

# Weekly Security & Risk Report

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Issue 278 of the series reviews, analyses and threat assesses the fragile and conflict affected coastal states Libya, Somalia and Yemen. The Mediterranean migrant crisis, incidents affecting maritime security and influencing maritime news are also reported and analysed, focusing on the keys theatres of maritime instability.

### Coronavirus Port and Terminal Restrictions

The situation remains extremely fluid. For the most recent updates on closures and re-openings, MAST Security recommends using the Wilhemsen Covid-19 Global Port Restrictions Map. [Please Click Here](#) to visit their site.

The Security and Risk Report Series focuses on:

- Operational risks in areas of instability which could affect the safety of commercial and private vessels and personnel ashore and at sea.
- In country reporting on key countries where civil conflict are directly impacting on maritime operations; and
- Reporting and analysis of incidents of terrorism, piracy and other related criminal activity.

MAST has a global reach and presence, delivering first hand, accurate and exclusive intelligence. MAST is entrenched and committed in continuing to support and promote the awareness of the very real risks that seafarers and other stakeholders face.

This Intelligence Report Series is a brief snapshot of MAST's Intelligence capabilities. MAST Intelligence specialises in providing clients with a suite of products and services, including; political and economic risk analysis, detailed port and vessel security briefs, vessel passage plans, threat and risk mitigation and travel risk management.

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## Gulf of Guinea

All fifteen seafarers kidnapped more than a month ago from a chemical tanker in the Gulf of Guinea have been released and are reported safe, the ship manager announced on Thursday 15th. "De Poli Tankers are delighted to report that all fifteen of its officers and crew abducted from its vessel Davide B in the Gulf of Guinea on March 11th have been released and are now safe," De Poli Tankers said in its announcement of their safe release.

### Incidents:

1. Underway Cyprus-flagged container ship reported attacked at 1100 UTC in position 01:27N - 004:38E, around 185nm SSW of Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Pirates boarded vessel. Alarm raised, crew mustered in the citadel. At 0221 UTC (24 Apr), vessel under escort. Vessel and crew safe. Reported (MDAT) 23rd Apr.
2. Underway MV reported approach by a suspicious boat at 1858 UTC in position 03:01.04N - 003:16.56E, approx 200nm South of Lagos, Nigeria. Master reported incident to CSO. Incident concluded. Vessel and crew safe. Reported (MDAT) 20th Apr.

### Nigeria, Cameroon move to counter piracy in Gulf of Guinea

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, and the Inter Regional Coordination Centre, ICC, Yaoundé, Cameroon, have formed a partnership to counter piracy and general insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea. Gulf of Guinea Maritime Collaboration Forum, GOG-MCF/SHADE, was floated after meetings between Director General of the NIMASA, Dr Bashir Jamoh, representing Nigeria, and the Executive Director of ICC Yaoundé, Admiral Narciso Fastudo Jr.

### Six feared killed as gang war rages in Rivers communities

Six persons were feared killed as gunmen suspected to be cultists invaded Dema and nearby communities in Andoni and Diobu in Port Harcourt City Local Government Area of Rivers State. Residents ran to safety during the heavy gunfire. "This morning, we heard some gunshots. They were shooting at Ajakajak, Samanga, Ibute-Irem and Dema. People ran and there are no security personnel here. They came with about ten speed boats loaded with arms and ammunition," Nigerian media reported on Apr. 23rd.

### Oil Theft: Navy hands over vessel, seven suspects to EFCC

The Nigerian Navy Ship Delta, NNS Delta on Friday handed

over a vessel, MV Light, and seven crew members allegedly involved in illegal oil bunkering to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Benin Zonal Office for further investigation and possible prosecution. The Commander, NNS Delta, O. Ibrahim, at the handing over in Warri, Delta State, stated that the Captain was unable to explain the source of the product when the Vessel was intercepted, and that further inquiries showed that the Vessel did not load its product from designated loading point in Lagos.

### NIMASA, Shippers' Council collaborate to curb corruption

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and the Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) are to implement joint measures to curb delay and corrupt practices at the ports. The Director General of NIMASA, Dr Bashir Jamoh, disclosed this in a statement by Mr Philip Kyanet, Head Corporate Communications, NIMASA, on Thursday 22nd in Lagos.

To see MAST Services in the region, [please click here](#). And and to read Nigeria's country report, [please click here](#).

### Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures:

#### 2021:

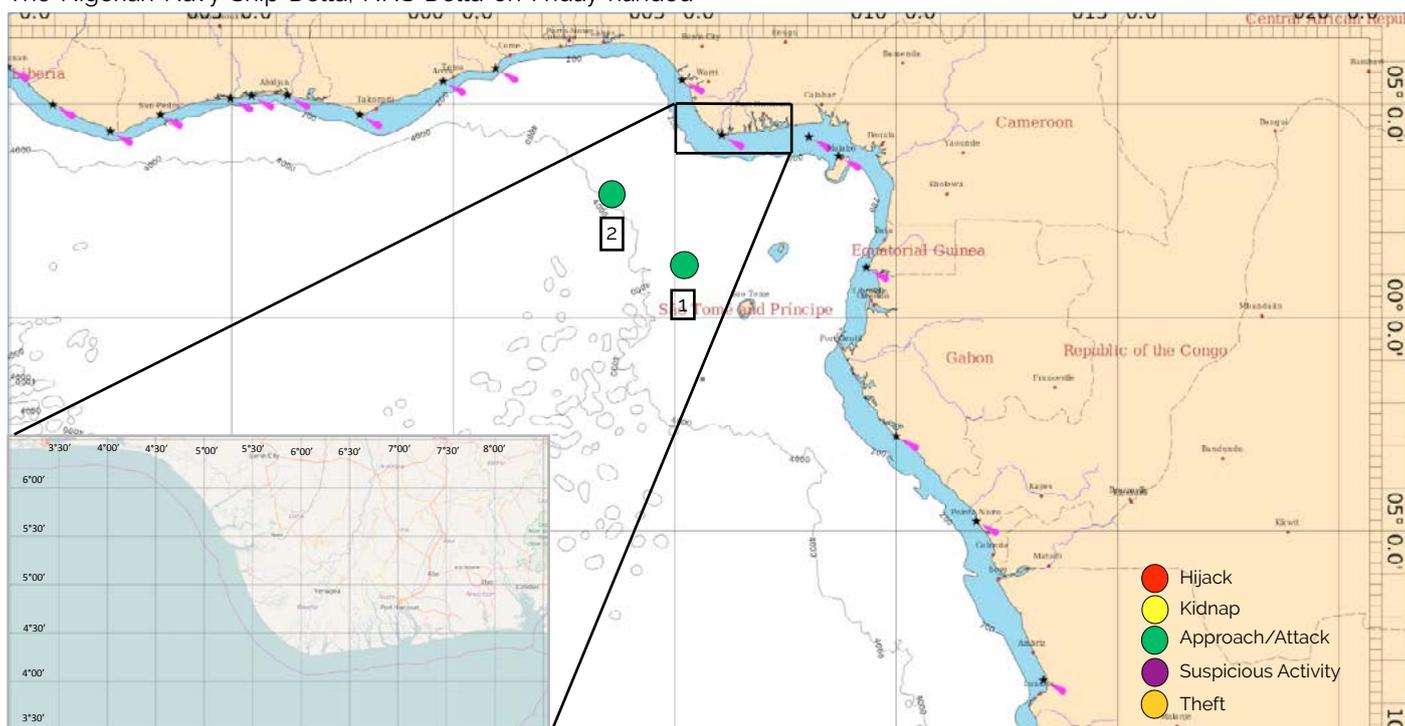
Incidents reported: 25 (MDAT-GoG)  
Crew kidnapped: 40 (IMB)  
Vessels hijacked: 1 (MDAT-GoG)

#### 2020:

Incidents reported: 132 (MDAT-GoG)  
Crew Kidnapped: 130 (IMB)  
Vessels Hijacked: 3 (IMB)

#### 2019:

Incidents reported: 111 (MDAT-GoG)  
Crew kidnapped: 121 (IMB)  
Vessels hijacked: 4 (IMB)





# Indian Ocean Region

The German contingent of the Support Element Atalanta performed its last retreat ceremony earlier this month. The German national contingent operating out of the French Naval Airbase in Djibouti will close its doors after 19 years serving as a hub for transportation, logistical supply and medical support to deployed assets in the area.

**Incidents:** Nothing significant to report.

## Joint War Committee amends Indian Ocean Listed Region

The Joint War Committee has recently reviewed the Listed Areas, and has agreed the following changes:-

### Added - Cabo Delgado:

The waters within 50 nautical miles of Mozambique and Tanzania enclosed by the following boundaries:

- a) To the north, from Mnazi Bay at 10°19.6'S, 40°18.9'E to high seas point at 9°50.7'S, 41°7.6'E.
- b) To the south, from Baia do Lúrio at 13°30'S, 40°31.6'E to high seas point 13°30'S, 41°02'E.

### Amended - Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden and Southern Red Sea

The waters enclosed by the following boundaries:

- a) On the north-west, by the Red Sea, south of Latitude 15° N
- b) on the northeast, from the Yemen border at 16°38.5'N, 53°6.5'E to high seas point 14°55'N, 53°50'E
- c) on the east, by a line from high seas point 14°55'N, 53°50'E to high seas point 10°48'N, 60°15'E, thence to high seas point 6°45'S, 48°45'E
- d) and on the southwest, by the Somalia border at 1°40'S, 41°34'E, to high seas point 6°45'S, 48°45'E

## India and France begin naval exercise in Arabian Sea

India and France have commenced a three-day naval exercise in the Arabian Sea in a bid to improve interoperability and enhance war fighting capabilities. The 19th edition of the bilateral 'Varuna-2021' exercise will involve a variety of drills, including advanced air defence and anti-submarine exercises, fixed and rotary wing flying operations, and tactical manoeuvres, regional media reported on April 26th.

## France's Total suspends Mozambique gas project

French energy giant Total on Monday 26th confirmed it is suspending work on a massive \$20 billion gas project in northern Mozambique following the latest jihadist assault on a nearby town last month. "Considering the evolution of the security situation... Total confirms the withdrawal of all Mozambique LNG [Liquefied Natural Gas] project personnel from the Afungi site," the company said in a statement, France 24 reported.

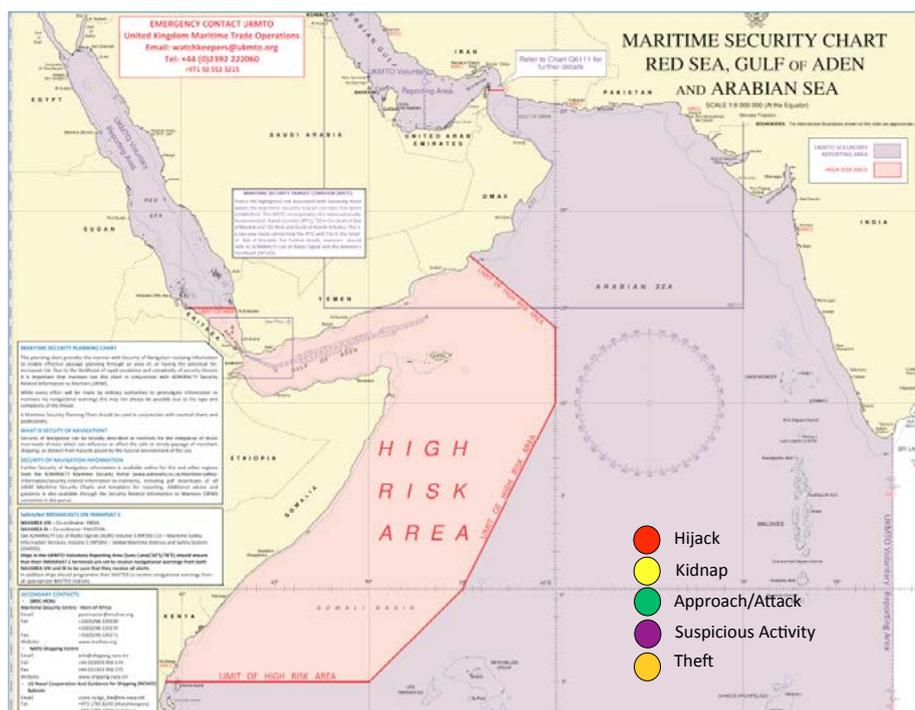
## Indian Navy in drugs seizure

Acting on specific inputs, Indian Navy intercepted a Sri Lankan fishing vessel DU Shashila in the high seas recently. The vessel along with its Sri Lankan occupants were brought to Mattancherry Wharf, Kochi and the Chennai unit of NCB took over the custody of both from Navy. During the search and seizure formalities taken thereafter, a total of 337 Kgs of heroin was seized from the boat, Indian media reported on Monday 26th.

## Mozambique: Palma violence underlines need for cross-border surveillance – UN

The rebel attack on Palma, killing dozens and threatening gas projects in northern Mozambique, reinforces the alert for cross-border surveillance in that part of Africa, said César Guedes, one of the United Nations officials in the country. "This is again a wake-up call for the need for greater cross-border cooperation of Mozambique with neighbouring countries," namely with Tanzania, the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Organised Crime (UNODC) in Mozambique said in an interview with Lusa on Friday 23rd, a month after the attack.

To see MAST's services in the Indian Ocean Region, [please click here.](#)





# Somalia

Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo has backed down from his attempt to extend his tenure for two years - a political move that had sparked clan-based fighting in Mogadishu between soldiers supporting and opposing him. In a broadcast address to the nation, he called for a new presidential election and commended the efforts of his prime minister, who hours earlier had denounced Mr Farmajo's bid to cling to office after his term expired in February, BBC News reported on Wednesday 28th.

## Opposition forces occupy key parts of Mogadishu

Forces loyal to the opposition in Somalia are occupying key parts of the capital, Mogadishu, following Sunday's eruption of fighting with soldiers supporting President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo. These include a junction about half a kilometre from the presidential palace. Civilians have been fleeing the areas affected by the violence, the BBC reported on Tuesday 27th.

## UNSC voices concern over political strife in Somalia

The UN Security Council on Friday 23rd evening expressed "deep concern" about the ongoing political struggle among Somalia's political leaders, urging all concerned parties "to reject violence and resume dialogue". While recalling what they described as a "significant progress" made during the past ten years in Somalia, including "security provision, democracy, political reforms, and economic development, in particular debt relief," the members of the UNSC stressed that ongoing disagreement among political leaders over the electoral model "is not only undoing this hard-earned progress, but is also diverting attention from pressing problems, such as floods, drought, desert locusts, the COVID-19 pandemic and combating the terrorist threat of Al Shabaab."

## Withdrawal of US troops from Somalia has affected fight against Al Shabaab

The decision to reposition US Africa Command troops from Somalia has affected the fight against Al Shabaab militants,

the US now admits, in what could inform a fresh review of the move. General Stephen Townsend, who is the commander of US Africa Command, told the Senate on Thursday that the move has created a lot of challenges, adding that pursuing Al Shabaab militants has become a little bit difficult. "There's no denying that the repositioning of forces out of Somalia has introduced new layers of complexity and risk," Army Gen. Stephen Townsend said during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing.

## Mortar assault leaves 4 dead

On Wednesday 21st a mortar assault in Mogadishu left at least four people dead and several others wounded. Al Shabaab militants launched mortar shells which settled in Bondhere and WartaNabada residential districts in the Banadir region, leaving the four people dead, according to reports from the Somali National Army (SNA) radio.

## Puntland opposes Farmaajo's term extension

Puntland state in northeastern Somalia has hinted secession, declaring it does not recognize the Lower House resolution, which extended the term of president Mohamed Farmaajo for two more years. In a statement, the easterly regional state said it will make a decision appropriate to the new situation in line with the resolutions of the Garowe Conference on March 17th, 2020, if the federal government fails to end the political crisis.

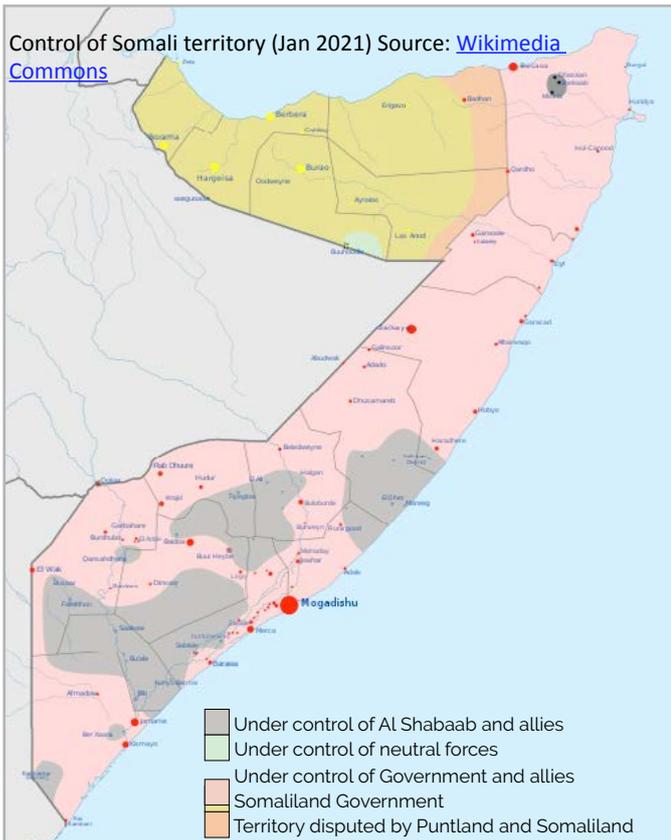
## Analysis

On 8th February 2021, the Council of Presidential Candidates announced that they no longer recognise Mohamed as the President of Somalia since his constitutional term in office expired on 8th February without any agreement on the path toward elections to replace him. James Swan, the Special Representative and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia, confirmed that the electoral implementation tensions had been compounded by questions over the legitimacy of Mohamed's mandate following the expiry of his constitutional term in office, and that the growing political tensions threatened Somalia's State-building progress and even security. He encouraged Somalia's political leaders to "pull back from confrontation and avoid risky winner-take-all tactics". Over the past 6 weeks there have been numerous attacks against politicians, including former high ranking ministers and leaders, and attacks on journalists in Somalia. Specifically, Amnesty International has called on the Somali authorities to bring an end to the arbitrary arrest and persecution of journalists in Puntland.

Given the blatant disregard for the constitution by the current President, Somalia's political future as a nation state remains uncertain. Indeed, regional fragmentation may once again be on the cards, and this can only be to the benefit of Al Shabaab terrorists as well as criminal organisations who may be interested at some point in a return to piracy in the Indian Ocean.

## Threat Assessment

There is a risk that complacency in some quarters has seen a reduction in PMSC presence in these waters that could result in a piracy success. A lack of adherence to BMP5 protocol, particularly not maintaining a safe distance off the coast, has increased risks to shipping. Merchant vessels would be wise to maintain the same distance from the coast, particularly ensuring that the Socotra Gap isn't taken. All vessels are advised to update risk assessments and register with UKMTO/MSCHOA prior to entering the Indian Ocean High Risk Area (HRA).





## Yemen

Houthi rebels have made major gains in the battle for the government's last northern stronghold, advancing close to the center of Marib city despite heavy casualties, military sources said on Sunday 25th. The rebels have taken full control of the Kassara battlefield to the northwest and made progress on western front lines despite airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition that backs Yemen's government, the loyalist military sources said.

### Saudi Arabia says it foiled boat attack off Yanbu

Saudi Arabia said on Tuesday 27th it had intercepted an explosive-laden boat off the Red Sea port of Yanbu after maritime security firms cited "unconfirmed reports" of an attack on a vessel in the area. A Saudi defence ministry statement on state media did not say whether there had been any damage as a result of the operation by the Saudi navy to intercept and destroy the remote-controlled boat.

**MAST Analysis:** The fact that this incident has occurred off Yanbu indicates a level of resourcing which might have required Iranian Revolutionary Guard involvement. Houthi rebels have demonstrated similar tactics off Yemen, but questions must now be asked about how the vessel reached Yanbu.

### UN calls for urgent Yemeni port repairs to reduce food costs

The UN on Monday 26th called for the swift repair of two ports in southern Yemen to reduce the cost of imported food, as the war-torn country races against the threat of large-scale famine. The ports of Aden and Mukalla, controlled by the internationally recognised government, are two of the four main entry points for food and aid into the country. Houthi rebels control the other two main ports.

### Houthis' missile depot explodes in Yemen's Sanaa

A missile depot of Yemen's Houthi militia exploded in a series of blasts in the capital city of Sanaa at dawn on Monday 26th, residents said. The blasts in the depot in al-Jiraf neighborhood in the northern part of Sanaa rocked the whole city.

### Yemeni army, Houthi rebels exchange prisoners

The Yemeni army and the Houthi rebel group on Monday carried out a new prisoner swap in the eastern Marib province, an army official said. Twenty-one prisoners were released from both sides, Col. Yahya AL-Haser, head of the Committee of Prisoners and Detainees in the Sixth Military Region based in AL-Jawf province, told Anadolu Agency.

### Houthis conduct another drone attack against Saudi base

According to a Yemeni military spokesman, the forces of the country have carried out a drone attack against King Khalid air-

base on Monday 26th morning. Yemeni Armed Forces Spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced the new response to Saudi aggression in a tweet, noting that a Qasef-K2 drone has been used in the operation. Saree noted that the drone has hit the determined target, the Iranian news agency Mehr reported. The story has not been verified by other outlets at the time of writing.

### Heavy Fighting Near Marib Leaves 96 Dead: Loyalists

Heavy fighting near the Yemeni city of Marib has killed 96 combatants over the past two days as Houthi rebels press their offensive on the government's last northern stronghold, loyalist commanders said on Friday 16th. "Clashes between the two sides on several fronts in the Marib area on Wednesday and Thursday killed 36 loyalists troops and 60 rebels," one government military source told AFP.

### Houthis abduct three civilians from Yemeni village

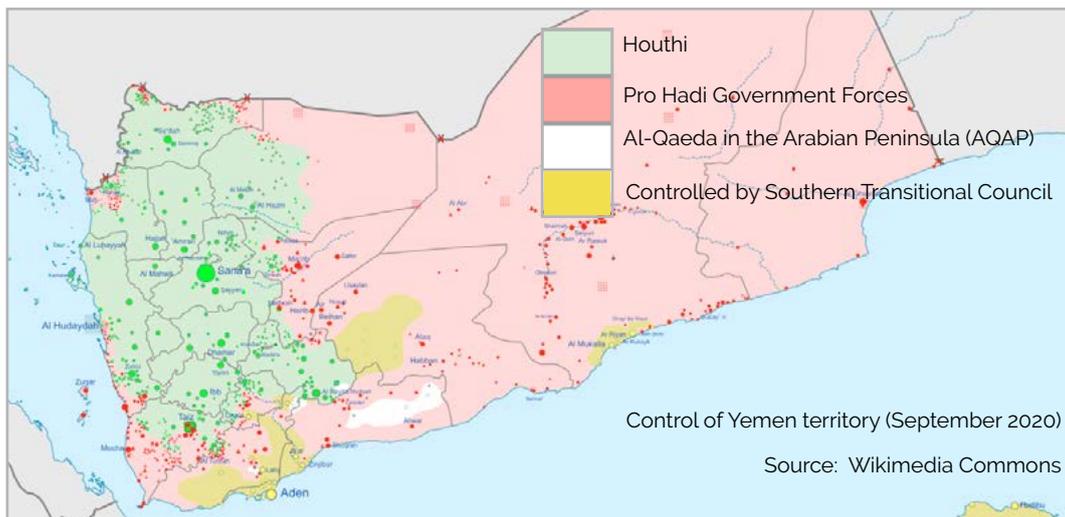
Houthi rebels have abducted three civilians from the Yemeni village of "Beit Al-Jabr" in the governorate of Dhamar, the Saudi Press Agency reported on Friday 23rd. The Houthis took their victims to a detention center in Jabal Al-Sharq district, in the same governorate controlled by the Iran-backed group, the report said.

### Saudi-led coalition downs rebel drone from Yemen

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said on Thursday 22nd that it had intercepted and destroyed an explosives-laden drone fired by Houthi rebels towards Saudi Arabia. "An explosives-laden unmanned drone launched by the terrorist Houthi militia towards Khamis Mushait was intercepted and destroyed," the coalition said in a statement carried by official Saudi AL-Ikhbariya TV.

To see the latest threat analysis and Yemen port information in **MASTOPDEIA**, please click [here](#).

MAST recommends BMP measures be enforced and watches strengthened during transits in the region.



## South East Asia

Japan will hold a joint military drill with US and French troops in the country's southwest next month, the defence minister said on Friday 23d, as China's actions in regional waters raise concern. The exercise, running from May 11 to 17, will be the first large-scale exercise in Japan involving ground troops from all three countries, the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) said in a statement.

### Incidents:

**1.** Late report: Duty Engineer on routine rounds on underway tanker, noticed someone was trying to open the steering gear entrance door from the poop deck and immediately informed the bridge at 1740 UTC in position 01:16.03N – 104:12.08E, Singapore Straits. Alarm raised and all deck and accommodation lights switched on. Hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped. Crew mustered and a search was carried out. Nothing reported stolen. VTIS informed Reported (IMB) 16th Apr.

### Mindef plans to add 13 more interceptor boats to boost sea patrols

The Malaysian Defence Ministry plans to add 13 more Fast Interceptor Crafts (FIC) costing over RM120 million to further strengthen the security of Malaysia's waters. Senior Minister (Security) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN) has received six such boats worth RM80 million.

### Indonesia authorities say found missing submarine, 53 crew dead

A missing Indonesian submarine has been found cracked apart on the seafloor in waters off Bali, the military said Sunday, as it confirmed that all 53 crew were dead. Authorities said that they received signals from the location more than 800 metres (2,600 feet) deep early on Sunday 25th morning and that they had used an underwater submarine rescue vehicle supplied by Singapore to get a visual confirmation.

### Philippine coast guard holds drills in disputed South China Sea

The Philippine coast guard is conducting drills in the South China Sea which an official said on Sunday 25th were part of efforts to secure "our maritime jurisdiction" over the disputed

waters. The exercises near the Philippine-occupied Thitu Island and China-controlled Scarborough Shoal come amid heightened tensions over the resource-rich sea.

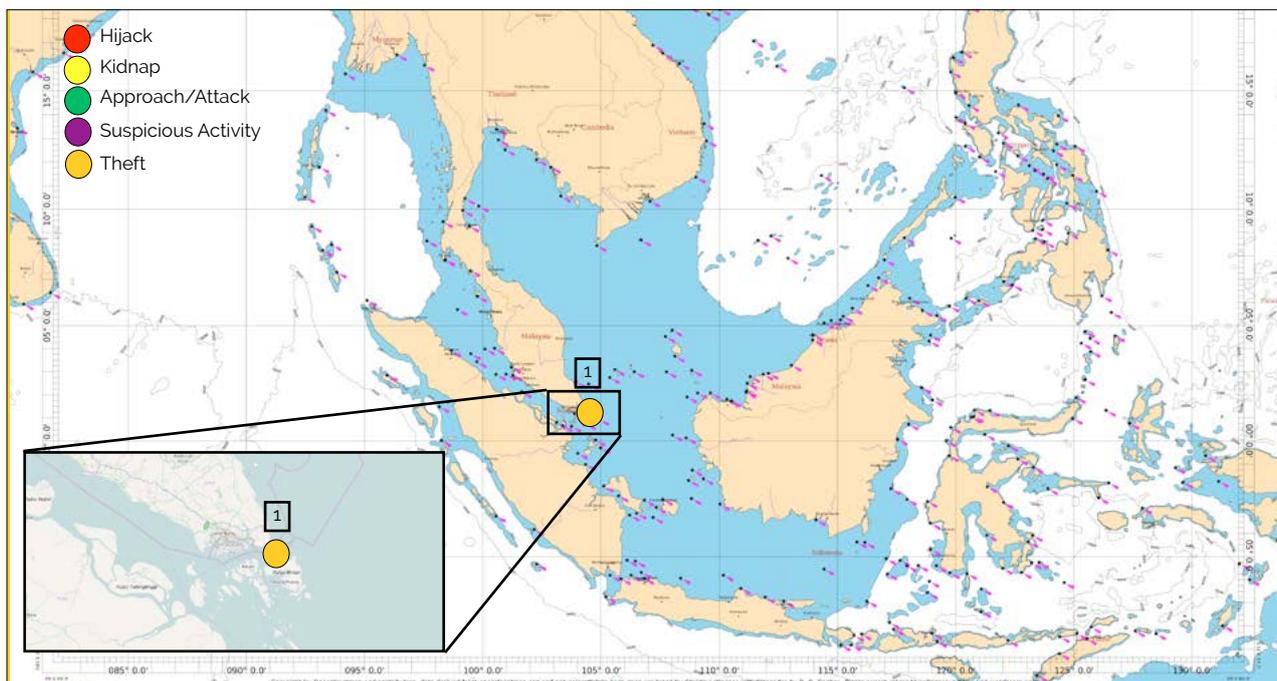
### Vietnam building up its maritime militia, magazine says

Vietnam is building up its maritime militia in the South China Sea in an apparent challenge to Chinese efforts to dominate the disputed waterway, according to a Chinese military magazine. "Vietnam's maritime militia force and their activities in waters near Hainan, the Paracel Islands and Spratly Islands have threatened China's maritime law enforcement and national defence security," Naval and Merchant Ships magazine said in an article published last week, the South China Morning Post reported.

### Philippines Military Reports Killing 3 Abu Sayyaf Suspects

Two brothers of an Abu Sayyaf commander were apparently killed Friday along with another militant during clashes in Sulu province in the far southern Philippines, ground commanders said. In related news, government troops thwarted a possible bombing plot by the Abu Sayyaf after recovering explosive materials in Barangay Campug, Albarka Municipality in Basilan Province Friday morning. Intelligence operatives conducted a special operation which resulted in the recovery of four explosive devices, said Lt. Gen. Corleto Vinluan Jr., Western Mindanao Command chief.

To see MAST's services in the region, [please click here](#).



## European Waters

Merchant vessels and a charity ship searching the Mediterranean for boats carrying migrants has found 10 bodies floating near a capsized rubber boat believed to have had 130 people on board, French humanitarian organisation SOS Mediterranee said. Another wooden boat was still missing with about 40 migrants aboard, a spokesman for the group said on Friday 23rd.

### Spanish Coast Guards make grim discovery on Canary Islands boat

17 people were found dead in a migrant boat near the coast of the Canary Islands, the Spanish maritime rescue service reported on Monday 26th. Three survivors, two men and one woman, were transferred by military helicopter to a hospital on Tenerife. "The three had hypothermia but were otherwise in good shape," a spokeswoman for Spain's local emergency services said.

### Italian coast guard rescues 100 people from stranded fishing boat

The Italian coast guard has helped an overcrowded fishing boat off Italy that was struggling in high waves and strong winds. The vessel and its more than 100 passengers, including children, was towed to a port in Calabria, southern Italy, where it arrived Sunday afternoon. On Sunday 25th, the Italian coast guard said it had rescued more than 100 people stranded at sea on a fishing boat over the weekend. According to a press release published on the coast guard's website, the boat was spotted in Italy's Mediterranean search and rescue (SAR) zone on Saturday with around 30 people on board, among them minors.

### Rescue groups, Pope, UN decry loss of migrant lives

Migrant aid groups, the Pope and the UN have denounced the latest tragedy in the Mediterranean which likely claimed the lives of 130 migrants. Libya's coast guard rejected allegations of not doing enough to help. Last week's deadly shipwreck northeast of the Libyan capital Tripoli, which likely claimed the lives of 130 migrants, has sparked shock and outrage among NGOs, the Vatican and the United Nations. The dinghy had capsized by the time migrant rescue ship Ocean Viking, operated by aid organization SOS Mediterranee, reached the site last Thursday (April 22nd) together with three merchant vessels that complied with requests from Italy and Libya to lend assistance.

### Frontex: Illegal Border Crossing Detections Down Due to a Drop in Eastern Mediterranean

A total of 5,750 persons attempted to reach Europe through its external borders in March (about a 4 per cent increase), more than twice compared to March last year figures, a recent report of the European Union Protection Border Agency Frontex reveals. According to the report, the number of illegal border crossing at Europe's external borders marked a seven per cent decrease during the first three months of 2021, compared to a year ago figures, to about 24,000, mainly due to a decline in arrivals in Eastern and Western Mediterranean, SchengenVisaInfo.com reports.

### Woman and child die in latest migrant tragedy in Med

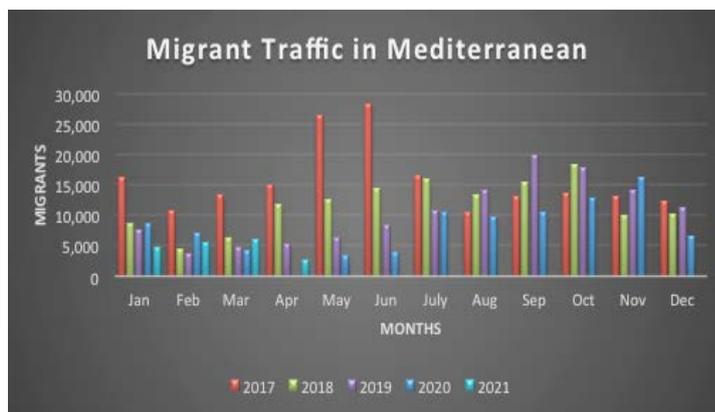
The Libyan coast guard patrol boat "Ubari" rescued 104 migrants, including ten women and three children. In the operation two bodies, those of a woman and a child were recovered. Migrant Rescue Watch, in a tweet said that the migrants, all African, were disembarked at the naval base in Tripoli. A person was detained by the police in connection with the deaths on board the boat.

### Greece faces lawsuit at the ECHR over illegal migrant push-backs

A lawsuit organised by Legal Centre Lesvos (LCL), a Greek NGO, at the European Court of Human Rights says Athens carried out a violent and massive coordinated operation against 200 people stranded on a boat. Instead of helping 200 refugees last October, the Greek authorities attacked and aggressively pushed them back towards Turkey, says a lawsuit filed at the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR).

### Greek FM: Turkey doesn't accept international law over eastern Mediterranean

Turkey doesn't accept international rules when it comes to exploratory drilling for gas in the eastern Mediterranean, Greece's Foreign Minister has told Euronews. "We would like to move our relations forward," Nikos Dendias told Euronews. "But we have a problem: in order to solve an exercise [problem], we have to abide by the same rules. And the rules in the international community [are] crystal clear. If we move with the same rules, we will solve this exercise [problem]. But what's happening with Turkey is that Turkey does not accept those rules."



Migrant crossings 2017-2021. Source: [UNHRC](https://www.unhcr.org/)

### The current migrant smuggling situation

Another update to UNHCR figures, which now show over 2,000 crossings so far in April (for reference, 2020 April figures were not available, due to the pandemic), again highlighting the ongoing problem. Last week's tragic loss of life will weigh heavily on front-line NGO rescue groups, who continue to attempt to save lives on the water while trying to avoid politics. The comments from the Pope underline just how significant the issue is to countries on the migration front line. Whether this latest tragedy will see any significant action rather than political hand-wringing remains to be seen.

# Libya

Libya's crude output could rebound in the coming days after the state-owned National Oil Corporation lifted force majeure on exports out of the eastern Marsa el-Hariga terminal on April 26th. Lifting force majeure comes almost a week after an oil sector budget row, which had pushed production down under 1 million b/d, SPGlobal reported.

## Syria now a gateway for drugs and mercenaries to Libya

There have been increased flights between Syria and Libya in recent months. This travel corridor, which primarily facilitates the transport of Syrian mercenaries, is growing proof of the alignment between Russian and Emirati interests in Libya, according to The Africa Report. Since the beginning of April, the Syrian company Cham Wings has made no less than nine round trips between Damascus and Benghazi, the last of which took place on 19th April. This private airline, which is under US and EU sanctions, is owned by businessman Rami Makhouf, Assad's cousin, the website stated on April 26th.

## Amnesty: East Libya military courts sentencing tortured civilians

Amnesty International on Monday 26th accused the military courts in eastern Libya, controlled by renegade General Khalifa Haftar, of conducting show trials of detainees who were subjected to torture, which led to sentencing of at least 22 people to death since 2018. The rights group said in its report that "military courts have convicted hundreds of civilians in eastern Libya in secret and grossly unfair military trials, aimed at punishing oppositionists and real or perceived critics of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF), led by Haftar and affiliated armed groups."

## Libya's 5+5 JMC to convene in Sirte on Sunday

The Libyan 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) was expected to convene its fourth meeting in Sirte on Sunday 25th and Monday 26th in the presence of subcommittee heads, and UN monitors. Security sources from Sirte said the meeting would be attended by a UNSMIL delegate and will discuss the agreement points of previous meetings regarding implementing the ceasefire that was signed in October last year and the reports of the subcommittees related to police, security and demining work ahead of reopening the coastal road between Sirte and Misrata.

## UN, France reiterate calls for full withdrawal of foreign forces

The Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Lib-

ya (UNSMIL), Jan Kubis, and France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Yves Le Drian, have stressed the need of a full withdrawal of foreign forces from the North African country. The two leaders met in Paris nearly three months after participants at Libya's UN-sponsored peace talks formed a transitional government.

## Libyan FM calls for 'stability, peace, security'

"Stability, peace and security" are Libya's major priorities ahead of the country's next elections, Foreign Minister Najla EL-Mangoush told a meeting of Italian MPs. Speaking in a hearing of the Italian Chamber of Deputies' foreign affairs committee attended by Arab News, EL-Mangoush said that Libya's transitional government intends to "talk to everyone the same way and put a new agenda on the table."

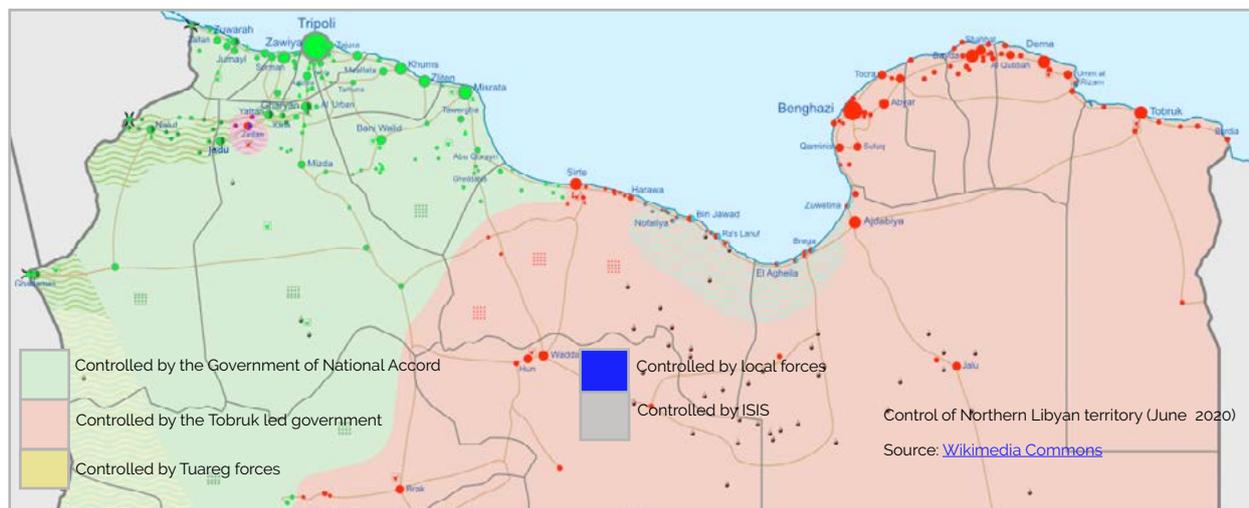
## US Ambassador Norland stresses need to unify Libyan army

The United States (US) ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland, highlighted the critical necessity to unite all military elements in the country into one single structure, which could control the country's borders and protect Libyan sovereignty in general. Norland expressed in a conversation with the Presidential Council (PC) member, Musa Al-Koni, his deep appreciation and admiration for the strong popular support for holding national elections on December 24th without delay.

## Libya's oil production down by 300,000 bpd due to lack of budget, could decline further

Libya's oil production has recently declined to one million barrels per day (bpd) down from 1.3 million bpd and could decline much less in the coming days. The warning was made by National Oil Corporation (NOC) chairman Mustafa Sanalla. Sanalla said that the oil sector in Libya has enormous human potential that enables it to raise the level of daily production of oil to a level above 2 million bpd in the near period, but the lack of approval of the necessary budgets for the sector prevented it from reaching that.

To read MAST's Libyan Country report on MASTOPEDIA, [please click here](#).



# Central and South America

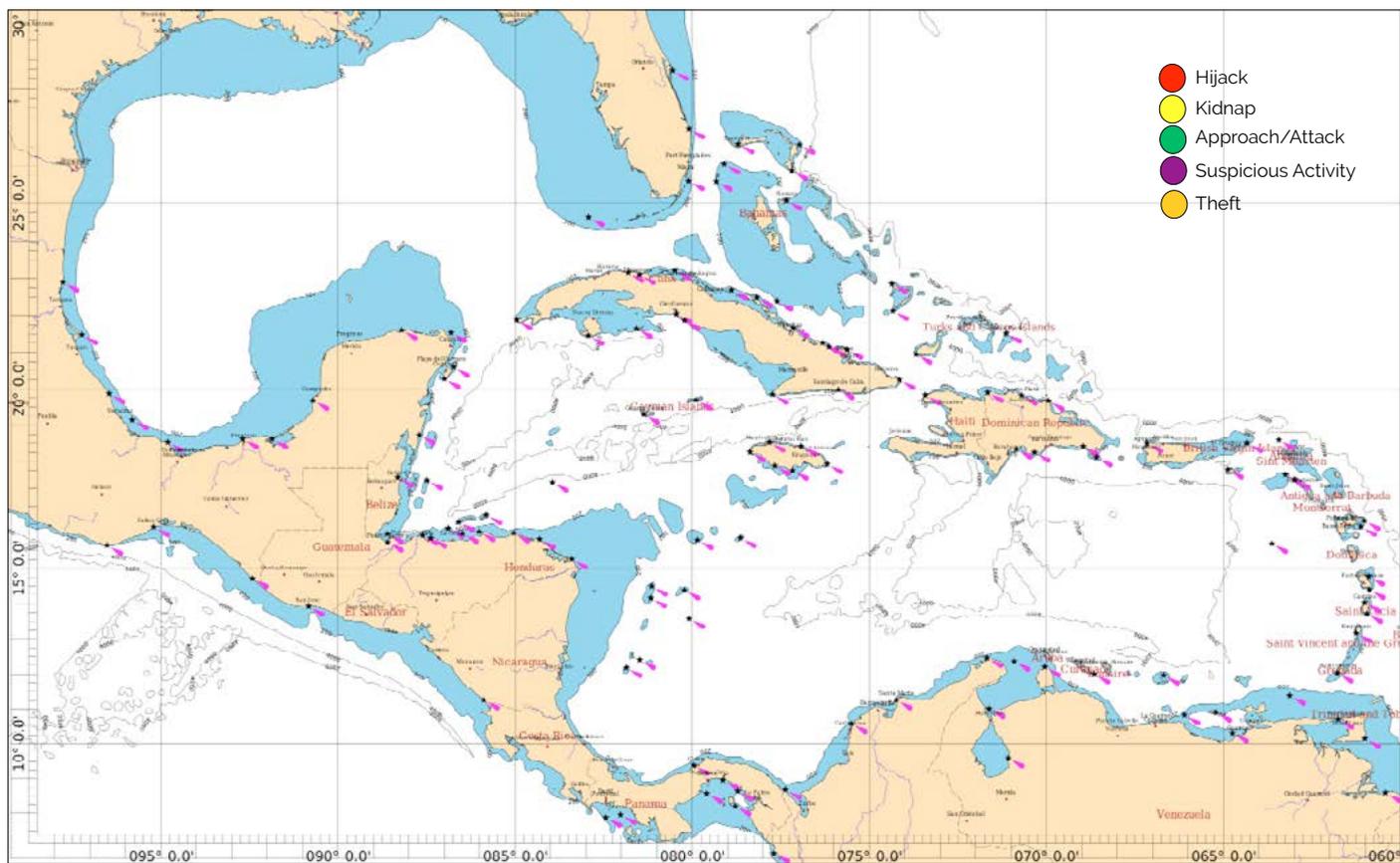
Nothing significant to report.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

### Standing advice:

The repercussions of a vessel being caught acting as a mule with drugs stowed will depend on the type, amount and national laws, but may be disruptive and costly. When and if operating in these areas, especially Columbia and Peru, it is advised that:

- Potential stowage areas such as rudder shafts are denied as far as possible, and/or routinely searched.
- Access points are closely monitored by a vigilant watch for the duration of the vessel's call at port.





## Severe Weather Warnings

Warnings detailed on this page are from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and are issued by respective Regional Specialised Metrological Centres, Tropical Cyclone Centres or National Meteorological Services. For further information on severe weather warnings please click [here](#).

Nothing significant to report.

Note: The forecasts are correct as of the day before publication. For latest updates please follow the provided links.