

Weekly Security & Risk Report

Date: 24th November 2021
Series 16/Issue 308



MAKING THE
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MARITIME SECURITY PHYSICAL AND ASSET SECURITY RISK CONSULTING SECURITY SYSTEMS



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Issue 308 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 Nigerian Navy has again affirmed its commitment to protect Nigeria's waters and clamp down on maritime crime. At a maritime security training event for maritime law enforcement agencies, organised by the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in conjunction with Denmark government, Rear Admiral Habila Zakaria said Nigeria's maritime domain with its enormous resources and potentials remains strategic to national security and development, Sun News reported on Nov. 21st.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Rivers residents accuse security operatives of aiding illegal bunkering

A fire at an illegal bunkering site in Port Harcourt has destroyed a number of properties and caused substantial damage, The Guardian reported on Nov. 22nd. Locals blamed the Navy and police for the fire, which began on Saturday. They claim that personnel were aware of the illegal operation and even visited the site to receive bribes from the gang operating it.

Saboteurs frustrating efforts to tackle illegal bunkering

The head of the Nigerian Merchant Navy has requested that the police do more to prosecute people posing as its officers, saying that they are sabotaging the Navy's efforts to prevent oil pipeline attacks and oil theft. Allen Edema alleged that six men wanted to sabotage his efforts aimed at ensuring legal backing for the Merchant Navy, as legislation is currently with the Nigerian government to confirm the status of the Merchant Navy, Punch reported on Nov. 22nd.

90 ships seized by EFCC rot away in Lagos

Some of the vessels seized by the Nigerian Navy and held by the country's EFCC for investigation and prosecution are 'rotting away', according to a report by Punch on Nov. 22nd. The lack of maintenance is due to the fact that the Nigerian Navy has no budget for their upkeep, the paper reported. Many are in poor states of repair and some have even sunk, at a time when the Navy is committed to clearing wrecks in the nation's waters. Lagos State is reportedly the worst area, with 10 per cent of vessels having sunk due to damage and lack of care. Many of the ships held have been in custody for five years, Nigerian politicians stated.

Maritime security in Gulf of Guinea no longer a luxury but a challenge

Guillaume Turquet de Beauregard, Coordinator for State Action at Sea (Gulf of Guinea), has called for an increase in the number of maritime security training programmes in the region. The remarks were made to media during a SAR training mission in Ghana for 20 naval participants from 11 different countries including operators from MRCCs, maritime operations centers and Yaounde architecture centers, navy and coast guard personnel. "...maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea is no longer a luxury but a real challenge for the entire subregion. It is therefore important that the coastal countries of the zone are able to provide concrete and effective responses to ships and seafarers when human life is at stake," he told Modern Ghana in a report on Nov. 19th.

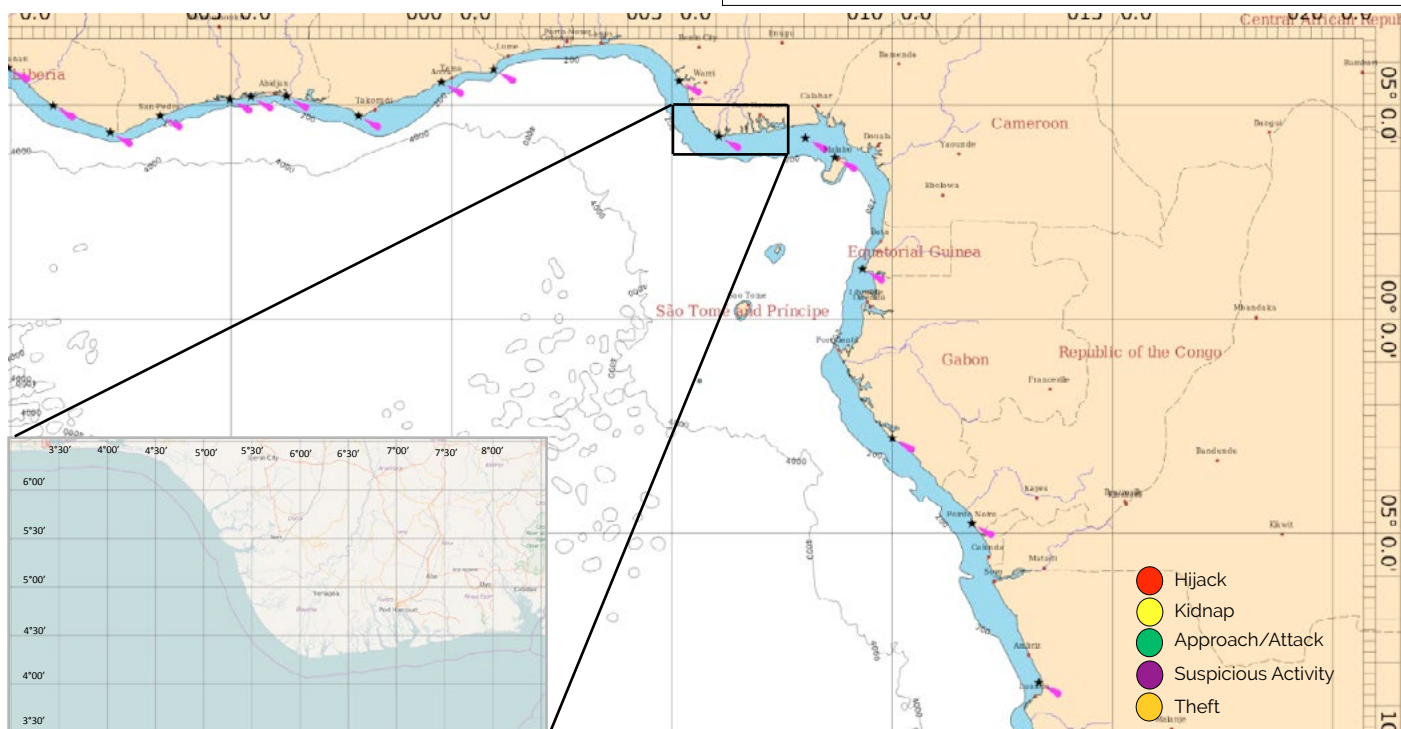
For further information and to see MAST Services in the region, [please click here.](#)

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures:

2021:
 Incidents reported: 48 (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

Iranian forces have seized another vessel at sea, Reuters and other media outlets reported on Saturday 20th. The foreign vessel is accused of smuggling diesel and an IRGC Navy spokesman claimed that some 150,000 litres of product was found aboard the ship. The vessel's 11 crew are being held as part of the investigation, reports said.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

IRGC Navy Commander makes bizarre claim

According to Mehr news agency on Monday 22nd, Navy commander Alireza Tangsiri has said that nine Iranian soldiers have died in 'direct clashes' with the US Navy in the Persian Gulf. "We have launched nine strikes over our fallen martyrs," he said, without giving further details. There was no comment from US authorities on the Iranian statements.

Indian Navy to ramp up surveillance capacity

The Indian Navy intends to secure a number of unmanned aerial and underwater surveillance platforms in the next few years as it continues to monitor Chinese activity in the Indian Ocean, Business Today reported on Nov. 22nd. A key focus will be anti-submarine warfare and surveillance, but the new platforms will be more widely deployed as part of the Navy's intelligence gathering efforts.

IRGC Navy to Get 3 New Warships

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy will be equipped with three new warships this year, including a homegrown vessel launching missiles with a range of 300 kilometers, a top commander said. In comments at a cultural ceremony in Tehran on Saturday, IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri said his forces will receive three new military vessels in the current Iranian year, including a warship furnished with defense missiles, Tasnim News reported on Nov. 21st.

U.S. Navy, Jordan Partner on New Unmanned Systems

Personnel from NAVCENT's Task Force 59 briefed Col. Hisham Khaleel Aljarrah, commander of the Royal Jordanian Naval

Force, alongside Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of NAVCENT, U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces on the task force's new Saildrone Explorer unmanned surface vessel (USV), US Navy reported on Nov. 20th. The Royal Jordanian naval base in Aqaba, Jordan will become a joint hub for Saildrone USV operations in the Red Sea next month. The United States and Jordan share a strong bilateral partnership in maintaining regional maritime security and stability.

Indian Navy conducts security exercise 'Prasthan'

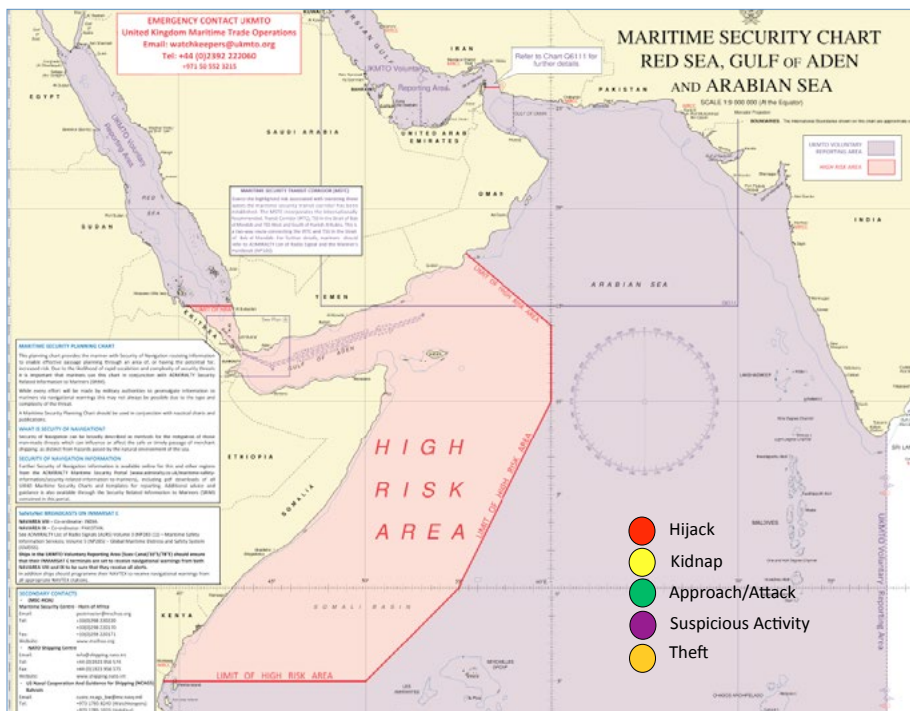
The Indian Navy has conducted its bi-annual Prasthan maritime security exercise in the waters off Mumbai, media reported on Nov. 18th. The exercise is intended as an integration and cooperation drill between the country's armed forces and held on the MHN platform, around 94nm off Mumbai. "The drill focused on contingencies such as terrorist intrusion, bomb explosion, major fire, oil spill, man overboard, casualty evacuation, loss of control of vessel and mass evacuation," a statement by Western Naval Command said.

INS Trikand deploys to Persian Gulf

Indian media reported on Nov. 19th that INS Trikand had deployed to the Persian Gulf to ensure freedom of navigation for trade in the region. The ship will patrol both the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to maintain vital shipping lines and ensure maritime security is maintained in the region as part of Operation Sankalp.

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

MAST Note: This chart will be replaced as soon as Admiralty UK releases the updated version.



Somalia

With about 2.3 million people already suffering with serious water, food and pasture shortages in Somalia, a rapidly worsening drought could lead to an "extreme situation" by April next year. The warning comes from the United Nations and the Somali Government. Climate projections show that the country is facing a fourth consecutive failed rainfall season. In a joint statement on Friday 19th, the organizations said it is imperative to act now to prevent a slide into the kind of drought and even famine conditions experienced in previous years.

National Treasury Says Millions of Dollars Stolen From Government Budget

Dalsan Radio reported on Nov. 22nd that the Somali National Auditor, General Mohamed Mohamud Ali Afgoye, said contracts worth \$31 Million not registered with the auditor general's office and the existence of unauthorised bank accounts outside the Treasury Single Account. For the first time, they audited the fishing sector and found an under-collection of \$56m in revenue from fishing vessels.

Car Bomb Kills Popular Broadcast Journalist

A Somali journalist with state-run media was killed on Saturday 20th in Mogadishu when a suicide bomber blew up his car, government officials and his colleagues said. Another journalist also was injured. Abdiiaziz Mohamud Guled, better known as Afrika, the director of the state-run Radio Mogadishu, died from his wounds, while fellow journalist Sharmarke Warsame, who was traveling with Guled, sustained a severe injury, according to government spokesperson Mohamed Ibrahim Mo'alimuu. VOA reported on Nov. 21st.

Seven Killed in Market Blast in Southwest

At least seven people were killed and 11 injured in southwestern Somalia on Friday in a bomb blast that targeted a crowded market, according to municipal officials, VOA reported on Nov. 19th. The blast occurred in the town of Bardale, located some 60 kilometers west of Baidoa, the provincial capital of Bay region. "The explosive device was planted somewhere in the

market, and it exploded this morning as shoppers, mainly people from rural areas crowded at the market," Mohamed Isaaq Ara'ase, the town's district commissioner, told VOA.

Saudi Arabia reopens Somalia embassy

Gulf News reported on Nov. 20th that Saudi Arabia had reopened its embassy in Mogadishu, after its closure around 30 years ago. Saudi news agency, SPA carried the news, quoting the Saudi Foreign Ministry. "This emphasizes depth of relations between the two sisterly countries," it said.

Somalia partners withhold funds to push for elections

The East African reported on Nov. 20th that the UK, US and Norway were withholding funds for the electoral programme with the intent of pushing Somalia to ensure that elections take place. In a letter to the Somali PM, Hussein Roble, the parties urged all stakeholders to stick the agreed timetable and ensure the process went ahead.

Kenyan Authorities Apprehend 3 Terror Convicts

Kenyan authorities say they have captured three convicted terrorists who escaped last week from a maximum-security prison in Nairobi. The three convicts were arrested in Kitui County, central Kenya, after residents reported suspicious-looking people to the local authorities. Kenyan media reports the three men were trying to reach Somalia and had asked people for directions to Garissa, VOA said on Nov. 18th.

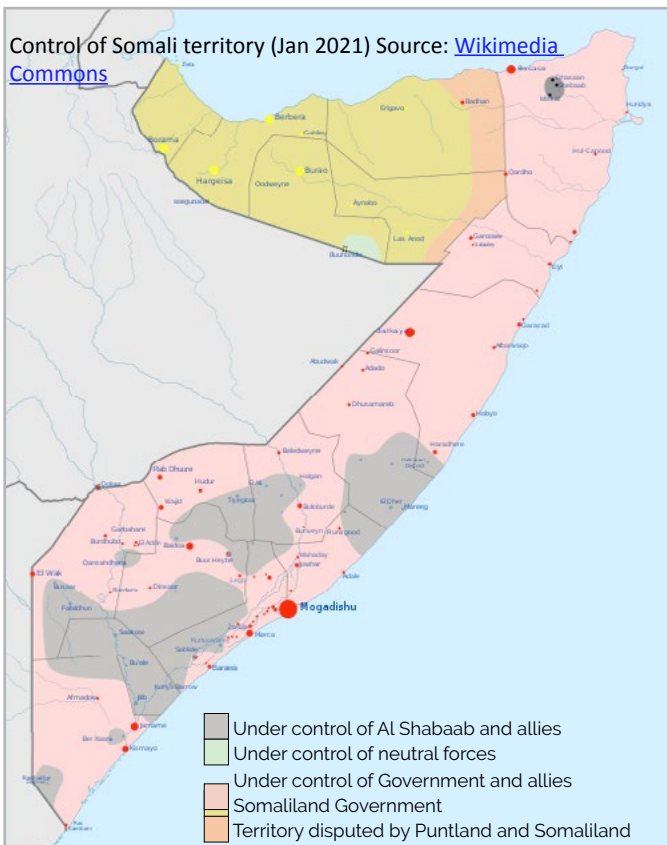
Threat Assessment

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

The Saudi coalition has reported that it had destroyed a further 14 naval mines in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait last week. A statement published by the Saudi Press Agency called the mines "hostile behaviour and a dangerous Houthi escalation." The coalition said that they have now destroyed or made safe 220 naval mines in the Red Sea.

Saudi-led coalition launches air raids on Sanaa

Al Jazeera reported on Nov. 23rd that Saudi coalition planes had launched airstrikes on a number of Houthi targets in Sanaa on Tuesday. Loud explosions had been heard in the city, as Saudi coalition forces said they were attacking legitimate Houthi targets. The airstrikes follow Houthi claims on Saturday that it had launched 14 armed drones against targets in several Saudi cities, as well as facilities operated by Saudi Aramco in Jeddah. It is likely that the coalition will continue to target sites it believes are used in the production and deployment of drones. The coalition said on Monday 22nd that the Houthi militia in Yemen have turned Sanaa airport into a military base for experiments and cross-border attacks, Arab News reported. Video footage released by the coalition showed the Iran-backed Houthis carrying out training exercises on UN planes, with the intent of testing a missile air system.

Displaced Yemenis struggle to access aid as fighting intensifies in Marib

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is gravely concerned about the safety and security of civilians in Yemen's Marib governorate, including more than one million people who are estimated to be displaced. As the frontlines shift closer to densely populated areas, their lives are in danger and access to humanitarian aid is becoming harder, the agency said on Tuesday 23rd.

Yemen's Joint Forces seize control of strategic areas in Hodeidah, Taiz

Arab News reported on Nov. 20th that Yemen's Joint Forces had seized control of strategic areas on the country's west coast in both Hodeidah and Taiz provinces. Hays district in Hodeidah and a road that links Ibb, Taiz and Hodeidah had been secured with the aid of airstrikes, while strategic areas of the highlands were also taken by the Joint Forces. It is believed that the capture of the main transport link to Taiz will cut off Houthi supply routes.

Houthis say nearly 15,000 rebels killed since mid-June

In a rare casualty statement, sources close to the Houthi lead-

ership have reported that almost 15,000 Houthi rebels have been killed in action during the battle for Marib since June, France 24 reported on Nov. 18th. The air strikes launched by the Saudi-led military coalition and the battles have killed nearly 14,700 Huthis since mid-June near Marib," an official at the rebel-run defence ministry told AFP. The figure was confirmed by another Houthi official. It is very rare for Houthis to admit to losses. Military officials working with the Yemen government and Saudi coalition reported that some 1200 of their fighters have been killed in the ongoing battle for Marib.

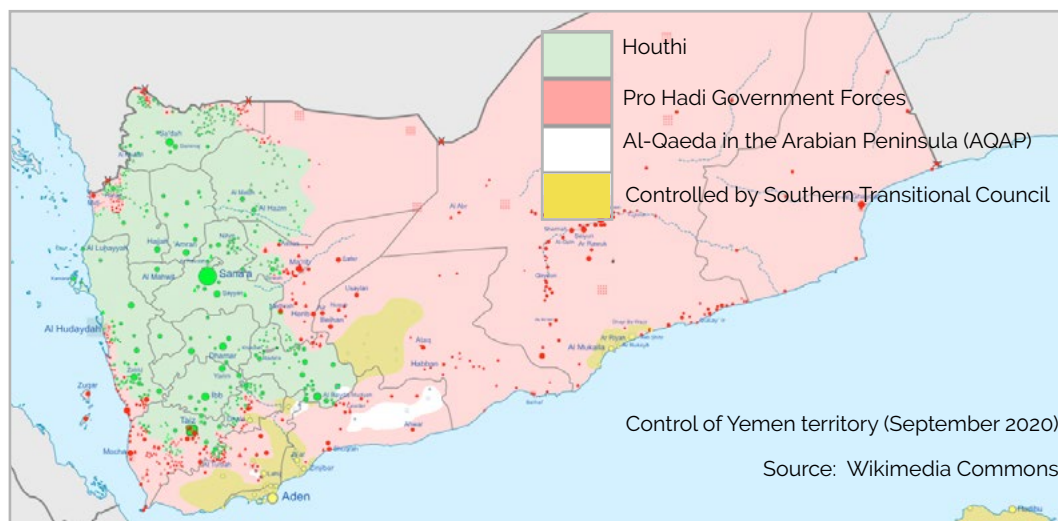
Saudi-led coalition targets Yemen sites after attempted drone attack

Reuters reported on Nov. 18th that Saudi coalition forces conducted an operation against Houthi targets following the interception of a drone which had been targetting Saudi Arabia's Abha airport. The operations were intended to hit Houthi drone operations and took place in Saada, Sanaa, Dhamar and al-Jawf, Reuters said.

UN Says 2 Staffers Detained by Yemen's Houthis

The United Nations said Wednesday that two of its staff members have been held incommunicado for more than a week by Houthi rebels in Yemen, and it called for their immediate release. "The secretary-general is deeply concerned about the arrests and detention of two U.N. staff members in Sanaa by the Houthis earlier this month," Antonio Guterres' spokesman told reporters. "We call for their immediate release," Stephane Dujarric said, VOA reported on Nov. 17th.

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



South East Asia

Al Jazeera reported on Nov. 19th that it is thought that China has funded as many as 300 vessels currently patrolling the South China Sea as part of its maritime militia. A mix of purpose-built patrol vessels and fishing boats make up the fleet, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) claimed. Fishing boats of the 'professional' maritime militia (MMFV) deploy from ports in Hainan and retrofitted fishing boats come from ports in Guangdong, the CSIS said.

Incidents:

1. While underway in position 1:16:33N - 104:13:35E on Nov 22nd at 0033LT, two masked perpetrators with bags were sighted at the stern of the ship. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board was conducted and at 0207 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. All crew was accounted for and the crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen from the ship. Reported (ReCAAP) Nov. 22nd.

ASEAN, China Struggle on South China Sea Code of Conduct

Benar News reported on Nov. 22nd that despite ASEAN members and China marking 30 years of ties between the two, they continue to struggle to reach agreement on a Code of Conduct. A virtual meeting on Monday 22nd saw Philippines' President Duterte issue a rebuke after an incident last week between the Chinese Coast Guard and Filipino supply boats which were blocked from resupplying a Philippine outpost. Despite comments from China's President Xi Jinping suggesting that China would not take advantage of its size to 'bully' smaller countries, the ongoing maritime issues remain high on the regional agenda.

PCG joins Japan Coast Guard in anti-piracy exercise in Sibutu passage

Manilla Bulletin reported on Nov. 21st that Philippine and Japanese Coast Guard vessels had held an anti-piracy exercise in the Sibutu Passage in Tawi-Tawi, a favoured hunting ground for Abu Sayyaf Group kidnapers. The drill featured two PCG ships and two Japanese CG vessels, including a helicopter. The exercise was intended to improve communication and collaboration, as well as discuss best practices.

Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, U.S. join for ANNUALEX 2021

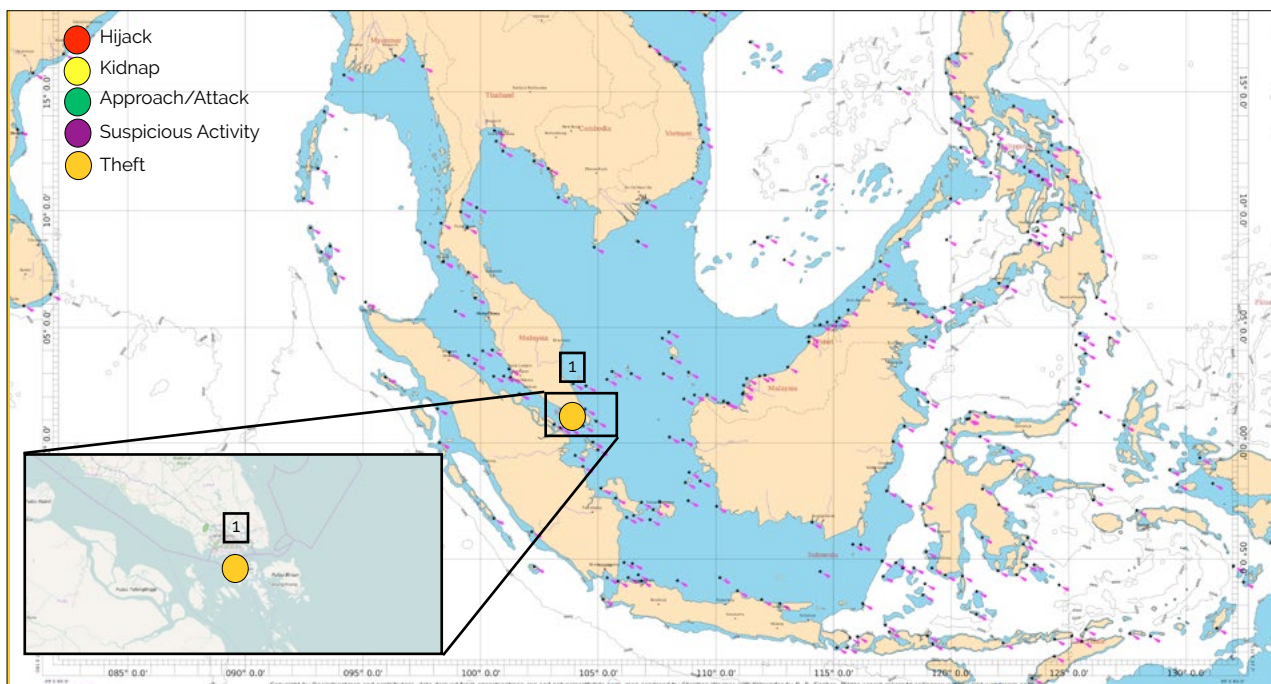
Naval forces from Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan and the U.S. have united to conduct multilateral, multinational exercise ANNUALEX in the Philippine Sea, Nov. 21st-30th. Five international navies, to include the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), German Navy (GMN), Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), and U.S. Navy, will engage in various events to include enhanced maritime communication tactics, anti-submarine warfare operations, air warfare operations, replenishments-at-sea, cross-deck flight operations and maritime interdiction maneuvers.

Abu Sayyaf fighters surrender

The Philippine SunStar reported on Nov 20th that three Abu Sayyaf Group terrorists and one supporter had surrendered to the authorities in Basilan on Thursday 18th. They bring the total of surrendered fighters in the area too 32 so far this year. The men also handed in several weapons as they turned themselves in. The news comes a day after the Philippine Army's 11th Infantry Division announced that it had created another battalion to the region to boost its capacity in the fight against the terror group. The new battalion will undergo training and a deployment date has not yet been set, the SunStar reported.

Philippines to receive new Israeli military systems

The Israeli government has agreed to supply the Philippines with what Defense Post called "sophisticated military technologies", according to a report on Nov. 19th. However, this will not be in the form of armaments or military equipment, the country's ambassador, Ilan Fluss, said.





European Waters

A review into how to prevent migrants crossing the English Channel to the UK is to be led by Cabinet Office minister Stephen Barclay. Mr Barclay will be responsible for exploring what ministerial departments can do in an effort to make the issue more of a priority in government and the civil service, BBC News reported on Nov. 21st.

Migrant crossings: Number reaching UK this year three times 2020's total

The number of migrants to have reached the UK by boat this year is now more than three times the 2020 total. The Home Office said 886 people arrived on Saturday, bringing the 2021 total to more than 25,700. The figure for last year was 8,469. More than 1,000 migrants arrived in one day earlier this month, a new record. While the number coming across the Channel by boat has soared, that is only part of the picture regarding migrants - as this year has seen far fewer using other strategies to enter the country undetected. It means that, overall, the number of people to have claimed asylum in the UK in the year ending June 2021 was 31,115, a 4% fall on the previous 12 months, BBC News reported on Nov. 22nd.

75 migrants feared dead in shipwreck in Central Mediterranean

InfoMigrants reported on Nov. 22nd that it was feared that as many as 75 migrants had died in a shipwreck off the Libyan coast. It is believed that as many as 1200 people have already gone missing this year in the Mediterranean. According to 15 survivors rescued by a fishing boat, the incident took place on Wednesday 17th off Zawara, a popular location for people smugglers to embark migrants. Six bodies have so far been recovered by local Libyan fishing boats.

France rescues nearly 250 migrants in English Channel

Despite worsening sea states and weather conditions, a total of 243 migrants were rescued by French authorities between Nov. 19th-21st, Euronews reported on Nov. 22nd. A number of boats were reported to be in distress on Friday night, and French rescue services were deployed. Operations continued into Saturday evening. The rescued migrants were taken to Boulogne, Dunkirk and Calais and handed over to border police, Euronews reported.

Italian coast guard rescues 420 migrants

The New Arab reported on Nov. 21st that Italian Coast Guard assets had rescued 420 migrants from the Mediterranean in challenging conditions. The operation was conducted in poor sea states and the Coast Guard used a cargo ship as a wind break in order to keep one of the overcrowded migrant boats safe. In another operation, the Italian Coast Guard rescued more than 350 migrants from a fishing boat which had run into difficulties, some 70 miles off the coast of Sicily.

Lebanese Navy Rescues Distressed Boat Carrying Migrants

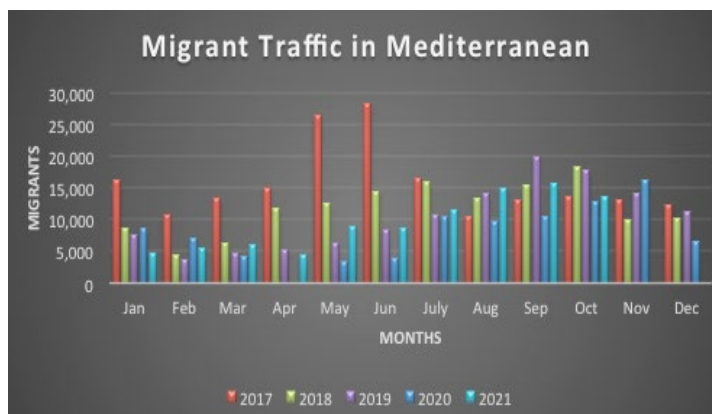
Asharq Al-Awsat reported on Nov. 22nd that the Lebanese Navy had rescued a migrant boat that had left the country on Saturday 20th. While the Prime Minister's office did not reveal the number of migrants on board, it did state that an investigation would be launched into the incident. Smugglers in Lebanon have reportedly been active in the country, selling passage to Europe for thousands of dollars per person. Asharq Al-Awsat also reported that a raid by Lebanese security forces on Friday disrupted a human trafficking operation in the town of Qalamoun to smuggle 82 more migrants to Europe by sea.

More than 59,000 migrants landed on Italian coasts in 2021

To highlight the scale of the migrant problem facing littoral EU State, Italy has reported that more than 59,000 migrants have arrived in Italy so far in 2021 via the Mediterranean. The figure was provided by Italian Interior Minister, Lucia Lamorgese, InfoMigrants reported on Nov. 19th. Lamorgese stressed that she wanted more support for migrant reception from the European Union (EU) and its member countries. She specifically called on the EU to make deals with North African countries that are departure points for migrants, "starting with Libya and Tunisia."

10 bodies found and 99 rescued by Geo Barents in Mediterranean

InfoMigrants reported on Nov. 17th that the NGO rescue vessel, Geo Barents, operated by MSF, had rescued 99 migrants from a vessel in the Mediterranean. Tragically, the rescuers also found 10 dead bodies at the bottom of the packed migrant boat. The youngest to be rescued was a 10-month old child. "Last night, the Geo Barents carried out its third rescue in less than 24 hours," stated Dr. Claudia Lodesani, president of Doctors without Borders (MSF) Italy in a video statement released by the organization. "99 people have been rescued, and unfortunately we found 10 dead at the bottom of the boat," Lodesani continued.



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

Despite worsening weather conditions, migrants continue to cross the English Channel in relatively large numbers, vexing the UK government and French authorities attempting to prevent the crossings. The Mediterranean, too, continues to see very large numbers cross, along with tragic loss of life. As sea states worsen, it would be hoped that trafficking gangs would begin to wind down operations. However, this does not seem to be the case so far, and regional States and NGOs continue rescue operations as well as the grim task of recovering bodies. Once again, there has been no political improvement in the situation to report this week.

Libya

The ambassadors of the US, UK, France and Italy met with presidential hopefuls in Tripoli, the Libyan Observer reported on Nov. 17th. The US embassy commented on the meeting and said that it came in the wake of the Paris Conference on Libya to focus on the approaching elections set for December 24, reiterating that the presidential elections will be the first in Libya's history.

TotalEnergies signs deals with Libya

EnergyCapital & Power reported on Nov. 22nd that TotalEnergies had signed two different agreements with the Libyan government at the the Libya Energy and Economic Summit in Tripoli on Monday. TotalEnergies is a renewable energy company and hope to consolidate their position in Libya's renewables market with new solar power developments in the country. While Libya continues to rely on the income from its oil production, it is extremely well placed to make use of renewable resources.

Libyan, Turkish military officials discuss means for developing cooperation

Representatives of the Libyan Army's training department met with Turkish officials and toured several Turkish military education institutions last week, according to the Libya Observer. The group discussed the mechanism of joint Libyan-Turkish military cooperation and means to develop the ties in the training and rehabilitation field, as well as receiving an advanced intelligence course at one of the institutions, the paper wrote on Nov. 22nd.

Libya's interim leader to run for president despite pledging not to

Despite suggesting that he wouldn't run for president, interim prime minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, has announced his candidacy for the role, the UK's Guardian reported on Nov. 22nd. This brings the total number of candidates running for the office to a rather incredible 65. Given his success as prime minister, Dbeibah is well placed in the race and the Guardian say that his efforts in the role have created a network of patronage which he use as support for his election run.

Turkey repatriates seven citizens held in eastern Libya

A group of seven men, held in eastern Libya for two years on 'baseless charges', have been released and returned to Turkey, Hurriyetdailynews reported on Nov. 22nd. The men had been working in restaurants and bakeries at the time of their arrest, Turkish media reported. Their release came after negotiations by the National Intelligence Organisation and Qatar

Intelligence Agency, the newspaper reported.

Leila ben Khalifa becomes first woman to run for Libyan presidency

The Jerusalem Post reported on Nov. 22nd that Leila ben Khalifa, who runs the National Movement Party, had become the first woman to run in the country's presidential elections, after submitting her application on Monday. Khalifa has pushed the current administration to include more women in government, aiming for 30 per cent of ministerial positions to be staffed by women, the paper reported.

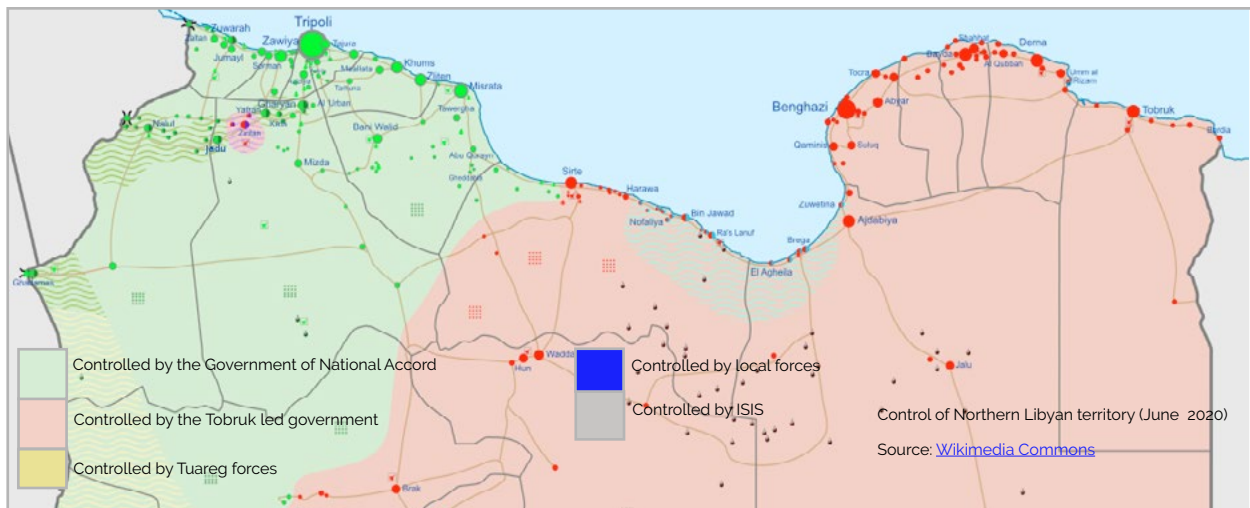
234,000 doses of Pfizer Coronavirus vaccine arrived in Libya

The Libya Observer reported on Nov. 22nd that another consignment of Pfizer Covid vaccines had arrived in the country. The Director of the Information Office at the Drug and Food Control Center, Mohamed Al-Zayat, reported that 234,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine have arrived in the country, donated by the USA via the WHO.

Turkey Sends More Syrian Mercenaries to Libya

Asharq AL-Awsat has claimed in a report on Nov. 20th that Turkey has sent additional Syrian mercenaries to Libya, despite demands from the international community for foreign fighters to be withdrawn from the country before presidential elections in December. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said 150 mercenaries from the pro-Ankara Libyan National Army, including al-Majd Corps, Sultan Murad and al-Hamza Divisions, arrived in Tripoli on Friday, the media outlet reported.

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





Central and South America

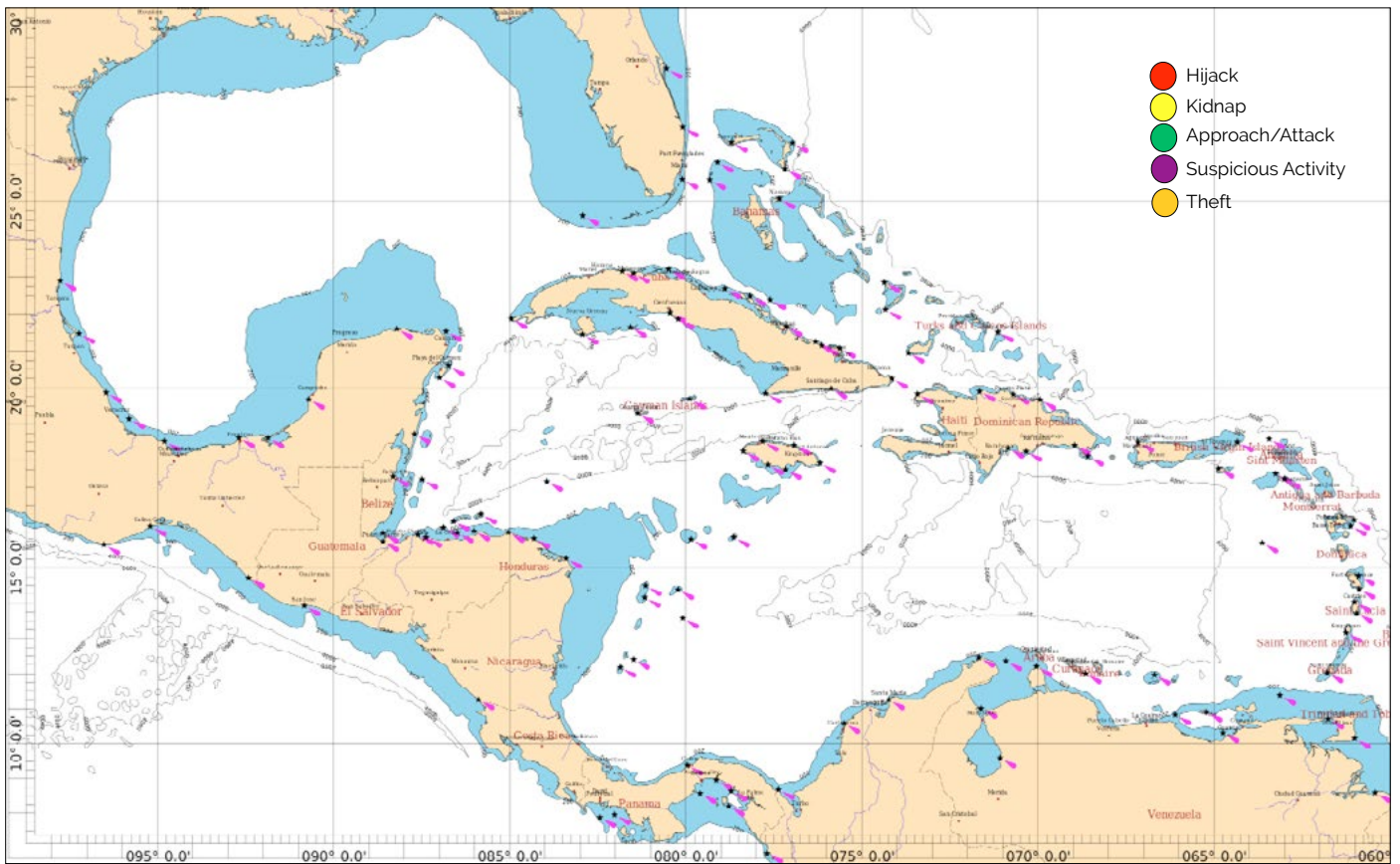
Nothing significant to report.

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.

ON
ON
ON
ON

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