

# Weekly Security & Risk Report

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Issue 300 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 government has created an inter-ministerial committee to tackle the ongoing problem of pipeline vandalism and crude oil theft in the country, Nigerian media reported on Sept. 23rd. Elements from the Navy, Army and Civil Defense Corps will all be drawn in to combat the crime on Nigeria's waterways. The federal government also charged the committee to detect, report, evacuate, assess and ensure transparent disposal of the product with due consideration to the environment.

### Incidents:

1. Underway MV approached by one skiff at 0938 UTC in position 00:51N - 006:59E, around 32nm NE of Sao Tome and Principe. Skiff w/ 6 POB pursued the vessel for 30 mins before aborting approach. Reported (MDAT) 26 Sept.

### Nigeria Partners Denmark On Fight Against Piracy In GOG

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama and the Foreign Minister of Denmark, Jeppe Kofod, have discussed greater cooperation against piracy during a meeting at the United Nations, Nigerian media reported on Sept. 27th. Kofod said Denmark was strengthening its cooperation with all of the countries around the Gulf of Guinea and deploying resources to the Gulf of Guinea to fight piracy.

### Nigerian Navy set to commission new Nigeria-made ship

The third locally produced vessel for the Nigerian Navy should be commissioned later this year, the Navy has announced. The Naval Dockyard Limited, a commercial entity of the Nigerian Navy had earlier built NNS Andoni and NNS Karaduwa with 100 per cent local content input. The third of its kind with more sophisticated facilities is currently at advanced stage of construction in Lagos, Nigeria's Guardian reported on Sept. 26th.

### Stakeholders Canvass Rivers Coast Guard

Amid rising incidents of sea piracy, Rivers State has begun discussion on the formation of a Coast Guard to protect the local waterways. The idea was proposed at a security seminar organised by the Coastal Awareness Initiative in Port Harcourt. While a number of agencies in attendance pledged to protect the area, there are still calls for a more focused local force which could deal with kidnap and robbery on the water, Tide Online reported on Sept. 24th.

### Navy Hands Over Two Vessels Carrying Crude Oil To EFCC

Two vessels have been detained by the Nigerian Navy and handed over to the EFCC for suspected crude oil theft, Nigerian media reported on Sept. 23rd. The MT Bright Hope was carrying 1,371,256 litres of stolen crude and the MV Johanna 11 held over 62,000 litres, the media reported. EFCC detective Arasah Shaks, who received the vessels and the suspects on behalf of the Port Harcourt Zonal command of the EFCC, said investigation will commence immediately and the suspects prosecuted if found guilty.

### Cameroon and France renew military agreements

Sputnik reported that France and Cameroon had renewed several military agreements on Sept. 23rd, one of which will see France continue to support Cameroon's maritime security efforts in the Gulf of Guinea. A programme of naval exercises and joint training programmes in the region will provide much needed expertise.

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

### Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures:

#### 2021:

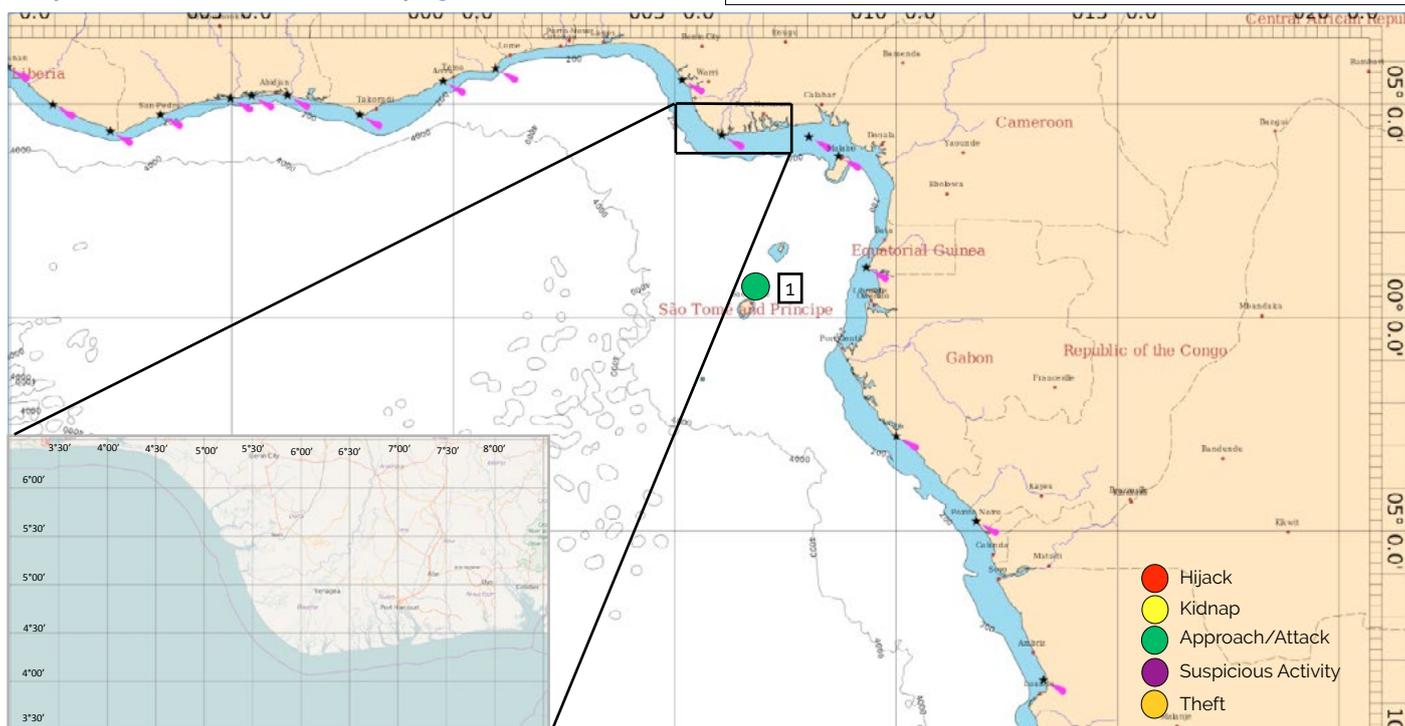
Incidents reported: 42 (MDAT-GoG/Others)  
Crew kidnapped: 46 (IMB, MDAT)  
Vessels hijacked: 1 (MDAT-GoG)

#### 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

FS Languedoc, operating as part of the Combined Maritime Forces' CTF-150, has seized over 1600kg of hasish and methamphetamine following a VBSS in the Indian Ocean, the CMF reported on Sept. 23rd. The haul is valued at around \$5.2 million and took place as the Languedoc was conducting patrols in the area. "The seizure of narcotics from a dhow in the Indian Ocean is testament to the strong partnership between CMF, the Marine Nationale and CTF 150, said Royal New Zealand Navy Capt. Brendon Clark, commander of CTF 150.

**Incidents: Nothing significant to report.**

## Bahrain CG sees Task Force 59 facilities

Israel Defense wrote on Sept. 26th that the head of Bahrain's Coast Guard had visited the US Navy facilities in Bahrain where the group will work. Bahrain is the first regional partner for the programme, which will fly unmanned drones as well as manned maritime patrol aircraft to ensure security over a vast area of the Persian Gulf, Indian Ocean and Red Sea. Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of NAVCENT, said that the new initiative will enable the expansion of maritime domain awareness on, above and below the water, and enhancement of deterrence, the paper reported.

## Troops rescue dozens of women and children in Mozambique

A multi-national military force in Mozambique has rescued 87 women and children from a jihadist militant base in Macomia in the conflict-hit northern province of Cabo Delgado. Soldiers from the force combining Mozambican, Rwandan and troops from the region located the base at about 13:00 local time on Wednesday 22nd after a search in the forests of Quinterajo, BBC News reported on Sept. 23rd.

## Sri Lanka & Indonesia discuss Indian Ocean Security

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister, G.L. Peiris, has said that the country wishes to have greater interaction with ASEAN during a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Indonesia Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi in New York. Sri Lanka's News 1st said that Minister Peiris also indicated that Indonesia and Sri Lanka share a keen interest in Indian Ocean security.

## Kenya-Somalia dispute to be judged next month

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is set to make a ruling

on the longstanding maritime dispute between Kenya and Somalia on Oct. 12th, media report. The date coincides with 10th anniversary of Kenyan troops deploying to Somalia to assist with the fight against Al Shabaab and is being seen by some Kenyans as a 'slap in the face', according to the Daily Nation newspaper. It is widely believed that the ruling will be in Somalia's favour, a decision likely to strain relations between the two countries, and one which will have implications for oil and gas projects in the region.

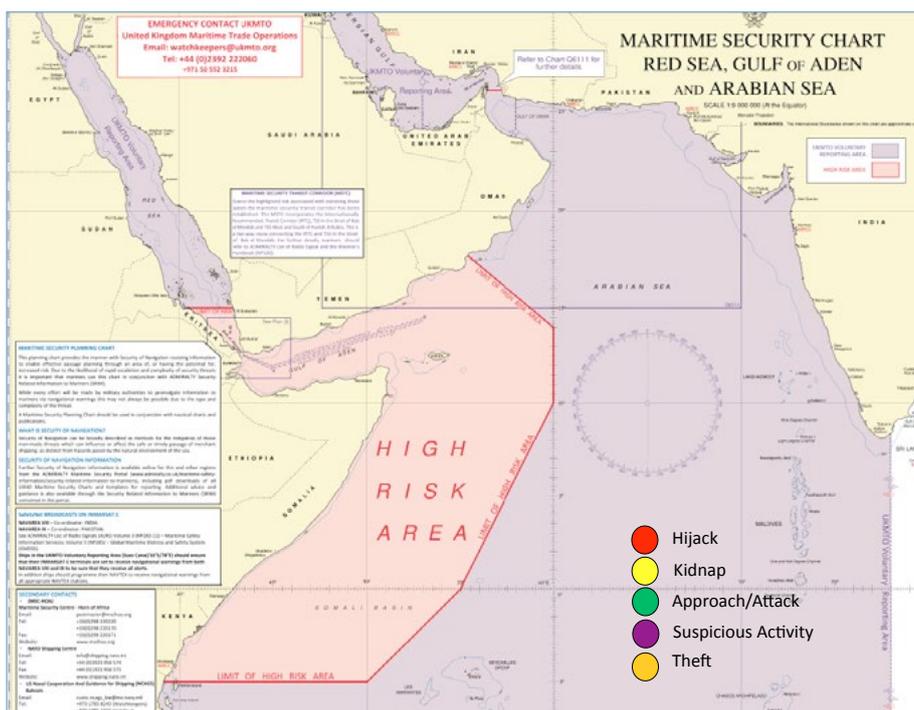
## Kenya Upgrades Manda Bay Station As Second Naval Base, Lookout Point

Kenya's upgrading of Manda Bay Station into a full naval base is a sign of how much the country is investing to secure the new Lamu port and Lapsset corridor, The East African wrote on Sept. 25th. The base will serve as a focal point for maritime security operations and land deployments, while protecting the new port's facilities and traffic. It demonstrates a new push by Kenya to secure its waters and reduce maritime crime in the region.

## India seizes \$2.7bn of heroin

Security personnel at Mundra port, India, seized almost three tonnes of heroin from Afghanistan, the media reported on Sept. 21st. Two Indian nationals were arrested when two containers were discovered to contain the drugs, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence said. The consignment originated from Afghanistan and was shipped from a port in Iran to Gujarat, the DRI said.

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





# Somalia

A suicide car bomb which exploded near the presidential palace in the Somali capital Mogadishu on Saturday has killed at least seven people. District police chief Mucawiye Ahmed Mudey told reporters that at least eight others had been injured. In a short statement, the Islamist militant group Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. The attack targeted a convoy heading towards the presidential palace as it waited at a busy checkpoint, BBC News reported on Sept. 26th.

## Al Shabaab Says At Least 15 Kenyan Soldiers Killed in Lamu Attack

All Africa reported on Sept. 28th that a IED attack in Lamu county, Kenya, on the border with Somalia, had left several dead. Al Shabaab, who launched the attack, claimed to have killed at least 15 Kenyan soldiers during the incident. The landmine explosion struck a convoy of Kenyan troops traveling between Kayunga and Shangani in Lamu County with witnesses saying KDF opened fire after the IED assault. There were no independent sources confirming the claims.

## PM Roble And President Farmaajo Arbitration Hits a Snag

Despite talks lasting 18 hours, the impasse between the Somali PM and President remains in place, All Africa reported on Sept. 24th. In a statement, Minister of State for the Presidency of Galmudug, Omar Shido said that the talks between President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo and Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble had failed. The news will not be welcomed by the international community, which still hopes that the country can hold elections this year.

## British and Malaysian men jailed in Somalia for terror offences

British man, Darren Anthony Byrnes, was one of two foreigners to be sentenced to 15 years by a military court in Somalia for belonging to Islamist militant group Al Shabaab. Byrnes and Malaysian Ahmad Mustakim bin Abdul Hamid were convicted of recruiting foreigners. Byrnes came to Somalia "to shed

blood", prosecutor Brig Gen Abdullahi Bule Kamay said in a video extract of the court proceedings released by the military. The prosecution said that Byrnes had converted to Islam in 2006. He then travelled to Mombasa, on Kenya's coast, where he married a Somali woman. He crossed into Somalia in 2010, according to the prosecution.

## Somalia, AU Coordinate to Fight Against Al Shabaab

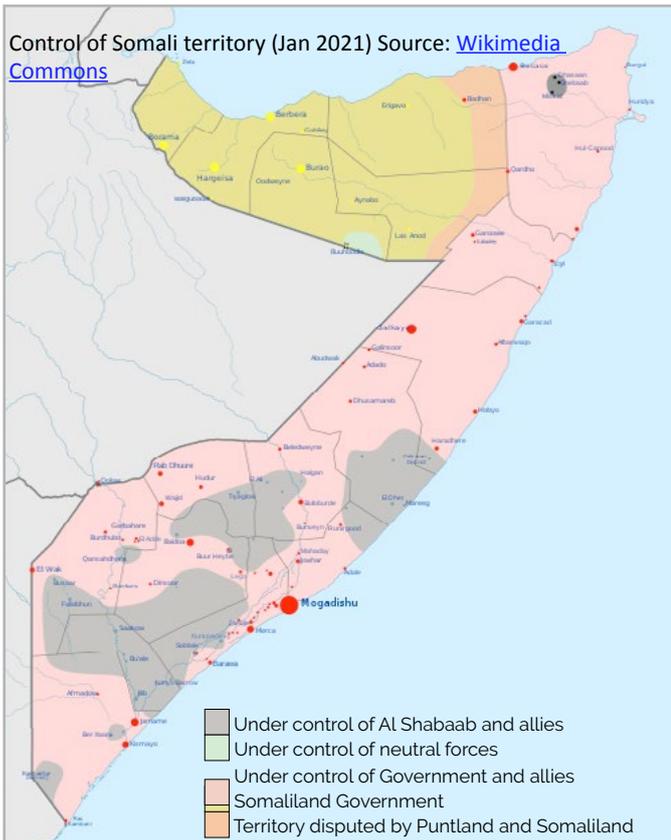
The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and Somalia's National Army (SNA) launched a center this week to better coordinate their fight against al-Shabab militants, who have threatened to disrupt Somalia's elections. The Joint Operations Coordination Center at AMISOM Sector One headquarters in Mogadishu was officially launched Wednesday at a ceremony presided over by the army chief of defense forces, General Odowaa Yusuf Rageh, and the AMISOM deputy force commander in charge of operations and planning, Major General William Kitsao Shume, VOA reported on Sept. 23rd.

## Somaliland Protests Against Election of Representatives to Somalia Senate

Somaliland has protested against moves by the Somali government to elect officials to represent it in federal parliament, The East African reported on Sept. 24th. The autonomous and self-declared independent region said it was not interested in having representatives in Somalia parliament and warned Somalia politicians to stop spreading "misleading information".

## 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

Oxfam has accused the international community of failing to live up to its promises to help civilians in Yemen, where fewer than 1% of the population has received one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. The charity warns that Yemen is battling a third wave of Covid-19, with recorded cases tripling and the death rate rising more than fivefold in the last month. It says the figures do not include undiagnosed deaths of people in their homes, due to the scarcity of tests and hospital beds, or deaths in the country's north west, where health authorities controlled by the rebel Houthi movement do not release coronavirus-related data, BBC News reported.

### Yemen asks international community to exert pressure on Houthi leaders

The war in Yemen has caused a human catastrophe, torn society apart, and triggered "waves of mass displacement, repression and enforced disappearance", the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs said on Monday 27th, the final day of the UN General Assembly's annual debate. "Yemen has been living in difficult and harsh conditions for seven years, imposed by the Houthi coup militia on our people, with logistical and military support from the Iranian regime", said Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak, who also serves as Minister of Expatriates Affairs.

### 6 killed in Houthi attack

At least six people died and over 20 were injured when a Houthi ballistic missile struck crowds celebrating a public holiday in the province of Hajjah, in the northwestern area of the country, MENAFN reported on Sept. 26th. The attack occurred late on Saturday 25th, as hundreds of local residents and soldiers were believed to be attending an event marking the 59th anniversary of the country's 1962 revolution

### Fourth batch of Saudi oil derivatives grant arrives in Aden port

The Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen (SDRPY) has delivered its fourth batch of oil derivatives to Yemen, with 75,000 metric tons of diesel and 40,000 metric tons of fuel oil arriving at Aden port, the Saudi Gazette reported on Sept 25th. The grant aims to meet the monthly need being provided by the power stations in Yemeni governorates and according to an agreed-upon precise governance to ensure reaching the beneficiary Yemeni governorates.

### Over 140 killed in clashes for Yemen's Marib: military sources

AFP and France 24 reported on Sept. 24th that heavy fighting in Yemen's Marib province had seen at least 140 people killed in the space of a week, as the battle for the oil region intensifies again. At least 51 troops loyal to the internationally-recognised government died in the fighting, along with at least 93 Houthi rebels. The Houthis rarely report casualty numbers, but figures were confirmed by medical sources. According to the military

sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the Houthis have made advances and seized four districts - one in Marib and three in Shabwa, France 24 reported.

### Yemen receives third batch of covid vaccines

Middle East Monitor reported on Sept. 23rd that Yemen had received a new consignment of Covid-19 vaccines, as part of the COVAX global vaccine programme. A delivery of 356,000 shots of the AstraZeneca vaccine arrived in Aden, the temporary capital of the internationally recognised Yemeni government, said Ali Al-Walidi, a spokesman for the ministry, MEMO reported.

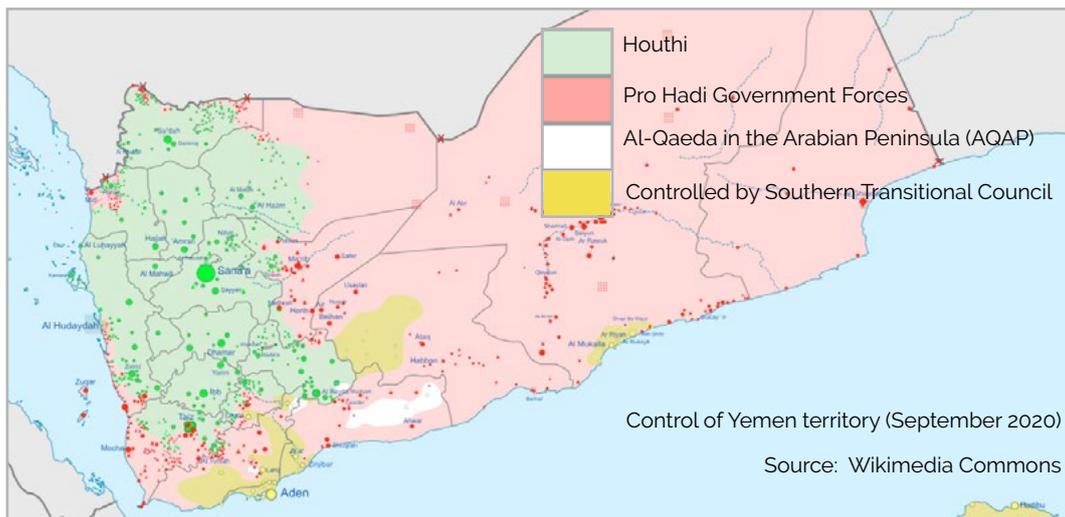
### EU allocates €119 additional million for humanitarian crisis

The European Commission announced an additional €119 million in development and humanitarian aid for Yemen on Sept. 23rd, European Sting reported. The funding announced today on the side-lines of United Nations General Assembly brings EU support to Yemen to €209 million in 2021.

### US House passes measure to end maintenance for Saudi aircraft

On Sept. 23rd, the US House of Representatives approved a vote that would mean no further maintenance support for Saudi Arabian aircraft operating in Yemen. The move would also reduce intelligence support for the country, as it continues to fight Houthi rebels backed by Iran in Yemen. The amendment would be included in next year's National Defense Authorization Act if it passes the Senate, Al-Monitor reported. Ending the US role in the conflict has long had bipartisan support in Washington.

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



## South East Asia

For the first time since 2008, a Royal Navy warship has transited the Taiwan Strait, as part of a freedom of navigation exercise. HMS Richmond, deployed with the HMS Queen Elizabeth strike group, sailed through the waterway on Monday 27th, which sparked a frosty reaction from China.

**Incidents: Nothing significant to report.**

### Lucena port upgrade to boost economy

The Philippines is to upgrade facilities and expand Lucena port in order to accommodate larger cargo ships and add additional space for vessels, The Manila Times reported on Sept. 28th. The port currently handles around 6,000 ships annually, and it is hoped the expansion will be a significant economic boost locally and nationally.

### Philippine Coast Guard to setup own airbase in Negros Occidental

Sun Star reported on Sept. 26th that the Philippine Coast Guard is to build an airbase in Barangay Luna. The land has been donated by United Sugar Producers Federation (Unifed) President, Manuel Lamata, and the new base will assist the PCG with maritime domain awareness as well as SAR operations.

### Singapore, Malaysian navies hold exercises in Malacca Strait

The Singapore and Malaysian navies conducted Exercise Malapura last week. Some 500 personnel took part in the naval drills, which were conducted without physical contact due to covid restrictions. Three Singapore vessels were supported by a maritime patrol aircraft, while three Malaysian ships were supported by a helicopter and fighter aircraft from the Royal Malaysian Air Force.

### PH, Australian navy ships hold maritime exercise

The Philippine News Agency reported on Sept. 27th that the country's Navy had engaged in maritime drills with the Royal Australian Navy over the weekend of 25th-26th, as part of Exercise Lumbas 2021. "BRP Antonio Luna (FF-151) participates in the at-sea phase of Exercise Lumbas 2021 to strengthen co-operation and to promote peace and stability within the region

together with HMAS Canberra and HMAS Anzac on Sept. 26th," a post on the BRP Antonio Luna's Facebook page said Monday. The Royal Australian Navy ships are visiting Manila as part of a three-day port visit.

### U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Trains with Indonesia's Maritime Security Agency

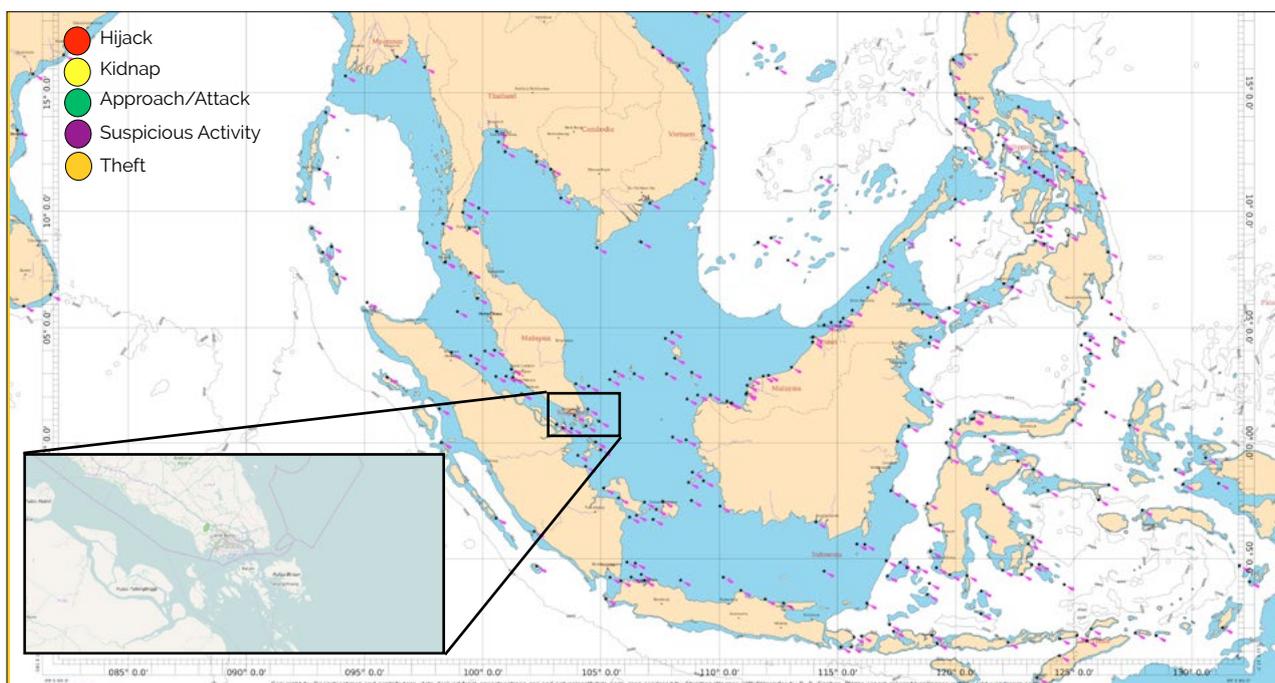
US Coast Guard Cutter Munro conducted operations and drills with Indonesia's maritime security agency and Coast Guard, the Badan Kaamanan Laut (BAKAMLA) on Sept. 20th, Homeland Security Today reported on Sept. 26th. The crews worked on ship-to-ship communication and maritime domain awareness during the exercises.

### Over 100 ships detained by Johor MMEA for anchoring illegally

The MMEA has arrested over 100 ships for illegal anchoring in eastern Johor as part of Operation Jangkar Haram in March. Johor MMEA director First Admiral Nurul Hizam Zakaria said, "The area is a known hotspot for such illegal activity as it has a depth of 60m, which is suitable for ships to anchor." The latest incident took place on Friday 24th, when the MMEA discovered two vessels carrying out an illegal oil transfer.

### USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group Returns to South China Sea

The USS Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group has made its second 2021 deployment to the South China Sea, Maritime Executive reported on Sept. 24th. The move comes as China increases activity in the region, and it is expected that the strike group will conduct fixed and rotary-wing flight operations, maritime strike exercises, anti-submarine operations during deployment.



## European Waters

More than 660 migrants crossed the English Channel on Sunday 26th, bringing the total so far this year to more than double the total for 2020. The Home Office said 669 people crossed in 22 boats on Sunday, with the French authorities preventing 197 migrants in six boats from making the crossing. So far at least 17,063 people have crossed in small boats in 2021 compared to just over 8,460 last year, BBC News reported.

### 122 migrants disembark from Ocean Viking, 60 on board Geo Barents still await safe port

InfoMigrants reported on Sept. 27th that the Ocean Viking had been able to disembark all migrants on board at Sicily over the weekend, although migrants on board the Geo Barents were still waiting for a safe port. The migrants were tested for COVID-19 by Italian authorities aboard the Ocean Viking before they were allowed to leave the ship, the organization said in an update on its website.

### IOM: Over 780 migrant deaths on Atlantic route this year

The UN migration agency, the IOM, reports that 785 migrants have lost their lives so far this year, attempting to cross from western African nations to the Canary Islands via the Atlantic Ocean. InfoMigrants reported that August was a particularly deadly month, as well as one which saw large numbers cross, with some 340 migrants arriving on one day. In an on-line statement published on Friday (September 24), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said that almost half of all deaths on the Atlantic route -- 379 -- that were recorded in the first eight months of this year occurred in August.

### UK to begin pushing back migrant boats in Channel

The Times newspaper reported on Sept. 25th that UK Border Force could begin attempts to 'push back' migrant boats as soon as next week, after the move was approved by the Prime Minister. Border Force personnel have reportedly been fully trained in their legal use of powers and are ready to go, a source told The Times. In practical terms, Border Force would intercept and attempt to turn around migrant boats using jet skis, if sea states allowed. Intelligence will be assisted by the use of UAVs, the paper reported.

### UN official predicts Home Office asylum plan will fail

The UN expert on refugees in the UK has warned Parliament that controversial plans to change asylum laws to combat English Channel crossings will fail. Rossella Pagliuchi-Lor said the Nationality and Borders Bill also breaks international law. The Home Office says the plan will deter illegal migration and tackle people-smuggling. But Ms Pagliuchi-Lor predicted it would lead to greater backlogs and more pressure on local public services, BBC News reported on Sept. 24th.

### Libya, UNHCR discuss illegal migration, border control

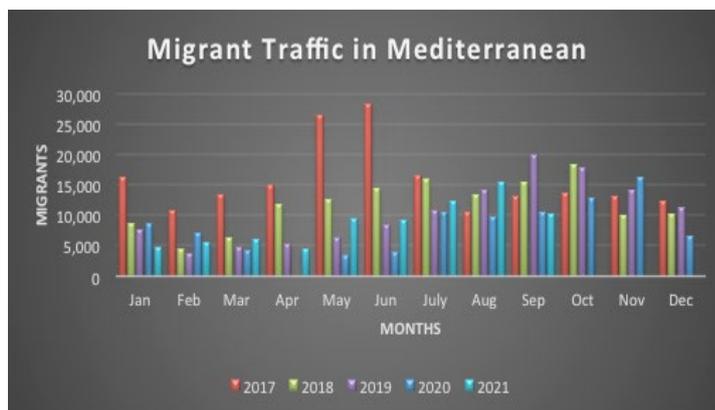
Five EU states call for fairer migrant distribution  
News reports last week stated that five Mediterranean EU nations had called for an 'equitable' distribution of migrants between member states of the EU. The calls were made at a meeting held in Malaga, Spain. The Interior Ministers of Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Malta and Greece – known as MED5 – agreed "to demand from the European Union that the common migration policy revolve around the equitable sharing of responsibility among member states," according to a statement released by the host, the Spanish ministry.

### Libya, UNHCR discuss illegal migration, border control

The Shillong Times reported on Sept. 24th that Musa al-Koni, Vice President of the Presidency Council of Libya, met Jean-Paul Cavalieri, chief of mission in the country of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), to discuss illegal migration and border control. "The Vice President of the Presidency Council confirmed that illegal migration is mainly a humanitarian issue. He stressed the importance of uniting international efforts to come up with successful solutions to it," said a statement issued by the Presidency Council.

### Maltese families host migrants at home in MOAS pilot project

Rescue charity, MOAS, which did much to highlight the human suffering in the Mediterranean, has launched a new scheme in Malta. The scheme is offered to refugees and asylum seekers who have left detention and have applied for asylum. They will be placed with Maltese families and live with them in the pilot programme. MOAS conducts meetings and supports both the families and asylum seekers throughout the process. "Welcoming a refugee person at home is the right way towards a more open and inclusive society, a way to overcome prejudices and mistrust," Regina Catrambone, co-founder and director of MOAS told Malta Today on Sept. 24th.



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

### The current migrant smuggling situation

Updated figures from UNHCR show that some 15551 migrants crossed the Mediterranean in August, with September figures standing at over 10,000 so far. While there has been little activity in the past week in the Med, the English Channel remains a significant hot spot and concern for the UK government. The plans to push back migrant boats have caused debate and will no doubt be heavily scrutinised should they actually take place in the coming days. The risks, both to human life and the UK Home Office, are apparent, so it will be interesting to see how the situation unfolds.

# Libya

The head of Libya's Presidency Council said on Thursday 23rd that he will hold an international conference in October to build support for a Libyan-owned and led stability plan, warning that his country faces "serious challenges" that could undermine elections set for December. "Libya is at a critical juncture – indeed a defining moment," Mohamed Younis Menfi, President of the Presidency Council of the Government of National Unity, told world leaders during his in-person address to the UN General Assembly's annual debate.

## Libya's UN Envoy Calls on Foreign Powers to Stop Interfering in The Local Situation

Al Bawaba reported on Sept. 28th that Taher Al-Sonni, Libya's permanent representative to the UN, has called for an end to foreign interference in the country's affairs, particularly with respect to the planned elections and reconciliation of the Libyan people. "Enough is enough," he said during an exclusive interview with Arab News. "Libyans are tired of 10 years of chaos. As much as we talk about national reconciliation, there should also be international reconciliation. As much as we talk about confidence building, there should be confidence building between the international community and Libyans – and that starts with the simultaneous withdrawal of all foreign fighters and mercenaries, and support for the will of Libyans when they go through the electoral process."

## Mass graves discovered in Libya's Tarhuna

The Daily Sabah reported on Sept. 27th that two more mass graves had been found in the city of Tarhuna, southeast of Tripoli. The area had been held by forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar. The General Authority for Research and Identification of Missing Persons said over the weekend of Sept. 25th-26th that nine bodies had been found so far, but there were no clues as to their identities so far.

## Shoukry affirms Egypt's support for Libya

Egypt's Foreign Minister, Sameh Shoukry, has reiterated his country's stance on proposed elections in Libya in December, saying that there is international consensus to implement them. Shoukry comments were given in media remarks to "The Final Word" talk show on ON T.V. in a response to a question on Egypt's stance towards the Libyan situation after the Libyan parliament withdrew the confidence from the government of the national unity led by Abdel-Mageed Dabiba, Egypt Today reported on Sept. 26th.

## Human smugglers detained in Libya

Libya's Office of the Public Prosecution announced the arrest of an immigrant smuggling network in connection with the transportation of illegal migrants into the country, which led directly

to the death of several migrants, Libya Observer reported on Sept. 25th. The Office said in a statement that the arrest came following the Kufra Prosecution's thorough investigation into a report submitted by an immigrant named Mohamed Adam, according to which, a number of immigrants had died near the Libyan-Sudanese border. There are no details on the number of arrests or locations where they took place.

## US House passes bill to probe war crimes in Libya

The Libya Observer reported on Sept. 25th that the US House of Representatives had passed a bill to target sanctions that are in breach of the UN arms embargo to Libya or are involved in sending mercenaries to the country. Head of the Democracy and Human Right Foundation Emadeddin Muntasser noted that the bill also obliged the US to investigate war crimes and torture in Libya.

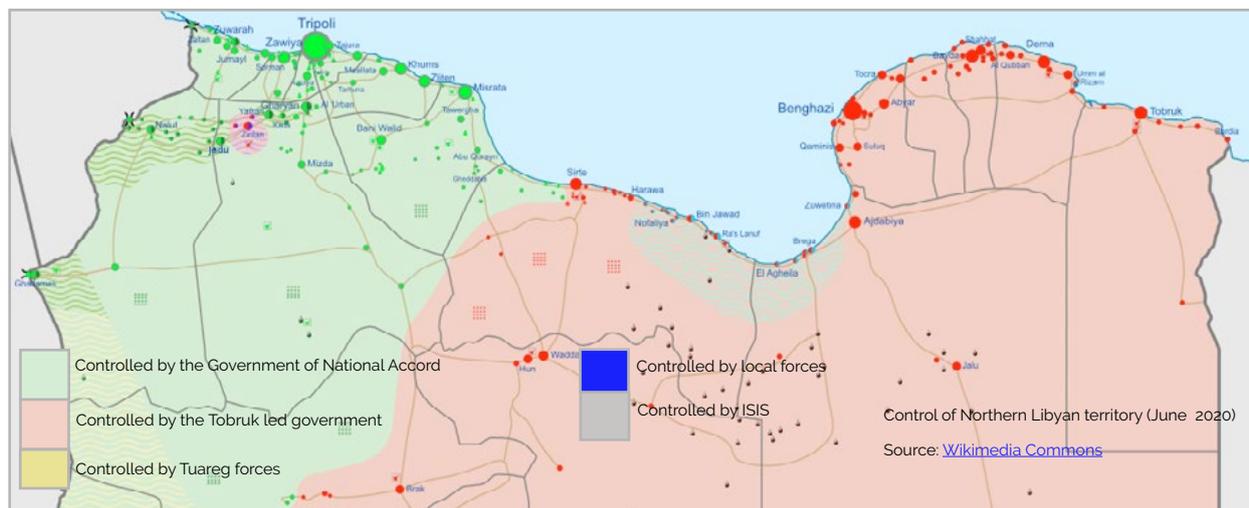
## Many states want Haftar to run for Libya presidency

Khalifa Haftar's senior aide, Ramzi Al-Rumaih, has told Russia Today that many countries want Haftar to run for the role of President, Middle East Monitor reported on Sept. 25th. Al-Rumaih added: "The General Command has completed its mission in the east of Libya – getting rid of the terrorists. The General Command planned to liberate Tripoli from the militias, but international sides undermined its efforts."

## Washington reiterates support for holding Libya elections on time

The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has affirmed United States' support for a sovereign, stable, unified, and secure Libya free from foreign interference, emphasizing Washington's support for Libya's presidential and parliamentary elections on December 24th, the Libya Observer wrote on Sept. 23rd. Underlining the significant political pressure being placed upon Libya's interim government to ensure a smooth electoral process.

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





# Central and South America

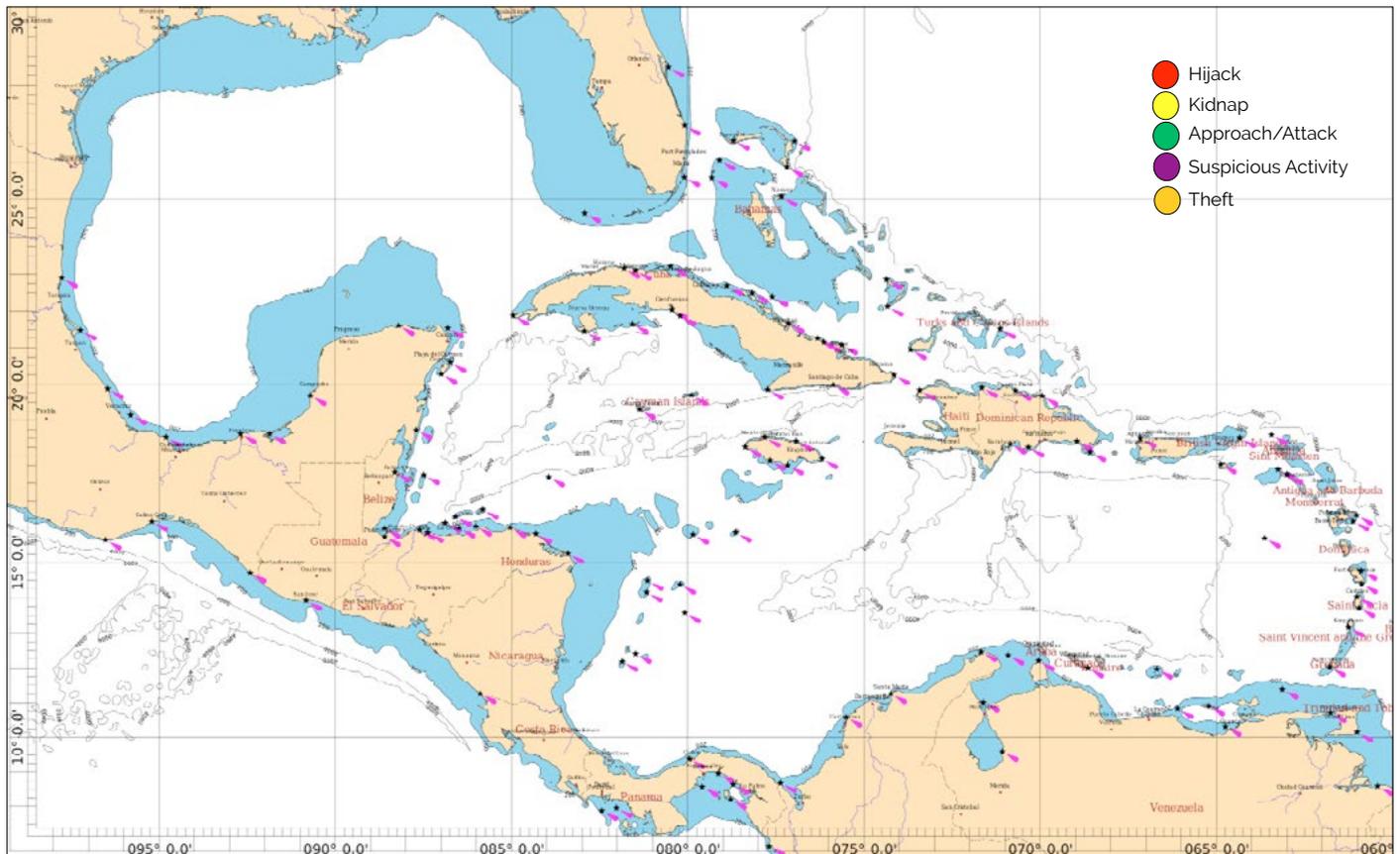
Nothing significant to report.

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.