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Weekly Security & Risk Report

22nd June 2022



MAST Intelligence

UK Domestic

International Incidents

Industry and SIA Updates

LAND



SEA

West Africa

Indian Ocean
Yemen, Somalia

European Waters



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Issue 337

Issue 337 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 conflicts 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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Content

Mast Services	2
Gulf of Guinea	4
Indian Ocean Region	5
European Waters	6
Somalia & Yemen	7
UK & London Security News	8
Global and Industry Security News	9

Gulf of Guinea

Nigeria's NIMASA and the Navy are to conduct a joint impact assessment on wreck removal in the waters around Lagos, This Day reported on June 21st. Sonar scanning will be used to determine the safety of the sea floor and any threats to vessels, the paper said.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Nigeria takes delivery of aircraft, boats, armoured vehicles to tackle sea piracy

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has acquired additional assets to further the aims of its Deep Blue Project, Nigeria's Guardian newspaper reported on June 19th. Among the new assets are two UAVs, nine new interceptor patrol boats and 10 armoured vehicles.

Nigerian Navy seizes products worth over N1.9bn in two weeks

Leadership newspaper reported on June 16th that as part of its ongoing Operation Dakatar Da Barawo, the Nigerian Navy had again made gains against illegal oil refiners. In the period between June 1st and 13th, the Navy reported deactivating 13 refinery sites, six reservoirs, 84 ovens used to cook product and 107 storage tanks. Over 1.5 million litres of illegally refined diesel were seized, and 21 storage pits destroyed. While the gains are significant, they also continue to demonstrate the scale of the problem facing the country.

ECOWAS: we are winning war on maritime insecurity

Jean-Claude Brou, President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, has said that the region is winning the

war against maritime insecurity, This Day reported on June 16th. He made the comments while delivering a report before the ECOWAS parliament session in Nigeria. "A year ago, I told you that the maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea was extremely disturbing and globally we were the zone having the largest number of maritime piracy attacks. Actions have been carried by the countries individually but also at the level of regional coordination," he said.

Security firm confiscates 10 speedboards, arrests 19 suspected oil thieves in Bayelsa

The Nigerian Tribune said on June 15th that security teams working for Darlon Oil and Gas Ltd. in Bayelsa State had arrested 19 people suspected of transporting illegally refined oil, and confiscated 10 speedboats fitted with powerful outboard engines on June 7th. The men were handed over to the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) for further investigation. The group had been caught on a creek near the River Nun, the paper said.

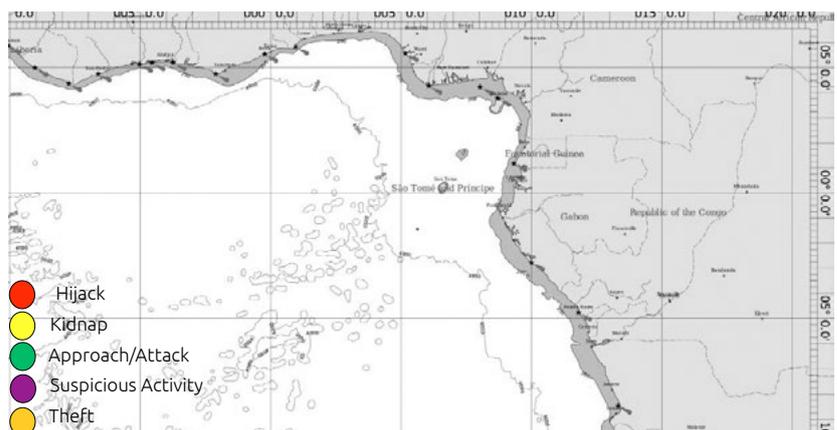
For further information, please [click here](#).

Gulf of Guinea Piracy & Maritime Crime Figures

2022
Incidents reported: 18 (MDAT-GoG/Others)

2021
Incidents reported: 56 (MDAT-GoG/Others)
Crew kidnapped: 46 (IMB, MDAT)
Vessels hijacked: 1 (MDAT-GoG)

2020
Incidents reported: 132 (MDAT-GoG)
43 Crew Kidnapped: 130 (IMB)
Vessels Hijacked: 3 (IMB)



Indian Ocean Region

Naval forces from the United Arab Emirates and United States began a 10-day maritime exercise on June 13th, in the Arabian Gulf. Exercise Iron Defender is an annual bilateral training event between U.S. Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) and forces from the United Arab Emirates, the US Navy said.

Incidents:

1. A MT reported a suspicious approach on June 18th at 1010 UTC, in position 123848N, 0431854E, Red Sea, around 41nm south of Mokha, Yemen. Vessel was approached by one boat to within 0.4nm with five persons on board. The small boat altered course when the MT raised alarm and armed security team made their presence known. Reported by UKMTO.

Iran to modernize naval fleet

The defense minister of Iran unveiled plans to update and modernize the country's naval fleet in proportion to the regional threats. Highlighting Iran's geopolitical position in the region and the strategic importance that the Persian Gulf has for the Islamic Republic, Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani said, "The Defense Ministry will update and furnish the naval fleet of the Armed Forces proportional to the needs of the Armed Forces and the regional threats across all territorial waters," Iran's state-run Tasnim News said on June 17th.

Iran's IRGC dismantles large network of fuel smugglers, detains all members

Iran's Press TV reported on June 16th that the country's IRGC had broken up a large, organised fuel smuggling network and seized some 90,000 litres

of smuggled fuel from a ship near Kish Island. The IRGC said that the network had operated in eight provinces in Iran, smuggling fuel to Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq. A number of arrests were made in connection with the network, which is believed to have been behind the smuggling of over 200 million litres of subsidised fuel.

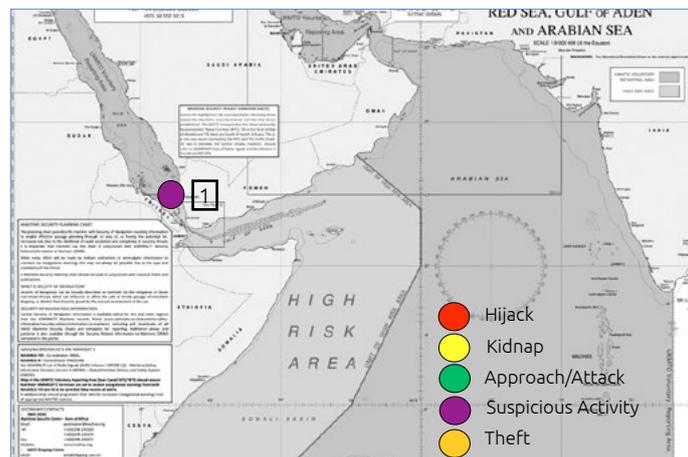
Indian Coast Guard seizes heroin at sea

ABP Live reported on June 16th that the Indian Coast Guard had stopped a Pakistani dhow at sea on suspicion of smuggling. The incident occurred in the Arabian Sea on Thursday 16th, in a joint operation between Gujarat ATS and the Coast Guard. During a search of the vessel, 56kg of heroin was discovered on board and 12 people were arrested.

Chinese captain on Taiwanese fishing vessel receives reduced jail sentence

Wang Fengyu, the Chinese skipper of a Taiwanese fishing vessel who was jailed in 2021 for his part in the deaths of four Somali pirates, has had his sentence reduced. Focus Taiwan reported on June 16th that Fengyu's case had been reviewed on appeal and in light of new evidence, his sentence has been reduced from 26 years to 13.

For further information, please click here.



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

European Waters

Some 444 people crossed the English Channel in small boats on Tuesday 14th, the UK government reported on June 15th. It is the second highest number to cross since 562 arrived on one day in April, the Evening Standard said.

Black Sea incidents

Although discussions on opening up Ukraine's ports to export continue, the war at sea has been relatively quiet until a June 17th report from Ukraine. The country's Ministry of Defence issued a video and report which showed a vessel believed to be the Russian Rescue Tug, Vasily Bekh, being struck by two anti-ship missiles. It is believed that the ship sank following the attack. It was reportedly en route to Snake Island, carrying personnel and a Tor-M2KM SAM system at the time of the incident. Reports suggest that two Harpoon missiles were used for the attack. Russian media outlets reported that 23 crew were injured and 10 missing following the attack, which is another blow for Russian naval ambitions in the region. On June 19th, Covert Shores reported via social media that two Russian warships had been photographed patrolling off the coast of Romania. The activity is said to be related to Russia's blockade of Ukrainian ports.

MoD reports that 321 migrants cross Channel

The Express newspaper reported on June 19th that the Ministry of Defence had said that 321 migrants had successfully crossed the English Channel on Saturday, the highest number to make the crossing in a single day so far this month.

Migrants: Some due for removal from the UK could be electronically tagged

Some asylum claimants who arrived in the UK in small boats or in the back of lorries could be electronically tagged under a new Home Office trial. A 12-month trial could apply to adults due to be removed from the UK after arriving via what the government calls "dangerous or unnecessary" routes. Boris Johnson said it was important to "make sure asylum seekers can't just vanish into the rest of the country". Critics say the plan treats those fleeing persecution as criminals, BBC News reported on June 18th.

146 people successfully cross the English Channel

More than 140 migrants were brought ashore at Dover on Wednesday, the day after 400 people arrived in small boats off the Kent coast, BBC News said on June 16th. Some 146 people, including about 28 children, were rescued in the Channel and brought to the Kent port. They arrived on two boats, which were reported to be in poor condition and partially deflated. One of the boats contained two children's inflatable rubber rings as well as lifejackets. The Evening Standard reported additionally the further small boats arrived during the same day, with a total of 233 people brought ashore.

Tunisia intercepts 72 Italy-bound migrants off coast

China's Xinhua reported on June 15th that Tunisian Coast Guard vessels had rescued 72 migrants who were attempting to cross the Mediterranean and enter Italy. The migrants were intercepted in two separate operations at sea, off Zarzis, Tunisia. The migrants said that they had set off from Zuwara, Libya, the previous day.

Three Kurdish migrant bodies found off Greek coast

The remains of three men believed to be Kurds from a boat which capsized in December last year have been found off the Greek coast, Rudaw reported on June 15th. "In the past two weeks, the body of a Kurdish migrant child was found, and two other bodies have been found ever since who lost their lives when their boat capsized on December 21, 2021 on the coast of Greece," Hussein Hama Salih the Greece representative of Summit (Lutka) Foundation for Refugees and Displaced Affairs told Rudaw.

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

Somalia & Yemen

A number of UN agencies have come together to launch a Minimum Response Package (MRP), a critical, life-saving effort to address famine and drought conditions in Somalia, Siasat reported on June 17th. It's thought the package will provide aid for 100,000 people displaced or affected by the current crisis.

Somali forces kill dozens of Al Shabaab terrorists in central Somalia

Dozens of people were killed in fierce fighting between residents backed by Somali government forces and al-Shabab militants in the town of Adado in central Somalia, witnesses and regional officials told VOA on Friday 17th. Witnesses and Somali officials in the region said the fighting began when members of the terrorist group invaded the small town of Bahdo, about 60 kilometers east of Adado. Some outlets have stated that as many as 70 terrorists were killed during the operation.

World Bank pledges U.S.\$100 Million for Somalia

All Africa reported on June 17th that Somali President Hassan Shiekh Mohamud and World Bank Country Manager Ms. Kristina Svensson met on Thursday 16th. Following the meeting, it has been announced that Somalia will receive \$100 million in aid to help address the government's priorities.

Kenya expresses regret over Somaliland participation at a diplomatic event

The week after the diplomatic thaw between Somalia and Kenya began, Kenya has had to apologise. All Africa reported that a flag representing breakaway region, Somaliland, was displayed at a diplomatic function in Nairobi. Somali ambassador to Kenya, Mohamoud Ahmed Nur, left the event in protest. Kenya was accused of violating Somali sovereignty and issued an apology.

Thousands of Somalis at risk of starving to death, aid groups say

The drought devastating the Horn of Africa has hit Somalia the hardest, with an estimated one-half of its 16 million people facing crisis-level food insecurity. Aid groups say hundreds of thousands of Somalis are at risk of starving to death, while hundreds of children are already dying of malnutrition. The U.N. says about 800,000 Somalis have been displaced by the record drought, Voice of

America reported on June 15th.

Four soldiers killed in Yemen clashes as Taiz siege lingers on despite truce

The New Arab said on June 18th that despite the current truce in Yemen, sporadic fighting has continued in certain areas of the country. The siege in Taiz remains ongoing, and residents took to the streets on Friday to protest, they said. Demands for Houthis to leave the city and open up access were made. New Arab said that in a three-day period, at least four Yemeni soldiers had been killed and 17 wounded in fighting in the country.

Yemen's Houthis again warn regional states

Mohammed Nasser al Atifi, the Houthi's Defence Minister, has warned regional states against cooperation with the USA, claiming that the air defence systems many of them seek to buy are ineffective against Houthi drones and missiles. Critical Threats reported on June 17th that he specifically mentioned the US Patriot system in his comments.

UN monitoring of Yemen ports for war activity hampered by Houthis, top official says

The UN's Head of Mission in Hodeidah, Major General Michael Beary, has called for an extension of its mandate. Beary, whose team is monitoring the ceasefire, says that Houthi restrictions have prevented them from conducting patrols in Hodeidah city and the port. "I would like to be patrolling to the ports unannounced at any time and visit every area and that's what I want to get to, but I am not quite there yet. But we have increased the frequencies of our patrols to ensure that the ports and the civilian nature of the ports is maintained," he said.

For further information, please click here.

UK Security News

People gathered to remember the victim of the Finsbury Park terror attack on its fifth anniversary on Sunday 19th. Makram Ali, 51, died and 11 were injured when Darren Osborne ploughed a van into worshippers gathered outside the Muslim Welfare House, BBC News reported.

West Belfast video shows masked man firing shots over coffin

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is investigating after video footage of a masked man firing a pistol over a coffin emerged in Belfast over the weekend. Detectives from the Terror Investigation Unit are looking into the video, which was filmed in a residential garden. The video shows a masked man fire a volley of shots over the coffin, before saluting, while others in the garden can be heard applauding, the Belfast Telegraph said on June 19th.

Police warn Glastonbury festival-goers warned of terrorism threat

Avon and Somerset Police have issued guidance to anyone attending the Glastonbury Festival on June 22nd. While there are no terror alerts in place, police have issued alerts to festival-goers as part of the #BeSafeBeSound campaign operated by Counter Terrorism Policing. They have also issued a warning over the threat of drink spiking, Wales Online reported on June 18th.

Julian Assange can be extradited, says UK home secretary

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange's extradition to the US has been approved by UK Home Secretary, Priti Patel. Mr Assange has 14 days to appeal over the decision, the Home Office said. It said the courts found extradition would not be "incompatible with his human rights" and that while in the US "he will be treated appropriately". Mr Assange is wanted by the American authorities over documents leaked in 2010 and 2011, which the US says broke the law and endangered lives, BBC News reported on June 18th.

Protect Duty: Venue security law a top priority, minister says

Introducing a new law requiring public venues to better protect people from terror attacks is seen as a "top priority" by the security minister. A year ago the public inquiry into the 2017 Manchester Arena

bombing found a series of security failures and missed opportunities to prevent the atrocity. The government said it intended to introduce legislation during the current parliamentary session, the BBC said on June 16th.

Man arrested at Gatwick airport on suspicion of spying for Russia

A man in his 40s was arrested at Gatwick Airport as he was trying to leave the country, The Guardian reported on June 15th. In a joint operation by Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism command and the British Security Services, a man was arrested in connection with suspected espionage offences. He is being held under section 1 of the Official Secrets Act.

London News

Man, 20, fights for life as Clapham shooting injures five

A 20-year-old man is fighting for his life after being involved in a shooting which injured five people. The victims - all in their 20s - self-presented at two south London hospitals with gun and knife injuries at about 03:30BST on Saturday, police said. Police believe they all were injured during a disturbance close to Wandsworth Road, Clapham when a shotgun was discharged, BBC News said on June 19th.

Teenager arrested by Counter Terrorism officers

The Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command report that a 17-year-old boy has been arrested in suspicion of encouraging terrorism. He was arrested on June 14th and the offences relate to extreme right-wing terrorism, the Met said. Enquiries are continuing.

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

Global Security News

Eight people in Brazil are now suspects in the murders of British journalist Dom Phillips and indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, police say. Mr Phillips and Mr Pereira went missing while on a reporting trip in the remote Javari Valley in Brazil's far west on June 5th, the BBC said on June 20th.

Ukraine: Latest updates

BBC News reported on June 20th that Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky has told the African Union that the continent is the "hostage" of Russia's war in Ukraine, the AFP news agency quotes him as saying. In March, 17 African countries abstained in a UN vote to condemn the invasion and calling for the immediate withdrawal of its forces. Reuters reported on June 19th that EU leaders were due to meet on Monday 20th to discuss further plans to move Ukrainian grain from ports such as Odessa out of the country via rail networks to friendly Black Sea and EU ports for distribution. The main aim remains a re-opening of Ukraine's ports, but key problems such as naval mines in the region remain a sticking point with the Kremlin. Turkey has already offered to provide an 'observation mechanism' to ensure the safe passage of goods, Reuters said. On Monday 20th, Monday the EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, called the Russian blockade a "real war crime".

Media reports emerged on Tuesday 21st which state that the authorities in Russian-controlled Crimea have accused Ukraine of launching an attack on three offshore gas platforms. They were seized by Russia in 2014 from Ukraine. Known as the 'Boyko towers', Kyiv reportedly believes that they are being used as reconnaissance posts. Russia reported that seven people were missing and three injured after the missile strikes on the platforms. The Guardian reported on June 21st that Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister, Hanna Maliar, had said that Russia had gathered almost all of its forces to try to take settlements near the city of Sievierodonetsk. Maliar said that "decisive" battles were taking place in the area. There are also reports that Russian forces are massing ahead of a new offensive against Kharkiv.

As many as 320 dead in Ethiopia gun attack, witnesses suggest

The Guardian reported on Monday 20th that it was thought that as many as 320 civilians had been killed by gunmen in Ethiopia's Oromia region. Reports of a massacre emerged on Sunday. The victims are

reportedly ethnic Amharas, the paper said.

US-led coalition capture senior IS leader in north Syria raid

US-led coalition forces say they captured a senior leader of the jihadist group Islamic State (IS) in an overnight raid in northern Syria, the BBC reported on June 17th. The man was "an experienced bomb maker and operational facilitator", a coalition statement said. Officials told US media that he was named Hani Ahmed al-Kurdi.

Mozambique: Minister urges tougher action against terrorism

Arsenia Massingue, Mozambique's Minister of the Interior, has called on the security forces and allies from Rwanda and the SADC to intensify the fight against Islamic militants in the northern Cabo Delgado province, All Africa said on June 16th. This month has seen the terrorists attack villages in Ancuabe district, bringing them closer to the provincial capital of Pemba.

Israeli travel warning for Turkey

A travel warning for Israelis in Turkey has been issued, following warnings from Israeli intelligence that an Iranian terror cell is operating in the country. Citizens have been urged to leave Istanbul and reconsider travel in the country, the Times of Israel said on June 16th.

Industry and SIA News

ISC East opens registration

The International Security Conference & Exposition – also known as ISC East – is the Northeast's leading security & public safety event, hosted in collaboration with premier sponsor Security Industry Association (SIA) and in partnership with ASIS NYC. [Please click here](#) for details.

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