

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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- Project Management
 - Interim security
 - Training
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- Crisis Response
 - 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 (May 12 - 18, 2014 - Week 20; Edition 37)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: One incident reported during this period.

Somalia-Indian Ocean: One incident reported during this period.

Southeast Asia: Two incidents reported; One late reported incident.

South America: No incidents reported during this period.

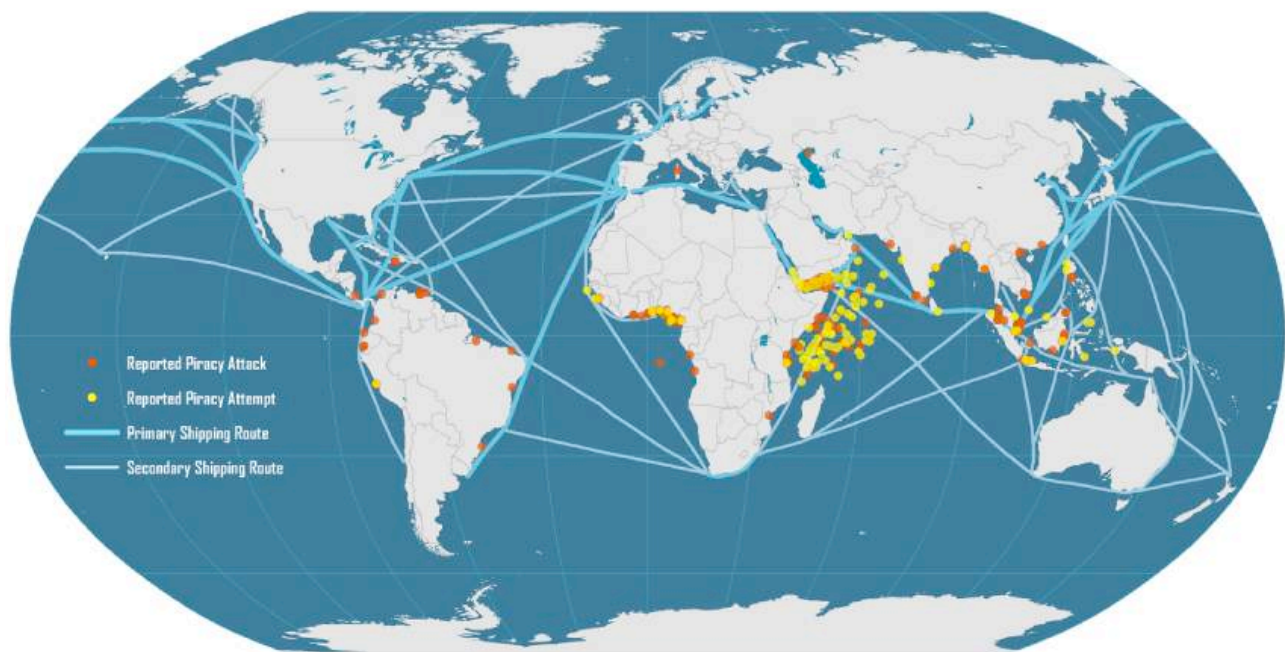
North America: No current incidents to report

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

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- **14 May 2014** – MV reported two suspicious skiffs at 0420 UTC in position 12:44.8N – 043:21.6E, BAM. Both skiffs came within 2 nautical miles. Embarked armed security team stood to and displayed weapons, resulting in the skiffs moving away. The Master reported a larger vessel in the vicinity, approximately 6 nautical miles away. That vessel is suspected of being a mother ship.

Piracy Related News

- **15 May 2014** – Australia's defense department announced Thursday that an Australian warship has seized heroin, with an estimated street value of AUS \$132 million (US \$123 million), off the coast of Somalia. According to the defense department, the 449 kilogramme (990 pound) haul was found on a dhow, which was intercepted by HMAS Darwin while patrolling the Indian Ocean some 40 nautical miles off Somalia's east coast. The ship's commander, Terry Morrison, has stated that the seizure "removed a major source of funding for terrorist and criminal networks, which include al-Qaeda, the Taliban and al-Shabaab," adding that the drugs were hidden in twenty bags, each weighing between 20 to 25 kilogrammes. HMAS Darwin is part of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), which is a naval partnership that involves thirty nations and which patrols 2.5 million square miles of international waters. The Australian ship enforces maritime security with a focus on terrorist activity in the Middle East and Indian Ocean regions as part of the British-led Combined Task force (CTF) 150, which operates under the CMF.
- **14 May 2014** – A United States federal judge has sentenced a Somali pirate to 41 – 1/2 years in prison after rejecting the prosecutor's call for a mandatory life prison term. Mohamed Ali said, 30, was convicted along with five other Somali men of piracy and related charges in the April 2010 attack on the dock landing ship Ashland. Each of the men faced a mandatory life prison term for the piracy convictions. However attorneys for Mr Said, and the five others, argued in court that mandatory life sentences violate the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The federal judge agreed. During the trial, prosecutors stated that the five Somali men mistook the Ashland for a commercial vessel when they opened fire on it. While no sailors were injured in the attempted hijacking, one Somali pirate was killed when the Ashland returned fire.

Weather Analysis

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – South-southwest 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 south-southwest at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be variable at 3 – 5 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast 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.
- **Somali Coast** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet; with southerly winds of 4 – 6 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet; with southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Southerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Southerly winds of 13 – 17 knots and seas of 10 – 12 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 13 – 17 knots and seas of 10 – 12 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 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 transitional season influences the weather in the region. High pressure over northern Saudi Arabia will continue to interact with the low pressure over Iran producing northwesterly winds, building seas, and reduced visibility due to blowing dust.

On the Ground Analysis

- **18 May 2014** – A special United Nations military force, tasked with protecting aid workers, deployed for the first time in the Somali capital on Sunday. The 400-strong “defensive” guard force, which is made up of Ugandan troops, is based at the heavily fortified Mogadishu airport and is “mandated to protect UN staff and installations” in the capital city. At a ceremony Sunday, marking the start of the operations, UN envoy to Somalia Nicholas Kay stated “the deployment of the UN Guard Unit is an important step as we continue to expand our operations in support of the Somali people.” Despite the Somali government’s insistence that it has improved security, al-Shabaab continues to carry out bombings, including targeting aid workers, in their bid to overthrow Somalia’s internationally backed leadership. The deployment of the UN force in Mogadishu also comes amidst international warnings of the threat of attacks by al-Shabaab fighters, or supports, in the wider region especially in neighboring Kenya. In the wake of warnings, which were announced by Australia, France and Britain, the United States confirmed Saturday that it was preparing to cut staff levels at its Nairobi embassy because of the mounting threat of attacks in Kenya by Islamist militants.
- **12 May 2014** – At least five people were killed on Monday in a large explosion that targeted a senior police official in the southern Somali town of Baidoa. According to police spokesman Mohamed Moalim Abdirahman, “the target was a pick-up truck transporting a senior local official.” The police spokesman added that the senior local official “...escaped the attack, but two of his security guards were killed along with three civilians.” It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion, however some eyewitnesses have reported that a suicide bomber had rammed a car laden with explosives into the pick-up. Baidoa, which is currently under the control of government troops backed by African Union (AU) forces, was captured from al-Shabaab militants two years ago, however the militant group continues to launch attacks, including bombings and guerrilla-style raids. While no one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, al-Shabaab has carried out a string of bombings and has vowed to overthrow the country’s internationally-backed but fragile government.” Furthermore, al-Shabaab’s recent attacks have targeted key areas of the government or the security forces, in what is an apparent bid to discredit claims by the authorities that they are winning the war against the Islamist militants.
Update (13 May 2014) – AU forces confirmed on Tuesday that a “cowardly” bomb attack carried out the previous day had killed 19 people, nearly double the number that was initially reported. A statement released by the AU force indicated, “the blast killed 19 innocent victims and destroyed valuable property.” The toll increased from an earlier statement by the police, which placed the death toll at ten.

Regional Reporting

- **16 May 2014** – The National Disaster Operation Centre confirmed Friday that four people have been killed in two explosions in a busy market area in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. According to officials at the center, the first blast occurred on a 14-seater matatu, or public minibus, while the second occurred inside Gikomba Market, which is situated to the east of Nairobi’s central business district. The Kenyan Red Cross has also stated that five of its ambulances were evacuating casualties from the scene of the blasts. The latest bombings in Kenya come amidst a wave of attacks in both Nairobi and the port city

of Mombasa. They also come days after several countries issued new warnings about travelling in Kenya. **Update (16 May 2014)** – Eight people have been killed and over seventy others wounded in two explosions that occurred in a busy market area in Nairobi. A spokesman at the Kenyatta National Hospital, Nairobi's main hospital, confirmed that eight bodies had been brought in and "more than 70" people admitted for treatment, many of them in a serious condition.

- Officials and tour operators confirmed Friday that hundreds of British tourists are being evacuated from beach resorts near Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa following new warnings of terror attacks. Special charter flights have been organized just days after Australia, Britain, France and the United States issued new travel warnings for Kenya's coast following a wave of attacks and unrest which has been linked to al-Shabaab militants. Earlier this week, British travellers were told by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to avoid "all but essential" visits to Mombasa, impacting links to nearby white-sand beach resorts. Thomson and First Choice, which are owned by London-listed TUI Travel, Europe's largest tour operator, has also indicated that they have decided to cancel all flights to the coastal city until November. A statement released by Thomson and First Choice stated "as a result of the change in FCO advice, the decision has been taken to cancel all our outbound flights to Mombasa, Kenya up to and including 31 October," adding "as a precautionary measure, we have also taken the decision to repatriate all customers currently on holiday in Kenya back to the UK." In the wake of such warnings, the Kenyan government has expressed "disappointment" and has accused countries that are telling tourists to stay away of "unfriendly acts." On Thursday, Kenya's foreign ministry gave an angry response to the warnings. A statement released by the Kenyan government stated that "the advisories...are obviously unfriendly acts coming from our partners who have equally borne the brunt of global terrorism and no doubt understand the repercussions of terror," adding "issuance of such travel advisories only plays to the whims of bad elements in society whose aim is to spread fear and panic."
- **14 May 2014** - Following a wave of attacks and unrest, which have been linked to Islamist extremists, a number of countries have increased their warning against travel to Kenya's port city of Mombasa. Australia, Britain and France have advised their nationals to avoid the coastal city, these travel advisories however also deal a new blow to Kenya's already embattled tourism sector as avoiding Mombasa complicates travel to the nearby beach resorts. On Wednesday, Britain's Foreign Office (FO) became the latest country this week to warn its citizens against "all but essential travel to Mombasa," citing "recent terrorist attacks and the continuing terrorist threat in the area." Australia has also updated its travel advice and has urged its nationals to "reconsider their need to travel" to both Mombasa and to the capital city, Nairobi, which has also been hit by a number of bombings in recent weeks. Meanwhile France has advised against all non-essential travel to Mombasa city, and has urged extra vigilance during stays in the nearby beach resort of Diani, which is situated to the south of the city. Last month, Kenyan officials confirmed that the number of foreign visitors to the country, which is top safari and beach destination, had declined by 11 percent in 2013. The current year is expected to also see a massive drop, particularly in the wake of the September 2013 attack on the Westgate shopping mall in Nairobi, which was claimed by al-Shabaab.
- **13 May 2014** – Kenya's police chief David Kimaiyo has ordered the seizure of commuter buses with tinted windows, stating that the move is intended to prevent attacks by militants from neighboring

Somalia. Police officials have indicated that they believe it will be easier to spot militants in vehicles with untinted windows. Sources have indicated that previous appeals by the authorities that coaches and minibuses, known as matatus, should not have tinted windows were ignored. The decision however to seize buses comes in the wake of explosions on two buses in the city which killed three people and wounded more than eighty earlier this month. While no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, the Kenyan government believes that al-Shabaab is behind the latest string of incidents.

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- No incidents reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **13 May 2014** – Two robbers boarded an anchored tanker at 0430 LT, Port Harcourt Anchorage, Nigeria. Robbers took hostage two crew members and threatened them with knives. The robbers released the crew after stealing mooring ropes. Upon their release, the crew members raised the alarm and all crew was mustered onto the bridge. While mustered onto the bridge, the Master and crew smelt cargo gas and noticed a small craft alongside the forward of the vessel stealing cargo. Nigerian Navy was contacted about the incident and all vessels in the vicinity were warned. The Navy responded by sending a small speed boat, which circled the vessel and then left. All crew members have been reported safe.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – South-southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 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:

- **14 May 2014** – Two robbers tried to board an anchored product tanker at 0440 LT in position 01:04.8N – 103:28.6E, Karimun Anchorage, Indonesia. Duty lookout noticed the robbers and informed the OOW. The alarm was raised and all crew members were mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers moved away.
- **12 May 2014** – 3/Eng on board an anchored tanker spotted three to four robbers in the steering gear room at 0515 LT in position 01:35.6N – 104:32.2E, approximately 6 nautical miles north of Pulau Aur, Malaysia. He immediately informed the bridge, raised the alarm and the crew members were alerted. Upon seeing the alerted crew members, the robbers escaped without stealing anything.
- **10 May 2014 (Late Report)** - Fifteen robbers in a wooden boat approached an anchored product tanker at 2310 LT in position 22:13.4N – 091:45.9E, Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh. One robber attempted to board the tanker using a portable ladder however the duty watchman on board the vessel managed to deter the boarding. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered to safety. The robbers aborted the attempted attack and moved away. The Coast guard was informed of the incident.

SOUTH AMERICA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.



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