

Weekly Security & Risk Report

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MAKING THE
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MARITIME SECURITY PHYSICAL AND ASSET SECURITY RISK CONSULTING SECURITY SYSTEMS



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Issue 281 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

The Federal Government and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) announced the acquisition of assets for the Deep Blue Project launching formally this month. The project is aimed at protecting Nigeria's waters from the recent spike in piracy attacks. NIMASA boss, Dr Bashir Jamoh announced the acquisition of special mission aircraft, including three Special Mission Helicopters at the Naval Base, Apapa. He added that the attacks on Nigeria's maritime Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) have reduced with the deployment of the Deep Blue assets.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Shipping industry launch the Gulf of Guinea Declaration on Suppression of Piracy

A group of shipowners convened by BIMCO drafted the Declaration. The aim is to speak plainly about the piracy problem in the Gulf of Guinea and get all the stakeholders involved to address the real problems, with effective solutions, on behalf of our seafarers. So far, 99 maritime companies, organisations and flag states, including BIMCO, have signed the *Gulf of Guinea Declaration on Suppression of Piracy*, which was launched on Monday 17th. "We hope that all parties with an interest in a safe Gulf of Guinea will sign this Declaration," says Sadan Kaptanoglu, BIMCO president and shipowner, who has personally had a ship hijacked and crew kidnapped in the Gulf of Guinea.

IMB remain concerned at GoG piracy rates

Last week, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) once again described Nigerian waters as most volatile in the Gulf of Guinea, accounting for half of the 38 piracy incidences reported in first quarter (Q1) of 2021 in the Gulf of Guinea, Nigeria's This-Day reported. According to the IMB, "Nigeria (Lagos-Apapa, Off Bayelsa-Brass, and Bonny Island-Port Harcourt): Pirates/robbers are often well armed and violent and have attacked, hijacked, robbed ships and kidnapped crews along far from the coast rivers, anchorages ports, and surrounding waters.

Nigeria: Three Refineries Processed No Crude In January

Latest operations report of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) indicates that Nigeria's refineries under the management of NNPC could not refine a drop of crude oil amid concerns by the Nigeria Labour Congress over the state of the facilities. In its most recent financial and operations report, the national oil firm stated that the Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company, Port Harcourt Refining Company

and Warri Refining and Petrochemical Company processed no crude oil in January this year.

Deep Blue Project: Countdown to Maritime's Big Event

The assets acquisition and installation phase of the Deep Blue Project moved towards completion last week, with the delivery of one of the two Special Mission Aircraft for the project. The Cessna CJ3 Citation jet for maritime surveillance was received in Lagos ahead of the scheduled launch of the Integrated National Security and Waterways Protection Infrastructure – commonly called the Deep Blue Project – on May 21.

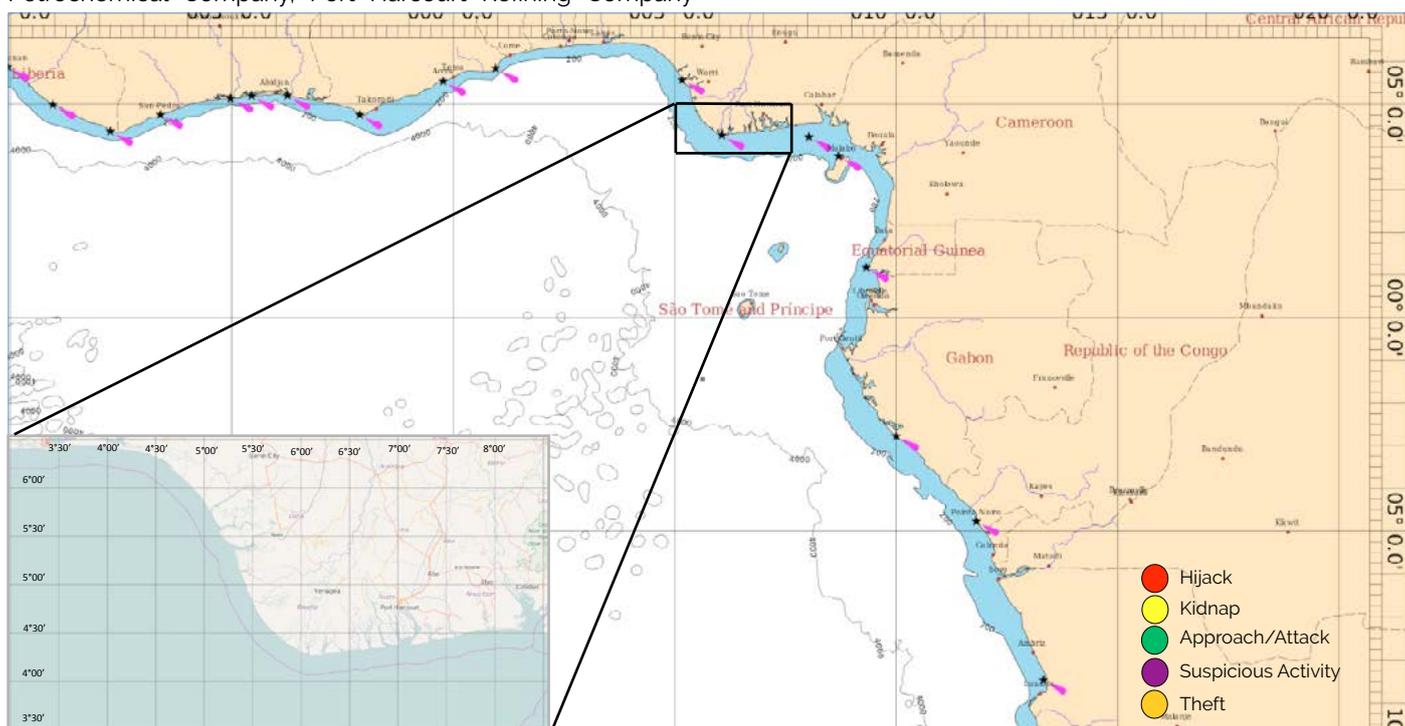
Ghana takes steps to tackle fisheries-related crimes

The Ghana government plans to make good on its promise to fight IUU fishing in its waters, with a new Fisheries Act and a report that it plans to secure four patrol vessels and a reserch ship, according to a report by GhanaWeb.

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

On Monday 17th, the Indian Navy announced that they had successfully rescued nine crew from the Coromandel Supporter IX, which had become grounded in high seas as cyclone Tauktae batters the coast. Coast Guard Karnataka DIG SB Venkatesh confirmed that a day-long operation by a naval chopper and a ship helped rescue the trapped persons. Indian Navy teams were also deployed to rescue some 410 people from two barges, with the operation ongoing at the time of writing.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Crisis in Mozambique Is Grabbing the World's Attention

As the insurgency in northern Mozambique continues to escalate, not only is the humanitarian crisis deepening, but the instability's ripple effects are being felt far beyond Mozambique's borders, according to a blog post from the Council on Foreign Relations. Over 700,000 people in the region have been internally displaced, and nearly a million are facing severe hunger. Efforts to contain and defeat Mozambique's militants--and to protect massive international liquified natural gas investments--have included the ineffective and often abusive deployments of Mozambique's security forces, as well as Russian and South African private security contractors.

Iran to go it alone at offshore Farzad-B gas field

Argus media reports that Iran's state-owned NIOC subsidiary Petropars will develop the offshore Farzad-B gas field that straddles the country's maritime border with Saudi Arabia, putting an end to Indian state-owned ONGC's long-standing hopes of landing the lucrative contract.

India Rapidly Building Military Base In Mauritius

India is busy building an overseas military base in Mauritius, which is intended to counter Chinese moves in the region. The base is on Agalega Island, which India leased from Mauritius in 2015. The development of required infrastructure has been conducted on a rapid scale since then, and most communication from the Island has been cut off to maintain operational secrecy.

Indian Navy hosts GOA MARITIME SYMPOSIUM-21 on 11th and 12th May

The Indian Navy hosted 'GMS-21' on 11th and 12th May. Due to the pandemic, the event was hosted virtually, with online participation of Naval representatives from 13 Indian Ocean Littoral countries, which included India, Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The theme for GMS-21 focused on "Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies," with emphasis on capacity building amongst the IOR Navies to tackle emerging common maritime threats.

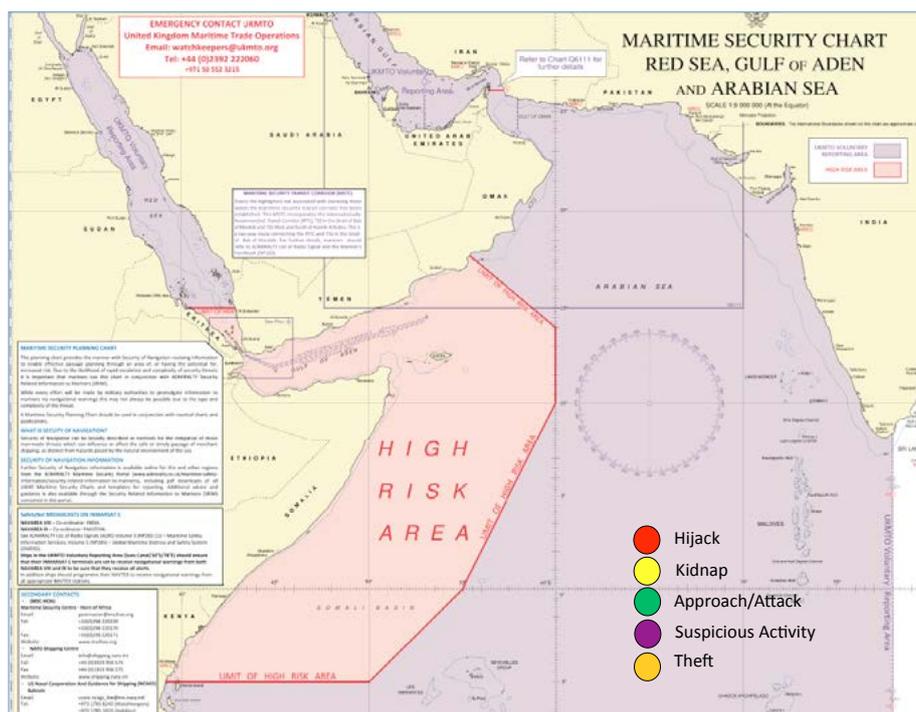
Egypt, US conduct naval training in Red Sea

Egyptian and US naval forces carried out maritime training on Thursday 13th in the Red Sea, with the participation of the Egyptian frigate "Taba", USS Mahan, the USCGC Charles Moulthroppe and the USCGC Robert Goldman. The exercises included different maritime combat activities, including an exercise to protect cargo ships. The two forces also practiced various sailing formations.

Cyclone Tauktae: Covid-battered India braces for storm

India's western state of Gujarat is braced for cyclone Tauktae, reported to be the strongest storm to hit the region since 1998. At least six were killed and thousands evacuated in the last two days amid heavy rains accompanying the storm. The meteorological department said the storm has now intensified into an "extremely severe cyclonic storm".

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





Somalia

While Somalia struggles to find a consensus on holding clan-based elections, the Federal state of Puntland and neighbour, Somaliland, have both shown what can be done, as the two regions prepare for the first direct polls in history. In Puntland, a democratic process is taking shape, which could perhaps give Mogadishu an opportunity to benchmark. The Federal State's President Said Abdullahi Deni vowed to deliver one-person-one-vote elections, which are now on course, according to a report in Garowe Online.

Heavy rains affect some 166,000 people in Somalia: UN

The recent torrential rains across Somalia have affected around 166,000 people, the United Nations humanitarian agency said on Monday 17th. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said while the rains have reduced in some areas, it is alarming that Somalia has been hit by a double climate disaster, with drought declared on April 25 and recent heavy rains causing riverine and flash flooding.

Trust Deficit Keeps Somalia's Leaders At Loggerheads

Does Prime Minister Roble have enough support and independence to ensure elections can be held at last? The question has been asked by the ISS. Somali politicians cautiously welcomed Roble's role, as he brings numerous advantages to the position. First, he is Hawiye - the same clan as most of the country's leading opposition figures and most of the soldiers in the capital. Second, he's a newcomer in politics, so doesn't carry the same baggage as other politicians. To some, this gives hope for securing opposition buy-in. The crucial clan aspect is often missed by Western politicians and media outlets, but not by Somalis.

Somalia doesn't want ex-Ghanaian president to mediate its dispute with Kenya

Somalia has rejected the appointment of former Ghanaian President John Mahama as African Union's (AU) special envoy to help mediate its political impasse with Kenya. Somalia argues that the former Head of State has "extensive links" with

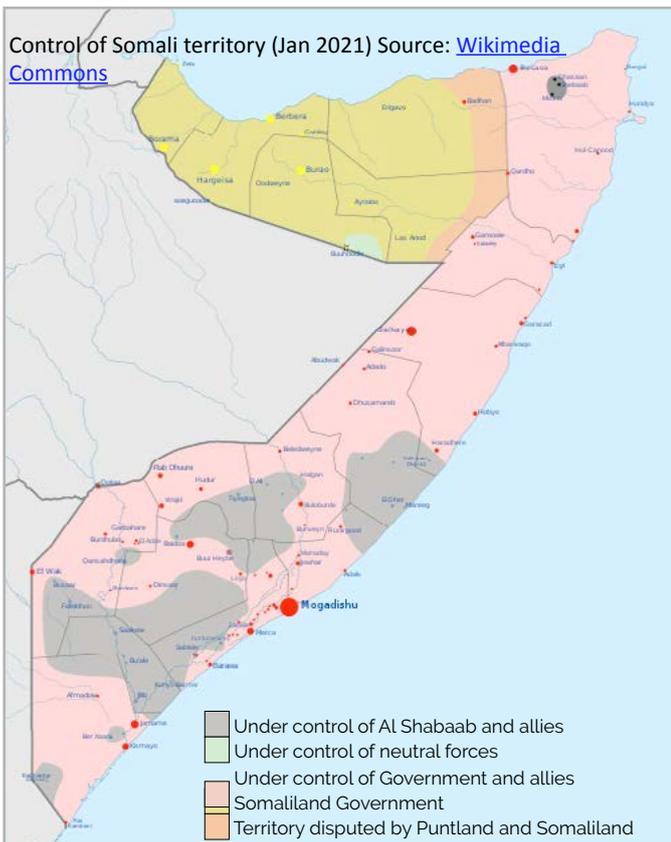
Kenya, and has written to AU Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat notifying him that Somalia will no longer support Mahama in his new role, according to China's CGTN.

Kenya allows two flights to Somaliland despite ban

Kenya has allowed two aircraft to fly to Somaliland to deliver electoral material in spite of a ban on air traffic with Somalia, The East African reported. Two flights containing material ahead of planned elections were permitted to travel between May 13th and 15th.

EU contribution of EUR8 million will strengthen gains in Desert Locust fight

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), QU Dongyu, has welcomed an €8 million contribution from the European Union (EU) that will enable countries in the Horn of Africa to maintain a state of readiness in the face of a possible resurgence of Desert Locusts. The European Commission announced the funding – from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) – as another example of the EU's sustained commitment to control this upsurge since its early days in 2020.



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

Houthis have intensified their attacks west and northwest of Marib, Asharq Al-Awsat reported on May 15th. Increased offensives expanded into the nearby governorate of Taiz, but the Yemeni army and local pro-government forces and the Saudi-led Arab Coalition, confirmed the Houthis were still incurring heavy losses on the battlefield. Houthis have buried over 500 militants in the last month alone, battleground sources revealed.

Yemeni minister condemns Houthi attack on market south of Hodeidah

Arab News reports that Yemen's information minister, Moamar al-Eryani, has condemned in the strongest terms a Houthi attack on a crowded market in Al-Durayhimi district, south of Hodeidah province on May 17th. Eryani said the attack on a market filled with hundreds of civilians by an "Iranian-made" drone killed one person and wounded five others.

Houthi leader kills cardiologist, his brother for opposing mosque sermon

A Houthi religious leader shot dead a cardiologist and his brother and wounded several others for denouncing his sermons at a mosque in the southern Yemeni province of Taiz, residents and officials reported on Monday 17th. Abdul Basit Al-Baher, a Yemeni army spokesman in Taiz city, told Arab News that Azit Al-Azi Abdul Nour opened fire at a gathering in Maqbanah district when a number of people took exception to his radical preaching.

World Bank Approves Grant to Support Yemen's Food Security Project

Yemen's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Waed Abdullah Badhib said on Friday 14th that the World Bank approved a \$127 million grant to preserve food security and protect livelihoods in Yemen. The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a \$100 million grant from the International Development Association (IDA) and \$27 million grant from the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) to improve food and nutrition security in the war-torn country.

Arab states condemn Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia

The Arab Parliament, Jordan and Bahrain have condemned the Houthi militia's attacks on Saudi Arabia, state agencies have reported, according to Arab News. The Arab Parliament said in a statement that the attack, carried out during the first day of Eid Al-Fitr, was inconsistent with values and international norms and was a disregard to international human rights. Saudi air defenses intercepted and destroyed eight drones

and three ballistic missiles targeting Saudi Arabia, the Arab Coalition supporting Yemen's legitimate government said on Thursday 13th.

Tehran ready for closer ties with Riyadh, but keeps Houthis as pressure card

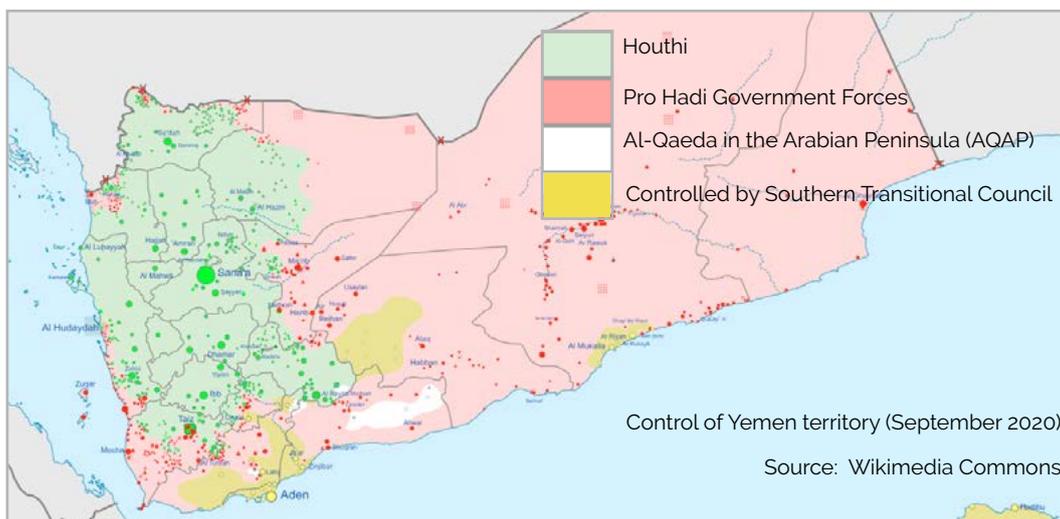
Iran's foreign minister said on Wednesday 12th that his country is ready for closer ties with regional rival Saudi Arabia, adding that he hoped recent talks between the two sides would lead to greater stability in the region, Middle East Online reports.

UN Special Envoy Praises Yemeni Govt, Demands Houthi End Military Escalation

UN Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths on Wednesday 12th demanded Iran-backed Houthi militias immediately halt their offensive against Yemen's northeastern governorate of Marib, calling for the resumption of the political peace process in the country. "Military conquest will not decisively end this war," said Griffiths in his last UN Security Council briefing as a special envoy for Yemen. Griffiths will, however, remain in the post until a successor is announced.

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

In April 2021, seven incidents of armed robbery against ships were reported in Asia. No piracy incident was reported. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents on board ships while underway in the Singapore Strait. In April, five incidents were reported in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait.

Incidents:

1. While underway, a small craft was sighted following Greece-flagged tanker from the stern at 2239 LT in position 01:14.77N - 104:02.79E, approx 3.1nm NW of Pulau Nongsa, Batam, Indonesia (Eastbound Lane TSS). Robbers attempted to board vessel with a hook or rope thrown to the ship, but it failed to reach the ship. Master ordered evasive manoeuvres and prevented the attempted boarding. At 2335 LT, Master informed the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that a search was conducted with no sighting of any robbers. Nothing reported stolen and all crew safe. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. Republic of Singapore Navy's Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. Reported (ReCAAP) 9th May.

Five Abu Sayyaf members killed in shootout with Sabah police

The Star news site in Malaysia reports that five suspected Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) members were shot dead by police at a squatter settlement at a mangrove swamp in Beaufort district, on Monday 17th. One suspect reportedly opened fire on officers as they entered the camp, and in the resulting gunfire, all suspects were shot and killed. Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Hazani Ghazali said those killed were aged between 20 and 50.

Philippines won't withdraw ships from contested waters in South China Sea, says Duterte

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has rebuffed a call from China to withdraw vessels from disputed areas of the South China Sea and said he would not bow to pressure, even if it jeopardises his friendship with Beijing, Channel News Asia reported.

S. Korea to deploy advanced homegrown maritime surveillance radar next year

Korean news outlet Yonhap reported on May 14th that South Korea plans to deploy an advanced homegrown radar system for maritime surveillance starting in 2022, according to the country's arms procurement agency. "The new system is expected to boost our military's maritime defense capabilities and early responses to security threats," an official said.

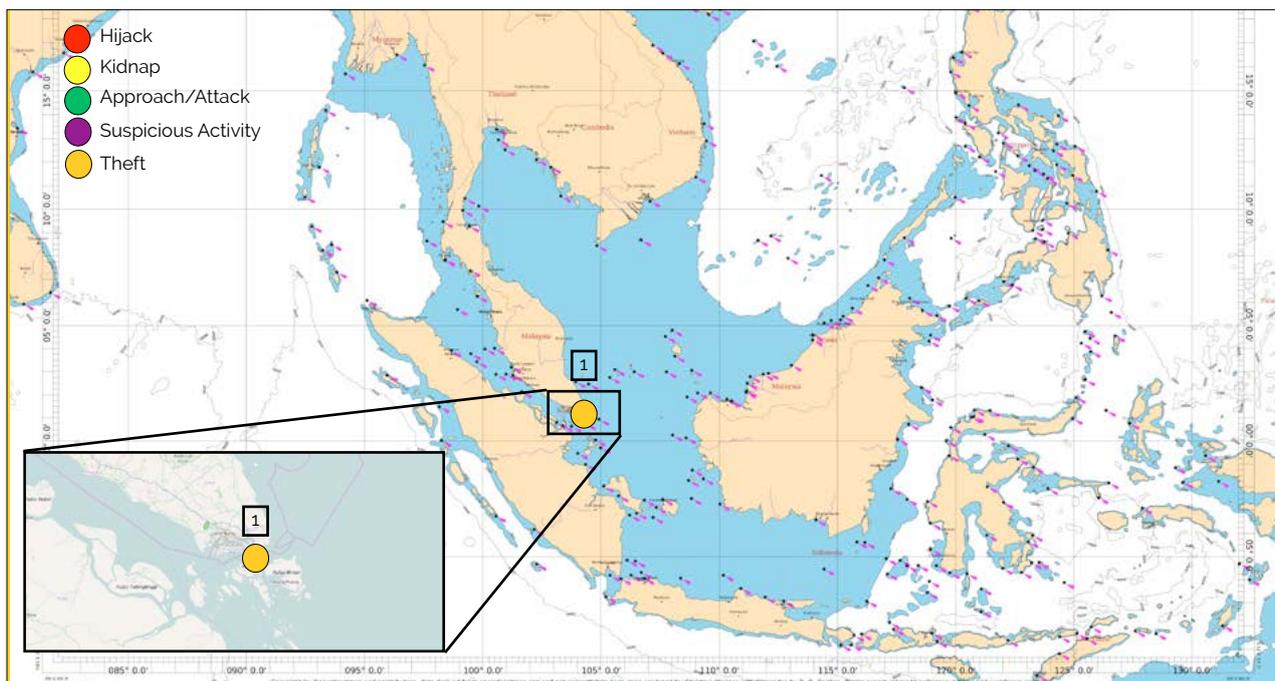
U.S. concludes training series for Philippine Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) instructors conducted three training courses for the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) from March 8th to May 14th, 2021 to strengthen maritime law enforcement capabilities. The training series included a two-week Boarding Officer Course, a two-week Outboard Motor Maintenance training, and a four-week Small Boat Operations event, all of which focused on developing the capability of prospective PCG instructors who can plan and conduct similar courses in the future.

Curfew in eastern Sabah waters extended to May 30th

Sabah's current dusk-to-dawn sea curfew, which ends on Saturday (May 15), has been extended for another two weeks until May 30. Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Hazani Ghazali (pic) said the extension of the 6pm-6am curfew is needed due to continuous threats from cross-border criminals including kidnap-for-ransom groups, the Malaysian Star news outlet reported.

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



European Waters

Nine boats carrying almost 200 migrants crossed the English Channel in one day. The Home Office said a further 53 people were prevented on Thursday 13th from making the journey by French authorities, who stopped three boats. The Home Office said there have been more than 65 small boat-related prosecutions since the start of 2020, resulting in just over 53 years in jail terms.

Migrants reach Spain's Ceuta enclave in record numbers

At least 5,000 migrants have reached Spain's Ceuta enclave from neighbouring Morocco, a record number of arrivals in a single day, local officials say. They say the migrants - who include hundreds of minors - either swam around the border fences that jut out into the sea or walked across at low tide. They are said to be mostly from Morocco. Spanish media says Moroccan border guards did not stop them. Spain is deploying the army in its North African enclave of Ceuta to stem a huge influx of migrants from Morocco, BBC News reported on May 18th.

Up to 100 more migrants arrive in the UK after crossing English Channel in torrential rain

Around 100 migrants are believed to have crossed the English Channel today despite downpours of rain, the UK's Daily Mail reported on May 13th. The paper stated that Border Force intercepted the first boat around 7:30am and detained approximately 20 men. The group were brought to Dover on the Border Force cutter Speedwell.

Greece: Migrant accused of smuggling sentenced to 146 years in prison

InfoMigrants reports that a Somali asylum seeker has been sentenced to 146 years in prison for human smuggling by a Greek court, according to the European Council on Refugees and Exiles. Other migrants defended the man in court, saying that he started steering their boat to save lives after a capsizing. On Thursday 13th, Mohamad H. was sentenced in a Greek court on the island of Lesbos to 146 years in prison. The 27-year old Somali was charged with migrant smuggling from Turkey to Greece.

At least 17 migrants drown in shipwreck off Tunis

Reuters, citing a report from the Tunisian Red Crescent, reported that 17 migrants had died when their vessel sank as they tried to cross from Libya to Italy on May 13th. The Tunisian coastguard had rescued two Nigerian women in waters off the southern town of Zarzis, Red Crescent official Mongi Slim also told Reuters. The ship left Zawya in Libya on Sunday with 19 migrants on board.

Doctors Without Borders to resume migrant rescue operations at sea

The search and rescue ship Geo Barents will launch a new operation in the Mediterranean, Doctors Without Borders has announced. The ship will reportedly have several rooms onboard to provide medical assistance to rescued migrants, including pregnant women. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Thursday, 13th, that it would relaunch its search and rescue activities in the central Mediterranean Sea, between Italy and Libya, using its Norwegian-flagged ship, the Geo Barents, InfoMigrants reported.

More than 300 people rescued in Mediterranean

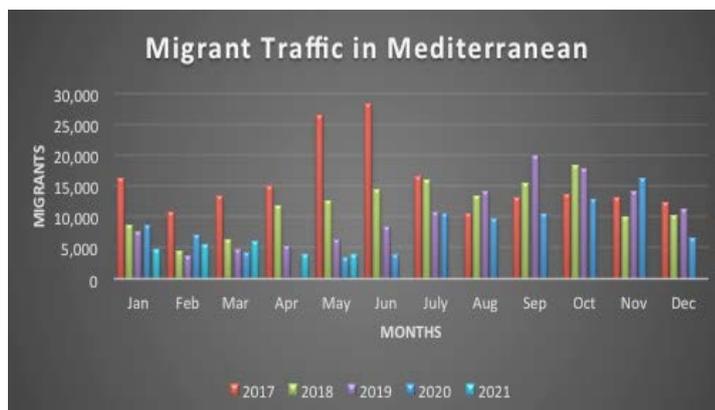
InfoMigrants reports that German NGO rescue mission vessel, Sea-Eye 4, rescued as many as 330 migrants in the Mediterranean over the weekend of May 15th-16th. The crew said they had also responded to a distress call from around 50 migrants, but once they had reached the position they found the boat empty. During the operation, the organization reported that a plane operated by the European Union border agency, Frontex, was in the area.

Over 650 migrants caught off Libya coast sent back to country

More than 650 migrants caught off the coast of Libya were sent on Sunday 16th to the country's capital Tripoli, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). "Survivors departed aboard 4 rubber boats from Zwara, and were intercepted/rescued and returned in 2 different disembarkations," the agency said on Twitter, the Anadolu Agency reported.

UN urges UK to help migrants trace loved ones who have died crossing the channel

The UK is being urged to create a dedicated agency to help migrants discover the fate of their loved ones, as deaths during migration journeys are believed to be far higher than first thought, a UN report warns. The International Organisation of Migration (IOM) has made a number of recommendations after investigating the experiences of more than 75 families looking for relatives in the UK, The National reported.



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

UNHCR has updated its figures in the last week, showing that some 4415 migrants attempted to cross the Med in April, while so far May has seen 5384 cross, as calmer weather has improved sea conditions. The massive influx of migrants into Spain over the last 24 hours will no doubt capture the media's attention but little is being done to stem the flow at present.

Libya

On Monday 17th, the International Criminal Court warned foreign troops and mercenaries operating in Libya that they could face prosecution, as well as demanding an end to the use of detention centers to commit a variety of serious crimes. "The office has received concerning information about the activities of mercenaries and foreign fighters in Libya," said chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda during a virtual meeting of the UN Security Council on Libya, France 24 reported.

Foreign fighters still in Libya in breach of ceasefire

Antonio Guterres, United Nations chief, has said foreign fighters and mercenaries remain in Libya in breach of 2020's ceasefire agreement, calling for their withdrawal and an end to violations of the UN arms embargo. In a report to the UN Security Council, Guterres said on Friday 14th that the smooth transfer of power in March to a new interim Government of National Unity (GNU) "brings renewed hope for the reunification of the country and its institutions and for a lasting peace".

UK sanctions Libyan al-Kaniyat militia and its leaders

Following new sanctions on the Libyan al-Kaniyat militia and its leaders, James Cleverly, the UK's Minister for the Middle East and North Africa, said: "These new sanctions send a clear message that those responsible for serious human rights violations or breaches of international humanitarian law in Libya will face consequences. The al-Kaniyat militia and its leaders, Mohamed al-Kani and Abdurahem al-Kani, oversaw a reign of terror in Tarhuna, Libya, which included enforced disappearances, torture, and the killing of civilians. The persistent climate of impunity in Libya must be addressed and justice provided for the victims."

UNICEF provides vaccine refrigerator units to Libya

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Sunday 16th announced the supply of 74 refrigerator units to help Libya build a cold chain for COVID-19 vaccine. "Plans are in place to distribute the refrigerators to 46 municipalities across Libya to upgrade the cold chain capacities," UNICEF tweeted, noting that it was working with the Libyan health ministry on logistics preparedness, China's Xinhua agency reported on May 17th.

Imprisoned pro-Haftar fighters freed in Libya

Africa News and AFP report that 78 prisoners loyal to Haftar's forces have been released from Jedaida prison in Tripoli. "The ministry of Justice stresses on building a nation free of injustice, but a state of justice, equal of opportunities and free of exclusions. We, in the ministry of justice, will not miss any chance to support human rights," stressed Halima Ibrahim al-Busif, minister of Justice in the Government of National Unity.

Libya participates in AFRICOM forces training in Tunisia

In a sign of how the political landscape has changed in recent months, Libya has joined the AFRICOM maritime exercise being held by Tunisia from May 16th to 28th along the country's northern coasts. "The exercise will be in partnership with the American Command for Africa, with the participation of four military ships belonging to the Sea Army, five foreign military ships, and 130 officers from 12 countries, including Libya", Tunisia's Nessma TV said on its official website.

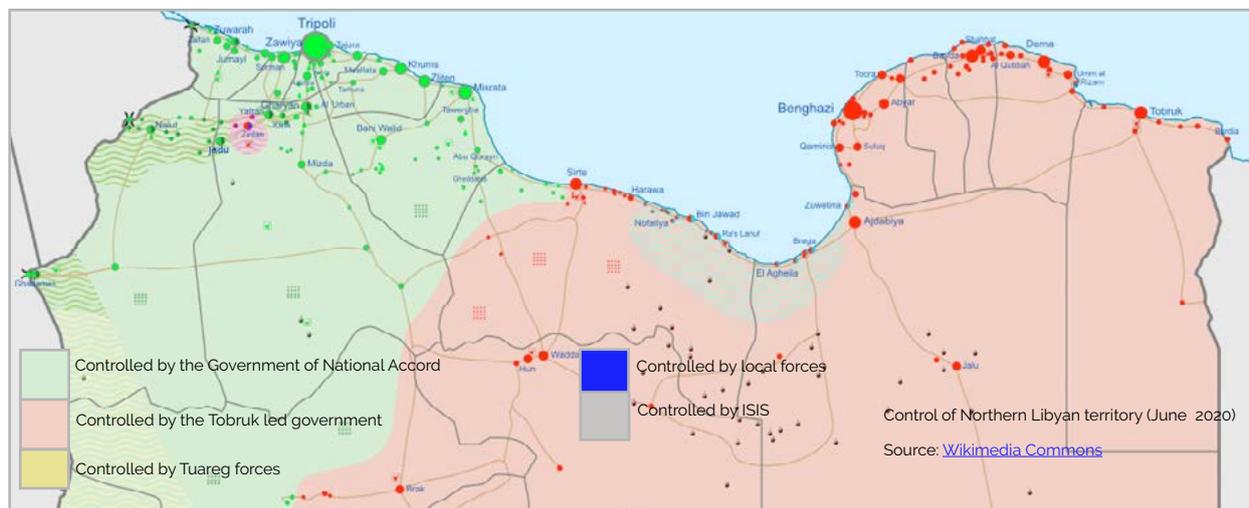
Libya renews request to Malta to intervene in return of frozen Libyan funds

The Libya Observer reports that Malta has agreed to help Libya in sharing information and data on the release of millions of Euros of frozen Libyan funds. The 'Times of Malta' newspaper reported that Libya has recently renewed its demand to Malta for the return of in excess of 80 million euros of frozen bank deposits, sitting in Maltese banks, all being held in the name of the Gaddafi family, including a number of his old regime's officials.

Turkey: exports to Libya jump 58% in first quarter of 2021

Exports from Turkey to Libya jumped 58 per cent in the first quarter of 2021, Anadolu has reported. A major Turkish trade group valued the exports at \$826 million (TL 6.98 billion). This increase is almost double the average for Turkish exports generally, which were up 33.1 per cent between January and April, explained Murtaza Karanfil, the chair of the Turkey-Libya Council of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey, Middle East Monitor reported.

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



Central and South America

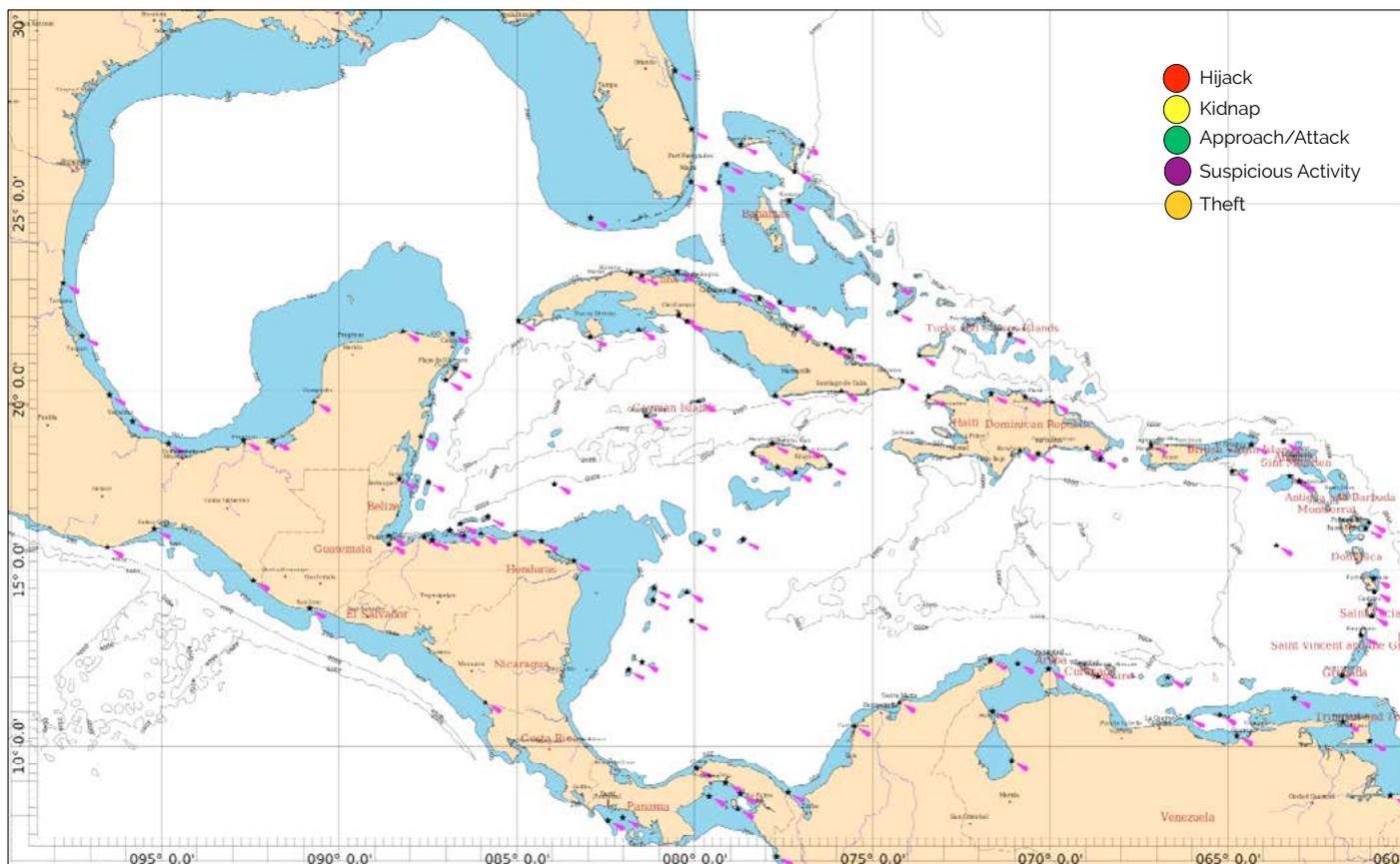
Nothing significant to report.

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](#).

Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea



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