

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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 - Crisis management
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 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
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References are always available.
More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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Summary (November 9 - 15, 2015 - Week 46; Edition 115)

List of Incidents at Sea for this Reporting Period

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

Somalia-Indian Ocean: No incidents reported during this reporting period

Southeast Asia: One boarding incident and one late reported incident during this reporting period

South America: No incidents reported during this reporting period

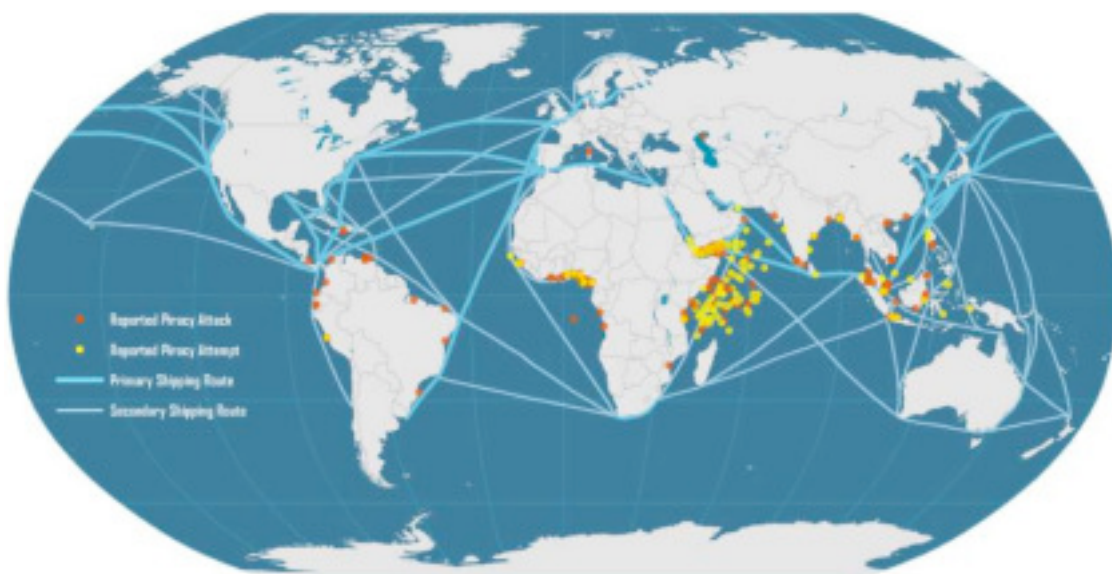
North America: No current incidents to report

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

Masters are advised to remain vigilant at all times inside the 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.

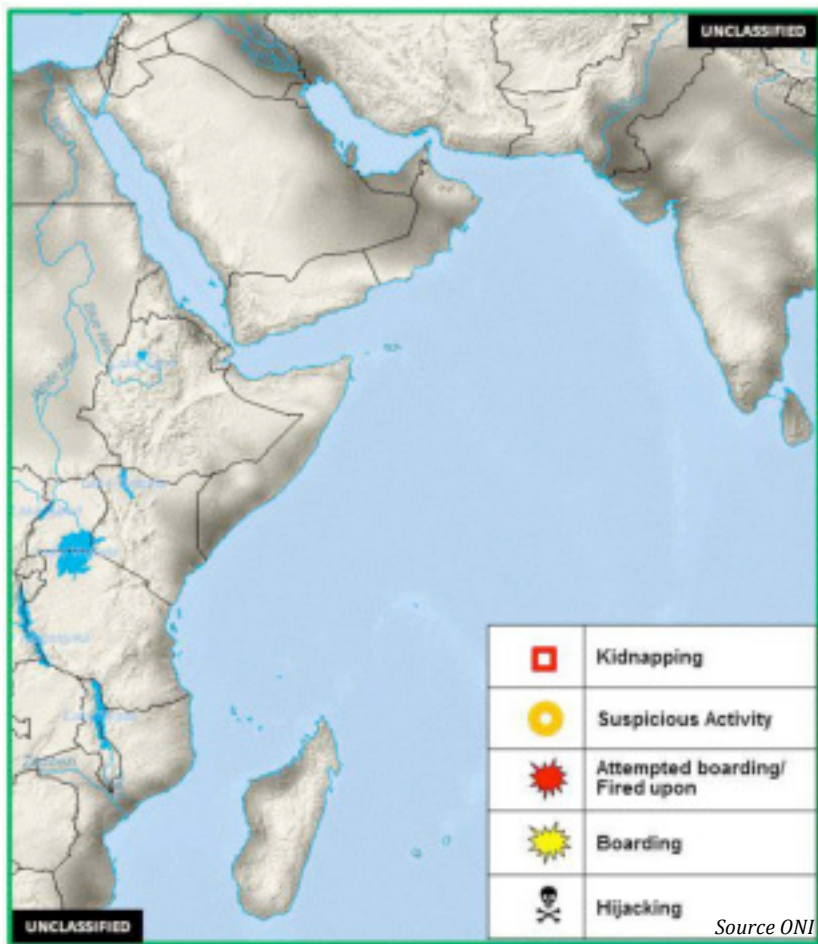
Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

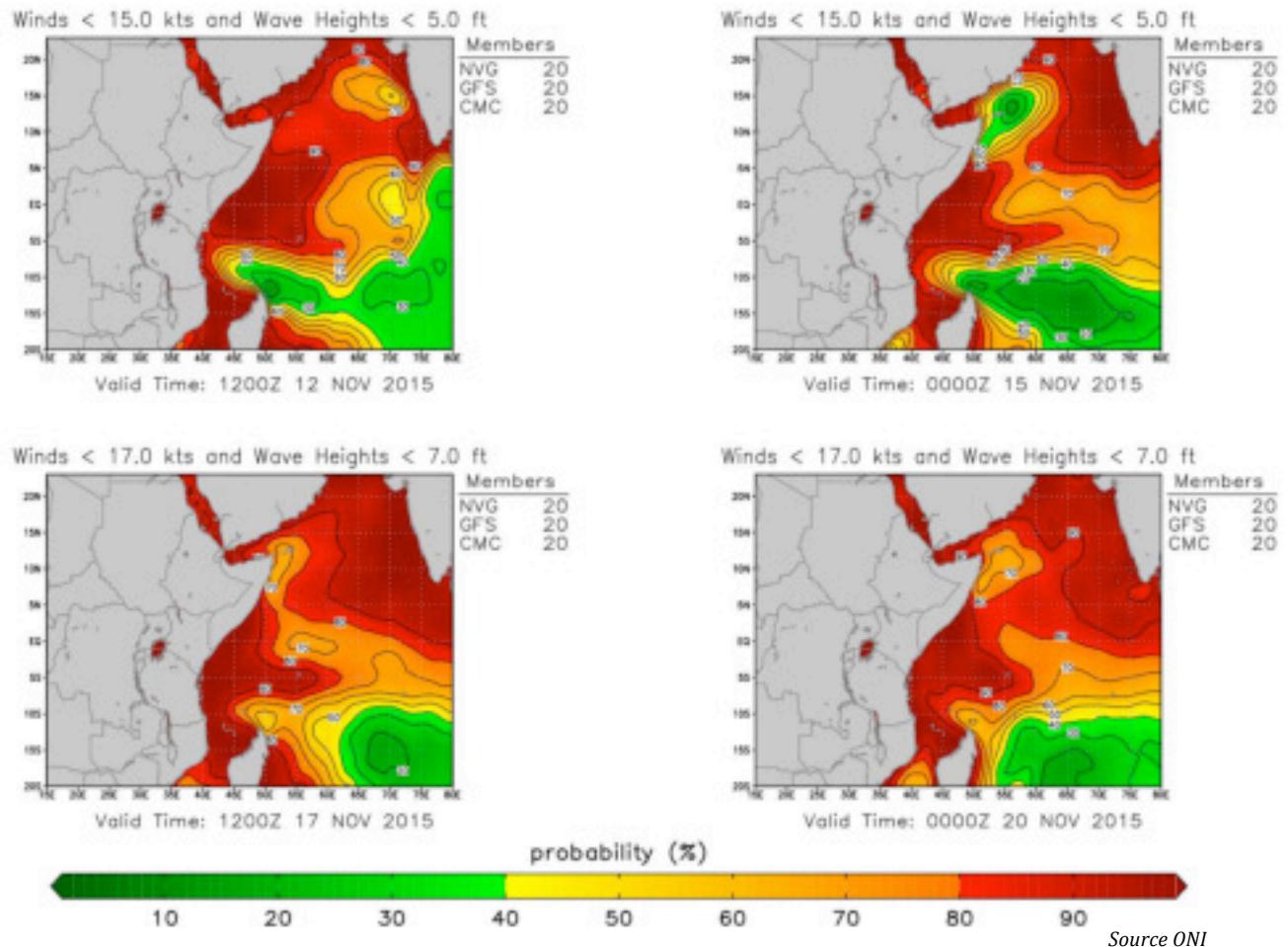
- None reported during this period.

Incident Map



Weather Forecast for Horn of Africa

- **Northern Arabian Sea** – Northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots, increasing to 20 – 30 knots, gusting to 35 knots in the vicinity of the tropical disturbance, and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 20 – 30 knots, gusting to 35 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; in the eastern section of the Gul, winds will be easterly at 8 – 13 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots with seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with easterly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Aden** – Easterly winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with east-northeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots, increasing to 20 to 30 knots, gusting to 35 knots, and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** – Easterly winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the northern section of the coastline; southeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Northeast winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet in the northern section of the coastline; with southeast winds of 8 – 13 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet in the southern section of the coastline.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** – South-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – South-southeast winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** – Southerly winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 8 – 12 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 12 – 16 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southeast winds of 18 – 22 knots and seas of 5 – 8 feet in the northern Channel; with easterly winds of 18 – 22 knots, gusting to 28 knots, and seas of 6 – 9 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** – Weak low pressure over the Levant will produce dense cloud cover and isolated rain shows over the northern Arabian Gulf.



*** In the graphic above, green shading represents a reduced likelihood of pirate activity while red represents a higher likelihood of pirate activity **

On the Ground Reporting

- **12 November 2015** – According to a report that emerged Thursday, Kenya's army is involved in a US \$400-million sugar smuggling racket in Somalia, which also funds the al-Qaeda-aligned militants it is supposed to be fighting. The report, which is based on months of research and which was conducted in both Somalia and Kenya, also includes interviews with serving Kenyan officers, United Nations officials, Western intelligence sources, sugar traders, porters and drivers. According to the investigation by Nairobi's Journalists for Justice rights group, far from fighting al-Shabaab, the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) are, "in garrison mode, sitting in bases while senior commanders are engaged in corrupt business practices." The report further accused Kenyan troops of "widespread" human rights abuses, including rape, torture and abduction, as well as conducting air strikes "targeting crowds of people and animals" rather than the militant training camps that it claims to bomb. Kenyan army spokesman Colonel David Obonyo has denied the allegations, insisting that Kenyan soldiers are fighting hard as part of the 22,000-strong African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). He further stated that "we are not involved in sugar or charcoal business...How can you sit down with Shabaab one minute, and the next you are killing each other?" Since entering Somali in 2011, in the wake of a string of kidnappings of tourists and aid workers, which were blamed on al-Shabaab insurgents, Kenya's army has denied repeated allegations of war profiteering. Persistent allegations of Kenyan military involvement in illegal business dealings in Somali first emerged soon after the army occupied the southern port town of Kismayo in 2012, where it took control of a stockpile of millions of sacks of charcoal. Successive reports by the United Nations Monitoring Group, which investigates terrorist financing and infringements of an arms embargo, have detailed the joint role of KDF, al-Shabaab and the local Jubbaland administration in the illegal exportation of charcoal. The most recent annual report, which was published last month, also referred to KDF involvement in the illegal sugar trade. Journalists for Justice estimates that the total value of illegal sugar smuggling to Kenya at between US \$200 million and US \$400 million. Its investigators further found that KDF taxes every sack of charcoal that leaves and every sack of sugar that arrives in Kismayo, earning an estimated US \$50 million a year. The report further disclosed that the Jubbaland administration and al-Shabaab also tax charcoal and sugar trucks that drive from Kismayo to the Kenyan border at Dhobley-Liboi, adding that "the illicit conflict economy is benefitting both al-Shabaab and those ostensibly opposing them." The group has accused an unnamed "high ranking military official" of running a sugar smuggling network that effectively enjoys "the protection and tacit cooperation" of Kenya's political leaders, adding that "the corruption and human rights abuses undermine Kenya's goals in Somalia, provide funds to al-Shabaab, and ultimately result in the deaths of hundreds of innocent Kenyans."
- **11 November 2015** – The United States government is offering US \$27 million in rewards for information on the whereabouts of six al-Shabaab leaders, with the highest reward of US \$6 million for the group's leader Abu Ubaidah. He replaced Ahmed Abdi Godane who was killed in a US drone strike last year. Also included on the list is Mahad Karate, also known as Abdirahman Mohamed Warsame, who is believed to be a key player in the attack on a Kenyan university that killed 148 people. The US is rewarding US \$5 million for information on his whereabouts. Others on the list are Ma'alim Daud (US \$5 million) who the US thinks is responsible for al-Shabaab's recruitment and training; Hassan Afgoye (US \$5 million) who is believed to oversee al-Shabaab's financing; Maalim Salman (US \$3 million) who the US states has been involved in

operations in Africa that target tourist; and Ahmed Iman Ali (US \$3 million) who the US believes to have recruited Kenyans.

- **10 November 2015** – Al-Shabaab has released a video depicting its members killing African Union (AU) soldiers during an attack on their base in Somalia in September. The video, which was first reported on Tuesday by SITE Intelligence Group, shows armed fighters rampaging through what looks like a camp for Ugandan troops, who form part of the AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia. It depicts an alleged Ugandan prisoner in handcuffs and other soldiers being shot at close range with an AK-47 rifle. In one scene, an al-Shabaab fighter approaches an apparently wounded soldier and shoots him in the head. The video is replete with pictures of dead soldiers with head wounds. In the video, al-Shabaab indicates that it killed more than fifty Ugandan soldiers in the attack, which targeted a base for peacekeepers in the town of Janale. At the time of the attack, Ugandan officials reported only nineteen deaths. Shortly after the attack, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni stated that al-Shabaab may have taken some prisoners. He blamed commanders for being “asleep” when the attack occurred. In the wake of the attack, some Ugandan commanders have been suspended and are now facing a military court martial back home.
- **9 November 2015** – Somalia’s Prime Minister stated Monday that ending the crisis in Yemen is critical to preventing Islamic State (IS/ISIS) jihadists from shoring up Somalia’s weakened al-Shabaab. Yemen has been engulfed in turmoil since a Saudi-led coalition launched air strikes eight months ago in a bid to push back an advance by Houthi rebels and to restore the authority of the president. Last month, IS fighters carried out attacks in the southern Yemeni city of Aden, which raised fears that the group was seizing on the recent turmoil to expand its foothold in Yemen. While the United Nations has been trying for months to get peace talks between the Saudi-backed Yemeni government and the Houthi rebels off the ground, no date has been set for the negotiations. Speaking to a special session of the United Nations Security Council on Somalia, Prime Minister Omar Sharmarke stated that Somali al-Shabaab’s recent pledges of allegiance to IS are “not to be taken lightly.” He further indicated that “resolution of the crisis in Yemen is crucial,” adding “such will go a long way in keeping al-Shabaab from accruing support from ISIS, using Yemen as a conduit or launching pad.” While in recent months, al-Shabaab has been severely weakened, several hotel attacks, including a car bombing on the Sahafi hotel earlier this month, have highlighted the ongoing threat the that militant group poses. According to Prime Minister Sharmarke, “complex attacks against hotels are now an indication that though Somali and its international partners have won the battles against al-Shabaab, they have yet to be demolished.” Last month, Somalia’s president called on al-Shabaab fighters to surrender amidst growing reports that some factions of the militant group had shifted their allegiance from al-Qaeda to IS. The prime minister on Monday cited al-Shabaab’s “recent proclamation of allegiance to ISIS” as a worrisome sign, adding that Somalia “cannot afford to have a space for ISIS to exploit.” The prime minister further called for international support to build up the security forces, which are backed by African Union (AU) troops.
- The United Nations Somali envoy reported on Monday that Somalia has transformed itself from a “failed to recovering state” in recent years, warning however that cutbacks in support for it could spark a new exodus of refugees from the conflict-torn Horn of African nation. United nations special representative for Somalia Nick Kay told the UN Security Council that “Somalia has to compete for attention and resources in an ever more troubled world,” nothing that “...scaling back now will crush

the hopes of millions of Somalis, endanger peace and security in the Horn of Africa and East Africa, bolster violent extremism globally and risk a renewed exodus of refugees.” He added that “reducing effort should not be an option.” While Kay noted that the overall situation in Somalia has improved in recent years, he cautioned that there was “still a long way to go,” adding that he hopes that a nationwide election, which is planned for next year, will be held “on time and be more inclusive than in 2012.” According to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s chief-of-staff Susana Malcorra, some 3.2 million people in Somali rely on humanitarian assistance in order to survive. She warned that this number was expected to increase as promised aid pledges have yet to materialize.

Regional Reporting

- **11 November 2015** - On Wednesday, a commander in charge of the operation disclosed that Kenyan security forces have destroyed five camps used by suspected militants with links to al-Shabaab in a sweep of a forest on the north coast, near the border with Somalia. According to head of the operation James Ole Serian, “the combined security units discovered five different al-Shabaab hideouts inside the forest,” adding that “the hideouts have already been destroyed and the weapons handed to the government.” He further noted that while the militants themselves fled when the operation was launched on 11 September, and none were arrested in the raids, several people in the surrounding area, mostly Kenyans, have been detained on suspicion of having links to the militant group. The army and police launched the operation two months ago in Boni Forest in a bid to flush out militants who are believed to have been using the area in order to launch attacks in Kenya. Since then, military planes and helicopters have been sweeping the area, with local residents reporting sporadic sounds of gunfire and blasts from the area. On Wednesday, Serian disclosed that “we are not leaving the Boni forest anytime soon until we ascertain that every terror element in the forest has been cleared,” adding that the operation could take more than the three months originally planned. Officials have disclosed that at least 3,000 people living near the forest had been forced to leave so that the operation could go ahead. Over the past two years, al-Shabaab has been behind a spate of attacks on Kenya, including an assault on the capital’s Westgate shopping centre, which killed 67 people, and a raid on Garissa university in the northeastern region of the country that killed nearly 150 people. In 2014, the militants also launched several attacks in Lamu County region, an area that includes Boni forest. Those attacks left more than 100 people dead.
- Meanwhile in the port city of Mombasa, a regional official reported on Wednesday that security forces are on high alert for suspected militants who have fled the Boni Forest area in the wake of ongoing military operations in the region. According to Mombasa County Commissioner Nelson Marwa, “we are very alert and have the names of some of them.” Sources have disclosed that security forces have set up road blocks between Lamu and Mombasa.

GULF OF GUINEA

Executive Summary

Pirate and maritime crime activity in waters off West Africa is currently at a low level, with no incidents reported during this period. All vessels transiting this region however are reminded to remain vigilant.

At Sea

Hijacks:

- None reported during this period.

Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings:

- None reported during this period.

Vessels Boarded:

- None reported during this period.

Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

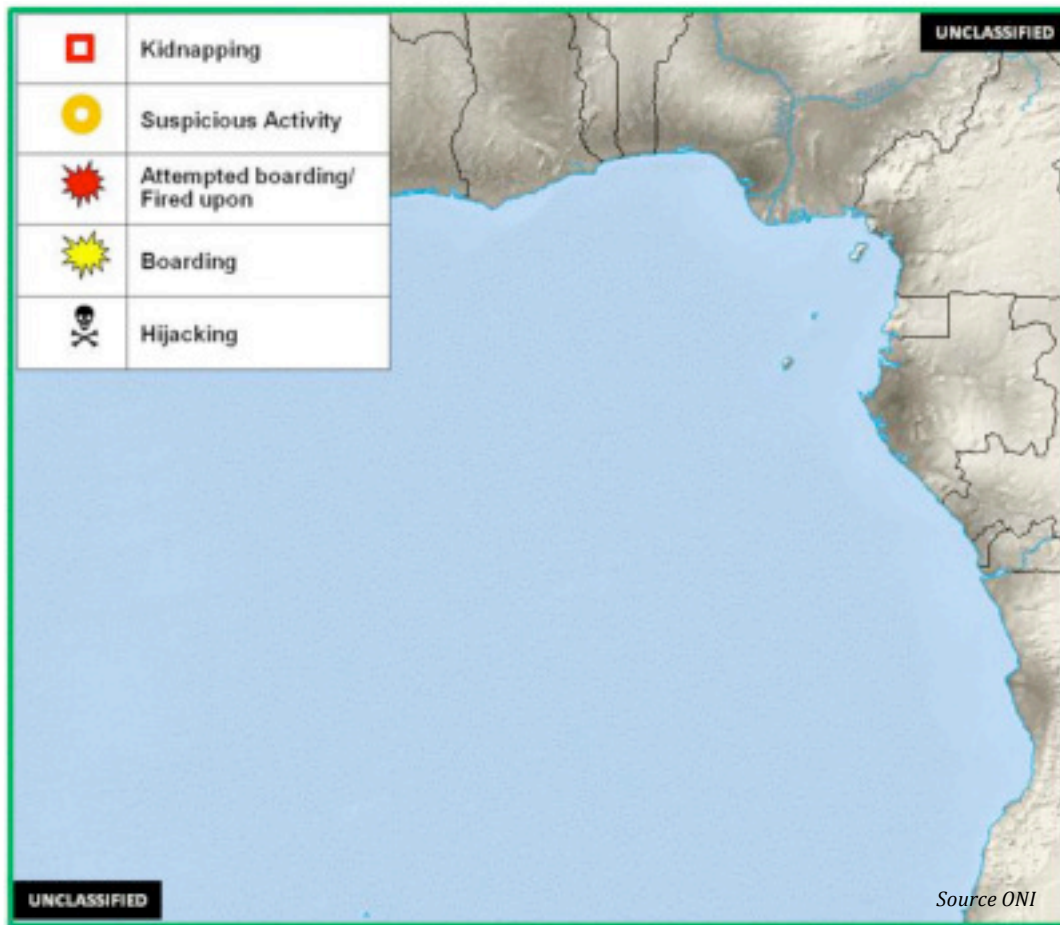
Kidnapping:

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Incident Map



Weather Forecast for Gulf of Guinea

- **Gulf of Guinea** – South-southwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Southwest winds of 7 – 12 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – Expect partly to mostly cloudy conditions for the Gulf of Guinea with associated rain showers.

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.

Vessels Boarded:

- **10 November 2015** – An unknown number of robbers boarded an anchored container ship near position 10:15 N – 107:03 E, Mui Vung Tau anchorage. The theft was noticed when the crew observed that the padlock to the steering gear room was broken. A thorough search was carried out and nothing was found stolen.
- **3 November 2015 (Late Report)** – Three robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain near position 03:42 S – 114:26 E, Taboneo Anchorage. The alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty-handed.

Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boarding's:

- None reported during this period.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies:

- None reported during this period.

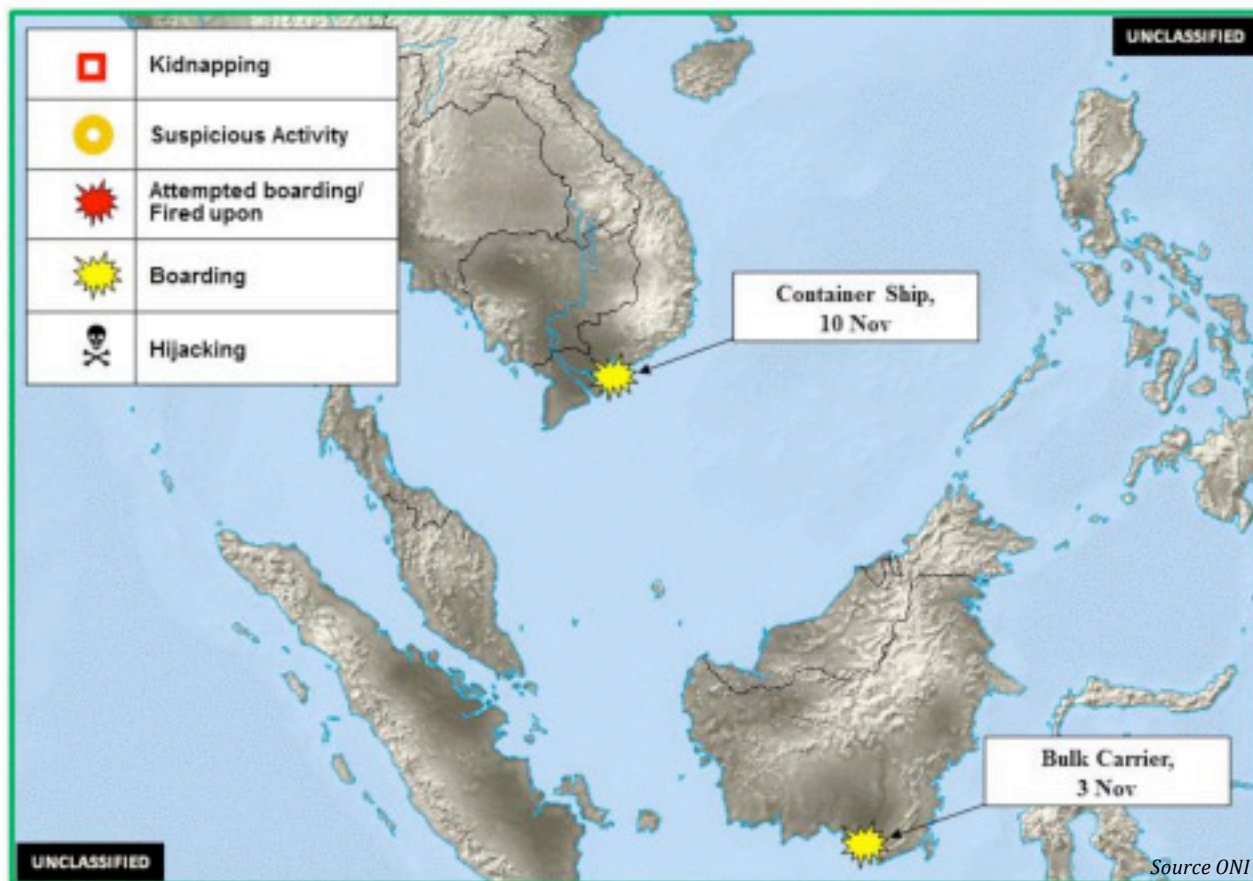
Suspicious Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Other Activity:

- None reported during this period.

Incident Map



Weather Forecast for Southeast Asia

- **South China Sea** – Easterly winds of 13 – 18 knots and seas of 3 – 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – East-northeast winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 2 – 4 feet.
- **Malacca Strait** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the northern Strait; with variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet in the southern Strait.
- **Andaman Sea** – Northeast winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** – Variable winds of 5 – 10 knots and seas of 1 – 3 feet.
- **Surface Currents** – Currents in the South China Sea and Malacca Strait average speeds of 1 knot, while currents in the Andaman Sea average between 1 to 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** – High pressure is influencing the northern portions of the region while the InterTropical Convergence Zone is impacting the southern portions. The Andaman Sea, Malacca Strait, and southern South China Sea will see isolated rain showers and thunderstorms throughout the forecast 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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