

Weekly Security & Risk Report

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MAKING THE
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MARITIME SECURITY PHYSICAL AND ASSET SECURITY RISK CONSULTING SECURITY SYSTEMS



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Issue 307 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.

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.

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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

The UK High Commissioner to Ghana, Harriet Thompson, has suggested that the UK is ready to assist Ghana in maritime security efforts to prevent piracy. The comments were made during a visit to Tema port by the UK Royal Navy and Marines from 42 Commando, who are in the region on deployment with HMS Trent.

Incidents:

1. Underway MV reported small craft spotted at 6nm approaching at 26knots at 1305 UTC in position 00:59.12N – 006:31.42E, around 35nm North of Sao Tome and Principe. MV applied BMP WA procedures resulting in craft abandoning its approach at 0.5nm off her position. Vessel and crew reported safe. Reported (MDAT) 7th Nov.

2. On the 11th November at 0100UTC, a MV was attacked at 0100UTC in position 03°23'22N 005°41'03 E. The incident is complete and the vessel is enroute to port. Intelligence sources suggest five crew have been kidnapped. Reported (MDAT-GoG) 11th Nov.

Pirates attack Akwa Ibom fishermen, steal 50 outboard engines

Nigerian media reported on Nov. 15th that gunmen had attacked a fishing community in Akwa Ibom State over the weekend, stealing 50 outboard engines at gunpoint. A follow up patrol by the Nigerian Navy uncovered two suspects and four engines, along with a cache of weapons. The initial attack was launched by suspected sea pirates, who arrived in a speedboat fitted with twin 200hp engines, a local told the media.

Experts back joint patrol to tackle pirates on Nigeria's waterways

While the Nigerian Navy plans to patrol alongside HMS Trent as part of anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Guinea, there is renewed concern that local pirate groups will simply move to inland waterways and carry out attacks against passenger vessels. President of the Nigerian Institute of Shipping, Capt. Anthony Onoharigho, applauded NIMASA's multi-million dollar security project but said, "What NIMASA has done is fine. But the same piracy problem could also happen on the inland waters because the spillover from the offshore will spill to the

inshore. "The problem in the country is enormous. These pirates are our people who are jobless. To clean that water, the government ought to first create an empowering environment, employ seamen and remunerate them well. The amount being paid to Nigerian seamen is low compared with any part of the world."

NDLEA detains 12 dockworkers over N9.5bn cocaine shipment

As part of the ongoing investigation into the seizure of a cocaine consignment in October, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) says 12 dockworkers at the Apapa Seaport, Lagos have been detained over the importation of N9.5 billion worth of cocaine, media reported on Nov. 13th.

For further information and to see MAST Services in the region, [please click here](#).

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures:

2021:

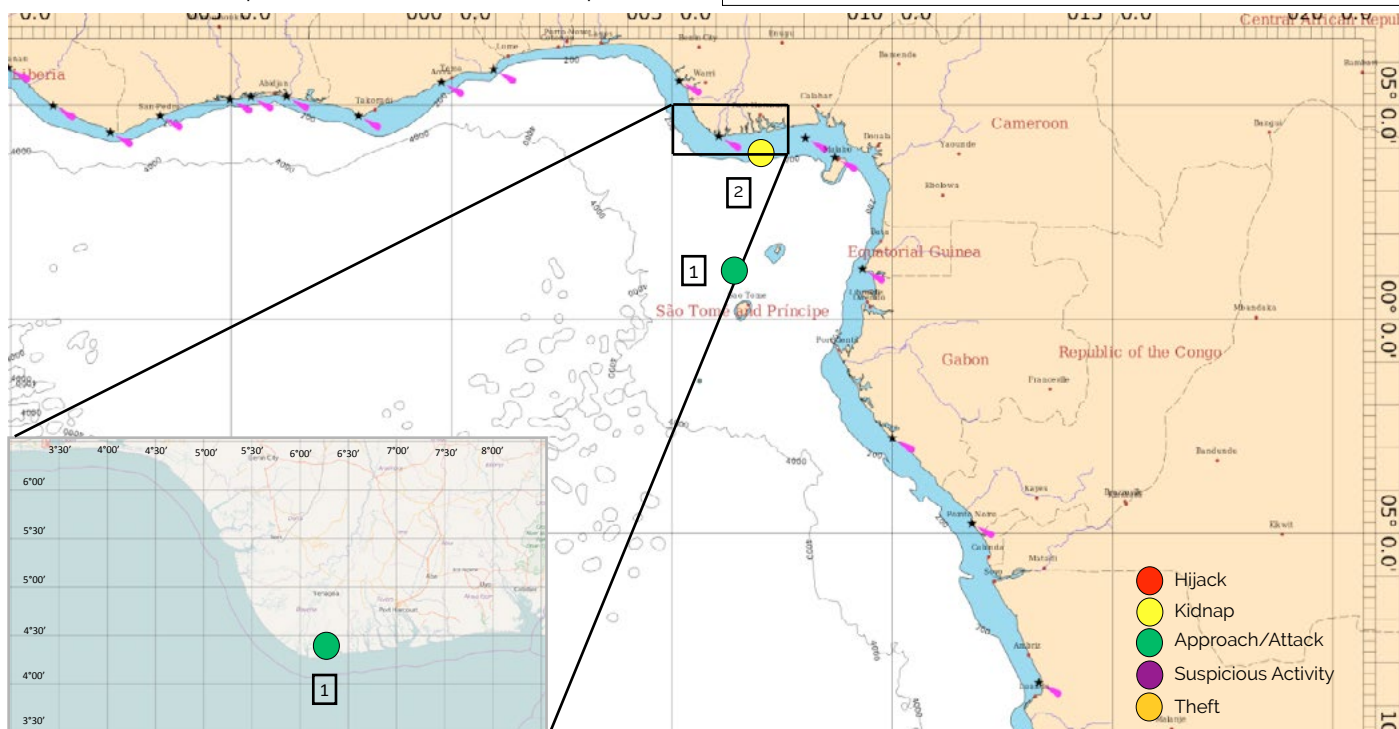
Incidents reported: 48 (MDAT-GoG/Others)
Crew kidnapped: 46 (IMB, MDAT)
Vessels hijacked: 1 (MDAT-GoG)

2020:

Incidents reported: 132 (MDAT-GoG)
Crew Kidnapped: 130 (IMB)
Vessels Hijacked: 3 (IMB)

2019:

Incidents reported: 111 (MDAT-GoG)
Crew kidnapped: 121 (IMB)
Vessels hijacked: 4 (IMB)





Indian Ocean Region

Forces assigned to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Israel and U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) began conducting a multilateral maritime security operations exercise in the Red Sea, Nov. 10th. The five-day exercise included at-sea training aboard amphibious transport dock ship USS Portland (LPD 27) focused on visit, board, search and seizure tactics. The training will enhance interoperability between participating forces' maritime interdiction teams, NAVCENT said.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Houthi smuggle Iranian-supplied arms to Somalia, spreading chaos

The Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime last week issued a report which said that Houthi rebels are smuggling weapons through the Gulf of Aden and in to Somalia, media reported on Nov. 11th. The Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime said its study drew on data from more than 400 weapons documented in 13 locations across Somalia over eight months and inventories from 13 dhows intercepted by naval vessels, Arab Weekly reported.

Bangladesh set to finalise its Indo-Pacific Strategy

Bangladesh is set to finalise its stance over the Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) initiated by the US centering India and Pacific Ocean, senior diplomats have confirmed, Prothmal reported on Nov. 12th. Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, discussed the issue at a recent meeting with France's President Macron last Tuesday. Following the meeting, it was reported that France had agreed to cooperate with Bangladesh on maritime security matters.

IRGC in Possession of Modern Naval Technologies: Commander

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said on Nov. 14th that his forces have obtained modern naval technologies, adding that the forces have managed to enhance the quality of combat vessels. In comments during a visit to a naval base in Iran's northern province of Gilan on Sunday, Major General Hossein Salami said the IRGC has expanded its capabilities in the sea and has come into possession of mod-

ern naval technologies.

Need to enhance cooperation to counter drug trafficking: Sri Lankan Naval Commander

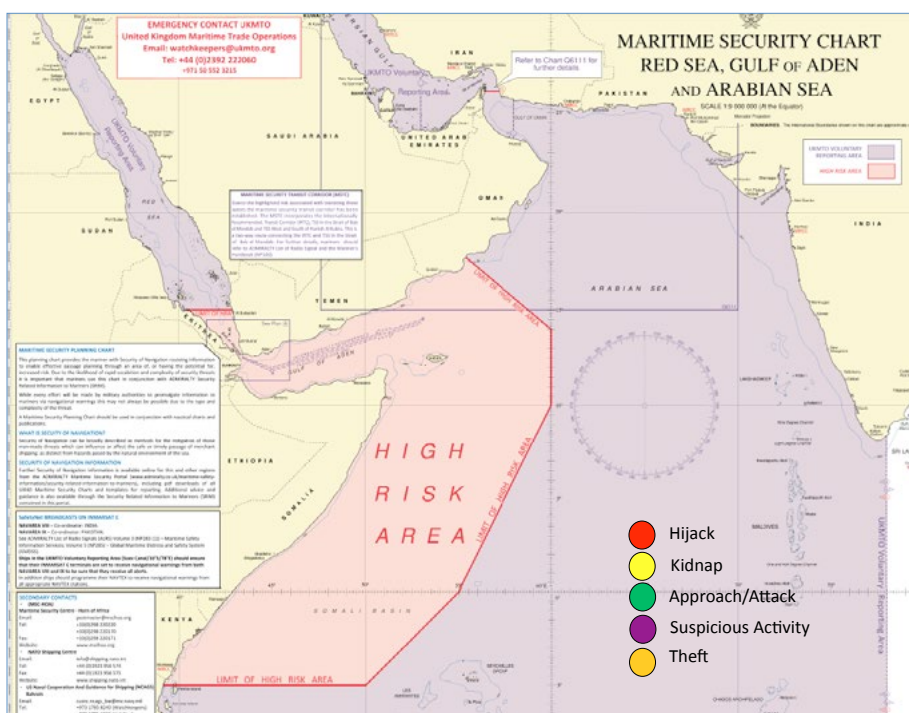
The Hindu reported on Nov. 13th that Sri Lanka raised the issue of narcotics smuggling during the recent Goa Maritime Conclave. The Sri Lankan Navy hopes for improvements in information sharing and asset sharing in the region, "I have discussed the matter with Adm. Karambir Singh and regional Navy Chiefs including the Maldives, Madagascar and Seychelles. We discussed how to enhance sharing of information and assets so that we can at least minimise drug trafficking. That's my main concern here," Vice Admiral Ulugetenne told The Hindu.

U.S. Navy Conducts Annual Live Fire Missile Exercise in Arabian Gulf

U.S. Navy patrol coastal ships conducted a live-fire exercise with the MK-60 Griffin guided-missile system in the Arabian Gulf, Nov. 4th-6th, to test crew proficiency and system functionality, the US Navy reported on Nov. 11th. U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) conducted a previous Griffin guided-missile system live fire exercise in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in December 2019. The system was installed on all forward-deployed patrol coastal ships in 2013.

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

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





Somalia

Five Ugandan soldiers serving with African Union troops in Somalia have been found guilty of killing seven civilians there in August. Two of the soldiers have been sentenced to death, while three others have been given 39-year prison sentences. The three will be repatriated to Uganda to serve their sentences there. The civilians were unlawfully killed during a gun battle in Golweyn between its troops and Al Shabaab militants, the AU says, BBC News reported on Nov. 14th.

UN renews arms embargo on Somalia

To enforce the arms embargo on Somalia, the UN Security Council decided on Nov. 16th to reauthorize maritime interdiction of illicit weapons imports and charcoal exports, while also renewing the mandate of the Panel of Experts on Somalia.

Somali American Terror Suspect Arrested

All Africa reported on Nov. 14th that Kenyan anti-terrorism police had arrested a Somali American terror suspect who had been arrested at a shopping centre in the country's capital. The report says that the suspect was trying to find the "most congested club" in Nairobi, and ultimately attempted to 'buy' the information from a police officer for around \$1600.

Long Delayed Parliamentary Elections to Kick Off

The Somali Federal Elections Implementation Team has stated that the election process will begin on Nov. 16th, according to a report by Dalsan Radio in Mogadishu. In a statement, the Federal Election Implementation Team (FEIT) officially announced that the elections will start in all regional states and in Mogadishu on Nov. 16th. "The Federal Election Implementation Team calls on all concerned stakeholders to help in expediting the election process, sets 24th December," read part of the Statement. The date is the same one set by the Libyan government for their national elections.

IED kills at least two in Mogadishu

Xinhau reported on Nov. 11th that at least two people had been

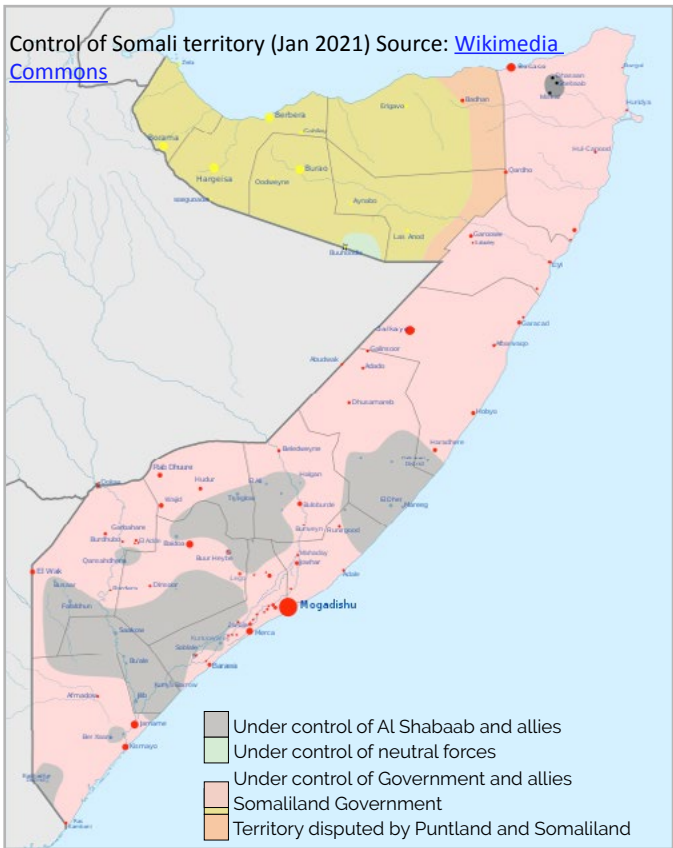
killed by a car bomb in the capital. A police officer who did not wish to be named, said that a IED detonated near a convoy of AU troops at a busy junction. "Two civilians were killed and three others wounded in the explosion," the officer said. Al Shabaab have said that they were targeting Americans from the Pacific Engineering Company, who they believed were part of the convoy.

SNA capture areas from Al Shabaab in south

The Somali National Army has taken several areas from Al Shabaab near Kismayo, according to media reports. The SNA captured several villages to the west of Kismayo in a series of operations on Thursday 11th, Xinhau said. The army said that it had inflicted heavy losses and that there were a number of Al Shabaab casualties.

AU visit ends without agreement on counter-terrorism

A visit to Somalia by the AU-Peace and Security Council has ended without agreement, Critical Threats reported. The meeting was intended to negotiate the future make up of counter-terrorism forces in the country, but ended without agreement. The head of the AU-PSC delegation, Egyptian Ambassador to Ethiopia Mohamed Omar Gad, stated that both sides will continue to work together to resolve the status of AMISOM, whose mandate in the country ends on Dec. 31st this year.



Threat Assessment

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).

Analysis

The ongoing political spat between the Somali president and prime minister once again threatens the country's election process. The stalled elections are widely seen as a crucial step to a more stable Somalia, but have been seized upon by terror group, Al Shabaab, as an opportunity to strengthen its hold on parts of the country. In South-west state, the group appears to operate with little resistance locally, installing its own governors in areas occupied by both AMISOM and SNA forces.

In Galmudug state, the previously moderate Ahlu Sunna militia (ASWJ) has reportedly taken control of Guri'el town, with the backing of local clan elders, and are demanding a share of political power in a new headache for the country's administration. Previously, the group had been influential in forcing Al Shabaab fighters out of major areas of Galmudug, so maintaining good political relations with the group is key for Somalia as it struggles to control Al Shabaab in the country. Hopes that the country could unite behind the elections continue to fade, and it may take much greater international pressure to resolve the current political deadlock in the country.



Yemen

Al Jazeera reported on Nov. 14th that Houthi forces had retaken key positions inside Hodeidah, following the withdrawal of forces loyal to the internationally recognised government. Joint Forces Fighters, backed by the UAE, left the city on Friday 12th, as part of the ceasefire agreement made in 2018. "The joint forces recognised the mistake of remaining in defensive barricades, unable to fight under an international pact, while various front lines require support," they said in a statement.

Coalition forces destroy naval mine in Red Sea

On Sunday 14th, coalition forces announced that they had located and destroyed a suspected Houthi naval mine in the Red Sea. While they did not give a precise location, they did report that they have so far destroyed at least 207 naval mines in the Red Sea.

UN calls for new talks on Yemen's Hodeidah

Al Jazeera reported on Nov. 15th that a UN monitoring mission had urged the Saudi coalition and Houthi rebel movement to hold new talks about the fate of Hodeidah, as reports emerged of Saudi forces attacking areas to the south of the port city. Houthi fighters had moved into positions vacated by coalition forces, Al Jazeera noted. Other media outlets report that the fighting, which began on Sunday, has already displaced over 6,000 people from Hodeidah.

Mines and explosives removal continues

Yemen's official news agency, Saba, has reported that over 287,000 mines and explosives have been removed in Yemen in the last three years. As of the second week in November, Saudi Arabian backed Masam project specialists had removed a further 1565 mines and defused them, the agency said.

Reports of US drone strike against AQAP personnel

Egypt's Daily News reported on Nov. 14th that three suspected members of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) had been killed by a drone strike in al-Bayda on Sunday. Xinhua said that: "Missiles fired by a U.S. drone struck a traveling vehicle passing on road between the provinces of al-Bayda and Shabwa in the country's southern part," the local military source said on condition of anonymity.

UN Special Envoy calls for urgent end to fighting, as humanitarian needs escalate

Ahead of Thursday 11th's Security Council meeting behind closed doors on Yemen, the UN Special Envoy, Hans Grundberg, said that a UN-led political process could still be part of a sustainable solution to the conflict. Participating by teleconference, Mr. Grundberg briefed the Council Members about his

three-day visit to Taiz governorate, where he held meetings in Taiz city, Turbah and Mokha, and discussed the urgent necessity for an end to the violence. "These visits have given me a first-hand experience of the impact of the conflict on civilians in Taiz, including the difficulties they face moving through their daily lives", Mr. Grundberg said in a statement.

Saudi-led coalition says troops redeploying in Yemen, not withdrawing

Reuters reported on Nov. 11th that the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen was redeploying its forces 'in line with its strategy to support Yemeni forces'. Equipment and personnel were seen last week, being loaded onto ships in the port of Aden, but the coalition has said that stories about a withdrawal were "baseless and unfounded". Instead, spokesman General Turki al-Malki, said that movement and redeployment of troops was based on operational and tactical assessments.

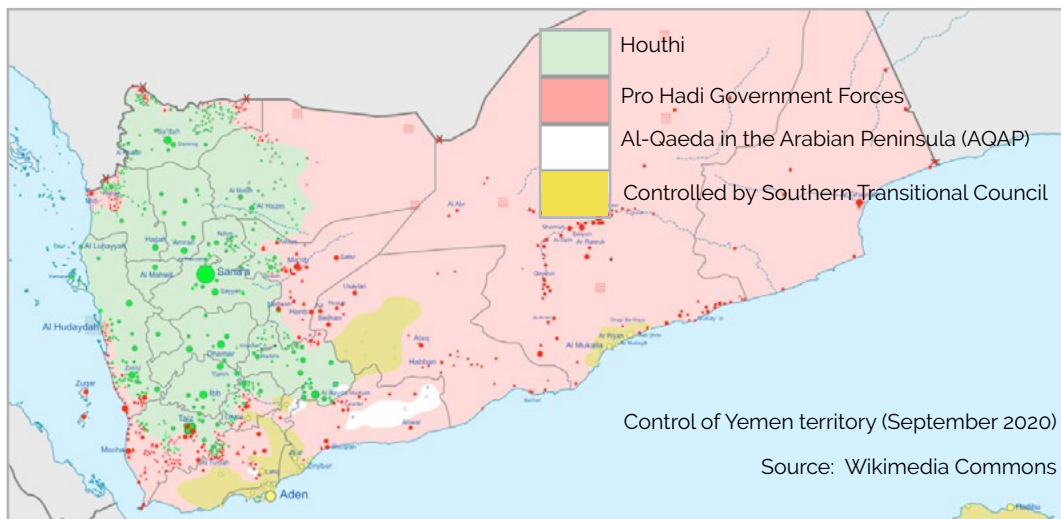
Yemeni journalist and child killed in car bombing in Aden

A Yemeni journalist was assassinated in a car bombing in Aden, Al Jazeera reported on Nov. 11th. No group has claimed responsibility for the bombing, which killed Rasha Abdullah al-Harazi, who was pregnant, and her other child, Jawad. Her husband was seriously wounded and is in hospital. Three others were injured in the explosion. The pair had been threatened by the Houthi group on October 6th. However, there are quiet hopes that a drawdown of Saudi forces could pave the way for more fruitful peace negotiations, with the US and UN engaged in intense diplomacy.

AQAP continue attacks against Houthis

Critical Threats reported on Nov. 12th that al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) had claimed two attacks against Houthi rebels on Nov. 4th and 7th. An operation by AQAP snipers on Houthi positions in al Bayda governate killed one, while a AQAP IED targetted a Houthi vehicle in Tayyab, killing another.

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



South East Asia

India and Thailand began their coordinated, bi-annual partols of their International Maritime Boundary Line on Friday 12th. The patrols have been conducted since 2005 and are intended to improve interoperability and ensure freedom of navigation.

Incidents:

1. Crew sighted unauthorised person disembarking from unmanned, towed barge in position 1.0:7.81N-103.0.32.9E, at 1255 Lt, approximately 6.5nm SW of Nipa Island, Singapore Straits. Alarm raised, small items stolen but no crew injured. Reported (ReCAAP) Nov. 12th.

Indonesia's illegal anchorage policy under fire

Reuters reported on Nov. 15th that at least 12 ship owners have paid as much as \$300,000 each to release vessels detained by the Indonesian Navy, which were said to have been illegally anchored in Indonesian waters. Reuters said that a dozen sources had said that payments were: "made in cash to naval officers or via bank transfer to intermediaries who told them they represented the Indonesian navy." The Indonesian Navy has denied the claims.

Operation Redback to increase security in Malaysian waters, says MMEA

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and Australia Border Force (ABF) are to conduct maritime security drills in the Malacca Strait, the Malaysian Star reported on Nov. 15th. Operation Redback will run through this week and end on Sunday, in western Johor waters or off Batu Pahat and Muar. It is partly intended to spread the word to local fishing vessels that cross border criminal activity is being monitored and will be acted upon. There are concerns that local syndicates are hiring spotters in the area who warn criminal gangs of patrol activity.

Vietnam carries out construction on three islands

Benar News reported on Nov. 15th that Vietnam appears to be constructing docks or harbours on three islands in the South China Sea. The work is being conducted on Pearson Reef, Na-

myit Island and Sand Cay, part of the disputed Spratly Islands.

Philippines, Japan navy ships hold drills near West Philippine Sea

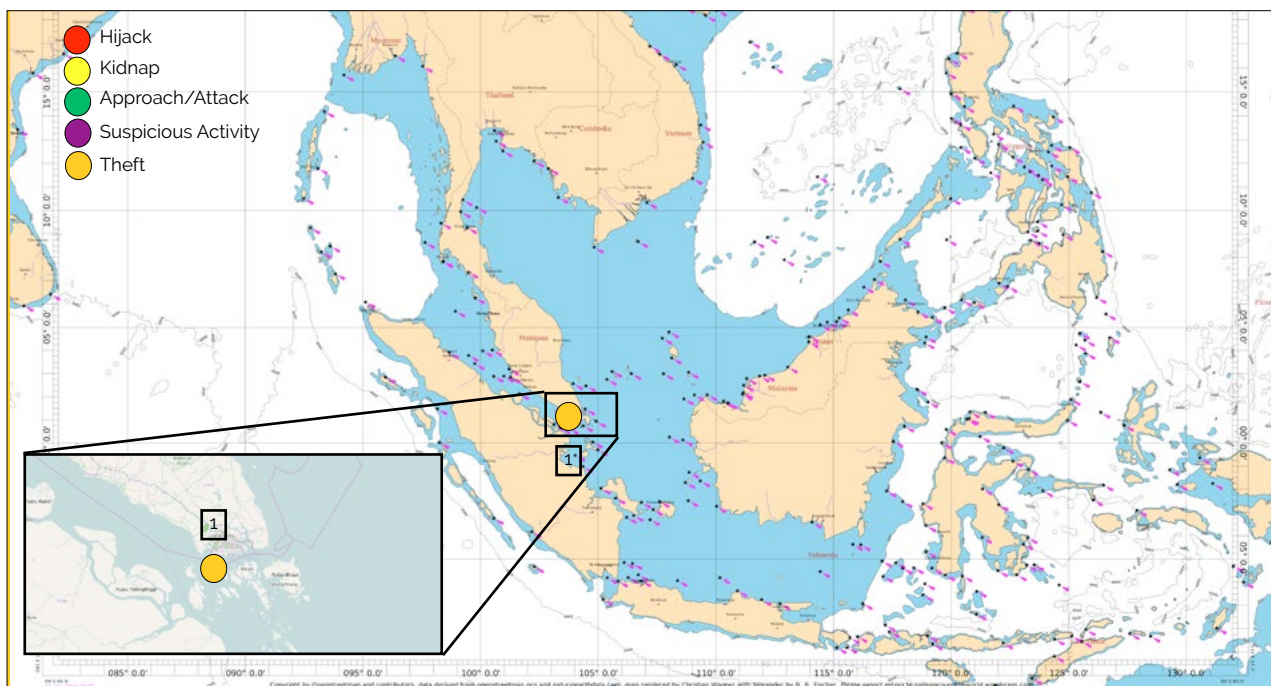
Inquirer reported on Nov. 15th that the Japanese MSDF and Philippine Navy conducted joint operations near the West Philippine Sea on Sunday 14th. The passing exercises featured one Philippine vessel and two JMSDF ships, off Subic. The Japanese ships are in the region as part of a port call and exercises with the Philippine Navy.

UK Seeks Closer Ties with Indonesia on Maritime Security

UK Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, was in Indonesia on Thursday 11th, and discussed enhancing maritime security ties with the country, the Jakarta Globe reported. In addition to trade deals, "We also discussed the importance of security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Few weeks ago, the UK's carrier strike group visited Jakarta. Next year, UK-designed frigates will be built in Surabaya. This is part of our extensive cooperation in the area of defense," Truss said.

5 Abu Sayyaf bandits surrender in Sulu

The Philippine Star reported on Nov. 13th that five Abu Sayyaf Group terrorists had surrendered to the authorities in Sulu. The men were suspected of being involved in the kidnapping of foreign nationals in the region, having worked under several sub-leaders engaged in the practice.



European Waters

A further 1,185 people crossed the English Channel by boat to reach the UK on Thursday 11th, a new record for migrant crossings in a single day - as mild weather made the journey less risky. Four Border Force vessels intercepted boats that were spotted off the coast and escorted them into Dover. Three people are feared lost at sea as two kayaks were found adrift near Calais, French authorities said, BBC News reported. More than 23,000 people have made the crossing from France to the UK by boat so far this year, a sharp rise on the 8,404 in 2020.

UK and France reach agreement to 'prevent 100% of Channel crossings'

Agreement between France and the UK on the prevention of migrant boats putting to sea appears to have been reached, The Guardian reported on Nov. 15th. UK Home Secretary, Priti Patel, and French Interior Minister, Gérald Darmanin, issued a joint statement in which they agreed to do more to stop migrant crossings and deliver on a joint agreement made in the summer. The move brings to an end a minor political war of words on the issue between the two countries.

'Migrants use jet-ski' for dangerous English Channel crossing

The RNLI recovered a jetski off the coast of Kent on Monday 15th, while a lifeboat was deployed as part of a search and rescue mission. Several migrants made the perilous crossing on Monday, LBC reported, although did not offer actual figures, describing 'dozens' of migrants arriving at Dover.

Union considers legal action over Channel refugee 'push-backs'

Staff working for the UK Border Force have threatened to take legal action against the UK government, should it continue to pursue its "pushback" policy against migrant boats in the English Channel. The PCS union has said it is ready to launch a high court action to challenge the legality of Home Secretary, Priti Patel's plans. Documents seen by The Guardian newspaper on Nov. 14th show that the government's own legal advice warned that the tactic could lead to a legal challenge. They reported that the government estimated that its success in defending any such action was "less than 30%".

Hundreds of migrants from Africa arrive in Italy

Reuters reported on Nov. 14th that at least 600 migrants, including many of them Egyptian nationals, had arrived in Italy over a 24-hour period. Despite poor sea states, the migrants put to sea and were rescued by the Coast Guard in several operations. Some 300 were taken off a fishing boat off Italy's south coast, with another 212 and 113 rescued in separate operations. Reuters stated that as of Nov. 12th, some 57,833 migrants had arrived in Italy in 2021.

Zarzis, Tunisia: Overwhelmed by the unclaimed bodies of migrants

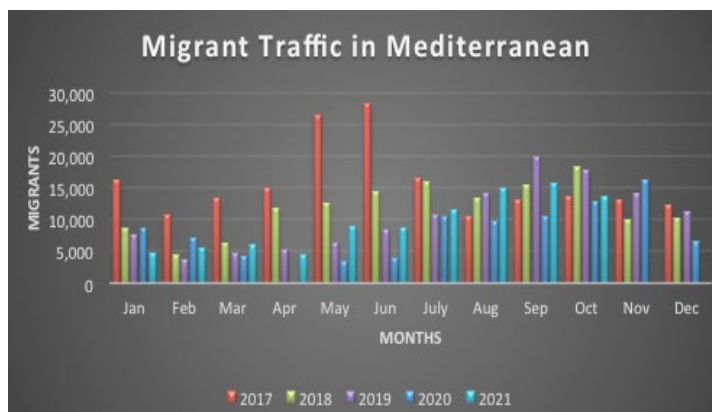
InfoMigrants reported on Nov. 11th that the town of Zarzis in Tunisia is struggling to cope with the sheer number of unclaimed migrant bodies washed up on its beaches. The town has two cemeteries for migrants and both have almost 1000 bodies interred there. The town's mayor "can no longer stand the fact that in recent years his town has become the burial ground for the corpses of migrants washed up by the sea," InfoMigrants reported.

Migrants Found Dead in Boat Near Spain's Canary Islands

Asharq Al-Awsat reported on Nov. 14th that police in Spain's Canary Islands had discovered the bodies of eight suspected migrants in a boat which was drifting off Gran Canaria on Sunday. An additional 62 migrants were rescued, Reuters added. Several migrants were critically ill and rushed to hospital for treatment and nine others were treated on the scene by Spanish Coast Guard officers. The boat had reportedly been drifting some 40 miles south of Gran Canaria for around a week, the report said.

Cyprus police to probe how docked migrant boat slipped away

The Cyprus Police Force has suspended an officer and 11 constables as part of an investigation into how a boat with around 61 migrants on board was allowed to evade them at a local harbour and continue its journey to the European mainland, Arab News reported on Nov. 12th. Police said in a statement Friday that the boat carrying 61 people was intercepted early Wednesday off the Mediterranean island's southern coast and escorted to port in the resort town of Paphos. The boat had initially set sail from Tripoli, Lebanon, and was headed to Italy, but had to stop in Cyprus due to choppy seas.



Migrant crossings 2017-2021. Source: [UNHCR](https://www.unhcr.org/)

The current migrant smuggling situation

Some 6196 people have crossed the Mediterranean by sea so far in November, figures from UNHCR show. This means that despite deteriorating sea states, people smugglers continue to push boats out, which is a huge concern for NGO rescue missions operating in the region.

In the English Channel, there are renewed hopes that France and the UK have finally reached agreement on cooperation. Many hundreds of migrants continue to attempt to cross the Channel, and the political battle between the two countries has overshadowed efforts to prevent migrant departures from Europe's mainland. It is hoped that the new agreement will see more measured language and greater cooperation at sea.

Libya

As has been widely expected for months, Khalifa Haftar announced he intends to stand in December's presidential election. "I declare my candidacy for the presidential election, not because I am chasing power but because I want to lead our people towards glory, progress and prosperity," he said in a speech, broadcast live on Libyan television.

Saif al-Islam Gaddafi: Son of Libya ex-ruler runs for president

The son of Libya's late leader Muammar al-Gaddafi has registered as a candidate in the country's first direct presidential election next month. Saif al-Islam Gaddafi was once the heir apparent to his father, but his support for a brutal crackdown on protesters 10 years ago tarnished his image, BBC News said on Nov. 15th. Bearded and wearing traditional Libyan clothing, he addressed the camera and cited a verse from the Koran that translates as, "judge between us and our people in truth". "God always prevails in his purpose," he also said, citing another chapter of the Muslim holy book, and adding from another section - "even if the unbelievers hate it". Mr Gaddafi is still wanted on war crimes charges by the International Criminal Court.

Al-Haddad meets Russian military delegation in Tripoli

The Libyan Chief of General Staff, Mohammed Al-Haddad, met with a Russian General Staff and Defense delegation in Tripoli on Sunday 14th, the Libya Observer reported. The General Staff said that the meeting was held because Al-Haddad wished to communicate with all local and foreign parties and support the military institution that is the basis for security and stability of the state, the paper said.

Turkey rebuffs French call for troop withdrawal from Libya

Al Jazeera reported on Nov. 14th that Turkey had rebuffed a call from France for foreign forces to be withdrawn from Libya. President Macron told a conference last week that fighters from Russia and Turkey should be withdrawn, but Turkish President Erdogan's foreign policy advisor told AFP that putting an emphasis on troop removal was "wrong". There have been growing calls for foreign fighters to leave the country, with Egypt's President EL-Sisi joining the chorus of demands, but so far, there has been little movement from Russia or Turkey.

Rome intending to host international conference on Libya next spring

Libya's Observer reported on Nov. 13th that sources close to the Italian Prime Minister said that the country was considering

hosting a conference on Libya next spring, after the country's elections. This would be a follow up to last week's conference in France, the paper said.

Libya passes Nigeria as Africa's top oil producer

In an illustration of how quickly its oil producing sector has recovered, Libya has now overtaken Nigeria as Africa's main producer of oil, according to a report from OPEC. Nigerian media reported the news on Nov. 13th, stating that production in Libya had increased from 1.16 million barrels per day in September to 1.24 mbpd, while Nigeria's had fallen to 1.23mbpd.

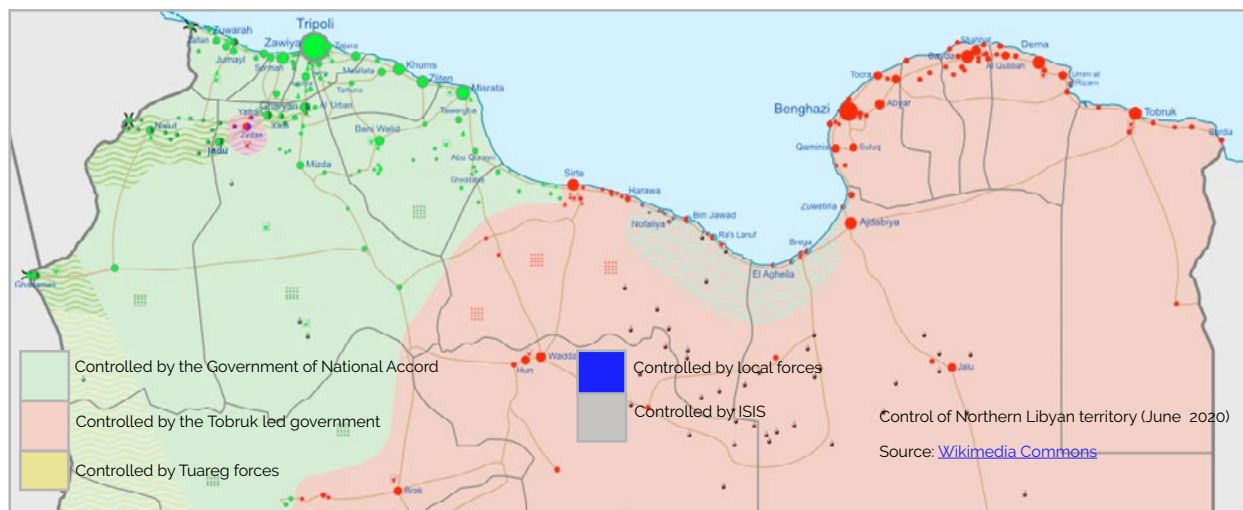
Libya elections 'essential next step' towards peace and stability: Guterres

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has urged Libyans to forge a spirit of national unity and overcome any remaining differences ahead of landmark presidential and parliamentary elections next month. Mr. Guterres made the appeal in a video message to the Paris Conference on Libya, convened on Friday by French President Emmanuel Macron. Some 30 countries and organizations are attending, according to media reports. "Libya today is closer than it has been for many years to solving its internal crisis and breaking the cycle of political transitions. We cannot miss this opportunity," said Mr. Guterres.

World powers warn against undermining Libya election plan at Paris summit

France 24 reported on Nov. 12th that world leaders gathered in Paris for a conference on Libya have agreed to push for sanctions against anyone who disrupts Libya's election process, as the country looks towards the planned December polls. The Paris meeting, which included the leaders of France, Libya, Germany, Italy and Egypt, as well as the US vice president, was intended to cement backing for the planned December vote and efforts to remove foreign forces, France 24 wrote.

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





Central and South America

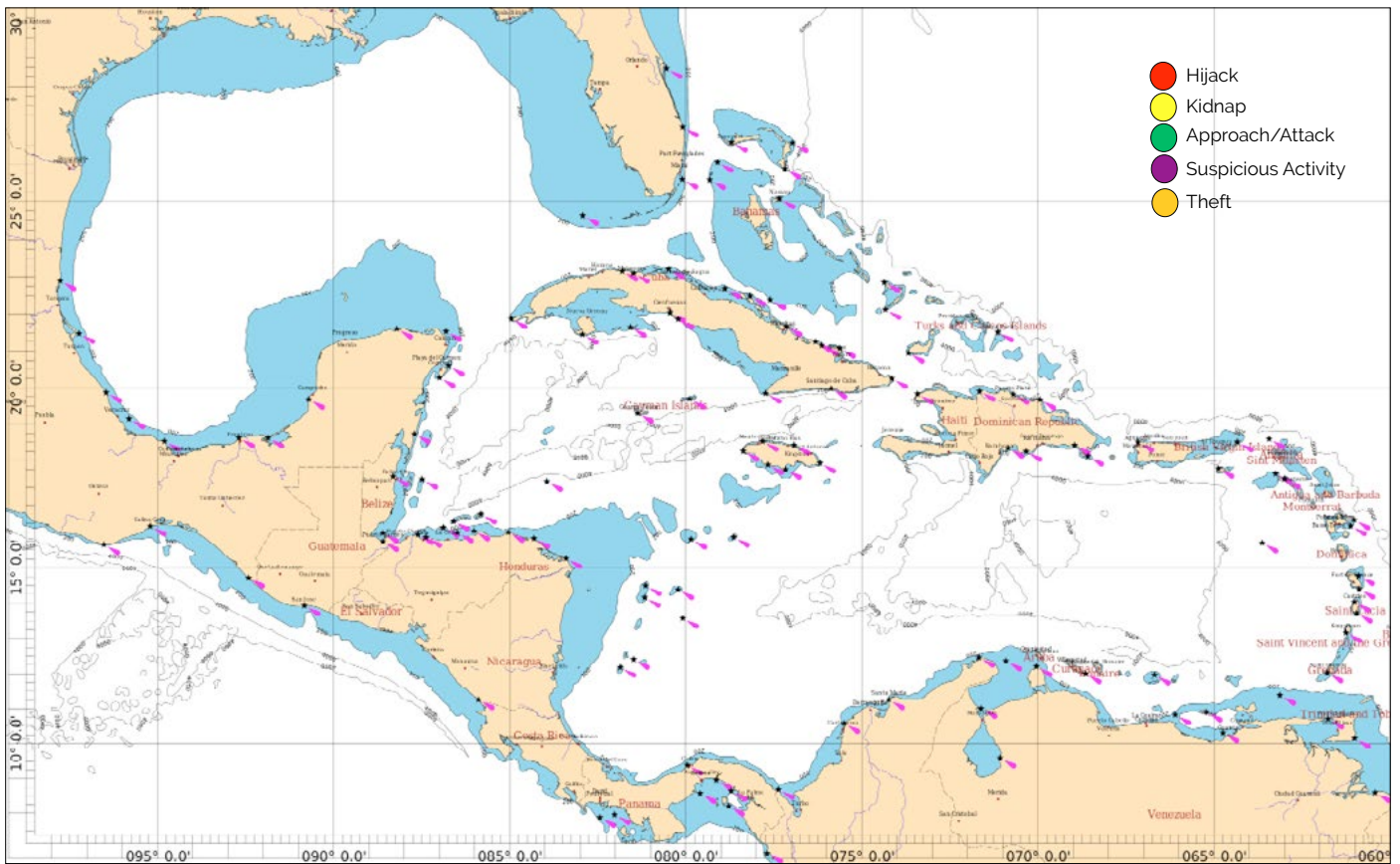
Nothing significant to report.

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 significant to report.

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