

Weekly Security & Risk Report

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MARITIME SECURITY PHYSICAL AND ASSET SECURITY RISK CONSULTING SECURITY SYSTEMS



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Issue 302 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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Gulf of Guinea

The Nigerian Navy on Oct. 9th stated that its efforts in fighting maritime crime and criminality in Nigeria waterways had achieved the desired results, adding that it has reduced criminality in the Maritime domain. Speaking to journalists, Flag Officer Commanding Central Naval Command, Yenagoa, Rear Admiral Obinwanne Egbuchulam, said that in order to ensure trade and commerce continued unhindered, all forms of maritime crime had to be eradicated, the New Telegraph reported.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Crude Oil: Pipeline vandalism in Mosimi, PH, Kaduna rise by 26.5%

Vanguard reported on Oct. 12th that while Nigeria's four refineries were currently experiencing a "lack of activity", oil pipeline attacks had continued, with more than 151 incidents of vandalism reported on the first quarter of 2021. This upward trend reflects a surge of 26.5 per cent when compared to 111 pipeline points recorded in the corresponding period of 2020.

Nigerian Navy to acquire helicopters, warships

The Nigerian Navy has hinted of its plans to acquire helicopters and warships in its bid to patrol and secure Nigerian Maritime environment especially in the Niger Delta region, Sun News reported on Oct. 10th. Echoing comments by President Buhari, who the day before had discussed the commissioning of a new landing ship tank this year, new assets would aid the Navy's fight against maritime crime. Rear Admiral Obinwanne Egbuchulam stated that in 2020, the Nigerian Navy foiled 44 vessel attacks by pirates, arrested 487 oil thieves, destroyed 168 illegal refineries and seized 393 wooden boats.

Nigeria begins wreck removal programme

Nigeria has taken steps to deal with the issue of wrecked and derelict ships in its waters. The vessels, often used by criminal gangs as staging points, number around 3,000 and on Friday, the Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, visited Lagos to begin the process.

HMS Trent deploys on security mission to West Africa

HMS Trent is bound for the waters of the Gulf of Guinea as she heads for security patrols and a mission to support allies in West Africa, the Royal Navy said on Oct. 5th. With Royal Marines of 42 Commando on board, the ship will carry out a range

of joint exercises and training to strengthen ties and develop plans for future operations in the region. Trent will visit Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Gambia and Cape Verde, and will take part in French-led multinational exercises that will bring together international partners in the area, known as Exercise Grand African Nemo.

MASPLAN hosts discourse on Maritime Security at 2021 AGM

Maritime security experts from the private and public sector are expected to attend the Maritime Security Providers Association of Nigeria organises its 2021 Annual General Meeting on Oct. 14th in Lagos. Special Guests of Honour to grace the occasion include the Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, Dr. Bashir Jamoh; Nigeria's Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral A. Z. Gambo; and Acting Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority, Mohammed Bello-Koko.

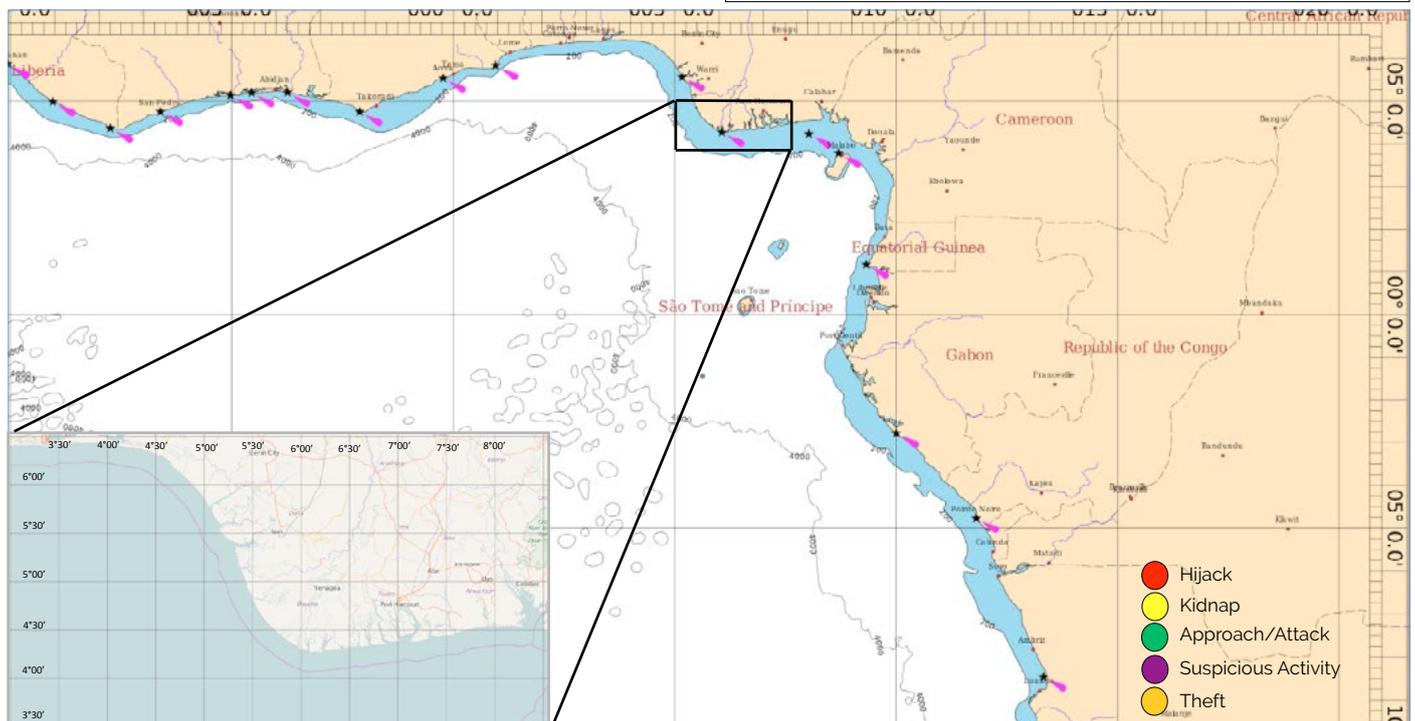
For further information and to see MAST Services in the region, [please click here.](#)

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures:

2021:
Incidents reported: 42 (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

Kenya has said it will not recognise the ruling by the International Court of Justice on the maritime border dispute with Somalia. In a hard-hitting statement before the judgement was made, Kenya's foreign affairs ministry said the judgement "will be the culmination of a flawed judicial process" that was bias. Kenya withdrew from the hearing earlier this year, questioning the fairness of the process, which concerns a 62,000 sq miles (160,000 sq km) triangle in the Indian Ocean. On Oct. 12th, the UN's top court ruled largely in favour of Somalia in its long-running dispute with Kenya over their maritime border.

Incidents:

1. Late report: During transit Singapore-flagged oil tanker was approached by a suspected pirate skiff from the port beam at 0450 UTC in position 13:06.20N - 043:07.80E, TSS in Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, Yemen. Skiff with 8-9 POB stopped pursuit on noticing armed guards on board the ship, after increasing speed. No visible boarding equipment or weapons sighted on-board skiff. No crew injured, no damage to vessel. Reported (ReCAAP) 4 Oct.

Mozambique rebel leader killed in battle

A rebel leader in Mozambique has been killed following an intense gun battle with government troops in his forest hide-out in central Sofala province, police have said. Mariano Nhongo - who led the Renamo Military Junta - was killed along with a close associate of his, BBC News reported on Oct. 12th.

Quad navies set to kick off 2nd phase of Malabar drills

Indian media reported on Monday 11th that the next phase of the Malabar maritime drills will take place on Tuesday 12th in the Bay of Bengal. Vessels from the US, Japan and Australia will partner with India for the exercises, to build on the synergy, coordination and interoperability.

Indian government committed to bolstering maritime security

UNI reported on Oct. 9th that Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh had said on Saturday that the country was fully committed to ensuring the safety and security of its waters. He stated that the country was a rising maritime power and that India's maritime zones must be safe, secure and free of pollution in order to fulfil its security needs. He praised the Indian Coast Guard for its operations against both narcotics and arms traf-

fickers at sea.

Iranian state TV claims boats chased US Navy ship

Iran's state television channel reported that the IRGC deployed speed boats to 'chase away' a US Navy ship on Thursday 7th, in an incident which the US Navy said it was unaware of. While the Iranians have reported the incident as some sort of win for the regime and such encounters are hardly new, it's unusual for the US Navy to not even realise they have taken place.

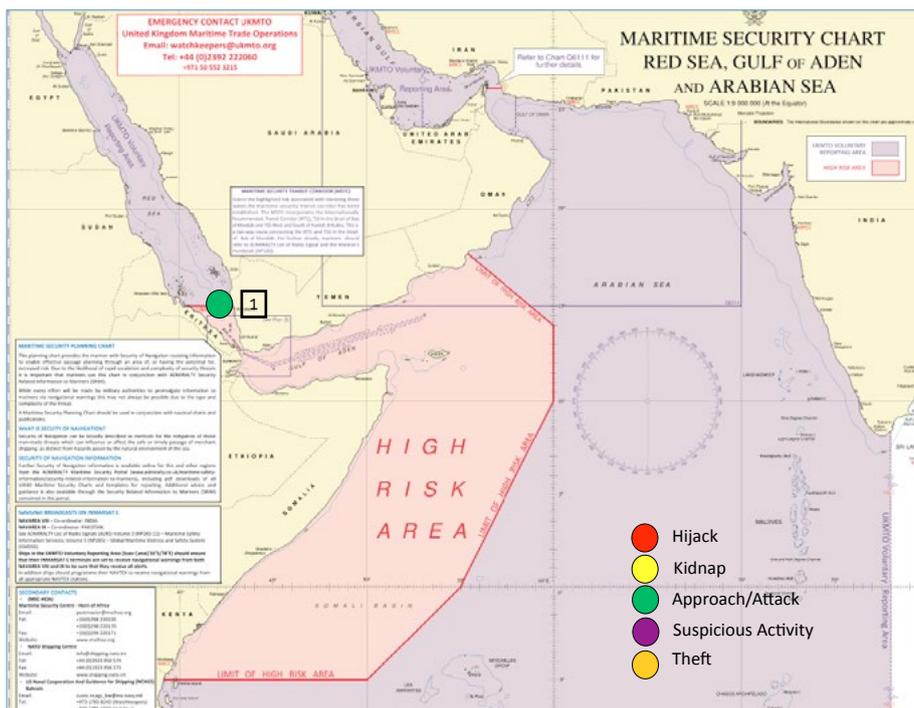
India's NIA in drug seizure arrests

Indian media report that the country's National Investigation Agency (NIA), made a number of arrests on Sunday 10th, following the discovery of around 3,000kg of heroin at Mundra Port in the country. The arrests, in a number of locations, are part of an effort to break up a smuggling group which is believed to be linked to drugs smuggled from Afghanistan in recent weeks.

Myanmar forms coast guard for maritime security

Myanmar on Wednesday (Oct 6) formed a coast guard to strengthen maritime security and coordinate the elimination of crosswater crimes in territorial waters. The navy, which has assumed the duties pertaining to coast guard, ceremonially transferred four military vessels to the newly formed coast guard in the Yangon river, China's Xinhau reported. The Coast Guard will patrol Myanmar's TTW as well as safeguarding the country's ports in the Bay of Bengal.

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





Somalia

Garowe Online reported on Oct. 10th that the Somali National Army stated that its forces had killed five Al Shabaab terrorists during an operation on Saturday 9th, as well as wounding several others. The army's Danab Special Forces were still conducting operations in the Lower Juba region, as part of an effort to remove Al Shabaab from the area, the army said.

AU force to expand military operations in Somalia

The African Union says it wants to extend and expand its military operation in Somalia, where AU troops have been fighting Islamist militants for 14 years. The AU said the new mission would be run jointly with the United Nations. It said the expanded Amisom force would include soldiers from other African countries. The plan needs to be endorsed by the UN and the Somali government, which has previously rejected AU proposals, BB News reported on Oct. 11th.

KDF may not withdraw from Somalia soon

As the 10th anniversary of its involvement in Somalia in the fight against Al Shabaab approaches, it seems Kenya may not be pulling out of Somalia within the immediate future. The Kenyan Defence Force currently has some 16 forward operating bases in the Lower Juba region, the country's Star newspaper reported on Oct. 10th, and despite high profile attacks against its personnel, it is felt that Somalia is still not in a position to deal with Al Shabaab without assistance.

Jubaland President meets US military

Garowe Online reported on Oct. 9th that Ahmed Madobe, regional President of Jubaland, had held a behind closed doors meeting with senior US military officers, as the war against Al Shabaab in the region intensifies. Among those taking part was Col. Thomas Sarrouf, who runs counter-terrorism operations in Somalia. The team from Africom discussed surveillance operations to aid SNA forces, as well as air capabilities.

At Least Three Militants Killed in Attack On Somali Military Base

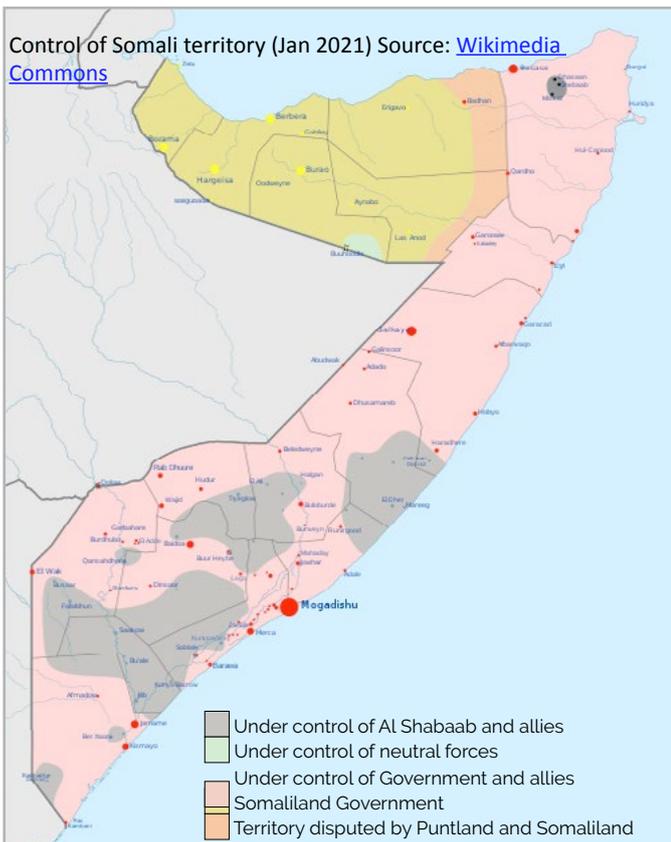
The Somali National Army (SNA) said on Wednesday 6th that its forces had killed three Al Shabaab militants and wounded several others during an attack on a military base on Tuesday night in the southern part of the country, Shabelle Media Network reported. The SNA said in a brief statement that fierce fighting erupted after the militants had attempted to attack the SNA base in Janale, Lower Shabelle region.

Taiwan donates oxygen generators to Somaliland

As Somalia's medical infrastructure continues to grapple with the Covid pandemic, Taiwan has donated a batch of oxygen generators to Somaliland. "Taiwan has contributed more than 90 percent of COVID-19 supplies to Somaliland," the Republic of Somaliland Representative Office in Taiwan said in a statement issued in response to the latest donation, which included much needed PPE equipment, PCR and antigen testing kits, media reported on Oct. 7th.

Al Shabaab publicly executes men

On Oct. 6th, Al Shabaab shot and killed two men in public, in an execution attended by senior members of the terror group in Kasmuma. One of the men had accused Al Shabaab members of sexually abusing a young boy, while the other was alleged to be a member of the Jubaland army.



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).

Analysis

The ongoing political spat between the Somali president and prime minister once again threatens the country's election process. The stalled elections are widely seen as a crucial step to a more stable Somalia, but have been seized upon by terror group, Al Shabaab, as an opportunity to strengthen its hold on parts of the country. In South-west state, the group appears to operate with little resistance locally, installing its own governors in areas occupied by both AMISOM and SNA forces.

In Galmudug state, the previously moderate Ahlu Sunna militia (ASWJ) has reportedly taken control of Guri'el town, with the backing of local clan elders, and are demanding a share of political power in a new headache for the country's administration. Previously, the group had been influential in forcing Al Shabaab fighters out of major areas of Galmudug, so maintaining good political relations with the group is key for Somalia as it struggles to control Al Shabaab in the country. Hopes that the country could unite behind the elections continue to fade, and it may take much greater international pressure to resolve the current political deadlock in the country.

Yemen

Defence Web reported on Oct. 7th that Saudi coalition forces had destroyed three explosive-laden boat bombs (WBVIDs) in the Hodeidah region that were being prepared for use against vessels in the Red Sea. The Saudi state news agency made the report on Wednesday 6th, Defence Web said, adding that the coalition report stated that it continued its efforts to protect the shipping lanes in the Bab al-Mandeb strait and Southern Red Sea.

Yemen's future recovery hangs in balance, warns senior UN aid coordinator

Ongoing conflict and violence across Yemen continue to impact heavily on the country's people who desperately need the fighting to end, so that they can rebuild their lives, the UN's senior humanitarian official in the country said on Monday 11th. "I've seen the destruction of schools, of factories, of roads and bridges; I've seen the destruction of power systems so what made Yemen work seven years ago in many cases no longer exists", said David Gressly, UN Resident and Humanitarian Co-ordinator in Yemen.

FSO Safer still a huge danger to Yemen, report says

A team of researchers from Stamford University, Harvard University and UC Berkeley has released a report on the FSO Safer, moored off Yemen, warning that an oil leak could have a catastrophic effect on the country. Their modelling, in the Nature Sustainability Journal, presents a very bleak picture of what could happen, should Houthi forces continue to block efforts to inspect and repair the ship. The researchers stressed urgent action was required to stop a "looming disaster".

Six killed in Yemen blast targeting Aden governor

Al Jazeera and other news outlets reported on Oct. 10th that at least six people died when a car bomb designed to kill Aden's governor, Ahmed Lamlas, detonated on Sunday. Information Minister Moammar al-Iryani said the blast killed six people among Lamlas' companions and wounded at least seven other passers-by, Al Jazeera reported. The dead included the governor's press secretary, head of his security detail and civilians, according to a local government source. Lamlas is secretary-general of the Southern Transitional Council (STC), a separatist group that has vied with the Saudi-backed government for control of Aden and Yemen's wider south.

Houthis seize military base in Marib

China's Xinhau agency reported on Oct. 9th that Houthi rebels had seized a military base from government forces in Marib province, according to military officials. The battle for Marib has been ongoing for weeks, with large loss of life on both sides.

"A series of attacks were launched by the Houthi rebels on the Jubah district in southern Marib during the past 24 hours," the local military source said on condition of anonymity. Xinhua added that an official of the government forces confirmed that "warplanes of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition carried intensified airstrikes against the Houthi rebels stationed in and around the Al-Khashina military base." The airstrikes reportedly caused significant casualties among Houthi rebels.

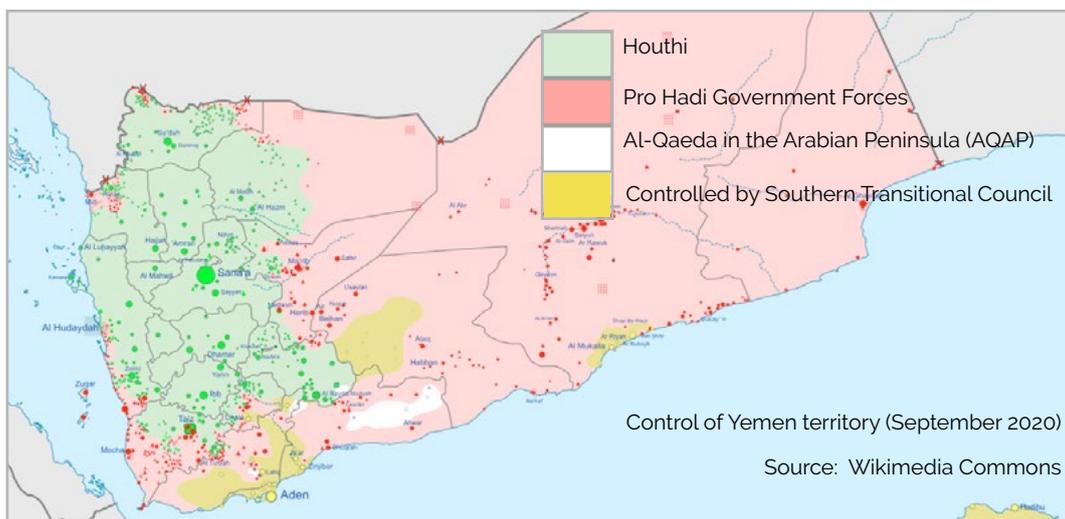
Drone attack on Saudi airport injures 10

A drone attack on the Saudi city, Jazan, was said to have injured at least 10 people on Friday 8th. Houthi rebels have been blamed for the attack. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the attacks on Friday evening targeted the King Abdullah Airport. The agency said that a projectile was fired by one drone, which shattered windows, while a second drone was intercepted in the early hours of Saturday by coalition forces.

Thousands of People Forced to Flee Escalating Hostilities in Marib

Relief Web reported on Oct. 7th that an escalation of hostilities in and around Yemen's Marib governorate has forced thousands of people to flee in search of safety in an alarming rise in displacement since the beginning of September. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) - which currently has access in seven of Marib's 14 districts - recorded the displacement of close to 10,000 people last month, the highest rates recorded in Marib in a single month this year. "This renewed violence in Marib is destabilizing the lives of thousands of people and leading to tragic death and injuries of civilians, including children," said Christa Rottensteiner, IOM Yemen Chief of Mission.

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



South East Asia

A US nuclear submarine hit an "unknown object" while submerged in waters in the Asia-Pacific region, injuring a number of sailors, US officials say. It was not clear what caused the incident on Saturday, they said. The submarine remained "fully operational". Unnamed officials told US media the collision happened in international waters in the South China Sea, and that 11 sailors had been injured. The US Navy said the extent of the damage was still being assessed and that the submarine's nuclear propulsion plant and spaces had not been affected, BBC News reported on Oct. 9th.

Incidents:

1. Duty engine crew onboard a bulk carrier underway noticed two unauthorized persons in the engine room at 1530 UTC in position 01:15.8N – 104:11.3E, Singapore Straits. The crew immediately informed the C/E who notified the bridge. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped. A search was carried out throughout the ship. Nothing reported missing. Reported (IMB) 10 Oct.
2. Robbers boarded underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier, stole ship's spares and escaped unnoticed. Theft was noticed by duty crew during routine rounds between 1600 – 2200 UTC in position Singapore Straits. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Singapore Police Coast Guard informed. Reported (IMB) 6 Oct.
3. Duty crew onboard a product tanker underway noticed three robbers in the E/R workshop store at 1830 UTC in position 01:15.00N – 104:06.81E, Singapore Straits. The crew immediately notified the bridge. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's spares. Incident reported to Singapore VTIS. Reported (IMB) 5 Oct.

UK Carrier Strike Group returns to Singapore

Launching from the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, F-35B Lightning jets took to the skies with the Republic of Singapore Air Force's (RSAF) F-16 fighters on Oct. 9th, the UK government reported. Exercising together in the international waters of the southern reaches of the South China Sea, the jets conducted simulated air combat training and formation flying. Meanwhile, ships from the UK Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and the Republic of Singapore Navy conducted a manoeuvring exercise in the international waters in the South China Sea. The UK Strike Group took part in the Bersama Gold 2021 exercise with Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia.

Philippine-U.S. Exercise MTA Sama Sama Kicks-off with Japan, France

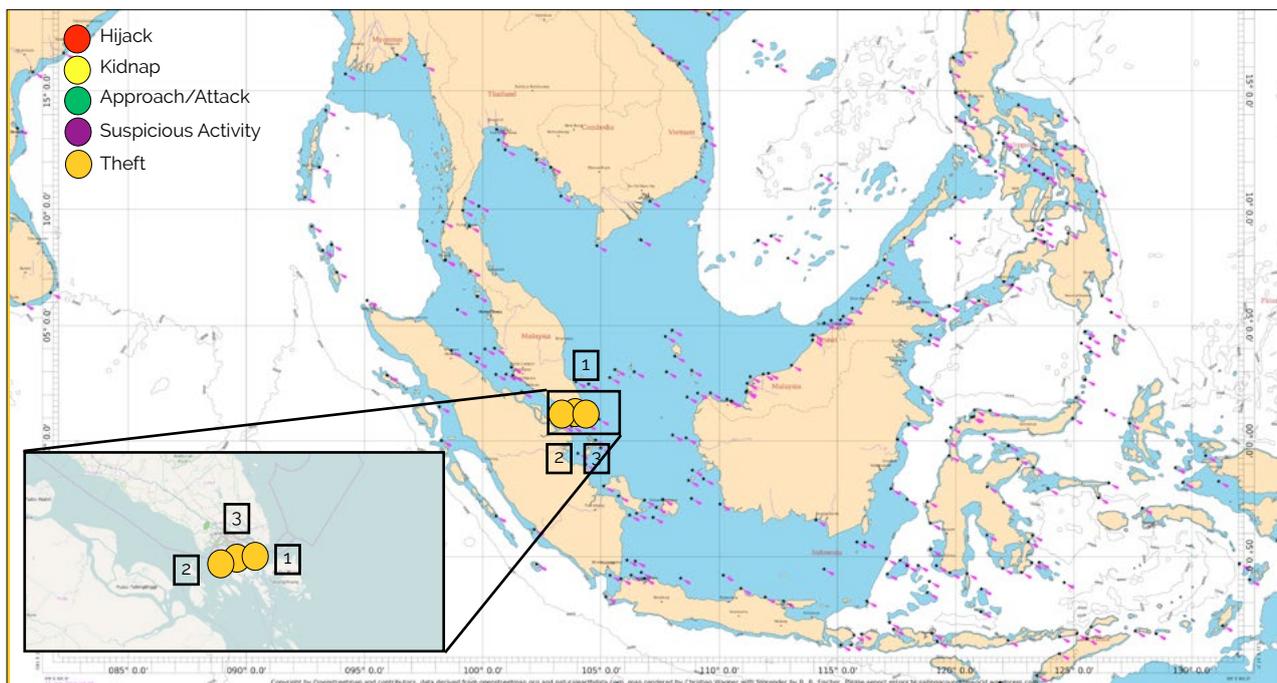
Military personnel from the U.S, Philippines, Japan and France kicked off Maritime Training Activity (MTA) Sama Sama, Oct. 11. The virtual engagement focuses on the full spectrum of naval capabilities and features cooperative evolutions that highlight the ability of U.S. and Philippines to work together towards the common goal of ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific maritime security environment. This year, subject matter experts and personnel from Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and France will participate during exchanges.

Sabah curfew extended after Police Commissioner cites Abu Sayyaf threat

Sabah has extended its dusk-to-dawn sea curfew until Oct. 27th due to threats posed by the pro-Islamic State's Abu Sayyaf Group. Sabah Police Commissioner Datuk Idris Abdullah cited unnamed intelligence sources saying kidnap-for-ransom groups and Abu Sayyaf militants were still trying to attack and commit cross-border crimes.

PH, Australia expand maritime security engagement

Australia and the Philippines have increased their cooperation in maritime security, according to the Philippine News Agency. The two governments are moving forward with the proposed Philippine Civil Maritime Security Program (PCMSP), which will strengthen Philippine efforts to secure and protect its waters, according to Australian Ambassador to Manila Steven J. Robinson.



European Waters

Forty small boats with 1,115 migrants on board have crossed the Channel in two days, the Home Office has said. On Saturday 9th, Border Force picked up 491 migrants on 17 boats, while the French authorities prevented 114 people from making the crossing. On Friday 624 people crossed on 23 boats, with 300 more being stopped by the French authorities, BBC News reported.

France rescues more than 340 UK-bound migrants in English Channel

While the UK saw large numbers of migrants cross the Channel over the weekend, as improving weather conditions favoured people smugglers, France was also busy at sea. According to French authorities, some 340 migrants were rescued from makeshift boats and dinghies as they attempted the crossing. Two of the migrants rescued were in a state of advanced hypothermia and another was injured, the French maritime prefecture said, Euronews reported on Oct. 11th.

UN says 15 dead in attempted migrant voyage from Libya

Reuters reported on Oct. 11th that the UNHCR said that the Libyan Coast Guard had reportedly recovered some 15 bodies and rescued 177 migrants off the country's coast. The migrants had been transferred to the care of the UNHCR, Reuters said.

French police cause misery for migrants in Calais

While there has been considerable focus on whether French authorities are doing enough to prevent migrants leaving the country, and whether the UK has paid the agreed millions to France in order to beef up security, Human Rights Watch has reported that those ashore face police action. French police are inflicting misery on migrants in the northern port of Calais, routinely tearing down their tents and forcing them to wander the streets as part of a deterrence policy, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report published on Thursday.

Migrant-smuggler jailed for 10 years for plot to carry people on dinghy in English Channel

Nzar Jabar Mohamad, 34, from Kurdistan, has been jailed for 10 years in the UK for his role in people smuggling activities, The Independent reported on Oct. 9th. Mohamad himself arrived in the UK illegally in 2019, after paying £2,000 to people-smugglers to be brought into the country while hiding in a windbreak on top of a lorry, the paper reported. Mohamad admitted to conspiracy to help asylum seekers enter the UK from July to November 2019 and was jailed at Hull Crown Court.

France calls for migration agreement between the EU and Britain

French Interior Minister, Gerald Darmanin, has called for a migration agreement between the European Union and Britain, which should also settle the refugee dispute between Paris and London. France will take over the EU presidency in 2022, and this will be one of their projects. Darmanin said on Sunday 10th that he was in favor of a European treaty that would solve the problems of asylum applications, deportations and family reunions, Deutsche Press Agency (DPA) reported.

17 migrants found dead on Libya beach

AFP reported on Oct. 7th that the bodies of 17 migrants had been found on a beach near Zawiya. It is believed they were on board a boat heading for Italy which capsized.

491 illegal migrants rescued off Libyan coast in past week

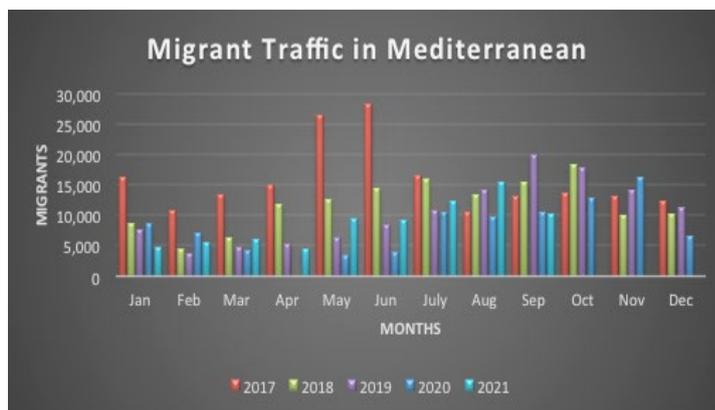
The International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Oct. 11th said that 491 migrants were rescued off the Libyan coast and returned to Libya in the past week, "In the period of Oct. 3rd - 9th, 491 migrants were rescued/intercepted at sea and returned to Libya," IOM said.

Libyan guards 'shoot six migrants dead' at detention centre

Euronews reported on Oct. 10th that six African migrants being held at a detention centre in Tripoli had been shot and killed by guards on Friday 8th, according to the IOM. IOM official Federico Soda told AFP "We do not know what caused the incident but it is in connection with the overcrowding of migrants who live in terrible and tense conditions," he added. "Many migrants escaped during the chaos." The incident took place at Al-Mabani detention centre near Tripoli.

Italy concerned about new waves of migrants if elections not held

Italy's Foreign Minister, Luigi Di Maio, has voiced concerns that a new wave of migrants could emerge from the potential chaos of a failed Libyan election process. The Italian diplomat raised the issue during a meeting with his American counterpart, Antony Blinken, at a security meeting in Bordeaux, France, the Libyan media notes, the North Africa Post reported on Oct. 8th. More than 700 people trying to cross the Mediterranean in makeshift vessels were picked up earlier this month, they reported.



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

As the UK sees another large surge of migrants cross the Channel, French political moves to break the current war of words between politicians from both countries could pay off. Although not in the short term. Proposals to introduce a European treaty are to be welcomed, particularly after very little movement in that regard. In the Mediterranean, things remain the same, with large numbers attempting to cross from Libya. October's UNCHR figures are close to November 2020's previous high, with some 16052 now said to have crossed from Libya.

Libya

The Libyan embassies of the US, UK, France, Germany and Italy joined Special Envoy and Head of UNSMIL Jan Kubis by welcoming the news on October 8th that the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) had created an Action Plan for the removal of foreign forces and mercenaries from Libya in accordance with the Ceasefire Agreement of October 2020, United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2570 (2021) and 2571(2021) and the outcomes of the Berlin Conferences, the Libya Observer reported on Oct. 11th.

Libya's NOC says oil spill under control

An oil spill at the Farwah offshore facility, owned by Mabruk Oil Operations, is now under control, Libyan media reported on Oct. 10th. The leak took place while a tanker was loading, according to the NOC in Libya, and operations had resumed.

Libya ready for polls despite wrangling: elections chief

Imed al-Sayeh, head of the country's High National Election Commission (HNEC), has told AFP that preparations for the country's elections are almost complete. "We are 80 or 90 per cent ready," he told AFP. The presidential and parliamentary votes were initially set for the same day -- December 24 -- but last week, parliament announced that the legislative elections, the country's first since 2014, would be postponed until January.

Libya aims to use Norwegian expertise in developing oil sector

Norway's Equinor may be able to offer valuable experience and expertise to the NOC, the Libya Observer reported on Oct. 10th. The National Oil Corporation (NOC) is studying ways of providing technical and financial support to Al-Mabrouk and Akakus companies. The head of the NOC, Mustafa Sanallah along with the director of Equinor, Pierre Maris, recently held a meeting, where they discussed supporting infrastructure requirements, rehabilitation of the Mabrouk field, and putting it into production.

Chair of Fact-finding Mission on Libya reports to UN Human Rights Council

Mohamed Auajjar, Chair of the Independent International Fact-finding Mission on Libya, this morning told the Human Rights Council that the Mission's investigations had established that all parties to the conflict in Libya since 2016, including third States, foreign fighters and mercenaries, have violated international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of proportionality and distinction, and some have also committed war crimes. Mr. Auajjar said airstrikes had killed dozens of families. The destruction of health-related facilities had impacted access to health care and anti-personnel mines left by mer-

cenaries in residential areas had killed and maimed civilians.

UN Rights Body Should Renew Libya Fact-Finding Mission, Support Accountability

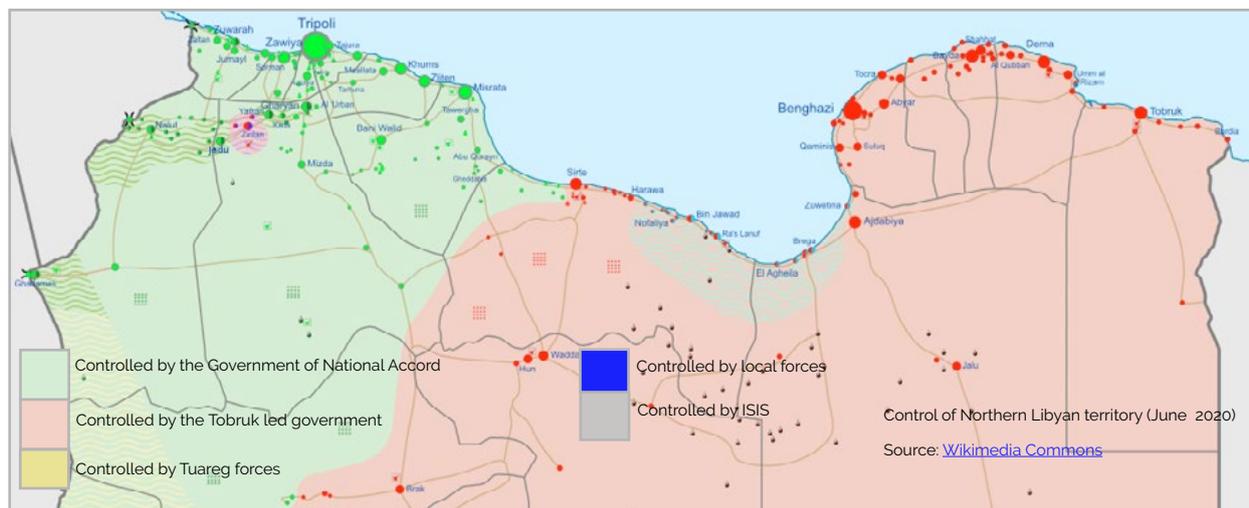
Human Rights Watch reported on their fact-finding mission on Libya on Oct. 7th in Washington and included the following statement: The human rights situation in Libya is still precarious, and impunity prevails for past and ongoing violations and abuses under international. Armed groups and forces linked with successive interim governments have been responsible for systematic violations, including holding thousands of people in long-term arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and torture. Authorities continue to arbitrarily detain migrants and asylum seekers who pass through Libya, who risk beatings, extortion, sexual violence, and forced labor in detention centers nominally under the state, and by armed groups and smugglers.

UNHCR appeals for end to arrests of asylum seekers in Libya, calls for urgent resumption of humanitarian flights

This statement is attributable to Ayman Gharaibeh, Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa:

We are increasingly alarmed about the humanitarian situation for asylum seekers and refugees in Libya. Following a large-scale security operation by the Libyan authorities in the past week, arrests and raids have been taking place in many parts of Tripoli, targeting areas where asylum seekers and migrants are living. At least one person was reported to have been killed and 15 were injured. More than 5,000 people have now been arrested and held in several detention centres in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. Among those are several who had been prioritized for evacuation or resettlement flights out of Libya.

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





Central and South America

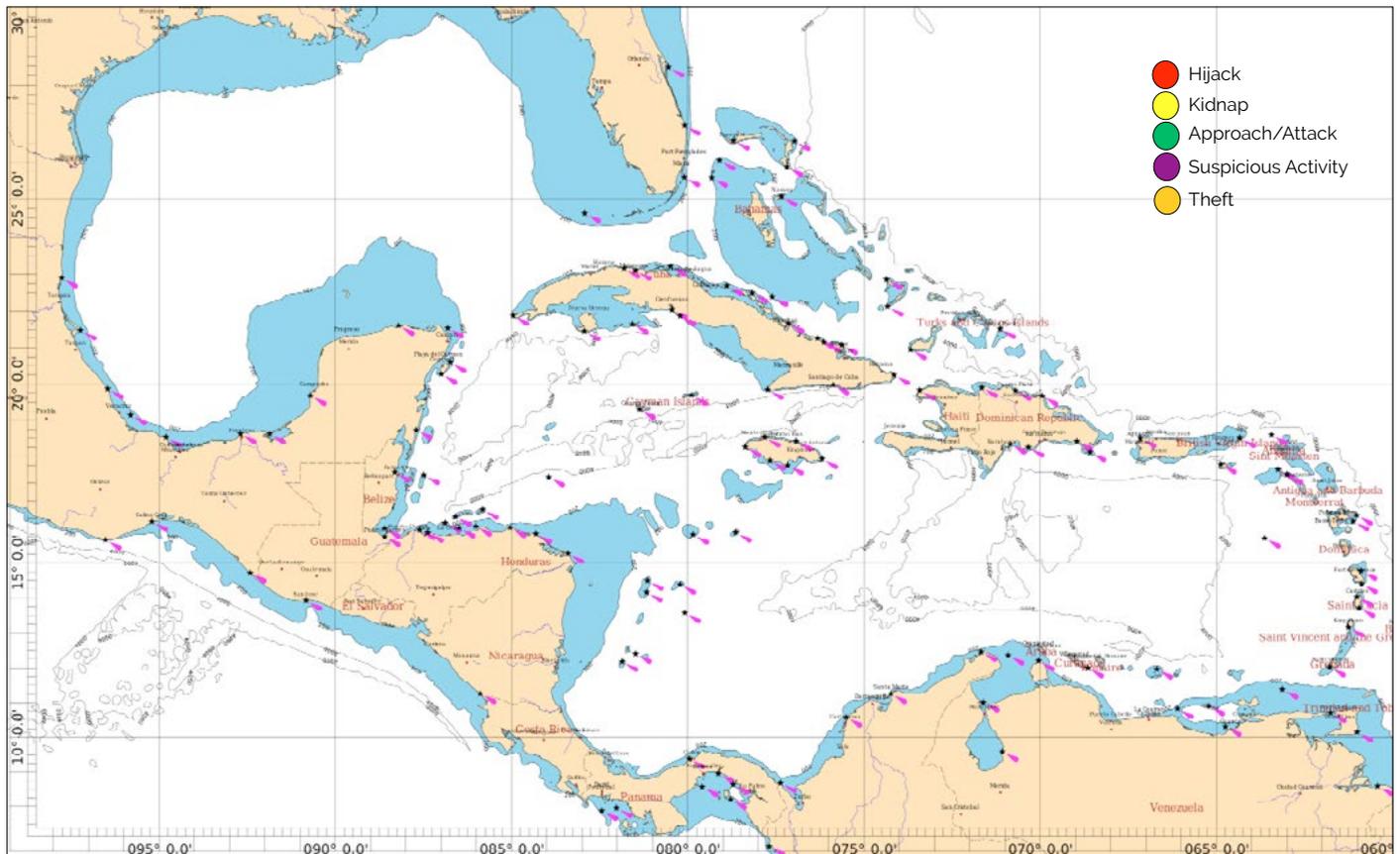
Nothing significant to report.

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.