

# GLOBAL PIRACY REPORT

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

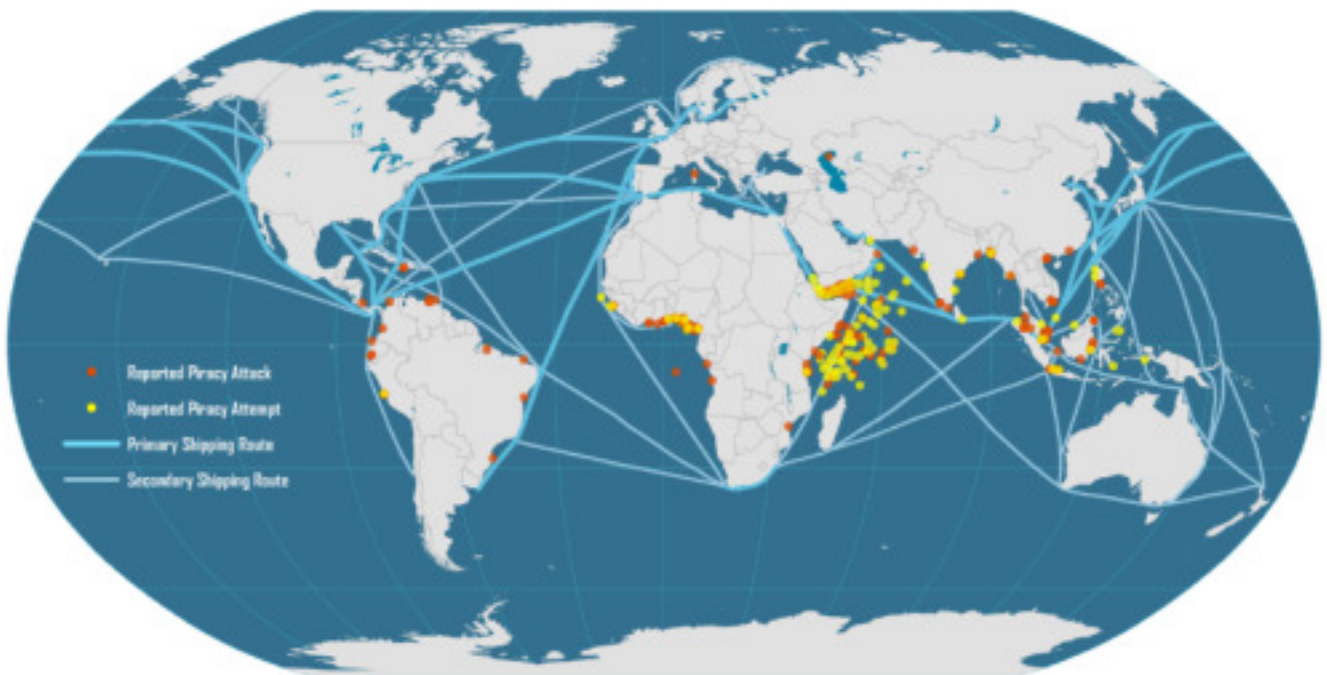
# SUMMARY

(September 23 – 29, 2013 – Week 39; Edition 4)

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## List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

- **Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:** No current incidents to report
- **Somalia-Indian Ocean:** One report of suspicious activity
- **Southeast Asia:** Four incidents of robbery reported
- **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

- None to report during this period

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None to report during this period

### Suspicious Activity

- **26 September 2013** - Norway-flagged oil tanker reported suspicious craft at 1145 UTC, approximately 72 nautical miles south-west of Aden, Yemen, Gulf of Aden. Four skiffs, three white and one brown, followed the vessel. Two skiffs were on the port side, with one of the skiffs having ten possible pirates on board. The two skiffs followed the vessel for ten minutes but withdrew once the fire hoses were activated. The other skiffs, with four to six pirates on board each, were on the starboard side within one nautical mile of the vessel. They tracked the vessel for twenty minutes. It is likely that they were observing the vessel's reactions prior to moving away.

## Piracy Related News

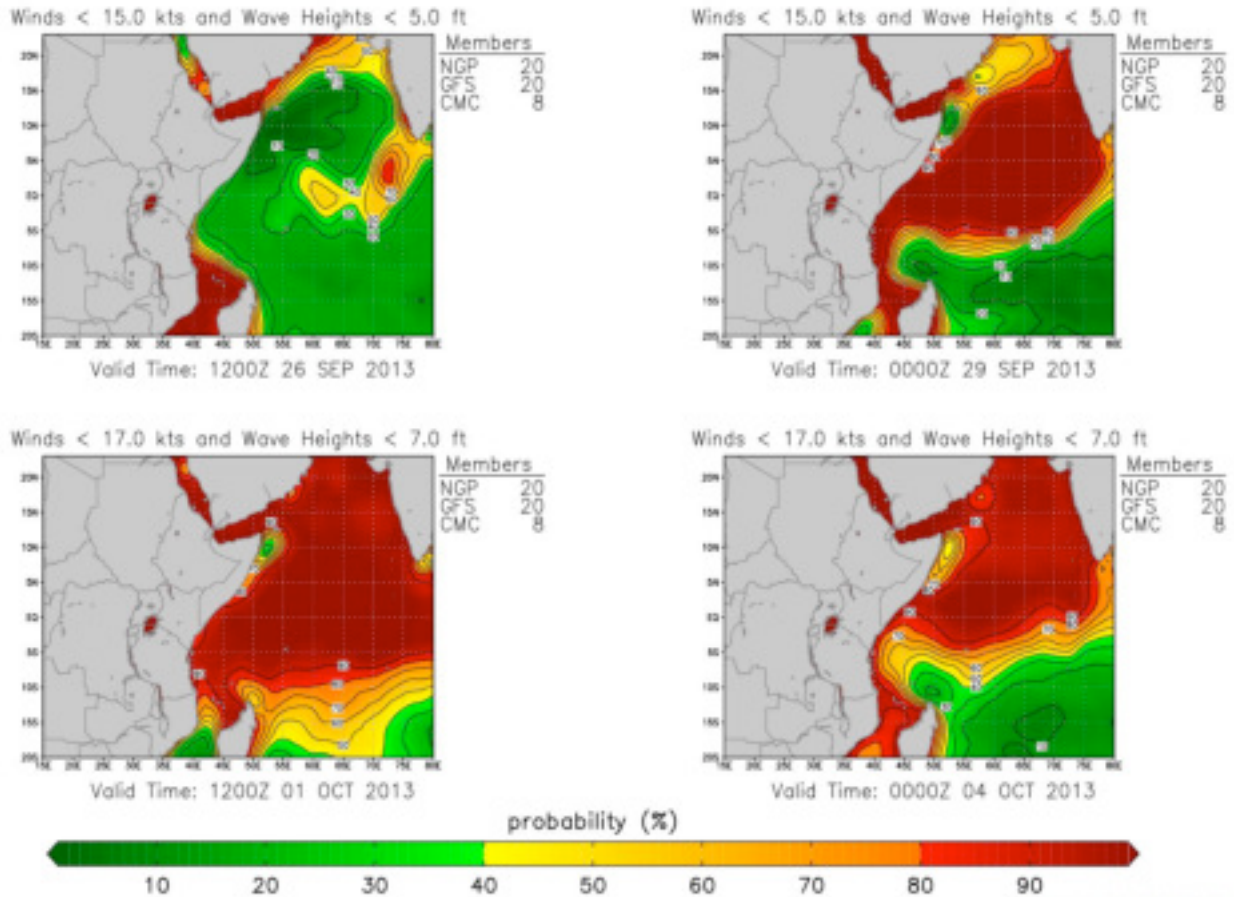
- **26 September 2013** - The Seychelles government is set to transfer an additional eleven convicted Somali pirates back to Puntland state in northern Somalia. During an interview on Thursday, Puntland's counter-piracy director, Abdirizak Mohamed Dirir, indicated that this group of Somali pirates was expected to be transferred over to the Puntland government next month. The Puntland government has signed piracy-transfer agreements with the Seychelles government as well as the governments in the Maldives and Mauritius, which effectively allows convicted Somali pirates to complete their prison sentences in Puntland prisons. Forty Somali pirates have already been transferred to Puntland prisons under this agreement. The UNODC has also implemented a prison construction project, with funds being donated by Western countries, which has enabled piracy-transfer prisons to be built in Garowe and in Bossaso. In 2010, the Puntland government enacted Somalia's first-ever Anti-Piracy Law and instituted the Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF), which has bases along Puntland's coast and which actively fights piracy, smuggling and illegal fishing.

## Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Aden** - Northwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Northwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - West-southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-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 2 - 4 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.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 6 - 8 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 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet; with southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
- **Arabian Sea** - Southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - East-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - East-southeast winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Variable winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; with variable winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 8 - 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 knot. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having average speeds 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 currently under the influence of late southwest monsoon conditions, with high pressure producing clear to partly cloudy skies with haze, isolated rain showers and thunderstorms. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of low pressure. Expect partly to mostly cloudy conditions throughout most central African coastal areas.

## Sea Conditions for the Following Week

### 10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013092400



\*\*\* 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 \*\*\*



## Domestic News

- **27 September 2013** - Somalia's President has condemned the "cruel and terrible" attack on a Nairobi mall, stating that the fight against the Islamist extremist group based in his country is "far from over." During his speech to the UN General Assembly on Thursday, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud stated that the group affiliated with al-Qaeda is "down but not dead," adding that he was requesting the international community for more "tools to finish the job." Somalia's President spoke shortly after al-Shabaab's leader had indicated that attacks would continue until Kenyan troops withdrew from Somalia.
- **24 September 2013** - Somalia's Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon vowed on Tuesday that his government would "finish" the al-Shabaab militants who were behind Nairobi's deadly four-day mall siege. Promising that the killers would be brought to justice, Farah Shirdon also indicated that his government would not bow to al-Shabaab's demands that Kenyan troops withdraw from Somalia, instead, he stated that the two countries would continue to cooperate in their fight against the terror group. While al-Shabaab spokesman Ali Mohamud Rage on Tuesday warned of further attacks if Kenyan troops do not pull out of Somalia immediately, Somalia's Prime Minister has insisted that Somalia has no problem with the presence of Kenyan troops on its soil, stating that the two countries shared common security concerns. Last Saturday, al-Shabaab fighters stormed the Westgate mall in Nairobi, spraying shoppers with automatic weapons and tossing grenades before engaging in a fierce gun battle with Kenyan security forces. The attack, which is one of the worst in Kenya's history, ended on Tuesday, leaving at least sixty-one civilians and six members of the security forces dead. A further sixty-one are still missing. Over the weekend, al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that it was carried out in retaliation for the presence of Kenyan troops in their country. Kenya entered southern Somalia in 2011 in a bid to attack al-Shabaab bases and drive them away from the border regions. The troops later joined the 17,700-strong African Union force (AMISOM) which is deployed in Somalia.

## Regional Reporting – Coverage of Kenya's Westgate Massacre

- **27 September 2013** - Kenya's security chiefs have been summoned to appear before parliament's defence committee to be questioned over last weekend's Westgate mall siege. The summoning of the heads of the various security agencies on Monday comes amidst rising concerns amongst Kenyans over the authorities' preparedness for such an attack. Local media have reported that National Intelligence Service boss Michael Gichangi, who is one of those that has been requested to appear before the committee, passed on intelligence to the police about a possible attack.
  - Meanwhile senior security sources have indicated that the militants who led the attack on the mall had hired a shop there in the weeks leading up to the siege. This effectively gave them access to the service lifts in the mall enabling them to stockpile weapons and ammunition. Having pre-positioned their weapons, the militants were able to re-arm quickly and repel the security forces. An investigation into the deadly ordeal has revealed that security breaches, allegedly fueled by corruption, had made it easier for an attack to happen, with sources stating that the militants may have received fake IDs supplied by corrupt government officials which allowed them to rent the shop. Sources have also indicated that two vehicles dropped the extremists off outside the mall before they forced their way in, adding that it is believed that the militants set up a hidden base using a ventilation shaft on the first floor. Security sources have also confirmed a change of tack by the militants late on Saturday as the insurgents used heavy calibre machine guns in an attempt to exploit the moment when control of the security operation was switched from the police to the military. According to Kenya's media, sixty-seven people are known to have died in the four-day siege while another sixty-one are still missing. Forensic experts are currently combing the complex, searching for bodies and clues.

- On Friday, al-Shabaab threatened more attacks against Kenya if Kenyan troops do not pull out of Somalia immediately. According to the militant group's Twitter account, "the mesmerizing performance by the Westgate Warriors was undoubtedly gripping, but despair not folks that was just the premiere of Act 1." Since Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta announced an end to the eighty-hour siege late on Tuesday, al-Shabaab has already claimed responsibility for another attack on Thursday in which members of the terrorist group targeted a police compound on the border with Somalia, killing two police officers. Kenya meanwhile has entered into its third and final day of official mourning, with flags flying at half mast across the country. In what was one of the worst attacks in Kenya's history, dozens of prayer meetings have been held while counseling centers have been set up to support the families of the sixty-one people still missing in the wake of the attack.
- **26 September 2013** - Gunmen on Thursday stormed a Kenyan police compound, located in a town on the border with Somalia, spraying bullets into officers' homes and killing two before setting more than ten vehicles on fire. The attack, which occurred at night in the town of Mandera, has been claimed by al-Shabaab and comes just five days after the militant group's operatives stormed a mall in Nairobi and held a four-day siege that left at least sixty-seven dead. According to a police officer based in the region where the attack occurred, the militants "...were very brutal, they were out to kill because they were shooting directly into the houses," adding that "two police officers were killed" and at least three wounded. The area's police chief, Charlton Mureithi has also indicated that officials in the country are "...pursuing them, there is a security operation that is going on after that attack that has left a lot of destruction." In a separate incident on Tuesday night, attackers also killed one person and wounded four others when they threw a grenade in a market in the town of Wajir, which is located further south along the country's border with Somalia. Attacks against the police and other targets have occurred frequently along Kenya's porous border with Somalia, in a region that is rife with banditry and where attacks are routinely blamed on, or claimed by, al-Shabaab.
- Meanwhile in the wake of the Kenya shopping mall attack, Interpol has issued an international arrest notice for a British woman dubbed the "White Widow." The Interpol Red notice was issued at Kenya's request and states that the mother-of-three is "wanted by Kenya on charges of being in possession of explosives and conspiracy to commit a felony dating back to December 2011." Samantha Lewthwaite, a 29-year-old, was married to Germaine Lindsay, one of four suicide bombers who attacked the London transport network on 7 July 2005, killing fifty-two people. While Interpol's red notice did not specifically mention the deadly four-day mall siege in Nairobi, it follows widespread speculation that Lewthwaite may have had a role in al-Shabaab's deadly attack. Interpol's notice, which requires member states to detain the suspect pending extradition, states that Kenyan authorities wanted other member nations to be "aware of this danger posed by this woman, not just across the region but also worldwide." According to Kenya's foreign minister, a British woman was amongst the Westgate Mall attackers however President Uhuru Kenyatta has since stated that those reports have not yet been confirmed. Authorities in South Africa also revealed on Thursday that Lewthwaite had gained a South African passport by assuming the identity of Natalie Faye Webb, however the document was cancelled in 2011. She has also been accused by Kenyan authorities of working with another suspected British Islamist, Jermaine Grant, who is currently on trial in Kenya, accused of having links to al-Shabaab and attempting to plot attacks. Grant was arrested in December 2011 in the port city of Mombasa with various chemicals, batteries and switches, which prosecutors have stated were going to be used to make explosives. It is believed that Lewthwaite escaped when the authorities arrested Grant, however she was never seen.
- **24 September 2013** - According to intelligence sources from two foreign countries, there were no leaks or "chatter" intercepted from al-Shabaab militants ahead of the attack on Nairobi's Westgate

shopping mall. Sources have indicated that although al-Shabaab's operations were closely monitored, there had been no indication that the militant group was preparing an operation of this scale. According to a source, "usually there are intercepts or chatter, but not this time," adding that "it suggests they've done things differently, or that it was another cell" not necessarily part of al-Shabaab.

- **23 September 2013** - On Monday, Kenyan security forces announced that they were attempting to clear the Westgate shopping complex in Nairobi after a three-day siege. Earlier on Monday, sources outside the Westgate shopping centre reported that explosions and heavy gunfire were heard as

soldiers stormed the mall where suspected al-Shabaab militants were thought to be holed up. The Kenyan Defense Forces (KDF) have also indicated that three terrorists had been killed



and that all escape routes inside the centre had been sealed off. Flames and thick smoke continued to rise from the building, with KDF officials stating that the fire had been started by "terrorists to distract the ongoing operation." The blaze is currently being managed by firefighters. On the ground sources have reported that the attack was carried out by ten to fifteen militants, with officials stating that some of them are still on the run, hiding in shops. The Kenyan government has also stated that almost all the hostages have been evacuated from the shopping centre, however it remains unclear whether any are still in the hands of the militants. This may be one of the reasons why authorities are moving cautiously in an attempt to ensure that there is no further loss of life. Security has increased throughout the country. The Interior Ministry has issued regular warnings for people to stay away from the area for their own safety. Security at entrance and exit points across the country has also been stepped up, with the ministry confirming that "more than ten individuals" have been arrested in relation to the attack. The official death toll stands at 62, with more than 170 injured. Eleven KDF soldiers have also been injured during the operation. The three-day siege started on Saturday when militants entered the Westgate centre at about 12:00 local time (09:00 GMT), throwing grenades and firing automatic weapons. Although dozens of shoppers fled the scene, many remained trapped inside. Some witnesses reported on Saturday that the gunmen had told Muslims to leave and that non-Muslims would be targeted. In a nationally televised address on Saturday, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta indicated that the operation to secure the mall and catch the gunmen was ongoing. As on the ground sources reported that officers were going from shop to shop to secure the area, a senior al-Shabaab figure confirmed that the militant group was responsible for carrying out the deadly attack. On its Twitter account, al-Shabaab stated that it was behind what it called the "Westgate spectacle," adding that the attack was in response to Kenya's ongoing presence in Somalia. Some seven hours after the initial assault began, al-Shabaab indicated on its Twitter account that its fighters were still battling Kenyan security forces inside the Westgate centre. However a security source had indicated that police and soldiers had finally "pinned down" the gunmen in one corner of the complex after several hours of fighting. Kenyan



officials also stated that four gunmen have been arrested and that one died of his wounds. On Sunday, Kenya's President stated that the country would remain united and strong in the wake of the deadly attack. The announcement came as witnesses outside a security cordon reported gunfire and a large explosion, with increased gunfire occurring around 16:00 GMT on Sunday. Between ten and fifteen attackers, all believed to be al-Shabaab militants, were still inside the complex along with some civilians who are still trapped, either as hostages or in hiding. Some reports have indicated that the gunmen were holed up in a supermarket and that a number of women were amongst the attackers, however these reports have yet to be confirmed. Al-Shabaab has claimed that there are currently at least thirty-six hostages held inside the complex, however this number cannot be confirmed. During a news conference on Sunday Kenya's President stated that "the criminals are now located in one place within the building," adding that "with the professionals on site, we have as good a chance to neutralize the terrorists as we could hope for." He also thanked those who helped with the rescue efforts, and asked other countries not to issue travel advisories against visiting Kenya. Amongst the confirmed dead are Mr. Kenyatta's nephew and his fiancée. The UK Foreign Office has also confirmed that three Britons have been killed, noting that the number is likely to rise. French, Chinese, Ghanaian, Dutch, South African, Indian and Canadian nationals are also among the foreigners confirmed killed, along with a dual Australian-British national. The wife of an American working for the US Agency for International Development was also killed along with prominent Ghanaian poet Kofi Awoonor, who was attending a literary festival in Nairobi.

## International Developments

- **24 September 2013** - According to the United Nation's envoy to Somalia, African troops stationed in the country require helicopters and armored vehicles in order to counter al-Shabaab. On Tuesday, Nicholas Kay, the UN special representative for Somalia, stated that more troops may also be necessary, and has called for soldiers to target three ports along the Somali coast which are operated by al-Shabaab militants for illicit trade. According to Kay, al-Shabaab has about 5,000 militants and continues to pose a threat across Africa and beyond, adding that ridding Somalia of the militant group would help consolidate the central government's opportunity to help bring peace to the country. Speaking during a news briefing in Geneva, the UN envoy also noted that "security remains the number one challenge, the control and defeating of al-Shabaab is key to this," adding that "my understanding is that they are financing themselves a lot through taxation and trade...they do control at least three of the minor ports off the coast of Somalia. These ports must be high on the list of military targets." In the past, al-Shabaab has profited greatly from the illegal export of charcoal, which falls under sanctions laid down by the UN Security Council and which is also against Somalia law. According to Kay, that annual trade is valued at some US \$35 million. The Un envoy is also set to go to the United Nations in New York this week in order to press for more support for the military effort.

## Map



# GULF OF GUINEA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- None to report during this period

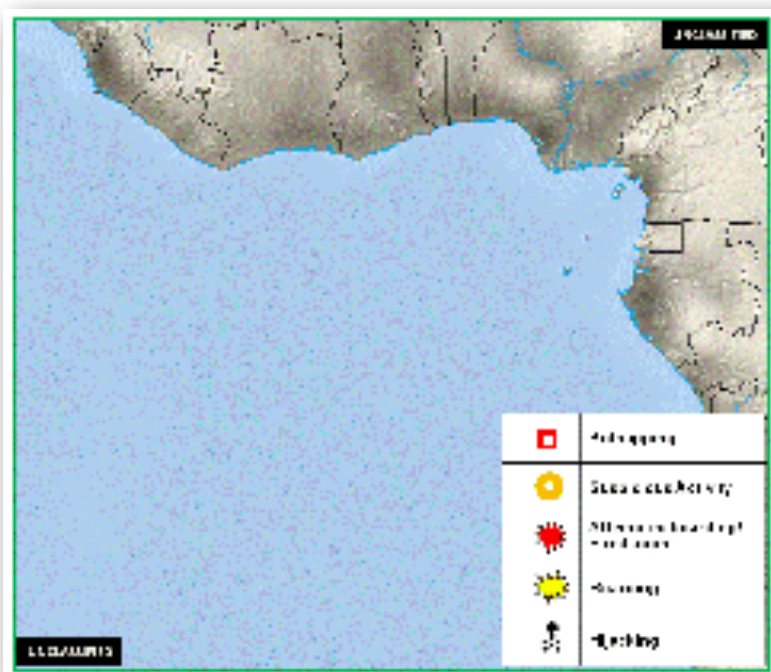
### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None to report during this period

## Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** - Southerly winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The Gulf of Guinea is under the influence of low pressure, bringing strong southerly winds and moisture into the area. Expect mostly cloudy conditions.

## Map



# SOUTHEAST ASIA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- None to report during this period

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **23 September 2013** - Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker, Armada Ali, during STS operations at 0230 LT, Nipah Anchorage, Indonesia. Duty crew challenged the robbers, who threw bolts and nuts and a knife at them. D/O raised the alarm and all crew were mustered to safety and a search of the tanker was carried out. No robbers were found on board. The Master requested the Mooring Master to request the local navy to search around the vessel.
  - In a separate incident, eight pirates wearing masks and armed with a handgun and long knives boarded Malaysia-flagged offshore supply tug, JM, having approached the vessel in a high speed craft at 2115 LT, around 22 nautical miles east-northeast of Pulau Tenggul, Malaysia. They took hostage all the crew members on board the tug, tied them up and stole their personal belongings. After about three hours, the pirates left the vessel. The crew managed to free themselves and the Master reported the incident to the owners. The vessel returned to the port of departure where the authorities boarded the vessel and began an investigation the incident. The Master of the vessel also reported the possibility of a mother vessel in the vicinity.
- **22 September 2013** - While underway at 0735 LT, Malacca Straits, the crew of a Malaysia-flagged tug, Budget 17, noticed some unidentified persons on board the barge (Budget 27) in tow. They were stealing its cargo which consisted of scrap metal. Three small boats were sighted in the vicinity.
- **21 September 2013** - Ten robbers armed with knives and steel bars boarded an anchored Liberia-flagged bulk carrier, Usolie, during cargo operations at 0230 LT, Samarinda Anchorage, Indonesia. They took hostage the duty A/B who was on routine rounds at the time. They assaulted him, robbed him of his personal belongings, tied him up and then broke into the boson locker. The D/O noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and the crew was mustered to safety. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in their wooden boat with the stolen ship's stores.

### Piracy Related News

- **21 September 2013** - While the waters off Somalia used to be the world's most dangerous maritime passageway, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB), the waters near Johor and Malacca have now surpassed Somalia as the top piracy hotspot. Officials at the IMB have attributed this to the rise in piracy off Indonesia's Tanjung Priok, Dumai, Belawan, Taboneo and Muara Jawa, where the waters have been marked as high risk areas. Furthermore, officials have warned vessels travelling through the Straits of Malacca to take all necessary precautions when transiting the 960 km stretch that is shared by Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. According to



reports by the IMB, the major concern is the increasing number of attacks occurring in Indonesian waters. With thousands of islands and a number of river mouths located in the area, the coastal region of Indonesia is an ideal spot for pirates to hide and evade capture. Furthermore, pirates operating in the waters off Indonesia are known to be violent and are usually armed with guns, knives and machetes. According to a report released by the IMB, of the 138 piracy incidents recorded worldwide in the first six months of this year, 48 occurred in the Indonesian waters. While global piracy has dropped substantially, down from 439 cases in 2011, piracy in Indonesia is on the rise. Regional experts warn that this rise may be due to a lack of vigilance by vessels transiting the waters off Indonesia. About half of the world's oil supplies and a third of global trade pass through the Straits of Malacca.

## **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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  - Special assignments
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  - 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](http://www.msrisk.com)

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