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Weekly Security & Risk Report

01st June 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 334

Issue 334 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 President Buhari has told the media that the country's Navy is actively engaged in the region, partnering with other nations in order to improve maritime domain awareness and reduce the threat of piracy. Speaking at an event to mark the Navy's 66th anniversary, he said that collaboration was an effective way to collectively deal with the menace of piracy.

Incidents:

1. On the 20th May 2022, a theft occurred on an MV at Takoradi anchorage, in position 04°53.69 N – 001°42.38 W. The paint locker security seals and lock were broken. Local authorities informed. Reported by MDAT-GoG.

ISPS code key component of maritime security architecture in Nigeria

Director General of NIMASA, Dr Bashir Jamoh, met with inspectors from the International Maritime Security Operations Team (IMSOT), who are in Nigeria to assess the country's compliance with the ISPS Code, Sun News reported on 29th May. Deputy Head of International Maritime Security Operations Team, IMSOT, Jim Hamilton, reportedly expressed his satisfaction with the levels of cooperation between government agencies on maritime security.

First female commanding officer of Ghana Navy Ship sails to Nigeria for maritime exercise

The Nigerian and Ghana navies will take part in a maritime security exercise this week. The focus is to establish a combined maritime task force among regional states, Ghana Web reported on May 26th. The Ghana Navy is deploying GNS Ankobra for the drills, which is commanded for the first time by a female Commanding Officer, Lt. Commander Priscilla Ami Dogbeda Dzokoto.

Drug Seizure by the French Navy in the Gulf of Guinea

Naval News reported on May 25th that the French Navy had made a major drug seizure in the Gulf of Guinea. After identifying a suspicious fishing boat, vessels from the Jeanne D'Arc task force group, the Mistral and Courbet recovered almost two tons of cocaine on May 22nd. The ships are in the region as part of Operation Corymbe.

Navy deactivates 172 illegal refineries, recovers 20m litres of crude oil

The Nigerian Navy has issued updated figures for its ongoing operation against illegal oil refineries in the country. Chief of Operations, Nigerian Navy, Rear Admiral A. S. Garba, announced that in the last seven weeks, 172 illegal refineries have been destroyed, 45 people arrested and 20,378,414 litres of crude oil and 367,715 litres of Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK) recovered. Other recoveries include 232,000 Litres of PMS, 830,000 litres of sludge and 66,000 litres of LPFO and 11,781,937 litres of illegally refined Automotive Gas Oil (AGO), he told the media.

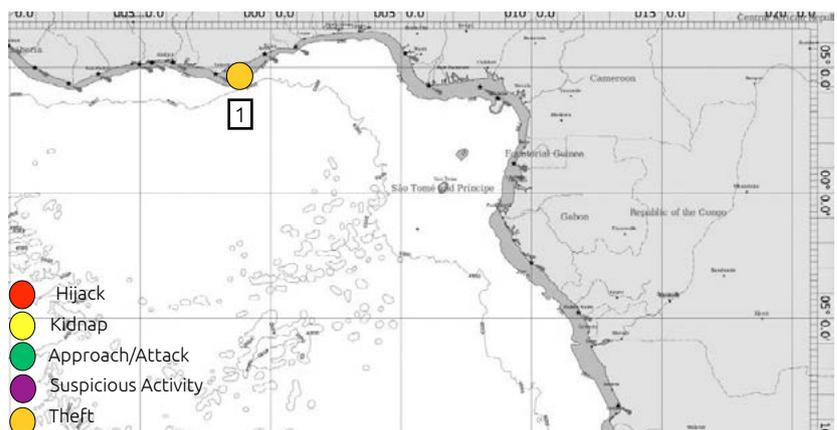
For further information, please [click here](#).

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures

2022
Incidents reported: 18 (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 Indian and Bangladeshi navies conducted Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar last week, with phases held both in port and in the Bay of Bengal. The exercise is designed to improve cooperation between the two forces and improve interoperability at sea, PSU Connect said on May 25th.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Iran seizes two Greek tankers

Reuters reported on May 27th that Iran's IRGC had seized two Greek tankers in the Persian Gulf that day. "The Revolutionary Guards Navy today seized two Greek tankers for violations in Gulf waters," said a Guards statement. The incident took place after Iran warned Greece that it would take 'punitive action' against them after the US confiscated an Iranian oil shipment from a tanker held off the coast of Greece, Reuters said. Iran's state news outlet, Tasnim, reported on May 29th that the crews were not being detained. "All crew members of both Greek ships are in full health and being protected while on board in accordance with international law, and they are provided with necessary services," Iran's maritime body said in a statement on Saturday.

IRGC's new massive ship to support fleet of small fast boats against US Navy

Iran International reported on May 27th that the IRGC is refitting the cargo ship Sarvin to act as a large, floating base which will be positioned near the Strait of Hormuz and used to operate IRGC fast boats. Now called the Shahid Mahdavi, the vessel is to become a forward operating base for the IRGC.

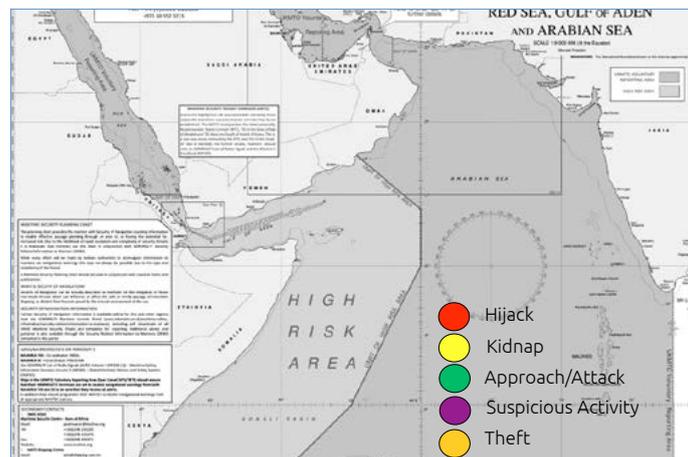
Fifth Fleet Commander explains the role of unmanned, A.I. in Middle East

The commander for U.S. naval forces in the Middle East discussed the role of unmanned systems and artificial intelligence in naval operations at an international security conference in the United Kingdom, May 24th. "We are on a path to build the world's first international unmanned surface vessel fleet," Cooper said. "Three weeks ago, we surpassed 10,000 total sailing hours for unmanned surface vessels throughout the region. Additionally, two vessels each exceeded 100 consecutive operating days at sea."

How Indian Navy could further Quad's agenda of checking China's illegal fishing

Following a meeting of leaders of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, or 'Quad' (the US, Japan, Australia and India), there are reports that a new initiative to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the Indian and Pacific oceans. The Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) will utilise data from India's Information Fusion Centre (IFC), the Singapore IFC and data from the Pacific to build a detailed picture of maritime domain awareness in real time, the White House said on May 23rd.

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 Evening Standard reported on May 15th that more than 8,000 people have so far arrived in the UK after crossing the English Channel in small boats. The news comes as Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the first batch of asylum seekers could be sent to Rwanda in the next few weeks.

Black Sea incidents

Responding to news that two naval mines had been found floating near Odessa and deactivated, the IMO issued an updated circular on May 25th to remind any vessels transiting the northern Black Sea of the risks they pose. Global attention has now shifted to the Russian naval blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports and the impact it is having on food supplies. DW reported on May 30th that Russian deputy Foreign Minister, Andrei Rudenko, had told diplomats from Turkey and Ukraine at a meeting last week that Russia was ready to provide a corridor for merchant shipping in the region, but only in return for the removal of certain Western sanctions. Lithuania, meanwhile, has proposed a naval mission to secure shipping. Lithuania's Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis suggested a 'coalition of the willing' could offer protection from Russian aggression in the region and allow Ukraine to begin exporting grain and other commodities. The UK's Foreign Minister, Liz Truss, offered a cautious welcome to the proposal, saying that the UK would send naval assets to join the escort programme if it met certain requirements, such as the demining of Odessa's harbour, DW reported. Plans are currently underway to investigate the possibility of increasing exports by rail, using tracks alongside the Danube River. However, large sections of rail are missing or overgrown, and would need to be replaced before any major exports could be undertaken, the American Journal of Transportation noted on May 30th. On the same day, The Guardian reported that around 22 million tons of grain are currently in silos in Odessa, awaiting export. There are concerns that this year's harvests, due in June and July, will have nowhere to go.

Migrants rescued by merchant vessel in Maltese waters

Alarm Phone reported on May 27th that a group of eight people who were in distress in Malta's SAR zone were picked up by a merchant ship, the MV Antigone. Reportedly, their small boat ran out of fuel

and they were adrift before being rescued. Alarm Phone said in a Tweet: "We are relieved that the 8 people were rescued – thanks to captain & crew of the vessel Antigone. While authorities refuse responsibility, merchant vessels have to step in. The 8 people need a safe place now!"

Home Office says a quarter of migrants crossing English Channel fleeing Afghanistan

Arab News reported on May 26th that the UK Home Office had revealed that one in four migrants attempting to cross the English Channel in small boats are people fleeing Afghanistan. The next highest demographic was Iran, they reported. Figures appear to show that 90 per cent of Afghans who reach the UK are granted asylum.

600 people die crossing Mediterranean so far in 2022

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has said that in the first three months of 2022, at least 600 people have gone missing or died attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Tunisia and Libya, according to InfoMigrants on May 27th. In 2021 the IOM said that over 1,500 people had died attempting to make the crossing to Europe.

Crowded migrant boat sinks off Tunisia with more than 70 people missing

On May 25th, Al Arabiya reported that 70 people were missing after their crowded boat sank while they attempted to cross the Mediterranean from Libya to Europe. It is thought that as many as 100 people were onboard the vessel before it capsized off Sfax, Tunisia, according to the local Coast Guard.

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

Somalia & Yemen

Somalia is facing its worst drought since 2011, Xinhua reported on May 27th. At least eight million people will be affected, following the failure of three rainy seasons and the resultant harvests. The National Drought Relief Committee said 66 districts across the country are currently affected.

Bomb blast kills 5 soldiers in Somalia

Middle East Monitor reported on May 29th that five government soldiers were killed by an explosion in Lower Shabelle on Saturday 28th. The incident took place just outside Barawe town, but details were scant. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack.

Somalia Prime Minister Suspends Foreign Minister Abdisaid Muse

Somalia's prime minister has suspended his foreign affairs minister over allegations that he authorized an illegal shipment of charcoal to Oman. The Somali government banned charcoal exports a decade ago to prevent deforestation and the funding of conflicts. However, analysts say the shipment was not the real reason for the suspension. The suspension of Foreign Affairs Minister Abdisaid Muse is equivalent to a dismissal and came after he authorized a ship to leave Somalia carrying a load of charcoal. The shipment violates Somalia's laws preventing charcoal exports, Voice of America reported on May 25th.

Still No Justice in Somalia Health Workers Massacre

Two years ago, Gololey village in Somalia's Middle Shabelle region was shaken to its core by the chilling massacre of eight health workers. On the afternoon of May 27th, 2020, five masked gunmen – four reportedly in government uniforms – abducted seven male health workers from a healthcare clinic run by a non-governmental organization. They also took a man who ran a nearby pharmacy. For almost 24 hours the community tried desperately to locate the men. On the afternoon of May 28th, their bullet-riddled bodies were found just outside the village. Both regional authorities and the government in Mogadishu initiated investigations. But two years on, despite the reported involvement of government security forces in the killings, nothing has come from those investigations, Human Rights Watch said on May 25th.

Houthi 'intransigence' over ending Taiz siege undermining UN-brokered truce

Arab News reported on May 30th that Houthi reluctance to lift their siege of the city of Taiz was undermining efforts to end the war in the country, according to Yemen's Foreign Minister, Ahmed Awadh bin Mubarak. Aid agencies have urged both the Houthis and Saudi coalition to reach an agreement on Taiz, where aid is urgently needed. He met with UN envoy, Hans Grundberg, in Aden to discuss the issue.

5 killed in Yemen landmine blasts

Five people were killed by landmines in three separate incidents in Hodeidah, Yemen's government said on May 30th. Daiji World reported that a woman and child were among the dead, killed by munitions left by Houthi rebels in the region.

UN envoy urges Yemen's warring parties to renew truce

Hans Grundberg, United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, has reportedly urged the Houthis and Saudi coalition to renew the current two-month truce when it ends on June 2nd. Al Jazeera reported on May 26th that the seven-year conflict has cost as many as 377,000 lives.

Blast in Yemen fish market kills five people, wounds over 50

Reuters reported on May 26th that an explosive device planted at a fish market in Aden had killed five people and wounded at least 50 more on Thursday 26th. Patients were rushed to a MSF hospital in Aden, where they later said that five people had died and 50 were treated. Local police said that several people had been detained for questioning and that no group had so far claimed responsibility for the bombing.

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

UK Security News

Two men have been jailed for life with a minimum 18 years term after plotting a revenge murder with a James Bond-style gun. Frankie Sinclair, from Cardiff, arranged to buy a £3,000 Walther PPK handgun from 'middleman' Paul Fontaine, of north London, to kill a gang rival, the BBC said on May 28th.

The top spies fighting terrorism three days a week

Disrupting terrorist plots has to be one of the most crucial jobs in the country, so it may surprise you to know this vitally important role at the top of the UK's signals and cyber intelligence agency is filled by not one person but two part-timers. Vicky and Emily are GCHQ's deputy directors of counter-terrorism - one of the very first job shares in an operational intelligence position at such a senior level. BBC News spoke to them on May 30th. Both working parents, they clock-up 28 hours a week each. Between them they have more than 30 years' experience in national security and intelligence gathering, the BBC said.

Member of proscribed group jailed for three years

A member of National Action, a proscribed Neo-Nazi terror group has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment, with an extended period on licence of 12 months, after pleading guilty to membership of a proscribed organisation contrary to section 11 of the Terrorism Act 2000. David Musins, 36, was sentenced on 27th May at the Old Bailey after admitting his guilt at an earlier hearing. Nick Price, Head of the CPS Counter Terrorism Division, said: "David Musins continued to associate with members of a banned right-wing group which perpetrated hateful and racist views. It is right that faced with the evidence against him he admitted this offence and has been sentenced today," the CPS reported.

Terrorism caution after Sheffield pepper spray protest

A protester arrested at a demonstration where officers were accused of heavy-handed tactics has been cautioned for terrorism offences. Campaigners said police "went berserk" with pepper spray at last months' pro-Kurdish event at Sheffield Town Hall. A 44-year-old man has since been cautioned for displaying an article suggesting membership or support of a banned group, BBC News reported on May 27th.

BTP becomes the first UK force to equip Special Officers with Tasers

British Transport Police (BTP) have announced that they are the first police force in the UK to provide special constabulary officers with Taser devices. From May 27th, some BTP special constables will be deployed with Tasers in order to assist them in their duties, BTP said. The first group of 22 officers have successfully completed training in the use of the devices.

London News

Police say inquiries are 'ongoing' after assault on Yasmin Evans

Former BBC Radio 1Xtra DJ Yasmin Evans was reportedly punched and kicked by a group of men, during an incident on the weekend. Police have confirmed officers were called to reports of an assault in Bishopsgate in London on Saturday night. She wrote on Instagram she was attacked after one tried to grab her arm. The City of London Police told Radio 1 Newsbeat that officers were called to the area at 1:09am on 28th May 2022, BBC News said.

Ashley Cole robbery: Accused blames DNA link on stolen items

A courier accused of robbing former England footballer Ashley Cole has claimed DNA linking him to the scene was found on items stolen from his van. Kurtis Dilks is accused of being part of a gang that used a sledgehammer to smash into Mr Cole and Sharon Canu's home in Surrey on 21st January 2020. Mr Dilks told a jury he was "most certainly not" involved in the robbery, BBC News said on May 30th.

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

Global Security News

Canada should introduce a total ban on the buying and selling of all handguns, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has said. His government is proposing a new law that would freeze private ownership of all short-barrelled firearms, BBC News reported on May 31st.

Ukraine: Latest updates

BBC News reported on May 31st that a French journalist working in Ukraine has been killed near the battle-hit city of Severodonetsk in the east. Frédéric Leclerc-Imhoff, 32, was covering an evacuation operation for broadcaster BFMTV when he died. Officials say he suffered a fatal wound to the neck after shrapnel pierced the armoured vehicle he was travelling in. The city of Severodonetsk has reportedly been 'cut in half' by new Russian front lines in the conflict, and the regional governor says that the situation is grave. The region has experienced heavy artillery bombardment by Russian forces in recent days and Russia now occupies almost all of the Luhansk region, which it recognised as being independent before its February invasion, the BBC said.

Al Jazeera reported on May 31st that the Ukrainian authorities still active in Mariupol have located 25 new grave trenches, where residents were reportedly buried 'in layers'. They report that Russian forces have buried as many as 16,000 residents in mass graves in the city since mid-April. According to a report from the Kremlin, Russia's Vladimir Putin told Turkey's President, Tayyip Erdogan, that Russia was ready to facilitate the export of grain from Ukraine's Black Sea ports in coordination with Turkey. However, previously, Russia had stated that this would only be done on condition that certain key sanctions were dropped by Western countries. Al Jazeera further reported that the Donetsk People's Republic, a self-proclaimed region, intends to take control of merchant ships left in the port of Mariupol by fleeing mariners and use them as a merchant navy. These could include the following vessels: "Princess" (Bulgaria), "Azburg" (Dominican Republic), "Smart" (Liberia), "Blue Star" (Panama), "Azov Concord" (Turkey) and "Lady Augusta" (Jamaica). According to Russian news outlet, TASS, the countries that own the ships have not taken measures to withdraw them, although this comment is at odds with the reality of floating naval mines and the threat of attack by Russian naval forces.

China sends 30 warplanes into Taiwan air defence zone

Taiwan says it deployed fighter jets to warn off 30 warplanes sent by China into its air defence zone. The incident on Monday 30th marked the biggest incursion since January. It came days after US President Joe Biden warned China against invading Taiwan, and on the same day as a US official visited the island to discuss security with leaders, BBC News said.

Anti-terror policing to be provided by UK armed forces at World Cup 2022

The Ministry of Defence has announced that the Royal Navy and RAF will assist with anti-terror duties at this year's World Cup in Qatar. The Royal Navy will be tasked with maritime security planning and command and control support, while the RAF will join forces with the Qatari Emiri Air Force of Typhoons to provide additional security for the event, Doha News reported on May 29th.

Industry and SIA News

Top 10 Hiring KPIs for Security Systems Integrators

In the first of a new SIA Integration Insights video series, they address the fact that hiring is hard, really hard! But just like sales and business operations, if you want to improve performance, you need to measure it and apply some key performance indicators (KPIs). SAGE Integration Chief Operating Officer John Nemerofsky stepped up and shared the KPIs his firm tracks as they try to solve some of the workforce and hiring challenges nearly all security systems integrators are facing. [Click here](#) for further details.

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



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