

# 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

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  - Interim security
  - Training
  - Special assignments
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  - Crisis management
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- 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 (October 20 - 26, 2014 - Week 43; Edition 60)

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

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

**Somalia-Indian Ocean:** One incident and one late reported incident

**Southeast Asia:** One hijack; three reported incidents and three late reported incidents

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

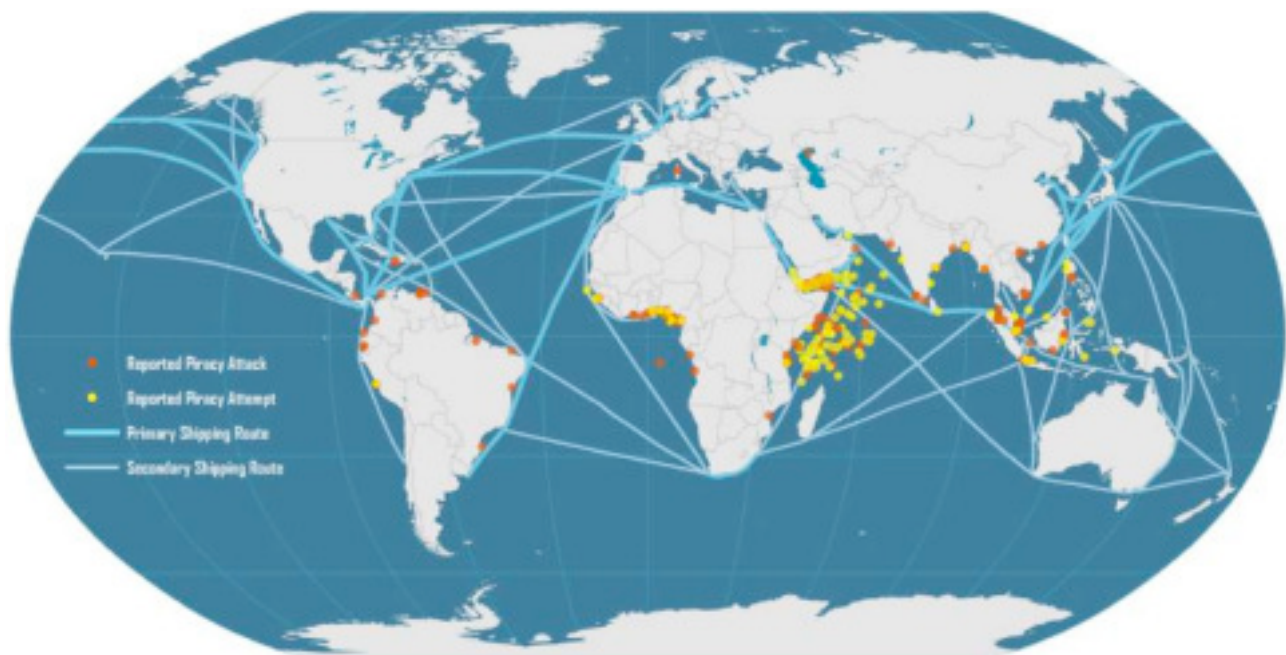
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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 season continues to dominate the area. 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:

- **20 October 2014** – MV AST reported a suspicious craft at 0800 UTC in the Gulf of Aden. The vessel reported seeing a medium sized white-hulled dhow towing 4 skiffs, making irregular movements along the IRTC. Vessels transiting this region are advised to remain vigilant at all times.

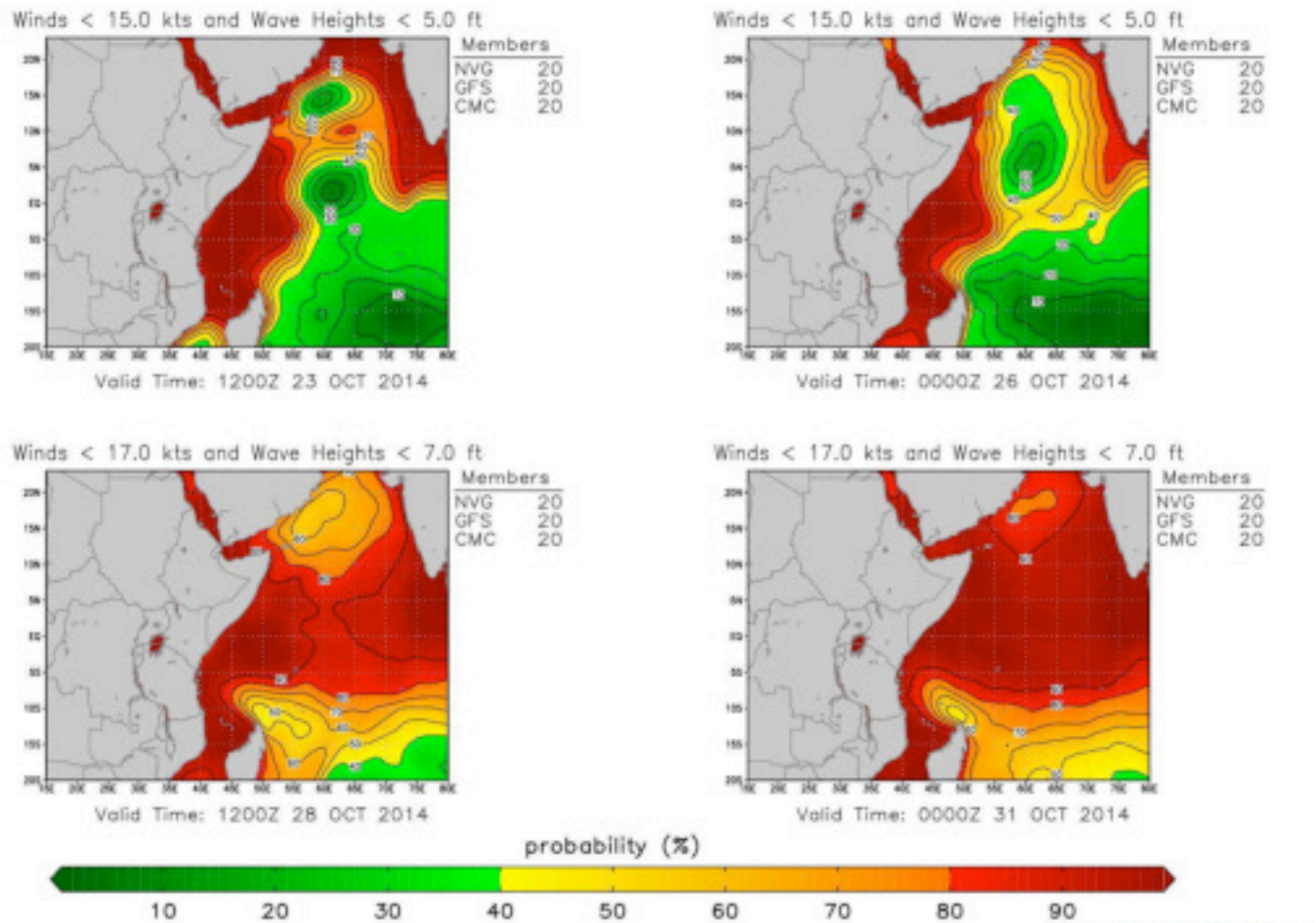
- **19 October 2014 (Late Report)** – MV reported being approached by 14 skiffs each with approximately 2 – 4 pirates on board coming to within 0.2 nautical miles at 1237 UTC in position 24:30N – 056:52E, Gulf of Oman. There was no confirmation of sightings of weapons, ladders or fishing gear. The vessel carried out evasive maneuvering, with the pursuit lasting for 20 minutes. Skiffs broke off after the vessel's embarked armed security team fired warning shots. Vessel and crewmembers on board have been reported safe.

## Weather Analysis

- **North Arabian Sea** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots with seas of 10 – 12 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southerly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be east-northeasterly at 7 – 12 knots with seas of 5 – 7 feet.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southeast winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – East-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – East-southeast winds of 10 – 15 knots with seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Southerly winds of 5 – 7 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be southerly at 5 – 7 knots with seas of 2 – 4 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 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 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 due to mist in the southern Arabian Gulf and Gulf of Oman is to be expected. A disturbance in the central Indian Ocean has the potential to form into a tropical cyclone over the next few days.



## Sea Conditions for the Following Week



\*\*\* 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 Reporting

- **25 October 2014** – At least one person was killed and several others wounded on Saturday after a car bomb exploded outside a hotel in Mogadishu. According to Somali police official, General Mohamed Yusuf Madale, the car bomb was detonated outside the Golden Hotel shortly after midday, “killing at least one person and injuring another one.” According to the police official, “the car belongs to a young man who lives in the hotel and now he is under arrest. Investigations are going on.” There was no immediate claim of responsibility however local officials have indicated that al-Shabaab militants are likely behind it as the militant group has recently carried out similar attacks in Mogadishu.
- **22 October 2014** – Al-Shabaab militants confirmed Wednesday that they stoned an 18-year-old to death for raping a woman at gunpoint in one of their remaining strongholds in the southern Lower Shabelle region. Sheikh Mohammed Abu Abdalla, the al-Shabaab governor for the Lower Shabelle region confirmed that the man was killed Tuesday, three days after he raped a 28-year-old woman at gunpoint in the outskirts of her village, adding that his death “...shows we have the power to sentence anyone who breaks Islamic law.” Despite losing territory to African Union (AU) troops and Somali government forces over the past several weeks, the militant group has been determined to demonstrate its authority over the areas that remain under its control.
- **20 October 2014** – Somali security forces have reported that they have arrested one of the country’s most powerful pirate chiefs, who once hijacked vessels transiting waters off the coast of the East African country that earned him multi-million dollar ransoms. According to foreign and Somali security sources, Mohamed Garfanji was seized in Mogadishu late Sunday along with several bodyguards. While there has been no official confirmation of his arrest by the Somali government, sources disclosed Monday that they could not confirm whether he was still in custody. Garfanji is reportedly wanted for questioning in the United States and the Seychelles over his alleged kidnapping of citizens from both countries. Amongst the vessels he allegedly captured was the South Korean supertanker *Samho Dream*, which was released in 2010 after being held in captivity for nine months. A record nine million dollar ransom was reportedly paid for the release of the vessel.

## Domestic News

- **24 October 2014** – On Friday, the United Nations Security Council will likely approve a resolution that will effectively allow inspections of vessels off the coast of Somalia that are suspected of carrying arms and charcoal, which is in violation of a UN embargo. The draft resolution will also demand that the Somali government provide a full accounting of the arms shipments that it has received after the weapons embargo was partially lifted last year. The Somali government will be required to report on the storage, distribution and use of all weapons by March 2015 and again in September 2015. If approved, the new measure will also allow countries to conduct unexpected inspections of vessels in Somali territorial waters and on the high seas over the next twelve months. The measure comes after a report, released by a UN monitoring group, which disclosed that charcoal exports, which finance al-Shabaab, were continuing as were weapons flow to the group. The UN Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea further disclosed that charcoal cargos continued to Gulf countries, including Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, in violation of the UN



embargo. Between June 2013 and May 2014, the UN monitoring group counted 161 vessels exporting charcoal from al-Shabaab-controlled sites to these countries. In 2012, the UN Security Council imposed an arms and charcoal embargo on Somalia. Last year it partially lifted a ban on weapons sold to the Mogadishu government in a bid to allow the country's forces to supply themselves with adequate weapons to battle al-Shabaab militants. UN monitors however have since reported that some of the weapons initially sold to the Somali army fell into dubious hands, with some sources disclosing that some weapons shipments were distributed to clans linked to the Somali government. The monitoring group has also revealed that some weapons sent to the national army were instead seen on open sale in at least one market where al-Shabaab militants are known to have purchased arms.

## 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:

- **14 October 2014 (Late Report)** – A cargo vessel at anchor reported being approached by two small boats at 2315 UTC, approximately 10 nautical miles south-southwest from Lome breakwater. One of the small boats came alongside the cargo vessel. The alerted crew sounded the alarm and contacted the Togo Navy. Upon being observed by the vessel's crewmembers and hearing the alarm, the small boats moved away. Togo Navy responded to the alert and remained with the vessel until daylight. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.

### Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

## Weather Analysis

- **Gulf of Guinea** – South-southwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 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. Pirate Action Groups (PAG's) are likely to target vessels to siphon fuel or oil onto another ship. 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:

- **21 October 2014** – Pirates armed with guns and knives boarded a Hong Kong-flagged product tanker underway at 0300 LT around 24 nautical miles east-southeast of Tg. Sedili Besar, Malaysia. They took hostage all the crewmembers and ordered the Master to anchor the vessel. The pirates damaged the deck machinery and enquired about the cargo that was onboard the vessel. Upon realizing that the cargo was not suitable, the pirates stole the ship's cash and the crew's personal belongings and left the tanker at 0610 LT. The crew managed to repair the damaged deck machinery to heave up the anchor. The MMEA later dispatched a patrol boat to the location for investigation. No injuries to the crewmembers were reported.

#### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- **22 October 2014** – Five persons armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier at 0300 LT around 11 nautical miles north-northeast of Tg Berakit, Bintain Islands, Indonesia. Duty AB noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and mustered the crewmembers. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped with stolen ship's properties. Port control and local agents were informed of the incident.
- **21 October 2014** – Four boats approached a drifting container ship from various directions at 0740 LT, around 10 nautical miles south of Vung Tau, Vietnam. Two boats approached the stern and asked the duty crew if they had any scrap items available onboard. As the crew was distracted, the other two boats approached the vessel via the port side, with five robbers, armed with knives, boarding the vessel. Alert duty officer sighted the robbers, raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The robbers threatened him and later jumped overboard empty handed. Vessel and crewmembers have been reported safe.

- **20 October 2014** – Junior Engineer, onboard a bulk carrier underway noticed two persons near the engine room skylight while conducting routine checks on the deck at 0535 LT around 4 nautical miles east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia. He noticed the persons approaching him and realized that they were not crewmembers. The vessel's alarm was raised, the crew was mustered and the ship's lights were switched on. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen engine spares. MPA Singapore was informed of the incident. All crewmembers and the vessel have been reported safe.
- **18 October 2014 (Late Report)** – Five robbers armed with long knives in a boat came alongside and boarded a chemical tanker while underway at 0330 LT around 3 nautical miles east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia. They went into the engine room and took hostage several crewmembers. The robbers stole engine spares and escaped in their boat. Crewmembers sustained no injuries during the incident. All crewmembers and vessel have been reported safe.
- **17 October 2014 (Late Report)** – Six robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at 0550 LT Tarahan Anchorage, Indonesia. Alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen engine spares.
- **14 October 2014 (Late Report)** – Five persons boarded an anchored bulk carrier at 0215 LT around 14 nautical miles north-northeast of Bintan Island, Indonesia. Duty Engineer on routine rounds noticed the intrusion and raise the alarm resulting in the robbers escaping the vessel empty handed.

#### Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

## Weather Analysis

- **South China Sea** – Northeast winds of 10 – 12 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Southerly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be southerly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – North-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; in the southern Strait, winds will be northeasterly at 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Andaman Sea** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** – West-northwest winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – The fall transition period continues to influence the region. Expect mostly cloudy conditions with rain showers and thunderstorms and increased sea heights in the South China Sea and Malacca Strait.

## 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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