

Weekly Security & Risk Report

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Issue 263 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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www.mast-security.com

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Indian Ocean Region

South Korean diplomats arrived in Tehran to negotiate the release of the MT Hankuk Chemi seized on Monday 4th, but discussions could drag out due to Iranian demands. Seoul's foreign ministry said Friday 8th the delegation landed in the Iranian capital on Thursday and has been briefed by the South Korean Embassy in Tehran, Yonhap reported. Embassy officials have been able to make direct contact with the crew, which includes South Korean, Indonesian, Vietnamese and Myanmarese nationals, UPI reported.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Military Exercise of the coast off Pakistan

It has been reported to UKMTO that Naval ships will carry out Surface, Anti-Aircraft and Depth Charge LIVE FIRING PRACTICE between 04th-08th, 11th-15th, 18th-22nd, 21st-24th and 25th-29th Jan 2021 in the following areas:

- A. 24-19.00N 066-58.00E 24-00.00N 066-39.00E
24-11.00N 066-27.00E 24-24.30N 066-42.00E
- B. 24-36.02N 063-15.03E 24-36.02N 062-30.03E
24-21.02N 063-15.03E 24-21.02N 062-30.03E
- C. 24-36.02N 062-30.03E 24-36.02N 061-45.03E
24-21.02N 062-30.03E 24-21.02N 061-45.03E
- D. DEPTH CHARGE FIRING AREA
24-16.18N 066-20.50E 24-22.00N 066-27.00E
24-16.30N 066-33.00E 24-10.30N 066-27.00E

Ships and Crafts are to keep well clear of assigned danger area on above specified schedule.

Threats to Commercial Vessels by Iran and its Proxies

MARAD has issued the following Advisory: Multiple maritime threats have been reported in the geographic areas described above, including a mine placed on the hull of a Liberian-flagged tanker in the Persian Gulf off Iraq on December 31st, 2020 and the Iranian seizure of a South Korean-flagged tanker in the Strait of Hormuz on January 4th, 2021. Heightened military activity and increased political tensions in this region continue to pose serious threats to commercial vessels. To read the full document, [please click here](#).

Recommendations for operations in the Persian Gulf

On 5th January, the Round Table of Industry Associations and

OCIMF jointly published a set of recommended risk mitigating measures for vessels operating in the Persian (Arabian) Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden and Red Sea. This was done in response to the 31 December 2020 incident, where a Liberian-flagged tanker identified the presence of a suspicious object, later reported to be a limpet mine, attached to its hull whilst conducting STS operations off Iraq. [Please click here](#) to read the full document.

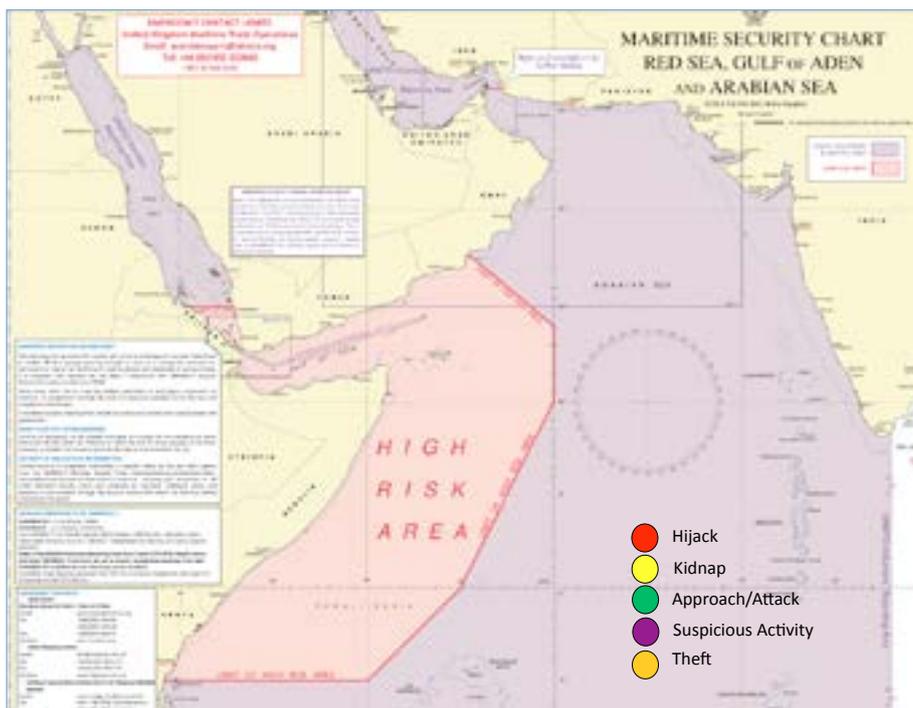
Iran Holds Mass Naval Exercise

On Saturday 9th, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) held a mass naval parade just off Assaluyeh, a port city on the Persian Gulf. The timing of the announcement is unusual, following just after the seizure of a South Korean tanker on Monday and just before the arrival of a delegation of Korean negotiators. IRGC's news outlet, Sepah News, reported that the organization held a mass parade off Assaluyeh with more than 700 "light and semi-heavy vessels."

Australia concludes support of IMSC

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has concluded its contribution to the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) in the Middle East region. Personnel from the Australian contingent joined coalition partners in a formal flag lowering ceremony at the IMSC headquarters in Bahrain on 28th December 2020 to mark the end of mission for Australia.

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





Somalia

The US military on Friday 8th said that its forces working with the Somali National Army killed five top Al Shabaab leaders in a joint airstrike in the vicinity of the Saaxa Weyne region. In a statement, the US military said one of the slain al-Shabaab leaders was involved in an attack on the US and Somali military forces. It said that initial assessments indicate the strike on Jan. 7th killed five Al Shabaab members, including wanted Al Shabaab leaders.

Landmine explosion kills 2 in Mogadishu

At least two people including a police officer were killed and seven others wounded on Monday 11th in a landmine explosion targeting a vehicle carrying police officers in Somalia's capital, an official said. The attack, claimed by terrorist group al-Shabaab, took place in Mogadishu's Dharkinley district, according to Abukar Isack, a local police officer who spoke to Anadolu Agency over the phone.

AU mission and disputed electoral body meet civil society in Somalia

Amid deepening electoral standoff in Somalia, the African Union Mission in Somalia and the disputed electoral committee held sessions with Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to explore ways of deepening the role of CSOs in ensuring peaceful elections, and in countering hate speech and incitement to violence during the upcoming elections.

Kenyan troops targeted with IEDs

The Kenya Defense Forces (KDF) troops serving in Somalia were on Saturday 9th targeted by Al Shabaab. According to reports, two KDF vehicles were targeted by Al Shabaab, who used Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The attack, reports indicate, occurred at Dhobley-Taabto area of Lower Jubba, where the KDF has several Forward Operating Bases. Two vehicles were damaged but there are no casualty reports at the time of writing.

Somalia army kills senior Al Shabaab commander, bodyguards

Somali National Army (SNA) on Thursday 7th killed senior Al Shabaab commander and eight of his bodyguards after the militants attempted to attack a military base in Diinsoor district in Bay region, southwest Somalia. Mohamed Sheikh Abdullahi, SNA commander for the 60 Division said that the army had intelligence reports about a looming attack by Al Shabaab fighters which was foiled on time.

Bomb attack kills 3, injures 7

At least three people were killed and seven others injured in a bomb attack targeting the Somali prison chief in the capital Mogadishu on Thursday 7th, police said. Mahad Ibrahim, the prison chief, survived the attack carried out on the busy Abdi Qasim Road in Mogadishu.

Somalia opposition calls on foreign oil firms not to sign deal with government

The Somali opposition has warned US oil firms not to sign deals with the Somali government, according to a statement posted on the Twitter account of one of the opposition leaders. As specified by the statement, signing the deal with the government would "pose a great danger" to the future of Somalia and its natural resources.



Analysis

The expulsion of Kenyan diplomats has been precipitated by the Kenyan government hosting a visit by the leader of Somaliland. The Somalis are further angered by the possibility that Kenya might also recognise the relatively successful (by comparison to Somalia) Somaliland as an independent state at some point. Of course, picking fights with neighbours is an age old trick by failing leaders down the ages to divert attention from internal failings and the poor performance of the government in the lead up to elections.

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

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says he plans to designate Yemen's Houthi rebels as a terrorist organization. The move has been expected as one of the State Department's possible actions in the waning days of the Trump administration amid its increased pressure on Iran. The designation will take effect Jan. 19th.

Explosion targets security patrol in Aden

A large explosion targeted a security patrol in Yemen's southern port city of Aden on Monday 11th evening, a government official told Xinhua. The explosion, caused by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), struck a security patrol in Aden's neighborhood of Mansourah, damaging the vehicle at the scene, the local government source said on condition of anonymity.

Serious repercussions likely to follow US plan to designate Yemen combatants terrorists, UN warns

The United States government's decision to designate Ansar Allah, more commonly known as the Houthi rebel group in Yemen, as terrorists, is likely to have "serious humanitarian and political repercussions", the UN spokesperson said on Monday 11th. The United States government's decision to designate Ansar Allah, more commonly known as the Houthi rebel group in Yemen, as terrorists, is likely to have "serious humanitarian and political repercussions", the UN spokesperson said on Monday.

Yemen calls on UN to take stand on Houthi war crimes in Taiz

Yemen called on Saturday 9th for the United Nations, the international community and human rights organizations to "take a clear position on the war crimes and brutal violations committed by the Houthi militia" in Yemen. The Houthi militia besieged the villages of AL-Hima and AL-Haq in Taiz on Friday, killing four people, including a child, wounding seven others and extensively damaging and destroying several homes.

Five abducted Bangladeshi nationals rescued

Indian media reports that five men arrested by Houthi 'coast guard' personnel on February 14th 2020 have been released by their captors and repatriated. The men were crew on a vessel transiting from Oman to Saudi Arabia when it capsized in heavy seas.

Saudi-Led Coalition Halts Prisoner Swap Process in Yemen's Ma'arib

Iranian media on Jan. 10th reported that the parties affiliated with the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen's Ma'arib halted the pro-

cess of ten prisoner swap deals that would release more than 300 prisoners from both sides. The exchange was part of an agreement reached recently between the warring local parties. An official of the National Committee for Prisoners Affairs blames the mercenaries for the halt.

UN envoy arrives in Yemen's Aden

The United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen Martin Griffiths on Thursday 7th arrived in the country's southern port city of Aden to meet senior officials of the new power-sharing government backed by Saudi Arabia. According to a local official who asked to remain anonymous, the UN envoy landed at Aden's International Airport and immediately headed to the headquarters of the country's new government to meet the country's Prime Minister Maeen Abdulmalik based in the city.

Israel deploys air defences fearing attack from Yemen

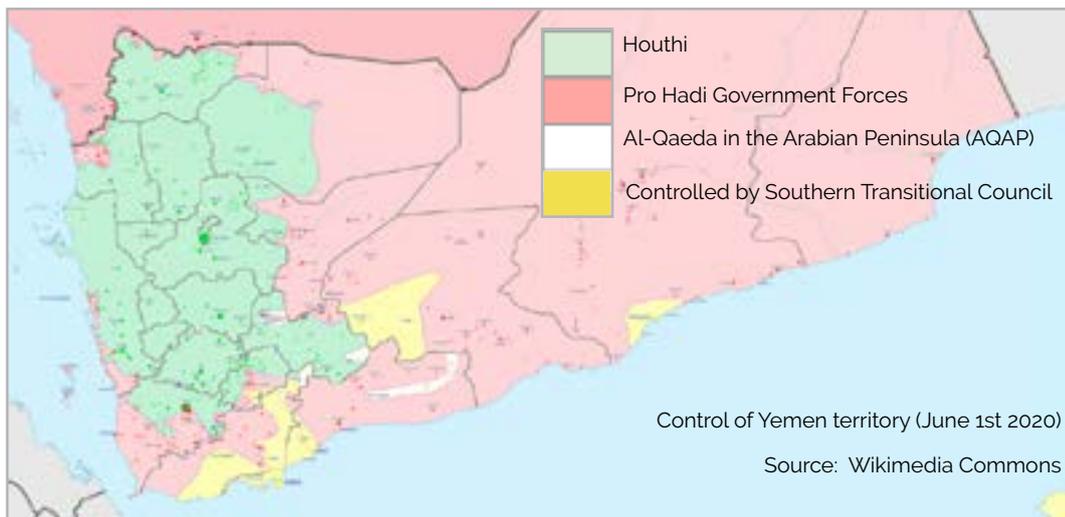
Israel has deployed its Iron Dome and Patriot air defence batteries around the southern city of Eilat over concerns of an attack by Houthi forces from Yemen. According to a report last week by Israeli broadcaster Kan, the Israeli military has been preparing for the possibility of a strike by Iran-backed Iraqi militias and the Houthis.

6 civilians killed in Houthi shelling

At least six Yemenis were killed and seven others were injured in a Houthi artillery shelling in southern Yemen late Wednesday 6th, the military said. The shelling targeted a residential area in At-Ta'iziyah district, north of Taiz governorate, the Yemeni military said in its news website SeptemberNet.

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

MSC Cruises has announced new dates for the Mediterranean. With Italy extending restrictions on embarkation ports until Jan. 15th, MSC Cruises canceled additional sailings and now plans to resume Mediterranean service Jan. 24th. Cancellations include MSC Grandiosa's Jan. 10th cruise from Genoa and, just to be safe, its Jan. 17th departure as well. So the ship's first cruise following Italy's holiday travel restrictions is now set for Jan. 24th.

Tunisian navy rescues 50 migrants from Mediterranean Sea

Tunisia's navy rescued 50 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa headed for Italy on Monday 11th, but an infant among them had died during their four days at sea, the defence ministry said. The boat, which also had four Tunisians on board, was stopped 43 kilometres (26 miles) off Mahdia on the country's eastern coast after departing overnight on Jan. 6th.

Migrant crossings down 13% in 2020 due to Covid

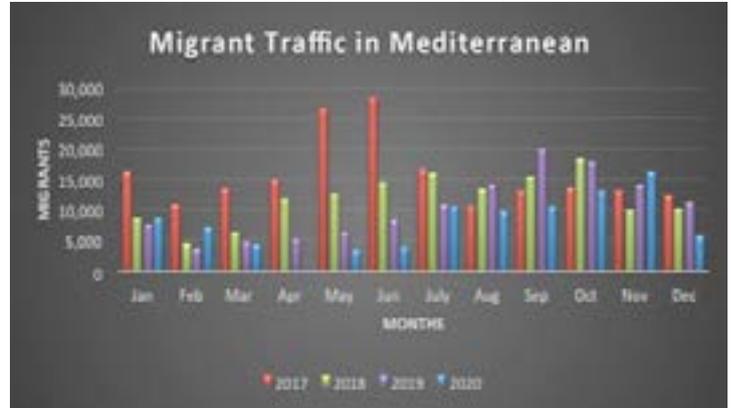
The number of illegal border crossings into the European Union fell by 13% to around 124,000 last year, the EU's border agency said Friday 8th. "This was the lowest number of illegal border crossings since 2013," Warsaw-based Frontex said in a statement. The agency said the decrease was largely due to Covid-related restrictions on movement in 2020. Frontex said in a statement that in 2020 the "number of irregular arrivals in the Central Mediterranean almost tripled to over 35,600, making it the most active migratory route into Europe".

21 migrants rescued off northern Morocco

Morocco's coast guard rescued 21 illegal migrants in the Mediterranean, official news agency MAP reported on Friday 8th. The migrants, all from sub-Saharan Africa, were facing difficulties in a boat off the coast of city of Nador, it said. Two bodies of a woman and a baby were found in the boat, it added.

Fresh tensions in Eastern Mediterranean after Greek and Turkish coast guard boats collide

Tensions have been heightened once again in the Eastern Mediterranean after Greek and Turkish coast guard vessels collided. The two patrol boats came together in the early hours on Wednesday 6th morning in the Aegean Sea near the rocky islets of Imia, also known as Kardak in Turkish. No injuries have been reported by either side.



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

Despite a reduction in crossing numbers in December, and a report from Frontex which shows an overall drop in crossings of 13 per cent, significant numbers of migrants continue to be rescued in the Mediterranean. It's unlikely that this pattern will change, despite winter seas, given the ongoing political deadlock in Libya and a sense of weariness in the EU towards the subject politically. Libya itself remains relatively quiet, although the peace process between Haftar's regime and the EU-recognised government shows signs of strain. Support from Turkey continues to weigh the odds in favour of Seraj, and Turkey itself is returning to the negotiating table to smooth over its current problems with Greece. With those elements all in play, the region is in for an interesting few months.



Migrant statistics in the Mediterranean (Figures last updated on Jan. 12th 2021). Source: [UNHCR](#)



Libya

Four crew members of the Captain Khayyam tanker, detained in the territorial waters of Libya on February 13th, 2016, are returning to Ukraine. Sailors Yevhen Morar, Volodymyr Tostohan, Oleh Voinerovsky, and Pavlo Chaika are already on their way home, according to the President's Office. In December 2017, a Libyan court sentenced four Ukrainians and other crew members of the Captain Khayyam to five years in prison, Unian reported.

War-torn North Africa is becoming a major hub for smuggled cocaine

Within the span of a week, cocaine was discovered in two separate maritime cargo containers bound for Libya, a strong indication that both the North African country and the broader region are becoming increasingly used cocaine transit routes to Europe and the Middle East. This is not the first discovery of cocaine being shipped to Libya in recent years, though it is the largest, Business Insider reported on Jan. 11th.

Libya dialogue continues in Geneva

The 18 members of the newly established Libyan Political Dialogue Forum's Advisory Committee will meet at the United Nations (UN) headquarters here on Jan. 13-16, the UN Information Service said on Monday 11th. The committee's main mission is to discuss outstanding issues related to the selection of a unified executive authority in Libya and to present concrete and practical recommendations upon which the forum's plenary shall decide, the UN said in a message emailed to journalists.

HRW urge Libya government to investigate Tarhouna mass graves

Human Rights Watch on Thursday 7th said it has called on the Government of National Unity (GNA) in Libya to investigate the disappearance of hundreds of residents of the city of Tarhouna, where several mass graves have been discovered since the summer. The city, located 80 kilometers from the Libyan capital, suddenly came out of anonymity in June after mass graves were discovered, which "horrified" the United Nations. Some 120 bodies have been removed from the 27 mass graves identified at this stage, HRW said on its website, asking the GNA to investigate "what happened to the missing inhabitants".

UN mission hails new Libya prisoner swap under October truce

The UN mission in Libya has welcomed a second exchange of prisoners between the country's rival administrations and called for faster progress on other parts of an October truce. The two sides completed a first prisoner swap in the same

town late last month.

Libya army: 'Our confidence is shaken in Haftar's commitment to ceasefire'

The Libyan army's confidence in renegade General Khalifa Haftar's commitment to the ceasefire has been "shaken", a spokesperson said on Jan. 7th. In a statement to Anadolu Agency spokesman for the Sirte-Jufra Liberation Operations Room of the Libyan army, Brigadier General Al-Hadi Dara said: "Our confidence is shaken in the commitment of Haftar's militia to implement the terms of the (5+5) Joint Military Committee (JMC) agreement, which stipulates a ceasefire and the withdrawal of mercenaries from the country."

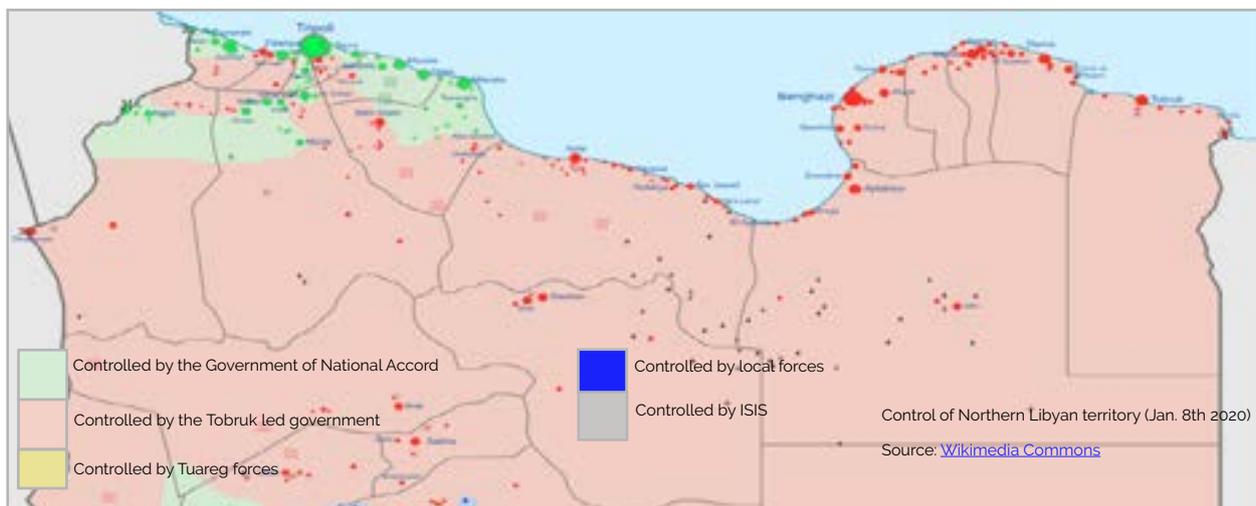
Sit-in by guards at Libya's Hariga oil port blocks loading

Petroleum facilities guards at Libya's eastern Hariga oil terminal have delayed the loading of a one million-barrel cargo as they press salary demands, the port's manager said on Wednesday 6th. The guards at Hariga, where Mesla and Sarir grades are loaded, have been staging a sit-in, which continued on Wednesday morning, according to one of the guards and port manager Rajab Sahnoun.

Libya continues to be excluded from reducing production rates

In a virtual meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members saw it fit to continue excluding Libya from production cuts due to the country's extraordinary circumstances. The head of the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC), Mustafa Sanalla took part in the 13th meeting of OPEC alliance and expressed his support for Libya's continued exclusion from production reductions most countries are undergoing due to COVID-19 effect on oil markets worldwide.

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





Gulf of Guinea

375 acts of maritime piracy and robbery were recorded worldwide in 2020 by the French Navy's MICA Center, compared to 360 in 2019. MICA Center's 2020 annual report outlines a slight upward trend of maritime insecurity. Considering MICA Center's 2020 annual report, the Gulf of Guinea remains the most dangerous maritime area in the world in spite of the efforts of Nigeria and coastal countries, and acts of piracy now extend from Ghana to Equatorial Guinea.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Malaysia's Northern Shipyard completes Manta vessels for Nigeria

Malaysian company Northern Shipyard has finished construction of four Manta Mk II fast patrol craft for the Nigerian Navy, after receiving a contract from Suncraft International for the boats. Northern Shipyard was contracted by Singapore's Suncraft International to build the boats in February 2020 and completed the vessels in late December, Bernama reports.

Nigeria: December oil output down to 1.52 mil b/d on Qua Iboe issues

Nigeria's crude and condensate output in December fell 9% month on month to 1.52 million b/d, data from the Department of Petroleum Resources — the oil industry regulator — showed, hit by production problems at key export crude grade Qua Iboe. Loadings of Qua Iboe have been on force majeure since mid-December after they were temporarily halted due to a fire at the Qua terminal, operator ExxonMobil said.

Nigeria: Navy continues seizures of stolen oil

Nigerian Navy Ship, DELTA, recovered 350,000 litres of stolen crude oil from illegal bunkerers in the Niger Delta region. "Within the period under review, acting on credible intelligence, Nigerian Navy Ship DELTA Patrol team located a wooden boat laden with about 200,000 litres of product suspected to be crude oil. Accordingly, the boats along with the product were handled appropriately. "Equally, Nigerian Navy Ship DELTA patrol team discovered and immobilised an illegal refining site with nine storage tanks and four ovens containing crude oil estimated to be about 150,000 litres at Olaipase Creek in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State," the Navy said.

Ghana's floating regasification unit arrives in Tema port

A floating regasification unit (FRU) for the Tema port's liquid natural gas (LNG) facility, in Ghana, arrived on Jan. 7th. This will enable Tema LNG Terminal Company (TLTC) to start delivering LNG to customers in the first quarter of the year. The FRU will be located within the Tema port, where TLTC has built additional marine infrastructure that will facilitate cost-efficient LNG loading and regasification without affecting maritime and port traffic in the Gulf of Guinea.

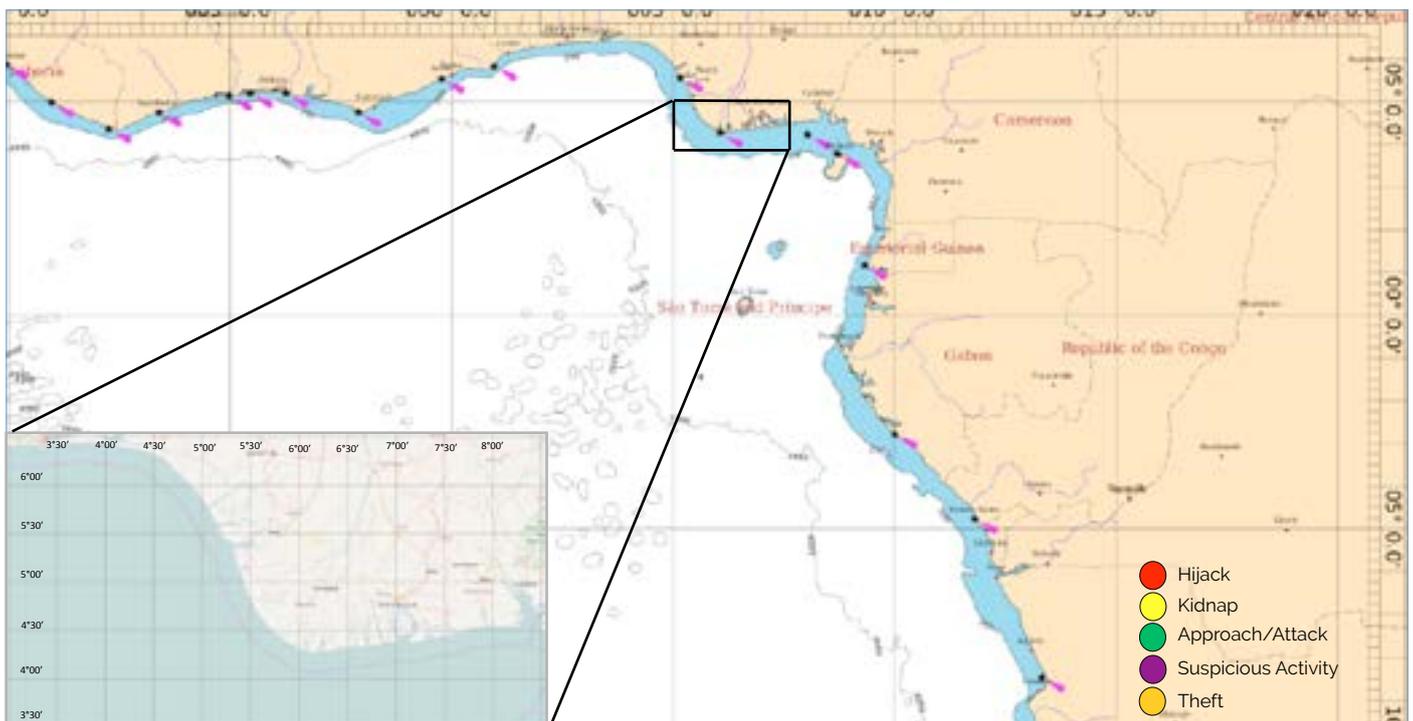
2 bodies recovered from sea pirates' attack in Rivers, Nigeria

Chairman of Bonny Local Government Area of Rivers State, Rogers Irimagha, has confirmed the recovery of two corpses from the river, who were victims of sea pirates' attack in the area. Irimagha has also called on people of the area to remain calm after three boats returning from a carnival in Dema-Okekpe in Bonny main town were attacked by bandits. The incident occurred around water axis of Arogbanama Borokiri community in Bonny LGA, local media reported on Jan. 8th.

NNPC Seeks \$1bn in Oil Prepaid Deal to Revamp Refinery

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has begun talks with trading firms to raise about \$1 billion in a prepayment deal to refurbish its largest refining complex at Port Harcourt, it was learnt yesterday. Reuters reported that if the financing is concluded, the long overdue rehabilitation of the refinery should reduce Nigeria's hefty fuel import bill.

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





South East Asia

The United States is planning to integrate its Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard over the next decade to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea. According to the South China Morning Post, the integrated all-domain naval power would counter the United States' "most pressing, long-term strategic threat." As per a strategic paper published last month titled 'Advantage at Sea', the integrated marine force will focus on achieving the US navy's objectives of "preserving freedom of the seas, deterring aggression and winning wars".

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

2 Abu Sayyaf members surrender to military in Basilan

Two members of the Abu Sayyaf Group surrendered to the military in Isabela City, Basilan on Monday 11th. In a statement, Lt. Gen. Corleto Vinluan Jr., of the Western Mindanao Command said alias Abu Kujaypa, 35 years old and alias Abs, 38 years old, both from Basilan, submitted themselves to Joint Task Force Basilan Commander Col. Domingo Gobway at the Headquarters of the 101st Infantry Brigade in Barangay Tabiawan, Isabela City.

PH Navy building new hangars as fleet grows

The Philippine Navy's Naval Air Wing is set to build new hangars in its headquarters in the coming months as it continues to acquire more aircraft. Navy officials, led by Naval Air Wing commander Commodore Karl Decapia and a representative from the RD Mandanas Construction, the civilian developer of the hangar, broke ground for the first of the three planned hangars at Naval Base Heracleo Alano in Sangley Point, Cavite City on Monday 11th.

Vietnam Coast guard must be capable of tackling complicated situations at sea

The Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) must focus on offering political and professional training to its personnel so they are able to deal with the most difficult and complicated situations at sea, Deputy Defence Minister Lieutenant General Nguyen Tan Cuong told a conference held in Hanoi recently to review a project on building the force in 2015-2020 and tasks for 2021-2025. Cuong said that to reach the goal of turning the VCG into a modern force by 2030, the VCG High Command must improve its apparatus, ensure an adequate amount of weapons and equipment, and further build infrastructure.

European Powers to Boost Asia Presence to Counter China

Germany, France and Britain each plan to boost their military presence in the Indo-Pacific region, a move analysts say is aimed at countering China and showing support for the U.S., Japan and other regional allies. Germany will send a frigate to patrol Indo-Pacific waters later this year. Britain will deploy the British carrier strike group (CSG) with the HMS Queen Elizabeth aircraft carrier at its core with no first deployment date announced.

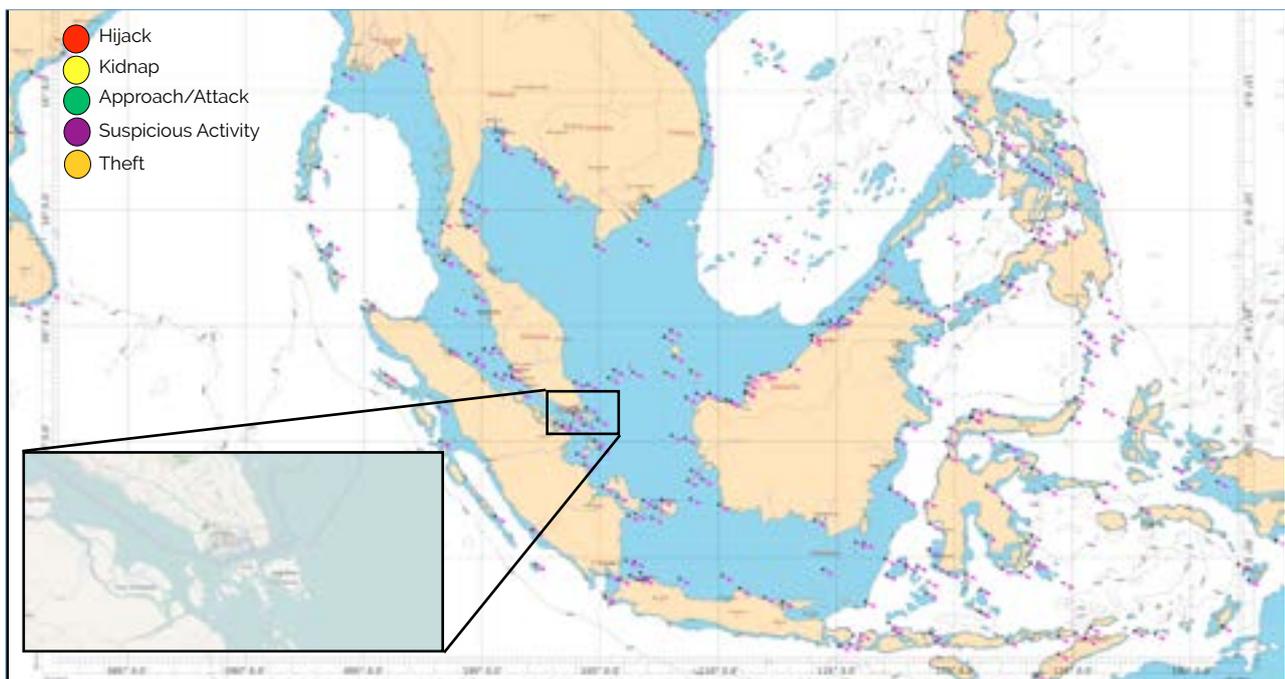
MMEA detains Mongolian-registered ship

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) detained a Mongolian-registered merchant ship for anchoring without permission about 3.9 nautical miles west of Pulau Arang-Arang, Port Dickson, on Jan. 7th. Its Melaka/Negri Sembilan director Captain (Maritime) Haris Fadzillah Abdullah said the MV Bistari was detained at 11.40am in an Op Benteng operation after failing to show permission to anchor there from the Malaysian Maritime Department (Mardep).

MMEA Tanjung Manis zone receives Semilang-class patrol boat KM Semilang

According to information published on Jan. 6th, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency Tanjung Manis zone has received the Semilang-class patrol boat KM Semilang (2161). Currently, the Tanjung Manis zone has only one boat and with the added asset, MMEA will be able to carry out better monitoring and search and rescue operations.

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





Central and South America

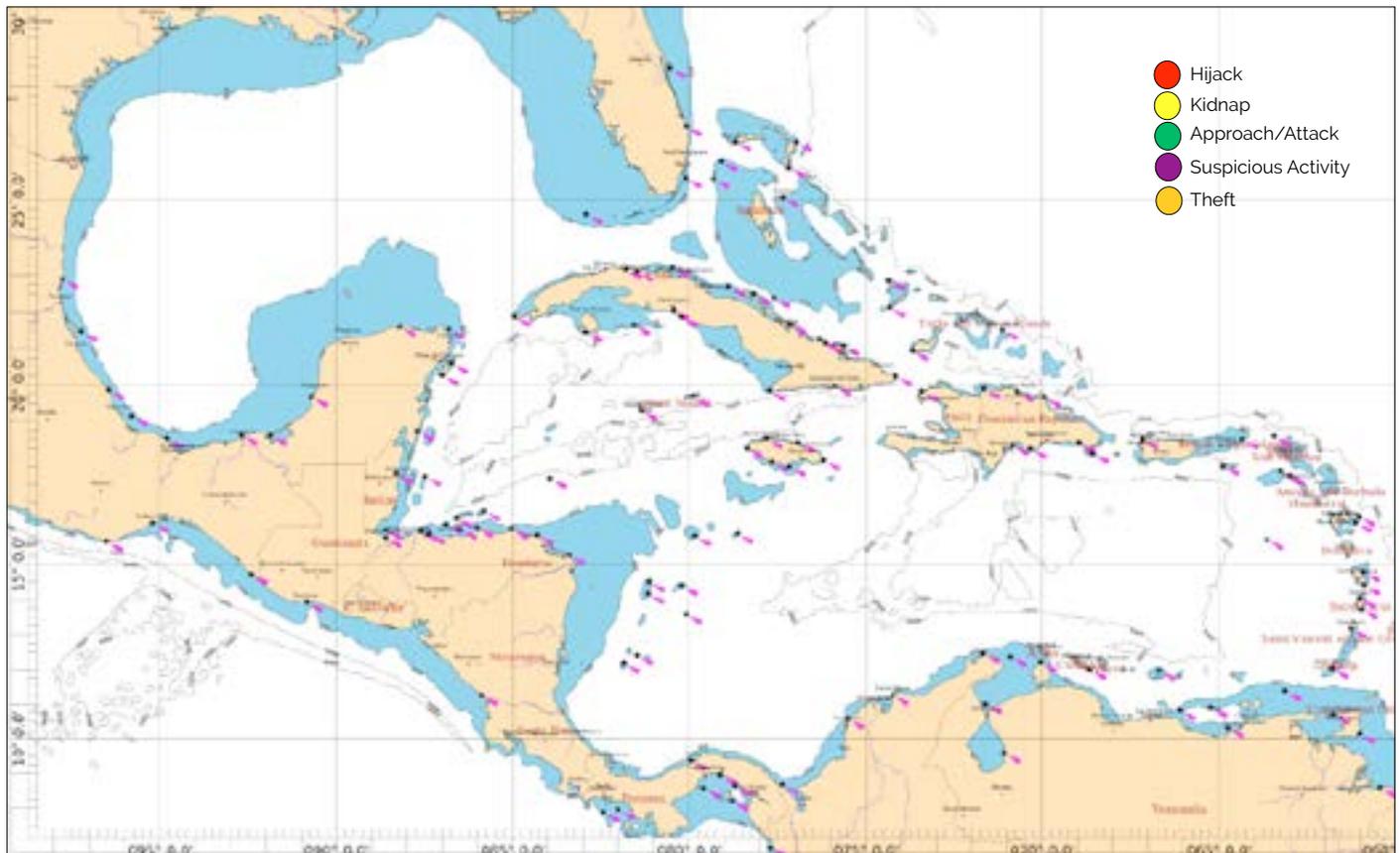
Nothing significant to report.

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](#).

South-West Indian Ocean



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