

MS | RISK

Global Piracy Report

Detailed Weekly Piracy Report Focusing on the Horn of Africa, Gulf of Guinea, Southeast Asia and South America; and On - The - Ground Analysis Focusing on Somalia and Kenya

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
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- 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 (August 18 - 24, 2014 - Week 34; Edition 51)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: One late reported incident.

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

Southeast Asia: One incident and two late reported incidents during this period.

South America: One late reported incident.

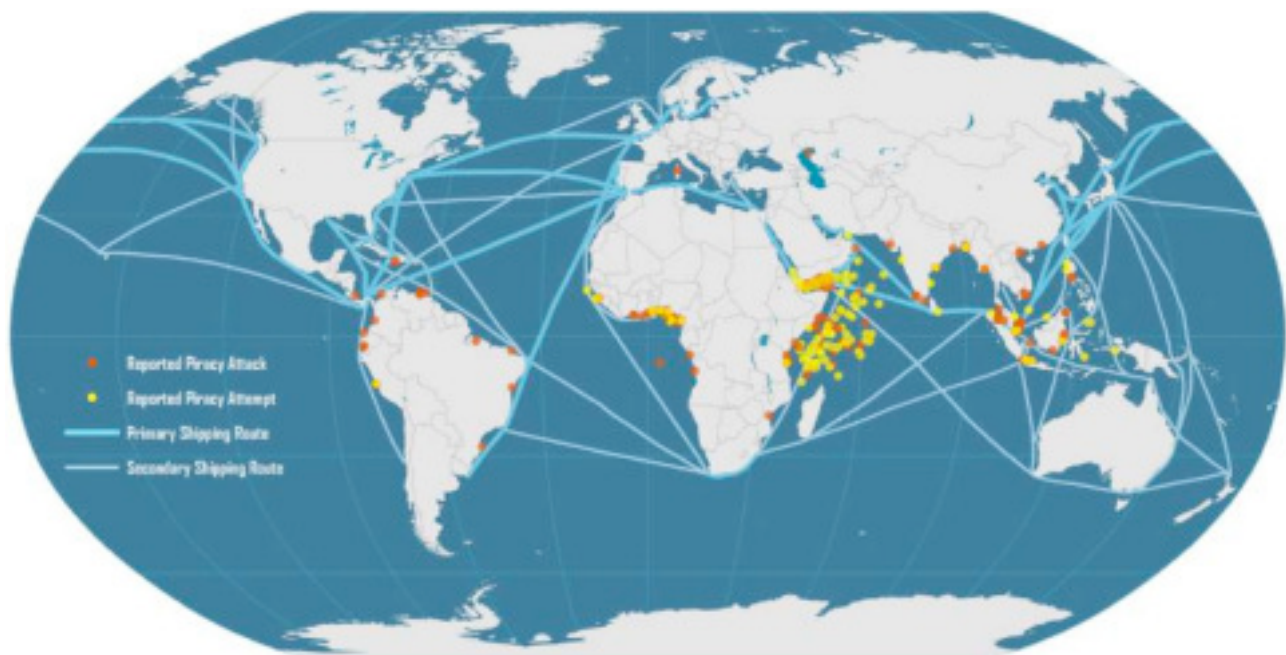
North America: No current incidents to report

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:

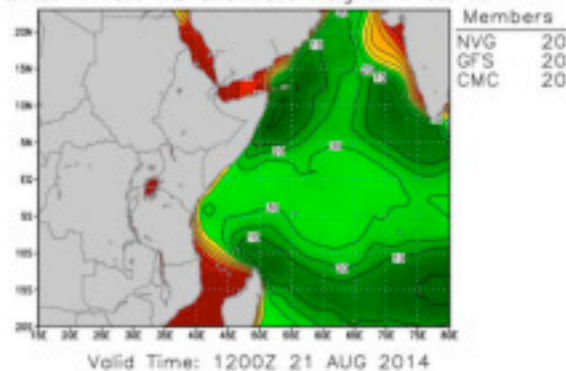
- **18 August 2014** – Four skiffs approached an underway bulk carrier at 1030 UTC in position 12.52.6N – 043:14.2E, BAM, Red Sea. Possible black Yemeni dhow mothership sighted at around 4 nautical miles. As the skiffs approached the vessel, the Master raised the alarm, increased speed, commenced evasive maneuvers and mustered all non-essential crewmembers to the citadel. At a distance of approximately 0.5 nautical miles, the armed embarked security team noticed a ladder in one of the skiffs, which had six pirates on board. When the armed security team displayed their weapons, the skiffs moved away. The vessel and all crewmembers on board have been reported safe.
- **16 August 2014 (Late Report)** – Merchant vessel was reported approached by 2 skiffs at 0550 UTC in position 24:33N – 057:58E, Gulf of Oman. One skiff with four pirates on board and another with two pirates on board closed to within 8 cables. Crewmembers on board the vessel reported sighting a ladder and weapons were fired. Embarked armed security team fired flares resulting in the skiffs stopping and turning away. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.

Weather Analysis

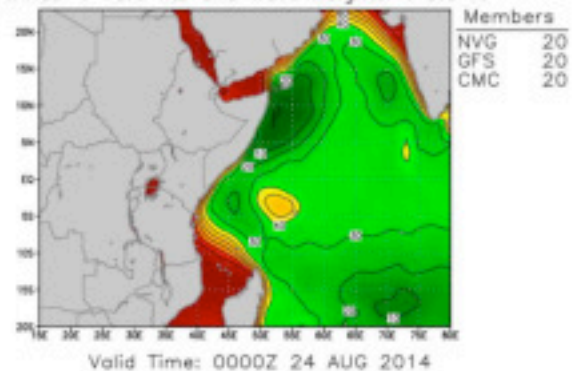
- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – In the western section of the Gulf, winds will be variable at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be variable at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet; with southwest winds of 25 – 30 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet; with southwest winds of 25 – 30 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with north-northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 10 – 12 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 10 – 12 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 Southwest Monsoon continues to influence the weather in the region. A tightening pressure gradient between high pressure over Iran and a thermal low near Kuwait will produce moderate northwesterly winds across the Arabian Gulf. Expect restricted visibility due to blowing dust in the Northern Arabian Gulf.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

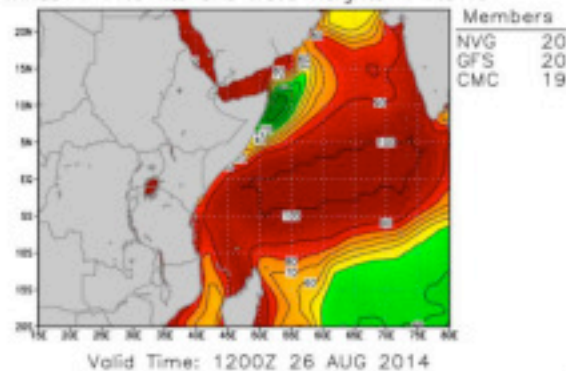
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



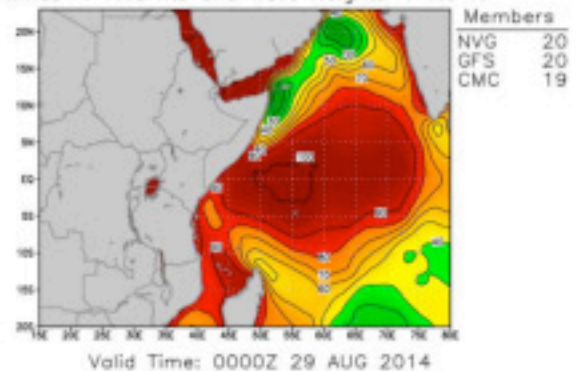
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



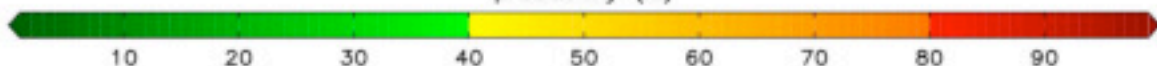
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



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

- **22 August 2014** – According to the United Nations envoy, Somali and African Union (AU) troops are preparing for a new assault on al-Shabaab held ports in a bid to end the multi-million dollar charcoal trade that continues to fund the militant group's activities. According to UN special representative in Somalia Nick Kay, al-Shabaab remains to be a powerful and dangerous threat for Somalia and the Horn of Africa region despite the militant group losing a string of towns to the 22,000-strong AU mission in Somalia, AMISOM. The southern port of Barawe is now one of the few major settlements that remains under their control. According to Kay, al-Shabaab continue to generate at least US \$25 million a year from charcoal, which is mainly exported to Gulf nations. Security sources have disclosed that the latest offensive is likely to launch early next month.
- **19 August 2014** – Security sources disclosed Tuesday that forces have arrested one of Somalia's most powerful piracy chiefs, who once hijacked vessels in waters of Somalia that earned him multi-million dollar ransoms. According to foreign and Somali security sources, Mohamed Garfanji was seized late Sunday in the capital city Mogadishu along with several of his well-armed bodyguards. While the internationally-backed government in Mogadishu has not made any official confirmations of the arrest, sources have confirmed that Garfanji is being held in police custody. Reports have surfaced that officials from the United States and the Seychelles want to question him for his alleged kidnapping of citizens from both nations. Last year, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamed offered amnesty to junior pirates in a bid to end attacks off the Horn of Africa nation's coast. At the time, the president specified that this amnesty was not open to the leaders of pirate gangs. It remains unclear whether Garfanji, who was arrested during a disarmament campaign and not for piracy, will receive any amnesty however several sources have noted that it is unlikely as the notoriously elusive pirate once commanded a small private army. The vessels that he captured during the height of Somali piracy allegedly include the South Korean supertanker Samho Dream, which was released after nine months in 2010 for a record nine million dollar ransom. Garfanji is not the first Somali pirate commander to be arrested. Last year, Belgian police arrested Mohamed Abdi Hassan after he landed in Brussels. He had been lured to Belgium in a sting operation, believing he was going to take part in a film on piracy, and was arrested on charges of kidnapping and piracy. While pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia have significantly diminished over the past few years, with international fleets patrolling the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean coupled with armed guards being posted aboard a majority of the vessels that transit the region, the threat of piracy remains as pirate action groups continue to approach vessels in an attempt to successfully hijack them. At the peak of Somali piracy in January 2011, pirates held 736 hostages and 32 boats, with some hostages held onshore and others on board their vessels. Today, Somali pirates continue to hold at least thirty-seven hostages but no major ships. Despite the establishment of an internationally-backed government in Mogadishu, Somalia's central government does not control the key areas where pirate gangs are known to operate. Their operational grounds are largely located along the northern coastal Puntland region.
- **18 August 2014** – On Monday, Somalia's journalist union urged the government to ensure a fair trial for three journalists who were arrested last week when security forces in the capital city stormed a major radio station after it carried out "negative" broadcasts. The three include radio station owner Abdimalik Yusuf Mohamud, Sky FM director Mohamud Mohamed Dahri and Shabelle deputy news editor Ahmed Abdi Hassan. A statement released by the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) disclosed that the

journalists have been accused of “incitement,” adding, “the charges against them have not been publicly released.” Reports emerged Monday that Radio Shabelle and its sister station Sky FM were closed down Friday. While sixteen workers, including journalists, technicians and guards were released on Sunday, the station remains off the air. In recent years, the government has briefly shut Radio Shabelle at least three times. It has also been threatened by al-Shabaab fighters over its reporting, with several of its journalists, including two of its directors, killed by suspected militants.

Regional Reporting

- **23 August 2014** – A group of suspected al-Shabaab militants have beheaded a Kenyan driver after they kidnapped a group of traders near the Kenyan resort island of Lamu. According to police officials, the militants kidnapped the traders on Wednesday and took them to the dense Boni forest area in Lamu country, adding that the militants later released three of them, who were Muslims, and beheaded the driver, who was a Christian. Local police officials confirmed that the body of the victim was found in the forest on Friday, adding that the survivors had reported that the attackers were well armed and had identified them as al-Shabaab members who were on a mission to fight security forces in Kenya. Since mid-June, Lamu has been targeted by several attacks, which have left scores dead. These attacks have also fueled divisions on the coast.
- **22 August 2014** – A senior Kenyan police official disclosed Friday that a Somali man, currently in Kenyan police custody, has admitted that he is Hassan Hanafi who is wanted in Somalia for the killing of a number of journalists. According to the Kenyan police official the man, who was arrested in early August, admitted after weeks of interrogation that he is Hanafi. At the time of his arrest, he had identified himself as Yusuf Hassan Abdisalam Yusuf. Sources have indicated that authorities in Kenya now plan to seek Hanafi’s deportation orders from the courts. Shortly after his arrest, the Somali government requested that he be extradited back to Somalia for prosecution once his true identity was confirmed. It has taken several weeks to confirm his identity as he had Kenyan identification documents. He later admitted that he had fraudulently acquired Kenyan identification documents. Finger print identification was not possible as Somalia has few records due to decades of conflict. According to officials Hanafi entered Kenya on March 14, seeking treatment for old wounds he had sustained from a bombing of an airstrip in 2011, which left him badly scarred with shrapnel. Hanafi is a senior member of al-Shabaab and is wanted for the killings of journalists and civilians.
- **20 August 2014** – In the on-going trial of four men accused of helping gunmen in last year’s attack on the Westgate shopping center in Nairobi, Kenyan police on Wednesday produced a small arsenal of weapons that were recovered after the four day siege. In court on Wednesday, police firearm expert Lawrence Nthiwa produced a report detailing the weapons “recovered from the terrorist attack” in the wreckage of the upmarket mall, which included remains of eight damaged assault rifles. While the arms were displayed in court, the firearm expert warned that so far, it has not been possible to determine if the rifles examined had belonged to the attackers, believed to have numbered just four, or whether they were from security forces who spent days in firefights with the militants, trying to end the siege. Nthiwa further disclosed that he had examined evidenced that had been gathered after the four-day siege, which included almost a thousand spent cartridge cases as well as fired bullets, noting “these exhibits were recovered from bodies of victims

and scene of the crime.” The slow moving trial, which opened in Nairobi in January, has so far heard evidence from thirty-five witnesses, including people who were at the mall when gunmen from Somalia’s al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab launched their attack last September, killing at least sixty-seven people. Ten more witnesses are expected to give evidence. While the four suspects - Hussein Hassan Mustafa, Mohammed Ahmed Abdi, Liban Abdullah Omar and Adam Mohammed Abdikadir – have not been accused of carrying out the attack, they have been accused of providing support to the terrorists and have been charged with conspiracy to commit a terrorist attack, being members of a terrorist group and possessing material linked to the terrorism offence. Like the attackers, the four on trial are all ethnic Somalis however it remains unclear whether they are Somali or Kenyan citizens. Sources have indicated that two of the accused previously worked as Islamic teachers while the two others are businessmen. Days after the attack, al-Shabaab disclosed that the gunmen had come from a special suicide commando brigade, adding that the attack was a warning to Kenya to pull its troops out of southern Somalia, where they are fighting the extremist group as part of an African Union (AU) force.

- **18 August 2014** – A new report released by the Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Monday has disclosed that following a string of attacks in the country, Kenya’s internationally funded anti-terrorism police have carried out a series of killings and “enforced disappearances.” According to the HRW’s deputy Africa director Leslie Lefkow, “Kenyan counter-terrorism forces appear to be killing and disappearing people right under the noses of top government officials, major embassies and the United Nations,” adding “this horrendous conduct does not protect Kenyans from terrorism – it simply undermines the rule of law.” Officials at HRW have also revealed that they have documented evidence of “at least 10 cases of killings, 10 cases of enforced disappearances, and 11 cases of mistreatment or harassment of terrorism suspects.” Several Muslim clerics have been shot dead on the coast, including radical leaders who have been accused of backing Somalia’s al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab insurgents. While police officials have blamed these killings on local gangs, many civilians believe that these clerics have been targeted by Kenya’s police. The report further states, “donors need to carry out their own investigations of these abuses and suspend their assistance to abusive forces, or risk being complicit in Kenya’s culture of impunity.” According the HRW, the unit receives funding from both the United Kingdom and the United States, revealing that in 2012, Washington provided US \$19 million. Kenya’s Anti-Terrorism Police Unit (ATPU) was set up in 2003 following a bomb attack on the US embassy in Nairobi in 1998 and on an Israeli-owned hotel in Mombasa in 2002. Since the country joined forces in Somalia to battle al-Shabaab, Kenya has been hit by a series of deadly attacks.

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **14 August 2014 (Late Report)** – Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored vessel at 0005 LT in position 04:44S – 011:48E, Pointe Noire Anchorage, The Congo. Alert crewmembers on board the vessel raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Expect partly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **21 August 2014** – China-flagged container ship, Kota Juta, attempted a boarding and robbery at 0440 LT, approximately 9 nautical miles northwest of Pulau Karimumbesar in Malacca/Singapore Straits. No further details have been released.
- **19 August 2014** – Panama-flagged tanker, Challenge Procyon, boarded and robbed at 0405 LT, approximately 23 nautical miles northwest of Bintan Island, South China Sea. No further details have been released.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

SOUTH AMERICA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **14 August 2014 (Late Report)** – Robbers using a rowboat boarded a locked yacht at around 0300 in St George's outside lagoon, Grenada. Items stolen included personal electronics. This incident, along with three other boarding's and thefts on the same night and in the same anchorage were reported to the Coast Guard. Local police are investigating the incidents. A total of four boats were victimized in this anchorage over night.



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