

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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 - 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

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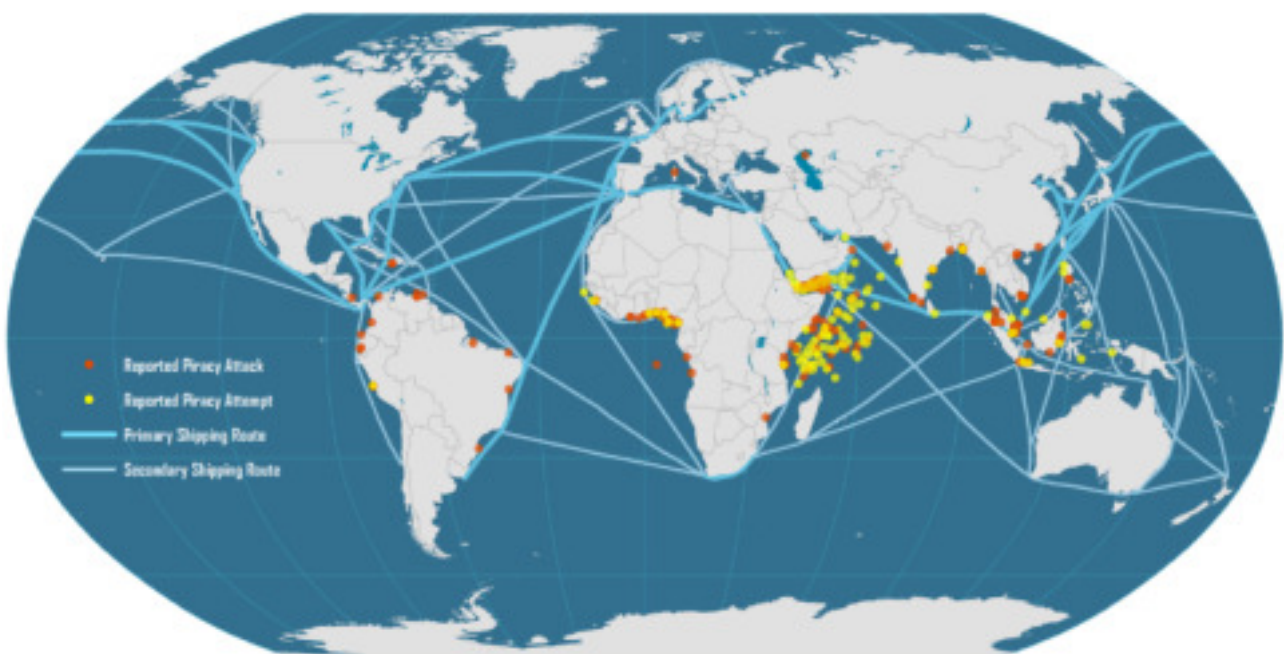
SUMMARY

(February 17 – 23, 2014 – Week 8; Edition 25)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

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

Executive Summary

With the Northeast Monsoon period slowly coming to an end, there have been further reports of piracy incidents over the past week, with most incidents occurring in the Gulf of Aden and Gulf of Oman. Improving weather conditions will result in large numbers of pirate action groups (PAG) going out to sea trying to attack and successfully hijack a merchant vessel. While currently, skiffs have been sighted within the High Risk Area, in the coming weeks, skiffs and motherships are likely to span out further, with sightings likely to be reported off the coast of Somalia and into the Indian Ocean. Masters are therefore 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

- **17 February 2014** – Dhow reported coming under attack at 0830 UTC in position 11:13N – 056:31E, Arabian Sea. Dhow with fourteen pirates on board sent a distress signal and stated that the crew had been released without food, fuel and water. Military unit responded and upon arrival at the scene, assessed that the event was a false alarm. Vessel and crew reported safe.

Suspicious Activity

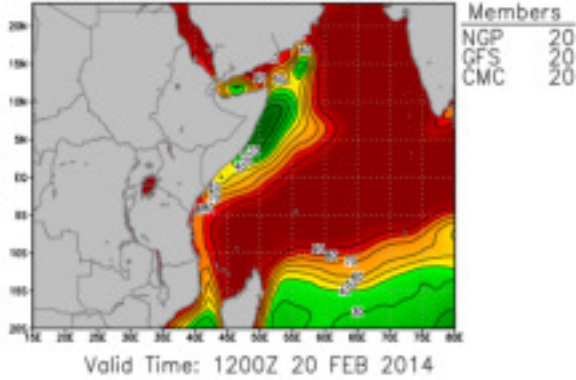
- **20 February 2014** – Singapore-flagged container ship reported sighting suspicious vessel towing three skiffs at 0630 UTC in position 13:33.5N – 050:04E. The vessel was heading north. The suspicious activity was reported to the CP Warship.

Weather Analysis

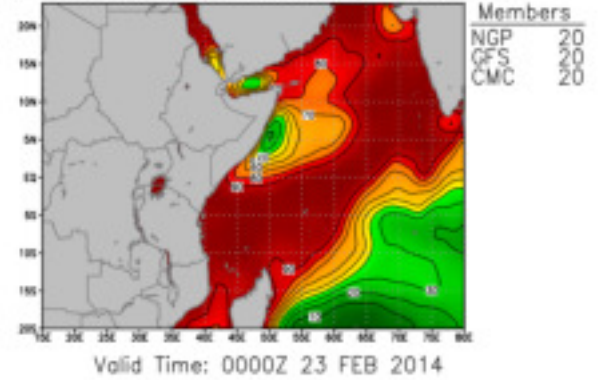
- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Northerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be northwesterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – 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 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 15 – 20 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Tropical Cyclone Guito will continue to move through the channel producing winds in excess of 60 knots with seas of 18 – 20 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Light and variable winds with seas of 6 – 8 feet in the northern Channel; with light and variable winds with seas of 6 – 8 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. The Mozambique Channel will be impacted by Tropical Storm Guito, producing thunderstorms, rain showers, high seas and winds.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

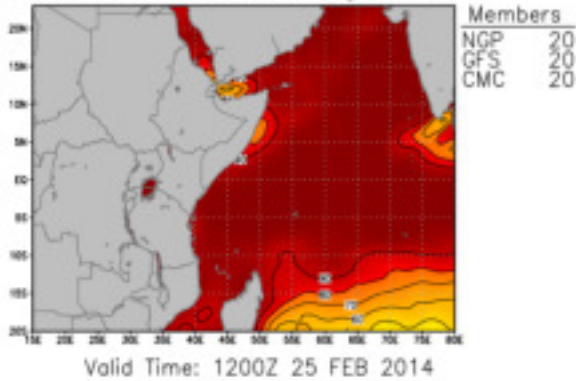
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



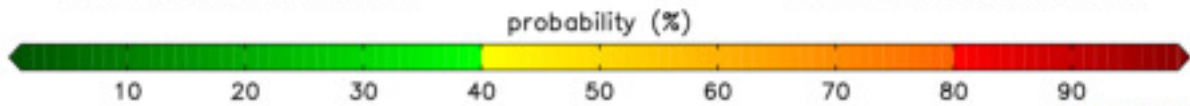
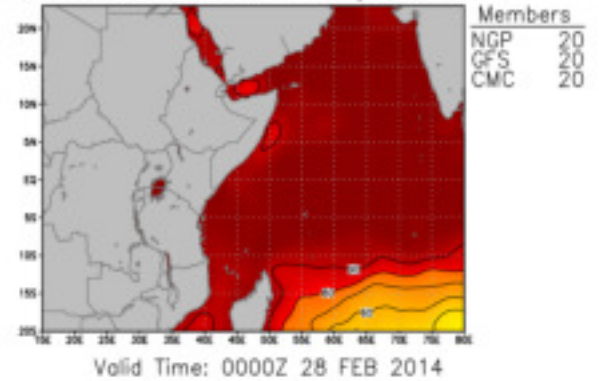
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



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 the Ground Analysis

- **21 February 2014** – At least eleven people were killed Friday when Islamist militants attacked the Somali presidential compound, blasting through the gate with a car bomb and later fighting with guards. Police and eyewitnesses reported that al-Shabaab militants launched a major suicide commando attack against the heavily fortified presidential palace, which is home to the country's internationally-backed government. While it remains unclear how many people died in the attack, a Somali government minister has confirmed that the situation is now "under control." Although confirmed details of the attack in Mogadishu have not yet been released, several reports have indicated that a car bomb exploded at the perimeter of the central Mogadishu complex and shortly afterwards a group of around a dozen suicide attackers breached the Villa Somalia compound. Police officer Mohamed Ali stated, "There was a large attack on the presidential palace. Initial reports are that a suicide car bomber hit the gate and exploded, then men with guns followed." Another source indicated that he saw at least nine gunmen attack the complex. Ahmed Moalim Adan, a security official near the scene of the attack also reported that "security forces are dealing with terrorists who blew up a car...and there is an exchange of fire. We have no details of the casualties but of course there are casualties." One eyewitness, Hussein Isa, reported that the attackers were fighting inside the presidential compound, adding, "A suicide bomber rammed a car full of explosives into the perimeter wall of the presidential palace and another one with heavily armed men penetrated the area where the first one hit. There is heavy exchange of gunfire continuing inside the building but we cannot tell what is happening." The United Nation's special envoy to Somalia, Nick Kay, reported that the country's president, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, had telephoned to say that he had been unharmed in the attack against the complex, which is one of the best-defended locations in the war-torn country. He further noted that the Somali President had said that the "attack on Villa Somalia had failed." Shortly after the attack, al-Shabaab claimed responsibility. Al-Shabaab military spokesman Sheikh Abdul Aziz Abu Musab stated, "Our commandos have attacked the so-called presidential palace in order to kill or arrest those who are inside." He added that "we are still holding some of the buildings and the fighting is continuing. The enemy had suffered a great deal of harm but I don't have the exact casualty figures." This is the first time that al-Shabaab fighters have entered the presidential place, known as Villa Somalia. The heavily guarded complex is home to the president, prime minister, speaker of parliament, other governmental ministers and a mosque, which was hit during the attack. The latest attack in Mogadishu came just a week after the militants carried out a suicide car bomb attack at the gates of Mogadishu's heavily fortified international airport. At the time, a spokesman for al-Shabaab stated that the group wanted to show "that no place is safe for the apostate government," warning that "the airport, so-called presidential palace and anywhere in Somalia can be attacked as we plan."
- **20 February 2014** – Residents in Mogadishu have reported that hundreds of families are fleeing the Somali capital after a recent increase in the number of clashes between militants and pro-government troops. On Thursday, residents in the capital city reported seeing dozens of vehicles piled high with belongings, heading towards the outskirts of Mogadishu. Some of the fleeing residents have indicated that the rise in violence over the past few weeks has forced them to leave. Although Mogadishu has seen relative stability since 2011, over the past few weeks, Somalia's capital city has seen a sharp increase in the number of attacks carried out by al-Shabaab militants. There have also been a number of clashes between the militants and government troops as well as assassinations by gunmen believed to be linked to the militant group. The latest violence is seen as a setback for the Somali capital, which is trying to move past decades of war.
 - Meanwhile in the Luuq district of Gedo region, reports have indicated that an intense fight took place in Kureed territory, 12 kilometers south of Luuq district, between Ethiopian troops

and government forces on one side and al-Shabaab militants on the other. The latest fighting comes after al-Shabaab militants ambushed a convoy of Ethiopian and Somali Government troops as they were passing by Kureed in the Gedo region. Officials have not indicated whether there were any casualties.

- **18 February 2014** – On Monday evening, the commander of Somalia’s Jubbaland security forces, Isse Mohamed Allaki, also known as Isse Kambano, was gunned down by an al-Shabaab defector in the southern port city of Kismayo. According to eyewitness reports, the attacker fired at the commander and his security escorts. An official from the Jubbaland administration confirmed the attack, stating “the killer is a former al-Shabaab fighter; he gunned down Isse and two of his bodyguards. One bodyguard sustained serious injuries to his upper body and he later died of gunshot wounds...” Isse Kambano was the head of intelligence and security for the Jubba administration, which is based in Kismayo. In a recorded statement released by al-Shabaab, the militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, stating that they had killed Isse Kambano in a planned attack by a special division within al-Shabaab. Update (20 February 2014) – In the wake of the killing of the region’s top security head, the Jubbaland administration has increased security in the southern port city of Kismayo. Residents have reported that Jubbaland soldiers have carried out an investigation into the killing, and have been patrolling neighborhoods to increase security. The death of Isse Kambano has sparked anger throughout the region, with senior Jubbaland administration officials now threatening to carry out new offensives against al-Shabaab’s remaining regional strongholds. Addressing the media in Kismayo on Wednesday, Social Affairs Minister Moallim Mohamed Ibrahim declared that Jubbaland forces are ready to attack all al-Shabaab strongholds, stating “we are about to commence military offensives against al-Shabaab, Jubbaland forces will reach a decision on the fate of anybody who is suspected of being an al-Shabaab member.”

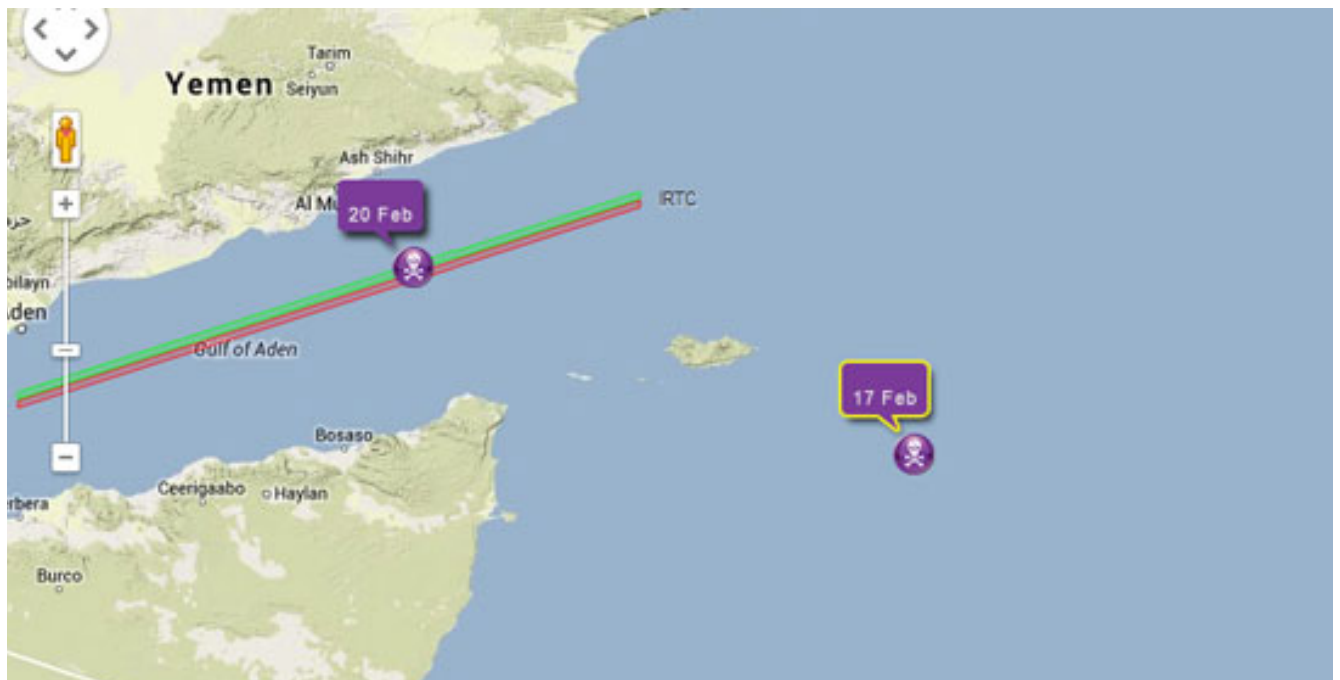
International Developments

- **19 February 2014** – With concerns about the possible diversion of weapons to al-Qaeda-linked militants, the United Nations Security Council is unlikely to fully restore a decades-old arms embargo on Somalia. However diplomats indicated this week that the UN Security Council may extend eased restrictions on government purchases. A confidential UN monitors’ report presented to the Council last week warned of “systematic abuses” by Somalia’s government. The monitors further indicated that such abuses have allowed for the diversion of weapons that Somali authorities purchased after the Security Council eased the arms embargo last year. In response to the UN monitors’ report, a senior UN diplomat indicated this week that while a decision has not yet been made, “given the concerns about the way the suspension has been operated, we’re thinking of...continuing the suspension but for a more limited period with some very strict criteria.” A year ago, the 15-member council agreed to partially lift the arms embargo on Somalia, effectively allowing the government in Mogadishu to purchase light weapons to strengthen its security forces fighting al-Shabaab militants. The eased restrictions are due to expire early next month, and some sources are reporting that instead of extending the move for another year, the restrictions may only be renewed until the end of October, which is when UN experts, who monitor the embargo and other sanctions on Somalia and Eritrea, are due to report to the council on any violations.
- **17 February 2014** – Contradicting an earlier report, which indicated that Turkey had cut off its assistance to Somalia, Turkish officials pledged this week to maintain direct budget support this year for the war-ravaged country. Last week, Turkish and Somali government officials had announced that financial support had concluded at the end of 2013 and that there were no immediate plans to resume it. However late on Sunday, the Turkish Foreign Ministry announced that Ankara planned to continue the aid payments, which are a major source of funding for Somalia’s government. A statement released by the ministry indicated that “within the framework



of our comprehensive aid strategy to Somalia, work is underway to provide budget support to the Somali Federal Government in the year 2014.”

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

Executive Summary

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

- **19 February 2014** – Six pirates in a small boat approached a Liberia-flagged oil product tanker, Masters Force II, under way and tried to hook on a boarding ladder at 0345 UTC in position 03:57N – 005:18E, 26 nautical miles southwest of Pennington Oil Terminal, Nigeria. The alarm was raised and the vessel immediately started taking evasive maneuvers. The pirates attempted to hook on the ladder several times at different positions along the port and starboard quarters. The on board armed security team fired warning shots resulting in the pirates aborting the attempt and moving away. All crew members on board the vessel are reported safe.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southerly winds at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The Gulf of Guinea will be impacted by partly to mostly cloudy skies, with isolated thunderstorms.

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

- **14 February 2014 (Late Report)** – Duty A/B on routine rounds on board an anchored container ship at 2030 LT in position 05:59.9S – 106:55.6E, Jakarta Roads, Indonesia noticed an unlit small wooden boat quickly leaving the stern of the ship. The A/B immediately informed the bridge and the Master raised the alarm. Upon searching the vessel, it was found that the engine room stores had been stolen.
- **7 February 2014 (Late Report)** – Four robbers boarded a Singapore-flagged chemical tanker, Verity, at berth at 2000 LT in position 03:47.27N – 098.41.77E, Belawan port, Indonesia. Alert duty AB noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. The crew was mustered and proceeded towards the forward store. Upon seeing the crew the robbers escaped with some of the ship's stores. Port Control was informed of the incident.
- **6 February 2014 (Late Report)** – Seven robbers armed with knives boarded a Singapore-flagged general cargo ship, Kota Intan, under way at 0630 LT in position 01:05N – 103.33E, Singapore Straits. The robbers entered the engine room and tied up the electrician. They then stole the engine spares as well as the electrician's mobile phone. The electrician managed to untie himself and informed the bridge. The vessel's alarm was raised and a distress signal sent. The robbers escaped with the ship's spare parts.
- **5 February 2014 (Late Report)** – Five armed robbers with knives boarded a Singapore-flagged general cargo ship, Kota Berkat, underway at 0615 LT in position 01:03N – 103:36E, Singapore Straits. The robbers entered the engine room and aggressively approached the duty crew who immediately left the engine room and informed the bridge. The alarm was raised, all crew members were mustered to the bridge and the SSAS was activated. A complete search of the vessel was later carried out.

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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