

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 26 – September 1, 2013 (Week 35)



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At Sea:

- **27 August 2013** - A security team onboard a Liberia-flagged (unnamed) LPG Tanker reported an approach by two skiffs and a speedboat at 1230 UTC in the Gulf of Oman, approximately 22 nautical miles northeast of Sohar. Four pirates were spotted on board each skiff, all wearing Shemagh, a type of headdress. The boats mirrored the tanker's track and speed on the starboard side. One of the skiffs then broke from the others and moved at a high speed towards the ship. As the skiff headed towards the Tanker, armed security guards on board the tanker displayed their weapons, forcing the skiff to abandon its approach. It then regrouped with the other craft. No fishing lines or equipment were observed on board the skiffs.

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 following week, small skiffs and boats will experience decreased mobility in the Gulf of Oman and off the coasts of Somalia, however conditions off the coast of Somalia and in some regions of the Gulf of Oman will improve by the middle and end of the week. In the Gulf of Aden and into the Red Sea water conditions will be favorable for pirate activity to occur as water conditions are will be calm throughout this week. Further out to sea, water conditions will remain variable in some areas however they will improve by the end of the week. Waters off Mozambique will continue to have calmer seas. Consequently, this region will likely see a number of pirate skiffs over the coming week.

On Land:

- **28 August 2013** - The Deputy Governor of Lower Shabelle in Somalia's southern region, Omar Mohamud Elmi, has officially confirmed that Somali Federal Government soldiers have set up a number of illegal roadblocks for revenue collection in the region.
- **27 August 2013** - Reports emerged on Tuesday that several bomb explosions had targeted trucks carrying Somali Federal Government soldiers in the Yaqshid district of Mogadishu.

Domestic News:

- **31 August 2013** - Mogadishu hosted the TEDx talks on Saturday, as academics, activists, artists and entrepreneurs gathered in a bid to challenge the negative images of the dangerous and war-ravaged capital city.



- **28 August 2013** - In a bid to boost the national government's efforts in unifying the war-torn nation and combatting al-Shabaab militants, the semi-autonomous Somali state of Jubbaland agreed on Wednesday to ally itself with the Somali Federal Government.

[Regional Reporting:](#)

- **30 August 2013** - On Friday, the High Court in Mombassa reduced a twenty-year jail term, that was handed to eleven pirates down, to five year.

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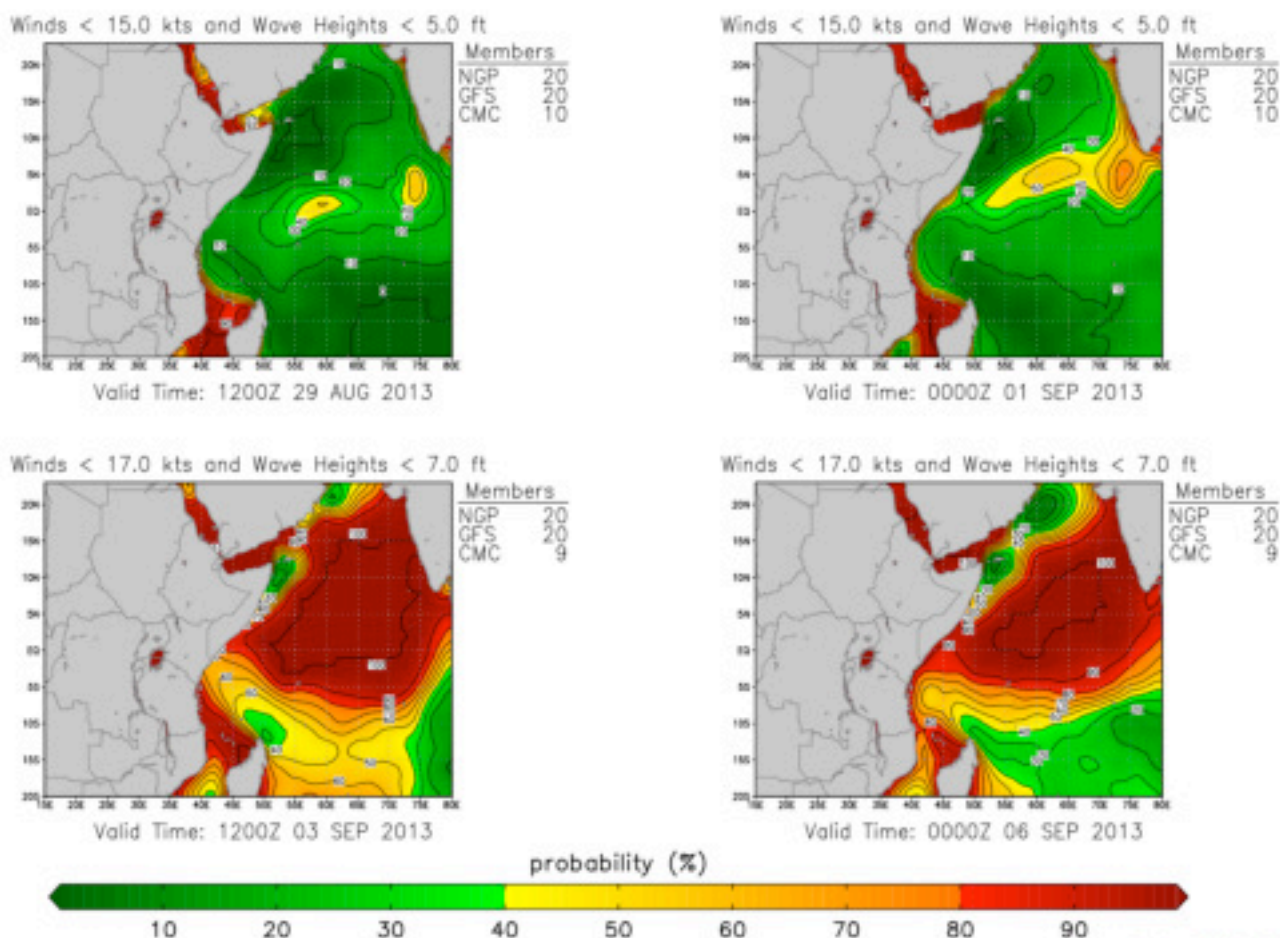
Weather Analysis:

- Gulf of Aden** - West-southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 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 2 - 4 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 knots 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 8 - 10 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- Mozambique Channel** - East-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 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 4 - 6 feet in the southern Channel.

- **Surface Currents** - The northern Arabian Sea and GOA currents are variable with most areas having average speeds 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 low pressures. Expect partly to mostly cloudy conditions throughout most of the central African coastal areas.

Sea Conditions For This Week:

10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013082700



*** 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:

- **28 August 2013** - The Deputy Governor of Lower Shabelle in Somalia's southern region, Omar Mohamud Elmi, has officially confirmed that Somali Federal Government soldiers have set up a number of illegal roadblocks for revenue collection in the region. Speaking to media in Mogadishu, Mr. Elmi stated that military forces have set up illegal roadblocks on the main highway, which have effectively replaced security checkpoints. He further noted that there is a need for an immediate pullout in order to restore the region's fledgling peace which currently remains under threat. Mr. Elmi has also demanded a probe into any security operations that are being carried out by government soldiers. So far there have been no comments released by the Somali Federal Government in Mogadishu.
- **27 August 2013** - Reports emerged on Tuesday that several bomb explosions had targeted trucks carrying Somali Federal Government soldiers in the Yaqshid district of Mogadishu. According to eye witnesses, at least five soldiers died from landmines targeting two separate convoys. One of the witnesses reported that "the first roadside bomb was timed to go off when the truck touched it, after a few minutes, another bomb went off..." So far, no one has claimed responsibility for the attacks but they are similar to ones previously carried out by al-Shabaab militants. The attacks also come as Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamed announced that a new National Security Council would be tasked with introducing security plans throughout Mogadishu. The announcement comes as the capital continues to be threatened by weekly bombings and attacks, targeting high profile officials and foreigners and which have left dozens dead and injured.

Domestic News:

- **31 August 2013** - - Mogadishu hosted the TEDx talks on Saturday, as academics, activists, artists and entrepreneurs gathered in a bid to challenge the negative images of the dangerous and war-ravaged capital city. The talks, which were held under tight security in a conference hall in Mogadishu, examined "the ideas, innovations and traditions that once built and will again rebuild this country." The TEDx talks are an offshoot of the Technology, Entertainment, Design (TED) conferences that began over thirty years ago in California as an annual haven where elite thinkers get together in order to explore life from challenging or unusual perspectives under the slogan of "ideas worth spreading." The TEDx talks are independently planned and organized on a local level. Despite ongoing violence, the Somalia talks, which were held in Mogadishu for the second year, showcased the best of the capital, while still recognizing how far Somalia has still to come.
- **28 August 2013** - In a bid to boost the national government's efforts in unifying the war-torn nation and combatting al-Shabaab militants, the semi-autonomous Somali state of Jubbaland agreed on Wednesday to ally itself with the Somali Federal Government. After a week of negotiations in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, the agreement was signed by Somalia's State Minister, Farah Sheikh Abdulkadir, and by the region's self-appointed leader, Ahmed Madobe. The agreement states that "the Federal Government of Somalia and the Jubbaland delegations have agreed to an Interim Administration" for the region. The agreement effectively places Ahmed Madobe as head of the region for a two-year transitional period. He will also hand over the port and airport in the strategic coastal city of Kismayo to the central government and integrate "all security elements" into the national army. Madobe, who pronounced himself president of Jubbaland in May, has stated that he is committed to implementing the accord. The announcement of the agreement was hailed by Somalia's internationally-backed authorities who have struggled to extend their reach beyond the capital of Mogadishu. The deal is also seen as a key element in calming the southern region, which has seen months of increased tension and fighting after a number of local clan leaders attempted to assert their control over the port city and the region. In turn, increased security and stability throughout the area, particularly in Kismayo, are seen as critical in thwarting attacks by al-Shabaab,

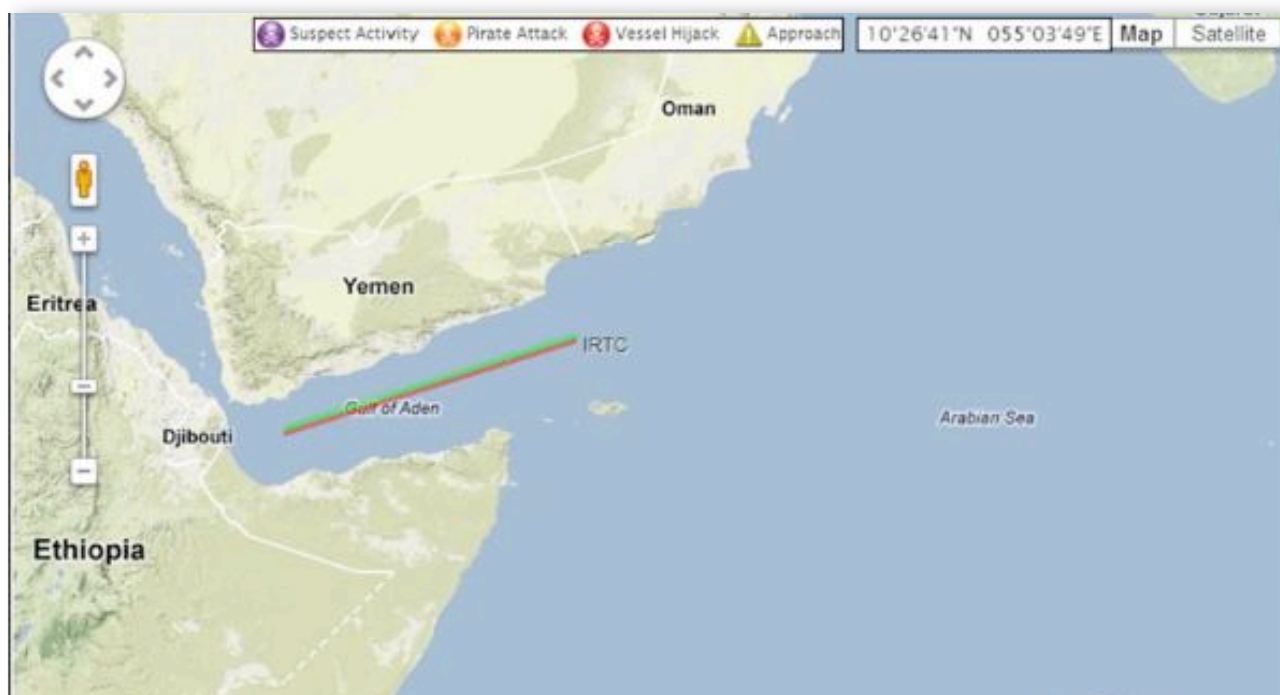
as the militant group has attempted to regain control of its former stronghold which previously provided a great source of income for it. Furthermore, the integration of Jubbaland, and its support for the Somali Federal Government, will aid in integrating a country which continues to be divided. Situated in southern Somalia, Jubbaland, which also borders Kenya, was previously one of a number of semi-autonomous regions in the country. Other breakaway regions include Puntland in the northeast which wants autonomy within a federation of states and Somaliland in the northwest, which has declared total independence from the country.

- **26 August 2013** - Somalia's government has requested that the United Nations' sanctions against a businessman, accused of being a chief financier for al-Shabaab, be lifted. According to the UN, banker and businessman Ali Ahmed Nur Jimale, who was placed on a United Nations Security Council sanction list in February 2012, is accused of being "one of al-Shabaab's chief financiers." However Somali Information Minister Abdulahi Elmoge Hersi has indicated that a government committee has investigated the allegations and concluded that there was no evidence for maintaining the sanctions against Mr. Nur Jimale. The Information Minister has stated that "after long discussions, the Somali government decided that Ahmed Nur Jimale should have his embargo lifted to get his freedom back," further noting that "we call on the international community to respect our decision." The Information Minister also added that the Somali government would be putting forward a formal request to the UN to deal with this issue. According to UN sanctions, Mr. Nur Jimale is "ideologically aligned" with al-Shabaab, who remain dedicated to overthrowing the central government in Mogadishu. He has been accused of the "funding of extremist activities and weapons purchases" specifically targeting self-declared independent Somaliland, as well as allegedly both raising funds for al-Shabaab fighters and helping them conceal their money transfers. UN sanctions on the 59-year-old financier, who holds both Somali and Djiboutian passports, include a travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo. Mr. Nur Jimale, whose business interests have included charcoal and sugar dealing as well as key stakes in banks and a mobile telephone company, is reported to have close ties to al-Shabaab factions currently at odds with top commander Ahmed Abdi Godane.

Regional Reporting:

- **30 August 2013** - On Friday, the High Court in Mombassa reduced a twenty-year jail term, that was handed to eleven pirates down, to five year. In his judgment, Justice Martin Muya indicated that the eleven appellants, who had been found guilty of attacking a vessel in the Indian Ocean in 2009, had been in remand for three years, making the twenty-year sentence a harsh punishment. The original sentencing had been handed out by principal magistrate S.K. Gacheru on 19 June last year, however on Friday, the Judge concurred with the appellants' submission that the presiding magistrate had failed to consider that they were also first-time offenders. In his ruling, Justice Muya stated that he "finds the 20 years sentence as harsh and excessive and reduce to five years from the date of their conviction." The appellants, Ahmed Abdikadir Hersi, Abdirahim Salat Roble, Abdullahi Yusuf, Mohamed Abdullahi, Mohamud Jama, Abdi Dahir Ahmed, Ahmed Maalim Omar, Ahmed Hassan Adow, Ahmed Mohamed Osman, Abshir Ahmed Hassan and Omar Ibrahim Jimale, were charged with attacked the MV FNS Nivose on 3 May 2009 in the Indian Ocean. At the time of the attack, the were armed with two AK-47 rifles, seven rocket propelled grenade launchers and a knife. The judge has ordered that the eleven appellants be repatriated back to Somalia once their sentences are completed.

Map:





About MS Risk

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 - 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: +44 207 754 3555

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