

5 - 11 April 2014 No. 15/14

UN Anti-piracy staff murdered; Indian Ocean & Asia piracy down; Dutch no to private security; Cruise ship passengers practice anti-piracy procedures; Black box pings reacquired -

Two UN consultants, British and French, working on anti-piracy programmes in Somalia are targeted and killed in Galkayo airport; two assailants arrested. With no ships hijacked in almost two years in the Indian Ocean, Norwegian State Secretary comments of positive developments but warns attacks still occur. In Asia, serious incidents of piracy and sea robbery fell to a 4-year low in 2013, reports ReCAAP. Seaman Guard Ohio crew are freed on bail but use of private armed security on Dutch merchant vessels is blocked by PvdA in the House of Parliament. Over 2,500 crew, passengers and shore staff participated in crisis management drill onboard MSC cruise ship which included a simulated piracy attack off the coast of Oman. The search for the missing Malaysia Airlines plane entered a new phase this week. After initial reports of hearing signals, losing them, then reacquiring them has boosted the chances of finding the location of the aircraft. The search area has shrunk to kilometres with

“I condemn the brutal murders. Our UN colleagues were working in support of the Somali people’s aspiration for a peaceful and stable future.”

-SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SOMALIA, NICHOLAS KAY

positive outlook in being able to locate the final place of the plane. Puntland police forces continue in the manhunt for two convicted pirates missing

since the prison break last week. German government approves sending military trainers to Somalia under an EU mandate. Two Kenyan aid workers are freed from al Shabaab by Kenyan forces.

All quiet on the Western [Africa] front, the Royal Navy promotes the need for shared regional responsibility, backed by international support, to combat maritime crime and develop marine resources; Spanish navy washes up in Cameroon to train maritime security. Nigeria's navy is to take delivery of two new warships from USA and China but should build their own. UK PMSC contractors, arrested in connection with oil theft bribery, are released on bail until mid-May.

In South America, 8 fishing boats reported assaulted off Ecuador. Mexico's new Maritime Police look to strengthen military controls in ports.

President of USA signs documentation to continue national emergency in relation to Somalia. USA also ratifies a treaty to prevent illegally caught fish from entering the market through ports. The danger IUU fishing poses to ocean ecosystems goes beyond that with convergence with other criminal enterprises.

Erik Prince, of Blackwater infamy, describes the challenges of African logistics and how his new venture will attempt to tackle them.

Snatched at gunpoint and held for 15 months by armed gunmen in Somalia, Amanda Lindhout publishes a new book, "A House in The Sky" giving an account of her experiences and how they affected her. She chose to find the positives as a survivor, and forgives her captors.



Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

A BRITISH man shot dead while working for the UN in Somalia was a former Scotland Yard detective who launched a new career tracking illegal payments financing terrorism - **The Telegraph**.

Simon Davis, of Hatfield, Hertfordshire, was hired by the United Nations to meet with Somali businesses and government officials to discuss ways to make sure al-Qaeda was not using money transfer systems to fund attacks.

He and a French colleague were attacked soon after they landed on Monday morning in Galkayo, the town in central Somalia closest to the country's pirate strongholds.

At least two men, one in a Somali police officer's uniform, opened fire with an AK-47 as Mr Davis and his colleague, Clement Gorrissen, waited for their visas to be stamped inside the airport's immigration building.

Two men were arrested and were interrogated on Tuesday morning. It was unclear if the two men were singled out, or whether the attacker wanted indiscriminately to target Westerners.

Both Mr Davis and Mr Gorrissen were consultants for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which in the Horn of Africa is focused on anti-piracy programmes, prosecutions of Somalis arrested for piracy and transnational financial crime. [Read more...](#)

THE SPECIAL Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia, Nicholas Kay, condemned the murder today of two UN consultants working for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - **UNSOM**.

The two international consultants were in Galkayo to support UNODC efforts in the region when they were shot by unknown gunmen at Galkayo Airport, Puntland, Somalia.

"I condemn the brutal murders. Our UN colleagues were working in support of the Somali people's aspiration for a peaceful and stable future. There can be no justification for such a callous attack. I call on the authorities to conduct a full investigation immediately and bring the

perpetrators to justice without delay. I offer my sincere condolences to the families and friends of the victims. The United Nations in Somalia remains committed to continuing our vital support to the Somali people as they emerge from decades of conflict" said SRSK Kay. [Read more](#).

PUNTLAND POLICE forces in northeastern Somalia have been on manhunt for two convicted pirates who managed to stage Bossaso prison break on Friday, **Garowe Online** reports.

Puntland Custodian Corps Chief Gen. Ali Nur Omar disclosed at media briefing in the state capital of Garowe on Sunday that the custodian corps officers are on manhunt for-Mohamed Ali Saed and Kedir Ahmed Yusuf- who were convicted of being pirates and escaped from Bossaso prison.

"Of the fifteen inmates who escaped from Bossaso prison last Friday, two are still on the run. Security agencies are hunting down the two escapees," said Gen. Omar, presenting their photographic images to reporters.

"The men were transferred from a cell after rainwater penetrated through its sheet metal roof, they were placed in another detention but they got a small hole on the wall," he revealed.

Two inmates sustained bullet wounds during the prison break attempt in the port city of Bossaso. [Read more...](#)

THE NUMBER number of piracy attacks on ships in the Indian Ocean has gone down as no ships were hijacked in almost two years, an official from the Norwegian Foreign Ministry said - **Bernama Malaysia**.

Norwegian State Secretary Baard Glad Pedersen said no ships on international sea routes in the Indian Ocean off the African coast has been hijacked in 24 months thanks to successful preventive measures at sea, China's Xinhua news agency reports.

"The reduction in the number of attacks on ships in the Indian Ocean is a positive development. At the same time, there are still attacks on shipping," Pedersen said in a press release. [Read more...](#)

PUNTLAND PRESIDENT Abdiwali Mohamed Ali Gaas dismissed Mohamed Abdirahman Sheikh Mohamed Mohamud Farole from the office of anti-piracy and marine defense police of Puntland director as he appointed Abdirahman bihi Sofe for the office - **RBC Radio**.

Brief history of PMPF
Puntland's anti-piracy
and marine defense
police was established
in 2010 under the
administration former



Puntland President Abdirahman Shiekh Mohamed Mohamud Farole in a bid of defeating the overwhelming piracy strength who at that time were launching attacks on the commercial vessels crossing on the international sea as well as Somali nearby sea.

Executing the promise he pledged, Ex Puntland president Farole succeeded in setting up the coast guard and anti-piracy Puntland force which comes second when Puntland's different forces are listed according to their mighty

Upon the conclusion of the anti-piracy and Puntland coast guard establishment of President Farole in pursuit of firstly dismantling the high piracy record in Puntland regions, United Arab Emirates pledged a fund for the force, until now PMPF is supported by the UAE.

Image - Who is Mohamed Abdirahman (The outgoing PMPF director). **Read more...**

GERMANY PARLIAMENTARIANS on Friday approved military trainers from Germany to operate and train Somali Army in Mogadishu, German Media reported. The lawmakers in Berlin have given approval for the dispatch of military instructors to Somalia on a training mission mandated by the European Union despite the opposition parties rejected the move which they said was very risk for German trainers - **AllAfrica**. The operation is part of European Union-led project which trains and gives advice to Somali military officers in Mogadishu. The EU trainers including Germany instructors will operate and reside in the highly protected area within Mogadishu's main airport. **Read more...**

FOLLOWING HUGE Africa discoveries offshore Mozambique and Tanzania, attention is creeping further north to Somalia, which may have geology similar to Yemen, a country with proved reserves of 2.7 Bbbl of oil - **Offshore Mag**. Somalia will be a challenging country in which to operate, and operators interested in Somalia should pay close attention to the recent experiences of Tanzania, Mozambique, Kenya, and Uganda in anticipating some of the likely challenges ahead. However, Somalia has its own unique set of issues, including a dangerous political and security situation, a maritime boundary dispute, disputes between regional authorities and the federal government, virtually no infrastructure, and a currency system in need of urgent reform. Oil companies considering entering the country to share a potentially huge prize will need to be focused on mitigating the risks involved.

Exploration in Somalia began in 1945, but to date, only six wells have been drilled offshore. The country has changed significantly since 1991, when IOCs claimed force majeure following the overthrow of President Mohamed Siad Barre by warlords; since 2012, a federal government has controlled most of the country, with the exception of a few pockets under Al-Shabaab control. The government is encouraging the IOCs that exited the country in 1991 to return, and has entered into its first agreement with Soma Oil & Gas, a UK company solely focused on Somalia. Soma has agreed to carry out \$20 million of seismic exploration work in return for the right to explore up to 12 blocks of its choice. **Read more...**

SOMALI OFFICIALS say a stronger economy is vital to prolonged peace. This week, they traveled to the United Arab Emirates with the hope of attracting foreign investment to the war-torn nation - **Voice of America**.

Participants at the Somalia Investment Summit in Dubai painted a different picture of the East African country than the one the world has become familiar with.

"If in past years the image was hunger, piracy, terrorism, today you will see a different scenario," noted Ali Mohamed Gedi, the former prime minister of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government.

"You will see a light at the end of the tunnel. You will see hope, and that life is coming back. This is the image we now want to show." [Read more...](#)

West Africa

THE ROYAL Navy (RN) Type 23 anti-submarine frigate HMS Portland arrived in Cape Town last Friday, having spent three months undertaking maritime security activities off the coast of West Africa - [DefenceWeb](#).

The Devonport based warship deployed on 13 January 2014 for a routine seven month Atlantic Patrol Tasking. After heading south, most of this time has been spent in West African waters until this week when she headed south again for South Africa.

Commander Sarah West, Commanding Officer of HMS Portland and the first female Commander of a British Royal Navy ship, said that throughout the deployment, they will undertake maritime security operations, including counter narcotics and anti-piracy patrols. This will provide opportunities for the RN to work with other navies to strengthen ties and demonstrate the Royal Navy's commitment to the region.

"In West Africa, we promoted the need for shared regional responsibility backed by international support, to combat maritime crime, build capacity and develop marine resources," West said on the ship's arrival at Table Bay Harbour.

Although Portland did not come across any pirate activity itself, its activity off the African West coast was an important physical deterrent. [Read More...](#)

PORT2PORT West Africa is pleased to announce that two of its contractors were released 9th April 2014 on bail, on the order of Justice Akpomimie of the High Court of Bayelsa State, Yenagoa, Nigeria, after 19 days of unwarranted detention in contravention of the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution and international convention since 21st March - [OCEANUSLive](#).

Vincent Haywood (32) and Piers Eastwood (39), both UK nationals were able to return to the UK by the Nigerian court and were reunited with their families. They are required to return to Nigeria for another court hearing on 14th May.

Port2Port West Africa continues to vehemently deny that its contractors were or ever have been involved in any crime or illegal activity of any kind. The company has listed the details leading to their detainment, subsequent arrest and charge. In close liaison with British High Commission in Abuja, Port2Port has worked extremely hard to facilitate release. [Read more...](#)

TO BOOST its maritime capability in safeguarding the nation's waterways from piracy and other illegalities, the Nigerian Navy (NN) is set to take delivery of two new warships built in the United States and China - [This Day Live](#).

The new warships, which will be joining other NN platforms, were custom-built in China and already over 50 naval personnel have already departed Nigeria for China to bring back the first vessel, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV).

The China Shipbuilding and Offshore International Company had recently launched the NN's first of two P-18N offshore patrol vessels and it was assigned the pennant number F91.

The launch of the first OPV also marked the hull formation ceremony of the second vessel, F92 and although the first OPV will be built entirely in China, between 50 and 70 per cent of the second ship will be constructed in Nigeria in an effort to enhance local shipbuilding capability and provide technology transfer. [Read more...](#)

THE [SPANISH] patrol boat 'Infanta Elena' has washed up this week in the Cameroonian port of Douala for Navy training that country's maritime security to tackle piracy - [El Economista](#) [Spain]. Between 29 March and 2 April, a team of Cameroon Navy were carried aboard the Spanish ship in one visit for training in search techniques and approach in order to improve their ability to provide security in the country's coasts, to the fact that piracy has begun to be a problem to take into account in this western Africa.

In addition, according to the Navy, the contingent 'Infanta Elena' has offered training on board Cameroonian forces in the area of homeland security, firefighting and damage control. [Read more...](#)

THE NIGERIAN Chamber of Shipping has suggested that in order to eradicate robbery and piracy on our territorial waters, it is high time Nigeria, as a maritime nation, started building its own vessels - ***Tribune Nigeria***. Director-General of the Chamber, Mrs Ify Akerele, who made the suggestion at the Oriental Hotel Lagos recently, also commended the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) for donating patrol boats to the Nigerian Navy for proper monitoring and surveillance as well as minimising illicit crimes on our waters. She advised NPA and NIMASA to work in tandem with each other to ensure they complement the efforts of the Navy in waging war against piracy. Akerele, therefore, urged the Federal Government to expedite action in the release of the long awaited Cabotage Vessels Financing Funds (CVFF) to enable indigenous ship owners, for whom the funds are meant, procure their ships to create employment and promote Nigeria's flag state. [Read More...](#)

Southeast Asia

SERIOUS INCIDENTS of piracy and sea robbery fell to a four-year low in 2013, the annual ReCAAP ISC Piracy & Sea Robbery conference in Singapore heard yesterday - ***IHS Maritime 360***. The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combat Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance co-operation via information sharing, capacity building and co-operative arrangements in combating piracy and armed robbery against ships.

The organisation advocates information sharing to prevent occurrence of incidents and improves capabilities of the 19 ReCAAP Contracting Parties in combating piracy and armed robbery.

ReCAAP assistant director Lee Yin Mui said: "Although the severity of incidents has reduced in the Southeast Asia region, there is no room for complacency."

Lee stated that 2013 has the lowest reported CAT 1 or very significant incidents, and CAT 2 or moderately significant incidents, over the past four years.

See the full ***ReCAAP Presentation*** (PDF) (Robbers transferring scrap metal from barge (Smooth 1) to boats (Photo courtesy of Shipping Company/ReCAAP))

SRI LANKAN Navy, who on Saturday surprised Indian fishermen trawling near Katchatheevu by offering them soft drinks and sweets, attacked eight fishermen in the Indian territory off Dhanushkodi coast early on Tuesday, Fisheries Department sources said - ***The Hindu***. Four fishermen suffered severe injuries on the head, hand and shoulder while others sustained internal injuries. All of them were admitted to hospital, the sources said. Two boats and 10 fishing nets were damaged in the attack with bottles, stones and sticks. The Navy personnel also took away the fishermen's catch, the sources said.

"I don't think our fishermen were at fault. They have been hit with bottles, stones and sticks in the sea off Dhanushkodi coast. They made futile attempts to contact the Indian Coast Guard personnel," local fishermen's association president Emiret told reporters. He said the fishermen had enough evidence to prove that they were fishing in Indian waters. [Read more...](#)

A COMMUNICATION breakdown was the cause of the MV Poavosa bulk carrier going up in smoke and shutting down the port of Taranaki, Maritime New Zealand told IHS Maritime last week - ***IHS Maritime 360***

Smoke billowed out of the hold of the vessel soon after it arrived in port from Australia with a load of wheat on 20 January.

Crew, port workers and personnel were evacuated from the port as fire crews cordoned off the port, diverting traffic with trucks of fertiliser and logs forced to queue outside.

At first, concerns were raised that the Panama-flagged bulk carrier was on fire. MNZ detained the ship and ran an investigation finding the incident was down to a misunderstanding due to the crew's poor English language skills. [Read more...](#)

Americas/South America/ Caribbean

TWO NEW fishing vessels were attacked 45 nautical miles off the coast of Esmeraldas, in northern Ecuador the morning of April 5, during the fishing operations.

Between Monday and Friday of this week to eight fishing boats assault was reported.

Overall total 10 stolen engines as Roddy Cedeño, owner of a fleet of ships in the port of Esmeraldas Artisanal Fisheries.

The suspected pirates approached artisans sea while fishing bait for catching dorado; took firearms, threatened with the death and a fiberglass boat took.

The six crew, who were adrift, were rescued by a fishing boat returning from fishing operations meet on Friday, April 4, 2014, in the afternoon, as reported.

So far this year there have been more than 20 attacks on fishermen on the maritime border with Colombia, according to the fishermen, who filed complaints in the Prosecution of Crimes Aquatic Esmeraldas.

The suspected pirates approached artisans sea while fishing bait for catching dorado; took firearms, threatened with the death and a fiberglass boat took.

The six crew, who were adrift, were rescued by a fishing boat returning from fishing operations meet on Friday, April 4, 2014, in the afternoon, as reported.

So far this year there have been more than 20 attacks on fishermen on the maritime border with Colombia, according to the fishermen, who filed complaints in the Prosecution of Crimes Aquatic Esmeraldas.

WITH THE aim of establishing a hedge against piracy seafood, dismantle organizations involved in the smuggling of goods and introduction of substances and prohibited weapons, special units of the Navy shall be provided in the main ports of the country, including Baja California, where there will be elements of the new Maritime Police, this according to the president of the National Chamber of the Fishing and Aquaculture

Industries in the State, Juan Manuel Morán Sánchez said - ***La Voz de la Frontera Mexico***. Mentioned that this type of surveillance activities kicked off on 1 April in 19 seaports in the country, which caters to an agreement signed by Admiral Navy Secretary Vidal Francisco Soberon Sanz, which was published April 1 in the Official Gazette which details the naval units Port Security depend operational, military and administratively controls the regions, zones and naval sectors of the jurisdiction in which they are established. They recalled that in past dates authorities of the Navy has stated that these groups also seeks to collect data enabling the security cabinet of the federal government, develop intelligence and precision banging against organized crime. "What is now looking to strengthen military controls in ports, have more effective patrols and operating and order also powers for better response," he said.

Clarified that these police group will be watching to act in case of any threats, such as terrorism, affecting the proper functioning of port activities, including work for containment and rescue lives if required. [Read More...](#)

Other

MORE THAN 2,500 crew members, passengers and onshore employees participated in a crisis management drill onboard MSC Cruises' MSC Lirica as she sailed off the coast of Oman on 31 March - ***Cruise and Ferry***.

MSC Lirica Photo:

iglu cruise

Designed to test threat assessments and the onshore and onboard



emergency procedures, the simulated piracy attack involved several individuals firing guns while attempting to board the vessel from a skiff. Following established guidelines, the ship's master raised the alarm and the crew implemented evasive procedures to prevent the pirates boarding the ship. They also contacted MSC's onshore personnel and the International

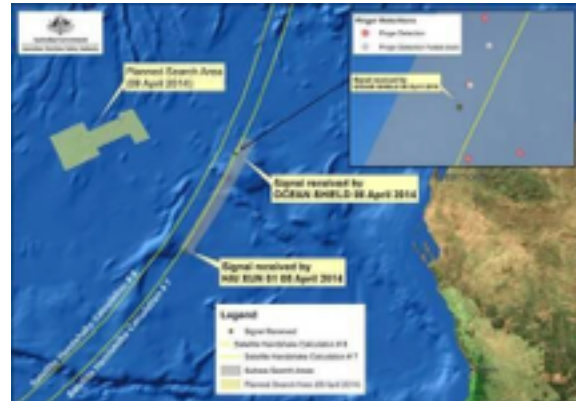
Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre immediately.

"We are grateful to all the passengers onboard the ship and to the crew members, as we needed their cooperation in order to make a reliable assessment of an unannounced emergency situation," said Emilio La Scala, general manager of MSC's technical department. "The communication between the different services involved proved to be very efficient and standard contacts with all relevant authorities and official bodies were simulated in a timely manner." [Read More...](#)

THE HUNT for the missing Malaysia Airlines plane entered a new phase on Saturday when a Chinese ship reported hearing possible signals from a "black box" flight recorder - [The Telegraph](#). On day 29 of the search for Flight MH370, a series of "pings" from the depths of Indian Ocean appeared to constitute the first solid lead. A Chinese survey vessel, Haixun 01, heard a pulse with a frequency of 37.5kHz per second – identical to the standard signal used by the locator beacon of a flight recorder. At that moment, the ship was located west of the Australian coast – and north of the main search area – at the coordinates 25 degrees south latitude and 101 degrees east longitude. [Read More...](#)

BRITISH SATELLITE company Inmarsat has 'finally understood' the partial ping it received from Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 which has been missing since March 8 - [Malaysiakini](#). Chris McLaughlin, senior vice-president for external affairs, said the final ping or handshake was only partially transmitted because the aircraft had ran out of fuel, reported The Telegraph. "The partial handshake would be the plane running out of fuel and faltering for a moment, so the system went off network and then briefly powered up and had communication with the network," he was quoted as saying. "The plane looked for a final communication before it went off - and that was it," McLaughlin likened the sequence to a car spluttering as it runs out of fuel. [Read More...](#)

THE SEARCH for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 received a major boost today after a ship successfully managed to relocate underwater signals that could guide the authorities to the plane's final location - [The Independent](#).



Authorities said the "pings" coming from the depths of the Indian Ocean could only be made by a mechanical source, and that the news means they are "now optimistic that we will find the aircraft".

The signals were picked up by the Australian navy vessel Ocean Shield, one of two ships in the search that boasts sophisticated "pinger locator" equipment, in a sweep of the search area carried out on Tuesday.

Today Angus Houston, the head of the joint agency coordinating the hunt for the Boeing 777, said analysis of two signals detected in the same area last week confirmed they were consistent with what would be issued by a plane's two black boxes.

"I'm now optimistic that we will find the aircraft, or what is left of the aircraft, in the not too distant future - but we haven't found it yet, because this is a very challenging business," Mr Houston said. [Read More...](#)

THE SEARCH area for the missing Malaysia airlines flight MH370 has been drastically reduced after two further detections of pings consistent with those of a black box from a plane late on Tuesday - **The Guardian**.

The head of Australia's Joint Agency Co-ordination Centre, Angus Houston, said on Wednesday the Australian defence vessel



Ocean Shield had detected two further pings on Tuesday – one in the afternoon and one in the late evening – that had allowed the search area to be further refined to 75,000 sq km. He said he was “optimistic” the plane would be found soon. “I can now tell you that Ocean Shield has been able to reacquire the signals on two further occasions; late yesterday afternoon and late last night,” Houston said. [Read More...](#)

Image - Navy divers from the Australian defence vessel Ocean Shield scan the water for debris. Photograph: Ryan Davis/AFP/Getty Images

AS AN Australian navy vessel continues to comb the Indian Ocean for signs of missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370, the mammoth scale of the challenge is becoming ever clearer - **Huff Post**.

The Ocean Shield detected electronic signals consistent with transmissions from black boxes on Tuesday – one for more than 20 minutes and a second for 13 minutes.

Amid fears the black box battery could be close to expiring, the depths at which the plane may have come to rest have been expertly analysed in this

[Washington Post infographic](#) (centre). [Read More...](#)



AUSTRALIAN PRIME Minister Tony Abbott said he's confident crews hunting for the missing Malaysian jet have narrowed down the location of its black box to “within some kilometers,” raising optimism the wreckage will be found -

Bloomberg.

“We are confident that we know the position of the black box flight recorder to within some kilometers,” Abbott said in Shanghai today. “Still, confidence in the approximate position of the black box is not the same as recovering wreckage from almost four and half kilometers beneath the sea or finally determining all that happened on that flight.”

Signals detected over the past six days helped investigators focus the search for the Malaysian Airline System Bhd. (MAS) plane in a smaller area of the southern Indian Ocean. Even so, it could take some days before submarine equipment can be deployed to visually identify any wreckage, said Angus Houston, who heads Australia's Joint Agency Coordination Centre. [Read More...](#)

A FEW Boeing 777 captains with a total of over 50,000 flying hours between them, met at a hotel

in Chicago. The pilots from various airlines, on a layover between flights, could talk of nothing but the mystery of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, an aircraft type they were proficient in. This was around the time when it was becoming clear that MH370 had likely crash landed in the Southern Indian Ocean and maritime patrol aircraft and warships extended their search into the remote stretches of this ocean - **India Today**.

Over several cups of coffee, they pieced together what they thought was the most likely scenario. One of the pilots present at the meeting, an Air India captain, recounted a likely sequence of events. [Read More...](#)

A RUSSIAN soldier has shot dead a Ukrainian naval officer in eastern Crimea, Ukraine's Defense Ministry said on Monday, in one of few fatalities reported since Russia took control of the Black Sea peninsula - **NBC News**.

The ministry gave few details of the death late on Sunday in the town of Novofyodorovka. Russian forces took over Crimea in an almost bloodless operation before Moscow annexed the region last month. [Read More...](#)

IN THE middle of the MV Cape Ray's cavernous car deck stand two large white tents. With their interior lights casting eerie shadows of the constant activity within, they look like twin crime scenes. But the commanders, crew and scientists on board the US ship hope they will prove to be just the opposite – a site where future crimes can be prevented - **The Guardian**.



Image - USS Cape Ray

The tents house two highly unusual contraptions, custom-built to neutralise the most dangerous of Syria's extensive stockpile of chemical weapons. Each looks like a mass of pipes, tubes and valves leading to and from a cylindrical container about the size of minibus, all contained in an L-shaped steel frame.

It is called a field-deployable hydrolysis system (FDHS) and it renders lethal chemical weapons virtually harmless by the simple expedient of adding hot water, which irreversibly alters the lethal agents' molecular composition. But it can only do that when the chemicals actually arrive. The 648ft grey hulk of the Cape Ray has been moored alongside Spanish warships at the Rota naval base near Cádiz for nearly two months, waiting. [Read More...](#)

LIBYA'S crude export terminal recovered from rebel hands has been reopened for renewed exports, the National Oil Co (NOC) has said - **Aljazeera**.

The Al-Hariga terminal has a daily capacity of 110,000 barrels.

NOC did not say why it had not taken similar action at Zueitina, which has a capacity of 100,000 barrels per day.

The army announced on Wednesday it had taken control of Al-Hariga and Zueitina ports under a deal to end a crippling nine-month blockade by rebels seeking autonomy in the country's east, reported the AFP news agency.

Renewed oil exports will restore a much-needed revenue stream for the weak central government following the 2011 overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi. [Read More...](#)

Court Matters

Seaman Guard Ohio Crew

TWELVE INDIAN members of the Seaman Guard Ohio were allowed to walk out of Palayamkottai Central Prison on bail today - [***IHS Maritime 360***](#).

The 35 men aboard Advanfort's counter-piracy vessel were arrested in October 2013 and face charges under the Arms Act and the Essential Commodities Act.

The ship was said to have been carrying undeclared arms in Indian waters and also accused of refuelling illegally.

Thirty-three men were granted bail by the High Court in Chennai, but were not released from prison until conditions were met.

Each of the 21 Latvians and British in Puzhal Prison was expected to find two Indian citizens of good standing to vouch for their good behaviour, pay Rs200,000 (\$3,336) and sign in to Mylapore police station twice a day. [***Read More...***](#)

PIRATE-HUNTER Nick Dunn has vowed "never to return" to the Indian prison that ruined his life -

[***Chronicle Live***](#).

The 28-year-old, from Ashington in Northumberland, was released on bail last week and must remain in the Radisson Blu Hotel in Chennai as he and 32 colleagues await their next court appearance.

Nick was held with the other men after what they thought was a routine paperwork check on their security vessel Seaman Guard Ohio led to them all being arrested for illegal possession of weapons. Their company Advan-Fort has always insisted the men were to provide protection to other ships from pirate attacks, but the Indian courts have pressed weapons charges.

The former paratrooper is now waiting for a hearing date which he has been told could happen within the next month.

"The conditions were bad especially when you get rats and poisonous snakes in your cell like I did. Waking up to a rat staring at me is an image I desperately want to forget.

"If I had been bitten by a snake I would have likely died because the prison guards didn't speak any

English and they wouldn't have known what was wrong with me." [***Read More...***](#)

FIVE BRITISH men who were being held on arms charges have been freed on bail from an Indian jail, according to a lawyer close to the case - [***BBC News***](#).

They were on board an anti-piracy vessel, the Seaman Guard Ohio, which was detained in October, 2013.

They face charges including straying into Indian waters and carrying weapons without permission. Another British man, Paul Towers from Yorkshire, remains in jail along with the ship's Ukrainian captain.

News of the men's release was confirmed by an international maritime lawyer who is close to the case. He said: "Yes, they are out. Checking in to hotel and looking forward to a beer." [***Read More...***](#)

Private Security

[DUTCH] SHIP owners are outraged at the decision that PvdA made in Parliament to disallow private, armed security on board merchant vessels. The Royal Association of Dutch Ship Owners (KVRN) says that the party is leaving the vessels to their lots - [**NL Times**](#).

On Wednesday, the PvdA fraction in the House of Parliament blocked the cabinet's plan to allow security on Dutch vessels sailing in the waters near Somalia, where pirate activity is a frequent danger.

KVRN president, and ex-PvdA minister, Tineke Netelenbos tells the NOS on Thursday that she is surprised about her own party's decision. "If one thing should stand central to the PvdA, it is the protection of workers, and that's what this is about" Netelenbos says.

Somali pirates have executed enormously violent robberies and are a very real danger to the crew of ships sailing in the region, says Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frans Timmermans (PvdA). [Read More...](#)

SEA CONTROL interviews Erik Prince, former CEO of Blackwater. He describes the challenges of African logistics and how his new public venture, Frontier Services Group, will attempt to tackle them. We also discuss the future of private military contractors (PMCs) and the lessons learned from Blackwater - [**CIMSEC**](#). Listen [HERE](#)



International Response

POTUS, Barack Obama, signs 'Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Somalia' as follows: - [**Whitehouse.gov**](#)

On April 12, 2010, by Executive Order 13536, I declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the deterioration of the security situation and the persistence of violence in Somalia, acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, which have repeatedly been the subject of United Nations Security Council resolutions, and violations of the arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

On July 20, 2012, I issued Executive Order 13620 to take additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 in view of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2036 of February 22, 2012, and Resolution 2002 of July 29, 2011, and to address: exports of charcoal from Somalia, which generate significant revenue for al-Shabaab; the misappropriation of Somali public assets; and certain acts of violence committed against civilians in Somalia, all of which contribute to the deterioration of the security situation and the persistence of violence in Somalia.

Because the situation with respect to Somalia continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on April 12, 2010, and the measures adopted on that date and on July 20, 2012, to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond April 12, 2014. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536.

ADPC and the UKMTO, which is made up of serving UK Royal Naval personnel, International and Merchant Navy Liaison Officers, recently invited industry and other related organizations to the Maritime Information Exchange Vessel Operators Meeting (MIEVOM) which was held at the ADPC headquarters at Zayed Port - **World Maritime News**.



Image - ADPC and UKMTO at MIEVOM

For the first time, MIEVOM was hosted by ADPC and took place in Abu Dhabi. Maritime professionals from the GCC region and Asia attended the meeting which had been organized to update the local shipping industry on piracy issues and offered all participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and views on counter piracy and security related matters.

In addition to hosting the meeting, ADPC has agreed to further support the work of the UKMTO and enable its personnel to deliver valuable counter piracy briefings for vessels calling at ADPC ports.

Already permitted to work in Zayed Port, ADPC has now decided, with the container terminal operator – Abu Dhabi Terminals – that the UKMTO can extend its work to cover ships in Khalifa Port. **Read More...**

DP WORLD brought together public and private sector experts to a meeting aimed at initiating support to Somalia - **World Maritime News**.

During the meeting experts shared ideas on how to support Somalia to build its economy, attract international investment and create jobs and a future for its young people as an alternative to taking to sea as pirates

The panel discussion, themed “The Business Environment, Regulatory Reform and Key Economic Sectors for Investment in Somalia”, is the first of three DP World is convening with

knowledge partner, the Institute for Near East and Gulf Military Analysis (INEGMA), this year focused on supporting the development of Somalia as part of the port operator’s on-going counter-piracy efforts.

For the past three years, DP World and the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs have co-convened an annual international Counter-Piracy Conference in Dubai that brings together more than 750 industry and government leaders to seek solutions to piracy, both at sea and on land. Piracy originating in Somalia has fallen dramatically over that time. Attention is now turning to building the economic capacity of that country. **Read More...**

THE IRANIAN warships plan to stay in Djibouti port for three days after 73 days of journey in the high seas - **FARS News Agency**.

The flotilla, which is the first dispatched to the Atlantic Ocean, but the 29th one dispatched to the international waters, consists of Khark logistic and helicopter-carrier warships and Sabalan destroyer. The warships should sail 25,000 nautical kilometers in their three-month-long mission.

The 29th Flotilla has already traversed across the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and it also once berthed at Oman's Salaleh port during the early stages of its voyage.

The Iranian Navy has been conducting anti-piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden since November 2008, when Somali raiders hijacked the Iranian-chartered cargo ship, MV Delight, off the coast of Yemen.

ON SUNDAY 6 April, Rear Admiral Hervé Bléjean (French Navy) handed over the Force Command of EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Somalia Operation Atalanta to Rear Admiral Jürgen zur Mühlen (German Navy) during a Change of Command ceremony held on board FS Siroco in the Port of Djibouti - **AllAfrica**.

Deputy Operation Commander of EU Naval Force Rear Admiral Bartolomé Bauzá presided over the handover. The event was also attended by Lieutenant General Hans-Werner Fritz Commander of the Joint Forces Operations Command of the German Armed Forces in Potsdam.

The outgoing Force Commander, Rear Admiral Hervé Bléjean addressed the distinguished guests and representatives of the taskforce and force headquarters aboard the flagship.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Force Headquarters staff, the commanding officers and crews of all the units under my command, not least the FS Siroco, her Commanding Officer and her ships company. Without their constant hard work and professionalism my successful 4 month tenure could not have been achieved." [Read More...](#)

Piracy Costs

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

THE UNITED States Senate on April 3 took a strong stand in the global fight against illegal fishing by ratifying a treaty that will prevent illegally caught fish from entering the market through ports around the world. The treaty, called the Port State Measures Agreement, or PSMA, also would empower port officials to prohibit foreign vessels that are suspected of illegal activity from receiving port services and access. By cutting off market access for illegally caught fish, the treaty will erode the profit incentive that drives the activity - **[Stop Illegal Fishing](#)**. The treaty, which the United Nations adopted in 2009, applies to foreign-flagged vessels calling on ports in any country that is a party to the agreement. Under its provisions, port officials who conclude that a vessel has a known or suspected record of illegal fishing would turn away the vessel or subject it to immediate inspection. If there is evidence of illegal catch, port officials would prohibit the landing of the catch. They also would alert other ports to the situation and could deny the vessel permission to refuel or receive repairs. [Read More...](#)

THE OCEANS are vast and humans are small — as the monthlong hunt for a vanished Malaysian jetliner demonstrates. Think of the challenge, then, for law enforcement and fisheries managers in going after fleets of shady boats that engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. These

criminals ply the seas and sell their catches with impunity, making off with an estimated 11 million to 26 million metric tons of stolen fish each year, a worldwide haul worth about \$10 billion to \$23.5 billion. Many use banned gear like floating gillnets, miles long, that indiscriminately slaughter countless unwanted fish along with seabirds, marine mammals, turtles and other creatures - **[NY Times](#)**.

The danger that illegal fishing poses to vulnerable ocean ecosystems is self-evident, but the harm goes beyond that. Illegal competition hurts legitimate commercial fleets. And lawless fishermen are prone to other crimes, like forced labor and drug smuggling. The convergence of illegal fishing with other criminal enterprises makes it in every country's interest to devise an effective response.

That's the job of the Port State Measures Agreement. It is a treaty adopted by the United Nations in 2009 that seeks to thwart the poachers in ports when they try to unload their ill-gotten catches. Many countries have been unable or unwilling to enforce their own laws to crack down on poachers flying their flags. [Read More...](#)

TEN TONNES of fake Viagra, Cialis and other medicines were part of a record seizure by French customs in the northern French port of Le Havre, it was announced Thursday. The shipment from China was Europe's largest-ever haul of counterfeit medicines - **[RFI](#)**.

The packages, containing 10 tonnes of counterfeit drugs mostly for diarrhoea and erectile disfunction, were supposed to be Chinese tea and were on their way to Belgium.

Officials announced on Thursday that 2.4 million tablets were found in containers coming from China at the end of February. [Read More...](#)

Seafarers' Plight

ON JANUARY 15th 2014 experienced Dutch sailor Sietse Hagen left his home port in Tenerife heading for Barbados in the Caribbean. Since his departure, nothing had been heard, until yesterday when a Dutch vessel discovered the yacht mid-Atlantic - [Noonsite](#).

Sadly, there was no trace of 70 year old Mr Hagen.

A Dutch ship en-route from Savannah (United States) to Agadir (Morocco) found Mr Hagen's yacht on Monday 7 April, approx. 2000 kilometers from the Moroccan coast .

The crew of the ship tried to get in contact with the yacht, but there was no response. When the ship's crew went on board the yacht, no one was present. However, the documents of Mr. Hagen where found.

Mr Hagen's yacht "Pokerface" is a 27ft Gib'Sea Flush Poker with no dinghy or liferaft. The only form of communication on board was a hand held VHF. [Read More...](#)

AID WORKERS' PLIGHT

TWO AID workers have been rescued by the Kenyan army after being kidnapped by Somali militant group al-Shabab in 2011, the military says - [BBC News Africa](#).

Daniel Njuguna and James Kiarie, both Kenyans, are now in hospital in the Somali town of Dhobley, the army says.

They were rescued by Kenyan troops working with the African Union force in Somalia, Amisom.

Kenya sent troops into Somalia in 2011 following a spate of kidnappings in border areas.

Amisom troops are helping government forces battle al-Shabab, an Islamist militia which is part of al-Qaeda and which controls much of southern and central Somalia. [Read More...](#)

And Finally...

THE aspiring journalist and her boyfriend travelled to Somalia to report on the lawless nation, instead she was snatched at gunpoint and spent 15 months at the mercy of her brutal captors -

[Express UK](#)



Image - Amanda Lindhout. Amanda said she has forgiven her captors and this helped her come to terms with her experience [\[MARNIE BURKHART\]](#)

As a child growing up in the small rural town of Red Deer in Canada, Amanda Lindhout dreamed of swapping her humdrum life for far-flung adventures. At 19 she took a waitressing job and used her tips to build a travel fund.

Over the next few years she ventured far and wide, backpacking on her own around Venezuela, visiting Ethiopia and even taking up a post as a rookie journalist for an Iranian press agency in Baghdad.

In 2008, at the age of 26, Amanda decided to go to Somalia with her friend Nigel Brennan, an Australian photographer. Together they hoped to share the stories of the ordinary people struggling to live in a country regarded as being one of the most lawless in the world.

On their third morning they set off for a refugee camp outside the capital Mogadishu. Somalis driven from their homes by a brutal civil war were arriving there in droves.

Accompanying the pair were their local expert "fixer", a driver, the head of security from the camp and two hired bodyguards.

What happened next, says Amanda, was "like something from a Hollywood movie". A dozen men, faces covered and brandishing guns, surrounded the car and dragged the group out.

Amanda and Nigel were to spend the next 460 days as hostages. By the time they were finally freed they were seriously malnourished, ill and terrified.

For a long time Amanda, now 32, chose not to tell her story, instead throwing all her energy into setting up The Global Enrichment Foundation, a charity providing education for Somali women (globalenrichmentfoundation.ca).

Now her new book *A House In The Sky: A Memoir* gives an account of her experiences and how they affected her. "It is very important to me now to be of service to the world, to be the best I can. I choose to find positives, to be a survivor, not a victim," she says. [*Read More...*](#)



Image - Amanda with co-captive Nigel Brennan days after being released [[REUTERS](#)]

Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

NSTR

Unsuccessful Attacks/ Robberies (All regions):

- SE Asia - Robbers boarded an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged crude tanker, **Ridgebury John B**, unnoticed and escaped with ship's properties between 0100 - 0400 LT in position 01:25N – 104:38E, around 12nm NNE of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia. The robbery was only noticed in the morning by the engine crew. Reported (IMB) 4 Apr.

- Arabian Sea - MV reported a suspicious skiff at 1530 UTC in position 13:14.2N - 056:33.7E. Skiff closed to 2nm and MV enforced BMP measures. Crew mustered in citadel, AST stood to. UKMTO informed and coalition warship tasked to investigate. Skiff last sighted at 13:09N-056:38E. MV safely escorted by CP warship and skiff moved out of range. Reported 5 Apr.

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

Worldwide Incidents 2014: 52 reported incidents
Somalia - NATO, EUNAVFOR & UKMTO state
Vessels: 0; Hostages: 50; CGPCS - 49 hostages.

Other Incidents:

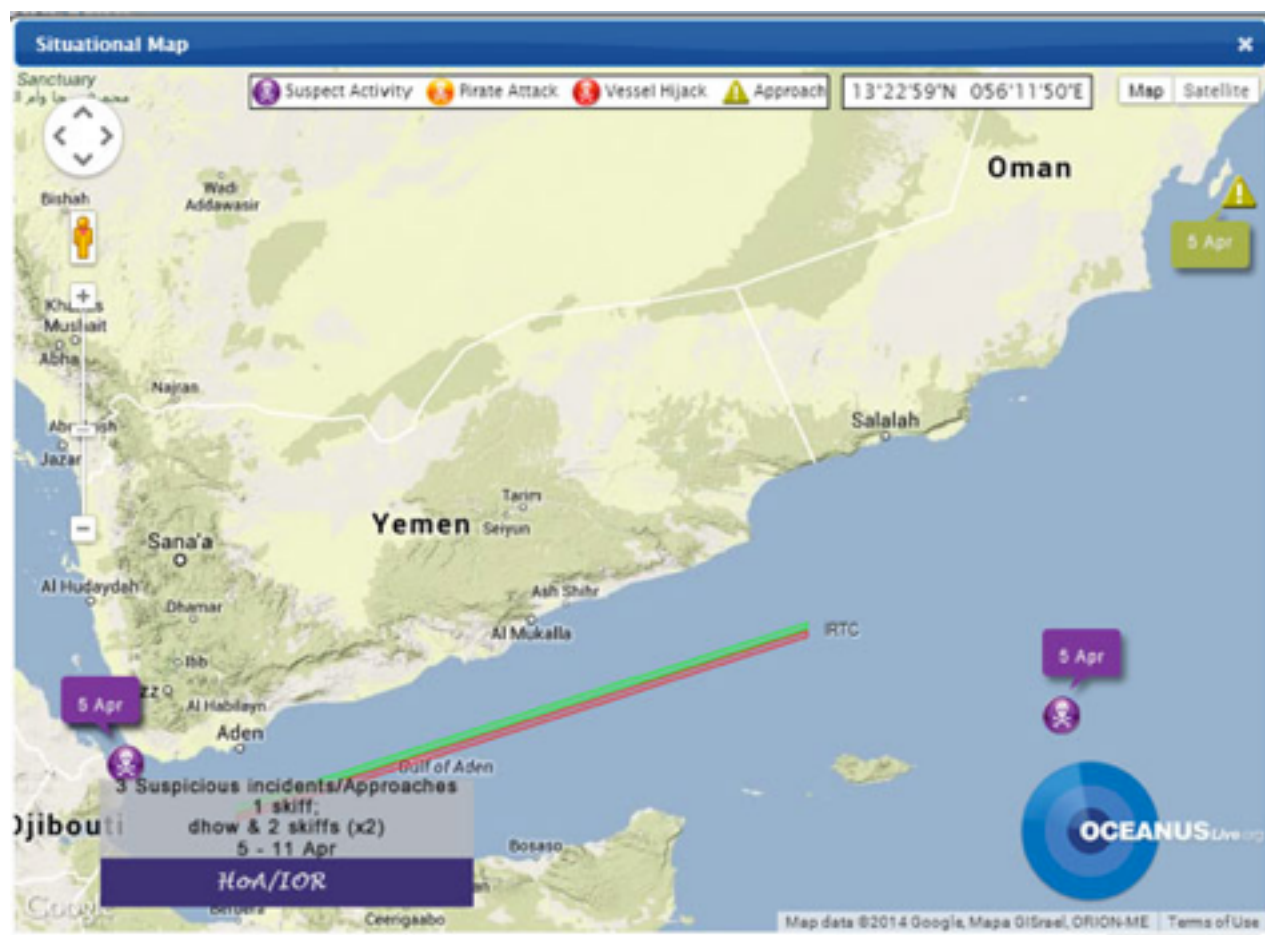
NSTR

Suspicious Activity:

- Arabian Sea - Merchant vessel was reported to be approached within 300 metres by 2 skiffs and a dhow at 0830 UTC in position 20:15N - 059:02.5E, approx 15nm SE of Masirah Island, off Oman coast in Arabian Sea. Embarked AST fired warning shots, skiffs then moved 250m astern, ladders said to have been sighted, further warning shots fired and skiffs then turned away. Reported (NSC) 5 Apr.
- Red Sea - MV reported suspicious approach by 1 white-hulled skiff to stern at 15kts at 1233 UTC in position 12:35.5N - 043:26E, approx 3nm S of Birim Island, Southern Red Sea. AST displayed weapons but skiff continued to close to 300m. 5 POB (3 hidden and 2 crouching w/ ladder) observed. Master sounded horn and ordered evasive manoeuvres. AST fired warning shot resulting in skiff moving away towards 3 other skiffs. Reported (UKMTO) 5 Apr.

Situational Map

An interactive version of this situational map is available through registration of verified access to [OCEANUSLive](#)



Reported incidents in the HoA/IOR HRA.

OCEANUSLive.org *permits the reproduction of this image providing source and link are published (Map ToU)*

Any suspicious activity in HoA HRA should be reported to UKMTO in Dubai in the first instance (Email [UKMTO](#) or Telephone +971 50 552 3215) and on entering the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) bound by Suez, 78E and 10S.

follow on [Twitter](#) |

friend on [Facebook](#) |

forward to a [friend](#) |

