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Weekly Security & Risk Report

11th May 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 331

Issue 331 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

Nigerian Navy personnel reportedly arrested a man who allegedly attempted to bribe them in Rivers State. The man arrived at NNS Pathfinder barracks with a bag of money, hoping to release a vessel that had been detained in connection with illegal diesel smuggling, Channels TV reported on May 3rd. Instead, he was swiftly arrested and paraded in front of news media, who were at the barracks to report on illegal refineries.

Incidents:

1. Late report: Pirogue with two people on board approached MV with all lights off at 0133 UTC in position 04:45S - 011:49E, Pointe Noire, DR Congo. Embarked protection team sighted pirogue and on seeing the team, the pirogue then turned back towards the coast. Reported (MDAT) May 2nd.

Denmark charges Nigerian 'pirate'

AFP reported on May 10th that Denmark has charged a 39-year-old Nigerian man with endangering the lives of Danish sailors, following a suspected pirate engagement off the coast of Nigeria in November 2021. During the gunfight between the group of suspected pirates and Danish Navy forces, the man received severe injuries which required the amputation of one of his legs. A total of four men were arrested following the gun battle, and the man charged on Monday 9th faces eight years in prison if convicted. Three others have been released, Nigeria Abroad reported.

Nigerian Navy reports refinery success

The campaign in Nigeria to disrupt illegal refinery operations was summarised by the Navy on May 5th, Punch reported. Navy Director of Information, Adedotun Ayo-Vaughan said that personnel had recovered 6,558,000 litres of diesel, 16, 423, 414 litres of crude oil, 319,150 litres of Dual Purpose Kerosene and 45,000 litre of Premium Motor Spirit

had been recovered in April. Ayo-Vaughan also said 148 illegal refinery sites were deactivated, while 36 wooden boats were destroyed, demonstrating the huge scale of the problem facing the country's economy.

Nigeria Boosts Anti-Piracy War With Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security Conference

This week will see the fifth plenary of the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Collaboration Forum for the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (GOG-MCF/SHADE) held in Abuja, Nigeria. The theme of the event is 'Enduring and Sustainable Security', and all regional navies are expected to send senior staff to the event, which is being held in partnership by NIMASA and the Nigerian Navy. Dr. Bashir Jamoh, Director General of NIMASA, said: "The establishment of GOG-MCF/SHADE has enabled working-level stakeholders from the GoG region and outside the region to connect and discuss how best to tackle piracy in the area. We believe that this has been a catalyst for non-regional stakeholders to step up and initiate effective maritime law enforcement operations to support regional efforts."

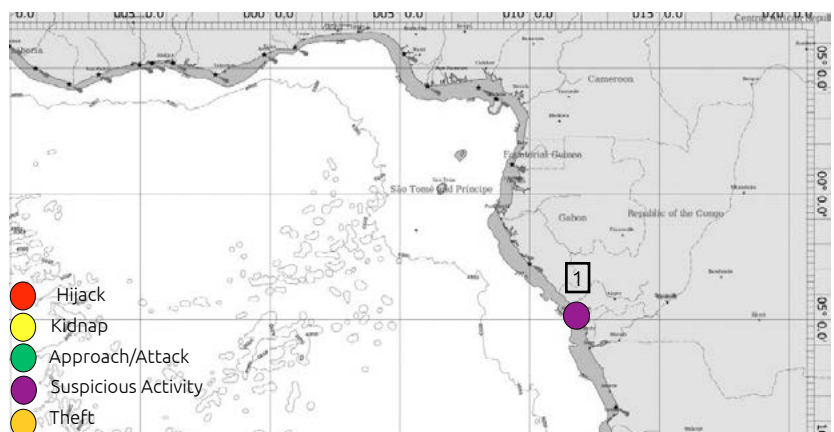
For further information, please [click here](#).

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures

2022
Incidents reported: 16 (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

A high-ranking Iranian general, Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi, emphasised the significant position of the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz in global trade, saying adoption of sea-oriented strategies would greatly affect the process of exports as Iran is faced with harsh sanctions. Tasnim News said on May 8th.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Madagascar is 10th member state to join SADC monitoring group

The Madagascar government has agreed to join the South African Development Community (SADC) programme to monitor regional fisheries, IOL reported on May 9th. The charter is designed to create a legal framework for a Regional Fisheries Monitoring Control Surveillance Coordination Centre (MCSCC) and it is hoped that will aid in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the region.

Royal Navy joins new task force protecting Red Sea shipping

Royal Navy ships and personnel have joined a new international task force to safeguard ships passing through one of the world's most dangerous 'choke points'. Frigate HMS Montrose and support ship RFA Lyme Bay joined the US-led Combined Task Force 153 for a demonstration of naval might and unity in the Red Sea, the Royal Navy said on May 6th. The task force is the fourth international naval group – numbered 150 through 153 – dedicated to security at sea from the Suez Canal to the Western Seaboard of the Indian sub-continent, from the shores of Iraq to those of the Seychelles, in all more than three million square miles of ocean, tackling issues

as complex and challenging as terrorism, piracy, smuggling.

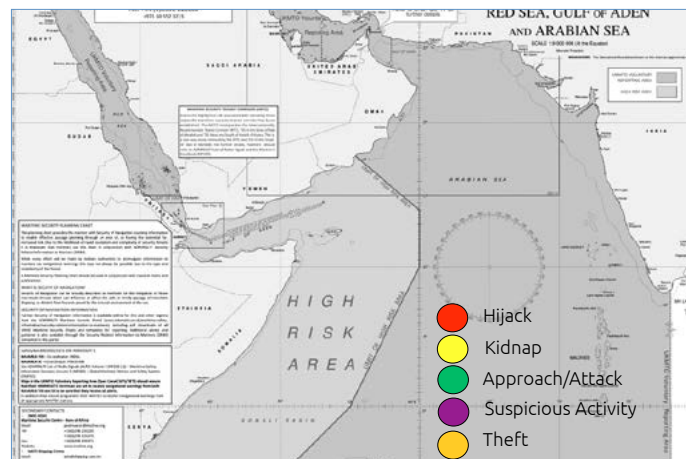
Saudi, Indian Naval Exercise Heralds New Era In Ties

Assets from the Indian Navy and Coast Guard arrived in Jeddah on Thursday 5th to take part in a training exchange with their Royal Saudi Arabian Navy counterparts, Eurasia Review wrote on May 8th. The training programme is an example of the deepening security ties between the two countries, following their first ever joint naval exercise in 2021.

EU NAVFOR Atalanta conducts three new counter narcotics operations

Between 26th and 28th April, the French Navy surveillance frigate Floréal, apprehended almost 6 tons of hashish during three new actions on flagless ships. These interceptions, that add up to the four performed between 14th and 18th April, completed a successful participation integrated in EU NAVFOR Atalanta. The total number of anti-narcotics operations carried out by FS Floréal now stands at seven since April 11th, bringing the total to more than eight tons of seized narcotics. The estimated value of the overall narcotics seized is more than 60 million Euros in wholesale value, EU NAVFOR said on May 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

The Irish Examiner reported on May 10th that the first groups of asylum seekers to arrive in the UK via small boat are to be told this week whether they could be sent to Rwanda as part of the UK government's new deportation policy, the Home Office has said.

Black Sea incidents

Russian maritime losses in the Black Sea continue. Initial news at the end of last week that a Russian warship had been hit by anti-ship missiles appears to have been false, but Ukrainian forces have seen success in and around Snake Island. On May 7th, a Ukrainian TB2 Bayraktar drone struck a Russian Serna-class landing ship berthed at Snake Island. Video footage of the incident released by Ukraine shows what analysts believe was a TOR air defence system onboard the landing craft, which was apparently destroyed by the attack.

In related news, Ukrainian TB2 unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) also attacked another two Russian Raptor-class patrol boats on May 7th. It is thought that Russia has lost five Raptor patrol boats in the last two weeks. One of the most recent to be hit is believed to have been Raptor 002, which was assigned VIP duties in the Baltic Fleet, according to Covert Shores.

On May 5th, it was reported that US intelligence had played a significant role in helping Ukrainian forces locate the Russian cruiser Moskva. Although the US was not warned that Ukraine would attack it, media reports state that US officials confirmed that they were sharing maritime intelligence with Ukraine to help the country defend itself against naval bombardment.

Other media outlets reported on May 5th that the US had given Ukraine some training in the use of unmanned coastal defence vessels, although it not known whether any have been deployed. The home produced Neptune anti-ship missiles, along with the use of UCAVs, appear to be a significant deterrent force for Ukraine.

Eleven boats carrying 169 asylum seekers cross Channel

Kent Online reported on May 8th that 169 people crossed the English Channel from France in 11 small boats on Sunday, according to the Ministry of Defence, which is now controlling operations in the Channel. It would appear that those attempting to

cross were picked up rescuers at sea, with the MoD saying: "The Ministry of Defence does not believe that any migrants arrived on their own terms in a small boat from the English Channel."

UK arrests suspected English Channel people-smuggling 'kingpin'

Al Jazeera reported on May 5th that an Iranian, Hewa Rahimpur, had been arrested by police in London, according to the National Crime Agency (NCA). He is suspected of being a leading figure in a people smuggling effort using small boats, and faces extradition to Belgium, where is wanted by police. The NCA say that he is accused of sourcing small boats in Turkey which are then delivered to Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, before being taken to the French coast.

246 illegal migrants rescued off Libyan coast last week

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on May 5th that 246 migrants had been intercepted at sea and returned to Libya by the country's Coast Guard and Navy in the past week. So far in 2022, it is thought that as many as 4,461 migrants had been returned to the country after attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Europe.

Tunisia coastguard retrieves bodies of 24 drowned migrants

Reuters reported on May 4th that Tunisian rescuers, including the Coast Guard, had recovered the bodies of 24 people believe to have been among 120 who were onboard small boats which sank off the country's coast at the end of April. The confirmed death toll now stands at 67, Reuters said.

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

Somalia & Yemen

Somali lawmakers have set May 15th as the date they will select the country's next president. The presidential election committee, which includes 17 members from both houses of parliament, met in Mogadishu on Thursday and agreed on the date for the election, VOA reported on May 5th.

Al Shabaab Attacks Military Base Outside Afgoye Town

Continuing attacks as part of their campaign to disrupt Somalia's political processes, Al Shabaab reportedly attacked a government base in the Sabid area of Afgoye district, Shabelle Media reported on May 9th. A fierce gunfight between soldiers and Al Shabaab terrorists left casualties on both sides, but the numbers of those killed or injured were not released.

NISA Kills Al Shabaab Members in Gedo Region

Somalia's National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) reported on May 8th that they had disrupted an attempted ambush by Al Shabaab terrorists in Gedo region on Sunday 8th. NISA officials told Shabelle Media that the incident occurred near Barwaqo, and that Al Shabaab had hoped to attack their personnel on the main road, but were prevented. They did not release casualty figures and Al Shabaab has not yet made an official comment.

Puntland Vice Leader Fires Three Key Minister Amid Tussle With Deni

The relationship between the Puntland Vice President and President continues to deteriorate. All Africa reported on May 5th that the Vice President had recently fired and replaced the Finance Minister, Interior Minister and Security Minister. President Deni had previously said that any decrees issued by his Vice President were invalid. The rift between the two is beginning to rival that of the current Somali President and Prime Minister.

Burundi says 10 troops killed in attack on AU base in Somalia

The Burundi Army has said that 10 of its personnel were killed during an attack on an AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) base in Somalia on May 3rd. Al Shabaab, who carried out the attack, claimed to have killed 173 soldiers during the incident. Arab News reported on May 4th that 25 soldiers were

still missing and that 20 Al Shabaab terrorists had been killed during the gunfight, which began when a suicide bomber attacked the base in a car. Burundian forces said that 400 fighters attacked the base, forcing them to retreat to a nearby hillside where the fight continued, aided by drones and helicopters.

Saudi-led coalition says frees Yemen rebels in peace gesture

AFP reported on May 6th that the Saudi Coalition in Yemen had agreed to release 163 prisoners it had accused of entering into hostilities against Saudi Arabia as a peace gesture towards Houthi rebels. The former prisoners had reportedly been flown to Sanaa and Aden, in an operation facilitated by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

UN leads £65m plan to stop huge oil spill off Yemen

The UK's Guardian reported on May 8th that the UN was to hold a special donor conference this week to raise \$80 million towards making the FSO Safer, moored off Yemen and with more than 1.14 million barrels of oil on board, safe. The ship has not been touched in over six years due to the ongoing conflict in Yemen, and is at significant risk of exploding, the UN say. Engineers have warned of the danger and Houthis are now willing to allow repairs to be made to the ship and offload the cargo.

Nearly 1,000 mines cleared by Masam project across Yemen so far in May

Arab News reported on May 8th that the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) Masam de-mining project has managed to clear 998 explosive devices from the country so far in May. Of the items made safe, 677 were anti-tank ordnance and the remainder general unexploded ordnance. Arab News noted that since the inception of the Masam project, its personnel have cleared 336,891 devices from the country.

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

UK Security News

Passengers arriving at Manchester and Birmingham airports have faced significant queues and delays at security checkpoints once again, Sky News reported on May 9th, as staff absences due to Covid and a lack of new staff and security clearances impact operations.

Terror-accused student 'wanted a full-on war'

A would-be terrorist hatched plans for a "full-on war" and wrote recipes for a bomb intended for use on a police station, a jury heard. Student Luke Skelton wanted to run a violent group and attack "rape gangs", Teesside Crown Court was told. The 18-year-old, who was arrested in October, is alleged to have held an extreme right-wing ideology, BBC News reported on May 6th.

Counter-terror police urge charities to avoid using cash couriers

Charities have been urged by counter-terror police not to use the services of cash couriers when moving money overseas, Third Sector reported. The Charity Commission has recently reminded charities of their duties when moving money overseas, noting that cash "continued to be a high risk for terrorist financing and money laundering". There are concerns that monies being moved could be seized and forfeited by the courts, counter-terrorism police said.

Dad sent terror videos to undercover officer 'who he wanted to marry'

Musa Muhammad, of Birmingham, has been sentenced to five years in prison after being found guilty of disseminating terrorist material, Birmingham Live reported on May 6th. Muhammad had sent graphic videos glorifying Islamic State to an undercover police officer whom he wanted to marry, the court heard. He had hoped to travel to the Middle East to fight, Birmingham Live said. Muhammad also received a Part 4 order for 15 years, which requires him to notify police of any changes in his personal details.

Mark Adams: Ex-airport policeman jailed over seized cash

An ex-Dublin airport policeman who was arrested after trying to take a large amount of cash on to a Belfast flight has been jailed. Mark Adams, 42, from Castleheath in Malahide, Dublin, was stopped

at Belfast International Airport in 2018. UK Border Force officials discovered he was carrying more than 180,000 Euros (£154,000) in his hand luggage. "Mark Adams was clearly a serial money launderer on both sides of the Irish border, and as a former policeman he would have been well aware that what he was doing was wrong," said National Crime Agency (NCA) Belfast Branch Commander David Cunningham, BBC News reported on May 6th.

London News

Men convicted over Croydon murder

Two men who used a tracker device to ambush a motorist then stabbed him in his car have been convicted of murder. Donald Owusu, 25, and Harvey MacFoy, 26, attacked Albert Amofa after he arrived home in south Croydon, south London, in December 2019. Mr Amofa, 33, was repeatedly stabbed in an alleged attempt to steal £5,000 worth of cannabis the men mistakenly thought was in the vehicle. The pair will be sentenced at the Old Bailey at a date yet to be set in June, BBC News said on May 9th.

Met Police officer David Carrick charged with further rapes

A Metropolitan Police officer accused of a string of sex offences has been charged with further counts of rape. David Carrick, 47, of Hertfordshire, has been charged with three offences of rape relating to one new complainant. The Crown Prosecution Service said the offending was alleged to have taken place between 2008 and 2009. Mr Carrick faces a total of 44 charges relating to 12 women between 2003 and 2020. He is due before Westminster magistrates on Friday May 13th, BBC News said.

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

Global Security News

Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr, son of a former Philippines' dictator, is headed for a landslide win in the country's presidential race, according to partial and preliminary results, the BBC said. The news will create headaches for countries in the region; Marcos Jr is said to be very pro-China.

Ukraine: Latest updates

BBC News reported on May 10th that Russian forces had conducted missile strikes against the port city of Odessa, with several people reportedly injured and at least one killed. Civilians are still trapped inside the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol. Although several hundred have been evacuated in recent days, it is thought that there may be as many as 100 others still hiding there. Russia claims to have rebuffed several Ukrainian attempts to retake Snake Island in the Black Sea, although these have not been confirmed. In the last few days, Ukraine has released video footage of its UCAV TB2 drones destroying Russian air defences on the island and hitting a Russian landing craft, as well as two Raptor class patrol boats in the vicinity. In another video, Ukrainian fighter jets were seen bombing targets on the island, unopposed by Russian air defences.

Ukraine and the EU have discussed taking "immediate measures to unblock Ukraine's ports for grain exports" after Russia's blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports has forced its grain exporters to look for alternatives to move their cargo. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he discussed preventing "a global food crisis triggered by Russia's aggressive actions" during talks with European Council President Charles Michel on his visit to Odessa on Monday 9th, the BBC said. Michel said that he saw silos full of grain, wheat and corn in the port of Odessa, all ready for export but unable to leave due to the Russian blockade of Ukraine's ports. On May 10th, The Independent reported that Russia has now lost 40 Colonels during the conflict. Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Blinov was the latest to be confirmed dead, the paper said. Russian officials had previously denied that he had been killed. On the same day, Reuters reported that the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said that 'thousands' more civilians had been killed in the conflict since the beginning of the war than its official toll of 3,381. "We have been working on estimates, but all I can say for now is that it is thousands higher than the numbers we have

currently given to you," Matilda Bogner, head of the U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, told the media.

Sri Lankan troops on streets

A curfew is in force across Sri Lanka after mobs burned down homes belonging to the ruling Rajapaksa family amid mounting anger at the economic crisis. The overnight violence capped a day of unrest that saw PM Mahinda Rajapaksa quit, but this failed to bring calm. Crowds besieged his residence and tried to storm it - he was evacuated to safety in a pre-dawn operation amid tear gas and warning shots. Seven people have died and more than 190 have been injured since Monday 9th, BBC News said.

Industry and SIA News

BSIA to launch major research report on UK video surveillance market

The British Security Industry Association (BSIA) will launch a major research report into the video surveillance market in the United Kingdom at IFSEC International at London's ExCeL Centre on May 18th. The report, titled The Bigger Picture, is an extensive update to the BSIA's research report of 2013, The Picture is Not Clear, which has been quoted by the trade and mainstream media worldwide, the quality of which has never been surpassed in the intervening time. The 2022 report has been produced for the BSIA by specialised innovation research and advisory company Anekanta Consulting. It extends much further than the original report and is hailed to be the most comprehensive study of the number, type and use of video surveillance cameras in the UK ever undertaken. To find out more, [please click here](#).

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



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