

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

August 12 – 18, 2013 (Week 33)



Follow us on Twitter @ MS Risk_Security for regular updates on topical security events and issues.

At Sea:

- **14 August 2013** - MV reported being approached by two skiffs at 0500 UTC, in the Red Sea.

Weather Analysis:

- The weather throughout the following week will continue to be affected by the Southwest Monsoon. Throughout the beginning of the week, small skiffs and boats will experience decreased mobility in the Gulf of Oman and on the northern tip of Somalia, with conditions improving by the end of the week. In the Gulf of Aden and into the Red Sea water conditions will be favorable for pirate activity to occur. Further out to sea, water conditions will remain variable in some areas. Waters off Mozambique will continue to have calmer seas. Consequently, this region will likely see a number of pirate skiffs over the coming week.

Key Statistics

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

On Land:

- **17 August 2013** - Officials have said that four Kenyan police officers have been shot dead by suspected Somali militants near the town of Garissa, close to the countries' border.
- **15 August 2013** - The African Union (AU) force fighting in Somalia announced on Thursday that it is investigating the alleged gang rape of a woman by its soldiers, a case that has sparked outrage in the capital city of Mogadishu.
- **14 August 2013** - Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) has announced that it will be closing all of its programmes in Somalia after twenty-two years of working in the war-torn country.

Domestic News:

- **12 August 2013** - Reports have emerged that al-Shabaab militants have stolen £480,000 (US \$750,00) worth of British government-funded humanitarian-aid supplies.

International Developments:

- **16 August 2013** - Just days after a medical charity pulled its aid out of the country, citing insecurity issues as the reason behind the sudden withdrawal, the United Nations has warned of a severe outbreak of polio in Somalia.

About MS Risk

Report on Somalia

August 12 – 18, 2013 (Week 33)

At Sea:

- **14 August 2013** - MV reported being approached by two skiffs at 0500 UTC, in the Red Sea. Skiffs approached from starboard at high speed. The on-board armed security team stood to, showed their presence and fired warning shots. The skiffs aborted the approach however they continued to shadow the MV for approximately thirty minutes. The MV has been reported safe.

Key Statistics

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

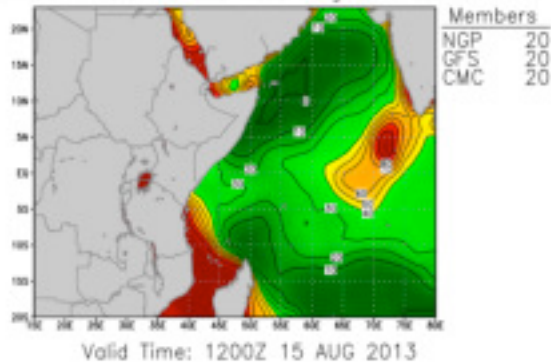
Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - South-southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with south-southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southeast at 10 - 15 knots with seas of 3 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast 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 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet; with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet in the Horn of Africa region.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 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 10 - 15 knots and seas of 6 - 8 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 4 - 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of low pressure. Expect partly cloudy conditions throughout the central African coastal areas. East-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** - South-southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 9 - 10 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The Northern Arabian Sea and GOA currents are variable with most areas having average speeds of 1 knots. 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.

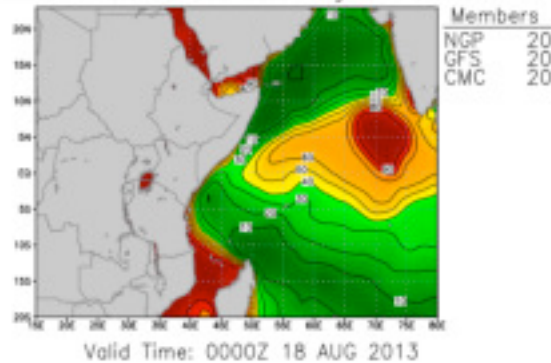
Sea Conditions For This Week:

10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013081300

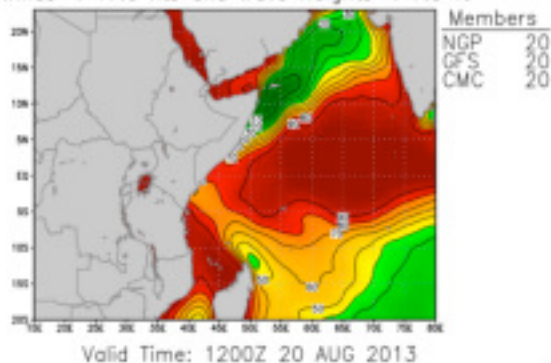
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



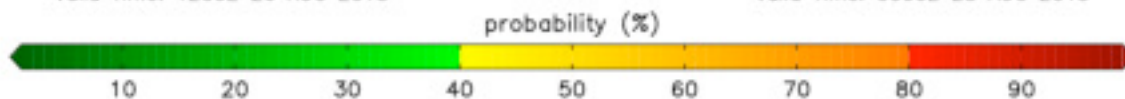
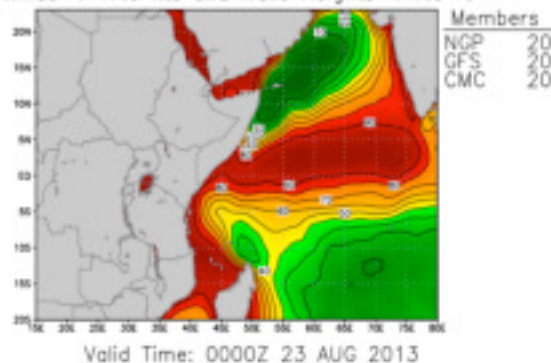
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



*** 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:

- **17 August 2013** - Officials have said that four Kenyan police officers have been shot dead by suspected Somali militants near the town of Garissa, close to the countries' border. According to the county commissioner, about forty heavily armed men attacked a police post in Garissa late on Friday. County Commissioner Rashid Khattor further indicated that "our initial assessment points to the attackers being al-Shabaab militants who crossed over the border and carried out the hit-and-run attack." The bodies of the four police officers were being prepared for transport from the scene while an investigation is currently underway. The area around Garissa, which is located near the border with war-torn Somalia, has seen a series of attacks in recent months. In April of this year, eight people were killed, while in January another five were killed in brutal attacks by al-Shabaab militants.
- **15 August 2013** - The African Union (AU) force fighting in Somalia announced on Thursday that it is investigating the alleged gang rape of a woman by its soldiers, a case that has sparked outrage in the capital city of Mogadishu. According to reports, a Somali woman has alleged that earlier this month, she was abducted, drugged and then repeatedly raped by soldiers from both the national army and from AMISOM, which is the 17,700-strong African Union force supporting the internationally backed government. A statement released by Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon indicated that the government was "deeply troubled by the alleged rape...involving a number of personnel from AMISOM." A separate statement released by the AU further indicated that a joint AMISOM and Somali army team has been set up "to investigate the matter and appropriate action will be taken once the facts of the case have been established." The statement also noted that the AU mission "strongly condemns...sexual abuse or exploitation." The attack allegedly took place in an AMISOM army base in the Maslah district of Mogadishu, an area on the outskirts of the capital which was wrested from al-Shabaab insurgents by Ugandan troops last year. If confirmed, the case, which has been widely reported in recent days by media in Mogadishu, will badly dent the reputation of the AU force, and will likely play into the hands of al-Shabaab. Somalia's army has, in the past, been accused by rights groups of a string of abuses against women, including rape. In March of this year, Human Rights Watch (HRW) detailed the "enormous problem" of rape and sexual abuse of women and girls in Mogadishu, by both government soldiers and militia fighters. HRW disclosed that many of those attacked are too frightened of reprisals to tell the authorities. A Somali journalist and a rape victim he interviewed were both sentenced to a year in prison in February, however they were released after two months in jail after their case sparked widespread international criticism. Despite there being a high number of rapes and attacks in Mogadishu and throughout the rest of Somalia, the extreme nature of the woman's allegations and the accusations of AMISOM involvement have shocked many. AU troops, which include soldiers from five nations - Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Sierra Leone and Uganda - have been fighting against al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab insurgents in Somalia since 2007.
- **14 August 2013** - Medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) has announced that it will be closing all its programmes in Somalia after twenty-two years of working in the war-torn country. A statement released to the public indicated that the decision had been taken because of "extreme attacks on its staff," further noting that armed groups and civilian leaders increasingly "support, tolerate or condone the killing, assaulting and abducting of humanitarian aid workers." Dr. Unni Karunakara, MSF's international president, has since stated that this has been one of the hardest decisions MSF has ever had to make. Since 1991, when Somalia descended into civil war, sixteen MSF workers have been killed. There have also been dozens of attacks on its staff, ambulances and medical facilities. Just last month, two of its Spanish members, who had been kidnapped nearly two years ago and held in Somalia, were freed. Over the past twenty-two years, more than 1,500 staff have provided a range of services across Somalia.

Domestic News:

- **12 August 2013** - Reports have emerged that al-Shabaab militants have stolen £480,000 (US \$750,00) worth of British government-funded humanitarian-aid supplies. The supplies were in warehouses seized during offensives by al-Shabaab militants in 2011 and 2012, however no details of the stolen supplies have been released. The theft, which was revealed in the fine print of the Department for International Development's (DFID) annual accounts, is likely to fuel concerns about how Britain is spending its foreign aid at a time when the country is experiencing budget cuts at home. The accounts describe the "theft between November 2011 and February 2012, by al-Shabaab in southern Somalia, of DFID funded humanitarian materials and supplies from the offices and warehouses of partner or organizations to which DFID had provided funding to deliver projects and programmes." The accounts further note that "the DFID's partners had no prior warning of the confiscations being carried out and therefore had no time to prevent the loss by relocating goods." The loss appears in this year's accounts because the investigation was only completed in the past twelve months and the stolen supplies form part of more than £80 million in aid allocated to Somalia in 2012 – 2013,. In response to the reports, Gerald Howarth, an MP from Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative party, has stated that the theft raised concerns about how this money was being spent, indicating that "there is a huge public concern at the relentless increase in overseas aid. Incidents like this, where British taxpayers' money is diverted to people fighting against us, is not acceptable." A spokesman for the DFID has stated that there are always risks when working in unstable countries such as Somalia, but that it was doing everything it could to stop such thefts from occurring. A statement released by the DFID indicated that the department "works in some of the most dangerous places in the world, including Somalia, because tackling the root causes of poverty and instability there ensures a safer world and a safer UK." The statement further added that "working in conflict-affected and fragile states carries inherent risk. DFID does all it can to mitigate this but, on occasion, losses will occur.

International Developments:

- **16 August 2013** - Just days after a medical charity pulled its aid out of the country, citing security issues as the reason behind the sudden withdrawal, the United Nations has warned of a severe outbreak of polio in Somalia. Although Somalia was declared polio-free six years ago, with some four million people having been vaccinated at the time, the number of cases seems to be on the rise, with most of the cases occurring in areas controlled by al-Shabaab. According to statistics, at least 105 cases of polio have been recorded in Somalia this year, almost half the number of cases around the world in 2012. Another ten cases have been recorded in north-eastern Kenya, where about half a million Somalis have fled. World Health Organization spokesman Oliver Rosenbauer has stated that "it's very worrying because it's an explosive outbreak and of course polio is a disease that is slated for eradication." The UN humanitarian agency notes that it is "extremely challenging" to carry out vaccination work in Somalia. During the 2011 famine, al-Shabaab militants banned most international aid agencies from operating in areas they controlled in southern Somalia. In 2012, just 223 cases of polio were recorded globally, down from 350,000 in 1988. Polio is now only considered endemic in three countries, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.

Map:





About MS Risk

MS Risk is a privately owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by syndicate 2525 of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

MS Risk is always mindful and compliant to legislation and guidelines on the use of private security services including, but not limited to the US FCPA (1977), UK Bribery Act (2010), Canadian Bill C-48 (2007), ASX 8 Corporate Governance Principles, and the World Bank/IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Government and Private Security Forces. MS Risk is a signatory of the Swiss government's International Code of Conduct. It is transparent and compliant to market expectations on legal and ethical conduct in the performance of services.

MS Risk has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

- Security Consulting
 - Risk assessments and intelligence reporting
 - Planning and management
 - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
 - Interim security
 - Training
 - Special assignments
- Crisis Response
 - Crisis management
 - Business continuity management
 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

24 hr Contact Information:

Email: operations@msrisk.com

Telephone: +44 162 462 6400

MS Risk Limited, South Suite, Ragnall House, 18 Peel Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 4LZ.

Tel: +44 1624 626400

Directors: S.J. Bingham, V.K. Prentice, P.O.J. Tracy.

Registered in the Isle of Man No 007435V

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555
www.msrisk.com