

Weekly Security & Risk Report

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Issue 250 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

UKMTO and maritime media outlets reports that MT Syra, an aframax tanker, may have struck a sea mine off the Bir Ali single crude buoy just before midnight on Oct. 3rd. The vessel was taking on crude when the explosion occurred, causing sizeable damage to the vessel. Reports state that two floating objects were seen near the ship prior to the explosion. UKMTO continues to investigate, but the incident raises security concerns once again in the Gulf of Aden. Sea mines have been used by Houthi forces in the past, although so far no group has claimed responsibility for the incident.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Iran's defense chain in PG ready to respond to any threat

Deputy Navy Commander for Coordination Rear Admiral Hamzeh Ali Kaviani said that Iran's defense chain in the south of the country is ready to respond to any threat. He made the remarks at the welcoming ceremony of Iran's 69th naval flotilla which returned to the southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Tuesday after a 67-day mission in the international waters. "The presence of foreigners in the Persian Gulf is of no use to them, we declare to the enemies that Iran will respond to any threat to its waters and interests," said Kaviani.

Ronald Reagan CSG conducts maritime security operations in Indian Ocean

The Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group began maritime security and stability operations in the Indian Ocean, Oct. 9th. The carrier strike group, including the Navy's only forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and the embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 5, Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam (CG 54), and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey (DDG 97), routinely operates throughout the Indo-Pacific in support of U.S. commitments to regional allies and partners.

Pakistan Rapidly Growing Its Naval Fleet With Chinese Assistance

With a helping hand from China, Pakistan Navy is rapidly growing its fleet by adding at least 50 vessels, including 20 major ships as part of an ambitious modernisation plan, said the country's outgoing Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi, PTI reported. According to the report, the announcement was made in the outgoing Admiral's farewell

speech over the state-run Radio Pakistan. "This project will transform us from a submarine-operating Navy to a submarine-building one," he said.

Two-day coastal security exercise concludes

A two-day coastal security exercise conducted by the Indian Navy, along with Indian Coast Guard and all stakeholders involved in coastal security off the Kerala coast, concluded on Thursday 8th. The exercise, named 'Sagar Kavach' had the participants divided into two teams, with the Red Force simulating as terrorists attempting to infiltrate into the coastal areas aiming to attack vital installations and the Blue Force carrying out coastal security surveillance to intercept and neutralise the infiltrators.

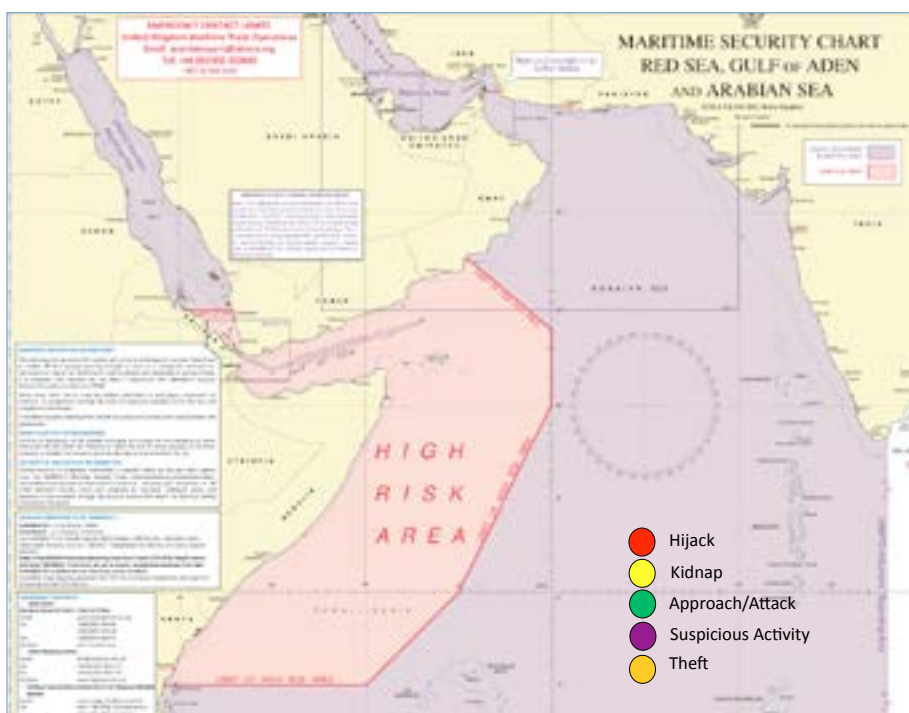
Iran Navy to unveil Dena destroyer, Saba minesweeper

The Iranian Navy will unveil some of its homegrown products including Dena destroyer and Saba minesweeper within the next two months, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi has said. Speaking with Tasnim on Saturday 10th, Khanzadi also said Iran's first homegrown auxiliary ship, named "Persian Gulf", will be unveiled within the next two months.

Sabotage In Deadly Incident Near Strait Of Hormuz Ruled Out

The military prosecutor of Tehran province, Gholam Abbas Torki, says that there was no sabotage in the May 2020 accident in which a rocket hit the Konarak support vessel during a naval exercise in waters near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, killing 19 sailors and wounding 15 others.

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



Somalia

Following a series of media reports last week, the government of Somalia and Cuba have denied reports that two Cuban doctors who were kidnapped in Kenya in April 2019 have been released. The two governments have denied the reports that Al Shabaab had released two Cuban doctors who had been held captive by al-Shabaab for a year and a half.

Turkish company to manage Port of Mogadishu

A Turkish company on Monday signed a 14-year contract in Somalia to operate and rehabilitate the port of its capital city, Mogadishu, local media reported on Monday 12th, reports Anadolu Agency. The new the deal came after days of discussions between the Albayrak Group and the Somali government on revenue sharing, among other key issues surrounding the deal.

Somali president urges nationals to foster unity, shun terrorism

Somali President Mohamed Farmajo on Monday 12th called on Somalis to foster peace and unity and shun acts of terrorism as the country marked the national flag day which is marked on Oct. 12 annually. In a statement issued to mark the occasion, Farmajo prayed for the mercy of all the heroes who sacrificed their lives for the existence of the government and the unity of the Somali people.

Five militants killed in joint operation in southern Somalia

Somali National Army (SNA) backed by South Western State forces killed five al-Shabab militants on Saturday 10th in a joint operation in Dinsor, a town in the southern region of Bay, an official said. The forces launched an attack on bases run by the militants in the town following complaints from the locals, said Shine Mayow, commander of South Western State forces in Dinsor. "The extremists isolated the locals in Dinsor and blocked all the roads leading to the town. Our forces later

conducted an operation to help the residents. We killed five militants during a confrontation between the army and the extremists," Mayow said.

Grenade attack wounds three in Somalia's Kismayo

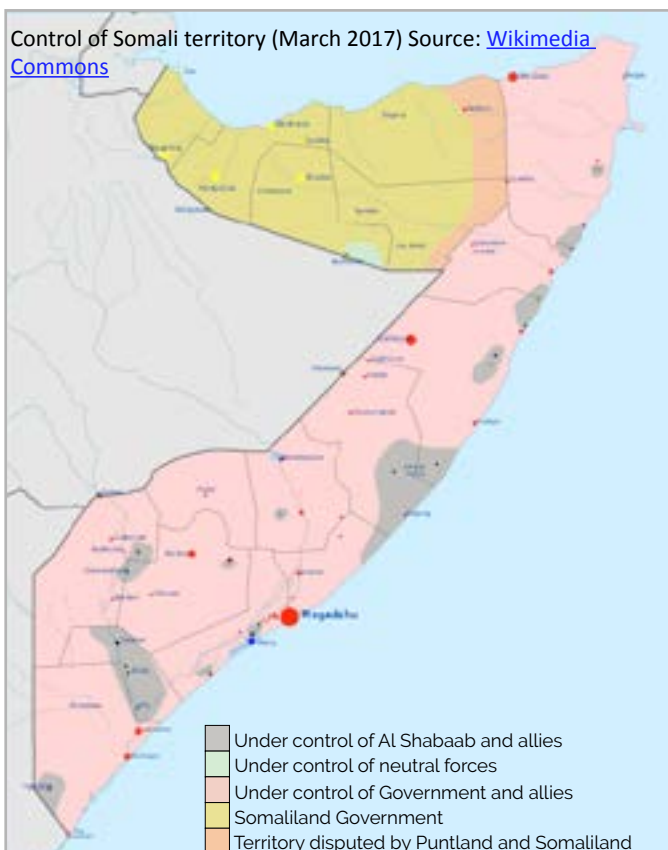
Three people were wounded after armed men threw grenades at a café in the southern Somali port city of Kismayo, interim capital of Jubbaland regional state. The wounded persons were taken to Kismayo's main hospital for treatment.

UN: Al Shabaab Exploit Banking and Invest in property

Al Shabaab, the Somalia-based militant group that is al Qaeda's most powerful ally in Africa, is not only collecting millions of dollars in tariffs and payoffs but moving the money through local banks and even investing it in real estate and businesses, according to a new United Nations Security Council report. The report describes how Al Shabaab, known for suicide attacks and a severe interpretation of Islam has diversified their funding streams.

Kenya court convicts two for attack on shopping mall

A Kenyan court convicted two men on Wednesday for helping al Qaeda-linked gunmen storm Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall and kill at least 67 people in a 2013 assault that proved Somali militants could strike at the heart of the capital. A third defendant, also charged under a national terrorism prevention act, was acquitted in the trial, the only prosecution Kenya mounted over the assault by Somali Al Shabaab militants.



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 is calling for an immediate end to clashes near Yemen's main port of Hodeidah after a surge in fighting that sources said has killed dozens of people despite a UN-sponsored ceasefire in place in the area. Hodeidah governorate has seen sporadic, limited fighting since the truce was agreed in late 2018 but intense clashes broke out this week between forces loyal to the Houthi movement and those allied with Yemen's Saudi-backed government around al-Durayhimi city and the nearby town of Hais.

Saudi-Led coalition foils attack by Yemen's Houthis in the south of the Red Sea

The Saudi-Led coalition fighting in Yemen foiled an "imminent terrorist attack" by Iran-aligned Houthis in the south of the Red Sea, Saudi-owned AL-Arabiya TV said on Monday 5th. The coalition discovered and destroyed a remotely-controlled explosive-laden Houthi boat near Yemen's port district As-Salif, AL-Arabiya TV added.

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and WHO join forces with the Government of Yemen

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have joined forces with Yemen's Ministries of Health and Population as well as Planning and International Cooperation to provide emergency support to assist the country respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Built on Yemen's national strategy to counter COVID-19, the partnership aims to reduce the occurrence and to minimize morbidity and mortality rates of COVID-19 in Yemen by strengthening the operational capacity of 32 specialized COVID-19 treatment centres and the laboratory testing capacity of two medical universities in the country.

Saudi project clears 1,857 more mines in Yemen

The Saudi Project for Landmine Clearance (Masam) in Yemen dismantled 1 antipersonnel mine, 417 anti-tank mines, and 1,439 unexploded ordnance — totaling 1,857 mines — during the first week of October, once again highlighting the extreme risk to civilians during the conflict.

4 million displaced living in catastrophic conditions

The Houthi movement in Yemen stated on Friday 9th that four million displaced people live in dire humanitarian conditions in areas under its control. This came in a report issued by the Houthi Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (SCMCHA) and was published on the movement's official website. The report stated: "The number of displaced families has reached 606,000, increasing the total number of refugees by the end of last August to 4.1 million, who are dispersed in 15 Yemeni governorates."

Explosives-laden drone launched by Houthis intercepted

Houthi "terrorists" in Yemen launched a bomb-laden drone early Sunday 11th toward the southern Saudi city of Najran, but it was shot down, the Arab coalition command said. Colonel Turki AL-Maliki, spokesman of the coalition, said the drone was aimed at civilian targets in the city.

Yemeni Army Set to Recover Hazm City after Swift Military Advance

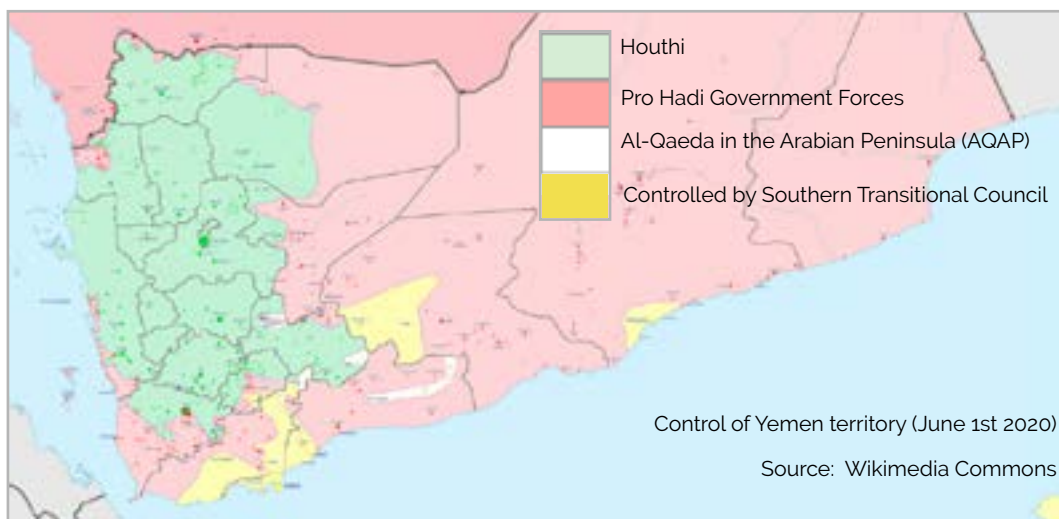
The Yemeni National Army made on Wednesday a significant progress on the fronts of al-Jawf governorate in northern Yemen in the fighting with Houthi militias for the second straight day. It earlier liberated a strategic camp east of al-Hazm, the provincial capital of Jawf, paving way for retaking the city, military sources told Asharq AL-Awsat on Oct. 8th.

Fears of AQAP attack prompt stricter security

Unspecified security forces in eastern Yemen's al Mahrah governorate reportedly announced that they are imposing increased security measures in the governorate's Shahan district on October 7. A Yemeni media outlet reported that security forces in the governorate banned locals from carrying weapons out of fear that al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) would carry out an attack in al Mahrah.

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

At least 11 people died, including eight women and three children, and seven others were rescued when a boat carrying refugees sank off southern Tunisia, officials said late on Sunday 11th. A police source said the boat carrying 27 people, all African nationals, sank off the coast of the port city of Sfax.

Canary Islands see new influx of African migrants

More than 1,000 migrants from Africa have arrived in the Spanish Canary Islands over the last 48 hours, the Red Cross says. These are figures that have not been seen for more than a decade. On a visit to the islands, Spain's Migration Minister José Luis Escrivá promised a "comprehensive response". This route from West Africa has grown in popularity since 2018. A previous peak, in 2006, saw 35,000 migrants arrive in the archipelago, the UN says.

EMSA's RPAS enhances maritime surveillance of the French Mediterranean Sea

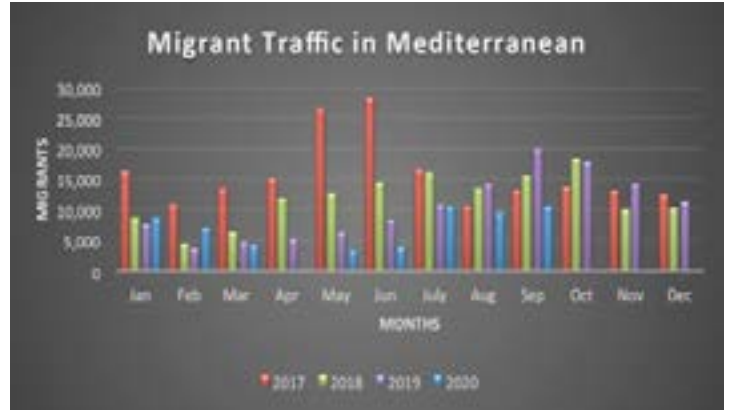
Aiming to test the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in enhancing the maritime awareness picture in the French Mediterranean Sea, Secrétariat Général de la Mer requested the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to set-up a multipurpose maritime surveillance operation, having the Navy (Marine Nationale) and customs (Douanes) as the strategic and tactical leaders of the operation.

Turkish ship at centre of Greece row to return to Mediterranean

The Turkish navy has said a research ship at the centre of an energy rights row with Greece will be sent back to disputed waters in the Mediterranean. Tensions flared in August when the vessel was sent to survey an area claimed by Greece, Turkey and Cyprus. Now, Ankara has said that the ship will again spend 10 days conducting seismic research in the eastern Mediterranean.

Moroccan Navy Rescues 231 Sub-Saharan Migrants

The Coast Guard of Morocco's Royal Navy rescued 231 sub-Saharan irregular migrants between October 6th-8th in the Mediterranean. The migrants were on board inflatable boats, kayas, Jet skis, and other makeshift means, a military source told state media on Thursday 8th.



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

The current migrant smuggling situation

Figures released by UNHCR this week show that September crossing figures increased by almost 1,000 over the previous month. As discussed last week, this may demonstrate laxer security at ports used by traffickers and militia, as well as a push before worsening weather conditions.

Turkey's activities in the region continue to cause concern among neighbouring states, with little action being taken by the EU. Turkey's importance as a NATO member places it in a politically sensitive position, as the US congratulates it on its efforts in Libya despite potentially damaging activity in the Mediterranean. A political solution to mineral rights in the region may happen, but the ongoing tensions make an immediate resolution unlikely.



Migrant statistics in the Mediterranean (Figures last updated on Oct. 13th 2020). Source: [UNHCR](#)



Libya

Bloomberg reported on Oct. 11th that Libya's NOC had lifted force majeure on the Sharara oil field, and instructed its operator to resume production, according to a statement on Sunday. The field is initially expected to produce around 40,000 barrels per day, before hitting full capacity of 300,000 bpd in ten days. The move presents an issue for OPEC+ as it attempts to curb global supplies.

Dozens of migrants held hostage in Libya

InfoMigrants reported on Monday 12th that an armed group in Libya is reported to have kidnapped 60 migrants — including two dozen children — about two weeks ago. They are holding them hostage in “appalling living conditions,” according to the latest statement from Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

Libyan government discovers 2 mass graves in Tarhuna

The Libyan government on Monday 12th said it had discovered two mass graves in the city of Tarhuna, 90 kilometers (56 miles) northeast of the capital Tripoli, likely left behind by forces of retreating warlord Khalifa Haftar. The General Authority for Research and Identification of Missing Persons said in a statement that “the first grave contains four corpses, where Authority’s teams are still working to exhume the bodies.”

UN urges Libyans to prioritise national interest in November talks

The UN’s Libya envoy on Monday 12th urged rival parties to place the national interest before political ambitions when they meet for talks next month aimed at ending a decade of bloodshed. The Tunis talks will begin on October 26 by video-conference, before continuing face-to-face in early November

Turkish military to train 120 Libyan soldiers

Turkey has started providing military training to 120 Libyan soldiers, Defense Ministry announced Monday 12th. The training is being conducted with the aim of bringing the Libyan Army up to international standards and being held in the Tajoura Joint Land Training and Exercise Center in Libya.

Egypt hosts UN-brokered Libyan peace talks

Egypt hosted on Sunday 11th a new round of negotiations between Libya’s two rival administrations represented in members of Libya’s Tobruk-based House of Representatives and the High Council of State. During the talks, sponsored by the United Nations, Director of Egypt’s General Intelligence Service Abbas Kamel reiterated Egypt’s commitment to the UN-led efforts for a peaceful settlement in Libya, Egypt’s official MENA news agency reported.

Libyan National Army Confirms Commitment to Sirte, Jufra Ceasefire

The Libyan National Army (LNA), commanded by Khalifa Haftar, declared its commitment to the ceasefire in the strategic central city of Sirte and al-Jufra. This announcement was met with Government of National Accord (GNA) forces going on alert after they accused the LNA of preparing to launch a new military offensive against three western cities, media outlets reported on Oct. 10th.

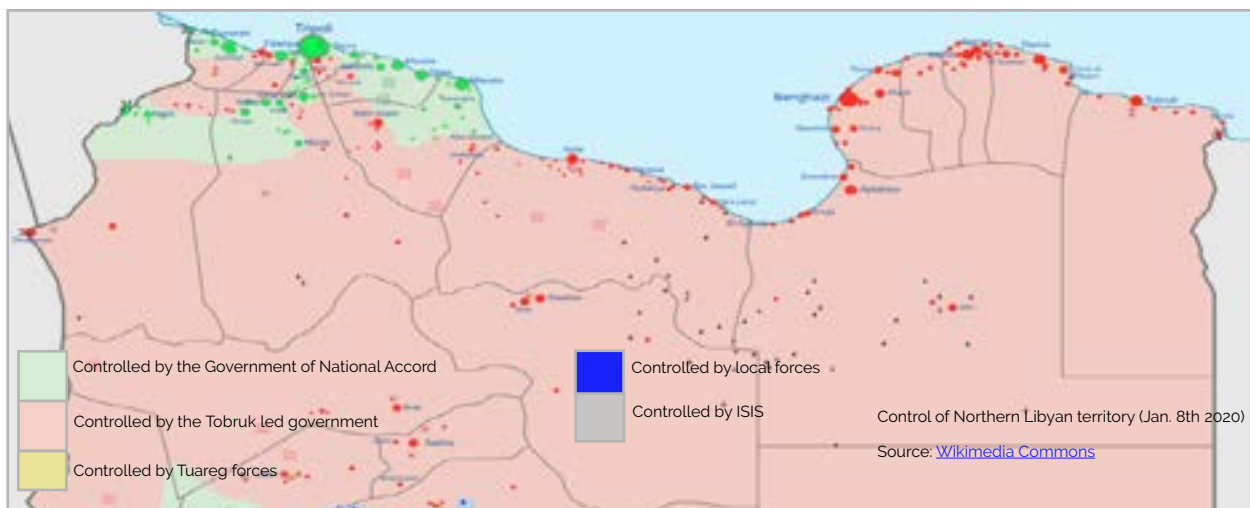
Kidnapped Indian hostages released in Libya

The authorities in eastern Libya announced the release of seven Indian hostages on Oct. 12th, who were kidnapped by a criminal gang in the area of Shwerf. The authorities indicated that the hostages arrived safely at the Oil Crescent Security Directorate in Brega last night, following negotiations with their captors which were successful.

‘Turkey plays key role in fostering dialogue in Libya’

The US ambassador to Libya praised Turkey on Thursday 8th for helping to foster UN-led political negotiations among Libyan representatives while noting that the coming weeks will decide their outcome. Despite multiple violations of a ceasefire in the country, Libya is on the brink of a new political consensus amid an ongoing conflict since April 2019 between the country’s legitimate authority and militias loyal to renegade commander Khalifa Haftar which has claimed thousands of lives.

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. Unnoticed, robbers boarded anchored Liberia-flagged container ship at 0700 UTC in position 04:44S - 011:46E, Pointe Noire North Anchorage, The Republic of Congo. Robbers stole ship's stores and escaped. Incident reported to Port Control. PRC relayed the message to Congo's Ministry of Transport. Patrol boats were dispatched to the location. Reported (IMB) 6th Oct. (Not shown on chart)

NIMASA DG makes curious claim about Somali pirates

The Director-General, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Bashir Jamoh, has suggested that Somali pirates are now active in Nigerian waters and the Gulf of Guinea, according to media reports on Oct. 12th. A statement by NIMASA spokesman, Philip Kyanet on Sunday, quoted the NIMASA DG as saying that the pirates often navigated through Nigeria's maritime boundaries, and sometimes came through the land borders.

Troops Rescue 5 Foreign Expatriates Kidnapped by Sea Pirates

On Oct. 7th, Nigerian Navy media reported that their forces had rescued three Russians, a Ukrainian and an Equatorial Guinean, kidnapped by pirates from the MT Rio Mitong and MT Djibloho on May 9th. Acting on credible intelligence a joint team from Forward Operating Base Bonny, Nigerian Navy Ship PATHFINDER and troops of 146 Battalion swiftly combed the creeks in search of the kidnapped victims. After a thorough search and rescue operation, the gallant troops raided 4 identified sea pirates/militants hideout at Ibiakafemo, Idinkiri, Tombie and Gboma.

USS Hershel Williams exercises with Nigerian Navy

The Expeditionary Sea Base USS Hershel "Woody" Williams

(ESB 4) conducted an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) demonstration, a fleet manoeuvre exercise, and an oil platform security and boarding exercise with the Nigerian Navy in the Gulf of Guinea between 29th September and 3rd October. The Nigerian Navy ships NNS Prosperity (P21), NNS Okpabana (F93), NNS Ekulu (P188), and NNS Nguru (P187) worked with Hershel "Woody" Williams and the Lagos-based Maritime Operations Centre to track vessels of interest and simulate interceptions and boardings off the Nigerian coast.

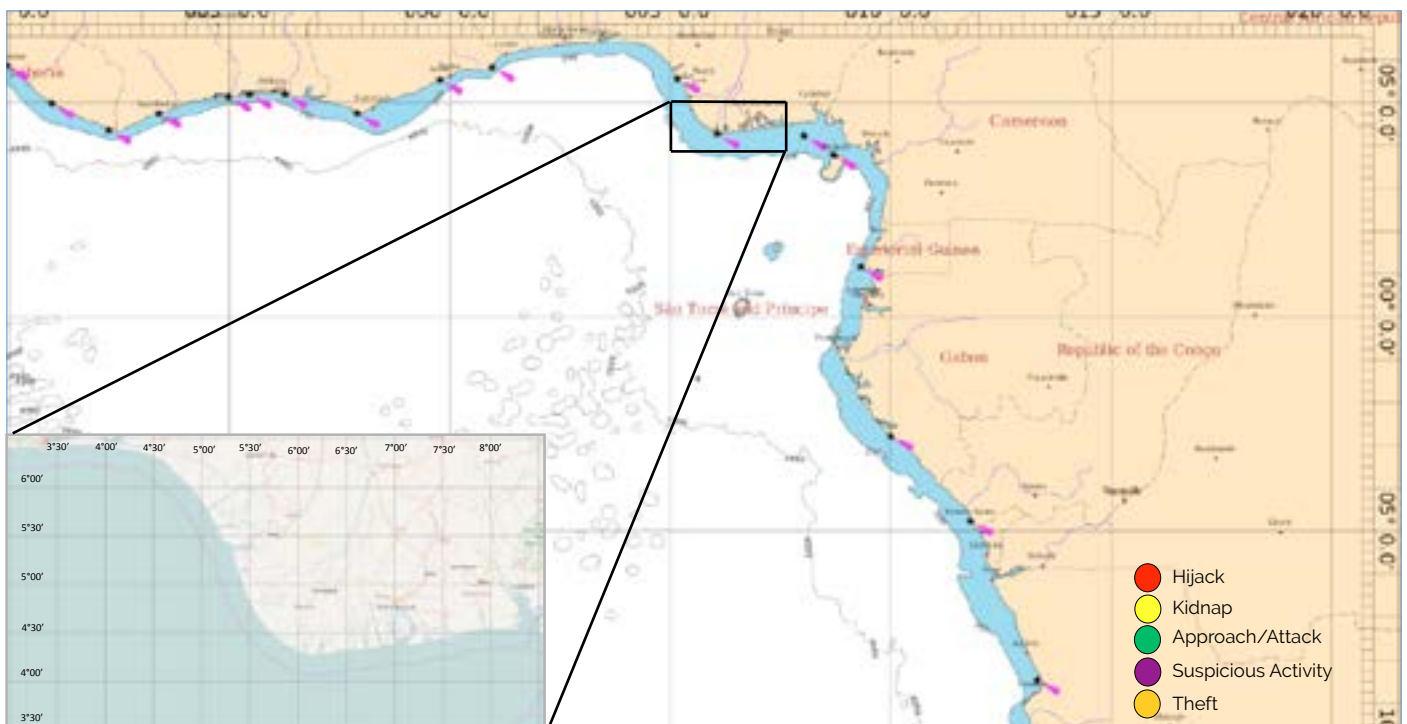
Nigeria, 15 Nations Holds Joint Military Operation in Gulf of Guinea

The Nigerian Navy on Wednesday 7th deployed six warships and 65 gunboats in a joint multinational maritime exercise comprising 16 foreign Navies from Europe, America and Africa. The participating countries are the U.S., France, Italy, Brazil and Gulf of Guinea countries, including Angola, Benin, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

NAF to Deploy Eight New Drones to Katsina, Zamfara, Gombe

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar, said on Oct. 8th that the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) would deploy newly acquired Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) otherwise known as drones to Katsina, Zamfara and Gombe states. He stated that about 70 personnel, who are to operate and maintain the UCAVs, had already been nominated for training in China.

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





South East Asia

A Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) member was arrested with two men identified as Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) bombers by the Philippine National Police (PNP). In a press briefing on Monday, Oct. 12th, PNP chief General Camilo Cascolan announced the arrest on Friday, October 9, of a certain PCG Apprentice Seaman Jailani Al-Rafee Sakandal, 31, in an operation in Zamboanga City by local, intelligence, and criminal investigation police.

Incidents:

1. Crew onboard underway Iran-flagged bulk carrier sighted three perpetrators at the stern of the ship, alerted Master at 0026 LT in position 01:16.42N - 104:13.92E, approx 7.2nm NW of Tanjung Tondang, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia (Eastbound TSS, SOMS). Perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. No confrontation between perpetrators and crew. A search was conducted onboard with no sighting of perpetrators. Nothing was stolen. Master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) and continued her voyage with no assistance required. Reported (ReCAAP) 11th Oct.

South China Sea situation remains 'volatile'

The situation in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) remains volatile due to "certain actions" of both China and the United States to protect their interests in the disputed waters, the country's military chief said on Tuesday 13th. "So we have seen aggressive actions on the part of China, you know from reclaiming the area and deploying you know, warships there, (Chinese) Coast Guards are very visible in that area and their maritime militias are there, they are practically swarming most of the areas in the West Philippine Sea and here comes the United States, of course, protecting their interest in maintaining sea lanes (of communications) open and free," said Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief-of-staff Gen. Gilbert Gapan in an online news conference.

Navy militias to patrol Philippine waters

The Philippine Navy is building up its own maritime militia force to keep an eye on the country's territorial waters. "These are our counterparts for Chinese maritime militia," said Navy Chief Vice Admiral Giovanni Carlo Bacordo at a Senate budget hearing on Monday 12th.

Malaysia detains Chinese vessels for 'trespassing in territorial waters'

Maritime authorities in Malaysia said they stopped six Chinese fishing vessels in Malaysian territorial waters on Saturday 10th, as Beijing increases its presence throughout the South China Sea. According to a statement, 60 Chinese nationals were detained during an operation off the eastern coast of Johor, the southern Malaysian state which borders Singapore, CNN reported.

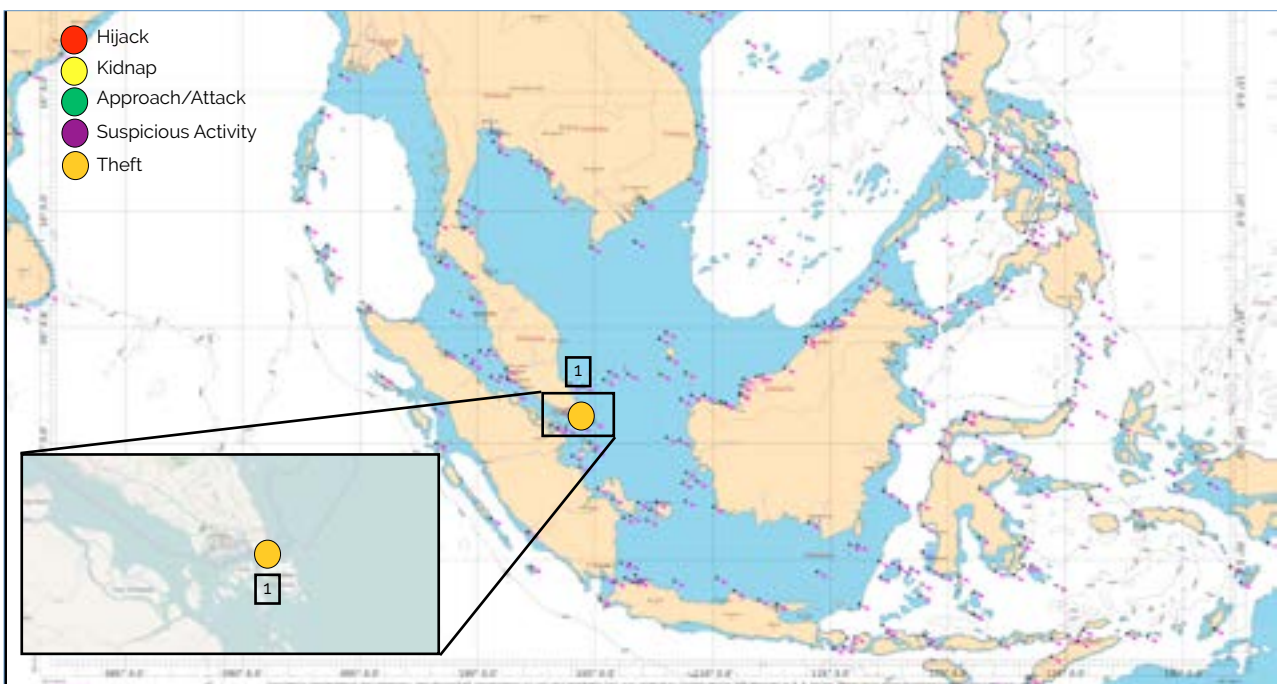
Indonesian suicide bomber, 2 Abu Sayyaf members nabbed in Jolo raid

Combined Philippine military and police forces arrested the young Indonesian female suicide bomber with two other female Abu Sayyaf members during the raid on Saturday 10th and recovered a bomb vest in a village of Jolo, Sulu, security officials said.

Japan sends three vessels to South China Sea in anti-submarine exercise

Japan's Maritime Self-defense Force conducted anti-submarine drills in the South China Sea on Oct. 9th, deploying three vessels including a helicopter aircraft carrier and a submarine, according to the Japanese defence ministry.

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



Central and South America

Nothing significant to report.

Incidents:

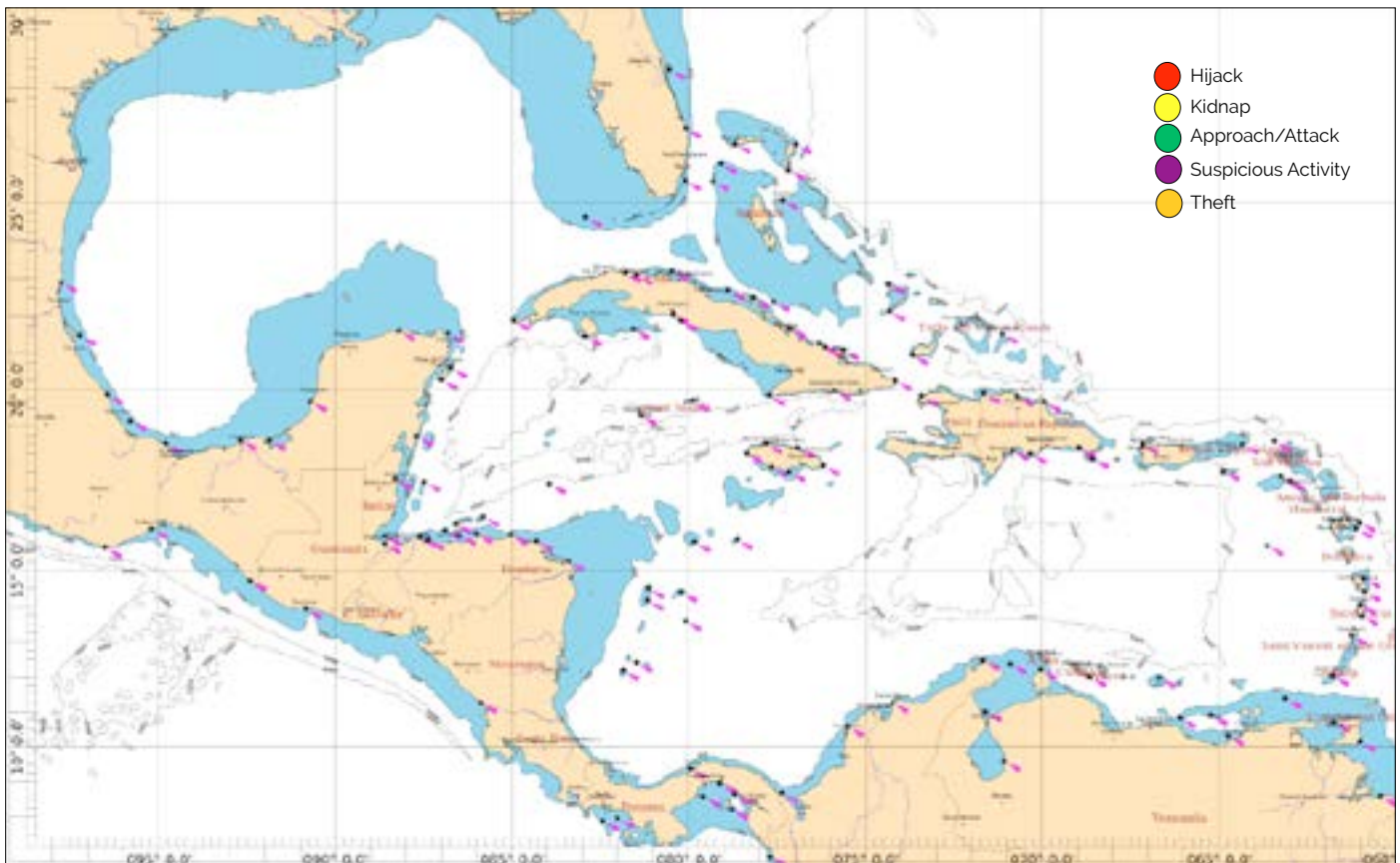
1. Three persons in a small fishing boat came alongside an anchored bulk carrier at 0320 UTC in position 00:00.88N – 051:00.04W, Macapa Anchorage, Brazil. Two of the robbers boarded and broke into the forecastle store. Alert OOW noticed the unauthorised persons on the forecastle and raised the alarm and sounded the ship's horn. Crew mustered. Seeing crew alertness, the robbers escaped without stealing anything. Reported (IMB) 8th Oct. *(Not shown on chart)*

2. Chief officer onboard an anchored bulk carrier noticed movement on the forecastle deck and instructed the bosun to check at 0930 UTC in position 12:00.59S – 077:13.26W, Callao Anchorage, Peru. As the bosun moved forward, he noticed armed robbers who threatened him with a gun and knife. The bosun retreated immediately and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers escaped. Incident reported to port control. On investigating, it was noticed that the robbers had boarded using a rope attached to a hook. Ships stores reported stolen. Reported (IMB) 5th Oct. *(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.