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Weekly Security & Risk Report

08th 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 335

Issue 335 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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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 National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has charged nine men from Ghana with two counts of drug trafficking, NAN reported on June 3rd. The men were arrested at sea in February this year while allegedly attempting to import cannabis into Nigeria.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Nigeria, French Navy collaborate

Rear Admiral Yakubu Wambai of Nigeria's Western Naval Command has said that he hopes for greater collaboration between the Nigerian and French navies, including exercises and training missions, TV360 Nigeria said on June 6th.

Nigeria, others demand international response to piracy, oil theft in GoG

Following the recent International Maritime Conference in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, along with 28 other countries, has issued a communiqué calling for a greater international response to piracy, oil theft and maritime crimes in the Gulf of Guinea. Chief of Policy and Plans of the Nigerian Navy, Rear Admiral Saidu Garba, signed off on the communiqué, which said: "At the end of the deliberations, 36 draft resolutions were adopted, including (the proposal) that African countries should identify and prosecute sponsors and collaborators in maritime crimes to serve as deterrence."

Amidst NDLEA onslaught, drug traffickers devise new methods for their trade

Recent successes by the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Nigeria, combined with greater security at the country's seaports,

has forced drug smugglers to use new routes, a spokesperson for the NDLEA said. Femi Babafemi told reporters that many were now turning to routes into Benin and Togo. However, on June 1st the NDLEA also warned international shipping companies not to facilitate the trafficking of illegal narcotics, with the Special Commander for Apapa, Ameh Inalegwu, warning shipping lines that they needed to do more to monitor their systems to avoid exploitation by criminals, Ships and Ports said.

Nigerian Navy has brought peace to riverine, coastal communities — CDS

Despite recent cases of kidnapping in its waterways, Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Iraboh, has said that thanks to the Nigerian Navy, peace has been restored to riverine and coastal communities in the country. "The doggedness of officers and men of the Nigerian Navy in synergy with other security agencies have significantly contributed to instilling the peace and tranquillity in most riverine and coastal communities," he said in comments reported by Leadership newspaper on June 4th.

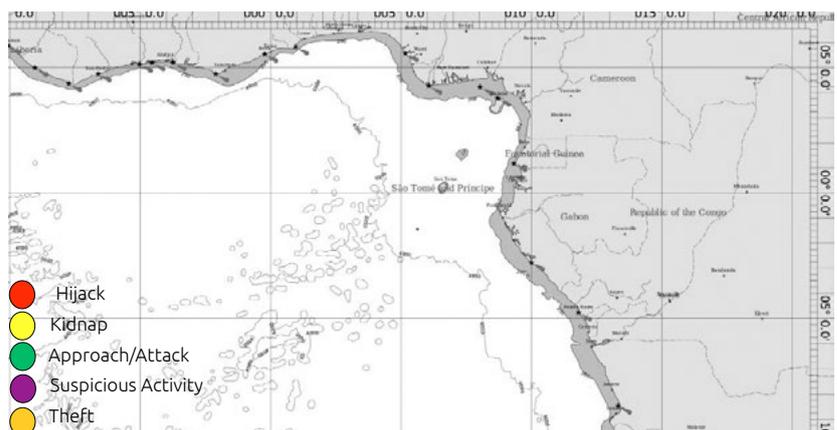
For further information, please [click here](#).

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

Fishing fleets in Europe have been illegally catching tuna from the Indian Ocean, threatening depleted fish stocks even more, according to Politico on June 4th. A study by Blue Marine and OceanMind found that fishing vessels had regularly been in Somali and Indian fishing grounds over a four-year period.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Project to track small fishing vessels pending since 26/11

Despite the recent announcement that Quad nations would undertake large scale monitoring to detect illegal fishing and other 'dark shipping' issues in the Indo-Pacific, India's attempts to have all fishing vessels use Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) is still to come to fruition, The Hindu said on June 6th.

Indian Navy conducts training capsule on coastal security for Marine Police

The Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command held a training capsule for Marine Police at the end of May, the Hand India reported on June 4th. Two days of classroom instruction were followed by training on fast interceptor craft for three days, with tutoring on navigation, patrol techniques and challenging vessels all undertaken by the Marine Police who attended.

US Coast Guard seizes heroin shipment in Gulf of Oman

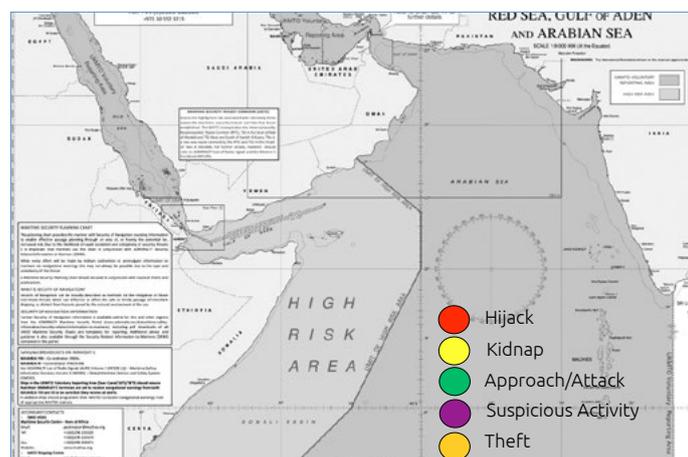
A US Coast Guard fast response cutter seized 310 kilograms of heroin worth an estimated street value of \$11 million from a fishing vessel while conducting patrols in the Gulf of Oman, May 31st. USCGC Glen Harris (WPC 1144) was operating as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 150, one of four

task forces under the Combined Maritime Forces. The fast response cutter arrived in the U.S. 5th Fleet region in January and operates from Bahrain where Combined Maritime Forces is headquartered with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and U.S. 5th Fleet, CENTCOM said on June 2nd.

Iran urges joint action with Kenya in fight against terrorism, piracy

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian highlighted the importance of relations with the African nations, calling for interaction with Kenya in combating the common threats at the international arena, including terrorism and piracy. In a telephone conversation with his Kenyan counterpart Raychelle Omamo on Thursday, Foreign Minister Amirabdollahian underlined the need for synergy between Iran and Kenya in countering the common threats in the international arena, such as terrorism and piracy, Tasnim News said on June 3rd.

For further information, please click here.



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

European Waters

Almost 10,000 migrants have crossed the English Channel in small boats so far in 2022, the Ministry of Defence said on Saturday 4th June. Some 9988 people have reached the country since January, with 40 arriving on Friday, The Brussels Times said.

Black Sea incidents

The situation at sea has been relatively quiet for the past week, although on social media, analyst HI Sutton noted that additional Russian warships and several supply vessels had been moving in the region, thanks to imagery from the Sentinel-2 satellite. Several landing craft and three merchant ships were all seen off Crimea, amid speculation that Russia may still be planning an amphibious assault on the port of Odessa. Additionally, a Shmel-class armoured patrol boat has been seen operating off Mariupol. It is said that the Caspian Flotilla has been transferred to the Black Sea to operate as coastal protection for the Russian Navy.

On June 6th, Splash 24/7 reported that Iranian-controlled tankers had been called on to ship Russian crude oil cargoes from the Black Sea. NGO United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) said that it had identified at least five of Iran's "so-called ghost armada" which were involved in transporting Russian oil out of the region, to China and India.

Russia's invasion is not being felt in the Bosphorus, according to a report by AFP on June 4th. They say that the total number of vessels on the route stands at around 40,000, much the same as the pre-war level. However, the theft of Ukraine's commodities remains a concern, with Ukraine's ambassador to Turkey saying: "Russia shamelessly steals Ukrainian grain and sends it overseas from Crimea, including to Turkey. In May alone, we counted at least 10 passages including two round trips from three vessels flying the Russian flag... Not to mention those that we would have collectively missed."

On June 2nd, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Oleg Nikolenko, responded to comments made by Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, who said that Russia would agree to the safe passage of grain carriers if Ukraine demined its Black Sea waters. On Facebook, Nikolenko said: Russia's actions can lead to a global food crisis, and in some regions - even to a situation of hunger. Russia must immediately unblock Ukrainian seaports, stop shelling Odesa and other coastal cities, lead its navy to a distance that

will make it impossible to attack merchant ships."

First flight taking Channel migrants to Rwanda set

Africa News reported on June 1st that the first flight taking migrants to Rwanda is set to take place on June 14th. UK Home Secretary said: "Home Office officials are speaking with all individuals to ensure the process is fully understood and people are given the appropriate support ahead of departure."

One dead off Cyprus as more than 40 Syrian migrants arrive

AFP reported on June 2nd that a body had been recovered off Cyprus on Thursday, after a group of 44 Syrians was found near Peyia. The group told police that a man on the boat they travelled on had fallen overboard before they reached the shore. Police believe the group was smuggled from Turkey and dropped off by traffickers.

IOM: More than 1300 migrants intercepted at sea last two weeks

The IOM reported on social media that from May 22nd to 28th, 727 migrants were rescued or intercepted at sea by the Libyan Coast Guard, the Libya Observer reported on June 1st. Since the start of the year, over 7,000 migrants have been picked up in the Mediterranean and returned to Libya, they wrote. For the week of May 29th to June 4th, the IOM reported that 675 migrants had been disembarked back on Libyan shores. According to the IOM, since the beginning of 2022, 143 illegal migrants have died and 547 others are considered missing on the Central Mediterranean route.

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

Somalia & Yemen

UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, announced on Thursday 2nd that the al-Houthi regime and Saudi coalition had agreed to renew their truce for a further two months. He said the move offered Yemenis a rare glimmer of hope, the UN said on its website.

Somalia: 'Dire and grim' drought, impacting more than 7 million

The United Nations has again expressed deep concern over drought in Somalia. The country's UN Humanitarian Coordinator, Adam Abdelmoula, said: "The situation is extremely dire and grim: 7.1 million people are going to be affected by this drought situation before the end of this year." As of May this year, a UN report from the OCHA said that around 6.1 million Somalis have been affected by the drought situation, and there are fears that this will lead to a famine in the country.

Kenyan police officers wounded by roadside bomb near border

Garowe Online reported on June 5th that three Kenyan police officers were wounded on Sunday when the vehicle they were using struck a IED. The officers were with a team who were escorting a member of the Kenyan parliament when the incident occurred. The Kenyan police said that the driver and other officers sustained serious injuries in the explosion.

Somali special forces engage Al Shabaab

Garowe Online reported on June 4th that members of Somalia's Danab special forces conducted an operation in Kismayo against Al Shabaab terrorists, killing at least 10 during their assault. Responding to a series of attacks in the Lower Juba region, members of the 16th Danab unit also arrested an Al Shabaab commander during the operation.

Somalia Hails US Airstrike Against Al Shabaab

The US has targeted al Qaeda-linked fighters in Somalia, launching its first airstrike since announcing that its forces would again be based in the country. Somalia's Ministry of Information announced the airstrike Friday on Twitter, saying it had targeted militants near Beer Xaani, west of the southern city of Kismayo, after they had attacked Somali forces. Initial estimates indicated that five Al Shabaab

fighters were killed and that there were no civilian casualties, the Somali announcement said, Voice of America reported on June 3rd.

Iran 'deliberately flooding' Yemen with drugs: Minister

Moammar al-Eryani, Yemen's Minister of Information, has accused the Iranian government of "deliberately flooding" the country with drugs, after the arrest of six Iranians who were attempting to smuggle narcotics. Police in al-Mahra governorate arrested six men after intercepting a boat. They found a large quantity of crystal methamphetamine on board the dhow, Al Arabiya reported on June 2nd.

Efforts to reopen routes to Taiz falter

Despite the new extension to the truce in Yemen, the government has been unable to reach agreement with Houthi forces who are currently holding the city of Taiz. The second round of negotiations has apparently failed, with media blaming Houthi demands to reopen roads in other governorates, according to Critical Threats on June 6th. Despite the truce, it was reported that Houthi launched an armed drone attack against Southern Transitional Council forces in Dhaleh in southern Yemen on June 5th.

KSrelief's Masam Project dismantles 1,437 mines within a week in Yemen

The Masam demining project, operated by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, has cleared another 1437 mines planted by Houthi rebels across the country in the first week of June, the Saudi Gazette said on June 6th. Among the munitions made safe, the teams deactivated 48 anti-personnel mines and 676 anti-tank mines.

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

UK Security News

Psychologists and behavioural scientists should be used more frequently in counter-terror investigations, as the threat to the UK moves from group action to lone wolf actors, the UK government independent reviewer of terrorism legislation, Jonathan Hall QC, told the Observer newspaper on June 4th.

Man 'posted terror video' after Liverpool hospital bombing

An asylum seeker posted Islamic State (IS) propaganda on social media after the bombing at a Liverpool hospital, a jury has heard. Ahmiri Ahmedi Azizi, 24, from Sheffield, is said to have shared the footage the day after the attack. The video encouraged terrorist attacks against the West, Manchester Crown Court heard. Mr Azizi denies seven counts of disseminating terrorist material between June and November 2021, BBC News said on June 6th.

Money laundering: MPs call for closure of NI corporate loophole

BBC News reported on June 6th that a Northern Ireland corporate loophole that is exploited by international money launderers should be closed, MPs have said. An investigation by BBC NI's Spotlight programme has looked at the use of Northern Ireland Limited Partnerships (NILPs) for money laundering. The secretive companies can be set up in seconds from anywhere in the world.

Widnes teenager jailed after admitting terrorism offences

A 19-year-old from Widnes has been jailed for 30 months after being convicted of terror offences, the St Helens Star reported on June 1st. Counter Terror Policing North West raided the home of Mason Yates in January 2021 and found a "large number of extreme right-wing images" on the man's phone as well as 'concerning electronic documents', the paper said.

British teenager 'plotted Islamist terror attack against serving police officers or military personnel'

An 18-year-old man from Essex has appeared in court, accused of plotting Islamic terror attacks in the UK, GB News reported on June 1st. Matthew King of Essex reportedly carried out surveillance at police stations, Stratford Magistrates Court and

an army barracks in East Ham, London. He is due to appear at the Old Bailey on June 10th.

Counter terror police raid on Liverpool teenager's home

The Liverpool Echo reported on June 1st that a 19-year-old from Anfield has been charged with terrorism offences, following a police raid on his home. He has been charged with three counts of possession of a document likely to be useful to a terrorist, the paper reported. No further details have been released so far.

London News

Police watchdog seeks witnesses after Tasered man dies

The police watchdog is appealing for witnesses following the death of a man who was pulled from the River Thames after being Tasered by officers. The Met Police said it was called to reports of a man shouting on Chelsea Bridge Road, armed with a screwdriver, just after 09:00 BST on Saturday 4th. Officers used a Taser to try to restrain him but the man fled and ended up in the river. He later died, BBC News said on June 7th.

Man charged with murdering rapper at Jubilee party

A man has been charged with murdering a rapper at a Jubilee party in Woodford Green, east London. Lamar Jackson, 32, who performed under the name Hypo, was fatally injured in the early hours of Friday, police said, BBC News reported on June 6th.

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

Global Security News

Russia's UN ambassador has stormed out of a UN Security Council meeting after the European Council president blamed Russia's invasion of Ukraine for causing a global food crisis, BBC News said on June 7th. Charles Michel said Russia was using food supplies as a 'stealth missile'.

Ukraine: Latest updates

BBC News reported on June 7th that an official installed by Russia in Ukraine's southern region of Kherson has signalled that Moscow could attempt to stage a vote on annexation to Russia. "It will most likely be a referendum," said Kirill Stremousov, the deputy head of the administration put in place by the Kremlin.

The remains of some Ukrainian troops who were killed defending Mariupol have been exchanged, the BBC reported. Fighters killed inside the Azovstal steel plant have been handed over to Kyiv, according to the Azov unit of the national guard.

In the east of the country, the battle for Severodonetsk continues, after Ukraine regained territory from Russian forces. A morning update from the Ukrainian armed forces gives further confirmation of hostilities in the area. It claims Russia's "main efforts" are focused on Severodonetsk - where the Ukrainians are inflicting damage on their enemy - and on nearby Bakhmut, where another counter-attack has been launched. The update adds that ten attacks across the eastern Donbas region were repelled over the previous day, the BBC said on June 7th. The UK Ministry of Defence said in its daily assessment of the situation on June 7th that: "Over the weekend, Ukrainian forces have recaptured parts of Severodonetsk although Russian forces likely continue to occupy eastern districts. Russia's broader plan likely continues to be to cut off the Sieverodonetsk area from both the north and the south.

"Russia made gains on the southern, Popasna axis through May but its progress in the area has stalled over the last week. Reports of heavy shelling near Iuzium suggests Russia is preparing to make a renewed effort on the northern axis.

"Russia will almost certainly need to achieve a breakthrough on at least one of these axes to translate tactical gains to operational level success and progress towards its political objective of controlling all of Donetsk Oblast."

Dominican Republic minister shot dead in office

BBC News reported on June 6th that the Dominican Republic's Minister of Environment and Natural Resources has been shot and killed in his office by a close personal friend, officials say. Orlando Jorge Mera, 55, was holding a meeting at the time of the attack. At least six shots were heard. The motive for the shooting remains unclear.

50 people killed in Nigerian church attack

As the local community in Ondo state, Nigeria, mourns, investigations into who carried out a terrorist attack at Saint Francis Catholic continue. Reports state that gunmen set off explosive devices while armed men outside opened fire on worshippers in the attack. No group has claimed responsibility for the killings, and The Guardian reported on June 6th that President Muhammadu Buhari had issued a statement which said: "No matter what, this country shall never give in to evil and wicked people, and darkness will never overcome light. Nigeria will eventually win."

Industry and SIA News

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Tel: +44 (0) 1279 216 726

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

Email: operations@mast-security.co.uk