

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

About MS Risk

MS Risk is a privately owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by a syndicate of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

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MS Risk supports clients in a variety of business sectors with the following services:

- Security Consulting
 - Risk assessments and intelligence reporting
 - Planning and management
 - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
 - Interim security
 - Training
 - Special assignments
- 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 19 - 25, 2014 - Week 21; Edition 38)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: No incidents reported during this period.

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Three incidents reported during this period.

Southeast Asia: Two incidents reported during this period.

South America: No incidents reported during this period.

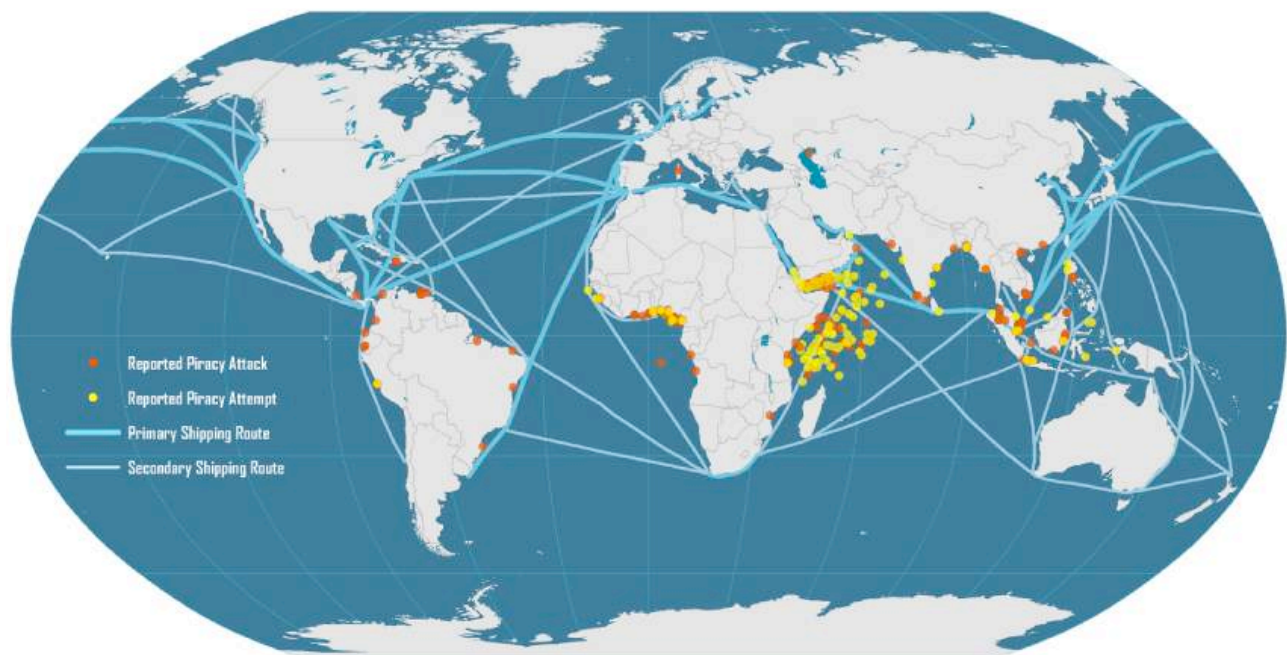
North America: No current incidents to report

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:

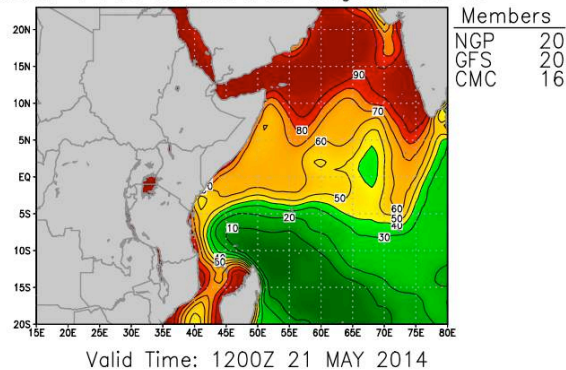
- **21 May 2014** – Merchant vessel reported the sighting of two skiffs at 0800 UTC in position 24:48.3N – 057.41E, Gulf of Oman. One skiff had 4 pirates on board while the other had three pirates on board, all with masked faces and one person in each standing at the bow. Skiffs were initially detected at four nautical miles and continued to be tracked until one skiff approached to within 0.5 nautical miles whereupon the armed security team fired two warning shots, firing a further two at 0.4 nautical miles. This caused the skiffs to break away. No weapons or ladders were sighted on board the vessel. Vessel and all crew members have been reported safe.
- **20 May 2014** – Merchant vessel approached at 0747 UTC, reported a further approach at 0827 UTC in position 12:35.3N – 043:20.4E, Bab El Mandeb. A further three skiffs approached the vessel to within 5 cables. Embarked armed security team displayed their weapons, resulting in the skiffs moving away from the vessel.
 - Merchant vessel reported being approached by four skiffs with 3 – 4 pirates on board at 0747 UTC in position 12:52.5N – 043:12.03E, Bab El Mandeb. Skiffs came to within 0.7 nautical miles. Skiffs circled around the vessel for approximately 20 – 30 minutes. NO weapons or ladders were sighted on board the skiffs. Embarked armed security team displayed their weapons resulting in the skiffs moving away.

Weather Analysis

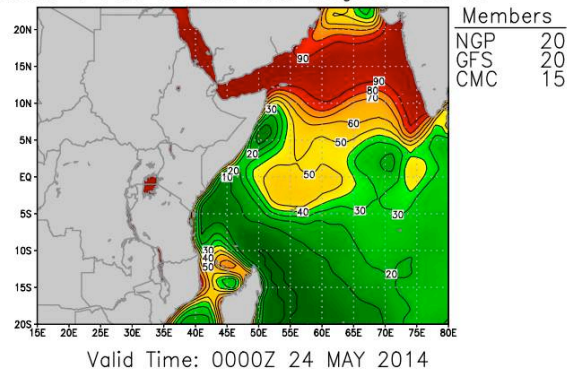
- **Northern Arabian Sea** – West-southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – West-southwest winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-southwest winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – West-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with west-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – East-northeast 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 east-northeast at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 10 – 15 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 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Southerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – South-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be south-southeast at 15 – 20 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 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 will continue to be the dominate feature in the AOR producing variable winds and calm seas, with an upper level Low producing increased cloud cover.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

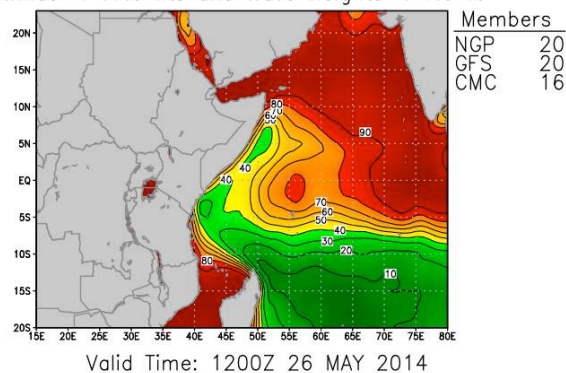
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



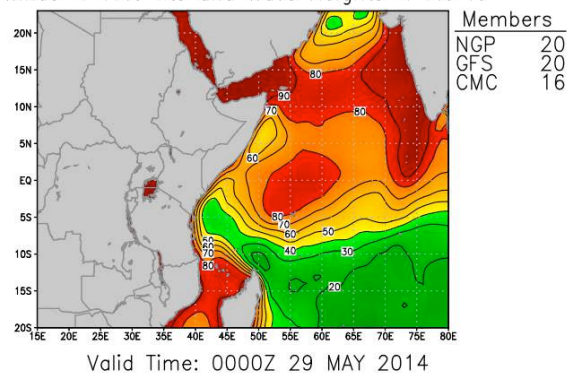
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



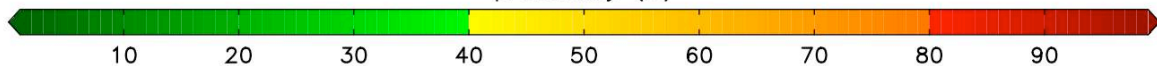
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



probability (%)



*** 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

- **24 May 2014** – Police and eyewitnesses reported two powerful explosions on Saturday, which struck Somalia's parliament, followed by what appeared to be rounds of gunfire coming from the direction of a mosque which faces the compound. Sources have indicated that a car bomb outside the gates of parliament exploded shortly before midday local time (09:00 GMT), followed by more blasts and bursts of gunfire. A local police official has stated "the lawmakers and the other workers were rescued as soon as the car bomb exploded. But the terrorists are still firing from inside a mosque nearby," adding that four police officers died in the attack. The attack, which left at least ten people dead, has been claimed by al-Shabaab. It remains unclear whether the gunmen managed to get inside the building. An AMISOM spokesman has indicated that African Union (AU) troops joined the Somali army in fighting the insurgents around the parliament, with operations continuing throughout the afternoon. The parliament in Mogadishu, which operated as a transitional assembly from 2004 to 2012, has been attacked a number of times, including in 2009 and 2010. Last month, a Somali parliamentarian was blown up while another shot dead in two separate attacks. In February, al-Shabaab militants attacked the presidential palace in Mogadishu, leaving at least sixteen people dead.
- **22 May 2014** – One of al-Shabaab's top commanders vowed Thursday to redirect the militant group's war to neighboring Kenya, urging fighters to launch attacks. Making a rare threat against the United States, the senior al-Shabaab member also indicated that the holy war would come to America. In a radio broadcast, Fuad Mohamed Khalaf, one of al-Shabaab's most senior commanders stated "the war will be shifting to Kenya, if they kill a Somali girl we kill a Kenyan girl," adding "we are urging all Muslims in Kenya...to fight the government of Kenya inside the country, because Kenyans killed your people including children." He further stated that al-Shabaab fighters will carry out jihad in Kenya, Uganda "and afterward, with God's will, to America." US officials have long feared that any of the several dozen Somali-Americans, who have left the US to join the extremist fighters, could travel back to the US to carry out terror attacks. While senior al-Shabaab leaders have rarely, if ever, publicly threatened to carry out attacks in the US, the threat comes amidst a heightening of security by the US Embassy in neighboring Kenya. In a letter sent to embassy employees last week, the US ambassador in Nairobi stated that he had requested additional Kenyan and American security personnel and that he was reducing the size of the embassy staff because of an increase in terrorist threats in Kenya. The letter further indicated that additional police are already patrolling around the embassy and that more assets would arrive from Washington. The US embassy in Nairobi, which was relocated after al-Qaeda's 1998 bombing attack on both the facility and the embassy in Tanzania, which killed 224 people in total, sits far off the road and is surrounded by thick walls. Armed Marines have recently begun patrolling the grounds. Khalaf, who is viewed as second in command after chief Ahmed Abdi Godane, also noted "when their soldiers and war planes kill your people, God permits you to retaliate accordingly, we will fight the Kenyans." This remark is likely linked to the recent air strikes that have targeted al-Shabaab bases in southern Somalia. The speech comes just days after fighters jets, believed to be from Kenya, struck al-Shabaab strongholds in southern Somalia. The air strikes are part of the latest push by African Union (AU) forces against the militant group. The United States has offered a US \$5 million bounty for Khalaf, who holds both Somali and Swedish nationality. Khalaf, who the US says is both an al-Shabaab military commander and key fundraiser, reportedly spent over a decade in the Swedish capital Stockholm. In the past few months, Kenya has seen a sharp rise in attacks on its soil, many of which have

been linked to Islamist extremists. This rise demonstrates al-Shabaab's shift in tactics, moving its focus partially from Somalia and more onto Kenya in the hopes that the Kenyan government will withdraw its troops from the Somali mission. This increase in attacks has prompted countries such as France, Britain, Australia and the United States to issue travel warnings. They have advised their nationals to avoid the coastal city of Mombasa and the capital, Nairobi. Last week, a double bomb attack in a Nairobi market left ten people dead and scores wounded, with more similar attacks likely to occur in the coming months.

- **20 May 2014** – The African Union (AU) force confirmed Tuesday that it had conducted new air strikes against a rebel base in the southern region of Somalia, the second air strike in three days. A statement issued by AMISOM indicates that its planes were after “senior leadership and foreign al-Shabaab fighters”, at a base located near the town of Jilib, in Somalia’s Middle Jubba region. The statement also claimed that fifty insurgents were killed in the attack, which “further debilitated al-Shabaab’s capacity to wreak havoc and terrorize innocent Somali civilians.” A spokesman for al-Shabaab however has stated that only farmland was hit and that five civilians were wounded, adding “the claim of AMISOM is baseless and pure propaganda.” Witnesses in the area have reported that there were several civilians hurt, however they had not information on any al-Shabaab casualties. One local resident, Moalim Hassan, stated “we heard very big explosions as military jets flew over the town. Two of the bombs landed near Faragurow village leaving four civilians wounded but we don’t know about other casualties they may have caused.” The airstrikes on the town of Jilib are understood to be part of the offensive by the 22,000-strong UN-backed African Union force, who in March launched a fresh bid to gain control of the remaining towns under al-Shabaab’s control. The impoverished town is a key al-Shabaab hub in southern Somalia’s Middle Jubba region, and is located some 320 kilometers (200 miles) southwest of Mogadishu. It remains unclear where the jets are from, however Kenya, which is part of the AU force, has used its jets to strike al-Shabaab bases before.
- **19 May 2014** – Al-Shabaab has indicted that its militants were behind the attack on an army convoy, which occurred in Kenya on Monday, adding that several soldiers were killed. Kenya’s army officials however have denied suffering any casualties. According to local police chief Noa Mwivanda, the convoy was attacked in the restive Mandera region of northeastern Kenya, near the Somali border. The police chief further indicated, “our officers responded and the suspected attackers ran away towards Somalia,” adding “no one was killed or wounded.” However on Monday al-Shabaab released a statement contradicting Kenya’s claims. Al-Shabaab spokesman Abdulaziz Abu Musab stated Monday that gunmen had killed “all the Kenyan soldiers” in a lorry as well as five police officers, and had then stolen two pickup trucks and taken them across the border to Somalia. Kenya’s army however has denied any deaths, calling the claims “propaganda.” The ambush is the latest in a wave of attacks in Kenya, which authorities have blamed on militants connected to al-Shabaab. On Friday, a double bomb attack in a Nairobi market left ten people dead and scores wounded. Meanwhile on Sunday, warplanes believed to be from Kenya, targeted al-Shabaab bases in their stronghold of Jilib in the southern regions of Somalia.
 - A Somali politician was wounded Monday in a bomb blast in Mogadishu. According to local district commissioner Abdulkadir Mohamed Abdulkadir, “the bomb was attached to his car...seriously injuring him.” The politician, former city commissioner Farah Dahir Jimale, was rushed to hospital. One passerby was also wounded. Currently no group has claimed responsibility for this attack however local officials suspect that al-Shabaab militants are behind it. In the past, the militant group has targeted politician and military officials.

Domestic News

- **25 May 2014** – In the wake of an attack on Somalia's parliament, the country's national security minister has resigned. The resignation came just hours after al-Shabaab militants set off powerful car bombs outside the gates of the parliament, with a group of fighters, armed with explosive vests, grenades and machine guns, storming in while a number of MP's were holding a meeting. While officials confirmed Abdikarim Hussein Guled's resignation on Sunday, the national security minister was already facing mounting criticism over a number of high profile al-Shabaab attacks that have occurred in Mogadishu in the past few months, including an attack against heavily-guarded sites such as the airport and presidential palace. Speaking to reporters late Saturday, Mr Guled stated "you are aware of the cowardly attack that the violent elements carried out on the parliament. I extend my condolences to the families of the deceased. Considering the current situation of the country, I officially herby announce my resignation."

Regional Reporting

- **25 May 2014** – Sources have reported that three people were killed, including a male and female suicide bomber, while another fifteen were injured in an attack that occurred late Saturday at a restaurant popular with Westerners in central Djibouti. Djibouti's ADI news agency has reported that according to the country's interior ministry, the attackers were from Somalia, where Djiboutian troops are part of an African Union force that is fighting al-Shabaab militants. The news agency has quoted the interior ministry as stating "according to initial indications from the investigation, the three dead include two suicide bombers of Somali origin, a man and a veiled woman. Out of the wounded, four are in serious condition. The attack occurred at the La Chaumiere, a restaurant reported to have been packed with Westerners at the time of the incident. The French foreign ministry confirmed Sunday that several of its nationals were slightly wounded in the attack while sources from the Netherlands have reported that six Dutch soldiers, who had been taking part in an anti-piracy mission, were also slightly injured. While there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, Djibouti's President Ismail Omar Guelleh has stated that the attack was a "violent reaction to our participation in the process to stabilize and secure the region." The President has vowed to "do everything to find those who ordered this barbaric attack," adding "this act of blind terrorism will not change our determination to fight alongside the international community." The Horn of Africa nation of Djibouti, a former French colony, is home to the United States' largest base in Africa, which is used for anti-terror operations in Somalia, Yemen as well as for other operations across the African continent. France also maintains a military base in Djibouti. Djibouti, alongside Kenya and Uganda, is a key contributor of troops to the African Union force in Somalia while its port serves as a key base for



ships taking part in the international anti-piracy operations taking place off the Somali coast. Both Kenya and Uganda have seen terror attacks occur on their own territories, indicating that the attack in Djibouti likely in connection to the country's deployment of soldiers in Somalia.

- **23 May 2014** – Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported Friday that hundreds of Somalis have been expelled from Kenya, with 98 in the latest batch detained and sent back in what is the latest crackdown on suspected Islamist militants in the wake of recent terrorist attacks. According to officials at the HRW, a group of Somalis sent back to Somalia by airplane on Tuesday was the fourth round sent home, taking the total expelled from Kenya to 359. The HRW's Gerry Simpson indicated "deporting people to conflict zones in Somalia shows a total disregard for their rights and their safety," adding that returning refugees against their will to a war zone is unlawful. The UN's refugee agency has said that it was "concerned" at the wave of arrests and has demanded access to those detained. The crackdown, which has seen people held in police cells or football stadiums, follows a number of attacks that have been carried out throughout Kenya by suspected supporters of al-Shabaab. Kenya has stepped up its role in Somalia, with sources indicating earlier this week the fighter jets, believed to be from Kenya, targeted al-Shabaab strongholds as part of the latest push against the insurgents by the AU force, which has stated that it was targeting the militant group's "senior leadership and foreign fighters," adding that the latest air strikes killed over fifty rebels. These actions however have been met by further threats from the militant group. On Thursday, in a broadcast message by a top commander, al-Shabaab vowed to move their war to Kenya, urging fighters to rise up against Nairobi.
- **22 May 2014** – A senior official has reported that an attacker threw a grenade at a police vehicle in Kenya's port city of Mombasa on Thursday, wounding an officer and a civilian. Mombasa county commissioner Nelson Marwa indicated that the attack occurred as officers picked up two suspects after receiving information that they were planning an unspecified crime, adding as the car left "their accomplices threw a grenade which exploded behind the police vehicle." The city, a major tourist center, and the largest port in east Africa, has suffered a number of gun and grenade attacks in recent months. These attacks have largely been blamed on al-Shabaab, which is based in neighboring Somalia.
- **20 May 2014** – A suspected grenade blast near a mosque has wounded eleven people. The blast occurred Tuesday in the eastern Kenyan town of Garissa, which is located close to the border with Somalia. According to police spokesman Masoud Mwinyi, one of the eleven wounded was in serious condition however the rest were out of danger. He further added that a second grenade attack failed to detonate. The government-run National Disaster Operations Centre confirmed the blast adding that three suspects had been arrested. Neither the Centre or police officials have stated that al-Shabaab is behind the attack. The attack happened a day after suspected al-Shabaab militants killed at least twelve people in northern Kenya's Mandera County in an ambush. It also comes as suspected Kenyan warplanes have been targeting al-Shabaab positions in Somalia over the past days, as the country pursues the militants who have carried out a series of gun, bomb and grenade attacks on its territory. On Tuesday, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) stated that another an air strike in southern Somalia had killed more than fifty al-Shabaab fighters.

International Developments

- **20 May 2014** – On Thursday, the United Nations Security Council urged Somalia to do a better job in keeping track of its arsenal of weapons, which in the past have fallen into the hands of Islamic militants. A statement released by the 15-member Council indicated “The Security Council remains concerned about the diversion of arms and ammunition, including potentially to al-Shabaab.” The Council has called on Mogadishu to “consider establishing a joint verification team with international experts,” adding “the team should focus on physical verification of arms and ammunition provided to the federal government, as well as the systems of control in place for arms and ammunition management.” The Council also indicated that improved measures to safeguard its arms would have to be in compliance with terms of a partial suspension last March of an arms embargo on Somalia. At the time, the Security Council extended a measure that eased a weapons ban in Somalia, however it tightened other restrictions in a bid to try and prevent arms from ending up in the hands of Islamist extremists. The measure in March effectively required that the Somali government meet strict conditions on monitoring arms imports in order to prevent the weapons falling into the hand of al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab militias. Prior to easing the restrictions, UN experts responsible for monitoring the arms embargo on Somalia had stated that there had been “systematic” cases of weapons ending up in the hands of Somali chieftains, and sometimes al-Shabaab leaders. Despite this warning, the Council relaxed the weapons restrictions to allow the Somali government more firepower to combat the al-Shabaab movement.

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- No incidents reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- No incidents reported during this period.

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:

- **23 May 2014** – Three robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at 0020 LT in position 06:01.2S – 106:54.1E, Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia. Deck patrol noticed the robbers and alerted the bridge. Alarm was raised and all crew members were mustered to safety. The robbers threatened the deck patrol with a knife and escaped with stolen ship's properties.
- **22 May 2014** - Two robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker at 1440 LT in position Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia. Alarm raised and all crew were mustered to safety. The robbers escaped with stolen ship properties.

SOUTH AMERICA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.



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