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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Issue 203 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.
Indian Ocean Region

Iran has told the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that three of its tankers have been attacked in the Red Sea this year, the Wall Street Journal reported on 6th Nov. The Wall Street Journal reported an Iranian letter to the IMO as saying, “We believe that this is an attack organised by one or more states, since two other Iranian flagged [very large] tankers were similarly attacked in the same approximate area” and with “similar damages to the ships.” There has been no independent confirmation of the incidents.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

US-led coalition launches operation to protect Gulf waters
A US-led naval coalition officially launched operations in Bahrain on Thursday 7th to protect shipping in the troubled waters of the Gulf, following a string of attacks that Washington and its allies blamed on Iran. The coalition, aimed at warding off the perceived threat to the world’s oil supply, has been in the making since June.

Pakistan Navy ships participate in Int’l Maritime Exercise
Ships of Pakistan Navy including Shamsheer, Muhafiz and P-3C have participated in the International Maritime Exercise. The exercise IMX-19 was conducted in the Arabian Sea, Oman Gulf and the Persian Gulf. According to Spokesperson of Pak Navy, the exercise was attended by representatives from over fifty countries and was aimed at improving professional capabilities and war skills.

Sri Lanka calls for Indian Ocean security architecture
Sri Lanka has called for an overarching security architecture tasked to mitigate regional security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region, giving priority to the littoral states and sensitive to the interests of all maritime users of the Indian Ocean.

Saudi Border Guards conduct major military exercise
Border Guards personnel took part in a major military and security training exercise on Friday 9th. The annual drill, organized by the Muhammad Bin Naif Academy for Maritime Science and Security Studies in Jeddah, included shooting with live ammunition, arrest techniques, and night ambush skills, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

UAE takes over the chair of IORA
Piracy, armed robbery, drug smuggling and human trafficking are some of the major challenges faced in the Indian Ocean waters, according to members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which the UAE is now chairing. Speaking at a Press conference on the sidelines of the 19th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) that concluded in Abu Dhabi on Thursday 8th. Khursheed Alam, secretary of the Bangladesh Ministry of Foreign Affairs and deputy secretary-general of the IORA, said almost 40,000 ships are passing through the waters of Indian Ocean daily.

India, Indonesia navies hold maritime exercises
Indian Navy’s anti-submarine warship “INS Kamorta” has held a joint maritime exercise with Indonesian warship “KRI Usman Harun”, a multi-role ship, as part of the India–Indonesia bilateral exercise “Samudra Shakti” in the Bay of Bengal, said Indian naval sources on Thursday 8th.

Iran confirms downing of drone near southwestern port
A drone has been shot down above the Iranian port of Mahshahr in the country’s south on the shores of the Persian Gulf, the ISNA news agency reported. It’s unclear at the moment from the report whether the unmanned aerial aircraft (UAV) was a military or civil one.

To see MAST’s services in the Indian Ocean Region, please click here.
Somali government 'shocked' by ex-president’s remarks
The Federal Government has responded to remarks by former President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, in which he threatened to remove the government by force if it does not respect the law. Somalia’s Minister of Information, Mohamed Abdi Mareye, who spoke hours after Sharif’s press conference in Mogadishu said that the federal government was shocked by the remarks by the former president.

Villagers cut off in southern Somalia’s Middle Shabelle region
At least 1,000 families have been left without anything after floods from River Shabelle washed away crops on their farms in villages near the town of Mahaday, in southern Somalia’s Middle Shabelle region. Abdullahi Yusuf Hussein, the chief of Burfu village, six km from Mahaday town, told Radio Ergo that the floods had cut off 43 villages.

Leaders fear Galmudug-Somalia federal govt row could escalate
Galmudug officials have accused the Somalia federal government of attempting to impose its will on the state. Politicians in Somalia say the government’s decision to “cancel” a power-sharing agreement with moderate militia group Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama’ah (ASWJ) is a threat to the 2021 general election.

Al Shabaab targets local government
Al Shabaab militants assassinated the Deputy Governor of Lower Shabelle region, Omar Arabey, and two of his bodyguards at his residence in Afgoi town in Lower Shabelle region in southern Somalia on Nov. 6th. Somali security forces guards at his residence in Afgoi town in Lower Shabelle region. Omar Arabey, and two of his bodyguards at his residence in Afgoi town in Lower Shabelle region.

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.

Somalia Deferrrs Licencing of Offshore Oil Acreage
The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has pushed back plans to licence offshore acreage in an exercise originally slated to kick off on 7th Nov. but now delayed until the end of the year. Plans will be announced in December by when officials anticipate the new Petroleum Law, currently before the Upper House, will have been passed into law, according to Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Abdirashid Mohamed Ahmed.

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Al Shabaab attacks Kenyan, Somali soldiers in Lower Juba
Al Shabaab fighters attacked Kenyan and Somali state forces in Qoqani village, outside Afmadow town of Lower Jubba Region. Al Shabaab propaganda websites report that the attack happened Midnight on 9th Nov.

ISIS and Al Shabaab militants executed in Somalia’s Puntland
Five men convicted of being members of Al Shabaab and Islamic State groups were publicly executed by firing squad in northeastern Somalia’s Puntland State on Thursday 8th, Ga Brew Online reported.

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Galmudug officials have accused the Somalia federal government of attempting to impose its will on the state. Politicians in Somalia say the government’s decision to “cancel” a power-sharing agreement with moderate militia group Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jama’ah (ASWJ) is a threat to the 2021 general election.

Control of Somali territory (March 2017) Source: Wikimedia Commons

Under control of Al Shabaab and allies
Under control of neutral forces
Under control of Government and allies
Somali government
Territory disputed by Puntland and Somaliland

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, although AMISOM forces will withdraw some time in 2019. 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 BMP5s 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 (Ihra).
Yemen's rebels will have a role in their country's future, a minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has said, voicing optimism that a recent peace deal between the government and southern separatists could lead to a wider political solution to years of war. The comments on Sunday 10th were the latest conciliatory move in the long-running Yemen conflict after the Iran-aligned Houthis offered in September to halt attacks on Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia opens back channel with Houthi rebels
Riyadh is negotiating with the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, in an attempt to end the war in Yemen, an official from Saudi Arabia told AFP. This comes a few weeks after the Houthis halted their attack on Saudi Arabia. It is attempting to negotiate a wider peace deal in the country with the United Arab Emirates' backing. Anwar Gargesh, UAE's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, expressed optimism that the power sharing agreement could lead to a more permanent political solution in Yemen.

Yemen's warring parties swap 20 prisoners
The Yemeni government and its foe Houthi rebels exchanged 20 prisoners through a tribal mediation on Monday 11th, a government military official said. ‘A total of 10 soldiers and 10 rebels were set free,’ Yahya al-Hasir, head of the prisoners committee, told Xinhua.

Leaked footage shows US weapons in terrorist hands
Leaked footage purports to show weapons, including a US-made vehicle, being transferred to the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen amid reports of gear falling into the hands of extremist militias in defiance of US arms agreements. Filmed secretly in Yemen at the Saudi-controlled port of Aden, the footage claims to show the unloading of a fresh arms shipment for the coalition in late October, including the familiar outline of an American-made Oshkosh armored vehicle, also known as an MRAP.

EU approves over $87m humanitarian aid
The European Commission yesterday pledged €79 million ($87.4 million) in aid to support Yemen, where the five-year-old conflict has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The package will help Yemeni communities sustain public services, such as health care and education, and will also stimulate the private sector, aiming to develop livelihood opportunities in a country where the economy has halted, according to media reports.

MSF suspends activity in Mocha after attack
International medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) suspended its activities in Yemen’s port city of Mocha on Thursday 7th after its clinic was attacked. “A hospital run by MSF was damaged after an attack on nearby buildings in Mocha,” the group said in a statement on Twitter. “No staff or patients were injured in the attack, but medical activities are currently suspended,” it said.

President Hadi meets separatist leader after deal
Yemen’s President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi met the head of the Southern Transitional Council on Thursday 7th, in their first meeting since his Saudi-backed government and the separatists signed an agreement to end a power struggle in the south.

US offers rewards for terror suspects
The US Department of State offered rewards totaling ten million US dollars for information on two senior al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) officials on Nov. 7th. The US offered six million dollars for information on Sa’ad bin Atef al Awlaki, AQAP’s emir of Shabwah governorate in southern Yemen. The US also offered four million dollars for information on Ibrahim Ahmed Mahmoud al Qosi, a veteran al Qaeda operative and former Guantanamo Bay detainee who joined AQAP after his 2012 release.

Yemen fuel crisis takes heavy toll on agriculture
A fuel crisis in Yemen which has forced motorists to queue for days to fill their tanks is also having devastating consequences for agricultural land and crop yields, politicians and experts warn. Majeed Al-Mutawakel, deputy minister for agriculture and irrigation in the Houthi administration, said that “more than 50 per cent of the agriculture sector in Yemen has been affected” by the latest crisis, which has entered its seventh week in a number of governorates.

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.
Migrant crossings 2016-2019. Source: UNHRC

Mediterranean
Malta’s armed forces have started cooperating with Libya’s coastguard to turn back migrant boats heading into Malta’s search and rescue zone, a local newspaper and Reuters reported on Sunday 10th, citing a secret government deal. The government declined to comment directly on the report in the Sunday Times of Malta, but told Reuters the Mediterranean state had been working with the Libyan coastguard for many years and always operated within the law.

Turkey stops truck carrying 82 migrants bound for Europe
Turkey on Monday 11th seized 82 migrants in the back of a truck in the coastal town of Ayvacik. A video released by the Turkish gendarmerie showed soldiers opening the doors to the back of the truck revealing people inside. News agency IHA said the migrants were from Afghanistan and hoping to travel to Europe by sea. They sent to repatriation centres for deportation.

UNHCR welcomes release of illegal immigrants from Libyan detention centre
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Thursday 8th welcomed the release of more than 100 illegal immigrants and refugees from a detention center in the Libyan capital of Tripoli. “UNHCR welcomes the release of 100+ refugees and migrants that took place early this week from Triq alSikka detention center,” the UNHCR in Libya tweeted.

Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 89,997 in 2019; Deaths Reach 1,090
IOM reports that 89,997 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea through 6th Nov., roughly an 11 per cent decrease from the 101,185 arriving during the same period last year. Arrivals this year to Greece and Spain are at 48,804 and 22,339, respectively, (71,143 combined) accounting for about 79 per cent of the regional total, with the balance arriving in much smaller numbers to Italy, Malta and Cyprus. Arrivals to Greece are running approximately 75 per cent ahead of 2018’s totals from this time. Arrivals to Spain are more than 50 per cent lower.

Migrant crossings 2016-2019. Source: UNHCR

The current migrant smuggling situation
Very little change has been noted in the past week, although we note a small drop in crossing attempts from Libya, much focus has been placed on reported deals between Libya and states like Italy and Malta regarding returning migrant vessels to Libyan waters. Figures for October show that this year, crossings were at a slightly lower level than in 2018, although the trend continues to show a worrying increase as winter approaches and crossings become significantly more perilous. Despite calls from NGOs and other agencies, there are still no plans to increase patrols in the Med in order to rescue migrants at sea. As weather worsens and sea states become more dangerous, we anticipate an increase in mortality rates.
UNHCR: More than 300 thousand people displaced in Libya
The UNHCR disclosed on Monday 11th that the number of people who have fled their homes because of armed clashes in Libya has amounted to more than 300 thousand people. “More than 44,000 illegal immigrants and asylum seekers are registered with UNHCR in Libya,” the UNHCR added.

Libya plans to launch vast reconstruction program with int’l support
Libya is preparing to launch a comprehensive reconstruction program with the support of several international organizations including the World Bank, said Libyan Minister of Planning Taher Al-Juhaimi on Monday 11th. Speaking at the first Libyan investment economic forum held in Morocco’s capital Rabat, Al-Juhaimi said the Libyan government is reviewing its five-year development plan by redefining the priorities of some 4,000 projects worth around 100 billion U.S. dollars.

Russia throws more weight behind Haftar in Libya
After some equivocation, Moscow is now reportedly throwing its weight more fully behind Libya’s Khalifa Haftar in his attempt to overthrow the United Nations-backed Tripoli government of Fayez al-Sarraj. About 200 highly trained and well-armed Russian fighters recently entered the battle for control of Tripoli, according to The New York Times, quoting United States intelligence sources. The battle has raged since 4th April when Haftar launched a major offensive against the capital. The Russian troops are all evidently mercenaries from the private military company Wagner, which is rumoured to be controlled by President Vladimir Putin, the Institute for Strategic Studies wrote on Nov. 11th.

Libya’s oil, gas revenues up 21 pct in October
State-owned National Oil Corporation (NOC) of Libya Sunday said that the country’s oil and gas revenues in October have increased by 21 percent from September. The NOC reported that in October 2019, the revenues reached approximately 2.2 billion U.S. dollars, it said in a statement, Xinhau reported on Nov. 10th.

Libya urges US to help end conflict as Russian role grows
The security chief for Libya’s U.N.-backed government accused Russia of fueling a months-long war to extend its influence over the strategic oil producer, and called on the U.S. to step up efforts to resolve the conflict, Bloomberg reported on Nov. 9th.

UN report finds Jordan, Turkey, UAE violated Libya arms embargo
Jordan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates have regularly violated the UN arms embargo imposed on Libya since 2011, according to a confidential report by UN experts seen on Thursday 7th by AFP. The three countries “routinely and sometimes blatantly supplied weapons with little effort to disguise the source,” a summary of a year-long study by UN experts said.

Russia denies presence of “mercenaries” fighting for Haftar in Libya
The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov has denied the presence of Russian mercenaries on Tripoli frontlines fighting for Khalifa Haftar’s forces. “I categorically refute speculations of this kind. We are acting in the interest of the Libyan settlement, we are supporting the existing effort, including through the United Nations; we maintain a dialogue with those who somehow influence the situation.” Ryabkov said, according to Sputnik.

Former US envoy to Libya says seized Russian-printed dinars is an opportunity to reform Libya’s civil war economy
Former US envoy to Libya Jonathan Winer has said that the seizure of Russian-printed dinars by the Maltese authorities highlights an opportunity to reform Libya’s civil war economy, and would assist the Government of National Accord (GNA) in countering Haftar’s attack on Tripoli.

To read MAST’s Libyan Country report on MASTOPEDIA, please click here.
Mrs Genevieve Darrieussecq, the Secretary of State to the French Minister for the Armed Forces, has advocated for concerted efforts to address the challenges of maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. She said concerted efforts were needed to carry out a decisive work to combat the scourges that threaten safety at sea, which was an indispensable work for the development of the West Africa sub-region. Mrs. Darrieussecq made the appeal in Accra at the G7++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea Group (G7++FoGG) 2019 summit.

Incidents:
1. Duty officer onboard berthed Panama-flagged bulk carrier noticed four unauthorised persons onboard the vessel at 0205 UTC in position 30:25.55N - 009:38.88W, Silos Terminal, Agadir Port, Morocco. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew the persons escaped. On searching the vessel nothing reported stolen. Reported (IMB) 8th Nov. (Not shown on chart.)

2. Armed persons in a skiff approached and fired upon under-way Bahamas-flagged tanker at 0015 UTC in position 01:13.60N - 006:09.60E, around 57nm NNW of Sao Tome Island, Sao Tome and Principe. Alarm raised, tanker increased speed and commenced evasive manoeuvres. Fire pump activated, and four parachute rockets discharged. Due to the actions of the Master and crew, the skiff aborted and moved away. The tanker and crew safe. Reported (IMB/MDAT) 7th Nov.

3. Three persons armed with guns and knives boarded an anchored Greece-flagged product tanker at 0240 UTC in position 05:58.13N - 001:15.42E, Lome anchorage, Togo. Armed attackers shot one armed guard in his leg. They entered into the accommodation and tried to force their way into the captain’s cabin, but were unsuccessful. Alarm raised and SSAS activated. Once the armed persons left the tanker a headcount was taken and four crew members were reported missing. Togo Navy boarded the vessel for investigation.. Reported (IMB/MDAT) 4th Nov.

TF Calls for Action on Gulf of Guinea Piracy
Following back-to-back attacks on two vessels in the Gulf of Guinea, the International Transport Worker Federation has called for urgent global and regional cooperation to fight piracy off West Africa. “Alarmingly, the frequency and severity of attacks on vessels in the Gulf of Guinea is increasing, with a spate of recent kidnappings and ruthless acts of violence in recent months. The entire maritime industry urgently needs to take action to improve prevention, reporting and response to attacks across the Gulf,” said ITF seafarers’ section chair David Heindel.

We’re engaging security agencies to secure waterways – NIWA
The Managing Director of the Nigeria Inland Waterway Authority (NIWA) Dr George Muoghalu, said the authority is engaging security agencies, especially the Nigerian Navy to play the expected role of ensuring that the waterways are secured and safe for use. He also said the Authority was working hard to ensure that the 10000 kilometers waterways are all year round navigated.

Benin scales up piracy preventing measures in Cotonou port
Benin’s government on Wednesday 6th announced scaled up protection, security and safety measures for hovering vessels in the Cotonou port. The measures include the “provision of an armed protection squad on board”, according to a government release made public Wednesday night. ‘The presence of the squad is going to prevent any attempts of piracy and to alert operating centers’, the release also said.

NEITI: Nigeria lost $42bn to oil theft in 10 years
The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) has raised the alarm that in the last 10 years, crude oil and refined products worth the sum of $42 billion were stolen from the country.

To see MAST Services in the region, please click here. And and to read Nigeria’s country report, please click here.
Incidents:

1. During security rounds, crew onboard berthed Singapore-flagged tanker noticed one unknown person trying to board the tanker using a grappling hook at 1900 UTC in position 03:47.20N - 098:41.80E, Belawan Port, Indonesia. Upon being noticed, the person escaped. Incident reported to Port Authority. Reported (IMB) 7th Nov.

2. Six persons in two speed boats approached underway Vietnam-flagged product tanker at 1148 UTC in position 01:12.60N - 103:34.30E, Singapore Straits. Duty crew noticed the persons attempting to board the tanker and raised the alarm. Master increased the speed and took evasive manoeuvres resulting in the persons aborting the boarding attempt. Reported (IMB) 5th Nov.

Vietnam drops a legal gauntlet in South China Sea
Vietnam has signaled it may take China to international arbitration over their South China Sea disputes, a move that would inevitably exacerbate Hanoi’s maritime tensions with Beijing and shift its stance more closely in line with the United States. Deputy Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung, speaking at a conference in Hanoi, said last week that Vietnam was considering alternative measures apart from bilateral dialogue, including ‘mediation, negotiation, arbitration and litigation measures.”

Sabah police looking into deaths of family of six, all believed shot
Sabah police are looking into the deaths of a family of six, all believed shot to death in a boat on their way to the southern Philippines from Semporna district on Nov 6th. State police commissioner Datuk Omar Mammah said in the case, the six, including children and adults, were heading to the southern Philippines when they were believed to have ran into the gun-men. He said the shooters, their identities or motives yet to be ascertained, killed the six undocumented people on board the small vessel.

Philippine Coast Guard gets new fast boat from Japan
The Philippine Coast Guard received a new 15-meter fast boat from the Japanese government Monday (11th) morning. Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Koji Haneda turned over the speedboat to PCG Commandant Vice. Adm. Joel Garcia.

Philippines: Soldier, 7 Militants Killed in Weekend Clashes
A soldier and seven suspected Filipino militants allegedly linked to the Islamic State (IS) were killed in weekend clashes in the southern Philippine province of Maguindanao, military officials said on Monday 11th. A firefight erupted on Friday 8th near the town of Mamasapano, when troops under the 33rd Infantry Battalion and police commandos encountered a group of militants under Abu Turaife, leader of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), according to regional military chief Maj. Gen. Diosdado Carreon.

Philippines foils suicide bombing plot in southern province
The Philippine military has intercepted a suicide bombing plot in the southern Philippines, killing three suspected militants. The three suspected individuals aboard a motorcycle towards Jolo town, Sulu province were sighted by the army troops who tried to stop them for checking. The suspects fired at the soldiers, who fought back and killed the three.

To see MAST’s services in the region, please click here.
Central and South America

In recent years, Mexico's state oil company Pemex has been weakened by hundreds of cuts, as low-level robbers illegally tapped oil lines snaking through remote areas, a practice that's become known as huachicoleo. Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's (AMLO) has made ending fuel theft a centerpiece of his strategy to boost the output of NOC Pemex, pressing the military into service to monitor and prevent those participating, or huachicoleros. In 3Q19, there have been clear signs of success. In September, AMLO reported in his first address to congress that fuel robbery has fallen by 94% over a year.

Incidents: Nothing significant to report.

Pirates attacked Italian supply ship, two crew wounded, Mexico

Italian offshore supply ship REMAS with 35 people on board was attacked by some 7-8 armed pirates in two fast boats on Nov. 11th, in Gulf pf Mexico, North of Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico. Pirates boarded the ship, in following skirmish two crew, both Italians, were wounded, but luckily, wounds aren't life threatening. Pirates managed to loot the ship and the crew, and fled. Injured seamen were transferred to hospital. REMAS moved to Ciudad del Carmen anchorage and anchored. There has been no official report of the incident so far.

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