

Weekly Security & Risk Report

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T +44 (0) 1279 216726 E operations@mast-security.com W mast-security.com

Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd Thremhall Park, Start Hill, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM22 7WE

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Issue 248 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.

Coronavirus Port and Terminal Restrictions

The situation remains extremely fluid. For the most recent updates on closures and re-openings, MAST Security recommends using the Wilhemsen Covid-19 Global Port Restrictions Map. [Please Click Here](#) to visit their site.

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 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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Editor: David Rider
www.mast-security.com

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Indian Ocean Region

A Maritime Security Operation (Focused Operation) will be conducted by Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 in areas off the Somali Coast, Socotra Gap and in the vicinity of the IRTC between 1 and 7 October 2020. Multinational naval units, aircraft and personnel will be operating under the Turkish led CTF 151 (Counter Piracy). The aims of the operation are to: a. Deter and suppress piracy, b. Reassure and be prepared to protect maritime community, c. Collect data for the pattern of life in the area of operations. Merchant vessels are invited to interact with naval ships and are encouraged to provide information as requested by CTF 151.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

CTF151 and UKMTO hold virtual meeting

Commander of CTF 151, Rear Admiral Nejat Inanir held a video conference call with Lt Cdr Chris Long, Officer in Charge of the Dubai based UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) office. With the SW monsoon season ending, RADM Inanir observed that with the lower sea state comes an increase in fishing activity, especially from skiffs close to the coast. RADM Inanir discussed how to encourage merchant shipping to follow the guidelines in BMP5, including using the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC).

IRGC open new naval base near Strait of Hormuz

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have unveiled a new naval base aiming to project "dominance" over the strategic Strait of Hormuz, state media reported, following months of tensions with arch-enemy the United States. The "Martyr Seyed Majid Rahbar" base lies in the southern province of Hormozgan, near the entrance to the narrow Strait of Hormuz.

'Govt's aim to transform SL as world's busiest shipping base'

The Government's aim is to transform Sri Lanka as the busiest shipping base in the world helping to get a better contribution from it to the countries' GDP, said Foreign Affairs Ministry Secretary, Prof. Admiral Jayanath Colombage. Speaking at the World Maritime Day ceremony held in Colombo under the theme of this year's event was 'Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet' at Cinnamon Lake he said that currently 72% of energy, 50% of containers and 35% of bulk cargo are transported across the Indian Ocean.

India, Japan naval exercise JIMEX-2020 begins in Arabian Sea

According to a press release published by the Indian Ministry of Defense on September 25, 2020, the Indian navy has started a bilateral naval military exercise code-named JIMEX 20 with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) that takes place in the North Arabian Sea from 26 to 28 September 2020. JIMEX series of exercises were started in January 2012 with special focus on maritime security cooperation. The last edition of JIMEX was conducted in October 2018 off Visakhapatnam, India.

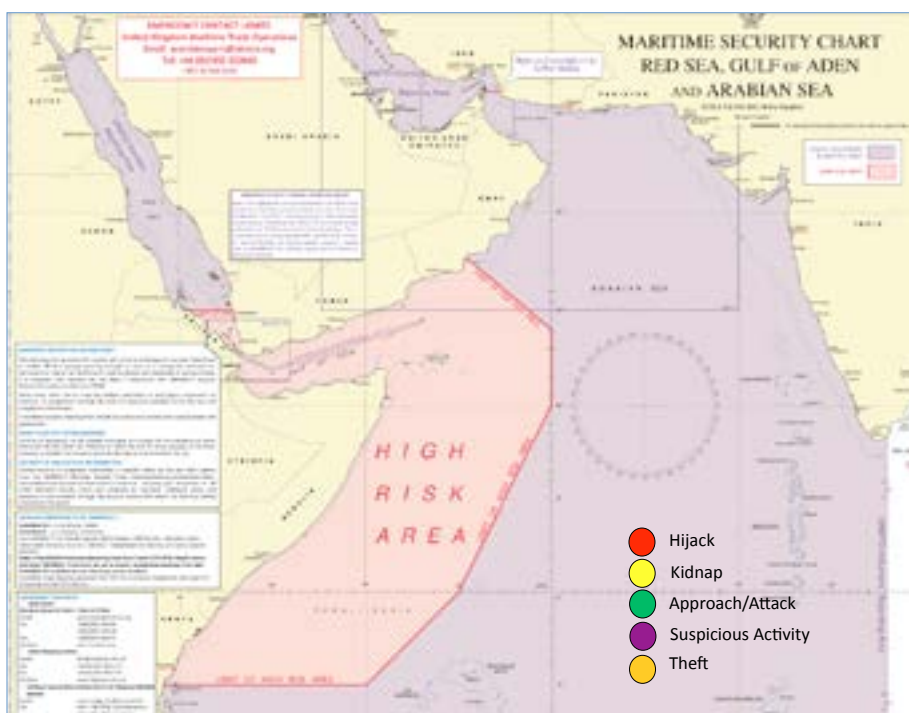
Israeli army announces successful test of sea-to-sea missile system

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) announced Friday that it has conducted a successful test of a new sea-to-sea missile system. The IDF said in a press release that the system was designed to "ensure Israel's continued naval superiority." The announcement comes a month after Iran revealed its Abu-Mahdi long-range cruise missiles for its navy. Israel sees Iran as its arch enemy.

MARAD Renews GPS Interference Warning to Industry

The U.S. Maritime Administration has issued a renewed advisory to the maritime industry about instances of GPS interference that have been reported worldwide within the maritime domain. According to the advisory, "multiple instances" have been reported over the last year from areas including eastern and central Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf, and multiple Chinese ports.

To see MAST's services in the Indian Ocean Region, [please click here.](#)



Somalia

Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed has appointed political newcomer Mohamed Hussein Roble as the country's prime minister, hours after brokering an agreement with regional leaders for elections next year that abandons a promised one-person, one-vote model. In a statement late on Thursday 17th, the president's office wished Roble "to take duties and tasks ahead with diligence".

Al Shabaab raids AU forces base

Al Shabaab on Monday 28th raided an African Union military base, officials said. Members of the group attacked Bula-Marer military base which is manned by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) in the southern part of the country, triggering a heavy gunfight which lasted for several hours according to military officials.

Somalia, WFP ink deal for emergency locust program

Somalia on Sunday 27th signed an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) for the implementation of the country's emergency locust program. Sadik Warfa, minister of labor and social affairs said the deal enables WFP to implement the shock responsive safety net for locust response project on behalf of the government.

US Cancels US\$1 Billion Debt Somalia Owed

In a bilateral agreement, the United States government signed with federal Somalia, on Sunday 27th, the US waived US\$ 1 billion debt the latter owed it. The agreement between the two sides was signed at the American Embassy in Mogadishu. According to Ambassador Yamamoto, this was part of a huge debt Somalia owed to three US agencies.

16 Al Shabaab terrorists killed, 40 kids freed

At least 16 Al Shabaab terrorists were killed and 40 captive children rescued in a military operation in southwestern Somalia, officials said on Saturday 26th. The operation against

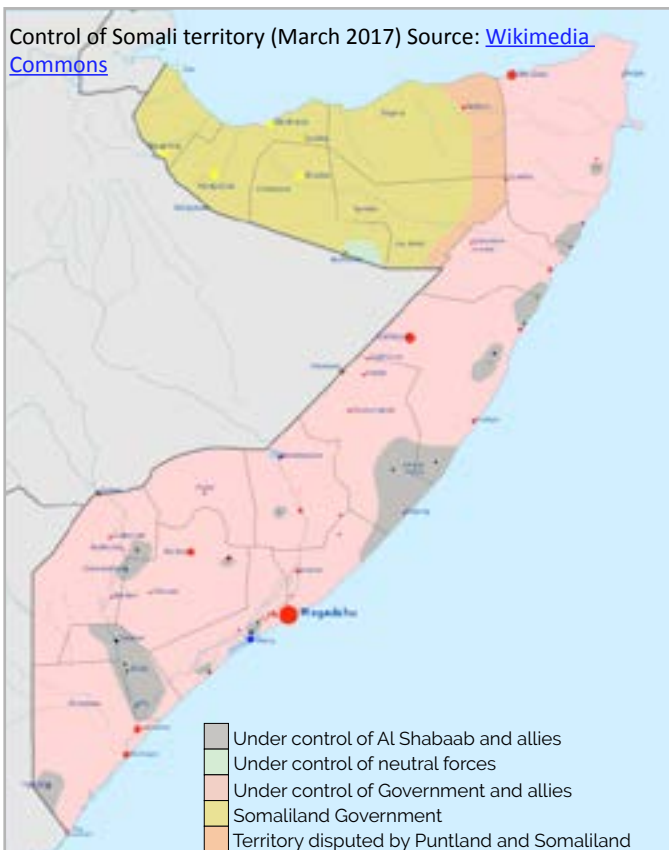
the al Qaeda affiliated group was carried out near the recently liberated agricultural town of Bariire, located 62 kilometers (38 miles) from the capital Mogadishu, in the Lower Shabelle region. "During the operation in Nuuney village outside Bariire town, the military managed to rescue at least 40 children hailing from different parts of the country," Ahmed Hassan Salad, a military commander, told the media.

Somalia observes maritime sector role in post-COVID-19 economic recovery

With its key location along main international shipping routes and 3,300 kilometres of coastline, Somalia's potential as a key maritime player came to the fore recently as it marked World Maritime Day. "The fact that its waters are located at the geo-strategic convergence of some of the world's most important international shipping lanes, means that Somalia has a significant role to play in relation to this year's World Maritime Day theme," said the United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, Adam Abdelmoula.

Three Kenyans missing near Kenya-Somalia border

Three Kenyans are missing after being abducted by suspected al-Shabab militants in Kenya's Mandera County near the Somalia border on Wednesday 23rd evening. Rono Bunei, Northeastern regional commander, confirmed the incident on Thursday, saying the three masons were kidnapped aboard a commuter bus heading to Lafey town for work when the incident happened between Fino and Sheikh Barrow area.



Analysis

Al Shabaab continues to mount operations throughout the country, despite efforts by US Central Command to degrade its capabilities with ongoing airstrikes which aim to remove AS leadership. It is questionable as to whether this "body count" policy is working.

Threat Assessment

The political situation has seen increased tension between regional states and the Federal Government. Should this continue, there is an opportunity for criminal organisations to return to their previous maritime activities. Al Shabaab continues to challenge the government and efforts to disrupt its operations continue. The trade in illegal charcoal by terror and crime groups continues, although the Combined Maritime Forces and UN are working on measures to prevent it. Youth unemployment in Somalia has not improved with 67% of Somali male youths aged between 14 to 29 unemployed. Pirate financiers offer lucrative and attractive opportunities, and were seen to be increasingly active in the last inter-monsoon period. Recent incidents off Somalia have highlighted the robust protections offered by both BMP5 and well trained, vigilant armed protection teams. Illegal fishing has returned to the region and there are wider political concerns that it could spark a resurgence in maritime crime unless checked. There is a risk that complacency in some quarters has seen a reduction in PMSC presence in these waters that could result in a piracy success. A lack of adherence to BMP5 protocol, particularly not maintaining a safe distance off the coast, has increased risks to shipping. 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 (HRA).



Yemen

At the end of a week-long meeting in Switzerland, the parties to the conflict in Yemen reached what the UN envoy there called "a very important milestone", in agreeing to release a first group of detainees. Delegates from the Yemen Government and the Ansar Allah, formally known as Houthi rebels, signed an agreement on Sunday 27th to liberate 1,081 conflict-related individuals, in accordance with the lists of agreed-upon names. The prisoner swap has been widely greeted as a positive move by governments in the region.

Iranian ships conduct illegal fishing off Yemen

More than 40 Iranian ships violated Yemen's territorial water for conducting illegal fishing operations off the Socotra coast, the Yemeni fisheries minister said on Monday 28th. "The illegal fishing by these Iranian ships constitutes a blatant assault on the Yemeni sovereignty," Fahad Kafain said on Twitter.

U.S. launches new terrorism review of Iran-backed rebels in Yemen

The Trump administration is considering new steps to intensify pressure on Yemen's Houthi rebels, including a potential foreign terrorist organization designation, according to several officials, in a bid to further isolate the group's patron, Iran. The officials cautioned that no decision has been made but said the administration was discussing several possible moves, which could also include naming individual Houthi leaders as "global terrorists."

2 killed in shelling in Red Sea port city of Hodeidah

A woman and a girl were killed on Sunday when artillery shelling hit residential homes in the south of Yemen's Red Sea port city of Hodeidah, medics told Xinhua. Three other women were wounded in the district of al-Hawak during the exchange of fire between the government forces and the Houthi rebels, they said.

Funding gap crippling aid operations

The lack of funding for assistance in Yemen, which is still threatened with famine, is crippling humanitarian aid operations in the country, a UN spokesman said on Thursday 24th. "Some 20 million people are food insecure, including almost 10 million facing acute food insecurity," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Houthi shelling targets residential neighborhoods in Hodeidah

Shelling launched by the Houthi group targeted some residential neighborhoods in Yemeni Red Sea port city of Hodeidah on Thursday 24th, a government official told Xinhua. "The Houthi fighters carried out random shelling with mortar shells

and struck a number of populated residential neighborhoods in Hays district, south of Hodeidah," the local government source said on condition of anonymity.

Tribes and armed forces clash with Houthis

Anti-al Houthi forces, including forces aligned with the internationally recognized Yemeni government of Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi and local tribesmen allegedly repelled al Houthi militants from Rahba in northern Yemen's Ma'rib governorate on September 24th. Saudi-led coalition forces targeted al Houthi militants with airstrikes in Ma'rib governorate on September 20th.

Saudis warn U.N. of oil spot in shipping lane near decaying Yemen tanker

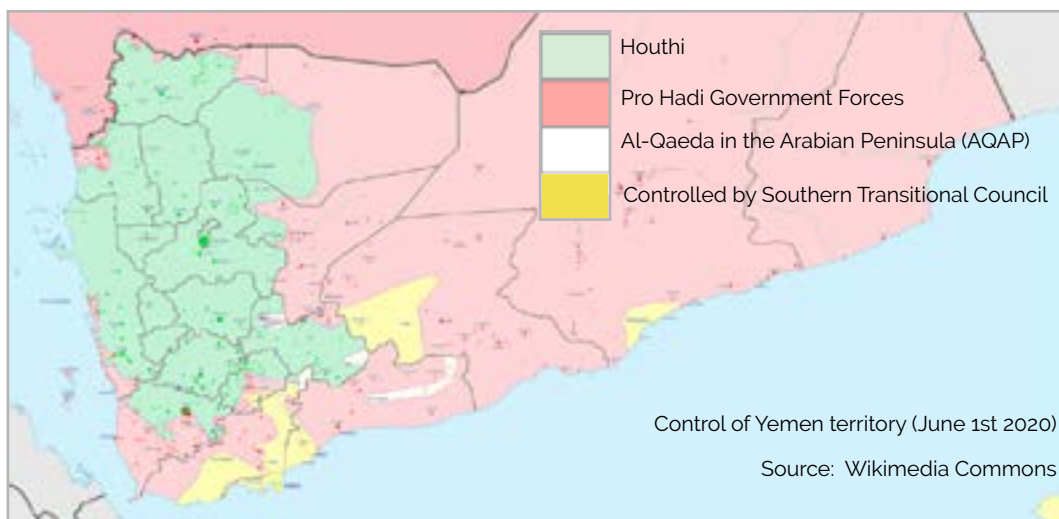
Saudi Arabia warned the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday 23rd that an "oil spot" had been seen in a shipping transit area 31 miles (50 km) west of a decaying tanker that is threatening to spill 1.1 million barrels of crude oil off the coast of Yemen. The Safer tanker has been stranded off Yemen's Red Sea oil terminal of Ras Issa for more than five years. The United Nations has warned that the Safer could spill four times as much oil as the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster off Alaska.

Airstrikes could lead to new food crisis for Yemen

Yemeni farms have been hit at least 918 times by airstrikes and shelling in less than three years, further exacerbating Yemen's severe food crisis. The country is rapidly facing a new famine as millions are left without enough to eat. Data collected by the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP) in Yemen shows a total of 348 airstrikes and 570 cases of shelling affecting farms since January 2018, which is an average of almost one incident a day.

To see the latest threat analysis and Yemen port information in MASTOPDEIA, please click [here](#).

MAST recommends BMP measures be enforced and watches strengthened during transits in the region.



Control of Yemen territory (June 1st 2020)

Source: Wikimedia Commons



Mediterranean

The French interior ministers issued a joint press release on Thursday 24th to say they support a proposal laid out by the European Commission on a migration pact for asylum seekers coming to Europe. The European Commission met on Wednesday 23rd to draft a reform of migration policy which proposes a "compulsory solidarity mechanism." The proposal suggests abandoning a present contested rule which says the country where migrants arrive first must bear the burden of asylum requests. However, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia criticised the proposals.

More than 500 illegal migrants rescued off Libyan coast in a week

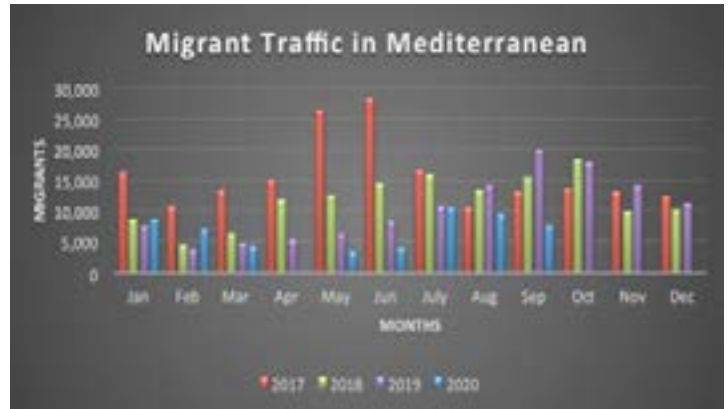
The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Monday 28th that more than 500 illegal migrants have been rescued off the Libyan coast in the past week. "In the period of 22-28 September, 517 migrants were rescued/intercepted at sea and returned to Libya," IOM said. The organization also said that 9,448 illegal migrants, including women and children, have been rescued and returned to Libya so far this year, compared with 9,225 in 2019.

At least 16 migrants feared dead in shipwreck off Libya: IOM

Three people have died and 13 are feared drowned after a boat carrying refugees and migrants capsized off Libya's coast on Thursday 24th night, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which added there were 22 survivors. The dead include two Syrians and one man from Ghana.

Refugees accuse Greece of pushing them back out to sea

Shortly after reaching the Greek island of Lesbos, a group of Afghan refugees and migrants say their hopes for a new life in Europe were cut short when Greek authorities rounded them up, mistreated them, shoved them into life rafts and abandoned them at sea. Associated Press news agency journalists on a Turkish government-organised coastguard ride-along were on board the patrol boat that picked up the 37 refugees and migrants, including 18 children, from two orange life rafts in the Aegean Sea on September 12th.



Migrant crossings 2017-2020. Source: [UNHRC](#)

The current migrant smuggling situation

As sea states begin to worsen in the Mediterranean, crossing numbers show little sign of slowing. News that the European Commission has made moves to create a new migration pact have been broadly welcomed in the region, although certain states have criticised the attempts for internal, political reasons. With the conflict in Libya in a quiet phase, more migrants can be expected to attempt the crossing to mainland Europe, despite the perils involved. How this is met by countries such as Greece, accused to pushing migrants back, remains to be seen.



Migrant statistics in the Mediterranean (Figures last updated on Sept, 29th 2020). Source: [UNHCR](#)



Libya

Libya's oil terminals at Hariga, Brega, and Zueitina are open for business and welcoming tankers to ship oil, although the biggest port and the terminal typically exporting the oil from the biggest oilfield in the country are still under force majeure. Mellita is only open to ship condensates, while the biggest port in terms of capacity, Es Sider, is still closed and under force majeure. So is the Zawiya oil terminal shipping the crude produced from Libya's largest oilfield, Sharara. Ras Lanuf, is also closed and still under force majeure.

Libya-Tunisia air corridor to open next month

The Libyan African Aviation Holding Company has announced that the authorities in Tripoli and their counterparts in Tunis will reopen the air corridor between the two countries next month. The company made the announcement on Facebook. "Consultations have been held with the Tunisians," it explained, "and as a result it was decided to gradually open the air space between the two countries, according to the health protocols in force in the two countries, as of the beginning of October."

Former Libya Oil Wealth Handler Arrested For Fraud

The former CEO of the bank responsible for handling Libya's oil wealth has been arrested for fraud, according to Libyan security and judicial officials cited by Bloomberg—and the bank shakeup could trickle down to the oil production level. The move to arrest the former CEO of Libyan Foreign Bank (LFB)—Libya's central bank—is just the latest in the years' long saga for the entity responsible for handling the country's oil money, such that it is.

Oil Falls Near \$40 on Uncertain Demand With Libya Supply Rising

Oil slipped near \$40 a barrel in New York, with Vitol Group seeing uncertain global demand and Libyan production surging after a blockade on energy facilities was partially lifted. In Libya, output has almost tripled to 250,000 barrels a day and is set to expand further as ships load crude from storage, allowing fields to pump more, according to people familiar with the matter, Bloomberg reported on Sept. 28th.

Armed militias clash in populated neighborhood of east Tripoli

The United Nations has condemned clashes between two armed groups in a residential suburb of the Libyan capital and the use of heavy weapons. UNSMIL, the world body's support mission in Libya, in a statement late on Friday 25th expressed "great concern" over the fighting in the eastern suburb of Tajoura. "Heavy weapons" were used in a "civilian-populated neighbourhood", in clashes that caused "damage to private properties and put civilians in harm's way", it said. UNSMIL said

it "reminds all parties of their obligations in accordance with international humanitarian law" and called for urgent reforms to boost security.

Germany presses Russia to release UN report on Libya arms

Germany on Friday 25th pressed Russia and China in vain to allow the release of an interim UN report on violations of the arms embargo on Libya that faulted Moscow-linked fighters. Germany called a closed-door Security Council meeting to seek the publication of the report, saying it wanted to shine a light on the flood of arms that have gone into Libya.

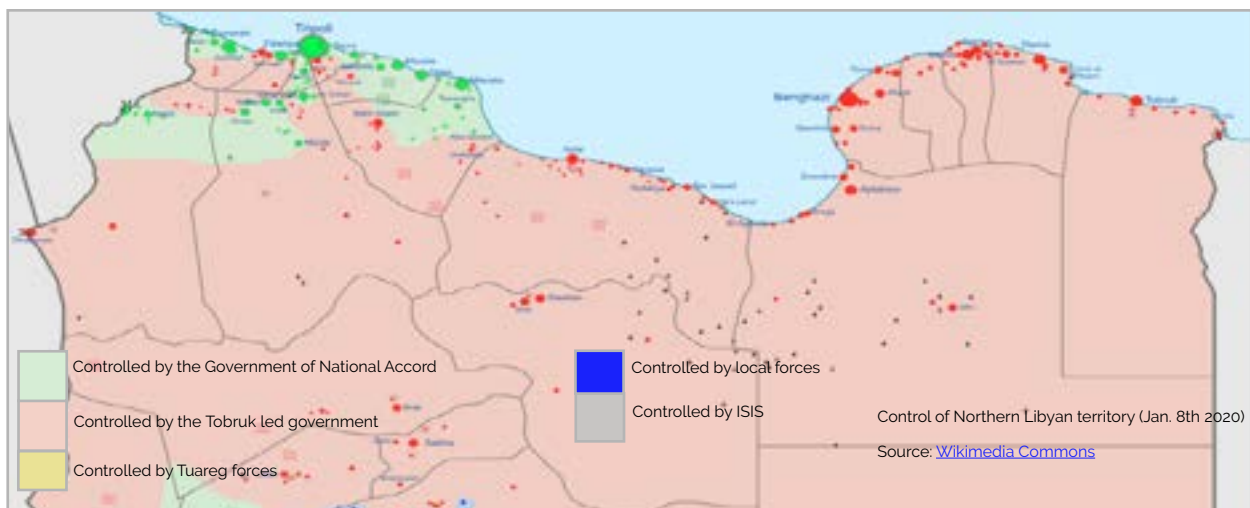
Libya PM voices alarm at militias amid ceasefire

The head of Libya's UN-recognized government on Thursday 24th urged armed militias to lay down their weapons, warning that they were risking a fragile ceasefire in the war-battered nation. Addressing the UN General Assembly, Fayeaz al-Sarraj, head of the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord, welcomed commitments by political leaders in eastern Libya to stop violence and resume oil production, AFP reported.

Egypt's el-Sissi, Haftar hold Libya talks in Cairo

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi held talks in Cairo with Libyan putschist Gen. Khalifa Haftar Wednesday 23rd. Aquila Saleh, speaker of the east Libya-based parliament and Egyptian spy chief Abbas Kamel were also present at the meeting. "During the meeting, el-Sissi was informed of developments in Libya and the efforts of all parties to implement a cease-fire and advance the peace process under the supervision of the U.N.," the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

To read MAST's Libyan Country report on MASTOPEDIA, [please click here](#).





Gulf of Guinea

The Central Naval Command of the Nigerian Navy has begun the retraining of its men in marksmanship and weapons handling to reduce collateral damage in its engagement in civil security challenges. The exercise, which began Monday 28th at Elele 5th Battalion barracks of the Nigerian Army, was in small arm firing exercise and range classification. It was organised to improve personnel proficiency in weapon handling and professionalism.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Oil firms spill 3,346 barrels of crude oil in eight months Investigation

Oil and gas companies operating in Niger Delta spilled 3,346.94 barrels of crude oil, an equivalent of 532,078 litres, in eight months, from January to August 2020, according to data obtained from the National Oil Spill Detection Response Agency, NOSDRA. A breakdown showed that the volume of oil spilled in the first eight months of 2020, represented a decline of 82.84 per cent, compared to 19,505.07 barrels of crude oil spilled in the same period in 2019. The value of crude oil spilled in the first eight months of 2019 stood at \$780,202, an equivalent of N288.675 million.

Nigerian Navy lauded for sustaining fight against smuggling

The Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Naval Command, Rear Admiral David Adeniran, has commended the operatives of the Forward Operating Base in Ibaka, Mbo local government area of Akwa Ibom State, for sustaining the anti-smuggling fight on the Nigeria waterways. He added that the base has been in the forefront of the Navy's anti-smuggling operations within its area of jurisdiction.

Nigerian government deports seven Sri-Lankans convicted of oil theft

Nigeria's Federal Government has deported several foreign nationals including seven Sri-Lankans convicted for various criminal and immigration offences. "Seven Sri-Lankans that were jailed for petroleum product-related offences after serving their jail terms were ordered by the court to be deported to their country as well," a statement from the Nigerian government said.

Nigerian Navy deploys 6 warships, 60 gunboats against pirates, oil thieves

The Nigerian Navy has deployed troops on board six warships, including 60 gunboats, in a special military exercise to tackle pirates, oil smugglers and other criminals in the nation's waters. Rear Adm. David Adeniran, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Naval Command (ENC), Calabar, announced the deployment at the flag-off of the exercise in Onne, Rivers.

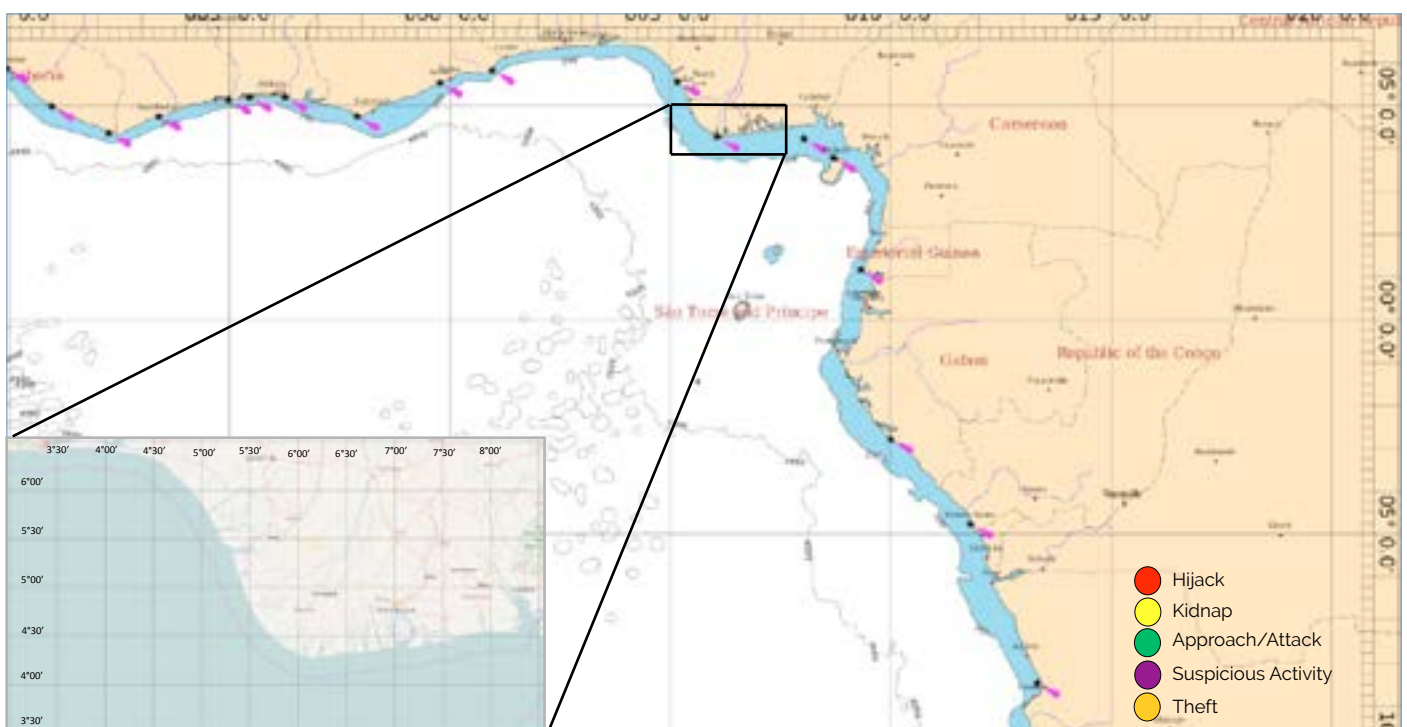
EFCC quizzes eight suspected oil thieves, vessel In Port Harcourt

The Port Harcourt Zonal Office of the Economic And Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has commenced investigation of eight suspected oil thieves and a vessel (Miracle Worker), handed over to it by the Nigerian Navy. A press statement said the suspects were handed over to the EFCC by the Nigerian Navy Forward Operating Base, Bonny, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, after being intercepted for suspected involvement in illegal oil bunkering.

Nigerian Navy Inaugurates New Hydrographic Survey Vessel

In line with its promise to better equip the Hydrographic Department for enhanced maritime safety, the Nigerian Navy (NN) has inaugurated the nation's first purpose-built survey vessel. The hydrographic survey ship was unveiled at the OCEA shipyard on Thursday 24th at Les Sables d'Olonne, France, by the Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ibas.

To see MAST Services in the region, [please click here](#). And and to read Nigeria's country report, [please click here](#).





South East Asia

The number of incidents reported in the Philippines for the first nine months of 2020 has almost doubled compared to the entire year of 2019. Between January and September 2020, 13 actual incidents were reported in the Philippines. Of these, nine incidents occurred at Manila anchorage, three incidents at Batangas and one incident at General Santos Harbour anchorage. Seven incidents were reported in 2019, Bunkerspot reported.

Incidents:

1. Late report: Crew onboard anchored Liberia-flagged container ship awaiting crew change, crew noticed that the lock of the bosun store was broken. at 0433 LT in position 14:33.42N - 120:52.35E, South Harbour anchorage area, Manila Philippines. Alarm was raised immediately. Ship stores were stolen. Incident reported to VTMS Manila and Philippine Coast Guard. No crew were injured. Reported (ReCAAP) 6th Sept.

2. Late report: Crew onboard anchored Liberia-flagged container ship reported to the bridge that he spotted a perpetrator at forward bow behind the lifecraft at 0220 LT in position 14:35.66N - 120:32.15E, Manila anchorage, Philippines. The crew proceeded to check the area and noticed that the perpetrator wore a mask and was holding a knife. The alarm was raised immediately and a search for the perpetrator was conducted. Unfortunately, the person already left the ship. Two breathing apparatuses and a gong were stolen. The incident was reported to VTMS Manila and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). The PCG proceeded to the location of the ship and conducted inquiry into the incident. The crew was not injured. Reported (ReCAAP) 5th Sept.

China holds simultaneous military drills in four seas

China began five military exercises simultaneously along different parts of its coast on Monday 28th, the second time in two months it will have such concurrent drills against a backdrop of rising regional tension. Two of the exercises are being held near the Paracel Islands in the disputed South China Sea, one in the East China Sea, and one in further north in the Bohai Sea, the Maritime Safety Administration said in notices on its website. In the southern part of the Yellow Sea, drills including live-fire exercises will be held from Monday to Wednesday, it said in another notice.

Abu Sayyaf sub-leader killed in Sulu clash

A ranking leader of the Abu Sayyaf Group was killed in a clash with government troops in Patikul, Sulu on Monday 28th, the military said. In a statement, the Joint Task Force Sulu identified the casualty as a certain sub-leader Arsibar Sawadjaan, the cousin of bomb expert Mundi Sawadjaan, one of the suspects and alleged mastermind behind the Jolo twin blasts in August.

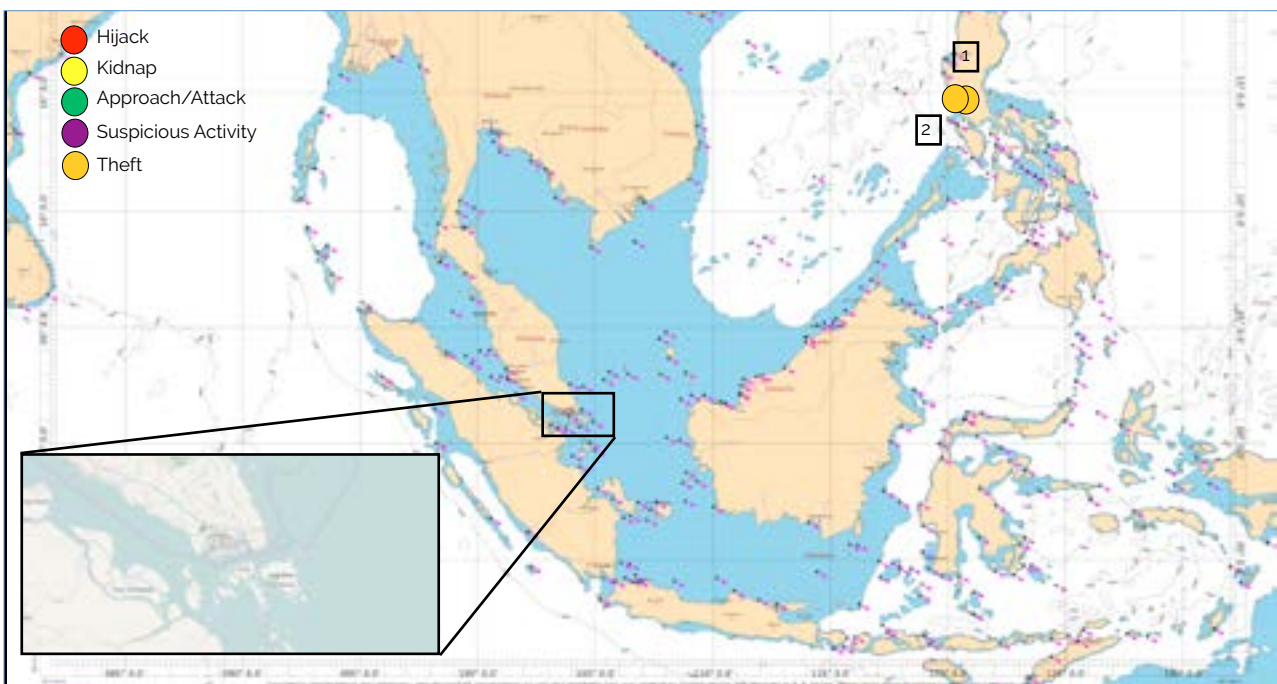
MMEA seize boat, drugs worth RM11.3m

The Kedah and Perlis Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) has thwarted an attempt to smuggle 56.5 kilogramme (kg) of methamphetamine worth RM11.3 million after intercepting a foreign fishing boat 2.3 nautical miles north east of Tanjung Kemarong, near here, on Friday 25th. Its commander, First Maritime Admiral Mohd Zawawi Abdullah said, the seizure, which was the biggest this year, was conducted during Op Eagle Eye based on intelligence information and monitoring by the Langkawi Malaysian Maritime SEA Monitoring System (SWASLA) at 1am.

PH Navy wants offshore listening posts

Vice Admiral Giovanni Carlo Bacordo has visited the now-idle gas platforms Nido and Matinloc to see if those could be converted into littoral monitoring stations to beef up the country's maritime security, the Philippine Navy said Sunday 27th. The Navy commander visited the facilities off Malampaya in north-east Palawan on Sept. 26th. "This inspection intends to look at the viability of these retired gas platforms to be converted into observation posts for the Recto Bank and Malampaya gas platforms, Bacordo said.

To see MAST's services in the region, [please click here](#).





Central and South America

Nothing significant to report.

Incidents:

1. Late report: Duty AB onboard anchored Denmark-flagged bulk carrier noticed some suspicious activity near the forepeak store and proceeded to investigate at 0410 UTC in position 00:01.39N – 051:00.08W, Macapa Anchorage, Brazil. As he approached the store he noticed two robbers armed with knives. He immediately informed the D/O and retreated into the accommodation. Alarm raised, ship's horn sounded, crew mustered, and searchlights directed towards the forepeak. Hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped in a white hull boat. A search was carried out and ship's properties were reported stolen. Pilot Station informed. Reported (IMB) 20th Sept. *(Not shown on chart)*

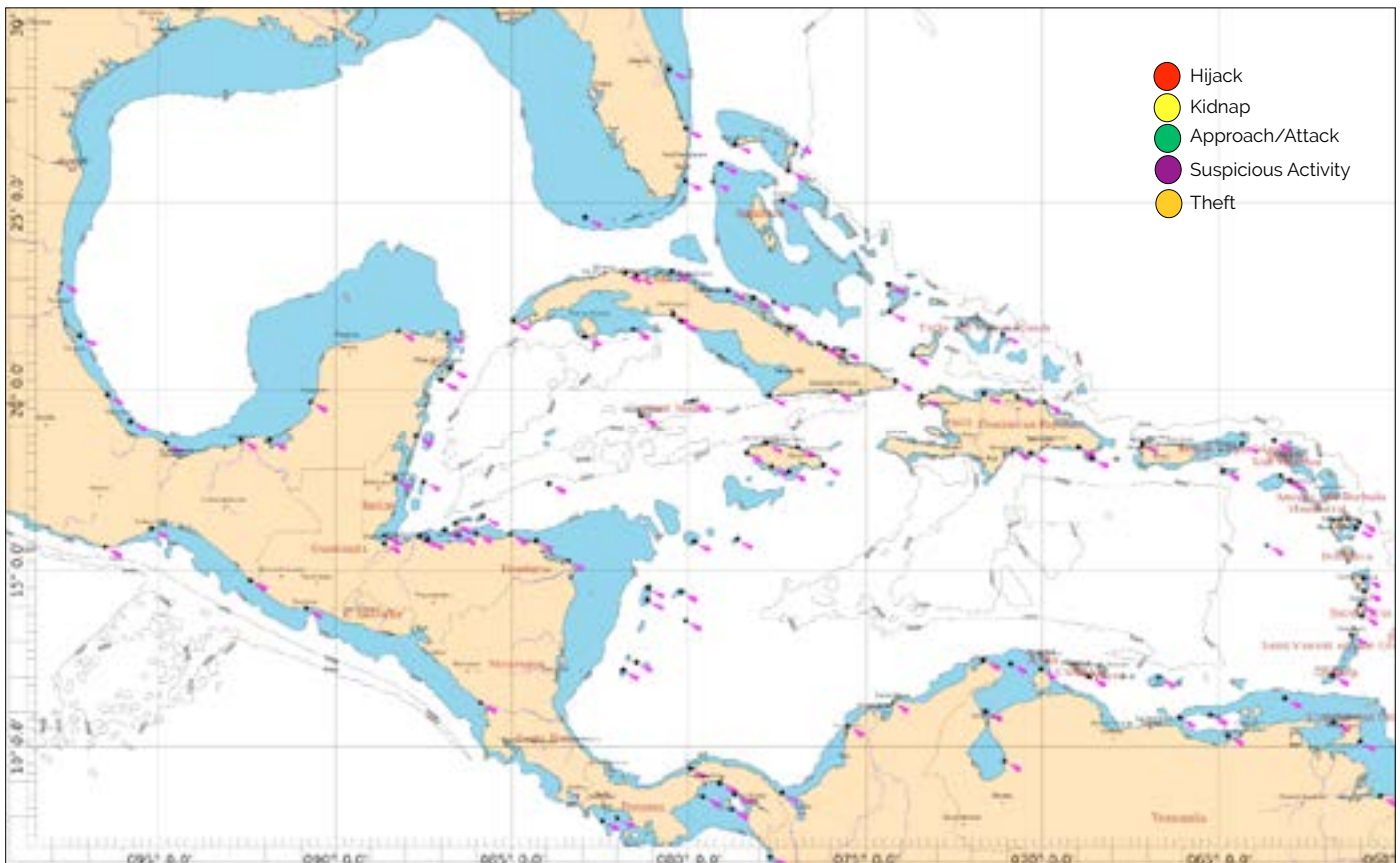
2. Late report: Duty AB on routine rounds onboard anchored Liberia-flagged container ship noticed a robber on the fore-castle deck 0554 UTC in position 12:01.49S – 077:12.65W, Callao Anchorage, Peru. Seeing the duty AB, the robber armed with a machete shouted and ran towards the AB resulting in the AB immediately retreating into the accommodation. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robber escaped without stealing anything. VTS notified and a patrol boat was dispatched to check and

search the anchorage area. Reported (IMB) 9th Sept. *(Not shown on chart)*

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](#).

Western North Pacific Ocean and South China Sea



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