

# Weekly Security & Risk Report

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T +44 (0) 1279 216726    E [operations@mast-security.com](mailto:operations@mast-security.com)    W [mast-security.com](http://mast-security.com)

Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd Thremhall Park, Start Hill, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM22 7WE

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Issue 310 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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This Intelligence Report Series is a brief snapshot of MAST's Intelligence capabilities. MAST Intelligence specialises in providing clients with a suite of products and services, including; political and economic risk analysis, detailed port and vessel security briefs, vessel passage plans, threat and risk mitigation and travel risk management.

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

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Editor: David Rider  
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# Gulf of Guinea

As part of the ongoing bilateral relationship between the two countries, French Ambassador, Her Excellency, Mrs Emmanuelle Blatmann, recently visited the Western Naval Command (WNC) and commended them on their maritime security work on the Gulf of Guinea, the Nigerian Navy said on Dec. 6th. She also said the French President considers the purchase of OCEA ships from France as a trust that the Nigerian government repose in her country.

## Incidents:

**1. Late report:** On Nov. 26th, MV reported a vessel closing on its position in 03°02N – 002°31W at 1855 UTC. MV increased speed and vessel continued to pursue for one hour before aborting. Reported by MDAT-GoG.

## Navy arrests suspected oil thieves and pipeline vandals

Nigerian Navy Forward Operating Base in Ibaka, has reported that it has arrested 35 men suspected of oil theft and pipeline vandalism. The men were arrested alongside 408 drums of illegally refined automotive gas oil (AGO), by personnel from NNS Thunder during a patrol on Nov. 26th, Nigerian media reported. Three wooden boats used in the transportation of illegal oil were also impounded by the Navy during the incident. The Commanding Officer, FOB, Mohammed Abu, told reporters: "This arrest is to send a message to those vandals of our crude oil pipelines that the CNS has zero-tolerance for crude oil theft and our ships are out there looking for them and we will arrest them until they are out of our maritime domain."

## European Shipowners Urge More Support for Ships in the Gulf of Guinea

The European Community Shipowners' Association has said that the latest incident in the Gulf of Guinea involving a Danish naval vessel has highlighted the need for more action in the region to combat piracy and maritime crime. In a statement, they said: European shipowners are extremely concerned about piracy attacks in the Gulf of Guinea. The latest incident in South Nigeria, which involved a suspected pirate vessel and Danish Frigate Esben Snare and resulted in loss of life, only serves to further highlight the severity of the piracy threat in the Gulf of Guinea. "The situation in the Gulf of Guinea has been a top priority for the European shipping industry in the past years. The number of piracy incidents and level of violence cause great concerns for commercial shipping and for the safety and security of seafarers sailing in the area", stated ECSA's President Claes Berglund.

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## BIMCO issues new contract for security escort vessels

BIMCO has released a new contract for security escort vessels (SEVs). "The escort vessel's capabilities, and what should happen if the vessel does not arrive at the rendezvous point as agreed, are key issues for shipowners and operators trading in high threat areas. SEV-GUARDCON addresses these and other aspects to consider when transiting areas such as the Gulf of Guinea," says Dan Carr, Deputy General Counsel, Stolt-Nielsen, who chaired the work of the project team.

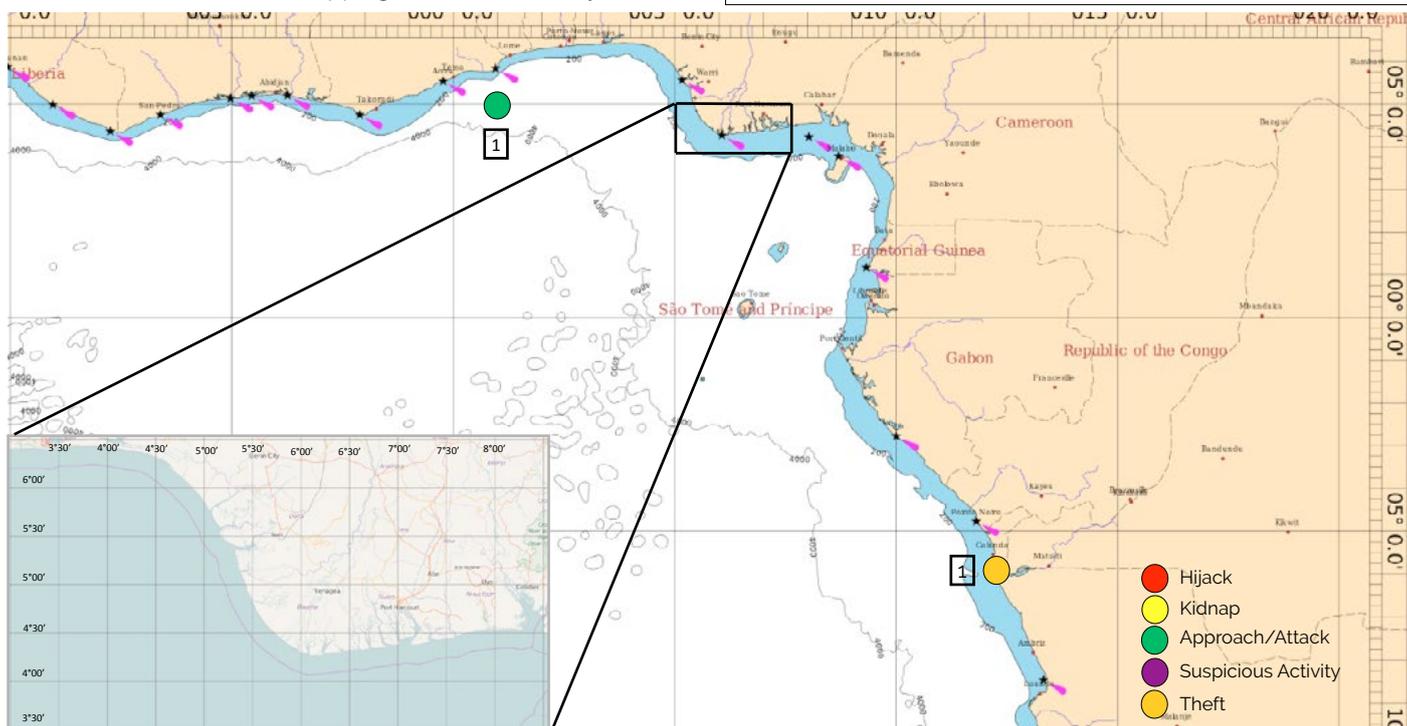
For further information and to see MAST Services in the region, [please click here](#).

## Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures:

**2021:**  
 Incidents reported: 49 (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

The UN Security Council on Friday Dec. 3rd adopted a resolution to combat the continuing threat of piracy off the coast of Somalia, as shipping and protection measures to keep vessels safe, have returned to levels not seen since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Although piracy off the coast of Somalia has been "repressed", the ongoing threat of resurgence remains. As such, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2608, which, among other things, condemns piracy and armed robbery at sea off the Somali coast, underscoring that it exacerbates instability by introducing "illicit cash that fuels crime, corruption and terrorism".

**Incidents: Nothing significant to report.**

## Iranian Navy vessel under construction capsizes

The Jerusalem Post reported on Dec. 6th that a ship under construction at Iran's Bandar Abbas dry dock capsized, possibly killing one worker. The ship, called the Talayieh, was filmed on her side, with several people seen hanging on to the side of the vessel. The report and video footage have not been confirmed by Iran.

## Pakistani Naval Fleet docks at Iranian Port

Three Pakistani warships berthed at Iran's southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Sunday for a visit aimed at strengthening military diplomacy between the two neighbors and holding a joint exercise. The Pakistani flotilla, comprising three combat vessels, received an official welcome from the Iranian naval forces, Tasnim News reported on Dec. 5th. They are also planned to pay a visit to the Iranian island of Qeshm and hold a joint naval exercise with the Iranian units.

## 'Strange' vessel seized in Mozambique

Mozambique's authorities have seized what has been described as a "strange" foreign-flagged fishing vessel in the northern coastal district of Pemba, where a multi-billion dollar natural gas extraction platform is to be set up. Investigations were taking place into whether the crew were fishermen or whether they had other motives. The vessel was flying the flag of Seychelles. Following the seizure of the vessel, the region's Governor, Valige Tauabo, urged people to be more vigilant to prevent militant attacks, piracy and illegal fishing, BBC News reported on Dec. 2nd.

## European Union maintaining uneasy maritime relationship with China, Admiral Says

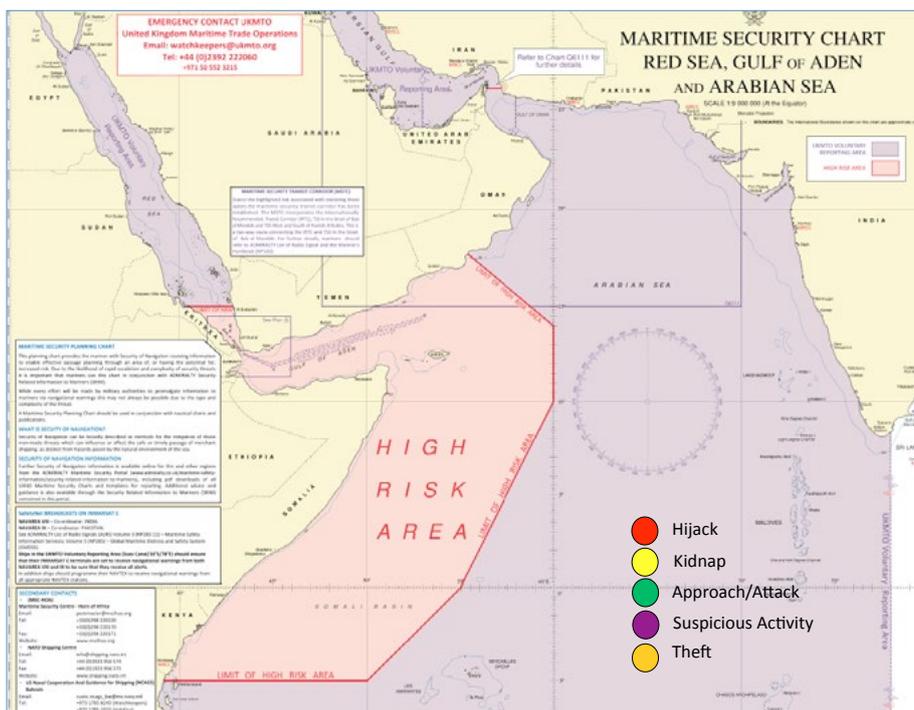
When the European Union assesses China's behavior in the South China Sea, the 27 nations see a threat to their security, but they also view Beijing as a partner to combat Indian Ocean pirates, the director general of its military staff said on Thursday Dec. 2nd. Vice Adm. Hervé Bléjean, speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said cooperation among EU nations in policing for piracy in the Indian Ocean is "working pretty well" as member nations have stepped up their naval presence in the Gulf of Guinea, USNI News reported on Dec. 3rd. He said in both the Indian Ocean's anti-piracy patrols and expanded operations in the Pacific there needed to be more cooperation on missions and aims.

## East African Standby Force director visits President of Seychelles

The possible maritime security assistance to Seychelles by the East African Standby Force (EASF) was one of the areas discussed between the director of the force and President Wavel Ramkalawan on Thursday. The EASF Director, Brigadier General Getachew Shiferaw Fayisa, paid a courtesy visit to the President at State House. "We updated the President on areas that EASF needs cooperation. We also updated him on how to strengthen the regional security," Fayisa told Seychelles News Agency on Dec. 2nd.

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

A roadside bomb exploded on Thursday Dec. 2nd just outside Kismayo, Anadolu News Agency reported, killing at least four. The explosion hit a vehicle transporting water to drought-hit areas and is believed to have been carried out by Al Shabaab. The incident took place shortly after an attack by Al Shabaab on Djiboutian forces at a nearby military installation.

## China donates Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines to Somalia

Xinhau reported on Dec. 6th that China has sent 500,000 doses of its Sinopharm Covid-19 vaccine to Somalia. Chinese Ambassador to Somalia Fei Shengchao said the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines demonstrates China's commitment to honoring its pledge with actions and protecting the lives and health of the Somali people. "It speaks to China's commitment to putting people and their lives first, and closing the immunization gap in Somalia," Fei said in Mogadishu.

## Al Shabaab attacks police in Kenya

Critical Threats reported on Dec. 6th that Al Shabaab terrorists had attacked a Kenyan police vehicle on Dec. 5th near Mandera, NE Kenya. They killed at least two officers and wounded a further 10, the site reported. Kenya has deployed hundreds of soldiers to the region in an attempt to find the perpetrators.

## U.N. seeks urgent funding to mitigate worsening drought

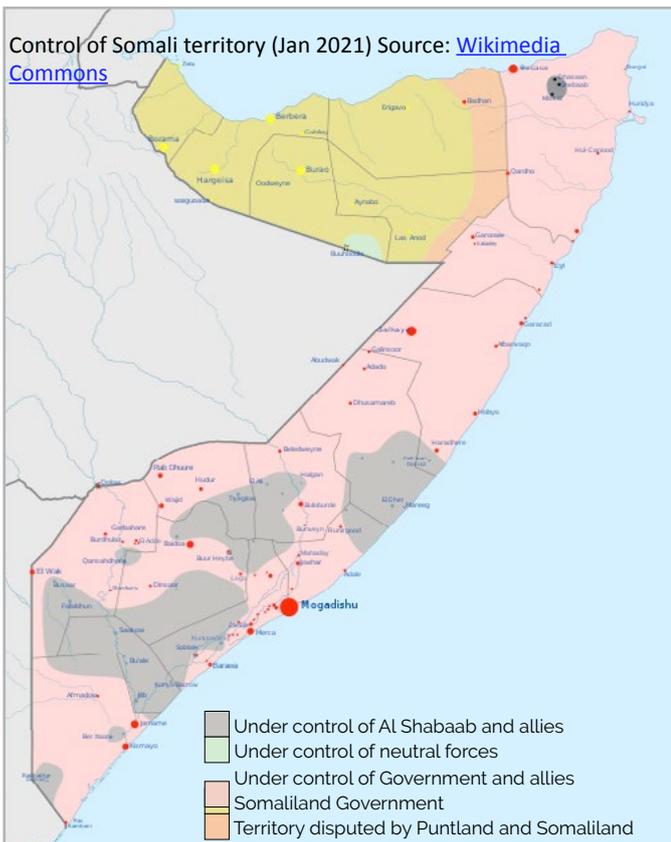
The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) said the UN Central Emergency Response Fund has released 8 million U.S. dollars and the Somalia Humanitarian Fund allocated 6 million dollars to respond in the hardest-hit districts, following the latest drought update released on Thursday Dec. 2nd. "Without a scale-up of humanitarian assistance, some 3.8 million Somalis are estimated to face acute food insecurity through January, rising to 4.6 million people by May," said the UNOCHA, in a report by CGTN on Dec. 4th.

## Election Rocked With Claims of Rigging

There are claims of rigging in the Somali election process, after the former speaker of the Somali Lower House was unable to defend his seat. The East African reported on Dec. 3rd that he had apparently been left off the list. The Federal Electoral Implementation Team (FEIT) ordered that the vote be delayed while it was investigated, but the local authorities ignored the call and held the vote. Later, a group of opposition hopefuls known as the Council of Presidential Candidates (CPC) issued a statement rejecting the election.

## AMISOM hands over new police station and other key projects to boost policing in Jubaland State

A newly-constructed police station at Kismayo seaport has been handed over to Jubaland State authorities, the Horn Observer reported on Dec. 3rd. Additionally, a new solar power system and well have been created at another police station in the city by AMISOM. The handover of the projects was attended by AMISOM Sector six Commander, Brigadier General, Abebaw Seid Yimer; Jubaland Minister of Security, Yussuf Dhumaal and Jubaland State Police Commander, Major General Mohamed Abdi Sheikh among others.



## 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

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman rejected as unfounded a claim that an attack by the Saudi-led coalition has hit an Iranian secret military position in the Yemeni capital Sana'a, stressing that Iran has no military presence in Yemen. Saeed Khatibzadeh said Iran has no military links with Yemen whatsoever. Iran has never had any military presence in Yemen to be hit by the invaders, he said, adding that such allegations are aimed at deflecting attention away from the crimes committed by the Riyadh-led aggression coalition, Tasnim News wrote on Dec. 2nd.

### Saudi strikes Sanaa after Yemen Houthis fire missile: Official media

Coalition forces said on Tuesday 7th that they had launched air-strikes on the night of Monday 6th, aimed at taking out Houthi missile sites. The move follows the launch of several ballistic missiles by Houthi forces on Monday, which were aimed at civilian sites in Saudi Arabia's capital. "We have destroyed sites in Sanaa linked to ballistic missiles and drones," the official Saudi news agency SPA tweeted.

### Saudi defenses destroy several drones

Saudi coalition forces said they had destroyed several drones targeting Saudi Arabia on Monday 6th. The news follows similar action on Sunday, where four drones deployed from Yemen were destroyed before they could cross the border and hit their targets. The Arab Parliament denounced the attacks and said they constitute a clear violation of the Stockholm Agreement, which stipulates a cease-fire.

### Four Houthi missiles hit densely populated Marib city

Arab News reported on Dec. 5th that at least three civilians were wounded when Houthi forces fired missiles which landed in residential areas of the city of Marib. Large explosions rocked the city as the Houthis fired on the airport, Al-Shareka and Rawdha neighbourhoods. Yemen's Information Minister called on the UN and the US Yemen envoys to condemn the Houthi missile attacks and to designate the Houthi movement as a terrorist organization, Arab News said.

### Coalition airstrikes target Houthi positions in Sana'a

Critical Threats reported on Dec. 3rd that Saudi coalition forces had conducted a series of airstrikes in the country, targeting Houthi positions and facilities. The first was designed to degrade Houthi weapons depots and warehousing, while another hit Houthi weapons in transit from Sana'a's International Airport, the report stated.

### Demining crews make safe devices found on agricultural land

AsumeTech reported on Dec. 4th that a joint forces engineer-

ing crew had been working at a farm in the Hays district of Hodeidah governate, after a number of Houthi mines were discovered. Around 40 mines were recovered and made safe in Al-Bayl, allowing locals to go back to working in the fields. Why Houthi rebels have been planting lethal ordnance in civilian fields remains unexplained.

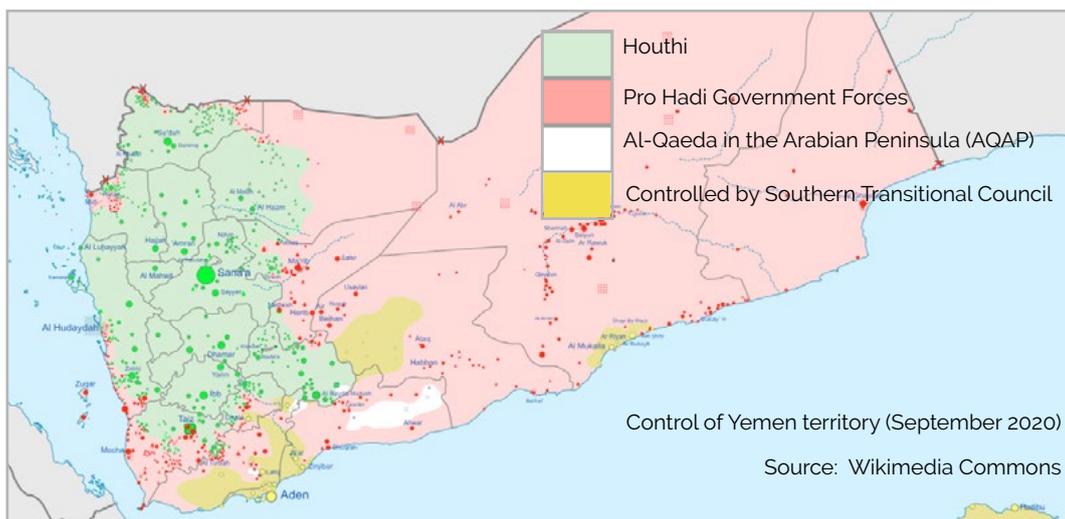
### Groups call on UN to investigate atrocities in Yemen

The Jurist reported on Dec. 4th that over 60 civil organisations had called on the UN to create an investigative panel to look into claims of atrocities committed in Yemen since the beginning of the conflict there. The groups include Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and have said that until October 2021, UN Human Rights Council's Group of Eminent Experts (GEE) had been documenting crimes being committed in the war-torn country but no longer do. They have called upon a new instrument to investigate potential atrocities.

### UNHCR Yemen Operational Update, covering the Period 23 November - 4 December 2021

UNHCR is gravely concerned about the safety and security of civilians in Marib. As the frontlines shift closer to densely populated areas, the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals are in danger and access to humanitarian aid is becoming harder. Half of the total 120,000 individuals who were forced to flee their homes this year were located in Marib. New displacement is exacerbating the existing humanitarian needs, drastically increasing the need for shelter, essential household items, water and sanitation, education and protection services.

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



## South East Asia

ASEAN nations have completed a naval exercise with Russia, the media reported on Dec. 4th. The three-day drill took place off Sumatra, and was intended to improve interoperability and cooperation between Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and Russian military forces, media stated. Eight warships and four aircraft took part in the exercises.

### Incidents:

1. Underway Turkey-flagged bulk carrier noticed a boat flashing a light towards the bridge at 1230 UTC in position 01:03N - 103:37.79E, Malacca Strait. As the ship altered course, the boat followed and continued to flash the light. Alert crew noticed another boat approaching from the quarter and attempting to board using hooks attached with ropes. Master raised the alarm and crew mustered on the poop deck, resulting in the persons aborting the attempted boarding. Incident reported to Singapore VTIS. Reported (IMB) 2nd Dec.
2. Two persons boarded a bulk carrier underway at 1638 UTC in position 01:14.38N - 104:02.74E, Singapore Straits. Alarm raised and crew mustered resulting in the persons escaping. All crew safe. Nothing reported stolen. Incident reported Singapore VTIS. Reported (IMB) 30th Nov.
3. Four robbers boarded underway bulk carrier and escaped with stolen engine spares at 2000 UTC in position 01:14.6N - 104:01.7E, Singapore Straits. All crew reported safe. Reported (IMB) 28th Nov.

### 15 crew members rescued from boat that caught fire off Basilan – PCG

15 crew onboard a motor launch were rescued by PCG personnel after their vessel caught fire, Philippine media reported on Tuesday 7th Dec. The boat, loaded with hardware materials and groceries, was heading to Bongao, Tawi-Tawi from Cawit, Zamboanga City when a short circuit occurred that eventually caused fire onboard. The PCG said it launched firefighting and search and rescue (SAR) operations together with the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO).

### Community outreach approach to thwart smuggling activities

The MMEA is focusing on community cooperation as part of

its ongoing efforts to police smuggling operations in Johor waters, Malaysian media reported on Dec. 7th. As Covid measures ease and trade returns to the region, Maritime Admiral Datuk Mohd Zubil Mat Som said that the agency was engaged in community outreach with locals in the area, while also distributing food hampers and medical assistance to locals.

### Philippine Maritime Zones Act passes

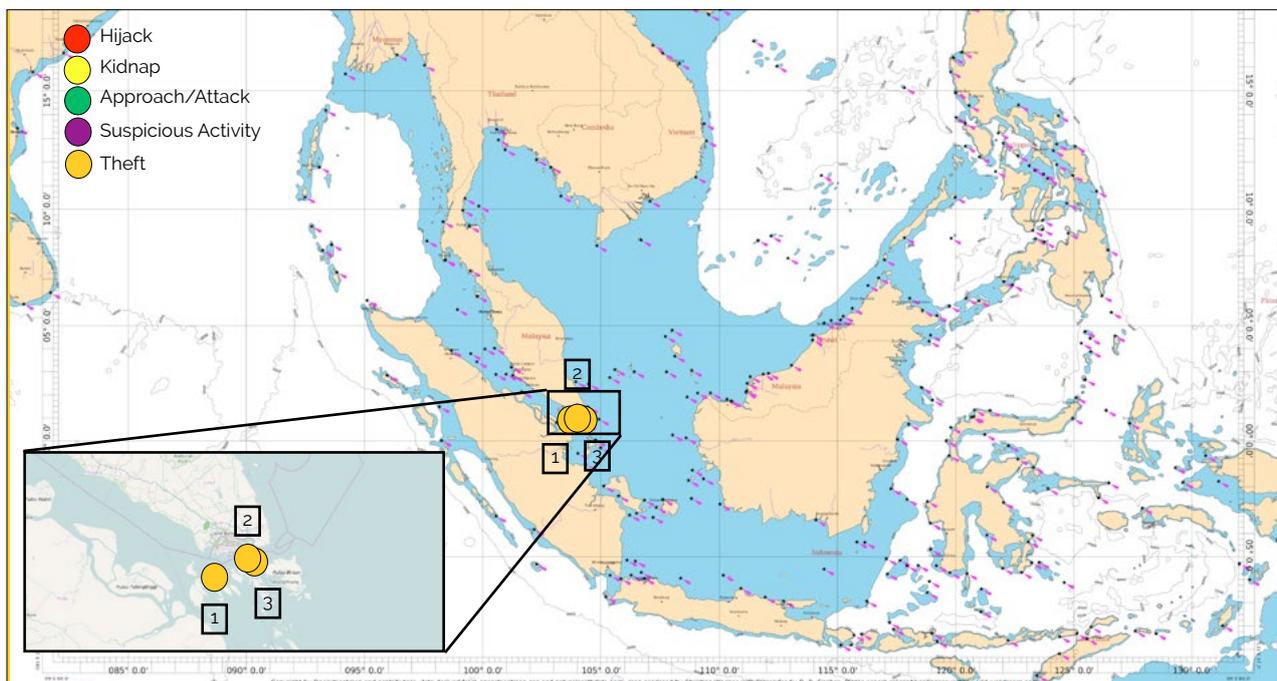
Maritime experts have welcomed passage of the Philippines' Maritime Zones Act, which establishes the legal basis for maritime activity in the country's waters. The bill was reportedly needed as the country's maritime laws are outdated. If passed into law, the bill will assist with enforcement measures in the country's waters.

### Singapore arrests Indonesian tug used for smuggling

A hatch hidden beneath a cabinet was the doorway to a trove of smuggled cigarettes for Singapore security forces on Nov. 25th, The Straits Times reported on Dec. 3rd. Over 1500 cartons of smuggled cigarettes were found onboard the Indonesian-registered Maju Daya 87 when it was stopped in Singapore waters as part of a multi-agency operation into maritime crime. Eight Indonesians were arrested and charged, the paper reported. The value of customs duty evaded was estimated at \$207,820.

### First Berths at Singapore's Gigantic Tuas Port Set Enter Service

Maritime Executive reported on Dec. 3rd that the first two berths at Tuas Port will begin operations this month. Work on the first phase of the \$20 billion facility is complete, and will boost Singapore's position as a hub. When the facility is finished, it will feature 21 deep-water berths and a 20 million TEU annual capacity.





## European Waters

An official appointed to prevent migrants crossing the English Channel says an offer to put UK officers on French beaches "remains on the table". French Prime Minister Jean Castex said on Thursday it "cannot accept" the presence of UK police or soldiers. However Clandestine Channel Threat Commander Dan O'Mahoney said the offer stood, because his priority was to save the lives of "terrified" migrants. BBC News reported on Dec. 4th.

### France rejects British idea of joint border controls amid Channel migrant crisis

Jean Castex, French Prime Minister, has rejected the idea of joint border patrols, AFP reported, and told his UK counterpart, Boris Johnson, that the UK held, "a large part of the solution" to the Channel migrant issue. In a letter sent to the UK Prime Minister, Castex set out France's suggestions for stemming the migrant flow across the Channel, but turned down the idea of UK forces joining French police and border personnel on the French coast, due to issues around sovereignty.

### Frontex plane to monitor English Channel migrant crossings

The first Frontex maritime surveillance aircraft landed at Lille airport last Thursday, ready to be deployed over the Channel to monitor and report on small boat crossings. Global Times reported on Dec. 3rd. French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said that "this European plane will help the French, Dutch and Belgian police day and night." The Danish-supplied plane can be supplemented by additional air assets if required, Frontex director, Fabrice Leggeri said in a statement. Darmanin has said that France will double the number of police and gendarmerie forces charged with dealing with illegal immigration and announced regional offices to dismantle networks of people smugglers.

### Channel shipwreck: France launches appeal to identify victims

InfoMigrants reported on Dec. 3rd that France has appealed for help to collect "any information likely to help identify" the migrants who died in the shipwreck that occurred on November 24 in the English Channel. The statement was released by the prosecutor of the Paris Republic, Laure Beccuau. Several Afghan families have already come forward to identify relatives they believe died in the shipwreck, they reported. Only two migrants survived the shipwreck, a Somali and an Iraqi Kurd. Both have been issued a temporary residence permit for six months in France, according to the authorities. They are "being accommodated by the state in reception and examination centers", said the state services on Thursday.

### Around 100 migrants rescued from Channel

The Mirror newspaper reported on Dec. 4th that RNLI rescuers saved around 100 migrants in four flimsy dinghies in the English Channel overnight on Dec. 3rd. It is thought they boarded the dangerous craft at Gravelines, south of Dunkirk, before attempting to cross the Channel. One lifeboat was deployed but quickly filled by rescued people, so a Border Force vessel joined the rescue operation. One seven-metre vessel used by the migrants had at least 50 people onboard, the paper reported. Babies and young children were among those rescued.

### UK plans to process migrant claims offshore risks "British Guantanamo Bay"

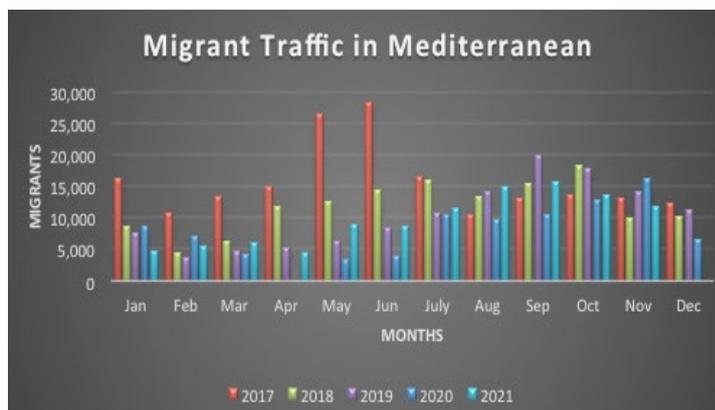
Former government minister, David Davis, has warned the government that their plans to move asylum seekers and migrants to facilities in other countries for processing risks creating a "British Guantanamo Bay". Davis described UK Home Secretary Priti Patel's plans as deeply flawed, noting that the Home Office is unable to explain where its widely criticized offshore asylum processing facilities would even be located, Arab News reported on Dec. 6th.

### UK 'push-back' policy under focus

The UK government is still under pressure to ditch its plans to 'push back' migrant boats in the English Channel, Courthouse News Service reported on Dec. 4th. The plans have come under additional scrutiny following the tragedy in the Channel, which saw 27 people lose their lives. The IMO believes that 35 people have drowned in the Channel so far in 2021.

### Two migrants drown off Greek island Kos

The Greek coast guard confirmed that two migrants drowned when a speedboat overturned near the Greek island of Kos on Friday morning, InfoMigrants reported on Dec. 3rd. Three men were rescued from the vessel, which had overturned in high waves, AFP said. According to the UN migration agency's Missing Migrants project, at least 1,780 people have died in the eastern Mediterranean route since 2014, many of them were headed towards Greece at the time.



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

### The current migrant smuggling situation

UNHCR figures show that since July, crossing numbers for the Mediterranean have all been in the tens of thousands, with November's figure now 13,419. September saw the largest number, with some 15,655 people crossing. The concerns regarding large numbers crossing as weather conditions deteriorate are clear, but there seems to be no slowing down at the time of writing. It is not known whether people smugglers are increasing efforts as the Libyan election approaches, perhaps concerned that a new regime could clamp down on their activities. That will only become clear in the new year.

# Libya

A court in Libya has ruled that Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, the son of the late leader Muammar Gaddafi, can stand as a candidate in the country's presidential elections, Middle East Monitor reported on Dec. 6th. The court rejected an appeal by the Libyan High National Election Commission, despite Gaddafi's status as a wanted person by the International Criminal Court for 'crimes against humanity'.

## Tripoli Appeals Court reinstates Haftar as presidential candidate

After a court in Al-Zawiya ruled him out of the election process, Khalifa Haftar has been handed a lifeline by Tripoli Appeals Court, which has rejected that appeal and ruled that he can stand in the country's presidential elections later this month, the Libya Observer reported on Dec. 6th. The decision of the Supreme Judicial Council to allow appeals only in the area of candidates was criticized because motions wouldn't be easy to lodge in courts where certain candidates, like Haftar in Benghazi, registered.

## Libyan Interior Ministry increases security cooperation with Interpol

Libya's Ministry of the Interior has held discussions with representatives of Interpol in Lyon, France, 218News reported on Dec. 6th. The potential for training and exchanges were discussed, and the ministry confirmed the continuation of security cooperation with the International Police, and the agreement to establish a mechanism for building police capabilities and logistical support.

## Stephanie Williams appointed UN special adviser on Libya

Former acting head of the UN Support Mission in Libya, Stephanie Williams, has been made a special adviser on the country by UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, Madamasr reported on Dec. 6th. The new role comes after Russia opposed her becoming the permanent role of leading UNSMIL, the media outlet reported. Ghassan Salamé, who stepped down from heading the UNSMIL in March 2020, congratulated Williams on the new appointment on Monday night.

## Italy welcomes decision to deploy European monitors of Libya elections

Italy has welcomed reports that Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union's Foreign Policy, is to deploy monitors to oversee the election process in Libya on Dec. 24th. Italian Foreign Minister, Luigi di Maio, said the European decision was a sign of the commitment of the EU toward Libya.

## HoR to convene on Tuesday to review electoral process

The presidency of the House of Representatives (HoR) called in a statement on HoR members to convene on Tuesday in Tobruk to discuss the latest developments in the electoral process, the Libya Observer said on Dec. 6th. More than 70 members expressed concern on Sunday in a statement in which they said they wished to address accusations of forgery and possible violations of Libya's election laws. The Head of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) Emad Al-Sayeh told Bawabat AL-Waset website that he would attend the HoR session in Tobruk to review the electoral process.

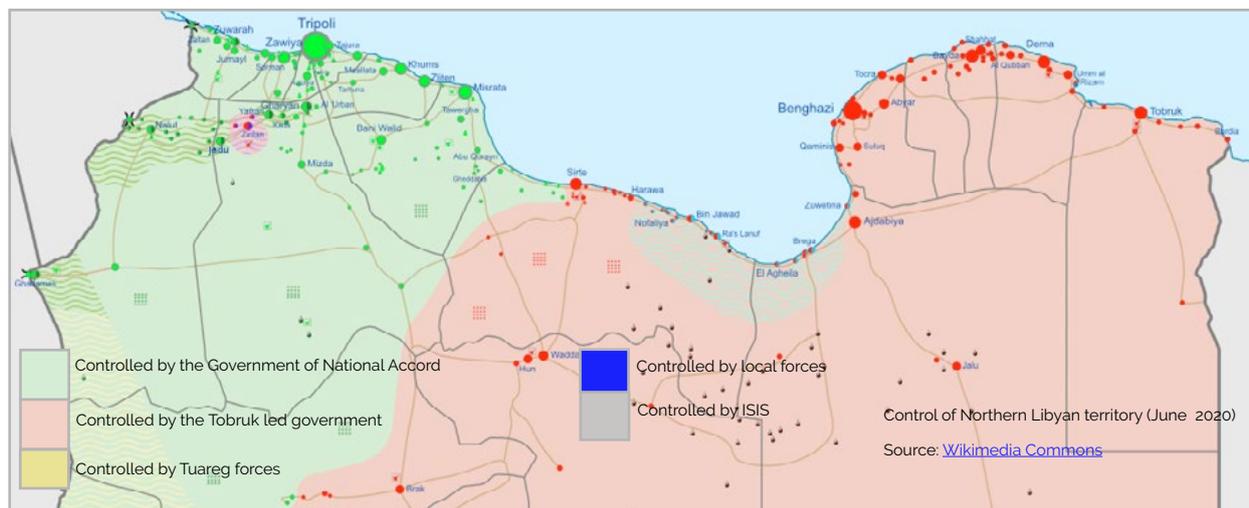
## Mabruk oilfield to resume production at Q1/2023, NOC says

The National Oil Company of Libya has stated that Mabruk oilfield is expected to resume production in Q1 of 2023, with output expected to be at around 25,000 barrels per day, DeviDiscourse wrote on Dec. 6th. The field has been offline since 2014. In related news, the NOC is discussing potential ways to develop the sector in association with Halliburton, as part of a digital transformation for the country's oil sector.

## EU 'complicit' in secretive Libyan prison and shadow immigration systems

The New Yorker has conducted an investigation into 'migrant centres' and secretive prisons in Libya, to highlight the awful situation migrants find themselves in within Libya. Heavily guarded by armed militia, migrants are detained without charge in the country and denied access to legal representation, by the 'Public Security Agency'. At least 1500 people are believed to be held in this manner, The Shift wrote on Dec. 3rd.

To read MAST's Libyan Country report on MASTOPEDIA, please click here.





# Central and South America

Nothing significant to report.

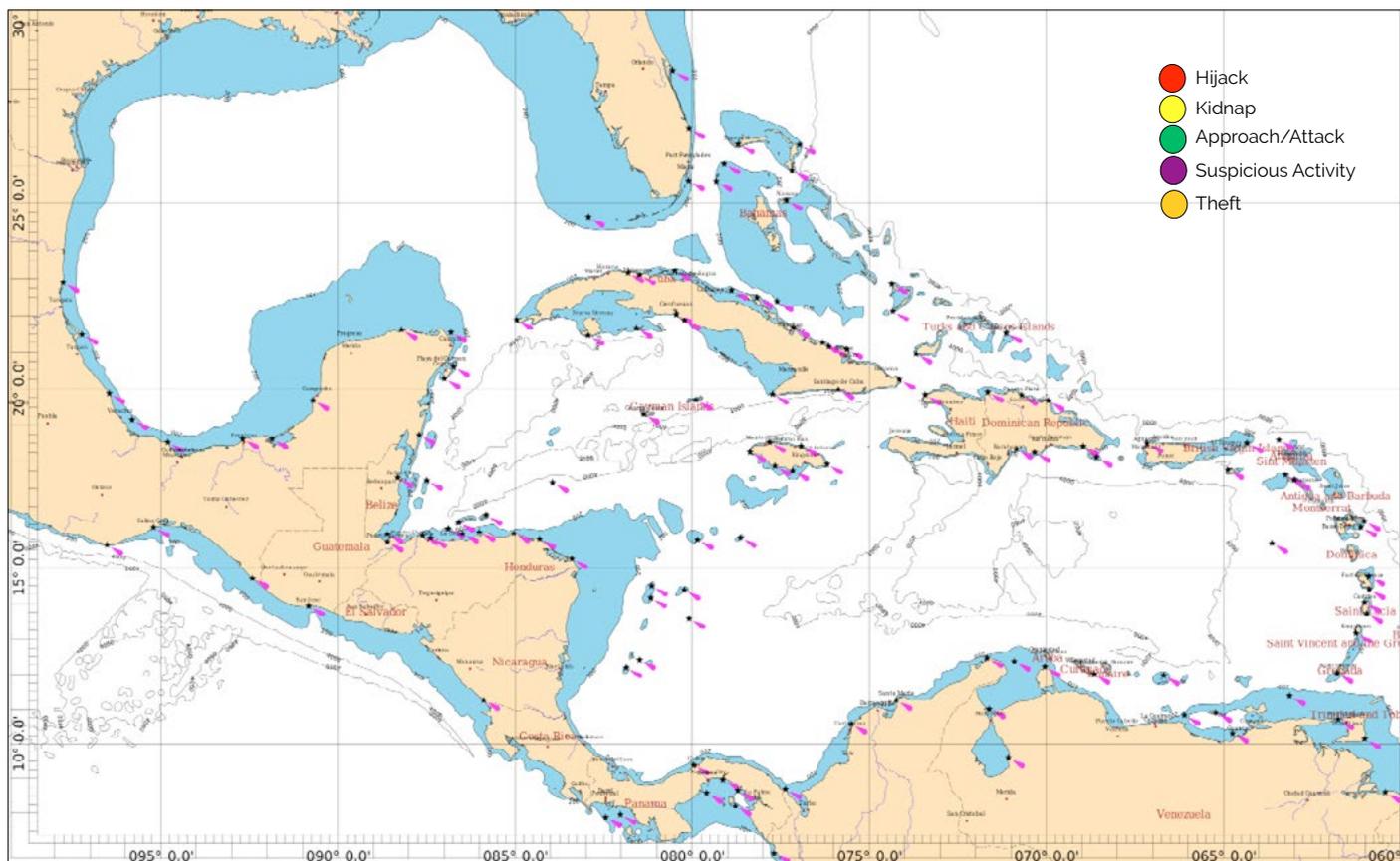
## Incidents:

1. Alert crew onboard anchored Brazil-flagged tanker noticed three unauthorised persons armed with knives on the fore-castle at 0030 UTC in position 12:00.31S - 007:12.09W, Callao Anchorage, Peru. Alarm raised and crew mustered, resulting in the persons escaping without stealing anything. Incident reported to the Port Authorities. Police officers boarded the tanker for investigation. Reported (IMB) 4th Dec. (Not shown on chart).

## Standing advice:

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

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





## Severe Weather Warnings

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

Nothing significant to report.

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