.msrisk.com](http://www.msrisk.com)

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