

# MS | RISK

## Global Piracy Report

Detailed Weekly Piracy Report Focusing on the Horn of Africa, Gulf of Guinea, Southeast Asia and South America; and Reporting of On - The - Ground in 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 has a dedicated team of researchers, a 24/7 hotline service and a pool of trained and experienced consultants to support client needs.

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- Security Consulting
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  - Due diligence and investigations.
- Project Management
  - Interim security
  - Training
  - Special assignments
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  - Crisis management
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  - 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](http://www.msrisk.com)

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## Summary (September 22 - 28, 2014 - Week 39; Edition 56)

### List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

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

**Somalia-Indian Ocean:** Two reported incidents during this period

**Southeast Asia:** One hijacking reported; and one incident reported during this period

**South America:** No incidents reported during this period

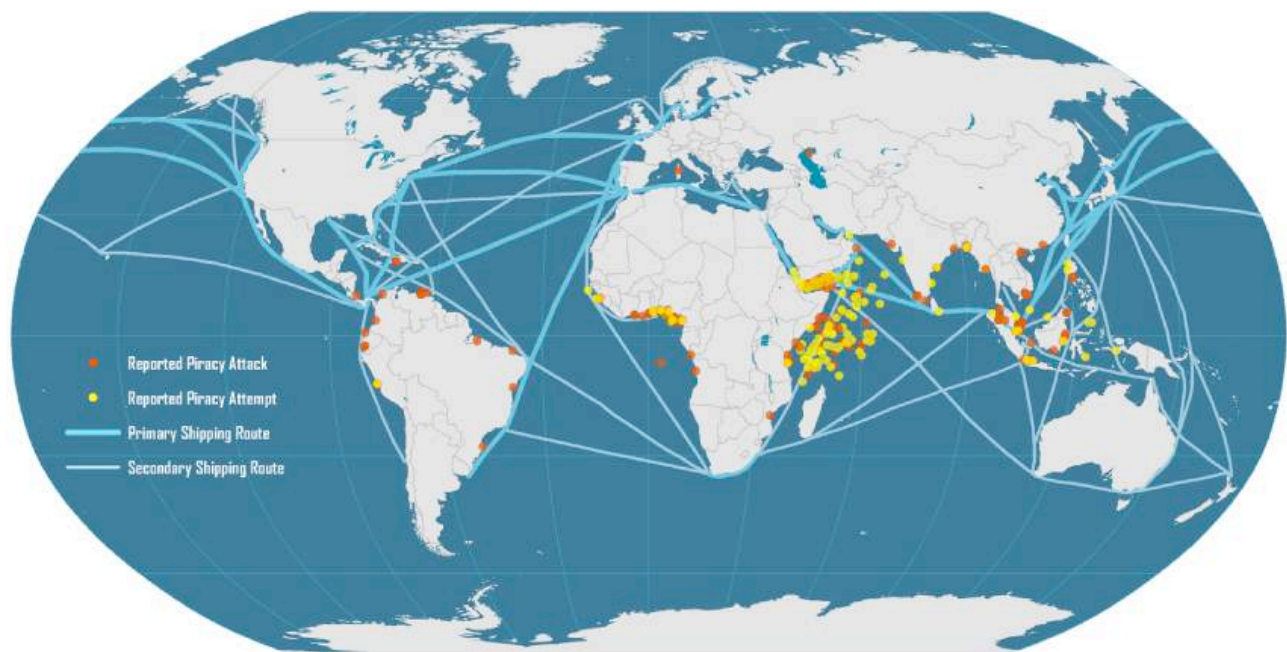
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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

## Executive Summary

While there has been no successful hijacking of a vessel transiting the region in over two years, the threat of piracy remains high as Pirate Attack Groups (PAG's) continue to approach vessels in a bid to attack and hijack them.

Masters are advised to remain vigilant at all times inside the High Risk Area (HRA) and are advised to adhere to strict guidance and protective measures as set down in BMP4. Sailing yachts should avoid transiting the HRA. Past activity has demonstrated that pirates will attack both large and small yachts transiting this region. While successful attacks and hijackings of merchant vessels have significantly decreased over the past two years, the possibility of attacks and the successful hijacking of sailing vessels continue to remain high. This is due to the reduction of revenue sources from pirated merchant vessels and the fact that sailing yachts are vulnerable and easier targets. PAG's continue to conduct "soft approaches" on merchant ships transiting the area. Skiffs have approached vessels in order to probe the reaction of the crewmembers and any possible Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) onboard. If the pirate approach does not elicit a response, the pirates will likely proceed with an attack, in which additional skiffs may participate.

The southwest monsoon (SW) season continues to dominate the area, causing gusty winds and high waves. With waves off the east coast of Somalia up to 8 feet and winds gusting up to 25 knots, unfavorable conditions from the SW monsoon are expected to continue. Single skiffs and whalers will likely find it difficult to operate in waters off the coast of Somalia however PAG's using mothership dhows will likely retain their capabilities of conducting operations throughout this monsoonal season. There will likely be an increase of skiffs around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden regions, as they areas will be minimally affected by the monsoon conditions.

## At Sea

### Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

**Suspicious Activity:**

- **26 September 2014** – MV reported being approached to within 1 – 2 cables by 8 – 9 skiffs who followed the vessel for approximately 1.5 hours at 2126 UTC in position 13:05.18N – 043:05.30E. Due to the darkness, the MV was unable to accurately identify any distinguishing features or confirm sightings of weapons or ladders. Embarked armed security team fired warning shots, resulting in the skiffs breaking away at 2257 UTC. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.
- **25 September 2014** – Vessel reported being approached to within 20 meters astern by 1 skiff at 1253 UTC in position 26:15N – 056:45E. Grey skiff approximately 10 meters in length was carrying 3 pirates on board. Weapons, along with a rope and hook, were sighted on board the skiff. MV with no armed security team on board, alerted all vessels in the vicinity, applied self-protection measures, increased speed and carried out evasive steering. The skiff eventually broke off. The incident lasted for a total of 1.5 hours. Vessel and crewmembers are reported safe. Although this is being reported as a suspected piracy, due to the high numbers of trafficking in this area, it equally could have been traffickers that were observed.



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## Weather Analysis

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Southeast 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 southeasterly at 10 – 15 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – East-southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with westerly 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 westerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – South-southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet; with southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 10 – 12 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
  - **Extended Forecast** – South-southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet; with southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – Southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 13 – 17 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Variable winds of 3 – 5 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southerly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 8 – 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 influences the weather in the region. A weakening pressure gradient over the Arabian Gulf will lead to a decrease in wind flow and will remain mostly light with minimal seas throughout the Arabian Gulf. Restricted visibility is expected. This is due to mist in the southern Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

## On the Ground Analysis

- **25 September 2014** – According to on the ground sources, at least five people have died in Somalia in clashes between pirates fighting over a ransom that was recently paid for a released hostage. Sources have indicated that the gunfight broke out in the central town of Galkayo on Thursday afternoon, just days after journalist Michael Scott Moore was released after nearly three years in captivity. While it remains unclear as to who exactly was holding Moore, sources have revealed that the clashes began after a long argument about how the ransom should be divided. Four men and a woman were killed in the incident, with police official Mohamed Hassan indicating that a top pirate commander was amongst those killed.
- **23 September 2014** - On Tuesday Somali pirates freed a German-American journalist after holding him for two and a half years. According to a Somali source, a ransom payment was made to free Michael Scott Moore. No details about the payment, or the amount, have been released. The deputy governor of Mudug region, Ahmed Muse Nur, confirmed "the journalist was released and handed over to Puntland authorities today and he was flown from Galkayo airport." Mudug is located in the north-central semi-autonomous state of Puntland, where Moore was kidnapped in January 2012. The region has become a popular hub for pirates as the area is not controlled by neither the Somali government nor al-Shabaab militants. **Update (24 September 2014)** - A pirate commander disclosed Wednesday that negotiators paid US \$1.6 million ransom for the release of German-American journalist who was kidnapped nearly three years ago. According to the German Foreign Ministry, Michael Scott Moore is "doing well" and receiving medical treatment. Moore was flown to Kenya's capital City after being freed on Tuesday. According to sources, a special German Foreign Ministry crisis group and German federal police had worked "very closely" with US authorities to have Moore freed after he was kidnapped on 21 January 2012 while researching a book on piracy.

## Regional Reporting

- **24 September 2014** – Kenyan authorities disclosed Wednesday that they will close down Islamic schools and madrassas teaching radical doctrines in a bid to combat the growing threat of terrorism. According to officials, at least one madrassa in Machakos, which is located 60 kilometers (37 miles) southeast of the capital city Nairobi, has already been closed after thirty youths were detained on suspicion of being recruited to join al-Shabaab. Ndegwa Muhoro, director of Criminal Investigations Department revealed that officials are "...targeting religious schools that teach jihadism, and those that have been recruiting youths for radicalization." Security officials have revealed that some madrassas in Nairobi, Mombasa and other major towns were being used as breeding grounds for radicalized youths who would later be recruited to join the Islamist fighters. Kenya's interior ministry spokesman Mwenda Njoka however has specified that officials "...are not targeting the Muslim community as this has been an ongoing operation," noting "we keep track on those religious schools and we have information that they are teaching radical doctrines to the youths. We are not closing down mosques." As the country commemorates the anniversary of last year's attack by al-Shabaab militants on Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall, which left 67 dead, security forces have been on high alert across the East African country, which in recent months has been hit by a string of attacks blamed on the insurgents.

- **23 September 2014** - On Tuesday the trial of four men charged with Kenya's Westgate massacre was hit by allegations from defense lawyers who indicated that the suspects had been assaulted while in detention. The complaints came as the slow-moving trial was again adjourned, with the magistrate out of the country attending a seminar. Court officials have disclosed that a new date for the resumption of the trial would be set early next month. On Tuesday defense lawyers indicated that the suspects were in poor shape following claims that they had been assaulted while in detention. According to one of the defense lawyers, Mwaniki Gachomo. "There are several theories. The prison authorities say the suspects were wounded as prison officers tried to quell a riot, but the suspects claim they were attacked by the prison guards," adding "the suspects were in court cells today with bandaged limbs, and there's an order to have them transferred to hospital for treatment." An official from the state-funded Kenya National Commission on Human Rights confirmed that a probe into the matter has been carried out and that a report on it's findings will be released soon. The trial in Nairobi opened in January of this year and has since heard evidence from people who were at the mall when al-Shabaab gunmen launched their attack last September, killing at least 67 people. While the suspects - Hussein Hassan Mustafa, Mohammed Ahmed Abdi, Liban Abdullah Omar and Adan Mohammed Abdikadir - are not accused of carrying out the attack, they have been accused of providing support to the terrorists. More than thirty-five witnesses have so far appeared at the trial, with at least ten more expected to give evidence.

## International Developments

- **21 September 2014** - German authorities disclosed Monday that they arrested two suspected members of al-Shabaab after they landed at Frankfurt airport Saturday. A statement released by the federal prosecutors office revealed that the men had been detained in Kenya last month and deported to Germany. The two suspects are alleged to have travelled to Somalia in 2012, where they took part in al-Shabaab operations. The men are identified as 30-year-old German-Tunisian dual citizen Mounir T. And 22-year-old German citizen Abdiwahid W. Their full names have not been released in keeping with German privacy laws. Earlier this month, German authorities arrested three other Germans also suspected of being al-Shabaab members. The latest arrest underline a growing issue that European nationals are travelling to places like Somalia, Syria and Iraq, where they take part in militant operations and then travel back to their home countries to either recruit members or to carry out terrorist attacks.



Map



## GULF OF GUINEA

### Executive Summary

While over the past week pirate and maritime crime activity in the Gulf of Guinea has remained at a low level, the threat of piracy and maritime crime remains high. Masters are reminded to remain vigilant at all times and in all regions of the Gulf of Guinea.

### At Sea

#### Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

#### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

### Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Expect partly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea.

## SOUTHEAST ASIA

### Executive Summary

The threat of violent attacks, crime and hijackings remains high in waters off Southeast Asia. Masters are therefore reminded to remain vigilant at all times in all regions, including at ports and anchorages. Attacks and robberies can occur at anytime.

Incidents involving the siphoning of oil/fuel have been on the rise in recent months. Masters are reminded to remain vigilant at all times and to report any incidents, suspicious activity, attacks or hijackings to the local authorities.

### At Sea

#### Hijacks:

- **22 September 2014** – Seven pirates armed with guns boarded a product tanker enroute to Penang and hijacked the vessel at 2130 LT in position 07:12N – 098:00E, around 38 nautical miles southwest of Phuket, Thailand. Pirates tied all crewmembers' hands, stole all the crew's cash and personal items. They transferred the ship bunker to their mother vessel. Once transfer was completed, the pirates cut off the vessels navigation and radio equipment and released the crew. The crew managed to sail the tanker to a safe port.

#### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **22 September 2014** – Six armed pirates boarded a Dominican Republic-flagged tanker, Ocean Osprey, enroute to Yangon Myanmar at 0106 LT in position 07:10N – 098:12E, around 34 nautical miles south-southwest of Phuket Island, Thailand. Pirates tied up the 2<sup>nd</sup> officer and duty AB on the bridge and mustered the rest of the crewmembers to the Mess Room. The 2<sup>nd</sup> officer managed to activate the SSAS alert unnoticed by the pirates, who later escaped after stealing all the crewmembers' personal effects and cash.

#### Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Executive Summary

While there have been no recent reported incidents in this region, the threat of violent attacks and robberies remains high in waters throughout South America. Masters are reminded to remain vigilant at all times and in all regions, including ports and anchorages. Attacks and robberies can occur at any time.

### At Sea

#### **Hijacks:**

- None reported during this period.

#### **Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:**

- None reported during this period.



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