

# 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

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## 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](http://www.msrisk.com)

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## Summary (December 29, 2014 – January 4, 2015 Week 1; Edition 70)

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

**Gulf of Guinea/West Africa:** No current incidents to report

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

**Southeast Asia:** No current incidents to report

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

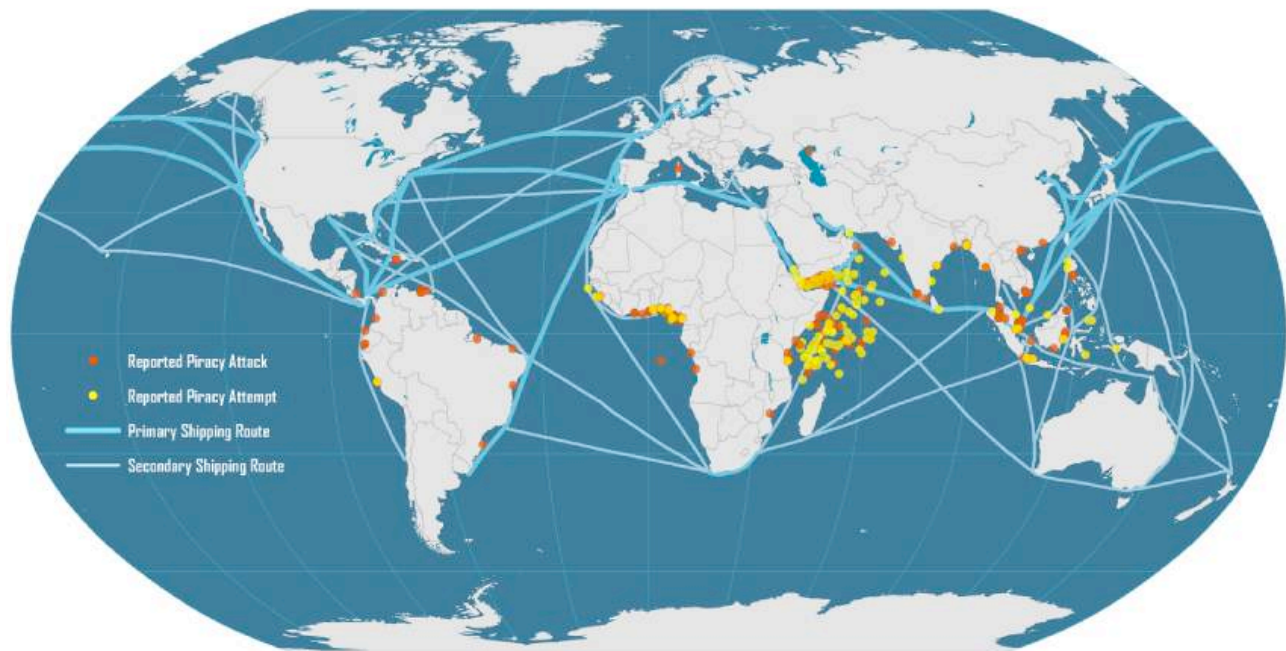
**North America:** No current incidents to report

**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 (PAGs) continue to approach vessels in a bid to attack and hijack them. The Northeast Monsoon season is underway. Waves off the eastern coast of Somalia are up to 1.5 meters with winds up to 20 knots – conditions that are becoming increasingly favourable for single skiffs and whalers to operate in. Vessels transiting the Gulf of Aden and waters off the coast of Somalia are reminded that skiffs and whalers will increasingly move their operations out of the Gulf of Aden and further out to sea in an attempt to hijack a vessel.

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.

### At Sea

#### Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

#### Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

#### Suspicious Activity:

- **4 January 2015** – At 0601UTC in position 12 33.2N, 043 25.6E. Master reported approach by two skiffs on starboard bow to 1.2nm distance and 3 skiffs on port side. Skiffs approached at high speed. Ship's whistle and alarm sounded. AST showed weapons; skiffs continued to approach. AST showed weapons again and fired warning shots. Skiffs stopped their approach at 1nm distance. 4-5 POB in skiffs wearing yellow clothing. No ladders or weapons seen. One skiff seen 1.5nm ahead of vessel. AST showed weapons again skiff moved away to starboard. MV alerted Djibouti and ships in the area on VHF of this approach.

- **3 January 2015** – At 0840 UTC in position 12 57.7N, 043 09.2E: Master reported being approached by three blue and white hulled skiffs at 25kts on vessel's port quarter, closing to 5 cables. Each skiff had 5/6 POB wearing yellow rain suits. AST showed weapons. Skiffs stopped their approach and fell behind MV. No weapons and no ladders seen.
- **2 January 2015** – At 0450 UTC in position 23 37N, 059 10E: Master reported being approached by two white skiffs. Five POB in one skiff and three POB in the second skiff. No weapons and no ladders seen. Skiff closed on vessel at 22kts from port side to within 5 cables. Vessel conducted manoeuvring and skiffs stopped their approach.
- **1 January 2015** – At 0936 UTC in position 12 06.7N, 045 07.3E: Master reported being approached by a grey hulled and white decked skiff with two outboard engines. Five POB in skiff all standing. No weapons or ladders seen. Skiff closed on vessel at 20kts from port bow to 0.5nm distance and maintained a parallel course for 30 minutes. Vessel increased speed, activated alarm and fire hoses and altered course to increase distance from skiff.
- **31 December 2014** – 0525 UTC, in position 20 39N, 059 40E: A vessel reported being approached by a white skiff. The skiff approached to within 1nm. The security team fired a flare towards the skiff and it turned away but stayed approximately 2nm from the ship for 40 minutes. The skiff then moved away. No ladders or weapons were sighted.
- **30 December 2014** – At 1300 UTC in position 15 06.6N, 042 00.8E: Two skiffs crossed a vessel's bow and then turned to approach it, coming to 1.5 cables. The skiffs carried 6 and 3 POB respectively. Ladders and AK47 style weapons sighted. AST fired flares and warning shots before the skiffs stopped their engines.
- **29 December 2014** – At 1040 UTC in position 13 47N, 050 52E: Master reports being approached by a brown skiff to within 15-20 metres at the rear of the vessel travelling 6-8kts. Skiff followed the vessel for about half an hour. AST fired 20 blank shots. Skiff ceased its approach. Unknown POB, no ladders or weapons sighted.

## Piracy Related News

- **29 December 2014** – Iranian warships successfully foiled an attempt by pirates to hijack an Iranian oil tanker in international waters. The Navy's 32nd fleet of warships saved the Iranian tanker from the attack of 8 pirate boats in Bab al-Mandab Strait in the Red Sea near the Iranian Navy's war games zone. The six-day military exercises cover an area of 2.2 million square kilometres from the East of the Strait of Hormuz to the Southern parts of the Gulf of Aden.



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## On the Ground Reporting

- **2 January 2015** – Al Shabaab militants attacked a military base in the outskirts of Baidoa, killing at least seven soldiers. The attack came two days after the United States killed the chief of al Shabaab's intelligence and security wing, Tahlil Abdishakur, in a drone strike. Somali military officer Captain Ahmed Idow said Somali soldiers killed three al Shabaab insurgents during the attack. A spokesman for al Shabaab said the group had briefly seized the base and killed more than 10 soldiers. Al Shabaab often cites a higher death toll than the number given by officials. In a separate incident in central Somalia, al Shabaab ambushed a government convoy carrying food aid, killing one soldier, according to Somali officials.
- **2 January 2015** – At least one person was killed and 14 others, including seven Kenyan teachers, were injured in a roadside blast in Galkayo, a city in central Somalia. Mohamed Abdulqadir Ali, principal of Yamays Secondary School, reported, "Our bus was heading to the market when suddenly we heard a huge explosion, which injured the teachers and killed the security guard. The bus was also extensively damaged." The seven teachers have been teaching in Yamays Secondary school located in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland. All of the 14 injured people have been admitted to the hospital, and two of them are in a serious condition. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident, however al Shabaab has been suspected to be responsible for attacks on foreigners in Somalia, including teachers. There were no students in the bus. It is not clear if the Kenyan teachers were being targeted in the attack. Two journalists were injured two days earlier in the same region in a grenade attack in a local radio station, and the explosion came a few hours after Al Shabaab attacked a government base in Baidoa, a city in southern Somalia, which killed five government soldiers and injured several others. In a separate attack, one person was killed by a car bomb in Mogadishu's Hodan district.
- **1 January 2015** – Gunmen attacked a truck carrying Kenyan soldiers near the border with Somalia, seriously wounding three in an assault that bore the hallmarks of al Shabaab. "The soldiers were going to fetch water from a borehole in Mangai village, Lamu East, when militia attacked them by shooting at their lorry," Lamu County police commander Ephantus Kiura said. "Three soldiers were critically injured in the incident and were airlifted to a nearby naval base where they are receiving treatment." The attack took place some 80 km from Lamu Island. Lamu County has been under heightened security, including a dusk-to-dawn curfew that local businesses say has flattened the county's tourism industry.
- **31 December 2014** – The Pentagon has stated that a US airstrike has killed Tahlil Abdishakur, the head of intelligence and security for Al-Shabaab. Unmanned aircraft fired Hellfire missiles at a vehicle carrying Abdishakur near Saakow, in southern Somalia. The Pentagon said in a statement, "His death will significantly impact Al-Shabaab's ability to conduct attacks against the government of the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Somali people, and U.S. allies and interests in the region."
- **29 December 2014** – Somali government forces aided by African Union peacekeepers liberated a string of areas in Hiran region of central Somalia from Al Qaeda linked Al Shabaab militants. Hero Lugole, Rahale, Jar, Janbiley, Burweyn, Mirgab and Anfac fell to the allied forces. Forces aim to safely transport a convoy carrying food aid for Al Shabaab-sanctioned town of Bulo Barde, where al Shabaab has imposed a blockade, denying trucks loaded with food commodities from entry into the town for 10 months. Somali army alongside African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces has dislodged militants from key bastions in central and southern Somalia.

## Domestic News

- **1 January 2015** – Two people were killed and a number of others injured on Thursday when authorities dispersed an anti-government protest in the Galhareeri district of Somalia's central Galguduud region. Demonstrators threw stones at local police stations, prompting police to intervene to protect government institutions. Ali Pashi, the region's vice-president, said police fired live rounds into the air to disperse demonstrators, noting that two people had been killed – including a woman – and a number of others injured. Somali authorities have not issued a comment. Demonstrators marching through the streets of Galhareeri chanted anti-government slogans and voiced their support for a religious movement that was recently expelled from the district following confrontations with government troops. Since December of last year, the Somali army had been involved in a number of violent confrontations with supporters of an Islamist movement, known as Ahl al-Sunna wal Jamaa. The movement, which is affiliated with Somalia's Sufi orders, had taken control of several parts of central Somalia and was ultimately expelled from the district. Ahl al-Sunna wal Jamaa have been fighting alongside government troops to combat al Shabaab, although they have also accused the government of marginalizing them.
- **31 December 2014** – Two Somali journalists were injured after attackers lobbed two grenades at the office of a radio station in the country's centre. The station's number two, Shiine Abdi Ahmed, and presenter Abdullahi Mohamud Aden, suffered leg and arm injuries respectively. Iman Mohamed Jama, a representative of the National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) said, "The first hand grenade was hurled at the station's building around 7:40 pm local time which hit the balcony where several journalists were sitting." Somalia is one of the most dangerous countries for reporters to operate.
- **31 December 2014** – At least 10 people have been reported killed after two militias groups clashed in Hiraan region village of Deefow, central. The fighting, which lasted six hours, broke out after armed clan militiamen attacked another militia. The wounded fighters are being treated at Beledweyne General Hospital. Federal Government of Somalia's Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali urged the warring sides to exercise restraint and immediately de-escalate armed tensions: "Central Somalia is hosting a reconciliation and state formation conventions, it is unfortunate that battles are parallel to the ongoing process." On December 27, elders from the two clans signed a peace agreement in Hiran regional capital of Beledweyne. The inter-clan feud in central Somalia emanates from claims over the ownership of agricultural land.

## Regional Reporting

- **30 December 2014** – Somalia has handed captured Al-Shabaab intelligence chief Zakariya Ismail Hersi over to the Kenyan authorities. Ibrahim Adan, commissioner for the El Wak district where Hersi was being held, said, "I can confirm that Hersi is not in our hands at this moment. He has been taken by the Kenyan army and airlifted to Kenya." Hersi, Al-Shabaab's intelligence chief was reportedly arrested from his hideout near El Wak following a tip-off to the regional authorities. A military source in Kenya has confirmed that Hersi was being held at a military facility in the north-eastern city of Wajir after being airlifted from Somalia. Kenya believes that an Al-Shabaab brigade responsible for much of the killing recently seen in the country is based in the Gedo region's El Wak district.

## International Developments

- **29 December 2014** – Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and a high level delegation arrived in Cairo for bilateral talks with the Egyptian government. The two-day visit will involve discussions geared toward deepening bilateral cooperation and Egyptian efforts to promote stability and development in Somalia.
- **29 December 2014** – The Burundi National Defence Force are preparing soldiers for deployment to Somalia with the help of US Marines and Sailors from Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response-Africa. US marines and sailors partnered with more than 160 Burundian Soldiers where they advised and trained with the Burundi and the African Union Mission to Somalia (BNDF) in logistics and engineering disciplines. Theatre security cooperation engagements assist partner nations in addressing security challenges and enhance overall regional security through military-to-military engagements. Burundi has the second largest contingent within AMISOM with 5,432 troops. The country was also the second to deploy troops into Somalia in December 2007.



### 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. Officials have reported two suspect pirate vessels, one operating in waters off Congo and the other operating in Gabonese waters. All vessels transiting this region are reminded to remain vigilant. 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.

### Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

## 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:**

- None reported during this period.

**Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:**

- None reported during this period.

**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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