

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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More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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Summary (May 5 - 11, 2014 - Week 19; Edition 36)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: One incident reported.

Somalia-Indian Ocean: One incident reported; One late reported incident.

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

South America: No incidents reported during this period.

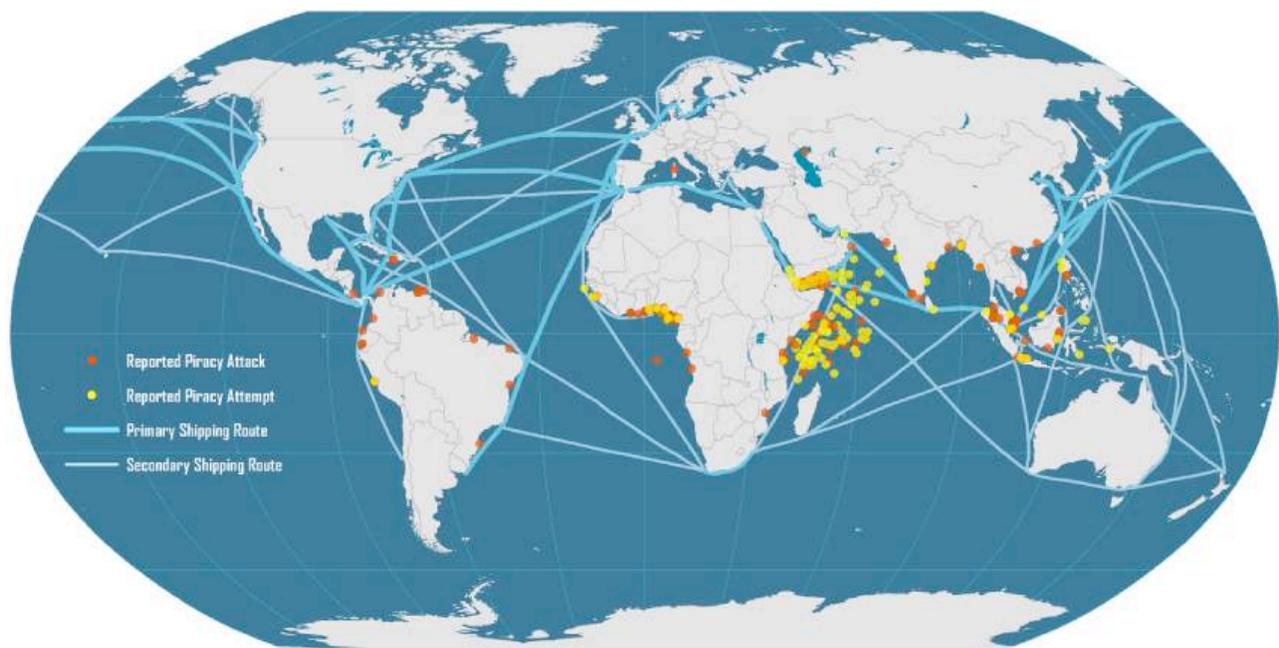
North America: No current incidents to report

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

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- **9 May 2014** – Merchant vessel reported a suspicious skiff with seven pirates on board drifting ahead of the vessel at 1045 UTC in position 13:31.6N – 042:34.2E, Red Sea. At 6 cables, embarked armed security team showed their weapons, resulting in the skiff moving away. A tripod structure was seen on the bow of the skiff.
- **2 May 2014 (Late Report)** – Two suspicious skiffs doing 15 knots approached a bulk carrier underway at 2145 UTC in position 15:45N – 041:26E, Red Sea. Master raised the alarm, increased speed, altered course, activated the fire hoses, fired rocket flares and mustered all non-essential crew members to the citadel. When the skiffs closed to a distance of two cables from the ship, the embarked armed security team fired warning shots resulting in the skiffs moving away.

Piracy Related News

- **7 May 2014** – According to the latest Oceans Beyond Piracy report, the cost of Somali piracy to the global economy fell by almost half last year as attacks in the region continued to decline. However piracy in West Africa continued to rise. According to the Oceans Beyond Piracy report, attacks carried out by Somali pirates in 2013 continued to decline, with only 23 vessels being attacked throughout the past year. While no large vessels transiting the region were successfully attacked or hijacked, the threat of piracy to regional traffic remains high. Armed security teams aboard vessels in the Indian Ocean were relatively prevalent on those vessels reporting suspect activity: 100 vessels out of 145 reporting suspicious approaches had security teams aboard, as did 10 out of the 19 vessels that reported attacks. Furthermore, twenty-seven of the 100 vessels with security teams aboard during suspicious approaches reported firing warning shots in a bid to deter suspicious approaches, while eight out of ten vessels with security teams on board during attacks reported exchanging fire with pirates. The latest annual security report put the total cost of Somali piracy at US \$3.2 billion (£1.88 billion) in 2013. Over the past year, there were still at least fifty hostages being held captive in Somalia. At the height of Somali pirate attacks in 2011, up to a dozen or more merchant vessels were being held captive at any one time as pirate gangs awaited to receive multimillion-dollar ransom payments. While Somali piracy was by far the largest single threat to international shipping in recent

years, the increase of international navies in the region, coupled with embarked security teams on board vessels transiting the High Risk Area (HRA), has resulted in a sharp decline in pirate attacks, with the last successful hijacking of a merchant vessel occurring two years ago. However this decline is easily reversible. Furthermore, this decline in Somali piracy has effectively paved the way for a new region to take over the status of being a piracy hot spot. For the second year in a row, the number of piracy attacks in West Africa was greater than that in the Indian Ocean. According to statistics provided by Oceans Beyond Piracy, an estimated 100 attacks occurred off West Africa in 2013. This included 42 hostage-taking attacks and 58 robbery attempts. In the past year, the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa has developed into the new piracy threat to international shipping, however pirate and criminal gangs operating in the region greatly differ from those groups operating in the Gulf of Aden. Reports of piracy attacks, kidnappings and hijackings in the Gulf of Guinea have demonstrated that piracy in the region are more violent than those seen in waters off Somalia. According to the new Oceans Beyond Piracy, analysts have observed "...a high degree of violence in this region," adding that "the constantly evolving tactics of West African piracy make it extremely difficult to isolate it from other elements of organized crime." While providing accurate statistics for the Gulf of Guinea continues to be difficult, mainly due to incomplete reporting, it is evident that there was a rise in the number of seafarers who were kidnapped in the region last year.

Weather Analysis

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with south-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with south-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with south-southwest winds of 5 – 10 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** – Southeast winds of 4 – 6 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** – South-southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet; with south-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** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – The Mozambique Channel will be impacted by cloudy conditions, with rain showers and thunderstorms. Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southerly at 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 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. Low pressure over Iraq will produce cloudy skies with rain showers in the Arabian Gulf, as the front interacts with the high pressure over the Strait of Hormuz.

On the Ground Analysis

- **8 May 2014** – Police and witnesses reported Thursday that gunmen in Somalia have shot dead a Kenyan teacher. The latest attack to target foreigners occurred in the restive central Galkayo region. Witnesses indicated that two men armed with pistols shot the teacher inside a college compound late Wednesday in Galkayo, a town that straddles the border between the autonomous Puntland and Galmudug region. Local police officer Osman Mohamed confirmed the incident, stating, “a Kenyan teacher was shot dead inside the school building last night, the police are investigating.” So far, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack and the motive for the killing remains unclear however al-Shabaab militants, or their sympathizers are likely to be behind the latest incident. The region of Galmudug is lawless and is known to be awash with guns and riven by multiple rival armed gangs. Although al-Shabaab militants are known to operate in the region, unlike much of southern Somalia, Galmudug is not under the militant group’s direct control. Foreigners are particular targets. In April, two United Nations workers were executed in Galkayo.
- **5 May 2014** - Fierce clashes between two rival Somali militias have killed at least four people and wounded dozens others. Sources have indicated that the clashes occurred Monday in the Beled Hawo area of Gedo region. The fighting reportedly broke out after Ethiopian soldiers operating under the African Union Mission in Somalia had vacated the area. Local residents have reported that the fighting occurred between one militia loyal to the regional administration of Gedo and fighters for the interim Jubba Administration, which is based in Kismayo. Hundreds of civilians have reportedly fled the violence. Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed confirmed the incident, and has called on both sides to end the fighting. He stated Monday that “the government will take legal steps against those involved in the fight,” adding “Somali people suffered enough and it is time to renounce violence and start a new life of peace and prosperity.”

Domestic News

- **9 May 2014** – More than one hundred Somali lawmakers have signed a letter demanding that the current president resign for failing to improve security and to meet other promises. The lawmakers have threatened to impeach him if he does not resign. While the petition, which is the first of its kind against President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, has enough signatures for force an impeachment debate in parliament, such a move could be blocked by the country’s high court, which would have to approve it. In turn, more backers would be needed to vote Mohamud out. The initiative does however highlight the growing frustration in Somalia at the government’s failure to deliver more tangible change in a national struggling to rebuild after two decades of war. While AMISOM launched military operations in March in a bid to oust al-Shabaab militants from the central and southern regions of the country, this has resulted in increased terrorist attacks in Mogadishu and has demonstrated the country’s continued security issues.
- **6 May 2014** – The Second Deputy Speaker of the Federal Parliament of Somalia, Mahad Abdalla Awad, has announced that two bodyguards will be allotted to each MP in response of militants increasingly targeting key figures within the country’s government. Speaking to reporters at the parliament building in Mogadishu, Mr Awad indicated that lawmakers in the 275-seat-chamber of the

Somali parliament have a full right to enjoy a secure environment, stating “of the 275 Members of Parliament, 33 are serving as ministers and deputy ministers and security units while 239 are unguarded.” Following a wave of deadly attacks on Federal MP’s, which have been mainly carried out by al-Shabaab militants, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud’s administration has faced widespread opposition from both the members of parliament and the public.

Regional Reporting

- **7 May 2014** – A Kenyan court has ordered that two Somali men be held in custody for a period of ten days after police officials indicated that they suspected the two men were involved in twin explosions in the port city of Mombasa, which killed four people and injured scores over the past weekend. Investigators asked the court to detain the two Somalia to complete investigations. Another 102 people arrested in police operations that followed the weekend attacks have since been released. On Saturday, attackers threw a bomb at passengers waiting at a bush station while another attack targeted a luxury hotel in the coastal city. Both incidents were followed by two bus bombings in Nairobi on Sunday. Those attacks killed another three people.
- **6 May 2014** – Amidst a wave of attacks in East Africa, which have been blamed on Islamist insurgents, the United States embassy in Uganda has warned that churches in the country’s capital city are facing a “specific terrorist threat.” A statement issued to US citizens on Tuesday indicated that “the threat information indicates a group of attackers may be preparing to strike places of worship in Kampala, particularly churches, including some that may be frequented by expatriates, in May or June.” Amidst a number of warnings of al-Shabaab attacks, officials in Uganda set up a specialist tourism police force in March as part of counter-terrorism measures. The United Nations has also warned of an increased threat of attacks from al-Shabaab following a major offensive that was launched against the militants in March. While US officials did not mention a specific group in the working, Somalia’s al-Shabaab insurgents, or their supporters, have been blamed for a string of attacks, especially in neighboring Kenya. Both Uganda and Kenya are key contributors of troops to the African Union (AU) force fighting al-Shabaab militants in Somalia. As retaliation, the militants have carried out major attacks in both countries. In Kenya, two people were killed and dozens were wounded in double bus bombings that were carried out in the country’s capital city, Nairobi, on Sunday. The attack occurred just one day after four were killed in twin attacks in the port city of Mombasa. In 2010, al-Shabaab bombers killed at least seventy-six people in Uganda’s capital city Kampala.
- **5 May 2014** – Despite the deadly weekend bombings, Kenya’s government has defended the efforts of its security services, stating that they have foiled a number of other terrorist plots. Over the past weekend, to attacks in Nairobi and Mombasa killed at least seven people however for the past few months, Kenyans have been increasingly voicing their concern and anger that militants, believed to be linked to Somalia’s al-Shabaab or their sympathizers, have continued to stage sporadic attacks with apparent ease. Speaking to journalists Monday, in response to questions about the public’s frustration over insecurity, Deputy President William Ruto stated “we have disrupted a lot of schemes of the terrorists in our country,” adding “the many that we manage to disrupt sometimes are lost when one happens in the country, because that is what people notice.” While there was no immediate claims of responsibility for the weekend attacks, al-Shabaab did claim responsibility for the September 2013

attack on a Westgate shopping center in Nairobi, in which the militant group's gunmen killed at least sixty-seven people. Al-Shabaab militants, or their sympathizers are likely to be behind the latest attacks in Kenya as the militant group has repeatedly stated that any attacks carried out by its militants were to be seen as demand for Kenya to withdraw its troops from neighboring Somalia. In speaking to Journalists, Mr Ruto repeated that his government would not pull its soldiers out of Somalia, stating that such a withdrawal would enable al-Shabaab to regroup and would ultimately becoming a larger threat to Kenya.

- Meanwhile Kenya's President has vowed that "attackers will not derail us" following a deadly weekend in which suspected al-Shabaab militants killed at least seven people. Speaking at a joint news conference with Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan during a state visit to Nigeria, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta stated "my presence here is indication that these people will not derail us. We will continue and we shall fight this battle and we shall win this battle." President Kenyatta added that both countries "have suffered at the hands of cowardly terrorists, people who have no value for life, who continue to wreak wanton havoc on lives and property in our two countries. On Sunday, Kenya's capital Nairobi was hit by twin bombings that killed three people and left 86 injured. This attack came one day after a double attack in the port city of Mombasa, which killed four. Somalia's al-Shabaab militants have been implicated in both attacks. Nigeria has also experienced a series of brutal attacks by Boko Haram militants, who have killed an estimated 1,500 people since the start of this year, including seventy-five people in a car bombing in Abuja on April 14. Boko Haram have also claimed responsibility for the abduction of more than 200. Both Kenya and Nigeria have seen a sharp rise in attacks on their soil, both of which have been attributed to increasing military activity against the terrorist groups. Since March 2014, AMISOM has increased military operations in central and southern Somalia in a bid to capture towns and areas that are under al-Shabaab's control. With Kenyan troops participating in these operations, Kenya has witnessed an increase in the number of terrorist attacks that have been carried out on its soil, with most incidents occurring in Mombasa, Nairobi and in towns and villages near the border with Somalia. Similarly, Nigeria saw a sharp increase in attacks last year, after the government launched military operations in three northern states last May. Since then, Boko Haram militants have increased their tempo of attacks and have spanned out, carrying out attacks in Abuja.

International Developments

- **7 May 2014** – Twenty-two aid agencies warned Wednesday that Somalia risks sliding towards a catastrophic hunger crisis similar to the 2011 famine, with some 50,000 children already at "death's door." According to the agencies, hunger and malnutrition in the Horn of Africa country are worsening due to two failed rainy seasons and renewed conflict. Crops have wilted in the fields while herders have been forced to kill new-born calves in order to give their mother's a better chance of survival. Furthermore, 74,000 people have been displaced because of recent fighting. In turn, life-saving aid projects are being forced to shut down due to funding shortages. According to Geno Teofilo, Oxfam's spokesman for Somalia, "the world is failing Somalia again. The crisis there could become a

catastrophe. The situation now is similar to 2011 in many respects.” The United Nations declared a famine in Somalia in July 2011. That famine killed 260,000 people, mostly children. It was caused by several consecutive failed rains, conflict and a ban on agencies delivering food aid in territory held by al-Shabaab militants. The famine ended in January 2012 thanks to better rains and increased humanitarian assistance.

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- No incidents reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **5 May 2014** – Five robbers armed with knives in a boat approached a berthed Hong Kong, China-flagged bulk carrier, China Spirit, at 0320 Lt in position 08:29.4N – 013:13.3W, Berth No. 2, Freetown Port, Sierra Leone. Two robbers boarded the ship and took hostage the duty cadet on rounds. They then cut off and stole the aft mooring ropes before releasing the cadet and escaping. On being released, the cadet informed the duty officer who raised the alarm.

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:

- **7 May 2014** – Alert crew on board an anchored Hong Kong, China-flagged product tanker, Maple Express, noticed four persons armed with knives near the deck. They raised the alarm at 0241 Lt in position 01:28.7N – 104:40.0E, around 15 nautical miles north-east of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia. Upon hearing the alarm, the persons escaped without stealing anything.
- **5 May 2014** – Thirty robbers in a boat armed with long knives approached an anchored Malta-flagged chemical tanker, Histria Agata. Four robbers boarded the tanker and cut off the aft mooring rope at 2155 LT in position 22:08N – 091:46E, Chittagong Roads, Bangladesh. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered into the accommodation and the Coast Guard was informed. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers stole a lifebuoy and escaped. A patrol boat later came to the location and made a search.
- **4 May 2014 (Late Report)** – Duty A/B on routine rounds on board an anchored Netherlands-flagged chemical tanker, Iver Express, noticed the steering gear room's door open at 0420 Lt in position 01:27.2N – 104:35.2E, around 13 nautical miles North of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia. Upon approaching, he saw a robber escaping over the railing and informed the bridge. The alarm was raised and all crew were mustered. Upon searching the vessel, it was discovered that the ship's engine spares were stolen. A security message was broadcast to vessels in the vicinity.
- **3 May 2014 (Late Report)** – Duty A/B on routine rounds on board an anchored Hong Kong, China-flagged chemical tanker Zhongji No. 1, noticed a boat alongside the port quarter and saw five robbers attempting to board the vessel via a rope attached to a hook at 0310 Lt in position 01:24.N – 104:41.2E, around 12 nautical miles north-northeast of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia. The A/B informed the OOW who raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and escaped in their boat.

SOUTH AMERICA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.



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