

Weekly Security & Risk Report

Date: 23rd June 2021
Series 16/Issue 286



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



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Issue 286 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 team of a dozen Belgian navy trainers is currently in Cotonou, with a view to strengthening Benin-Belgium cooperation in the fight against maritime piracy, according to a statement, a copy of which was obtained by Xinhua on Saturday 19th. The Belgian navy team will have the task over the next two weeks of training crews, training Beninese sailors and strengthening Belgian-Beninese relations, the statement said.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

President charges ECOWAS to respond better to piracy

The time is up for West African nations to inject more vigour in their concerted effort to deal with the growing threats of terrorism and piracy in the region. President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, who made the call, intimated that none of the countries was insulated against the threats of terrorism, Ghana media reported on June 21st. While calling for urgent attention to the growing threat to maritime security in the region, President Akufo-Addo indicated that acts of piracy and maritime destabilisation were on the rise in the Gulf of Guinea. That, he noted, was affecting trade in West Africa and increasing the cost of imported products.

IMO lauds Nigeria's efforts in safeguarding Gulf of Guinea

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has lauded Nigeria for playing a leading role in efforts to secure the Gulf of Guinea, saying it will continue to support the country and the region. The IMO secretary-general Kitack Lim said the West African nation had made important contributions to the fight against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea maritime domain. "I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Nigerian government for its continued contribution toward the endeavors to ensure safe and secure maritime operation in the Gulf of Guinea," Lim said in his message to Nigeria on Sunday 20th.

Ghana: GMA pushes for greater action on piracy

Thomas Alonsi, the DG of Ghana Maritime Authority, has said that the threat posed by piracy to the country's blue economy needs to be vigorously addressed in the same way that the country is dealing with illegal mining. "We have to explore an effective and collective response to the piracy question that is threatening the otherwise good reputation of the country as

far as maritime security is concerned..." he told the media.

Navy hands over 10 suspected pipeline vandals to NSCDC

The Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) BEECROFT has handed over 10 suspected oil pipeline vandals to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), alongside a large wooden boat, local media reported on June 21st.

NIMASA DG seeks removal of War Risk Insurance

The Eagle reports that NIMASA Director General, Dr Bashir Jamoh, has expressed concern over the ongoing War Risk Insurance currently applied to vessels bound for Nigeria, calling for its removal. Dr. Jamoh said though piracy in the Nigerian waters is waning, stakeholders in the industry are worried that offshore underwriting firms still insist on very high premium to be paid by those conveying cargoes to Nigeria.

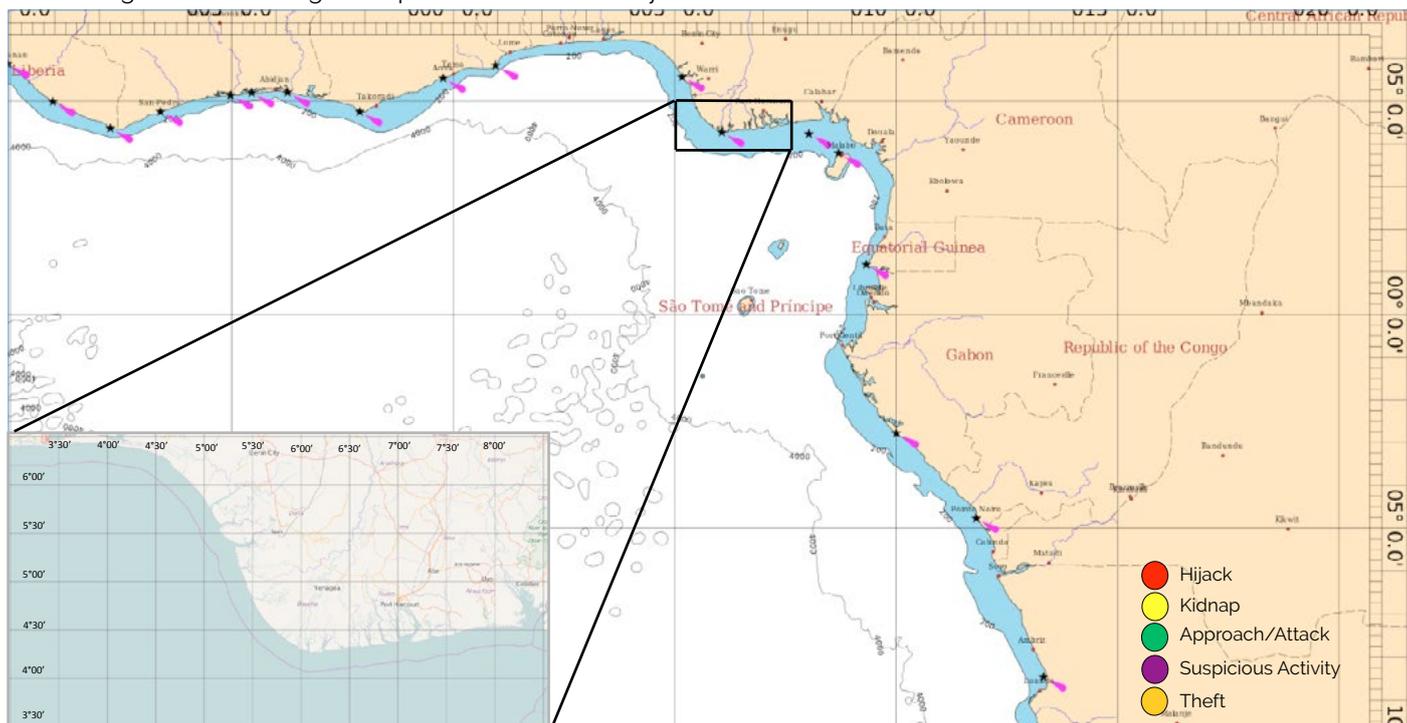
To see MAST Services in the region, [please click here](#).

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

French Marine Nationale ship FS Languedoc, assigned to Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, seized 902 lbs (409 kg) of heroin worth over \$4.3 million dollars during a maritime counter-narcotics operation, June 6th. Within twenty-four hours of entering the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) area of operations, the French frigate identified a potential smuggler and began boarding procedures to identify and seize the illegal drugs, ensuring millions of dollars in proceeds were kept out of the hands of terrorist organizations and other groups who would have used this money to bring harm to others, the CMF announced on June 17th.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

SADC humanitarian, emergency operations center launched in Mozambique

The Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Center (COHE) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was officially launched in northern Mozambique's Nampula province on Monday 21st. The armed conflict has driven more than 732,000 people from their northern Mozambique homes in one of the world's fastest-growing displacement crises, UN officials with the OCHA said on Monday. In related news, Italian energy company Eni on Monday 21st said that an offshore gas project in Mozambique's insurgent-hit north was still on track to start operating in 2022 despite the unrest.

Predator drones helping India keep watch on 'vessels of interest'

The Indian Navy said on June 21st that Predator drones are helping the maritime force enhance its surveillance all across the Indian Ocean region, including in Sri Lanka as Chinese activity poses a threat to India's security.

EU NAVFOR, Indian Navy conduct drill

For the first time the warships of the Indian Navy (IN) and the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) have deployed together as part of a maritime exercise in the Gulf of Aden. A total of five warships from four navies participated in the exercise on 18th and 19th June. The Indian Navy on Friday 19th said in a statement, "Ships of the four navies will endeavour to enhance and hone their war-fighting skills and their ability as an integrated force to promote peace, security and stability in the maritime domain." A virtual "Information sharing Exercise" is also being conducted between the Indian Navy Information

Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region and Maritime Security Centre–Horn of Africa on 18th June, Indian Navy added.

Iranian Army's 74th flotilla of warships returns home after 3-month mission in high seas

The Iranian Navy's 74th flotilla of warships has returned to the country's territorial waters at the southeastern port of Chabahar after sailing in international waters for 91 days, Press TV reported on Saturday 19th. The flotilla, comprised of Shaheed Naqdi destroyer and Tunb logistical warship, which had been dispatched to the Gulf of Aden and Bab el-Mandeb Strait, arrived in Chabahar port on Saturday after successfully conducting its mission in international waters.

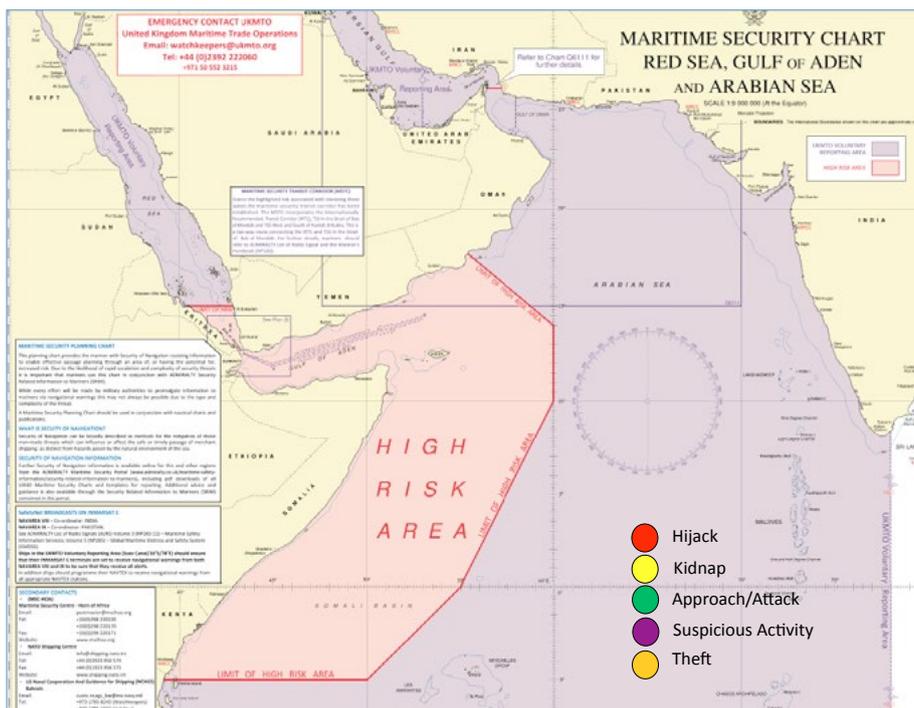
Chinese presence in Sri Lanka 'could pose a threat': Indian Navy

With news that the Chinese PLA Navy is interested in new port projects in Sri Lanka, a top Indian Navy officer has warned that such moves 'could pose a threat' to Indian interests in the region and that the country needs to be ensure it does not ignore it. In an interview with ANI, Navy Vice Chief Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar said the Indian Navy is very well prepared to secure the maritime boundaries of the country.

Italy green lights new Strait of Hormuz mission

The Italian government has approved 40 international missions by Italy in 2021, media sources said on Friday 18th. One of the new missions is in the Strait of Hormuz with an air and navy detachment for "activities of presence, surveillance and security" within the European multinational initiative EMASOH.

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



Somalia

The Somali National Army (SNA), backed by regional forces, killed 30 Al Shabaab militants and injured 24 others in an operation in the country's Middle Shabelle region, an official confirmed on Friday 18th. SNA spokesman Ali Hashi said the operation was conducted in the Jalable area where the militants were planning attacks against government forces, Xinhua news agency reported.

SNA cracks down on Al Shabaab

Garowe Online reported on Tuesday 22nd that over the last three weeks, the Somali National Army and its Danab Special Forces, have destroyed 14 Al Shabaab (AS) hideouts and bases in the Middle and Lower Shabelle regions, as well as killing a number of terrorists, to bring total AS losses to 300 in seven months.

24 Al Shabaab militants killed by Somali army

On Sunday 20th, the Somali National Army (SNA) stated that its forces assassinated 24 Al Shabaab rebels after a failed terror attack on its military center in the southern town of Diinsoor on Saturday evening. Diinsoor district, a strategic town, is nearly 100 km from Baidoa and is based in the frontier of Bay where the army has robust defensive units.

EU slashes \$49 million from KDF pay in Somalia mission

Garowe Online reports that Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) will have to operate with a deficit of \$49 million in the 2021/22 budget, following a reduction in donor reimbursements to Kenya of around 66 per cent, ahead of the AMISON withdrawal from Somalia. It is anticipated that AMISON troops will withdraw from the Horn of Africa nation upon full implementation of the Somali Transition Plan (STP) by the end of 2021. AMISON has close to 22,000 soldiers in Somalia, fully paid by the European Union, UN, the US among other partners.

Return is not a solution, say refugees in Dadaab after camp closure announcement

Closing the Dadaab refugee camps, in northern Kenya, and pushing people to return to their home countries will lead to a far worse humanitarian crisis, some refugees currently living in the camps say. This is especially true for those who previously returned to Somalia, but have come back to the camps because of pervasive violence and limited availability of basic services in that country, MSF wrote on June 18th. Over 200,000 refugees currently live in the Dadaab refugee complex, having arrived in Kenya in several waves over the past 30 years.

AU forces kill 7 militants in central region

Somali National Army (SNA) backed by African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) on Thursday 17th killed seven Al Shabaab militants in an operation in Mahas town in the central region of Hiran, an official confirmed. Moumin Mohamed, governor of Mahas, told SNA radio that the joint operation was conducted in Mahas and Mataban towns targeting Al Shabaab fighters, Xinhua reported.

Taiwan to establish medical presence in Somaliland

Taiwan News reports that the country will send a team of medical experts to Somaliland as part of its year-long relationship with the Horn of Africa country. The medical team will be based at a hospital in the Somaliland capital of Hargeysa. Its members will train healthcare workers there, according to MOFA.

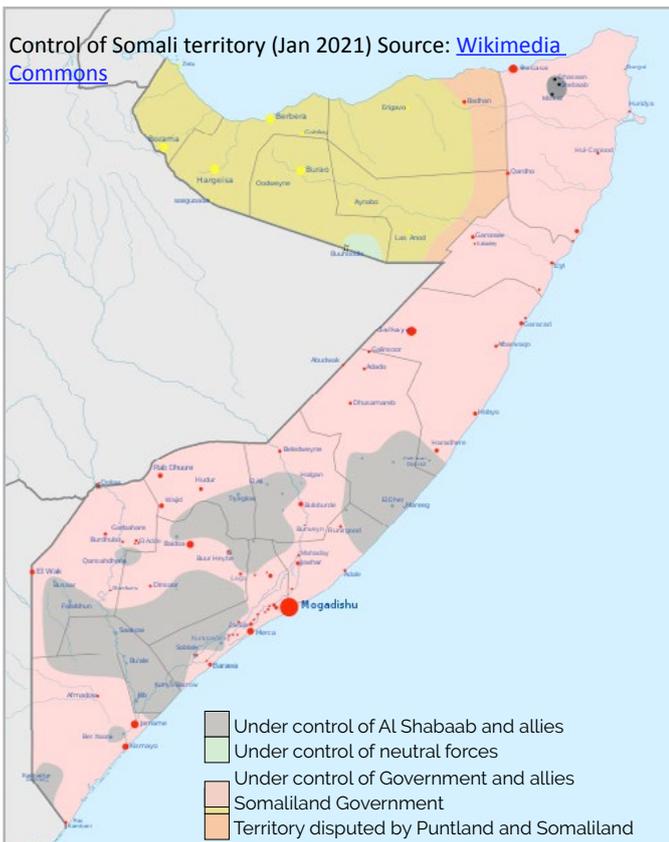
Analysis

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

U.N. officials are expressing concern about mounting civilian casualties as Houthi rebels and government forces battle for control of northern Yemen's Marib Governorate. Marib Governorate used to be a relative haven of tranquility throughout Yemen's six-year long conflict. As such it has attracted hundreds of thousands of civilians displaced by the war. That calm was shattered when Houthi rebels, also known as Ansar Allah, tried to wrest control of the territory from government forces in February, Voice of America reported on June 18th.

Houthis claim to have downed ScanEagle

Houthi forces on Monday 21st claim to have shot down a US-operated Scan Eagle UAV in the central Marib region on Sunday 20th. Brigadier General Yahya Saree said on Twitter: "Air Defenses shot down a U.S. spy plane type of (ScanEagle) with a surface-to-air missile while carrying out hostilities in the skies of AL-Mushajah area of Sarwah district of Marib governorate."

Houthi drone strike kills 4 newly-recruited Yemeni soldiers: military official

Four newly-recruited Yemeni soldiers were killed and dozens others injured in a Houthi drone attack on a pro-government military base in Yemen's southeastern province of Hadramout on Saturday 19th, a military official told Xinhua. "A military base of the newly-recruited pro-government Yemeni forces located in AL-Wadiyah border crossing point in Hadramout was bombed by Houthi drones, causing a huge explosion in the area," the local military source said on condition of anonymity.

Houthis block ship carrying 12,500 tons of wheat from unloading at port of Hodeidah

Arab News reported on June 20th that Houthi officials at the port of Hodeidah were refusing permission for a vessel to unload some 12,500 tons of wheat. Minister Muammar AL-Eryani said the Houthis forced the ship, belonging to the World Food Program, to leave the port after they refused to allow it unload its cargo.

Arab countries condemn Houthis' launching of 17 drones toward Saudi Arabia from Yemen

Arab News reports that Saudi air defence systems destroyed 17 explosive-laden drones launched towards Saudi Arabia by Houthi rebels in Yemen on Saturday 19th. The Council of Arab Interior Ministers expressed its strong condemnation and absolute rejection of the terrorist attacks. The UAE condemned the Houthis for "systematically targeting civilians," while Jordan said any threat to the security of Saudi Arabia was a threat to the entire region, the paper reported.

STC suspends consultations with government

Middle East Monitor reports that Yemen's Southern Transitional Council (STC) has suspended its participation in consultations with the government to implement the Riyadh Agreement, following the arrests of STC leaders southeast of the country. The news was announced in a statement issued by Spokesperson for the UAE-backed STC Ali AL-Kathiri on Friday 18th, published on the council's website.

al Qaeda in Yemen kidnaps six security officers: official

The New Arab reported on June 17th that the Yemeni branch of al Qaeda had kidnapped six government security personnel. A security official with the internationally recognised government, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP that five officers had been seized in the southern province of Shabwa during a mission on Tuesday, with a sixth kidnapped the following day.

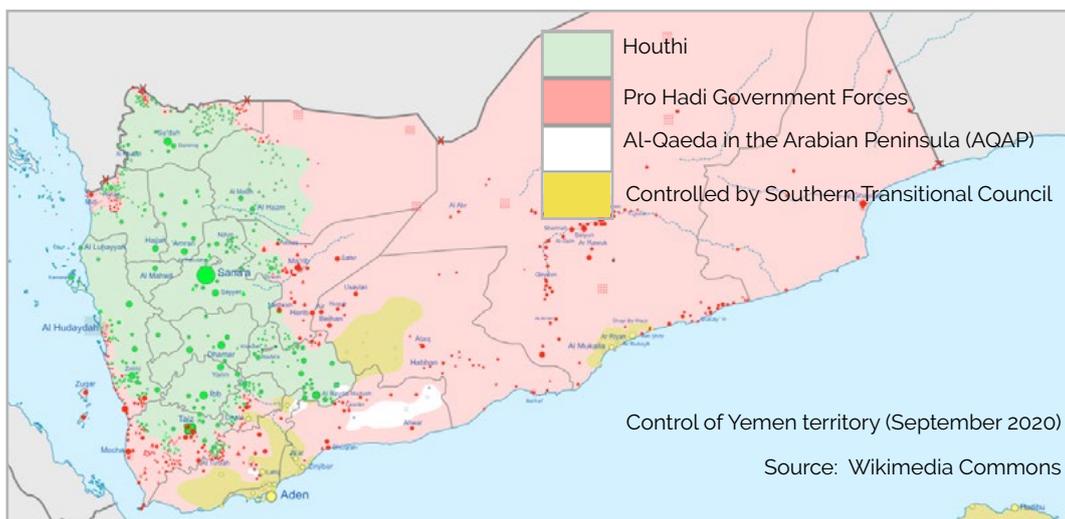
World Bank Approves \$20 Million in Grants to Support COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout in Yemen

The World Bank approved a US\$20 million grant package on June 17th. This package is composed of US\$9 million from International Development Association (IDA), US\$7.76 million from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), and US\$3.25 million from the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund (HEPR). This is the first additional financing to the Yemen's COVID-19 Response Project (YCRP), bringing the World Bank's total contributions to the country's national COVID-19 response and vaccination campaign to US\$47 million.

Saudi air defences intercept drone

Reuters reported on June 17th that Saudi air defences had successfully intercepted a drone launched by Houthi rebels which was targetting an airbase in Khamis Mushait on Thursday.

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





South East Asia

The Financial Times reported on June 18th that General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the US, has dismissed warnings that China could imminently invade Taiwan, stating that at the moment, the PLA was not yet "capable of annexing the island." He added that he did not think that China would try to take Taiwan by force in the immediate future.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

PCG starts 3rd phase of maritime exercises, steps up anti-piracy patrols in Mindanao

The Philippine Coast Guard began phase three of its maritime security and anti-piracy drills on Monday 21st, off Mindanao. The drills are being held to strengthen maritime law enforcement in the region, the Manila Bulletin reported. PCG spokesperson Commodore Armand Balilo said the third maritime exercises, led by the Task Force "Pagsasanay," will be conducted off Basilan, Sulu, and Jolo waters. Members of the Special Operations Force of the Coast Guard were deployed in the area with four ships and three helicopters.

China Coast Guard vessels enter Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands in East China Sea

ANI reported on June 21st that Chinese CG vessels had China Coast Guard vessels enter Japanese-administered Senkaku Islands in East China Sea on Sunday 20th. The islands are claimed by China and administered by Japan and it is not the first time China has sent its vessels there, leading to concerns for local Japanese fishing vessels, who have been approached by the China CG previously.

10th Maritime Security Desktop exercise held

As many as 35 countries participated in the 10th Maritime Security Desktop Exercise (MSDE) organized by the Indonesian Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), Australian Border Force (ABF), and Maritime Border Command (MBC), Antara News reported on June 19th. The four-day event is being held with the objective of honing the capability of regional maritime security personnel in handling various incidents in line with the international law.

PH Coast Guard to build additional sub-station in Zambales

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) will build an additional sub-station in Barangay La Paz in San Narciso in Zambales to strengthen its patrol presence in the West Philippine Sea, Philippine media reported on June 18th. The new base is intended to increase the country's troops and presence for maritime security and maritime safety in the disputed territories in the WPS.

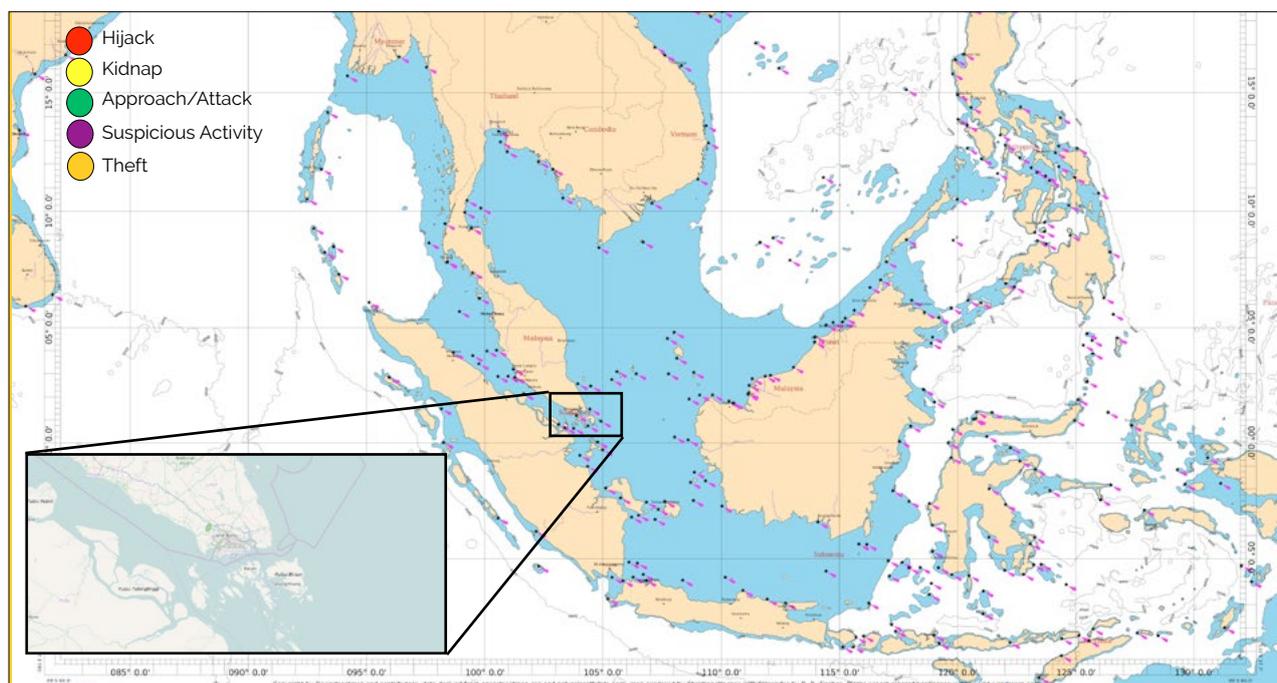
Ronald Reagan CSG exercises with Republic of Singapore Navy

Ships and aircraft from the Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group (CSG 5) and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) conducted integrated bilateral training, June 17th. CSG 5 sailed in international waters with RSN's Formidable-class frigate RSS Intrepid (69) and the Victory-class corvette RSS Vigilance (90). While training together, the strike group and the RSN ships conducted maritime security drills, flag hoist and communication drills as well as formation sailing, and a publication exercise (PUB-EX), during which the watchstanders of each ship quizzed each other on tactical and technical literature.

'Unceasing congestion': China's shipping delays snarl trade

Al Jazeera reported on June 17th that delays at Yantian port look set to continue to the end of the month, snarling trade routes and causing significant delays to shipping. The partial closure of the port, to allow for deep cleaning after a Covid outbreak, is currently seeing delays of around 16 days, SeaTrade added.

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



European Waters

French regional maritime authorities reported on June 18th that they had rescued 80 migrants who were attempting to cross the English Channel, but whose vessel ran into difficulties. Two boats, with 42 people on board, were found off Boulogne-sur-Mer after contacting the CROSS rescue service, while a third was located off Dunkirk with some 38 migrants on board.

Nearly 1,600 illegal migrants rescued off Libyan coast in past week

Nearly 1,500 illegal migrants were rescued off the Libyan coast and returned to Libya, the International Organization for Migration said Monday. "In the period of 13-19 June, 1,594 migrants were rescued/intercepted at sea and returned to Libya," the organization said. In 2021, 14,388 illegal migrants, including women and children, have been rescued, while 194 died and 492 went missing off the Libyan coast on the Central Mediterranean route, according to the organization, Xinhua reported on June 22nd.

400 migrants rescued by MSF charity land in Sicily

Reuters reported on June 18th that 400 migrants rescued by the MSF vessel Geo Barents in the Mediterranean had finally disembarked in the Italian port of Augusta. Of that number, some 100 were children and they will now spend 14 days in Coronavirus quarantine on another vessel, the outlet reported.

Migrant vessel capsizes off Canary Islands

Associated Press reported on June 18th that Spanish authorities had rescued 41 people following the loss of their vessel near Orzola, Lanzarote on Thursday 18th. At least three people died and four were reported as missing.

Prosecutors drop charges against 11 migrants for steering small boats

The UK's Independent reported on June 18th that the Crown Prosecution Service had dropped charges against 11 people charged with the offence of assisting unlawful immigration, after deciding that the cases no longer met the threshold for prosecution. The 12 migrants will be released from criminal custody, but continue to be held in immigration detention, the paper reported.

Lifeboat crew rescues 14 migrants and brings them ashore

The Daily Mail reported on June 18th that a lifeboat crew had rescued 14 migrants who crossed the English Channel and brought them ashore near Dungeness power station. The rescued migrants were picked up by the RNLI at a remote beach on the Romney Marsh in Kent, the paper reported.

Italy agrees to take 86 migrants rescued by German ship 'Nadir'

InfoMigrants reported on June 17th that Italy had agreed to take in 86 people found drifting in the Mediterranean on Wednesday. The migrants were rescued by a small private vessel, Nadir, which said it refused to hand them over to Libyan authorities. Eighty-six people, among them children and three pregnant women, have been taken in by Italian authorities after they were rescued from the Mediterranean by a private German vessel, 'Nadir' on Wednesday, June 16th.

Libyan detention centres must end, EU says

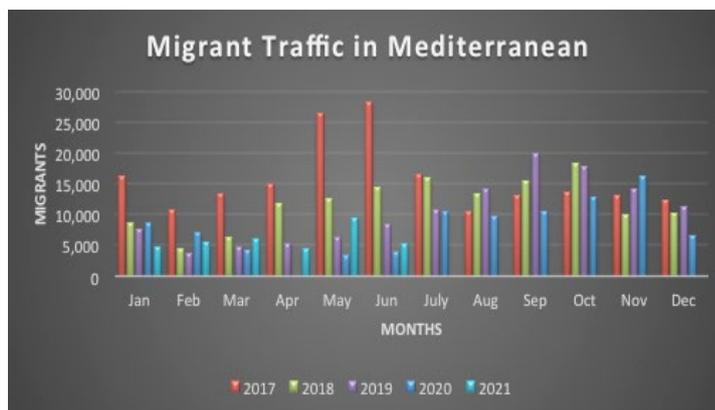
EU Observer reports that the European Commission is pressing Libya to close refugee and migrant detention centres in the country, which have been criticised by MEPs and NGO groups for the treatment and conditions migrants face. Over 13,000 people have been intercepted at sea and returned to Libya so far this year. The comments on Monday 21st were made following press reports of minors being sexually assaulted by Libyan guards.

Dozens of migrants rescued off Spain's Gran Canaria

Spain's coast guard rescued 45 migrants off the coast of Gran Canaria on Sunday including 24 women and eight children, Reuters reported on June 21st. The migrant boat was spotted off the island and migrants then brought ashore in a rescue boat on Sunday 20th. Reuters report that so far this year, some 5,700 migrants have landed in the Canaries. Double the number that 2020 saw.

Turkey hosts 15% of world's refugees, UN report finds

Turkey continued to be the largest refugee hosting country in the world, accounting for nearly 3.7 million refugees, or 15% of all people displaced across borders globally, according to a new report published on Friday by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Euractiv reported on June 18th.



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

To date in June, some 5,280 migrants have reportedly made the Med crossing, according to UNHCR figures. Ongoing fatalities remain a huge cause for concern, but so too are the numbers arriving in countries like Italy in Spain, which are often overshadowed by reports from sea. The ability of EU states to deal with the large numbers crossing from Libya is a huge political and social crisis which the EU continues to gently skirt, although there are hopes that a solution can be found. However, until Libya improves its efforts in preventing crossings and stopping the smugglers, it's very much 'situation normal'.

Libya

According to a report by Reuters on Sunday 20th, militia loyal to Khalifa Haftar closed the border between Libya and Algeria after major deployments of his forces to the south underscored his continued role despite efforts to unify the country. Although Haftar had been recently seen to be playing a more political role, with an eye on future elections, the latest move by forces loyal to him underlines the fragility of the current political situation and ceasefire in the country.

Four French executives charged with spying on opposition Libya, Egypt figures

French prosecutors have charged four executives at two French firms with 'complicity in acts of torture' and 'complicity in acts of torture and forced disappearances', according to France24 on June 22nd. The companies are suspected of having sold surveillance items to Libya, which were then used to track down opponents of former Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi.

Day After Reopening, Libyan Coastal Road Closes

Arab media are reporting that Libya's coastal highway is closed again, following declarations by the national unity government that the road was now open. The Tripoli-based government has been pushing hard to reopen the road, arguing that it is a sign of the country's reunification. Military and political leaders in eastern Libya argue that reopening the road may allow terrorists to flow into their sector, VOA reported on June 21st.

EU warns anyone judged to be delaying Libya elections will risk sanctions

The EU has warned that those who attempt to delay the planned elections in December in Libya will face the risk of sanctions, the UK's Guardian reported on June 21st. The issue will be discussed at length at a planned meeting in Berlin, the paper said, where the issue of foreign mercenaries will also be on the agenda, as well as the withdrawal of regular foreign forces from Turkey. Some in Libya's current parliament have been blocking elections, or demanding a referendum on any new Libyan constitution before the elections, now seen by most European powers as a delaying tactic, the Guardian said.

Military movements banned after Haftar's border takeover

Al Jazeera reported on June 20th that Libya's presidential council had banned any military movement in the country without their prior approval, following news that forces loyal to Haftar had said they took control of a border crossing with Algeria and declared it a military zone.

Italian energy giant Eni plans to build solar plant in southern Libya

Despite continued political uncertainty and the fragile peace process in the country, Libya Observer reports that Italian energy giant Eni is studying the possibility of building a solar power plant to provide energy for the city of Rabiana as an entrance to the establishment of this type of station in southern Libya, the Director of the Sustainable Development Department at the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mokhtar Abdel Dayem has said. The NOC met with dignitaries and activists from the municipality of Rabiana last week to discuss the potential project.

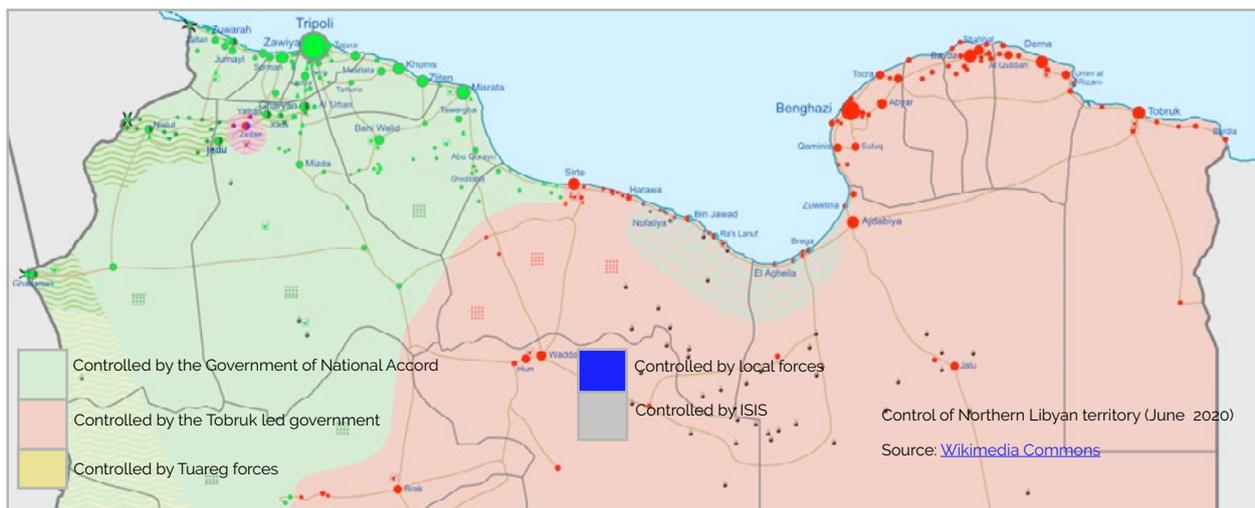
Libyan officials to meet in Geneva for dialogue forum

The Daily Sabah reports that the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) will hold a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from June 28th to July 1st. The meeting will be held in person, according to a report from the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and is intended to allow the LPDF to develop proposals to further facilitate the holding of national elections in December this year.

Egypt, Libya FMs discuss developments of Libyan political roadmap

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry held talks on Saturday 19th with his Libyan counterpart Najla al-Mangoush in Cairo on the latest developments of the Libyan roadmap for a political settlement. "I assert Egypt's support for the interim executive authority represented in Libyan presidential council and the national unity government in performing their tasks during the transitional stage," Shoukry told a joint press conference following the talks, Xinhua reported on June 20th.

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



Central and South America

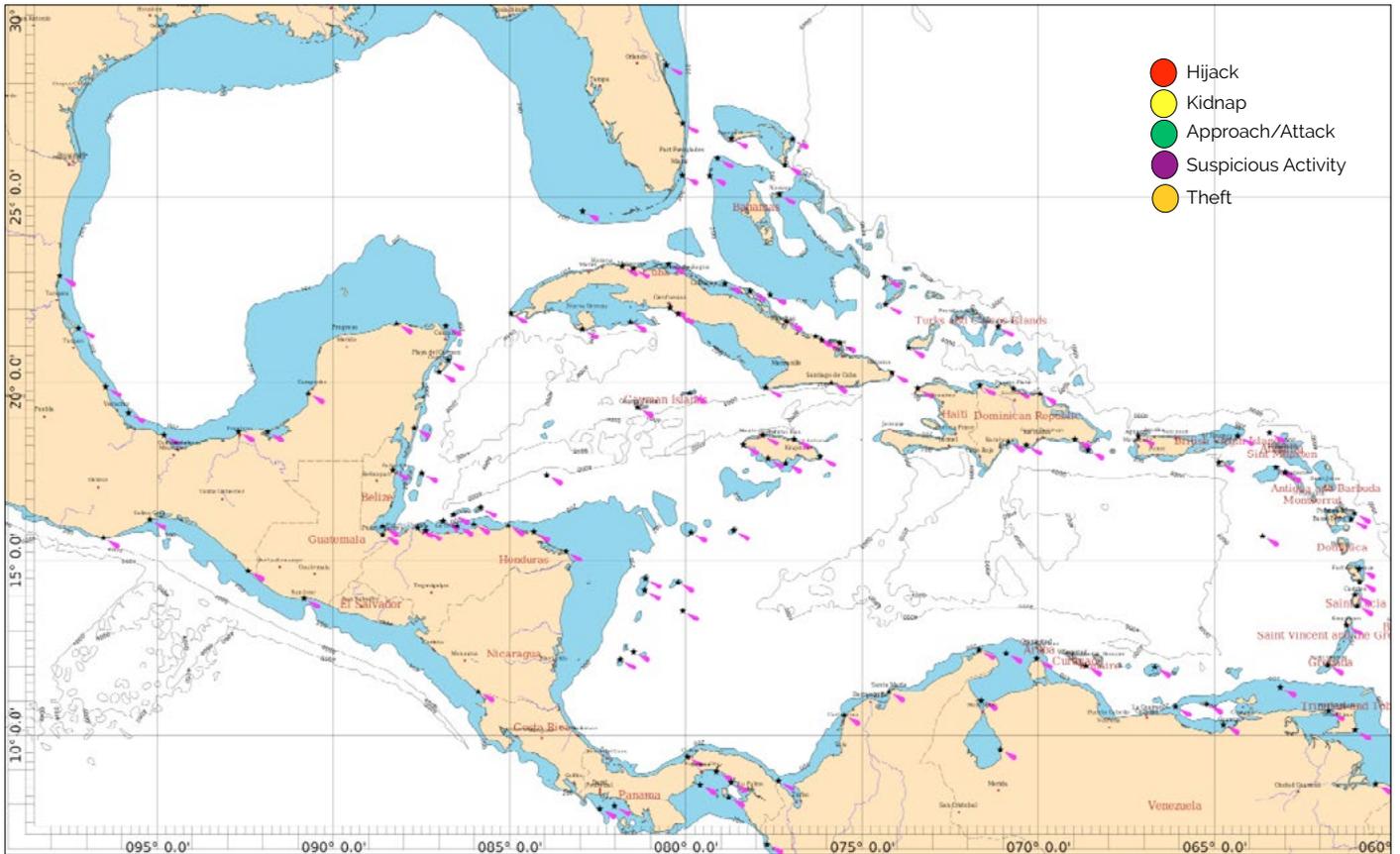
Standard Club P&I reports that further to their article on 'smuggling fines, breach of customs regulations and operational best practice', the local correspondents in Brazil (Proinde) have reported a surge of drug smuggling incidents, particularly on bulk carriers out of Brazil. Being one of the busiest ports in Latin America, the number of seizures at Santos has noticeably increased in recent years, the Club wrote.

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.