



Issue 80 of the series reviews, analyses and threat assesses the fragile and conflict affected coastal states Libya, Somalia and Yemen. The Mediterranean migrant crisis, incidents affecting maritime security and influencing maritime news are also reported and analysed, focusing on the keys theatres of maritime instability.

“Making the maritime environment a safer place to live and work”



The Maritime Intelligence 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 conflict 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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MAST RISK MAP



Indian Ocean Region

Recent attacks against merchant shipping in the Gulf of Aden and Bab-el-Mandeb have highlighted that there are still risks associated with transits through these waters. In addition to several attempts at piracy, attacks by small, high speed boats using small arms, rocket propelled grenades, and significant amounts of explosives have been conducted against MV GALICIA SPIRIT in October 2016 and MT MUSKIE in May 2017. In the case of the MT Muskie, the ship's embarked security team was able to thwart the attack resulting in the small boats breaking off their attack and one boat exploding for an unknown reason at a safe distance from the Muskie, the Combined Maritime Forces said in a statement.



Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

mation, Abdirahman Omar Osman.

Shipping Routes via Oman Opened to Give Qatar Food Lifeline

Qatar and container lines have launched new shipping services via Oman in an effort to sidestep a port ban in neighbouring countries and secure a food lifeline after other Gulf states severed ties with Doha last week.

Navigation Records Of Vessel Being Probed

A team of officials from various departments today began investigating navigation records and other details of a merchant vessel, which allegedly hit an Indian fishing boat on June 11th leaving two fishermen dead.

Iran sends naval fleet to Oman

Iran has dispatched two warships to Oman to start their anti-piracy mission in the international waters. An Iranian naval flotilla left to Oman on Sunday 11th to progress towards a mission to the north of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden.

Threat Assessment

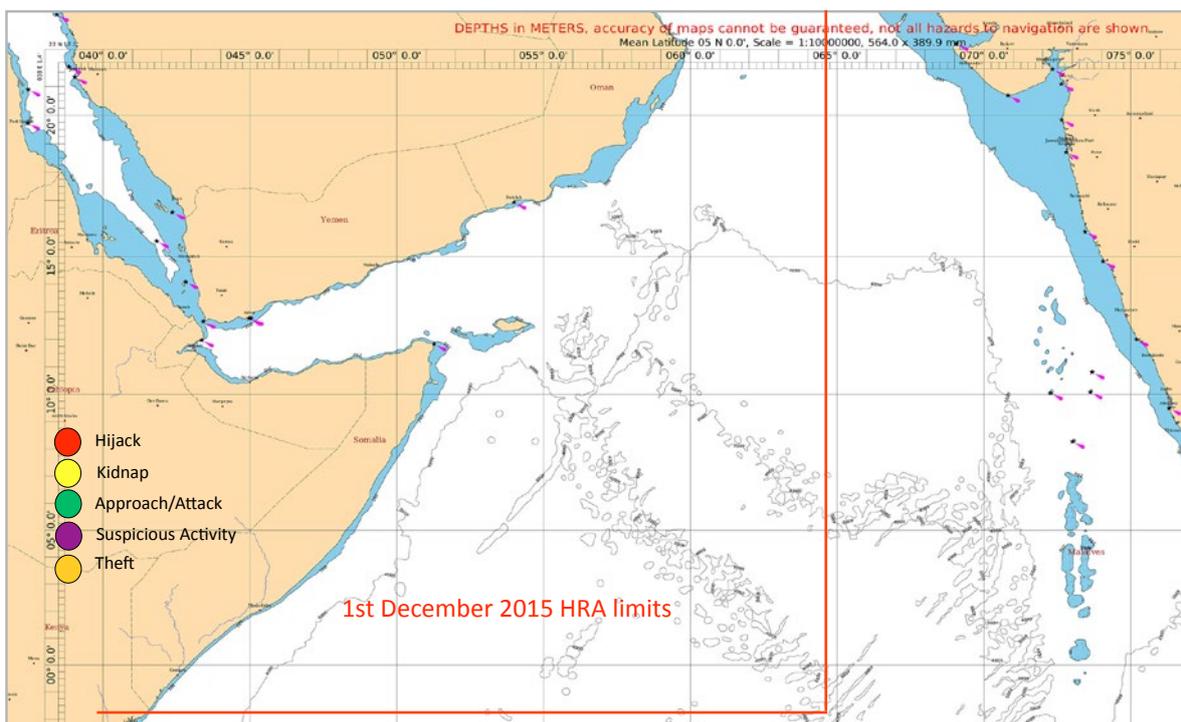
To read MAST's analysis on recent attacks in the Indian Ocean Region, [please click here](#).

Police arrests 5 armed pirates in Kangan

Iranian media reports that police in Bushehr province arrested five armed pirates on June 12th, believed to be responsible for a series of attacks against vessels in the waters off Kish Island.

India to Transfer Sentenced Somali Pirates

The Federal Government of Somalia welcomed India Cabinet approval of the Agreement between India and Somalia on transfer of sentenced persons, according to Somali Minister of Infor-





Somalia

Somalia's militant Islamist group Al Shabaab said on June 8th that it had carried out a major assault on a military base in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland. Its fighters killed 61 government troops and seized 16 vehicles in the dawn raid, the group said. A Puntland government minister denied the high death toll, but did not give separate casualty figures. The al Qaeda-linked group has carried out several big attacks on military bases in Somalia.



Massive Bomb Blast Hits Army Convoy in Mogadishu

Speaking to Radio Shabelle on Sunday 11th, a witness said a remote-controlled land mine ripped through two battle wagons near Benadir junction, wounding a civilian woman who was nearby the scene.

U.S. airstrike kills 8 Al Shabaab terrorists in Somalia

U.S. airstrikes targeted Islamic extremists in Somalia on Sunday 11th as the U.S. ramped up efforts to support the East African government in the face of brutal attacks from the al Qaeda-linked Al Shabab terrorist group.

Kenyan War Planes bombed Al Shabaab militants

Kenya Fighter jets have mortared near the town of Bardhere, Gedo region officials told media. The shelling injured three civilians.

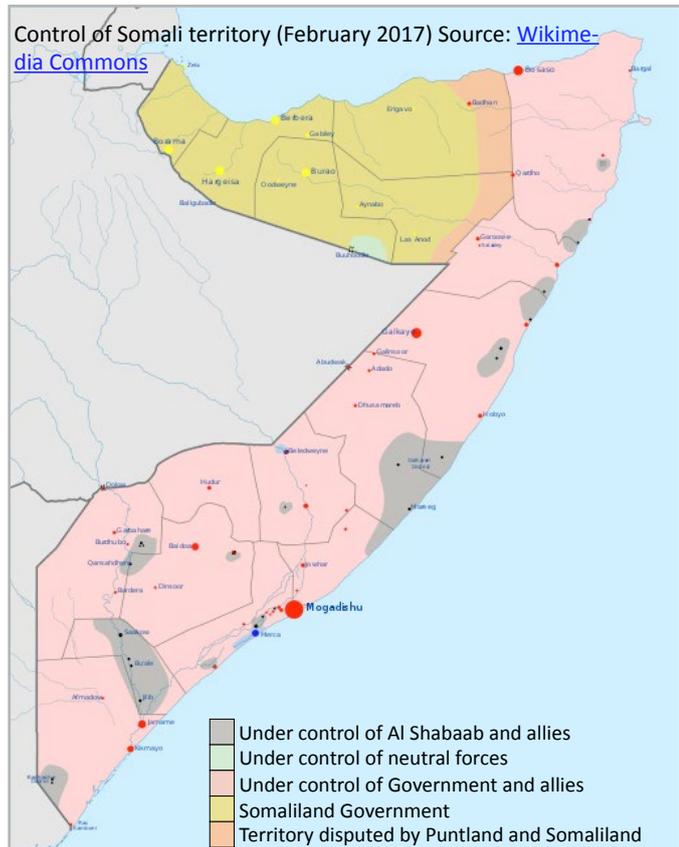
Government issues new measures to stabilize Mogadishu

Since the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan joint units

from the army, Police and Intelligence Agency are carrying out a security operation named "Mogadishu Stabilization Mission" aimed to drive out suspected militants to deter terrorist attacks.

Al Shabaab

- AS claimed responsibility for an unconfirmed attack on an Ethiopian military base in Halgan, central Somalia on June 9th.
- AS militants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting a Somali National Army (SNA) convoy in Jowhar, Middle Shabelle region, central Somalia on June 8th, killing three.
- Kenya's Anti-Terror Police Unit (ATPU) arrested five al Shabaab recruits in eastern Kenya on June 7th.



Analysis

The increase in attacks by Al Shabaab militants has been met with airstrikes by US and Kenyan forces over the last week. While these will certainly damage training facilities and camps, they are unlikely to have a lasting impact on the group. Al Shabaab remains operative in large parts of the country and in the capital.

Pirate action groups remain in the Gulf of Aden, with an attack in the Gulf of Oman highlighting their reach. Suspicious approaches by armed men in skiffs continue to pose a threat to shipping. There has been no further reported use of RPGs against merchant traffic this week, but Masters should be aware that the capability to strike vessels remains.

Threat Assessment

Pirate attacks off Somalia and suspicious approaches in the Gulf of Aden continue to be a cause for concern. The ongoing threat to shipping in the region has been made clear by the military bodies which monitor the region. A lack of adherence to BMP4 protocol, particularly not maintaining a safe distance off the coast, has increased risks to shipping. BMP4 advises: "non-Somali fishing vessels should avoid operating or transiting within 200nm of the coast of Somalia, irrespective of whether or not they have been issued with license to do so". Merchant vessels would be wise to maintain the same distance from the coast, particularly ensuring that the Socotra Gap isn't taken. All vessels are advised to update risk assessments and register with UKMTO/MSCHOA prior to entering the Indian Ocean High Risk Area.



Yemen

Suspected al Qaeda militants launched a car-bomb and gun attack on an army camp in southeastern Yemen early on Monday 12th, leaving at least 10 militants and two soldiers dead, a military official and residents said. The assault near the town of Baddah in oil-producing Hadramout province came after a lull in attacks by the militant group. Attackers set off two car bombs outside the camp, the official said. Residents said they also heard gunfire after two loud explosions.



Naval coalition steps up patrols around Yemen after attacks

The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) said on Monday 12th it will step up patrols in waters off Yemen after several attacks there, including those launched by Somali pirates and others blamed on Yemeni rebels, but whose identity remains unknown.

AQAP/ISIS

- Militants claimed two attacks on al Houthi-Saleh forces in al Bayda governorate, central Yemen. The attacks killed two al Houthi-Saleh troops in a village near Hammat Sarar, northwestern al Bayda governorate on June 11th.
- Emirati-backed al Hizam security forces detained a militant attempting to bomb a passenger bus in Abyan governorate, southern Yemen on June 7th.

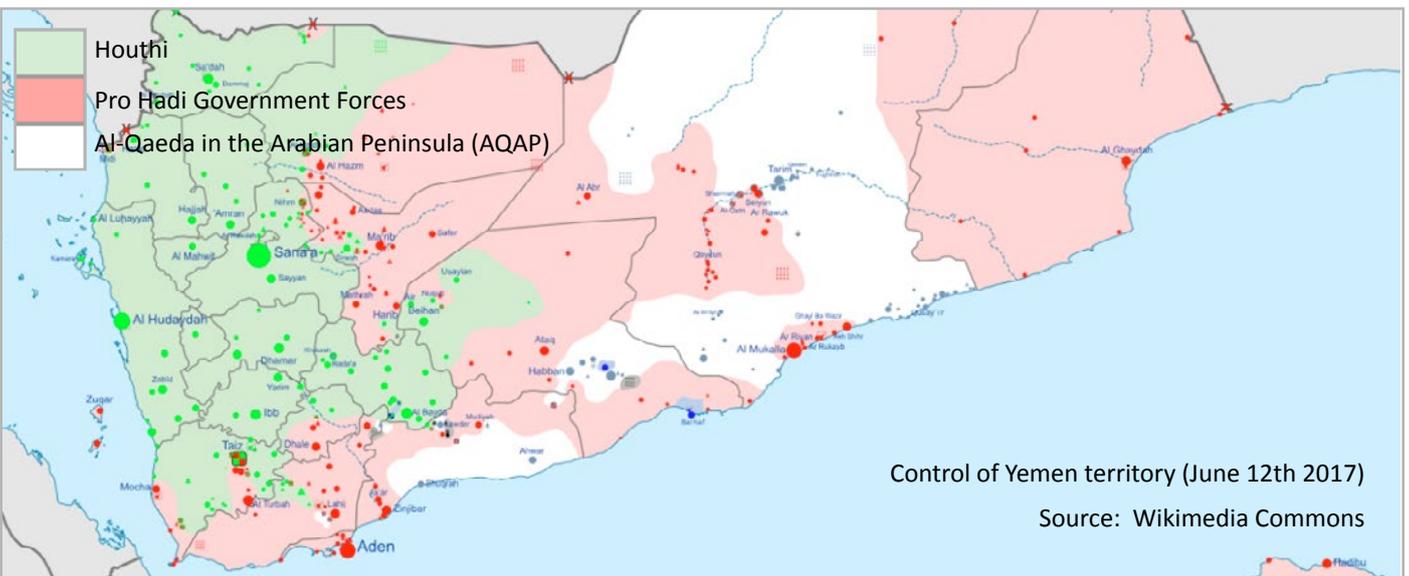
Threat Assessment

The RPG and small arms fire attack on MT Muskie on May 31st suggests an escalation of violence against merchant traffic in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait (BAM). Fortunately, it would appear the attack was deterred by the armed security team on board the vessel. It is possible that this may have been a failed terrorist attack on the vessel, though if this was the case, it is surprising that the attack was so easily deterred by the armed guards. The use of RPG and small arms during the attack conforms to the Somali piracy modus operandi, and this suggests that this was a pirate attack, though given the location, the motives for the attack may have been opportunistic theft rather than to hijack and ransom the vessel. To read the MAST assesment of the MT Muskie incident, [please click here](#).

In June to date there has been significant suspicious activity re-

ported in six separate incidents, including an attack on a Marshall Islands tanker, in the Southern Red Sea and in the BAM. Weapons were sighted on board several of the vessels which shadowed and followed MVs. In the last four weeks, there have been a further two approaches and two accounts of suspect activity within the vicinity of the BAM. Four accounts of suspect activity, including approaches have been recorded in the eastern IRTC within the vicinity of al Mukallah. While increased patrols by CMF assets will be welcomed in the BAM, it is unclear whether they will also step up their presence in the Gulf of Aden, where approaches continue to be made against vessels. The frequency of these incidents, where vessels are approached and in some cases attacked by armed men in small boats, indicates that the threat assessment remains 'Substantial' – an attack is a strong possibility.

The Yemen civil war is on-going and there has been an element of spill over into the maritime domain. Houthi's have specifically targeted the Saudi coalition with precision weapon systems. The apparent use of locally produced moored mines by the Houthi's off the Port of Midi is a slight change in direction given that sea mines are more indiscriminate in terms of their potential targets. These mines might become a threat to shipping should they float free into the BAM shipping lanes. MAST recommends BMP measures be enforced and watches strengthened during transits in the region. In the Gulf of Aden, MAST's advice for passage planning is to maintain the furthest possible distance from the Yemen coast, transit the Bab el-Mandeb Strait during daylight hours and use the western TSS wherever possible. Vessels should keep clear of al Mukallah and remain in the IRTC, where warship protection is more likely.





Yemen Ports

Nothing significant to report.



UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM)

The UN's Secretary-General has decided to institute a UNVIM for the facilitation of commercial imports to Yemen, at the request of the Government of the Republic of Yemen and in line with Security Council resolution 2216 (2015).

UNVIM is operational with immediate effect. Shipping companies or vessel owners shipping commercial goods or services to any port not under the direct control of the Government of Yemen (Salif, Mokha, Hudaydah and associated oil terminals) need to apply for permits upon departure of the port of origin of their cargo. For further details [click here](#).

UN arms embargo imposed by UN Security Council Resolution 2216 of 2015 is in place.

Port Aden:

- The port of Aden is under the protection of the Republic of Yemen security forces.
- Curfew in effect for Aden, 2000-0600 daily.
- Merchant vessels wishing to enter Yemeni ports must first apply for a permit through the Yemeni Ministry of Transportation; contact: yemen.transport@gmail.com for more information.
- Final clearance to enter Yemeni ports (with permits in place) is authenticated by the coalition guard ship.
- Aden is the only port in Yemen currently able to facilitate container vessels. The container terminal has recently increased its capacity. WFP note that eight vessels were discharging at berth with 5 waiting at anchorage.

Port Salif: Capacity 2 berths. Operating at capacity.

Port Hudaydah:

- Capacity 8 berths.
- Only 1 of 5 shore based cranes in partial operation, container vessels highly recommended to have their own internal cranes.
- RSNF is utilizing a holding area 60 NM west of the port of Hudaydah for all vessels attempting entry into Salif or Hudaydah. Inbound vessels should plan on holding within this area prior to receiving clearance from port control warships.

Port Mokha: Status - Closed: Currently classified as 'Not Safe' (North of England P&I, Jan. 12th 2017).

Port Al Mukalla: Capacity 2 berths. Al Mukalla port was liberated on the 23/24 April by the Saudi-led coalition and southern resistance. Port officials have advised that port operations resumed on the 26th April.

Port of Balhaf: Status - Closed: LNG terminal remains closed. Now under control of Saudi and Yemeni forces.

Port of Ras Isa: Status - Closed. Safer oil terminal remains closed, Safer Company (SEPOC) does not allow vessels to berth at Safer Marine Terminal if they do not have an agreement signed by them according to the protocol between buyer and Yemeni government.



Mediterranean

Libya has accused NGOs operating in the Mediterranean of being complicit in the exodus of tens of thousands of migrants on June 12th, claiming the humanitarian organisations are in direct contact with traffickers along the lawless coast of the North African country. Humanitarian groups such as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) vehemently denied the allegations, as the deadly crossing claimed yet more lives at the weekend.

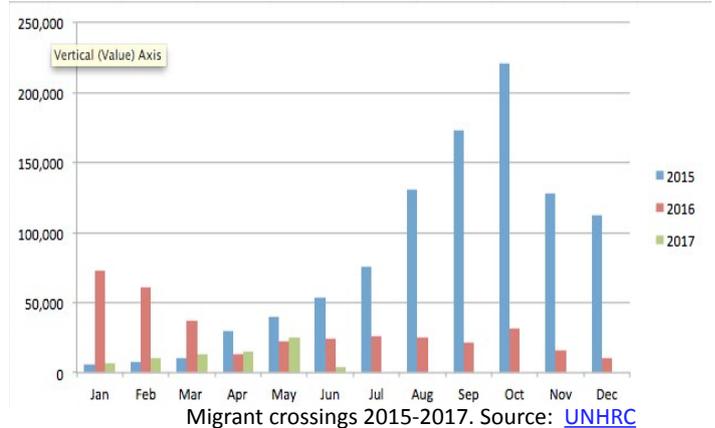


UK study acquits Med NGOs of charges, 'they lower risks'

An independent research study by London's Goldsmiths University on rescue activities for migrants in the Mediterranean defends the work of NGOs at sea and condemns accusations made against them.

What Pricing Tells Us About the Nature of the Smuggling Business

The head of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), William Lacy Swing, recently claimed that globally, people smugglers are making \$35 billion (31 billion euros) a year. "The smugglers are really the big problem. It's about \$35 billion a year [that people smugglers make] and we know they're making lots of money across the Mediterranean," VOA News reported.



Over 2,500 migrants rescued off Libyan coast at the weekend

The U.N. refugee agency called on Sunday 11th for European countries to help Italy cope with an increasing flow of migrants after some 2,500 were rescued at the weekend and dozens were reported missing at sea after leaving Libya.

Ten migrants die, 100 missing off Libya coast

At least ten migrants have died after their Europe-bound boats sank off Libya's coast and some 100 people are missing, coastguard officials and aid groups said on Saturday 10th.

Belgian Navy joins EUNAVFOR Med Mission

The Belgian frigate, Louise-Marie, left the Port of Zeebrugge on the morning of Monday 12th for the Mediterranean Sea, as part of the EU Sophia mission.

The current migrant smuggling situation

MAST sources continue to suggest that Sabratha remains a popular migrant departure point, although clashes with fuel smuggling gangs remain an issue for human traffickers operating in the region.

The past week has seen another spike in migrant rescues, with large numbers rescued at sea by both Coast Guard assets and NGO vessels. While several thousand people made the crossing, the figures remain down on both 2016 and 2015 for the same period. Tensions between Libyan Coast Guard and NGOs remain, but there have been no reported incidents between the groups in the period reported on.

Moves by the EU to bolster African borders to reduce migrant numbers continued this week at the G20 conference, where German leader, Angela Merkel, hosted African leaders as well as financiers and bankers in an effort to improve economic opportunities in African nations and stem the migrant flow.



Map depicting major migrant routes in the Mediterranean (June 13th 2017). Source: UNHRC



Libya

Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, second son of the deposed Libyan leader Col. Muammar Gaddafi, has been freed from jail under an amnesty law. His father's preferred successor, he has been held by a militia in the town of Zintan for the past six years. The Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Battalion said he had been released on Friday but he has not been seen in public. It is feared the move could fuel further instability in Libya.



UN extends arms embargo on Libya for one more year

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution on Monday 12th to extend authorization for another year so as to allow the European Union to seize illegal weapons on the high seas off the coast of Libya.

Analysis

Recent coordination between Egypt and Haftar's forces in attacks against Daesh camps believed to have been used to launch assaults against Egypt's Coptic Christians has been well received diplomatically in the region. Haftar continues to consolidate his power base, and the capture of al Jufra airbase adds another useful asset. Haftar is still seen as the key player in Libya, and his latest push into the West will concern EU and UN leaders who backed the GNA government.

OPEC has had to acknowledge that Libyan oil output will not be cut in the short term, as the country relies so heavily on the money derived from oil sales. Following a brief strike by workers at Al-Sharara oil field, production has once again increased and has played a part in recent oil price falls. OPEC attempts to control the oil price are not likely to work in the short term, although investors are questioning how long Libya can sustain their current levels with aging infrastructure and ongoing instability. The concern is that if production is sustained at this level, it will offset the cuts in production made by other OPEC members by at least a third, meaning that OPEC's attempts to reduce excess oil stocks may take longer than the nine months they had initially projected.

There has been little in the way of progress in getting both the GNA and HoR back to the negotiating table, although it is like-

ly that Haftar's recent gains in the country may see pressure placed on the GNA by European countries keen to see a lasting resolution to conflict in the region. Haftar's LNA has cut all ties with Qatar, joining other Arab nations in the ongoing political crisis.

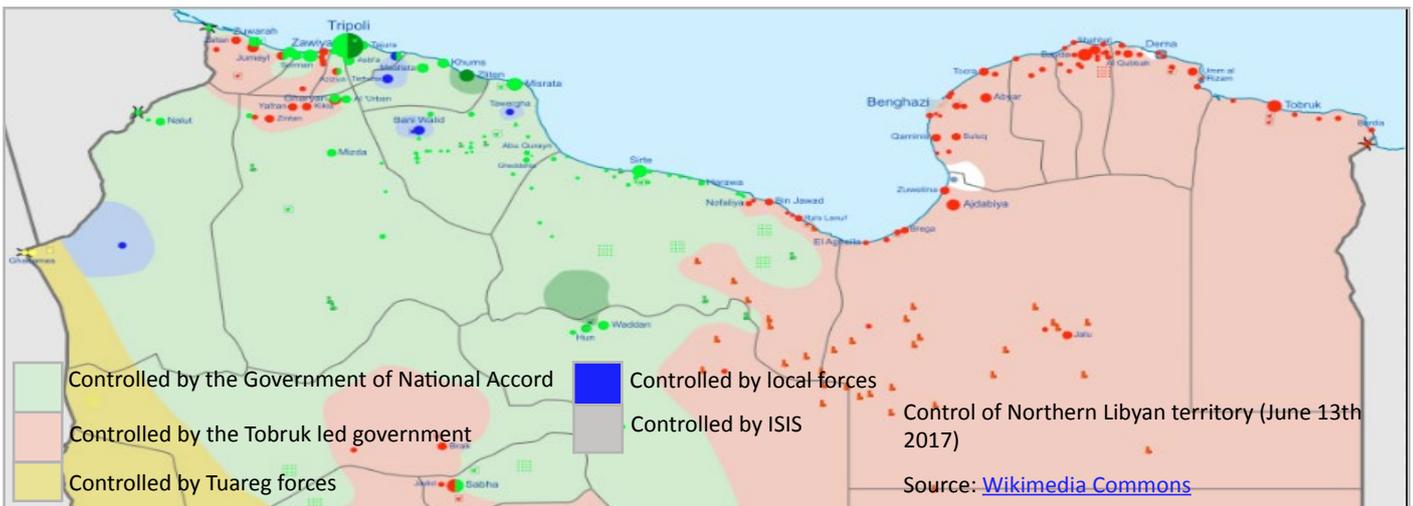
Ports currently operational in Libya are: Mellitah, Zawiyah, Tripoli, Misrata, Marsa El Brega, Tobruk, Al Khoms, Marsa El Hariga, Farwah, Bouri, Zuwarah, Zuetina and Es Sider.

Threat Assessment

The recent gains made by Haftar's LNA forces in the West of the country can be seen more broadly as not only as shoring up Haftar's power base but also as a direct challenge to the GNA. Their response may be tempered by EU countries who would rather see a negotiated settlement, but it is likely that the two sides will continue to push for control of territory. Haftar's seizure of another airbase underlines his forces' control in the country and gives them another platform from which to attack both GNA and Daesh elements. Whether the African Union will be able to offer any influence over the situation is open to speculation.

The increase in hostilities has the potential to affect shipping in the region, as militias loyal to either side may see vessels in the country's TTW as legitimate targets for seizure. As a result, Masters are advised to ensure the correct paperwork and permissions to enter Libya's TTW or face detention or hostilities.

MAST is able to provide risk assessments and crew training to improve situational awareness and risk appreciation. The additional threat to shipping should not be taken lightly.





Gulf of Guinea

A new militant group, New Delta Avengers, has warned that effective from midnight June 30th, it would resume bloody attacks on the oil industry in the state, Nigerian media reports. Spokesman of the group, Cpl Oleum Bellum, said they were putting the government and oil companies – local and multinationals – operating in the Delta on notice over the proposed attacks, subtly called "Operation Cripple Oil and Gas Production".



Incidents:

1. A robber boarded an anchored bulk carrier at 0303 UTC in position 08:28.3N – 013:22.9W, Freetown Anchorage, Sierra Leone. The security watchman noticed the robber and raised the alarm, resulting in the robber escaping empty handed. Reported June 6th (IMB). *Not shown on map.*
2. A speedboat w/ five perpetrators armed w/ AK47 and heavy machine gun attacked and boarded tug boat at 1855 LT in approx position 04:27N – 007:04E near Cawthorne Channel, West of Bonny Island, Nigeria. The perpetrators abducted the Captain and C/E. Reported June 4th.
3. LATE Report | Small merchant vessel reported attacked and boarded by armed perpetrators at 2140 UTC in position 04:35N – 005:55E, around 7nm in Bayelsa State waterways, Nigeria. Perpetrators kidnapped crew-members and escaped using twin-engined speedboats which later capsized and some of the crew-members likely to have died. Only one hostage survived recovered by Nigerian security patrol. Reported May 29th.
4. LATE Report | An anchored container ship was boarded by robber unnoticed, stole ship's properties and escaped. The theft was discovered by duty crew during routine rounds at

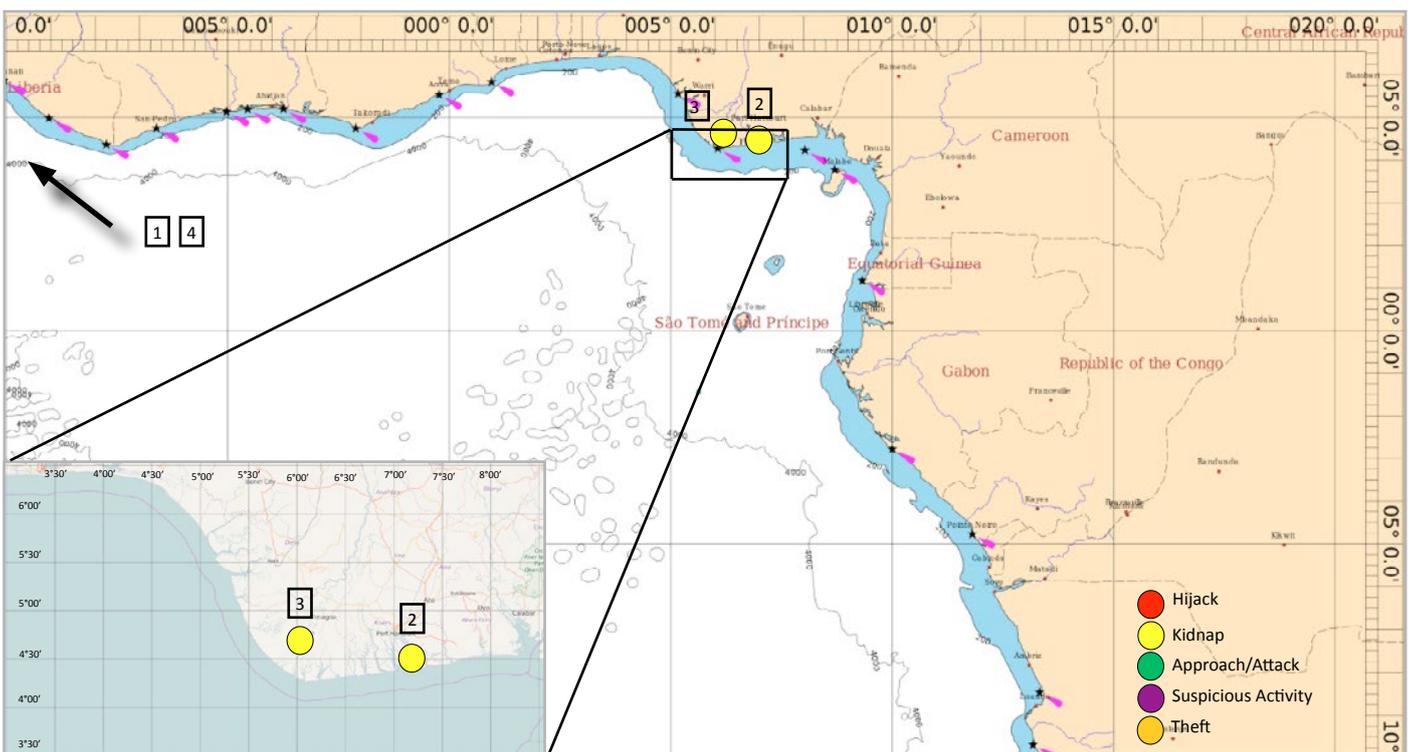
0200 UTC in position 08:26.33N - 013:28.16W, Free Town Offroads Anchorage, Sierra Leone. Reported May 26th (IMB). *Not shown on map.*

Militants To Northerners: 'Quit Oil Blocs In Three Months'

A coalition of the Niger Delta militants has held a meeting in Port Harcourt, with a call on the Federal Government to return all oil blocs being controlled by northerners to the people of the oil producing states within three months. The militants explained, in a statement, shortly after the meeting on June 9th that their action was based on the ultimatum given by the Coalition of Northern Youth for Igbos to leave the region.

Threat Assessment

To read MAST's current Threat Assessment on the Gulf of Guinea region, [please click here](#).





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South East Asia

US special forces are helping the Philippine military retake the southern city of Marawi from IS-linked militants, the Philippine army says. The forces are providing technical help and are not fighting, it said. Militants have been under siege since rampaging through the southern city on 23rd May. The latest fighting has claimed the lives of 13 Philippine marines. Hundreds of militants, who have been flying the black flag of so-called Islamic State and are reportedly led by the self-styled IS emir of the southern Philippines, Isnilon Hapilon, and the Maute brothers Omar and Abdullah, are still holed up in the city.



Incidents: No significant incidents to report.

Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines to begin joint patrol

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines will reportedly finally start conducting joint maritime patrols in waters off the southern Philippines next week to curb rampant cross-border kidnapping-for-ransom activities in the area, Indonesia's military chief said on Monday 12th.

Indonesia Bolsters Security to Thwart Infiltration by Extremists

The Indonesian military says it is beefing up security along the nation's sea border with the Philippines, where Islamic State-inspired (IS) militants are locked in ferocious battles with Filipino security forces in the southern city of Marawi.

Abu Sayyaf hostage escapes in Sulu

Roy Ramos one of the crew of a fishing boat, F/B Ramona of Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur, captured by Abu Sayyaf terrorists on December 20th 2016, managed to escape his captors and was rescued on June 8th, the Joint Task Force Sulu has announced.

2 more Abu Sayyaf surrender in Basilan

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Bacala, Army's 4th Special Forces

Battalion commander, identified them as Sarid Nisal, 25, and Mohammad Nisal 23. Bacala said the two bandits surrendered on Monday, June 12th. They are followers of Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf leader Nurhasan Jamiri.

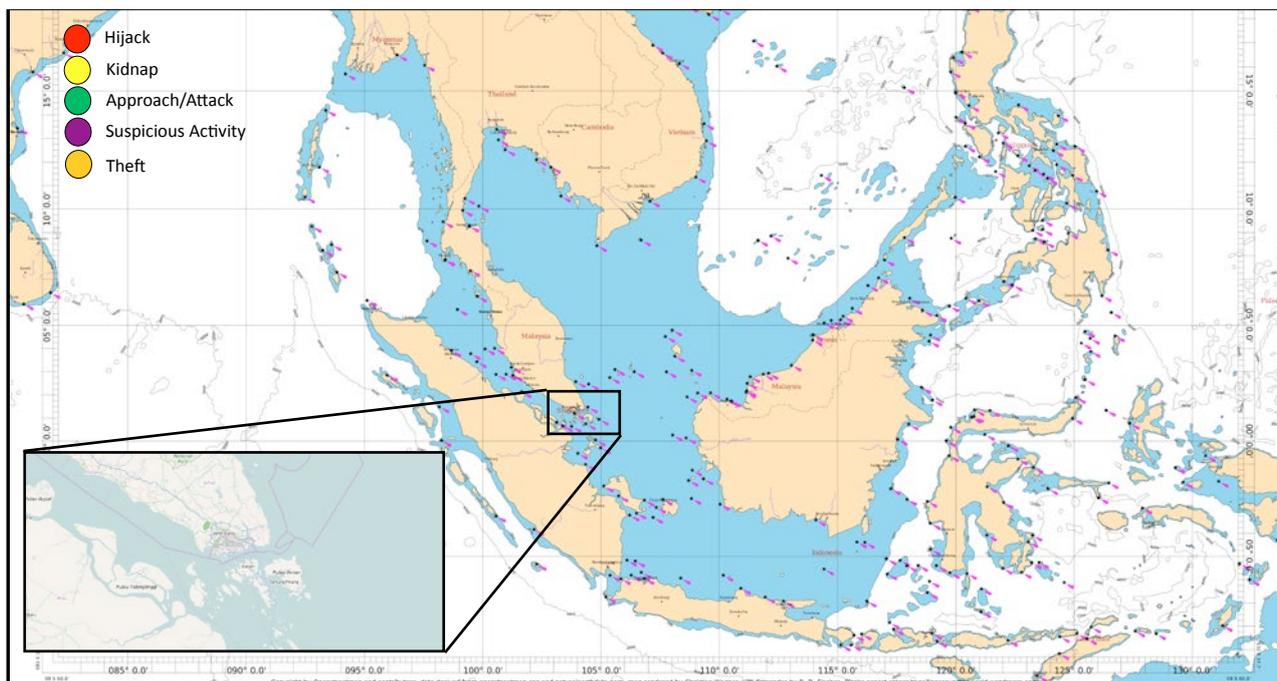
No visible solution to the Mindanao situation

The Philippines government earnestly launched mop-up operations against the Maute group that follows the Islamic State in Mindanao, causing a growing number of casualties. On Monday, three weeks since the martial law was declared, 24 private citizens, 58 government military soldiers and 138 anti-military soldiers have died.

Threat Assessment

To read MAST's current Threat Assessment on the South East Asia region, [please click here](#).

MAST is able to provide an armed protection solution to clients transiting the region. Please contact us for further details.





Central and South America

Continuing to raise awareness of its services with international markets, the Emirates Maritime Arbitration Centre (EMAC) participated in the International Bar Association (IBA) Maritime and Transport Law Conference, from 7th to 8th June at Rio de Janeiro. Presented by the IBA Maritime and Transport Law Committee, supported by the ICA Latin American Regional Forum, the 2017 Conference focused topics related to changes in the maritime sector including legal challenges supporting the changes.

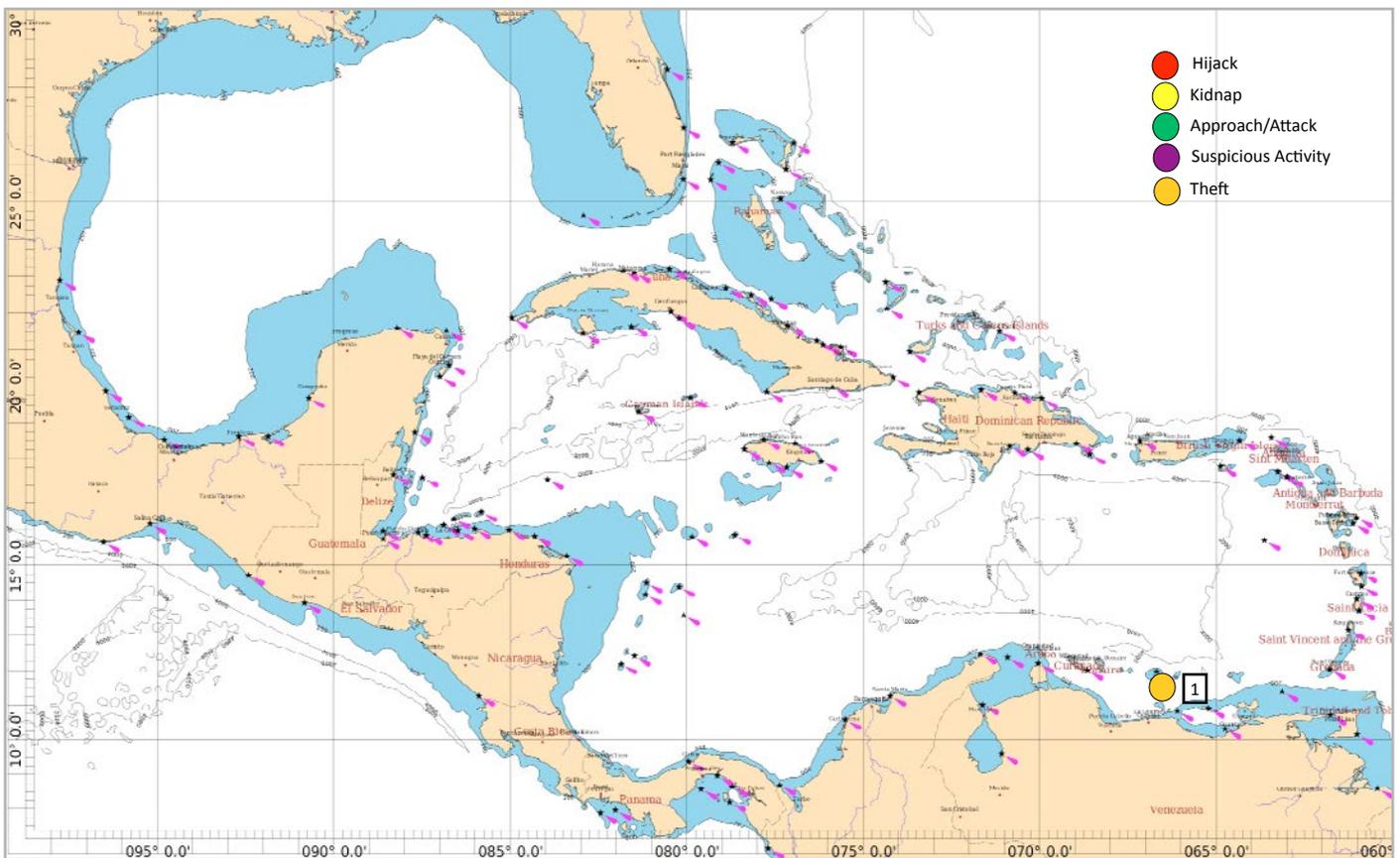


Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Standing advice:

The repercussions of a vessel being caught acting as a mule with drugs stowed will depend on the type, amount and national laws, but may be disruptive and costly. When and if operating in these areas, especially Columbia and Peru, it is advised that:

- Potential stowage areas such as rudder shafts are denied as far as possible, and/or routinely searched.
- Access points are closely monitored by a vigilant watch for the duration of the vessel's call at port.





Severe Weather Warnings

Warnings detailed on this page are from the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and are issued by respective Regional Specialised Metrological Centres, Tropical Cyclone Centres or National Meteorological Services. For further information on severe weather warnings please [click here](#).



Nothing serious to report.

Note: The forecasts are correct as of the day before publication. For latest updates please follow the provided links.



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