



22 – 28 March 2014 (Vol. 3; No.13/14)

This Week's Newsletter :

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Puntland fishermen stop work, database starts; EU vows support; Airplane

down, recovery shifts; 33 of 35 crew bailed - The "dangerous threat" of illegal foreign fishing vessels has caused Puntland fishermen to stop work; creating the same threat oft said to be the cause of Somali piracy. The As the EU vows to support Puntland, including the Marine Force, the UN FAO and Puntland President launch the first database of Somali fishermen in decades.

Taiwanese fishing vessel reported missing in the Indian Ocean.

Malaysian government concludes that flight MH370 ended in the Indian Ocean with no survivors, based on satellite data analysis. The search becomes a recovery with aircraft sighting debris further north closer to land. However, families of the missing passengers protest at inconclusive evidence.

The Nigerian Navy promises to stop at nothing in fighting illegal maritime activities, NIMASA extols the importance of the NN, but criminality relating to crude oil may not really be on the wane despite agency efforts. The Strait of Malacca, a paradise for seafaring bandits?

Off St Vincent, a man's body was discovered on a raft, prompting a murder investigation but his family, unaware, believed it was a tragic accident.

The Libyan rebel's oil tanker, seized by US Navy SEALs, is handed over to Libyan authorities as crew are released following investigation and reveal they were forced to load oil.

Seychelles repatriates nine convicted Somali pirates back to Puntland whilst India gets nearer to the prosecution of 120 Somali pirates held since 2011. Depositions in the video-conference trial begins.

The Italian FM stated no progress made during meeting with her Indian counterpart, however, the Supreme Court stays the trial against the two marines, saying they will now face a maximum of 10 years prison. Staying in India, 33 of 35 crew from Seaman Guard Ohio have been bailed, leaving the Ukrainian captain and a British team leader remain in custody.

UK maritime security industry is a tale of betrayal, backstabbing, lies, lost friendships and dislocated egos, says a 'Secret Security Guy'.

US State Dept Assistant Secretary states that "it is not always military might that provides or denies security in the maritime domain."

Israeli navy ships opened fire on two suspected Palestinian smuggling boats off the Gaza coast. S Korea to begin monitoring all its fishing boats to prevent illegal fishing.

As the cruise operators begin to adopt a range of airline industry techniques to improve safety (although Inmarsat capability was originally for shipping rather than aviation), Sir Richard

Branson confirms plans to set up Virgin cruise ship division with two 'big ships' to be built from scratch.

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REGIONAL ACTIVITY

East Africa/Indian Ocean

EUROPEAN UNION announced to start giving direct financial support to Puntland state of Somalia - [RBC Radio](#).

The Union of European countries vowed to support the new government of Puntland headed by the President Abdiwali Gaas.

They also promised to give direct to Puntland their share from any financial contribution pledged for Somalia.

European representatives to Somalia announced to give training to Puntland Marine Force in Djibouti in quest of securing Puntland shores.

This came after President Abdiwali Gaas accompanied by some of his cabinet members met European envoys to Somalia on NATO ship.

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FISHERMEN IN Puntland region, Somalia have announced that they have stopped their work after facing "dangerous threats" from illegal foreign fishing vessels, who are illegally plundering the semi-autonomous region's resources - [Horseed Media](#).

Most of the fishermen who are based in Alula and Bareda districts of Bari region, said they had faced continuous threats from Yemeni fishing boats who are equipped with weapons.

"Our job is in jeopardy... we have been several times chased by them [Yemeni vessel], which are illegally taking our sea resources. And we have submitted our complains to our authority. They are not just robbing our fish. They are ramming our boats and taking our nets," said one of the Fishermen. Puntland is battling to curb illegal fishing, which is threatening fishing stocks and lives of hundreds of local fishermen.

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THE UNITED Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Puntland authorities have launched the first database for Somali fishermen in decades aimed at improving management of fisheries in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden -

[OCEANUSLive](#).

In the last 12 months, over 3100 fishermen, nearly 50 percent of Puntland's estimated 6,500 fishermen have been registered using a biometrics system that uniquely identifies individuals by their fingerprints background and physical features, according to Jorge Torrens, the fisheries officer managing the project funded under the New York Anti-piracy Trust Fund.



With a surge in piracy attacks on the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden in 2009, fishermen have since been largely impeded from accessing much of the seas due international anti-piracy activities. It is hoped that the fisheries database will be used by different stakeholders on land and at sea to allow fisher folks to better access certain areas and for general identification purposes.

The launch of the database was carried out on an EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Operation Atalanta warship FS Siroco presided over by Puntland's President Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali, EU's Envoy Michele Cervone d'Uso, Luca Alinovi, FAO's Country Representative to Somalia including several European ambassadors and Navy representatives.

In embarking on this initiative, FAO aims to improve livelihoods in Somalia's fishing communities.

"This country has the longest coast in continental Africa and is one of the richest in fisheries resources; that is why I am pleased today that we, by developing this database, are helping Somali fishermen get back into business at sea with few hindrances," said FAO head Luca Alinovi.

EUNAVFOR French Warship Siroco has carried out several 'Friendly Approaches' to fishing vessels in the Gulf of Aden in addition to patrols in the Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.

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SOMALIA IS conducting offshore surveys in hopes of attracting explorers including Royal Dutch Shell Plc two decades after the outbreak of a bloody civil war drove foreign investors away -

[Bloomberg](#).

The East African country plans to hold a licensing tender next year after Soma Oil and Gas, funded by Russian billionaire Alexander Djaparidze, completes the seismic study, according to Abdullahi Haider, a federal government adviser. Somalia, with no proven reserves, has been in talks with Shell about resuming work suspended at the start of the war in 1991, said Abdirizak Omar Mohamed, an adviser to President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud.

"Once we settle all the issues between the federal-central government and regional authorities, the petroleum law, the establishment of the regulatory framework, then optimistically there will be full-scale exploration," Haider said in an interview from Mogadishu. "This time next year we could have the possibility of seeing major oil companies coming in."

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SOMALIA custodial corps with certificates following 3 day training concluded with UN Somalia, UNODC and UNICEF Somalia support



THE PRIME Minister and Interior Minister H E Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani attended the opening ceremony of the three-day event at QNCC Theatre - [The Peninsula](#)

The biennial event is said to be the largest naval exhibition to be hosted in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena).

Speaking at the opening, Qatar Emiri Naval Forces Commander, Major General Mohamed Nasser Al Mohammadi, called for partnerships and coordinated efforts among countries to overcome challenges and ensure maritime protection in Mena.



He said the event is an excellent platform to exchange views and discuss solutions for challenges and threats facing maritime security which has become a major concern in the region. He said the event is a reflection of the wise strategy of the Qatari leadership seeking to promote cooperation and exchange of expertise to enhance maritime protection.

A documentary on capabilities of Qatari army, navy and air force and the event's wings and functions was shown during the opening attended by VIPs, international delegations, sponsors and the media.

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A TAIWANESE fishing boat has gone missing while operating in the Indian Ocean, according to a fishermen's association in southern Taiwan, which has asked the government to help find the vessel - [Focus Taiwan](#).

The boat "Fu Fa No.12" sailed from the southern county of Pingtung in March 2010 to fish in waters near Mauritius in the southern Indian Ocean and has since remained there to catch tuna and marlin, the Liuqiu fishermen's association in Pingtung said Thursday.

The vessel's Taiwanese skipper has stayed in regular contact with his wife and the boat's owner over the years.

But in the early hours of March 24, the owner of the vessel and the wife of the Taiwanese skipper missed calls from the "Fu Fa No. 12." When they called back, they could not reach anyone



onboard.

The vessel was tracked to be 415 nautical miles southeast of Mauritius on the afternoon of March 24, said Chen Ming, owner of the boat. He had made several calls to the boat but no connection could be made.

That was the last information on the location of the boat, said Chen.

(Photo courtesy of the Liu-chiu Fishermen's Association)

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West Africa

THE NIGERIAN Navy has said that it will stop at nothing at fighting the increasing illegalities on Nigeria's territorial waters such as oil theft, sea piracy and armed robbery as well as illegal fishing activities that pervade the nation's maritime domain, especially in the recent past - National Mirror Online <http://t.co/yuao8KBy7l>.

The Eastern Naval Command of the Service had earlier in week arrested four Chinese nationals and also seized their vessels for fishing illegally on the nation's territorial waters as well as entering the country without relevant immigration documents.



This is sequel to the donation of three patrol boats by the Nigerian Ports Authority, which consist of one 32-metre OCEA boat, christened NNS Dorina (P101) and two other 17-metre MANTA boats named NNS Torie (P258) and NNS Egede (P259), which are fitted with unique operational features and capacities, estimated to have cost N4bn. Flag Officer Commanding the Western Naval Command, Admiral S.I. Alade, who spoke in an interview, disclosed that the coming of the boats came a time the service was in a dire need of them to help it intensify its anti-piracy anti-sea robbery campaign.

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THE DIRECTOR General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, (NIMASA), Mr. Ziakede Patrick Akpobolokemi has commended the partnership with the Nigerian Navy, describing both institutions as partners in progress -

[WorldStage News](#).

Receiving the Flag Officer Commanding (FOC) Western Naval Command, Rear Admiral Samuel Ilesanmi Alade on a courtesy visit to the Agency's headquarters in Lagos recently, the Director General noted that the importance of the Navy to the development of the nation's maritime sector could not be overemphasized.



He reiterated the commitment of the Agency to fight piracy, develop human capacity, ensure safety of vessels, removal of wrecks and prevent and mitigate the effects of pollution, all geared towards the growth and development of the maritime sector.

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GHANA'S AIM of becoming the hub of maritime business in the sub-region has received a major boost, following the successful completion of a US\$35 million maritime safety and security project that will ensure a 24/7 surveillance of the country's territorial waters - [GhanaWeb](#). The investment went into the implementation of a vessel traffic monitoring and information management systems (VTMIS), which spans from Keta in the Volta Region to Half Assini in the Central Region.

This makes Ghana one of the few countries in the sub-region and the continent at large to have successfully implemented a surveillance system that ensures minute by minute monitoring of vessels moving in and out of its maritime domain.

The Director-General of the Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA), Mr Peter Issaka Azumah, said in an interview that the completion of the VTMIS project and its planned commissioning next month would boost the country's vision of becoming the central point in West Africa where majority of maritime businesses are transacted.

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EBENEZER ADUROKIYA writes that criminality relating to crude oil in Delta State may not really be on the wane despite the efforts by security agencies and the government to stem the tide - [Nigerian Tribune](#).

A local adage says that when a dog tastes human blood, it will be thirsty for more if not quickly shown the way to the grave. This perhaps explains the state of illegal oil business in the Niger Delta, particularly Delta State. Crude oil can be crude, but it is sweet. Its sweetness lies in the unquantifiable monetary gains it oozes out into the hands of its explorers and exploiters.



Interestingly, the army of aggrieved and greedy youths that have signed into the money-spinning cartel of oil bunkering, illegal refinery business, illegal ferrying and sale of crude oil to thieving foreign and local ships owners and the like is daily on the increase despite relentless efforts being daily made by the Nigerian Navy and the Army to stem the tide.

How on earth could the huge loss of millions of litres of crude oil and locally-refined products be viewed as a way to discourage perpetrators from the money-spinning illegal business? Or how can the N160 billion President Goodluck Jonathan said would be voted to curb crude oil theft, pipeline vandalism and apprehend and prosecute suspects actually curb the menace? Since past strategies have not stopped the criminality, won't it be better for the government to seek new ways out of the quagmire?

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Southeast Asia

A DAY before Beijing sent a formal request to allow its warships to enter Indian waters in search of the missing Malaysian plane, two Chinese Navy frigates intruded more than 100 nautical miles into Indian waters in the Andaman Sea, according to a top government source - [DNA India](#).

Officials claim that last week, during search operations for the missing Malaysian airliner MH 370 in the Indian Ocean, two Chinese warships were intercepted by Indian Coast Guards and Navy patrolling vessels when they were moving inside 110 nautical miles of Indian waters.

"The moment Indian Coast Guard ship intercepted two Chinese vessels inside Indian territorial waters, they asked them to go back. Our patrolling team informed Chinese vessels about breach of the maritime boundary by them," said an officer.

Sources maintained that before India could raise the issue, Chinese government made a formal request for venturing into Indian waters early last week.

"We are in the process of lodging a formal protest with the Chinese government for violation by its navy. The matter will be taken up at appropriate platforms," said the officer

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EARLIER THIS week, China requested India for permission to deploy four naval vessels in the waters of the Andaman Sea, as the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 widened across the waters of the Indian Ocean - [The Hindu](#).

India turned down the Chinese offer to search its own backyard, and replied to the formal request by detailing its extensive search efforts under way in the Indian Ocean, including the deployment of four naval warships and the new P-8I aircraft, all demonstrating the capabilities of the Indian Navy.

The search for MH370 is undoubtedly an entirely humanitarian exercise, and one that has become unprecedented both in scale and in terms of international cooperation - a dozen countries, including several embroiled in maritime disputes over the South China Sea, have put aside their spats as they have willingly followed Malaysia's lead in the search for the Boeing. At the same time, the search has also served to demonstrate the new capabilities of the navies of Asia - navies that have been fast modernising at a time of record increases in military spending across the region.

China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) has in recent days rapidly deployed eight vessels to scour the South China Sea. On Friday, warships were sent to search the southern Indian Ocean, where four Indian naval warships are also deployed in the search for debris.

Experts in India and China said this week the search has underlined an often ignored aspect of India-China relations.

While the long-running boundary dispute across the Himalayas has remained at the focus of attention for most observers, the fast-expanding engagement - and encounters - between their navies as they spread their presence across the Indian and Pacific Oceans has sometimes been ignored, said Lou Chunhao, a strategic affairs expert at the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations in Beijing.

"Now, China under [President] Xi Jinping is paying more attention to 'going west', and as India 'looks east', there will be more interaction [in the Indian and Pacific oceans]," he said.

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MAYBE GOD has a soft spot for pirates. That would explain the Strait of Malacca, a natural paradise for seafaring bandits - [Global Post](#).

Imagine an aquatic highway flowing between two marshy coasts. One shoreline belongs to Malaysia, the other to Indonesia. Each offers a maze of jungly hideaways: inlets and coves that favor pirates' stealth vessels over slow, hulking ships.

It's a narrow route running 550 miles, roughly the distance between Miami and Jamaica. This bottleneck is plied by one-third of the world's shipping trade. That's 50,000 ships per year — ferrying everything from iPads to Reeboks to half the planet's oil exports.

Piracy in Southeast Asia, meanwhile, is accelerating. Attacks and attempted attacks in the waters of Indonesia — which controls much of the Malacca Strait and its environs — totalled 107 last year. That's a 700 percent increase in just five years.

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Americas/South America/Caribbean

ACCORDING TO Cruise News, a Carnival cruise ship, Carnival Ecstasy, rescued 41 Cubans in the Florida Strait. On Tuesday evening, the migrants were sailing in a small, obviously overcrowded boat in the 90-mile span between Cuba and the southern tip of Florida - [VesselFinder](#).

The spokesman from the U.S. Coast Guard, Gabe Somma, said that no migrant was injured. The cruise ship crew members pulled them up and after that they were transferred to a vessel from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Gabe Somma added:

"This could've been a real tragedy. There was no lifesaving or navigation equipment and the boat was taking on water. The migrants will be returned to Cuba in a couple of days."

According to Carnival, their cruise ship had just left Key West (Florida) and was heading to Cozumel (Mexico). The spokeswoman of the company, Jennifer de la Cruz, said the passengers on board were 2,650.



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THE BOEING/Insitu ScanEagle unmanned aerial system (UAS) is to soon compete for a place within Brazil's maritime situational awareness system, officials announced at FIDAE 2014 - [Janes](#).

In February ship-launched ScanEagle UASs completed a three-day maritime deployment demonstration with the Brazilian Navy, and the systems are to be submitted to compete for Brazil's SisGAAz (Sistema de Gerenciamento da Amazônia Azul) maritime ISR system, Juan Gomez, director of international business development for Insitu, told reporters on 26 March.



Brazil is expected to release a request for proposals (RfP) for SisGAAz in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2014 (FY 2014) or first quarter of FY 2015. SisGAAz is intended to monitor and control Brazil's huge 'Blue Amazon' maritime domain with an observation satellite, aircraft, thermal cameras, an automatic identification system, vessel traffic system, coastal radars, radio goniometry, submarine acoustic devices, long-range identification and tracking systems, and a command-and-control capability

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THE BODY of the man, named in reports as John Garner, 53, was discovered on the raft by the coastguard off St Vincent on Wednesday afternoon - [Express and Star](#).

He is believed to have suffered injuries to his head and both legs and was taken to the island's Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Police have now launched a murder investigation and are understood to be searching for a woman named Heidi Hukkelaas, reportedly his wife, with whom he flew to St Vincent on January 19.

St Vincent police commissioner Michael Charles said Mr Garner's death was being treated as suspicious and that investigators were looking at "all lines of inquiry", the Daily Mail said.

Mr Charles said: " We suspect foul play and will investigate the matter fully. Miss Hukkelaas is a person of interest and as with every murder investigation we have to look at everyone and everything and will leave no stones unturned."

But Mr Garner's daughter Elisabeth, 37, told the MailOnline that her family believed his death to be a "tragic accident" and was unaware that it was being investigated as suspicious.

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Other

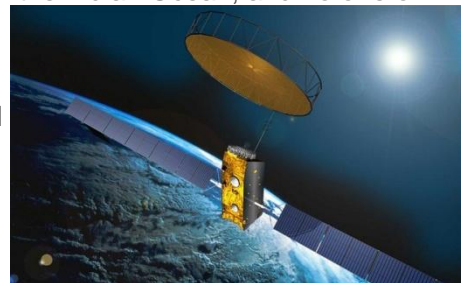
THE MALAYSIAN government has concluded that, based on satellite data analysis from British company Inmarsat, Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 ended in the Indian Ocean, and no one on board survived - [The Telegraph](#).

In a press statement this afternoon, Prime Minister Najib Razak said that, using a type of analysis "never before used in an investigation of this sort", Inmarsat engineers have been able to establish that the plane's last position was in the middle of the Indian Ocean, west of Perth.

"This is a remote location, far from any possible landing sites. It is therefore with deep sadness and regret that I must inform you that, according to this new data, flight MH370 ended in the southern Indian Ocean."

Inmarsat's role in the search for Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 began immediately after the aircraft disappeared. Although the main aircraft communications addressing and reporting system (which would usually transmit the plane's position) was switched off, one of Inmarsat's satellites continued to pick up a series of automated hourly 'pings' from a terminal on the plane, which would normally be used to synchronise timing information.

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FURIOUS THAT Malaysia has declared their loved ones lost in a plane crash without physical evidence, Chinese relatives of the missing marched Tuesday to the Malaysian Embassy, where they threw plastic water bottles, tried to rush the gate and chanted, "Liars!" - [ABC News](#)

The Chinese government, meanwhile, demanded that Malaysia turn over the satellite data it used to conclude that Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 went down in the southern Indian Ocean with no survivors after turning back from its flight path to Beijing on March 8.

Among the flight's 239 passengers, 153 were Chinese nationals, making the incident a highly emotional one for Beijing, and the government's demand reflected the desire among many Chinese relatives of passengers for more conclusive information on the plane's fate.

Nearly 100 relatives and their supporters marched to the embassy in the late morning, wearing white T-shirts that read "Let's pray for MH370" as they held banners and chanted for about three hours.



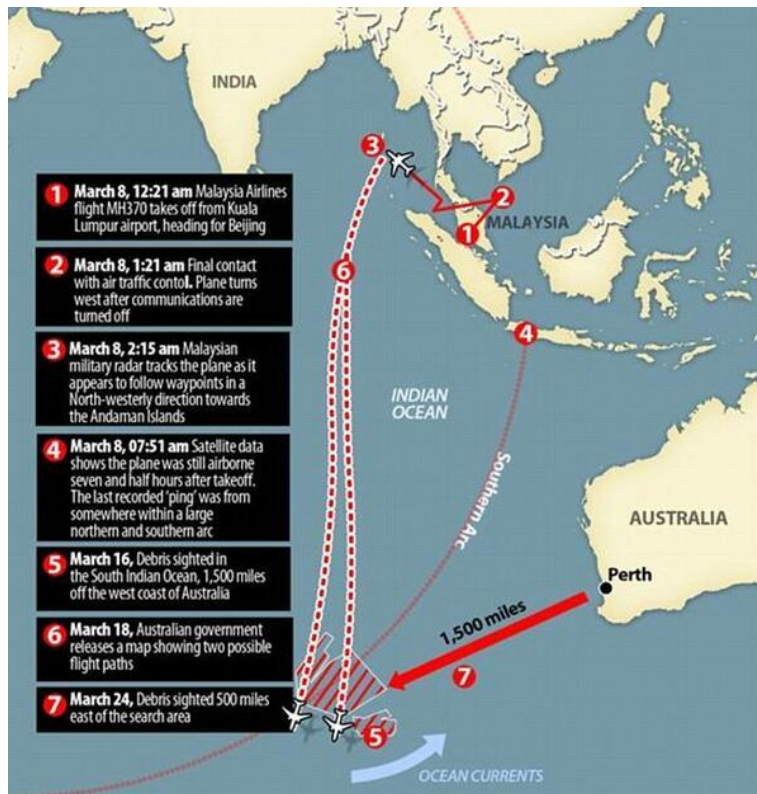
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THE U.S. Navy has sent a Bluefin-21 AUV as part of its search efforts for the missing Flight MH370 Malaysian Airlines 777 plane, according to USNI News. The sonar and cameras onboard mine hunting variant are designed to create a highly detailed picture of the ocean floor to allow operators to determine if objects on the bottom area mine threat or harmless debris - [Hydro-International](#).

A version of the Bluefin-21 has been tested extensively by the Navy as an adjunct to the service's mine hunting ships and aircraft as part of the planned Knifefish AUV program.



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THE UK's Air Accident Investigation's Board, which helped Malaysia to calculate the MH370 had crashed into the Indian Ocean, has defended its decision not to brief Chinese relatives about its calculation - [The Guardian](#).

On Wednesday Malaysian official told a briefing to relatives that the UK experts had been invited to attend the briefing but refused.

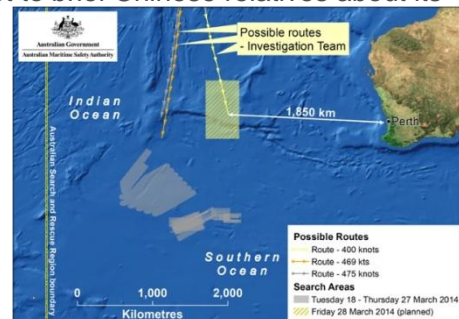
The relatives were scathing about the British calculations.

One said: "You have paid all this money for a rubbish report, and they are pulling a fast one on you!"

Asked to comment on the Malaysian official's claim that it

had refused to attend the briefing an AAIB spokesman gave this statement to the Guardian:

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WE WOULD like to update you on some credible information AMSA has received from the ATSB which will see the search area refocused today - [Australian Maritime Safety Authority \(PDF\)](#).

The AMSA search for any sign of the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 has been shifted to an area north following advice from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau.

An international air crash investigation team in Malaysia provided updated advice to the ATSB, which has examined the information and determined an area 1100 kilometres to the north east of the existing search area is now the most credible lead as to where debris may be located.

The new search area is approximately 319,000 square kilometres, about 1850 kilometres west of Perth.

The Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation (AGO) is re-tasking satellites to capture images of the new area.

Weather conditions are better in the revised area and ten aircraft have been tasked for today's search

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FORGET ALL those satellite photos showing promising patches of debris. The search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 has moved again - [CNN](#).

In a stunning turn, Australian authorities announced Friday they were abandoning the remote region of Indian Ocean where search crews had spent more than a week looking for the plane. A new analysis of satellite data showed the plane could not have flown that far south, they said. "We have moved on from those search areas," said John Young, general manager of emergency response for the Australian maritime authority.

The new zone is 680 miles (about 1,100 kilometers) to the northeast, closer to the Australian coast.

In what could be a sign the search is on the right track, or possibly yet another letdown, the agency said five of the 10 planes dispatched to the new search zone had spotted objects in the waters below. Crews took photographs of the objects, and those images will be analyzed overnight, the authority said.

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AMERICAN SAILORS handed over control of a captured North Korean-flagged oil tanker to Libyan forces while in international waters Saturday, a spokesman for the Libyan navy said - [The Guardian](#).

Ayoub Qassem said that the tanker, Morning Glory, is now heading to the port at Zawiya refinery, 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of the capital Tripoli. Qassem told the official news agency LANA that three Libyan navy ships escorted the vessel into national waters.

Last week, US navy seals seized the ship off the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, stopping an attempt by a Libyan militia to sell its shipload of crude in defiance of Tripoli. A Pentagon spokesman said Friday that 34 sailors from the frigate USS Elrod are aboard the tanker.

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PAKISTANI SEA captain Mirza Noman Baig knew he was trapped when dozens of fighters armed with rifles boarded his tanker just off a rebel-held port on Libya's coast - [Reuters](#).

A militia from the country's restive east forced his crew to load oil onto Baig's vessel, the Morning Glory, and demanded they escape the navy before the ship was stormed by U.S. special forces on March 16, according to his account of events.

After their two-week journey, the 38-year-old captain and his crew are now being held at a police



facility in a southern area of the Libyan capital.

Authorities plan to send them home after concluding an investigation into the attempted sale of the oil by the rebel militia, who are campaigning for a greater share of petroleum wealth and more eastern autonomy.

"We were in a hostage situation. We had no choice but to follow the orders (of the rebels)," Baig said, in his first interview since docking at Es Sider port, one of three oil export terminals captured by anti-government gunmen.

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I WROTE earlier about what Israel's interdiction on the high seas of a ship bringing missiles from Iran to Gaza (under the obligatory cover of building supplies) means for international law. It turns out the operation had a far simpler legal basis than was previously evident: the ship's flag state, Panama, consented to the operation, writes Eugene Kontorovich in [Commentary Magazine](#). Because a ship is legally an extension of the flag state's territory, that state has an absolute right to consent to search on the high seas. Of course, nations have always been reluctant to allow interference with their civilian ships. Moreover, flags of convenience like Panama have about as much taste for allowing foreign security forces peeking into their ships as the Swiss have for peeking into their banks. So Panama's cooperation is laudable. It is a happy example of a registry state taking actual responsibility for what happens under its flag, and yet another of many contradictions to the Jewish state's alleged "growing isolation."

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CRUISE OPERATORS are adopting a range of airline industry techniques to improve safety including real-time electronic deviation monitoring and bolstering and testing deck and engine officers' skills with regular shoreside simulator training. National Transportation Safety Board officials heard about these efforts at a cruise ship safety forum this week - [Seatrade Global](#). 'We have taken our lessons from the airline industry,' said Capt. David Christie, svp corporate maritime quality assurance for Carnival Corp. The company has selected 10 senior captains and 10 senior engineers, 'the best of the best,' who will visit each captain/chief engineer every year for a mentoring session, similar to a checkout captain in an airline. Also, officers will get annual training at the company's CSMART simulation center in the Netherlands.

Carnival has developed common bridge management standards, and an observer goes to the ships to measure any drift to ensure the standards are maintained. Christie said this is done in a non-threatening manner and reported anonymously for analysis.

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FIELD MARSHAL Abdul Fattah al-Sisi has announced that he has resigned as Egypt's military chief in order to stand for the presidency - [BBC News ME](#).

In a widely expected announcement, he said on state TV he was appearing "in my military uniform for the last time".

Field Marshal Sisi led the overthrow of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in July after mass opposition protests.

Correspondents say he is likely to win the presidency, given his popularity and the lack of any serious rivals.

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MPs Wednesday evening rejected a report on the Westgate mall terror attack - [Daily Nation](#).

The report was by a joint parliamentary committee, but the lawmakers criticised their colleagues and accused them of doing 'shoddy' work that could not be adopted by the House.

The MPs voted down the findings by the committee on Administration and National Security, and the Defence and Foreign Relations team.

The report was termed "shoddy, useless, just a bunch of papers and a mere research paper" by infuriated MPs who felt short-changed by its recommendations.

Majority Leader Aden Duale castigated the committees for not telling Kenyans what truly happened at the Westgate Shopping mall.

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UKRAINE'S MARITIME forces have been dealt a heavy blow by the Russian intervention in Crimea, with 12 of its 17 major warships and much of its naval aviation assets falling under Moscow's control - [Janes](#).

In the eight days since the controversial referendum on 16 March that opened the door for Crimea to be absorbed in the Russian Federation, almost every Ukrainian naval base and ship on the peninsula has been seized by Russian forces or local pro-Moscow self defence units.



The scale of the crisis facing the Ukrainian navy is apparent from the fact that around 12,000 of its 15,450 personnel were based in Crimea when Russia intervened on 27 February. Over the past three weeks, the majority of the Ukrainian military personnel on Crimea have defected to the Russian military or resigned from military service, according to announcements by the new pro-Kremlin administration in Crimea. Some independent media reports appear to broadly support Russian claims in this regard.

Image - Officers of the Ukrainian navy Grisha V-class frigate Lutsk raise the Russian naval ensign on 20 March. Source: PA Photos

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RELEASED BY PIRATES

NSTR

PIRATES IN COURT

A GROUP of 9 Somali Pirates have been repatriated back to Puntland, to serve out the remainder of their sentences in Garowe Prison, the state's capital - [Horseed Media](#).

Puntland Officials received the Convicted Somali pirates on Thursday after a plane carrying them which departed from Seychelles landed in Garowe airport.

The nine men were sentenced in between 7 to 24 years by Seychelles courts, after charged with Piracy cases.

Speaking to Journalists, Puntland Custodian corps Chief Ali Nur said that the men will be treated well as they finish their sentences.

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THE 18 foreign witnesses will begin deposition in the videoconferencing trial of the 120 Somali pirates, who are facing charges of murder, hijacking a ship and waging war against the Indian government, in a city court from Wednesday - [The Times of India](#).

"The court has examined 70 Indian witnesses and 12 are left to be examined. Six witnesses from Thailand, six from Mozambique, two from Pakistan and four from Iran are yet to be examined. We have sent a request for video trial to their countries," said a senior police officer.

The pirates were captured by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard in separate raids. Around 60 of the pirates were caught in March 2011, when naval ships intercepted a captured Mozambican fishing vessel, Vega 5, in the Arabian Sea about 600 nautical miles west of India. Others were caught when the Navy launched an assault to free the Iranian fishing trawler, Al Murtaza, that was captured by the pirates.

At least 70 hostages, mostly crew members from Thailand, Philippines, Bangladesh, Iran, Turkey, Myanmar and Pakistan, were rescued, and 11 AK-47 rifles with magazines, 10 AK-47s without magazines and two rocket launchers were seized. The pirates had killed Iranian national Mohammed Adam when he tried to resist them, while Pakistani national Abdul Aziz jumped into the sea. His body has not yet been found.

The pirates were in June 2011 charge sheeted for waging a war against the Indian government. "The Somalians were booked for attempt to murder, unlawful assembly, criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy and for carrying weapons. We have invoked sections of stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)," added the officer.

The city police, unable to make head or tail of what the 120 arrested Somali pirates said in court, took help from two Somali MBA students, studying at the Pune University, to act as interpreters during the trial.

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Italian Marines

UN General Assembly President John Ashe has informed Italy that he will try and raise with India the issue of the two Italian marines who are being tried for killing two Indian fishermen during his three-day visit that begins today - [First Post](#).

Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Angelino Alfano met Ashe here on Monday and briefed him on the situation of the two-year-old case of the marines.

"In response, President Ashe informed the Minister that in the course of his imminent State visit to India, he will be alert for whatever opportunity presents itself to raise the issue," a statement issued by Ashe's spokesperson said.

Alfano also briefed the President of the General Assembly on issues of priority for Italy, including enhancing efforts to counter terrorism and human trafficking.

Alfano had also met UN chief Ban Ki-moon but according to information provided by the office of Ban's spokesperson, there was no mention of the issue of the Italian marines and their trial in India during Ban's meeting with Alfano.

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ITALIAN FOREIGN Minister Federica Mogherini said Tuesday that no progress was made in "frank" talks with her Indian counterpart in The Hague on the case of two Italian marines held in India for over two years for allegedly killing two Indian fishermen during an anti-piracy mission. "No steps forward or striking developments (came during the talks)," she said in Rome after meeting Indian Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid during a summit on nuclear security - [Gazzetta del Sud](#).

Lately Italy has been trying to rally international support among the EU, the US, NATO and the UN to bring home Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, who have been held in New Delhi since February 2012, after they allegedly opened fire on a fishing trawler they mistook for a pirate vessel. It is also planning to try to have international arbitration on the case, which has seriously strained Indian-Italian relations, especially before prosecutors ruled out the death penalty as a possible sentence earlier this year. They now face up to 10 years in prison, prosecutors say. Italy argues that the case sets dangerous and wide-ranging precedents for any country involved in anti-piracy missions overseas.

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THE SUPREME Court on Friday stayed the trial against two Italian marines accused in the Kerala fishermen killing case - [India Blooms](#).

"The SC has issued a notice to the NIA and the Government of India. It has sought Centre's response on plea by Italian marines challenging jurisdiction of NIA to prosecute and probe the case," reported CNN-IBN.

In February, the Centre had told the Supreme Court that the two Italian marines will not be tried under the stringent maritime security law that provides only death penalty as punishment.

Though Italy firmly objected to booking the marines under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts

against safety of Maritime Navigation And Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act (SUA Act), saying they are neither terrorists nor pirates, Indian Defence Minister AK Antony said the government will follow the country's laws.

Italy on Feb 18 recalled its Ambassador to India Daniele Mancini as a protest over delay in legal proceedings against its two marines.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Feb 7 revised the sanction given to prosecute the two Italian marines - Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone - and decided to drop the clause on death penalty.

Going by Italy's request, India decided to charge the marines under a new section of the law, where the maximum penalty is not the death penalty.

The marines will now face a maximum of 10 years in jail for the shooting.

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Seaman Guard Ohio Crew

THIRTY-THREE out of the 35 crew of the Seaman Ohio have been bailed by an Indian court from Friday, after being held since October. However, the Ukrainian captain of the Seaman Guard Ohio and the British team leader of its guards will remain in jail - [Seatrade Global](#).

One of the charges against the master of the ship is the illegal importation of weapons, with the other crew members accused of aiding and abetting the importation of weapons. The master also faces charges relating to illegal bunkering.

The importation charges centre around allegations the the Seaman Guard Ohio was in Indian territorial waters, a point the defence denies. Also highlighted is the intent of the master and crew, which was to go about their lawful business, not illegally import weapons into India.

Of the 35 crew members, 10 seafarers and 25 private maritime security contractors, that were arrested along with the ship last October, 33 will be released on bail this Friday, a source close to the matter told Seatrade Global.

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PRIVATE SECURITY

HEREIN LIES a brief narrative of the UK maritime security industry, a tale of betrayal, back stabbing, lies, lost friendships, broken marriages and dislocated egos - [Maritime CEO](#).

Let's start at the very beginning. This is a dirty business, mostly full of grubby self promoting little nobodies usually with the IQ of a cement mixer, and with all the social graces of Idi Amin and who having the audacity to call themselves 'businessmen' are laughingly nothing more than a bunch of chancers who got lucky and took advantage of a situation that shipowners were pretty much backed into by various entities and the actual hijacking of vessels.

Friendships of many years standing as soldiers have been ruined by the greedy, grubby brigade. I personally took on the following who are now 'directors' of their own companies: a guy who was

living on his grandmother's sofa, a chap who was being made homeless, and a convicted thief. For the full article by our Secret Security Guy, [click here](#).

[OL Note: Part 1 - basically an intro into the topic. To be continued...]

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INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

KENYA AND Seychelles have signed two bilateral agreements that will see the two countries collaborate on keeping the Indian Ocean safer, for business and environment - [Daily Nation](#). A joint communiqué issued on Wednesday indicates that the two countries intend to cooperate more to combat sea piracy, regional peace and security as well as environmental protection of the waters of the Indian Ocean.

The six-point dispatch, signed by Kenya's Foreign Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed and Seychellois Minister for Foreign Affairs Jean-Paul Adam, addresses these issues which the ministers think could greatly improve trade, if addressed.

"The two ministers (of foreign affairs) noted that the ocean represents a huge opportunity for the two countries. They underscored the desire of both countries to develop joint ventures and explore avenues and explore to make better use of resources under the blue economy," it read. Blue economy implies investing in ocean fishing, a resource useful to boost economies of a country but which is prone to environmental pollution, illegal fishing and sea piracy. The communiqué further added that Kenya and Seychelles acknowledged the "threat posed by piracy on economic development."

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THE GULF of Aden, which connects Europe and Asia via the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, is an important sea transportation thoroughfare that 18,000 ships pass through each year - [The Japan News](#).

To combat piracy, the Maritime Self-Defense Force began patrol activities in the gulf and seas off Somalia on March 30, 2009. Around that time, fishermen from Somalia, which was embroiled in a civil war, turned to piracy, arming themselves with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. They would hijack cargo and other ships traveling through the Gulf of Aden.

Since Japan-related ships accounted for 10 percent of the vessels passing through the gulf, the need for law widespread piracy became a serious. With two MSDF destroyers and two P-3C patrol planes, the Self-Defense Forces are currently activities together with their

enforcement to combat problem for Japan. 3C patrol planes, the engaged in antipiracy counterparts from more than a dozen countries including the United States, China and France. Their activities include protection of commercial ships by MSDF destroyers that escort them through the gulf over a



distance of 1,100 kilometers. In addition, its P-3C patrol aircraft fly above the entire gulf to keep watch for any pirate ships and report their findings to military ships of other countries in the vicinity.

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LATE MARCH marks five years since the Maritime Self-Defense Force began its antipiracy mission in waters off Somalia in 2009, with personnel working constantly under an atmosphere of great tension - [The Japan News](#).

On Saturday ahead of the anniversary, the MSDF revealed the current state of operations to the press.

As a P-3C surveillance plane flew over the Gulf of Aden, no suspicious ships were spotted.

The quiet seemed to suggest peace had been restored in the formerly pirate-infested waters.

“But we can’t let our guard down for a moment,” said Lt. Daiki Sakazaki, 34, captain of the aircraft.



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ON 18 March 2014, the High Commissioner, Susan Coles, signed a funding agreement with the Co-Director of the Regional Fusion and Law Enforcement Centre for Safety and Security at Sea (REFLECS3), Gary Crone. The funding agreement, which is worth AUD40,000 and supports capacity building and learning and development



initiatives related to REFLECS3 activities in combatting maritime piracy, was signed at the REFLECS3 headquarters in Seychelles - [Australia High Commission Mauritius](#).

Last year Australia signed a detainee transfer arrangement with the Seychelles for the transfer of suspected pirates and their property to the Seychelles.

Two Australians are currently on secondment to REFLECS3 as Learning and Development Officer and Programme Officer (Counter Piracy) under the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime’s Maritime Crime Program.

[Read More ▶](#)

BRITAIN IS adding new headquarters and engineering buildings in Bahrain to better support its growing Arabian Gulf operations - [DefenseNews](#).

Tucked away on the large US base that houses the 5th Fleet, the British facilities have failed to keep up with the UK’s burgeoning maritime footprint in the region. As of the start of March, gulf operations account for nearly one-third of all Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels deployed around the globe.

Now a construction firm is preparing to build a larger headquarters for the British UK Maritime Component Command (UKMCC), as well as facilities to provide engineering and logistics support for four Royal Navy mine countermeasures vessels based in Bahrain.

“The UKMCC headquarters was formed in November 2001, with just eight people. ... Today, with

a command spanning an area of operations across the entire Middle East, command of 14 ships and aviation assets, a significantly larger and increasingly multi-national and coalition mission, and 41 people in the UK headquarters, the original building is no longer fit for our purpose,” the Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) said in a statement released late last month. The UK effort, worth nearly \$10 million, is dwarfed by the US 5th Fleet’s own \$580 million expansion. Still, the British investment signals continued commitment to one of the most sensitive and busiest stretches of international water in the world.

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TOM KELLY, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at U.S. Naval War College, remarks on Maritime Security, Sea Power and Trade - [US State Dept](#)

Mahan, the most important American strategist of the nineteenth century, helped an earlier generation of Americans to understand the meaning of maritime security for the United States. His concept of sea power was based on the idea that countries with greater naval power will have greater worldwide impact. This concept had enormous influence in shaping strategic thought of navies around the world. Mahan set the stage for the American Navy to become the most powerful in the world.

He argued that naval power, control of the seas, was the key to success in international politics: the nation that controlled the seas held the upper hand in modern warfare. For Mahan, a strong Navy was important to the conduct of commerce.

Broadening Our Definition of Maritime Security

Many things have changed since Mahan was teaching here. One is our definition of maritime security. It has broadened a lot. Today, this phrase encompasses a complex set of issues, including both public and private activities, sometimes with diametrically opposed interests. The maritime domain faces threats from nation states, terrorists, unregulated fishing, natural and environmental disruption, mass migration, and organized criminal activity like smuggling and piracy.

I would note that it is not always military might that provides or denies security in the maritime domain.

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THE DEPLOYMENT of SA National Defence Force members taking part in anti-piracy operations off East Africa has been extended for a year, the presidency announced on Tuesday - [IOL News](#).

“President Jacob Zuma has informed Parliament that he has extended the employment of members of the SANDF for service in fulfilment of international obligations... towards the Southern African Development Community (SADC),” it said in a statement.

A total of 220 SANDF members were active in Mozambican and Tanzanian waters, as well as international waters, and were “still monitoring and deterring piracy” along the Indian Ocean coast.

“They were employed for the period April 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014, and the employment has now been extended to March 31, 2015.”

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NSTR

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

THE ISRAELI military says navy ships have opened fire on two suspected Palestinian smuggling boats off the Gaza coast. Both vessels sank after an explosion following the shooting - [Time](#).

The military says the boats were spotted coming from Egyptian waters in an apparent smuggling attempt. The navy called on them to stop, firing warning shots. When the boat failed to comply, the military says the navy fired at the boats, which set off an explosion on Wednesday.

Gaza's Hamas government says the boats were destroyed and three fishermen were lightly wounded. It's unclear how many were on board.

The military says the navy ships came under fire from Gaza after the incident but no damage was reported.

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SOUTH KOREA is set to begin monitoring all its fishing boats operating in international or foreign waters to prevent illegal fishing or any other unwarranted activities, the government said

Thursday - [Stop Illegal Fishing](#).

The country's first-ever Fisheries Monitoring Center will open in the southern port city of Busan on Friday, enabling real-time monitoring of all South Korean vessels engaged in deep-sea fishing for the first time in the country's history, according to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries.

Information on the real-time location of a vessel may allow the government to issue a warning when the vessel appears to be engaged in illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing in foreign waters.

[Read More ▶](#)

KPA CONTROL Tower at Mombasa port. It has dismissed claims that two illegal ships docked at the port - [Stop Illegal Fishing](#).

THE Kenya Ports Authority has dismissed claims that two ships wanted by Interpol for alleged illegal fishing and human trafficking called at the Mombasa port.

This follows reports that Mv Samdera Pacific and Berkat Menjala arrived at the Kilindini harbour on February 4, and docked at the Mbaraki wharf for provisions.

The two Indonesian vessels are alleged to be on Interpol's purple list of wanted ships according to a local daily publication made on March 16.

According to the article on the daily, Interpol issued the purple notice on January 21, where the ships are said to be wanted by South African authorities for sneaking away from Cape Town

harbour after they were impounded in December 2013.

The concerns were raised by the Seafarers Union of Kenya that the vessels were in Kenyan waters.

According to the union secretary general Andrew Mwangura, the vessels were among 10 vessels that were impounded by the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in November last year.

According to Mwangura, suspected sailors working aboard the vessels are under instructions from an international syndicate of maritime commercial criminals dealing with human trafficking and illegal fishing.

The vessels are also believed to have been behind illegal fishing in Kenya and Somali waters using fake documentation. However, the authority yesterday said the two vessels never called at the port as alleged.

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SEAFARERS' PLIGHT

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Aid Workers' Plight

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AND FINALLY...

VIRGIN ATLANTIC founder Richard Branson confirmed plans for the group to set up its own cruise ship division, having been quoted in an Abu Dhabi newspaper as saying he was seeking investors for a \$1.7 billion project - [Arabian Business](#).

"Most of the money is now committed," Branson said. "We will start by building two big ships from scratch and feel the Virgin brand will work very well in cruises."

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PIRACY INCIDENTS

Hijacks:

- NSTR.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- Gulf of Guinea - LATE Report | A Nigerian passenger craft was attacked by an unknown number of armed men in a speed boat at 0700 LT in approx position 04:46.2N - 006:01E, near the Okpotuwari community in Southern Ijaw Local Gvt Area (LGA), Bayelsa State, Nigeria. The gunmen robbed the passengers and made away with belongings in their speed boat. Victims were left stranded and many swam to the nearest jetty. Reported 22 Mar.
- SE Asia - LATE Report | Three robbers boarded an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged container ship, **PAC Schedar**, using a rope at 0040 LT in position 05:59S - 105:55E, Cigading Anchorage, Indonesia. The duty A/B spotted the robbers and reported to OOW on the bridge. The ship raised the alarm and all crew mustered. Port authority informed. Reported (IMB) 20 Mar.
- SE Asia - LATE Report | Robbers boarded a barge under tow by Singapore-flagged tug, **TANGO, Lewek Lea**, broke open two containers and escaped with some cargo in position 01:15.48N - 104:4.25E, Malacca/Singapore Straits. The theft was unnoticed by the tug's crew and was discovered seven days later when handing over the barge at the destination port. Reported (IMB) 31 Jan.
- SE Asia - LATE Report | OOW on Thailand-flagged tug boat, **NP Lovegistics 9**, reported to Singapore VTIS East on VHF Ch 10 at 2025 LT in position 01:15.19N - 104:05.24E, Malacca/Singapore Straits, that there were two wooden crafts sailing alongside her. Two men reportedly boarded the barge. However no items were found stolen. Apparently, the barge did not carry any cargo onboard. At approximately 2037 LY, the master reported that the two wooden crafts went away. No injury to crew or damage to the vessel reported. Reported (IMB) 23 Dec 2013.
- West Africa - LATE Report | Master of Singapore-flagged anchor handling vessel, **Pacific Patriot**, reported that 2nd Officer spotted a man running out of the winch deck to the port side of the vessel while carrying out his routine rounds at 0430 LT in position 04:44.30N - 011:49.20E, Pointe Noire, Anchorage, Congo. The Master subsequently witnessed six robbers paddling away from the vessel in a wooden boat, towards shore with stolen ships' property. Reported (IMB) 4 Dec 2013.

Other Incidents:

- NSTR

Suspicious Activity

- Red Sea - Master of an Indian Oil tanker reported being pursued by 6 skiffs at 1323 UTC in position 13:16.00N - 042:57.00E, BAM. Skiffs w/ undetermined POB came within 1.8nm. Tanker SSAS activated, carried out BMP procedures, reported to MRCC it was safe and in company with a gas carrier in the vicinity. Reported 27 Mar.
- Red Sea - Five skiffs with 3 POB in each approached at high speed a Norway-flagged chemical tanker, **Jo Spruce**, underway at 0630 UTC in position 13:18N – 042:52E, approx 15nm off Eritrea, Red Sea. 4 white skiffs and 1 dark grey skiff sighted port side crossing the tanker bow on course 190. Master raised the alarm, crew mustered, fire pump activated and embarked AST stood to. Ladders were noticed in 2 skiffs as they closed to a distance of 1nm from the tanker. AST immediately fired 1 rocket flare towards the skiffs and displayed their weapons resulting in the skiffs aborting their approach. Reported (IMB) 23 Mar.

IMB - Vessels: 0 Hostages: Not stated. (as at [21 January](#)).

Worldwide Incidents 2014: 12 reported incidents

Somalia - NATO, EUNAVFOR & UKMTO state Vessels: 0; Hostages: 50; CGPCS - 49 hostages.

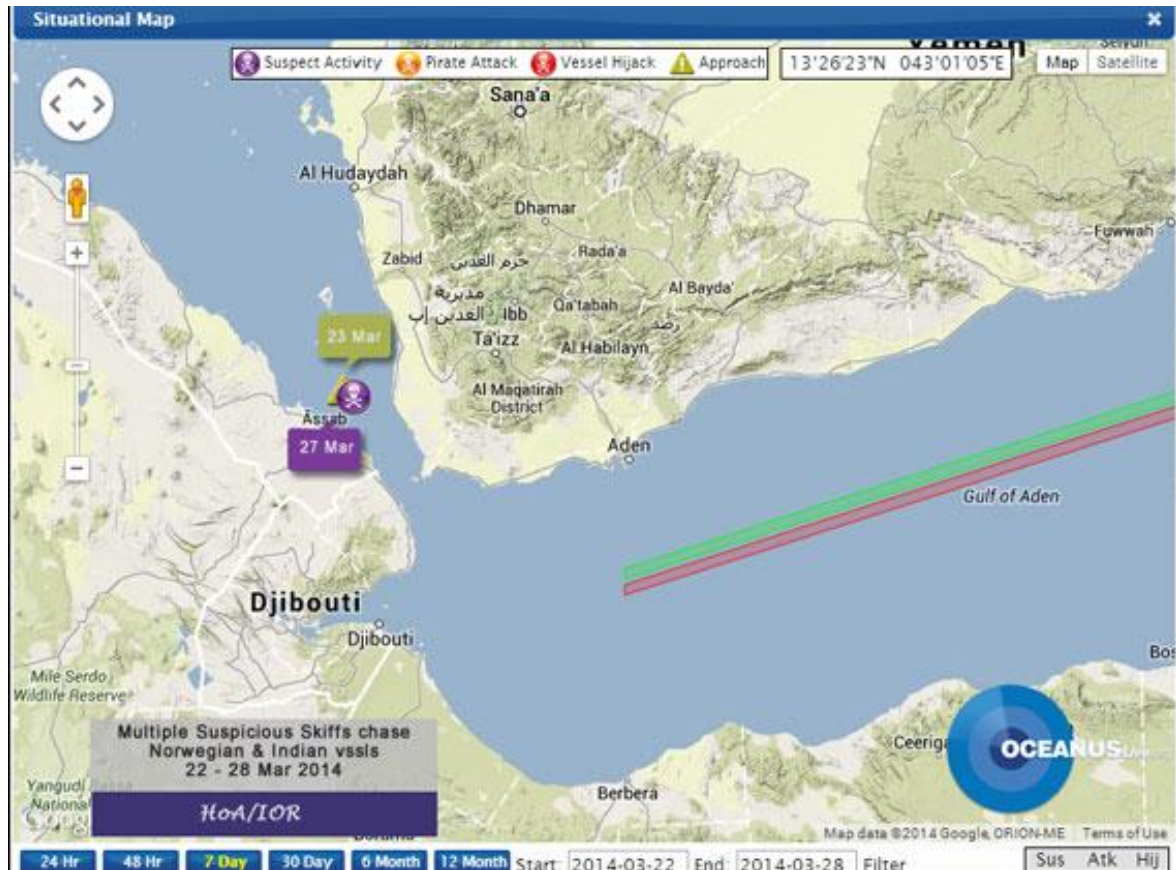
VESSELS are reminded that the coalition forces' warships may not be in the vicinity of a pirate attack, subsequently, it is emphasised that seafarers can greatly reduce their chances of being pirated if they follow precautions as recommended in the [Best Management Practices](#), increasing speed and carrying out evasive manoeuvres is a proven deterrent to piracy attacks. BMP version 4 is available at the link above; a high resolution version can be downloaded [here](#).

VESSELS are advised to exercise extreme caution when navigating in the vicinity of any reported positions of attacks and maintain maximum CPA with any ship acting suspiciously. Additionally, registration of vessel movement with [MSC\(HOA\)](#) prior to transiting the region is recommended.

SITUATIONAL MAP

A change of regional map in light of the increase in pirate activity off West Africa over Horn of Africa.

An interactive version of this situational map is available through registration of verified access to [OCEANUSLive](https://oceanuslive.org)



Reported incidents in the HoA/IOIRHRA.

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