The Human Cost of Maritime Piracy 2012

www.oceansbeyondpiracy.org

Primary Findings:

- More seafarers were subjected to attacks and boardings by West African Piracy than by Somalia-based piracy
- All hostages still held in Somalia are considered High Risk (The average period for those still held exceeds 2 years)
- Piracy is of equal concern for seafarers in both East and West Africa
- Long-term effects of piracy on seafarers and their families can be significant
- Despite gains made, not all seafarers have benefited from seafarer welfare initiatives
- Lack of information has prevented a comprehensive picture of the human cost of piracy

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This third OBP-sponsored report analyzes the human cost of maritime piracy in four parts. **Part 1** discusses the human cost of Somali Piracy, while **Part 2** discusses the threat of piracy to seafarers in the waters off the coast of West Africa. In **Part 3**, the report examines the long-term psychological & financial difficulties faced by seafarers following attacks and periods of time spent in captivity. Lastly, **Part 4** discusses the challenges caused by a lack of comprehensive information.

ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN COST OF SOMALI PIRACY

851 Seafarers Attacked by **Somali** Pirates with Firearms (down 78% from 2011)

381 Seafarers on Vessels Boarded by Somali Pirates (down 61% from 2011)

349 Seafarers Taken Hostage in 2012 (down 37% from 2011)

17 Taken Captive/ Kidnapped and Held for Ransom on shore (Available data doesn't share duration of captivity)

Hostages held Average of **11** months

+ **240** Hostages Remaining from 2010 & 2011 = **589** Total Hostages Held in 2012

> "I was anxious. When they hit the fifth month, I was very nervous because the captivity was already too long. Around that time, we also heard that the pirates would kill someone if the money will not be released after a month"
>
> *- Interview with seafarer*

HOSTAGE KILLED

2012

ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN COST OF WEST AFRICAN PIRACY

966 Seafarers Attacked by **West African** Pirates

800 Seafarers on Vessels Boarded by **West African** Pirates

206 Seafarers Taken Hostage in 2012

5 Kidnapped and Held for Ransom on shore (Available data doesn't share duration of captivity)

Hostages held Average of **4** days

> "In Nigeria, money moves quite quickly unlike in Somalia. In Somalia, it would take months. In Nigeria, the pirates take our [oil] cargo and the money of the [shipping] company. It would take only weeks, it is quite fast"
>
> *- Interview with seafarer*

HOSTAGE KILLED

2012

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Treatment of Hostages Aboard Vessels in East Africa

2011	2012
100%	100%

of hostages faced regular threats of physical violence, continuous psychological stress and abuse, confinement loss of privacy, and loss of self-esteem.

50%	100%

of hostages experienced physical abuse, including burning with cigarette butts, punching, pushing, and slapping.

10%	15%

of hostages were subjected to extreme physical abuse, including being tied up in the sun for hours, locked in freezers, and having fingernails pulled out with pliers.

Based on an analysis of IMB collected data

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Inconsistent Care & Compensation

"What the company did was give us four months of pay for the two months that we were in captivity"

- *Interview with seafarer*

"[I]n our case, not only were we taken hostage, we were also robbed. The company did not even bother reimbursing our personal losses."

- *Interview with seafarer*

Interim findings of long-term study interviews:

- Many seafarers report long-term distress related to piracy attacks, but many also display strong resilience
- Some seafarers demonstrate physical, psychological and financial difficulties following pirate attacks
- Seafarer families noted significant gaps in support from shipping companies and home governments while seafarers were in captivity

Results of IMB polling of seafarers:

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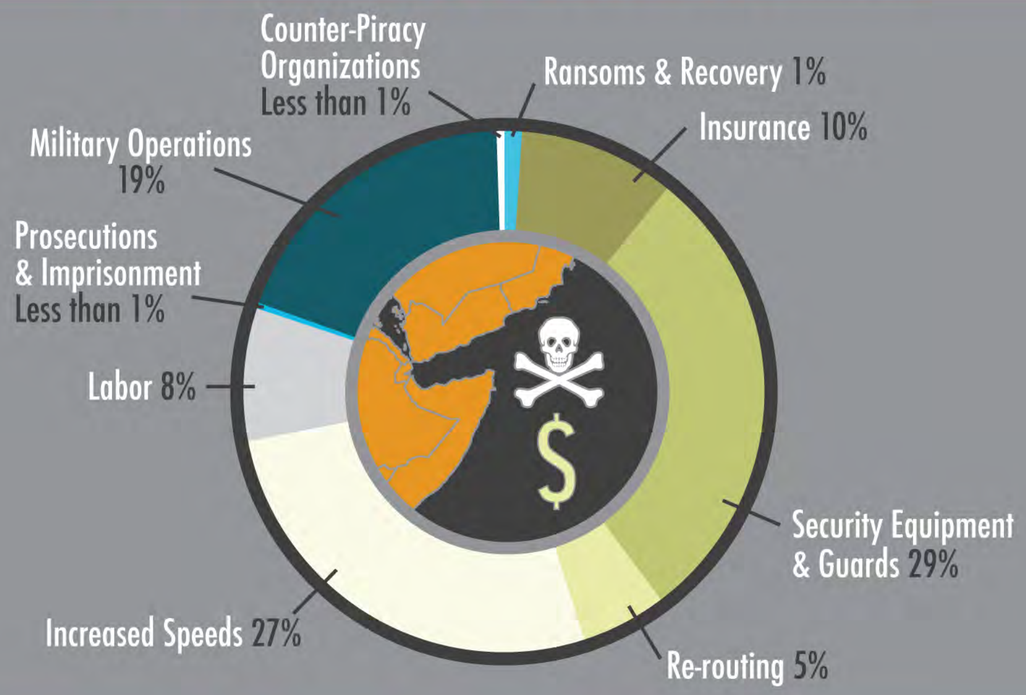
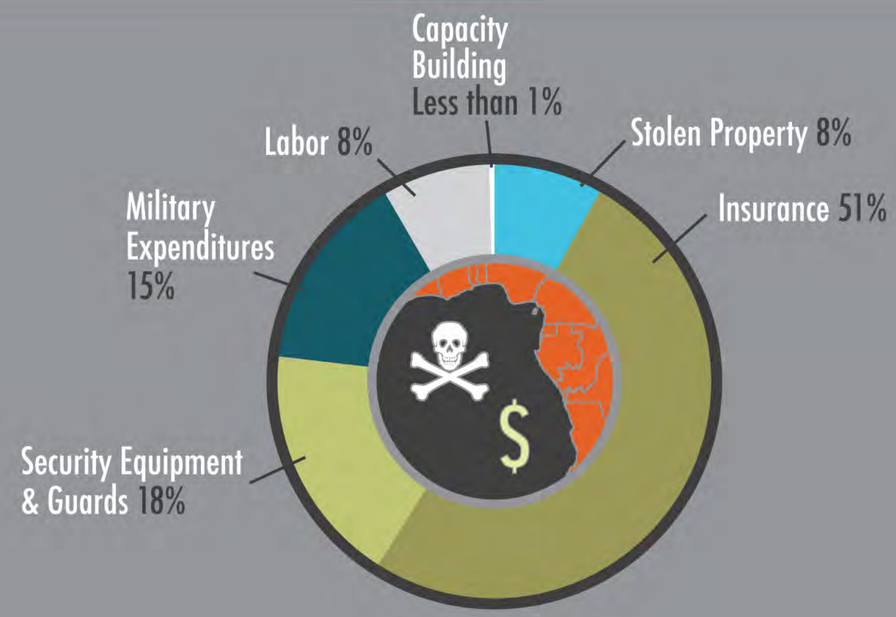
- Seafarers continue to express concern sailing off both East & West Africa
- Seafarers reported feeling most safe while aboard vessels utilizing both BMP and armed guards
- The most serious concern for seafarers was the distress and worry they cause their families

Direct Economic Cost Considerations in 2012

Somali Piracy $5.7-6.1 billion



West African Piracy $740-950 million