

Weekly Security & Risk Report

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



T +44 (0) 1279 216726 E operations@mast-security.com W mast-security.com

Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd Thremhall Park, Start Hill, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM22 7WE

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Issue 285 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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Editor: David Rider
www.mast-security.com

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Gulf of Guinea

Nigeria has expanded its Deep Blue maritime security project with the launch of new assets. The government deployed two special-mission vessels, two aircraft, three helicopters, four drones, 16 armoured vehicles and 17 interceptor boats. HLS International, an Israeli maritime-security company, was responsible for procuring the assets, which will be operated by the Nigerian military, media outlets reported on June 11th.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Nigerian Navy, Ghana Navy meet, strategize on Joint Operation to tackle threats

As piracy continues to cause shipping significant issues in the Gulf, Nigeria's Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo and his Ghanaian counterpart, Rear Admiral Issah Adam Yaku-bu, began an engagement on Friday 11th aimed at joint security initiatives to tackle the situation. Additionally, The Gulf of Guinea Maritime Collaboration Forum and Shared Awareness and De-confliction conference (GOG-MCF/SHADE) has identified cooperation at sea between regional and international navies as the focus at its inaugural plenary meeting scheduled to take place in July this year.

Nigeria piracy is declining steadily, says Jamoh

Director General of Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr Bashire Jamoh, has said that since the deployment of the Integrated National Security and Waterways Protection Infrastructure, popularly known as the Deep Blue Project assets in February, "we have experienced continued decline in piracy attacks in our waters on a monthly basis," media reported on June 13th.

Pirates kill four aboard Bayelsa passenger boat

Gunmen believed to be pirates have attacked a passenger speedboat and abducted four persons in Bayelsa State. It was gathered that the victims were travelling from Twon-Brass near the Atlantic Ocean to Yenagoa on Wednesday, when the pirates struck. The Chairman of the Maritime Workers' Union, Brass Unit, Mr Daniel Biodomoye, confirmed the incident, local media reported on June 11th.

Ivory Coast: ISMI opens SAR School

The Interregional Maritime Safety Institute (ISMI) of the Re-

gional Academy of Sciences and Techniques of the Sea (AR-STM) on Monday, June 7, 2021, officially opened the Search and Rescue (SAR) School and commenced the level 2 training on search and rescue at sea, Modern Ghana reported on June 10th. Countries represented include Côte d'Ivoire Ghana, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Nigeria's Obasanjo spent €400m on maritime equipment — but it all disappeared

Rotimi Amaechi, minister of transportation, says the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo spent between €300 million and €400 million on equipment for fighting insecurity in the maritime sector. Obasanjo was President between 1999-2007. The minister alleged that the equipment purchased is nowhere to be found.

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

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures:

2021:

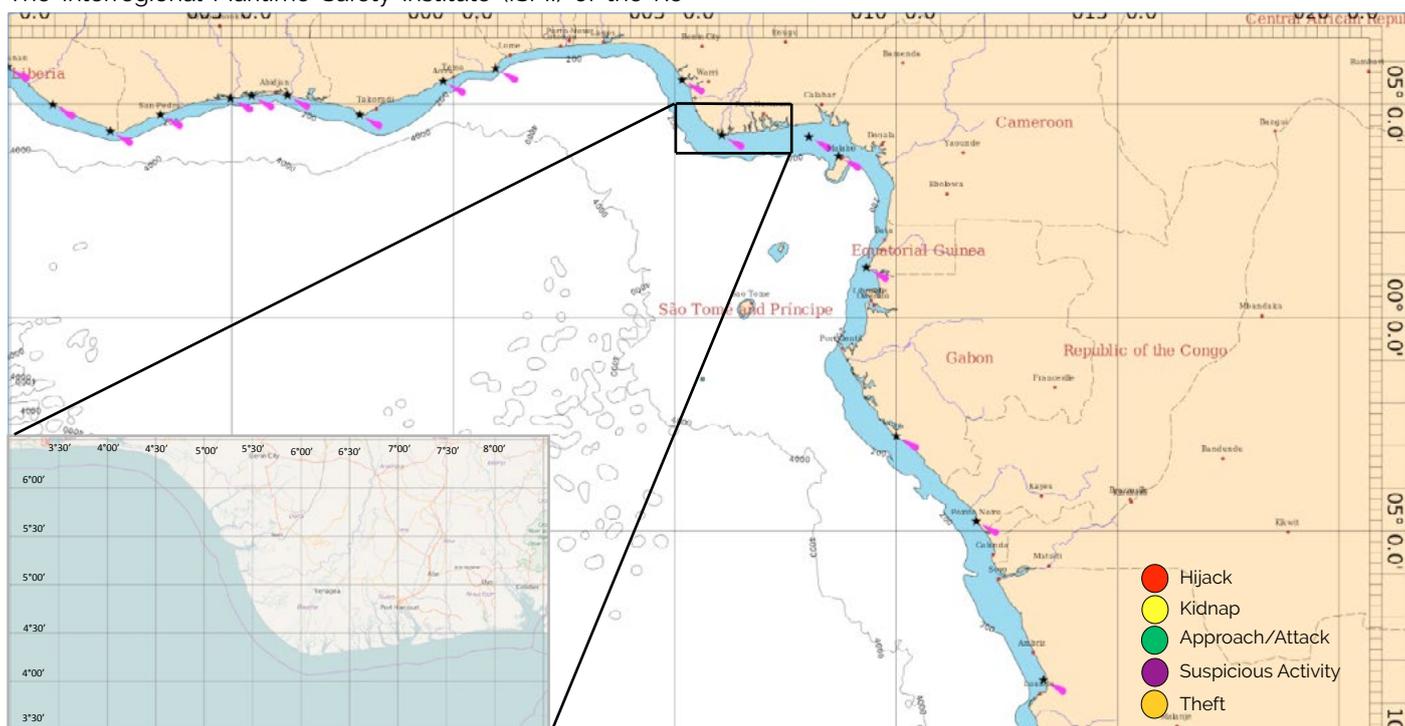
Incidents reported: 32 (MDAT-GoG)
Crew kidnapped: 45 (IMB, MDAT)
Vessels hijacked: 1 (MDAT-GoG)

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

Navt Recognition reports that according to information published by the U.S. Department of Defense on June 4th, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and U.S. Air Forces Central (AFCENT) conducted multiple simultaneous, joint air operations in support of maritime surface warfare (AOMSW) exercises with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Coast Guard and Joint Aviation Command (JAC), and Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) in the Persian Gulf.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Dena destroyer, Shahin minehunter join Iran's Navy

Iranian home-grown Dena destroyer and Shahin minehunter joined the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy at the order of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

Italian marines: India closes criminal cases in 2012 shooting

India's Supreme court has closed criminal cases against two Italian marines accused of killing two Indian fishermen in February 2012 while on board the Enrica Lexie. Last year, an international arbitration court said that Salvatore Girona and Mas-similiano Latorre are entitled to immunity from prosecution.

Mauritius to reopen to vaccinated tourists

Mauritius is set to reopen its borders to vaccinated tourists from 15 July, but visitors will still have to quarantine for 14 days. From 1 October all vaccinated tourists who have a negative Covid test will be allowed on Mauritian territory without any restrictions. The borders were first closed more than a year ago. It was not reported whether this would affect cruise lines.

Indian Coast Guard inducts 3 advanced light helicopters

Three indigenously-built Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) MK III were inducted into Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Saturday. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar said that the helicopters, which are part of ALH Mk III programme, will be positioned at four Coast Guard squadrons at Bhubaneswar, Porbandar, Kochi and Chennai, India TV news reported on June 12th.

Insecurity in northern Mozambique continues to forcibly displace thousands

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, remains gravely concerned

for the safety of civilians in northern Mozambique as armed conflict and insecurity in the coastal city of Palma continues to displace thousands of people, two and a half months after a brutal attack by non-state armed groups. People are fleeing daily in a desperate search for safety both in Mozambique and across the border in Tanzania. Those fleeing have told UNHCR staff that the situation in Palma remains very unstable, with regular gunfire at night and torching of houses.

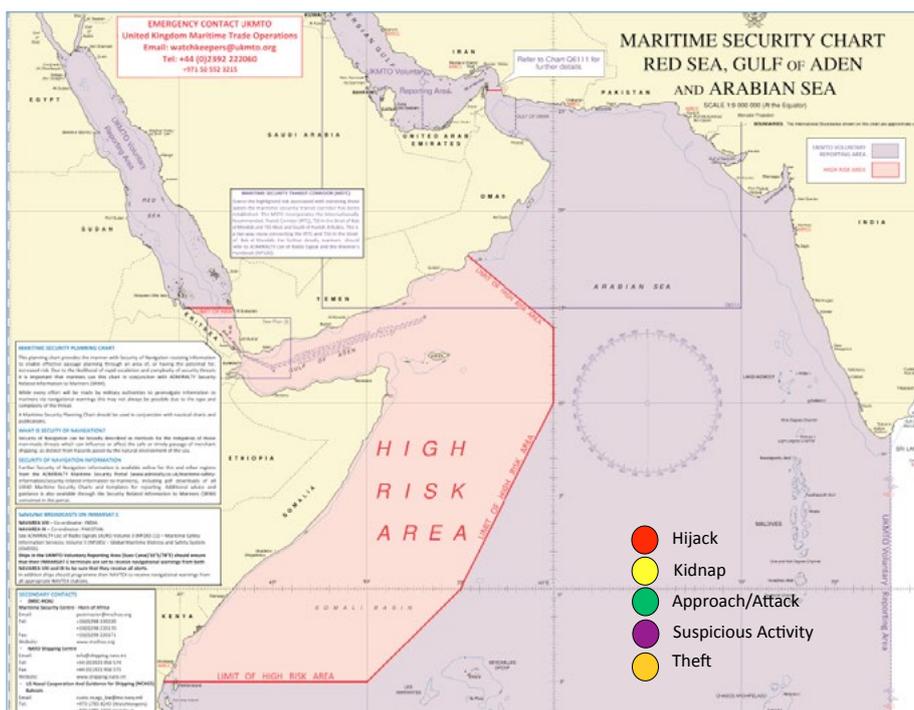
Naval mission to the Atlantic increases Iran's strategic depth: admiral

Iran's "strategic depth" in the sea has increased, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari has said in a commentary published on Sunday 13th. The comments by Sayyari, the deputy Army chief for coordination affairs, comes as an Iranian destroyer and support vessel are now sailing in the Atlantic Ocean on a rare mission far from Iran. In his commentary Sayyari said the Iranian naval fleet has entered the Atlantic Ocean without requesting access to a foreign port to show "its powerful presence in open seas in accordance with international maritime rules."

MSC Fleet Oiler Rescues Crew of Sinking Freighter

On June 7th, a U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command fleet oiler rescued the crew of an aging freighter in the Gulf of Aden. On Monday, the T-AO USNS Patuxent was notified by the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) watch center that the 30-year-old coastal freighter Falcon Line had lost propulsion and was taking on water, Maritime Executive reported.

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



Somalia

Kenya has reopened its airspace to allow flights between the country and Somalia, thus easing the travel nightmare for businesspeople and diplomats and signaling progress towards restoring broken ties. The decision was reached on Thursday 10th after what authorities in Nairobi said were "intercessions made" to have the flights resume, Daily Nation reported.

Al Shabaab claims attack on KDF base in Somalia

Al Shabaab claimed to have killed several soldiers in an attack on Kenyan military base in southern Somalia on Monday 14th. According to the Horn Observer, locals in Hosingow village said 'hundreds' of heavily armed al-Shabaab fighters stormed the base, prompting heavy clashes with Kenyan military soldiers.

Updated sanctions list can help Somalia in fight against Al-Shabaab, Security Council hears

Three members of the Al Shabaab armed group have been listed for sanctions during the reporting period to further help the federal government of Somalia fight the insurgents, the chair of the Security Council's sanctions regime for the country said on Monday 14h, Xinhau reported.

Kenya to reopen its embassy in Somalia

Kenya will reopen its embassy in Somalia "as soon as possible", Nairobi authorities announced on Monday 14th, responding favorably to a proposal from their neighbour for the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Africa News reported.

17 Al Shabaab insurgents killed in central Somalia

A total of 17 Al Shabaab insurgents were killed and several others wound in two separate security operations in Somalia's central region on Friday 11th, Somali National Army (SNA) has said. The SNA said 10 Al Shabaab militants were killed and an

unknown number were injured during an operation in the Hiran region. The army said its forces also killed seven al-Shabab insurgents and destroyed their hideouts during an operation conducted in villages near Mahas district in the Hiran region, Xinhau reported.

Peacebuilding dialogue opens in Mogadishu

A peacebuilding and conflict resolution dialogue opened in Mogadishu with the aim of fostering cohesion and stability between local communities in Mogadishu and the surrounding regions, notably Afgoye, Warsheikh and Bal'ad districts, the Horn Observer reported on June 14th. The five-day training is facilitated by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) Political Affairs Unit in collaboration with the Conflict Resolution, Stabilization and Peacebuilding Unit of the Banadir Regional Administration (BRA). Attendees included Clan leaders, who hold huge influence throughout Somali society, youth and women's groups, local government officials and key community members.

I will not contest for presidency, says Somalia's PM Roble

Garowe Online reports that Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble will not be joining the Presidential race, shortly after rumours suggested he would run. Roble, who was first incorporated into government in October 2020, had been seen as a possible candidate, having solved disputes that were almost plunging the country into possible anarchy after months of disagreements.

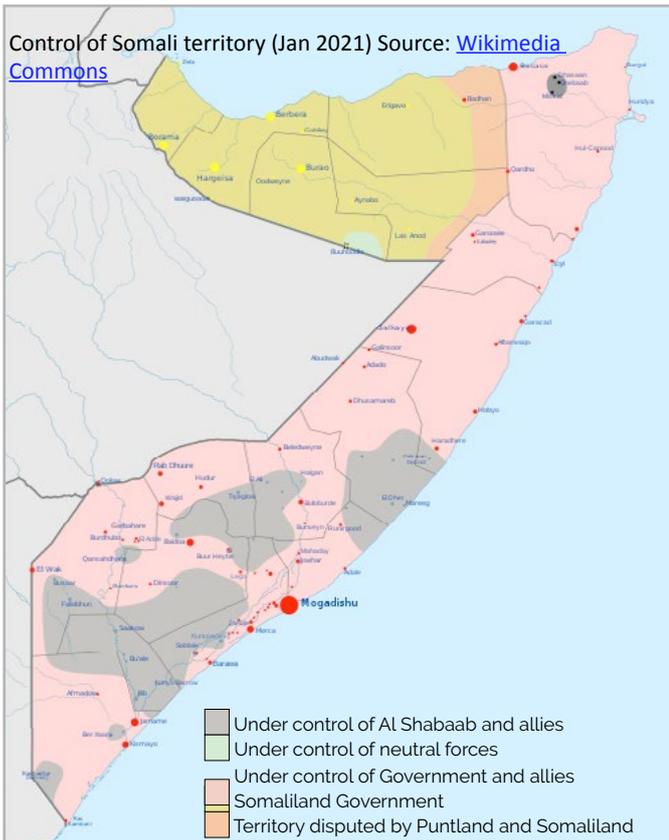
Analysis

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 Saudi Arabia-led coalition fighting the Houthi rebels in Yemen has said it has stopped carrying out attacks to pave the way for a peaceful settlement to the conflict. The move comes amid growing diplomatic efforts for a ceasefire agreement after more than six years of devastating war, AFP and Al Jazeera reported on June 10th. It also followed reports that the coalition had struck a Houthi armored division near the rebel-held capital Sanaa Thursday. AFP correspondents in the city heard loud explosions and saw smoke rising in the sky.

Dozens of migrants feared dead after boat sinks

Dozens of African migrants are feared dead after a boat carrying them reportedly capsized off Yemen's coast. Fishermen in Yemen's Lahj province told AFP news agency that they had recovered 25 bodies in the water near Ras al-Ara. A provincial official said a boat with between 160 and 200 people on board had overturned in the area two days ago, BBC News reported on Monday 14th. A Yemeni news site, Aden al-Ghad, meanwhile cited sources as saying that as many as 150 migrants had drowned, and that four Yemenis were among the missing.

Saudi project clears 2,183 more mines in Yemen

The Saudi Project for Landmine Clearance (Masam) dismantled 2,183 mines in Yemen during the second week of June. The figure comprised two anti-personnel mines, 728 anti-tank mines, 1,446 unexploded ordnances and seven explosive devices, Arab News reported on June 14th.

STC forces captures Al Qaeda-linked cell responsible for deadly attacks against troops

Security Belt Forces in southern Yemen on Sunday said they captured an al Qaeda-linked cell responsible for a dozen recent attacks against troops in Abyan province, the National News reported on June 13th. The news follows reports that AQ members killed seven Southern Transitional Council soldiers on Friday 11th.

Yemen calls on international community to protect civilians

Arab News reported on June 12th that Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi has accused the Iran-backed Houthis of seeking to undermine peace efforts with recent missile strikes on the city of Marib. The President, along with several NGO missions, called on the international community to do more to protect the safety and lives of civilians trapped by the conflict.

Motorcycle bombing kills 7 newly-recruited soldiers in southern Yemen

At least seven soldiers of Yemen's newly-recruited forces were killed on Friday 11th in a motorcycle bombing in the country's southern province of Abyan, a government official told Xinhua.

The bombing came in the afternoon when a booby-trapped motorcycle went off at a crowded marketplace in Zinjibar, capital of Abyan Province, according to the local official. "The booby-trapped motorcycle parked at the marketplace exploded, targeting a military vehicle carrying soldiers loyal to the Southern Transitional Council (STC)," the source said on condition of anonymity.

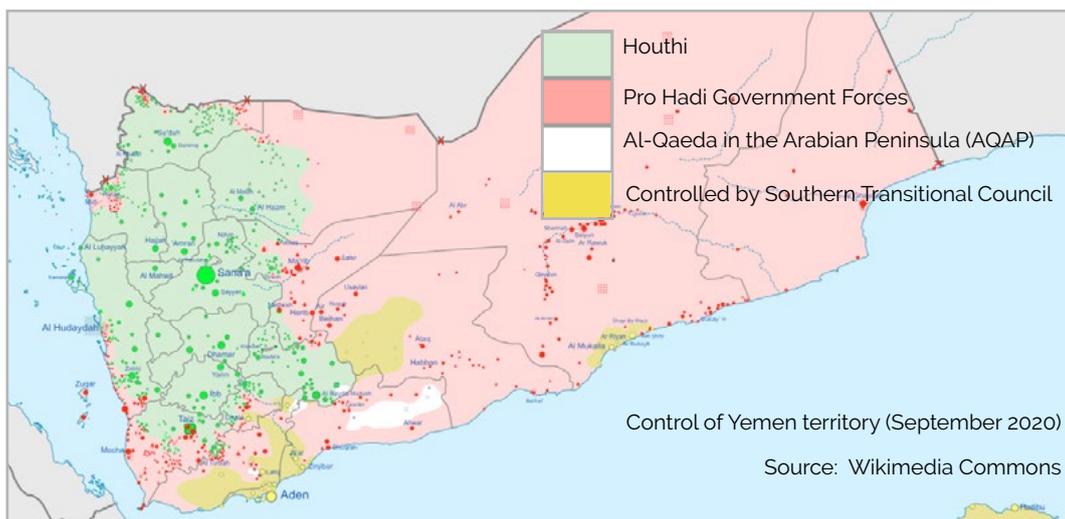
Houthis gear up for Sanaa airport reopening, sources say

Reuters reported on June 10th that the Houthi administration had begun work on repairing and renovating the airport at Sana'a, as it prepares to reopen the facility. Given Saudi coalition forces currently have control over Yemen's airspace, such a move will not happen without an agreement from the coalition to allow commercial flights. At the time of writing, the coalition has not responded to media requests regarding that.

Yemen's FSO SAFER: it's not if, it's when, and the impact could be huge

The FSO SAFER is one of the world's largest tankers and is anchored 60 kms north of the port of Hodeidah, a key lifeline for aid supplies to much of Yemen's population. With 1.1 million barrels (over 140,000 tonnes) of oil on board, the 400,000-tonne tanker had no maintenance since 2014, because of the six-year-long conflict which has caused a humanitarian catastrophe and practically stopped the day-to-day functioning of the country, Greenpeace has said. With each day that passes, efforts to remove the oil safely become more difficult because of the failing equipment. As things stand, the tanker could leak – or even explode – at any time and spill the oil it is carrying.

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



South East Asia

The Chinese military has deployed extra surveillance forces in the air and waters near a disputed South China Sea archipelago as tensions rise between Beijing and its Southeast Asia neighbours, the South China Morning Post reported on June 11th. The media outlet stated that US satellite images showed a Type-815G spy ship was spotted at a military base at Fiery Cross Reef in the Spratly Islands chain, while a maritime patrol aircraft and early warning and control plane were sighted at other bases.

Incidents:

1. Late Report: While underway, four perpetrators armed with knives were sighted in the vicinity of the steering gear room of Liberia-flagged bulk carrier at 0035 LT in position 01:16.20N - 104:14.59E, approx 7.4nm NW of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia (Eastbound lane of TSS). The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. Search conducted and no further sighting of the four perpetrators. Master deviated the ship back to Singapore to ensure the safety of crew and ship were being addressed. Upon arrival at the port of Singapore, Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship and conducted a search onboard. At 1000 hrs, the ship was cleared with no sighting of the perpetrators onboard. Crew safe and nothing declared stolen. Ship had departed from Singapore earlier and was bound for Fuzhou, China. Reported (ReCAAP) 2nd Jun.

Esscom thwarts seven Abu Sayyaf Group maritime kidnap attempts

ESSCom commander Datuk Ahmad Fuad Othman has said that, "This year, ESSCom received information pertaining to two kidnap plans in ESSZone by KFR groups and last year, we received information in relation to five kidnap attempts, but they were all successfully thwarted."

Thai and Indian Navy partner for Indo-Thai CORPAT

The 31st iteration of Indo-Thai CORPAT took place between June 6th and 11th. To reinforce maritime links, the two navies have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line since 2005, with the aim of ensuring safety and security of shipping and international trade in the region.

Troops killed 4 suspected terrorists in southern Philippine shootout

The Philippine security forces killed four suspected terrorists

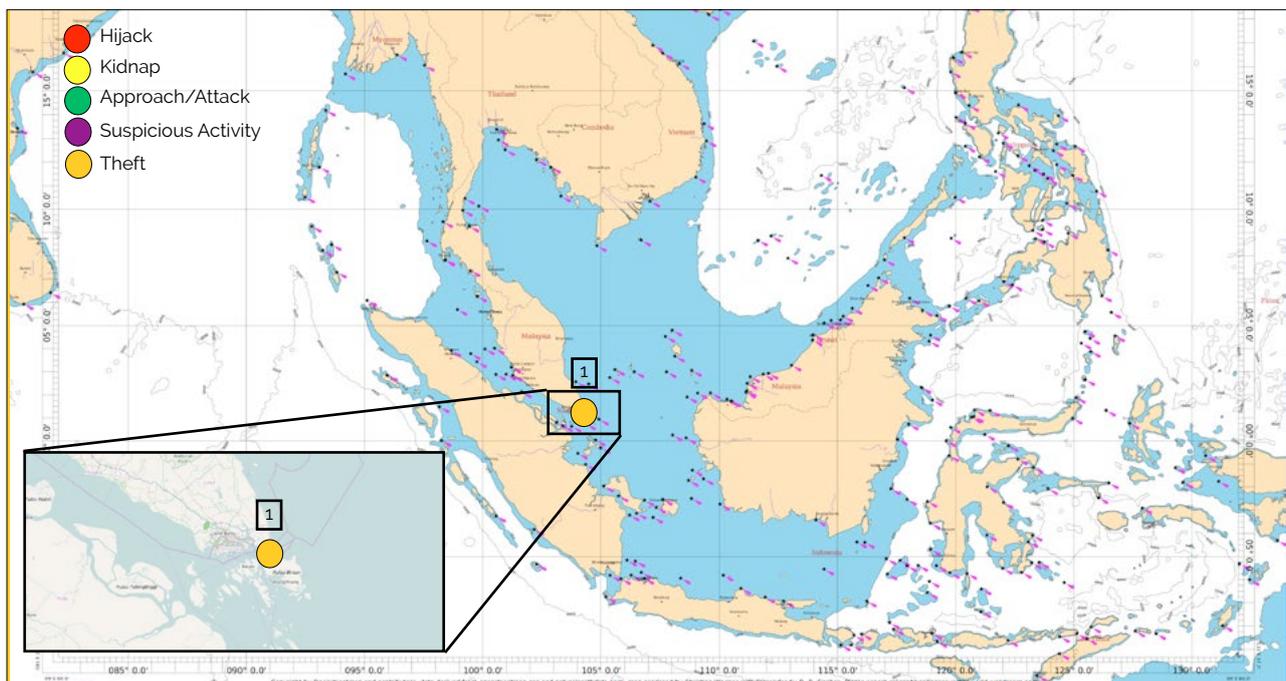
in a before-dawn shootout on Sunday 13th in Sulu province in the southern Philippines. Lt. Gen. Corleto Vinluan, commander of the Western Mindanao Command, said the shootout broke out around 2 a.m. local time when a team of soldiers and police swooped down on the suspects' hideout in Jolo town. "Sensing the presence of the operating troops, the (suspects) opened fire, thereby prompting the government forces to retaliate," Vinluan said in a statement.

Vietnam expands its maritime militia amid tensions in South China Sea

ANI reported on June 13th that Vietnam planned to expand its maritime militia off the country's south coast in response to rising tensions in the region. Vietnam launched a new squadron -- the Permanent Maritime Militia Unit -- on Wednesday in Kien Giang, the country's southwesternmost province.

U.S., Australian ships conduct drills in South China Sea

Forces from the U. S. Navy and Royal Australian Navy concluded a week of bilateral operations in the South China Sea, June 11th, the US Navy announced on June 11th. Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54) rendezvoused with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Anzac-class frigate HMAS Ballarat (FFH 155) June 6th to conduct operations in the South China Sea that continued until June 11th. Curtis Wilbur and Ballarat began the week of cooperative operations with maneuvering drills and a replenishment-at-sea with USNS Big Horn (T-AO 198). The ships honed their advanced mariner skills in a joint environment while enforcing the normalcy of routine operations throughout the region in accordance with international law.



European Waters

Kent County Council said it would not be taking on any unaccompanied asylum-seeking children from Monday 14th as it had reached "the limit of safe capacity". The council has threatened legal action against the UK Home Secretary over the "extreme pressure" on its services. More than 400 such children are in the care of the council. The government's recommended maximum number is 231.

Turkish captain saves migrants stranded in Mediterranean

The Daily Sabah reported on June 14th that the Captain of a Marshall Islands-flagged container ship and his crew rescued 97 migrants in the Mediterranean off Malta on Saturday 12th, when their dinghy began taking on water. Despite being alerted to the incident by Maltese authorities, Gürpınar and his crew found themselves hosting the migrants after both Malta and Tunisia, the other closest country to the spot, initially refused to take in the migrants. After 12 hours of discussion, Malta finally allowed the ship to dock and disembark the migrants.

Asylum seeker jailed for trying to smuggle migrants into UK hidden in sofas

Yahoo News reported on June 14th that a 21-year-old Iranian national called Arman Yusuf Rahmani has been jailed for two years and seven months for his part in a human smuggling ring involving 'man with van' drivers who then attempted to smuggle migrants into the UK from France and Belgium. Preston Crown Court heard he had established a criminal network to facilitate foreign nationals illegally entering the UK.

Record number of migrants returned to Libya, UN says

A record number of asylum-seekers and migrants who were traveling in boats on the Mediterranean Sea were rescued and returned to Libya on Saturday 12th, UN refugee agency UNCHR said in a tweet. German media outlet, DW, reported on June 13th. According to the report, five operations saw over 1,000 migrants stopped at sea and returned to Libya.

410 migrants on board the Geo Barents, searching for a safe harbour

The NGO rescue vessel Geo Barents, run by Doctors without Borders (MSF), is searching for a safe harbour in order to disembark 410 migrants it rescued in the central Mediterranean over the last few days. InfoMigrants reported on June 14th. "In less than 48 hours, seven rescues and 410 persons saved from drowning," tweeted the humanitarian organization Doctors without Borders (MSF) on June 12th. Among those rescued are women and children.

179 migrants reach Kent in single day

Six small boats carrying 179 migrants crossed the Channel on Wednesday 9th, according to the Home Office. It brings the total number of migrants who have arrived from France so far this year to 4,439, based on government figures. The Home Office said French authorities prevented 95 people from crossing.

Border Force intercepts 10 more migrants crossing the Channel in a month

UK tabloid, The Daily Mail, reported on June 10th that more than 1,000 migrants have crossed the Channel in small boats in a four-week period. Just 407 made the treacherous trip in the same timeframe last month - with May ending up smashing the monthly record as 1,619 migrants arrived in 80 boats. the paper wrote.

Nearly 1,300 migrants arrive on Italian island

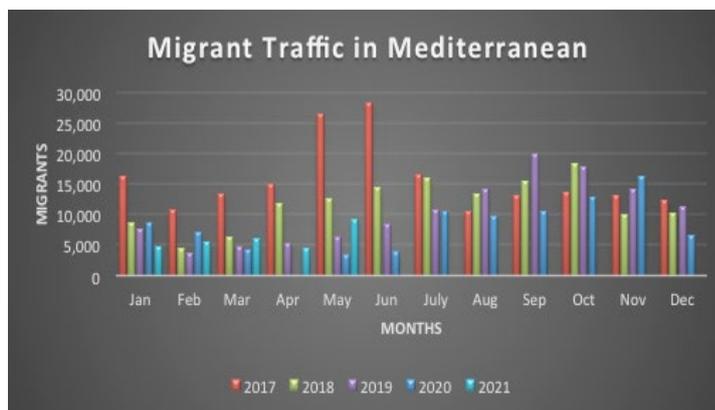
The pressure on social services continues on the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa. Arab News reported on June 14th nearly 1300 migrants had landed over the weekend of June 12th-13th. "The good summer weather is encouraging migrants to attempt the perilous trip to Lampedusa and Europe. One boat is landing here nearly every hour, and the situation is getting worse," Salvatore Martello, the mayor of Lampedusa, told Arab News.

Over 100 migrants held off coast of Tunisia

China's CTGN reported that at least 114 migrants were intercepted in two separate operations off the coast of Tunisia, the country's Defense Ministry said on Sunday 13th. Some 101 migrants who were attempting to reach Europe were held off the coast of Sfax by the country's naval forces, said the ministry. In a separate operation, 13 migrants, two of them women, were held off the coast of Djerba island. the report added.

Tunisian Navy Rescues 54 Migrants Heading to Europe

The Tunisian navy and coastguards rescued 54 migrants Friday on a boat heading to Europe that was about to sink in Mediterranean waters, the defense ministry said on June 12th, Asharq Al-Awsat reported.



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

Very little change in crossing numbers from UNHCR this week, with no statistics for June at this point. The incident involving a Turkish cargo vessel which rescued migrants has once again highlighted the issues faced by shipping in the Med, which is expected to assist with rescues and yet can then become embroiled in a political incident afterwards, which not only impacts the shipping company but also the vessel itself. Fortunately, this incident was resolved relatively quickly, but events like this must surely weigh on any Master transiting the Med at this time.

Libya

Libyan President of the Presidency Council Mohamed Menfi on Saturday 12th met and discussed with a senior Turkish delegation security cooperation between the two countries. The visit of the Turkish delegation, including Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu and Defense Minister Hulusi Akar, follows a series of mutual previous ones between Libya and Turkey in 2021 that started with Menfi's visit to Turkey in March, according to a statement issued by the Presidency Council, Xinhau reported.

Macron Says Turkey's Erdogan Wants Foreign Mercenaries out of Libya

French President, Emmanuel Macron, told the media on Monday 14th that he had been assured by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan that Turkey wanted all foreign mercenaries to leave Libya as soon as possible, according to a report from Asharq Al-Awsat. Macron was speaking after his first face-to-face with Erdogan in more than a year as tensions between the two NATO allies worsened especially over the conflict in Libya.

Haftar still poses a threat to Libya

Khalifa Haftar, the commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA) in eastern Libya, is still posing a threat to Libya's unity and the ongoing peace process, Turkey's top soldier has said, according to a report in Turkish paper, Hurriyet Daily News. "There are still risks, threats and dangers against the current peace climate. There is no such thing as 'accomplished.' Everyone saw the last ceremony by the putschist Haftar group," Defense Minister Hulusi Akar was quoted as saying by Anadolu Agency on June 13.

Saif al-Islam Gaddafi said to be considering presidential run

Middle East Eye reports that the son of the late Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi, may run in upcoming presidential elections in the country despite currently being in hiding, according to aides. Saif al-Islam Gaddafi has not been seen in public for several years, following his capture and release by militants. According to a report in The Times, he is now set to make a return to public life and will soon be making a statement to that effect. Any nomination would be dependent on the ratification of an election law, which may be used by opponents to prevent him from running. Gaddafi's lawyer has denied the report in The Times.

Libya's Interior Ministry to appoint pro-Haftar figures to senior-level positions

Ean Libya has quoted high-ranking government sources indicating that Interior Minister Brigadier Khaled Mazen will appoint figures loyal to Khalifa Haftar to senior-level security positions within the ministry, Middle East Monitor said on June

12th. According to the report, sources stated that in the coming days, the minister would announce a decision to dismiss the current head of Libya's Civil Registry Authority (CRA), Mohamed Bettamer, and replace him with Brigadier General Adel Abdulaziz Al-Arifi, known for his loyalty to Haftar.

Libya won't be backyard for instability in the region

The Libyan Foreign Minister, Najla Al-Mangoush, said Libya won't be the backyard for instability in the region and its territory and airspace won't be used as a base by any foreign country, adding that the country is positively engaging with Security Council resolutions to achieve lasting peace, the Libya Observer reported on June 10th.

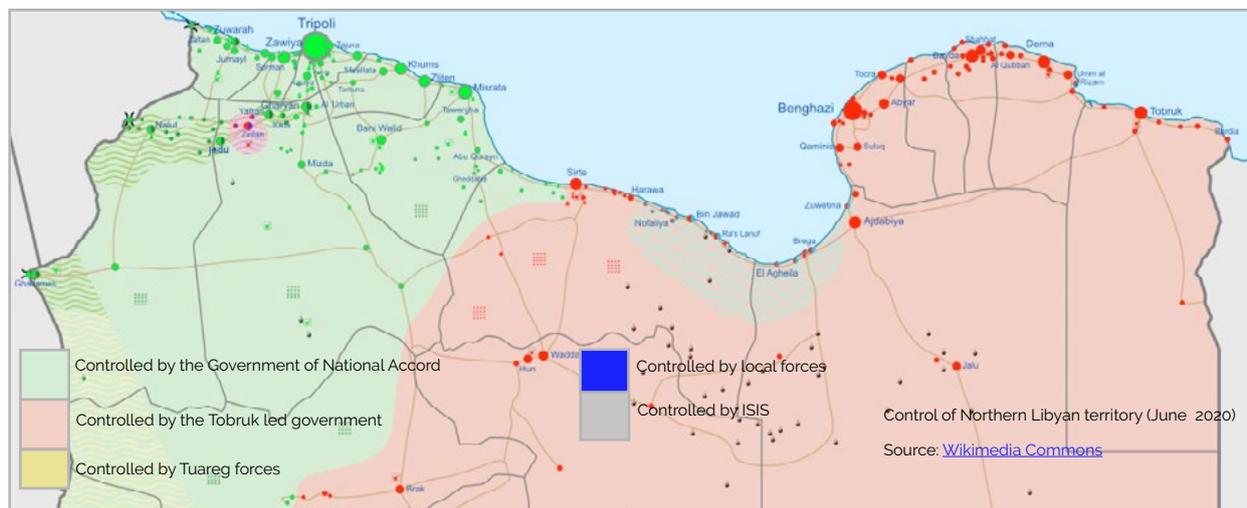
Do not forget Haftar's mass graves, crimes in Libya: Akar

The Daily Sabah reports that Turkey's Defense Minister Hulusi Akar warned the international community on Saturday 12th not to forget the 'mass graves and atrocities' allegedly committed by forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar. Akar once again reiterated Ankara's support to Libyans in their rightful struggle. "We share this pain and distress with our Libyan brothers and we do our best to alleviate it," he told troops at an address given in Tripoli.

Libya eyes 62% oil output rise to 2m barrels per day

The Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) plans to raise oil production capacity to 2.1 million barrels per day (bpd) over the next few years from the current capacity of over 1.3 million bpd. Mustafa Sanalla, the head of NOC, said on June 9th at the Libya Investment Forum, Anadolu Agency reports.

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



Central and South America

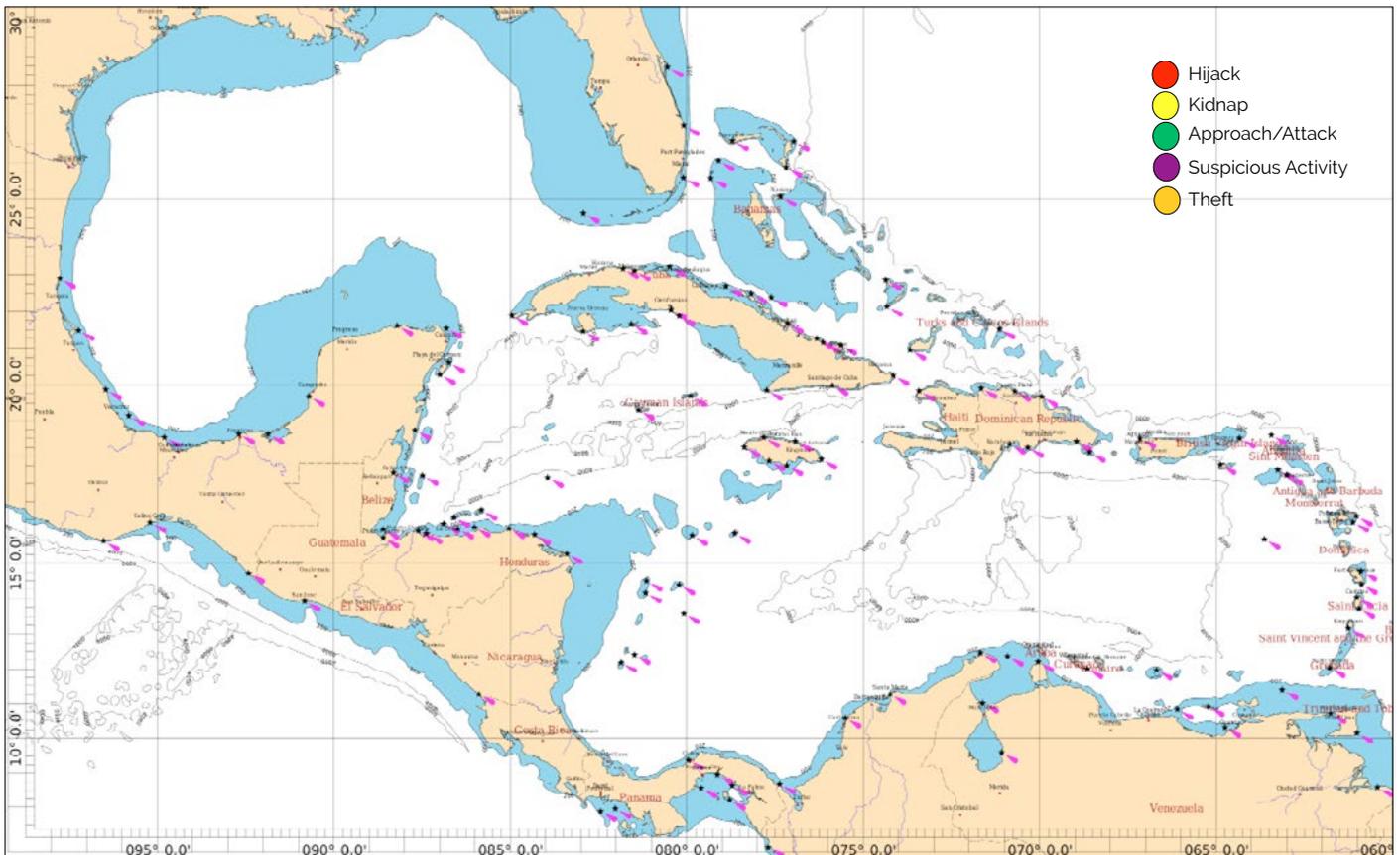
Two people on board a cruise ship in the Caribbean have tested positive for coronavirus, operator Royal Caribbean has confirmed. The guests, who were sharing a room on the Celebrity Millennium, don't have symptoms and are in isolation. Royal Caribbean restarted cruises in June after they were suspended for more than a year due to the pandemic, BBC News reported on June 12th.

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.