

# Weekly Security & Risk Report

Date: 07th October 2020  
Series 15/Issue 249



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Issue 249 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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## Indian Ocean Region

France says the European Maritime Awareness mission in the Strait of Hormuz (EMASoH), which is protecting shipping lanes in the strategic waterway, has been extended for the year 2021. The French Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Saturday 3rd Oct. and appreciated the efforts made by the UAE for hosting the mission HQ on their territory. According to the statement, the initiative has been called crucial to enhancing European cooperation and coordination on issues of common interests, including securing European political and economic interests in the region, benefiting the world trade, as well.

### Incidents:

**1.** Underway tanker reported approach by two small craft at 0800 UTC in position 14:12N - 049:53E, ivo Point Bravo, IRTC, Gulf of Aden. Four POB in each craft which approached to w/i 200 metres, then departed northerly direction. Reported (UK-MTO) 4th Oct.

### CTF Focused Operaton Begins

As we reported last week, a Maritime Security Focused Operation is being conducted by Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 in areas off the Somali Coast, Socotra Gap and in the vicinity of the IRTC between 1st and 7th Oct. Multinational naval units, aircraft and personnel will be operating under the Turkish led CTF 151 (Counter Piracy).

### Pak Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force held joint exercise in Gulf of Aden

The Pakistan Navy and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force held a joint exercise in the Gulf of Aden. PNS Zulfiqar of Pakistan Navy and Japanese Ship Onami participated in the exercise. Several naval operations were conducted during the exercise, regional media reported on Oct. 6th.

### IRGC forces unveil new "suicide" drones

The Iranian Revolutionary Guard unveiled its new kamikaze after a year of development, the Fars News Agency reported on Friday 2nd Oct. The idea of a suicide drone was just a suggestion made by the Commander-in-Chief of the Revolutionary Guard, Major General Hossein Salami, in September 2019 and a year later, the IRGC unveiled their new weapon. "If light drones are combined with speedboats, they can hit their targets from 10 km away," Soleimani said last year.

### India, Bangladesh conduct naval exercise in Bay of Bengal

India and Bangladesh Navy took part in a bilateral exercise in the Bay of Bengal on Saturday 3rd Oct. Indian Navy ships Kiltan, Khukri and Bangladesh Navy ships Abu Bakr, Prottoy & MPA undertook manoeuvres, surface drills, helo operations and seamanship evolutions. IN & BN ships will undertake the third edition of Coordinated Patrol CORPAT along IMBL on October 4 and 5.

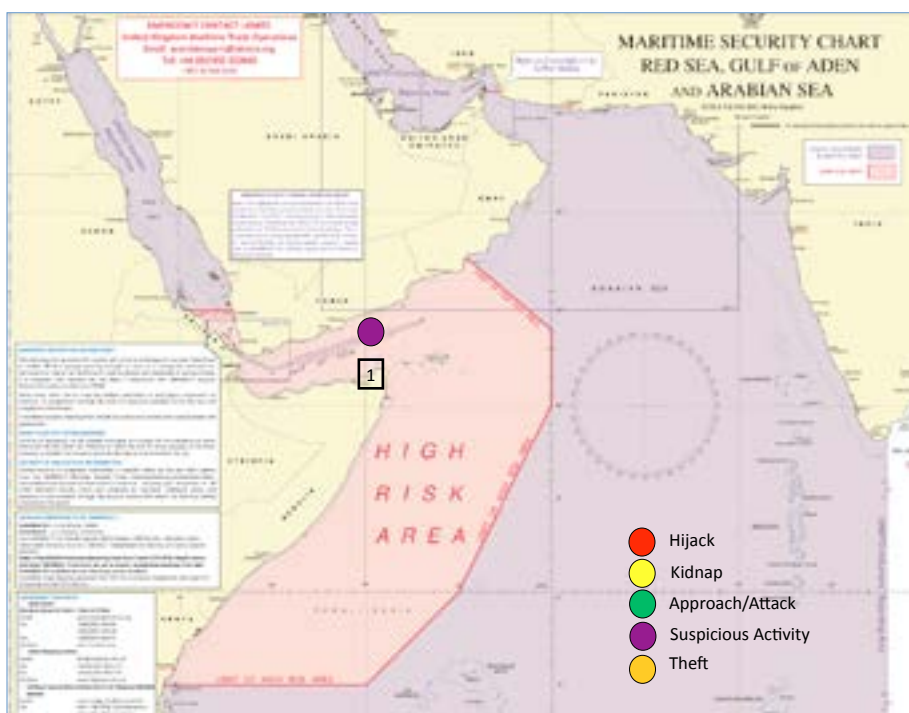
### Oil tanker fire in Sri Lanka's rich waters highlights need for preparedness

Authorities in Sri Lanka are seeking millions of dollars in damages after a weeklong firefighting operation to put out a blaze on board an oil tanker in its waters. With the MT New Diamond now stabilized and awaiting permission to dock at an available port to offload the crude, Sri Lankan authorities have filed charges against the captain and a claim for \$2.4 million from the ship's owners for the firefighting and pollution prevention efforts.

### Chinese naval escort taskforces conduct mission handover in Gulf of Aden

The 35th and 36th Chinese naval escort taskforces held a mission-handover ceremony in the Gulf of Aden on September 23rd local time. After the handover ceremony, the two escort taskforces started the joint escorting mission for the Hong Kong-registered heavy cargo ship Zhenhua 27. The 35th escort taskforce left the Gulf of Aden after completing the joint escort mission.

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







## Somalia

A contingent of Somali National Army (SNA) attached to the elite Gorgor soldiers was attacked by Al Shabaab militants on Saturday 3rd Oct., reports indicate. Eyewitnesses said an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) targeting a convoy carrying supplies to the troops was detonated near Awdheghe town in Lower Shabelle, causing massive destruction. The town was recently liberated by government troops from the militants.

### Al Shabaab Burn Two Trucks Transporting Charcoal in Lower Shabelle Region

Al Shabaab militant group on Saturday Oct. 3rd burnt two trucks which were carrying charcoal in Lower Shabelle region. According to a resident who wished to remain anonymous told Radio Dalsan on the phone the drivers of the two trucks and the turned boys run for their lives before the trucks were set on fire. Al Shabaab has long been accused of controlling charcoal smuggling, so the incident may represent an attempt at further control.

### Trouble Brews Between Kenya and Somalia Over Gedo Killings

The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has written to the Special Representative of the African Union Commission Chairperson for Somalia (SRCC) and Head of Amisom, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, asking for an inquest into recent killings in the Gedo region, Kenya media reported on Oct. 2nd. Somali locals are accusing Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) soldiers under Amisom of being complicit in the killing of civilians in Elwak, Somalia, on September 21st.

### UN warns of food insecurity in Somalia amid threats

About 2.1 million people in Somalia face acute food insecurity between October and December due to the combined effects of severe flooding, desert locust infestation, socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and the cumulative impacts of previous shocks, the UN warned. According to assessment results by

Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), which was managed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), about 849,900 children under the age of five are likely to be acutely malnourished through August 2021.

### Somalia sets election dates, doubles candidates fees

Somalia has published its electoral calendar, setting the presidential election for next year. The announcement on Thursday 1st Oct. followed an agreement between President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmaajo and the federal state leaders to retain the clan-based system of delegate voting in the elections.

### Military Kills Al Shabaab Ring Leaders in Lower Shabelle

At least Eight Al Shabaab fighters were killed including two officials and several others wounded in a military operation against the group in Lower Shabelle region on Wednesday 30th Sept. Somalia's specially-trained forces known as Danab conducted a military operation at Al Shabaab in the outskirts of Leego town, which located 120 kilometres in the northwest of the capital Mogadishu, according to Somali military radio.

### Kenya: Sentencing of 3 Westgate Terror Attack Suspects Postponed, Again

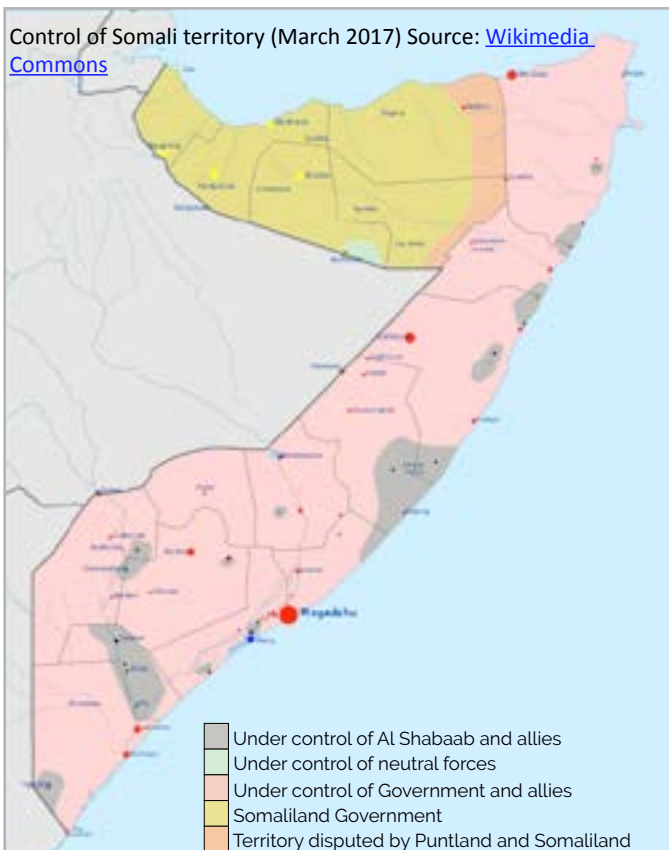
A court in Nairobi has postponed delivery of its judgment on three people accused of masterminding the deadly Westgate Mall terror attack in 2013. Chief magistrate Francis Andayi said Monday that the judgment was not ready for delivery as some sections needed to be tied up.

### 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

The United Nations migration agency says at least eight migrants have died and 12 more are missing at sea after being forced off a boat by smugglers near the coast of Djibouti. More than 30 people on board - thought to be Ethiopian - had been attempting to return to East Africa from Yemen. A spokesperson for the International Organization for Migration said 14 survivors are receiving medical treatment in Djibouti, the BBC reported on Oct. 5th.

### Houthis reject UN inspection of decaying FSO Safer oil tanker

Yemen's Houthi rebels have rejected, for the second time, a United Nations request to allow inspectors to board a rusting oil tanker moored off the country's Red Sea coast. The international community has repeatedly warned the corrosion of the FSO Safer, which is carrying 1.1 million barrels of oil, risks an explosion which would cause an environmental and humanitarian catastrophe, media reported on Oct. 5th.

### Yemen government, STC to swap 200 prisoners

Yemen's internationally recognised government and the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC) have agreed on a prisoner swap which will see 200 detainees handed over in the Abyan governorate, Anadolu reported. The agency quoted a member of the mediation committee in Abyan, Sheikh Faisal Al-Marqashi, as saying that the Yemeni government will release 178 prisoners held in Shabwa governorate, while the STC will release 28 prisoners held in Aden.

### Yemeni officials say clashes kill 23 in Hodeidah, Marib

Yemeni officials and tribal leaders said Saturday fighting between government forces and Houthi militia has killed at least two dozen people in the past three days in Marib province and the key port city of Hodeida. The officials said more than 23 people were killed and dozens were wounded from both sides in the most recent fighting for the oil-rich Marib.

### Houthi missile lands in Saudi Arabia's Jazan

A missile launched by the Houthi militia in Yemen landed on Sunday in Jazan, southwestern Saudi Arabia. Col. Mohammed bin Yahya Al-Ghamdi, a spokesperson for the Saudi Civil Defense, said a car was damaged from shrapnel but no one was harmed.

### Yemen gov't forces kill three al Qaeda militants, captures two in raid in Mahra

Yemeni security forces, backed by the Arab coalition, killed three al Qaeda militants and captured two others in a raid on their hideout on Friday Oct. 2nd in Al-Ghaydah city, the capital of the western province of Mahra, local media and residents

said. Large explosions rocked many districts in the city of Al-Ghaydah on Friday morning as security forces raided a building, triggering a gunfire battle.

### Yemen's war shifts focus to Marib

Houthi forces have opened three frontlines in Marib region, advancing in recent months from the northern district of Madghal, the southern town of Rahabah and from the west in Sarwah. Some diplomats and experts say that a Houthi victory in Marib, which would hand the group complete control of the northern half of Yemen, could have "ripple effects" on the conflict across Yemen and scupper U.N. efforts to secure a nationwide ceasefire.

### 63 doctors die of COVID-19 in Yemen

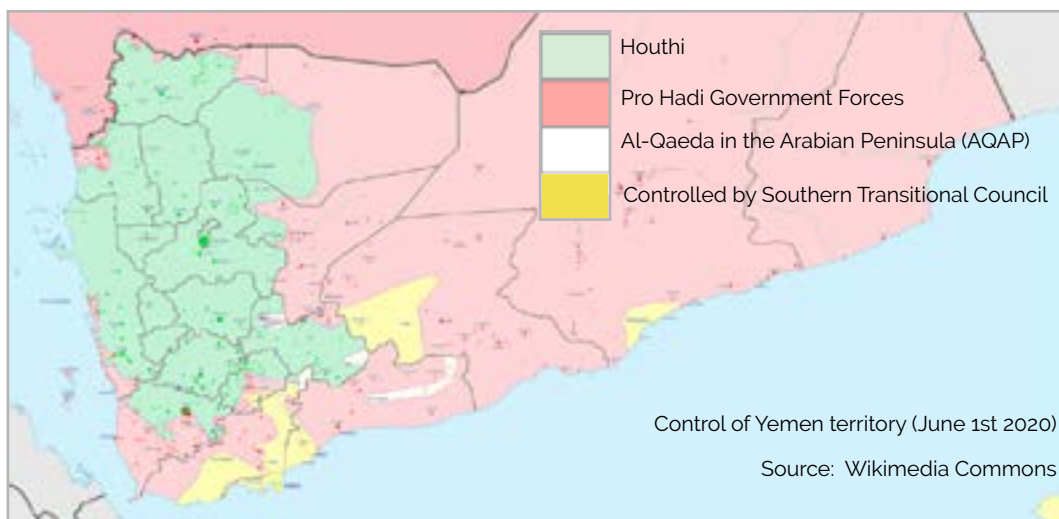
The Yemeni Physicians and Pharmacists Syndicate announced on Friday Oct. 2nd that 63 doctors have died of COVID-19 in the country, Yemen Shabab reported. This came in a statement regarding Dr Ali Abu-Zalat, of Egyptian origin, who died on Wednesday 30th after contracting COVID-19 in Hadhramaut.

### AQAP continue attacks

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) claimed several attacks targeting al Houthi militants in central Yemen's al Bayda governorate on Sept. 26th and 30th, respectively. AQAP claimed fatally shooting an al Houthi militant in Tayyab on Sept. 25th.

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.





# Mediterranean

Associated Press reported on October 3rd that the United Nations had unanimously adopted a resolution on Friday 2nd Oct. authorising member nations to inspect vessels in the Mediterranean off Libya which they may suspect of smuggling migrants for another 12 months. Additionally, he UN human rights office OHCHR, called on Friday for urgent action to address the “unimaginable horrors” faced by migrants attempting to cross the central Mediterranean Sea in search of safety in Europe.

## More than 20,000 migrants died in Mediterranean since 2013

More than 20,000 migrants and refugees have drowned in the past seven years trying to cross the Mediterranean. Meanwhile the number of migrants arriving in Italy via the Mediterranean has risen dramatically from last year. Chiara Cardoletti, UNHCR representative for Italy, said that it was unacceptable that people, including women and children, lost their lives while trying to escape persecution simply because there aren't enough means to save their lives available.

## Malta rescues 38 migrants in Med

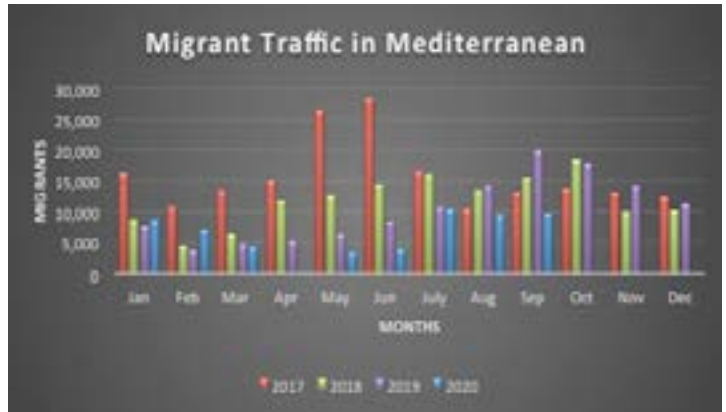
The Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) rescued 38 people in distress in Maltese waters and they were disembarked in Malta, a spokesperson from the Home Affairs Ministry said on Saturday 3rd Oct. The rescue took place late on Friday after the AFM's attention was drawn to the migrants by Alarm Phone, an emergency hotline NGO which receives SOS messages from migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

## Lebanon Army Blocks Migrants Risking Sea Crossing

Lebanon's army said it had prevented a boat carrying 37 mainly Syrian passengers from leaving the country by sea on Sunday, the latest attempt to make the perilous Mediterranean crossing. The boat was stopped on Saturday night near an island close to Lebanon's northern port of Tripoli.

## Italian judge orders Conte to testify in Salvini migrant case

An Italian judge on Saturday 3rd Oct. ordered Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte and an array of senior officials to testify at a hearing into whether far-right leader Matteo Salvini should be tried for illegally detaining migrants. Prosecutors in the Sicilian city of Catania accuse Salvini, the League party leader, of abusing his powers to block people from disembarking from the Gregoretti coastguard boat under his “closed ports” policy.



Migrant crossings 2017-2020. Source: UNHCR

## The current migrant smuggling situation

The headline news from the UN, that over 20,000 people have lost their lives attempting to cross the Med since 2013 makes for depressing reading and marks not only a political but human failure in the region. Additionally, September saw a slight increase in crossings over August, which may suggest a slight push by traffickers before weather conditions worsen.

While the situation in Libya remains relatively calm, crossing attempts from other countries would appear to be spiking, with Lebanon now reporting interdictions and further action from the Armed Forces of Malta.

The trial of Italian politician, Matteo Salvini will prove to be interesting, but ultimately of little difference to a situation which is ongoing and remains one which the EU and other countries seem unable to come to grips with politically.



Migrant statistics in the Mediterranean (Figures last updated on Oct. 6th 2020). Source: UNHCR





# Libya

A Russian cargo plane carrying Syrian fighters landed in Libya's Sirte province, controlled by warlord Khalifa Haftar, the Libyan army said on Saturday 3rd Oct. The aircraft arrived at 11.00 a.m. local time (0900GMT) at the Ghardabiya Airbase, according to officials from the Sirte and Jufra operation department of the Libyan army. On Aug. 21, the Libyan government announced a truce and ordered its military to stop operations against Haftar's militias.

## UN, Germany host summit to capitalize on glimmers of hope for peace in Libya

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has urged all those involved in the conflict in Libya to work toward a lasting ceasefire, and contribute to peace efforts "not only in words but in actions." He also called for the "full and unconditional implementation" of a Security Council arms embargo on the country, and said that it is "a scandal" that some nations are violating it by continuing to supply weapons and other military support. The comments were made on Monday 5th Oct. at a summit in New York.

## Swiss call for probe into violent crackdown on Libya protests

Switzerland has condemned the recent violent crackdown on protestors by security forces in eastern Libya and called for a "thorough and independent" investigation. In mid-September, protests broke out for several days in a number of eastern Libyan cities, including Benghazi, over deteriorating living conditions and corruption.

## 2 Turkish workers rescued in Libya's Haftar-controlled Sirte

Two workers from Turkey stranded in Libya's Sirte province, controlled by Gen. Khalifa Haftar, were handed over on Saturday Oct. 3rd to Turkish authorities in Misrata, according to the Libyan Red Crescent. The two were transferred to Gürkan Gürmeriçliler, Turkey's consul-general in Misrata, the group said on social media.

## UN certifies Turkey-Libya maritime delimitation agreement

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday Oct. 1st certified a Turkey-Libya maritime jurisdiction deal that covers parts of the Eastern Mediterranean. The agreement "has been registered with the Secretariat, in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations," said the certificate of registration dated Wednesday.

## Libya's oil output rises to 270,000 bpd as exports ramp up

Libya's oil output has risen to 270,000 barrels per day (bpd) as the OPEC member ramps up exports following the easing of a blockade by eastern forces, a Libyan oil source told Reuters

on Thursday Oct. 1st. The country's National Oil Corporation (NOC) had said it expected production to rebound to 260,000 bpd this week.

## Haftar's militia prevents civilian plane from landing

The Libyan channel AL-Ahrar TV reported on Oct. 1st that Afriqiyah Airways had suspended its flights from Mitiga International Airport to Sabha airport after the militia of renegade General Khalifa Haftar prevented a plane carrying 100 civilians from landing at the airport. According to the TV station, Afriqiyah Airways reported that "Haftar's militia prevented one of the company's planes from landing at Sabha airport by placing an armed car on the runway."

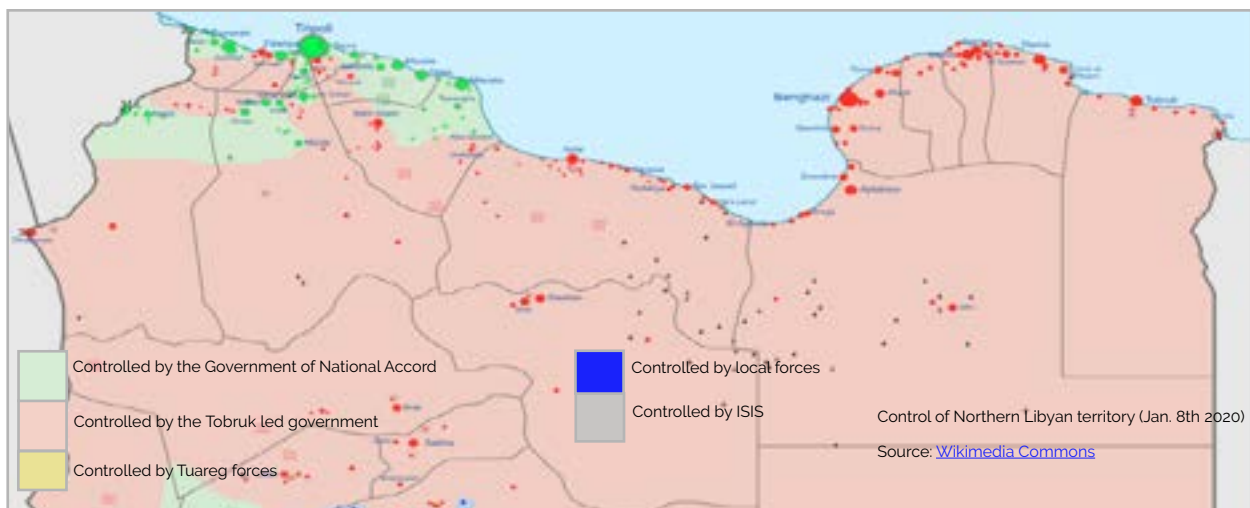
## EU removes east Libya powerbroker Aguilah Saleh from sanctions blacklist

The European Union has removed an east Libyan powerbroker from its sanctions blacklist to encourage peace efforts and ensure the EU plays a central role in any negotiated settlement in Libya. The EU said on Friday Oct. 2nd that Aguilah Saleh, leader of a rival parliament in eastern Libya, no longer faces EU travel bans and asset freezes imposed four years ago.

## UN: 'UAE increased arms shipments to Haftar'

A UN diplomat reported that the UAE had increased arms shipments directed to the militias of Libya's Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar in an effort to save his military campaign against the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA). The Wall Street Journal quoted a diplomat, who had access to a confidential report compiled by experts within the Libyan Security Council Committee, as saying that the UAE had violated the arms embargo and stepped up military support to Haftar in order to contain Turkish influence in the country.

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







## Gulf of Guinea

The Lagos zonal office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday Oct. 2, took over a vessel, MV Poseidon alongside 10 crew members after they were arrested earlier this year by the Nigerian Navy Ship Beecroft, for investigation and prosecution. The suspects are Umoh Samuel, Abonida Seaman, Ogidigbo Kelly, Ajemfuja Lucky, Gbatemiro Abel, Leke Christian, John Ally, Etem Anthony, Adegoke Adeoye, and Arikaibi. At the time of arrest, the vessel was laden with 130 metric tons of substance suspected to be Automotive Gas Oil, AGO.

### Incidents:

**1. Duty AB on routine rounds onboard a berthed tanker noticed one unauthorized person on the forecastle and immediately informed the Duty Officer at 0342 UTC in position 06:21.04N - 010:47.47W, BMC Pier, Monrovia, Liberia. Alarm raised and local security guard alerted. Seeing the crew alertness, the robber escape with ship's stores. A search was made throughout the tanker. Incident reported to Port Authority and Coast Guard. Reported (IMB) 1st Oct. (Not shown on chart)**

### MDAT-GoG issues alert

In an unusual move, MDAT-GoG issued an alert to shipping in the Gulf of Guinea, specifically referencing Nigerian waters on Oct. 4th. The alert reads: MDAT-GOG has received information regarding a possible piracy attack preparation deep offshore in the vicinity of Bayelsa State, NIGERIA. All vessels are to maintain extreme vigilance, keep anti-piracy watch in accordance with BMP West Africa and report any suspicious skiff/craft movements to MDAT-GOG for prompt response.

### Two shot as pirates rampage in Akwa Ibom, Niger Delta

Suspected pirates on Saturday reportedly shot two and injured many commuters on Calabar-Oron waterways. A source said the victims who were shot in the stomach were in critical condition and receiving treatment in the Cross River State capital. It was gathered that the suspected pirates opened fire on their victims, stealing their belongings, including cash.

### New Petroleum Reform Bill to Tackle Oil Pollution in Niger Delta

The 2020 Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) that is presently before members of the National Assembly will substantially reduce environmental pollution in the oil-producing areas of the Niger Delta when passed into law. Aside a ban on the use of chemi-

icals for upstream petroleum operations, there will now exist an environmental remediation fund to be established by a body to be set up by the federal government into which all oil companies doing business in the region would contribute.

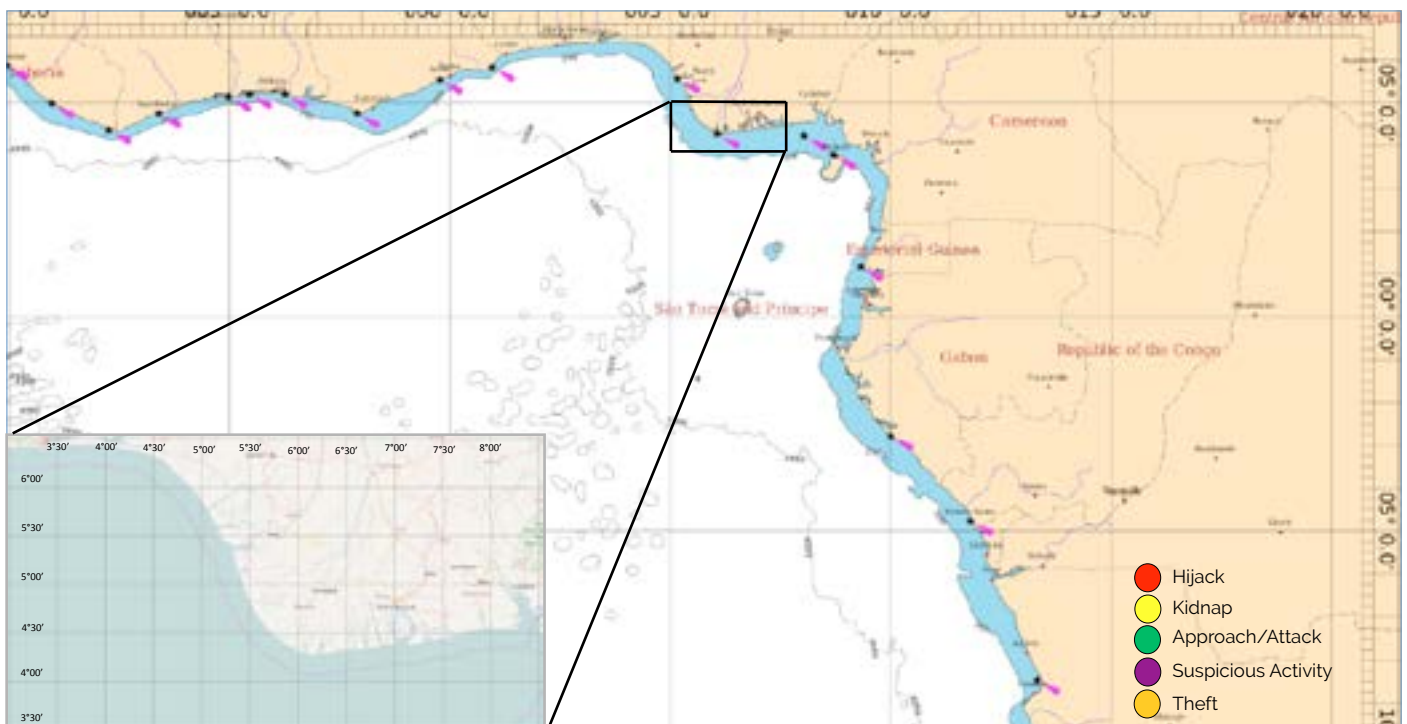
### Nigerian Military Destroys Militant Camps on Ondo Waterways

To pave way for a violence-free governorship election in Ondo State, military and paramilitary security agencies have destroyed militant camps in riverine Ilaje and Ese Odo Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the state. The operatives were drawn from the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Immigration Service, Nigeria Police Force as well as the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC).

### Environmental Justice Foundation warns of eco disaster off Ghana

Investigations by the EFJ (Environmental Justice Foundation) in Ghana have revealed the damage being caused by industrial trawlers in the region. According to their reports, large trawlers are now dominating fishing in Ghana waters, catching smaller species of fish once relied upon by local fishermen. This has led to an illegal trade in fish between unscrupulous businessmen and the country is now importing over 50 per cent of the fish consumed by the nation. EFJ claims that Ghana's small pelagic fishery could collapse within five years unless action is taken.

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





## South East Asia

The curfew in the waters off seven districts in the Eastern Sabah Security Zone (ESSZone), scheduled to end tomorrow, has been extended to Oct, 17th. Sabah police commissioner Datuk Hazani Ghazali said the curfew was enforced in the waters off Tawau, Semporna, Kunak, Lahad Datu, Kinabatangan, Sandakan and Beluran.

### Incidents:

**1.** Late report: Duty crew onboard an anchored container ship, noticed a masked robber, armed with a knife on the forward deck at 1820 UTC in position 14:35.7N – 120:52E, MICT Anchorage, Manila, Philippines. He immediately notified the OOW who raised the alarm. Hearing the alerted crew the robber escaped with stolen ship's properties. Incident reported to the local authorities. A coast guard boat arrived at location and conducted an investigation. No injuries to crew. Reported (IMB) 4th Sep.

### 55 Abu Sayyaf members killed since January, AFP says

A total of 55 members of the Abu Sayyaf Group have been killed since January of this year, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said on Tuesday Oct. 6th. Data from the military indicated that from January 1 to September 30, a total of 78 bandits from Eastern and Western Mindanao have surrendered to government forces while six others were arrested.

### Cambodia opens the way for Chinese naval presence

The Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI) and Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) released a report on October 2nd detailing the apparent demolition of a US-funded and constructed naval facility at Cambodia's Ream Naval Base. The base, which opens on to the Gulf of Thailand, is the Cambodian Royal Navy's largest. The demolition, exposed in satellite imagery in the AMTI report, comes after Cambodia refused Washington's offer to repair the US-funded facilities after previously requesting and receiving assistance, most recently in April 2019. Prime Minister Hun Sen's government later informed the US that it no longer required the funding.

### Vietnam seeks talks on Paracel Islands dispute

The president of Vietnam called for talks on competing claims to the South China Sea during a call with his Chinese counter-

part, according to Vietnamese state media. As Beijing continued military drills near the Paracel Islands – which both countries claim – Nguyen Phu Trong suggested to Xi Jinping the two countries should “work together to address their existing problems, especially on maritime issues”, according to Vietnamese communist party newspaper Nhan Dan.

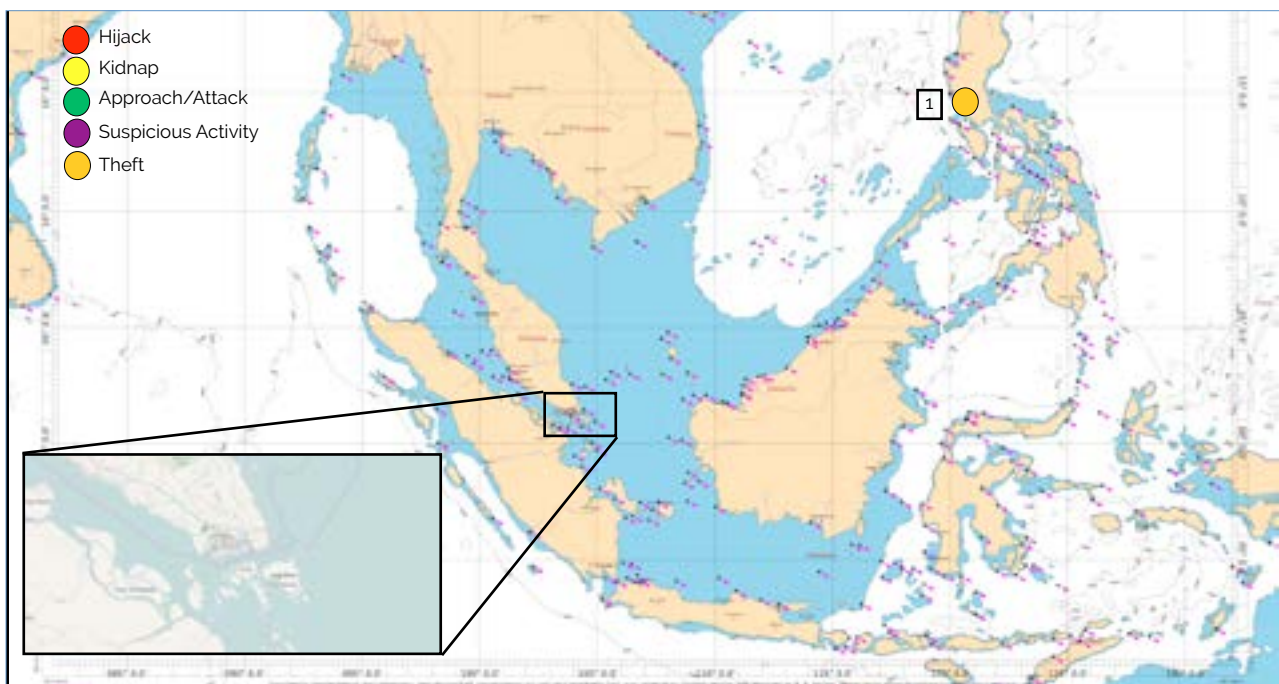
### Indonesia seizes Vietnamese boats for illegal fishing

The Indonesian Navy said Saturday Oct. 3rd that it has seized two Vietnamese-flagged fishing vessels on the North Natuna Sea in the Riau Islands province. On the seizure made on Friday, Dato Rusman, commander of the marine combat force of Fleet Armada Command I, said in a statement that Indonesia will take stern measures against any violations of the law in the country's territorial waters.

### Indonesian kidnap victim found dead in Sulu – WestMinCom

Military personnel on Tuesday Sept. 29th found a body in Patikul, Sulu which was identified to be one of the five Indonesians abducted in January, the Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom) announced Wednesday 30th. Lieutenant Colonel Ruben Guinolbay, the Commanding Officer of the 45th Infantry Battalion, said the troops were pursuing a local terrorist group when they recovered the body along Barangay Maligay. Updated reports state that the hostage had been executed by his captors.

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



# Central and South America

Nothing significant to report.

## Incidents:

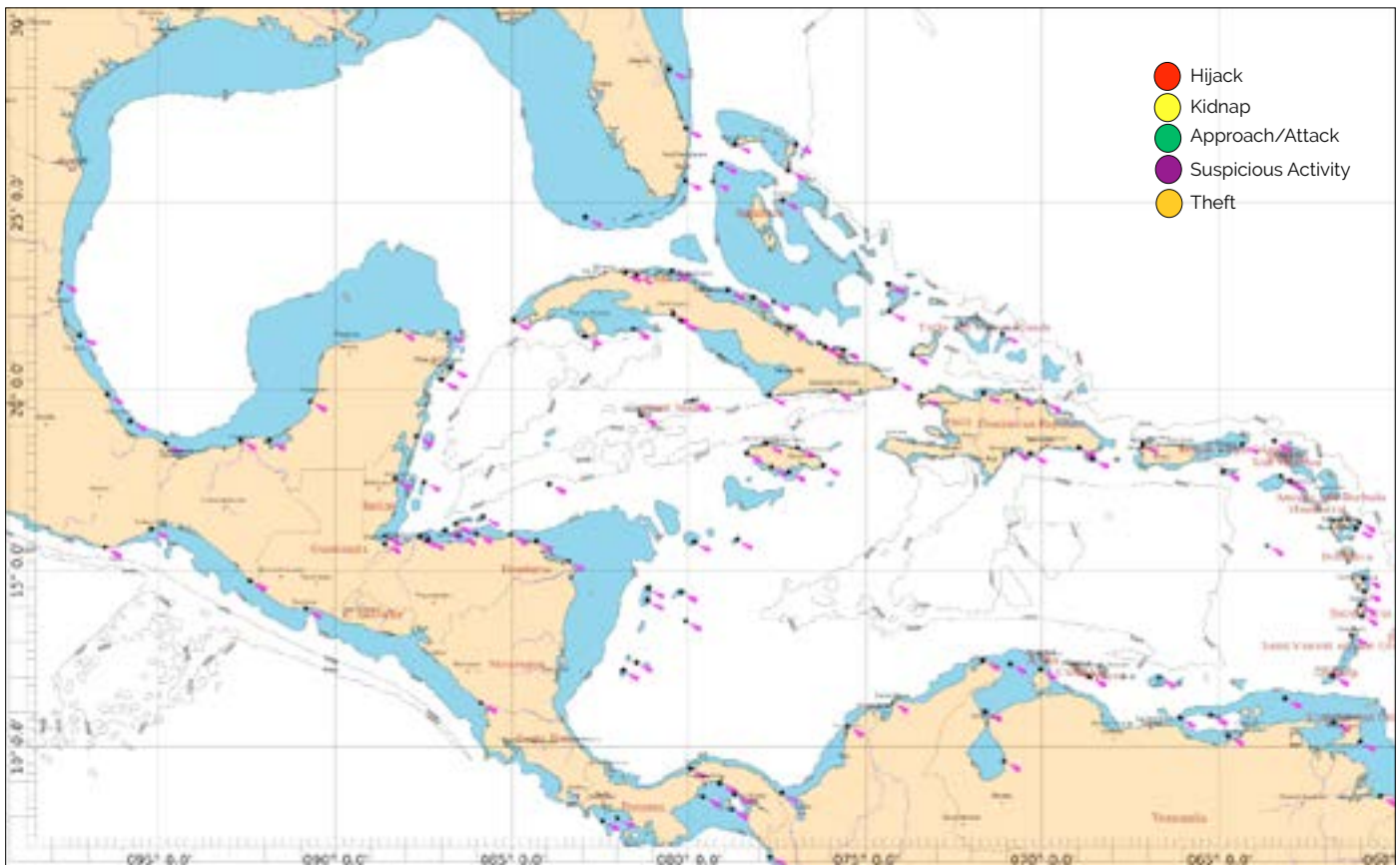
1. A container vessel under pilotage was approached and boarded by robbers armed with guns at 0324 UTC in position 02:33.6S – 080:06.3W, River Passage, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Crew noticed the robbers opening containers on deck. Alarm raised and all crew instructed to stay inside the accommodation. The robbers fired their weapons towards the accommodation area, and escaped with cargo stolen from the containers. Incident was reported to Port Authorities. Reported (IMB) 2nd Oct. *(Not shown on chart)*

2. Robbers armed with guns approached and boarded a container vessel under pilotage at 0326 UTC in position 02:26S – 080:02W, River Passage, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Master raised the alarm, activated the SSAS and crew mustered. Despite the continuous alarm and search lights, the robbers stole cargo from the containers and escaped. Incident reported to local Authorities, who later boarded the vessel for investigation. Two containers were found open. Vessel and crew reported safe. Reported (IMB) 26th Sep. *(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.