

MS | RISK

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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 - Interim security
 - Training
 - 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

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Summary (June 2 - 8, 2014 - Week 23; Edition 40)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: One incident reported and one possible hijacking.

Somalia-Indian Ocean: No incidents reported during this period.

Southeast Asia: No incidents reported during this period.

South America: No incidents reported during this period.

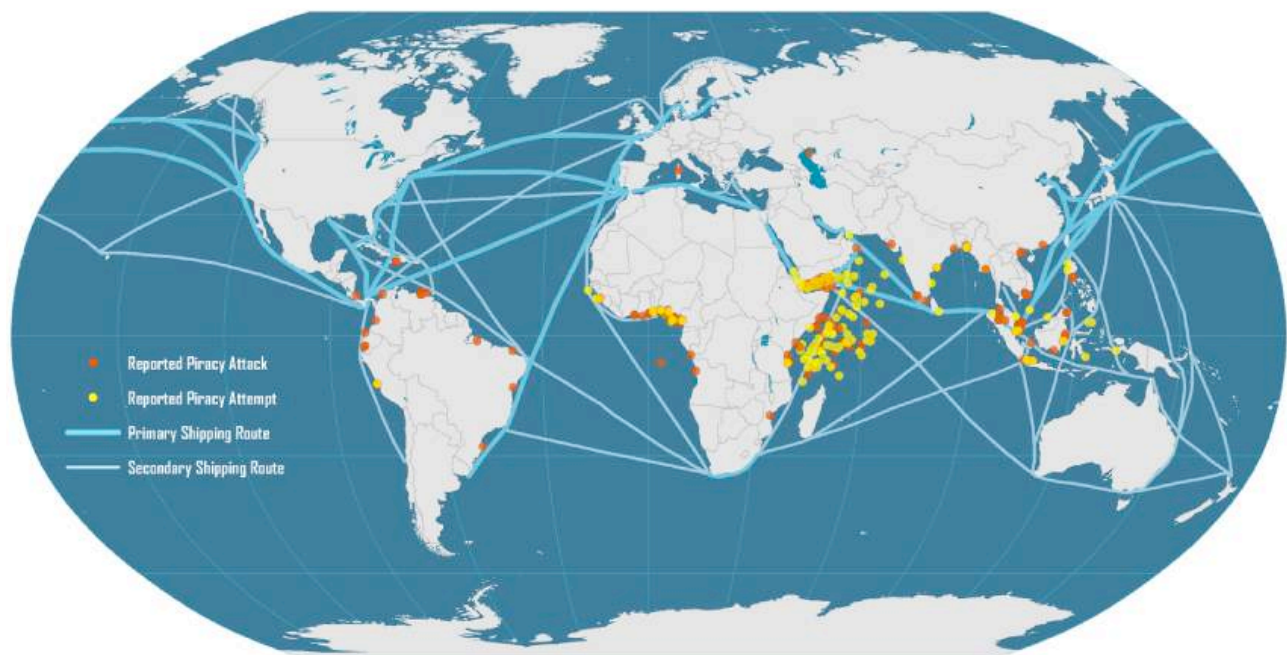
North America: No current incidents to report

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:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Piracy News

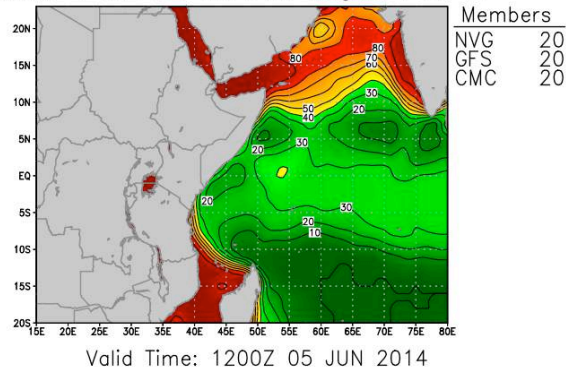
- **7 June 2014** – Eleven sailors held hostage for almost four years by Somali pirates escaped their captors and are safe in Kenya, effectively bringing to an end one of the longest-running Somali piracy cases. The eleven crew members of the MV Albedo, who had been held in dire conditions and suffered beatings and torture, included seven men from Bangladesh, one Indian, one Iranian and two from Sri Lanka. According to one mediator, the men had “sneaked out a window” to escape their captors and were later rescued by security forces from the northern Somali Galmudug region. Their vessel, the Malaysian-flagged container ship MV Albedo, was hijacked in November 2010 but sank in rough seas last July. During their captivity, one Indian colleague was shot by the pirates in an argument and four other sailors from Sri Lanka drowned. Seven other Pakistani crew members were released in 2012 after a businessman paid their ransom however the remaining eleven could not afford to pay the hefty demands of the pirates. The United Nations has confirmed that the eleven sailors are free and that they have been handed over to its care and “will be repatriated to their home countries over the coming days.” The sailors, like 38 others from different boats who remain captive, were abandoned by their ship’s owner.
- **4 June 2014** – NATO officials confirmed Wednesday that they will extend its Indian Ocean counter-piracy mission by two years, to the end of 2016, as piracy in the region remains a threat despite the sharp fall in attacks. The decision was taken by NATO defense minister during a recent meeting in Brussels. Since 2009, NATO vessels have patrolled the waters off the Horn of Africa as part of a broader international effort aimed at ending Somali-based piracy. NATO’s Ocean Shield operation, along with the European Union’s operation and other counter-piracy missions have significantly reduced attacks in the region. While not a single vessel has been hijacked since May 2012, the threat of piracy continues to linger in the region, with pirate action groups going out to sea in a bid to attack and successfully hijack a vessel.

Weather Analysis

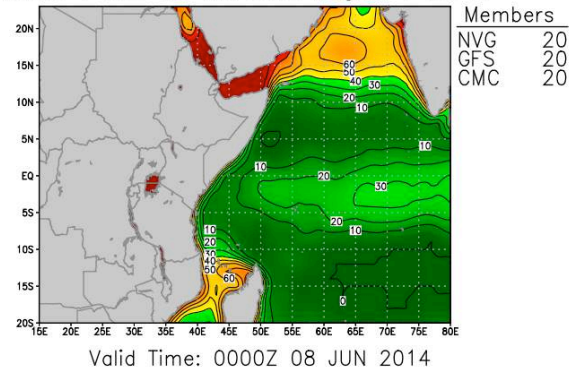
- **Northern Arabian Sea** – West-southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Westerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southwesterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Westerly winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with south-southwest winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots with seas of 7 – 9 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots with seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – South-southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots, with seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; with northerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southeasterly at 15 – 20 knots with seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **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 onset of the Southwest Monsoon season has begun to influence the weather throughout the region. High pressure will continue to be the dominant feature, producing clear to partly cloudy skies. Expect areas of blowing dust and haze in the northern and central Arabian Gulf.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

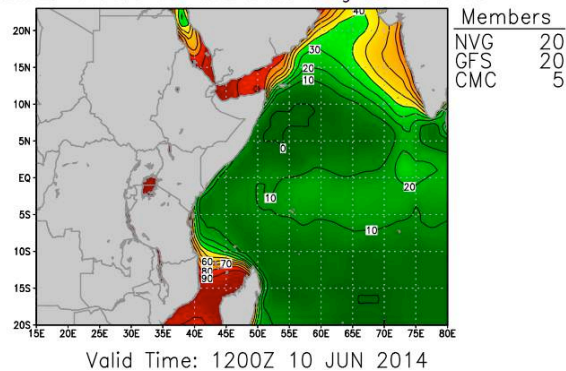
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



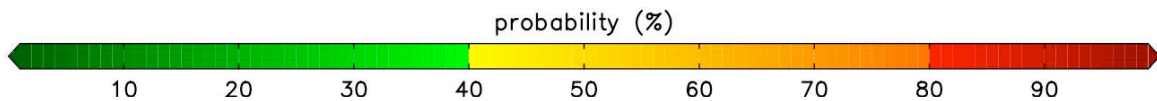
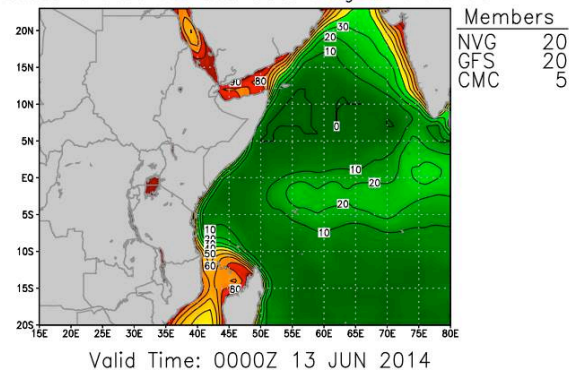
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



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 operation 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

- **7 June 2014** – Somali government officials confirmed Saturday that Somali and African Union troops have carried out a major security operation in Mogadishu, arresting dozens of suspected al-Shabaab militants believed to have infiltrated the capital city. The security operation, which was launched Monday, comes in the wake of a string of car bombs and suicide commando attacks carried out by al-Shabaab militants who have targeted the heavily-fortified office of the country's internationally-backed president as well as the national parliament. According to Information Minister Mustafa Duhulow, "...the aim of this operation was to ensure that al-Shabaab is denied the opportunity to hide in Mogadishu. The security forces arrested dozens of suspected al-Shabaab members." According to intelligence sources, the operation was launched amidst suspicion that al-Shabaab was poised to launch more "complex" attacks throughout the capital. In 2011, al-Shabaab was forced out of a number of fixed positions in Mogadishu however they have continued to carry out strikes on the capital city. While African Union troops and the national army have been gaining territory from the militants in central and southern Somalia, such operations have pushed the militants further out, with fears that some of the militant group's fighters and commanders have moved back to parts of Mogadishu. Recent al-Shabaab attacks have targeted key areas of either the government or security forces, in what appears to be a bid to discredit claims made by the Somali government that they are winning the war against the Islamist fighters.
 - Meanwhile Somalia's Information Ministry announced Saturday that a notorious Somali warlord, who is allied to al-Shabaab and on the UN sanctions list, has agreed to quit the extremist group. Sources have indicated that arms dealer Mohamed Said Atom, who is under UN Security Council sanctions for "kidnapping, piracy and terrorism," has also been a close ally of al-Shabaab, however a government statement released Saturday has quoted Atom as stating that he had left the militant group, accusing its leader, Ahemd Abdi Godane, of working for a "foreign agenda." According to the Somali government, Atom has stated that he "...would like to declare that as of today, I have decided to resolve my religious and political issues through peaceful means and understanding." Atom, along with many al-Shabaab insurgents, have long operated from the rugged Golis mountains located in the northern autonomous region of Puntland. His defection will likely be a blow to the militant group, who has lost a string of towns in recent years.
- **2 June 2014** – Somali government forces, backed by AMISOM troops, have pushed al-Shabaab militants out of the El Waare and Dhabadey villages, a move that has opened up access to Bulo Burde for a dozen trucks attempting to deliver food and other basic goods to the town. Somali National Army Colonel Mohamed Ali confirmed that al-Shabaab militants have retreated from the area, adding that several militants were killed in the confrontations and that the allied forces seized a number of weapons. The villages of El Waare and Dhabadey are located on the main road that connects Bulo Burde to Beledweyne, in the regional capital of Hiran.

Regional Reporting

- **6 June 2014** – Police confirmed Friday that Kenyan gunmen shot and killed an Australian media executive. This is the second such attack on an Australian citizen to occur in Nairobi in the past year. Carey Eaton, a co-founder of the online marketplace One Africa Media, died of gunshot wounds in hospital on Thursday

after he was attacked at a friend's house in an upmarket suburb the night before. According to police spokeswoman Zipporah Mboroki, "the deceased was at a friend's party where four armed robbers appeared and demanded money, he was shot as he attempted to dash away from the scene." Mr Eaton's death follows the killing last November of Australian advertising executive Patrick Richer, who worked for Tbwa Flame Tree Advertising.

- Meanwhile three Kenyan aid workers, held hostage by militants in northern Somalia for nearly two years, have been freed unharmed. Their employer, International Aid Services (IAS), confirmed their release. Spokesman Andreas Zetterlund confirmed the release of the three aid workers, named as Janet Muthoni Kanga, Martin Mutisya Kioko and Abdinoor Dabaso Bor, adding "although all will undergo routine medical screenings, we believe that they are uninjured and under the circumstances, in reasonably good health. The three aid workers, two men and a woman, were travelling in a convoy guarded by armed police when they were kidnapped by gunmen after being ambushed in the Galkayo area of the northern autonomous region of Puntland in July 2012. They were released Thursday, with the assistance of the United Nations and local Galmudug authorities and were "taken to a safe location until they will be flown back to Nairobi and reunited with their families and friends."
- **5 June 2014** – Officials in Ethiopia confirmed Thursday that Ethiopian police have arrested 25 people accused of having links to al-Shabaab and plotting attacks in the county. Government spokesman Shimeles Kemal confirmed the arrests, stating that those detained had been trained by the militants in Somalia and were planning to carry out a series of attacks in Jimma, which is located about 305 kilometers (189 miles) southwest of the Ethiopian capital. A number of weapons were also seized in the operation. The arrests come just weeks after the US and British embassies upgraded their travel warnings for Ethiopia, alerting visitors and residents of an increased threat of attacks. Mr Kemal however has stated that while Ethiopia "has been and will remain vulnerable to terrorist attacks," the threat has not necessarily increased," adding "I don't think that there is a special risk that warrants an extraordinary alert." Ethiopia, which shares a 1,600 kilometer border with Somalia, deployed troops to the country in 2011 to help African Union (AU) and Somali defense forces fight al-Shabaab militants. It currently has around 4,500 troops in the country and is responsible for spearheading a recent offensive against the militants. Al-Shabaab leaders have vowed to attack Ethiopia in order to avenge the presence of its troops in Somalia. Last October, two Somali nationals blew themselves up while crafting a bomb in Addis Ababa, with police later indicating that they were planning to detonate the bomb at a crowded football match. Neighboring Kenya has also been a frequent target of attacks by al-Shabaab militants, who have demanded that Kenyan troops withdraw from Somalia. In the past, Uganda and Djibouti have also both been attacked by al-Shabaab. The two countries are contributors to the AU force in Somalia.
- **3 June 2014** – Officials in Kenya are investigating reports that British terror suspect Samantha Lewthwaite, also known as the "White Widow," has been sighted in the country. According to officials, reports have suggested Kenyan police officers in the coastal town of Lamu provided an armed escort to a white woman, possibly Ms Lewthwaite, who disappeared after her attempts to enter Somalia were blocked by immigration officials. Security sources have also indicated that they have reliable information that Ms Lewthwaite is in Kenya and that they have launched a massive operation in a bid to locate her. A Kenyan army spokesman Willy Wesonga has confirmed that a team of detectives is investigating whether the woman was Ms Lewthwaite, and, if it was her, why she intended to visit the Kenyan army camp. After last year's attack on the Westgate shopping center in Nairobi, Kenya sought an international warrant for her arrest. Although

she has been accused of having links to Somalia's al-Shabaab, this was not mentioned on the warrant. According to an Interpol statement, Ms Lewthwaite is "wanted by Kenya on charges of being in possession of explosives and conspiracy to commit a felony dating back to December 2011." Ms Lewthwaite's husband, Germaine Lindsay, died in a 2005 suicide attack. He was one of four bombers who carried out the 7 July bombings in London, which killed fifty-two people and injured hundreds.

- **2 June 2014** - Kenyan police on Monday fired tear gas in an attempt to disperse rioters angry over the killing of two clerics accused of belonging to al-Shabaab. While protesters in the northeastern town of Mandera have stated that the clerics were well-known religious figures, and had nothing to do with al-Shabaab, police have indicated that the Muslim clerics were armed with guns and hand grenades at the time of their death. The two men were shot dead Saturday night after attempting to force their way through a barricade near Mandera, a small town located near the Somali border. According to local police chief Noah Mwivanda, "on reaching the police road barrier... the terrorists defied an order by the officers to stop and instead resorted to hurling three hand grenades at them. But our officers gallantly engaged them in a fierce gun fight, killing two of them instantly," adding that a third man in their vehicle managed to escape. Police have indicated that eight grenades were found in the vehicle. While Mwivanda has stated "those who were killed were al-Shabaab operatives," adding that they were "planning to carry out deadly grenade attacks," the killings have sparked anger in Mandera, where a respected local sheikh has stated that the two men were innocent. Army spokesman Emmanuel Chirchir has stated that police and the military had "shared information that three suspects presumed to be armed with explosives were travelling to Mandera for a terrorist operation." The Mandera region, which is located along the 700-kilometre (435-mile) border zone between Kenya and Somalia has seen a number of attacks that have been attributed to al-Shabaab militants and their allies. Al-Shabaab has also recently threatened to shift their conflict to Kenya, with attacks already multiplying since March when AMISOM launched operations to force al-Shabaab out of their remaining strongholds in central and southern Somalia.

International Developments

- **3 June 2014** – A top diplomat indicated Tuesday that United States President Barack Obama is set to name the first American ambassador to Somalia since the start of a civil war more than twenty years ago. Undersecretary Wendy Sherman indicated "as a reflection both of our deepening relationship with the country and of our faith that better times are ahead, the president will propose the first US ambassador to Somalia in more than two decades." While the announcement from President Obama, who is currently on a trip to Europe, is expected to occur "soon," it has been confirmed that the new ambassador will be based in Nairobi, Kenya. While the US never formally severed ties with the Horn of Africa nation, its embassy in Mogadishu closed in 1991 as the country descended into chaos amidst a bloody power struggle amongst a number of warlords. By 1993, relations between the two countries worsened after two Blackhawk helicopters were shot down with 18 Americans killed in the disastrous operation. At the time, US Army Rangers and Special Forces had set out to capture two deputies of warlord Mohamed Farra Aidid, however the two Blackhawk helicopters were shot down by rocket-propelled grenades. Efforts to recover the crewmembers and aircraft turned into an hours-long battle with the insurgents. Although the Somali government that took power in August 2012 was the first to be given global recognition since the collapse of

the regime in 1991, with billions of dollars in foreign aid pouring in to help rebuild the country, the new Somali government's control outside Mogadishu is limited, with large swathes of rural areas in the central and southern regions still controlled by al-Shabaab militant who have emerged as a threat to the region.

- **2 June 2014** – On Monday, the United Nations food agency, the FAO, issued a stark warning over food security in Somalia and launched an urgent appeal for US \$18 million in order to stop hunger from spreading. According to a statement released by the FAO, last year's harvest was already poor and prices are rising as food stocks from 2013 are being rapidly depleted. The statement further indicated that the already grave situation has been exacerbated by late rains, erratic weather and the on going conflict. The agency currently estimates that there are 860,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance in Somalia, including 200,000 malnourished children under the age of five. The FAO is now "urgently seeking" US \$18 million (13 million euros) to scale up what it has called "rapid interventions" in a bid to prevent the food security situation from getting even worse. The FAO has stated, "conditions are expected to improve slightly in August and September, when the harvest is ready for consumption, but the positive impact is likely to be moderate given the unfavorable prospects of the current season." Compared to April last year, prices for staples, such as maize and sorghum, have risen by as much as 60 to 80 percent.

GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- No incidents reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **2 June 2014** – Two speed boats with armed persons approached and fired upon an anchored bulk carrier while in position 04:49N – 008:18E, Calabar River, Nigeria at 1740 UTC. Upon seeing the armed security team on board the vessel, the boats aborted the attack and moved away.

Piracy News

- **4 June 2014** – A Greek tanker with twenty-four crew members on board is believed to have been hijacked. The Liberia-flagged product tanker, MT Fair Artemis, has not been in contact since 4 June. Its last known position was 04:47N – 000:12W, approximately 40 nautical miles south of Accra, Ghana. No further information has been released and the fate of the crew and vessel remains unknown.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – South-southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The Gulf of Guinea will be impacted by partly to mostly cloudy skies, with isolated thunderstorms.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

SOUTH AMERICA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.



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