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Weekly Security & Risk Report

15th 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 336

Issue 336 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 new ship, the NNS KADA, has arrived in Lagos, Gistmaster reported on June 14th. The Landing Ship Tank (LST) spent 56 days at sea on its journey from Sharjah, UAE, to Nigeria and made five port visits during the course of its journey. The Navy now plans to add a second LST to the fleet.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Nigerian Navy intercepts cannabis worth N500m, launches manhunt

The Nigerian Navy announced on June 9th that it had recovered a significant amount of cannabis sativa, after a routine patrol stumbled across a group of smugglers off Lagos Fairway buoy. Although the incident occurred at the end of May, it has only now been reported. According to the Commander of NNS Beecroft, a group of Nigerian Navy Special Boat Service personnel were on routine patrol when they saw men jump into a speedboat and flee another boat. On inspection, the Navy found 463 large bags containing cannabis. A hunt for the criminals is underway, The Guardian reported on June 9th.

Navy uncovers illegal crude oil market in Rivers community

In a sign of just how widespread the problem of illegal refining is, the Nigerian Navy has uncovered a 50km square site in Rivers State which was being used to trade illegally refined products and stolen crude, as well as being a site for illegal refineries. The Premium Times reported on June 9th that after finding the location, the Navy engaged in surveillance in order to determine the main operators and discover the sources of their crude oil. They found an oil pipe manifold which was the source of the oil, but said that the criminals all fled

when they saw Navy gunboats approaching.

Italian Navy tests piracy response in Gulf of Guinea

The Italian authorities have reportedly increased the level of security onboard vessels transiting the Gulf of Guinea to MARSEC 2, Maritime Executive reported on June 8th. Last week, the Italian Navy conducted a counter piracy drill off the Cote d'Ivoire, with ITS Luigi Rizzo, which is on deployment to the region. The MV Grande Cameroon acted as a vessel under attack, and the alert was sent to the relevant authorities to test systems, before the Navy was alerted. They deployed marines from a helicopter onto the ship as part of their VBSS exercise.

Influx of Illicit Arms Encouraging Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea

Nigeria's former Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Martin Luther Agwai (rtd), has blamed the rise of illegal weapon smuggling for an increase in piracy in the region. "Piracy has become increasingly sophisticated with the influx of small arms and light weapons in the hands of pirates and criminals on waterways and high on seas," he said at a meeting in Abuja on countering piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, This Day reported on June 8th.

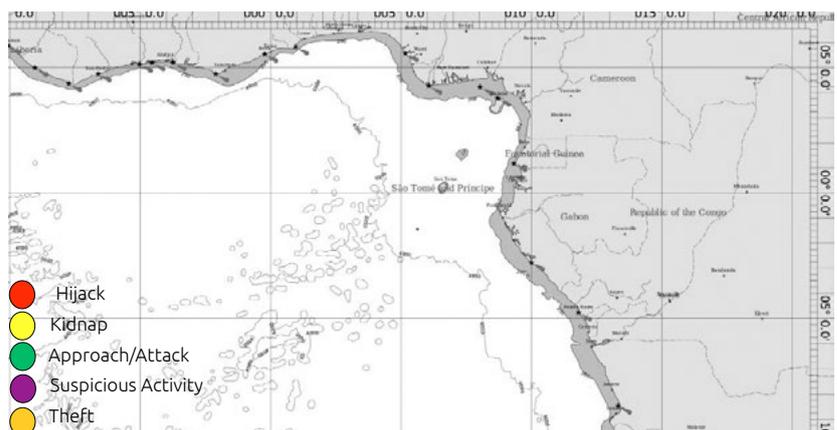
For further information, please click here.

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 president of Iran hailed the delivery of the second Iranian-made oil tanker to Venezuela as a testimony to the victory of determination and unity of nations over the American sanctions, Iran's state-run Tasnim News reported on June 12th.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Iran Navy Commander warns neighbours not to allow Israel into region

Iran International said on June 12th that IRGC Navy commander, Admiral Alireza Tangsiri had said that whoever allowed Israel to establish a presence in the Persian Gulf would encounter security problems. "We advise our friendly and brotherly [neighbours] in the Persian Gulf not to establish relations with the Zionist regime, because by doing so, they will undermine the security of the region," he stated, according to Iran's Press TV.

Iran tests new trade corridor to ship Russian goods to India

Bloomberg reported on June 12th that Iran was testing a new maritime corridor to transfer Russian goods to India, as Russia continues to feel the effects of Western sanctions. The first cargo left St. Petersburg for the Caspian Sea port of Astrakhan, from there it is transported by road to Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf before heading to India, Bloomberg said.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt leads naval drills

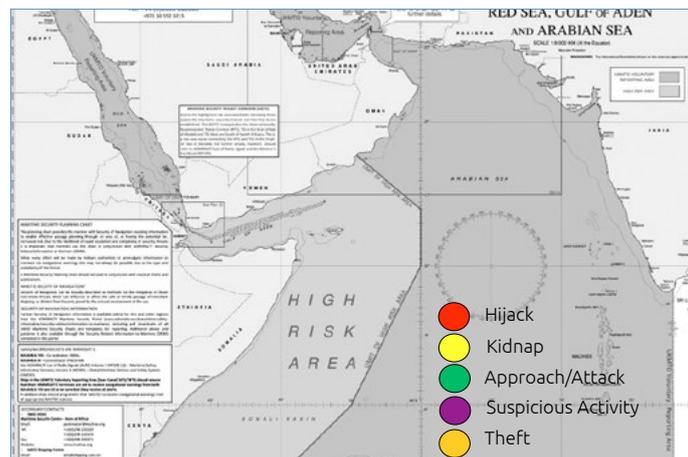
A group of regional nations including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Djibouti, Egypt, Sudan and Yemen have all taken part in a naval exercise called Red Wave 5,

which began on May 29th and ended on June 4th, Al-Monitor wrote on June 11th. Held off the coast of Jeddah, the exercise included Somali observers and was intended to enhance cooperation between navies while ensuring freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

Joint India-Australia maritime surveillance activity

A Royal Australian Air Force P-8A Poseidon aircraft has deployed to India under a combined India-Australia maritime surveillance initiative. India and Australia will conduct activities in the Indian Ocean Region to build operational maritime domain awareness, practise anti-submarine warfare manoeuvres and bolster military interoperability. Deputy Chief of Joint Operations, Air Vice Marshal Michael Kitcher, said that this maritime surveillance activity paved the way for deeper and more sophisticated operational cooperation between India and Australia, the Australian Ministry of Defence said on June 8th.

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



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

European Waters

Britain's plan to fly asylum-seekers to Rwanda faces a last-minute legal challenge. The first flight is scheduled to leave June 14, carrying up to 100 migrants. However, a group of non-governmental organizations and refugee campaigners have launched a legal case at the High Court in London, VOA said on June 10th.

Black Sea incidents

Another relatively quiet week in the Black Sea, as conversations on how best to open up Ukraine's ports continue. It is believed that around 25 million tons of grain are currently trapped inside Ukraine's ports, with little sign that Russia will allow it to be transferred without the lifting of some Western sanctions. Additionally, Russia has called on Ukraine to de-mine Odessa port and the coastline around it before any merchant traffic is allowed to leave. Any such move would obviously weaken Odessa's defences, so is unlikely to be agreed to by the Ukraine government. Naval News reported on June 12th that it was "clear" that Putin was using the food crisis as a weapon, seeing the stored grain as a useful card in any negotiations. The hope is that the United Nations will step in and potentially create a UN naval group which can safely clear mines and conduct convoy escorts in the Black Sea, avoiding potential NATO-Russia conflict. Whether the government of Turkey would be willing to take part in this is open to question; they have attempted to remain neutral in the conflict.

On June 8th, Peter Adams, special advisor on maritime security at the International Maritime Organization (IOM), said: "Even if the ports wanted to reopen tomorrow it would take some time until ships could enter or depart. Completely removing sea mines in the port areas would take several months," according to a report in G Captain. It is thought that as many as 450 seafarers remain trapped along with 80 merchant ships in Ukraine's ports. Bloomberg reported on June 8th that most of the Black Sea had returned to close to normal shipping levels, apart from the northwest and Sea of Azov, where primarily Russian vessels are operating. Talks took place between Russia and Turkey to discuss the safe passage of vessels, but Ukraine was not invited to participate, RFI said on June 8th.

Migrant, refugee deaths increasing on dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossing

The U.N. refugee agency says fatalities are rising

along the Mediterranean Sea crossing to Europe, even as fewer migrants and refugees are making the dangerous journey. Migration reached a peak in 2015, when more than a million refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean to Europe. That number declined to 123,300 in 2021. However, the U.N. refugee agency says more than 3,200 died or went missing at sea last year, an increase of nearly 1,000 over recorded fatalities in 2018, VOA wrote on June 11th.

At least four dead after migrant boat capsizes off Spain

Four migrants have died and one is missing after a migrant boat capsized off the coast of Spain, InfoMigrants said on June 9th. Spanish rescue services were continuing to search for the missing person off the country's southern coast, reports said. The alert was raised by a merchant ship, the Express Vesuvius, after she picked up a man from the water.

UK: Sentences for migrant smugglers

InfoMigrants reported on June 8th that two British men had each been sentenced to up to seven years in prison for smuggling 31 migrants into the country. The case was heard at Nottingham Crown Court after being arrested on May 4th in London. The men were found guilty of "recruiting drivers to hide migrants in hired vans containing various goods before smuggling them into the UK," InfoMigrants said.

Moroccan Navy rescues 385 migrants crossing Mediterranean to reach Europe

Media Line reported on June 8th that the Moroccan Navy had rescued 385 migrants who had been found in the Mediterranean Sea, heading for Spain. They were found in inflatable boats in the Strait of Gibraltar, and were in a poor condition, the report said.

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

Somalia & Yemen

In a sign of warming relations between the two countries, Somalia has agreed to lift its ban on air shipments of the stimulant, khat, AFP reported on June 10th. Diplomatic relations between the two had been strained since the maritime border issue was resolved by an international court.

Somali National Army operation kills Al Shabaab terrorists

On June 13th, All Africa reported that the Somali National Army had conducted an operation in Hiiraan region, following an Al Shabaab attack. During the operation, Somali forces destroyed several Al Shabaab bases used to collect taxes from locals, and killed at least 12 members of the terror group, the report said.

Italy pledges to help Somalia rebuild its army

Following a meeting between the new Somali President and the Italian Foreign Affairs Minister, Luigi Di Maio, it was announced that Italy would assist the country in rebuilding its armed forces. Reportedly considered one of the weakest on the continent, according to Garowe Online on June 13th, the offer has been made as the Somali government begins efforts to restructure its armed forces.

New Somali President Inaugurated, Warns of Famine

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was inaugurated as the 10th president of Somalia on Thursday 9th in a colourful ceremony attended by hundreds of people, including the leaders of Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti. In his inaugural speech, Mohamud warned that in addition to the danger posed by Al Shabaab, severe drought poses an immediate threat to the country, VOA reported.

Senior Al Shabaab commander surrenders

Garowe Online said on June 8th that Mustaf Ishak Ali, an Al Shabaab commander who has led a series of attacks in the Bay region, surrendered to the Somali National Army's 60th Division in Baidoa town last week. Ali had appealed to his fellow terror group members to follow his example and lay down their weapons, the website said.

UN launches crowdfunding effort to raise money to save the FSO Safer

On Monday 13th, the UN announced a social media campaign to raise funds towards the repair of the FSO Safer, moored off Hodeidah, which remains a significant ecological threat to the region. With over a million barrels of oil on board, the platform is in a terrible state of disrepair and urgently needs attention. Although several nations have pledged funds, the sum still falls far short of the \$144 million the UN believes is required to make the ship safe.

Yemen truce brings relief but no path to lasting peace

Al-Monitor said on June 10th that while the warring parties in Yemen had agreed to a further two-month extension of the current truce, there is no guarantee that Houthi rebels will stick to the UN plan. One sticking point is the city of Taiz, which remains under siege. The Yemen government has pushed to have the area re-opened, and this may cause disruption to the truce, Al-Monitor noted.

Houthi Minister warns against further support for Yemen government

Critical Threats said on June 13th that Hussein al Ezzi, the Houthi Deputy Foreign Minister, had warned on social media that countries would be unwise to offer the Yemen government any further support. He said on Twitter that "any new adventures in Yemen" would see "dangerous repercussions" for Gulf states.

Yemen Army: Houthis sending major reinforcements to different fronts

Despite the current truce in the country, Yemen's Houthi rebels are moving reinforcements to several different fronts in Yemen. Asharq Al-Awsat said on June 10th. According to Abdo Majali, spokesperson for the officially recognised government's military, Houthi rebels are in violation of the truce.

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

UK Security News

A convicted terrorist who was jailed for plotting to bomb the London Stock Exchange has been put back behind bars after police uncovered a secret bank account following his release. Shah Rahman was jailed for eight months at the Old Bailey, BBC News reported on June 11th.

Leading loyalist Winston Irvine charged with firearms offences

A leading loyalist has been remanded in custody after police found firearms and ammunition in a bag in the boot of his car in Belfast, a court has been told. Winston Irvine, 46, was denied bail by a judge at Belfast Magistrates' Court. He was arrested on Wednesday by police investigating a security alert at an event attended by Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney in March, BBC News said on June 12th.

Counter-terror police arrest man at Luton Airport

A 40-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of being involved with terrorism, the BBC said on June 10th. The man was arrested on Wednesday by officers from the Metropolitan Police's counter-terrorism command at Luton Airport on arrival from Kosovo. Officers searched a house in the Watford area as part of their investigation.

Upward trend in children arrested for terrorism offences

The UK's Counter Terror Policing unit has said that the current upward trend in youth arrests for terror offences are "of real concern", according to a post on their website on June 9th. The most recent information from the Home Office shows that there were 196 arrests for terror-related activity between March 2021 and March 2022. Of the people arrested, 15 per cent were under 18, the police said. In the previous year period, that figure was 12 per cent.

Man charged with terrorism offences after arrest in Gloucestershire

An 18-year-old man has been arrested and charged with terrorism offences in Gloucestershire, according to Gloucestershire Live on June 8th. The charges relate to Extreme Right Wing Terrorism Ideology, they reported. He will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court on June 28th.

Founder of banned UK neo-Nazi group jailed

Alex Davies, 28, the co-founder of British neo-Nazi group, National Action, has been jailed for eight and a half years by the Old Bailey. Davies had been found guilty of remaining a member of the group after the UK government banned it, Reuters said on June 8th. Members of the group had plotted and praised the murder of politicians in the UK and of making threats to kill police officers.

Silverstone: Police warn terrorists they'll leave 'no stone unturned' at the sold-out GP

More than 400,000 people are expected to attend the British Formula 1 Grand Prix at Silverstone next month, and Counter Terror police have said that no stone will be unturned in their efforts to secure the event. Northamptonshire Police issued a statement saying that they will be conducting a "an extremely wide-ranging policing operation," Northants Live said on June 8th.

London News

Body found set on fire in Northolt Park

The discovery of a man's body on fire in a west London park is being treated as suspicious, police have said. Firefighters were called to Belvue Park in Northolt, Ealing, at about 04:20 BST where they found the man. The force said the victim's identity had not been confirmed, but his death was being treated as suspicious, the BBC said on June 13th.

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

Global Security News

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has condemned Wednesday's attack on a busy Berlin street that left one person dead and 31 injured as a 'cruel rampage'. Police said they believe the attack was 'an intentional act' by the 'allegedly mentally ill 29-year-old', BBC News said on June 10th.

Ukraine: Latest updates

BBC News reported on June 14th that Russian forces had destroyed all major bridges giving access to the city of Severodonetsk on May 14th. The city is now effectively cut off, with no ways for civilians to leave the war zone. It also means that humanitarian supplies can no longer get in to the city. Ukraine says more than 500 civilians are trapped inside a chemical factory in an industrial zone where its forces have resisted weeks of Russian assault.

Taking Severodonetsk and the nearby city of Lysychansk would give Moscow control of the entire Luhansk region, much of which is already controlled by Russian-backed separatists, the BBC said.

Russia continues to make small gains in the east of Ukraine, with attacks now taking place on Ukrainian positions north of Kharkiv, and defensive positions in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, the BBC added.

The UK Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, has said that the UK will do "whatever is necessary" in order to secure the freedom of two British soldiers who were captured in Ukraine and now face the death penalty. While she did not rule out direct negotiation with forces in the Donetsk People's Republic, she refused to go in to further details, BBC News reported on June 14th.

Al Jazeera reported on June 14th that Russia's Kremlin spokesperson, Dmitry Peskov, had claimed that Russia's main goal in Ukraine was to protect the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. He did not comment on why Russia had only recently moved troops into those regions. Amnesty International has accused Russia of committing war crimes in the city of Kharkiv, including using cluster bombs against civilians.

On June 13th, Al Jazeera reported that Russia had earned \$98 billion through the sale of fossil fuels in the first 100 days of its war against Ukraine. The EU was the top importer, the media outlet said. The report was created by the independent Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

Toronto van attacker sentenced to life in prison

The man responsible for a deadly van attack in Toronto four years ago has been sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole for 25 years. The 29-year-old killer was found guilty last year of murdering 10 people and attempting to murder 16. Eight women and two men died after the killer ploughed a van down a busy pavement. Asked by investigators how he felt about the harm he had caused, the attacker replied at the time: "I feel like I accomplished my mission," BBC News said on June 13th.

EU to improve digital information exchange in fight against terrorism

The Brussels Times reported on June 10th that justice ministers in Europe had reached an agreement on several measures to improve the EU's fight against terrorism. A new agreement to improve digital information exchanges between states in terrorism cases has been reached, as well as improved judicial cooperation.

Industry and SIA News

Call for Proposals: Speak at ISC East or West

The Security Industry Association (SIA) and ISC Security Events are seeking speaker proposals from subject matter experts for the SIA Education@ISC conference programs at ISC East 2022 (November 16th-17th in New York City) and ISC West 2023 (March 28th-31st in Las Vegas). For further information, [please click here](#).

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