

17 - 23 May 2014 No. 21/14

**Pirates kill fisherman; Nigerian successes but not winning; Boko Haram sanctions, Yacht search suspended; Bounty on Sewol ferry owner -**

An Indian fisherman was shot and killed during an armed robbery at sea off the Bahraini coast. Four armed and masked robbers boarded and robbed the Bahraini dhow with 7 crew after random shots were fired. Confused messages from Nigeria this week. Announcements of successes against oil thieves and illegal fishing boats off Nigeria were mixed in with media stories of the rescue of alleged 'hijacked' tanker, SP Brussels, the acquisition of additional ships, orders for increased Air Force surveillance and the admission to not winning the war against oil thieves due to "circumstances beyond their control." Nigeria and its neighbours vowed to work together to combat Boko Haram and, following a formal request, the UN Security Council has approved sanctions against the militant group, adding them to the al-Qaeda list of designated entities. The on-off-on search for the missing crew of yacht Cheeki Rafiki in the Atlantic Ocean has been suspended. The hull of the yacht was found in the North Atlantic with the life raft still onboard but no sign of the sailors. A nationwide manhunt for the owner of the South Korean ferry has seen a reward offered for information on the whereabouts of the owner and his son; 17 bodies remain missing from the ferry. Drought threatens Somalia and humanitarians are increasingly concerned about food reaching communities controlled by armed groups. With food insecurity, the risk of sliding back into crisis is very real. Regional concerns increased as Al Shabaab vowed to move their war to neighbouring Kenya which, incidentally, looks to boost tourism. A UN Guard nit was inaugurated to protect UN staff and installations in Mogadishu. Kenyan troops in Kismayo are to be replaced by Djiboutian peacekeepers.

Tension continues in Asia as China evacuates Chinese nationals from Vietnam following a wave of anti-Chinese riots. With Vietnam and the Philippines determined to oppose Chinese infringement of territorial waters, boundary disputes continue to concern.

A rather interesting move was seen via social media channel, Twitter, this week. Iran's IRGC posted a strategy for attacking US warships which involves deception and stealth to combat superior firepower. The search of a capsized river ferry in Bangladesh has recovered 54 bodies from the 200 on board, but survivors claim the number of passengers may have been double that figure.

As Syria relinquishes the remaining stockpile of chemical weapons, Russia and China vetoed a UN Security Council resolution to investigate war crimes in Syria.

South Korea is to break up its coastguard in the wake of the ferry disaster, said President Park, who formally apologised for the disaster with tears rolling down her face. An experimental underwater robot, the Crabster, was introduced to the ferry search.

A book and a movie trailer based on the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 has caused consternation, particularly with the claim of being shot down (book) and suggestion of a love triangle (film). In the meantime, the 'raw data' from the satellite company is to be made available. Underwater scientists criticise the Australian PM for playing politics in announcing the 'pings', but a former Malaysian PM has accused US intelligence of concealing the whereabouts of the plane.

The UN Contact Group meeting in NYC called for immediate release of seafarers still held captive in Somalia, endorsed measures to streamline work strands with a view to increasing regional participation. Oman advances counter-piracy efforts during a review of regional protocols. The EU is considering if the benefits from Op

Atalanta outweigh the costs. Seychelles, is to set up a Marine Police investigation unit to reinforce maritime security capacity with equipment donation by EUCAP Nestor.

HMAS Darwin seized yet another haul of drugs making it seven during their deployment.

The 23rd of May sees the anniversary of the demise of everyone's idea of a 'swashbuckling pirate', Captain William Kidd in 1701.

“

**The deployment of the UN Guard Unit is an important step as we continue to expand our operations in support of the Somali people”**

**-UN ENVOY FOR SOMALIA  
NICHOLAS KAY,**

# Regional Activity

## East Africa/Indian Ocean

A 47-year-old fisherman from Rajakkamangalam Thurai, a coastal village in Kanyakumari district in Tamil Nadu, is said to have been shot dead by Iranian sea pirates off the Bahrain coast - **The Times of India**.

First secretary (community welfare) Ram Singh at the Indian embassy in Bahrain told TOI over telephone on Thursday that Thomas Soosai along with six others, who were employed by a Bahraini sponsor, had gone for fishing.

"The pirates wanted to take the valuables on the fishing boat and shot at the men, killing Thomas on the spot. Others managed to escape," he said. [Read More...](#)

PIRATES have shot dead a fisherman on board a Bahraini dhow during an armed robbery at sea, sparking a warning to sailors to steer clear of international waters - **Gulf Daily News**.

Thomas Glattus Soosai, from India, was shot in the abdomen when pirates boarded the dhow 10 nautical miles northwest of Bahrain's sea border in an area known as Alrkaa, authorities said yesterday.



The pirates

looted the vessel of its catch, equipment and other valuables before leaving Mr Soosai and his six crew mates adrift at sea on Wednesday.

Their vessel was later found floating three nautical miles east of Shaikh Khalifa Port by the Coast Guard, but Mr Soosai was already dead.

Coast Guard Commander Commodore Ala Abdulla Sayadi said four pirates were involved in the raid and an investigation has been launched. He also urged seafarers to stay within Bahrain's territorial waters when they set out to sea.

Meanwhile, Muharraaq Public Prosecution head Abdulla Al Dossary said yesterday Mr Soosai's shipmates were still in shock.

"A medical examiner was commissioned to conduct a post-mortem and colleagues of the dead man have been summoned to give their testimony," he said.

"They said, as they were sailing north of Bahrain, a boat with four armed and masked men blocked their way and started shooting randomly, killing their colleague." [Read more...](#)

THE MINISTER of Information of the Federal Government of Somalia Mustaf Duhulow has said in a press conference in Mogadishu that Somali forces helped to the successfully reduced of the pirate activities within the Somali coast, **RBC Radio** reports.

"Our forces deserve our support and recognition so that they can accomplish their mission with confidence. Also," the minister said.

"Our forces and the government and the EU have successfully reduced pirate activities by 95%," he added.

The Minister spoke the progress of the government as well as the current situation in Somalia and said that the government is committed to action and delivery in order to hold fair and free elections by 2016. [Read more...](#)

SOMALIA IS at risk of sliding back into crisis because its fragile food security situation is likely to deteriorate in the coming months, according to the United Nations Office For Humanitarian Coordination - **RBC Radio**.

This is due to a combination of delayed rains, rising food prices and continued conflict especially in agro-pastoral areas of southern and central Somalia, the office said.

Conditions are worryingly similar to the pre-famine period of 2010. Despite the serious situation, funding for Somalia in 2014 is critically low.

The ongoing military offensive has led to population movements and slowed down planting in affected areas. It also resulted in increased food prices in towns affected by the Al Shabaab blockage of main supply routes. [Read More...](#)

AS DROUGHT threatens Somalia once more, humanitarians are becoming increasingly concerned about how they will reach food

insecure communities living in areas controlled by armed groups - [\*\*IRIN News\*\*](#).

An estimated 2.4 million Somalis require emergency humanitarian assistance as a result of civil unrest and food insecurity, according to the UN Food Security and Analysis Unit-Somalia. The failure of the short rains (October-December 2010) means over the coming months that that number could increase.

"Somalia is teetering on the brink of a much larger crisis if the next rains, due in April, fail," Baroness Valerie Amos, UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said at a press conference in Nairobi following a visit to Somalia. "There is a significant drought-affected population who are difficult to access because they live in areas controlled by armed groups."

Somalia has now been without a functional government for 20 years; several parts of the south are controlled by armed groups such as Al-Shabaab; piracy and inter-clan violence have also hampered the delivery of aid.

According to the UN World Food Programme (WFP), the fluid nature of Somalia's conflict makes delivery of humanitarian assistance even more difficult. [Read More...](#)

ACCORDING TO Somali government sources, a contingent of Djiboutian peacekeepers in Somalia will be deployed into the Southern port town of Kismayo to replace the Kenyan army there, [\*\*RBC Radio\*\*](#) reports.

The Djiboutian contingent will be part of new Djiboutian soldiers from Djibouti those will be deployed soon.

The deployment will take place as peacekeepers from Sierra Leone commenced to replace the Kenyan army in Kismayo.

Somali military official who spoke with RBC Radio said the deployment is part of a fresh demand from Somali government which requested the African Union Mission in Somalia to replace the Kenyan army to more neutral peacekeepers. There have been growing allegations of civilian casualties against the Kenyan army in Kismayo since their arrival in Somalia in October 2011.

[Read More...](#)

THE UN envoy for Somalia Nicholas Kay, today presided over the formal inauguration of the United Nations Guard Unit, a defensive military entity mandated to protect UN staff and



installations in Mogadishu - [\*\*RBC Radio\*\*](#).

The UNGU is made up of 410 troops provided by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF). The Guard Unit, led by a Ugandan Commander, falls under the responsibility of the UN designated official in Somalia, SRS Kay. The Unit is a static force and will be based at Mogadishu International Airport.

"The deployment of the UN Guard Unit is an important step as we continue to expand our operations in support of the Somali people," Mr. Kay said at the event. "We are deeply grateful to Uganda for its continued contribution to peace- and state-building in Somalia."

This Guard Unit, which officially began its duties on 15 May 2014, marks the UPDF's first ever contribution to a UN field mission. [Read More...](#)

SINCE APRIL 23rd over 20,000 peacekeeper and Somali Army troops have been conducting the first major joint offensive in central and southern Somalia - [\*\*Strategy Page\*\*](#). This effort, called Operation Eagle, has officially cleared al Shabaab driven out of most of the area. As a result al Shabaab forces are gone from towns and most villages in the area from central Somalia (west of Mogadishu) south to the Kenyan border. Al Shabaab ordered its gunmen to flee the advance, so it's become largely a matter of chasing the Islamic terrorists constantly, trying to leave them little opportunity to organise attacks. Because of Operation Eagle most al Shabaab men are now forced to forage and loot to survive, which makes

them even less tolerable to the locals. There has been some violence, or threats of violence because of Operation Eagle and this has produced over 50,000 refugees. There are also a lot of roads that go through thinly populated and remote areas where al Shabaab hide and often ambush and rob vehicles. This has made delivery of aid more difficult. There are still over half a million people in the Operation Eagle operating area dependent on food aid. Al Shabaab publicly insists that it will fight on, so the peacekeepers are attempting to wear down al Shabaab to the point where the Islamic terrorists are no longer a major threat. That could take years, as in until the end of the decade. [Read More...](#)

A MILITARY court in Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland sentenced 14 soldiers for staging a mini-mutiny in their Barracks, located in the port town of Bosaso - [Horseed Media](#).



The soldiers who were convicted are part of the Puntland Maritime Police forces (PMPF) and the hearing was

attended by the Commander of the forces Admiral Abdirisak Dirie.

After hearing their cases, Court prosecute Abdifatah Haji Adan announced that each of the soldiers were sentenced to five years jail terms. But they have one month to apply for an appeal. [Read More...](#)

THE ISLAND nation of Mauritius has ordered a 50 metre fast patrol vessel from India, as well as machine-guns, ammunition, body armour and interceptor boats in a major re-equipment drive - [DefenceWeb](#).

The government of Mauritius said the order for the \$20.5 million fast patrol vessel for the Mauritius Police Force/Coast Guard was signed on May 7 in Port Louis by the Senior Chief Executive of the Prime Minister's Office, K O Fong Weng-Poorun, and the Chairman and Managing Director of Goa Shipyard Ltd, Shekhar Mital. Also present at the signing ceremony were the Commissioner of

Police and the Commander of the National Coast Guard.

The fast patrol vessel will be 50.44 metres long with a speed of 35

knots. It will be used for defence and protection work, surveys, pollution control, coastal patrol, anti-smuggling, anti-poaching, search and rescue, fisheries protection and monitoring of foreign chartered trawlers, amongst other duties.

Fong Weng-Poorun praised the signing of the contract between her government and the Indian shipyard as a milestone in the long standing diplomatic and defence relations between the two countries, especially in the maritime security domain. [Read More...](#)



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## West Africa

THE CHIEF of Naval Staff(CNS), Vice Adm. Usman Jibril, has said that the Nigerian Navy impounded about 38 ships involved in criminal activities since his assumption of office in January 2014 -

### **Beegeagle.**

Jibril disclosed this to newsmen on Monday in Warri, Delta State during his maiden visit to the Nigerian Navy Ship 'NNS Delta', at Warri Naval Base.



He said that eight of the ships were fishing vessels operated by the Chinese in the nation's waterways.

"Since I came over, we have impounded about 38 ships. The ships are under detention and by implication, cannot commit havoc again. "They were illegally fishing on our waters. They must have also been using our product – Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) – to service their ships; which means they are also involved in illegal bunkering." The CNS said that the Federal Government was committed to repositioning the Nigerian Navy through the provision of adequate platforms for improved performance.

He said that the government had ordered for two offshore patrol vessels from China, adding that they would soon take delivery of them.

Photo: NNS ANDONI P100, proudly made-in-Nigeria by the Nigerian Navy. [Read More...](#)

NAVAL PERSONNEL attached to NNS Benin and NNS Ikot-Abasi, recently engaged in a gun battle with sea pirates who hijacked a vessel with 17 foreign crew members at the Lagos anchorage, killing two of them in the process - **AllAfrica.** The pirates, numbering eight and armed, reportedly hijacked the oil tanker, MT SP Brussels,

about 120 nautical miles outside Lagos waters, killing two crew members.

Fifteen crew members from Pakistan, India and Ghana, were rescued.

Report said the pirates, who were operating in two speed boats, gained access into the oil tanker, a 35 gross tonnage vessel and 14 metric tonnes container capacity of product, with a Jacob's ladder.

Four of them were said to have engaged two Police escorts in a shootout during which stray bullets hit two crew members, killing them on the spot, while another was injured.

The deceased, as gathered, were an Indian and the captain of the ship.

The pirates, who out-numbered the policemen attached to 43 Mobile Police Force of the Marine Police CMS, reportedly disarmed them, thereby forcing the fear-stricken crew members to scurry into a citadel inside the ship to hide.

Having taken over the oil tanker, the sea pirates were said to have held the crew members hostage and set sail apparently to offload the content.

[Read more...](#)

[\[Note: MTI Network article states owners deny incident occurred as reported here. See below\]](#)

GOVERNOR GODSWILL Akpabio has charged Nigerian Air Force to increase surveillance in the oil producing areas to curtail crude oil theft, bunkering and vandalism of oil pipelines by miscreants - **SpyGhana.**

Akpabio, who gave the charge Friday when the Commander of 207 Special Mobility Group, Calabar, Air Commodore Charles Ohwo, paid him a courtesy visit at Governor's Office, Uyo, said such effort would restore losses in the monthly oil derivation accruable to government.

The Governor, bemoaned upsurge of sea pirates in the country's territorial waters coupled with harassment of sea passengers and fishermen and the resultant effects on their means of livelihood, and called on him to deploy his men to check activities of sea pirates.

He commended him for what his men are doing in partnering other security agencies in "Operation Thunder", and appealed for more cooperation in ensuring safety of lives and property.

Akpabio further lauded the efforts of the air force in fighting terrorism in the country, saying that “Although terrorism is a global problem, what we are seeing in the country is totally un-Nigerian. I want the Nigerian Air Force to add more value to the security of lives and property”. [Read more...](#)

NIGERIAN NAVY on Wednesday in Abuja said it detained 38 ships involved in illegal activities such as crude oil theft, illegal bunkering, piracy, sea robbery and illegal fishing in the waterways of the country from January 2014 to date - **[Nigerian Current](#)**.

Chief of Policy and Plans at the Naval Headquarters, Rear Adm. Ameen Ikioda made this known at a news conference to mark the 58th anniversary of Nigerian Navy.

Ikioda said eight of the ships belonged to Chinese companies and were impounded for illegal fishing activities in Nigerian waters.

He said the navy has been unrelenting in its operations to protect the nation's maritime environment against all forms of threats.

According to him, the navy constantly carries out surveillance and patrol of the maritime areas with available surveillance systems, ships and helicopter.

He explained that the operations were specifically aimed at checking crude oil theft, illegal bunkering, piracy and sea robbery and illegal fishing, adding that the authorities were encouraged by the successes recorded so far.

[Read more...](#)

THE NIGERIAN Navy yesterday, said that it has acquired additional eight ships in its fleet, to boost its capacity to police the country's maritime environment - **[National Mirror Online](#)**.

At a press briefing in Abuja, to mark the 58th anniversary of the Nigerian Navy, the Chief of Naval Staff, CNS, Vice Admiral Usman Jibrin, disclosed that 38 ships were arrested between January and May this year, for their involvement in various illegalities in the country's territorial waters.

The Chief of Naval Staff, who was represented by the Chief of Policy and Plans, COPP, Rear Admiral Amin Ikioda, said that eight of the ships currently in the custody of the Navy were Chinese ships,

adding that the acquisition of the additional ships would further help in checking and stopping such acts of illegality.

Admiral Jibrin disclosed that the acquisition followed the adopted “double-pronged strategy” of the Navy towards achieving the recapitalisation of its fleet, which he said was top priority.

“On one hand, ships are being acquired from some friendly countries while on the other hand, the NN is complementing with local construction of ships.

“In this regard, the United States Coast Guard Cutter GALLLATAIN was transferred to the NN on May 7, 2014 at Charleston, South Carolina. The ship, which has been renamed NNS OKPABANA, is expected to sail from the United States in the 3rd quarter of the year to join the country's naval fleet. [Read More...](#)

THE NIGERIAN Navy, yesterday, admitted not winning the war against oil thieves in the Niger Delta, citing circumstances beyond their control - **[Vanguard Nigeria](#)**.

Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Usman Jibrin, who made the admittance at a briefing on the upcoming 2014 Navy Week in Abuja, said it would soon bring stakeholders to a roundtable to seek ways of ending the persistent economic menace in the oil rich region.

Represented by the Chief of Policy and Plans, Naval Headquarters, Rear Admiral Amin Ikioda, the CNS insisted that curbing the menace involved inter-agency cooperation.

He said: “What we do now is that any arrest we make, once it is confirmed to have violated the laws of this country or found to have been involved in illegalities in our maritime space, we handover such a vessel and the crew to the EFCC, police and sometimes to the Civil Defence because those people have powers to prosecute. You know the processes.

“When you go to court and the application of justice, sometimes takes years, so most of the cases, when we handover, we leave them to the prosecuting authorities to do.

“But from time to time, we still assist them in one way or the other anytime such case comes up, so since these years, we cannot concretely tell you the number of convictions that have been

secured, but we know that the cases are still ongoing at the various courts.” [Read More...](#)

THE TURKISH Maritime Task Group has expressed desire to work with the Nigerian Navy personnel to tackle the criminal and unpatriotic activities and operations of pirates in Nigeria - [AllAfrica](#).

Captain Ihsan Bakar, Commander of the Turkish Maritime Group, dropped this hint in Lagos during the first circumnavigation of Africa by the Turkish Navy. The event took place aboard the Turkish ship at Apapa Port in Lagos.

According to Bakar, 18 countries in Africa, Nigeria inclusive, are expected to be visited by the Turkish Naval personnel between March 17 and June 27 this year.

Some of the countries penciled down for the visit include Cameroon, Togo, Ghana, Benin, Gabon, Congo, Angola and The Gambia. Others are Canarias, Mauritania, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Kenya, among others.

The Turkish Naval commander further disclosed that the objectives of the visit were to support the on-going efforts of these African countries in tackling piracy, contribute to the safety of sea lines of communication, conduct presence operations in oceans around the African continent. Also, the visit will afford the Turkish Naval personnel the opportunity to contribute ideas and suggestions that could help in tackling piracy, maritime insecurity and other forms of criminalities in Nigeria's maritime sector. [Read More...](#)

DOZENS of fishing merchants lean patiently against a tin wall in Lagos's Kirikiri harbour, waiting for sea-battered boats to bring in their haul. For years, women here have bought fish to sell on to local markets, but now their livelihood is under threat - [The Economist](#). Pirates are driving Nigerian trawlers out of business. “Today there is no fresh fish, only frozen,” says a saleswoman, standing over a few meagre bags of rock-hard fish. “It is no good for us”.

The problem lies offshore. Whereas piracy off Somalia's lawless coast on the other side of Africa is dwindling, Nigeria's sea-robbers are increasingly confident and sophisticated. Attacks on oil rigs, cargo ships and fishing boats have

soared in the past decade. The London-based International Maritime Bureau says that piracy off the coast of west Africa made up 19% of the world's attacks last year.

Kidnapped captains can be ransomed. Sluggish trawlers are easy prey for pirates' speedboats. A local trawling company, ORC Fishing & Food Processing, recorded about 20 incidents involving its fleet last year, including two deaths. “We have been battered by sea-robbers,” says Akinsola Amire of the Nigerian Trawler Owners' Association. “There was a time last year when the first thing we asked in the morning was, ‘I hope there is no bad news’.” [Read More...](#)

CONTRARY TO reports in the media Medaillon Reederei would like to report that the following an attack by pirates on April 29 the master of its oil products tanker SP Brussels did not suffer fatal injuries and is in good health. SP Brussels came under attack on the night of April 29th when the vessel was en route from Port Harcourt to Lagos. Sadly one of the valued crew members suffered fatal injuries with one other seafarer sustaining minor injuries - [MTI Network](#). Two of the attackers died following a crossfire with the security guards on board the ship.

In line with the company's security procedures crew and armed guards retreated to the citadel of the vessel immediately after the attackers boarded SP Brussels. Regrettably two of the crew were unable to reach the citadel during the vicious attack on the ship. At no stage during the events the remaining 15 crewmembers and the security guards of SP Brussels were held hostage by the attackers nor did the pirates take full control of the ship or its cargo. When the armed guards left the citadel in the early morning hours of April 30 to establish the security situation they discovered the casualties on board the vessel and confirmed the pirates had left the vessel.

A naval vessel attended to the ship in the afternoon of April 30 when SP Brussels proceeded under its own power to the port of Lagos.

See one of the media reports in question:

[AllAfrica](#) [Read More...](#)

PIPELINE VANDALS caused an explosion at a jetty near Nigeria's 210,000-barrels-per-day capacity refinery in the southern oil hub of Port Harcourt, officials said on Monday - [\*\*Reuters Africa\*\*](#).

Ralph Ugwu, a spokesman for Nigerian National Petroleum Corp (NNPC), said the blast on Sunday did not damage refinery installations and had no impact on operations.

"The explosion has nothing to do with the NNPC or the refinery but with some people who came to steal crude," Ugwu said.

A local government official said at least seven people died in the blast. [\*\*Read More...\*\*](#)

CAMPAIGNERS CALL on Shell to stop lobbying against new transparency laws

Royal Dutch Shell's involvement in a deal which saw \$1.1bn diverted into the hands of a former Nigerian oil minister could see the company lose a valuable oil block, says Global Witness -

[\*\*AllAfrica\*\*](#).

The deal for oil block OPL 245 off the coast of West Africa is being investigated by authorities in the UK, Italy and Nigeria.

The Nigerian House of Representatives called for the deal to be cancelled, condemning Shell's lack of transparency and describing the deal as "contrary to the laws of Nigeria."

According to a Nigerian House of Representatives report, the block was estimated in 2003 to hold "proven reserves" of 447 million barrels, while a more recent study cited in the same report claims that OPL 245 could contain "probable" reserves of as much as 9.23 billion barrels.

While none of these figures have been confirmed by the company, the block would appear to be of considerable future value. Shell and Eni each own 50% of the block, and are likely to have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the developing it. The offshore asset could be a significant growth project for Shell as it exits from some onshore leases in the Niger Delta.

"Investors need to know what's at stake. This deal is being investigated in several countries and there's a threat of cancellation. Secret payments and shadowy deals are not just bad for people in developing countries, they're bad business," said

Brendan O'Donnell, Oil Campaigner at Global Witness. [\*\*Read More...\*\*](#)

## Boko Haram

NIGERIA AND its neighbours on Saturday vowed to work together to combat Boko Haram in what Cameroon President Paul Biya described as a declaration of war on the Islamic militants - [\*\*The Straits Times\*\*](#). Nigerian President Goodluck



Jonathan and his counterparts from Benin, Chad, Cameroon and Niger approved an action plan designed to counter an organisation blamed for 2,000 deaths this year alone and which has caused global outrage with its abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls.

Just hours ahead of the summit, the Islamists carried out another brazen attack, this time killing one Chinese worker and kidnapping 10 others in Cameroon – underlining the regional threat posed by the group. [\*\*Read More...\*\*](#)

NIGERIA HAS formally asked the U.N. Security Council al Qaeda sanctions committee to blacklist the Islamist militant group Boko Haram after the kidnapping of hundreds of schoolgirls, according to a confidential document obtained by [\*\*Reuters\*\*](#). If there is no objection by the 15-member council committee, which operates by consensus, Boko Haram will be sanctioned as of 3:00 p.m. EDT (1900 GMT) on Thursday. The sanctions would include an international asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

Until recently, Nigeria had been reluctant to seek international assistance to combat Boko Haram. [\*\*Read More...\*\*](#)



THE UN Security Council has approved sanctions against the Nigerian militant group Boko Haram, five weeks after it kidnapped more than 200 schoolgirls - [\*\*BBC News Africa\*\*](#).

It will now be added to a list of al-Qaeda-linked organisations subject to an arms embargo and asset freeze.

US envoy Samantha Power said it was an "important step" in support of efforts to "defeat Boko Haram and hold its murderous leadership accountable".

It was earlier blamed for the deaths of 27 people in a north-eastern village.

Residents said gunmen had shot dead farm workers in Chikongudo, set fire to nearly all the homes there and stolen food in an attack on Wednesday night. The assailants stormed the village in cars and motorbikes, a trademark of Boko Haram, the residents added.

It came a day after twin bombings killed 122 in the central city of Jos. The authorities suspect Boko Haram of being behind them, but there has so far been no claim of responsibility from the group.

Boko Haram was added to the al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee's list of designated entities on Thursday at the request of Nigeria. [Read More...](#)

## Southeast Asia

CHINA IS sending five ships to evacuate Chinese nationals from Vietnam following a wave of anti-Chinese riots - [\*\*BBC News Asia\*\*](#).



The Chinese government has already evacuated more than 3,000 people, Chinese

state-run media report.

The first ship set sail on Sunday, while 16 critically injured Chinese nationals left Vietnam on a chartered flight, Xinhua news agency said.

Two Chinese workers have been killed and dozens more injured in unrest over a Chinese oil rig in disputed waters.

On Saturday the Vietnamese government called for an end to the protests.

Officials said "illegal acts" would be stopped as they could damage national stability.

Photo: Police broke up some anti-China protests in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on Sunday [Read More...](#)

VIETNAM AND the Philippines are determined to oppose Chinese infringement of their territorial waters, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung said on Wednesday, calling on the world to condemn China's actions in a rare public show of unity bound to infuriate Beijing

- [\*\*Reuters\*\*](#).

China is embroiled in disputes with Vietnam, the Philippines and others over



boundaries in the potentially energy-rich South China Sea and has said it seeks to resolve differences in one-on-one talks with the countries involved.

Beijing and Tokyo are also at loggerheads over disputed islands in the East China Sea.

Photo: Philippines' President Benigno Aquino shakes hands with Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (L) after a joint news conference at the Malacanang Presidential Palace in Manila May 21, 2014. [Read More...](#)

ReCAAP ISC states a total of nine incidents were reported in April 2014, of which, five were incidents of piracy and four were incidents of armed robbery against ships. All five incidents of piracy occurred in the South China Sea -

[\*\*OCEANUSLive\*\*](#).

Of the nine incidents, the more significant incidents included two cases of siphoning of marine gas oil/ marine diesel oil from oil tankers and one incident of robbery of scrap metal from a barge. The majority were petty thefts.

Overall, the situation reported in April 2014 has improved with a decrease in the number of incidents compared to the same period in past four years (2010-2013). However, relatively more significant incidents involving siphoning of marine gas oil/marine diesel oil, and robbery of scrap metal onboard barge were reported in April 2014. In these incidents, the pirates/robbers appeared to be well organised and has good knowledge of the victim ship. The common motivation was the lucrative proceeds from the sale of the stolen oil and scrap metal in underground markets. With the high prices of oil and scrap metal, the demand for them at a lower price in the underground market will continue to exist. There would be “no seller” if there is “no buyer”.



On 17 Apr 14 at or about 2010 hrs, Thailand-registered oil tanker MT Sri Phangnga was approximately 18 nm off Tanjung Sedili, Malaysia in the South China Sea when 16 pirates armed with a shotgun, a handgun and knives boarded the ship. The ship was forced to anchor and a small-sized tanker came alongside. About 450,000 litres of MGO was discharged from MT Sri Phangnga. The pirates escaped after taking the crew's personal belongings, ship equipment, destroyed the ship's communication power line and painted over the ship's name and company logo on the side of the tanker. The crew were not injured.

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Download the **Full Report** [Read More...](#)

CROSS-BORDER criminals have 361 islands in the Eastern Sabah Safety Zone (Esszone) to choose from to hide from the authorities - **New Straits Times**.

Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom) has identified some of the islands used by criminals to move undetected between southern Philippines and Sabah.

Its director-general, Datuk Mohammad Mentek, said yesterday kidnapping groups, pirates and smugglers island-hopped to avoid security forces. "Some of the islands are occupied, but there are also many small, uninhabited islands," he said during a dialogue between Esscom and representatives from the Kadazandusun Murut (KDM) community here.

Islands that are spread out from Kudat to Tawau are some of the many challenges faced by security forces when it comes to preventing intrusion.

"Semporna has the most number of islands at 83, followed by Kudat, Sandakan and the rest.

"Some islands are close to Philippine waters, enabling culprits to escape easily."

Mohammad said such small islands could not be seen on maps. [Read More...](#)

## Americas/South America/ Caribbean

NSTR

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### Other

THE [US] Coast Guard has suspended its active search, pending further developments, for four sailors 1,000 miles east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, at 5 a.m. Sunday - [\*\*USCG News\*\*](#). Watchstanders from the 1st Coast Guard District command center in Boston were notified at approximately 12:30 a.m., Friday, of two 406MHz personal locator beacons registered to the 39-foot U.K.-flagged sailing vessel Cheeki Rafiki. The Cheeki Rafiki's agent in the U.K. also told the U.S. Coast Guard the last message they received from the crew on Friday stated they were taking on water with four people on board. Multiple crews from numerous nation's military branches and commercial vessels searched approximately 4,146 square miles for them. [Read More...](#)

Andrew Bridge, 21, was skipper of the Cheeki Rafiki 12-metre (40ft) yacht, which ran into difficulties on Thursday while returning to the UK from Antigua Sailing Week.

Bridge was on board the vessel with Paul Goslin, 56, Steve Warren, 52, and 23-year-old James Male.

Contact with the four yachtsmen was lost in the early hours of Friday after the yacht began taking on water and diverted to the Azores, in the north Atlantic Ocean.

*Photo: James Male, Andrew Bridge, Steve Warren and Paul Goslin (l-r) are all experienced yachtsmen*



THE FAMILIES of four British sailors missing since their yacht capsized in the Atlantic Ocean have appealed to the US Coastguard to resume their search - [\*\*BBC News\*\*](#).

Contact with the men was lost on Friday after they reported running into difficulties about 1,000 miles (1,600km) off Cape Cod, Massachusetts.



They were returning from a Caribbean sailing event when their boat, the Cheeki Rafiki, began taking on water.

The US Coastguard-organised air and sea search has been called off. [Read More...](#)

AUTHORITIES HAVE agreed to resume the search for four missing British sailors, hours after a petition urging the US coastguard to continue looking for the missing crew reached over 175,000 signatures - [\*\*The Independent\*\*](#).

The experienced crew, aged between 22 and 56, were in a 40ft yacht called the Cheeki Rafiki when it capsized in the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday. The US coastguard called off search efforts involving ships, planes and helicopters on Sunday morning in severe weather, to the dismay of the men's families.

Relatives of the four men - experienced captain Andrew Bridge, 22, from Farnham, Surrey and crew members James Male, 23, from Southampton, Steve Warren, 52, from Bridgwater and Paul Goslin, from West Camel, 56 - have pleaded with the US Coast Guard to resume the search and remain convinced that their loved ones are alive.

Today, US Coast Guard petty officer Jennifer Robertson confirmed the search has resumed.

The families of the missing sailors travelled to London to meet Foreign Minister Hugh Robertson this afternoon. [Read More...](#)

WHILE THE plight of the four missing yachtsmen from Cheeki Rafiki remains critical, the news that the US Coast Guard would be resuming its search has been met with relief by both the families of the missing men as well as the yachting community at large - **Yachting World**.

Further information compiled by the World Cruising Club who have been in contact with the USCG has painted a clearer picture of what is known and where the missing yachtsmen may have drifted to in the event that they were able to get aboard their life raft.

"We are trying to pass the word out to as many boats and organisations as we can, so that if boats are at sea and able to sail through the search area, they are encouraged to do so," said WCC director Jeremy Wyatt.

"We currently have 30 boats in our ARC Europe event that are heading from Bermuda to the Azores, some of whom could be in a position to help with the search as their route passes fairly close to the area where Cheeki Rafiki is believed to be.

"Unfortunately, because of a depression moving across the Atlantic, many had chosen to stay further south to avoid the high winds. **Read More...**

THE [UK] MINISTRY of Defence has sent a plane to help search for four British sailors missing in the Atlantic - **BBC News**.

The military aircraft took off early on Wednesday morning and is expected to reach the search area in the afternoon.

The 40ft Cheeki Rafiki was sailing back to the UK from a regatta in Antigua when it got into difficulties.

Defence Secretary Philip Hammond said he hoped the "extensive resources" at hand would enable the yachtsmen to be found "as soon as possible".

The US Coast Guard has resumed the search, which was called off on Sunday, following an official request from the UK government. It said it had searched a total of 2,878 sq miles so far. The coastguard said it was currently battling against six-foot seas with wind speeds of less than 18.5km per hour. **Read More...**

THE [US] COAST Guard is continuing its search for four sailors approximately 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts - **RYA**.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday evening US Coast Guard Captain Anthony Popiel, who is leading the search said "No decisions have been made regarding suspension of this search. Our focus is on continuing search planning".

Video of the US Coast Guard press conference: Debris has been found by a catamaran taking part in the search near where the yacht Cheeki Rafiki disappeared however, it is not known if it was part of the missing yacht. **Read More...**

THE SEARCH for the British crew of the yacht Cheeki Rafiki will be suspended if nothing is found by tonight, the US Coast Guard has said - **The Telegraph**.

Captain Anthony Popiel said he had spoken to the family of the four missing sailors to tell them that the search would be suspended at midnight.

He said

last night:

"I informed them that the search would continue throughout the night



and into tomorrow. If by midnight tomorrow (5am Saturday UK time) there are no further developments to indicate search efforts would locate the crew alive we will suspend the search.' Capt Popiel, chief of response at the 1st Coast Guard District, said: "It is only after deepest consideration that we suspend active search efforts."

He added: "With sincere compassion for the families of these four men, our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time." **Read More...**



THE HULL of the missing UK yacht Cheeki Rafiki has been found in the North Atlantic ocean by a US Navy warship, the US Coast Guard has told the **BBC News**.

A surface swimmer identified the name on the back of the boat, but was unable to go inside. The swimmer knocked on the hull but there was no response.

They expect to find the rest of the vessel soon, the spokesman added. [Read More...](#)

THE US Coast Guard has confirmed it has suspended its search for the crew of Cheeki Rafiki - **RYA**.

A US Navy ship discovered the hull of the yacht on Friday night, and subsequent underwater imagery confirmed that the life raft was still onboard the vessel, indicating that it had not been deployed for emergency purposes.

US Coast Guard had indicated that search operations would be suspended at midnight local time on Friday (0300hrs BST on Saturday) unless new information or sightings suggested the crew would still be alive. With none of the developments indicating that to be the case, the search was suspended, and an RAF Hercules search due to have continued throughout Saturday will no longer take place. [Read More...](#)

RESCUE WORKERS in Bangladesh completed the search of a stricken river ferry on Saturday, bringing the number of bodies recovered to 54 two days after the vessel capsized with around 200 people on board - **MarineLink**.

"We were able to salvage the capsized ferry today and there are no more bodies inside the wreck," said Saiful Islam Badal, deputy commissioner of Munshiganj district.

About 40 people swam to shore and 35 were rescued after the double-decker ferry went down in the Meghna river near the capital Dhaka during a storm on Thursday afternoon, police and rescue officials said.

An official of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) said the M.V Miraj 4 ferry had capacity



for 122 passengers, but according to several survivors and a district official the number on board was almost double, though there was no log kept. [Read More...](#)

IRAN'S ISLAMIC Revolutionary Guard Corps took a rather interesting move on Thursday and posted a strategy for attacking U.S. warships — on Twitter - **The Washington Times**.

The Good Morning Iran blog translated the text accompanying the image. The plan hinges on deception and stealth to deal with an enemy that possesses overwhelming firepower.

Any ships that entered the Persian Gulf would be attacked by Iranian speed boats disguised as commercial fishing boats, The Aviationist



reported. Once preoccupied with the missiles of the Iranian speedboats, the targeted ship would then be attacked by Iranian submarines, followed by its air force. [Read More...](#)

CONCERNS ABOUT increasingly regular terror attacks, coupled with a surge in crime here, have prompted stern alerts from the American and British embassies warning their citizens to avoid parts of Kenya - **Christian Science Monitor**.

The US mission even suggested last weekend that a drawdown in the number of Americans working at the embassy, or their dependents, was in the offing.

The advisories – which also came from France and Australia – throw into stark relief the changing view of Kenya, which until recently was seen as

the most stable and economically enticing nation in the region.

Now, the East African hub appears beset with many small-scale terror attacks, one recent large one, and a wave of daily crime that, taken together, pose serious threats to its reputation and its ability to arrest a further slide into insecurity. Anecdotal, fears are rising of a return to the bad old days when the capital earned the nickname "Nairobi robbery."

British newspaper headlines, following news that London warned about visiting the main coastal city Mombasa, screamed loudly: "Hundreds of tourists flee Kenya", shouted one last week.

"Chaos as [Britain] makes Kenya a no-go area," claimed another, incorrectly.

Britons make up Kenya's largest tourist population, with 174,000 visitors in 2010, the last year for which the tourism ministry has figures. The US comes second, with 107,000 Americans visiting that year. [Read More...](#)

SOMALIA'S AL-AQEDA linked Shabaab vowed Thursday to move their war to neighbouring Kenya, one of the top commanders said in broadcast urging fighters to launch attacks.

"The war will be shifting to Kenya, if they kill a Somali girl we kill a Kenyan girl," Fuad Mohamed Khalaf, one of the Shabaab's most senior commanders, said in a radio broadcast - [Yahoo News](#).

"We are urging all the Muslims in Kenya... to fight the government of Kenya inside that country, because Kenyans killed your people including children," Khalaf said in a speech broadcast on the Shabaab's Radio Andalus.

Kenyan troops crossed into southern Somalia in 2011 to fight the Shabaab, later joining the now 22,000-strong UN-mandated African Union force battling the Islamists. [Read More...](#)

THE SUEZ Canal Authority is mulling creating a company to list on the local stock exchange as its vehicle to raise funds and manage the development zone planned along the waterway - [Gulfship News](#).

The government seeks to "transform the waterway from merely a corridor for tariffs to a logistics area providing transportation, loading,

unloading, storage, lodging, and marketing services to all ships passing through, thus raising canal revenues by billions of dollars, especially in foreign currency," a canal spokesperson said.

AN EGYPTIAN court acquitted 169 Muslim Brotherhood supporters charged in connection with unrest that followed the overthrow of president Mohamed Mursi last year, breaking a pattern of mass convictions at trials involving the Islamist opposition - [Reuters](#).

The men were charged with "illegal gathering" in relation to violence in Cairo on August 16 last year, two days after the security forces killed hundreds of Mursi supporters while breaking up their protest camps in the capital.

Of those charged, 117 were still being held. They will now be freed. Others charged in the case had already been released. Further details on the ruling were not immediately available. [Read More...](#)

RUSSIA AND China vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution Thursday that would have asked the International Criminal Court to investigate war crimes in Syria - [CNN](#).

They were the only two of 15 countries to vote against the resolution.

The move came as no surprise. Throughout the conflict in Syria, Russia and China -- both permanent council members -- have repeatedly used their veto power to block resolutions tough on the Syrian regime.

The United States and other countries slammed the action Thursday.

"Because of the decision of the Russian Federation to back the Syrian regime no matter what it does, the Syrian people will not see justice today. They will see crime but not punishment," Samantha Power, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told the council after the vote. [Read More...](#)

SYRIA IS starting to relinquish the remaining stockpile of materials from its chemical weapons arsenal after months of delay it blamed on security concerns, the Pentagon said on Tuesday - [Reuters](#).

"It is starting to be moved as we speak," Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby told reporters.

The news followed an announcement by the joint mission of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemicals that Syria had destroyed its entire declared stockpile of isopropanol, a precursor for producing sarin nerve gas.

"Now 7.2 percent of Syria's chemical weapons material remains in country and awaits swift removal for onward destruction. The Joint Mission urges the Syrian authorities to undertake this task as soon as possible," the U.N.-OPCW mission said in a statement. [Read More...](#)

LIBYA ANNOUNCED a date for parliamentary elections Tuesday, a move that may help defuse tensions amid violence that has sparked fears of a civil war - [CNN](#).

Elections will take place June 25, state news agency LANA reported.

The announcement came as increasing military might appears to be rallying behind a renegade local general who is taking the fight to Islamist militias.

Hostilities have spread since Gen. Khalifa Haftar bombed the bases of Islamist groups on Friday, including the one blamed for the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi on September 11, 2012, that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans.

The retired officer, who fought to overthrow former dictator Moammar Gadhafi, launched a land and air offensive in Benghazi against Ansar al-Sharia and Islamist militias loyal to the interim national government.

Seventy-five people died in the resulting battle. [Read More...](#)

## South Korean Ferry

SOUTH KOREA is to break up its coastguard in the wake of the ferry disaster in which about 300 people died, says President Park Geun-hye - [BBC News Asia](#).

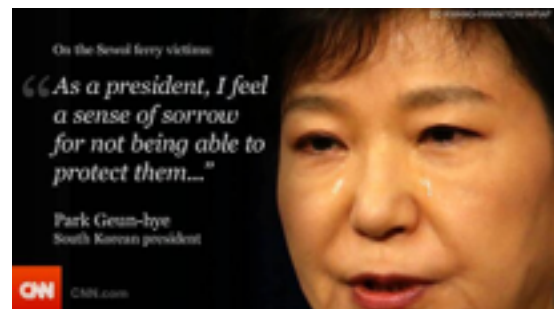
In a televised address, she apologised formally for the sinking.

A new safety agency would handle rescue duties, with investigative functions passing to the police, she said.

The Sewol ferry disaster on 16 April killed 281 passengers, most of whom were high school students. Another 23 are still missing.

The ultimate responsibility of the poor response to this accident lies with me," President Park said, quoted by the AFP news agency. [Read More...](#)

SOUTH KOREAN President Park Geun-hye, tears rolling down her cheeks, formally apologised on Monday for a ferry disaster that killed about 300 people, mostly school children, and said she would dismantle the coast guard for failing in its duties - [Reuters](#).



Park has been hit hard by an angry nationwide outcry over the government's response to South Korea's worst civilian maritime disaster in 20 years and the seemingly slow and ineffective rescue operation.

Polls show support for Park has dropped by more than 20 points since the April 16 disaster.

"I apologise to the nation for the pain and suffering that everyone felt, as the president who should have been responsible for the safety and lives of the people," Park said in a televised national address, her first since the Sewol capsized and sank with 476 passengers and crew on board.

In an unprecedented show of emotion, tears flowed as she fought back sobs, remembering some of the teenagers who died trying to help one another, calling them heroes. [Read More...](#)

PROSECUTORS IN South Korea have launched a nationwide manhunt for one of the owners of the ferry that sank last month, killing more than 300 people - [\*\*\*Aljazeera\*\*\*](#).

The country's prime minister, Chung Hong-Won, said in parliament on Tuesday that the government would try to seize all assets held by the family that owned the ferry operator, Chonghaejin Marine Co.

The 6,825-tonne Sewol capsized and sank with 476 people on board, most of them schoolchildren, off the southern coast in April. About 180 passengers were plucked to safety, but hundreds perished in the disaster.

"The government should try and confiscate all his fortune," Chung said, referring to the billionaire businessman, Yoo Byung-Eun, who failed to heed official summons for questioning about corruption and his role in the ferry operator.

Prosecutors last week asked for a court-issued arrest for Yoo.

But the arrest warrant application has yet to be approved as the 73-year-old's whereabouts are unclear, prompting investigators to hunt for him. There have been concerns that efforts to enforce a warrant could trigger a volatile showdown with the Evangelical Baptist Church of Korea, a splinter church group founded by one of Yoo's relatives. [Read More...](#)

SOUTH KOREA'S legal system appears to be failing 15 surviving crew of a ferry that sank last month, killing hundreds of children, with their being tried and convicted by an angry public before the case has come to court - [\*\*\*Today Online\*\*\*](#).

Lawyers are agonising over how they can mount a convincing defence of the crew of the Sewol, who jumped ship as the children waited in their cabins, dressed in life jackets, obediently following orders before a disaster that put the whole country in mourning. Only 172 were rescued of the 476 passengers and crew on board.

The absence of determined defence may mean that the crew's side of the story — whether, for instance, they were adequately trained or whether they were given strict orders to abandon ship — may never be heard in court.

One lawyer, appearing for one of the crew in hearings held behind closed doors to decide the validity of arrest warrants, confessed to being torn between professional obligation and the resignation that lawyers could not make any difference amid a nationwide witch hunt. [Read More...](#)

SOUTH KOREAN police are offering a KRW80M (\$77,808) reward to anyone who can offer information on the whereabouts of the Sewol ferry owner and his son, as the two men continue to give authorities the slip - [\*\*\*IHS Maritime 360\*\*\*](#).

The police said today the reward is KRW50M for Yoo Byung Eun, who owns Chonghaejin Marine, and KRW30M for his eldest son Dae Gyun. They are wanted for their involvement in the 16 April capsizing of Sewol, in addition to allegations of embezzlement, dereliction and tax evasion. Of the 476 passengers and crew, 304 are believed to have died. So far, 287 bodies have been recovered while 17 remain missing. [Read More...](#)

SEARCH-AND-rescue operations for the capsized Sewol ferry resumed this morning as rescuers work to recover bodies still missing - [\*\*\*IHS Maritime 360\*\*\*](#).

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said in a press statement that the work had resumed at 08.50 local time today as the weather improved, bringing slow tidal currents. The divers are now searching cabins on the third and fourth floors of the Sewol, which capsized on 16 April. Of the 476 passengers and crew, 304 are believed to have been killed. So far, 288 bodies have been found, with 16 still missing. It was also revealed that the 288th body was found on 21 May. [Read More...](#)

WHEN BONG-HUAN Jun first saw news of South Korea's Sewol ferry sinking with hundreds of high school students trapped on board, he had stopped by a highway service area on his way to work. But unlike many South Koreans helplessly watching the live broadcast on TV, Jun knew he had something that could help out — an experimental underwater robot named Crabster - [\*\*\*Discovery News\*\*\*](#).

Crabster was designed by Jun and his colleagues at the Korea Research Institute of Ship and Ocean



Engineering (KRISO) as a huge, six-legged robot capable of scuttling along the ocean floor. The



robot can withstand strong tidal currents and carries both sonar and acoustic cameras capable of seeing through murky underwater conditions — precisely the conditions divers had to struggle with as they searched the Sewol ferry wreck in the cloudy waters of the Yellow Sea near Jindo Island. But Crabster had only just begun underwater testing in July 2013 and remained relatively untested. Now it faced one of the most challenging tests for any underwater robotic vehicle during one of South Korea's greatest maritime disasters in its history.

"When I knew the rescue team had serious difficulties due to the high current and turbid water at the accident area, I called Dr. Sanghyun Suh, director general of KRISO and talked about Crabster's functions and possibilities for helping with the rescue," Jun said. "The task force team of my institute reviewed the underwater robots made in KRISO and agreed to send Crabster to the area." [Read More...](#)

## Missing Malaysian Aircraft

THE MISSING Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 was shot down during a joint Thai-US military training exercise and then the subject of an elaborate international cover-up – according to a book released about the lost plane that has caused anger among the relatives of those on board - ***Independent UK***.

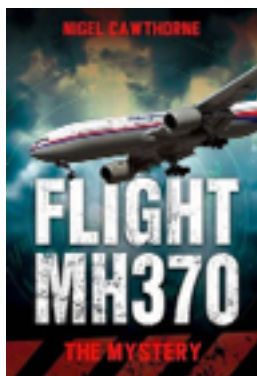
Just 71 days after the Boeing 777 vanished en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, Flight MH370: The Mystery will go on sale in Australia, the Sun-Herald reported.

It has been written by the Anglo-American journalist and author Nigel Cawthorne, who describes his London-based home as a “book-writing factory” and is most famous for his Sex Lives series of “salacious tales” about the rich and famous.

Cawthorne introduces his book by claiming that the families of MH370’s passengers will “almost certainly” never be sure what happened to their loved ones.

But he goes on to support one theory, based on the eye-witness testimony of New Zealand oil rig worker Mike McKay, that the plane was shot down shortly after it stopped communicating with air traffic controllers.

At the time there was a series of war games taking place in the South China Sea involving Thailand, the US and personnel from China, Japan, Indonesia and others, and Cawthorne has linked this to Mr McKay’s claims to have seen a burning plane going down in the Gulf of Thailand. [Read More...](#)



HAS THE missing Malaysia Airlines plane been found? No, but a movie about the mysterious disappearance of the Malaysian plane has been unveiled at this year's Cannes Film Festival in France - ***Al Arabiya News***.



The film, titled "The Vanishing Act," is being pitched at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival by Indian director Rupesh Paul, according to the British daily news website The Mirror. [Read More...](#)

THE INDIAN director behind a contentious movie about missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 has defended his project against criticism, insisting the families of passengers will be unaffected and promising his storyline will not be exploitative - ***The Guardian***.

The director of a movie based on the Malaysian Airlines plane disappearance is apologizing for a trailer that suggests a love triangle among members of its crew - ***New Straits Times***. Rupesh Paul announced “The Vanishing Act” at the Cannes Film Festival. A brief trailer for the film, which has not yet been cast, shows two crew members kissing as a third looks at them angrily. In a statement to The Associated Press, Rupesh Paul Productions said he was removing that element of the teaser trailer soon “so as not to hurt sentiments” of the families of those on the plane. [Read More...](#)

THE AUTHORITIES involved in the ensuing search for the missing Malaysian jetliner have agreed that the Chinese survey ship "Zhu Kezhen" will conduct a bathymetric survey in the Southern Indian Ocean - ***The Sun Daily***.



This was agreed to by the Malaysian, Australian and Chinese authorities who met over the weekend, the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) said in a statement today.

It said the bathymetric survey, involving an extensive mapping of the seabed, would be carried out in the area identified by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB).

"Zhu Kezhen is scheduled to sail for the survey area on Wednesday, weather permitting," said JACC. [Read More...](#)

THE [MALAYSIAN] government is mulling over releasing the 'raw data' from Inmarsat, the British satellite firm responsible for pinpointing missing Malaysia Airlines MH370's flight path, for public consumption - ***New Straits Times***.

Acting Transport Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, in a statement tonight, said this was being done following demands by the next-of-kin of those onboard the missing jetliner.

"In light of recent demands by the next-of-kin for the Inmarsat 'raw data', I have instructed the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) to discuss with Inmarsat on the release of the aforementioned data for public consumption.

"This is consistent with our stand for greater transparency and prioritizing the interests of the family members of those on board MH370," he said.

Hishammuddin said a team of technical experts had convened in Canberra, Australia to discuss and refine the satellite data, calculations and analysis made available by Inmarsat. [Read More...](#)

FOLLOWING THE announcement by the Malaysian Minister of Defence and Acting Minister of Transport on 19th May 2014, the Malaysian Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) is pleased to provide further information on the discussion with Inmarsat, assisted by the AAIB, to get a common descriptor for the Inmarsat satellite data which had been provided to Malaysia Airlines when MH370 first went missing - ***DCA Malaysia***.

It must be noted that previously where reference has been made to "data communication logs" and "raw data"- they refer to the same set of data.

In moving forward, it is imperative for us to provide helpful information to the next of kin and general public - which will include the data communication logs as well as relevant explanation to enable the reader to understand the data provided. [Read More...](#)

THE FORMER Prime Minister of Malaysia has accused a US intelligence agency and the Boeing aircraft firm of concealing the whereabouts of Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, which has been missing since 8 March - ***The Independent***.

In a blog entry posted on 18 May entitled 'Boeing Technology – What goes up must come down', Dr Mahathir Mohamad makes ten claims which he believes render the search operation for the aircraft, and the 239 missing crew members and passengers on board, a "waste of time and money".

"The plane is somewhere, maybe without MAS markings," reads Dr Mohamad's post on chedet.



"Someone is hiding something. It is not fair that MAS and Malaysia should take the blame," 88-year-old Dr Mahathir, who was Malaysia's prime minister between 1981 and 2003, alleges.

"Airplanes don't just disappear," the influential politician writes, adding: "Certainly not these days with all the powerful communication systems, radio and satellite tracking and filmless cameras which operate almost indefinitely and possess huge storage capacities."

He goes on to describe his belief that MH370's GPS signals and communication systems "must have been disabled or else the ground station could have called the plane."

He also launches an attack against Boeing, in which he claims that the company could have used patented technology to return the flight to a pre-determined landing location. [Read More...](#)

CHINA HAS vowed never to let Malaysia face the current unprecedented disappearance of a

### Malaysia Airlines (MAS) aircraft alone - **New Straits Times**.

Its ambassador to Malaysia, Huang Huikang said China was committed to help and trust Malaysia's efforts in handling the situation which he described as a consistent commitment from the beginning.

"Our relations had never been affected by any unexpected single incident. Through the cooperation in dealing with the incident, our relations have become stronger and closer.

"These (have) once again proved a friend in need, is a fiend indeed," he said at a press briefing in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Malaysia here today. [Read More...](#)

UNDERWATER SCIENTIST have accused Australian prime minister Tony Abbott of playing politics by prematurely announcing that "ping" signals came from the missing Malaysian plane's black boxes - **International Business Times**. Speaking anonymously, the acoustic experts told News.com.au said the four signals picked up by US technology were not from flight MH370's flight data recorders, but were likely from a different, man-made source.

The scientists also criticised the Joint Agency Coordination Centre, which is leading the search, for not completing a critical and detailed analysis of the signals before Mr Abbott went public in China on 11 April.

According to the group, the signals were in the wrong frequency and detected too far apart to be from the aircraft. The 33.3 kilohertz frequency of the signals transmitted differed from the 37.5 kilohertz frequency generated by underwater acoustic beacons. The signals were also detected four days and around 30km apart. [Read More...](#)

## Released by Pirates

NSTR

## Pirates in Court

NSTR

### Seaman Guard Ohio

PIRATE-HUNTER Nick Dunn will continue to forge a career in maritime security despite his job costing him his freedom - **Chronicle Live**.

The former paratrooper suffered months of hell at the hands of the Indian authorities when he was jailed for the alleged illegal possession of weapons in October.



Nick, of Ashington, Northumberland, told the Sunday Sun he hoped to return to work once the charges were quashed.

The 28-year-old said: "I want to stay in the private security business. I want to come home and see my family before but I'll end up working again.

"I will still work in the maritime security industry because it's what I'm trained to do.

"I've spent all that money getting myself qualified. I gave up just because of what happened to me. I like a challenge and I won't give up." [Read More...](#)

## Private Security

NSTR



# International Response

THE CONTACT Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) held its Sixteenth Plenary Session at the UN Headquarters in New York on 14 May 2014 under the Chairmanship of the European Union - [\*\*\*OCEANUSLive\*\*\*](#).

The Plenary was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Clément Gorissen and Mr. Simon Davies who, working for UNODC, were killed in a heinous attack in Galkayo on 7 April 2014. Their deaths are a tragedy not only for their families, their friends, their colleagues and the United Nations family, but also for the people of Somalia who so badly need the kind of assistance that they were providing. The CGPCS urges the immediate release of the remaining innocent seafarers currently being held captive in Somalia.

The CGPCS officially endorsed a series of measures to streamline and refine the CGPCS structures and working procedures with a view to making the CGPCS more demand-driven, delivery-focused, cost-effective and to increase regional participation and representation through a system of co-chairing arrangements for its Working Groups. [\*Read More...\*](#)

THE SECURITY and Defence Agenda organised an evening debate on 'Lessons learnt from the Gulf of Aden operations' - [\*\*\*ISIS Europe\*\*\*](#).

The SDA's Giles Merritt moderated the discussion which revolved around the continued need to tackle piracy in the Gulf of Aden, the efforts already undertaken by the international community and the reasons why piracy has not been completely erased.

International naval operations by EU, NATO and the Combined Task Force 151 in the Gulf of Aden, in combination with the efforts from the navies of countries, such as Russia, China, India, Japan and Saudi Arabia, have been successful in reducing the number of piracy incidents from hundreds to handful. This reduction in numbers has made the discussion about the renewal of NATO and EU operations mandates relevant. These organisations must now decide whether it is time

to pack up and go home, or if the expense of staying can be continued to be justified. It can be argued that the operations, in addition to deterring piracy, are a valuable training method for the navies as well as an unique opportunity to cooperate with countries such as China and Russia. NATO decided that their presence continues to be relevant and renewed Operation Ocean Shield's mandate in early May for further two years. The mandate for the EU NAVFOR Atalanta is also up for renewal this year and the EU has to decide if the benefits from its operation outweigh the costs. [\*Read More...\*](#)

OMAN IN May advanced its counter-piracy efforts, meeting in Cairo with experts from other Arab justice and interior ministers councils to review a draft regional protocol on combating piracy - [\*\*\*Al Shorfa\*\*\*](#).

The sultanate's counter-piracy efforts and multi-level co-ordination with Gulf, Arab and international partners has contributed to a drop in incidences of piracy, Oman's Coast Guard said. "Given the sultanate's strategic location overlooking one of the most vital waterways in the world, the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the Royal Navy of Oman plays an active role in protecting national strategic, security and economic interests through its constant and permanent presence in Omani seas," said Omani political analyst and journalist Hatim bin Hamad al-Taie.

Oman's naval fleet is equipped with advanced weaponry and includes artillery ships, fast missile craft and support, training and maritime survey (hydrography) ships, he said. [\*Read More...\*](#)

ONE YEAR after it called to the Port of Victoria, Russian navy destroyer “Marshal Shaposhnikov” has returned to the Seychelles islands leading a group of Russian naval ships from the Pacific Fleet to the archipelago - **Seychelles News Agency**.



An official of the Russian Embassy in Seychelles told SNA that “Marshal Shaposhnikov” arrived in the Port Victoria late yesterday while another two Russian naval ships are expected to arrive later. “Marshal Shaposhnikov is on her regular patrol missions at different points in the Indian Ocean to combat piracy and transnational organised crime in interaction with the headquarters of the European Union operation “Atalanta”, NATO operation “Ocean Shield”, Multinational Maritime Forces and Combine Task Force - 150 in Gulf of Aden. Together with our counterparts from China and India we enhance the capacity of anti-piracy missions and help to speedy eradication of the scourge of piracy. Great contribution to this fight is rendered by the Government and people of Seychelles,” reads an e-mail sent to SNA from the Russian Embassy in Seychelles.

The naval ships are expected to stay in port Victoria for four days whereby “Marshal Shaposhnikov” will be open for visiting by the general public on the morning of Saturday May 24. **Read More...**

SEYCHELLES IS setting up a Marine Police Investigation Unit to reinforce the archipelago’s capacity to implement maritime security and prevent illegal activities in Seychelles waters, the islands’ Minister for Home Affairs and Transport Joel Morgan announced this morning as EUCAP NESTOR donated a military standard speedboat to the Seychelles Coast Guard - **Seychelles News Agency**.

The unit will comprise of 12 officers from the Seychelles Police Force and it will work in close collaboration with the Seychelles Coast Guards in enforcing maritime safety regulations within Seychelles 1.3 million square kilometre exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of ocean space.

Morgan said “the unit will carry out investigations in matters such as drowning, capsizing and

other incidents which happen at sea as well as assist in the fight against maritime piracy. It will also investigate in cases dealing with the smuggling in of illegal narcotics and other products into the country.”

A group of officers from the police, the coast Guard and the air force is currently following training facilitated by the EUCAP NESTOR in different aspects of maritime policing. These include enforcement of fisheries regulations to deal with those who fish illegally in Seychelles waters and in maritime domain awareness among other subjects.

Meanwhile the 6.43 metre speedboat EUCAP NESTOR donated to the Seychelles Coast Guard this morning, is expected to boost to its capacity to deal with maritime security issues.

The boat is equipped with state-of-the art technology such as electronic charts, GPS and radar. It has been described as ideal for use in search and rescue operations as well as in the boarding of other vessels. **Read More...**



## Piracy Costs

AN ECONOMIC approach to the control of maritime piracy is based on the general economic theory of law enforcement that views offenders (pirates) as rational decision makers who would respond to threatened punishments - **Infomarine**. Implementation of optimal enforcement policies is impeded by lack of cooperation in the apprehension and prosecution of pirates as a

result of free rider problems. In this sense, controlling maritime piracy is subject to similar problems as the prosecution of the global war on terror and the anti-drug war.

The efficiency of the pirate organisation contributes to its success, both historically and in modern times. Accordingly, present-day Somali pirates have developed supportive "social" organisations that aid them on land and at sea. For example, pirate leaders often require new recruits to swear allegiance to the organisation and its leaders until death. In addition, many Somali pirates are ex-coast guardsmen or ex-militiamen, and share a common background and training. As for motivation, there is a common belief among many pirates and their sympathisers that ransoms are like a tax on foreigners who are overfishing Somali waters. [Read More...](#)

## Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

A NEW report estimates almost \$100 billion annual profits in sex trafficking alone - **[Time](#)**. Though many people believe slavery to be a thing from the distant past or award-winning movies, new figures out from the International Labor Organisation (ILO) suggest that human trafficking — essentially, coercing people to work under unjust, often inhumane, circumstances—is a growth business.

Estimates of just how much the human trafficking business is worth have grown massively since the last ILO report on forced labor almost a decade ago. Back in 2005, the business was estimated at about \$44 billion annually. Now, it's more like \$150 billion. This likely reflects a growing awareness of the numbers of people who have been caught up in some sort of bonded labor, rather than actual growth in the business. [Read More...](#)

INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) president Susan Jackson considers the improvement of vessel registration schemes and the eradication of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) activities should be the top priority for all ocean conservation organisations - **[MercoPress](#)**.

ISSF president voiced this reflection in response to the recent Global Oceans Action Summit in The Hague, held by the Government of The Netherlands with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Bank.



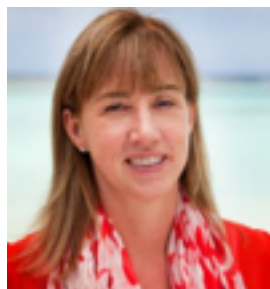
"Monitoring the practices and the number of fishing vessels at sea in an effort to protect fish stocks and respect national and international regulation is not just a conservation issue – it's an economic and food security concern as well," Jackson remarked.

And she added: "Not only do illegal fishing activities involve vessels actively fishing with no regard for maritime rules, conservation management rules and protected areas, it means large gaps in data – a serious impediment to successfully and sustainably managing the world's fisheries. And it's a major economic drain; Interpol estimates its cost to the global economy

at up to USD 23 billion annually." ISSF Pres Susan Jackson The director pointed out that the ISSF and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have been appealing to tuna Regional Fisheries

Management

Organisations (RFMOs), and their member nations, to promote improved tracking and data collection systems. [Read More...](#)



## Seafarers' Plight

NSTR

## Aid Workers Plight

NSTR

## And Finally...

U.S. MARINE archaeologists said on Tuesday they believe they have located a sunken Civil War-era ship that a group of African-American slaves in Charleston commandeered to sail to freedom 152 years ago - ***Reuters*** .

The remains of the storied sidewheel steamship Planter are likely buried off Cape Romain on the South Carolina coast, where the vessel later sank in 1876, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

Magnetometer surveys found a large amount of iron signaling a sunken ship about a half mile offshore and buried under 10 to 15 feet of sand and water.

Tuesday marked the anniversary of its famous voyage on May 13, 1862.

On that day, Robert Smalls, a slave who worked as a deckhand on the Planter during the Civil War, disguised himself as the ship's captain. With his wife, children and other African-American slave families onboard, Smalls sailed the ship past Confederate sentries in Charleston Harbor and out to the Union blockade at sea.

Lauded as a hero, he went on to have a notable career in the Union navy as a free man and later served five terms as a congressman for South Carolina. ***Read More...***

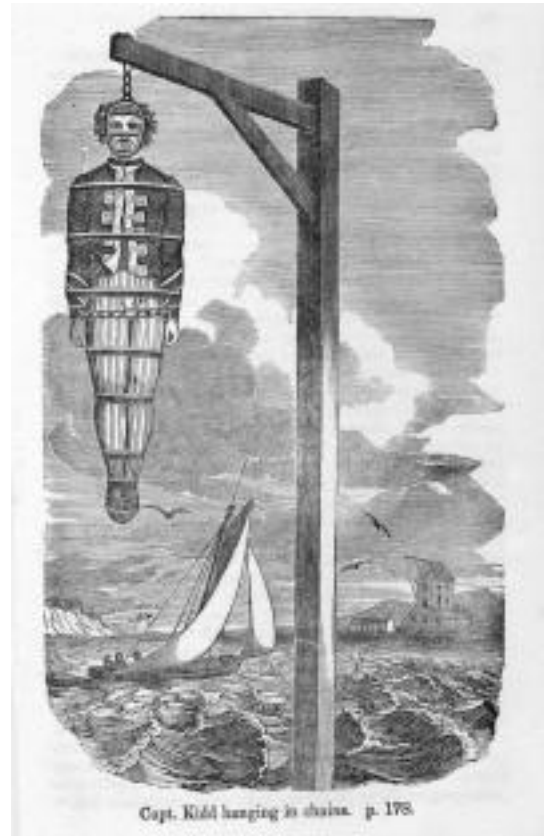
*Photo: Young Robert Smalls - Courtesy of Dennis Cannady*



It has been claimed that important evidence in two of the piracy cases was concealed at the trial, and some observers doubted whether Kidd was in fact guilty.

The first rope around Kidd's neck broke so he had to be strung up for a second time.

Treasure hunters are still searching today for his legendary 'buried treasure' and for the Quedagh Merchant, whose wreck lies undiscovered somewhere in the Caribbean. ***Read More...***



CAPTAIN WILLIAM Kidd (1645-1701) is everyone's idea of the 'swashbuckling' pirate. He was celebrated in England as one of the most colourful outlaws of the 17th century - ***Port Cities: London.***

Captain Kidd was hanged at Execution Dock at Wapping on the River Thames [23 May 1701]. Kidd's body was suspended in an iron cage at Tilbury Point for years as a warning to other seamen against piracy.



# Piracy Incidents

## Hijacks:

- Nil.

## Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **SE Asia** - Three robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at 0020 LT in position 06:01.2S – 106:54.1E, Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia. Deck patrol noticed the robbers and alerted the bridge. Alarm raised and all crew mustered. The robbers threatened the deck patrol with a knife and escaped with stolen ship's properties. Reported (IMB) 23 May.
- **SE Asia** - Two robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker at 1440 LT in position Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia. Alarm raised and all crew mustered. The robbers escaped with stolen ship properties. Reported (IMB) 22 May.

## Other Incidents:

- NSTR.

## Suspicious Activity:

- **Gulf of Oman** - Merchant vessel reported the sighting of 2 skiffs at 0800 UTC in position 24:48.3N - 057:41E, Gulf of Oman. One skiff with 4 POB, the other w/ 3 POB, all w/ masked faces and one person in each standing at the bow. Skiffs were initially detected at 4nm and continued to be tracked until one skiff approached to within 0.5nm whereupon the AST fired two warnings shots, firing a further two at 0.4nm causing the skiffs to break away. No ladders or weapons were sighted. Reported (UKMTO) 21 May.
- **BAM** - Merchant vessel approached at 0747 UTC, reported a further approach at 0827 UTC in position 12:35.3N - 043:20.4E, Bab El Mandeb. A further 3 skiffs approached to within 5 cables. Embarked AST again displayed weapons resulting in the skiffs backing off. Reported (UKMTO) 20 May.
- **BAM** - Merchant vessel reported being approached by 4 skiffs with 3-4 POB at 0747 UTC in position 12:52.5N - 043:12.03E, Bab El Mandeb. Skiffs came to within 0.7nm. Skiffs circled around the vessel for approx 20-30 minutes. No weapons or ladders were sighted. Embarked AST displayed weapons resulting in the skiffs moving away. Reported (UKMTO) 20 May.

IMB - Vessels held: 0;

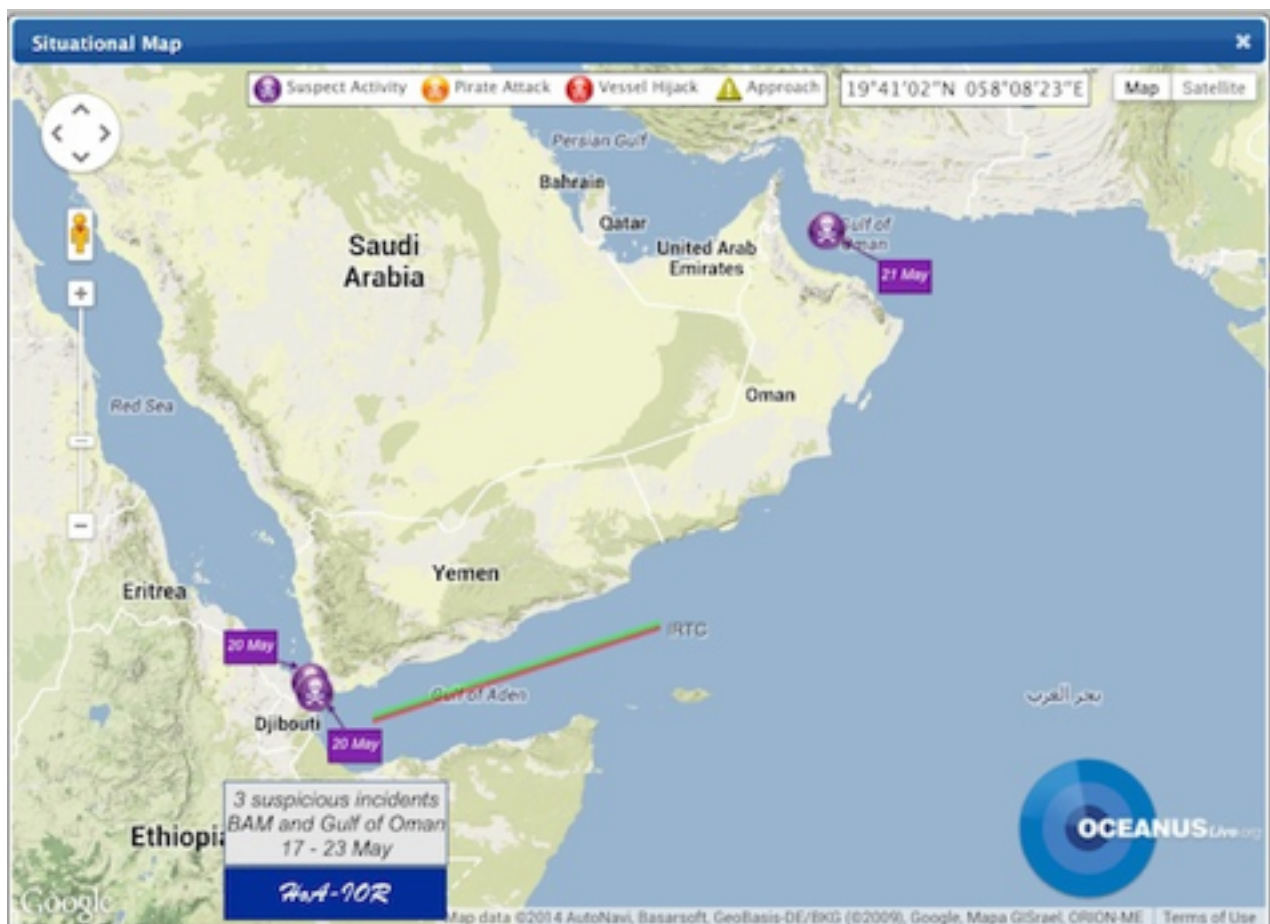
Worldwide Incidents 2014: 78 reported incidents

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

# Situational Map

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

Reported incidents in the HoA/IOA 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](mailto:UKMTO) or Telephone +971 50 552 3215) and on entering the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) bound by Suez, 78E and 10S.

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