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# Weekly Security & Risk Report

12th January 2022



# MAST Intelligence

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UK Domestic

International Incidents

Industry and SIA Updates

LAND



SEA

West Africa

Indian Ocean  
Yemen, Somalia

European Waters



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# Issue 314

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Issue 314 of the series reviews, analyses and threat assesses the conflict-affected coastal states of Somalia and Yemen and associated waters, as well as ongoing issues facing the maritime industry in West Africa. The Mediterranean migrant crisis, security issues facing the UK and incidents affecting maritime security are also reported and analysed.

## The Security and Risk Report Series focuses on

- Operational risks in areas of instability which could affect the safety of commercial and private vessels and personnel ashore and at sea.
- In country reporting on key countries where civil 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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# Gulf of Guinea

Three suspected pirates who were detained for six weeks on a Danish warship off West Africa's coast have been released at sea in a small dinghy. The three were captured in November after a fatal exchange of fire in the Gulf of Guinea. The Danish Armed Forces said they had failed to find a country in the region which would take the alleged pirates, so they were released off the Nigerian coast, BBC News reported on Jan. 8th.

**Incidents** Nothing significant to report.

## Five suspected oil thieves in Rivers

The Nigerian Navy arrested five suspected oil thieves in Rivers State on Jan. 6th. The men were found with eight large wooden boats laden with petroleum products, which the navy believe were illegally refined. "The five suspects were arrested on January 6 by NNS Pathfinder's tactical riverine squadron, acting on credible intelligence. Shortly after receiving intelligence on the activities of the illegal bunkers, troops conducted a simultaneous raid at Isaka Junction and Cawthorn Channel River in the state," a spokesperson for NNS Pathfinder told the media on Jan. 8th.

## Navy Hands Over Seized Vessel, 20 Suspected Oil Thieves To Anti-graft Agency, EFCC

The Nigerian Navy handed over an impounded vessel, the MTT4, and 20 suspected oil thieves to personnel of the EFCC in Bayelsa, media reported on Jan. 8th. The men were arrested on Dec. 6th off Brass by NNS Soroh. The vessel was found to contain around 700 litres of illegal crude oil. The EFCC will now begin its investigation.

## Gulf of Guinea states must act and prosecute suspected pirates

States in the Gulf of Guinea region must take

responsibility and step-up prosecution efforts when pirates are apprehended by international navies, following the release of three suspected pirates held in custody on board Danish frigate Esbern Snare, BIMCO said on Jan. 7th. The presence of international navies is a very important step in the right direction to keep seafarers safe but establishing a sustainable security situation in the Gulf of Guinea cannot happen without full support of the region. Bringing suspected pirates to justice is best done by regional coastal states," says Secretary General and CEO, David Loosley.

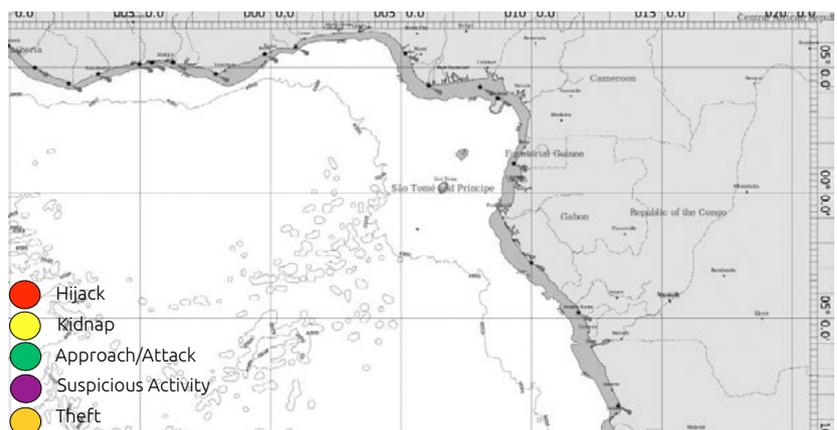
## Navy intercepts cannabis in Lagos

The Nigerian Navy seized 261 bags of cannabis, 413 bags of smuggled rice and 150 drums of petroleum at the end of December, the Commander of NNS Beecroft told the media last week. Working as part of Operation Mesa, the seizures were part of intelligence-led operations and patrols, he told journalists on Jan. 6th. The five crew of one boat were arrested for smuggling rice and fuel, but there are no reports of arrests in connection with the smuggled drugs.

*For further information, please click here.*

### Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures

<b>2021</b>
Incidents reported: 56 (MDAT-GoG/Others) Crew kidnapped: 46 (IMB, MDAT) Vessels hijacked: 1 (MDAT-GoG)
<b>2020</b>
Incidents reported: 132 (MDAT-GoG) Crew Kidnapped: 130 (IMB) Vessels Hijacked: 3 (IMB)
<b>2019</b>
Incidents reported: 111 (MDAT-GoG) Crew kidnapped: 121 (IMB) Vessels hijacked: 4 (IMB)



# Indian Ocean Region

Last week saw HMS Montrose mark its 1,000 day in the Gulf. The ship, along with its crew and complement of Royal Marines, has been in the region since April 2019, providing maritime security and a constant presence in the waters. In that time, it has been involved in the seizure of over 6.5 tonnes of illegal narcotics.

## Incidents

**1.** UKMTO said on Jan. 5th that an oil tanker had reported a suspicious approach off Yemen that day at 1344 UTC in position 1536N 04155E (30nm west of port Saleef). There was no description of the craft given, and the tanker continued its passage.

## EU anti-piracy mission risks ejection from Somalia

EU Observer reported on Jan. 10th that there are concerns that the EU NAVFOR mission may lose permission to pursue pirates in Somali waters. Despite the extension of its mandate by the UN for three months until March, it is said that internal papers within the EU suggest that any new Somali government may rescind the deal in favour of reinforcing Somalia's Coast Guard and Navy. There is a belief within Somalia that EU NAVFOR does little to prevent things such as illegal fishing, with many of the opinion that it actually protects fishing boats operating illegally in the country's waters.

## UAE calls on Houthis to "immediately release Rawabi"

The UAE repeated calls on Jan. 10th for Houthi rebels to release the MV Rawabi, which was seized last week. The UAE has written to the UNSC, highlighting the dangers of Houthi 'piracy' to international shipping. The UAE claims the ship held

medical supplies, but the Houthis claim it contained military equipment. They stated that they would release footage of the cargo over the weekend, but so far nothing has been broadcast.

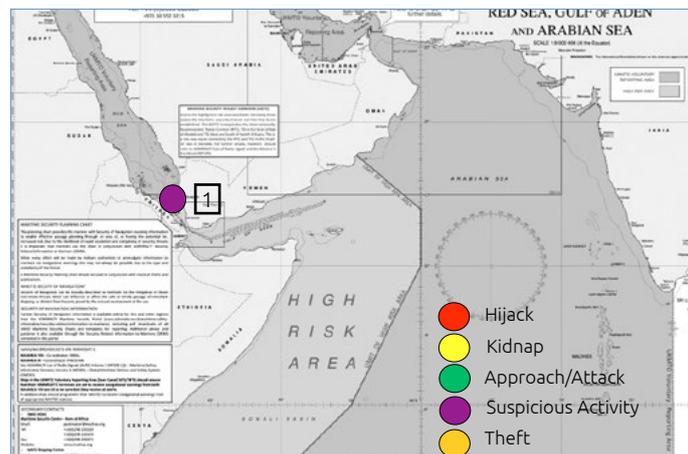
## UN: Iran Navy Port Emerges as Key to Alleged Weapons Smuggling to Yemen

The Wall Street Journal reported on Jan. 9th that a UN report has suggested that the thousands of RPGs and other weapons seized in the Gulf by US Navy assets in 2020 and 2021 likely originated from the Iranian port of Jask. The UN panel of experts who compiled the report based their conclusion on witness statements and data from navigational equipment found onboard the seized vessels.

## Chinese Navy Piracy Patrol Shepherds Fishing Fleet Through Gulf of Aden

The People's Liberation Army Navy 39th Escort Task Force carried out a three-day-long escort mission of Chinese fishing vessels through the Gulf of Aden, the People's Liberation Army Daily reported, USNI News said on Jan. 6th. During the escort, a suspected pirate skiff approached the fishing vessels in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. A helicopter with special forces personnel was also launched, which resulted in the boat turning away without further incident.

*For further information, please click here.*



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

# European Waters

A UK tabloid reported on Jan. 10th that people smugglers in northern France were now using light aircraft flown from private landing strips to reach private airstrips in England and Wales, to avoid Channel patrols. The Flying Farmers Association in the UK is providing additional surveillance for Border Force, it was reported.

## 60 people arrive in Dover after Channel rescues overnight

The UK's Daily Mail reported on Jan. 10th that 60 people who had attempted cross the English Channel overnight were rescued by UK Border Force and RNLI personnel at sea and taken to Dover on Monday morning. They included women and children as well as at least one baby. Two small boats were reportedly intercepted in separate operations overnight. It is the second crossing incident reported so far in 2022, with 66 people rescued on Jan. 4th.

## Number of migrants rescued off Calais coast trebled last year, says France

Over 1,000 people were rescued from shipwrecks off Calais in 2021, the French Office for Immigration and Integration said on Monday 10th. "The number of people shipwrecked off the coast of Calais and taken to safety was 1,002 in 2021," compared with 341 in 2020, an increase of 194%, OFII told AFP. The number of people living in camps in the north of France who were "given shelter and directed into the national reception system was 31,103" last year, up 239% on 2020 (9,172), Director-General of OFII, Didier Leschi, told AFP.

## Child's body recovered from sea off Greek island of Naxos

InfoMigrants reported on Jan. 10th that the body of a small child had been recovered from the waters off Naxos. The child is thought to have died during one of two major boat incidents which took place before Christmas. Greek authorities said that they thought the child was as young as three years old. Four bodies were recovered last week.

## Border Force threaten strike over Channel 'pushback' plans

Media reports on Jan. 6th suggest that UK Border Force members represented by the PCS union could go on strike over controversial plans by the Home Office. The union said it was totally opposed to the 'push back' policy at sea and said that they, along

with a charity, were taking the Home Office to court over the matter. There are concerns among staff that any attempts at push back in the English Channel could lead to loss of life.

## French ship rescues two groups of migrants in the Mediterranean

Africa News reported on Jan. 7th that French ship MV Louise Michel, had rescued two groups of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean. One group was picked up drifting in a wooden boat, while another was rescued from an oil platform around 120km off Tunisia. Almost 100 people in total were picked up before being handed over to Tunisian authorities.

## Fewer people arrived on Greek Islands in 2021

InfoMigrants reported on Jan. 7th that the number of refugees and asylum seekers arriving on the Greek Aegean islands in 2021 was at its lowest level since the beginning of the 'migrant crisis'. According to the UNHCR, 4,019 people arrived in 2021, compared with 9,714 in 2020 and just under 60,000 in 2019.

## More than 32,000 migrants rescued off Libyan coast in 2021

The Libyan Observer reported on Jan 6th that at least 32,425 people were rescued at sea and returned to Libya in 2021, almost three times the number recorded in 2020. The figures, provided by the IOM, highlight the significant challenge faced not only by Libya, but also by coastal states in the region. The UN recorded 655 deaths during the period, although this figure is believed to be considerably lower than the actual loss of life.

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

# Somalia & Yemen

Somalia's spy agency has ignored an order to hand over the security of the country's main airport to the security ministry. The agency has instead deployed more security to the Aden Adde International Airport in Mogadishu after the minister's order, privately-owned Caasimada Online reports, BBC News said on Jan. 11th.

## Somalia leaders in deal to complete delayed polls by Feb. 25th

Media reports suggest that the Prime Minister and President have finally agreed to move ahead with the country's elections. After several days of talks with state leaders, a deal has been struck to wrap the election process up by Feb. 25th, AFP reported on Jan. 9th. "The ongoing election of the House of the People (lower house) will be completed between the periods of January 15 and February 25, 2022," said a statement issued after the talks in the capital Mogadishu.

## Somalia apologises to UAE for seizing \$10m from Emirati jet in 2018

Somalia's PM, Mohamed Roble, has apologised to the UAE for an incident in 2018 during which Somali authorities seized \$10 million from a private plane at Mogadishu airport. The funds were intended to be used to train Somali troops, but it was claimed that the money was going to be used to destabilise the country. Roble has said that the funds would be returned to the UAE as soon as possible, hopefully ending the diplomatic row the incident caused.

## 13 Soldiers Arrested in Puntland for Trying to Steal Weapons From Training Camp

Dalsan radio reported on Jan. 6th that 13 members of Puntland's Dariwish forces had been arrested following a gunfight with police. The men had attempted to steal weapons from Horgoble Camp in Kaarkaar region. The camp has now been secured by local Puntland police and presidential guards. There were no reports of casualties, but a number of soldiers escaped. The incident is the latest clash between forces loyal to the Puntland President and US-trained Puntland Security Forces.

## Saudi-led Coalition Says Houthi Actions Turn Yemen Ports into Legitimate Targets

Reuters reported on Jan. 8th that the Saudi coalition believes that the ports of Hodeidah and Salif, controlled by Houthi forces, could become legitimate military targets. Because Houthis use them for military operations, there are growing concerns that coalition forces could strike them. The news will be of serious concern to agencies such as WFP, who regularly ship aid into Hodeidah. Houthi rebels denied the accusations, stating that the local UN mission made weekly port visits to ensure operations under the Stockholm agreement.

## Yemen ship seizure flashes warning for Red Sea

2022 has had a lively start in the Red Sea. While the close of 2021 saw Saudi coalition forces continue to destroy naval mines placed by suspected Houthi rebels, the seizure of the MV Rawabi and 11 crew has been seen as a warning to the coalition and wider maritime community of the trouble Houthis could cause on the water. "It is hard to pinpoint the exact cause for the Houthi seizure, and the group's messaging has been a bit mixed," Peter Salisbury, a Yemen specialist at the Crisis Group non-governmental organisation. "But it is hard not to read it as a not-so-gentle reminder that they could wreak havoc on Saudi and Emirati shipping in the Red Sea if they so wished," Ahram Online reported on Jan. 6th.

## Russia supports Saudi Arabia's efforts toward settling Yemeni crisis - lawmaker

Russia's TASS news agency reported on Jan. 7th that the country supports UN Special Envoy, Hans Grundberg, and Saudi Arabia's efforts to mediate the conflict in Yemen. Leonid Slutsky, of Russia's Lower House, said that the country was ready to help with any resolution.

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

# UK Security News

A no-fly zone could be placed over Windsor Castle as part of a security review, Metropolitan Police has said. The force has applied for restricted airspace which would prevent aircraft flying up to 2,500ft above and 1.5 nautical miles around the castle, BBC News reported on Jan. 10th.

## Venues must have anti-terror measures under government plans

Venues would have a legal duty to put in place security measures to protect the public from terror attacks under government plans. It comes in the wake of the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing, when 22 people were killed as they left an Ariana Grande concert. Home Secretary Priti Patel will set out the proposals on Tuesday 11th, following an 18-week consultation. There is currently no legislative requirement for organisations or venues to consider security measures at the vast majority of public places, BBC News reported.

## UK Terrorism Police urge public to remain vigilant

The UK's counter-terror policing team has warned that people need to remain vigilant, as the UK is still at 'severe' risk of a terror attack. The warning came as France marked the seventh anniversary of the Charlie Hebdo attack, which saw 12 people killed in Paris. UK authorities have said that in the last year, the counter-terror policing team had received around 10,000 calls from the public to report suspicious activity. Around 20 per cent of those calls yielded useful intelligence, they said.

## easyJet flight in security alert

Euroweekly News reported on Jan. 6th that emergency crews had responded to a security alert onboard easyJet flight EZY481 just before take-off, which had arrived at Belfast Airport from Stansted on Jan. 6th. The flight was evacuated and sniffer dogs deployed onboard. The flight was later allowed to leave, but no details of the security incident have been reported.

## Terror threat teen wanted to attack mosque and kill 10,000

A 17-year-old boy who wanted to "shoot up a mosque" and kill 10,000 people has been given a rehabilitation order. The teenager, from Wiltshire, was given the 24-month order at Southampton

Youth Court. He had pleaded guilty to possessing material likely to be useful to a person committing or preparing an act of terrorism. Counter-terror police said they were having to deal with an increase in right-wing terror threats, BBC News reported on Jan. 7th.

## Tredegar terror convict jailed

A convicted terror offender has been jailed for 16 months after threatening teenagers with a knife and telling them: "We cut people's heads off." Nathan Saunders, 28, shouted "Allahu akbar" and made Islamic State salutes at the youths on 15 September 2021. Saunders, of Tredegar, Blaenau Gwent, who was convicted of downloading terror documents in 2017, is believed to have radicalised himself online, BBC News reported on Jan. 8th.

# London News

## 'Far-right' British schoolboy, 15, arrested on suspicion of planning terror attack

The Sun newspaper reported on Jan. 10th that a 15-year-old schoolboy has been arrested on suspicion of planning a terror attack. He was arrested on Friday 7th at his home in South London. A statement said: "A 15-year-old boy was detained under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act after being arrested on suspicion of engaging in conduct in preparation for terrorist acts (contrary to Section 5 Terrorism Act 2006).

## Met officer to face further rape charges

A Metropolitan Police officer accused of a string of sex offences is facing further charges linked to another four victims including six counts of rape, prosecutors said. David Carrick, of Hertfordshire, will be charged with nine further offences, the Crown Prosecution Service said. In total he is accused of 29 crimes against eight women from 2009 to 2020, BBC News reported on Jan. 10th.

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

# Global Security News

A court in the Netherlands has heard how eight Eindhoven men, suspected of preparing a terror attack, discussed beheading Mark Rutte and Geert Wilders. They discussed kidnapping the men and killing them, the court was told, during the first preparatory hearing in the case, NL Times reported.

## South Africa parliament fire suspect charged with 'terrorism'

Al Jazeera reported on Jan. 11th that Zandile Mafe, suspected of being behind the fire that gutted South Africa's parliament building, has been charged with terrorism. At a second court appearance, Mafe, already charged with robbery and arson, heard the new charge against him.

## Kazakh Authorities Say Nearly 6,000 Detained In 'Anti-Terrorism' Sweep

Following a series of violent protests following an increase in energy prices, Kazakh authorities claim that they have arrested or detained as many as 6,000 people in security operations around the country. Kazakhstan's Interior Ministry said that 133 of those detained were being held on suspicion that they had committed "serious crimes". It is believed that over 160 people have been killed since violence broke out on Jan. 5th.

## Turkey to fight against terrorism with new concept, Akar says

Turkey's Defence Minister, Hulusi Akar, told reporters on Saturday 8th that the country will eradicate terrorism at its source, and has no interest in the territory or sovereignty of other nations. Since July 24, 2015, up until today, 33,275 terrorists have been eliminated, while the total from Jan. 1, 2021 to Jan. 8th 2022, is 2,795, he told reporters.

## Two arrested after 10 bodies found in car in Mexico

Two arrests have been made after 10 bodies were found inside a car in the central Mexican state of Zacatecas. The discovery came after the vehicle was left outside a historic local state governor's office in the middle of a public square. Zacatecas state has seen a surge in violence linked to a turf war between rival drug gangs operating in the area, including incidents where bodies have been left or displayed in public places, BBC News said on Jan. 7th.

## New Committee in Rabat to Implement UN Sanctions on Terrorism, Arms

Morocco has unveiled a new National Committee aimed at enforcing UNSC sanctions related to money-laundering, terrorism and illegal weapons, Morocco World News reported on Jan. 6th. The new committee was formed as part of the country's commitment to the UN and recommendations made by the Financial Action Task Force, and will clamp down on terror funding and the proliferation of illegal weapons.

## Terror Threat In Asian Countries Declined In 2021

The Counter Terrorist Trends and Analysis report published by researchers at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies reports that terror threats in Southeast and South Asian countries diminished in 2021, Eurasia Review reported on Jan. 7th. "Ultimately, the 2021 survey underscored the continuing imperative for states to address the longer-term underlying grievances that fuel violent extremism," the analysis said.

# Industry and SIA News

## Security Megatrends: The 2022 Vision for the Security Industry

Leveraging insights from independent research and key presentations at the Securing New Ground (SNG) conference, Security Megatrends™, an annual Security Industry Association (SIA) publication now in its sixth year, analyzes and forecasts the major trends affecting security industry businesses. The 2022 Security Megatrends report captures a vision of the industry's future and distills key trends that will impact your organization in the coming year. To read report, please click here.

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Tel: +44 (0) 1279 216 726

Address: Thremhall Park, Start Hill, Bishop Stortford, Herts CM22 7WE

Email: [operations@mast-security.co.uk](mailto:operations@mast-security.co.uk)