

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 297 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.

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.

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Working closely in conjunction with a host of experts, MAST Intelligence offers a market leading service pertaining to all maritime affairs.

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Gulf of Guinea

The fate of Guinea's President Alpha Condé is unclear after an unverified video showed him surrounded by soldiers, who said they had seized power. They appeared on national TV claiming to have dissolved the government. However, the defence ministry said the attempted takeover had been thwarted by the presidential guard. This follows hours of heavy gunfire near the presidential palace in the capital, Conakry. UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres and the African Union have condemned the apparent coup and demanded the immediate release of President Condé, BBC News reported on Monday 6th.

Incidents:

1. Duty AB onboard an anchored bulk carrier noticed six robbers in a small boat approaching at 0445 UTC in position 05:31.26N - 000:00.91E, Tema Anchorage, Ghana. The boat came alongside and attempted to throw a hook attached with a rope. The duty AB kept shouting at the persons who circled the ship and then moved away. Incident reported to the port control. Reported (IMB) 6th Sept.

2. Report of one crew kidnapped, two others injured during an attack on Sept. 5th, 5nm off Libreville Anchorage, Gabon, in position 00°18.12'N, 009°24.42'E. An OSV was boarded by an unreported number of armed men at 0800 UTC.

Nigeria, Brazil navies promise to end piracy in Gulf of Guinea

Nigeria's Sun News reported on Sept. 4th that the Consul General of Brazil, Ambassador Francisco Carlos Soares Luz, has called for more cooperation between the Nigerian Navy and his country's navy to enable both countries give a bite to the fight against piracy. He said: "At the end, the activities of piracy will raise the cost of products for everyone, especially the landlocked countries. They will have to pay more for those things. Brazil and Nigeria share the Atlantic Ocean as a border. So having our border safe is important for everyone and I think no cost is too expensive to keep the Atlantic Ocean safe."

The Human Rights Cost of IUU Fishing in Ghana

One of West Africa's eminent maritime researchers, Dr. Ifesinachi Okafor, said that failure to include the human cost for IUU fishing has led piracy to get more attention than the costly plunder of fisheries by foreign vessels. "In the last 50 years, Africa has lost over \$200 billion to illegal fishing by vessels linked to foreign nations. Illegal fishing is so extensive that it amounts to 40-65 percent of the legally reported catch in West Africa alone. Yet, there has been zero resolution on this by UNSC. In contrast, the economic cost of piracy over the last 20 years

does not amount to \$20 billion. Neither does the environmental impact directly affect the livelihoods of millions of people."

EFCC arrests five suppliers of stolen crude oil

Agents working for the EFCC in Port Harcourt have arrested five people accused of supplying illegally-refined petroleum products to a multi-national construction company in the State, local media reported on Sept. 3rd. The group was arrested last week as they offloaded the products in Port Harcourt.

Navy approves establishment of Base in Kano

The Nigerian Navy has signed off on the creation of Kano Naval Base, media reported on Sept. 2nd. The approval for the establishment of a naval base in Kano comes as a response to the establishment of a naval base in Kano comes as a response to the establishment of a naval base in Kano comes as a response to the Nigerian Navy visibility in the state, which he said would strengthen the security of the state considered as the economic nerve centre of Northern Nigeria and West African countries.

For further information and to see MAST Services in the region, [please click here.](#)

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures:

2021:

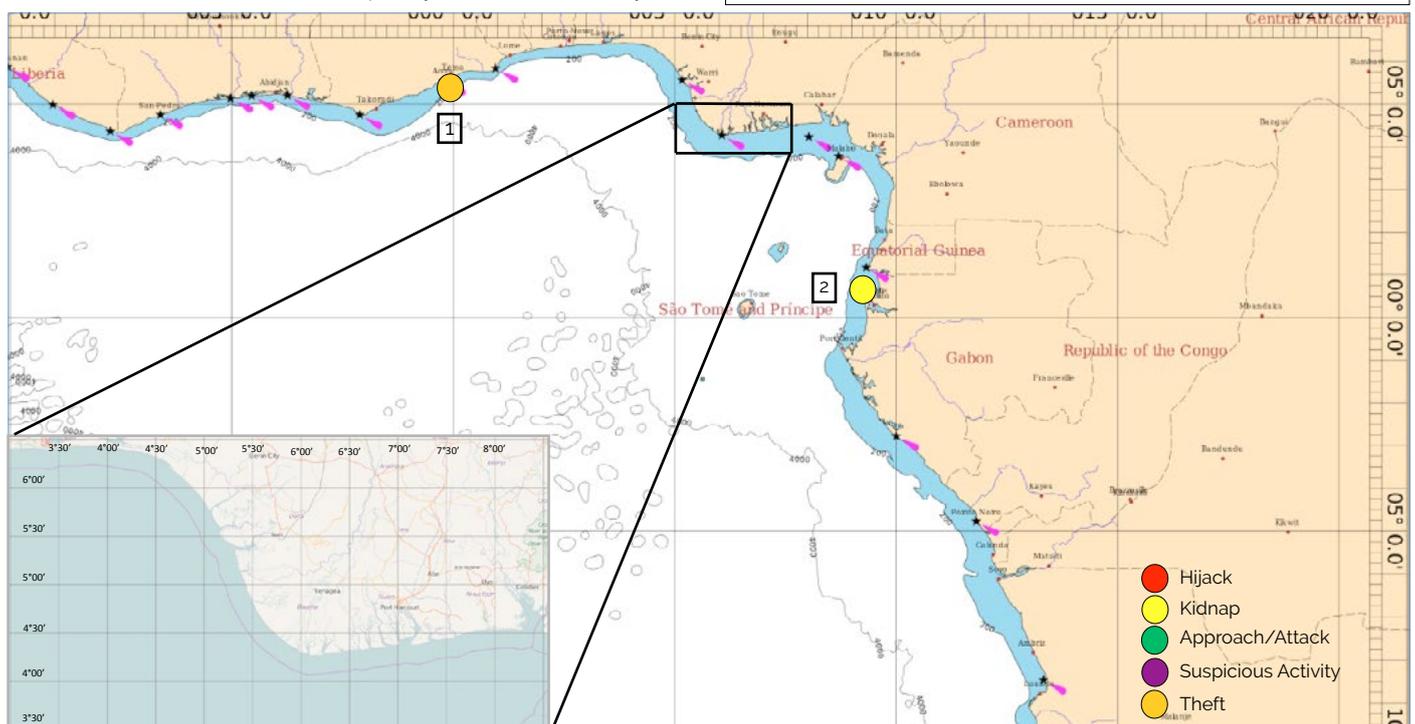
Incidents reported: 39 (MDAT-GoG/Others)
Crew kidnapped: 46 (IMB, MDAT)
Vessels hijacked: 1 (MDAT-GoG)

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

An increased Russian presence in the Red Sea could threaten freedom of navigation for shipping and potentially disrupt oil supplies and prices, a report by the Royal United Services Institute report has suggested. The report cautions that Russia's arms deals and efforts to create naval bases in the region should not be ignored by policymakers. The report also warns of the threats posed by regional actors, such as Houthi rebels in Yemen, who have previously attacked coalition vessels in the Red Sea.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Sri Lanka Navy arrests 7 drug smuggling suspects, seizes drugs

The Sri Lankan Navy stopped a trawler off Male on Sept. 1st and, during a boarding inspection, discovered 336kg of what is believed to be heroin. Seven Pakistanis were arrested during the operation. It is believed that the trawler was used as a distribution point, where smaller vessels would visit it and receive drug consignments. The investigation is ongoing.

Why Mozambique May Have to Rebuild Northern Region From Scratch

The Daily Nation reported on Sept. 3rd that the authorities in Mozambique had acknowledged they may have to start rebuilding this part of the country from scratch. Infrastructure such as roads, schools and banks have been targeted and damaged in Cabo Delgado. As well as requesting military assistance from neighbouring countries to stem the insurgency, Mozambique may now also request assistance with the reconstruction of infrastructure in the region, in preparation for the return of its scattered civilian population.

'Eghtedar' naval drill held in Persian Gulf

The fifth Eghtedar (Authority) Naval Drill was held on Saturday 4th with a parade of IRGC naval vessels in the waters of the Persian Gulf near the coast of Delvar, Mehr News reported. Commander of the Second Naval Region of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps General Ramezan Zirahi made the announcement, saying that the exercise was attended by 30 heavy vessels and 120 light vessels.

Sri Lanka looks to bolster India defence ties amid China threat

An integrated country strategy paper, drafted by Sri Lanka's High Commissioner, Milinda Moragoda, seeks closer security ties with India. The paper calls for enhanced cooperation on maritime security, including joint military exercises and use of India's \$50 million counter-terrorism line of credit, the Economic Times reported on Sept. 6th.

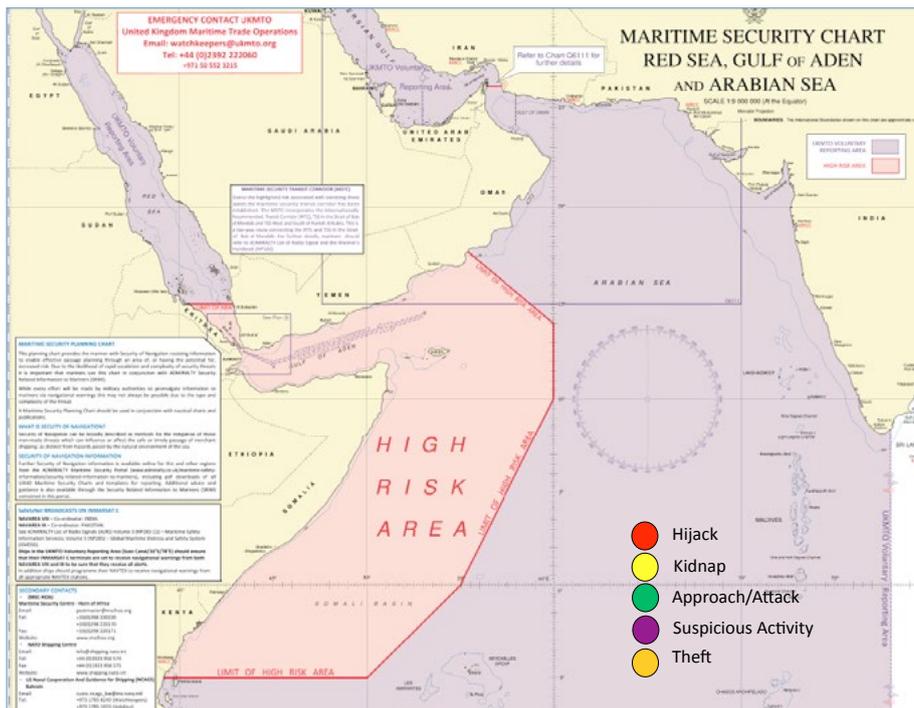
Pakistan Navy inducts first Long Range Maritime Patrol jet

On Thursday 2nd, the Pakistan Navy inducted its first modern Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft into service. The twin-engined Embraer Jet is the first of three due to be taken into service by the Navy and will improve their long-range capabilities in both surveillance and SAR operations.

Combined Task Force (CTF) 152 holds change of Command

Kuwait Naval Force Col. Ebraheem Al-Dawai relieved Saudi Border Guard Capt. Ali bin Madi Al-Qahtani as commander of Combined Task Force (CTF) 152 during a ceremony at Naval Support Activity Bahrain, Sept. 2nd. Al-Qahtani served as the first commander of CTF 152 from the Saudi Border Guard and led a multinational staff of personnel from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

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



Somalia

Reuters reported on Sept. 6th that Somalia's lower house vote has been pushed back until late November, which may in turn delay the election of the country's President. While clan elders had supposed to have completed voting to select lawmakers this week, that has now been delayed and the original presidential election date of November 10th may be unrealistic. Reuters said that the documents they had seen did not have a date for the presidential election.

AU asks for backup from United Nations

AMISOM, the African Union Mission in Somalia, has asked the UN for assistance in Somalia, in the wake of recent events in Afghanistan. Although the AU has almost 20,000 troops in Somalia to combat Al Shabaab, funding is becoming an issue and the AU hopes to extend its mandate in the country until 2027, according to a report in Garowe Online on Sept. 4th.

Al-Shabaab Denies Killing Somali Security Agency Employee

Somali terrorist group Al Shabaab has strongly denied an accusation by the country's National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) that it killed an agency employee abducted two months ago. Her parents contend the agency was responsible. In a statement published Friday on pro-Al Shabaab websites, a spokesman for the group said it knows nothing about the alleged killing of 24-year-old Ikran Tahlil Farah, who worked in NISA's cybersecurity department, VOA reported on Sept. 3rd.

Somalia Humanitarian Fund allocates US\$26 million for life-saving assistance

The Somalia Humanitarian Funding (SHF) has allocated US\$26 million to aid around 1.2 million people in Somalia, Africa News reported on Sept. 2nd. The funds will support national and international NGO efforts in Lower Juba, Middle Shabelle, Mudug and Galgaduud, and other regions of the country. "This allocation will enable humanitarian agencies in Somalia to boost life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable communities in areas where needs are the highest," said Mr. Adam Abdelmou-

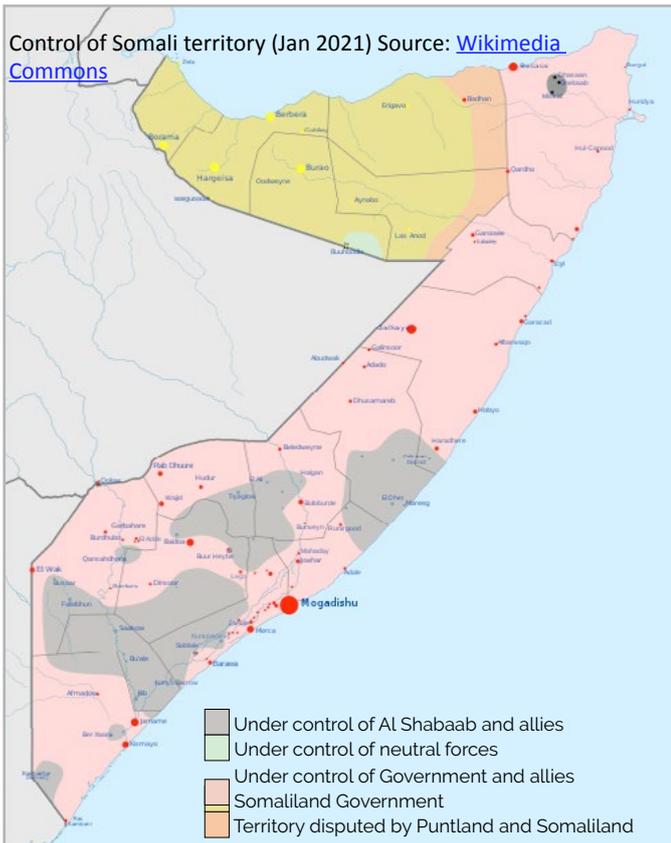
la, Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia told Africa News.

Puntland sends forces to Galmudug to fight Al Shabaab

Reuters reported on Sept. 4th that forces from the autonomous region have been sent to Galmudug to help push back Al Shabaab fighters who have taken over the town of Amara, after forcing government troops out. Amara is a strategic town on the coastal route to Harardheere, another Al Shabaab stronghold, more infamous for its piracy affiliations than terrorism. Puntland's forces have experience in fighting Al Shabaab and ISIS, making them very useful in the current crisis.

Gunman killed in Mandera shootout, five AK47 rifles recovered

Kenya's Star newspaper reported on Sept. 3rd police had shot and killed a suspected member of Al Shabaab, who often cross the border between Somalia and Kenya to carry out attacks. The police report that they came across four men riding a motorcycle and, when they attempted to stop them, a gunfight broke out. One of the men was shot and killed in the incident near the border, but three men escaped on the motorcycle. Five AK47 rifles and some 500 rounds of ammunition were recovered at the scene.



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

Saudi Arabia says it has intercepted three missiles and three drones fired by Houthi rebels in neighbouring Yemen. One was destroyed over the eastern city of Dammam, where falling shrapnel injured two children and damaged buildings, the defence ministry said. The Houthis - who frequently mount such cross-border attacks - said they had targeted Saudi oil facilities. The other attacks were aimed at oil sites in the southern provinces of Jizan and Najran, the group said, BBC News reported on Sept. 5th.

Suspected IED kills senior military commander in Aden

Xinhua reported on Sept. 5th that Colonel Musa Mashdali was killed in Aden on Saturday when a suspected IED detonated as his vehicle passed by a roundabout in the northern entrance of Aden province. "Musa died immediately at the scene while two of his bodyguards were critically injured by IED explosion," a local security official said.

Yemen seaport becomes flashpoint in clash between government and UAE

Political tension between Yemeni government officials and the UAE are increasing over the Emiratis' control of Balhaf seaport, Middle East Eye reported on Sept. 4th. While the governorate where Balhaf is located is under government control, the seaport and its LNG plant are not. Shabwah's governor, Mohammed Saleh bin Adyo, has accused the Emiratis of hijacking one of the country's key assets and using it to foment "rebellion". Last week, a Saudi delegation met the governor in an attempt to mediate between Bin Adyo and UAE forces - but the outcome has yet to be made public.

Houthis Mobilize Fighters in Sanaa After Heavy Losses in Marib

Asharq Al-Awsat reported on Sept. 5th that heavy losses to Houthi forces in Marib has prompted the rebel group to mobilise new fighters to fill gaps in their forces. The Yemen army has estimated that Houthis have lost 10,000 men since last January, while the army says it has managed to stop over 300 Houthi offensives on various fronts. The paper reported that Houthi recruitment efforts in Sanaa and other tribal areas were largely unsuccessful. There are reports that disputes over pay and food supplies have seen a number of Houthis give up and leave the front lines in recent weeks.

65 dead as fighting for Yemen's Marib flares up

The renewed Houthi offensive in Marib has seen at least 65 fighters lose their lives, a government official said on Thursday Sept. 2nd. "Twenty-two pro-government [forces] were killed and 50 others were wounded, while 43 Houthi rebels were also killed in the last 48 hours," a government military official

told AFP.

Leading Al Houthi ideologue detained

Gulf News reported on Sept. 4th that Yemeni border guards had arrested Hassan Ali Al Emad, a leading ideologue in the Houthi rebel group, when he returned to the country from Iran. The media report said that he was in disguise. Al Emad is married to an Iranian woman and has a house in Tehran, according to media reports.

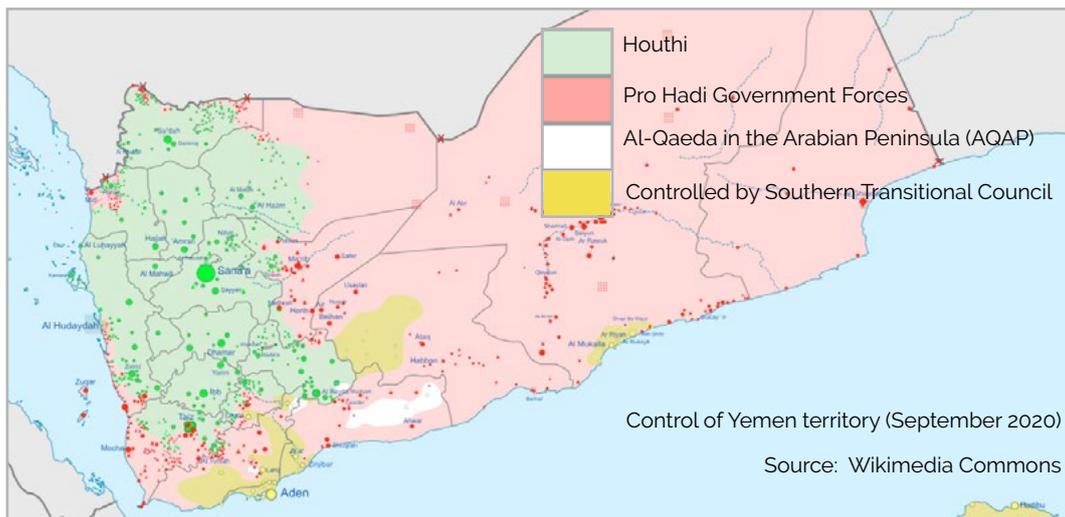
Saudi hands Yemen military camps to local tribes, protesters say

Saudi forces have handed over the camps they have evacuated in Yemen to tribal leaders who are loyal to the kingdom but have close ties with southern separatists backed by the UAE, Middle East Monitor reported on Sept. 3rd. Locals fear that the move will plunge the region in to further conflict and state that the camps should have been given to government forces.

Houthis claim Israeli presence on Red Sea islands

Middle East Monitor on Sept. 6th reported that Ibrahim Mohamed Al-Dailami, the 'Houthi ambassador to Tehran' had told Iranian media that Israel had a presence on Hanish Island, Mayun Island, and Socotra Island in the Arabian Sea. Although unconfirmed by third parties, he also claimed there is a recent presence of British Rapid Reaction Forces in the Mahra province, which shares a border with Oman. He demanded the removal of all foreign forces, but did not discuss the possibility of an Iranian presence in Yemen.

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



South East Asia

The HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier made a port call to Japan, France 24 reported on Sept. 6th. "This port call to Japan by the British carrier strike group and the joint exercises represent the intent of our two nations," Japan's Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said Monday at Yokosuka base, where the British ship is visiting, the media outlet reported.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

China's new laws look set to cause conflict

An amendment to China's 1983 Maritime Traffic Safety Law came into force last week. It requires certain vessels to provide a checklist of information, including call signs, positions, estimated time of arrival and the next port of call, the Chinese state-run Global Times reported on Sunday 5th. The issue now is that China appears to be trying to enforce its laws in disputed waters. However, the US Navy has already stated that the new law will not affect their operations in the region, as it operates under international rather than national laws.

Malaysia's Sabah is South-east Asian terrorists' preferred transit point

The Straits Times reported on Sept. 5th that as the threat of extremists rises in South-east Asia, Sabah in Malaysia remains the route which is preferred by many militants. They use the route to enter the Philippines and carry out terror attacks, the paper reported. While the ferry service to Davao can be patchy, other daily ferries still operate, allowing terrorists to move from Sandakan to Zamboanga in the Philippines, despite Covid restrictions being in place.

Fast missile boats seen to complement PH Navy's attack craft

The Philippine Navy has acquired eight fast attack interdiction craft, which will compliment the country's 12 multi-purpose attack craft, the Philippine News Agency reported on Sept. 5th. "The first two units of the FAIC-M (are) estimated to arrive in-country around the last quarter of 2022," Navy spokesperson Commander Benjo Negranza said.

Philippine army to deploy 4,500 more troops to fight terrorists in southern islands

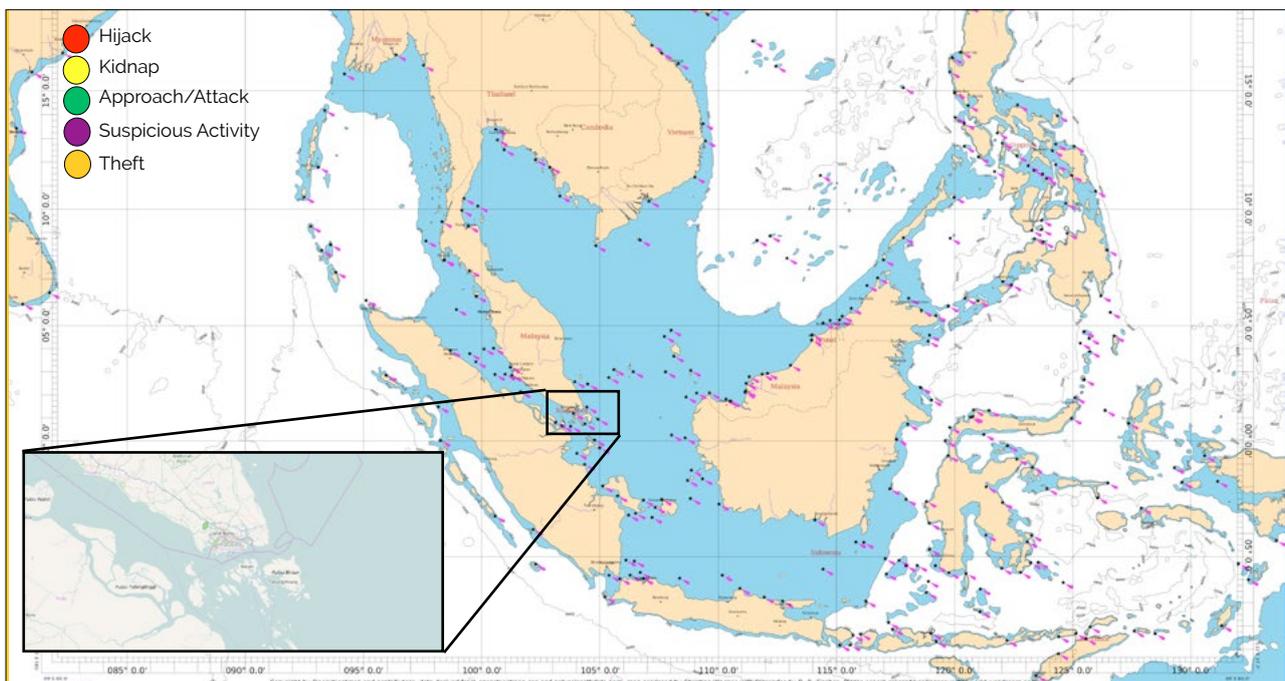
The Philippine army will deploy an additional 4,500 troops next year in the islands of Sulu in the southwest to fight terrorists, a Philippine lawmaker said on Sunday 5th, according to China's Xinhua News Agency. An entire division will reportedly be deployed to Jolo, Sulu Province and will be responsible for security over the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, which have long been the favoured 'hunting grounds' of Abu Sayyaf kidnapers.

28th edition of Singapore-India Maritime bilateral exercise 'Simbex' concludes

The 28th edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) was conducted from 2nd to 4th Sept. India TV News reported on Sept. 4th. Due to the pandemic, this year's event was conducted as an 'at-sea only' exercise hosted by the RSN in the southern fringes of the South China Sea.

U.S. Coast Guard Continues to Expand Presence in the Western Pacific

The U.S. Coast Guard's status as a military service coupled with its law enforcement roles allows it to effectively contribute to both the military and maritime law enforcement requirements of the Indo-Pacific region, according to the commander of U.S. Coast Guard units operating in the region, USNI News wrote on Sept. 4th. Vice Admiral Michael McAllister, Commander Pacific Area and Commander, Coast Guard Defense Force West pointed out the ongoing deployment of USCGC Munro (WMSL-755) under U.S. 7th Fleet, in which it has conducted engagements with the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, Japan Coast Guard, Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.



European Waters

BBC News reported on Sept. 7th that more migrants were arriving in Dover - the day after about 740 people crossed the English Channel in small boats. There has been a steady stream of crossings since the weather conditions became more favourable, with calm waters and sunny skies. The Home Office has not yet confirmed how many people made the crossing on Monday, but it is believed to be about 740. Between 30 and 40 people have arrived at Dover, the BBC's Jon Donison said. ITV News reported that as many as 850 may have attempted to cross on Monday 6th.

New barriers planned in Calais to deter migrants

French company, Getlink, is to instal new barrers on the A16 motorway near Calais in an effort to further deter migrants from entering the port area and prevent migrants from accessing lorries. The new barriers will compliment those already in place. "We want to prevent any accident, any drama, by preventing migrants from getting into the trucks. We want to protect them but also the truck drivers," Getlink told French media, the EU-funded website InfoMigrants reported.

UK voices anger at France over migrant boat-crossings

EU Observer reported on Tuesday 7th that the UK Home Secretary had told British MPs that France "won't see a penny" of the £54m (€63m) Britain had promised to pay to double coast-guard patrols. The comments reportedly come after hundreds of migrants crossed the Channel on Monday. Patel is due to raise the matter of illegal migration at this week's G7 meeting of interior ministers, where she is expected to urge her G7 counterparts to collaborate in combating illicit migration and organized criminal networks that promote the trafficking of vulnerable people.

Migrant departures by sea from Turkey back to pre-COVID levels

InfoMigrants reported on Sept. 6th that crossings from Turkey by sea to the EU were back up to levels not seen since the start of the pandemic. According to Germany's Welt am Sonntag newspaper, 4,577 migrants and refugees departing from Turkey have already arrived by sea in Greece so far this year. A larger number of 4,739 migrants leaving from Turkey meanwhile had reportedly reached Italy in the same period, with such 670 arrivals last week alone.

Mayday call over migrant rescue in Mediterranean

The NGO SeaWatch Italy reported that a group of migrants was rescued at sea following a Mayday call. Their reconnaissance plane spotted a group of migrants clinging to the hull of an overturned boat off the Libyan coast on Friday 3rd. Footage shows the group waving frantically at the aircraft while at least one migrant is seen in the water. Euronews reported that a Libyan Coast Guard vessel approached the scene to rescue the migrants.

Migrant arrivals in Italy continue to soar

InfoMigrants reported on Sept. 2nd that the number of migrants arriving in Italy from Tunisia and Libya has doubled in the first eight months of 2021 compared to last year. In August alone, more than 10,000 people arrived. A further 191 migrants were rescued overnight on Sept. 1st, the website reported, highlighting the huge numbers attempting to cross to Italy. David Llado, Open Arms coordinator on the Astral, told Reuters that the route from Tunisia to Lampedusa has seen a "huge increase [in crossings]" over the past 12 months. "A couple of days ago, we had six rescues during one day. On the same day, over 800 people arrived in Lampedusa," he said.

Turkey rescues 21 migrants 'pushed by Greece'

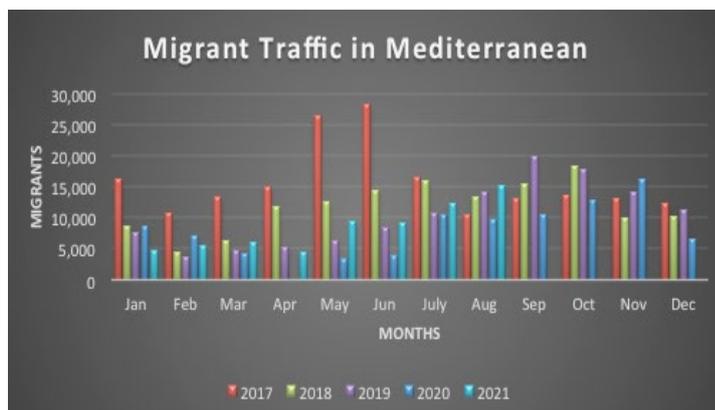
Turkey's Daily Sabah newspaper reported on Sept. 7th that the country's Coast Guard had rescued some 21 migrants in the Aegean Sea, after they were "pushed back by Greek authorities", according to a statement from the Turkish Coast Guard. The migrants were spotted off the coast of Datça district in Mugla province, the paper said. After routine medical checks, the group was taken to the provincial migration authority for processing.

Spanish rescue services pick up over 200 migrants in Med

Associated Press reported on Sept. 4th that Spain's maritime rescue services had intercepted several boats in the Mediterranean, as migrants attempted to cross to the country and the Canary Islands on Saturday 4th. Spain continues to experience significant levels of crossing attempts, as we have highlighted. The Associated Press added that the IOM estimates that almost 500 people have gone missing while trying to reach Spain in 2021.

Moroccan Navy Recovers Nearly Two Dozen Migrant Bodies From Atlantic

The Royal Moroccan Navy reported on Wednesday 1st that it had recovered 22 bodies in its search for migrants missing following a capsized vessel en route to the Canary Islands. The boat was believed to be carrying 86 migrants, 22 of which were rescued.



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

Another very busy week for CG and NGO rescue missions in both the English Channel and Med. August has now seen over 15,000 crossings in the Med, according to figures from UNHCR. This is the highest figure seen since November 2020, when 16,156 made the crossing. The English Channel remains a hotpoint, and the politics surrounding the issue continue to be complicated by rhetoric by various politicians. Until the UK and France can reach a concrete agreement, the situation will persist until weather conditions deteriorate and reduce the number of small boats attempting the risky crossing.

Libya

Libya has released Saadi Gaddafi, one of the surviving sons of former leader, Muammar Gaddafi, who has been in prison in the country since 2014, France 24 reported. The release took place on Sunday 5th. Saadi Gaddafi's release resulted from negotiations that included senior tribal figures and Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibeh, the official source said.

Libya arrests senior Islamic State figure

The Libyan government says its forces have arrested a senior Islamic State group figure. Embarak al-Khazimi was captured at Bani Walid, south-east of the capital, Tripoli, BBC News reported on Sept. 8th.

Libya releases political prisoners as part of reconciliation

As part of the reconciliation process being undertaken by the current government, Libya has announced the launch of a programme to release political prisoners held in the country. Al Jazeera reported on Sept. 7th that Mohammad Younes Menfi, the chairman of Libya's Presidential Council said on Monday 6th that he "appreciated all the efforts made to achieve the reconciliation reached today". A number of political prisoners who have completed their sentences or who were not convicted were released as part of the reconciliation efforts, a Council statement said.

Haftar's forces release 8 civilians from western Libya

The Libya Observer reported on Sept. 5th that the Libyan Army said on Sunday that Khalifa Haftar's forces had released eight civilians who come from the western region of the country. A spokesman for the Sirte-Jufra Operations Room, Abdelhadi Drahi, told reporters that the handing over of the captives took place at 50km checkpoint in western Sirte. He said four civilians are from Gharyan, three from Misrata, and one from Al-Asaba.

UN chief warns that political process in Libya is 'under threat'

Arab Weekly reported on Sept. 4th that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has again urged countries to withdraw all foreign fighters and mercenaries from Libya. Ongoing violations of the UN arms embargo continue to be an issue, with the movement of aircraft providing logistical support to foreign fighters continued "unabated" at several bases in the centre of the country.

Worst Tripoli fighting in a year tests Libya ceasefire

Despite the ceasefire, Friday 3rd reportedly saw some of the heaviest fighting in Tripoli in months, Al Jazeera reported. Rival

militia forces apparently began fighting each other in the Salah al-Din district of the city in the early hours of the morning and continued for several hours. While the ceasefire continues to be observed in most of the country, the government will have to deal with the situation involving heavily-armed militia groups who could now pose a threat to not just the peace process, but also the country's elections.

EU says ready to assist Libya for successful elections

European Union (EU) ambassador to Libya, Jose Sabadell, met with the Chairman of the Libyan High National Elections Commission, the Libya Observer reported on Sept. 3rd. The pair discussed international support for Libya's proposed elections in December. Sabadell expressed support of the EU and hailed the Commission's efforts in registering voters and said that the EU was ready to help Libya achieve successful elections.

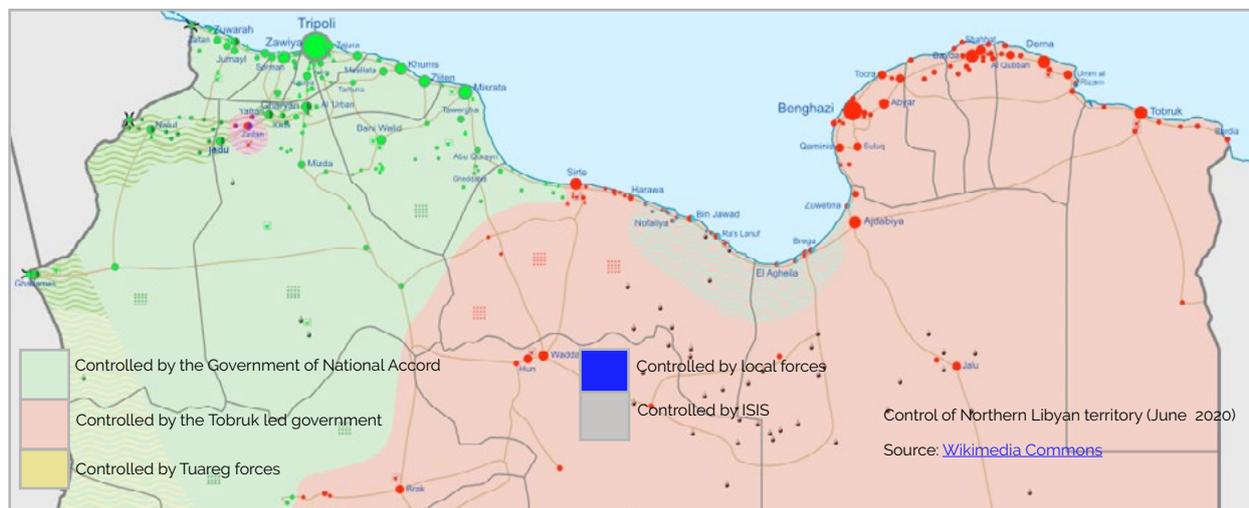
Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi to run for Libya's president

Once again, news has emerged that Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi intends to run as a candidate in Libya's planned presidential elections. Afrigate quoted a source a close to supporters of the former Gaddafi regime as saying that Saif Al-Islam's announcement had come on the 52nd anniversary of the Al-Fateh Revolution, Middle East Monitor reported. However, separately, US Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Joey Hood, suggested that the world might have a problem with such a move, given Gaddafi was a war criminal subject to both US and UN sanctions.

Oil output on decline, suspended NOC chairman says

The North Africa Post reported on Sept. 3rd that Libya's oil production had dropped by around 40,000bpd due to pipeline leaks. The news came from the suspended chairman of the National Oil Corporation Mustafa Sanallah, who is currently under investigation by the Libyan Oil Minister, Mohamed Aoun for breaking a government rule that all leading government employees must seek permission before travelling abroad.

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





Central and South America

Nothing significant to report.

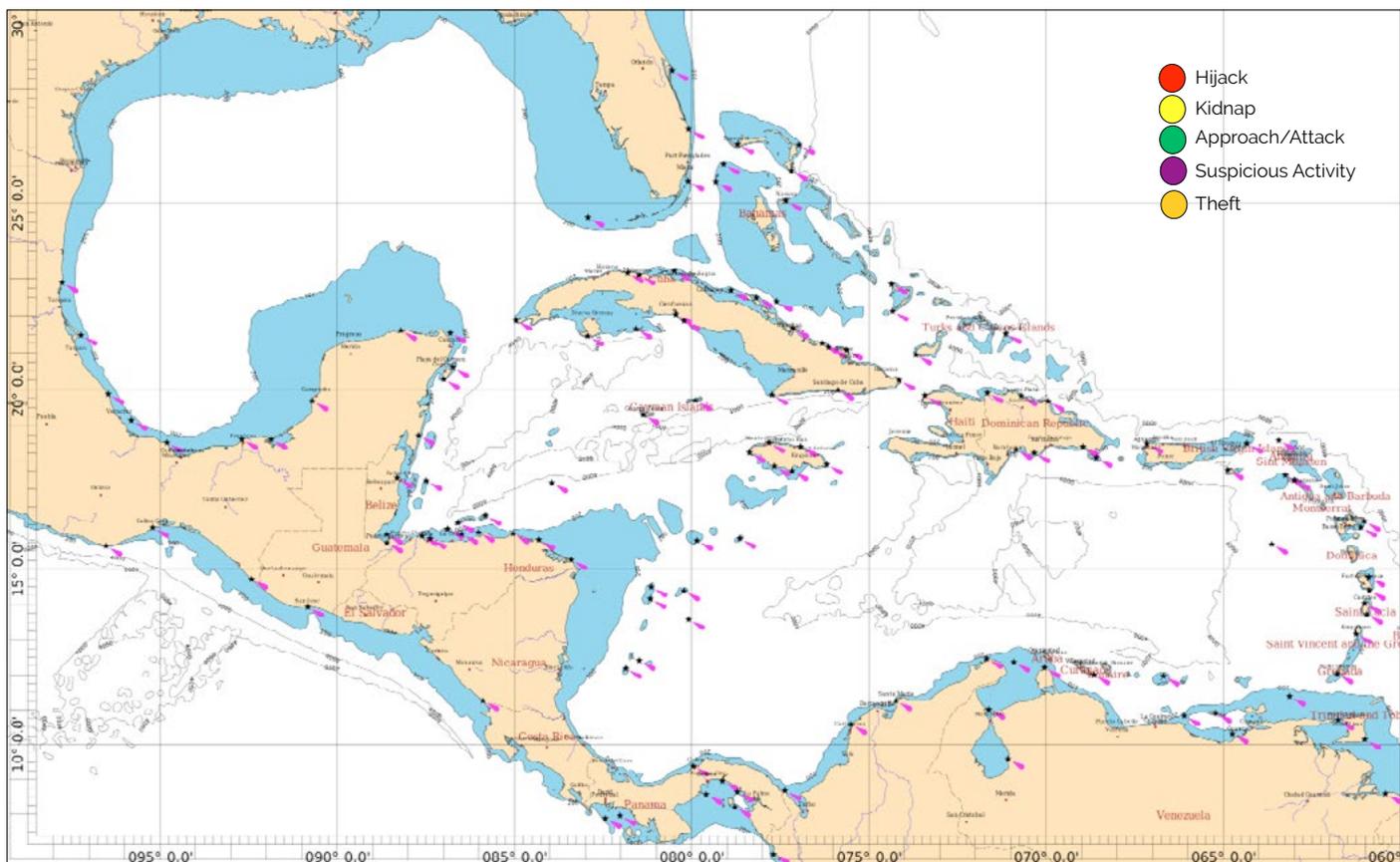
Incidents:

1. Alert crew onboard anchored Denmark-flagged tanker noticed two unauthorised persons on the forecastle at 0825 UTC in position 00:03.7S - 051:06.1W, Fazendinha Anchorage, Brazil. Alarm raised resulting in the persons escaping without stealing anything. Incident reported to pilot station via VHF Ch11. Reported (IMB) 31 Aug. (Not shown on chart)

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](#).

Western North Pacific Ocean and South China Sea



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