

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 288 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

BIMCO says the world's three biggest flag states, many of the world's biggest shipowner companies, major shipping associations, regional companies from Ukraine to Nigeria and the World Economic Forum have now joined the support for the Gulf of Guinea Declaration on Suppression of Piracy. The World Economic Forum is one of the latest signatories to the Declaration, bringing the total so far to 342 organisations.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

MDAT-GoG issues piracy threat alert on July 6th

MDAT-GoG is aware of an increased threat of piracy within an area of zone E. Mariners are advised to exercise extreme caution when transiting this area. Coordinates:

- A) 023000N 0073000E
- B) 023000N 0023000E
- C) 050000N 0023000E
- D) 050044N 0051317E
- E) 042059N 0060326E
- F) 043532N 0072606E

Owner seeks Navy's partnership to protect new refinery

The Chief Executive Officer of Dangote Group of Companies, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, on Friday 2nd, sought the cooperation of the Nigerian Navy to secure his refinery located at Lekki, Lagos State. Dangote said the partnership with the Navy became necessary as a result of growing insecurity in the maritime sector, Nigeria's National Online reported on Saturday July 3rd.

Nigeria returns to Swiss govt MT San Padre Pio seized from oil smugglers

On Saturday 3rd, the Nigerian Navy returned the MT San Padre Pio to the Swiss government, three years after it was seized by the Navy. PM News reported that the navy arrested the vessel and its 16 Ukrainian nationals on January 23rd, 2018 for illegal entry and transport of gas oil into Nigeria's waters without permit. An official in the Federal Ministry of Justice, Dr Francis Oni, handed over the vessel and cargo to the representatives of the Swiss government at a brief ceremony in Onne, Rivers.

Nigerian Navy arrests 97 stowaways in 12-month period

The Nigerian Naval Ship, NNS, BEECROFT, said it arrested 97 stowaways in the last 12 months who were handed over to the

Nigeria Immigration Services (NIS). This was reported on Friday July 2nd by Sub-Lt. Veronica Effiong, following the arrest of three stowaways aboard MT SCF ALPHINE around Lagos anchorage.

Nigeria to seek closer security ties with Gabon

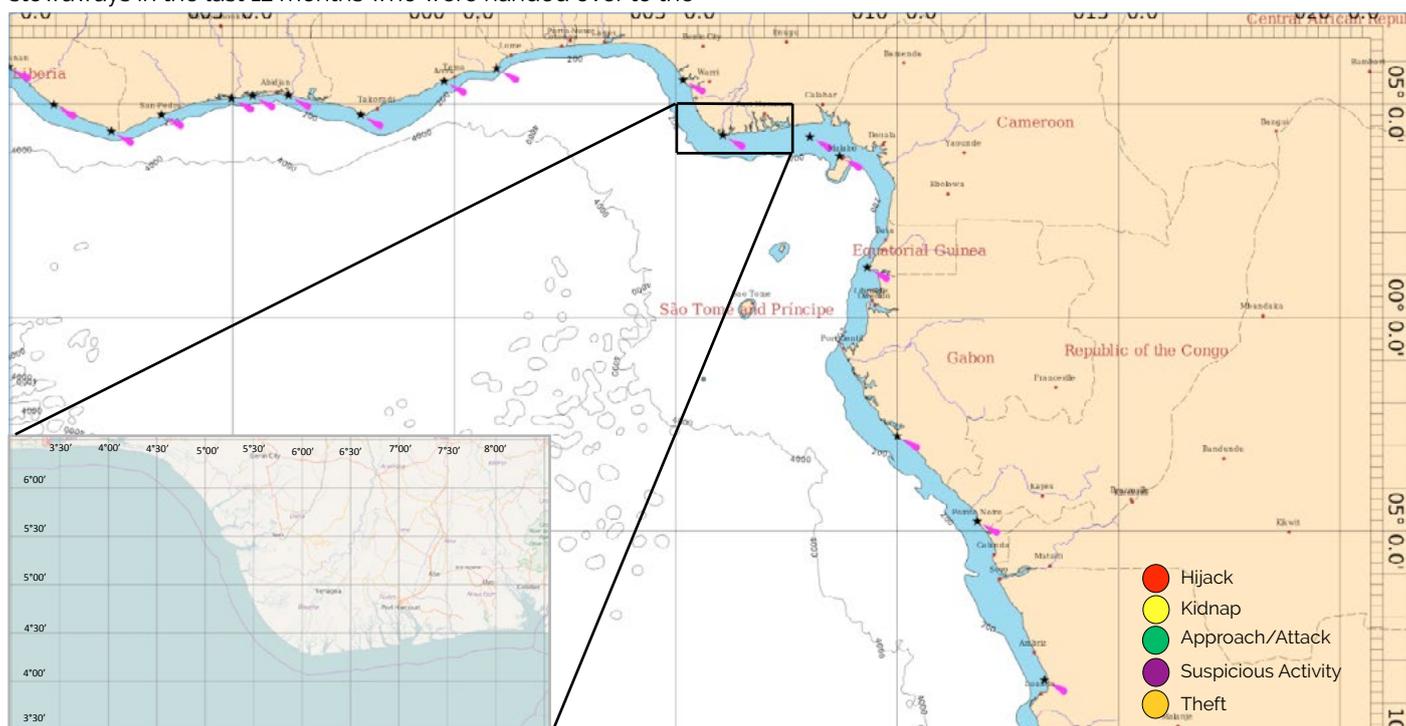
Nigeria's Vanguard reported on July 1st that the country is to seek closer maritime security ties with Gabon. Sources said this may not be unconnected with the closeness and importance of Gabon in efforts at finding solutions to the Maritime insecurity being experienced in the Gulf of Guinea.

Nigeria passes oil industry bill

Reuters reported on July 1st that the Nigerian Senate had passed the much anticipated oil industry reform bill, which is intended to overhaul major aspects of fossil fuel production in the country. The bill will now await signing in to law by the country's President.

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

A Liberian-flagged cargo ship travelling from Saudi Arabia to the United Arab Emirates has come under attack as it transited from Jeddah to the UAE, according to Israeli and Lebanese media, in an incident on Saturday July 3rd. Israeli media identified the container ship as the CSAV Tyndall. Al Jazeera reported. Initial reports suggest the vessel may have been struck by a missile, but this remains unverified. No crew were reported injured and the vessel was not badly damaged and continued on its journey. AIS places it off the coast of Dubai.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

India to maintain warships in Gulf zone to aid merchant ship

The Times of India reported on July 5th that the Indian Navy will maintain its presence in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman, in order to offer protection to merchant vessels and Indian-flagged tankers passing transiting the region. Operation Sandkalp, launched in 2019 after two incidents involving tankers in the Gulf of Oman, will continue, the paper reported.

Mozambique: increased violence and attacks push a third of the population from their homes

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is increasingly worried by the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique. More than 800,000 people have been displaced since last year. The warning came as news reports stated that more than 100 civilians abducted by militants in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado province have been rescued, the military said. Army commander Cristovao Chume said those rescued were mainly women and children, and they would be handed over to the authorities for social support.

Indian Navy submits report to Sri Lankan fisheries minister

INDIA'S INS Sarvekshak, has surveyed 800 miles of the sea near the Colombo Port and a findings report has been sent to the Sri Lankan ministry of fisheries on Friday 2nd to resume safe navigation and commercial fishing. The survey was necessitated in the aftermath of Singapore-flagged cargo vessel MV X-Press Pearl catching fire and sinking off Sri Lanka earlier in June.

Indian Navy live fire drills on July 9th

The Indian Navy will carry out live fire drills from its Naval coastal battery at Mormugao on Friday 9th, the Times of India reports. The danger zone is reportedly within an area bounded by 220 to 260 degrees from Mormugao Headland flag staff position, up to a distance of 15nm.

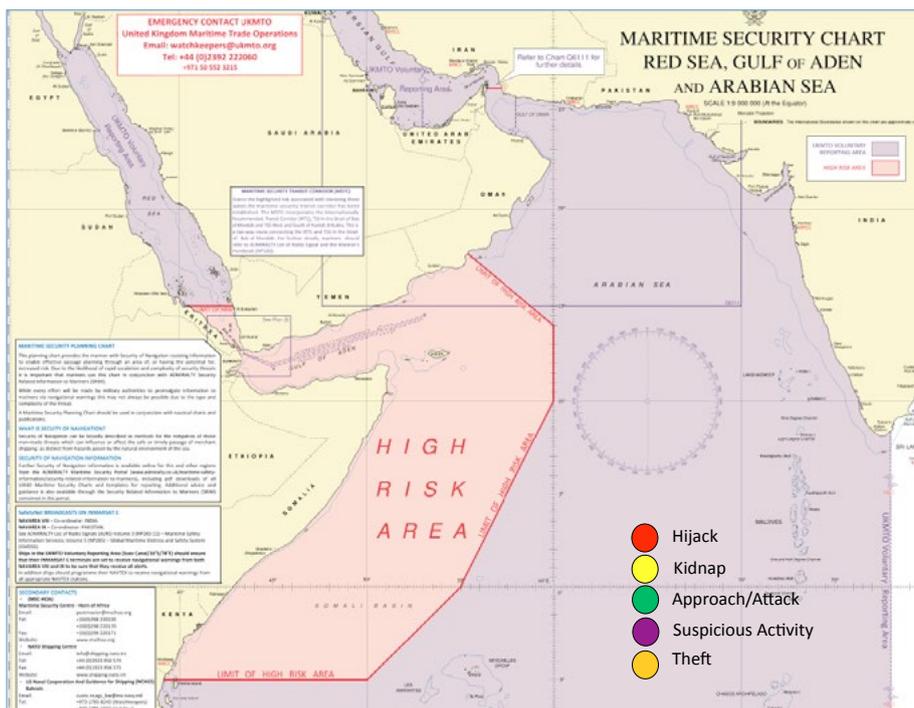
Tanzania, Kenya Fingered as Region's Narcotics Hub

Tanzania and Kenya remain the region's significant transit points for illicit drugs, facilitating the movement of the multimillion-dollar drug trade to Uganda and Europe because of porous borders and poor policing. A report released by the United States (US) Department of State says Tanzania-based trafficking organisations and courier networks operate globally and play a prominent role in the southwest Asian heroin trade, using Dar as the launchpad to control the trade in East Africa, the Daily Nation reported on July 1st.

U.S., Japan and Sri Lanka conclude CARAT Sri Lanka Exercise

The Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Exercise-2021 held with the participation of Sri Lanka Navy (SLN), United States 7th Fleet and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) from 24th to 30th June 2021 in the Trincomalee harbor and off the eastern coast of Sri Lanka concluded on a successful note, Sri Lanka Navy said on July 1st.

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





Somalia

At least 10 people were killed and dozens injured in a suicide explosion in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, on Friday 2nd July. The state-owned television reported that a suicide bomber blew himself up at a cafe restaurant near Jubba junction in Shibis district of the capital. The cafe, frequented by members of the Somali security forces, was crowded with patrons when the attack took place, officials said.

Top Al Shabaab Operative Killed, Says Army Chief

Brigadier General Odowa Yusuf Raghe, the commander of the Somali National Army (SNA), stated on Sunday 4th that a senior Al Shabaab operative was killed in a military operation. Gen Raghe named the killed jihadist as Mohamed Abdi Sabriye aka Tosow, adding that he was a top operative based in Middle Shabelle region

SNA kills 15 Al Shabaab terrorists

According to a statement released by the Somali National Army (SNA) on Sunday 4th, Somali Special Forces troops conducted an operation in Galmudug State which resulted in a firefight with Al Shabaab fighters. Some 15 were killed with dozens more injured, according to the report. A large arms cache was seized during the operation. Al Shabaab claimed to have killed seven troops during the firefight.

Report reveals how senior ministers involved in illegal fishing in Somalia

A report published by Global Initiative has implicated senior government officials in Somalia in facilitating lucrative illegal fishing along the Indian Ocean coastline, in what could trigger a political storm in the country, Garowe Online reported on July 3rd. The report, "Illegal Fishing in Somalia and capture of state institutions" disclosed that two senior ministers are at the forefront of the illicit trade. Illegal fishing has long been viewed as a cause of piracy in Somali waters.

U.S. Forces 'Commuting to Work' to curb rising terror threat

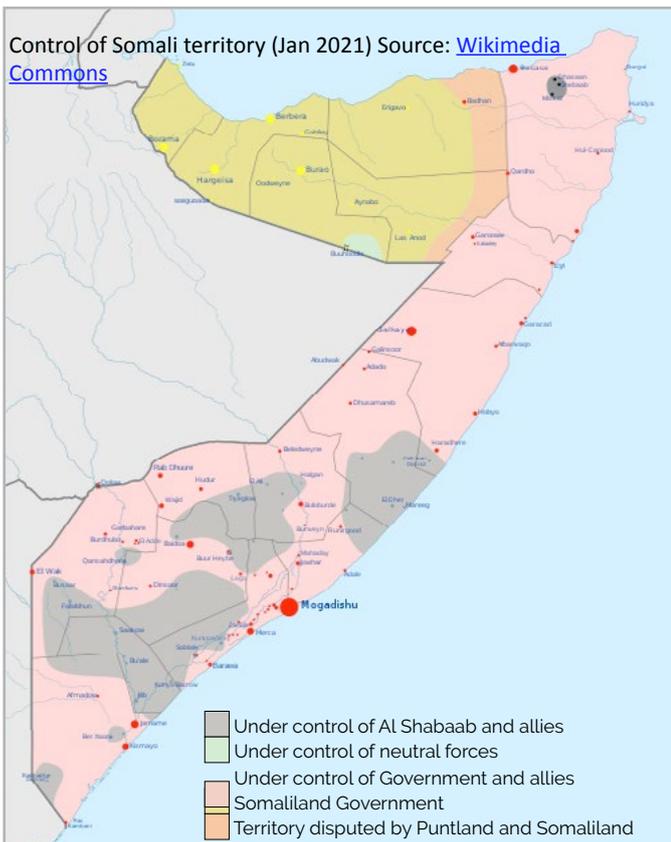
After leaving Somalia in December, U.S. forces are "commuting to work" from other parts of Africa and Europe to combat the rising terrorist threat in Somalia and across the region. Army Gen. Stephen Townsend added, "there's really no denying" that the Trump administration's sudden decision in December to pull most U.S. forces out of Somalia raised the level of risk across the Horn of Africa.

3 Kenyans killed by militants in border region

Three Kenyans were killed and one injured on Thursday July 1st by suspected Al Shabaab militants who had raided a construction site in Kenya's border town of Dhobley, the police said. The police said the casual laborers were in construction works when they were attacked by the militants believed to have crossed from neighboring Somalia, Xinhua reported.

Somalia, Kenya discuss deepening ties

As relations between the two neighbours return to normal after a fractious political period, Somalia and Kenya on Wednesday June 30th discussed the need to deepen bilateral relations between the two East African nations, which recently restored ties after a months-long dispute. Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble's meeting with Kenya's Ambassador to Somalia Lucas Tumbo in the capital Mogadishu, Anadolu Agency reported.



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 AFP reported on July 1st that Saudi Arabia has donated \$60 million to help prevent famine in war-torn Yemen, where soaring food prices and Covid-19 have deepened battle woes, according to the United Nations. The money will be used by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) to provide food aid and supports a total of nearly 13 million people.

Houthis 'ready to exchange all prisoners with Yemen government'

Houthi TV channel, Masirah TV, reported on July 5th that Abdul Qader Al-Murtada, head of the Prisoner Affairs Committee, said that the rebels were willing to swap all prisoners currently held during a meeting with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer, in Sanaa. There has been no comment from the Yemeni government, but it has previously expressed readiness to swap prisoners with the Houthis.

Yemen government seizes control of new areas in Al-Bayda province

Government troops and local tribesmen on Sunday liberated several villages and hilly locations in the central province of Al-Bayda, Arab News reported on July 4th. The news came on the second day of a military offensive aimed at pushing Houthi forces from the region, government officials told the media. Yemen's Information Minister Mu'amar Al-Eryani said that government troops scored "major victories" in Al-Bayda after liberating mountains, villages and other military locations.

Saudi project clears 2,008 more mines in Yemen

The Saudi Project for Landmine Clearance (Masam) dismantled 2,008 mines in Yemen between June 26 and July 2nd, Arab News reported on July 6th. Once again highlighting the ongoing work to protect civilians from Houthi munitions. The figure comprised 63 antipersonnel mines, 793 anti-tank mines, 1,141 unexploded ordnances, and 11 explosive devices.

Explosion targets pro-gov't military base in southern Yemen, 5 killed: source

Xinhau reported on July 4th that five members of Yemen's pro-government forces were killed when an explosion targeted their military base in the country's southern province of Abyan on Sunday, a military official said. The local military source said on condition of anonymity that "an explosion struck the headquarters of the 5th Infantry Army Brigade that's located in Abyan's district of Mudiyah." He said that the explosion killed five soldiers and injured more than 40 others at the scene.

Houthis launch rare attack on Yemen's tense southern region

Reuters reported on July 4th that Houthi rebels had launched a missile strike against a military base in Abyan, which killed at least two soldiers and injured a further 20. The Southern Transitional Council (STC) has been vying with the Saudi-backed government for control of the south, Reuters noted.

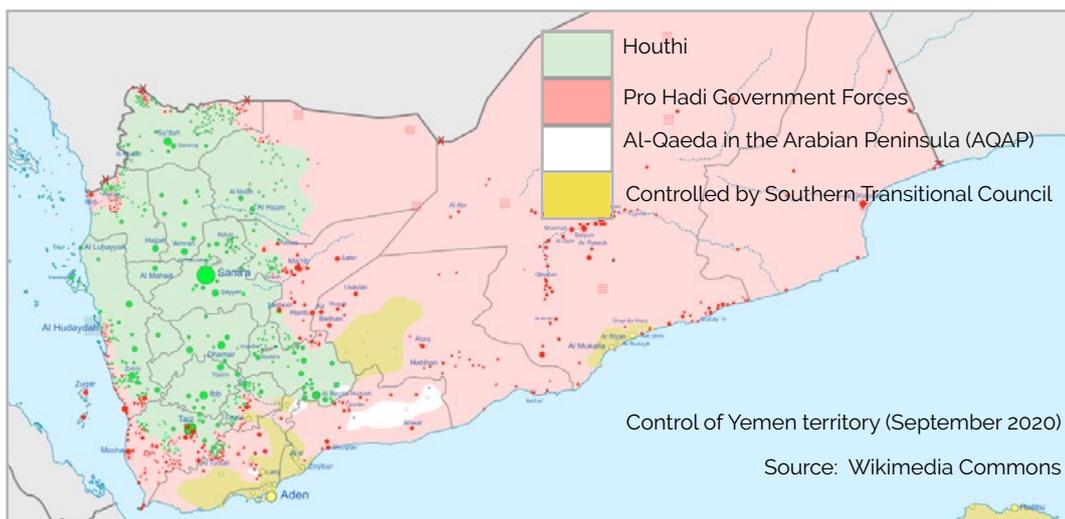
Saudi Arabia delivers diesel supplies for Yemen's Mahra power stations

Saudi Arabia has delivered diesel supplies in Mahra governorate of Yemen, which will be used to fuel power stations there, Arab News reported on July 4th. The delivery is part of the ongoing Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (SDRPY), and saw 4,000 tons of fuel travel by sea to reach the region. Fuel and power shortages remain a significant issue in the country.

Saudi-led coalition says it intercepted Houthi drone from Yemen

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said it has intercepted and destroyed an explosives-laden drone deployed by Houthi rebels towards the kingdom on Friday, the third such attack within 48 hours, Al Jazeera reported on July 2nd. A statement provided by Saudi coalition forces said that the missile was heading towards the Khamis Mushait region before being shot down by air defences. On Thursday July 1st, the US State Department said that the US was "beyond fed up" with Houthi attacks in Yemen.

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



South East Asia

Argus Media reported on July 2nd that there are concerns inside Japan's government over the current threat to tanker traffic in its key Asian shipping lane. The media outlet reported that policy advisers have warned of potential future disruption as tensions increase with China. They have recommended that the Japanese government look at new routes to maintain the security of its oil and LNG imports.

Incidents:

1. Duty engine crew onboard underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier noticed four robbers in the engine room and notified the bridge at 1620 UTC in position 01:16.10N - 104:14.10E, around 4nm SSW of Kampung Sungai Buntu, Malaysia (Malacca Strait). Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen engine spares. Incident reported to VTIS. Reported (IMB) 29th June.

2. Underway Panama-flagged bulk carrier boarded by four robbers who were sighted in the engine room at 0014 LT in position 01:17.15N - 104:17E, around 6.7nm NW of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia (Eastbound Lane TSS). Robbers escaped when sighted. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Search conducted, with no further sighting of the robbers. Master reported that some engine spares were stolen, and all crew accounted for. Ship continued with her voyage to Vietnam. Safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. Reported (ReCAAP) 26th June.

3. Underway Panama-flagged bulk carrier boarded by one robber armed with a knife sighted at the steering gear flat at 0005 LT in position 01:16.50N - 104:16.90E, around 6.2nm NW of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia (Eastbound Lane TSS). Robber escaped when sighted. No confrontation with the crew. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF. Reported (ReCAAP) 26th June.

Soldiers in plane crash meant to reinforce Sulu troops vs Abu Sayyaf

A military plane which crashed in Jolo, Sulu, killing 50 and injuring dozens of others, was bringing in new troops in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf Group, Philippine media reported on

July 6th. The Lockheed C-130 Hercules was carrying 96 mostly combat troops when it overshot the runway while landing on Sunday 4th at the Jolo airport in Sulu province, military officials said.

Singapore to reclaim land around Pedra Branca to build facilities to improve maritime safety and security

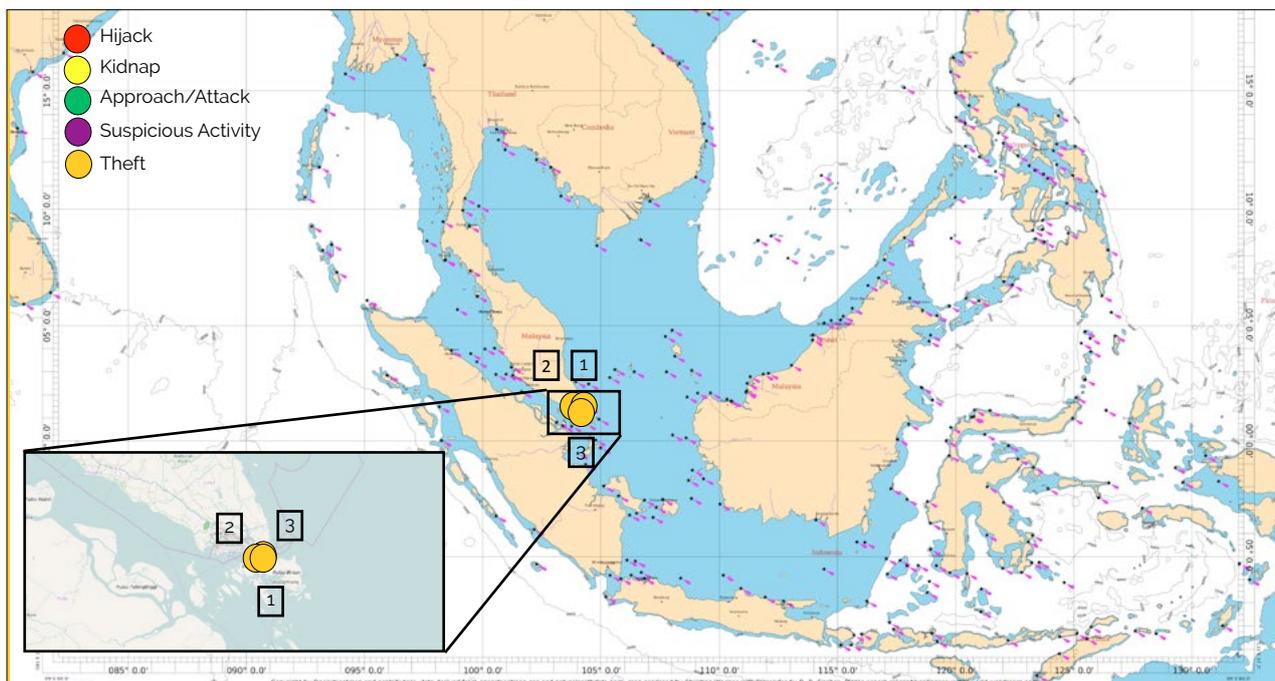
Singapore Today reported on July 5th that work will begin to reclaim land around Pedra Branca before the year's end, in order to improve facilities on the island. The intention is to allow vessels to berth as well as offering improved communications, security and SAR facilities.

9 suspected Abu Sayyaf members surrender in Sulu, says military

Nine suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group surrendered to authorities in Sulu, the Philippine military said on Monday 5th, ABC-CBN News reported. A report from Joint Task Force Sulu, the force attempting to suppress the ongoing terrorist group, stated that the men handed themselves over to the Philippine Army's 1101st Infantry Brigade. A number of weapons were also handed over during the surrender.

Chinese, Vietnamese ships in West Philippine Sea disperse after coast guard challenge

PhilStar Global reported on July 4th that seven fishing vessels in the West Philippine Sea dispersed after a radio challenge by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on June 30th. The coast guard's BRP Cabra (MRRV-4409) spotted five Chinese and two Vietnamese ships at the vicinity waters off Marie Louise Bank.





European Waters

French media report that 47 migrants were rescued at sea by rescue services off the coast of France on Saturday 3rd, when a group of migrants got into difficulties off the coast at Sangatte. Two further vessels were then intercepted, with one adrift at the time of its rescue. Saturday's incidents came after a busy Friday for French rescue services, who also rescued over 100 migrants at sea on Friday 2nd.

More than 600 migrants arrived in the UK in the first four days of July

The UK's Daily Mail reported on July 5th that over 600 migrants crossed the English Channel to reach the UK in the first four days of July. The paper stated that 676 arrivals were recorded by the UK between Thursday and Sunday.

RNLI defends rescues of migrants in distress

The Financial Times reports that the UK's Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has defended itself amid criticism that it entered French waters to seek out and rescue a vessel in distress with 20 migrants on board. The RNLI released a statement on Monday 5th in which it said its mission was to, "save lives at sea...without judgement of how they came to be in the water," the Financial Times reported.

Bodies of 21 migrants found off Tunisia's coast

The Tunisian coastguard has recovered the bodies of 21 migrants after their boat sank off the port of Sfax. Fifty people were saved in a rescue operation carried out on Sunday 4th. It was the second such disaster in Tunisian waters in two days. At least 43 people drowned on Saturday when their boat ran into trouble near the southern city of Zarzis. Eighty-four people aboard the vessel were rescued.

Libya maritime officials confirm shooting at migrants in the Mediterranean

Africa News reported on July 2nd that Libyan maritime officials agree that a Libyan coast guard vessel had fired warning shots at a migrant boat. Given there is video footage of rounds impacting the water next to a migrant boat as a Libyan Coast Guard vessel closes on it, a denial would have been hard to believe. The video footage, filmed by a plane carrying German NGO Sea-Watch staff, emerged on social media last week, causing a storm of protests from NGO rescue groups. The Libyan navy issued a statement condemning the act. It said the Libyan vessel had endangered the lives of migrants during the chase, vowing to hold those responsible to account.

Rescue ship picks up over 200 migrants in Mediterranean

AFP reports that NGO rescue ship, Ocean Viking, has rescued 203 people, including 17 children, in the last few days. SOS Mediterranean said on Sunday 4th that the migrants had all been rescued by the vessel since Thursday, including a group of 71 migrants who were in an overloaded wooden boat off Malta. Some had to be evacuated in stretchers, the NGO group said.

Greece and India conduct joint naval training in the Mediterranean

On Wednesday, the Indian Navy Frigate INS Tabar conducted a joint PASSEX (Passing Exercise) with the Themistoklis Frigate in the sea area southwest of Crete, Greek City Times reported on July 2nd. During PASSEX, communication, advanced maneuvers and coordination with a helicopter were performed.

Morocco's Royal Navy Assists 244 Irregular Migrants in Mediterranean

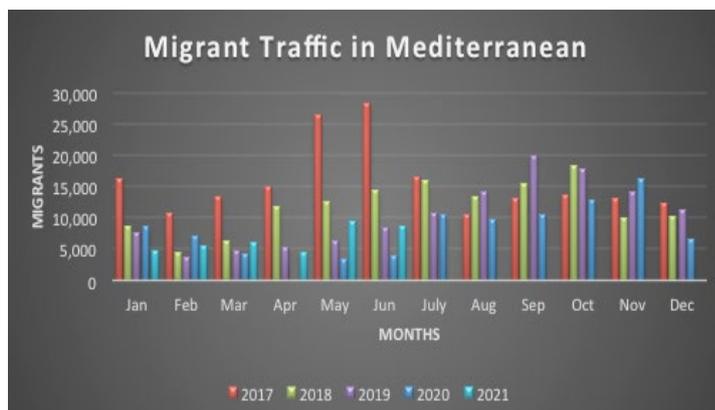
The Royal Navy of Morocco's Coast Guard have rescued more than 244 migrants in a two-day period, local media reported on July 4th. Some of the migrants were in a "very degraded state of health," military sources said. The Royal Navy crews provided necessary medical care to the migrants before returning them to the various ports across Morocco.

MSF denounces seizure of migrant rescue vessel in Italy

Reuters reported on July 5th that the MSF ship Geo Barents had been detained by Italian authorities following an inspection. MSF said that Italian authorities had detained NGO vessels on 13 occasions since 2019, four of which were currently detained, "leaving almost no lifesaving activities in the central Mediterranean Sea", Reuters stated.

Turkey to Continue Drilling for Oil, Gas in Eastern Mediterranean

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan has said that his country will continue exploratory drilling for oil and gas in the eastern Mediterranean, reported Reuters, according to a report in Russian media outlet, Sputnik. Turkey had been receiving "signals of natural gas" in the region and every effort will be made to defend its rights in the region, according to Erdogan.



Migrant crossings 2017-2021. Source: [UNHRC](#)

The current migrant smuggling situation

As the news reports illustrate, migrant crossings remain at a very high level. Sadly, fatalities are keeping pace, as is to be expected. The video footage of Libyan Coast Guard personnel firing live rounds around a migrant boat have once again caused a political uproar but, given the EU's apparent unwillingness to engage in rescue operations in the region, little is likely to be done in reality. Crossings in the English Channel remain at a high level and a cause for concern, given the significant risk of incident in busy sea lanes. It will be interesting to see whether legal proposals by the UK government have any impact on crossing numbers in the coming weeks and months.

Libya

On Saturday 3rd, the Egyptian President, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, inaugurated a new naval base on the Northwest coast of the country in the Gargoub region, near Libya. The Commander of Egypt's naval forces, Ahmed Khaled, said that the new base would add to the country's growing capabilities in the region.

Operation IRINI Chief: Europe ready to train Libyan coast-guards

European Union's Operation IRINI commander, Fabio Agostini, said Europe is ready to train the Libyan Coast Guard and Navy personnel despite political hindrances from countries outside the European Union, the Libya Observer reported on July 5th. The news comes after footage of Coast Guard personnel firing into the sea close to a migrant vessel was made public.

Libyan institutions reject Haftar's candidacy

Media reports suggest that Libya's political and military establishment have little interest in the political career of the head of the LNA, Khalifa Haftar. Following the recent meeting of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) held in Switzerland on June 28th-July 3rd, the chairperson of the Libyan High Council of State, Khalid al-Mishri said on Facebook: "Remove your military uniform, drop your foreign citizenship, and settle your legal case on war crimes, but you will lose at the ballot boxes just as you lost at the ammunition boxes."

Libya: Haftar uncovers details of army withdrawal from Tripoli

Middle East Monitor reported on July 3rd that Khalifa Haftar, head of the LNA, announced that the withdrawal of the army from Tripoli was an option among other difficult choices, due to the intervention of AFRICOM forces. Haftar stated that the AFRICOM forces targeted Libyan forces at Al-Watiya Air Base and a number of Tripoli hubs, adding: "The Americans asked the General Command of the Armed Forces to disengage with the Russian ally, and when we asked them for an alternative, they disavowed and loosened the reins on Turkey, AFRICOM and NATO techniques in targeting our forces," MEMO reported.

Election date in doubt amid "chaos"

The Guardian newspaper reported on July 2nd that efforts to set terms for the highly anticipated elections in Libya are "mired in chaos", as splits among the body set up the UN in 2020 make an agreement extremely difficult. Allegations of bribery are rife, amid factions which continue to argue over referendums versus presidential elections. There are concerns within the arguing parties that the 'existing political class' is at-

tempting to hold on to power without elections.

U.S judge: No immunity for Haftar in civil suits

Warlord Khalifa Haftar can not claim head-of-state immunity in respect to lawsuits accusing him of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Libya, a U.S court ruled on Thursday July 1st. According to the Associated Press, Khalifa Haftar faces three separate lawsuits filed in a U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Northern Virginia.

Foreign troops are not leaving Libya despite Berlin II pledges

Despite overall agreement and pledges made at a number of conferences, there is little sign that foreign fighters are leaving Libya or making preparations to do so. Middle East Monitor reported on July 1st that there are thousands of Turkish regular troops and Syrian mercenaries who were sent by Ankara to support Tripoli's former Government of National Accord, but that Turkey has rejected calls to withdraw its forces.

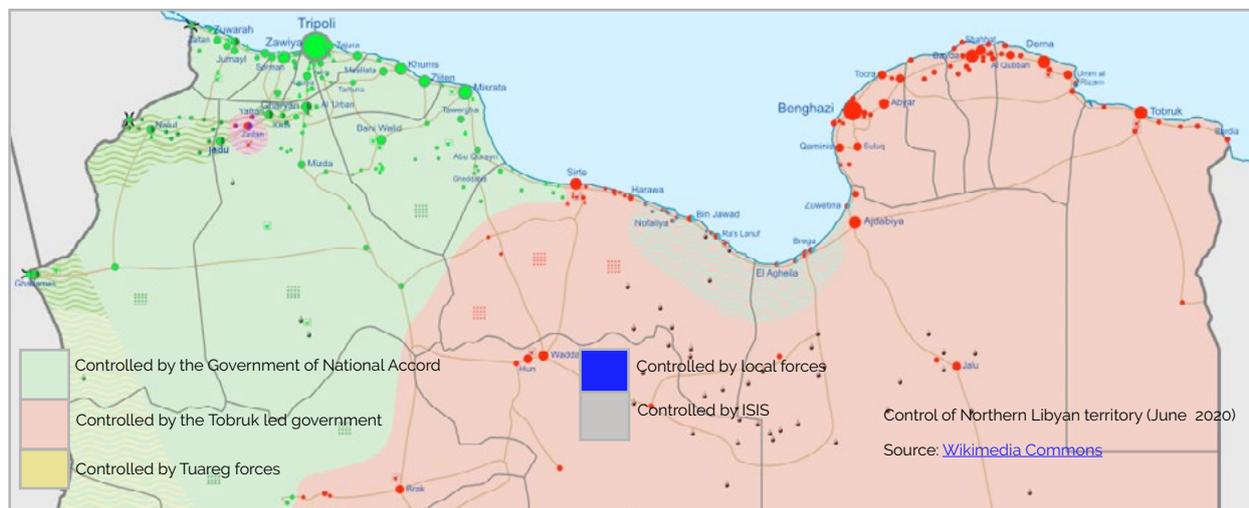
Court fines son of Gaddafi-era official \$1.5 million

A Swiss court obliged the son of former Secretary of the General People's Committee in Muammar Gaddafi's regime Shukri Ghanem to pay \$1.5 million in a corruption case in favor of the Swiss government instead of the National Oil Corporation, the Libya Observer reported on July 3rd. Ghanem's lawyer suggested he was considering an appeal, saying that the judgement was based on 'mistaken findings', media reported.

Libyan temporarily shuts Dhiba Wazen crossing with Tunisia

The Libyan authorities decided independently to close the Dhiba Wazen border crossing between Libya and Tunisia, starting from midnight on Thursday July 1st, for a period of 15 days, a security source confirmed on Thursday. A Tunisian security official was quoted by the Libya Observer as saying that the news came as a shock, describing it as unjustified. It's thought that a spike in local Covid cases could be behind the move.

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



Central and South America

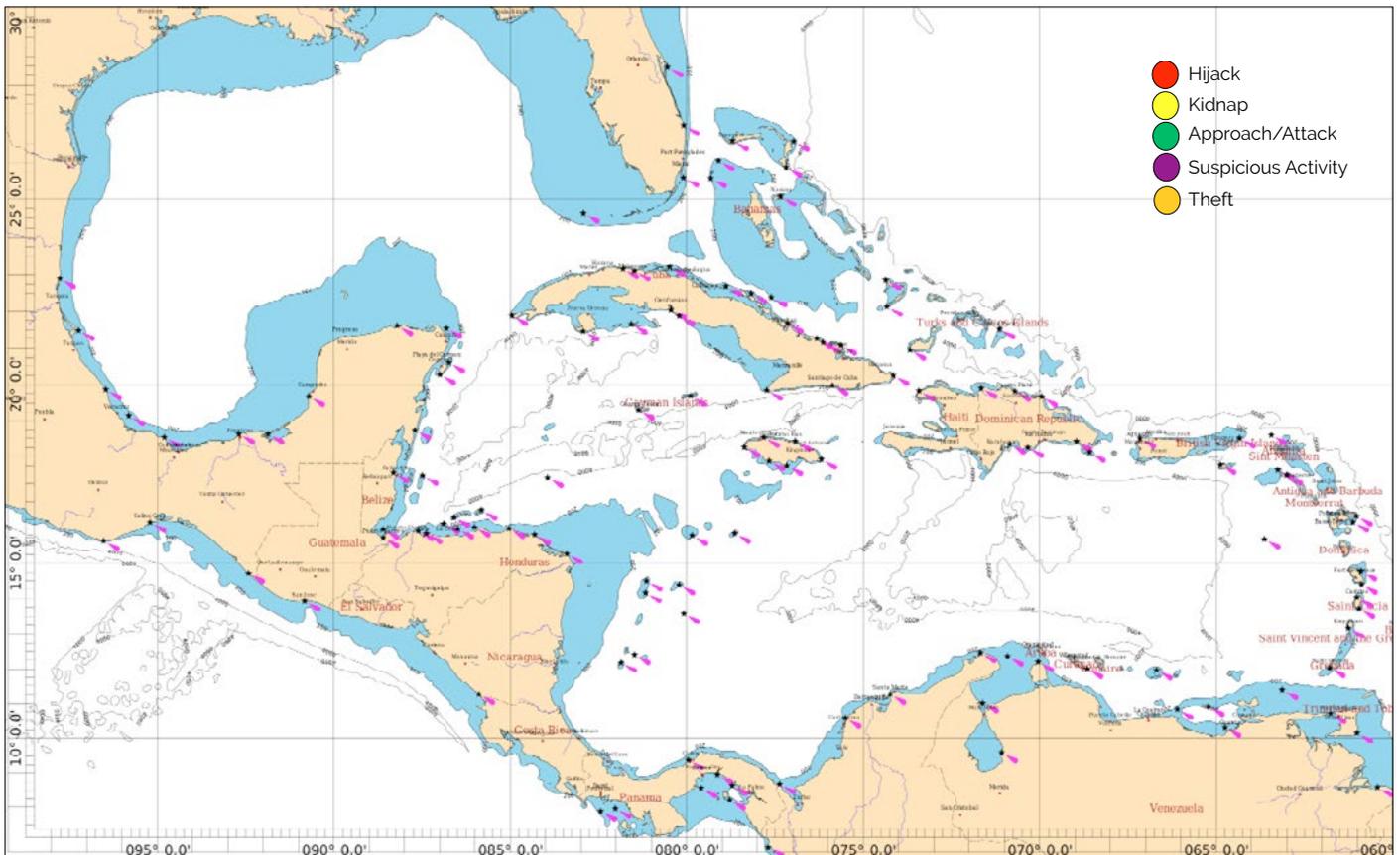
Insightcrime reports that fishermen in Ecuador have given up on outside help to combat pirate attacks and armed robberies that have long plagued the nation's coastal provinces and are now taking action themselves. On June 28th, media outlet Ecuavisa reported that fishermen had set fire to a boat docked at the port of Santa Rosa in the western coastal province of Santa Elena. The boat had reportedly been used by pirates to steal motors from fishing boats at sea. The fishermen claimed to have attacked due to authorities failing to prevent maritime crime, according to Ecuavisa.

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.