



Making the world a safer place to live & work

# Weekly Security & Risk Report

06th April 2022



# MAST Intelligence

---

UK Domestic

International Incidents

Industry and SIA Updates

LAND



SEA

West Africa

Indian Ocean  
Yemen, Somalia

European Waters



This report is copyright of Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) © 2022. All rights reserved.

This report is intended to provide general information about maritime intelligence topics but does not provide individual advice and the creators assume no liability for the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of any information contained herein, or though links you will find in it. Furthermore, using this report or sending MAST emails does not create a service provider-client relationship. It is intended only as an introduction to ideas and concepts only. It should not be treated as a definitive guide, nor should it be considered to cover every area of concern or regarded as an advice.

If you copy from this report, you have to refer to Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd as the source of the copied material. You may not, except with our express written permission, commercially exploit the content.

# Issue 326

---

Issue 326 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.

Follow MAST on LinkedIn and Twitter to keep abreast with these insightful weekly reports and more — including real time security updates.

## Content

Mast Services	2
Gulf of Guinea	4
Indian Ocean Region	5
European Waters	6
Somalia & Yemen	7
UK & London Security News	8
Global and Industry Security News	9

# Gulf of Guinea

Nigeria's latest naval vessel, the NNS Kada, has left Damen Shipyards in the UAE, en route for Nigeria. The Landing Ship Tank (LST), is due to arrive in Lagos on May 27th, but will call at five countries on the way. The Navy says that the new LST will boost its sealift capacity, Defence Web reported on April 1st.

## Incidents:

**1.** Underway vessel attacked and boarded at 1848 UTC in position: 01:31.13N - 001:30.19E, approx 278nm South of Lome, Togo. Unknown number of pirates boarded vessel. Perpetrator left vessel. Crew and vessel safe at 1330 UTC 4th Apr. Reported (MDAT) 3rd Apr.

## NIMASA vessel sinks at docks

One of 24 patrol boats owned by Global West Vessel Specialists (GWVS), the security company reportedly belonging to former Niger Delta militant leader, Tompolo, has sunk at dock in Lagos. Although the contract to lease the boats to NIMASA to provide maritime security coverage was cancelled in 2015 and Tompolo was cleared of fraud charges in 2020, Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is pursuing a case involving the vessels. NIMASA has denied any responsibility for the incident, saying the boat was in the custody of the EFCC, media outlets reported on Tuesday 4th.

## Nigerian Navy Begins Biggest Operation Ever to Curb Oil Theft in Niger Delta

With oil theft and illegal refining of stolen petroleum products still a major headache not just for the country's economy, but also international oil companies, Nigeria has launched its largest operation to date to combat the problem. Operation Dakatar Da Barawo launched on Friday 1st with the

deployment of 40 ships, five helicopters and 200 patrol boats across the Niger Delta. The Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Awwal Gambo told Arise TV that Nigeria has lost about \$3.2 billion in the last 13 months to crude oil theft and illegal bunkering.

## HMC Ships Moncton and Goose Bay on West African deployment

The Royal Canadian Navy is on deployment in the Gulf of Guinea, following participation in Obangame Express 2022. HMC Moncton and HMC Goose Bay took part in the large naval exercises recently, working with the navies of Ghana and Togo. They remain in the region, and will partner with vessels from Italy, Denmark and the USA on maritime security duties.

## Nigeria: Navy hands over nine oil thieves to NSCDC in Bayelsa

A patrol by the Nigerian Navy near Phillip Camp Creeks in Bayelsa discovered an illegal refinery site, with a large wooden barge and around 20,000 litres of illegal diesel, PM News Nigeria reported on April 1st. Nine men were arrested at the site and handed over to the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Yenagoa on Friday 1st.

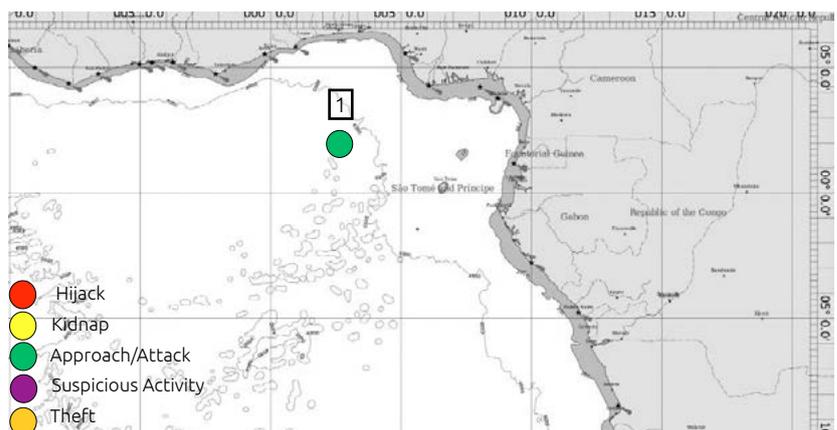
*For further information, please [click here](#).*

## Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures

**2022**  
Incidents reported: 13 (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

The regional group Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) held their first maritime exercise, IMEX-22, in the Arabian Sea between March 26th and 30th, The Hindu reported. Sixteen members of the 25 nation group participated. Much of the exercise's focus was on humanitarian disaster relief.

## Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

### India, France Embark On 'Varuna Exercise'

The Indian and French navies conducted a five-day exercise in the Arabian Sea, between March 30th and April 3rd, PTI reported on March 31st. Various platforms, including submarines, were due to participate in the 20th iteration of Varuna, which is seen as a vital part of both countries strategic ties. Relations between the two countries have grown closer in recent years, with France described by India's External Affairs Minister as a 'trusted' partner.

### Indian Navy commissioned the 2nd P-8I squadron

Indian Naval Air Squadron 316, Indian Navy's second P-8I aircraft squadron was commissioned into the Indian Navy on March 29th. Adm R Hari Kumar stated that India is the 'Preferred Security Partner' in the Indian Ocean region which reflects our country's ability to play an effective strategic role in the region, and needs to expand its operational reach. The Indian Navy is integral to this commitment and in pursuance of this objective, the commissioning of INAS 316 marked yet another milestone towards enhancing maritime security and surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region.

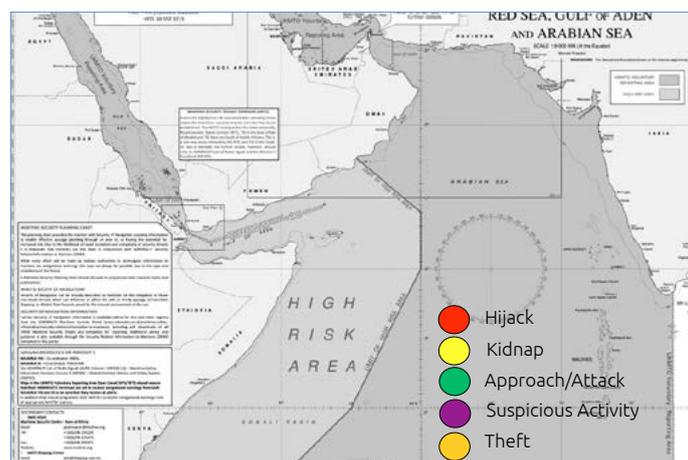
### U.S. and Israeli Navy Begin Exercise Intrinsic Defender

The US 5th Fleet and the Israeli Navy began a 10-day maritime exercise on March 27th that takes place in and off the coast of Israel. Intrinsic Defender is a bilateral exercise between U.S. and Israeli naval forces. The exercise focuses on maritime security operations, explosive ordnance disposal, health topics and unmanned systems integration. More than 300 U.S. personnel are participating, including a U.S. Navy explosive ordnance disposal dive team, U.S. Coast Guard maritime engagement team, and global health engagement team.

### India and Sri Lanka to create new rescue centre

The Indian Express reported on April 1st that the two countries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create a new Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Colombo. The deal was agreed on March 28th during a visit by India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar late in March and demonstrates a growing closeness on maritime matters between the two nations.

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



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

# European Waters

A search was underway on April 2nd for a light aircraft which went missing over the English Channel, Kent Live reported. Emergency services from France and the UK launched a response when contact was lost with the Piper PA-28 on Saturday. It was believed to have been around 25 miles from Dungeness, Kent, at the time.

## Black Sea incidents

Ukraine has accused Russia of deploying naval mines in the Black Sea, following reports that at least three mines have been destroyed by Turkish and Romanian naval forces in the past 10 days. Ukraine claimed on March 30th that the mines, all old models, were stolen from storage in Sevastapol and are from old stockpiles. Russia claims that some 420 mines planted by Ukraine had come loose from their moorings in the region. On April 2nd, DW reported that these could pose a serious maritime threat to the region. However, closed source analysis seen by MAST suggests that the overall risk to shipping in the region is low.

In a related story, the IMO reported last week that Russia had agreed to create a maritime safe passage corridor for vessels, so that merchant ships can leave the region. However, Ukraine is unable to ratify the agreement and, at the time of this report, no vessels have been reported to have used the new route, which is only operational for a few hours a day. On April 2nd, Republic World reported that Turkey was ready to send ships to Mariupol to assist in the evacuation of civilians from the region. "We can provide ships, primarily for the evacuation of civilians and the wounded, Turkish and other citizens of Mariupol. In this context, our coordination with the authorities of the Russian Federation and Ukraine continues," Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar told reporters.

## Nearly 100 migrants dead in Mediterranean: UN

InfoMigrants reported on April 4th that at least 90 people were believed to have drowned in the Mediterranean, while four survivors have been picked up by a merchant ship, the MT Algeria 1. The incident took place over the weekend of April 2nd-3rd. The survivors told the crew of the tanker that there had been around 100 people in their boat when they left Libya, four days earlier.

## Sea-Eye 4 rescues over 70 people in central Mediterranean

InfoMigrants reported on April 1st that NGO vessel, Sea-Eye 4, had rescued 74 people from a rubber craft in the Mediterranean Sea, after receiving distress calls. The group was rescued off Libya on Wednesday 30th and included 22 children. 15 of the rescued passengers required treatment in the ship's hospital, Sea-Eye reported.

## Germany to end training of Libyan coast guard over 'unacceptable' behaviour towards migrants

The German Foreign Ministry announced on March 30th that it would not be extending its work to train the Libyan Coast Guard, following concerns about its treatment of migrants, InfoMigrants reported. Germany extended its participation in the EU monitoring mission, Irini, in the Mediterranean Sea, but recent reports meant that it could no longer continue training operations.

## Sea-Eye 4 carrying migrants rescued by container ship, headed to Malta

NGO vessel, Sea-Eye 4, has taken 32 migrants on board after they were rescued by a merchant ship in the Mediterranean, InfoMigrants reported on March 30th. The MV Karina had been en route from Malta to Benghazi when it received an alert from Alarm Phone that a vessel in distress was nearby. The Ukrainian Captain of the ship arrived at the scene as the migrant vessel was about to capsize, InfoMigrants reported.

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

# Somalia & Yemen

Details are emerging about the destruction caused by Friday 1st's massive fire that gutted down the main open-air market in Hargeisa, the capital of the self-declared republic of Somaliland. A commission set up by the local administration says the fire may have destroyed properties worth more than \$1bn (£840m), BBC News said.

## Spy agency warns of plot to attack Somali leaders

Somalia's spy agency has warned about an alleged plot by al-Qaeda-allied Al Shabaab militants to attack the president and the prime minister. The National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) said in a tweet that it had briefed the nation's leaders on the "plot being hatched by the Al Shabaab mafia". The agency did not provide further details, but said that it was pursuing everyone involved. The warning comes amid a political crisis in the country due to the much-delayed indirect elections, the BBC said on April 5th.

## Seven Al Shabaab fighters killed in central Somalia

The Somali National Army conducted a security operation in Hobyo, Mudug region, Xinhua reported on April 4th, during which seven Al Shabaab terrorists were killed. Two wounded terrorists were arrested during the incident. Odowa Yusuf Rage, the SNA chief, said: "Our forces recovered weapons, mainly four improvised explosive devices (IEDs), four AK 47 rifles and a vehicle during a special operation in Mudug region under Galmudug State in central Somalia."

## Somalia launches new maritime facility to boost policing along coastline

A new maritime centre has opened at Mogadishu port, Xinhua reported on March 31st. The new facility will be used by the Somalia Police Force's maritime detachment to engage in maritime security activities around the port and coastline. The facility has been funded by the EU and developed by the UNODC.

## UN Security Council votes for new Somalia peacekeeping force

France 24 reported on March 31st that the UN had voted to create a new peacekeeping force for Somalia. The new mission is expected to see AMISOM replaced by The African Union Transition

Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), with all troops leaving the country by 2024.

## UN welcomes announcement of two-month truce in Yemen

A two-month truce in Yemen which came into effect on Saturday 2nd must be a first step in ending the country's devastating war, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on the eve of the ceasefire. Yemen's Government, backed by a Saudi-led coalition, and Houthi rebels have been battling since 2015. Mr. Guterres commended the sides for reaching the agreement, which began at 19:00 on Saturday, local time, and coincides with the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

## Eighth Batch of Saudi Oil Derivatives Grant Arrives in Aden, Yemen

Saudi Arabia's eighth delivery of oil derivatives has arrived in Aden, Asharq Al-Awsat reported on April 4th. The shipment of 60,000 tons of diesel and 25,000 of fuel oil (mazut) should help to reduce electricity cuts and will be sent to power plants.

## Negotiations for hostages' release underway

Critical Threats reported on April 1st that negotiations to release five UN workers, held hostage by al Qaeda in Yemen, are underway. Reportedly, one Gulf state is involved, along with local authorities. al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) kidnapped the five UN employees in Abyan governate on Feb. 11th.

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

## UK Security News

A 29-year-old from Wales has been found guilty of the encouragement of terrorism, and disseminating a terrorist publication, North Wales Live reported on April 2nd. He was reportedly part of a 'fascist' cell which had been using a 3D printer to manufacture gun components.

### Manchester Airport: Police could help tackle 'chaos', mayor says

Police and fire and rescue service staff could be drafted in to help tackle the chaos at Manchester Airport, the region's mayor has said. Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham is meeting airport bosses to discuss the "concerning" current situation. Travellers have criticised long delays and missed flights over the weekend, BBC News reported on April 5th. Manchester Airport has previously apologised and said the industry was "facing staff shortages and recruitment challenges".

### Londonderry: Police close road in security alert

BBC News reported on April 5th that a road in Londonderry remains closed following a report of a suspicious object. The Corrody Road between Strabane Old Road and Kittybane Road was closed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) on Monday evening. Traffic diversions have been put in place. One resident told BBC Radio Foyle that he understood no homes had been evacuated, but the ongoing alert means he is unable to get to work on Tuesday.

### Lincoln teenager arrested on suspicion of terror offences released on bail

Lincolnshire Live reported on March 31st that a teenager had been arrested in the town as part of a pre-planned counter terror operation. A statement by Lincolnshire Police said that the operation was conducted by Counter Terrorism Policing (CPT) East Midlands and that the man had been released on police bail while enquiries continued.

### Brothers convicted of stabbing police officers at shopping centre

Two brothers who launched a "terrifying" knife attack on police officers at a shopping centre have been found guilty of wounding. The officers suffered knife injuries during the violence at New Square Shopping centre, in West Bromwich, West

Midlands last July. Parminder Hunjan, aged 36, and Maninder Hunjan, 26, were found not guilty of attempted murder at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Wednesday March 30th, BBC News said.

## London News

### XR protests enter fourth day as oil facility near Heathrow blocked

Climate change campaigners have staged a protest at an oil facility near Heathrow Airport on their fourth day of action, BBC News reported on April 5th. Extinction Rebellion (XR) said about 30 protesters returned to the Esso West fuel terminal in west London at 04:00 BST. It is part of a campaign to urge the government to stop using fossil fuels. ExxonMobil said its facility had "resumed normal operations" on Monday evening. Met Police deployed at least 12 officers to the scene. The Evening Standard report that 14 protesters had been arrested.

### Liam Gallagher's son and Ringo Starr's grandson blasted by judge for 'out of order' brawl

The sons of musicians, Liam Gallagher and Ringo Starr, have been lambasted by a judge over their drunken brawl at a London branch of Tesco. Gene Gallagher, 20, and Sonny Starkey, 21, walked free from court after prosecutors dropped the case on the trial's first day, the Evening Standard reported on April 2nd. Three men had been due to stand trial on the day, facing charges of affray.

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

# Global Security News

Some 168 people are still missing in Nigeria after a deadly attack on a busy train last week, the state rail company says. It is not clear how many of the 168 have been kidnapped for ransom - some may have gone home without telling the authorities, BBC News said on April 4th.

## Ukraine: Latest updates

BBC News reports that more civilian deaths are being uncovered in towns such as Bucha, as Ukrainian forces move in to areas occupied by Russian troops. Reports of mass graves and video footage of corpses littering local roads continue to surface and are now being treated as potential war crimes. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has promised to zealously pursue allegations of war crimes against Russian forces in occupied regions of the country, BBC News said. "We are already doing everything possible to identify all the Russian military involved in these crimes as soon as possible," he said. "This will be a joint work of our state with the European Union and international institutions, in particular with the International Criminal Court." President Zelensky said that as many as 300 civilians could have been tortured and killed in Bucha. US President, Joe Biden, has said: "You saw what happened in Bucha - he is a war criminal... but we have to gather all the detail so this can have a war crimes trial."

In a further development, Ukraine has released a list of suspects they believe conducted war crimes in Bucha. The list, published on the website of the Ministry of Defence, included the names, dates of birth, passport numbers and ranks of about 2,000 servicemen.

Social media reports on Twitter on April 5th suggest that Russian service personnel have been sending looted items back from Belarus, using a courier service. The company's CCTV appears to have been hacked by activists, who are now using facial recognition software to identify those involved. US authorities say they have seized a yacht belonging to Viktor Vekselberg, an ally of Russia's President Vladimir Putin. According to a warrant, the Ukrainian-born oligarch violated 2018 sanctions placed on him by the US. He was again sanctioned last month after Russia's invasion. The 78-meter (255ft) luxury vessel named Tango and valued at \$90m (£70m) was held in a raid by Spanish police on the Mediterranean island of Mallorca, following a US request, the BBC reported on April 5th.

## SADC commits to fight jihadists in Mozambique

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has committed to continuing to help fight jihadist groups in northern Mozambique. The mission will see a continued presence of military personnel there for the next few months, with the long-term plan being to de-escalate the violence and help to bring stability to the region, the BBC reported on April 4th.

## US responds to reported massacre in Mali

The US State Dept. has issued a statement on reports of a massacre in Mali, which may have seen the involvement of the notorious Russian Wagner Group. "We are following the extremely disturbing accounts of large numbers of people killed earlier this week in the village of Mourah in the Mopti region of central Mali. We offer our condolences to the families of all civilians who died. We are concerned that many reports suggest that the perpetrators were unaccountable forces from the Kremlin-backed Wagner Group. Other reports claim the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) had targeted elements of known violent extremist groups," they said on April 3rd.

# Industry and SIA News

## 2022 SIA GovSummit on May 24-25 in Washington, D.C.

The SIA GovSummit brings together government security leaders with private industry technologists for a two-day conference filled with top-quality information sharing and education on security topics affecting federal, state and local agencies. For further details, please click here.

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



Tel: +44 (0) 1279 216 726

Address: Thremhall Park, Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM22  
7WE

Email: [operations@mast-security.co.uk](mailto:operations@mast-security.co.uk)