

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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References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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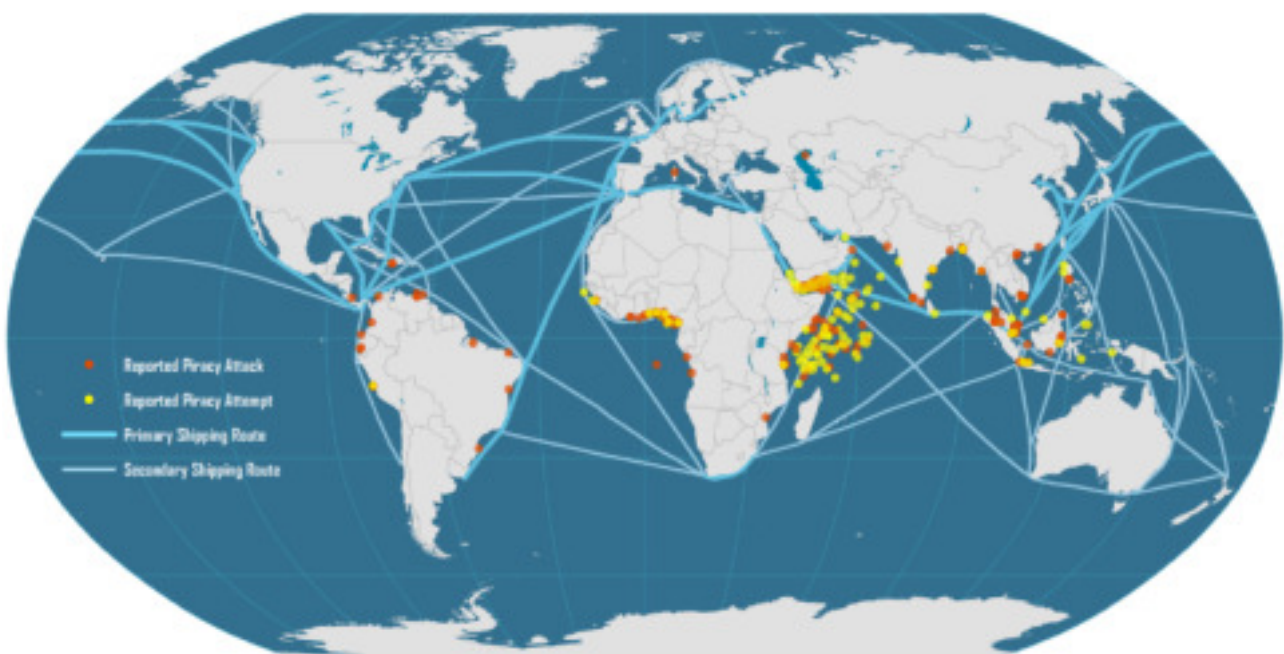
SUMMARY

(February 3 – 9, 2014 – Week 6; Edition 23)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

- **Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:** Four incidents reported during this period
- **Somalia-Indian Ocean:** One incident reported during this period.
- **Southeast Asia:** One late reported incident.
- **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

Executive Summary

The Northeast Monsoon period is currently in full force and will have an influence on the region until the end of February. Although some increased winds and sea levels are expected, they will not be as strong as during the Southwest Monsoon season. Single skiffs and whalers will likely find it more difficult to operate under these conditions however pirate action groups (PAG's) using mother ship dhows will likely retain their capabilities of conducting operations throughout this monsoonal period. There will likely be more skiffs around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden regions as these will be areas that will see minimal monsoon conditions. Masters are advised to remain vigilant at all times, including in the High Risk Area (HRA).

At Sea

Hijacks

- No incidents reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- No incidents reported during this period.

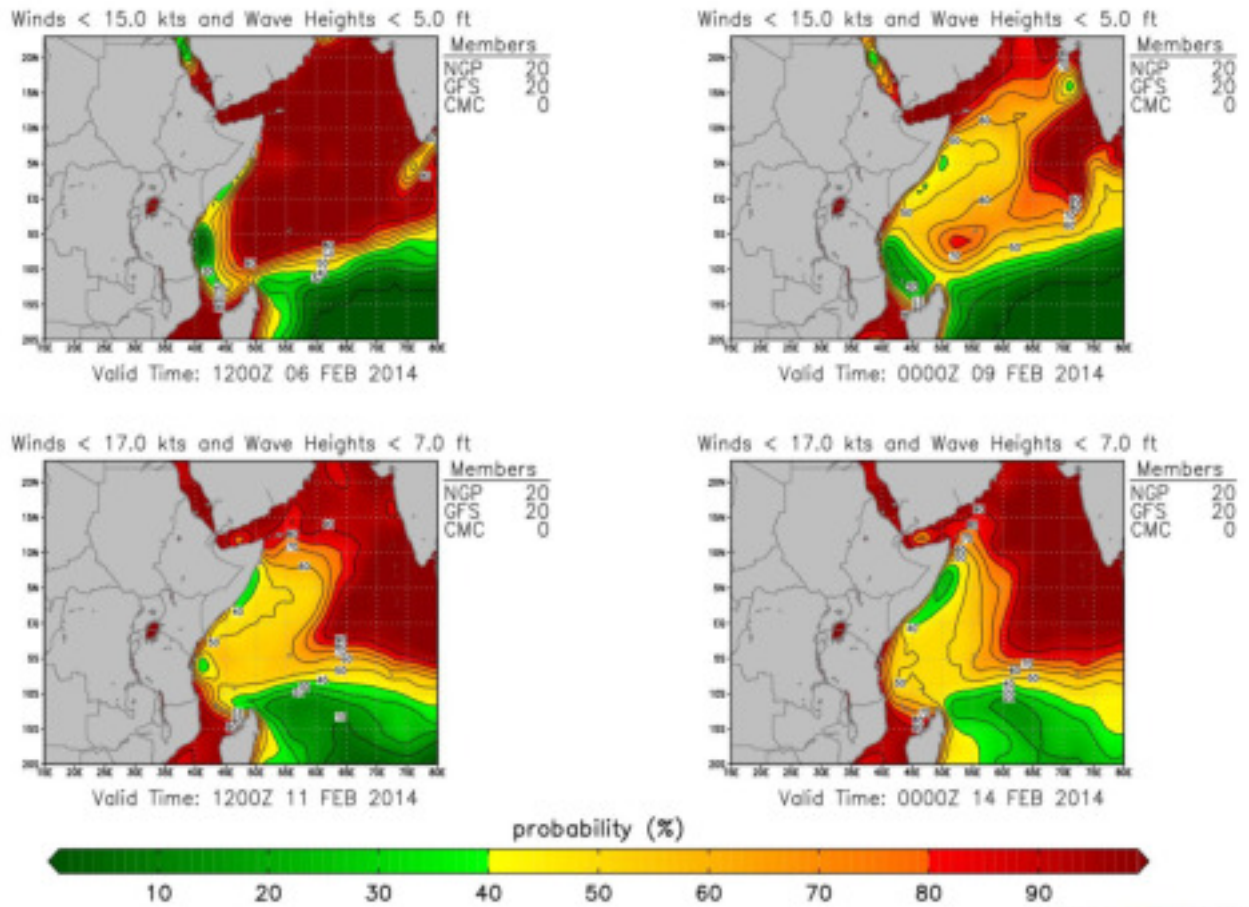
Suspicious Activity

- **4 February 2014** - Suspicious approach reported by MV at 0650 LT in position 12:55N – 048:02E, IRTC, Gulf of Aden. Report indicates that one dhow and one skiff approached the vessel within 400m. Embarked armed security team, consisting of three men on board the MV, fired a single warning flare, resulting in the approach being aborted.

Weather Analysis

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section; with northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – The Mozambique Channel will be impacted by Tropical Cyclone Edilson, located to the east of La Reunion and tracking toward the south at 10 mph with top sustained winds near 50 mph. In the near term, expect south-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** – The Northern Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden 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 Northeastern Monsoonal pattern continues to influence the entire region. High pressure over the Arabian Peninsula is producing fair winds and seas.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week



*** 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

- **5 February 2014** – According to Kenyan Defence Forces (KDF) spokesperson Willy Wesonga, Kenyan troops operating in Somalia's southern port town of Kismayo will be transferred to Gedo region, however a small unit will remain in Kismayo in order to assist peacekeepers from Sierra Leone who will be taking over the security operations. The spokesperson confirmed that almost all Kenyan military personnel will be deployed to the Gedo region of Somalia, where Ethiopian forces, who last month reintegrated into the AMISOM peacekeeping force, have already been operating.
 - On the outskirts of Mogadishu, Somali government forces, backed by African Union forces (AMISOM) seized control of Gendershe, a village located near the capital city, from al-Shabaab militants. The seizure of the town followed a morning raid by the allied forces on Wednesday against the area outside Mogadishu. Gen Abdirisak Khalif of the Somali military, which lead the morning raid, indicated that Somali Federal Government forces had encountered no resistance from al-Shabaab fighters who vacated the area before the joint forces arrived.
- **4 February 2014** – For the second night this week, bomb blasts were heard throughout the capital city. According to local residents, the blasts began during the early evening hours, with up-to fifteen mortar shells targeted different neighborhoods throughout the capital city, including Warta Nabada, Hamarweyne, waberi, Hamarjab and Hawlwadag. Small gunshots were heard following the bombings. Police and national intelligence members have since deployed throughout the capital city where they are carry out heavy search operations. Police spokesman Gen Madaale has described the blasts as handmade bombs that were aimed at creating fear in the city.
- **3 February 2014** – Residents have reported that, in what appears to be retaliation for the 26 January 2014 drone strike, which reportedly killed a senior al-Shabaab official, members of the militant group have abducted seventeen people, including four of its own members, from the towns of Bulo Marer and Sablale in the Lower Shabelle region. On 26 January, the US, in partnership with the Somali government, launched a drone attack in southern Somalia, which reportedly killed al-Shabaab commander Ahmed Abdulkadir Abdullahi. According to local residents, the following day, al-Shabaab militants entered a number of homes and businesses in the village of Hawaii and abducted several civilians, including al-Shabaab members. Reports have indicated that al-Shabaab militants were carrying out searches looking for suspected spies who were working for the US government. While the reports of abductions has not been confirmed by the local administration, if confirmed, the jailing of al-Shabaab members will demonstrate a further divide within the militant group.
 - Meanwhile in Puntland, fighting broke out between Puntland armed forces and al-Shabaab militants in the Gal-gala mountains, near Puntland's port city of Bossaso. According to local reports, during the early morning hours, al-Shabaab fighters in the Galgala mountains attacked Puntland security forces in the region. **Update (4 February)** – A spokesman for al-Shabaab has claimed victory over yesterday's fierce battle with Puntland security forces near the commercial port town of Bossaso. In a voice-recorded message posted online, the militant group's spokesman Abdiasis Abu Mus'ab stated that his fighters killed eleven Puntland security forces in Modnay's fight. According to sources in Puntland, the fighting broke out during the early morning hours and lasted for more than four hours.
 - In Mogadishu, security sources have confirmed that mortar shells targeted an area near the presidential palace, along with several other areas in the capital city on Monday. According to a security source, several shells fell in the vicinity of the presidential palace however no details of any casualties have been released. Eyewitnesses have reported that seven shells hit the Hamrawein district, where the presidential palace is located. Local residents also reported that several civilians were injured after a mortar shell hit the central area of the capital city. So far no group has claimed responsibility for the attack and there have been no

comments released by the Somali government. **Update (5 February)** – Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the overnight mortar attacks that targeted the Villa Somalia Presidential Compound and other government buildings in Mogadishu. On Wednesday, the militant group's Banadir region representative, Ali Mohamed Hussein, indicated that the latest attacks in the capital city were testimony to the weakness of Somali government institutions. A recorded statement further indicated “the shelling and attacks have just begun, we will continue since the enemy is languishing in its final days.” Boasting of greater strength, al-Shabaab's spokesman warned AMISOM and Somali government forces against attacks on al-Shabaab strongholds.

Domestic News

- **5 February 2014** – Mortar fire carried out by al-Shabaab militants has targeted Mogadishu for two nights over this past week, prompting many in the capital city to fear a possible return to the days of constant conflict. The increase of attacks in the capital city has also prompted the Somali Federal Government and security officials to hold a high-level meeting, which is meant to focus on increasing security throughout the capital city. According to Somali Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, “those explosions create fear in our people, we must investigate and swiftly bring to justice those behind these attacks,” adding that “our people should be able to live without fear and that is the number one responsibility of my government.” Abdikarim Hussein Guled, the government's minister of security, has indicated that government forces have already rounded up dozens of suspects and security forces are working together in order to ensure that those behind the attacks are caught. So far, no deaths have been confirmed by officials however twelve patients have been treated for injuries. Most of the mortars that were launched on Monday and Tuesday landed around the presidential palace and government buildings however a number of civilian homes were also targeted.

Regional Reporting

- **6 February 2014** – A senior security official in Kenya has disclosed for the first time what authorities believe are the names of two previously unidentified gunmen who carried out the attack in Westgate last fall. The official has stated that the two are Ahmed Hassan Abubakar and Yahye Ahmed Osman. No further details pertaining to the men have been made available. Kenyan authorities has previously released the names of two other attackers as Abu Barat Al-Sudani, also known as Mohamed Hassan Dhuhulow, and Mohamed Abdinur Said. According to authorities, Mr Dhuhulow had lived in Norway. All four attackers were believed to be ethnic Somalis with officials indicating that the gunmen had arrived in Kenya in June and were previously in Somalia. Local reports also indicated that they had been hiding out in Eastleigh, Nairobi, a Somali district of the capital city, for weeks prior to carrying out the operation. Days after the Westgate siege in Nairobi, al-Shabaab militants claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that it was in revenge for Kenya's military deployment in Somalia. Dennis Brady, the FBI legal attaché in Nairobi, stated last month that the FBI, along with Kenyan authorities, believes that all four attackers died inside the mall. Recently, Mr Brady stated that “our ERT (Evidence Response Team) made significant finds, and there is no evidence that any of the attackers escaped from the area where they made their last stand,” adding that a secure crime scene perimeter made an escape unlikely. Furthermore despite press reports during the mall siege indicating that the attackers had hostages and had prepositioned weapons or ammunition inside the mall, no evidence has emerged to back those claims. Although Police and soldiers responded to the attack quickly, the incident developed into a protracted four-day siege which saw huge explosions and a large part of the mall collapse. Sixty-seven people were killed during the four-day siege. Four ethnic Somali men have been

charged by a Kenyan court with assisting the attackers. Their trials are ongoing.

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

Executive Summary

Although over the past week pirate and maritime crime activity in West African waters has increased, demonstrating that the threat of piracy and maritime crime remains high. Masters are reminded to remain vigilant at all times and in all regions of the Gulf of Guinea.

At Sea

Hijacks

- No incidents reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **6 February 2014** – Marshall Islands-flagged crude oil tanker, Suez Vasilis, reported an attack at 1000 LT in position 03:45N – 006:24E, approximately south-southwest of Brass Nigeria. Distress signal was sent. The vessel and crew members on board have been reported safe. No further details were made available.
 - Panama-flagged oil tanker, Cher, reported an attack at 0045 LT in position 04:01N – 005:01E, about 75 nautical miles west-southwest of Brass, Nigeria. The attack failed. No further details have been released.
 - Barbados-flagged support vessel, Mariner Sea, reported being attacked approximately 60 nautical miles off Brass, Nigeria. No further details pertaining to this attack have been released.
- **4 February 2014** – Two robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored general cargo ship at 0055 UTC near position 04:46S – 011:52E, Pointe Noire Roads, The Congo. The Duty Officer on routine rounds noticed the robbers at the fore-castle store and raised the alarm. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped in a small wooden boat with the ship's stores. Master of the vessel tried to call port control however he received no response. Local agents were informed of the incident.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – South-southeast winds at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 3 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – South-southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 3 – 4 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Low pressure over the Gulf of Guinea will produce partly to mostly cloudy skies.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Executive Summary

The threat of violent attacks, crime and hijackings remain high in waters in Southeast Asia. Masters are therefore reminded to remain vigilant at all times in all regions, including in ports and anchorages. Attacks and robberies can occur at any time.

At Sea

Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- **1 February 2014 (Late Report)** – Five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored chemical tanker at 0245 LT in position 01:42.6N – 101:25.6E, Dumai Inner Anchorage, Indonesia. The robbers entered into the engine room, took hostage the duty oiler and 2/E, tied them up and stole engine room spares. As the robbers were leaving the engine room, the 3/E noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and released the 2/E and oiler. The incident has been reported to the local authorities.

SOUTH AMERICA

Executive Summary

The threat of violent attacks and robberies remain high in waters throughout South America. Masters are therefore reminded to remain vigilant at all times in all regions, including in ports and anchorages. Attacks and robberies can occur at any time.

At Sea

Hijacks

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies

- None reported during this period.



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