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Weekly Security & Risk Report

13th April 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 327

Issue 327 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 National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has agreed to partner with the Nigerian Navy, to ensure the safety and security of cargoes destined for Onitsha River Port. Onitsha Seaport is expected to resume normal duties in May, after the signing of a MoU by the government, Sun News reported on 7th April.

Incidents:

1. Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier was boarded by an unknown number of pirates. Crew retreated into the citadel at 0001 UTC in position 01:31.20N - 001:30.68E, around 261nm SE of Accra, Ghana. On being notified of the incident, the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre immediately alerted and liaised with the Regional Authorities and international warships to request their assistance. An Italian Navy warship and its helicopter responded and proceeded to render assistance resulting in the crew and ship being safe. The vessel proceeded to a safe port under the escort of the warship. Reported (MDAT/IMB) 3rd Apr.

Italian Frigate Intervened to Protect Crew on Bulker from Pirates

Maritime Executive reported on 5th April that Italian Navy frigate, Luigi Rizzo, came to the aid of the MV Arch Gabriel after it was boarded by suspected pirates. The incident on 3rd April saw the merchant ship's crew take shelter in the vessel's citadel as it was boarded by armed men. Responding to a distress call, the Rizzo deployed its helicopter on April 4th to investigate and, on arriving in the area, sent a boarding team to secure the ship. The pirates had fled, and the Navy remained nearby while repairs were made to the vessel's bridge.

ECOWAS and the EU unite for the supply of 5.4 million euros of equipment to ECOWAS coastal countries

A High Level Seminar on Maritime Security was held at the Nigeria Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Abuja, Nigeria from 4th-5th April 2022. The seminar was organized under the framework of the Support Project for Integrated Maritime Security in West Africa (SWAIMS), funded by the European Union. Among other things, the seminar examined and refined the modalities for the distribution of essential maritime security equipment in the ECOWAS riparian countries. A total of 30 Rigid Hull Boats (RHIBs) will be distributed to help ECOWAS coastal Member States to fight against Maritime Insecurity.

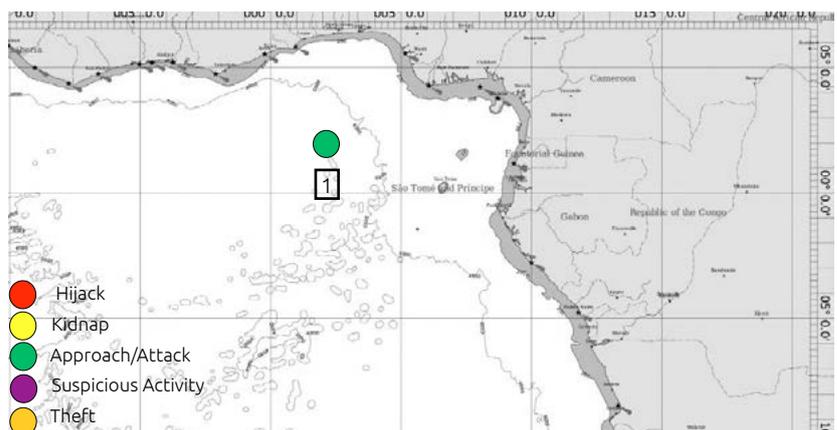
For further information, please [click here](#).

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures

2022
Incidents reported: 14 (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

South Africa will continue to deploy anti-piracy patrols in its waters and the wider Indian Ocean, after President Ramaphosa signed an extension to the SANDF agreement. The deployment will now end on 31st March 2023, News 24 reported on 8th April.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Iran's IRGC seizes foreign ship smuggling fuel in Persian Gulf, arrests entire crew

Iran's Press TV reported on 10th April that the IRGC had seized a vessel believed to be smuggling fuel in the Persian Gulf. Mojtaba Ghahramani, head of the Justice Department of Iran's southern province of Hormozgan, said, "During the inspection of this vessel, more than 220,000 litres of smuggled fuel were seized and 11 foreign crew members were detained." The vessel name and nationality was not available at the time of this report.

Naval Presence of Hostile Countries in Region Unjustifiable: Iranian Commander

There is no justification for the presence of hostile and extra-regional forces in the regional waters and the Islamic Republic does not accept such presence, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani warned, Tasnim News said on 10th April. "Our message to non-regional, non-friendly countries is that enough power exists in our region, and there is no justification for their presence in the waters of this region," Irani said on Saturday.

32 fishermen from Tamil Nadu, Karaikal held by Sri Lankan Navy repatriated

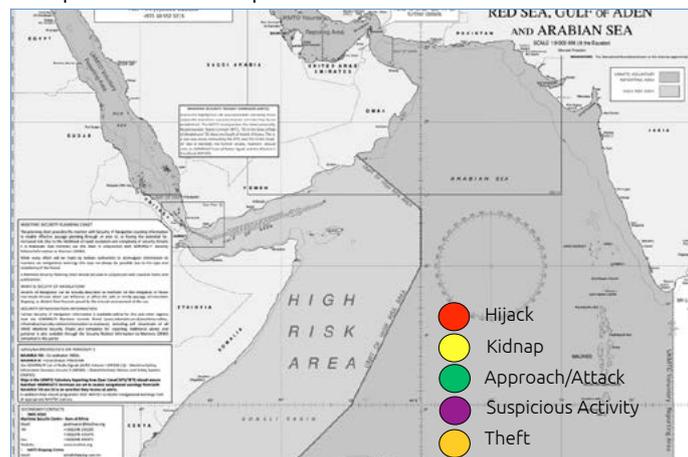
Sri Lanka released 32 Indian fishermen from prison last week, New Indian Express reported on 7th April.

The men had been detained by the Sri Lanka Navy after crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line to fish in Sri Lankan waters, they allege. The men were all arrested within the last two months and their release is a sign of the current relationship between India and Sri Lanka.

Somalia's sea-based policing boosted with new maritime facility

Somalia's maritime capabilities received a major boost at the end of March, with the inauguration of a new, state-of-the-art facility for the Somali Police Force (SPF) in the capital, Mogadishu, funded by the European Union and developed by the United Nations. The \$3 million building project was implemented by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The facility will provide an operational base from which the SPF can operate around Mogadishu Port and along the Somali coastline, as well as helping build a long-term maritime law enforcement capacity.

For further information, please click here.



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

European Waters

The IOM reported on Monday 11th that 497 migrants were returned to Libya in the past week, after being rescued off the country's coast. "In the period of 3rd-9th April, 497 migrants were rescued/intercepted at sea and returned to Libya," IOM said in a statement.

Black Sea incidents

Merchant ships continue to face significant threats in the Black Sea, with Splash 24/7 reporting that the a Malta-flagged cargo vessel, Apache, was hit by Russian artillery fire on 7th April when it left a convoy in the Sea of Azov and headed towards the port of Mariupol. The stern was struck, the vessel boarded and it and the crew taken to Yeysk port by Russian forces. On Wednesday 6th, it was reported that the Kapitan Belousov, an icebreaker which belonged to Mariupol Port Authority, was struck by projectile weapons. One crew member was killed and several were injured during the attack.

On 4th April, it was reported that Ukrainian forces had damaged the Russian Navy frigate, Admiral Essen, which had been engaged in the naval bombardment of Odessa. Ukrainian naval forces declined to reveal the manner of their attack, with some sources suggesting that a Neptune anti-ship missile may have been responsible. In a related move, following the visit to Kyiv by UK PM Boris Johnson, it has been reported that the UK will supply Ukraine with Harpoon anti-ship missile systems. On 6th April, Turkey detected and deactivated a third naval mine in its waters.

At least 19 feared dead from migrant shipwreck

The IMO reported on Sunday 10th that at least 19 people were feared dead in an incident in the central Mediterranean Sea. Citing a report by Sea-Watch, they said that the NGO rescue service ship, SeaWatch3 saved 34 migrants whose boat capsized, but there had been at least 53 people on board at the time of the incident.

Lampedusa: over 700 migrants arrive in 24 hours

Reutir reported on April 10th that over 700 migrants had arrived on the island of Lampedusa over the weekend, as the Mayor expressed concern that the current processing facilities were under huge strain. He said that he found the silence from Italian and

European institutions over what was happening to be 'disturbing'.

Over dozen migrants dead after boat accident off Tunisia's coast

The Print reported on 10th April that 13 bodies had been found off the coast of Sfax in Tunisia on Saturday. They reported that migrants from Africa had attempted to cross the Mediterranean in two boats, which both sank near the town of El Amra. Rescuers were able to save 37 people, while 13 died and a further 12 are still missing.

Over 100 deaths at sea in one week as European States look away

More than 100 people have lost their lives in the past week alone in two separate incidents in the Central Mediterranean as a result of the EU and its member states' deadly policies towards refugees and migrants, MSF said in a press release on 6th April. MSF condemns the negligence of Italy and Malta to assist boats in distress, and the indifference of the EU and its member states to the rising death toll and the ongoing violation of human rights in the Mediterranean Sea.

Second new £5m Royal Navy patrol boat HMS Dagger arrives in Gibraltar

Royal Navy Gibraltar Squadron have taken delivery of their second new £5m patrol boat. HMS Cutlass joins HMS Dagger for their role of 'guardians of the Rock', replacing HMS Sabre and Scimitar, which operated in Gibraltar's waters for nearly two decades, the Royal Navy reported.

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

Somalia & Yemen

The UN chief issued a statement on Wednesday welcoming the transition to a new African Union (AU) mission in Somalia, pledging the Organization's "unwavering commitment" to the country, the mission, and the Somali security forces in their ongoing fight against Al Shabaab militants, the UN reported on 6th April.

Al Shabaab commanders surrender

All Africa reported on 10th April that two senior Al Shabaab militants who had been coordinating attacks in the Gedo region of the country, had surrendered to Somali National Army forces. The men gave themselves up in Luuq region, where security forces have intensified their hunt for the terror group.

President and PM clash over presence of AU envoy

The Somali President, Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, and Prime Minister, Mohamed Hussein Roble, have clashed once again over the issue of the African Union representative in the country. Last week, Roble called for the immediate expulsion of AU's Francisco Madeira, saying he was, "persona non grata for engaging in acts inconsistent with his status as a representative of the African Union Commission." However, the President called the move illegal, saying he: "has not received any complaint about interference in his sovereignty and does not approve of any illegal action against Ambassador Francisco Madeira," Africa News reported on 7th April.

UAE ship brings 572 tonnes of food aid to drought-hit Somalia

A ship from the UAE containing 572 tonnes of food aid arrived in Mogadishu port, The National reported on 7th April. The food has been provided by the Emirates Red Crescent under the direction of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and will be distributed to 600,000 Somalis, the paper reported.

NGOs warn of possible famine in Somalia as drought worsens, urgent action required

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has joined over 60 NGOs in writing to the UN Secretary General, warning that Somalia is facing a new potential

famine and calling for support for its people. The country's worst drought in decades continues, and NRC says that close to 4.5 million people face life-threatening water and food shortages, as well as loss of livestock and incomes.

Yemen president hands power to council in major shake-up

Yemen's president has sacked his deputy and transferred power to a leadership council in a major shake-up of the Saudi-backed coalition fighting Houthi rebels in the country's civil war. Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi announced that the eight-member council would be led by former minister Rashad al-Alimi, BBC News reported on April 8th.

Ukraine War Worsens Already-Dire Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

The devastation wrought by Russia's invasion of Ukraine has commanded newspaper front pages and nightly news broadcasts since the war began in February. But the effects of the conflict extend far beyond the borders of Ukraine and already are being felt in Yemen, the country mired in what experts see as one of the most dire humanitarian crises in the world, VOA said on 10th April.

UN creates plan to prevent tanker disaster off Yemen coast

The UN has developed a plan to deal with the threat posed by the FSO Safer, the floating storage and offloading off the coast of Yemen which currently contains around 1.1 million barrels of oil and is in dire need of urgent repair. They plan to install a replacement storage facility and transfer the oil to eliminate any risk, they said on Friday 8th in New York.

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

UK Security News

An IS fanatic has been found guilty of murdering Sir David Amess MP. The Southend West MP was stabbed more than 20 times during a constituency surgery in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex on 15 October 2021. A jury at the Old Bailey took 18 minutes to convict Ali Harbi Ali of murder and preparing acts of terrorism, BBC News said on April 11th.

Scottish security operatives face realistic terror scenarios in nightclub exercise

A counter-terrorism emergency planning exercise in Glasgow on April 11th saw security operatives dealing with realistic terror scenarios presented by actors. The Security Industry Authority (SIA), which is the regulator for the private security industry, ran the safety resilience exercise at Kokomo on Glasgow's West Regent Street. The SIA organised the exercise, which is the first of its kind in Scotland, in partnership with Police Scotland counter-terrorism officers and Glasgow City Council, the UK government reported.

Asylum seeker made 72 calls before hotel stabbings

An asylum seeker who stabbed six people in a Glasgow hotel had contacted the Home Office and other organisations more than 70 times before the attack. An internal Home Office evaluation said contact with the Home Office and two contractors, Mears and Migrant Help, "should have acted as a warning", BBC News said on April 12th.

Ashley Cole among victims of high-value robberies, court hears

Footballers Ashley Cole and Tom Huddlestone were targeted in a series of burglaries and robberies linked to the theft of a tiara worth £3.5m, a trial has heard. Mr Cole and his partner Sharon Canu were bound by cable ties when they were robbed at their home in January 2020. Their two young children were present and Ms Canu was threatened with a knife, Nottingham Crown Court heard. A total of 11 defendants have been charged with various offences, the BBC said on April 10th.

Preston man encouraged terrorism

A neo-Nazi who encouraged far-right terrorism against Jews and Muslims has been sentenced to two years in a young offenders institution. Thomas Leech, 19, posted a "call to arms" and glorified far-right killers online. Manchester Crown Court heard

that after being arrested by police, he told officers: "I am a Nazi." Leech, of Preston, pleaded guilty to encouraging acts of terrorism and stirring up religious or racial hatred, according to an April 9th report by BBC News.

London News

Man arrested after machete attack

Met Police have arrested a man on suspicion of attempted murder, after he attacked an officer with a machete, the Evening Standard reported on April 10th. Officers were called to Forest Gate on Sunday morning following reports of a man armed with a bladed weapon who was suffering a mental health crisis, the paper said. One officer was slashed with the machete, receiving injuries to his arm.

Man 'stabbed' in doorbell camera knife-point robbery in Newham

Police in Stratford, east London, are trying to find the victim of a knife-point mugging who may have been stabbed in the incident, the Evening Standard reported on April 9th. The incident was caught on a doorbell camera, at around 2am on Friday 8th. A man and a woman ambushed the victim, who appeared to be stabbed several times before the attackers fled.

5 guilty for their part in fight outside shopping centre

MyLondon reported on April 4th that five people have been jailed following a violent knife fight at a shopping centre in Sunbury last year. Detective Constable Joseph Smith told the paper: "This stabbing, which took place in a busy shopping centre, understandably caused great concern for local residents in Sunbury-on-Thames and I hope the fact that this investigation has finally concluded will give them some peace of mind and reassurance.

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

Global Security News

The number of people killed by gunmen in a series of raids on several villages in Nigeria's central Plateau state has risen to more than 150. Gunmen on dozens of motorbikes attacked at least four remote villages in Kanam area on Sunday, shooting people dead including children and young men, BBC News said on April 12th.

Ukraine: Latest updates

BBC News reported on April 12th that rumours have been circulating on social media of a chemical weapons attack by Russian forces in the besieged city of Mariupol. The claims were first made yesterday by the Azov Battalion, a far-right Ukrainian militia fighting in the city. In a video shared on Telegram, the group's founder and former commander Andriy Biletsky said chemicals had been dropped over the city's Azovstal steelworks, which was being guarded by the Azov Battalion.

On April 11th, Al Jazeera reported that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had said that his country believed that Russia is planning a major assault in the east of the country. Russian forces who withdrew from the Kyiv region are now believed to be ready to redeploy to the east of Ukraine and the Donbas region.

The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has released its civilian casualty figures to April 11th. It has recorded 1842 civilian fatalities in the conflict to date, but admits that it "believes that the actual figures are considerably higher."

On Monday 11th, Ukraine's prosecutor general told CNN that her office was preparing over 5,800 cases of war crimes committed by Russian forces since the invasion began. Bodies continue to be exhumed from mass graves in Bucha, they added.

Russia claimed on Monday 11th that the port city of Mariupol had finally fallen, although this was immediately disputed by the Gen. Valery Zaluzhny, commander of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, who said that the city's defence continued.

Ecuador robbers who made off with 2.8 tonnes of drugs caught

Police in Ecuador say they have caught robbers who stole 2.8 tonnes of drugs from a government-run warehouse, the BBC said on April 11th. Four men disguised as police broke into the warehouse in the city of Tena on Sunday and overpowered the lone officer on duty before making off with the massive

haul, officials said. Six suspects have been arrested and a lorry full of drugs seized, the counter-narcotics police chief said.

At least 30 killed in eastern DR Congo attacks

At least 30 people have been killed during two days of attacks by gunmen in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Red Cross says. It happened in Ituri province, which along with neighbouring North Kivu, are under an official state of siege in effort by the government to stop the attacks by dozens of armed groups. The attacks are thought to have been carried out by the Allied Democratic Front (ADF), one of the deadliest rebel groups operating in the region, BBC News reported on April 12th.

Industry and SIA News

2022 SIA GovSummit on May 24th-25th 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. You'll also find specialized sessions on essential topics in:

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