

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 293 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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Contents:

	Page
Mast Services	2
Gulf of Guinea	4
Indian Ocean	5
Somalia	6
Yemen	7
South East Asia	8
European Waters	9
Libya	10
Central & South America	11
Severe Weather Warnings	12



Gulf of Guinea

US Navy vessel, the USS Hershel 'Woody' Williams arrived in Lagos on Saturday 7th, as part of the US government's efforts to support maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. "We're here to train and work with the Nigerian Navy on anti-piracy, tactics, techniques and procedures," Hershel "Woody" Williams Captain Chad Graham told Bloomberg News.

Incidents:

1. Late report: On the 1st August at 0430UTC in position 09°16N -013°49W, 4 armed intruders boarded an MV (NAME WITHHELD) whilst anchored 6Nm near Conakry Anchorage area. The crew was reported safe. Reported by MDAT-GoG. *(Not shown on chart)*

2. Late report: On the 31st July at 2245UTC, in position 05°35N -000°03E, 3 intruders were spotted attempting to board an MV (NAME WITHHELD). Twice the crew were able to repel the intruders (first attempt was at 2345 and the second attempt at 2320UTC) with fire hoses. The crew was reported safe. Reported by MDAT-GoG.

Swiss national kidnapped in Nigeria

Police in Nigeria say a Swiss national and another person have been kidnapped in the south-west of the country. They were intercepted on a road in Ogun state as they were making their way from a farm. Police said two of the kidnappers were killed, BBC News reported on August 9th.

Field, pipeline issues weigh on Nigerian oil output

S&P Global reports that ongoing technical and operational issues affected Nigeria's oil output for July. Bonny Light, Escravos and Forcados all faced production issues last month while output for other key grades such as Qua Iboe, Brass River, Agbami, Akpo and Egina also remained low, sources told S&P Global Platts.

Nigerian Navy to set up two operational base in Cross River

Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu Gambo has stated that the Navy will set up an outpost at Iking and a security station at Day-spring Island Cross River State, The Tribune reported on August 6th. The new bases are required, "because we are aware of the security situation in the state - cultists, kidnappers and other criminal elements," he told the media.

Ghanaian, Nigerian forces join U.S. ship for Gulf of Guinea exercises

As part of its deployment in the region, the USS Williams has taken part in training programmes alongside the Nigerian and Ghana navies, in order to improve interoperability and anti-piracy response. During the exercises in the Gulf of Guinea, the ship was used by Ghana's Special Boat Squadron, a unit specializing in anti-piracy operations. It also participated in exercises with the Nigerian Navy, UPI reported on August 6th.

Calls for escort system in GoG

Maritime lawyer and former CEO of the Ghana Shippers' Authority, Dr Kofi Mbia, has proposed a convoy or escort system for merchant traffic in the Gulf of Guinea. According to him greater collaboration between littoral states can improve the security situation at sea. His proposal is based on the IRTC in the Gulf of Aden, Ghana media reported on August 5th.

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

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures:

2021:

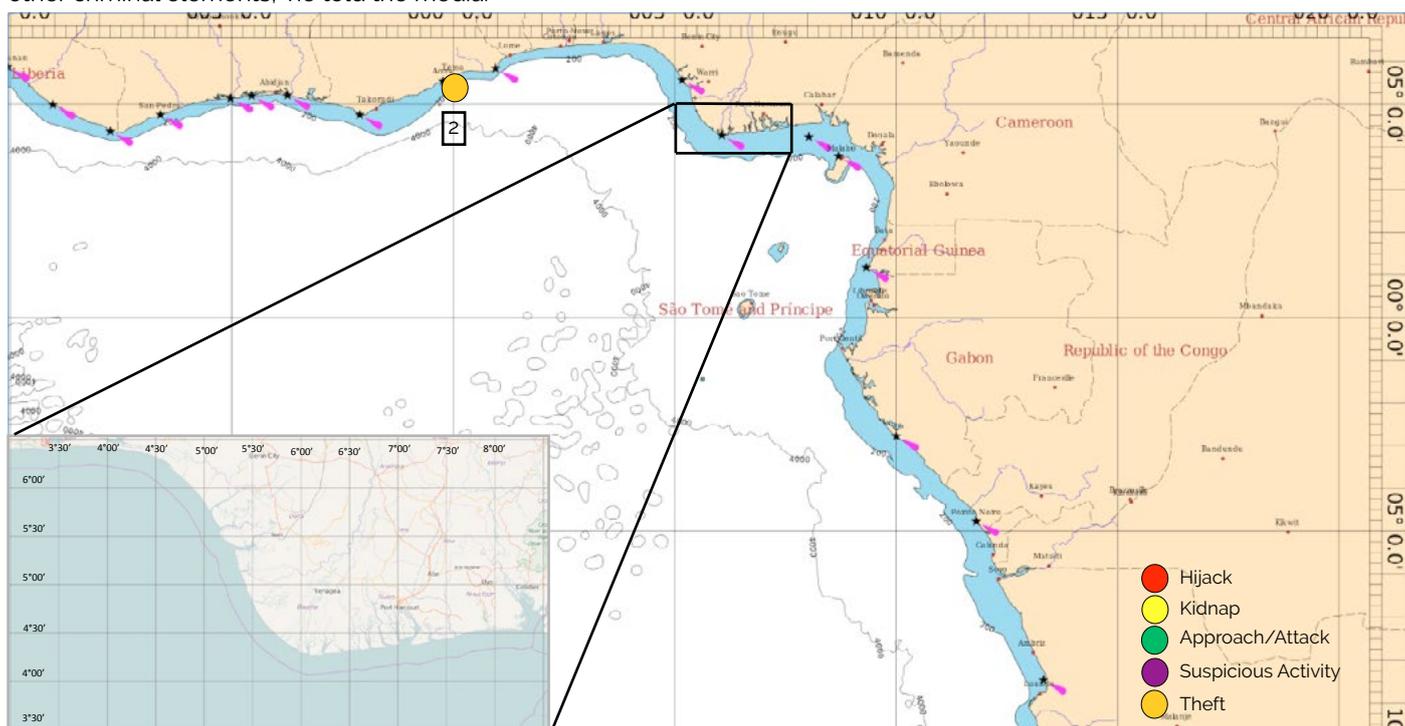
Incidents reported: 37 (MDAT-GoG)
Crew kidnapped: 45 (IMB, MDAT)
Vessels hijacked: 1 (MDAT-GoG)

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

The Times reports that the the group of men believed to be Iranian Special Forces, who boarded the MV Asphalt Princess in the Arabian Sea were unable to divert it to Iran after the crew disabled the ship's engines. Once rendered inoperable, the boarders had little choice but to disembark, as US and Omani forces approached her position, a source told The Times, according to a report from Arab News on August 5th.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Mozambique insurgency: Key port retaken from insurgents

Rwandan and Mozambican troops have retaken a key port city from Islamist militants in northern Mozambique, the Rwandan military says. It says Mocimboa da Praia was the rebels' last stronghold. It is located in Cabo Delgado province, home to one of Africa's biggest gas fields. The insurgents have not yet commented. "The port city of Mocimboa da Praia , a major stronghold of the insurgency for more than two years has been captured by Rwandan and Mozambican security forces," the Rwanda Defence Force tweeted on Sunday 8th August, BBC News reported.

Putin proposes maritime security body in UNSC, says Russia will ensure security in Persian Gulf, Atlantic Ocean

Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, has proposed a new maritime security body within the UNSC, media reported on Monday 9th. Putin proposes maritime security body in UNSC, says Russia will ensure security in Persian Gulf, Atlantic Ocean, ANI reported.

Somalia maintains maritime row will be decided by ICJ

Following a meeting on Sunday 8th between Kenyan and Somali diplomats, Somalia PM Mohamed Roble said the Somalia government reaffirms that the decision on the maritime dispute is with the International Justice Court, and will wait for its verdict, the Star newspaper reported on August 8th. Kenya has continued to press for a diplomatic solution to the issue, but this seems unlikely.

Mercer Street: Tanker blast evidence points to Iran, says US

The US military's Central Command has announced the re-

sults of its forensic investigation into last week's fatal drone attack on a merchant tanker off Oman, BBC News reported on August 7th. It says explosives experts concluded that the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was produced in Iran. The evidence has been shared with explosives experts in Britain and Israel who concurred with the findings. A British security guard, Adrian Underwood, and the ship's Romanian captain lost their lives as the ship sailed past the Omani island of Masirah. In possibly related news, on Wednesday 11th, The Times reported that on Tuesday 10th, an explosion occurred on a tanker at Latakia port, Syria, amid concerns that it had been hit by Israel in a retaliatory strike. The paper identified the ship as the MT Wisdom, stating that it had already experienced one 'mysterious explosion' this year.

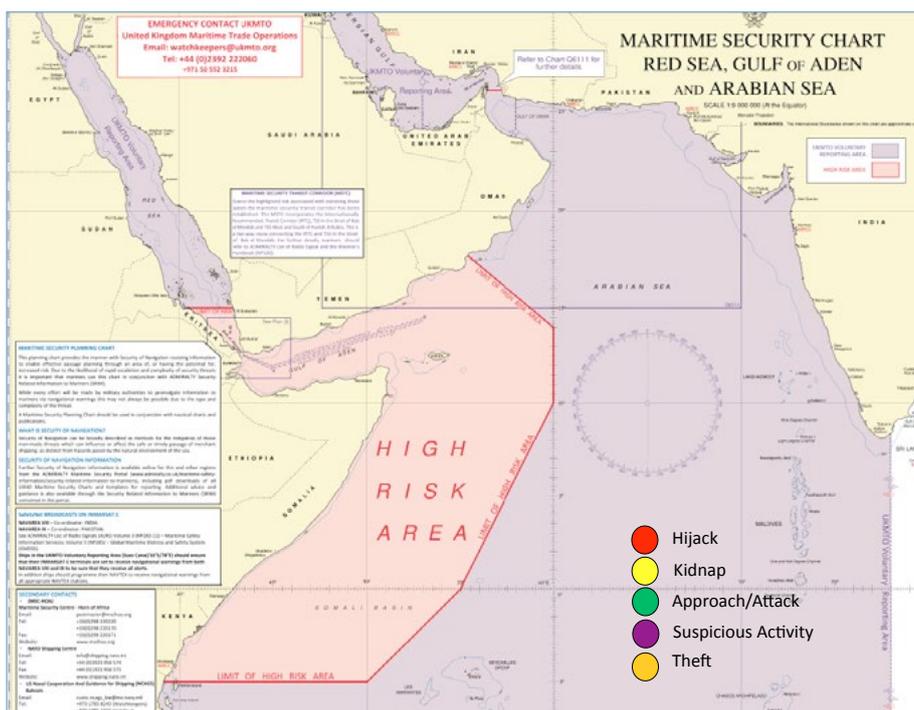
India, Sri Lanka and Maldives to collaborate on security

The Hindu reported on August 7th that India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have agreed to work on 'four pillars' of security cooperation, including maritime security. The move towards enhanced intelligence sharing has come after nine months of deliberations and discussion, but it is hoped that the move will improve maritime security and maritime crime responses in the IOR.

US Naval Forces Africa bolster East African maritime security

This year's Cutlass Express was hosted by Kenya, which saw meetings with 20 senior leaders from maritime nations that are partners with the US and European nations, Defence Web reported on August 5th, as the exercise was in its final stages.

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



Somalia

The Somali government has formally rejected African Union recommendations for a scaled-down peacekeeping presence in the Horn of Africa country, calling a report and its proposals "devoid of realities. The experts who conducted the assessment didn't sufficiently consult with the federal government of Somalia," Foreign Minister Mohamed Abdirizak told VOA Somali, saying the government informed the AU of its position last week. "The report and options are not good options at this point," VOA reported on August 6th.

Qatar builds healthcare centre for 20,000 people

Qatar Charity has announced that it expects 20,000 people will benefit from their newly-opened health centre in Galmudug. The charity's newly-launched facility will include a reproductive health department, an emergency department, a laboratory, a vaccination room, a feeding room, a pharmacy, in addition to doctors' rooms and administrative offices. DohaNews reported on August 9th.

Somalia, Kenya Agree to Mend Strained Relations

The governments of Somalia and Kenya agreed to improve strained diplomatic ties following a meeting in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, between officials of both countries on Sunday 8th. The Kenyan delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Raychelle Omamo held talks with Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble, Voice of America reported.

Trouble for Govt as Somaliland Polls Team Splits

In a new election blow, the team created to oversee elections in the country's northern regions has reportedly split, according to the Daily Nation on August 8th. A day after Prime Minister Hussein Roble thought he had whipped the group into one unit, a splinter group of the Somaliland Electoral Implementation Team (Seit) held a session in Mogadishu and elected Khadar Harir Hussein as chairman, the paper reported.

Al Shabaab executes elder for 'insulting Prophet'

Garowe Online reported on August 8th that Al Shabaab terror-

ists had executed an 83-year-old elder for allegedly insulting the Prophet Mohamed. The paper reported that Hassan Tohow Fidow was convicted by an Al Shabaab court and then executed, in news that has had mixed reactions both in the country and local community. The group did not release details of the alleged incident.

Turkey's latest donation of \$30 million to Somalia stirs debate

Turkey on Thursday 5th announced a new donation to Somalia of some \$30 million, paid in monthly installments and is intended to be used for "budget financing and international capacity building." However, the news has caused some debate in Turkey, as the country battles wildfires and, according to Arab News, economic constraints. Over the past six years, Turkey has allocated \$117 million to Somalia.

108,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines donated by France arrive in Somalia

Africa News reported on Sunday 8th that France had donated 108,000 Covid-19 vaccine doses to Somalia, which had arrived in the country. The vaccines were donated by the Government of France through the COVAX Facility, a partnership between the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

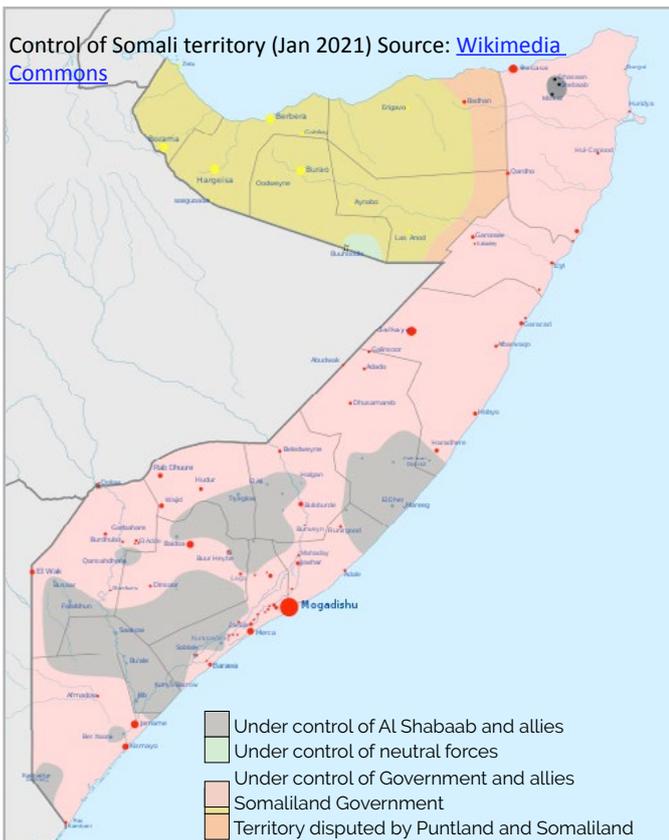
Analysis

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 Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which represents eight African countries, has said it is concerned over the potential environmental disaster represented by the ongoing state of the FSO Safer in the Red Sea. IGAD Executive Secretary Dr Workneh Gebeyehu called on the international community to "take urgent steps to stabilise the oil tanker, particularly through undertaking urgent repairs, and thereafter offload the oil it carries", the East African reported.

US announces \$165M in humanitarian aid to Yemen

The US Special Envoy to Yemen, Tim Lenderking, told reporters on August 9th that the USA will provide \$165 million in additional humanitarian aid to Yemen as concerns over the humanitarian situation in the country continue. USAID will provide the assistance, after resuming operations and programmes in Yemen in March this year, Al Jazeera reported.

Danger of landmines revealed in report

The Yemen government has reported that 44 Yemenis lost their lives to landmines and other explosive devices in the first half of 2021, Xinhua said on August 8th. During the January-June period this year, 44 people were killed, including 11 children, and 57 others were injured, the local government source said on condition of anonymity. Previous reports of humanitarian organizations suggested that Yemen has become one of the largest landmine battlefields in the world since the World War II. The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) revealed that during the first week of August, their personnel had cleared 1,415 mines, comprising of 13 anti-personnel mines, 672 anti-tank mines, and 730 other pieces of unexploded ordnance.

Houthi renews offer to release Saudi captives in exchange for Palestinian detainees

The leader of the Houthi movement, Sayyed Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, has offered to exchange prisoners held by the rebel group in exchange for Palestinian prisoners or "abductees" held by Saudi Arabia, according to media reports on August 10th.

Saudi FM welcomes appointment of new UN special envoy for Yemen

Xinhua reported on August 7th that Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, had welcomed the appointment of Hans Grunberg as Yemen's new UN Special Envoy. Grundberg succeeds Martin Griffiths, who has been appointed as UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

45 Houthi rebels killed in airstrikes, clashes in Yemen's Marib

As many as 45 Houthis were killed in a series of airstrikes conducted by the Saudi-led coalition in Marib, Xinhua reported on August 7th. "In the western district of Sirwah, the airstrikes targeted a rebel makeshift operational room, killing at least 12," one of the sources in Marib told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. "In the adjacent district of Rahabah, to the south of Sirwah, the airstrikes destroyed several pick-up vehicles carrying rebel combatants on the southwestern Rahabah, killing more than 20," he added.

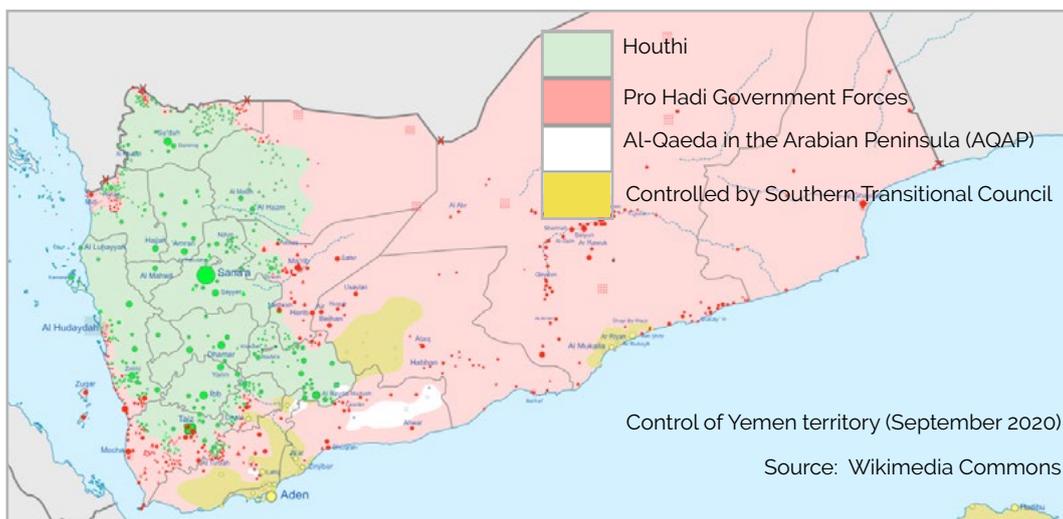
COVID-19 cases on rise amid worsening humanitarian crisis

Yemen's internationally-recognized government reported on Friday a new rise of the daily COVID-19 cases following a relative decline during the past weeks, Xinhua reported on August 6th. So far, only 310,000 vaccine doses have been given in Yemen, and there are fears that the country could face another wave of cases.

Fighting rages in Yemen's al-Bayda province

IANS reported on August 6th that heavy fighting between Houthi and Yemen government forces was continuing in the central province of al-Bayda, with the internationally recognised government gaining more territory from the rebel group. The fighting took place on Thursday in two mountainous areas of Hisn al-Nasir and Akabat al-Kontho in the northeastern district of Nati, which is under the control of the Houthi rebels, the military source told Xinhua news agency.

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



South East Asia

Admiral John Aquilino, Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, has said that the US will continue to operate in the South China Sea, to ensure prosperity for all nations in the region, PhilStar reported on August 9th. "We view with concern (China's) unlawful claim to the entire South China Sea — directly and negatively impacting all of the countries in the region, from their livelihood, whether it be with fishing or access to natural resources," Aquilino said.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Cambodia puts emphasis on stability for South China Sea talks

The Phnom Penh Post reported on August 8th that Cambodia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Prak Sokhonn, said that Cambodia welcomed the resumption of the South China Sea Code of Conduct (COC) negotiations as it reflects the commitment of ASEAN and China to maintain regional stability by managing differences as per international law.

Indo-Pacific forces from 21 partner nations kick off SEACAT

Maritime forces from 21 Indo-Pacific partner nations including the U.S. Navy, U.S. interagencies, and international organizations began the 20th iteration of Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) in Singapore and virtually, on August 10th. SEACAT is a multilateral exercise designed to enhance cooperation among Southeast Asian countries and provide mutual support and a common goal to address crises, contingencies, and illegal activities in the maritime domain using standardized tactics, techniques, and procedures.

MMEA thwarts bid to smuggle 2 tonnes of ketum leaves

The Malaysian Insight reported on August 9th that the MMEA had foiled an attempt to smuggle two tonnes of ketum leaves from Malaysia to a neighbouring country. The MMEA intercepted the shipment overnight, disrupting a smuggling group which was attempting to move the cargo of leaves. Ketum leaf water has been misused by many as it contains psychoactive substances mitragynine which can have stimulant, sedative and euphoria effects that can lead to addiction.

Filipino maritime agencies patrolling West Philippine Sea train under US Coast Guard

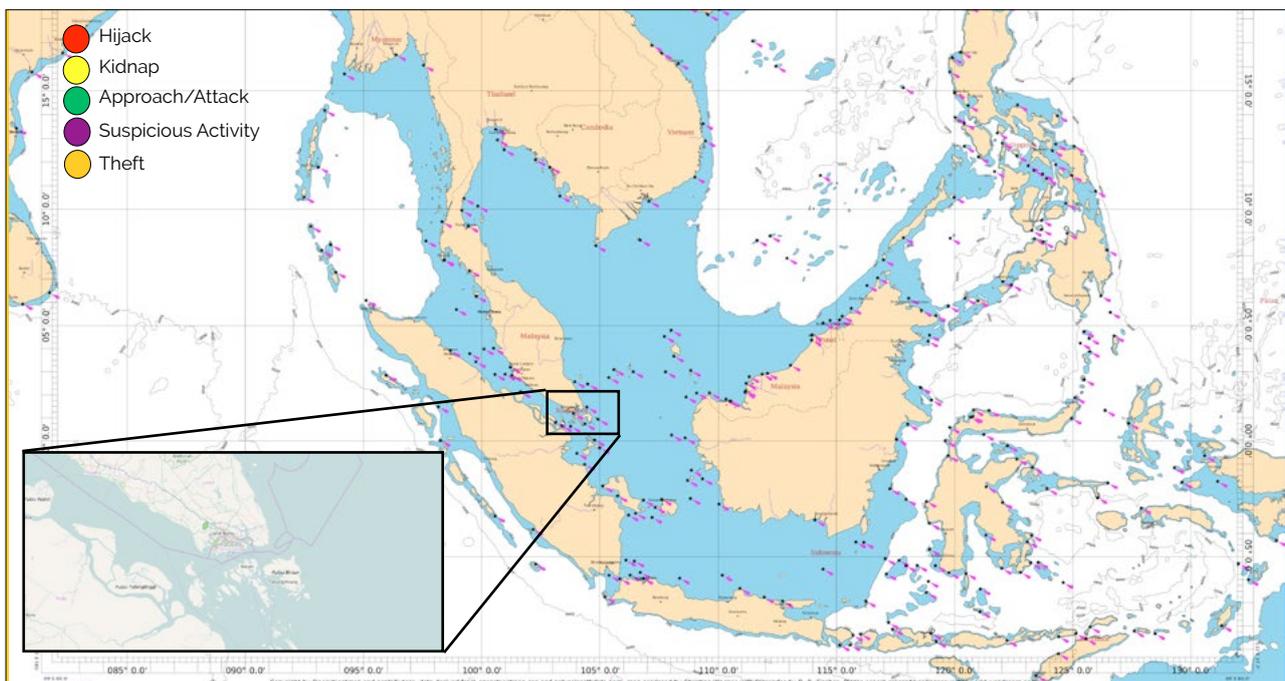
The US Coast Guard has been conducting training operations with a number of Philippine agencies in recent weeks, according to a report on August 8th in Rappler. Personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine National Police Maritime Group (PNP MG), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) finished weeks of training under the advanced boarding officer course, where US Coast Guard personnel served as instructors.

DG of Indian Coast Guard elected next executive director of ReCAAP

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP), has announced that Director General of Indian Coast Guard K Nataraajan has been elected as the organisation's next Executive Director, PTI reported. The Indian candidate obtained two-thirds majority receiving 14 votes out of a total of 21 member countries of ReCAAP, the MEA said in a statement.

Abu Sayyaf Group urged to surrender, avail of gov't reintegration program

Major General Generoso Ponio, the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Commander, has called upon terrorists with the Abu Sayyaf Group to turn themselves in and take part in the government's programmes for reintegration. He made the call after a courier for ASG became the latest member of the organisation to turn themselves in. "Take advantage of the government's integration programs. It will provide you with an opportunity to return to your families and communities, and together we shall peacefully solve our problems," Ponio said, the Philippine News Agency reported on August 6th.



European Waters

A further 475 migrants crossed the English Channel in 15 small boats on Thursday, following a record 482 arrivals on Wednesday August 4th. The Ministry of Defence earlier said an exercise on its firing range at Hythe had to be stopped on Wednesday when people landed on the beach there. According to Home Office figures, there have now been 10,711 arrivals in more than 440 boats so far in 2021. The Home Office said French authorities stopped 246 people on Wednesday and Thursday, BBC News reported.

German rescue ship carrying 257 migrants docks in Sicily after days in limbo

Sea-Watch 3 has finally been allowed to disembark its rescued migrants in Sicily, after several days at sea, hoping for a friendly port. Some 257 migrants rescued by the NGO were allowed to leave the boat on Saturday, the National reported on August 7th. Meanwhile, another NGO ship with 549 people on board continues to wait to hear whether it will be allowed to dock, six days after it began a rescue operation in the Mediterranean.

42 migrants die en route to Canary Islands, including eight children

InfoMigrants reported on August 6th that a migrant boat en route to the Canary Islands had capsized, shortly after leaving port in Morocco. It is thought that as many as 42 people died during the incident, including eight children and 30 women. The NGO Caminando Fronteras confirmed the deaths that took place on Thursday, August 5, adding that six women and four men survived the tragedy at sea. One of the survivors reportedly lost her two children, InfoMigrants reported.

Britain seeks solutions as more than 10,000 migrants reach UK shores this year

InfoMigrants reported on August 5th that the growing number of migrant crossings in the English Channel was becoming an embarrassment for the UK government, "as it has vowed to fight irregular migrant arrivals for years. Taking control over the country's border was a key campaign issue during the UK plebiscite on leaving the European Union in 2016." Meanwhile, UK tabloid newspapers have suggested that should the trend continue (which it almost certainly will, if sea states and weather conditions allow), then Home Secretary, Priti Patel, may be replaced by Michael Gove.

Migrant dinghies dodge France's security net to reach the English coast

Reuters reported that despite a renewed agreement between the UK and France to better police migrant areas and attempt to prevent crossings, France is having trouble stemming the tide. Despite confiscating countless boats and preventing crossings, "the migrants are too numerous, the shore too long and the smugglers too good at eluding security," Reuters said.

110 irregular migrants intercepted off Libyan coast

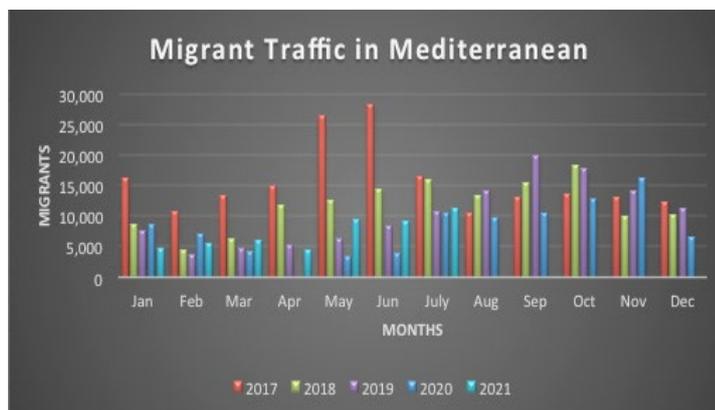
The Libyan Navy reported on Wednesday 4th that it had intercepted 110 migrants off the country's coast. The migrants were taken back to Tripoli Navy base where they would then be handed over to the country's anti-illegal immigration department, the Navy said. "As part of its humanitarian role, the anti-illegal immigration department will look after the migrants and complete the procedures for their deportation safely back to their countries," the Libyan Navy added.

Over 800 illegal migrants rescued off Libyan coast last week: IOM

Xinhau reported on August 9th that the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Monday said that more than 800 illegal migrants were rescued off the Libyan coast and returned to Libya in the past week. "In the period of August 1-8, as many as 864 migrants were rescued/intercepted at sea and returned to Libya," IOM said. So far in 2021, a total of 20,257 illegal migrants, including women and children, have been rescued, while 380 died and 629 went missing off the Libyan coast on the Central Mediterranean route, according to IOM.

Turkey rescues migrants left to die on deserted island by Greece

A report in The Daily Sabah on August 8th states that Turkish drones recorded Greek authorities leaving migrants on Basak, an uninhabited island in the Mediterranean. Drones used to detect forest fires spotted the migrants, who had little chance of survival. Turkish Coast Guard units were dispatched to rescue the migrants who, according to the paper, "had been abandoned to die."



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

UNHCR figures show an increase in crossing numbers of around 1,000 for the past week, but this may well be below the real figure, given the number of rescues made in the past week and the significant numbers of people involved. In the UK, there is much focus on Channel migrant crossings, as both Britain and France attempt to reduce and deter the number of people putting to sea in one of the world's busiest shipping channels. While the political arguments continue, it would seem that the only real way to move forward is by greater cooperation and interoperability at sea. Hopefully, this can be conducted at an operational level, where politics are often ignored by reality.

Libya

Libya has once again attempted to slow the spread of Covid-19 in the country in the run up to the Muslim New Year, by ordering a three-day lockdown in the centre and west of the country, including Tripoli, the government announced on August 8th. It comes ten days after the introduction of a partial curfew from 18:00 to 06:00 local time.

Scale of Russian mercenary mission in Libya exposed

A new BBC investigation has revealed the scale of operations by a shadowy Russian mercenary group in Libya's civil war, which includes links to war crimes and the Russian military. A Samsung tablet left by a fighter for the Wagner group exposes its key role - as well as traceable fighter codenames, BBC News reported on Wednesday 11th.

Libya's NOC says oil pipeline leak to lower Gallo oil field output by 70,000 b/d

S&P Global reported on August 10th that a leak at the Gallo oil field will reduce production by as much as 70,000 barrels per day, according to the Libya's National Oil Company (NOC). The incident is being blamed on poor infrastructure, something the NOC has been dealing with since the conflict in the country began. Libya's crude production has been averaging 1.15 million-1.20 million b/d in the past two months, according to the S&P Global Platts monthly OPEC+ survey.

Fuel Cooperation Commission halts supply to south Libya

Following a series of attacks on tanker drivers, the Fuel Cooperation Commission halted fuel supply to south Libya starting on Saturday, the Libya Observer reported on August 8th. The Commission has asked that extra security be deployed at key sites to ensure the safety of deliveries in future. With those in place, it is likely supplies will resume.

Haftar says his forces will 'not submit to any authority'

Eastern Commander, Khalifa Haftar, has been sidelined by recent events in the country, but remains a potent political force. In a speech on Monday 9th to mark the 81st anniversary of the Libyan Army, Haftar said that his forces would, "not be subject to any authority, and will not surrender", Middle East Eye reported. His comments come days after Richard Norland, the US ambassador to Libya, told Al Jazeera that Haftar could play a role in unifying the war-ravaged country's military establishment.

New mass grave discovered in Tarhuna

The Daily Sabah reported on August 8th that the authorities

in Libya had discovered a new mass grave on Saturday 7th in Tarhuna, south of Tripoli. So far, the remains of 10 people had been found, the paper said. Lutfi Tawfiq, director of the General Authority for Research and Identification of Missing Persons, told Anadolu Agency (AA) that the grave is the second to have been discovered in the city in the past 10 days.

Libyan crude output could rise by 200,000 b/d

Platts has reported that Libya has the potential to significantly boost oil production this year, provided the security situation remains stable. "Libya is at the upper limit of the range they can do till the end of the year," said Vladimir Langhamer, managing director of supply & trading at OMV, at a Gulf Intelligence webinar that was posted on August 4th. "There is, I would say, another really 100,000-200,000 b/d that can come out of that if everything ends up correctly. They have a potential for more, but it needs time and it needs investments."

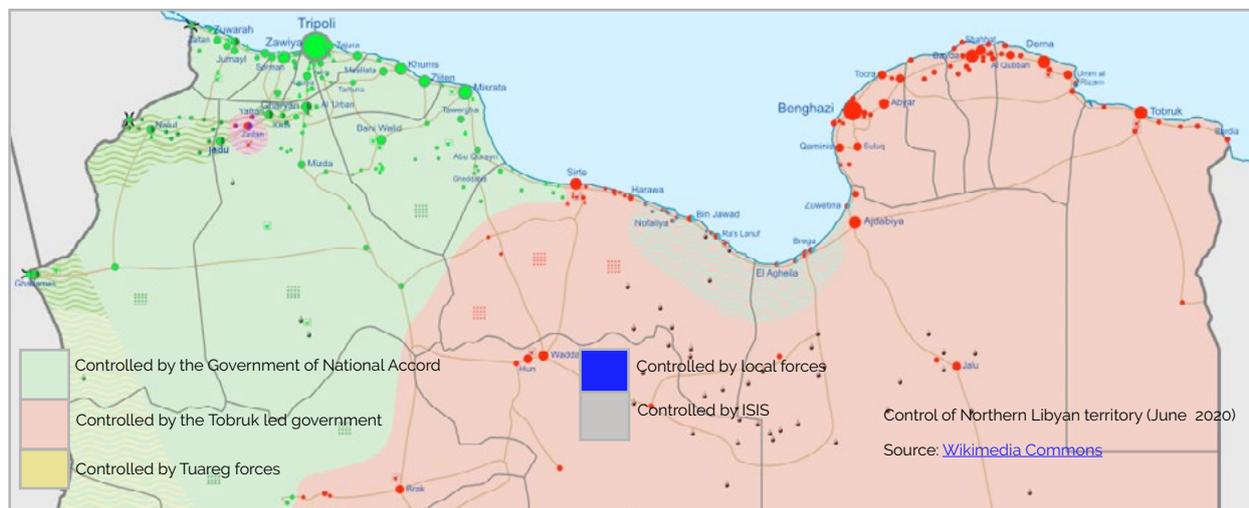
Libya Prepares to Deploy Observers to Monitor Ceasefire

As part of the Joint Military Commission (5+5), Libya's warring parties are expected to deploy international observers to ensure the peace process and ceasefire are maintained. A military source told Asharq Al-Awsat on August 5th that the committee included five officers of the Libyan National Army (LNA), led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, and five other soldiers from the forces affiliated with the unity government.

Libya, Italy discuss "illegal migration"

Libyan PM, Abdul-Hamed Dbeibah, met with the Italian Interior Minister, Luciana Lamorgese in Tripoli on Wednesday 4th to discuss the issue of illegal migration, Chinese media reported. "Lamorgese stressed the need for continuous communication with the Libyan Ministry of Interior to coordinate on a number of important common issues, the most important of which is the illegal migration," the Libyan Government's information office said in a statement.

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



Central and South America

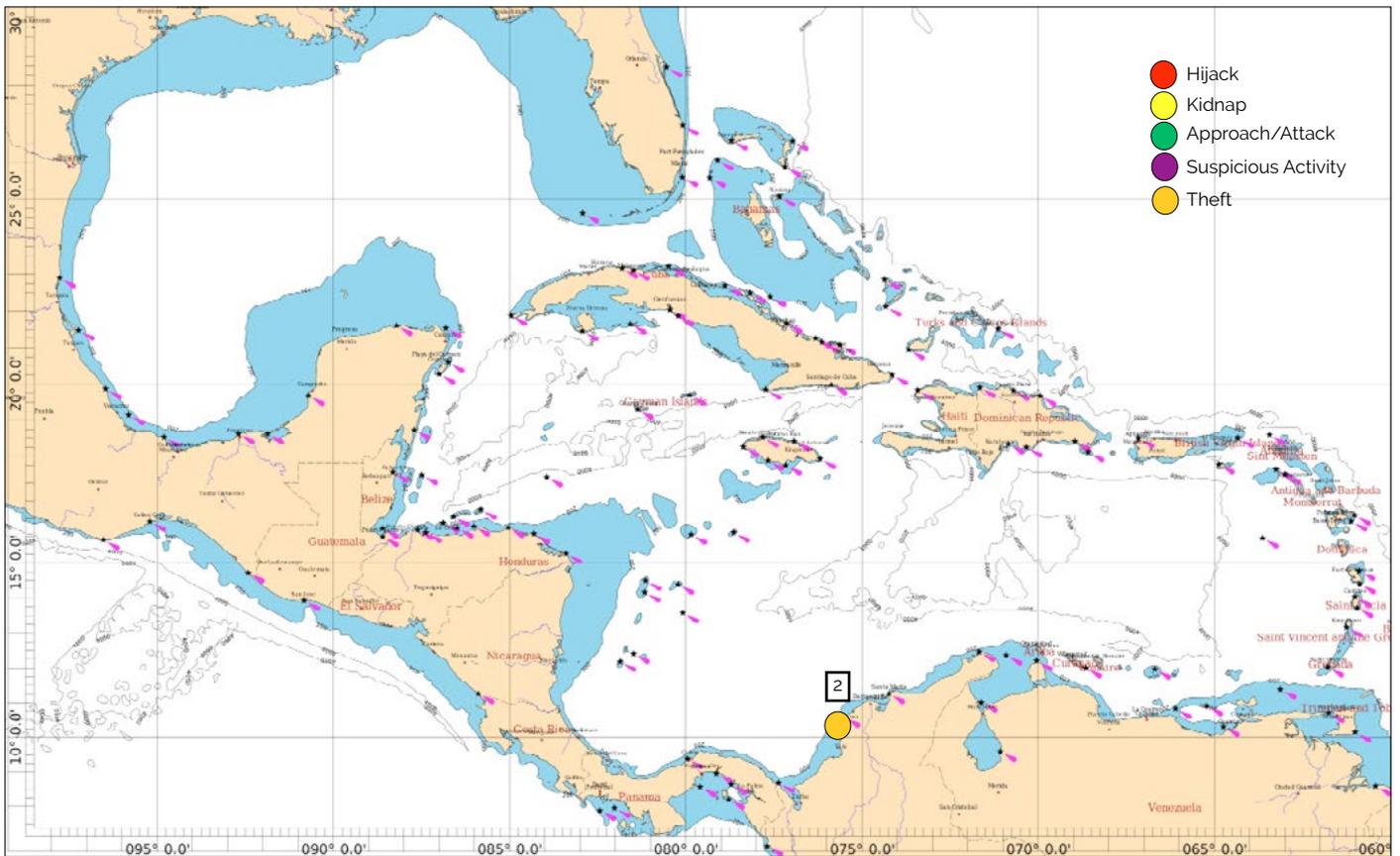
Nothing significant to report.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Standing advice:

The repercussions of a vessel being caught acting as a mule with drugs stowed will depend on the type, amount and national laws, but may be disruptive and costly. When and if operating in these areas, especially Columbia and Peru, it is advised that:

- Potential stowage areas such as rudder shafts are denied as far as possible, and/or routinely searched.
- Access points are closely monitored by a vigilant watch for the duration of the vessel's call at port.





Severe Weather Warnings

Warnings detailed on this page are from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and are issued by respective Regional Specialised Metrological Centres, Tropical Cyclone Centres or National Meteorological Services. For further information on severe weather warnings please click [here](#).

Nothing significant to report.

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