

Piracy & Robbery At Sea

December 2012



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Summary

December Deficit

Continuing the overall downward trend in pirate attacks and robbery at sea across all HRAs over the last quarter of 2012, December reports indicate that one hijack and twenty attacks and robberies occurred, with South America seeing no activity reported.

A boat and a fully loaded Olympus 99 oil barge were hijacked by pirates in Nenek Strait, Batam, Riau Islands.

Both crews were then marooned on an island. The hijackers changed the names of both boats before they were apprehended by Batam Marine personnel and Riau Islands Water Police 15 hours

later [Jakarta Post](#). 11 pirates were arrested. A further ten incidents occurred in the region. The Merlion Dau (pictured) was boarded by eight pirates but were arrested by MMEA but only after they had killed the ships' watch dog and injured three crew.

The Gulf of Guinea waters suffered eight reported attacks this month. Once more, attacks and approaches were mentioned but under-reporting, unfortunately, prevails according to sources in the region. There is great concern over the number of kidnapping incidents that occurred during three attacks. At least 12 people were said to have been taken hostage, not including the six people



from Hyundai Heavy who were released following a ransom payment.

In the Horn of Africa/Indian Ocean Region two incidents stand out. Pirates boarding a Danish tanker but unable to take control of the ship as the crew were secure in a safe room, before a Danish warship arrived to release them; the pirates had escaped. The second incident was an odd occurrence, to say the least. Police and soldiers from Puntland assigned to guard a North Korean ship held for illegal dumping of cargo, was first

'hijacked' by 4 soldiers, who beat the Chief Engineer. Although shots were fired, no one was hurt. It was believed a pirate gang had paid them to hijack the ship, however, the soldiers rejoined the police and returned

the vessel to Bossaso before being replaced.

The Numbers:

HoA/IOR – 2 Incidents; 6 Approaches

W Africa – 8 Incidents; 1 Approach

Asia – 10 Incidents; 1 Hijack

S America – Nil Incidents

Situational mapping in the following pages indicate the approximated positions of recorded incidents, wherever possible. (Note: NS = Not Shown).

The maps used in this report are for illustrative purposes only. They are not necessarily to scale, and do not imply the opinion on the part of OCEANUSLive concerning the status of any country or territory, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.





Horn of Africa/IOR



Fig 1: Horn of Africa/Indian Ocean Region

HoA/IOR Piracy and Robbery At Sea – December 2012

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location (Type of Incident)
1	8 Dec			Suspicious Activity – Dhow & 2 skiffs
2	15 Dec	Agistri	Liberia Tanker	Approach - dhow launched skiff NE of Muscat, Oman; Weapons seen; Crew in citadel; AST Fired Warning Shots
3	15 Dec	Torm Kristina	Denmark Crude Oil Tanker	NE of Muscat, Oman (Attack, boarded; crew in Citadel/Rescue by Danish Navy)
4	18 Dec	Dae San	N Korea General Cargo	Bossaso anchorage, Somalia (Hijack by Soldiers/Returned to anchorage)
5	20 Dec	Tsurumi	Panama Tanker	Approach – Skiff South of Bandar e Jask, Iran; Weapons & RPG seen; Helo dispatched
6	21 Dec	UNK MV		Approach – 2 skiffs ESE of Muscat, Oman chased for 1.5 hours
7	27 Dec	UNK MV		Approach – 2 skiffs chased MV. Flares fired
8	27 Dec	UNK MV		Approach – 2 skiffs chased MV; AST Fire Warning Shots
9	30 Dec			Approach – 2 skiffs followed MV, Flares fired.





West Africa

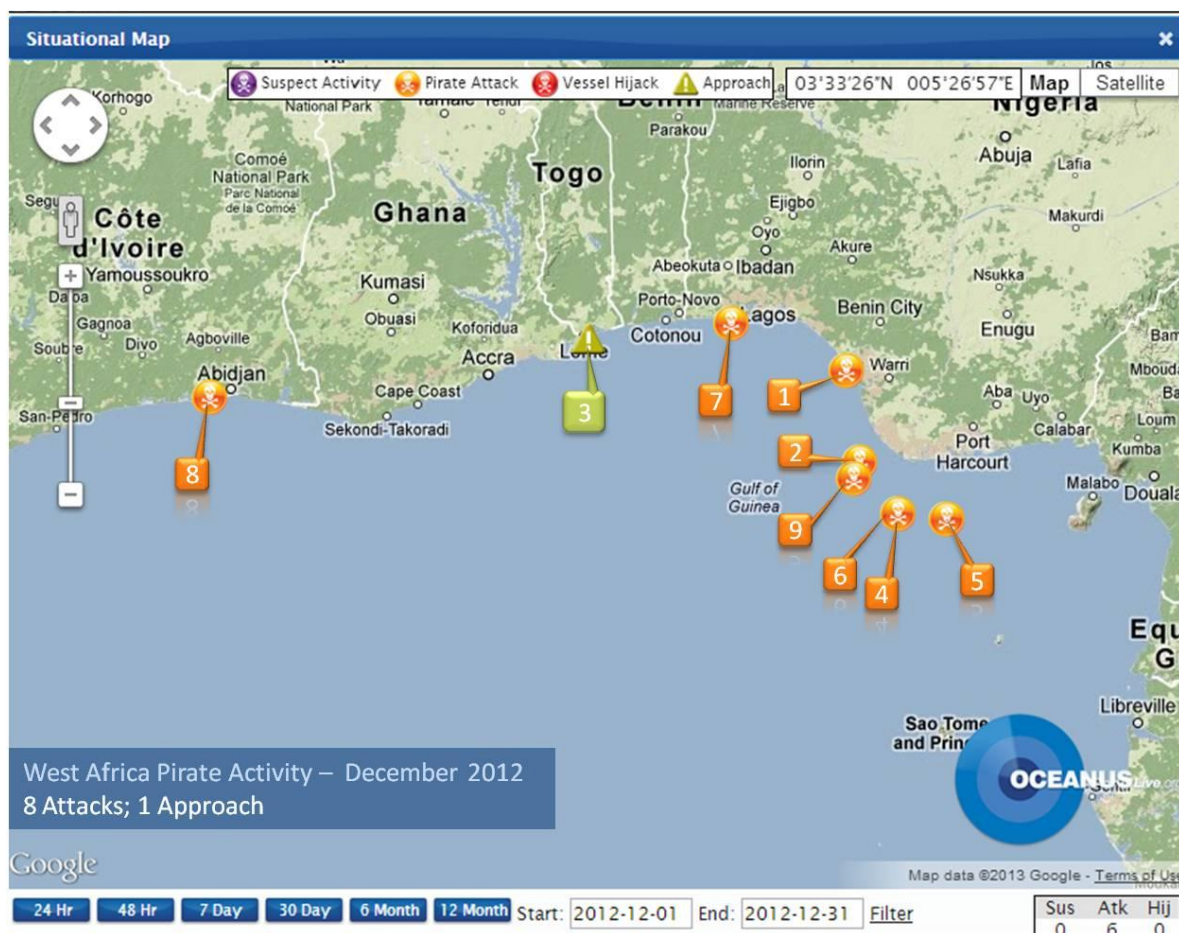


Fig 2: West Africa

West Africa Piracy and Robbery At Sea – December 2012

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location (Type of Incident)
1	9 Dec	Gertrude	Rig Spt Vessel	SW of Ajapa Oil Field, Nigeria (
2	10 Dec	PM Salem	Honduras OSV	SW offshore Bayelsa, Nigeria (Attack)
3	11 Dec	Faouet	Luxembourg Product Tanker	Approach – Lome anchorage, Togo (2 approaches)
4	17 Dec	WAO Brass	Nigeria Crew Boat	SSW of Cape Formoso, Nigeria (Attack/3 Kidnapped)
5	17 Dec	SP Brussels	Marshall Island Chemical Tanker	Off Pennington terminal, Nigeria (Attack/5 Kidnapped)
6	17 Dec	Janice 1	Supply Ship	SSW of Cape Formoso, Nigeria (Attack)
7	21 Dec	Manon	Malta tanker	Lagos anchorage, Nigeria (Attempt)
8	23 Dec	Madonna 1	Panama Chemical Tanker	Abidjan anchorage, Ivory Coast (Boarded/Attempt Hijack/Crew Assaulted)
9	23 Dec	Asso Ventuno	Italy OS Tug	Off Bayelsa, Nigeria, Nigeria (Attack/4 Kidnapped)





Southeast Asia



Fig 3: South East Asia

South East Asia Piracy and Robbery At Sea – December 2012

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location (Type of Incident)
1	1 Dec	Triton Lark	Panama Bulk Carrier	Balikpapan Outer anchorage, Indonesia (Attempted Boarding)
2	5 Dec	K Neptune	Panama Bulk Carrier	Belawan Roads, Indonesia (Robbery)
3	7 Dec	Puteri	Mongolai Tanker	S of Tanjung Pelapas, Malaysia (Robbery/Crew in E/R 3 Tugs Assist)
4	8 Dec	Kore	Russia Chemical Tanker	Belawan Roads, Indonesia (Attempted Boarding)
5	10 Dec	Luminous Halo	Panama Bulk Carrier	Taboneo anchorage, Indonesia (Robbery)
6	11 Dec	Merlion Dua	St Kitts & Nevis Tanker	S of Tanjung Stapa, Pengerang, Johor, Malaysia (Robbery/8 Pirates Arrested by MMEA)
7	14 Dec	Loreto	Indonesia Bulk Carrier	Nantong Working anchorage, China (Attempted Robbery)
8	20 Dec	Clipper Karen	Bahamas Chemical Tanker	Belawan anchorage, Indonesia (Robbery)
9	29 Dec	Sanko Mercury	Liberia Bulk Carrier	Taboneo anchorage, Indonesia (Robbery)
10	29 Dec	Nord Discovery	Panama Bulk Carrier	Taboneo anchorage, Indonesia (Board/Failed Robbery)





11	31 Dec	Unknown	Tug & Barge	Nenek Strait, Batam, Indonesia (Hijack/Crew Marooned/Pirates Arrested)
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South America

Fig 4. – South America

South America Piracy and Robbery At Sea – December 2012

Serial	Date	Vessel Name	Flag/Type	Location (Type of Incident)
No incidents reported				





Miscellaneous

AFTER celebrating Christmas with their families, the two Italian Marines, facing murder charges in Kerala, were expected to return to the State complying with the High Court directive - [The Hindu Business Line](#).

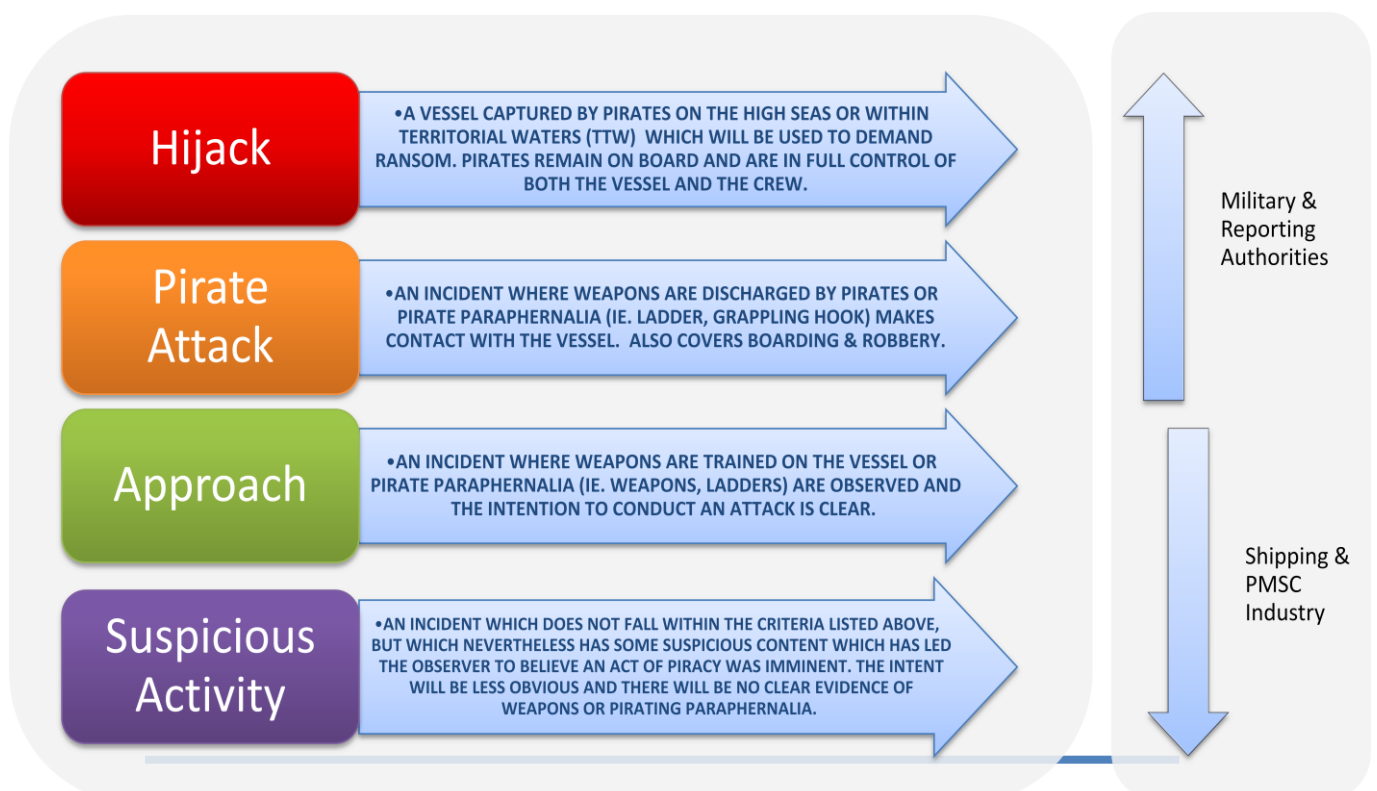
A complex legal process now lies ahead, as Rome insists the marines should be prosecuted in their home country because the events involve an Italian-flagged vessel in international waters; India, however, says the incident took place in its waters. Indeed, the dispute is no more over the facts of the case, but over who has trial jurisdiction.

As Michael G Frodl argues in the expert analysis seen in his weekly C-Level Maritime Risk round up; Putting aside face-saving considerations on both sides, and looking at deeper policy implications even without waiting for the results of the upcoming trial, this ruling [Kerala does not have jurisdiction] is a defeat for Italy and other European states that have passed legislation to protect their active duty military "ride ons" who protect private ships. It is a serious warning that the current military protection system of ride-ons is broken and cannot withstand outside judicial scrutiny.

Being in uniform obviously does NOT protect them from prosecution - a Status of Forces Agreement would have, but Italy did not have one in place with India - nor do any of the other EU states for that matter. The EU military have no real protections when riding merchant vessels to ward off pirates - it's a legal mess. And has implications for private maritime security.

See [C-Level](#) Maritime Risks website to contact Michael.

Definitions





Acknowledgements

International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre;
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NATO Shipping Centre (NSC);
Op Oceanshield (on Twitter/Facebook);
ReCAAP ISC;
EU Naval Force (EUNAVFOR);
C-Level Maritime Risk;
OCEANUSLive Crowdsourced Information.

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