

31 May - 6 June 2014 No. 23/14**Greek tanker missing off Ghana; Thai tanker confirmed hijacked/released; Video Vietnamese boat sinking; Sewol ferry body found -**

Another tanker reported missing, this time off Ghana, believed hijacked. Thai tanker reported missing in Indonesian waters last week was confirmed hijacked for its cargo, say released crew; reported as a trend, another tanker was boarded but the pirates asked for crew and cargo details, leaving with stolen belongs instead. A video alleges that a Chinese ship attacked and sank a Vietnamese fishing boat in disputed waters near Paracel Islands; all crew were rescued. The death toll for the Sewol ferry reaches 290 as another body is found 25 miles away from the original accident. The failure to find wreckage from the missing Malaysia Airlines plane and slow release of official information has created uncertainty and spawned sightings and conspiracy theories. NATO Defence Ministers have decided to extend NATO's counter piracy operation, Ocean Shield, until the end of 2016 whilst a high-level meeting at IMO Headquarters agreed a resolution on the future work under the Djibouti Code of Conduct to become a regional structure. Following on from these decision, the Japanese government plans to extend its anti-piracy mission for another year. After the deadly pirate raid on a Bahraini fishing dhow, a surge of reports of similar incidents have appeared in the Gulf of Oman, suggesting such attacks were 'routine'. The Iranian navy says it repelled two attacks in the Gulf of Aden, thwarting first 8 skiffs, then 15 skiffs hours later. The President of Puntland declares illegal fishing by foreign trawlers a 'national disaster' and stressed those violating TTW will be dealt with firmly. The USA is planning to re-set its embassy in Mogadishu and appoint the first ambassador since the early 90s.

Al Shabaab directive to its members to change mobile phone numbers to avoid interception shows they are tech-savvy, a key to their survival. Ethiopian media reports Al Shabaab plans to bomb targets in Addis were foiled when security captured a bomber.

Maritime security should be regulated through an EU-wide policy to avoid a costly plethora of national standards, says UK security company.

Nigerian Navy advocates total overhaul of laws to prosecute oil thieves. Experts expect kidnapping of seafarers in West Africa to rise. Former Guinea-Bissau navy chief secretly pleads ahead of a trial on drugs charges.

Following an article stating Indonesia was 'heading the piracy stakes', the yachting fraternity claims the report did not draw a true picture of cruising safety in Indonesia.

The US will strengthen its presence in the Black Sea region as promised to NATO allies.

The South Korean businessman wanted on charges tied to the ferry disaster sought and was refused asylum in a foreign embassy in Seoul. Korean shipping officials are arrested for alleged careless checks on the capsized ferry.

Australian authorities have taken the first steps to hand over missing plane search operations to a private contractor, whilst the families of the missing passengers set up a fund to continue investigations.



When it comes to recruiting presenters, Al-Shabaab is known for its attention to detail”

The Italian Navy continues to rescue thousand of migrants coming from North Africa and calls for help from the EU. Sixty African migrants and two Yemeni crew perish in the waters off Yemen.

Three aid workers, kidnapped in Somalia in July 2012 have been released and are now reunited with their families.

Warnings of Big Brother comes home to roost.

Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

A DEADLY pirate raid on a Bahraini fishing dhow has sparked a surge in reports of similar incidents in the Gulf - ***Gulf Daily News***.

Indian Embassy first Secretary Ram Singh told the GDN that diplomats had been shocked to receive alarming accounts from Asian crew members suggesting such attacks were "routine".

It follows an incident last month in which Indian fishing captain Thomas Glattus Soosai was shot dead by pirates, who boarded the Bahraini fishing dhow Mesouth and escorted the rest of his crew below deck at gunpoint.

"We never had any complaints from the community until the death of Mr Soosai," said Mr Singh.

"Suddenly we see a surge of complaints which the embassy was never notified of before.

"They (fishermen) now say these attacks are routine."

The news has raised questions over the role of an anti-piracy task force based in Bahrain, which consists of different nations such as the US, the UK and their allies.

Known as Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151), its stated aim is to "disrupt piracy and armed robbery at sea and to engage with regional and other partners to build capacity and improve relevant capabilities to protect global maritime commerce and secure freedom of navigation". However, Bahrain Fishermen's Union chief executive Mohammed Al Faraj claimed attacks on small fishing boats were being ignored because the vessels were not considered important enough to warrant protection.

[Read More...](#)

THE 30th naval fleet of Iran has repelled two attacks against an Iranian ship near the Gulf of Aden on June 2 - ***Trend Azerbaijan***.

Iran's Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said that the Iranian ship came under pirate attack twice in the morning in the Bab al-Mandab Strait, which connects the Gulf of Aden to the Red Sea, but Iranian naval forces managed

to thwart their attempt, Iran's State IRINN TV reported on June 2.

"Early in the morning the pirates attacked the Iranian ship with 8 speed boats. The special team of the 30th naval fleet foiled the attack," Sayyari said.

The commander went on to add that the pirates attacked for second time a few hours later with 15 speed boats, which were forced to flee by Iran's navy. [Read more...](#)

THE PRESIDENT of Somalia's North Eastern State of Puntland Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas has called the illegal fishing by high seas foreign trawlers a 'national disaster', urging residents to cooperate with government on the fight against illegal depletion of marine resources, ***Garowe Online*** reports.

On Monday, President Gaas said in a press statement from his office that following suggestion from Ministry



of Fisheries and Marine Resources, he decided to label pillage by foreign vessels in territorial waters national calamity which so far resulted in annual loss of \$300 Million on Somalia alone.

Speaking at a press briefing at Ministry of Fisheries headquarters in Bossaso port city, Puntland leader warned foreign trawlers against diminution of stocks and stressed that anyone who violates territorial waters will be dealt with firmly.

"From now on [June 2], Puntland Government will recognise illegal fishing as national disaster," said President Gaas. "I direct Puntland Marine Forces to exercise their duties by deterring illegal fishing off Puntland coast".

Local fishermen voiced concern over free driving in territorial waters as international warships on anti-piracy patrol seriously track anybody to be suspected of being pirate. [Read more...](#)

SPEAKING AT an event to mark the first anniversary since the launch of the United Nations

Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia (SRSG), Nicholas Kay, pledged the UN's continued support for Somalia and called on Somalis to step up progress on peace and state building - **[RBC Radio](#)**. Commenting on the occasion, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman said: "In the year since the Federal Government of Somalia asked the United Nations to help coordinate international assistance as the country emerged from decades of conflict, UNSOM has established a presence across the country. Today, the UN family has a larger presence on the ground in Somalia than at any time in the last eighteen years. This is tangible evidence of our strong commitment to continue to work alongside Somalis as they build peace and rebuild their country." **[Read More...](#)**

THE UNITED States of America is planning to re-set its embassy in Mogadishu, the capital of Somalia and appoint the first ambassador since the collapse of late Somalia central government in 1991 - **[RBC Radio](#)**.

The decision was announced by the U.S. Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman during a speech at the U.S. Institute for Peace in Washington on Tuesday.

"The decision to name an ambassador to Somalia reflects a sign of the deepening relations between Washington and Mogadishu and the faith that better times are ahead," Sherman said.

The Obama administration has officially restored diplomatic relations with Somalia in January last year only four months after President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has been elected for the presidency of the war-ravaged nation. **[Read More...](#)**

TODAY, H.E The President, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud received confirmation that President Obama will appoint the first US Ambassador to Somalia in two decades - **[RBC Radio](#)**.

"I am delighted to confirm our mutual goals of security, inclusive, sustainable development and good governance for Somalia. The appointment of a US Ambassador demonstrates the strength of

trust and cooperation between Somalia and the United States.

"We are at the start of our journey towards peace and prosperity in Somalia. I acknowledge the long road we have before us, but that road is made easier knowing that we are joined by friends, with the same goal ahead," said H.E. The President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud. **[Read More...](#)**

THREE SOMALI government officials will undergo three weeks of training in Japan from Monday to better tackle piracy off the Horn of Africa - **[Global Post](#)**.

In recent interviews with Kyodo News, the three expressed their desire to learn more from Japan, whose Maritime Self-Defence Force has been engaged in anti-piracy operations in the waters. The three will be trained by the Japan Coast Guard in the cities of Kitakyushu, Yokohama, and Kure. Their training has been organised by the coast guard and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. **[Read More...](#)**

THE PRESIDENT of Somalia's Puntland Government Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas has toured Puntland Maritime Police Force(PMPF) base in the outskirts of Bossaso Port City on Wednesday, Garowe Online reports - **[AllAfrica](#)**.

President Gaas along with other government officials as well as former Deputy Prime Minister of Transitional Federal Government of Somalia Abdiwahab Ugas Khalif listened to counter-piracy unit commanders, with divisions from PMPF saluting him on arrival at Qaw base.

He discussed offshore operations against piracy and illegal fishing with Puntland Marine Force chiefs. The visit to Qaw base marks the first since being elected to the post in January 2014 following tightly contested regional elections.

On 5th of April, Puntland leader revoked the Director's position from Puntland Maritime Police Force (PMPF) Director Mohamed Abdirahman Farole.

In response to serious concerns over growing piracy activities off Somalia coast and on land, former Puntland President Dr. Abdirahman Mohamed Farole set up anti-piracy unit.

Under the Incumbency of Mohamed Farole, the professional security unit freed MV Iceberg 1, a

vessel owned by a Dubai-based shipping company and was hijacked on March 2010, around 10 nautical miles off Yemen coast in December 2012. [Read More...](#)

THE FOREIGN and Commonwealth Office (FCO) **UK GOV** advise against all but essential travel to:

- areas within 60km of the Kenya-Somali border
- Kiwayu and coastal areas north of Pate Island
- Garissa District
- the Eastleigh area of Nairobi
- low income areas of Nairobi, including all township or slum areas
- Mombasa island and within 5km of the coast from Mtwapa creek in the north down to and including Tiwi in the south (this area does not include Diani or Moi international airport)

If you're currently in an area to which the FCO advise against all but essential travel, you should consider whether you have an essential reason to remain. If not, you should leave the area.

There is a high threat from terrorism, including kidnapping. The main threat comes from extremists linked to Al Shabaab, a militant group that has carried out attacks in Kenya in response to Kenya's military intervention in Somalia. There has been a spate of small-scale grenade, bomb and armed attacks in Nairobi (especially the area of Eastleigh), Mombasa, and North Eastern Province. Further attacks are likely. [Read More...](#)

COALITION FOR Reforms and Democracy leader Raila Odinga says it is time for Kenya to withdraw its troops from neighbouring Somalia - **Capital FM Kenya**.

The former Prime Minister who addressed members of the Somali community in Eastleigh said the continued stay of Kenya Defence Forces soldiers in Somalia is hurting Kenyans.

"It is high time the Government should evaluate whether there is any reason to still have our soldiers at Somalia. Does their continued stay in Somali bring peace to our country?" he posed. "We went there because there were many attacks then by the thugs."

President Uhuru Kenyatta has insisted that he has no intention of withdrawing the troops from the war torn country until they accomplish their mission. [Read More...](#)

A RECENT Al-Shabab directive that all its members change their mobile phone numbers

This Weeks' Newsletter



Maritime Security News

Piracy and maritime crime news stories and opinion.

shows how tech-savvy the al-Qaeda-linked Somali Islamist group remains and how their communications strategy is key to their survival - **BBC News Africa**.

Concerned that their messages may be intercepted, the leadership has also banned members from using smart phones.



The group has long run what is regarded as a slick media machine.

"When it comes to recruiting presenters, Al-Shabaab is known for its attention to detail" Even without smart phones, it has been known for its sophisticated handling of social media, a reputation at odds with its regular bans on communication technology for Somali citizens. In particular, it has made extensive use of Twitter in order to get its message across.

It has also devoted considerable resources to producing a series of promotional videos. [Read More...](#)

THE US Embassy in Addis Ababa urged American citizens residing or traveling to Ethiopia to exercise caution over a possible attack by a Somali terrorist group.

The safety advisory the embassy said was issued due to threat from Al-Shabaab against Ethiopia and western interests in Ethiopia - **Sudan Tribune**.

Citing to multiple and ongoing credible threats, the US embassy urged its citizens to take the highest precautions to maintain their personal safety and security.

"The Embassy continues to receive credible threat reports of Al-Shabaab's intent and capability to attack Ethiopia and western interests in Ethiopia" it said in a statement Sudan Tribune received on Sunday.

The embassy said that there have been a number of incursions along the Ethiopian-Somali border in recent weeks urging its citizens to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to enhance personal security.

See **video** of Amb Sherman's talk yesterday on US-Somalia policy **Read More...**

THE MEDIA in Ethiopia reported that Al shabaab plans to bomb some targets in Addis were foiled after the security forces captured a bomber who is suspected to be a member of Al shabaab -

AllAfrica.

Security officials in Ethiopia say, Al shabaab have at several times tried to carry out bomb attacks inside Ethiopia but were unsuccessful.

Earlier this week, US and Canadian embassies in Addis Ababa issued alerts that terror groups want to attack Ethiopia and Western interests inside Ethiopia.

In October last year, a bomb killed two Al shabaab members who were trying to plant it.

The incident happened at Bole Mekaa'il in Addis Ababa. Police believe that they were intending to explode that bomb at Addis Ababa Football Stadium where a match would take place. **Read More...**

LARGE PARTS of southern and central Somalia, mainly rural areas and outskirts of the main towns, remain under the control or influence of Al Shabaab - **RBC Radio**. Al Shabaab's ability to

disrupt and infiltrate areas under the control of the Somali Federal Government continues to hamper aid delivery, The United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos told the UN Security Council.

She said some instances has forced agencies to resort to costly air operations. Al Shabaab have carried out bold and targeted attacks on Government officials, international organisations and humanitarian workers. This is of grave concern, and we are working to enhance measures to mitigate threats against aid workers. Unpredictable bureaucratic impediments imposed by local and regional administrations, including arbitrary taxation, payment of registration fees, and the need for aid agencies to seek approval for recruitment of staff, renting of premises and choice of national partners often inhibit the ability of agencies to access people in need. **Read More...**

West Africa

A GREEK tanker with 24 crew aboard is believed to have been hijacked off Ghana in the Gulf of Guinea, the International Maritime Bureau said Friday - [**Yahoo News**](#).

The Liberia-flagged MT Fair Artemis lost contact with its owners on Wednesday off Ghana's capital Accra, IMB's Kuala Lumpur-based Piracy Reporting Centre said.

The centre's head Noel Choong said while the fate of the crew and vessel, transporting gas oil, were still unknown, it was a "possible hijack".

"It's an area where pirates hijack vessels, mostly for the cargo. It's an area of concern," he told AFP. The centre urged all ships to be on the lookout for the missing tanker. [**Read More...**](#)

IN A STATEMENT by Fairdeal Group Management S.A. today, it was confirmed that they have been unable to contact their managed vessel MT "Fair Artemis" since yesterday 5 June 2014, Missing tanker Fair Artemis and the last contact with the vessel was at 18:00 hrs on 4 June 2014. At the time, the vessel was operating offshore Ghana. The Greek-owned tanker has 24 crewmembers on board, and was transporting a cargo of gasoil - [**OCEANUSLive**](#).



Fairdeal Fleet Director, Mr John Gray said, "Our primary concern at this time is for the safety of those on board the vessel. We would like to assure their families and all stakeholders that we are fully committed to returning the crew and vessel to a safe port.

We have taken [the following] steps in order to do just that. [**Read more...**](#)

WORRIED BY the incessant oil theft along Nigeria's maritime waters, the Nigeria Navy has advocated total overhauling of the existing laws to enable them prosecute crude oil thieves - [**The Sun News**](#).

The Navy said there was urgent need to speed up the passage of



Maritime Tribunal Bill pending before the National Assembly.

The Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Usman Jubril, who earlier called for the reforms of the judiciary during the 2014 Navy Week held in Calabar, Cross River State, said it was high time Federal Government reviewed the current punishment of those found guilty of crude oil theft and other related offences.

Jubril said: "Some of the stringent punishments should include forfeiture of vessels, platforms and products, forfeiture of personal assets and bank account traceable to offender." [**Read more...**](#)

FORMER FEDERAL Commissioner of Information and Ijaw leader, Chief Edwin Clark yesterday asked the Federal Government to revoke the multi-billion naira pipeline and maritime protection contracts awarded to two former leaders of the Niger Delta militants, Government Ekpemupolo (Tompolo) and Asari Dokubo - [**Ships and Ports Nigeria**](#).

The Ijaw leader, who said this while contributing to a debate on the report of the National Conference Committee on Public Finance and Revenue, said government should revoke the contracts because it has not contributed to reducing oil theft as desired by government.

"I want to advise the government to withdraw the contracts awarded to Tompolo and Asari Dokubo because they have failed to stop oil thefts in the country. Instead, youths from areas where oil facilities are located should be given the job," said Clark.

The Octogenarian said the militants were sabotaging the efforts of government to stop oil theft because they want to retain their pipeline contracts.

While noting that oil theft has increased since the pipeline protection and maritime contracts were awarded to the two former Niger Delta warlords, Clark noted that youths of the community where there are oil assets will do better job of protecting them. [Read more...](#)

THE KIDNAPPING of maritime personnel in west Africa is a rising trend, which experts expect to continue. "During 2011 to 2013 [the number of] kidnappings rose, and we foresee that this trend will continue - we will see more kidnappings in the future," said Hallvard Flåsand of the NATO Shipping Centre, speaking at SMI's International Port Security conference in London (4-5 June) - [IHS Maritime 360](#). His figures are supported by maritime consulting company Gray Page. A recent briefing from the company reported that "kidnap for ransom increased by 85% 2013 compared with the levels recorded in 2012". But Flåsand said NATO's figures showed that other crimes - vessel hijacks and vessels boarded by maritime criminals - had both halved from 2011 to 2013. [Read More...](#)

TWELVE STOWAWAYS — 11 Nigerians and a Ghanaian — rescued by personnel of the Nigerian Navy ship, NNS Beecroft, Apapa, Lagos, from a Spain-bound vessel, MV African Osprey, weekend, narrated how they almost suffocated inside the cabin they hid - [The Trent Online](#).

The stowaways, discovered to be casual workers on the ship, told Vanguard that had the crew members delayed in opening the cabin where they hid, they would have died without reaching their dream destination.



The suspects identified as Boniface Douglas, a Ghanaian and 11 Nigerians: Mustapha Ayinla, Bernard Amadi, Azinabor Gideon, Isaac Delight, Daniel Timothy, Justice Agburum, Anthony Oladipupo, Emma Okon, Idowu Adeyemi, Philip Israel and Holly Osatwie, blamed their action on unemployment in the country.

Douglas, the Ghanaian, said the latest arrest was his sixth futile attempt to leave the country illegally. [Read More...](#)

THE TOGOLESE Navy has taken delivery of a new 33 metre patrol boat from French naval defence equipment

manufacturer Raidco Marine to enhance the operational capacity of its small navy - [DefenceWeb](#).

Last year Togo ordered two RPB 33 patrol boats, originally slated for delivery in March and July this year.

The first vessel left Lorient on April 1 and after stopping in Agadir, Dakar and Abidjan, arrived in the Togolese capital Lome on April 22. On April 25 the vessel (P763) was named Agou by President Faure Gnassingbe, according to the French embassy in Togo.

President Gnassingbe said the boat will be used to fight maritime crimes within the country's waters and contribute to the fight against rampant piracy in the Atlantic Ocean's Gulf of Guinea by regional and international naval forces. [Read More...](#)



GUINEA-BISSAU'S former navy chief, captured in a high-profile drug sting on the West African coast, has secretly pleaded guilty ahead of a trial on charges he conspired to import narcotics into the United States, court sources said on Tuesday - [Reuters](#).

The trial of Jose Americo Bubo Na Tchuto, 64, had been scheduled to begin on Monday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan. But Na Tchuto, who U.S. authorities say is a kingpin of West Africa's illicit drug trade, pleaded guilty at a May 13 proceeding, the transcript of which was



immediately sealed, the court sources said. It could not be learned why the hearing was sealed. Nor could it be determined what charges Na Tchuto pleaded guilty to or the terms of any deal he received. The official court record does not indicate that a plea or hearing took place. Guilty pleas are sometimes sealed when defendants agree to cooperate with authorities. The secret plea came more than a year after the arrest of Na Tchuto in April 2013. He was seized on a luxury yacht off the coast of Guinea-Bissau following a months-long DEA undercover operation. [Read More...](#)

Boko Haram

GUNMEN OPENED fire on a church service in the northeast Nigerian village of Attangara, killing nine people, police and a witness said on Monday - [**Reuters**](#).

The village lies in the Gwoza hills, near the Cameroon border and now the main stronghold of radical Islamist sect Boko Haram, which has killed civilians on an almost daily basis since stepping up its campaign of violence earlier this year. "As we were holding service, we started hearing gunshots and everybody fled, some through the windows, and ran into bush," resident Matha Yohana said of Sunday's attack. A police source said nine were killed in the assault. [Read More...](#)

NIGERIAN POLICE have banned public protests in the capital Abuja for the release of more than 200 schoolgirls seized by Islamist militants in April - [**BBC News Africa**](#).

Abuja police commissioner Joseph Mbu said the rallies were "now posing a serious security threat". Nigeria has seen almost daily rallies calling for the government to take firmer action to rescue the girls. [Read More...](#)

NIGERIAN PROTESTORS seeking the return of more than 200 girls kidnapped by Islamist group Boko Haram said on Tuesday they would challenge a ban on their daily protests in court - [**Reuters**](#).

Nigerian police on Monday banned any more protests in the capital Abuja concerning the

campaign to get the girls back, saying they could be hijacked by "dangerous elements" who could threaten state security. [Read More...](#)

MOVEMENT FOR the Emancipation of Niger Delta, MEND, has called on the Federal Government to give in to demand by Boko Haram that its men in prison custody and other detention centres be released in exchange for the freedom of the abducted Chibok schoolgirls - [**The Trent Online**](#).

It noted that using force to free the abducted girls will be counter-productive. Spokesman of MEND, Jomo Gbomo in a statement, said that the swap was the best option that will guarantee enduring peace in the North-Eastern part of the country. The group said: "MEND supports a prisoner exchange initiative with Boko Haram towards the release of the Chibok schoolgirls as the only viable and safe option and the threshold towards maintaining contact, further ceasefire and eventual long-term peace and security in that region.

"From our experience, it is impossible for any forceful commando-type rescue in forests or creeks to be successful.

"The Israelis encouraging such a move should understand that Sambisa Forest is a different kettle of fish from Entebbe International Airport. [Read More...](#)

NIGERIAN POLICE said on Tuesday that protesters were free to march in the capital Abuja, after an uproar over comments by the police commissioner in which he appeared to ban demonstrations over more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped by rebels - [**Reuters**](#).

Joseph Mbu made a statement on Monday in which he appeared to forbid protests on grounds that they could be hijacked by "dangerous elements" who could threaten state security. Protesters said they would challenge the ban in court on Tuesday, and they filed a complaint at noon (1100 GMT).

But a statement from Police Spokesman Frank Mba on Tuesday said the commissioner had only meant to advise against gatherings because of intelligence that there was "infiltration and hijack of otherwise innocuous and peaceful protests by

some criminal elements having links with insurgents". [Read More...](#)

BOKO HARAM militants have killed dozens of people in fresh attacks on villages in Borno state in northern Nigeria, the **[BBC News Africa](#)** has learnt.

In one attack, gunmen reportedly fired on a crowd in a church compound.

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

The latest attacks come as the Nigerian army has denied reports that several generals have been found guilty of aiding Boko Haram in their insurgency.

Nigerian media reported on Tuesday that 10 generals and five other senior military officers had been tried before a court martial for supplying arms and information to the militant group. However, a military spokesman called the reports "falsehoods".

This contradicted an earlier statement by the interior minister, Abba Moro, saying it was "good news" that the army had identified the accused, and that it sent a strong message to other serving officers. [Read More...](#)

NIGERIAN PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has switched tack from saying his government is winning the war against the Islamist group Boko Haram to describing it as an expanding al-Qaeda-backed threat to Africa - **[Bloomberg](#)**.

The change came after his administration drew criticism over its handling of the April 14 kidnapping of more than 200 schoolgirls by Boko Haram that highlighted his army's failure to defeat militants who've killed thousands of people in their five-year insurgency. Former President Olusegun Obasanjo said Jonathan, who waited almost three weeks before speaking publicly about the abductions, didn't act fast enough to free them. "We know that Boko Haram has trained with al-Qaeda, but it's not the case that al-Qaeda has come to adopt them," Idayat Hassan, director of the Abuja-based Centre for Democracy and Development research group, said by phone from the capital. "In the attempt to create the issue as

an African phenomenon, he is targeting an international audience." [Read More...](#)

TEN GENERALS and five other senior military officers were found guilty by courts martial of providing arms and information to Boko Haram extremists, a leading Nigerian newspaper has reported - **[The Independent](#)**.

The verdicts follow months of allegations from politicians and soldiers, who said some senior officers were helping the Islamic extremists and that some soldiers even fight alongside the insurgents and then return to army camps.

They have said that information provided by army officers has helped Boko Haram to ambush military convoys and attack barracks and outposts in its stronghold in north-eastern Nigeria.

Leadership newspaper quoted an officer as saying that four other officers, in addition to the 15, were found guilty of "being disloyal and for working for the members of the sect". [Read More...](#)

SUSPECTED ISLAMIST militants dressed as soldiers rounded up and killed at least 42 villagers in Nigeria's northeast, the centre of a mounting insurgency increasingly targeting civilians, a police source said - **[Reuters Africa](#)**.

The assault in Bardari late on Wednesday came a day after officials and witnesses said raiders killed dozens in three other villages in Borno region, where militant group Boko Haram first launched its campaign to carve out an Islamist state.

The gunmen in military uniform called the Bardari villagers together, then opened fire, the police source told Reuters. "The people couldn't identify them in time as terrorists," the source said. [Read More...](#)

Southeast Asia

THE HIJACKING of a Thai cargo ship while travelling from Singapore to Indonesia this week has brought the issue of piracy in the south-east Asian seas to international attention once again - **International Business Times**.

In a report by experts at the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability, a not-for-profit organisation that explores hard to solve global problems, the rise of piracy in south-east Asia cannot simply be halted by ramping up patrols in the global piracy hot spot.

The organisation argues that five factors are of particular importance in shaping piracy in south-east Asia: "over-fishing, lax maritime regulations, the existence of organised crime syndicates, the presence of radical politically motivated groups in the region, and widespread poverty." **Read More...**

PIRATES HAVE released an Indonesian-bound Thai tanker after stealing its oil cargo, in the latest attack in Southeast Asian waters, the International Maritime Bureau said Monday - **New Straits Times**.

MT Orapin 4, with 14 crew aboard, arrived at Sri Racha Port in Thailand on Sunday, the IMB's Kuala Lumpur-based Piracy Reporting Centre said.

The diesel oil tanker had lost contact with its owner after departing Singapore Tuesday on its way to Pontianak on Indonesia's Kalimantan. "Pirates hijacked and stole the tanker's oil cargo onboard and destroyed the communication equipment. The crew and vessel are safe," the centre said in a brief release. **Read More...**

THE HIJACKING of a Thai oil tanker in the waters between Singapore and Indonesia is raising fears that piracy is escalating in an area that has become a top spot for such attacks - **The Wall Street Journal**.

"This is the third tanker in recent weeks. It is too rampant for such a short period of time," said Noel Choong, head of the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

A safety and shipping report issued earlier this year showed that the number of acts of piracy in Indonesia has increased seven-fold since 2009. Most attacks are low-level thefts, but the rise in incidents indicated the potential for more



organised acts of piracy, the report said.

Late last month, at least eight armed pirates boarded an oil tanker bound for Myanmar from Singapore through the Strait of Malacca and stole three million litres of diesel fuel.

The tanker is owned by Altra Propserous Ltd. of Saint Kitts and Nevis and is under the management of Canter Singapore Ltd., a company spokesperson told The Wall Street Journal at the time of the incident.

The captain and two senior crew were taken away from the ship, but no further details have emerged about the perpetrators or their reason for the attack.

Photo: A boat of the Thai Marine Department (R) lies next to the Thai registered oil tanker MT Orapin 4, after the tanker returned to port from a hijacking, at Sri Racha Port, in Chonburi province, Thailand, on June 2. European Pressphoto Agency **Read More...**

THE THAI diesel tanker MT Orapin 4 was boarded and hijacked by about 10 pirates while it was travelling through the Strait of Malacca in Indonesian waters late last Tuesday night, a source said on Monday - **Bangkok Post**. MT Orapin 4 has returned to Thailand after the pirates took out all 3.7 million litres of diesel. The tanker returned to its home port about 7.30pm on Sunday - minus its cargo - and is now anchored around 2km off Udom Bay in Chon Buri's Sri Racha district.

The vessel was pillaged of its cargo of 3.7 million litres of diesel by the hijackers, who left enough fuel for it to return to port.

The tanker is owned by Petroleum Thai Tanker, which is a subsidiary of Thai International Tanker Co. It had left Singapore with a cargo of oil and 14 crew aboard.

The marine police from Chon Buri and officials from the Marine Department as well as the company's employees went to inspect the damages on Monday morning.

An officer at Sri Racha marine police who asked not to be named said it was reported by the crew that 10 pirates armed with guns and knives attacked MT Orapin 4 around 2am on Wednesday. The pirates spent around 10 hours transferring the diesel cargo to another tanker.

The pirates also stole documents from the tanker. All crew members were rounded up and all communication devices seized. The pirates left the vessel without harming any crew about 9pm on Wednesday. The crew were not able to contact anyone until the vessel returned to Thai waters.

[Read More...](#)

ABU SAYYAF militants in southern Philippines on Friday released a Chinese holidaymaker and a Filipina resort worker they kidnapped from a post resort in Malaysia - **[Mindanao Examiner](#)**.

The 29-year old Chinese holidaymaker Gao Huayun, and Marcy Dayawan, 40, had been freed in Sulu province, but it was not immediately known from local authorities if ransoms had been paid to the militants, largely blamed by the police and military as behind the spate of kidnappings and terrorism in the southern region.

The kidnappers have originally demanded RM36.4 million ransom or equivalent to almost P500 million for the safe release of the Chinese woman. Sources told the regional newspaper Mindanao Examiner that a leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, Nameh Sangkula, helped negotiate the release of the hostages in the village of Bawisan in Parang town. It was unknown who tapped Sangkula to secure the freedom of the hostages.

Then victims were fetched by security forces and handed over to Malaysian officials who were in

Jolo town. The freed victims were then whisked to a waiting speedboat that brought them to Sabah. Malaysia Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said no ransom was paid for the release of the hostages. [Read More...](#)

SAIL-WORLD recently published an article about the findings of the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Report (See Sail-World story) - **[Sail-World](#)**. The article stated that Indonesia was 'heading the piracy stakes'. Members of the yachting fraternity in Indonesia have claimed since that the report did not draw a true picture of cruising safety in Indonesia. Sail-World Cruising here welcomes their points of view:

These statements (that Indonesian piracy rated highly) came as a great surprise to Cilian Budarlaigh of Indo Yacht Support, Andy Shorten of The Lighthouse Consultancy and the network of yacht support services in Indonesia. The article also developed concern amongst the yachting industry in the surrounding Asia Pacific cruising destinations, areas undoubtedly connected in the minds of captains and yacht owners considering visiting the Asia Pacific region.

It is clear some clarification was necessary, and reading the article more thoroughly, a few questions are raised by these comments;

'guess where the highest number of reported piracy incidents are today? Nigeria? Venezuela? No, it's Indonesia'

'...Indonesia ranks as the country with the highest number of attacks with 18 reports compared with 25 in the first quarter of 2013. Vessels were boarded in all the incidents. While these are predominantly low level thefts from vessels...'

The term 'Piracy' has severe connotations and quite rightly so, but how exactly is Piracy defined in the report to which the article refers? If Indonesia has risen to the top of the Piracy charts as a result of 'predominantly low level thefts' it certainly seems like the country is getting receiving some unfair criticism. [Read More...](#)

THE CAPTAIN of the Japanese tanker that exploded on 29 May was found dead on 31 May, the Japan Coast Guard told IHS Maritime. The body of Masaichi Ando, 64, was found after a search lasting more than 24 hours - **[IHS Maritime](#)**

360. Ando was the only one of the Shoko Maru's



eight-man crew who was not rescued after the 1995-built 2,242dwt oil tanker exploded near Himeji port around 09.30hrs Japanese time. Coast guard officials said: "Divers found Ando's body in the hold of the ship after it sank and his family has identified the body." Shoko Maru, owned by Hiroshima-based Shoho Kaiun, sank about 10 hours after the explosion. Four other crew members were sent to hospitals after suffering severe burns. All crew members are Japanese nationals. The tanker had just unloaded crude oil at Himeji, about 450km west of Tokyo, when the explosion occurred. [Read More...](#)

See video of Chinese ship alleged to have sunk a Vietnamese fishing boat [VIDEO](#)

Americas/South America/Caribbean

BRAZIL IS building five submarines to patrol its massive coast, including one powered by an atomic reactor that would put it in the small club of countries with a nuclear sub - [Yahoo News](#). The South American giant is in the process of exploring major oil fields off its shores that could



make it one of the world's top petroleum exporters.

The new submarines aim to protect that resource, said the navy official coordinating the \$10-billion project, Gilberto Max Roffe Hirshfeld.

"The nuclear-propelled submarine is one of the weapons with the greatest power of dissuasion," he told AFP.

"Brazil has riches in its waters. It's our responsibility to have strong armed forces. Not to make war, but to avoid war. So that no one tries to take away our riches." [Read More...](#)

Other

THE UNITED States will strengthen its presence in the Black Sea region using part of a \$1 billion fund promised to NATO allies on Russia's borders, and will continue to send warships to the area, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in Romania on Thursday - [Reuters](#).

Hagel is the latest high-ranking American official to visit Europe since Russia's annexation of Crimea, as Washington



looks to reassure allies jittery about Moscow's intentions in its former Cold War backyard. The \$1 billion fund will allow for a "stronger presence of U.S. ships in the Black Sea", Hagel said, adding that the presence of the Vella Gulf was an expression of Washington's commitment to regional security. [Read More...](#)

CHINESE INVESTORS look set to resume negotiations devoted to the construction of a new port in Crimea that were interrupted due to the removal of former-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych in February, Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Temirgaliev told Izvestia on Thursday - [The Moscow Times](#).

The aim of the project's first stage is to build a 25-meter deep port south of the city of Yevpatoria on Crimea's western coast, including grain and freight terminals with a capacity of 200 million tons. In the second stage, a further \$7 billion would be spent on an airport, LNG terminal and shipyard. [Read More...](#)

EGYPT'S OUTGOING interim president has issued a decree making dishonouring the Egyptian flag or not standing for the national anthem a criminal offence, punishable by sentences of up to one year in prison and a fine of more than \$4,000 - [Al Jazeera](#).

The decree from Adly Mansour, announced on Saturday, increased penalties suggested by the government late last year.

The presidential decree says the flag and the national anthem are symbols of the state that must be honoured.

Egypt is witnessing a rising wave of nationalist fervour following the July military overthrow of Mohammed Morsi from the presidency after mass protests against him. [Read More...](#)

THE EGYPTIAN government has announced a plan to monitor social media for potential terrorist activity - to the alarm many in the country - [BBC News Africa](#).



"We are being

watched" (احنا متراقبين #) is one of the top trending hashtags in Egypt right now. It's been used more than 46,000 times on Twitter since Saturday. It comes in response to a plan announced by the Interior Ministry to search Twitter and Facebook for signs of terrorist activity.

"We aim to hunt the explosive makers who target the innocent," said Abdel Fatah Uthman, a spokesman at the ministry on a television talk show. "We do not seek to interfere with anyone's privacy," he insisted. "The US listens in to phone calls, and supervises anyone who could threaten its national security," he added.

But many on social media in Egypt seemed unconvinced - and responded with anger or

mockery. "Good morning, watchdogs, I have woken up" joked one user. "Will a terrorist tweet 'I made a bomb'?" another asked. Prominent journalist Majdi al-Jallad said monitoring social networks "contradicts the constitution". [Read More...](#)

EGYPT'S OUTGOING president on Thursday decreed sexual harassment a crime punishable by up to five years in prison, a much-anticipated move toward combating the abuse deeply rooted in this Mideast country - [RYOT](#).

The decree was among several last-minute decisions by President Adly Mansour who is to hand over power on Sunday to president-elect, Egypt's former military chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. The decree amends the country's current laws, which did not criminalize sexual harassment and only vaguely referred to such offenses as indecent assault.

In Egypt, violence against women in public space has grown over the past three years of turmoil since the 2011 ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak. [Read More...](#)

THE US has said it will continue to work with the newly-elected government of Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi but called for further human rights reforms in the country - [Yahoo News](#).

A White House statement said Washington was looking forward to working with the new President in order "to advance our strategic partnership and the many interests shared by the United States and Egypt".

US President Barack Obama is to speak with the former defence chief, the statement added. However, the White House expressed concern at the human rights situation in the country with the vote held in what it called a "restrictive political environment".

"We have consistently expressed our concerns about limits on freedom of peaceful assembly, association, and expression and call upon the government to ensure these freedoms as well as due process rights for all Egyptians," it said. [Read More...](#)

THE ARREST of Mehdi Nemmouche on suspicion of killing three people in an attack on the Jewish

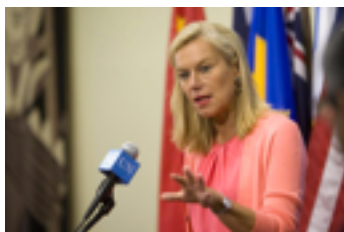
Museum in Brussels will enhance the fear of repercussions as European volunteer fighters return from Syria - [**The Guardian**](#).

More than 1,000 Europeans, including several hundred French nationals and perhaps 400 Britons, are believed to have joined jihadist groups in the Syrian civil war. Nemmouche was known to French counter-terrorism police, who had had him under surveillance since his return from Syria last year.

For some time, western security officials have been worried about the potential threat posed by young men based in Europe who have spent time with al-Qaida linked groups in Syria. Nigel Inkster, a former deputy chief of MI6, now a senior fellow of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, told the Commons home affairs committee in January that while the groups fighting in Syria had no "particular animus" towards the UK, Syria could become "a crucible for a new generation of international jihadists", similar to the anti-Soviet mujahideen in Afghanistan in the 1980s, who became a "band of brothers" looking for other fields in which to fight, which could include the UK this time. [Read More...](#)

GIVEN THAT the 30 June 2014 deadline for the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons programme will not be met, the focus now is on the immediate removal of the remaining materials, the head of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations (OPCW-UN) said today - [**UN News Centre**](#).

"The deadline will not be met," Special Coordinator Sigrid Kaag told reporters, referring to the destruction of the full arsenal of the country's chemical weapons in line with the



decisions taken by the UN Security Council and the OPCW Executive Council.

The removal of the most critical material for destruction began in early January, in line with an agreement brokered by Russia and the United States, by which Syria renounced its chemical

weapons material and joined 1992 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons.

Photo: Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the UN (OPCW-UN) Sigrid Kaag briefs reporters. UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz [Read More...](#)

A GANG of arms traffickers killed six Egyptian border guards on Sunday after they crossed into the country from Libya, the military said - [**Al Akhbar English**](#).

"The army deplores the killing of an officer and five soldiers from the army's border protection corps attacked by arms traffickers while patrolling a mountainous area," it said in a statement. The attack, in Egypt's northwest, happened shortly after midnight, with the assailants believed to be Egyptians, a senior security official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"This attack comes after border guards successfully arrested 68 traffickers and seized a large quantity of weapons," the army statement said, without elaborating or giving a date for the operation. [Read More...](#)

THE INTERNATIONAL Committee of the Red Cross said Thursday it was temporarily freezing its operations in Libya to reevaluate the security situation after a Swiss staffer was killed by gunmen - [**The Daily Star Lebanon**](#).

"We are freezing movement (of personnel) for the time being to analyse the situation so we can adapt our operations," ICRC spokesman David-Pierre Marquet told AFP, stressing there were no plans to permanently halt the organisation's operations in Libya.. [Read More...](#)

LIBYA'S COASTGUARD detained 114 African migrants in a packed boat headed for Europe on Thursday, officials said - [**MarineLink**](#). Some 43,000 migrants have crossed from North Africa to Italy so far this year, mostly via Libya where a weak central government is struggling to secure its porous land and sea borders.

"We arrested this group of illegal migrants during our daily patrol early this morning," a coastguard

official told Reuters as the boat was brought to shore at Gharbouli east of Tripoli. The area is frequented by human traffickers exploiting the weakness of Libya's state authorities since the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. [Read More...](#)

South Korean Ferry

AN ADDITIONAL victim from the doomed South Korea ferry has been retrieved from the water, raising the death toll to 289 - [Asian Correspondent](#).

A government task force says the body was found Thursday floating about 40 kilometers (25 miles) away from where the ship sank off the south coast. The task force's statement says fingerprint scans identified the body as one of passengers from the ferry that sank in April.

It was the first body recovered since May 21. Heavy objects like desks and cabinets have made it difficult for divers to navigate through unsearched parts of the ferry. They have been cutting open parts of the ship exterior to make searches easier.

Fifteen other people are still listed missing. [Read More...](#)

LESS THAN two months after the ferry Sewol sank, court proceedings over the disaster are set to begin for 15 crew members over the disaster - four of them for homicide. The job of defending them falls almost entirely on six state-appointed lawyers, three of whom started practicing law only this year - [FOX News Chicago](#).

The defendants are surrounded by hostility in South Korea, all the way up to President Park Geun-hye, who has called the crew's actions murderous. Private lawyers have abandoned their cases. Even the family of a deceased crew member who was praised as a hero speaks of him with shame.

The anger raises questions about the fairness of the crew members' impending trial, details of which will be worked out at a June 10 court hearing in Gwangju. All surviving crew members responsible for the ship's navigation have been

charged with negligence and with failing to do their duty to protect passengers in the April 16 disaster. [Read More...](#)

A SOUTH Korean businessman and Christian sect leader, wanted on charges tied to a ferry disaster in which more than 300 passengers drowned, sought asylum at a foreign embassy in Seoul but was rejected, prosecutors said on Tuesday - [Solar News Philippines](#).

Yoo Byung-un, 73, is wanted on charges of embezzlement, negligence and tax evasion stemming from his control of a web of business interests centred on an investment firm owned by his sons that owned the operator of the doomed Sewol that sank on April 16.

"By international law, Yoo Byung-un is not a refugee but is a fugitive with an arrest warrant outstanding, so anyone who helps him flee will be deemed to be aiding his escape and will be firmly punished," a prosecutor said.

A person acting for Yoo contacted an embassy and asked about the possibility of Yoo seeking political asylum, he said.

He was turned down. Prosecutors declined to disclose which embassy was contacted by Yoo's representative, or if there were others. [Read More...](#)

AN INSPECTOR from the Korean Register of Shipping and a manager of Korea Shipping Association have been arrested for their alleged careless checks on the capsized ferry Sewol, the Gwangju District Court's Mokpo branch announced today - [IHS Maritime 360](#).

The KR inspector, known only as Jeon, was in charge of safety inspection of the Sewol when it was renovated in February 2013 at a dockyard in Yeongam, South Jeolla Province. KR had classed the Sewol, which capsized on 16 April and killed an estimated 304 of the 476 passengers and crew. The court said Jeon had failed to follow procedure correctly when he inspected the Sewol's stability such as the centre of gravity, cargo capacity and amount of ballast water. [Read More...](#)

THREE MORE followers of a religious sect led by the fugitive owner of the capsized ferry Sewol have been arrested - ***IHS Maritime 360***. Incheon District Prosecutors' Office announced yesterday that the three followers of Gu Won Pa (Salvation Sect) were arrested for helping Chonghaejin Marine owner Yoo Byung Eun to evade arrest. Yoo and his eldest son Dae Gyun are wanted by authorities investigating the 16 April capsizing of the Sewol. Of the 476 passengers and crew, 304 are presumed dead. So far, 288 bodies have been found while 16 remain missing. The 1 June arrests bring the total number of detained Gu Won Pa followers to 11. [Read More...](#)

Missing Malaysian Aircraft

TODAY'S ADMISSION by Australian officials that the southern Indian Ocean area where pings were detected is not the crash site of the missing



Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has been described as evidence of "a giant cover-



up" by some distraught family members of those on board the missing airliner - ***Yahoo News***. Sarah Bajc told The Malay Mail Online that the new "twist" is "consistent with the tangled mess that is this supposed investigation". Bajc, partner of Philip Wood, and Pralhad, whose wife Kranti is still missing along with the rest of the people on board, alleged that the latest revelation that the plane was not in the southern Indian

Ocean, was part of a consistent effort by several countries in hiding the truth.



"This cover up is demonstrated through initial delays in search and rescue, their statements, preliminary report with manipulated or incomplete information, delayed realisation of manipulated and incomplete Inmarsat data, contradicting statements from Mr Najib and Mr Hishammuddin and not declaring complete cargo manifest, which has raised several doubts," Pralhad told The Malay Mail Online via e-mail. [Read More...](#)

AS AIRCRAFT and ships continued to search for debris which might be that of the missing flight MH370 on Friday a Malaysian woman on a flight across the Indian Ocean claimed to have seen an aircraft in the water near the Andaman Islands on the day the jet disappeared - ***The Trent Online***.

The Kuala Lumpur wife was so convinced about what she saw at 2.30pm on March 8, several hours after MH370 vanished, that she filed an official report with police that very day – a full five days before the search for the plane was expanded to the area around the Andaman Islands.

News of her apparent sighting came as a blank was drawn after two days of searching in the Indian Ocean for two objects deemed by experts as possibly being from the missing plane.

Location (Right): The Andaman Islands are far north of the debris that's been sighted by a U.S satellite.

Many will warn against dismissing Mrs Dalelah's claims too quickly.

The islands do lie across a route MH370 could have taken after radar contact was lost and it would easily have been able to reach them before Mrs Dalelah's sighting at 2.30pm.

After its transponder was turned off at 1.21am on March 8 the plane, with enough fuel to last 2,500 miles, turned west, following an established route towards India.

However, Mrs Dalelah said she had received scorn about her account, including from a pilot who said the aircraft she was on would have been too high for her to have seen anything on the ocean below.

But mother of 10 Mrs Latife Dalelah, 53, insisted she saw a silver object in the shape of an aircraft on the water as she was flying from Jeddah to Kuala Lumpur. It was about an hour after her aircraft had flown past the southern Indian city of Chennai.

When her plane landed at Kuala Lumpur at about 4pm on that Saturday she told her children what she had seen. 'That is when they told me that MH370 had gone missing,' she told the paper. 'My son-in-law, a policeman, was convinced that I had seen an aircraft and asked me to lodge a police report the same day.

'Many of my friends on the flight doubted me at first, but they are beginning to believe me now that we know the plane (MH370) turned back and entered the Indian Ocean.' [Read More...](#)

A BRITISH woman who was sailing near Indonesia at the time Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 disappeared has said she believes she saw the plane "burning" and billowing smoke before it crashed in the southern Indian Ocean - [The Independent](#).

An eye-witness account from yachting enthusiast Katherine Tee, 41, has now been filed with the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) leading the search based in Australia, which is yet to find any trace of the missing jet.

In her account, Ms Tee has described seeing "an elongated plane glowing bright orange, with a trail of black smoke behind it", heading from north to south.

The object was flying at "about half the height" of two other flights in the same patch of sky at the time, she said, in a series of posts detailing the sighting on the yachting website Cruisers Forum, where Ms Tee is a moderator.

She later told the Phuket Gazette that she initially dismissed the incident as being "just a meteor" or even a figment of her imagination – until a recent check of GPS logs confirmed that the plane's projected track may have taken it very close to where the yacht was sailing at the time. [Read More...](#)

THE FAILURE to find wreckage from the missing Malaysia Airlines plane and the slow release of official information has left the troubled hunt mired

in uncertainty and continues to spawn a growing range of sightings and conspiracy theories - [The Telegraph](#).

Almost three months since the Boeing 777 and its 239 passengers went missing, the search has found no debris and criminal investigators have found no evidence of terrorism or a motivation behind the apparently deliberate sabotage of the plane.

The search has focused for months on a stretch of the Indian Ocean off the coast of Australia, but the entire operation is relying on satellite data that was never intended to chart the course of the plane.

Meanwhile, distraught families across the world hold hope that their loved ones may have survived and have led a push for the release of all information about the flight.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the lack of firm evidence of the plane's final resting point and the failure to find debris has led to a growing number of conspiracy theories and possible sightings. [Read More...](#)

THE PRIVATE contractor hired to find Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 will have 300 days to complete an undersea search for the missing jetliner in the southern Indian Ocean - [Wall Street Journal](#).

Tender documents released by the Australian government on Wednesday outline for the first time the requirements of the rebooted search, the largest of its type in history. But they also highlight continued uncertainty about the operation, including the terrain of the seabed and even the area to be scoured using high-tech sonar equipment.

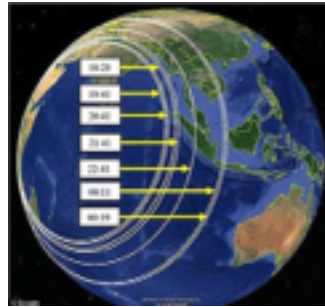
The Australian Transport Safety Bureau said it still hasn't fixed upon an exact search area because it is continuing to analyze satellite communications and calculations on the Boeing 777's likely performance. It didn't elaborate, although experts say there has been no new data for several weeks. [Read More...](#)

AN INDEPENDENT analysis has confirmed search teams are looking in the right area of the southern Indian Ocean for MH370, a week after it was revealed that pings detected more than 2,000

kilometres off the coast of Perth were not from the missing Malaysia Airlines plane - [**Daily Mail Online**](#)

A new specific underwater search zone of up to 60,000 square kilometres is now being determined after scientists reviewed original data and concluded that the search should still follow the original arc defined by British satellite company Inmarsat.

The search arc is defined by the final 'handshakes' between the Boeing 777 and satellites -



electronic transmissions from the plane - when MH370 disappeared on March 8 during its scheduled flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 passengers and crew on board.

By the time MH370 would have reached the seventh arc, the outermost arc determined by Inmarsat's data analysis, the aircraft is considered to have exhausted its fuel and would have been descending. [**Read More...**](#)

Image: The 7th arc: The seventh arc on this globe is the area where MH370 is thought to be. The arc was determined by measuring the time difference between communication messages sent between MH370 and an Inmarsat satellite

AFTER LEADING a fruitless three-month hunt for the wreckage of flight MH370, authorities in Australia have taken the first step towards handing over search operations to a private contractor, who will have the daunting task of scouring the Indian Ocean down to a depth of 6,000 metres - [**The Independent**](#).

The next phase of the search for the plane, which disappeared on 8 March shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur on a scheduled flight to Beijing, could take up to a year, according to the tender documents, which have been released by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB). Last week, Australian authorities – who have been coordinating operations in the Indian Ocean – dashed the hopes of families of the 239 passengers and crew, announcing that a search

area about 1,600 kilometres off Western Australia had been “discounted as the final resting-place of MH370”.

Inviting bids to undertake “an intensified underwater search” from late August, the ATSB said a specialist company would be engaged as a prime contractor, working under the board’s direction. It would be expected to “bring together and manage the expertise, equipment and vessels to carry out the search” [**Read More...**](#)

NOT SATISFIED with the lack of progress being made on locating Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, relatives of passengers are planning to launch a \$5 million fundraising campaign aimed at triggering another investigation - [**RT America**](#). According to a report by USA Today, the campaign will seek \$3 million to reward a whistleblower for coming forward with new information and \$2 million for private investigators to look into any other leads that emerge.

The campaign has been dubbed “Reward MH370: The Search for the Truth,” and will officially launch on Monday through the crowd-funding website Indiegogo. Composed of families from the United States, Australia, France, India, and New Zealand, the campaign does not include the participation of Chinese or Malaysian families, whose relatives were the primary travelers on the plane.

As for why these families decided they needed to start such an effort, American Sarah Bajc – whose partner, Philip Wood, was on the plane when it disappeared – said it’s necessary considering the failure to locate the plane up to this point. [**Read More...**](#)

EMIRATES PRESIDENT Tim Clark says missing Malaysia Airlines flight 370 would have in most countries been intercepted by fighters if it flew off course, and says the industry should not change



aircraft tracking until it has more facts about the disappearance - ***The Sydney Morning Herald***.

"In my view we are all plunging down a path that [says] 'we have got to fix this'," he said on the sidelines of the International Air Transport Association annual meeting in Doha, Qatar.

"This is the door closing after the horse has gone 25 miles down the track. We need to know more about what actually happened to this aeroplane and do a forensic second by second analysis of it. I think we will find it and get to the bottom of it."

[Read More...](#)

Released by Pirates

NSTR

Pirates in Court

NSTR

Private Security

TWO BRITISH ship-security operatives on bail having been held for 19 days in Nigeria on bunker theft charges earlier this year will return to the country for a further hearing in Yenagoa on Monday - ***Lloyd's List*** (Subs required).

Vincent Haywood and Piers Eastwood, both employed by Port2Port Nigeria, a private military security company, are hoping to be cleared on all counts, according to Andrew Varney, managing director of the UK-based holding company Port2Port.

The case along with that of the Seaman Guard Ohio case in India has raised fears in the private maritime security sector that operatives are increasingly facing harassment while going about their legitimate business.

Mr Varney maintains that the men have not been involved in any wrongdoing but found themselves in the wrong place at the wrong time. [Read More...](#)

MARITIME SECURITY should be regulated through an EU wide policy to avoid a costly plethora of national standards, says maritime security company ***GoAGT***.

Gerry Northwood OBE, COO of GoAGT, said: "At the moment EU member states are legislating independently and creating an incoherent patch work of regulations across Europe for private maritime security services. Collectively these are expensive to implement and this additional cost is inevitably passed onto the shipping companies." His comment follows the decision last month by the PvdA (Partij van de Arbeid) faction in the Netherlands' House of Parliament to block the cabinet's plan to allow security on Dutch vessels sailing in the waters off Somalia, where piracy is still a latent threat.

Gerry said: "Just as the EU has provided a clear and transparent policy for managing aviation matters across the region, there is a good case for it becoming more involved in member states' maritime transport policy. The reputable maritime security companies have good training standards, and flag states therefore have less to fear than they did when this industry started out back in 2008/09. Yet, there is still room for standards to be raised in some sections of the industry, and if we are to ensure there is a quality service provided to all shipping companies, making it an area for EU competence seems to be the way forward."

He added: "With ISO/PAS 28007 we have an international standard that distinguishes those private maritime security companies that are capable of delivering a professional service. However, ISO/PAS 28007 still needs to be broadly adopted as 'the' international regulatory standard, and flag states should start to recognise this so that there is a uniform criteria." [Read More...](#)

International Response

NATO DEFENCE Ministers on Tuesday (3 June) decided to extend NATO's counter-piracy operation Ocean Shield until the end of 2016 - **NATO**.

Since August 2009, NATO ships have patrolled the waters off the Horn of Africa as part of Operation Ocean Shield. Their mission is to contribute to international efforts to fight maritime piracy and to help build the capacity of regional navies.

Operation Ocean Shield works closely with other naval forces patrolling the Indian Ocean including US-led maritime forces and EU naval forces.

As part of the broad international effort, Ocean Shield has helped to significantly reduce pirate activity in the region. In 2011, pirates captured 24 ships and NATO recorded 129 pirate attacks off Somalia. In 2012, the number of attacks had fallen to 20. Not a single ship has been captured off Somalia since May 2012, and no merchant ships are currently held by Somali pirates.

Despite the successes, piracy remains a threat. NATO assesses that pirates continue to possess the intent and capacity to attack ships. NATO ships continue to detect attempts by pirates to capture vessels. In addition, the root causes of piracy inside Somalia remains. [Read More...](#)

MINISTERS FROM participating States in the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden (the Djibouti Code of Conduct) have recognised the need to develop a mechanism for the region to run its own counter-piracy agenda, following the successful implementation by IMO of numerous projects aimed at improving regional capacity to counter piracy by developing enhanced regional cooperation and coordination - **IMO**.

A high-level meeting, held at IMO Headquarters in London on 30 May, agreed a resolution on future work under the Djibouti Code of Conduct. The resolution envisages the immediate launch of work to establish a new structure for regional implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct,

with IMO playing a supportive role during a transitional period. There was also widespread appreciation of the work of IMO in implementing the Code, as well as the support provided by the ReCAAP-ISC.



The meeting was attended by 80 delegates, including ministers and other officials from the Djibouti Code of Conduct participating and signatory States, as well as by representatives from a number of donor States and international organisations including the European Union (EU), ReCAAP, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia.

IMO Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu congratulated the meeting on its outcome and pledged IMO's full support for on-going capacity-building work. He said that the region's need to develop its own capacity to deal with piracy was stronger now than ever, as the international navies deployed voluntarily must, inevitably, look to reduce their forces over the next few years if the attacks continue to diminish and pressures on naval resources are focussed elsewhere. [Read More...](#)

A MAJOR exercise in implementing the national contingency plan for anti-pollution, search and rescue, and fire fighting was held in the waters off Mahé, Seychelles, on 4 June - **OCEANUSLive**. This complex exercise was carried out by a range of different agencies including the Seychelles Coast Guard, Air Force, Fire Fighting Services and Port Authority.

The EUNAVFOR Atalanta Flagship Brandenburg also took part in the exercise, EUCAP Nestor experts provided support for the planning, preparations as well as its execution.

The Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority and the



Ministry of Environment and Energy were also involved.

The scenario started in the morning of 4th June with a mock distress call to the Coast Guard from a Seychelles flagged vessel that had collided with a ferry just off Glacis. The collision caused an oil leak and a fire on board the vessel. A number of crewmembers abandoned the ship as it started to sink. [Read More...](#)

THE JAPANESE government plans to extend the Maritime Self-Defence Force's anti-piracy mission off Somalia by another year, Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera said Friday - [***Global Post***](#). "It is necessary to closely coordinate with the forces of other countries and the international community" to combat piracy in the area, Onodera said during a parliamentary committee session, referring to the mission which is due to end next month.

The anti-piracy mission off Somalia began in 2009 and the Cabinet approves the activities yearly. MSDF escort vessels and P-3C patrol planes are dispatched to protect commercial shipping. [Read More...](#)

Piracy Costs

THE FIGHT against Somali piracy has sparked a range of interesting innovations of how the international community approaches an international problem - [***Copenhagen Business School***](#). This includes new means of international cooperation, such as the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, by which the fight against piracy is planned and steered; the Shared Awareness and De-confliction Mechanism

(SHADE), by which navies organise protection in the Gulf of Aden and coordinate the patrol programme, surveillance and the "hunt" for pirates in the wider Indian Ocean. The fight against piracy however has also sparked the development of a range of innovative technological solutions. Such innovations include new forms of information sharing and coordination through databases and communication infrastructure such as the MERCURY system; new forms of maritime surveillance based on small drones; new forms of information fusion in the frame of maritime domain awareness; the development of technologies for the self-defence of merchant vessels; and technologies geared to support sustainable livelihoods onshore and to provide economic alternatives to piracy.

Developers and providers of technological solutions, users of such systems and regulators met at a one-day workshop organised by the Centre for the Resolution of International Conflict and CBS Maritime at the Copenhagen Business School. The goal of the seminar was to discuss what lessons can be (and have been) learned from the use of technology in counter-piracy and what part technological solutions can play to contain and prevent piracy in the long run. This is especially pertinent in the light of two questions: What is the role of technology in sustaining the success of counter-piracy for a post-2016 era, when the international naval engagement in the Indian Ocean will be significantly restructured and downsized? And how can solutions developed for the Western Indian Ocean be transferred to other piracy prone areas such as the West African region?. [Read More...](#)

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

THE [US] NAVY'S USS Vandegrift, based in San Diego, has entered the 4th Fleet area of responsibility in support of Operation Martillo - [***Times of San Diego***](#).

Operation Martillo, Spanish for hammer, a joint operation involving U.S., European and Western Hemisphere partners, targets illicit trafficking routes in the waters off Central America. Southern

Command leads the U.S. military involvement in Joint Operation Task Force-South.



The crew of the Vandegrift, an Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate, received widespread

attention in April when they aided in the rescue of a family that had been attempting a worldwide cruise on a sailboat.

Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment 402, deployed aboard the Vandegrift, is supported by Vandegrift's Visit, Board, Search and Seizure team and Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light Squadron 49 Detachment 3.

The U.S. contribution to Operation Martillo includes U.S. Navy and Coast Guard aircraft and ships working together to deny transnational criminal organisations the ability to export illegal narcotics along the Central American coastline.

[Read More...](#)

CUSTOMS OFFICERS in Montenegro have seized 250 kilograms of cocaine smuggled beneath a shipment of bananas, authorities said on Thursday, in what was described as the biggest drugs haul ever in the Adriatic republic - [Reuters](#). Vladan Jokovic, the head of Montenegro's Customs Authority, said the cocaine was worth about 12.5 million euros (\$17 million) and was seized on Wednesday in the southern port of Bar, a well known transit route for South American drugs heading to Europe.

The ship was carrying bananas from Ecuador to Montenegro's neighbour, Albania. Montenegro, a former Yugoslav republic of some 680,000 people, sits on a well-trodden route for drug smugglers trying to reach lucrative markets in western Europe.

"The cocaine was found ... in a special compartment under the floor of a shipping container loaded with bananas," Jokovic told reporters, saying it was the biggest ever drugs

haul in the country. He gave no further details.

[Read More...](#)

ITALIAN NAVY patrol ships rescued more than 3,500 migrants including hundreds of women and children from boats coming from North Africa, authorities said on Saturday, while Prime Minister Matteo Renzi called for help from the European Union - [trust.org](#).

The rescues, which the coast guard said have been going on since Friday evening, are the latest in a seemingly endless succession as the chronic migrant crisis in the southern Mediterranean has picked up this year.

A total of 3,612 migrants from Syria and North Africa were picked up from 11 boats and taken to ports in Sicily and the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa, a coastguard spokesman told Reuters. [Read More...](#)

ITALIAN NAVY went to aid of 17 different vessels; Flow of boat migrants set to break 2011, Arab Spring record. Italy wants more EU help, UN intervention in Libya - [MarineLink](#).

Italy has rescued more than 2,500 men, women and children from overcrowded boats in the Mediterranean Sea south of Sicily since early Thursday, the navy said, with good weather favouring departures from North Africa.

Italian navy and coast guard ships monitoring the waters off the Libyan and Tunisian coasts went to the aid of 17 different boats over the period, the navy said on Friday morning, adding that rescue efforts are continuing.

One ship, the San Giorgio, took aboard 998 migrants, including 214 women and 157 children, from five different vessels, the navy said in a statement.

"The improving weather and sea conditions have favoured the departures," the coast guard said in a separate statement. [Read More...](#)

ACCORDING TO the Fisheries and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, fishing vessels around the world catch about 90 million metric tons of fish from the oceans each year [PEW Environment](#). This catch level is almost 40 percent higher than half a century ago, and amounts to taking 246,000 tons of fish from the

sea every day. It has become clear that we are taking far more from the oceans than they can sustain.



The new assessment was released in advance of the 31st session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Committee on Fisheries, known as COFI, which takes place June 9 to 13 in Rome.

Although catch levels have remained fairly consistent over the past decade, the report finds that 90 percent of global fish stocks are now either fully fished or overfished, the highest levels recorded to date. And as nations continue to fish further down the food web to meet global seafood demand, the number of under-fished populations has declined over the past decade from 24 percent to just 10 percent, according to the report. In light of these trends, careful management of fisheries is essential to reverse the decline of stocks and to ensure thriving fisheries into the future. [Read More...](#)

AT LEAST 60 African migrants and two Yemeni crew perished in the treacherous waters off Yemen's coast last weekend, in a boat sinking that has just come to light and is believed to be the deadliest there this year, the United Nations said on Friday - [MarineLink](#).

In the first four months of this year, 16,500 migrants and refugees, mainly Somalis, Ethiopians and Eritreans, have crossed the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea to land in Yemen, seen as a gateway to a better life in the Middle East, the U.N. refugee agency UNHCR said.

About twice as many crossed in the same period last year.

"We are still seeking information, but it is now confirmed that a boat carrying 60 people from Somalia and Ethiopia and two Yemeni crew sank last Saturday in the Red Sea," UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards told a news briefing in Geneva. [Read More...](#)

Seafarers' Plight

NSTR

Aid Workers Plight

THE INTERNATIONAL relief- and development agency, International Aid Services (IAS), is overjoyed to announce that three of its staff members who were kidnapped in Somalia over 22 months ago have been released and are safe and well - [Somalia Newsroom](#).

On 11th July 2012 at approximately 5:30 p.m. an IAS team was attacked by an armed group of people near Galcayo, in Puntland, Somalia. The team was travelling in two vehicles including an escort car with three armed Puntland Police Officers who bravely defended the IAS staff but were overpowered by a much larger group of attackers. All of the police officers recovered from injuries sustained during the attack, as did one IAS employee who was injured but not kidnapped. This abduction of Janet Muthoni Kanga, Martin Mutisya Kioko and Abdinoor Dabaso Boru has



been condemned by both the Kenyan and Puntland Governments, as well as by a number of religious leaders of many faiths.

IAS immediately formed a Crisis Management Team that has worked since the day of the kidnapping to find a resolution to this event. A number of organizations and people, both public and private, also provided invaluable assistance to IAS during this 22 month crisis. For security reasons, IAS cannot name these organizations

and people – but they know who they are and we are immensely grateful for their assistance. IAS also wants to extend its deepest thanks to the families of these three hostages. Despite their overwhelming desire to do almost anything to get their family members back, they extended their trust to the IAS Crisis Management Team, supported that team and even provided invaluable information to that team that was very helpful in finalizing the arrangements for the release of these hostages.

The hostages were released by their kidnappers near the city of Galcayo today on 5th June 2014. With the assistance of the United Nations and the Galmudug Government, the hostages were taken to a safe location until they will be flown back to Nairobi and reunited with their families and friends, and debriefed. [*Read More...*](#)

And Finally...

One for the fans of irony...



Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- **SE Asia** - [Confirmation Report] A Product Tanker, **Orapin 4**, laden with fuel oil cargo departed Singapore on the 27 May with ETA discharge port, Pontianak as 29 May. The owners lost contact with the vessel and informed the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre which immediately notified all authorities and broadcast a warning to all ships to look out for the vessel. On 1 Jun the vessel safely arrived at Sriracha port in Thailand. Information from the crew indicates that the vessel was hijacked by 10 pirates who damaged the communication equipment on board the vessel and stolen its oil cargo. The crew and vessel are safe. 27 May.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **Gulf of Guinea** - A Ghana-flagged fishing vessel, **Marine 711**, was reported attacked at 1854 LT in Ghana EEZ. The last known position 04:24N - 003:07E and now missing according to the Ghanaian Navy. Nigerian Navy conducting search. Reported 4 Jun. UPDATE: Unconfirmed report state that the FV was released 6 Jun after possibly being used as a mothership.
- **SE Asia** - Alert deck watchman on board an anchored general cargo vessel noticed three robbers attempting to board the vessel at 2330 LT in position 06:01S - 106:54E, Tanjung Priok, Indonesia. Alarm raised. See the alerted crew the robbers retreated into their boat and moved away. Reported (IMB) 3 Jun.
- **Gulf of Guinea** - Two high-speed boats w/ armed pirates approached and fired upon a bulk carrier at 1900 LT in position 04:49N - 008:18E, Calabar River, Nigeria. Upon sighting the armed guard on board, the pirates aborted the attempt and moved away. Reported 2 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - Ten armed pirates boarded a tanker underway at 0515 LT in position 04:03N - 112:26E, around 60nm NW of Bintulu, Malaysia. They tied up the duty officer and lookout and asked them the details of the vessel destination, type of cargo, nationality and number of crew on board. Before leaving the vessel the pirates destroyed the vessel's communication equipment and stole ship and crew property. Crew and vessel safe. Reported (IMB) 31 May.
- **SE Asia** - [Boarding] LATE Report | Deck watchmen on board an anchored Singapore-flagged product tanker, **Alpine Monique**, sighted one robber on the poop deck and another attempting to board the vessel at 2150 LT in position 21:43N - 091:47E, Kutubdia Anchorage, Bangladesh. OOW notified, alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped empty handed. Reported (IMB) 29 May.
- **SE Asia** - Three suspected robbers in a skiff approached an anchored Panama-flagged LPG tanker, **Charlotte Kosan**, at 0500 LT in position 01:34.4N - 104:27E, Malaysia. Duty crew spotted the skiff and reported to the bridge. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers moved away. Reported (IMB) 29 May.
- **SE Asia** - LATE Report | The master of Malaysia-flagged tug boat, **Harbour Oscar** towing barge, **Harbour Pioneer**, reported sighting of some persons escaping from the barge at 2100 LT in position 01:14.30N - 104:04.33E, approx 4.1nm South of Eastern Buoy, Malacca Strait. The doors of three containers were forced open, and the master was not able to confirm if anything was stolen due to the hours of darkness. The containers contained baby toys and shoes. The vessels continued to journey to the next port of call at Sibu Sarawak. Reported 4 May.
- **SE Asia** - LATE Report | While Panama-flagged container ship, **MSC Melatilde**, was drifting at 0430 LT in position 01:10N - 103:30E, west of Nipa anchorage, awaiting pilot, one unidentified speed boat was observed approaching her bow and passed close to the starboard stern side. At about 0433 LT the crew

raised the general alarm, mustered all crew and increased surveillance from the bridge. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS West via VHF 73 that three unauthorised persons were seen from the camera near the aft mooring station. They were later seen escaping from the ship's stern into a speed boat. A search was conducted but no suspicious persons were located onboard. No reported injuries to crew. No properties were stolen. Reported (ReCAAP) 3 May.

- **SE Asia** - LATE Report | While sailing, the ship's crew of Japan-flagged barge carrier, **Masakuni**, at 1300 LT in position 01:11N - 103:42E, Malacca Strait, noticed a door was broken. Some of the crew's personal belongings and ship's property were found stolen. The crew did not see any robber(s). Reported 6 Apr.

Other Incidents:

- **Gulf of Guinea** - Owners report lost contact with their vessel, Liberia-flagged product tanker, MT Fair Artemis, since 4 Jun. Last known position 04:47N - 000:12W, approx 40nm South of Accra, Ghana. The fate of the crew and vessel is unknown. Vessels are requested to keep a lookout and report any sighting to IMB PRC. Reported 4 Jun.

Suspicious Activity:

- NSTR.

IMB - Vessels held: 0;

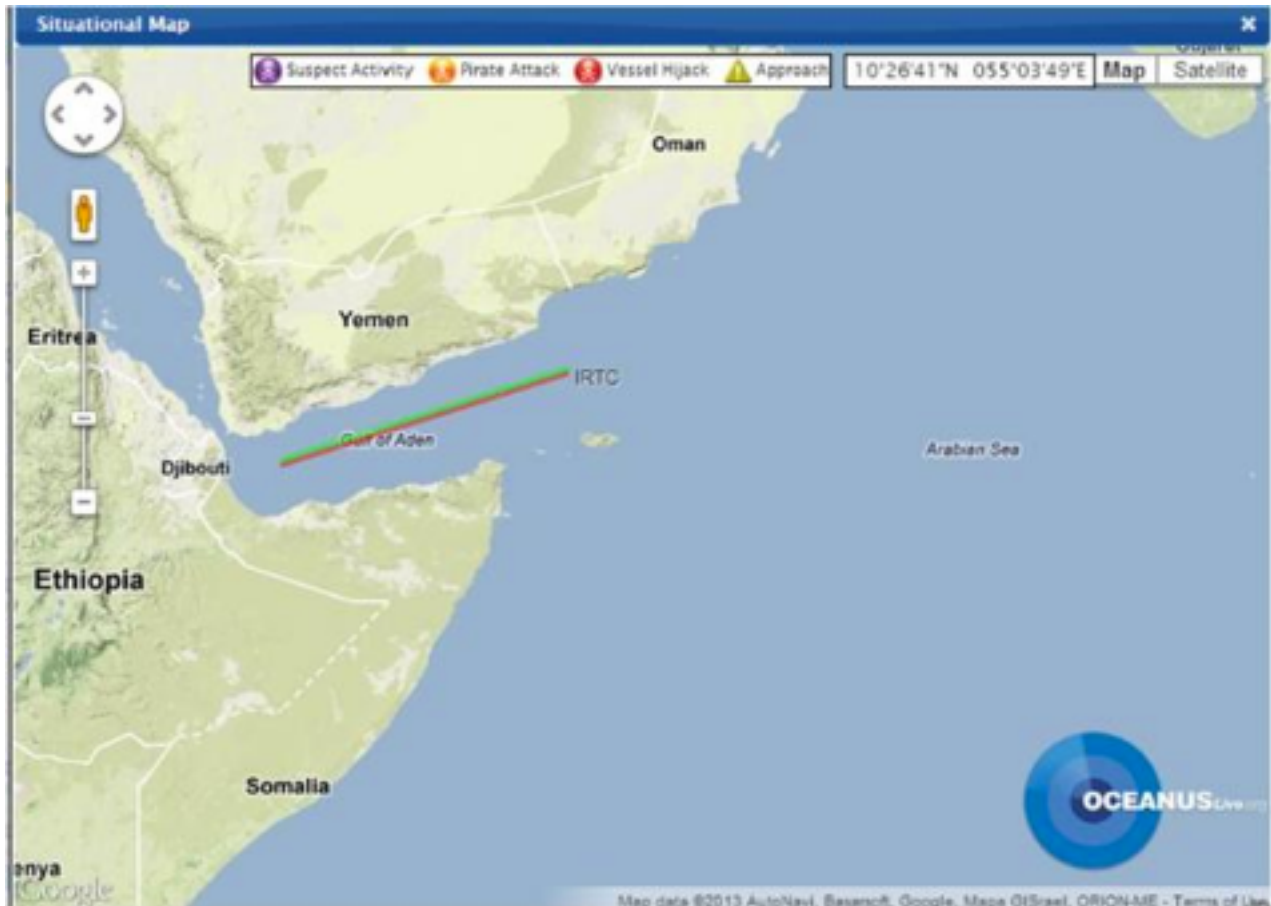
Worldwide Incidents 2014: 78 reported incidents

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](http://OCEANUSLive.org)

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.

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