

Weekly Security & Risk Report

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MARITIME SECURITY PHYSICAL AND ASSET SECURITY RISK CONSULTING SECURITY SYSTEMS



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Issue 280 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.

Working closely in conjunction with a host of experts, MAST Intelligence offers a market leading service pertaining to all maritime affairs.

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Gulf of Guinea

A manhunt is underway after a night of violence left 12 police officers dead in Nigeria's oil-rich Rivers State on Friday 7th. Gunmen opened fire on a checkpoint in the southern state, then drove to two police stations, killing officers and burning patrol cars, police say. Police killed two of the attackers but are searching for those who escaped. The unidentified armed men, driving a Toyota Hilux van, launched their "surprise assault" on the checkpoint at Choba Bridge at around 20:30 local time (19:30 BST) on Friday, police spokesperson Nnamdi Omoni said. Nigerian media report that there have been 34 killings in the last 14 days.

Incidents:

1. On May 2nd at 0330 UTC, a theft occurred on a MV while the vessel was off Monrovia, Liberia, in position 006°20N – 010°47E. The robber was discovered during routine patrols and fled the vessel. Crew unharmed.

Nigeria offers hope of piracy progress at IMO

Nigeria told the IMO a state's exclusive economic zones enjoyed the same status as the high seas when it came to suppressing piracy, comments likely to be welcomed by countries thinking of sending warships to help fight piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, Lloyd's List reported on May 7th. It is unclear whether the comments reflect an acceptance of any international naval forces in the country's waters, however, and the Nigerian Navy has yet to comment.

Nigeria Loses \$70m To Illegal Fishing – Reps

The House of Representatives has expressed concerns that Nigeria loses up to \$70 million yearly to foreign trawlers due to illegal fishing in the nation's waters, as observed by the Nigerian Navy using data from 2017. The House urged the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Nigerian Navy and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) to put measures in place to curb illegal fishing and the threat it poses not only to food security but as an ongoing threat to the nation's territorial waters.

Ghana: Moves to Monitor Fishing in Gulf of Guinea

The Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC), an inter-governmental organisation, which focuses on the fisheries sector, has set up a Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Center (RMCSC). This is to enable the country to effectively monitor fishing and its related activities in the Gulf of Guinea. Scheduled to be launched on May 12, 2021, the centre among other things, would co-ordinate regional and

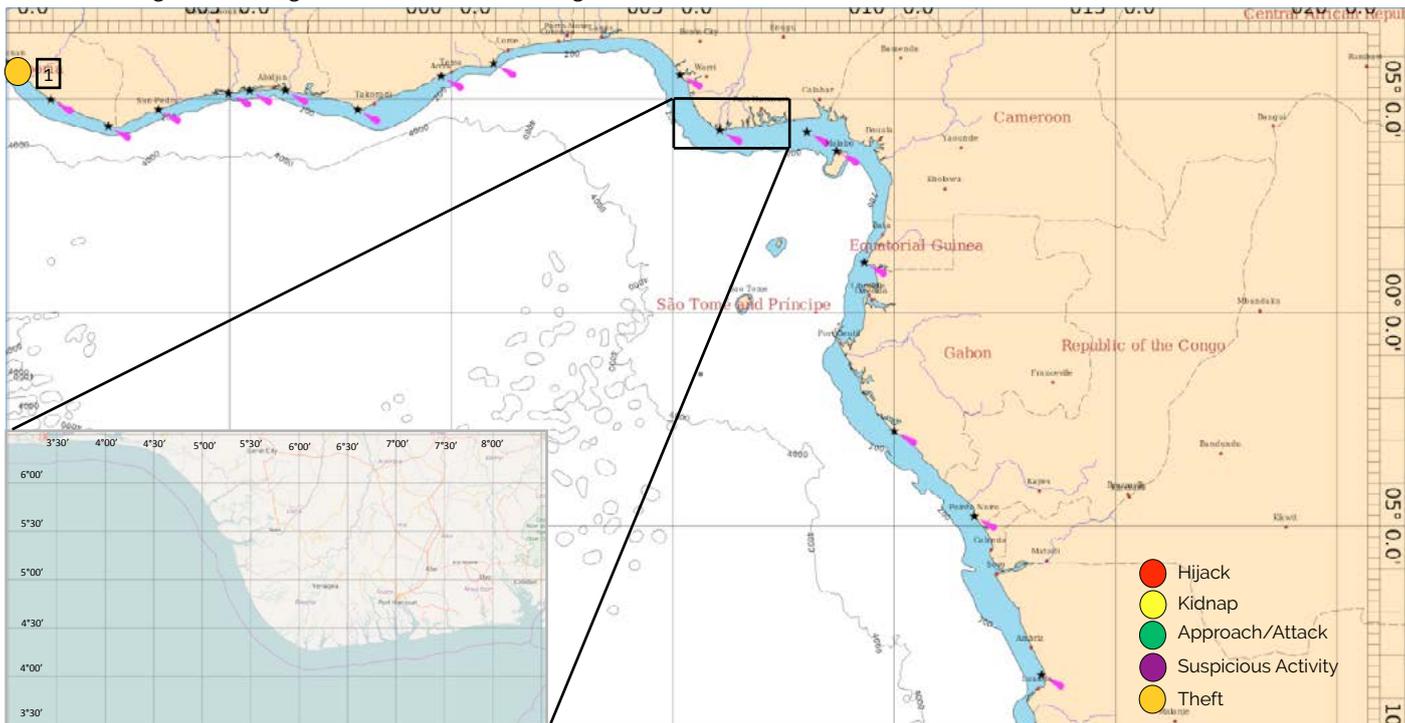
joint operations at sea, and patrols to identify vessels operating without authorisation as well as build capacities of stakeholders in the fisheries sector.

NNS Lana due to arrive in Nigeria in ten days

The Nigerian Navy's new hydrographic survey vessel NNS Lana will arrive home on 17th May, and is currently sailing from The Gambia to Ghana. The Nigerian Navy (NN) on 7 May said the NNS Lana today departed Banjul in The Gambia, for Tema-Ghana on the fourth leg of her maiden homeward voyage. She is expected to arrive Tema-Ghana on 13 May and depart on 16 May, to arrive home on the 17th.

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: 28 (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 guided-missile cruiser USS Monterey (CG 61) seized an illicit shipment of weapons from a stateless dhow in international waters of the North Arabian Sea on May 6th-7th. The cache of weapons included dozens of advanced Russian-made anti-tank guided missiles, thousands of Chinese Type 56 assault rifles, and hundreds of PKM machine guns, sniper rifles and rocket-propelled grenades launchers. Other weapon components included advanced optical sights. Monterey provided more than 36 hours of over watch and security for its boarding teams and the interdicted vessel throughout the two-day operation.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

US fires warning shots at Iranian boats in Gulf

A US Coast Guard ship fired warning shots at Iranian boats that came close to American naval vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, the Pentagon says. The Pentagon said 13 fast boats from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGCN) came within 140m (459ft) of US vessels on Monday 10th. The Iranian vessels left after 30 warning shots were fired, the Pentagon said.

Series of drug seizures for CMF and Royal Canadian Navy

HMCS Calgary has intercepted four suspicious dhows off the coast of Oman during a string of high-tempo operations, leading to the seizure of illicit narcotics worth over \$14.4 million in just three days, the Combined Maritime Forces reported on May 7th. The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) warship conducted three back-to-back drug interdiction operations on 30th April, seizing 15,071 lbs (6,836 kg) of hashish. Calgary's operational success continued on 2 May, with a high-value interdiction of 1,146 lbs (520 kg) of methamphetamine, 1,378 lbs (625 kg) of hashish and 11 lbs (5 kg) of heroin. This is the latest in a series of six seizures in just seven days made by Calgary whilst in direct support of CMF's Canadian-led Combined Task Force (CTF) 150.

Pakistan Navy participates in exercises with US, Canada

Pakistan media reports that PNS Saif took part in Focused Operation Chinook Archer with assets from the US and Royal Canadian navies in the Arabian Sea as part of a Combined Task Force 151 exercise. The drill was intended to enhance interoperability along the 'Hash Highway 2, which is designated as the waters east of Oman. The region has seen a spike in drug interdictions in recent months, as the pandemic eases and

organised transnational criminal gangs attempt to re-open smuggling routes.

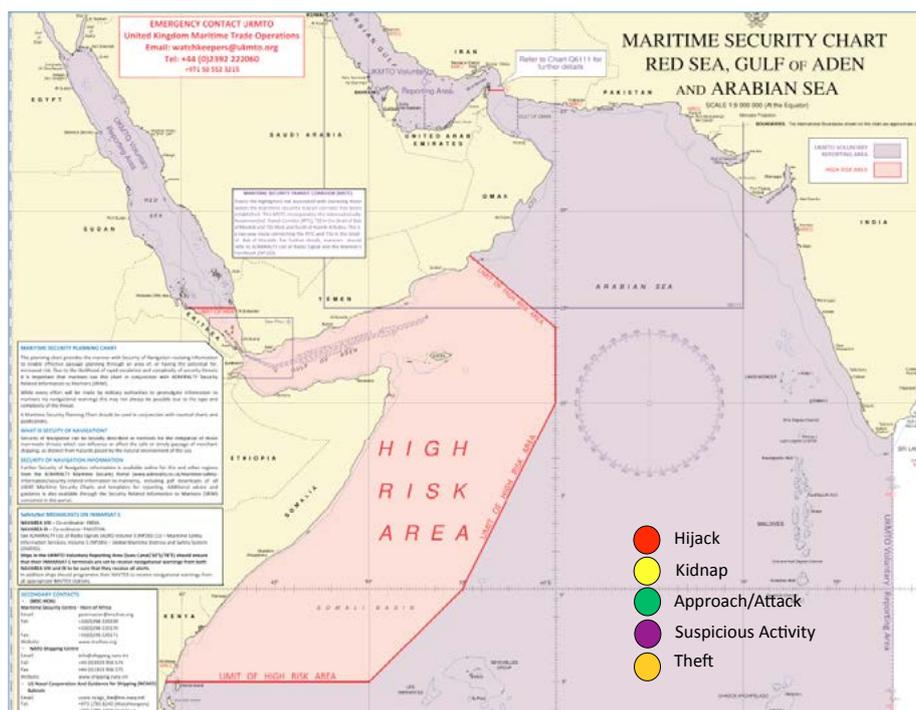
Indian and Indonesian navies carry out military drill in Southern Arabian sea

Assets from the Indian and Indonesian navies completed a joint exercise in the Southern Arabian Sea on Saturday May 8th. The Passage exercise was, "aimed at improving interoperability and understanding between both friendly navies," an Indian Navy spokesman told the Economic Times.

Sri Lanka Navy seizes stock of Kerala cannabis worth over Rs. 70 million

Naval patrols conducted in northwestern and western waters of the island on 7th May, led to the seizure of over 235kg of Kerala cannabis and about 522kg of onion seeds, attempted to be smuggled into the country via sea routes. During a patrol in the seas off Kudiramalei Point, the Navy spotted an Indian fishing vessel in Sri Lankan waters across the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and the vessel was boarded by 07 Indian nationals. Further search of the vessel led to the seizure of over 235kg of Kerala cannabis in 118 packages contained in 06 sacks, which were suspected to have attempted to smuggle into the island. The street value of the seized consignment of Kerala cannabis is believed to be over Rs. 70 million.

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



Somalia

Several people are feared dead after a suicide bomber targeted a police station in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, officials said. Somali police spokesman Sadaq Adan Ali told Andaolu Agency on Sunday the attack targeted a police station in Waberi district. "It is too early to say how many people have been killed in this attack but I can tell you that there are multiple casualties," Ali said. Associated Press reported that at least six people had been killed in the blast on Sunday 9th.

Somali army kills at least seven Al Shabaab militants in central region

The Somali National Army (SNA) on Sunday 9th killed at least seven Al Shabaab militants after the SNA forces conducted operations near Mahas district in Hiran region in central Somalia, an official said. Mohamud Hassan Ibrahim, SNA army commander in the region, told the state-owned Radio Mogadishu that 17 other Al Shabaab militants were also injured and the government forces burnt down an armored vehicle of al-Shabab during the operation.

AU appoints ex-Ghana president as special envoy to Somalia

Garowe Online reports that the African Union has appointed former Ghanaian President, John Mahama, as its Special Envoy to Somalia. Mahama will represent the AU's interests in the country and is due to arrive imminently in the capital, where it is hoped he will be able to improve political dialogue in the country.

UN warns of severe flooding in Somalia

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Saturday 8th warned of high risk of severe flooding in Somalia amid rise in river levels. FAO's Somalia Water and Land Information Management (FAO-SWALIM) flood bulletin released in Mogadishu warns at least 150,000 people are at immediate risk from imminent floods as river levels in parts of the country continue to rise due to torrential rains.

AMISOM Burundian troops, Battle Groups 55 and 56 end their tour of duty in Somalia

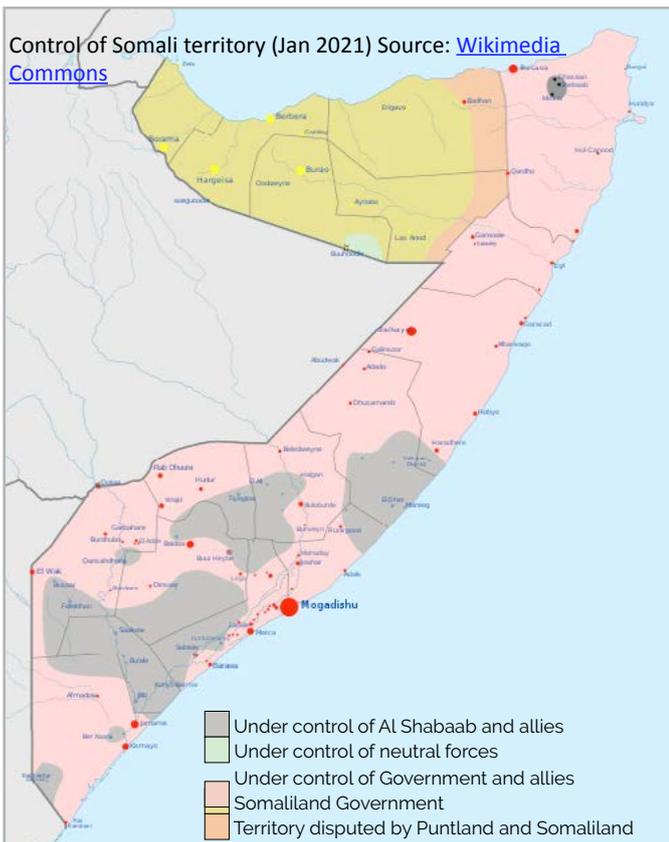
The African Union Mission in Somalia, AMISOM, on May 7th recognized the contributions of Burundi troops to restoring peace in Somalia. At an end of tour of duty parade in Mogadishu, the outgoing officers from BNDF Battle Groups 55 and 56 were presented with medals and certificates after eighteen months in AMISOM.

Opposition fighters withdraw from Mogadishu

Opposition fighters withdrew from the Somali capital on Friday 7th, ending a tense standoff with pro-government troops after a dispute over delayed elections triggered some of the country's worst political violence in years. Media reports stated that several hundred armed gunmen withdrew from areas of the capital where they had been positioned since April.

Somalia revives ties with Kenya

Following some curious infighting between departments of the Somali government, it would appear that ties with Kenya have indeed been officially revived, ending an almost six-month spat between the two neighbouring countries. Relations between the countries have also been tense over the ownership of potential oil and gas deposits, some of which lie off the coast of Jubbaland, one of Somalia's five semi-autonomous states, Reuters reported on May 7th.



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

The UN fears that hopes for a ceasefire in Yemen are in jeopardy, the Guardian reported on May 7th, due to the ongoing fighting in the oil-rich Marib governate. The Houthi offensive in the region has already led to significant loss of life, and despite efforts to hold peace talks between the rebels and internationally recognised government, little progress has been made, as Houthis appeared ready to accept a ceasefire deal and then rejecting it.

Yemen accuses Iran of 'fueling war' over weapons seizure

The internationally recognized government of Yemen has accused Iran of fueling the country's civil war by supplying Houthi militias with weaponry and military know-how. Following the accusations, Yemeni officials repeated demands for Iran to face punishment for meddling in the country's affairs. It came as the US Navy announced on Sunday 9th that it had seized a new arms shipment of thousands of weapons concealed on a vessel in the Arabia Sea.

Houthis claim another drone attack against Saudi Arabia

China's Xinhua agency reported on Sunday 9th that Houthi rebels had launched a new drone attack against King Khalid Air Base in the city of Khamis Mushait on Sunday morning. While military spokesman Yehya Sarea claimed that the attack was successful, Saudi TV stated that the drone had been intercepted and destroyed.

Iran dismisses report that it's sending Syrian youth to Yemen

The Iranian embassy in Ankara on Sunday 9th dismissed a claim by Turkey's Anadolu News Agency claim that Iran was sending troops from Syria to Yemen, calling it a "lack of information about the realities on the ground in Yemen." On Sunday, the Iranian embassy issued a statement saying, "This false claim contradicts the Islamic Republic of Iran's approach to the catastrophic and inhumane war against the Yemeni people. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always called for an end to this war and has supported UN efforts to find a political solution," the Tehran Times reported.

Intense fighting in Marib leaves at least 44 dead

China's official Xinhua news agency reported that at least 44 people were killed in "bloody" battles between the Yemeni government forces and the Houthi rebels in the oil-rich province of Marib, an official has confirmed. "Houthi fighters carried out large-scale military operations from different directions against several sites of pro-government forces in western Marib," the official told Xinhua on Saturday 8th.

US administration unhappy with Houthi refusal to meet UN envoy

Associated Press reported on May 7th that the Biden administration had "lashed out" at the Houthi rebel movement in Yemen for its failure to meet with U.N. special envoy Martin Griffiths in Oman. The US State Dept. described the snub as a "major opportunity" which Houthis had passed up.

US urges easing Saudi restrictions on Yemen's Hodeidah port, Sanaa airport

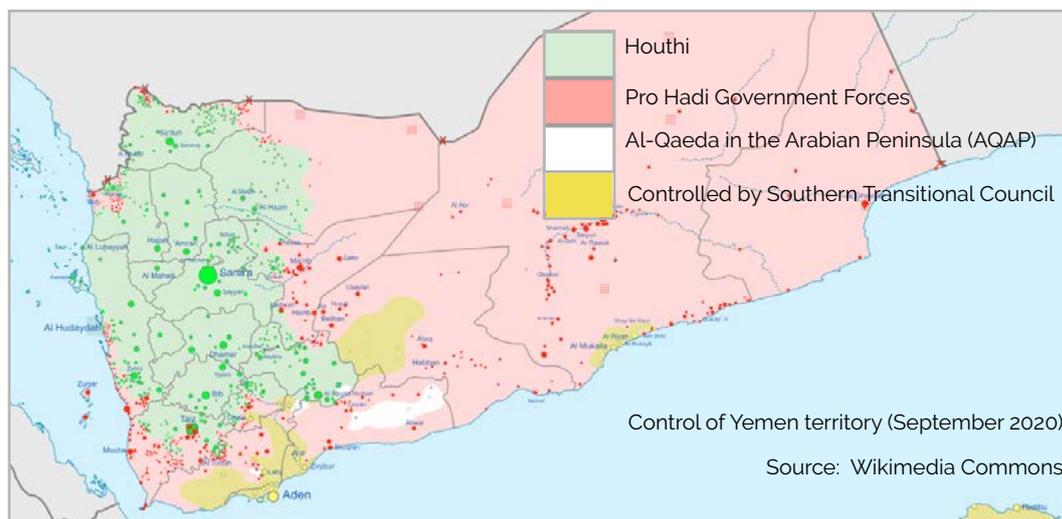
US special envoy for Yemen Tim Lenderking has urged Saudi Arabia to ease "all restrictions" on the port of Hodeidah and the Sanaa airport, the State Department said on Friday May 7th, in an apparent call to end Riyadh's blockade on the war-torn country. Middle East Eye reported on May 7th. "In Saudi Arabia, he held meetings with senior government officials, including Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman, to stress the need to ease all restrictions at Hodeidah Port and Sanaa Airport, reach a comprehensive, nationwide ceasefire, and move to inclusive political talks," the State Department said in a statement.

Iran-Saudi contacts geared at Yemen, not a game changer for now

Arab Weekly reports that Iraq has hosted more than one round of talks between regional foes Iran and Saudi Arabia. Iraqi President Barham Salih said on Wednesday 6th. Salih made his remarks during an interview broadcast live online with the Beirut Institute think tank. He gave no more details. President Salih did, however, state that talks were ongoing, offering some hope to the region.

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

A report in the Hindustan Times suggests that the Philippines plans a logistics hub on Thitu Island, as the country seeks to maintain its patrols and naval presence in the South China Sea. "Our objective is to drive away Chinese maritime militia and other Chinese vessels from our exclusive economic zone," Sobejana told CNN Philippines on Monday 9th. The plans would include the installation of surveillance equipment to monitor activities in the waters around the island.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Eight Abu Sayyaf terrorists arrested in Sabah, Malaysia

Assisted with intelligence provided by the Philippines, the Malaysian military has arrested 8 Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Sabah, Associated Press reported on Tuesday 11th. It is believed that the men planned a series of kidnappings in the region and were likely forced to flee to Borneo Island, Sabah, after PH military operations left their bases in Sulu unusable. The men were arrested in an operation on Saturday 8th, reports said.

New gas field operational in South China Sea

Macau Business reports that a new gas field has become operational in the South China Sea, aiming to produce over 420 million cubic metres of natural gas this year. Operated by Offshore Oil Engineering Co. Ltd., the field, Liuhua 29-2, is in the eastern part of the South China Sea in waters with an average depth of 750 meters, the company said. The company is based in the north China port city of Tianjin.

China, Indonesia hold joint naval exercises near Jakarta

Despite regional tensions, China and Indonesia have conducted a successful joint naval drill in the waters off Jakarta, according to the South China Morning Post. The Chinese Defence Ministry said that the exercise on Saturday 8th was part of the PLA Navy's annual training programme. 'President Joko Widodo is keen to have as close of a relationship with China as possible, likely for reasons of self-interest, but at the same time China has infringed on their territory in the South China Sea so it remains tense.' Dr David Engel, head of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's Indonesia program told Daily Mail Australia.

China Seen Increasing Control in Disputed Asian Sea with Revised Maritime Law

Analysts are raising concerns that a Chinese update to its maritime traffic law will help Beijing tighten control over disputed Asian seas by legalizing interception of foreign vessels and authorizing fines against their operators, VOA writes. The standing committee of the National People's Congress voted on April 29th to amend the Maritime Traffic Safety Law, state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

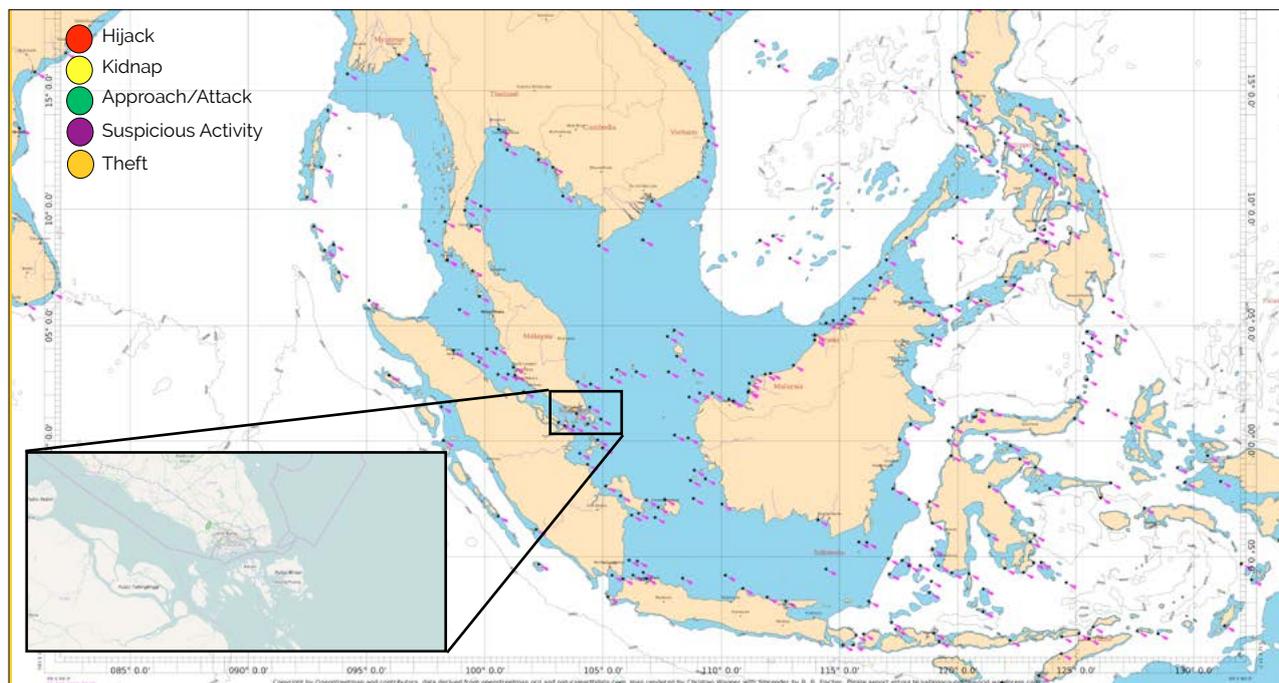
PCG: More personnel, assets underway to strengthen coast guard functions

CNN Philippines reported on Thursday 6th that the PCG intends to recruit more staff and secure additional assets as the country responds to the ongoing Chinese presence in the region. PCG spokesperson Commodore Armanda Balilo told CNN Philippines' The Source that they are enlisting up to 4,000 personnel, pending budget approval from the Department of Budget and Management.

Philippine Navy destroys 219 firearms

219 firearms seized during operations in Central Mindanao, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu were destroyed by the Philippine Navy, according to a government report on May 7th. Rear Adm. Toribio Adaci Jr., NFWM commander, said the assorted firearms were accumulated by Naval operating units in their various campaigns against terrorism and other lawless groups.

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



European Waters

The UK hopes to have a new surveillance system in place to deter illegal fishing and organised people smuggling later this year. The i Newspaper reports that an IOD-3 Amber "cube sat" will be deployed via SpaceX rocket and will be used by agencies such as the National Maritime Information Centre (NMIC) to monitor signals emitted by the navigation radars and radio wave communications of ships operating in Britain's coastal waters.

Vessel capsizes off Libya, fears of multiple fatalities

Associated Press, citing reports from UNHCR, said that a migrant vessel capsized off Libya on Monday 10th, with as many as 24 people presumed dead in the incident. Libyan Coast Guard vessels rescued 42 survivors and returned them to shore and, while one body was recovered, it was feared that another 23 people remained missing, presumed dead. A spokesperson for the IMO said that on Sunday, another incident off Libya saw a vessel carrying 45 persons capsize, with five people, including a woman and child, drowning as a result. Fishermen rescued 40 migrants during the incident, the IMO said.

Lebanon detains 60 migrants in foiled Mediterranean crossing

The Lebanese army said on Monday 10th that it had foiled an attempt to smuggle 60 people, mostly from Syria, out of Lebanon, days after dozens of Syrians were caught trying to cross to Cyprus. "A naval force unit stopped a boat detected by radar 10 nautical miles off the city of Tripoli" in northern Lebanon on Sunday, it said in a statement.

Lampedusa: More than 1,000 migrants arrive on Italian island

More than 1,000 migrants landed on the Italian island of Lampedusa in the space of a few hours on Sunday 9th, according to local media reports. One boat alone was carrying almost 400 men, women and children, Italian news agency Ansa said. The island's Mayor Toto Martello said he believed the rise in arrivals coincided with the good weather. Lampedusa is one of the main arrival ports for people wanting to reach Europe.

UNHCR: The Libyan Coast Guard has rescued 6060 migrants since the beginning of the year

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), reports that the Libyan Coast Guard has rescued 6060 refugees and illegal migrants so far in 2021. UNHCR stated in its monthly update that 12 migrants had been rescued by local fishermen, as well as the discovery of multiple bodies at Al-Zawiya beaches, and expressed concern about a boat sinking off the coast of Libya with an undisclosed number of passengers, the Libyan Express reported on May 10th.

Libyan coastguard vessel that shot Italian fisherman was gift from Rome

In ironic news, Arab Weekly reports that a Libyan Coast Guard vessel which fired warning shots at Italian fishing vessels on May 6th was actually a gift from the Italian government to Libya. The Libyan CG claim that warning shots were fired when vessels from Sicily strayed into their waters. However, the fishermen say that their vessels were hit by bullets, with one man shot in the arm. An Italian Navy vessel intervened during the incident.

38 migrants rescued off Tunisian coast

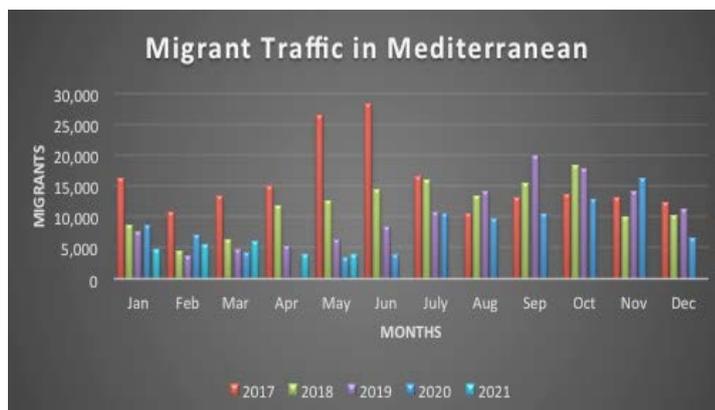
InfoMigrants reported on May 7th that 38 migrants were rescued by the Tunisian Navy on May 5th, when their vessel began to sink off the island of Kerkennah, near the coastal city of Sfax in eastern Tunisia. The migrants, between 20 and 35 years old, reportedly hailed from several African countries and included six women.

Italian Police Capture Gang Involved in Counterfeiting Migrant Documents in Naples

The Italian police authorities have busted a gang of Afghan, Pakistani, and Italian nationals who allegedly generated fake stay permits in Naples in order to allow migrants to remain in Italy and the Schengen Area illegally, SchengenVisaInfo reported on May 7th.

Alan Kurdi sets sail for Spain after 7 months in Italian port

The migrant rescue ship Alan Kurdi left the Italian island of Sardinia for Spain on Wednesday 5th, after being seized by Italian authorities last year. After being docked for seven months at the port of Olbia, the Alan Kurdi left Sardinia on Wednesday afternoon. It is now headed for a shipyard in Burriana, Spain, where the ship operated by German NGO Sea-Eye will undergo an inspection and maintenance works.



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

As anticipated, improving weather and sea states, combined with political figures in Libya taking their eyes off the ball, has led to an increase in Mediterranean crossing attempts in the past week, along with another tragic rise in fatalities. Figures for May already show that over 3,800 people have crossed the Med in the last 12 days, almost eclipsing figures for April. The huge number of arrivals in Lampedusa over the weekend highlights the scale of the problem, with NGO rescue missions, the Libyan Coast Guard and agencies such as Frontex seemingly caught on the back foot by the numbers involved. Hopes continue for a political breakthrough to slow the flow, but it remains unlikely.

Libya

Despite reports by some media outlets on Saturday 8th, the Libyan Presidency Council has denied that armed men entered the hotel where the body was meeting. "There was no kidnapping, gunfire, or an attack on me or the hotel," the head of the Presidency Council's office, Mohamed al-Mabrouk said in a social media video, adding that he had been in the hotel at the time of the incident, Reuters reported. However, images on social media purported to show armed men in uniforms standing outside the Corinthia Hotel, whom local press called militias.

Oil Minister: Within 2-3 years, we will be producing 2 million barrels per day

Libya's Oil and Gas Minister, Mohamed Oun, stated that as the country stabilizes, it will take two to three years for Libya to raise its average oil production levels to 2 million barrels per day. In a report in the Libyan Express on May 10th, Oun said that the creation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) and ceasefire had allowed the oil industry to recover significantly.

Clashes erupt between Haftar's militias in Benghazi

Armed clashes broke out on Sunday 9th evening between two militias affiliated with Haftar, a source from Benghazi confirmed. The clashes erupted in the Qasr Al-Sindbad neighbourhood, between a militia belonging to Haftar's son Saddam and an armed group affiliated with the militiaman, Abd al-Latif al-Mashay. The warring militias exchanged fire with medium and light weapons, while no information was confirmed regarding the casualties resulting from these clashes.

UN welcomes eastern-based Libyan army's release of detainees

The U.N. Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) on Friday 7th welcomed the release of detainees held by the eastern-based army controlled by Khalifa Haftar. "UNSMIL welcomes the recent release of dozens of detainees by the command of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) and is encouraged by their declared commitment for further releases during Ramadan," the UNSMIL said in a statement.

Egypt and Turkey seek to overhaul tense ties with frank talks on Libya

Egypt and Turkey on Thursday 6th held talks on the conflict in Libya, where they back competing factions, on Syria and the security situation in the eastern Mediterranean, in a push to rebuild their fractured relations, Reuters reported. Discussions took place over two days, marking the first proper contact between the two countries in several years. It is hoped that the diplomatic moves could work in Libya's favour.

Turkey makes clear intent to keep military presence, mercenaries in Libya

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar ended the debate over the withdrawal of Turkish soldiers and Syrian mercenaries from Libya, by asserting that they will remain to preserve Ankara's interests in Libya and those of Libyans, according to the needs specified by the authorities in the country, the Arab Weekly reported on May 6th. The report claims that there are fears within Turkey that Libya is 'on the verge of a new crisis'.

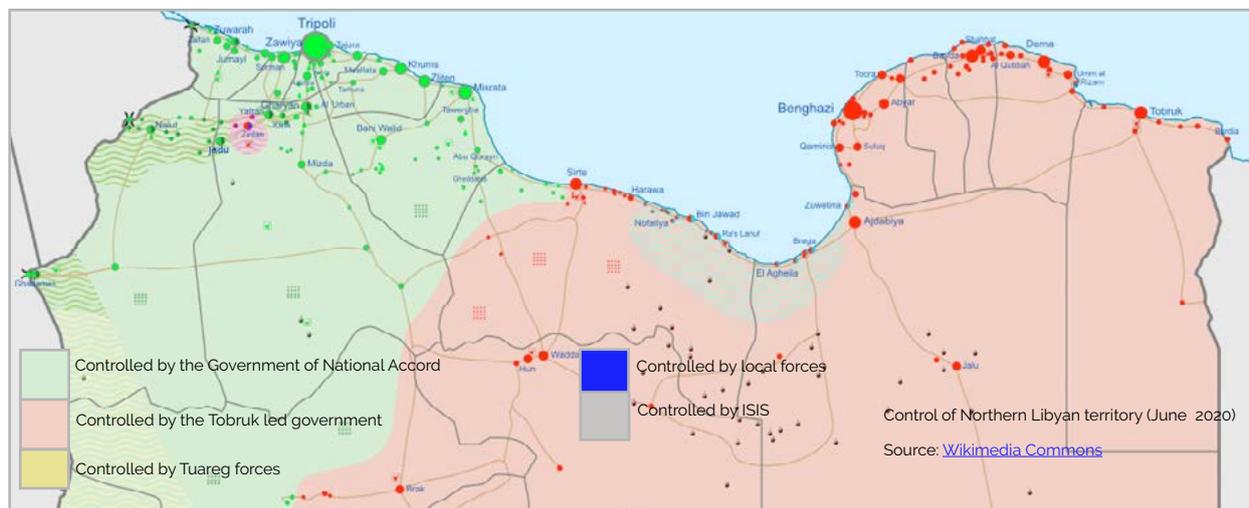
Libya launches multiple million dollar fund to rebuild Benghazi, Derna

The North Africa Post reports that Libya is embarking on a \$335 million project to rebuild Benghazi and Derna, two cities ravaged by years of internal conflicts. A statement by the Government of National Unity (GNU), indicated that the fund will be held in Benghazi, the country's second city, and is created to reconstruct the regions destroyed by the war and to repair the damaged infrastructure and buildings.

Libya PM renews commitment to maritime deal with Turkey

The head of the Libyan Government, Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, affirmed that his country adheres to the maritime agreement signed between the two countries, and pledged that the deal would not be abandoned. The Prime Minister further stated that his government did not agree with a Greek evaluation of the maritime agreement, stressing that: "the deal serves the Libyans, and we will not withdraw from it."

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



Central and South America

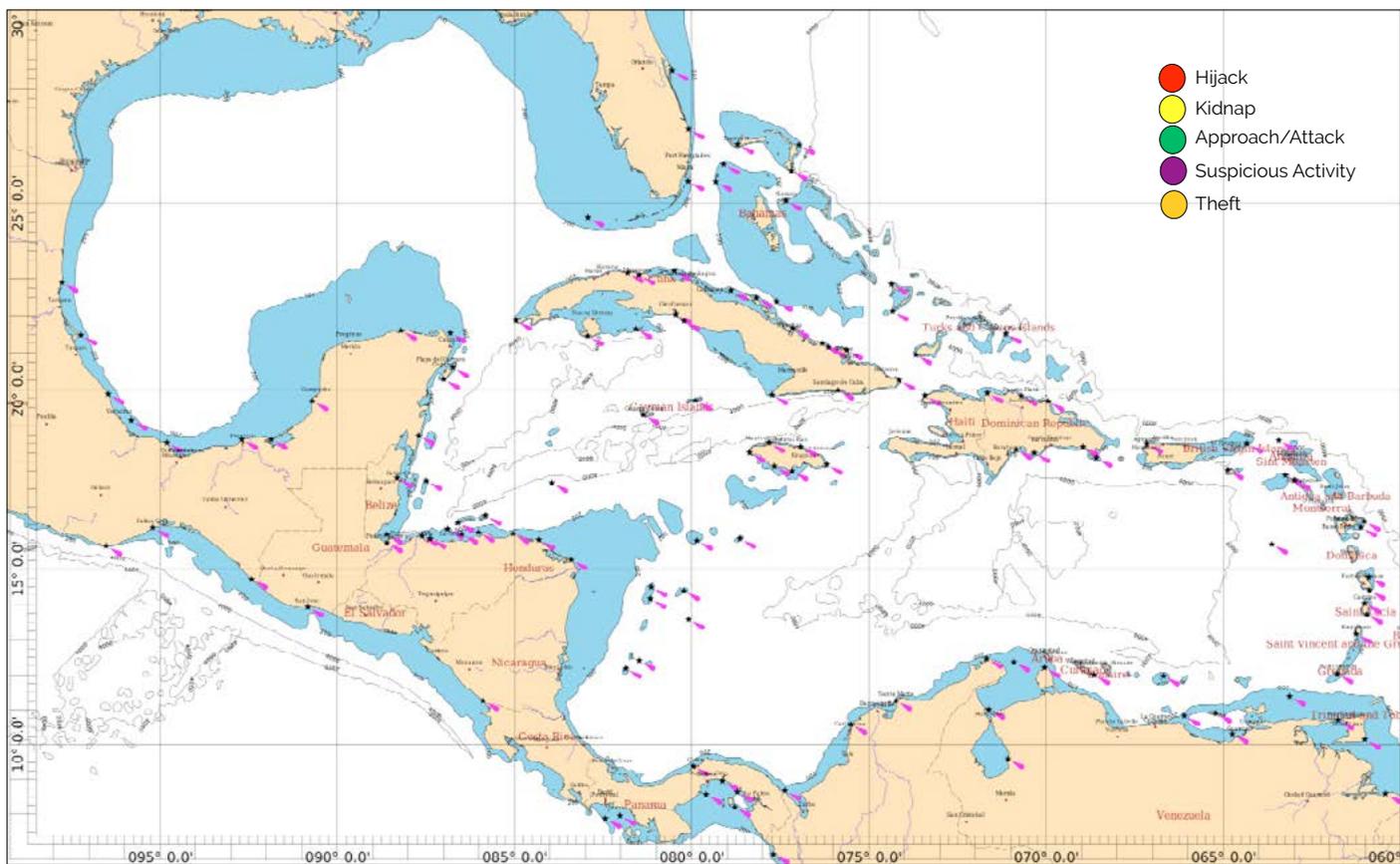
Nothing significant to report.

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.