

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.

MS Risk is always mindful and compliant to legislation and guidelines on the use of private security services including, but not limited to the US FCPA (1977), UK Bribery Act (2010), Canadian Bill C-48 (2007), ASX 8 Corporate Governance Principles, and the World Bank/IFC Voluntary Principles on the Use of Government and Private Security Forces. MS Risk is a signatory of the Swiss government's International Code of Conduct. It is transparent and compliant to market expectations on legal and ethical conduct in the performance of services.

MS Risk has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

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

24 hr Contact Information:

Email: operations@msrisk.com
Telephone: +44 207 754 3555

Summary (September 1 - 7, 2014 - Week 36; Edition 53)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

Gulf of Guinea/West Africa: Two late reported incidents

Somalia-Indian Ocean: Four incidents reported

Southeast Asia: One late reported hijacking

South America: No incidents reported

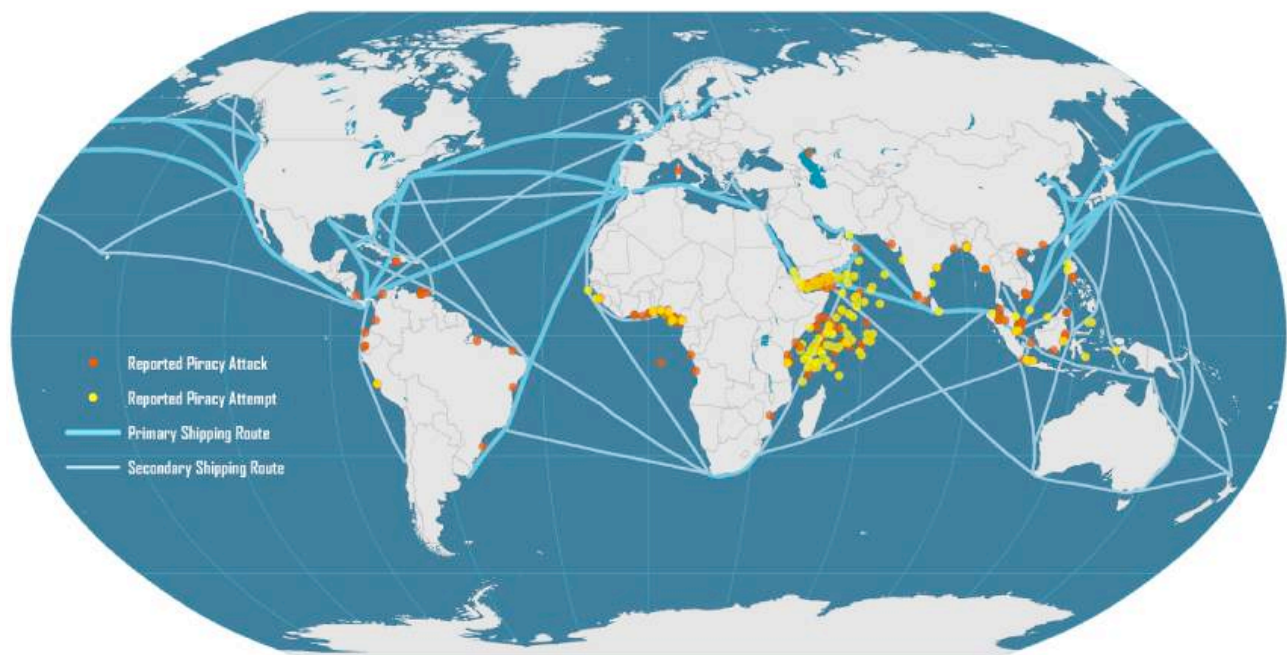
North America: No current incidents to report

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:

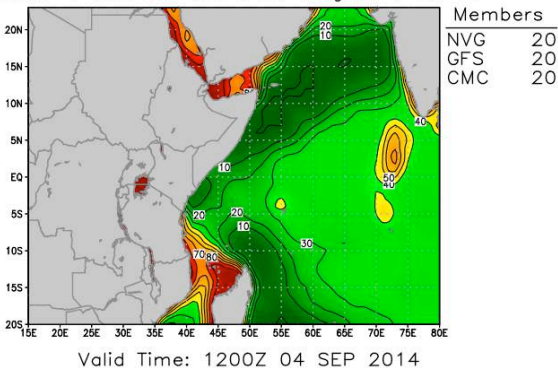
- **5 September 2014** – At 0700 UTC in position 24:55 N – 060:46E three white-hulled skiffs approached a vessel to within 0.6 nautical miles. The skiffs carried 2 – 3 pirates on board wearing green or black clothing. The vessel operated hoses and the skiffs departed in a northern direction towards the SoH. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.
- **4 September 2014** – At 0645 UTC in position 28:24N – 050:11E, 3 grey and orange-hulled speed boats approached a vessel's starboard quarter to within 1.2 nautical miles. Each boat contained two pirates on board wearing black clothing and were reported armed with a machine-gun that was partially covered by a tarpaulin. The vessel's Master conducted evasive maneuvers while being followed for 5 – 10 minutes, after which the skiffs headed in a westerly direction. Vessel and crewmembers are safe.
- **2 September 2014** – At 0800 UTC, in position 12:34N – 043:30E, two white and yellow skiffs approached a vessel at 18 knots tow within 0.4 nautical miles on the port beam. The skiffs halted their approach after the embarked armed security team displayed their weapons. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.
- **1 September 2014** – At 0441 UTC, in position 12:31N – 04:33.2E, a vessel reported being approached by four white skiffs each containing 4 – 6 pirates on board. Travelling at 18 knots, the skiffs approached the vessel to within 0.5 nautical miles from astern, 1 nautical mile off the bow and 1 nautical mile to port. The onboard armed security team displayed their weapons, resulting in the skiffs moving away. Vessel and crewmembers are reported safe.

Weather Analysis

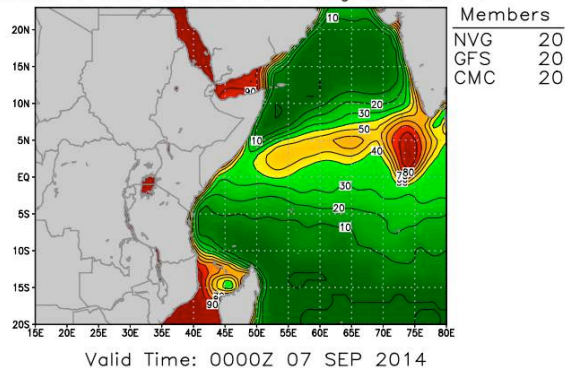
- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf winds will be southwesterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – 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.
 - **Extended Forecast** – 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 westerly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Somali Coast** – Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 9 – 11 feet; with southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 11 – 13 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet; with southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 10 – 12 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – South-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 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 8 – 10 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 7 – 9 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 7 – 11 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 season continues to influence the weather in the region. A thermally induced low pressure over the region will continue to influence wind flow throughout the Arabian Gulf.

Sea Conditions for the Following Week

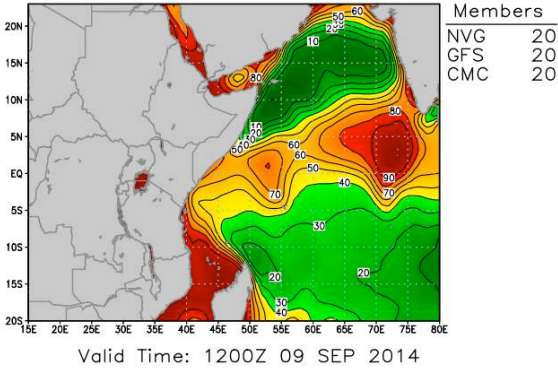
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



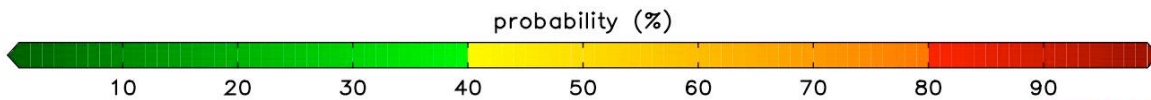
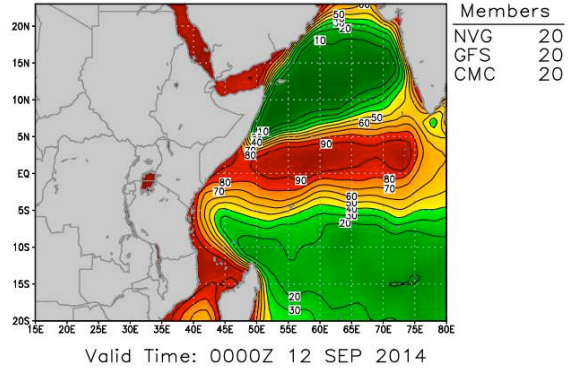
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



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

- **6 September 2014** – On Saturday, al-Shabaab confirmed that their leader Ahmed Abdi Godane died in a US air strike. In a brief statement, Abdulaziz Abu Musab, al-Shabaab's military spokesman, confirmed "the Shabaab leader has been killed by a US drone on Monday alongside two other comrades." The spokesman did not say if the group had appointed a new leader. This is the first official confirmation from al-Shabaab as throughout the past week, the militant group had refused to confirm or deny reports of Godane's death. The confirmation comes just one day after Pentagon officials confirmed that Godane was killed in a Monday attack in which US drones and manned aircraft rained Hellfire missiles and laser-guided bombs on a gathering of al-Shabaab commanders. **Update (6 September 2014)** - Al-Shabaab has named Ahmad Umar as successor to former leader Ahmed Abdi Godane, who was killed in a US air strike at the beginning of the week. The group announced the move in an online statement, vowing to take revenge for Godane's death. While little is known about Ahmad Umar, who is also known as Abu Ubaidah, Abu Mohammed, one of al-Shabaab's commanders, has disclosed that the decision to appoint him was unanimous.
 - Somalia's government warned Saturday that al-Shabaab was likely planning a wave of retaliatory attacks after it was confirmed that their leader was killed earlier this week in a US air strike. National Security Minister Kalif Ahmed Ereg told reporters "security agencies have obtained information indicating that al-Shabaab is now planning to carry out desperate attacks against medical facilities, education centers and other government facilities," adding "the security forces are ready to counter their attacks and we call on people to help the security forces in standing against violent acts." Over the past few years, Godane had been fighting to overthrow the war-torn country's internationally backed government, carrying out a wave of bombings and assassinations. It is likely that the militant group will continue such attacks in the coming weeks.
- **4 September 2014** – Somalia's army disclosed Thursday that Somali and African troops have captured a new town from al-Shabaab in their on-going offensive. A statement released by the African Union mission in Somalia (AMISOM) indicated that troops on Wednesday seized the town of Jalalaqsi, located 150 kilometers (90 miles) north of Mogadishu, adding, "al-Shabaab militants did not mount any serious battle and fled the town as Somali army and AMISOM forces entered." In previous offensives carried out by AU and Somali troops, al-Shabaab fighters often fled before the main offensive, only to return later to stage guerrilla-style attacks. Despite being removed from Mogadishu, al-Shabaab fighters continue to launch deadly attacks on the capital city. It is likely that al-Shabaab fighters will return to the areas recently captured by AU and Somalia forces in a bid to either terrorize the local residents or to attempt to recapture them. Somali army chief Dhair Adan Elmi confirmed the capture of Jalalaqsi noting, "the momentum will continue until the terrorism threat is dealt with." The military advance, known as "Operation Indian Ocean," is aimed at seizing key ports from the militant group and cutting off one of their key sources of revenue – the multi-million dollar export of charcoal. The capture of Jalalaqsi, which is located in the Hiran region, was on a separate front from the main advance, which is focusing on the coastal regions southwest of Mogadishu. The capture of Jalalaqsi comes three days after a US missile strike that targeted a convoy believed to be carrying al-Shabaab chief Ahmed Abdi Godane. His fate however remains unclear. While security sources have disclosed that his death is a "very strong probability," al-Shabaab officials have so far refused to confirm or deny the reports.

- Government troops along with African Union forces seized new areas in Galgadud region on Thursday. According to on the ground sources, the forces captured the localities of Eel Garas and Eel Lahelay. The district commissioner of Eel-buur confirmed that al-Shabaab militants withdrew from the localities before joint forces reached the area, adding that the troops are now conducting operations in the area in a bid to maintain security.
- **3 September 2014** – The United States military on Tuesday confirmed that it carried out air strikes in Somalia, which targeted the leader of al-Shabaab. On Wednesday, a US security source reported that the death of the leader of al-Shabaab in a US air strike carried out Monday night is a “very strong probability,” however still unconfirmed. According to the source, “there is a very strong probability that he is dead.... This requires verification on the ground, which is not simple.” A senior Somali security official has echoed this comment, stating “we believe that the Shabaab leader is dead, though we don’t have his body. Most probably he is dead.” The source further indicated that he believes that al-Shabaab is currently “talking about a successor” however Somali security officials are “...still assessing the situation.” On Tuesday, officials at the Pentagon confirmed the operation, which was carried out by US Special Forces using manned and unmanned aircraft, however they noted that it remained unclear whether al-Shabaab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane was hit. Abdukadir Mohamed Nur, governor of southern Somalia’s Lower Shabelle region confirmed, “the Americans carried out a major air strike targeting a gathering by senior al-Shabaab officials, including their leader...” According to Mr Nur, although al-Shabaab fighters had largely fled the area in the face of the AMISOM offensive that began Friday, the US airstrikes targeted al-Shabaab commanders as they gathered for a meeting “...to discuss the current offensive in the region.” A spokesman for al-Shabaab has disclosed that Godane was in one of two vehicles hit by the US military strikes. While the spokesman confirmed that six of the group’s fighters were killed in the attack, which occurred 240 km (150 miles) south of the capital Mogadishu, he did not confirm whether Godane was among those killed. According to Abu Mohammed, the group’s leader had been travelling in the convoy, which was on its way to the coastal town of Barawe, however he has refused to confirm whether Godane was among the victims. On Monday, local citizens reported hearing three loud explosions and seeing black smoke rise from the area of the attack. Others have reported that there was a brief exchange of fire that occurred immediately after the explosions took place. Local residents also reported that shortly after the US strikes, a number of masked Islamic militants arrested dozens of people who they suspected of spying for the US, and searched a number of nearby homes. Monday’s attack came just hours after a senior US army commander visited Mogadishu, where he held talks with Somali military chiefs. It also comes at a time when African Union (AU) troops and Somali government forces have launched new operations to push al-Shabaab out of the remaining areas they control. Sources have indicated that the troops are now closing in on the coastal city of Barawe, which has been the main stronghold of al-Shabaab since they were driven out of Kismayo in 2012. The US strikes also come just one day after al-Shabaab attacked a detention center in Mogadishu in an apparent effort to free other militants detained there. If Godane has been killed, his death will likely deal a significant blow to the militant group. According to Rear Adm John Kirby, Godane has no heir apparent and his death would be a “significant blow” to al-Shabaab’s organization and abilities. Some however believe that Godane’s death could also lead to a complete shift in the group’s ideology, noting that they may abandon its association al-Qaeda and align itself with another terrorist group in a bid to garner more international attention. While last September, al-Shabaab gained international notoriety after its militants attacked the upscale Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, killing at least 67 people, in recent

months, the militant group's activities have largely been overshadowed by those carried out by Nigeria's Boko Haram and the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria and Iraq. With the death of Godane, some commanders may look towards putting in place a new leader that will garner momentum and international attention for the militant group. There are also reports of a rift within al-Shabaab over which global terror group to align with. Godane's death, if confirmed, could lead to further splits within the group. Godane, 37, was reportedly trained in Afghanistan with the Taliban and took over the leadership of al-Shabaab in 2008 after then chief Adan Hashi Ayro was killed by a US missile attack. Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri has recognized Godane as the head of the "mujahedeen" in East Africa, however letters released after Osama Bin Laden's death have indicated that the Islamist leader had a lower regard for al-Shabaab's capabilities. Godane is one of the US State Department's most wanted men, with a US \$7 million (£4.2 million) reward for his capture. In recent years, the US has carried out a number of air strikes in Somalia, targeting those areas controlled by the militant group. In January, a missile strike killed a high-ranking intelligence officer for al-Shabaab while last October, a vehicle carrying senior members of the group was hit in a US attack that killed al-Shabaab's top explosives expert. **Update (5 September 2014)** – Officials at the Pentagon confirmed Friday that US air strikes carried out earlier in the week killed al-Shabaab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane. Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm John Kirby confirmed that military action on 1 September had "led to his death." Sources have now revealed that the African Union force supported the US. A statement issued by the White House press secretary described al-Shabaab as the "largest al-Qaeda affiliate in Africa," noting that Godane's death "reflects years of painstaking work by our intelligence, military and law enforcement professionals." US officials have not specified how Godane's death was confirmed however in previous similar cases, US intelligence agencies have tested DNA samples. While the death of Godane will likely deal a severe blow to al-Shabaab, US officials have vowed to keep up the pressure on al-Shabaab fighters, stating that they "will continue to use the tools at our disposal – financial, diplomatic, intelligence and military – to address the threat that al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups pose to the United States and the American people." Since taking charge of al-Shabaab in 2008, Godane restyled the group, developing it into a global player within the al-Qaeda network. Since then, al-Shabaab has carried out numerous bombings and suicide attacks in Somalia, and elsewhere, including the 21 September 2013 attacks on the Westgate shopping center in Nairobi, Kenya. His death now leaves a gap within al-Shabaab's leadership, with on the ground sources reporting that there is no apparent heir. This gap will likely lead to a struggle for power and a likely fragmentation within the group amongst those who are domestically focused and those who are aspiring to be international terrorists.

- A spokesman for Somalia's government disclosed Wednesday that local officials are attempting to verify whether the leader of al-Shabaab was killed or wounded in a US air strike carried out late Monday. Abdiwali Ridwaan indicated that the government is "in the process" of verifying who was hit in the attack Monday night, noting that officials are certain the strikes hit "a gathering" of al-Shabaab leaders. Ridwaan also praised US support in the war against al-Shabaab, whose leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on an upscale mall in Nairobi, Kenya one year ago. US officials confirmed Tuesday that the strikes, conducted by special operations forces using manned and unmanned aircraft, targeted Godane. Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman, indicated that the US had launched the operation based on "actionable" intelligence.
- Al-Shabaab militants have reportedly attacked a convoy carrying food aid to residents of the town of Buloburde, in Somalia's central Hiran region. According to on the ground sources, African Union

forces and Somali government troops were escorting the convoy to Buloburde when it came under attack. Hiran Governor Abdifatah Hassan Afrah, who was travelling with the convoy, confirmed the attack, adding that the allied forces killed seven al-Shabaab fighters. According to the Governor, the incident occurred in an area between the villages of Nur Fanah and Garsani in the Hiran region. One government soldier was killed in the incident.

Domestic News

- **7 September 2014** – On Sunday, the Somali government dismissed the country’s intelligence chief after less than two months in the job. According to government spokesman Ridwan Haji Abdiweli, “cabinet members gathered for a session this morning to discuss several issues including security, and during their session, the cabinet fired the chief of intelligence for failing to fulfill his commitments.” While the spokesman declined to provide further details pertaining to the decision, despite the appointment of a new intelligence chief, al-Shabaab militants have continued to stage high profile attacks in the capital, including against the parliament and more recently the national intelligence headquarters. According to security sources, there have also been increased concerns that the militant group has been able to re-establish a foothold in parts of the capital city. The intelligence chief, Abdulahi Mohamed Ali, had been appointed as part of a major overhaul of security services in July in the wake of an attack on the presidential palace in Mogadishu that was carried out by al-Shabaab. The Somali government has not revealed who will take the post of intelligence chief.
- **5 September 2014** – On Friday Somalia’s president thanked the United States for carrying out air strikes that killed the leader of al-Shabaab. A statement released by the office of Somalia’s internationally-backed President Hassan Sheikh Mohamed disclosed “the Somali government thanks the US government and individuals and the Somali security forces who helped the operation,” adding “after cooperation between the Somali and the American government during this week, the American forces targeted a convoy transporting the al-Shabaab terrorist group leader Ahmed Abdi Godane and some of his coworkers.” The president’s office confirmed, “...that no one in that convoy survived the attack.” Earlier in the week, the Somali president called on al-Shabaab fighters to lay down their arms, offering them a 45-day amnesty and noting “while an extreme hardcore may fight over the new leadership of al-Shabaab, this is a chance for the majority of members to change course and reject Godane’s decision to make them the pawns of an international terror campaign.” Al-Shabaab has yet to comment on the death of its leader.
- **3 September 2014** – Amidst continuing uncertainty over whether al-Shabaab’s leader survived a recent US air strike, Somalia’s government has offered an amnesty to fighters of the militant group. A statement released Wednesday, following a Cabinet-level security meeting on Tuesday, indicated that the militants would be reintegrated into society if they surrendered over the next forty-five days. The offer appears to be an attempt to exploit a period of vulnerability for the militant group in the wake of Monday’s air strike as well as recent operations to remove them from power. Late on Monday, the US carried out air strikes as al-Shabaab leader Ahmed Abdi Godane was travelling in a convoy in southern Somalia’s Lower Shabelle region. While on the ground sources have reported that the convoy was hit by the strikes, the militant group has refused to say whether its leader survived. Witnesses also reported that US troops landed at the site soon after the strike, taking away several bodies after a fierce gun battle. In recent weeks, al-Shabaab has been under pressure from African Union (AU) forces and government troops who recently launched a

ground offensive in a bid to recapture territory. Over the past week, al-Shabaab has lost control of four towns, with AU and government forces now advancing towards the coastal town of Barawe, which is the main base of the militants.

Regional Reporting

- **3 September 2014** – Four Somalis, who are currently being held in prison in Kenya on terrorism charges linked to last year’s Westgate shopping center attacks, have indicated that they have been beaten for refusing to wear prison uniforms. Nine other Somali suspects, who are facing different terrorism charges, have also claimed to have been seriously beaten by prison guards. According to sources close to the case, the incident occurred last week when the suspects refused to wear uniforms that are normally required for convicted inmates serving a prison sentence in Kenya. A defense lawyer for the men has disclosed that following the complaints, he is now increasingly concerned for their health and about the risk of physical abuse from other inmates. Mwaniki Gachomo has indicated, “the number of the injured accused persons is quite large and our main concern is...whether they are getting medical attention.” Prison authorities have not made any comments about claims. The on-going trial involving the four suspects has yet to establish any evidence that they were involved in helping the gunmen during last September’s four-day shopping center siege. The four men face charges of conspiracy to commit terrorist attacks, membership of a terrorist organization and possessing materials linked to terrorism offences. So far, more than thirty-five witnesses have appeared at the trial with at least another ten expected to give evidence.

Map



GULF OF GUINEA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **27 August 2014 (Late Report)** – Twelve armed pirates boarded a drifting product Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker, SP Boston, near position 04:43N – 003:30W, 45 nautical miles southeast of Abidjan, Ivory Coast. While holding the crewmembers hostage, they stole money, personal belongings and equipment from the ship. Before departing the vessel, the pirates destroyed the vessels navigation system. The crewmembers were not injured during the attack.
- **26 August 2014 (Late Report)** – Seven pirates armed with guns in a five meter long skiff fired upon an underway Panama-flagged product tanker, Huascar, near position 04:08N – 005:33E, 24 nautical miles southwest of the Bayelsa State coastal area. The tanker increased speed and commenced evasive maneuvering. The pirates attempted to board the tanker however their rope ladder fell into the sea. The pirates subsequently aborted their attack and departed the area.

Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Expect partly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

At Sea

Hijacks:

- **28 August 2014 (Late Report)** – Six armed pirates hijacked the Thailand-flagged oil product tanker, V.L., approximately 30 nautical miles north of Pulau Tioman. The vessel was en route from Singapore to Bangkok. The pirates boarded from the stern. They broke the bridge glass, gained access to the crew cabins, and gathered the crewmembers in the engine room. The pirates took control of the vessel, sailed about 10 nautical miles away from the location of boarding and then ordered the crew to open all cargo valves, activate the cargo pump and transfer the oil to two tankers that came alongside the vessel. The pirates also stole the crewmembers' personal belongings, damaged the navigational and communication systems before departing the vessel on 29 August. The crew was able to sail towards a safe report where they reported the incident. No crew members were reported injured.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **27 August 2014** –

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.



South Suite, Ragnall House, 18 Peel Road
Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 4LZ

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555

www.msrisk.com

Directors

S.J. Bingham, V.K. Prentice, P.O.J Tracy

Registered in the Isle of Man No. 007435V