

24 - 30 May 2014 No. 22/14

Thai tanker missing; Djibouti suicide bombs; Nigerian IS winning; Iran intercepts Somali oil smuggler, China-Vietnam boat-barging; Another Sewol ferry diver dies -

A Thai tanker has gone missing in Indonesian waters. Carrying automotive diesel fuel, the vessel with 14 Thai-crew, was last seen 27 May. Speculation veered towards hijack. Somali rebel group claimed responsibility for a suicide bomb attack on a Djibouti restaurant popular with tourists and Western security officials; aimed mainly at French personnel for complicity in the Central African Republic, but also for training/equipping Djiboutian troops now in Somalia. As many as three killed with at least 15 wounded. After the admission to not winning the war against oil thieves, Nigeria asserts it IS winning the war against pirates. Bayelsa State 's Central Command handed over several suspected oil thieves and 2 vessels for prosecution following arrest with stolen crude oil. Iranian naval forces are said to have intercepted a Somali tanker ship in the Strait of Hormuz attempting to smuggle diesel fuel from Iran to a Persian Gulf Arab state. Depending upon your viewpoint, China, or maybe its Vietnam, is tanking dangerous risks at sea over the sinking of a Vietnamese fishing boat in the disputed waters in the South China Sea/East Vietnam Sea. The fishing boats' 10 crew were rescued in an area where a Chinese oil rig has been placed. Meanwhile, Chinese and Russian navies staged exercises to simulate anti-piracy ops in the East China Sea. A UN team of inspectors were attacked in Syria. Initially reported as kidnapped, the six members are safe but were attacked twice it was later revealed. Libyan oil ports remain at risk of blockade as the protesters do not recognise the latest Prime Minister.

As the hunt for the owner of the Sewol ferry owner is stepped up with a reward offered, his daughter is arrested in Paris on an international warrant issued. Tragically, another diver is a casualty as the search for the remaining 16 bodies continues. The situation is not helped by the controversy suggesting divers were being paid "by the body".

The 'raw data' for flight MH370 was released for public consumption by Inmarsat and DCA Malaysia. Scientists welcome the decision to make all ocean depth data publicly available as confidence in the search was shaken by the questioning if the 'pings' detected were authentic.

In the Netherlands, a justice minister says Somali pirates serving jail sentences in the country should no longer qualify for early release if they request asylum. A man convicted of the kidnap of Judith Tebbutt and the murder of her husband in Kenya may walk free if an appeal by human rights lawyers is successful; they will argue that the judgement against him was based on evidence provided unlawfully.

The Italian marines case in India enters a new phase as attempts to steer the case towards international arbitration goes on.

Questions on the level of expense for sustaining the EU counter-piracy mission was raised. A decision on Op Atalanta is due next week but as piracy is drastically reduced off Somalia, a more durable response to create financial disincentives for the piracy business model is sought. The 'zero zero' target - zero pirate attacks, zero seafarer hostages, however, does not ensure the end of piracy.

Italian naval patrol picked up 435 people, including 234 children on a migrant boat from North Africa; traffickers in Yemen hold African migrants in detention camps, allegedly torturing them for payment from their families; in South America, around 400 illegal immigrants enter Brazil every week, most of them Haitian or African, due to criminal groups along the border regions.

“The attack was carried out against the French crusaders for their complicity in the massacres of our Muslim brothers in the Central African Republic and for their active role in training and equipping the apostate Djiboutian troops in Somalia”

-AL SHABAAB GROUP

Bangladeshi sailor, kidnapped by Somali pirates four-and-a-half years ago, are still held captive with no government or human rights organisation, or their recruiting agencies seemingly concerned with taking steps to free them, claim family members. The 66-year-old supported Johnny Depp in many scenes in the Pirates of the Caribbean films, but the pirate ship, The Big Unicorn, sank in a freak accident off the coast of St Vincent and the Grenadines last Saturday as she sailed for repair in St Lucia. No one was hurt as the ship went to Davy Jones' locker.

Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

THE BODY of an Indian fisherman who was shot dead on-board a vessel by armed pirates off the coast of Bahrain will be repatriated soon after completion of formalities, a media report said - ***Mizo News***.

Thomas Glattus Soosai, 47, who was captaining the Bahraini dhow, was shot by masked gunmen who boarded the vessel northwest of Bahrain's sea border May 22, Gulf Daily News reported Tuesday.

The Indian embassy in Bahrain has been awaiting confirmation from Soosai's family in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu and approval from the state authorities.

It is also awaiting clearance from the sponsor of his brother, Keesmash Suthan, a fisherman who is set to accompany the body home, Gulf Daily News quoted Ram Singh, first secretary in Indian embassy, as saying Tuesday.

[Read More...](#)

THE RECENT killing of a fisherman from Kanyakumari in Bahrain following firing by pirates exposes the plight of Indian fishermen based in West Asian countries. They fish in the seas of the Gulf countries while constantly facing threats from pirates and harassment of maritime authorities. Moreover, they have to bear harsh weather they have never experienced in any part of their own country - ***The Times of India***.

Drawn by the prospects of earning more than what they could earn in India, hundreds of fishermen from the coastal districts of Kanyakumari and Ramanathapuram land up in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. Their overseas sponsors give a portion of the income from the total catch. Of late, they have realised that they are vulnerable to several hazards.

The threat from pirates is very real, said A Valan and Rajesh, who have been working in Bahrain and are from Mulloorthurai in Kanyakumari district. "We run into pirates mostly from Iran. They seize

valuables and fish catch. The shooting on May 21 was unprecedented," they said. [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...](#)

THE MAN convicted over the kidnap of Judith Tebbutt and the murder of her husband in Kenya may walk free if an appeal by human rights lawyers is successful - ***The Telegraph***.

A law suit at the High Court in London will argue that the judgment against Ali Kololo, a Kenyan employee of the holiday resort where the kidnap took place, was based on evidence provided unlawfully by British police.

That would give "strong grounds for the defence to mount a successful appeal" against Mr Kololo's death sentence, paving the way for his release, the trial's prosecution lawyer told The Telegraph.

Mrs Tebbutt and her husband David were attacked as they slept in their secluded beachside cottage at a luxury resort north of Lamu on Kenya's northern coast, near its border with Somalia.

Mr Tebbutt, 58, a publishing executive with Faber and Faber, was killed as he fought to save his

wife, who was then taken hostage and eventually sold to a series of Somali pirate kidnap gangs.

Photo: Kenyan Ali Babitu Kololo (Miller & Maclean)

[Read More...](#)



SMOKE AND flames rose from Somalia's parliament building in Mogadishu after militants launched an attack Saturday. People could be seen lying on the ground, as ambulances pulled up - **CNN**.

People took cover as security forces moved in, exchanging gunfire with the attackers. Some members of parliament were evacuated from the building.

A lawmaker, Mohamed Omar, inside the parliament building said that Al-Shabaab militants wearing military uniforms and suicide belts had entered the compound.

Security forces killed at least three of the militants, Omar said. [Read More...](#)

MILITANTS ATTACKED Somalia's Parliament building [last] Saturday, with a bomber detonating a car filled with explosives at the building's entrance followed by several other explosions and an assault by gunmen, witnesses and Somali officials said - **The New York Times**.



The police said that at least four of the militants were killed in the initial attack at the gate of the building that houses the Parliament, which is guarded by the Somali security forces and members of the African Union's peacekeeping mission in Somalia, known as Amisom. "The suicide car bomber targeted the Amisom and Somali troops guarding the Parliament gate," said one witness, Mohamed Abdi. "I was shocked." Mr. Abdi and other witnesses said a gun battle erupted after the bombing as militants stormed the building, where a session of Parliament was underway.

Several members of Parliament reached by phone said they were safe, but two lawmakers were reportedly wounded outside the building, according to colleagues who asked not to be

identified because they were not authorised to speak to the news media.

Photo: Mohamed Abdiwahab/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images [Read More...](#)

AN EXPLOSION at a restaurant in downtown Djibouti killed three people and injured several more, according to a Ministry of Health official and a doctor at a local hospital - **CNN**.

The two sources, who do not want to be named, confirmed three people died and an unknown number of others were wounded.

The sources do not believe it was a suicide bombing.

The Ministry of Health official confirmed that the restaurant where the attack occurred is La Chaumiere, a popular restaurant among Westerners who visit the small Horn of Africa nation.

Both sources confirmed that foreigners were among the dead, but they would not give specifics on nationalities. [Read More...](#)

DJIBOUTI'S INTERIOR Ministry said on Sunday that two Somalis are suspected of having carried out a suicide bombing at a restaurant filled with Western military personnel on Saturday that killed three and wounded at least 15 - **SABC**.

Several members of the European Union (EU) naval and civilian maritime security missions were among those wounded in the attack, including three members of the Spanish military air force.

The interior ministry did not say if any group was suspected of being responsible for the bombings, the first time such an attack has been carried out in the tiny Red Sea state.

Djibouti, host to a French military base and the only US military base in Africa, shares its southern border with Somalia where the Al Qaeda-linked group Al Shabaab continues to flourish as the government struggles to impose any order. Al Shabaab is active inside Somalia but has also carried out gun and bomb attacks abroad.

The former French colony's port is used by foreign navies protecting the Gulf of Aden's shipping lanes, some of the busiest in the world, from Somali pirates. The European Union said on Sunday that members of the EU naval mission EUNAVFOR Atalanta and civilian maritime security

mission EUCAP Nestor were wounded in the bombing.

Spain's Defence Ministry said three Spanish military air force personnel were injured in the attack, one of whom was seriously hurt by shrapnel. The three were in Djibouti as part of the EUNAVFOR Atalanta mission. [Read More...](#)

SOMALI NATIONAL security and Intelligence Agency has confiscated electronic equipment from former AL Shabaab commander Sheik Hassan Dahir Aweys who is currently under a house arrest.

Reports also indicate that the secret Agency who raided the home where the Islamist leader is being held have also cut his internet connections and confiscated some electronic equipment including a laptop, TV and mobile phones - **Al Shahid**.

The operation was carried out by the secret agency Chief General Bashir Mohamed Jama on Saturday afternoon, apparently hours after Al Shabaab fighters attacked the Somali parliament building.

Former internal security minister Abdikarim Hussein Guled ordered the operation before resigning from his post.

The exact cause for the operation has not yet been revealed, but it comes days after the militant leader released his first speech since he was arrested and alleged that the country was under a new colony. He also accused Al Shabaab in his speech.

"Somalia is occupied by Ethiopia, so that the colonial era is back once again" was part of the Sheikh's speech which was aired from local radio stations. [Read More...](#)

THE UNITED States has secured a ten-year lease for a key military base in Djibouti that it relies on to launch "counter-terrorism" missions, including drone strikes, in Yemen and the Horn of Africa -

Aljazeera

US President Barack Obama and his Djibouti counterpart Ismail Omar Guelleh announced the renewed lease on



Camp Lemonnier on Monday as they met at the White House, pledging to counter al-Qaeda and Al-Shabaab fighters in the region.

Under the agreement, the Washington would pay \$63m annually for a ten-year lease, with an option to extend the arrangement for another decade, administration officials said.

The new deal represents a major increase in rent, as the US reportedly pays \$38m a year under the current lease.

"Camp Lemonnier is extraordinarily important to our work throughout the Horn of Africa but also throughout the region. We very much appreciate the hospitality that Djiboutians provide," Obama said. [Read More...](#)

This Weeks' Newsletter



C-LEVEL Maritime Risks

Intel collection, analysis, early trends recognition & forecasting

SOMALI REBEL group Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for a restaurant attack in the tiny East African country of Djibouti which left at least three people dead, including two security officers - **Aljazeera**

Saturday's double explosion that targeted a restaurant popular with tourists and Western security officials was the first of its kind in the former French colony.

"The attack was carried out against the French crusaders for their complicity in the massacres of our Muslim brothers in the Central African Republic and for their active role in training and equipping the apostate Djiboutian troops in Somalia and their growing intervention in the

affairs of our Muslim lands, " the group, which wants to impose strict Sharia law in Somalia, said



in a statement on Tuesday.

The blasts at La Chaumiere restaurant wounded 11 other people.

The French foreign ministry confirmed that several of its nationals were slightly wounded in the attack, and the Netherlands' De Telegraaf newspaper reported that six Dutch soldiers who had been taking part in an anti-piracy mission were also lightly wounded. [Read More...](#)

NAVAL FORCES of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) intercepted a Somali tanker ship that was trying to smuggle a large amount of diesel fuel from Iran to a Persian Gulf Arab state - ***FarsNews Agency***.

The oil tanker ship was trying to smuggle 500,000 of fuel before its was stopped by an IRGC patrol 18 miles off the Persian Gulf island of Qeshm in the Strait of Hormuz.

The tanker had reportedly picked up the diesel fuel from small vessels selling smuggled fuel in the Persian Gulf waters.

IRGC also arrested 13 Somali crew members aboard the tanker and handed them over to judicial authorities in the southern Hormuzgan Province.

In January, National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company Chief Abbas Kazzemi announced that NIOPDC has decided to boost fuel swaps with the neighbouring countries, including Pakistan and Afghanistan, in a bid to curb fuel smuggling.

Kazzemi said that the company is involved in drafting guidelines for supervision and curbing fuel smuggling.

"These guidelines will reduce smuggling to a great extent", the official said. [Read More...](#)

PUNTLAND PRESIDENT Abdiweli Mohamed Ali along with cabinet members on Tuesday visited remote districts located in the Bari province of the semi-autonomous region - ***Horseed Media***.

Residents of Hiriro and Iskushuban districts welcomed the President's convoy massively.



Local elders and administrations of the remote areas passed several complaints to the Puntland leader, most of them related to the basic needs.

Some of the areas the President has visited were formerly Pirates bases. Efforts from residents and Puntland marine forces led to the eradication of Sea gangs who no longer are not in the area.

[Read More...](#)

West Africa

SEA PIRATES on Monday created apprehension along the Nembe-Brass waterways in Bayelsa State after they ambushed a passenger boat -

Punch Nigeria.

It was learnt that the pirates, who rode on a speedboat, were said to have shot sporadically into the air and forced the boat to stop sailing. The gunmen were said to have raided the boat at Obama Rice Farm, an area located between Brass and Nembe and dispossessed passengers of their valuables.

It was further learnt that the incident created panic among other boats and traders as they temporarily stopped movement of goods and passengers along the waterways.

A security source, who pleaded anonymity, said traders on the attacked boats lost their valuables to the bandits.

The source said the gunmen dispossessed their victims of their mobile phones, money, jewellery and other valuables.

The source said no life was lost in the incident.

The source said, "The attack only created fears among travellers and traders and stopped movement of boats along the waterways. The passengers of the attacked boats even refused to embark on their journey again.

"It took the intervention of a patrol boat of the Joint Task Force, Operation Pulo Shield, to convince them to begin their journey again." [Read More...](#)

THE NIGERIAN Navy at the weekend, said it was winning the war against pirates operating within the country's territorial waters - **Sun News Online**

The Flag Officer Commanding Western Naval Command, Rear Admiral Ilesanmi Alade, who made the assertion, said that the waters within the command's area of operations and even beyond, had become calm for legitimate maritime business to thrive.

He said that between January and now, over 38 ship caught committing illegalities within the country's territorial waters were arrested, especially with the declaration of the naval headquarters under the leadership of Vice Admiral

Usman Jibrin, that it would not tolerate illegalities within Nigeria's territorial waters.

Admiral Alade, who spoke during a thanksgiving service to mark the 58th anniversary of the force at the St Andrew's Anglican Church in Navy Town, Ojo, urged those plotting illegalities at sea to desist as the Nigerian Navy would not spare them. Earlier, in his goodwill message, the Chief of Naval Staff stressed that as the Navy strives towards achieving the transformation agenda of this administration, security was key to its overall attainment.

He said that the Nigerian Navy's transformation plan was anchored on the vision to emplace a force that was adequately motivated and capable of effectively combating the security challenges in Nigeria's maritime domain.

Admiral Jibrin, who was represented by Rear Admiral Alade, said the top hierarchy of the force was aware of the constraints to its operations and the myriad of welfare problems facing naval personnel, adding that improved welfare would remain the cornerstone of his regime. [Read more...](#)

THE LIBERIAN Registry has concluded its investigation into the pirate-hijacking of the product tanker Kerala off Luanda, Angola, on 18 January 2014. The Liberian investigation is based on evidence gathered by an INTERPOL-led multinational Incident Response Team as well as findings of its own investigative efforts - **gCaptain.**

The Liberian Administration is currently in the process of publishing its report into the hijacking of the Liberian-flagged vessel. Liberia requested the attendance of the INTERPOL Incident Response Team in Tema, Ghana, the port of refuge to which the Kerala was directed following the disembarkation of the pirates. This team, supported and helped by the Ghanaian authorities, undertook a crime scene investigation on board the vessel.

A representative of the Liberian Flag Administration also attended on board in Tema to observe the collection of forensic evidence by the authorities, and interviewed some crew members. All parties were given full access to the vessel's documents, officers and crew. Upon arrival at

Tema, Ghana, all crew members received immediate medical treatment and have since been repatriated.

Following the hijacking off Angola, the vessel proceeded to Nigeria and the cargo was offloaded off the coast of that country by the pirates, believed to be Nigerian nationals. During the hijacking, the fourth engineer was stabbed by the pirates, and other crew members were beaten. The investigation report described the ordeal of the fourth engineer based on his account of the circumstances of the hijacking incident. It also revealed that, during the hijacking, the pirates disabled the Kerala's AIS and other communication equipment so that the vessel could not be tracked from shore or satellite. During this period, the pirates painted over the identifying features of the vessel, including funnel, name (Eral instead of Kerala) and IMO number. The pirates also undertook three separate ship-to-ship transfers of cargo amounting to the theft of approximately 12,271 mt of cargo. [Read more...](#)

THE WEST African regional body, ECOWAS Commission, said it had evolved adequate mechanisms to tackle the activities of terrorists and insurgents to restore peace in the sub-region - ***Daily Times Nigeria***.

It made the announcement while celebrating the 39th anniversary of the ECOWAS Day on Thursday at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The commission's Vice President, Dr Toga McIntosh, told a news conference after the ceremony that ECOWAS had continued to play its role in the effort to ensure peace and enhance development in the region.

He said efforts were being made, through collaboration with the Nigerian government and other ECOWAS member states, to stamp out the activities of insurgents that led to killing of thousands of civilians and the abduction of over 200 school girls in the country.

He said the commission was committed to doing everything possible to combat terrorism and violence as it was hindering the development of the region. [Read more...](#)

THE BERTHING Committee of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) Warri port has petitioned the management over extortion by the Ecravos marine pilots, a claim the pilots have denied.

The berthing Committee comprise the Nigerian Ports Authority, (NPA), shipping companies and agencies - ***AllAfrica***.

The Ecravos marine pilots is a group of young locals with vast knowledge of the waterways in the Delta area who assist ship captains to navigate through the shallow waters.

A letter signed by Igberebuo Efe, leader of the Committee said that the a vessel was recently delayed and suffered extortion and intimidation in the hands of the pilots.

The Committee said that the action of the pilots is causing delay in the inward movement of vessels that call at the Delta ports.

While the Committee argued that the advertised draft of vessels coming into the channel is put at 6.4 meters, the pilots are claiming that the permissible draft is 5.4 meters

The committee said " We the shipping agent operating in the Delta Ports area wish to draw your attention to the recent extortion and intimidation from Ecravos pilots saying that any vessel above 5.8 meters draft cannot come into Warri pilotage area.

"They are asking for N200,000.00 (Two hundred Naira Naira) before such vessels are allowed to proceed inward. [Read More...](#)

SEVERAL CHINESE naval vessels have arrived in Nigeria for a friendship visit, where they will conduct training exercises with the Nigerian Navy - ***Defenceweb***.

The 16th naval escort squad arrived in Lagos on Saturday and includes the Type 054A guided missile frigate

Yancheng, the Type

053H guided missile frigate Luoyang and the supply ship Taihu.

The Chinese fleet and its 600 plus crew were welcomed by the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria



Gu Xiaojie and Rear Admiral E.G. Ofik, chief staff officer of Nigerian Western Naval Command. The fleet commander, Senior Captain Li Pengcheng said the visit would enhance relations between the two navies as well as the two countries, Xinhua reports. During the four day visit, the Chinese and Nigerian navy personnel are scheduled to carry out joint training exercises. China has donated a combat vessel to the Nigerian Navy to assist in providing maritime security. [Read More...](#)

THE CENTRAL Command of the Nigerian Navy in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State has handed over seven suspected oil thieves and two vessels to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for further investigation and prosecution - ***News24 Nigeria***.

The suspects were recently arrested aboard MT CERGEN D and MT RHEINFELDEN. According to a statement from the Commission, Commodore Bamidu Babagbale, who represented the Navy, handed over the suspects and vessels at the brief ceremony. EFCC Senior Detective Superintendent, Olayinka Macaulay, received the suspects and the vessels. Babagbale also revealed that the team discovered that the first vessel, whose name was altered from MT MARIA BROSSUM to MT CERGEN D, was arrested at Fish Town loaded with 2, 356 million litres of cargo suspected to be stolen crude oil. [Read More...](#)

NIGERIAN NAVY personnel have rescued 12 men including a Ghanaian, who stowed away in a Spain bound chemical laden vessel, MV African Osprey - ***The Nation Nigeria***.

The suspects, who were said to have been on board the vessel for three days, were rescued after they banged the door to their hiding place for fear of death by suffocation. Boniface Douglass (Ghanaian); Mustapha Ayinla, Bernard Amadi, Azinabor Gideon, Isaac Delight, Daniel Timothy, Justice Agburum, Anthony Oladipupo, Emma Okon, Idowu Adeyemi, Philip Israel and Holly Osatwie all Nigerians, were rescued by personnel of the Nigerian Navy Ship

(NNS) BEECROFT at the Lagos anchorage after the chemical vessel crew sent a signal to the navy. They were said to have gone onboard the vessel for a contracted job for which they were paid, but rather than leaving, the suspects decided to stowaway.

Handing over the suspects to Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), the Flag Officer Commanding (FOC) Western Naval Command (WNC), Rear Admiral Sanmi Alade, said their mission was to illegally exit the country through the ship.

“Having established a prima facie case against the suspects, they are being handed over to the NIS for further investigation and possible prosecution. [Read More...](#)

Boko Haram

INTELLIGENCE AGENTS from all over the globe have poured into this city, Nigeria's capital, to help find the nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls abducted by the Islamist extremist group Boko Haram more than a month ago — but there has been little or no progress in bringing the young women home - ***The New York Times***.

The problem, many involved in the rescue effort say, is the failings of the Nigerian military. There is a view among diplomats here and with their governments at home that the military is so poorly trained and armed, and so riddled with corruption, that not only is it incapable of finding the girls, it is also losing the broader fight against Boko Haram. The group has effective control of much of the northeast of the country, as troops withdraw from vulnerable targets to avoid a fight and stay out of the group's way, even as the militants slaughter civilians.

Boko Haram's fighters have continued to strike with impunity this week, killing dozens of people in three villages in its regional stronghold, but also hitting far outside its base in the central region. Car bombs have killed well over 100, according to local press reports.

“It's been our assessment for some time that they are not winning,” said one Western diplomat in Abuja, speaking anonymously in keeping with diplomatic protocol.

For the moment, assistance from France, the United States, Israel and Britain is focused on answering questions that ultimately might guide a rescue attempt. Where exactly are the girls? Have they been split up into groups? How heavily are they guarded?

Desperate for clues, the United States has dispatched drones to scan the 37,000 square miles of Sambisa Forest, a scrubby semidesert tangle of low trees and bushes in the corner of northeastern Nigeria where the girls are believed to be held. [Read More...](#)

SUSPECTED ISLAMIST Boko Haram gunmen rampaged through three villages in northern Nigeria, killing 28 people and burning houses to the ground in a pattern of violence that has become almost a daily occurrence, according to police and witnesses - ***Reuters***.

All three attacks happened on Thursday in remote parts of Borno state, the epicenter of Boko Haram's increasingly bloody struggle for an Islamic kingdom in religiously mixed Nigeria. One took place right next to Chibok, by the Cameroon border, from where more than 200 school girls were abducted last month. [Read More...](#)

NIGERIAN MUSLIM clerics living in the border towns of Cameroon and Nigeria are recruiting Boko Haram members in their mosques, the government of Cameroon has alleged. Worse still, government officials in the North East states of Yobe, Borno and Adamawa collaborate with the terrorists and take bribes from them, thereby, hindering the fight against the terrorists - ***The Trent Online***.

Governors of these states also capitalise on their civilian fears to berate the army and the federal government.

These allegations were published in a report, yesterday, by US-based online military news agency, StrategyPage. The magazine explains that the army wants governors in the affected states removed because "many officials in those states



are cooperating with Boko Haram (to avoid attack) and are taking bribes from the Islamic terrorists. "Some of these officials are covering themselves in case Boko Haram should gain power and the governors are often just responding to civilian fears of army misconduct," it noted.

The magazine said: "Cameroon is also concerned about pro-Boko Haram clerics from Nigeria quietly preaching and recruiting for Boko Haram in Cameroon mosques.

Photo: Nigerian soldiers of the 'Operation Flush' stand in a military camp in Maiduguri capital of Borno state on June 6, 2013. (Photo Credit: Quentin Leboucher/AFP/Getty Images) [Read More...](#)

A DEAL for the release of some of the abducted schoolgirls in Nigeria was close to being secured when the Nigerian government called it off, the ***BBC News Africa*** has learned.

Some of the girls were set to be freed in exchange for imprisoned Islamist militants, reports the BBC's Will Ross.

Boko Haram group snatched more than 200 girls from a school on 14 April.

Nigeria's government is under pressure to do more to tackle the group and bring about the girls' release. [Read More...](#)

THE NIGERIAN military say they know where the girls kidnapped by Boko Haram are but they will not attempt a rescue - ***BBC News Africa***.

Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff said it was "good news for the parents," although he admitted the military would not risk "going there with force." More than 200 girls were abducted by Boko Haram gunmen from their school in northern Nigeria in April.

Earlier, the BBC learned that a deal to release some of the girls was close but was called off by the government.

The BBC's Will Ross in Abuja says an intermediary met leaders of the Islamist group and visited the place where they were being held.

[Read More...](#)

BOKO HARAM gunmen attacked a Nigerian military base and adjacent police barracks in the northeastern town of Buni Yadi, killing 31 security

personnel, security sources and witnesses said - **Reuters**.

The attack late on Monday in Yobe state occurred not far from where the Islamist insurgents shot or burned to death 59 pupils at a boarding school in February.

The militants, whose violent struggle for an Islamic state in northern Nigeria has killed thousands and made them the biggest threat to security in Africa's top oil-producing state, are still holding more than 200 girls kidnapped on April 14, an act which provoked international outrage.

Yobe police spokesman Nansak Chegwan said he was aware of the attack but could provide no further details. [Read More...](#)

NIGERIA'S PRESIDENT President Goodluck Jonathan has vowed to wage a "total war" against militant Islamist group Boko Haram - **BBC News Africa**.

Speaking on the the 15th anniversary of the end of military rule, he said "international terrorism"



threatened Nigeria's democratic gains.

Boko Haram has waged an increasingly bloody insurgency since 2009 to create an Islamic state in Nigeria.

The group has been holding more than 200 schoolgirls captive since last month, demanding a prisoner swap. [Read More...](#)

WHEN NIGERIAN President Goodluck Jonathan branded Boko Haram "al Qaeda in West Africa", it was sure to turn up the alarm among Western policy-makers, if its kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls was not enough - **Reuters**.

Yet while Jonathan's remarks, made at a meeting of regional leaders in Paris this month, hold some truth, analysts say Boko Haram is overall not an al Qaeda affiliate in West Africa - nor is it likely to become one.

Boko Haram's own aims remain thoroughly local and its behaviour, especially killing Muslim civilians and kidnapping girls, runs against the al Qaeda leadership's current thinking. [Read More...](#)

Southeast Asia

A THAI tanker has gone missing with authorities across the region scrambling to locate the ship - **SeaShip News**.

According to the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre, the Orapin 4 departed Singapore on Tuesday



afternoon bound for Pontianak in Indonesia with 3,377 metric tonnes of automotive diesel fuel onboard. The vessel was due to arrive yesterday. However, on Wednesday, the shipowner's efforts to get in touch with the tanker by email failed. The owner's name is Thai International Tankers. The tanker did not arrive in Pontianak on 29 May as scheduled. The last known position of the product tanker on 27 May 14 at 1730 hrs was approximately 3.64 nm north of Pulau Batam in Indonesia.

There were 14 crew, all Thai nationals onboard Orapin 4. [Read More...](#)

PAKISTAN'S PRIME Minister Nawaz Sharif has ordered the release of 151 detained Indian fishermen as a good will gesture on the eve of his visit to India - **BBC News Asia**.

Hundreds of Pakistani and Indian fishermen are languishing in jails for

accidentally crossing the sea border. Mr Sharif is to attend the inauguration of



Narendra Modi as India's prime minister on Monday, the first Pakistani leader to be invited to such an event.

His visit is seen as a sign of tensions between the two countries easing.

Fifty-nine fishermen from a jail in Karachi and a further 92 in Hyderabad will be handed over to the

Indian authorities on Monday, a statement from the prime minister's office said. [Read More...](#)

THE FISHING community and fishermen leaders are elated at reports from Sri Lanka that all 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu, who were arrested on charges of drug trafficking, will be released - ***Daily Mirror Sri Lanka***.

U. Arulanandham, president of the Alliance for the Release of Innocent Fishermen (ARIF), quoting his sources in Colombo, said the Sri Lankan authorities were taking steps to release all 14 fishermen after President Mahinda Rajapaksa ordered their release, as a goodwill gesture, ahead of his visit to India to attend the swearing-in of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister.

As the fishermen were arrested on specific charges and their cases were pending before different courts, they were likely to be freed early next week, after the court formalities were completed, he said.

"It will take four or five days to complete the procedures," he said.

The news has come as a relief to the families of the fishermen — 11 from Rameswaram island and three from Arcottuthurai in Nagapattinam district — as getting acquittal of drug trafficking charges was not so easy, he said. [Read More...](#)

A CHINESE fishing boat rammed and sank a Vietnamese fishing ship with 10 fishermen on board in the Vietnamese territorial waters on Monday. All the crewmembers were rescued by other Vietnamese fishing boats - ***Tuoitre News***.



The hard hit sank the local ship, and some Vietnamese fishing boats operating nearby managed to save all the 10 crew members. The waters where the Vietnamese ship sank is within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone and

continental shelf and is the traditional fishing ground of Vietnamese fishermen.

Vietnamese fishing boat rammed and sunk

Vietnamese fishing boat ĐNa 90152 was seen

days before it was rammed to sink by a Chinese fishing boat in an area within the Vietnamese territorial waters on May 26, 2014.

The waters where the Vietnamese ship sank is within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf and is the traditional fishing ground of Vietnamese fishermen.

Meanwhile, the area where the Chinese rig is illicit placed remained very tense on Monday, said a Vietnam Coast Guard unit on the scene.

The Chinese rig is located at 15:29.28N -

111:12.06E in the East Vietnam Sea, which lies

well within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone

and continental shelf, the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs insisted.. [Read More...](#)

VIETNAM IS taking "dangerous actions" at sea, China said on Tuesday, after the two countries traded accusations over the sinking of a Vietnamese fishing boat in disputed waters in the South China Sea - ***MarineLink***.

China also urged Vietnam to immediately stop all disruptive and damaging activities at sea.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang made the remarks at a regular briefing.

The fishing boat sank not far from a Chinese oil rig, which has set off a territorial row between the two countries. Each side has blamed the other over the sinking.

Vietnam has said the rig is in its 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone and on its continental shelf. China - which claims almost the entire South China Sea - says the rig is operating within its waters. [Read More...](#)

SINCE CHINA'S illegal oil rig Haiyang Shiyu 981 was relocated to a new area in Vietnamese waters on May 27, its guarding vessels, with the support of military planes, have launched more attacks on Vietnamese ships, the Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) said on Wednesday - ***Tuoitre News***.

Dang Le Son, captain of Vietnam Coast Guard ship 2015, said, "During the past two days,

Chinese vessels have launched more attacks and prolonged the time of each assault on Vietnamese ships.”

Yesterday, May 28, was the first day that the Chinese force launched daylong attacks on Vietnamese vessels when they were requested by the Vietnamese side to leave the Vietnamese waters in the East Sea.

A day earlier, the rig moved mainly east to a new area 23 nautical miles from the waters where it had been deployed since May 1.

Like its former location, the new placement of the rig is still within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, the VCG said. [Read More...](#)

Americas/South America/Caribbean

THE [US] Coast Guard interdicted a Mexican fishing crew poaching in South Texas, Thursday, after it was pursued by a Coast Guard aircraft and intercepted by the 87-foot Coast Guard Cutter Cobia. In an unrelated incident after intercepting the lancha, a crewmember from the Cobia fell and was injured, requiring a medevac - [MarineLink](#). A 25-foot Mexican fishing boat, also known as a lancha, was spotted by a civilian aircraft fishing 30 miles offshore and 72 miles north of the U.S./Mexican border at approximately 2 p.m. The aircraft immediately notified Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi, who launched an aircrew aboard an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter to identify and pursue the lancha. The aircrew coordinated with the Cutter Cobia to intercept as the lancha began to flee south toward Mexican waters. The Coast Guard helicopter pursued the lancha for 22 miles and guided Cutter Cobia toward the boat. The Cobia deployed its 17-foot small boat and crew, which stopped the lancha, with five people aboard, at approximately 6 p.m.

The lancha was initially discovered actively fishing without a legal permit and caught more than 455 red snapper in U.S. waters, a violation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and one of the largest known local seizures in recent years. Currently,

red snapper is a closed fishery in federal waters until June 1. Civil penalties associated with this violation can range between \$100,000 and \$140,000. The catch was released at sea. [Read More...](#)

EVERY YEAR thousands of Haitians risk their lives trying to make the perilous sea voyage from their country to one of its wealthier Caribbean neighbours in a bid for a better life - [BBC News](#).



They cram themselves into small boats which are often far from seaworthy. They run the risk of capsizing or being picked up by coastguard patrols.

Many feel this is their only option in a country which is not only the poorest in the western hemisphere but which was further destroyed by a devastating earthquake in 2010.

People from all over Haiti head to the north-west of the island to get onto these boats to leave their homeland, but most are from this impoverished region itself. [Read More...](#)

Other

THE HULL of the missing UK yacht Cheeki Rafiki has been found in the North Atlantic by a US Navy warship, the US Coast Guard has said - [BBC News](#).

A surface swimmer identified the name on the back of the boat and knocked on the hull but there was no response.

The Coast Guard said the yacht's life raft had not been deployed and was still in its storage space.

The four-strong crew were returning to the UK from Antigua when it hit problems on 15 May. The US Coast Guard said a warship helicopter crew



located the hull 1,000 miles from Massachusetts. The warship was diverted and a boat crew sent to examine the boat.

They found the cabin of the yacht was flooded and the windows shattered. The yacht's keel was also broken, causing a breach in the hull, a spokesman added.

An image showing the life raft still in position had been "shared with and acknowledged by the [men's] families", the Coast Guard said later on Friday night. [Read More...](#)

THE CHINESE and Russian navies staged exercises on the East China Sea on Friday to simulate anti-piracy operations - **Want China Times**.

In the "joint escort" drill, naval vessels successfully drove away two "pirate boats" under the command of Russia's Varyag missile cruiser. The navies also simulated a rescue mission by sending out special forces and taking out "pirates" on a "hijacked ship."

In a joint aircraft identification exercise, vessels searched for and reported "unidentified aerial targets" while the command coordinated flying J-10 and Su-30 fighters to identify the targets. The navies also jointly conducted air defense and maritime assault drills. They also practised intercepting missiles. [Read More...](#)

UNITED STATES Special Operations troops are forming elite counterterrorism units in four countries in North and West Africa that American officials say are pivotal in the widening war against Al Qaeda's affiliates and associates on the continent, even as they acknowledge the

difficulties of working with weak allies - **The New York Times**.

The secretive program, financed in part with millions of dollars in classified Pentagon spending and carried out by trainers, including members of the Army's Green Berets and Delta Force, was begun last year to instruct and equip hundreds of handpicked commandos in Libya, Niger, Mauritania and Mali.

The goal over the next few years is to build homegrown African counterterrorism teams capable of combating fighters like those in Boko Haram, the Islamist extremist group that abducted nearly 300 Nigerian schoolgirls last month. American military specialists are helping Nigerian officers in their efforts to rescue the girls. [Read More...](#)

ABDEL FATTAH al-Sisi, the general who toppled Egypt's first freely elected leader, swept to victory in a presidential election, provisional results showed on Thursday, joining a long line of leaders drawn from the military - **Reuters Africa**.

But a lower than expected turnout figure raised questions about Sisi's credibility after his supporters had idolised him as a hero who can deliver political and economic stability. Sisi captured 93.3 percent of votes cast as counting nearly came to a close, judicial sources said. His only rival, leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi, gained 3.0 percent while 3.7 percent of votes were declared void. [Read More...](#)

HEAD OF the EU observer mission says Egypt's 2014 presidential poll was 'free and democratic but not necessarily fair' Egypt's 2014 presidential vote was held in a "democratic and free" environment, announced the European Union's Election Observation Mission (EOM) in a press conference on Thursday - **Ahram Online**.

Speaking at the same event, MP Robert Goebbels, head of the delegation of six Members of the European Parliament – a separate monitoring body that also observed the elections – concurred with the EOM that the election was "free and democratic" but added it was not necessarily fair.



Goebbels elaborated that the self-censorship practiced by many media outlets, among other things, led to the support of a specific candidate. Mario David, head of the EOM, said voter turnout reached 46 percent. [Read More...](#)

A BRITISH jihadist with a middle-class accent has



been filmed training foreign fighters in Syria - **The Sunday Times**.

The footage provides the first clear evidence

that Britons travelling to the country are taking up senior roles in the bloody civil war rather than being used as mere foot soldiers.

In one video posted on YouTube, the British jihad instructor is shown drilling a group of armed men who are dressed in black and resemble ninja fighters.

The Briton, aged 23 and said to have been killed earlier this month, boasts: "There is no place better than being out on the battlefield."

He fought under the alias Abu Hafs al-Pakistani — a reference to his family origins. It is unclear which part of Britain he came from. [Read More...](#)

SIX MEMBERS of a UN team investigating alleged chlorine gas attacks in Syria have been abducted along with their five local drivers, state media report - **BBC News ME**.

A foreign ministry statement said they were seized while trying to reach the village of Kafr Zaita in Hama province.

After leaving their government escort outside Tayyiba Imam, a bomb exploded beside one of their vehicles, it said.

There is no confirmation by the chemical weapons watchdog overseeing Syria's chemical disarmament, the OPCW. [Read More...](#)

THE ATTACK on a convoy of chemical weapons experts in Syria on Tuesday was more extensive than was first reported, the international group that helped organise the experts' mission said on Wednesday - **The New York Times**.

The group, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, said the experts were attacked twice, first by a roadside bomb that disabled their lead vehicle and forced them to abort their trip to a village in central Syria, and then in an ambush as the experts were retreating to a safer area in two other vehicles. The episode violated a local cease-fire between the government and insurgent sides.

The gunmen shot up one of the vehicles with automatic weapons and briefly detained the experts, who were trying to investigate the possible use of chlorine gas bombs, the organisation said in a statement on its website. The experts were released after the interventions of the insurgent group that had negotiated the cease-fire. The experts were unhurt and returned safely to Damascus, but a driver in their convoy suffered minor injuries. [Read More...](#)

DECLARATION ON behalf of the European Union on the situation in Libya

"Libya is at a highly critical stage in its transition which it can successfully face through a constructive political engagement based on nationally agreed principles in order to achieve the goals of the 17 February revolution: fostering the rule of law, the respect of human rights and the welfare of its citizens. Otherwise it could face the threat of chaos, fragmentation, violence and terrorism - **EU**.

The EU is deeply concerned by repeated acts of violence, and calls on all sides to refrain from the use of force and to address differences by political means.

The EU emphasises the importance of an inclusive Libyan political dialogue and encourages all parties to actively cooperate with the United Nations Special Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), in particular to reach an agreement on a political

roadmap for the transition process. The UN has a central role to play in coordinating international efforts in support of the political process on the ground.

In this framework, we call on all parties to create an environment conducive for holding parliamentary elections as soon as possible. [Read More...](#)

LIBYA'S EMBATTLED parliament approved Sunday an Islamist-backed government despite boycotts from non-Islamists and threats from a renegade general who considers the chamber illegitimate - ***AP News***.

Lawmakers said the government of Ahmed Maiteeq passed with a majority vote, with 83 out of 93 present in the session voting in favour.

The parliament session was held amid tight security in a palace east of the capital after the renegade general's forces said that the legitimacy of the parliament has expired. A spokesman for Gen. Khalifa Hifter had threatened Saturday to attack the parliament session if it convened.

Hifter has launched an armed campaign he said is aimed at imposing stability after three years of chaos since the ouster and death of dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. He said he wants to break the power of Islamists who lead the parliament, whom he accuses opening the door to Islamic radicals. [Read More...](#)

THE LEADER of the protesters occupying Libyan oil ports said on Monday he did not recognise Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteeq's new government and suggested a previously agreed deal to end his blockade could be in jeopardy - ***Reuters***.

Ibrahim Jathran, who wants more autonomy from Tripoli for his eastern region, had agreed with Maiteeq's predecessor to steadily end the protests, which have cut the OPEC member country's oil exports after the ports fell under his control last summer.

Jathran's statement added to the opposition to Maiteeq, a businessman backed by the Muslim Brotherhood, who was appointed two weeks ago in a chaotic, parliamentary vote that prompted anti-Islamist factions to challenge his legitimacy.

[Read More...](#)

LAST OCTOBER, with security concerns in Libya mounting, the United Nations dispatched a high-level delegation to Tripoli to determine whether U.N. staff could function safely in a country beset by Islamist extremists and renegade militias that had killed America's top envoy, attacked foreign embassies, raided the country's oil resources, and temporarily abducted both the Jordanian ambassador and the former Libyan prime minister - ***Foreign Policy***.

The answer was a resounding no, and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon sent an urgent letter to the U.N. Security Council asking for help assembling a 235-man security force that would be charged with guarding the world body's small mission in Libya. Seven months later, with security deteriorating so badly that the State Department is warning American nationals to leave Libya, the U.N. has yet to establish the force -- though U.N. officials say they are gradually reinforcing their own security detail to address the shortcomings.

[Read More...](#)

South Korean Ferry

SOUTH KOREA is stepping up its hunt for the owner of the ferry company whose vessel the Sewol sank last month - ***BBC News Asia***. Prosecutors are offering a reward of \$500,000 for information leading to the arrest of Yoo Byung-eun.



Police also arrested four members of a religious sect led by the businessman on suspicion of helping the fugitive.

Mr Yoo faces allegations of tax evasion, embezzlement and negligence following the sinking of the ferry with the loss of some 300 lives. Police raided a compound of his sect, the Evangelical Baptist Church, last Wednesday, but found no trace of him.

Photo: Police raid the church compound in search of the fugitive [Read More...](#)

FRENCH POLICE said Tuesday they arrested the daughter of a South Korean tycoon believed to be the owner of a ferry that sank last month in a disaster that left more than 300 people dead or missing - ***The Globe and Mail***.

Yoo Somena was detained early Tuesday at her home near the Champs Élysées in Paris, said officials familiar with the matter on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter. French police were acting on an international arrest warrant issued May 8 by South Korean officials on suspicion that she was involved in embezzlement from 2004 to 2013, the officials said.

Ms. Yoo, 47, is the daughter of Yoo Byung-eun, a mysterious billionaire who South Korean authorities believe to be the owner of the Sewol ferry that sank April 16. [Read More...](#)

DIVERS PLAN to open the port windows of the capsized ferry Sewol amid mounting pressure to locate the bodies of 16 people who remain missing - ***IHS Maritime 360***.

Sewol, which plied the Incheon-Jeju route, capsized off Jindo Island on 16 April. Of the 476 passengers and crew, 288 have been confirmed dead while 172 people were rescued.

Of the passengers, 325 were Danwon High School students who were going to Jeju Island for an excursion.

A press statement released by South Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries stated an aeronautical search so far has yielded no trace of the missing passengers. "We intend to search through the outer wall of the hull section using marine radiation and submarine imaging," said the ministry. [Read More...](#)

ANOTHER CIVILIAN diver has died during the search for the missing bodies of 16 Sewol passengers who remain missing - ***IHS Maritime 360***.

A statement released by South Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said that the 46-year-old diver, identified only as Lee, injured himself while making an incision on Sewol's hull this afternoon. The statement, written in Korean, said: "At 13.50hrs South Korea time today, the divers accessed the fourth level of the ferry and began cutting through the structure.

Around 14.20hrs, the team heard moaning. The team immediately stopped work to see what was wrong. "When Lee was found by a fellow diver and brought to the surface, he was unconscious and bleeding from the face. [Read More...](#)

A SPOKESPERSON for the South Korean president has sparked further controversy over the sinking of the Sewol ferry by apparently suggesting that civilian divers are being paid "by the body" for their work in the recovery effort - ***The Independent***.

Speaking at a press event on the island of Jindo, near where the



ferry sank on 16 April, Presidential spokesman Min Kyung-wook reportedly said the government had agreed a deal with private companies where they get a fee up front and then further bonuses for each corpse recovered.

Min was quoted by the state-run Yonhap news agency as telling reporters: "Civilian divers are paid 1 million won (£580) per day and 5 million won (£2,900) for retrieving each dead body." Of the 476 people who were on board the Sewol when it sank, 288 have been confirmed dead. Teams of civilian and military divers are still searching for 16 people listed as missing. [Read More...](#)

Missing Malaysian Aircraft

ON THE 19 May, the Acting Minister of Transport has instructed the Malaysian Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) to discuss with Inmarsat on the release of the Inmarsat 'raw data' for public consumption - **[DCA Malaysia](#)**.

Inmarsat and the DCA have been working for the release of the data communication logs and the technical description of the analysis.

As a result, the data communication logs from Inmarsat as well as the relevant explanation to enable the reader to understand the data provided is being released. [Read More...](#)

Notes and accompanying tables intended to provide a readable summary of the data communications logs from the Inmarsat satellite system in connection with the ongoing investigation and search & rescue activities relating to MH370.

SCIENTIST HAVE welcomed the decision to make all ocean depth data (bathymetry) gathered in the search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 publicly available - **[BBC](#)**

[News](#)

A detailed survey of 60,000 sq km of seabed is to be undertaken to help refine the hunt for the lost jet.

The depth and shape of Earth's ocean floor is very poorly known.

Leading

researchers say the MH370

example should be

a spur to gather much better data elsewhere in the world.

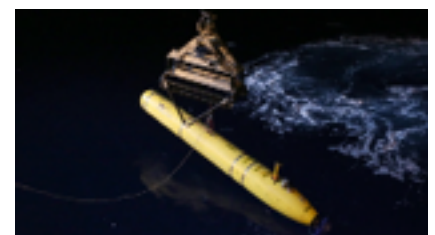
The search has been hampered by the lack of a high-resolution view of the bed topography west of Australia.

This was apparent on the very first dive made by an autonomous sub investigating possible sonar detections of the aircraft's cockpit voice and flight data recorders.

It was forced to cut short the mission because it encountered depths that exceeded its operating limit of 4,500m. There are places thought to exceed 7,800m. [Read More...](#)

CONFIDENCE IN the search for the MH370 passenger aircraft that disappeared in March was shaken today, with the US Navy questioning if 'pings' detected were authentic and Australian authorities drawing a blank - **[IHS Maritime 360](#)**.

US Navy's deputy director of ocean engineering, Michael Dean told CNN he doubted the pings were from an aircraft black box.



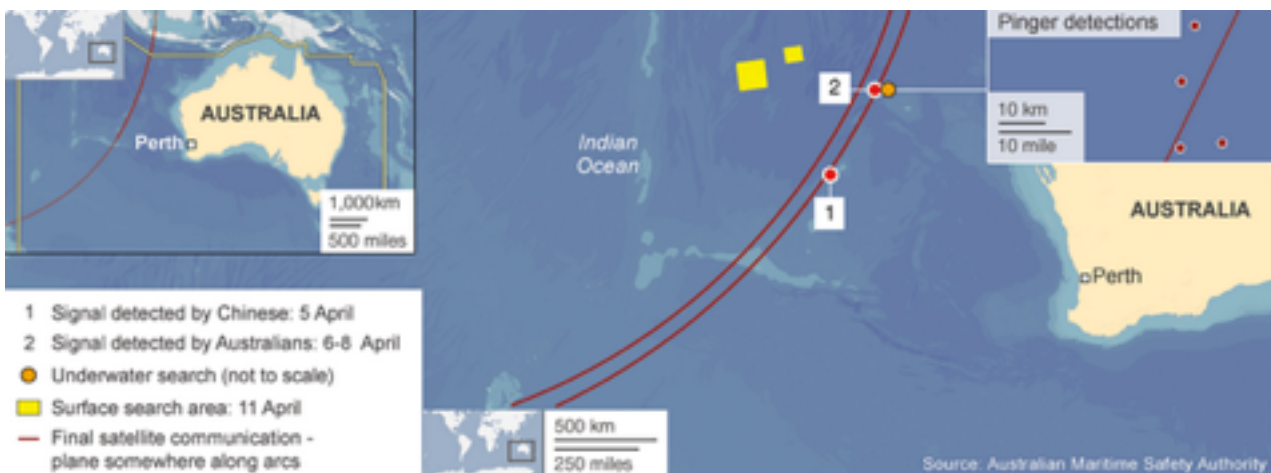
Although the US Navy has since backtracked, Australian authorities today confirmed the search in the area uncovered nothing.

Industry sources speaking with IHS Maritime said since the mission was no longer classified SAR and shifted to Navy control, information was tight. "They are like clams", he said, adding that there "was complete bafflement about the plane's fate". "Until they find it everyone has their theory," said the source.

The Joint Agency Coordination Centre said in today's statement the unmanned sub Bluefin-21 scoured over 850km² of the ocean floor to date. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau advised, "the area can now be discounted as the final resting place of MH370". Australian authorities are reviewing all data before conducting a bathymetric survey to map the sea floor. [Read More...](#)

THE AREA where acoustic signals thought linked to the missing Malaysian plane were detected can now be ruled out as the final resting place of flight MH370, Australian officials say - **BBC News**.

The Bluefin-21 submersible robot had finished its search of the area and found nothing, they said. Efforts would now focus on reviewing search data, surveying the sea floor and bringing in specialist equipment. [Read More...](#)



Released by Pirates

NSTR

Pirates in Court

CONVICTED SOMALI pirates, who are serving their sentences in Dutch jails, should no longer qualify for early release if they request asylum, says junior justice minister Fred Teeven - **Dutch News**.

At the moment, the pirates are released after serving two-thirds of their sentence with good behaviour, as is standard in the Netherlands. However, Teeven is planning to change the law on this point as soon as possible, he told parliament on Monday.

In total, 25 Somali nationals have been found guilty of piracy in the Netherlands and Teeven says he has reached agreement with the Somali authorities on their deportation. [Read More...](#)

Italian Marines

A TEAM of experts in international law have begun work on the case of two Italian marines detained in India for over two years pending trial after allegedly murdering two Indian fishermen during an international anti-piracy mission, Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini (pictured) said Tuesday -

Gazzetta del Sud. The

group led by barrister Daniel Bethlehem, a former legal adviser to the British

Foreign and

Commonwealth Office, has been tasked with "following the new phase of internationalisation" of the case involving Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, who have been held in New Delhi under mobility restrictions after allegedly shooting dead fishermen Valentine (aka Gelastine)



and Ajesh Binki aboard their trawler during an anti-piracy mission in February 2012. Last month the Italian government announced it was opening a "new phase" in the saga, replacing its special envoy on the case and sending its ambassador back to New Delhi to help steer the case towards arbitration by an international organisation such as the UN. [Read More...](#)

Private Security

NSTR

International Response

THE EU's maritime capacity building mission in the Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean, EUCAP Nestor, celebrated together with its Somali and Djiboutian partners the successful completion of the first basic training provided to 20 members of Galmudug Coast Guard and 30 members of Bosaso Port Police - **OCEANUSLive**



The closing ceremony was held at the camp of the Djiboutian Gendarmerie, which hosted the trainees from different regions of Somalia for the past six weeks. The training ran from 22 April to 29 May and was held mainly at the Training Centre of the Djibouti Gendarmerie. Seven specialised trainers from EUCAP Nestor, plus legal and maritime experts, and several trainers from the French base carried out the course, which aimed to further enhance the trainees' skills to proficiently and confidently carry out their duties within their respective law enforcement agencies. "This first basic training was a success, thanks to the invaluable support of all our partners, and last but not least thanks to the efforts made by the training team" said EUCAP Nestor Head of Mission, Etienne de Poncins expressing his gratitude towards all those who helped to make the course a success. "Our efforts will not stop here and in the coming months a series of events are already foreseen such as a Regional Prosecutors Conference as well as another 6 weeks training for new recruits from Somali Maritime Security entities."

The course content was developed in close cooperation with Puntland and Galmudug authorities. Theory was combined with practical exercises, addressing various areas, including basic crime scene investigation, first aid training, communications and navigation, firefighting, basic boarding and intervention techniques, swimming lessons, the International Law of the Sea, and human rights and gender issues. In addition, light equipment was donated to the two law enforcement agencies, including uniforms, sport outfits, first aid kits and life jackets that the students can now use in the execution of their tasks. [Read More...](#)

Piracy Costs

RECENT STATISTICS from the International Maritime Bureau confirm that maritime piracy in Somalia is on the decline. From the 237 incidents reported in 2011, there were only 15 attacks in 2013. In May 2012 the MT Smyrni, a Greek-owned tanker, became the last merchant vessel captured and ransomed by pirates off Somalia until now - **Global Initiative**.

However, this success comes at considerable cost: an intense international naval deployment, Operation ATALANTA, spanning 2,000,000 square nautical miles – an area 1.5 times the size of mainland Europe; application of Best Management Practices, and the use of private security on ships in the region, which together cost the international community and the shipping industry billions of dollars a year to maintain. Over \$1 billion per year is spent on the naval operations that patrol the Gulf of Aden, and in 2012, Ocean's Beyond Piracy estimated that between \$1.15 and \$1.53 billion was spent on armed guards in the Gulf of Aden that year, and these are being deployed in 50 per cent of shipping vessels.

But for how long is this level of expense sustainable? A decision is expected in the coming week whether the EU will continue to finance ATALANTA. The Shipping Industry has already been very vocal about the unsustainable expense of the costs of private security, on top of the already significant costs of re-routing and

additional insurance to sail through piracy risk regions.

A more durable response is required, and a recent joint conference of the EU and INTERPOL proposed that it is time to apply a more focused approach to breaking down the piracy business model: by applying money laundering analysis and asset seizure instruments to create financial disincentives.

This will entail a significant shift in approach for the international community. Thus far, there has been little effort to go after the true profiteers of piracy. Considerable investment has been made on strengthening criminal justice capacity, including in Somalia itself, but this has proved to be of little deterrent to pirates.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) uses two terms to capture this type of conduct: "international facilitation" or "indictment" to piracy, which are accessory crimes. In most cases, national legislation covers acts of maritime crime through reference to UNCLOS, this is the primary legislative framework that will govern piracy, and UNCLOS only comes into force for acts that are committed on the high seas. Thus, the ability to apply this to "piracy on land" is questionable. [Read More...](#)

THE 'ZERO zero' target - zero pirate attacks, zero seafarer hostages - of agencies supporting capacity building and the eradication of piracy in Somalia, does not ensure the end of piracy, shipping interests have pointed out - ***IHS Maritime 360***.

Speaking to IHS Maritime, John Stawpert, senior adviser for environment and trade for the International Chamber of Shipping, said the target cannot "guarantee that the drivers for such criminal activity have been successfully eradicated or that sufficient maritime police capability exists in the region to combat it". However, he said the target was still relevant: "It would only take the capture of one merchant ship and the subsequent payment of a ransom to reinvigorate the pirate business model. [Read More...](#)

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

THE US Department of Justice has arrested more than a dozen Puerto Rico Police Department officers on corruption charges, claiming they were taking part in a "criminal organisation, run out of the police department." - ***RT.com***

According to CNN, Justice Department prosecutors indicted 16 current and former police officers on Thursday, stating they "used their affiliation with law enforcement to make money through robbery, extortion, manipulating court records and selling illegal narcotics."

As noted by Reuters, drug division officers from three separate areas were part of the arrests. Some officers allegedly offered armed protection to drug dealers in exchange for bribes. Others reportedly planted evidence against innocent individuals before extorting them for money and release. US Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez-Velez, meanwhile, said officers also arrested civilians and confiscated drugs that were later sold illegally. The suspects "not only betrayed the citizens they were sworn to protect, they also betrayed the thousands of honest, hard-working law enforcement officers who risk their lives every day to keep us safe," she told Fox News. [Read More...](#)

AN ITALIAN navy patrol ship picked up a migrant boat coming from North Africa carrying 435 people including 264 children, most from Syria and Egypt, authorities said on Saturday - ***Reuters***.

The rescue, which occurred on Friday afternoon, is the latest in a seemingly endless succession as the chronic migrant crisis in the southern Mediterranean has picked up this year.

At least 34,800 people have crossed from North Africa to Europe so far this year, compared to 43,000 in the whole of 2013. That leaves the annual total set to surpass the 60,000 who made the trip in 2011 when the Arab Spring revolutions loosened border controls, according to the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR. [Read More...](#)

SPANISH police have busted a huge drug smuggling syndicate worth millions of euros.

Eleven people were arrested on suspicion of trafficking after police in Spain smashed the cocaine gang - ***Herald Scotland***.

The organisation is suspected of smuggling drugs into the country in shipping containers, inside passengers' baggage on international flights and in vehicles.

Officers seized 608lb (276kg) of cocaine, worth an estimated £11 million, plus €254,000 (£205,500) in cash, five vehicles, hydraulic presses and two firearms, a police statement said. [Read More...](#)

TRAFFICKERS IN Yemen hold African migrants in detention camps, torturing them to extort payment from their families, with the complicity of local officials, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. Sometimes the torture ends in death - ***Eurasia Review***. The Yemeni government should vigorously investigate and prosecute human traffickers and members of the security forces involved in the abuses.

The 82-page report, "Yemen's Torture Camps': Abuse of Migrants by Human Traffickers in a Climate of Impunity," documents harms suffered by migrants, most from the Horn of Africa, who try to travel through Yemen on their way to Saudi Arabia for work. Human Rights Watch found that various Yemeni security agencies in the border town of Haradh, where dozens of camps exist, and at checkpoints, allow the human trafficking industry to flourish with little government interference. [Read More...](#)

SMUGGLING OF tuna fish to Iran costs Pakistan at least \$50 million a year as fisheries experts urge the government to regularise the illegal seafood trade with neighbouring country to help coastal communities' augment their income and lifestyle. "Around 200 tons of tuna fish is being smuggled to Iran on a daily basis through Gwadar port of Balochistan," said Technical Advisor (Marine Fisheries) at WWF-Pakistan, Muhammad Moazzam Khan - ***Business Recorder***.

Iranian traders pay higher prices for tuna fish as compared to the seafood rates at the country's fisheries, he said, adding that the illegal trade has huge financial appeal for the local fishermen.

According to the WWF-Pakistan's report on 'Tuna Situation Analysis Pakistan 2012', the small-scale

tuna gillnet fishery in Pakistan is mainly dependant on the trade of low quality gillnet caught tuna with Iran in chilled form and its export in salted-dried form to Sri Lanka.

The tuna fishing operations in Pakistan appeared to be financially viable and attractive to boat operators mainly because of high prices offered by Iranian traders. Prices of tuna in Pakistan have jumped considerably in the past few years. Construction of coastal highway along the Balochistan coast in 2003 has changed the marketing pattern. Following construction of the road fishermen from Karachi have got an opportunity to trade with Iran as the country's canneries offer extra-ordinary high prices for tuna. For example, the sources said that long tail and skipjack fetch around \$1.2 to 1.4 per kilogram whereas yellow fin tuna is sold as high as \$2 per kg. Procurement of fish on Iranian fishing and carrier boats at high rates, especially in Gwadar and Jiwani areas, give fishermen many advantages; by selling fish at high seas avoid manoeuvring and high-handedness by the middlemen.

Additionally, fishermen also buy oil from Iranian boats under a barter system although such an arrangement is generally considered as smuggling. [Read More...](#)

THE ROYAL Navy has seized heroin with an estimated value of £8.5m in a search of a boat in the Arabian Sea, the MoD has confirmed - ***BBC News***.

Nearly 60kg of the drug was confiscated from a suspect fishing boat and later destroyed by sailors and Royal Marines from Plymouth-based HMS Somerset.



HMS Somerset's Lynx helicopter was launched to intercept the boat.

Teams then spent 23 hours searching before finding the contraband hidden under a false deck.

[Read More...](#)

THE SCENE: a deserted dirt road, on the outskirts of Puerto Maldonado, in the Peruvian Amazon. Eleven Haitians quickly descend from a series of ramshackle rooms above a bar, and get into a waiting van. This is one of the final steps on the illegal route to Brazil - **Folha de S Paulo**.



In the van, hired by a "coyote", a human trafficker, the Haitians are instructed to keep the curtains drawn. In the last row of the van, Deny, 35, tries to keep calm, thinking about the journey ahead of them. They left Haiti more than a week ago and have been travelling ever since.

Four hours later, they disappeared amongst the thousands of foreigners that enter Brazil with the help of criminal groups along the border region. For two weeks, Folha has been observing the system in operation in the West Amazon borderlands, an area stretching across Brazil, Bolivia and Peru. It is through this system that around 400 illegal immigrants enter Brazil every week, most of them Haitian or African. [Read More...](#)

Seafarers' Plight

SEVEN BANGLADESHI sailors, who were abducted by Somali pirates from a Malaysian flag-carrying merchant ship in the high seas more than four-and-a-half years ago, are still in captivity and leading miserable lives as ransom has not been paid yet - **The Independent**.

Neither the government nor the human rights organisations and the recruiting agencies

concerned have taken any significant step for freeing the abducted Bangladeshi sailors over the last four-and-a-half years, family members alleged.

A gang of Somali pirates hijacked the Malaysian-flagged container ship, MV Albedo, from the Indian Ocean in November 2010. It had a crew of 23, including Pakistanis, Indians, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Iranians. The Somali pirates have demanded US \$7 million for freeing the Bangladeshi sailors.

The seven abducted Bangladeshi sailors were identified as Golam Mostafa, Aminul Islam, Habibur Rahman, Zakir Hossain, Abul Quasem Sardar, Limon Sarker and Nurul Haque.

"It is a matter of concern that our seven sailors are leading miserable lives in the captivity of Somali pirates for four years. We shall compel the state to bring back our sailors from the captivity of the Somali pirates," National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairman Prof. Mizanur Rahman told The Independent on Tuesday. There is scope for the NHRC to work in this connection, he said, adding that it will exert pressure on the government to bring back the sailors from the clutches of the Somali pirates. The state would have to take initiatives to rescue the sailors, he added.

Nurul Islam, father of one of the hostages, Aminul Islam, told The Independent on Tuesday that he communicated with his son on March 14. "The abducted Bangladeshis are leading miserable lives in the captivity of the Somali pirates. The pirates are not supplying adequate food; alarmingly, the pirates don't supply food even for two or three days," he said in reply to a query. "The authorities once finalised negotiations for freeing the Bangladeshi sailors from the captivity of the Somali pirates, but this failed as funds were not available," he further said. [Read More...](#)

MPHRP TOOK part in a Piracy Awareness Workshop for the Bulgarian Maritime Community. The Workshop took place on May 20, 2014 in Varna, Bulgaria. Participating were representatives of the ITF, National Bulgarian ITF affiliates, as well as representatives of the Association of Masters, Maritime Institutions and seafarers - **MPHRP**. Participants in the event took a collective decision

to develop and apply locally MPHRP's findings and procedures in support of piracy survivors. The full text of the resolution appears below. On the following day Alexander Dimitrevich facilitated a



meeting with piracy survivors from M/V Panega. RESOLUTION We, the participants of the Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme (MPHRP) Awareness Conference held in Varna on 20 May 2014, agree that: The MPHRP is a useful and vital instrument to support seafarers who have suffered abduction or assault, and to prepare them for any such eventual attack. It is necessary and helpful to join forces in Bulgaria to prepare seafarers for entering areas with high risk of piracy and armed attacks. There is a need to implement and develop MPHRP in Bulgaria. We should use all the educational opportunities offered by the Program as a possible way of improving the humanitarian response to piracy. That the MPHRP's operations should be extended, developed and implemented in Bulgaria and other Balkan countries. [Read More...](#)

MARTIN STRUWE, Deacon of the German Seamans' Mission and Toon van de Sande (MPHRP) delivered a presentation on "Piracy from the victim's perspective" in Münster, Germany - **MPHRP**. The Seminar on Maritime Piracy was hosted by Hanzekuranz. The audience consisted of maritime insurance brokers.

Martin Struwe addressed the living conditions of seafarers on board. His presentation was a real eye-opener, because the largest part of the audience was not aware of the lengthy periods of seafarers' contracts, and did not realise that they are on call for 24 hours a day. Seafarers live where they work!

Toon van de Zande dealt with what could happen to the crew during an incident of piracy and after release. He explained what MPHRP has to offer

the maritime industry and all affected by piracy: a continuum of care from pre-departure training to post-piracy rehabilitation. [Read More...](#)

Aid Workers Plight

NSTR

And Finally...

SHE WAS the supporting role in many of Johnny Depp's scenes where he played eccentric pirate Jack Sparrow - **Daily Mail**.

But the main star of Pirates of Caribbean was 66-year-old pirate ship The Brig Unicorn, who sunk in a freak accident off the coast of St Vincent and the Grenadines on Saturday.

The magical ship was sailing on her way to be repaired from St Lucia when she encountered difficulties and sank, no one was hurt.

On board at the time there was nine crew members and one captain, who were believed to have been rescued by the St Vincent Coast Guard shortly after the incident. [Read More...](#)



Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- Nil.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **SE Asia** - SE Asia - Vietnam-flagged bulk carrier, **Eastern Star**, whilst underway was boarded at about 0353 LT in position 01:06.40N - 103:33.13E, southwest of Nipa Anchorage . Four men boarded from the stern of the vessel and entered the engine room. The master ordered a search of the vessel but the four men had escaped. No items were stolen and the crew were not injured. Reported (ReCAAP) 29 May.
- **SE Asia** - Malaysia-flagged tug boat, **Kien San 1** towing barge **Kien San 8** loaded with scrap metal whilst underway was boarded at about 1042 LT in position 01:11.5N - 103:38.12E, northwest of Nipa Anchorage in the westbound lane. Four men boarded the barge from the stern. The master and crew tried to scare away the perpetrators. The Singapore Police Coast Guard deployed a patrol craft to the location of the incident but the men escaped in their small boats. No items were stolen from the barge and the crew was not injured. Reported (ReCAAP) 28 May.
- **SE Asia** - [Boarding] Liberia-flagged bulk carrier, **Ore Vitoria**, while underway was boarded by four men at about 0625 LT in position 01:07.07N - 103:32.88E, southwest of Nipa Anchorage. Nothing was stolen and no crew were injured. The master conducted a search of the vessel and confirmed that the men had escaped. Reported (ReCAAP) 28 May.
- **SE Asia** - Three suspected robbers boarded an offshore processing ship using a rope and hook at 0310 LT in position 01:28N – 104:37E, around 14nm NNE of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia. Alert duty A/B raised the alarm resulting in the persons escaping without stealing anything. Reported (IMB) 27 May.
- **SE Asia** - Armed pirates boarded an Asphalt/Bitumen tanker underway early AM in position 01:51N – 104:31E, around 30nm South of Pulau Aur, Malaysia. The pirates stole cash, crew personal effects and provisions, damaging some ship equipment before leaving the vessel. All crew safe and vessel continued her passage to the next port. Reported (IMB) 25 May.
- **Gulf of Guinea** - A boat with eight robbers armed with long knives attempted to board a chemical tanker at anchor at 0200 UTC in position 06:03N – 001:14E, approx 4nm south of Lome Port, Togo. Due to vigilant anti-piracy watch and bad weather/ship rolling moderately, the robbers aborted the attempt. Reported 21 May.
- **SE Asia** - LATE Report | Japan-flagged barge carrier, **Masakuni**, reported whilst underway being boarded at 1300 LT in position 01:11N - 103:42E, Straits of Malacca. Ship's crew noticed a door was broken. Some of the crew's personal belongings and ship's property were found stolen. Crew did not see any robber(s). Reported (ReCAAP) 6 Apr.

Other Incidents:

- Thailand-flagged product tanker, **Orapin 4**, departed Singapore for Pontianak, Indonesia 27 May w/ fuel cargo. Tanker failed to arrive at Pontianak 29 May, as scheduled, and did not respond to company emails. Last known position on 27 May at 1730 LT was 01:14.68N - 104:03.10E, approx 3.64nm N of Pulau Batam, Indonesia. Vessels in the vicinity are urged to look out for the tanker and report sightings to Royal Thai Navy Maritime ISC (RTN MISC: T: +6624755432; E: miscdutyofficer@misc.go.th) and nearest coastal state. Reported (ReCAAP) 29 May.

Suspicious Activity:

- [NSTR](#).

IMB - Vessels held: 0;

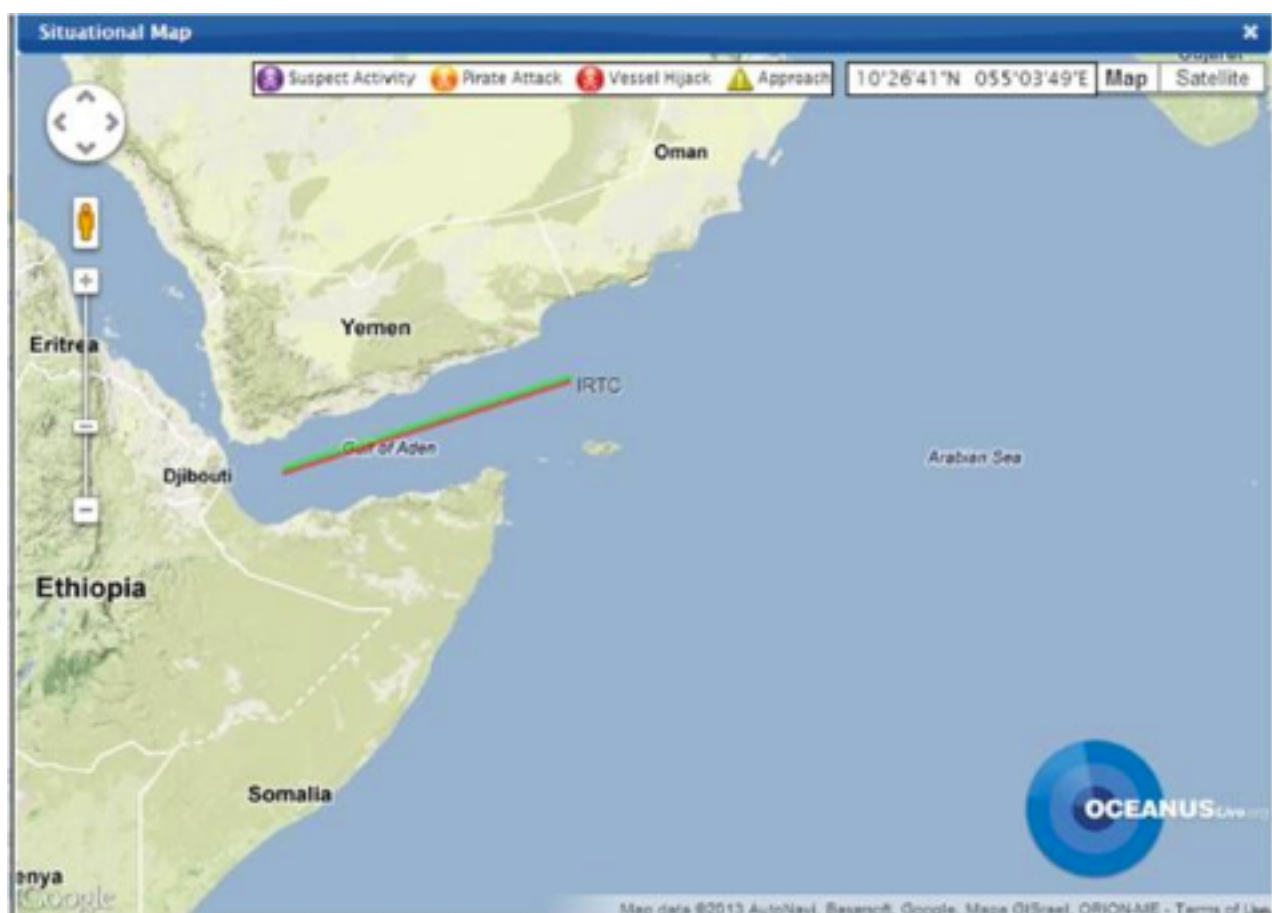
Worldwide Incidents 2014: 78 reported incidents

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](#)

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](#) |



OCEANUSLive

Information, Security, Safety; Shared