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Weekly Security & Risk Report

09th March 2022



MAST Intelligence

UK Domestic

International Incidents

Industry and SIA Updates

LAND



SEA

West Africa

Indian Ocean
Yemen, Somalia

European Waters



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Issue 322

Issue 322 of the series reviews, analyses and threat assesses the conflict-affected coastal states of Somalia and Yemen and associated waters, as well as ongoing issues facing the maritime industry in West Africa. The Mediterranean migrant crisis, security issues facing the UK and incidents affecting maritime security are also reported and analysed.

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 conflicts are directly impacting on maritime operations; and
- Reporting and analysis of incidents of terrorism, piracy and other related criminal activity.

MAST has a global reach and presence, delivering first hand, accurate and exclusive intelligence. MAST is entrenched and committed in continuing to support and promote the awareness of the very real risks that seafarers and other stakeholders face.

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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Gulf of Guinea

Nigeria's Senate has urged the government to do more to interrupt and prevent illegal refineries in Rivers State, citing the health risk posed by the soot produced during the refinery process, Vanguard reported on Mar. 3rd. The issue is causing significant health concerns among local residents, the paper reported.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Ogun's State To Announce Commencement Of Sea Port

Ogun in Nigeria has announced plans to begin work on a new sea port, TDPel media reported on Mar. 5th. The announcement was made during a visit to the region by Real Admiral Yakubu Wambai, Flag Officer Commanding Western Naval Command of the Nigerian Navy. He expressed the Navy's readiness to begin work on a full naval base.

Ghana has capability to satisfy domestic gas demand — Tullow MD

The Managing Director of Tullow Oil Ghana, Mr Wissam Al-Monthiry, has confirmed that Ghana's oil and gas supplies are capable of meeting demand in the country, at a ceremony to commission four new vessels for the Ghana Navy. The new security vessels are part of a five-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Ghana Navy to provide security services at the Jubilee and TEN oil fields. "When we were offered the opportunity to utilise the Navy vessels and personnel, who are the defenders of the maritime space, and to provide security around the strategic offshore oil installations, we saw it as a welcoming and healthy collaboration with the nation for oil and gas production," he told Business Ghana on Mar. 4th.

Navy Intercepts Illegal Fuel Along Bakassi, Hands Over To NSCDC

The NNS Victory handed over a cargo of illegally refined petroleum products to NSCDC investigators last week. The Navy intercepted a boat carrying a significant number of oil drums in the waterways of Bakassi Local Government Area, but the smugglers fled. It is believed they were attempting to take the illegal goods to Cameroon, Channels TV reported on Mar. 2nd.

NIMASA gets new maritime guard commander

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, has announced that Commodore Aliyu Gaya, is its new Maritime Guard Commander. Gaya will be responsible for liaison designed to increase collaboration and information sharing between NIMASA and the Nigerian Navy, as per the MoU between the two organisations. Gaya has been Director of ECOWAS Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre Zone E Cotonou, Republic of Benin, Sun News reported on Mar. 2nd.

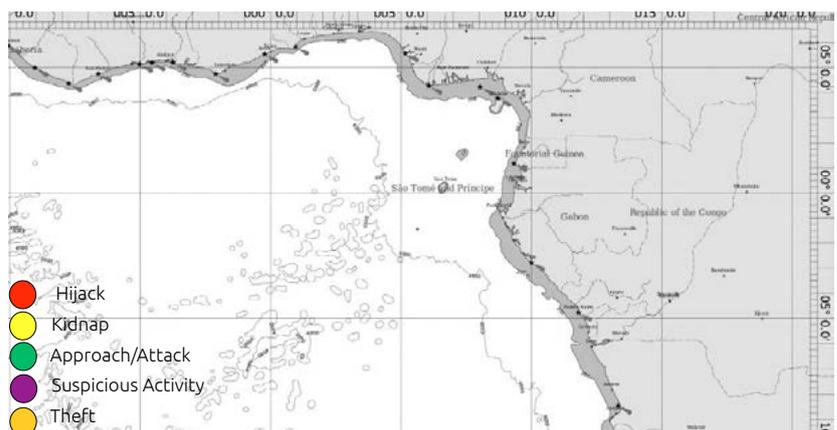
For further information, please [click here](#).

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures

2022
Incidents reported: 12 (MDAT-GoG/Others)

2021
Incidents reported: 56 (MDAT-GoG/Others)
Crew kidnapped: 46 (IMB, MDAT)
Vessels hijacked: 1 (MDAT-GoG)

2020
Incidents reported: 132 (MDAT-GoG)
43 Crew Kidnapped: 130 (IMB)
Vessels Hijacked: 3 (IMB)



Indian Ocean Region

India's MILAN 2022 naval exercise concluded on Friday 4th, The Hindu reported. Over 40 nations took part in the naval drills, which saw 29 ships, one submarine and 21 aircraft participate. The harbour phase was held from February 25th to 28th and the sea phase from March 1st to 4th.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

3-day workshop on Maritime law concludes at RRU in Gandhinagar

Representatives from Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles took part in a three-day workshop on maritime law in India on Saturday 5th, the Indian Express reported. Delegates from the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and other agencies discussed maritime security threats and challenges in the Indian Ocean.

Indian Navy successfully test fires advanced version of BrahMos missile

The Indian Navy took part in a live fire test of its new, long-range iteration of the BrahMos cruise missile on Saturday 5th, India Today reported. "Long range precision strike capability of advanced version of BrahMos missile successfully validated. Pin point destruction of target demonstrated combat and mission readiness of frontline platforms. Yet another shot in the arm for Aatmanirbhar Bharat," the Navy tweeted.

Royal Navy interdicts drug shipment

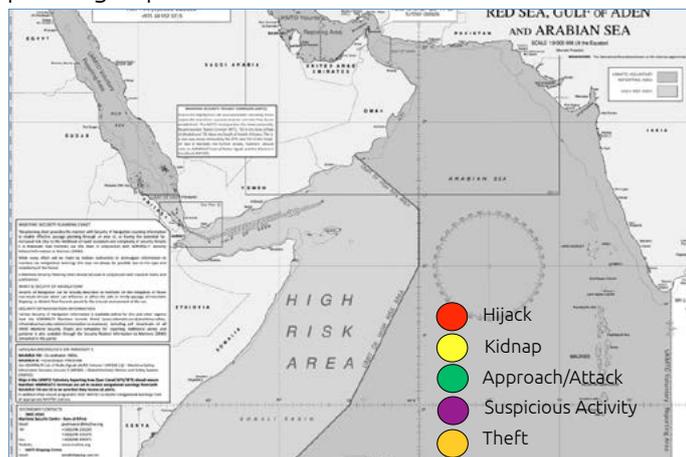
A Royal Navy frigate seized more than 6 tons of illicit narcotics from a fishing vessel while conducting patrols in international waters in the Gulf of Oman, Mar. 2nd, the Combined Maritime Forces reported. HMS Montrose (F236) was operating as part of

Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, one of three task forces under Combined Maritime Forces, a 34-nation partnership headquartered in Bahrain with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. 5th Fleet. CTF 150 conducts regional patrols to locate and disrupt unlawful maritime activity. The seizure consisted of 6,566 kilograms of hashish, with an estimated U.S. street value of \$9 million. The narcotics were confiscated and loaded aboard HMS Montrose for analysis and destruction.

Israel, US hold first combined Red Sea operation of its kind against Iran-backed militias

JNS reported on Mar. 2nd that the Israeli Navy and the US had launched their first joint operation in the Red Sea to ensure the safety of the region and to combat threats posed by Iran-backed militias. Reports suggest that a US maritime patrol aircraft landed in Israel and is taking part in activities in coordination with the Israeli Navy.

For further information, please click here.



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

European Waters

UK Border Force anticipates that as many as 60,000 people could attempt to cross the English Channel in 2022, according to a Sky News article on Mar. 5th. The figure emerged as the Home Office chartered a new vessel to assist Border Force efforts to stem the flow of migration in the Channel.

Black Sea incidents

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has seen several incidents reported in the Black Sea region. On Mar. 3rd, news outlets reported that the Estonian-owned cargo ship, MV Helt, sank off Odessa port, with some analysts suggesting that the ship struck a naval mine. This followed an incident in which a Bangladeshi bulk carrier, MV Banglar Samridhi, was hit by either a bomb or missile off the port of Olvia. One crewman was killed in the incident. The ship had been at Olvia, unable to leave, since the Russian invasion began on Feb. 24th, Reuters reported.

Mariupol blockaded by Russian forces

The strategic Black Sea port of Mariupol has been blockaded by Russian Forces, France 24 reported on Mar. 5th. Power, water and food supplies have all been cut, and an attempt to evacuate civilians has been put on hold. "For now, we are looking for solutions to humanitarian problems and all possible ways to get Mariupol out of the blockade," said mayor Vadim Boychenko.

IMO calls special Ukraine meeting amid safety fears for ships

The IMO will hold a special meeting this week to discuss the risk to shipping posed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Reuters reported on Mar. 4th. More than 15 countries had called for the meeting, which will be held virtually.

More than 250 migrants arrive in Kent after crossing the English Channel in calm weather

ITV News reported on Mar. 4th that 250 migrants had crossed the English Channel in the course of that week, thanks to calmer seas and weather conditions. A 'steady stream' of migrants was brought ashore by rescuers and met by Border Force officials. The UK Home Office said that a total of 253 people had come across in 10 boats on Thursday 3rd, while French authorities had stopped a further 196 people

in seven boats at sea.

People smugglers found guilty of bringing illegal immigrants across the English Channel

Three men have been found guilty 'conspiring to do an act to facilitate the commission of a breach of UK immigration law by a non EU person, contrary to the Immigration Act' at a trial in Portsmouth. The Portsmouth News reported on Mar. 4th that the seven-day trial resulted in a unanimous jury verdict and referred to incidents in 2020, where private yachts were believed to have transported suspected migrants from France to the UK.

Migrants rescued in the Mediterranean

News outlet, Ruetir, reported on Mar. 6th that the Geo Barents had rescued over 100 people in two days in the Mediterranean. The rescue took place in the Malta Search and Rescue Area, after a six-hour search. Geo Barents finally located a vessel in distress with 31 people on board. The migrant boat capsized as the rescue operation ended. Earlier, a notification from Alarm Phone saw a French cargo vessel engage in a rescue operation off Libya. Some 26 people were rescued by the CMA CGM Rivoli.

114 Bangladeshi nationals, detained in Libya, return home

A group of 114 nationals from Bangladesh has been repatriated to the country from Libya, BDNews 24 reported on Mar. 3rd. The refugees had been held in Libyan detention centres for between six and nine months, the media outlet said, after being smuggled into the country by trafficking gangs.

For further information, please [click here](#).

Somalia & Yemen

Somalia is in the middle of its worst drought in decades, with millions of people in need of aid and thousands on the brink of starvation, VOA reported on Mar. 5th. Baidoa already hosts over 400,000 internally displaced Somalis but more are flocking to the town every day in search of food, water, and shelter.

IMF Staff Completes Virtual Mission to Discuss the Second and Third Reviews of the Extended Credit Facility to Somalia

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team, led by Laura Jaramillo, held a virtual mission during Feb. 22nd – Mar. 7th, to conduct the first stage of the second and third reviews of Somalia's economic program supported by the IMF's Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement. Their report suggests that a great deal hinges on the Somali political process, with funding currently paused until that process is completed.

Somalia enters transition as AMISOM gives way to ATMIS

After 15 years, AMISOM is to become the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) this month. Although still waiting for UN approval, the new body will be charged with security in the country over the next two years, with the ambition being a complete transfer of responsibility to the Somali government at the end of that period, the East African wrote on Mar. 6th. The time frame and Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the new mission will be adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council later this month.

UN decries hostilities in Southwest Somalia after more than 17,000 people are displaced

Xinhua reported on Mar. 4th that at least 17,400 people had been displaced by hostilities in the Diinsoor region of Southwest Somalia. "Parties to the conflict must ensure that humanitarian workers have unfettered access to all people in need of assistance," UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, Adam Abdelmoula, said in a statement.

At least 10 Al Shabaab fighters killed in Lower Jubba

The Somali National Army engaged Al Shabaab on Mar. 2nd, Daiji World reported. In a sting operation, the troops were deployed around Yontoy, Rayernrow

and Farbulay locations. During the operation, at least 10 terrorists were killed. The operation followed an earlier Al Shabaab attack on a base in Hudur town in Southwest State.

UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie arrives in Yemen to meet those affected by conflict

UNHCR Special Envoy, Angelina Jolie arrived in Yemen on Mar. 6th on a visit to help draw attention to the catastrophic consequences of the seven-year conflict on the people of Yemen. She will be visiting Yemeni families, including displaced families and refugees, to hear directly from them how the conflict has ripped their lives apart.

Yemen rebels back UN proposal for abandoned oil tanker

AFP reported on Mar. 7th that Houthi rebels had signed a UN agreement which it is hoped will allow the FSO Safer to be inspected, its cargo removed and repairs undertaken. The MoU agreed with the Houthis is hoped to be the first step in making the vessel safe, after seven years without any servicing or upkeep.

Two foreign MSF workers kidnapped in Yemen

Two foreign MSF workers have been kidnapped in Hadramawt, the Yemen government confirmed on Mar. 6th. An armed group took the Mexican and German workers in the province, which is controlled by the internationally recognised government. In February, five UN staff were kidnapped in Abyan province.

For further information, please [click here](#).

UK Security News

The MoD deployed Project Servator anti-terror police to RAF Fairford on Thursday 3rd, in a deployment that may have been related to the UK's materiel support for Ukraine. Highly visible checkpoints around the base were manned as a number of military aircraft left the base, the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald reported.

Londonderry: Pipe bomb recovered as alert ends

A partially exploded pipe bomb has been recovered following a security alert in Londonderry on Sunday 6th. The viable device was reported in the garden of a property at 2.10pm GMT in the Lincoln Court area of the city. A number of nearby homes were evacuated, with residents able to return on Sunday evening. Police described the partial explosion as a "reckless attack" which could have had "devastating" consequences, BBC News reported.

Man due in court charged with encouraging terrorism

Eymad Dhine Hammouti appeared in court on Mar. 4th, charged with encouraging terrorism, as part of an investigation being led by the Met Police's Counter Terrorism Command. Hammouti was arrested by counter terrorism officers in East London on Friday Feb. 25th and charged with an offence under Section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

Special ops in Wick and Thurso to 'reassure public and target terrorists' – police action witnessed in town centres

Specialist anti-terror police were deployed in Thurso and Wick, Scotland, on Mar. 4th as part of Operation Servator, which is aimed to disrupt a range of criminality, including terrorism, the John O' Groats Journal and Caithness Courier reported. The highly visible policing operation took place in and around both town centres.

White supremacist jailed over antisemitic COVID claims

A white supremacist who stirred up racial hatred by printing and delivering leaflets, and posting online false claims that Jewish people were behind a Coronavirus hoax, controlled the media and were evil, has been sentenced to more than eight years' imprisonment, with an extended four-year licence. Neo-Nazi Matthew Henegan, 36, was convicted of the antisemitic crimes after a trial at the Old Bailey

in November 2021. He was sentenced on Mar. 2nd to an eight year and one month prison term with an extended licence period of four years. He was also made subject to a notification order lasting 30 years, the Crown Prosecution Service said on Mar. 2nd.

London News

Met ask for witnesses

Detectives who are investigating a shooting in Hackney are appealing to the public for help. Police were called at about 13:30hrs on Monday 7th to Gilpin Road following reports of a group fighting with knives and a firearm being discharged. Officers and London Ambulance Service attended but the group had reportedly fled. Later, police were alerted to a 17-year-old with a gunshot wound in Belgrade Road, Hackney. He was taken to hospital where his injuries have been assessed as non-life threatening, the Met reported on Mar. 8th.

Man jailed after injuring three people in two linked knife attacks in Whitechapel

The Metropolitan Police reported on Mar. 5th that a man who attacked and stabbed three people in two incidents had been jailed for nine years. Rohit Miah was jailed for a total of nine years at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Thursday 3rd after being found guilty of three counts of grievous bodily harm and one count of affray.

PCSO convicted of intimidating a witness in harassment case

The Met reported on Mar. 7th that a serving PCSO had been convicted of witness intimidation in the course of a harassment case. The PCSO was found guilty on Mar. 4th at Willesden Magistrates' Court.

For further information, please [click here](#).

Global Security News

A report published by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) on Wednesday 2nd warns that terrorist activity could increase in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. While the majority of incidents will be in conflict zones, it noted the risk of incidents and cyber attacks rises during conflicts.

Russia ramping up nuclear weapon accusations against Ukraine - UK

There has been an intensification of Russian accusations that Ukraine is developing nuclear or biological weapons since February, the UK's Ministry of Defence says. The MoD says that while these are "long-standing narratives", they are likely being amplified "as part of a retrospective justification for Russia's invasion of Ukraine", BBC News reported on Mar. 8th.

Russia may have broken laws of war in Irpin - HRW

An analysis by Human Rights Watch (HRW) of Sunday's Irpin attack suggests the laws of war were violated by Russia during the shelling of the town, west of Kyiv. For several hours on 6 March 2022, Russian forces bombarded an intersection on a road that hundreds of civilians were using to flee the Russian army's advance in northern Ukraine to Kyiv, Human Rights Watch said, BBC News reported on Mar. 8th.

North Korea: Construction spotted at Punggye-ri nuclear test site

BBC News reported on Mar. 8th that satellite images appear to show repair work underway at a closed nuclear testing site in North Korea. The Punggye-ri site was shut in 2018 and some parts were blown up, after leader Kim Jong-un promised to halt all nuclear tests. The new finding by US analysts comes amid predictions the country could resume testing nuclear weapons and long-range missiles. But analysts also say it could be years before Punggye-ri is ready for tests.

Two UN peacekeepers killed by Mali blast

Two UN peacekeepers have been killed in central Mali when their convoy was hit by a roadside bomb, the UN says. Four other peacekeepers were injured in the blast north of Mopti. Around 13,000 troops are part of the force in Mali, which has seen an escalating

jihadist conflict over the last decade. Last month following disagreements with Mali's military rulers, France and other European countries said they were withdrawing their troops from the country, BBC News reported on Mar. 7th.

Tanzania Drops Terrorism Case Against Main Opposition Leader Freeman Mbowe

Tanzanian prosecutors have dropped terrorism charges against opposition leader Freeman Mbowe and three others who were released Friday after being held for eight months. Tanzanian police arrested the four last year in the port city of Mwanza where Mbowe was to address a meeting to discuss constitutional reforms, VOA reported on Mar. 4th. Mbowe and his colleagues were set to appear in court Friday 4th, after a court decision two weeks ago that the four defendants had to face terrorism charges.

Industry and SIA News

ISC West speakers announced

ISC West, in collaboration with premier sponsor the Security Industry Association (SIA), announces this year's Keynote Series speaker line-up ahead of the March 22-25 event in Las Vegas (SIA Education@ISC: March 22-24 | Exhibit Hall: March 23-25). Education is an important part of ISC West, the leading comprehensive and converged security trade event in the United States, and this year's inspiring Keynote Series sessions were specifically selected to educate professionals on the latest trends and industry developments, and to help guide the industry in gaining new perspectives for the future. For more information, please [click here](#).

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