

# GLOBAL PIRACY REPORT

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



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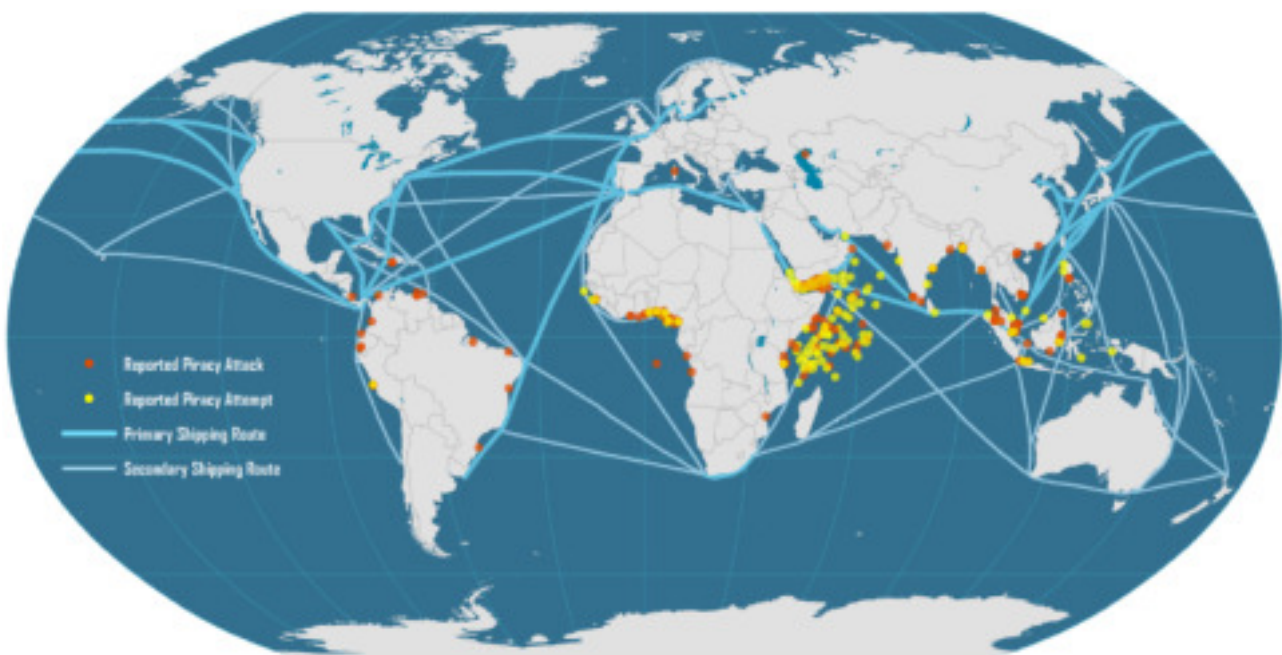
# SUMMARY

(December 2 – 8, 2013 – Week 49; Edition 14)

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## List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

- **Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:** No incidents reported during this period
- **Somalia-Indian Ocean:** One late reported incident.
- **Southeast Asia:** One robbery and three late reported incidents
- **South America:** No incidents reported during this period.
  
- ***North America:*** No current incidents to report
- ***Central America-Caribbean:*** 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 reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **25 November 2013 (Late Report)** - Robbers boarded a berthed Cyprus-flagged container ship, Welle, during cargo operations at 0200 LT in position 04:02.43S - 039:37E, Berth 17, Kilindini Container Terminal, Mombasa Port, Kenya. The unnoticed robbers stole the ship's stores and escaped. The robbery was discovered during routine rounds by the duty crew.

### Suspicious Activity

- None reported during this period.

## Piracy Related News

- **6 December 2013** - Following a recent strategic review exercise, officials at the European Union have decided that Operation Atalanta will be extended until the end of 2016. Operation Atalanta was launched in December 2008 by the EU in response to the rising levels of piracy and armed robbery off the Horn of Africa and into the western Indian Ocean. Its mandates are to deter, prevent, and repress acts of piracy and robbery at sea and off the coast of Somalia and to monitor fishing activities off the coast of Somalia. Its area of operation covers the Southern Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and a large part of the Indian Ocean. Since the launch of Operation Atalanta, there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of pirate attacks, from 47 successful attacks in 2010 to four in 2012. While the operation was initially supposed to end on 13 December 2012, in March 2012, the European Council extended its mandate until 12 December 2014.
- **3 December 2013** - The French government announced on Tuesday that it will allow private armed guards to protect its shipping fleet against pirates. Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault has indicated that the arming of private security forces would make the French merchant fleet more competitive with European rivals. A French government official also made it clear that the private security agents will be allowed to carry weapons. France will now join Britain, Germany and the United States who all allow armed private security teams on vessels sailing under their flags. While it has become standard for ships to have defences against piracy, there are still no industry guidelines or even agreements amongst countries on the use of lethal force by anti-piracy teams, whether military or private. Although tougher ship security and Western naval patrols have reduced attacks from Somali pirates, French vessels transiting the Gulf of Guinea, where France has trade ties with former colonies, are increasingly being targeted. A French-owned Luxembourg-flagged tanker was hijacked by suspect Nigerian pirates off the Ivory Coast in February, and a French sailor, who was later rescued, was seized by pirates in June off the coast of Togo. France is one of the main contributors to an international naval force that patrols the Gulf of Aden and the northwestern Indian Ocean in order to prevent pirates from launching attacks.

- **1 December 2013** - Nine alleged Somali pirates, who were arrested by the Danish Navy in early November, have been transferred to the Seychelles for trial. The suspects, aged between 14 and 35, were handed over to the Seychelles authorities on Saturday. The transfer was confirmed by the Seychelles national police force who indicated that authorities in the Indian Ocean country had agreed to accept the transfer of the nine suspected pirates after they were captured on the high seas by the Danish Navy, which was taking part in the European Union's Atalanta anti-piracy operation. The suspected pirates were arrested after attacking a Danish ship, the Torm Kansan, on November 9. Investigations have also indicated that the same pirate action group also attacked the Hong Kong-flagged Zhongjii No 1 on November 6 however they were fought off by armed security forces on board the vessel.

## On-The-Ground Analysis

- **6 December 2013** - On Friday, a car bomb exploded, killing the driver, outside the office of Somalia's Prime Minister in the capital city. According to lawmaker Abdullahi Musa, a fellow MP was killed in the car blast. It appears that an explosive device had been attached to the car, which exploded outside the heavily fortified walls of the government offices, one of the most secure areas in Mogadishu. So far, no one has claimed responsibility however Mogadishu has recently been targeted by a string of attacks, many of which have been claimed by al-Shabaab insurgents. The car bombing in Mogadishu comes one day after at least eight people were killed when a suicide bomber struck a convoy in Somalia's northern port of Bossasso.
- **5 December 2013** - At least eight people were killed Thursday when a suicide car bomber struck a convoy in Somalia's northern port of Bossasso. The attack took place in a busy market area of Bossasso, the main port in Somalia's northeastern Puntland region. A police officer in the port town confirmed that attack, stating that "there was a car bomb attack targeting a vehicle of the security forces, he rammed the convoy and then exploded," adding that "several people have been killed, so far we confirm that eight were killed, but the toll could be higher, many of those were injured were rushed to hospital." A statement released by Puntland's government indicated that it "strongly condemns" the attack, in which thirty-seven people were wounded, including six soldiers. Although the group has claimed responsibility for the attack, Puntland's government has blamed al-Shabaab. The terrorist group's militants are known to operate from the rugged Golis mountains southwest of Bossasso, a lawless region that has long been under the control of warlord, arms dealer and al-Shabaab ally Mohamed Said Atom, which the UN Security Council has placed sanctions on for "kidnapping, piracy and terrorism." Furthermore, the militant group has in the past attacked military bases near Bossasso, while its suicide commandos regularly launch bomb attacks or guerrilla raids in the region. Tensions are also high in the semi-autonomous region as candidates prepare for the presidential and parliamentary elections which are due to take place on 8 January 2014. While the elections were originally due to have been held in July, they were postponed by the government which at that time indicated that the risk of violence was too great to hold them. In turn, large parts of the region are still affected by the devastating cyclone and heavy flooding that occurred last month, with aid agencies warning that over 100,000 were affected.
- **3 December 2013** - Armed militants, believed to be members of al-Shabaab, attacked an intelligence base in Mogadishu's Huriwaa district. On Tuesday night, the gunmen targeted the Intelligence and National Security Agency (NISA) base with anti-aircraft weapons and rocket-propelled grenades. According to officials and local residents, Somali government forces engaged in a firefight with the militants that lasted for nearly thirty minutes. Huriwaa Commissioner Omar Abdulle Jacfan confirmed the attack to the media, stating that at least ten militants had attacked the Agency, with two killed and two captured.



## Domestic News

- **2 December 2013** - Somalia's Prime Minister was ousted by Parliament on Monday amidst a bitter power struggle within the internationally-backed government that could undermine efforts to rebuild the war-torn country. Abdi Farah Shirdon, who was prime minister of the Horn of Africa state for just over a year, lost a confidence vote in parliament after he resisted President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's demands to resign. News of his removal was confirmed by speaker Mohamed Osman Jawari, who stated that "the motion has passed," adding that 184 out of 249 lawmakers in parliament voted to have Shirdon removed. Meanwhile Shirdon, who left the parliament building prior to the vote taking place, has criticised the vote and complained that he had been barred from making a speech in his defence. Speaking to reporters minutes before the vote took place, the prime minister indicated that "they refused to let me talk...and that is unacceptable, even the accused has the right to defend himself." While Shirdon has been removed from parliament, he and his government will continue to work until a new prime minister and cabinet are nominated. While the precise cause behind the power struggle remains unclear, politicians have pointed to wrangling over alleged corruption, personal loyalties as well as Somalia's complex clan politics, where each community expects to be represented, as some of the factors. The government, which took power in August 2012, was the first to be given global recognition since the collapse of the hardline regime in 1991. Since then, it has been hailed as offering the best chance for peace in a generation and has received billions in foreign aid. However fighting over who gets the job appears to have become the number-one priority in an already badly fractured state that is desperately in need of a strong government. Furthermore, while the current government controls the capital Mogadishu, large rural areas around the capital city and in the southern regions of the country remain under the control of al-Shabaab militants, a terrorist group that has rapidly emerged into a regional threat. Without a stable resolution, political divisions could impact the government's focus on the security situation and its efforts to battle al-Shabaab militants.

## Regional Reporting

- **4 December 2013** - A court in Kenya has denied a plea bail for four Somali men charged with terrorist offences for allegedly aiding al-Qaeda-linked militants who attacked a shopping centre in Nairobi that killed at least sixty-seven people. Nairobi's Chief Magistrate Kiarie Waweru Kiarie denied bail, stating that the suspects may interfere with the investigation into the attack. The four were formally charged with the "commission of a terrorist act" under Kenya's anti-terrorism laws on November 4. The four men, who have plead not guilty, have also been accused of providing support and shelter to the gunmen involved in the raid as well as using false documents. The court has set a formal date for the start of trial for 15 January 2014. The men will be remanded in custody until the trial begins.

## International Developments

- **3 December 2013** - A new report to the United Nations Security Council indicates that Somalia's al-Shabaab militants may be moving closer to the "global ideology and agenda" of al-Qaeda. A report, which was put forth by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, states that officials are "extremely concerned about the loss of momentum" in the fight against the insurgents, who have long carried out attacks across the East African country. The report further notes that al-Shabaab should not be allowed to recover and regroup from the internal divisions which the militant group is currently undergoing.

Map



# GULF OF GUINEA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None reported during this period.



# SOUTHEAST ASIA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **2 December 2013** - Robbers boarded a drifting container vessel at 0130 LT, of Norway Island, Haiphong, Vietnam. Robbers stole ship property and escaped unnoticed. The theft was noticed by the duty crew during routine rounds.
- **1 December 2013 (Late Report)** - One robber armed with a knife boarded an anchored Liberia-flagged tanker, Amber Sun, during STS operations at 0512 LT in position 01:06N - 103:38E, Nipah anchorage, Indonesia. The duty O/S on routine rounds noticed the robber and informed the OOW. The alarm was raised and the crew members were mustered to safety. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robber escaped empty handed in a wooden boat. IFC Singapore and MPA Singapore have been informed of the incident.
- **29 November 2013 (Late Report)** - While at anchor, a speed boat approached an anchored Greece-flagged tanker, Oceanis, at 0410 Lt in position 01:06N - 103:36E, Nipah anchorage, Indonesia. Alert crew members spotted the boat and raised the alarm, resulting in the boat aborting the attack and moving away.
- **27 November 2013 (Late Report)** - Three robbers with knives boarded an anchored Liberia-flagged crude oil tanker, Amber Sun, at 0438 LT in position 01:06N - 103:38E, Nipah anchorage, Indonesia. Duty A/B on routine rounds noticed the robber near the paint store and informed the OOW who raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robber escaped without stealing anything.
  - While at anchor, deck watchmen on Norway-flagged LPG tanker, Clipper Helen, at 0410 LT in position 01:25N - 104:42E, approximately 13 nautical miles northeast of Bintan Island, Indonesia, noticed robbers boarding the vessel from the stern. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers aborted and escaped.

# SOUTH AMERICA

## At Sea

### Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None reported during this period.



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