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# Weekly Security & Risk Report

06th July 2022



# MAST Intelligence

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UK Domestic

International Incidents

Industry and SIA Updates

LAND



SEA

West Africa

Indian Ocean  
Yemen, Somalia

European Waters



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# Issue 339

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Issue 339 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

Bashir Jamoh, the director-general of NIMASA, called on maritime stakeholders in Nigeria to engage in greater collaboration to further improve security in Nigeria's waters, the People's Gazette said on July 2nd. He reminded the audience at a workshop on emergency management that piracy remained a threat to the country's economy and that greater collaboration could help prevent it.

## Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

### Court grants NPA power to continue impounding vessel carrying 1m litres of adulterated diesel

A court in Ghana has agreed to extend the order impounding a ship found with a cargo of adulterated diesel. The ship was stopped in Ghana's waters while carrying a million litres of suspected stolen product in January 2021, My Joy Online said on June 30th. The country's National Petroleum Authority (NPA) was granted the extension.

### ASF to take on continental anti-piracy tasking

The African Union's Standby Force (ASF) is to take part in any future maritime security operations off continental coasts, Defence Web said on July 1st. There are now plans for the ASF to take part in its first maritime security exercise, with plans on location and time to be decided, they reported. The regional exercise will include countries in the Indian Ocean and Gulf of Guinea regions, they said.

### Nigeria, Japan sign \$2.78m boat deal to enhance maritime security

The governments of Nigeria and Japan have signed a deal which will see Japan provide the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) with a new high speed patrol

boat to further enhance the Deep Blue project. Nigeria's minister of state for Budget and National Planning, Clem Agba, told the media: "This project to strengthen the operations of NIMASA will definitely strengthen the partnership between the Government of Japan and the Federal Republic of Nigeria," Business AM Live said on June 29th.

### EU Provides €28M to Improve Liberia Maritime Security

The ECOWAS Support to West Africa integrated Maritime Security (SWAIMS) project has awarded €28 million to Liberia to improve maritime security in the West African country. The Coast Guard is expected to receive the biggest boost, with new rigid-hull inflatable boats and training planned. Defence Minister, Major General Daniel Ziankahn, Jr. (Retired) said "There have been numerous instances of illegal activities in the Gulf of Guinea, and the provision of these inflatable boats, serving as a combat multiplier, will add to our own capabilities to address these illegal activities."

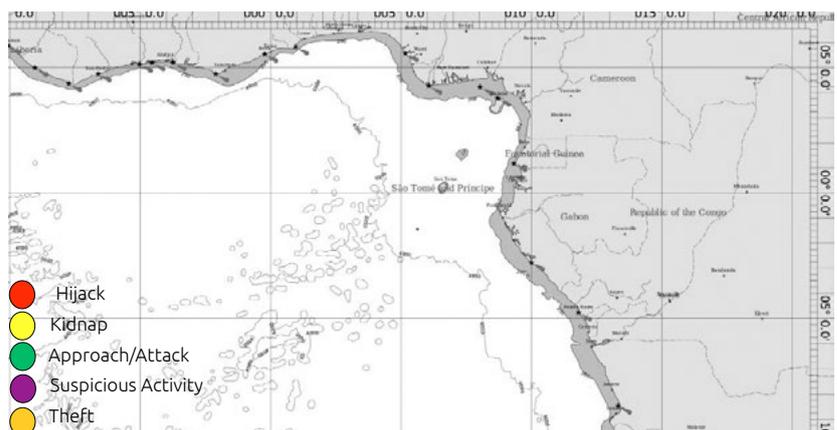
*For further information, please [click here](#).*

#### 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

India's Economic Times reported on July 4th that France, Australia and India may be poised to revive their trilateral agreement in the face of increasing Chinese encroachment in the region. The agreement has been largely on hold due to the Australia and France nuclear submarine deal ended in diplomatic disagreement.

## Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

### UAE hosts the 2022 high-level meeting of the amended Djibouti Code of Conduct

In line with its commitment to support the security and safety of the maritime industry, the UAE hosted the 2022 high-level workshop of the amended Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC) concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden area, they said in a press release on June 30th. The workshop witnessed the presence of around 80 officials, including ministers, representing 17 countries. There were also representatives from 'Friends of DCoC' which includes international agencies and countries including France and the USA were present.

### US Navy 5th Fleet opens tip line for Indian Ocean Region

Associated Press reported on July 1st on a new initiative in the Indian Ocean Region, as the US Navy's 5th Fleet offers rewards in return for tips on smuggling activity. With the hopes that offers of cash rewards will tempt people, the Navy is targeting weapons and drugs smugglers. They and bodies such as the Combined Maritime Forces have experienced significant success against traffickers in the Indian Ocean and it is hoped that the new initiative will help

add to those successes.

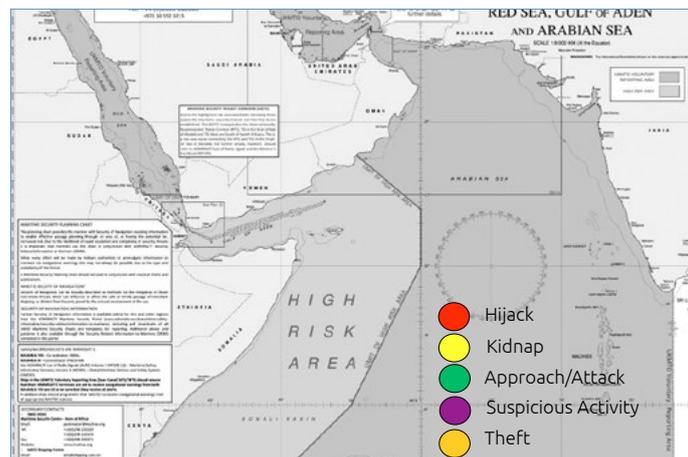
### Potential new stealth missile boat under construction in Iran

A new vessel has been observed under construction in Iran, according to satellite imagery. The unidentified catamaran is characterized by a clean-angled form, appearing stealthier than earlier types, and could be a missile boat, USNI said on June 30th. The new boat is seen next to another new missile catamaran, a Shahid Soleimani-class missile corvette. This is also a stealth-influenced design, appearing generally modern.

### Sea cucumber smuggling in East Africa threatens livelihoods and ecosystems

The ISS reported on June 29th that the rise in sea cucumber smuggling in the Indian Ocean was threatening local fishing communities and the wider ecosystem. Blaming Chinese fishing fleets for the crime, the ISS noted that while countries such as Kenya and Tanzania had created legislation, it was rarely enforced. In Zanzibar, sea cucumbers fetch as much as US\$40 per kilo, compared to US\$300 per kilo on Hong Kong.

*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 Daily Sabah said on June 30th that the first vessel to carry grain since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine had left Russian-occupied Berdyansk port carrying 7,000 tons of grain. The region's Moscow-appointed official revealed the news, saying the grain was heading to 'friendly countries'.

## Black Sea incidents

A cargo ship carrying grain from a Russian-occupied region of Ukraine has been detained by Turkish customs authorities, according to Ukraine's ambassador to Turkey, BBC News said on July 3rd. Vasyl Bodnar says "We have full co-operation. The ship is currently standing at the entrance to the port, it has been detained by the customs authorities of Turkey". The ship, named as the Zhibek Zholy, was on route from Berdyansk to Karasu, on the Turkish Black Sea coast. It is not clear where its cargo came from or how it was obtained, but Russia has been accused of stealing grain from areas of Ukraine it controls - allegations Russia denies. It is not known whether the ship is the same one Russia announced on June 30th. In a twist of irony, a Russian Project 1176 Akula class landing ship has sunk off Mariupol, after striking a Russian naval mine, media outlets reported on July 3rd. A spokesman for the Ukrainian military, Sergey Bratchuk, said that at least three Russian crew had died in the incident. "Finally, we received confirmation that, indeed, on June 30th, a Russian D-106 landing craft of the 1176 Akula class of the Black Sea blown up on a mine in the waters of Mariupol," he wrote in his Telegram channel. In related news, the Netherlands government has offered to send its minesweepers to the Black Sea to assist Ukraine with mine clearance around the port of Odessa in order to help expedite grain exports. "If we can play a role, we are happy to do so," Defence Minister Kaja Ollongren said at the NATO summit in Madrid, the NL Times said on June 30th. On the same day, Russian forces vacated Snake Island in the Black Sea, claiming that it was a "gesture of goodwill." A US Department of Defence official said: "We view this development as that the Ukrainians were very successful at applying significant pressure on the Russians, including by using Harpoon missiles that they recently acquired to attack a resupply ship. When you realize how barren and deserted Snake Island is, you understand the importance of resupply. So, the Ukrainians made it very hard for the Russians to sustain their operations there [and] made them

very vulnerable to Ukrainian strikes. So, that of course, is why Russia left the island."

## France holding 10 suspects over migrants' drowning in English Channel

France 24 reported on June 30th that French police had arrested 15 people in connection with the November 2021 migrant drowning incident, in which 27 people lost their lives. Five suspects were later released without charge, but one has been charged with manslaughter and people-trafficking while nine others will appear before a judge who will decide whether to apply charges.

## Drug smuggling: Underwater drones seized by Spanish police

Spanish police have seized three underwater drones built to smuggle drugs across the sea from Morocco. The unmanned submersibles are apparently capable of carrying up to 200kg (441lbs) of cargo. As part of the 14-month investigation, eight people have been arrested in Cadiz, Malaga, and Barcelona, BBC News said on July 5th.

## Israel shoots down Hezbollah drones heading for gas rig

Authorities in Israel say they have shot down three Hezbollah drones heading towards one of its gas rigs in a disputed area of the Mediterranean, the BBC said on July 3rd. Hezbollah confirmed it had launched the drones in a short statement. Tensions have mounted between Israel and Lebanon over ownership of the Karish gas field. Last week, the group's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, threatened to use force to prevent Israel from operating the rig.

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

## Somalia & Yemen

China is offering to help “silence the guns in the Horn of Africa,” an ambitious undertaking given the multiple conflicts in the region, and an indication that Beijing may be moving away from its traditional “non-interference” stance towards more active diplomatic engagement, VOA said on June 30th.

### Boats carrying arms to Al Shabaab run aground in Puntland

Garowe Online reported on July 4th that smugglers have been increasing their efforts to smuggle illegal weapons from Yemen to Puntland, Somalia, on behalf of the Al Shabaab terror group. On July 1st, two boats full of illegal weapons were seen by locals as they ran aground along the Bandar-Bayla coast in Karkaar. The crews of 19, who were mainly Somali, have been arrested by local security forces. Garowe Online said that their sources had said the weapons were destined for the Al Shabaab-controlled town of Harar-Dhere.

### Somalia's drought leaves nearly a million desperate with hunger

Nearly a million people have left their homes in search of food, water, and humanitarian assistance in towns and major cities. Dolow, a border town in Somalia's south-western region of Gedo which has been hosting thousands of families displaced by the 2011 drought, is now receiving drought-affected people in their hundreds daily, some coming as far as 300 kilometres (186 miles) on foot or riding donkeys, VOA reported on July 4th.

### Turkish-Trained Gogor Forces Ransack Al-Shabaab Camps

Somalia's elite, Turkish-trained Gogor troops have been in action against Al Shabaab, All Africa said on July 3rd. They conducted a number of operations in Lower Shabelle, where they reportedly destroyed a number of Al Shabaab camps as part of an ongoing offensive against the terror group.

### Somalia's Danab forces conduct operations

UNI reported on July 3rd that the Somali National Army's Danab special forces had engaged in a number of operations against Al Shabaab forces in the Middle Shabelle, as part of an ongoing effort to rid the region of the terror group. They reported killing at least 40 Al Shabaab terrorists and a number

of camps deactivated.

### Yemen's Taiz braced for new Houthi attacks

Officials and residents in the city of Taiz are reportedly readying themselves for Houthi attacks, after the group deployed new forces and artillery units outside the city, Arab News said on July 4th. A Yemeni military officer stationed in Taiz, Abdul Basit Al-Baher, told Arab News that intelligence sources suggested that Houthis were planning to launch a series of attacks against the city. They have brought in big military reinforcements to Taiz, including fighters, military vehicles, armoured personnel carriers, heavy machine guns, and sniper rifles with night vision sight.”

### 7 killed in car bomb in Yemen's Aden

A car bomb which was targeting the convoy of a security official in Aden has killed at least seven people, France 24 said on July 3rd. They reported that the target of the attack was Lahij governorate security director, Saleh al-Sayed. It is believed that four soldiers and three civilians died in the blast.

### Houthis fire missile at target in Saudi Arabia

Although the truce is apparently still holding in most the country, Houthi rebels have fired at least one ballistic missile at Khamis Mushait in Saudi Arabia, Critical Threats said on July 1st. The attack on June 30th was neutralised by Saudi air defence systems, they said, with no casualties reported. This is the first missile attack on Saudi Arabia since truce began on April 1st.

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

## UK Security News

There has been a shooting at a property in Montrose Street in east Belfast, police have said. They believe two masked men, dressed in dark clothing, entered the building and fired two shots shortly after 21:45 BST on Monday 4th, BBC News said.

### UK police charge 19-year-old with terrorism and explosives offences

Reuters reported on July 4th that a 19-year-old from Walsall has been charged with possession of explosives and other terrorism offences, following his arrest on June 27th. Vaughn Conrad John Dolphin will appear at Westminster Magistrate's Court this week to face charges. He was in possession of explosive material as well as manuals on how to construct IEDs and firearms, the report said.

### UK politicians raise alarm over Chinese CCTV providers

The Financial Times reported on July 4th that a number of MPs and members of the House of Lords have called on the UK Prime Minister to ban surveillance equipment from the Chinese firms, Hikvision and Dahua. Sixty seven people signed a letter calling on the companies to be blocked in the UK due to the use of their equipment in China in the repression of Uyghur Muslims in the country, the FT reported.

### UK signs deal to share police biometric database with US border guards

The Register said on July 4th that the UK has signed a new deal to share law enforcement data with the USA. The deal includes biometric data sharing where that information is held by UK police forces. It would be shared with US border officials, reportedly. The new plans fall under the Enhanced Border Security Partnership, which is aimed at increasing the US Department of Homeland Security's ability to detect threats via biometric data sharing.

### Australia upgrades travel advice to UK due to 'threat of terrorism'

Australian media reported on June 30th that the country had upgraded its travel advice for people visiting the UK due to the threat of terrorism. The Australian government's SmartTraveller website says that Australians should now "exercise a high degree of caution in the UK" because of the threat,

9 News said. The official UK terror level remains at Substantial, according to the UK government.

### Teenager arrested at UK's Stansted airport over suspected terrorism offences

A 19-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of terrorism offences at Stansted Airport on June 29th while he waited to board a flight, the National reported. The Metropolitan Police said in a statement that the alleged offences relate to Islamist ideology. The Metropolitan Police said in a statement: "He has been detained under Pace (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) and is in custody at a London police station while inquiries continue. As part of the investigation, a search warrant was executed at an address in east London. This search has been completed."

## London News

### Murder investigation launched after man dies in Beckton

Three people have been arrested after a 39-year-old man died at a home in east London. Officers found the man at an address on Newark Knok, Beckton, at about 15:30 BST on Saturday after receiving calls about a disturbance, BBC News said on July 4th.

### Police hunt attackers after man punched in the face, watch stolen in Soho

London's Evening Standard reported on July 5th that police had issued images in their hunt for two men who fractured their victim's eye socket in a violent street robbery in Soho last December. The man refused to hand over his watch and was punched several times by his attackers.

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

# Global Security News

The authorities in Niger state in central Nigeria have ordered the immediate suspension of all mining activities. It comes days after gunmen launched a devastating attack on a mining site, kidnapping at least four Chinese miners and killing over 20 members of the Nigerian security forces, BBC News said on July 5th.

## Ukraine: Latest updates

Voice of America reported on July 5th that Switzerland is hosting a conference for the second day focusing on Ukraine recovery in Lugano. The conference will address the priorities, methods and principles of reconstruction, as well as what form reconstruction may take in the areas of infrastructure, the economy, the environment and social issues. URC2022 will also consist of a pledging element. RFI reported on July 4th that Ukrainian forces have now withdrawn from the eastern city of Lysychansk, which gives Russia control of a large portion of the Donbas region which it originally said it would 'liberate' from Ukraine.

On July 4th, BBC News reported that Russia has accused Ukraine over explosions which reportedly killed three people in the city of Belgorod, near the border with Ukraine. The regional governor said the blasts hit dozens of residential buildings and air defences had been activated. The Kremlin said that Sunday's attack had been a deliberate attempt by Ukrainian forces to target civilians. Ukraine dismissed the claim, saying the Russians had lied about similar incidents in the past.

On July 5th, the UK's Ministry of Defence issued its daily update on the war, which said that the battle for Donbas had been characterised by a slow rate of advance, with Russia employing large scale artillery strikes to level towns and civilian areas. They anticipate this type of attrition will continue. The cities of Lysychansk and Sievierodonetsk have reportedly been left in ruins as a result of the conflict.

## Copenhagen shooting: Shopping mall gunman charged with murder

A 22-year-old man suspected of killing three people at a shopping centre in Denmark's capital Copenhagen has been charged with murder. Two Danish citizens, both aged 17, and a 47-year-old Russian citizen were killed in Sunday's attack. Police said the suspect had mental health issues and there is no indication of a terror motive, BBC News said on

July 4th. He had a rifle and a knife and his shooting was random - "not motivated by gender or anything else" - they said.

## Highland Park shooting: Man arrested after 4 July mass shooting

The BBC said on July 5th that US police have arrested a suspect after six people were killed in a mass shooting at an Independence Day parade in Highland Park, Illinois. Robert E Crimo III, 22, was detained after a brief chase, police said. The gunman climbed on to a roof, shooting randomly at spectators using a high-powered rifle. It is the latest mass shooting to hit the US - there has been one in every week of 2022. President Joe Biden said he was "shocked" by the violence.

## Abiy accuses rebels of new 'massacre' in Oromia

A fresh round of attacks against ethnic minorities in western Ethiopia has left "many" villagers dead - the second such attack in a little over two weeks. Farming villages inhabited by members of the Amhara community were targeted, according to witnesses who have spoken to the BBC. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has called the incident a "massacre" and vowed to "eliminate" the armed group - the Oromo Liberation Army - that he blamed for the violence. The group has not yet responded to the accusations, BBC News said on July 5th.

# Industry and SIA News

## SIAThere! Returns Back in Person!

Attention security professionals: The SIAThere! in-person networking events are back! This series of free industry networking events will help you meet new people, build business connections and network with other security professionals in cities across the country. Please [click here](#) for details.

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