

7 - 13 June 2014 No. 24/14**Hostages escape to freedom; Hijack W Africa & SE Asia; China, Vietnam boat squabble; Syria like Somalia? Sewol ferry crew on trial -**

Eleven crew members of MV Albedo, held for 3 years and 7 months, escaped their pirate captors with UN, NGO and Galmudug officials assistance. All are being repatriated but fellow crew died during captivity. Facing the likelihood of further torture, the opportunity to escape, they ran 10 km through the dark. Quite literally, 'do or die'. A Ghana fishing vessel, Marine 711, was hijacked by pirates in the Gulf of Guinea, but a successful rescue mission was conducted within 24 hours. A Liberia tanker, Fair Artemis, reported missing in the same region was confirmed released by pirates after having stolen the fuel cargo. Another hijack, notified days after it first went missing, occurred off Malaysia, near to the location of a hijack a week earlier. Malaysia tanker, Buda Mersa Dua, was boarded and hijacked by pirates who tied up the crew, turned off radar and navigation equipment, ordered the captain and chief officer to stop the engines as a vessel approached to carry out bunkering of the fuel cargo before escaping with valuables just 10 hours later. Southeast Asia has, once again, become the world's hotspot for pirate attacks. Suspect pirates also hijack a fishing vessel in Philippines waters. Two crewmen were forced at gunpoint to jump into the sea; one was rescued the other remains missing. Locals claim pirate activity threatens fishing economy. Chinese vessels have removed covers from their weapons to intimidate Vietnam, as China intensifies activity near the oil rig at the centre of the territorial waters dispute. The death toll for the Sewol ferry is now at 292 with 12 still missing. In court, the Captain and crew face charges of negligence in the presence of angry family members of victims. The Captain led not guilty of murder along with three other crew members. Astonishingly, the crew insisted that it was the Korea Coast Guard's responsibility, no theirs, to rescue the passengers. Divers will continue to search Sewol cabins until 20 June. Some 6,000 police raided a church in search of the fugitive billionaire wanted over the ferry disaster in the biggest and most bizarre manhunt. His brother has been arrested.

Australia and Malaysia will share the cost of the next phase of the search for the missing Malaysia Airline plane. A private company is contracted to map the sea floor; meanwhile, frustrated Chinese relative organise a visit to the Airline's Beijing office but are turned away. The Airline's insurer has begun paying the families of passengers initial compensation almost 100 days after the disappearance.

Syria has become a Somalia-style failed state according to retired UN envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi. The conflict is spreading due to diplomatic failure.

Thousands of migrants have crossed the Mediterranean in boats from Libya, although many do not make it across with NATO warships blamed in the death of all but 9 of 72 people found dead. In Bangladesh, the Coast Guard found 5 dead and nearly 200 injured in a stricken people-smuggling boat rescued in the Bay of Bengal. A six-month investigation by reporters from the The Guardian UK uncovers the slaves forced to work for no pay for years at a time under threat of extreme violence in Asia in the production of seafood sold in major retail stores.

Italy rejects India's claim to jurisdiction in the case of the 2 Italian marines and warns that it would seek international arbitration if it could not reach an agreement with the news Indian government.

“ The trial of the Seaman Guard Ohio crew and security guards was to continue in India, however it is reported that the case was adjourned as the prosecution readies their case.

After 1288 days in captivity we are delighted for them and their families after the terrible ordeal and hardship that they have suffered”

- MPHRR CHAIR PETER SWIFT

Any convergence of terrorism and piracy would threaten ransom payments for seafarers, say experts. "It's an ongoing debate and one that is, where possible, ignored," says one expert.

Hey, check out OCEANUSLive included in Defence IQ's Top 100 Defence and Security Twitter accounts.

Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

INTERPOL HEAD Ronald K. Noble, on his first visit to Yemen, met President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi on Sunday and appealed for international aid for Sanaa to combat terrorism and maritime piracy - ***The Daily Star Lebanon***.

"The crimes which Yemen tackles on a daily basis, such as terrorism and maritime piracy have a global dimension and it is essential that they are provided the assistance they need, whether it is advanced technology or basics such as generators to keep their police stations open," he said.

"The international community must continue to support Yemen in its efforts to prevent and turn back crime in all its forms," Noble said in an Interpol statement.

He proposed aid to Yemeni police such as "biometric support in order for prisoners to be properly documented, enabling basic data such as photos and fingerprints, as well as more sophisticated iris scans, to be gathered". His visit came a week after 60 migrants from Ethiopia and Somalia along with two Yemeni crew members drowned when their boat sank off the coast of Yemen.

Noble praised Sanaa's efforts to combat maritime piracy, noting that more than 120 Somali pirates had been prosecuted in Yemeni courts.

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TWO SEMI-autonomous areas of northern Somalia have largely avoided the violence that's plagued the rest of the country for decades. Now oil exploration may change that, according to the United Nations - ***Bloomberg***.

Territorial disputes between the governments of Somaliland and Puntland, a separatist campaign by a clan-based group and "discrepancies" in oil licensing



throughout Somalia are all contributing to simmering tensions in the region, the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea said in a May 28 memorandum. Somaliland's planned deployment of an oil-protection force in the region may also deepen the strains, it said.

"Urgent attention must be given to this issue to avoid commercial activity triggering conflict further down the road," said Jarat Chopra, the coordinator of the monitoring group. The document was sent to Bloomberg by a UN official who asked not to be identified because it hasn't been released publicly.

Somaliland and Puntland dispute a border criss-crossed by oil concessions that have been awarded to companies including DNO International ASA (DNO) of Norway, Vancouver-based Horn Petroleum Corp. (HRN) and RAK Gas LLC of the United Arab Emirates. Oil deposits in Somalia may amount to as much as 110 billion barrels, according to a report published last week by the Mogadishu-based Heritage Institute for Policy Studies. [Read more...](#)

A SHIP involved in a hit-and-run case off the Kerala coast on June 6 will soon be arrested at port in Gujarat. The Kerala high court on Tuesday morning ordered the arrest of MV Miletus, a vessel flying a Marshall Islands flag - ***The Times of India***.

According to police records, boat Kairali-2 was fishing in the Arabian Sea, 10 nautical miles off the Manakodam coast between Kochi and Cherthala when a merchant vessel rammed it. The boat was badly damaged and nine fishermen on board were rescued by another boat in the vicinity.

Alerted by fishermen on another boat, the Coast Guard spotted the vessel the same day around 8.30pm off the Kozhikode coast and boarded the vessel.

Advocate C Unnikrishnan, who filed an admiralty suit on behalf of the fishing boat owner, said the captain of the ship, an Indian, admitted that the accident happened earlier that day and entered it in the log book. Since the vessel was going to an Indian port, it was allowed to proceed. The Bhavnagar port officials and Coast Guard there were alerted. [Read more...](#)

EUROPEAN UNION and Oxfam have jointly launched today a three-year project that will revive the fishing industry in Somalia - **RBC Radio**

The project is intended to enhance fishing in Puntland and Somaliland regions. In the near future, the joint organisations have outlined their anticipation the project will expand to south and central regions of Somalia.

In a press conference jointly held by European Union and Oxfam, the two organisations stated that Somalia has one of the richest waters in Africa in terms of fish and also has very long coastline.

Somali fishermen men are said to have no appropriate equipments to take advantage of the fishing opportunities in Somali waters according to European Union.

The first face of the program was today launched in Hargaise, Somaliland's capital. The project is scheduled to be launched later in Puntland. [Read More...](#)

EX-PUNTLAND militia leader and al-Shabaab ally Sheikh Mohamed Said "Atom" surrendered to the Somali government in a Mogadishu press conference on 7 June 2014 - **Somalia Newsroom**.

In his short pre-written statement (possibly crafted with the help of the Somali government), Atom condemned al-Shabaab's attacks on civilians and religious figures and top leader Ahmed Abdi Godane's oppressive rule. Atom pledged to become a man of peace. (Full statement here.) The key question regarding Atom's defection is why this UN sanctioned arms dealer and jihadist who led an insurgency against the Puntland government all of a sudden offered his "repentance" to the federal government in Mogadishu. Several factors may be at play. [Read More...](#)

THE UNITED Kingdom on Friday shut down its Honorary Consulate in Mombasa over security concerns - **Capital FM Kenya**.

A statement on the UK government website said all consular services will be offered from the High Commission in Nairobi.

The UK was among the first European nations to issue a travel advisory to its citizens, leading to

the evacuation tourists from the coastal city by tour operators, for fear of attacks.

The Kenyan government has advocated against such advisories, and instead urged the concerned nations to work closely with security agencies in mitigating terror threats.

To ensure the security has been enhanced, the government has made massive allocations to improve security in the 2014-15 financial year.

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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...](#)

This Weeks' Newsletter



MIRIS International

Trust in Security.

West Africa

A LIBERIA-flagged oil tanker has gone missing off the coast of Ghana and a senior port official told Reuters on Saturday the captain sent a distress call to say the vessel was attacked by pirates -

Yahoo News.

The Liberia-flagged MT Fair Artemis last made contact with its manager, Fairdeal Group S.A., at 6 p.m. (1800 GMT) on Wednesday when it was operating off the coast of Ghana, the company said. The ship failed to make contact the next day.

A senior official at the port in Tema, east of Ghana's capital, told Reuters: "We had a distress call from the master of the ship yesterday (Friday) saying he was 36 nautical miles away from our waters after he was hijacked and looted in Togolese waters early Wednesday."

The official declined to be identified.

A spokesman for Ghana's armed forces said the Navy were on the lookout

for the vessel, which was built in 2009. [Read More...](#)



A GREEK oil tanker

that vanished in the pirate-infested Gulf of Guinea is likely to have moved from Ghanaian to Togolese waters, a Ghanaian military spokesman said Sunday - **The New Age.**

"The vessel is not in our waters," Eric Aggrey-Quashie told AFP. "It's gone off and they suspect it's moving towards Togo."

(The navy) is trying to get confirmation from the Togolese if they have identified any vessel in the waters." [Read more...](#)

THE GHANA Armed Forces (GAF) said it has deployed the Navy to search for a Liberian-flagged missing oil tanker suspected to have been hijacked off Ghana's coast over the weekend, according to the Public Relations Officer of the GAF on Tuesday - **Xinhuanet.**

Colonel Mbawine Atintande told Xinhua in an interview the GAF was aware of the report of the missing oil tanker off Ghanaian territorial waters. "We are aware of the missing oil tanker and we have deployed our Navy to search for the missing vessel and report accordingly," Colonel Atintande said.

There were reports of suspected hijacking of the vessel by pirates. But Atintande said there's not sufficient evidence to support the claim. "We cannot confirm or deny the suspected hijacking of the vessel by pirates. Until we see the vessel, we cannot say there is suspected piracy or not," he said.

The Liberian-flagged oil tanker was reported over the weekend to have gone missing 36 nautical miles off the coast of Ghana. [Read more...](#)

AN OIL tanker missing for a week off the coast of West Africa was attacked by pirates who stole its cargo, the company that managed the ship said on Thursday after speaking with its captain -

Reuters.

The Liberia-flagged MT Fair Artemis had last made contact with its manager, Fairdeal Group SA, on June 4 when it was off the coast of Ghana. "The ship was boarded by a number of pirates who have stolen the cargo and other items on the vessel," Fairdeal fleet director John Gray said in a statement, adding that all on board were safe. The statement gave no further details. [Read more...](#)

THE NIGERIAN Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) on Tuesday said its satellite surveillance system had helped to rescue a Ghanaian fishing vessel from suspected hijackers last Thursday - **AllAfrica.**

A statement by Mr Isichei Osamgbi, NIMASA's Deputy Director and Head of Public Relations Unit, said the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) disclosed that the Liberian-flagged ship, Fair Artemis" lost contact with its owners on Wednesday.

The statement said the Ghanaian registered vessel was hijacked off the coast of Ghana and sailed across Togo and Benin Republic to Nigeria. It said the Ghanaian Fisheries Authority and the operators of the fishing vessel joined in requesting

NIMASA to bring the incident to a logical conclusion.

"A Greek oil tanker with 24 crew members has lost contact with its owners in the Gulf of Guinea, sparking fears that the ship may have been hijacked by pirates," the statement said. It said that responding, NIMASA immediately launched its satellite surveillance system in collaboration with the Nigerian Navy and the Nigerian Air Force.

The newly built satellite surveillance system of the agency which has penetrating radar capabilities was brought to bear and the incident was resolved within six hours. [Read More...](#)

AN EXPERT in Maritime Laws and Security, Dr.Kamal Deen Ali says the Liberia-flagged oil tanker which was hijacked off the coast of Ghana should alert the nation's maritime authorities to increase security in Ghana's territorial waters to stop piracy - ***CITIFM Online***.

A Liberia-flagged oil tanker went missing off the coast of Ghana after it was hijacked by pirates in Togolese waters.

The vessel is said to have been hijacked initially in Togolese waters but somehow found its way in Ghanaian waters.

Speaking on the Citi Breakfast Show, Mr. Ali said the incident represents a threat to Ghana's offshore energy industries and a major indication that the Maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea is becoming minimal.

"We need to be worried because this represents another major indication that the Maritime security environment in the Gulf Guinea is becoming minimal and a threat even in regions or coastal areas where originally we have not had many pirating incidents," Mr Ali said.

He however stated that there is the indication that "the vessel might have been hijacked off the Coast of Togo and Ghana." [Read More...](#)

THE NIGERIAN Navy has confirmed that the nation is losing the sum of \$20 billion annually to crude oil theft - ***Naira Park***.

Austen Oyagha, director, Nigerian Navy Transformation Office, who disclosed this recently in Calabar, Cross River State, said the country lost

an estimated average of 55,210 barrels per day or monthly average of 1,656,281 barrels in 2013.

"Thus, Nigeria oil losses due to crude oil theft translate to almost \$20 billion yearly in deficit to Nigeria's economy. These losses do not only undermine Nigeria's economy in terms of foreign exchange deficit, they also pose a threat to national security for Nigerians," Oyagha said at the just concluded Navy Week while speaking on the theme 'Harnessing Surveillance Technology in Support of Anti-Crude Oil Theft Operations in Nigeria.

He said the Nigerian Navy, in collaboration with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the media, had found out that crude oil losses in Nigeria were primarily due to pipeline vandalism and operation of illegal refineries, adding that the Navy was looking at ways of harnessing surveillance technology towards enhancing Nigerian Navy anti-crude oil theft operations. [Read More...](#)

THERE ARE huge discrepancies between what Nigeria says it sells to U.S. and India and what U.S. and India say they import from Nigeria. In 2012 both reported more imports than Nigerian records indicate - ***The Guardian Nigeria***. In the U.S., the discrepancy is 191,000 barrels. India – it is 22,400 barrels – indicating that exports were all either under reported due to deliverance of unregistered tanker or topping up at loading stations.

The availability of satellite imagery of artisanal oil refineries in Nigeria and their spatial distribution; the values attached to this and maps of the clusters of illegal refineries in Niger Delta taken from satellites are all part of the latest study on oil theft.

Together, these studies paint a dismal picture that ought to scare Nigeria from slumber to action.

There is available now in Nigerian waters, according to satellite imagery, enough vessel capacity to take every drop of oil Nigeria produces daily. What does this say about our security? 2013 was the worst year – US\$10 billion; 2014 is predicted to be even worse.

Finally the Niger Delta remains the most polluted geographical area in the world – more oil spills – several times worse than EXXON Valdes and BP's

Gulf spill. Sadly due to a number of factors – including Government ineptitude, indifference and impotence, also due to unaccountability of the oil operators and outright chicanery of some individuals in the oil producing communities – oil theft and consequential pollution, no clean up will take place, theft will increase and Government will prove to be helpless. Those who hope that Niger Delta will continue to be the golden goose to feed an irresponsible and unresponsive Nigeria are in for a rude shock. [Read More...](#)

THE CHIEF Executive Officer of the Ghana Maritime Authority, Peter Azumah, says the ultra-modern monitoring systems that the authority is using on its corridors are efficient and effective enough to protect vessels within Ghana's waters - **GBC Ghana**.

Explaining circumstances under which a foreign vessel allegedly carrying oil on the high sea recently got missing, Mr Azumah said the vessel was not hijacked in Ghana's territorial waters. He tells Radio Ghana's correspondent what the authority and its collaborators are doing to intercept the missing vessel.

Listen to the interview. [Read More...](#)

A FORMER Head of State, Ernest Shonekan, on Tuesday said sea piracy and armed robbery were responsible for the underdevelopment of the nation's maritime industry.

Mr. Shonekan, who said this at the opening of the 13th Maritime Seminar for Judges in Abuja, added that the unwholesome activities were giving the nation bad name in the international community - **Premium Times Nigeria**.

The former head of state, who is the Chairman of the three-day seminar, said that the negative activities in the industry were affecting the nation's economy.



"Nigeria needs to collaborate with other African countries like Sao Tome and Principe, Benin Republic, Congo, Angola, Mozambique and the

land-locked countries to tackle critical issues in the maritime industry," he said.

The former head of state said the nations should also be able to adopt common policies.

"We must realise that our new position as the leading economy in Africa places some heavy responsibilities on the country," Mr. Shonekan said. [Read More...](#)

TOGO OFFICIALLY produces cash crops and handicrafts for export. But nationals from several foreign countries converge there to buy crude oil in the largest open black market of its kind anywhere - **The Niche Nigeria**.

Investigative reporter, Emmanuel Maya, discovers how crude stolen from terminals and pipelines in Nigeria finds its way to the triangle. The trade is brazen. The loot is huge. There is even a secondary market of Togolese hotels that benefit from the influx of foreigners who disguise as tourists to take a slice from the Nigerian cake, a freebie through corruption. Togo, a tiny West African country, does not produce oil. It has no oil deposit under land or water. Togo, however, is fast making itself the new Kuwait of Africa. This it has done by building a man-made oil city, an offshore floating market on the sea called the Togo Triangle. Rogue ships and rogue international businessmen travel thousands of nautical miles to Togo to buy crude oil stolen from Nigeria. The volume of trade in the triangle makes Togo the largest black market for crude oil, attracting buyers from as far as Australia, Hong Kong, Russia, the United Kingdom, South Africa, China, Ukraine and Thailand. A report by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) cites China, North Korea, Israel and South Africa as frequently mentioned destination countries and recipients of stolen crude from Nigeria.

The tell-tale signs of a burgeoning economy in Togo were all too visible as this reporter made the rounds of hotels beginning from the capital, Lome. From Avenida Hotel to Ibis Lome Centre, Hotel Sancta Maria to Residence Hoteliere Oceane and from Hotel Napoleon Lagune to Hotel Cote Sud, Togo is bursting at the seams with foreigners, mostly Europeans, Chinese, Lebanese, Russians and Indians. [Read More...](#)

DR MORAKINYO Adedayo, a Maritime Lawyer, on Thursday said sea piracy and armed robbery undermined investment in the offshore oil sector of the country - ***Daily Independent Nigeria***.

Adedayo said this in Abuja at the ongoing 13th Maritime Seminar for Judges in Abuja, organised by the Nigerian Shippers' Council and National Judicial Institute.

"This country constitutes the regional power and makes significant contribution to UN peacekeeping operations regionally and internationally.

"Yet piracy or armed robbery at sea makes fishing as well as transportation through the Gulf of Guinea highly risky and this undermines investment in the sector," he said.

In a presentation entitled "Piracy, Armed Robbery at Sea and Maritime Boundaries in Nigeria", Adedayo said the Nigerian economy was heavily dependent on the crude oil.

Adedayo, who is also a Senior Lecturer at the University of Lagos, said the sector accounted for about 95 per cent of foreign exchange earnings and 80 per cent of government revenues. [Read More...](#)

Boko Haram

SUSPECTED Boko Haram militants from Nigeria attacked a town in Cameroon's far north on Saturday but local security forces fought them off, killing at least two gunmen, Cameroon's government said - ***Reuters***.

Nigeria has accused Cameroon of not doing enough to tackle Boko Haram, which grabbed global attention in April by kidnapping more than 200 girls from a school and has killed hundreds of civilians in northern Nigeria since then.

Cameroon recently deployed 1,000 troops to the far north and the attack in the Mayo Tsanaga Division in the Far North Region is the latest in a series of clashes between Cameroon security forces and the group. [Read More...](#)

A FEMALE suicide bomber killed herself and a soldier outside an army barracks in Nigeria's northeastern city of Gombe on Sunday, the military said, as local leaders reported the death

count from a string of earlier militant attacks had reached 110 - ***Reuters***.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast or last week's assaults but Islamist group Boko Haram has set off bombs and killed thousands in its five-year-old bid to carve out an Islamist state in the region.

Soldiers stopped the woman as she tried to get into the barracks with explosives hidden under her robes, defence headquarters said in a statement.

The device went off, killing her and a soldier searching her, it added. "I heard a loud sound and then black smoke covering the place ... We saw soldiers moving bodies," Gombe trader Bello Kasuwankatako told Reuters. [Read More...](#)

SUSPECTED BOKO Haram gunmen have reportedly kidnapped 20 women from a nomadic settlement in northeast Nigeria near the town of Chibok, where the Islamic militants abducted more than 300 schoolgirls and young women on April 15 - ***CTV News***.

Alhaji Tar, a member of the vigilante groups set up to resist Boko Haram's attacks, says the men arrived at noon Thursday in the Garkin Fulani settlement and forced the women to enter their vehicles at gunpoint. He says they drove away to an unknown location in the remote stretch of Borno state. [Read More...](#)

TROOPS CONDUCTING anti-terrorists campaign in North-Eastern Nigeria have successfully averted attempted massive raid on villages in Borno and Adamawa States during the weekend. Weapons seizedThe terrorists who were on their way to attack selected communities were ambushed by troops along Biltu, Borno state on receiving intelligence report of the terrorists' intention - ***Nigeria Defence HQ***.

The attack was launched on the terrorists as they filed out of the forest to embark on their mission at about 10pm on Saturday. Over 50 terrorists died in the fierce encounter that ensued, while 30 rifles,



36 Hand Grenades, 7 Machine guns and 11 Rocket Propelled grenade tubes were captured by the troops. Also recovered from the terrorists were over 3,500 rounds of ammunition, 6 smoke grenade canisters and locally fabricated guns as well as 4 vehicles used by the terrorists in the foiled attack. [Read More...](#)

THE UK will increase its military and educational aid to help Nigeria tackle Boko Haram, Foreign Secretary William Hague has announced. - ***BBC News Africa***

He said Nigeria's army would receive extra training, especially in counter-insurgency, and a million more children would be given schooling. This is the latest promise of Western help since Boko Haram abducted some 200 schoolgirls in April.

Since then, the Islamist group has stepped up its attacks.

Mr Hague was speaking at a summit in London. It follows last month's summit in Paris where regional powers pledged to share intelligence and co-ordinate action against the group and its five-year insurgency. [Read More...](#)

Southeast Asia

RECENT hijacks of commercial tankers in the Southeast Asia region has raised concerns of an increase in piracy, which had been considered reduced in recent years, ReCAAP ISC issued an update on the hijack of Thai-registered tanker, Orapin 4 - ***OCEANUSLive***.

On 30 May 2014, the ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ISC) issued an Incident Alert 04/2014 following a report from the shipping company that they had lost contact with his product tanker, Orapin 4. The Thailand-registered product tanker, Orapin 4 departed Singapore on 27 May at or about 1500 hrs for Pontianak, Indonesia with 3,9751 metric tonnes of Automotive Diesel Fuel (ADF) onboard. The vessel was scheduled to arrive in Pontianak, Indonesia on 29 May at or about 1300 hrs LT (local time). Last communication & latest position of Orapin 4 On 28 May at or about 1200 hrs LT, the shipping company contacted Orapin 4 via email but did not receive a reply.

The tanker did not arrive in Pontianak on 29 May as scheduled. The company last contacted the tanker on 27 May at or about 1730 hrs LT when the tanker was approximately 3.64 nm north of Pulau Batam, Indonesia. The last tracked position of Orapin 4 on 27 May at or about 2357 hrs LT was approximately 19.47 nm north of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia on a course of 053.5° and speed 9 knots.

On 1 Jun, Orapin 4 arrived at Sriracha Port, Chon Buri, Thailand at or about 1930 hrs LT. All 14 crew of Thai nationality were safe, and the master, upon arrival, reported the incident to the local police station. [Read More...](#)

SOUTHEAST ASIA has become the world's hotspot for pirate attacks after an international clampdown slashed the number of hijackings off the coast of war-torn Somalia, the UN said Thursday - ***Global Post***.

Last year 28 boats were attacked in the western Indian Ocean but none taken captive in the region, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) said in a report.

That compares to January 2011, when Somali pirates held 736 hostages and 32 boats, some onshore and others on their vessels.

"There has been a significant reduction in the number of pirate attacks during 2013, to the extent one can claim they have almost stopped," UNITAR said after its five-year study.

Pirate attacks in the Horn of Africa spiralled from the early 2000s, with pirates hijacking cargo ships and taking crew prisoners for months and even years.

Focus back on Southeast Asia -

Meanwhile in Southeast Asia piracy has surged, particularly in the maritime trading hub of the Malacca Straits, between Malaysia and Indonesia. Attacks in the region topped 150 last year after starting an upward trend since 2010, said UNITAR. "Piracy in the Malacca Strait continues to be a major disruptor for safe routes in the eastern Indian Ocean," said the agency.

Last month the International Maritime Bureau said that there had been 23 actual or attempted attacks in Southeast Asian waters between January and March, mainly off Indonesia. UNITAR said piracy was likely to become even worse in the region as the centre of gravity of global shipping continues to shift towards Asia.

[Read More...](#)

FOLLOWING THE Thai oil tanker MT Orapin 4 which was hijacked by pirates last month, the third attack on Thai ships since April, Thai shipowners have called for weapons on cargo ships - **SeaShip News**.

Phumin Harinsut, president of the Thai Shipowners' Association, said the deployment of weapons on civilian cargo vessels is illegal under Thai law, which makes them sitting ducks for pirates. He said the association has been working for over two years to push for law changes to allow weapons on cargo vessels.

However, the Marine Department has reported that the Defense Ministry does not support the idea.

Phumin said the attack on Orapin 4 has also triggered concerns that key shipping routes in the region are once again a popular hunting ground for pirates. [Read More...](#)

THE HUNT is on for pirates that hijacked a ship off Bintulu in Sarawak waters on Saturday to steal its diesel - **The Star Malaysia**.

The Malaysian Enforcement Maritime Agency Labuan Enforcement Chief Captain Che Adnan Mohd Isa said investigations



were being carried out by Bintulu MMEA investigating officers to determine the identify the group.

"This incident happened in waters off Bintulu and that is why they are the ones in charge of investigating," he said, adding that MT Budi Mesra Dua, which had been sailing from Singapore to Labuan, was hijacked for about 10 hours on Saturday.

He said initial investigations showed that six masked men in dark green overalls, armed with parangs and hammers, had climbed onboard the ship at about 11.30pm on Saturday, tied up the crew and confined them in a room.

Capt. Adnan said the men then ordered the ship's captain and its chief officer to stop the engine as a vessel approached and pulled up beside it.

"They pumped out a total of 100 metric tonnes of diesel from the ship to the vessel," he said.

It is understood that the masked men also ransacked the ship and made off with valuables after turning off the radar and navigation equipment on board.

Capt. Adnan said none of the crew – comprising 18 Malaysians, three Indonesians, two Bangladeshis, one Indian and a Filipino – were harmed in the incident. [Read More...](#)

THREE SUSPECTED pirates hijacked a fishing boat and terrorized its two crewmen in the waters of Margosatubig, Zamboanga Del Sur, Tuesday morning, a police report said Wednesday -

Zamboanga Today Philippines.

Inspector Dahjlan Samuddin, officer-in-charge for the Regional Police Information Office, said the incident transpired near "Baong-Baong" island off the coast of Magosatubig at about 7:30 a.m.

He said a fishing boat (bearing the name Ronald) with two crew on board was on its way home from catching fish when three unidentified suspects armed with 12 gauge shotgun on board a "Basilan" type white speedboat waylaid them. The two fishermen were identified as Ronald Macahis y Gantalao, 25, married, and a resident of Purok Gumamela, Barangay Igat, Margosatubig; and Wiry Wilfred Sulapas y Oclaret, 37, male, married, resident of Purok Gumamela, Barangay Higad, also of Margosatubig.

According to Samuddin, the suspects at gunpoint on Macahis and Sulapas ordered them to jump on the seawater and then sped off towards unknown direction

Several hours after at about 10:00 p.m., Sulapas was rescued by a hook and line fisher while Macahis remains missing as of this report, said Samuddin.

Authorities recovered the fishing boat along shorelines of Baong-Baong. Elements of Margosatubig Police Station launched a rescue operation for recovery of Macahis.

Margosatubig's fisher folks said the pirate activities have badly threatened their stability and impacted the local economy since it mainly depends on fishing. [Read More...](#)

TERRIFIED CREWMEN aboard Japanese coal carrier Sage Sagittarius allege a spate of fatalities in Australian waters were not tragic accidents, but may have been designed to silence accusations of cruelty - ***Maritime Connector***.

The revelations come as the New South Wales Coroner considers whether the deaths warrant an inquest.

Ship owner Hachiuma Steamship does not believe the deaths are suspicious.

Chief cook Cesar Llanto, 42, vanished in a suspected "man overboard" incident about 8.10am on August 30, 2012 while the ship was 830km off the coast of Cairns.

Two weeks later on September 14, Sagittarius chief engineer Hector Collado, 57, fell to his death while the ship docked at the Port of Newcastle. Less than a month later on October 6, 2012 safety superintendent Kosaku Monji, 37, was crushed to death by conveyor belt machinery as Sagittarius unloaded at a Japanese port.

Mr Monji was aboard to protect the crew after the earlier deaths.

The Sagittarius earned the label of "murder ship" or "death ship" from Australian advocates.

In evidence given by crew members to Australian Federal Police - and recounted to APN - the ship's captain was accused of repeatedly punching a sailor or "mess man".

In the evidence, the victim reported the abuse to Mr Llanto on the evening of August 29.

The next morning, Mr Llanto would vanish.

Crew members spoke to APN on condition of anonymity, fearful of industry blacklisting. [Read More...](#)

ACCORDING TO CNN field correspondent McKirdy, Chinese vessels have removed covers from their weapons to intimidate Vietnam -

Vietnamnet.

At an international press conference held by the Vietnam Ministry of Foreign Affairs on developments

in the East Sea on June 5, Vice Chairman of the National Border Committee Tran Duy Hai, said China intensified escort ships in Vietnam's waters, sometimes up to 140 vessels, including military ships operating in the area where Chinese oil rig Haiyang Shiyu-981 was illegally placed.

Chinese ships have demonstrated aggressive behaviour and they have actively attacked, deliberately rammed and sprayed high power water cannons at Vietnamese civilian law enforcement ships, injuring fisheries surveillance officers and damaging Vietnamese law enforcement agency equipment.

The same day, China blatantly slandered Vietnam ships for ramming them more than 1,200 times in the area around its oil rig.

Hua Chunying, spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also grossly slandered: "The drilling activities of this rig are within China's territorial waters. The harassment by the Vietnamese side is in violation of China's sovereign rights,"



On June 6, CNN published a diary written by reporter Euan McKirdy describing the situation in Vietnam's exclusive economic zone. McKirdy is one of 40 domestic and international journalists who have been drafted in to make their presence in the field.

McKirdy wrote "The Vietnamese refrain over territorial waters is constant and unerring. Crew members explained to me that China is breaking the 1982 UN Convention of the Law of the Sea, and that the vessels are engaged in illegal activities in waters that are part of Vietnam's continental shelf." [Read More...](#)

CHINA IS looking to expand its biggest installation in the Spratly Islands into a fully formed artificial island, complete with airstrip and sea port, to better project its military strength in the South China Sea, a Chinese scholar and a Chinese navy expert have said - **SCMP**.

The planned expansion on the disputed Fiery Cross Reef, if approved, would be a further indication of China's change of tack in handling long-running sovereignty disputes from a defensive stance to an offensive one, analysts said. They said it was seen as a step to the declaration of an air defence identification zone. The Philippines last month protested against China's reclamation activities at nearby Johnson South Reef, site of a 1988 skirmish between the Chinese and Vietnamese navies that was triggered by China's occupation of Fiery Cross Reef. [Read More...](#)

SOUTH KOREA is to give one of its corvette warships to the Philippines as China intensifies its claims to territorial waters across the South China Sea - **IB Times**.

Last week, Philippine officials photographed Chinese ships near Gaven and Calderon Reefs, which form part of the Spratly Islands - also claimed by Vietnam. Philippines President Benigno S. Aquino III said: "Based on the latest report that we have received, we are bothered that there seem to be developments in other areas within the disputed seas."

Foreign affairs secretary Albert del Rosario is quoted as saying a structure being built on Johnson South Reef by China could be an airstrip

or military base. The reefs, called Mabini Reef by the Philippines, are also claimed by China. [Read More...](#)

A CHINESE official said on Friday that China will never send military forces to the scene of an increasingly ugly spat with Vietnam over an oil rig in the South China Sea and accused Hanoi of trying to force an international lawsuit - **Reuters**. A senior U.S. official in Washington dismissed the Chinese statement as "patently ridiculous" and said Beijing had been using air force and navy as well as coastguard assets "to intimidate others." Scores of Vietnamese and Chinese ships, including coastguard vessels, have squared off around the rig despite a series of collisions after the Chinese platform was towed into disputed waters in early May. [Read More...](#)

FIFTY-SEVEN people were injured, some seriously, when a high-speed ferry carrying 220 passengers and 13 crew members from Hong Kong slammed into a breakwater off the main ferry pier in Macau on Friday morning - **SCMP**. The TurboJet ferry, Cacilhas, mounted the breakwater and had listed to its right at about 9.30am, according to Macau's marine and water bureau.



"An initial investigation showed a hole was broken in the bow of the vessel and the engines could be seen through the hole," its spokeswoman said. "After the crash, the vessel listed to one side, ran aground and slightly took in water." [Read More...](#)

Americas/South America/Caribbean

NSTR

Other

A CAIRO appeals court on Saturday canceled a prison sentence against a police officer convicted in connection with the deaths of 39 people last year during political violence, judicial sources said - **GMA Network**.

In one of the most controversial incidents since the army ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi last July, 39 men described by the Interior Ministry as Islamists, Muslim Brotherhood members and their supporters died during what the ministry said was an attempted prison break. But the prosecutor's office later said its investigations showed they died while being transported to jail in an overcrowded police van into which tear gas was fired.

Appeals court judge Mohamed Amel on Saturday sent the case back to the prosecutor general and ordered a new investigation that could result in a new trial or in the case being dismissed, legal sources said.

According to the prosecutor's office, 45 people were crammed into a van made to carry 24 and subjected to tear gas fire. "This led to the death of 37 prisoners and the suffocation of two others," said its report issued last October. [Read More...](#)

AN ARMED group attacked a military checkpoint in Sheikh Zuwayed, North Sinai and one civilian was killed with a headshot and a soldier was injured and transferred to Arish Military Hospital, according to a security source - **The Cairo Post**. The source added that security forces exchanged fire with the attackers, while all stores closed and a state of emergency was announced. [Read More...](#)

EGYPT HAS transferred the assets of the Al-Arish port in the Sinai Peninsula from a civilian-run agency to the armed forces, citing national security reasons in an area where militant attacks have increased in the past year - **Reuters**. The decision was made last week by then-interim President Adly Mansour but only announced on Monday, a day after former army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi - who ousted Islamist President

Mohamed Mursi last July - was sworn in as the new head of state.

The move seemed likely to reinforce critics' concern that Egypt is returning to strongman rule three years after a popular uprising raised hopes of democracy free from military influence.

An addendum to Thursday's official gazette declared that the state's assets in the Al-Arish port and its administration were transferred to the ministry of defence and war production from the Port Authority of Port Said. [Read More...](#)

EGYPT IS pressing ahead with plans to develop a new wheat storage facility and expand port operations at two terminals in the Suez area as the country looks to bolster strategic food reserves and attract investment, a top port official said - **Reuters**.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who as armed forces chief toppled Islamist President Mohamed Mursi last July following mass protests, was sworn in on Sunday and seeks to fix Egypt's economy while overcoming political divisions after a long period of turmoil and bloodshed.

Egypt plans to boost its storage capacity in the strategic wheat sector to reduce reliance on imports and cut its 32 billion Egyptian pound (\$4.5 billion) overall food import bill. A government minister said this week Egypt wants to be a "global logistics hub" for grain storage.

Hassan Falah, chairman of the Red Sea Ports Authority, said it had recently issued a tender to develop a wheat storage site with a capacity of 2 million tonnes at the port of Adabiya. He declined to disclose the value of the project. [Read More...](#)

FOR ALMOST two years, Lakhdar Brahimi sought to bring peace to Syria. But in May, the United Nations special envoy stepped down. He speaks with SPIEGEL about the stubbornness of Syrian President Assad, the mistakes of the West and the dangers presented by Islamic radicals - **Spiegel Online**.

SPIEGEL: Mr. Brahimi, in May, you stepped down as the United Nations special envoy to Syria. When you took the position in 2012, many considered the task of achieving peace in Syria to be a mission impossible. What did you hope to achieve?

Brahimi: The idea was, and still is, for Bashar al-Assad to agree to become the kingmaker instead of staying on as president, an orderly transition with his participation to go to the new Syria. This is what I was and still am dreaming of.

SPIEGEL: Can you point to a particular incident that showed you that it was time to give up?

Brahimi: When I ended the second round of discussions at the so-called Geneva II conference at the beginning of this year, I realized that this process was not going to move forward any time soon.

SPIEGEL: What happened?

Brahimi: Neither Russia nor the US could convince their friends to participate in the negotiations with serious intent.

SPIEGEL: To what degree is the dispute about the person of President Bashar al Assad?

Brahimi: The issue of President Assad was a huge hurdle. The Syrian regime only came to Geneva to please the Russians, thinking that they were winning militarily. I told them "I'm sure that your instructions were: 'Go to Geneva. But not only don't make any concessions, don't discuss anything seriously.'" [Read More...](#)

THE DIPLOMAT ridding the world of Syria's chemical weapons is Sigrid Kaag, a statuesque and impeccably dressed mother of four who speaks six languages and is fearless in a war zone

- [Yahoo News](#).



For nine months she has led the international mission to destroy Damascus's declared chemical agents, braving mortar fire, jetting

between the Middle East, Europe and New York, and liaising with Moscow, Washington and maritime fleets.

Syria may have missed deadlines but with 93 percent of its declared chemical arsenal out of the country, Kaag is responsible for the only glimmer of good news to emerge from the horror of a war that has killed more than 160,000.

Her star is in the ascendancy at UN headquarters, abuzz with praise for the woman who at UNICEF

worked with Jordan's Queen Rania and once dreamed of becoming a singer. [Read More...](#)

SYRIA HAS become a Somalia-style failed state where terror groups cannot be defeated without Western governments dropping failed policies and seeking the deployment of UN peacekeepers, the recently retired

special envoy to the conflict, Lakhdar Brahimi, has warned -

[The Telegraph](#).

Speaking to the German



magazine Der Spiegel Mr Brahimi warned that the intractable conflict was spreading as a result of diplomatic failure. "It will become another Somalia. It will not be divided, as many have predicted. It's going to be a failed state, with warlords all over the place," he said. "Unless there is a real, sustained effort to work out a political solution, there is a serious risk that the entire region will blow up." [Read More...](#)

HILLARY CLINTON warned Thursday that the problem in Syria has spilled over into neighbouring countries in the Middle East - [The Hill](#).

In her new memoir, *Hard Choices*, Clinton described Syria's civil war as a "wicked problem." "Now the wicked problem has gotten even wickeder," Clinton said Thursday at an event at the Council on Foreign Relations. "This is not just a Syrian problem anymore."

A Sunni jihadi group, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) — once part of al Qaeda — has gained control of large areas of Iraq and Syria over the last year. In recent days, ISIS seized major Iraqi cities such as Mosul and Tikrit.

"I could not have predicted the extent to which ISIS was effective in seizing cities in Iraq and taking over the region," said the former secretary of State, who was America's top diplomat when the U.S. pulled out of Iraq in 2011 and when Syria's civil war erupted that year.

In her memoir, Clinton wrote about how she urged President Obama in 2012 to train and provide arms to the Syrian opposition but that she had lost the argument. [Read More...](#)

JORDAN IS struggling to perform a delicate balancing act as a result of the Syrian quagmire. On the one hand, the continuation of the conflict will exacerbate Jordan's serious political, security, economic, and demographic problems -

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

On the other, the conflict's end could preserve or bring to power antagonistic forces in Damascus, particularly if the Assad regime survives or is replaced by radical members of the opposition hostile to Jordan. Attempting to strike the appropriate balance, Amman is increasingly pursuing a policy of supporting neither the regime nor the opposition, while quietly working to help resolve the conflict through all possible means—both political and military—that do not endanger its interests. [Read More...](#)

THOUSANDS OF migrants have crossed the Mediterranean in the past few days, taking advantage of good weather conditions to launch dozens of boats from Libya in a desperate effort to reach Europe - ***The Guardian.***



Up to 600,000 people are estimated to be waiting in Libya for an opportunity to make the treacherous sea crossing, prompting warnings by European authorities of an impending humanitarian crisis.

About 4,500 migrants have been picked up by the Italian navy since Thursday. The largest contingent of 1,300 – including hundreds of women and dozens of babies – was rescued on Sunday and taken to the southern Italian city of Taranto. Another group of 998, including 214 women and 157 minors, was picked up on Friday in a rescue operation that involved merchant ships flying Hong Kong, Italian, Moldovan and Panamanian colours as well as the Italian navy.

Most of those being brought into port in the past few days are Syrian, Sudanese and Eritrean. Many have been taken to Sicily, where authorities are struggling to cope with the influx. [Read More...](#)

LIBYA'S SUPREME court Monday ruled as unconstitutional the election of premier Ahmed Miitig in a chaotic parliamentary session, raising hopes for a possible solution to the country's smouldering political crisis - ***Yahoo News.*** Outgoing prime minister Abdullah al-Thani had refused to recognise Miitig's government, saying he would await the judiciary's decision before handing over power.

But Miitig convened his first cabinet meeting last week despite Thani's objections, and the two rival premiers disputed power in Tripoli, laying claim to the largely lawless North African nation's huge reserves from oil and gas.

"The court has judged the election of Miitig at the General National Congress (the interim parliament) as unconstitutional," a judge at the court said on Monday after a short hearing, without elaborating. The ruling would be examined by the administrative court later Monday, lawyers said. But the GNC said it would comply with the decision, and confirmed that Thani would head the interim government. [Read More...](#)

South Korean Ferry

THE TOLL in the April 16 South Korean ferry tragedy rose to 292 as divers recovered one more body late on Sunday, the disaster response centre said on Monday - ***NDTV.***

A spokesman of the disaster response centre said that one male body was retrieved from the left side on the fourth floor of the five-story vessel Sunday night.

On the 55th day into the search, 292 passengers have been confirmed dead, with 12 others still missing.

Divers have cut open windows in the ship's rear side to pull out floating objects and enter the passenger cabins where the remaining missing were believed to be trapped. [Read More...](#)

FIFTEEN CREW of a South Korean ferry that sank in April killing more than 300 people, mostly children, went on trial on Tuesday on charges ranging from negligence to homicide, with the shout going up of "murderer" as the captain entered the court - **Reuters**.

Captain Lee Joon-seok, 68, and three senior crew were charged with homicide, facing a maximum sentence of death. Two were charged with fleeing and abandoning ship that carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. Nine were charged with negligence, which can also carry jail terms. But family members appeared to have already convicted the crew who were caught on video abandoning ship, the captain in his underwear, while the children, obeying orders, waited in their cabins for further instructions.

As the defendants were led in, someone one shouted: "That guy is the captain, isn't he? Murderer!"

One relative held up a sign that read: "You are not human. You are beneath animals." An altercation arose between the relatives and security guards who tried to take the sign away. [Read More...](#)

FIFTEEN CREW members from the sunken South Korean ferry have appeared in court today, to enter pleas on charges of negligence for failing to save more than 300 dead or missing passengers - **CBS News**.

As they stood, with heads bowed, in front of three judges, angry family members of the victims were cursing, shouting and weeping behind them. Many wore yellow ribbons in memory of those killed -- most of whom were students on a school trip.

The crowd erupted when one crew member appeared to smile, and a judge asked the defendants to show respect.

One spectator said, "Everybody should be sentenced to death."

One of the crew members wept so hard, she couldn't identify herself to the judges.

Because of time constraints today, only 11 of the 15 crew members who were in court were able to enter pleas of not guilty. The remaining four are scheduled to appear at a hearing in a week. [Read More...](#)

THE CAPTAIN of the ill-fated Sewol ferry that sank in South Korean waters has pleaded not guilty to a murder charge as trial began on Tuesday in Gwangju,

Korea -

Seatrade

Global.

Captain Lee Joon-seok and three other crew members are facing the

most serious charge of "homicide through wilful negligence", while 11 other crew members also stood trial.

The confirmed death toll over the sinking of the passenger ferry Sewol has reached 292, most of them school pupils. Twelve passengers remain missing.

According to Lee's lawyer, the captain is already living with guilt from the fact that he left the ferry before everybody was rescued. The lawyer added that Lee was the last rescued of all the crew members and he was not in charge of loading cargo.

Investigators have said that a vast number of cargo, more than double the ferry's limit, and the failure to tie down properly were partly responsible for the capsizing of the Sewol, which was carrying 476 passengers and crew. [Read More...](#)

THE 15 crew members of the capsized ferry Sewol have defended their decision to abandon the vessel even as passengers were trapped - **IHS Maritime 360**.

During the first day of their trial yesterday, the crew, including Lee Jun-Seok, the captain at the time, insisted that it was the Korea Coast Guard's responsibility, and not theirs, to rescue the passengers. Lee's lawyer claimed: "It is unfair to hold him responsible as he was rescued by the coast guard. He was injured at that time."

The lawyer added that it was almost impossible for Lee to rescue the passengers as the Sewol had tilted rapidly. "The captain concluded that the rescue had to be made by the coast guard which had survival equipment," added the lawyer. The lawyer for second mate Kim Young-Ho concurred,



noting that even coast guard personnel could not access the Sewol initially due to the steep gradient. "When Kim abandoned the ferry, the gradient was over 50 degrees," said the lawyer. The first mate, identified only as Shin, had contacted the coast guard and concluded that only the latter could properly conduct rescue operations, said his lawyer. The justice department plans to call the coast guard as a witness to confirm whether rescue procedure was properly followed. [Read More...](#)

THE GOVERNMENT taskforce handling the salvage operations for the capsized Sewol ferry has decided on a three-step plan for the recovery process - ***IHS Maritime 360***.

A press statement from South Korea's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries said divers will continue to search the Sewol cabins until 20 June. After that, remotely-operated vehicles, sound navigation and ranging methods will be used for the locations that are more difficult to reach.

Additional equipment designed to prevent currents from forcing bodies out of the ferry is also expected to be installed. Meanwhile, 292 corpses have been recovered with 12 still missing. Rescuers found two bodies on 8 June, of which one was a female teacher of Danwon High School. She had stayed behind on the sinking Sewol to save 19 students.

Her body was found in the dining hall on the third floor of the vessel. Of the Sewol's 476 passengers and crew, 325 were Danwon High School students going to Jeju for an excursion. The ferry capsized on 16 April while sailing from Incheon to Jeju Island. Around 23.30 local time on 8 June, a male body was found on the Sewol's fourth floor. DNA tests identified him as a Danwon student. The taskforce has refrained from hoisting the ferry until all the bodies have been recovered, in accordance to the victims' families' wishes. [Read More...](#)

THOUSANDS OF South Korean police have raided a church in search of a fugitive billionaire wanted over April's Sewol passenger ferry disaster - ***The Daily Star***. Some 6,000 officers stormed the church in Anseong city belonging to Yoo Byung-eun, who is

thought to own the firm that operated the sunken ferry.

Three church followers were detained on charges of assisting his escape.

At least 292 people died in the ferry disaster. Fifteen crew members went on trial over the deaths on Tuesday.

Ferry captain Lee Joon-seok, 69, and three others face the most serious charge of "homicide through willful negligence".

A separate trial of senior executives blamed for procedural lapses is due to start later this month. President Park Geun-Hye this week urged police and prosecutors to step up a nationwide manhunt for Yoo.

"Yoo must be brought to justice," Park said. [Read More...](#)

SOUTH KOREA'S biggest and most bizarre manhunt, linked to a ferry disaster in which hundreds drowned, has come full circle at the compound of a sect known for its organic ice cream as police on Thursday used earth movers to search for tunnels - ***GMA Network***.

Police have raided the grounds of the Evangelical Baptist Church in Anseong, a two-hour drive south of Seoul, twice as they try to flush out church co-founder Yoo Byung-un, 73, South Korea's most wanted man since the Sewol ferry sank in April killing more than 300 people, mostly children from the same school.

But, so far, Yoo, a businessman and photographer who was once jailed for fraud, has eluded capture in a case which has become an embarrassment for authorities already under pressure for their handling of the disaster. [Read More...](#)

SOUTH KOREAN police on Friday arrested the brother of a South Korean businessman linked to a ferry disaster in April in which hundreds of schoolchildren drowned, as the net appeared to tighten around the fugitive's family - ***The Straits Times***.

But Mr Yoo Byung Un, 73, a businessman and photographer, is still on the run, eluding one of the country's biggest and most bizarre manhunts for more than a month, centred on a huge church sect compound south of Seoul.

His elder brother Yoo Byung Il was arrested near the leafy compound in Anseong, where the police are checking all passing vehicles and pedestrians. Mr Yoo Byung Un's daughter Yoo Som Na has been held in France since May 28 after Interpol called for her arrest "for fraud and embezzlement". She was denied bail on Wednesday. [Read More...](#)

THE MOTHER of a student victim of South Korea's ferry disaster has filed a test lawsuit seeking damages from the government and the vessel's owners, a court spokesman said Friday - **[Yahoo News](#)**.

It marks the first litigation move by any relatives of the nearly 300 people killed in the April 16 tragedy which rocked the entire country.

The suit filed with the Seoul Central District Court claims 30 million won (\$30,000) in compensation from the government and the Chonghaejin Marine Co., which owned and operated the 6,825-tonne Sewol.

It was filed by the mother of an unidentified student from Danwon High School in Ansan City, south of Seoul.

Of the 476 people on board the 6,825-tonnes Sewol ferry when it capsized and sank, 325 were students from the Danwon school.

Citing results of initial investigations into the disaster, the suit said the ferry's stability had been undermined by renovations, and water ballast had been reduced to dangerous levels to make room for more cargo. [Read More...](#)

Missing Malaysian Aircraft



AUSTRALIA AND Malaysia will split the cost of the next phase of the search for the missing Malaysia Airways plane, a senior Malaysian official says - **[Sydney Morning Herald](#)**.

"Costs will be shared 50-50 between Malaysia and Australia," deputy Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Bakri said, adding there were no figures yet for how much the countries would have to spend. So far, Malaysia has spent a total of 27.6 million ringgit (\$9.3 million) on the search for the missing

flight MH370, authorities said on Monday, giving a specific cost figure for the first time.

Australia, in contrast, has spent more than \$43 million since the search began.

Advertisement

In its budget last month the federal government also set aside nearly \$90 million for the search over the next two years.

While Australia and Malaysia looked to ramp up spending the US signaled its intention to scale back involvement in the search back in early May. "We're already at tens of millions. Is it worth hundreds of millions?" a senior US defence official said at the time. "I don't know. That's for them to decide." [Read More...](#)

AUSTRALIA ON Tuesday signed a contract with a private company to map the sea floor around where missing Malaysia Airlines MASM.KL Flight MH370 is believed to have crashed, a crucial step towards continuing an underwater search later this year - **[Reuters](#)**.

Months of searches have failed to turn up any trace of the missing Boeing 777, which disappeared on March 8 carrying 239 passengers and crew shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur bound for Beijing.

Investigators say what little evidence they have to work with suggests the aeroplane was deliberately diverted thousands of kilometres from its scheduled route before eventually crashing into the Indian Ocean.

The next phase of the search, which will be handed over from the military to the private sector, is expected to start in August and take up to a year, covering some 60,000 sq km (23,000 square miles) of ocean at a cost of A\$60 million (\$56.16 million) or more.

The search is already the most expensive in aviation history. [Read More...](#)

THE WIFE of missing New Zealander Paul Weeks is supporting a crowd-funding campaign to reward whistleblower information with \$3.22 million cash - **[NZ Herald](#)**.

Danica Weeks said families of the 238 people from missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 will try

anything to uncover vital information they believe is being withheld by authorities.

Tomorrow, the international fundraiser "Reward MH370: The Search for the Truth" will launch on website Indiegogo.

In addition to the \$3.22m reward, the group aims to raise \$2.35m for a private investigation into the plane's disappearance. [Read More...](#)

THE FRUSTRATED Chinese relatives of passengers on board missing flight MH370 visited the offices of Malaysia Airlines in Beijing on Wednesday to confront officials after regular briefings by the airline were halted - ***The Straits Times***.

The relatives had previously been given regular updates on the search for the plane by airline officials at a hotel in Beijing. But the briefings were cancelled last month, to the fury of many who say they no longer have any way of making their voices heard.

Relatives organised a visit to the Beijing office of the airline to "demand answers", a message posted on their official online account said, but were turned away and refused access to airline staff.

A heavy security presence blocked journalists from entering the building and reporters interviewing relatives outside were closely watched by the police, as five marked police vans were parked nearby. [Read More...](#)

MALAYSIA AIRLINES' insurer has begun paying the families of passengers on board flight MH370 US\$50,000 each in initial compensation three months after the jet disappeared, a government official said yesterday - ***SCMP***.

So far six Malaysian and one Chinese family had received the advance payment, to which all the families of the 239 passengers and crew on board are entitled, said Malaysian deputy foreign minister Hamzah Zainudin.

Talks with 40 more Chinese families are underway to ascertain they are the rightful claimants, said Hamzah, who heads a committee to support the missing passengers' next-of-kin.

Full payment to the families - who can claim more than three times the amount of the initial payout - would be made later, Hamzah said.

The government was not yet prepared to declare the plane lost, he added. [Read More...](#)

FAMILIES OF seven passengers on the missing MH370 flight have received an initial compensation payment of \$50,000 from Malaysia Airlines, a Malaysian government official has said - ***Aljazeera***.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hamzah Zainuddin, who led Malaysia's ministerial-level sub-committee to resolve the issues of the next-of-kin, said the full compensation would be paid after the issue of MH370 was over.

"Whether the plane is found, or we announce the plane is lost. There will be a time that we will announce certain issues," he said in a news conference in Putrajaya on Thursday.

Zainuddin said the seven claimants included six Malaysians and one Chinese national, while the identities of 40 claimants for missing Chinese passengers were being checked by the Chinese government, the AP news agency reported. [Read More...](#)

Released by Escaped from Pirates

SAILORS ON a ship hijacked by Somali pirates nearly four years ago were finally released on Saturday, bringing to an end the longest-running Somali piracy case - ***The Telegraph***.

The 11 crew members of the MV Albedo were facing their first hours of freedom



after three years and seven months as hostages, during which their pirate captors often used torture.

Early on in the hijacking, one crewman was shot dead by the pirates in an apparent fit of anger after negotiations with the ship's owners broke down. Then last summer, the vessel sank in a storm, resulting in five of the crew drowning along with five of the pirates as they abandoned ship. The 11 seamen released today were then transferred to a ramshackle house near the Somali port of Hobyo, a notorious pirate haven, where they have been held ever since. They were expected to be flown to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi.

"They have lost a lot of weight, but otherwise seem in reasonable health and in good spirits, which is remarkable considering what they been through," said one source.

The Albedo, a Malaysian-flagged container ship, was originally captured in November 2010 with a crew of 23 from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Iran and Pakistan.

Rather than pay the \$8 million ransom demanded by the pirates, the ship's Iranian owners, who are thought to have been uninsured, simply went to ground, officials involved in the case told The Telegraph last year. [Read More...](#)

Photo1: Some of the 11 freed crew members of the MV Albedo, hijacked by Somali pirates in 2010, who were released on June 6 Photo: UNODC



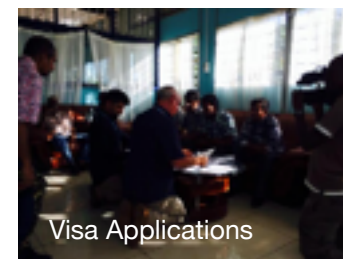
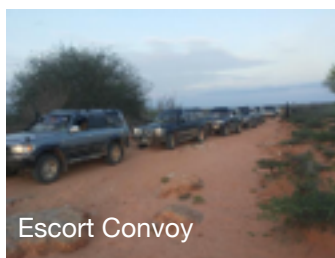
UNITED

NATIONS Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Hostage Support Programme has brought 11 survivors of the MV Albedo crew safely to Kenya to be repatriated to their home countries. The crew from India, Iran, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka have been held by armed Somali pirates since 12 November, 2010 - **eNCA News**. The MV Albedo sank during the night of Saturday 6 July

2013 following significant mechanical and structural issues, and coupled with bad weather sank off the Somali coast.

The surviving crew of the MV Albedo have been held on shore inside Somalia since then. Working closely with the charity, Maritime Piracy a Humanitarian Response to Piracy (MPHRP), maritime NGOs and with the Regional Somali administration of Galmudug we are happy to announce the safe release and recovery of the crew today. The crew members can be considered to be forgotten hostages, where their own countries or company won't pay for their ransom. The crew has been flown to Nairobi accompanied by staff from the UN Hostage Support Programme on a UN Humanitarian Air Service Aircraft. eNCA had the privilege to accompany the rescue mission to Somalia and back.

Unfortunately there are still 4 crew unaccounted for out of the 15 members aboard the MV Albedo.



[Read More...](#)

THE SPECIAL Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia (SRSG), Nicholas Kay welcomed the release today of 11 crew members of the ship MV Albedo, held hostage since November 2010, and called for all remaining captives still being held by Somali pirates to be released - **RBC Radio**.

The 11 survivors of the MV Albedo crew were released to officials from the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) inside Somalia and are now safely back in Kenya. The crew members from India, Iran, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will be

repatriated to their home countries over the coming days.

The MV Albedo had been held by armed Somali pirates since 12 November 2010. The ship sank close to the Somali coast in July 2013 due to mechanical failure and bad weather and the surviving crew had been held on shore by pirates since that time.

"For over three years the crew members and their families have suffered unimaginable distress. The crew underwent the trauma of piracy, their ship sinking and then being held ashore in very difficult conditions," Mr Kay said.

"I commend the efforts of UNODC colleagues and the local authorities, who facilitated their safe return today. While we have seen a significant reduction in piracy off the coast of Somalia in recent years, I remain deeply concerned that 38 other crew members are still being held hostage by Somali pirates. I call on those who continue to detain these crew members to release them without further delay so they can rejoin their families and loved ones" SRSG Kay added. [Read More...](#)

THE 11 crew members of the MV Albedo, held hostage by Somali pirates for four years have spent the weekend in a Nairobi hotel, sleeping in beds for the first time in years - **eNCA**.

The United Nations assisted in their release on Saturday and eNCA's East Africa Bureau Chief Robyn Kriel spent time on Sunday with the freed hostages and filed this report.

For the past four years the hostages lived like slaves. They were held by brutal Somali pirates after their ship was hijacked off the horn of Africa.

The men were brutally beaten, tortured and emotionally abused but now it is all over, and Sunday was their first chance to start fresh.

Home cooked food, friendly people, calling home whenever they like and the ability to make choices for themselves were some of the newly discovered freedoms the former hostages said they were enjoying most about being out of the clutches of the brutal Somali pirates.

Limon Salahuddin, a Bangladesh former hostage says, "We have now eaten after a long period of time, the food here is nice. The Somali pirates were not giving us good food as compared to

what we have been given here Kenya. We feel good, it's like we are in a new world." [Read More...](#)

Pirates in Court

NSTR

Italian Marines

TRY TO start over. What were two riflemen of the San Marco Battalion, said the sailor, Enrica Lexie on the oil tanker off the coast of India? Cruise passengers? The animators? Absolutely not. Watched over the safety of the ship and the crew in the water and often dangerous routes. Long story short: they were soldiers on a mission - [Google translation]: **quotidiano.net**. As if they were in Lebanon, and Afghanistan. And in this sense, has a relative value (from the legal point of view, of course, not the human one) that on February 6, 2012 there was a shooting in which they killed two Indian fishermen. Guilty? Innocent? It is legitimate that it is a process to establish responsibility. Also celebrated in India. But the fact that our troops expect for two years in that country that decides their fate, well, this is intolerable.

SAID, indeed, cried yesterday TL: "Every military engaged at this moment must feel protected in their rights." To be clear. We are doing our duty as men in uniform, Italy is not doing his. True. Not today. Immediately. When three days after the tragic firefight we allowed the Indian police to get on board and stop our soldiers. A monstrosity. To which, step by step, followed weaknesses, uncertainties, diplomatic monstrosity. How to have them returned to you after having spent Christmas 2012 in Italy, or a second time after returning home to vote, greeted with great fanfare by Prime Minister Monti. He says, impeccable behaviour. CERTAIN. Yet no country provided a good sense of attributes and is so highly-cracked two of his soldiers to be returned in a state that has not really even an accusation made to date accurately. So once again the marines had to show their dignity, and their anger [Read More...](#)

ITALY TODAY rejected India's claim to jurisdiction in the case of two Italian marines accused of killing two Indian fishermen and warned that it would seek international arbitration if could not reach an agreement with the new Indian government over the issue - ***Zee News***.

"Our government confirms the rejection of Indian jurisdiction," Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti said.

"They were on an anti-piracy mission and therefore covered by the immunity of being State officials and this certifies the international ambit of the case," Pinotti was quoted as saying by Italian news agency ANSA.

Italian marines Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone are accused of killing two fishermen off the Kerala coast on February 15, 2012. The case is being investigated by the NIA. The two are in India for over two years.

The Italian government has said it hopes that India's newly-elected government led by Narendra Modi will be open to negotiations, while stressing that it will take the case to international arbitration if the pair are not allowed to come home soon.

"It's still possible to seek an agreement with the new Indian government, but if an agreement isn't possible and we find ourselves faced with attempts at deferment or rejection, we'll go ahead with the arbitration procedure and we hope to have them here as soon as possible".

The marines have been living and working at the Italian embassy in India pending charges in the case that has strained relations between India and Italy. [Read More...](#)

Seaman Guard Ohio

THE TRIAL in India of the crew and anti-piracy guards of the Seaman Guard Ohio, including 14 Estonian maritime security contractors, is expected to continue on June 10, a spokesperson for the Estonian Foreign Ministry told BNS - ***IISS Online***.

In mid-April the Madurai court in the state of Tamil Nadu accepted a petition to drop charges against the seafarers and anti-piracy guards of the Seaman Guard Ohio filed by the men's employer,

the U.S.-based maritime security company AdvanFort.

The crew and the maritime security contractors who were taken into custody in October were released on bail on April 5. According to bail conditions they must stay in the port city of Chennai situated 450 kilometres from Madurai until court proceedings have been finished and report to the local police station twice every day.

[Read More...](#)

Private Security

NSTR

International Response

AFRICA HAS more than 26,000 kilometers of coastline—and some of the world's most important trade routes run through its waters. Its nations' territorial waters contain vast mineral reserves. More than any other continent, Africa depends on the sea for its economic development - ***War Is Boring***.

But the abilities of African nations to effectively police their waters is limited.

Somali piracy first brought naval security in Africa to the top of the agenda. This threat is waning thanks to a massive international effort to counter and apprehend pirates off the Horn of Africa.

But other threats are rising ... and finally getting some attention from African governments.

Some of these new threats are arguably more harmful to Africa than Somali piracy ever was. The continent will need to invest considerably more financial and political capital to effectively counter them. [Read More...](#)



THE SHARED Awareness and DEconfliction (SHADE) conference convened for its 32nd sitting in Manama, Bahrain on 4 June - [OCEANUSLive](#). Hosted in Bahrain by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), NATO and the European Naval Force (EUNAVFOR), the counter piracy conference brings together countries that have a shipping interest in the Gulf of Aden, off the Horn of Africa and in the western Indian Ocean. In all, 140 delegates from 32 nations attended representing law enforcement agencies, the shipping industry, other government departments, the military and the fishing industry.

SHADE meets four times a year, bringing countries together to raise awareness of their individual activities in the region, and to ensure navies from all the states with an interest coordinate their activity towards providing a secure environment for one of the world's busiest shipping areas.

Commander Stuart Barrand of the EUNAVFOR, which operates in the Indian Ocean off Somalia, said: "This is a great opportunity for like-minded nations, who face the same risks while sailing in the seas of the Gulf and the Indian Ocean to share knowledge and experiences. It is one of the few opportunities that such a wide range of seafaring nations have the opportunity to meet." [Read More...](#)

DESPITE THE U.S.A desiring that India play the role of a leader in Indian Ocean region, the latter was reluctant and did not want to exercise its hegemony in the region, P.K. Ghosh, of Observer Research Foundation said on Monday - [The Hindu](#).

"Instead, India wants to take all nations along and going together has more gains," the retired navy officer said, during a press conference on the eve of a two-day conference on maritime security. The conference is being conducted by U.S. Consulate General, Chennai in association with the foundation. Seconding Mr. Ghosh's views was David Michel, director of Environmental Security at Stimson Centre, a U.S.-based think tank, which is part of the conference.

Mr. Ghosh said that maritime security was key to ensure smooth trade through the ocean routes as the world over, more than 3 billion US dollars was

being spent on security, mostly to combat piracy every year.

With pirates becoming tech-savvy, countries faced greater challenges in keeping them at bay.

[Read More...](#)

Piracy Costs

A SUSPECTED convergence between terrorism and piracy would threaten ransom payments for seafarers, experts confirm. "For many countries, it is illegal to pay ransoms if they will fund terrorism - [IHS Maritime 360](#). For example, in some countries, if there was a definite connection between piracy and terrorism in Somalia, then it would become illegal to pay ransoms to free ships and crews from Somali pirates," Commander Hallvard Flesland of the NATO Shipping Centre told IHS Maritime.

Cdr Flesland, who gave a talk on maritime crime in west Africa at SMI's conference on port security in London last week, added: "In such a case, ship crews would become uninteresting to pirates. This is why it is important to have the money stream followed to see where it is ending up."

But shipping is concerned that proof of a convergence might make matters worse. Peter Hinchliffe, secretary general of the International Chamber of Shipping, told IHS Maritime: "It would create a difficulty in the case of some flag states. It is the wish of the shipowner to have his crew released as quickly as possible, and any construct that sought to make that process more difficult would be most unwelcome."

So far, a link between maritime crimes/piracy and terrorism is not considered proven fact but a strongly held assumption by experts.

"It is an ongoing debate and one that is, where possible, ignored," Alasdair Walton, information manager for risk awareness consultancy Hermes Associates, told IHS Maritime today.. [Read More...](#)

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

SLAVES FORCED to work for no pay for years at a time under threat of extreme violence are being

used in Asia in the production of seafood sold by major US, British and other European retailers, [The Guardian](#) can reveal.



A six-month investigation has established that large numbers of men bought and sold like animals and held against their will on fishing boats off Thailand are integral to the production of prawns (commonly called shrimp in the US) sold in leading supermarkets around the world, including the top four global retailers: Walmart, Carrefour, Costco and Tesco.

The investigation found that the world's largest prawn farmer, the Thailand-based Charoen Pokphand (CP) Foods, buys fishmeal, which it feeds to its farmed prawns, from some suppliers that own, operate or buy from fishing boats manned with slaves.

Men who have managed to escape from boats supplying CP Foods and other companies like it told the Guardian of horrific conditions, including 20-hour shifts, regular beatings, torture and execution-style killings. Some were at sea for years; some were regularly offered methamphetamines to keep them going. Some had seen fellow slaves murdered in front of them. Fifteen migrant workers from Burma and Cambodia also told how they had been enslaved. They said they had paid brokers to help them find work in Thailand in factories or on building sites. But they had been sold instead to boat captains, sometimes for as little as £250. [Read More...](#)

DESPERATE TO escape war and tyranny, 72 people left Libya in the early hours of March 27, 2011, in hopes of reaching safe haven in Europe.

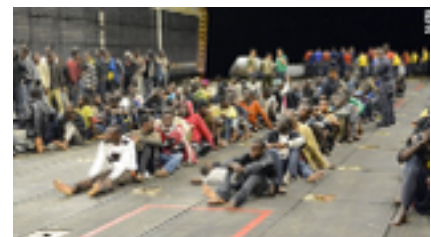
As their 10-metre inflatable dinghy set out to sea, warships from several NATO countries including Canada were patrolling the Mediterranean off the Libyan coast as part of an international military operation in support of rebels battling the forces of Colonel Moammar Gadhafi - [Globe and Mail](#). It never made it to its destination. The boat ran out of fuel and drifted on the open water – its passengers desperate for food and water – for two weeks. By the time the dinghy floated back to the Libyan coast, all but nine of the passengers were dead. No one had come to their rescue although the Italian navy sent a distress signal on behalf of the migrants to ships in the area, an allied helicopter dropped biscuits to the dying migrants and the NATO naval command centre in Naples had their co-ordinates.

No one has ever been held responsible for the failure to save the “left to die” boat, as it has come to be known. A Council of Europe report, issued this week, called it “clearly a collective failure at every step of the way and by all key actors.” Tineke Strik, a Dutch senator who is the Council’s rapporteur on the incident, also expressed frustration that NATO countries have not provided necessary details about the location of their ships and helicopters during the period when the migrants waited for help that never came. “It’s still a bit strange that all governments said: ‘We didn’t receive any message.’” [Read More...](#)

THE U.S. Navy rescued 282 people from six small vessels in the Mediterranean Sea after one of the boats began to sink, the military said Saturday - [CNN](#).

Five of the rescued were medically evacuated Friday to nearby Malta, and the remaining 277 people were transferred to an offshore patrol vessel belonging to Malta's military, the U.S. Navy said.

The amphibious assault ship USS Bataan and the frigate USS Elrod received a call Friday from an



Italian military marine patrol aircraft, which spotted the sinking boat and five others, the Navy said. The Bataan launched two helicopters, which found a sinking boat and deployed swimmers to extract people from the water, the Navy said. The Elrod sent two of its own smaller watercraft to assist.

The 282 people were brought aboard the Bataan, and the Navy posted a YouTube video of the rescued people -- apparent Africans migrants -- looking tired or grateful as they stepped aboard the warship. [Read More...](#)

THE UN Security Council has noted on several occasions that 'charcoal exports from Somalia are a significant revenue source for Al Shabaab and also exacerbate the humanitarian crisis' - **Global Initiative**. Recent estimates by the Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea are that upwards of 40% of Al Shabaab's funding comes from various forms of involvement with the illegal Somali charcoal trade. There are indications that this has not substantially changed over the course of 2013, nor so far in 2014.

It is certain that the bulk of the illegal Somali charcoal trade is carried from Somali ports on vessels registered in other States, so the trade is very clearly part of a broader transnational criminal enterprise that extends well beyond the activities of Al Shabaab and others inside Somalia itself. Nor does the illicit trade have only transnational organised crime dimensions -- charcoal production creates massive deforestation and desertification problems, which in turn reduces the available grazing land for livestock, the dominant Somali export industry.

The UNSC has responded by placing a sanctions regime around the import of illegal Somali charcoal. However, this sanctions regime has three primary weaknesses [Read More...](#)

BANGLADESH'S COASTGUARD on Wednesday found five dead and nearly 200 injured on a stricken people-smuggling boat it rescued in the Bay of Bengal after clashes between the would-be migrants and crew, officials said - **The Straits Times**.

More than 300 people including two Thai crew and an alleged people trafficker from Myanmar

were on board the Malaysia-bound vessel, which was found seven nautical miles southeast of Bangladesh's southern-most Saint Martin's Island in rough seas, they said.

Thousands of poor Bangladeshi and ethnic Rohingya refugees from Myanmar try to migrate to Malaysia every year on a perilous and sometimes fatal 3,200km journey. [Read More...](#)

Seafarers' Plight

MPHRP (The Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme) has welcomed the release and safe return of the remaining crew from the MV Albedo - **OCEANUSLive**.

Commenting on their arrival into Kenya on 7 June 2014 MPHRP chair Peter Swift said:

"After 1288 days in captivity we are delighted for them and their families after the terrible ordeal and hardship that they have suffered. At the same time our thoughts are also with the family of the Indian seafarer who died in captivity and the families of the four Sri Lankan seafarers who are reported as missing after the vessel sank in July 2013."

"The generous support of MPHRP's partners and friends, together with the extensive groundwork and cooperation of the UNODC and others, helped to facilitate the release of the 7 Bangladeshi, 2 Sri Lankan, 1 Indian and 1 Iranian crew members after they had been abandoned by the owner and with no direct support forthcoming from other parties. The efforts of all those involved in securing their release and safe return are greatly appreciated." [Read More...](#)

OCEANS BEYOND Piracy (OBP) welcomes the release of the 11 remaining hostages of MV Albedo. We particularly commend the work of the UNODC Hostage Support Programme as well as the Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme (MPHRP) as they continue to work for the safe release of all remaining hostages. The release of these hostages is a great relief for the seafarers and their families and is a positive development towards the goal of returning all the seafarers still held by pirates - **OCEANUSLive**. While Somali piracy has decreased in recent years, the Albedo serves as a reminder that

violence against seafarers continues and the legacy of piracy persists. Both the crew and their families have endured nearly four years of suffering since the vessel was hijacked on 26 November 2010 with 23 crewmembers on board. The plight of the Albedo crew became more critical when the vessel sank on 8 July 2013, causing the pirates to move the hostages ashore for the remainder of their captivity.

"While we are encouraged by their release, we must stay engaged in the work to release the approximately 38 seafarers who are still held in pirate custody," Seyle adds, "until there are zero hostages and zero ships held by pirates, the human cost is too high." [Read More...](#)

A GROUP of sailors have described their dramatic midnight escape after four years held hostage and tortured by a gang of Somali pirates - **The National**.



Barefoot, starving and terrified, the 11 men ran through the darkness for more than 10 kilometres, ducking behind low bushes to avoid recapture before they eventually reached safety.

On Saturday night the men had broken a window in the cramped room in which they were being held, and fled. It was their last slim shot at freedom, as their captors had threatened to start torturing them again on Tuesday.

"It was a do or die situation because they knew if they got caught ... they would be shot," said Fathima Farhana, daughter of one of the crew, Mohammed Bisthamy.

"My father is very weak and didn't have energy but they ran until they were safe. They didn't have slippers or proper clothes when they jumped through the window. They knew it was their last chance because the pirates had told them they

would start to torture them again on June 10.

[Read More...](#)

TWO SRI LANKANS held captive by Somali pirates for nearly for years had escaped a British mediator working to free the hostages had said, but four of their colleagues had died during the ordeal - **Lanka Business Online**.

The sailors, who had been held in dire conditions and suffered beatings and torture, AFP, a news agency said. In addition to the two Sri Lankans, there were seven sailors from Bangladesh, one Indian, and one Iranian among those who escaped.

John Steed, a former British army colonel who has spent years helping negotiate their release, said the men had "sneaked out a window" to escape their captors.

"It is great news that they are at least free... given what they have been through, they are all in good health," Steed told AFP after arriving safely in Kenya with the men on a special flight from Somalia.

After escaping through a window from their pirate prison, the men were rescued by security forces from the northern Somali Galmadug region, Steed added.

Their boat, the Malaysian-flagged container ship MV Albedo was captured in November 2010 but sank in rough seas last July.

During their captivity, one Indian colleague was shot by the pirates in an argument, and four others from Sri Lanka drowned. [Read More...](#)

AMAN KUMAR and the 10 other men, freed after almost four years of being held hostage by Somali pirates, went on a safari in Kenya before going home - **eNCA News**.

The open-topped car, fresh air and feeling of freedom were beyond exhilarating for Kumar.

Speaking to eNCA, he said: "Too happy. I feel too happy today. I can see animals, we are visiting



with colleagues in the safari park. I never thought this day would come in my life. My heart still feels like I'm dreaming these things. I cannot believe (it)."

This view has been a long time coming for him. Image shows a group of freed Somali pirate hostages taking in the sights at Nairobi National Park. [Read More...](#)

Picture: eNCA / Briana Duggan

The Times of India - Aman Sharma, India

Colombo Page - 2 Sri Lankans

The Nation Pakistan - 7 Bangladeshi sailors



SAILOR ABOARD a cargo ship banned from leaving a Westcountry port for safety breaches are earning as little as 65p per hour, it has been claimed - **Western Morning News**.

The 270ft FB Glory, which is Turkish owned and sails under the Panamanian flag, was detained in Plymouth this week after surveyors from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency inspected the vessel and its records.

Two Turkish members of the eight crew – which also includes Syrian and Indian nationals – left the ship at Fowey to return home, complaining that they had not been paid.

Darren Procter, an inspector with the International Transport Workers' Federation, said: "I have been aboard the vessel in Plymouth and the wages accounts, well I've never seen the like in my life. "One of the able seamen is on a basic salary of \$48 (£28.60) a month. If he works 103 hours overtime, a total of 276 hours a month, he gets a bonus from the company which brings it up to \$300 (£178.90). [Read More...](#)

Aid Workers Plight

NSTR.

And Finally...

Hey, look at OCEANUSLive making it into DefenceiQ Top 100...



Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- **SE Asia** - A Malaysia-flagged tanker, **Budi Mesra Dua**, was boarded and hijacked by 6 masked robbers armed with parangs and hammers at 2330 LT in position 03:57N - 111:57E, approx 82nm NW of Bintulu, Malaysia. The robbers tied up the crew, turned off radar and navigation equipment, ordered the captain and chief officer to stop the engines as a vessel approached, pulled up beside it and pumped out a total of 100 mt of diesel, then ransacked the ship. The robbers stole crew valuables but none of the 18 crew were harmed. Vessel was released 10 hours later and sailed to Labuan. Reported 7 Jun. **Note: 5 hijacks in SE Asia between 17 Apr to 7 Jun** (See Map, right).
- **Gulf of Guinea** - A Ghana-flagged fishing vessel, **Marine 711**, was reported attacked about 1854 LT in Ghana EEZ and now missing according to the Ghanaian Navy; Last seen in position 04:24N - 003:07E. Nigerian Navy conducting search. Reported 4 Jun.
- NIMASA stated its satellite surveillance system had helped to rescue a Ghanaian fishing vessel from suspected hijackers. The Ghanaian registered FV was hijacked off the border of Ghana and Togo, took hostage all the 41 crew and tied their hands. The pirates then cut off all power supply to communication equipment and forced the Master to sail the vessel across Togo and Benin Republic to Nigeria. However, fearing that the Nigerian Navy were in pursuit the pirates disembarked and escaped within 24 hours. The crew and fishing vessel arrived at a safe port.
- **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 46nm South of Accra, Ghana. Pirates were able to board and hijack the vessel. They took hostage Master and C/O and locked up the rest of the crew in a cabin. The pirates brought alongside a bunker barge and transferred oil cargo into it. They also stole crew and ship's properties and cash. They then ordered the master to sail the vessel towards Labuan and the pirates disembarked and escaped. All crew safe 11 Jun.



Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **Gulf of Guinea** - A wooden boat with seven suspected robbers on board approached an anchored Antigua & Barbuda-flagged container ship, **Stadt Sevilla**, and attempted to board the vessel using a long stick with a hook at 0405 LT in position 06:01N - 001:18E, Lome anchorage, Togo. Alert crew raised the alarm and notified Togo navy. Crew mustered. Noticing the crew alertness the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. Reported (IMB) 10 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - Two robbers boarded an anchored India-flagged crude tanker, **Ratna Shalini**, at 0645 LT in position 17:37N - 083:24E, Visakhapatnam, India. OOW spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. All crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers aborted the attempt and escaped in their fishing boat. Reported (IMB) 10 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - Six armed robbers in a small boat approached and boarded an anchored Singapore-flagged tanker, **(Name Withheld)** using a hooked portable ladder at 2320 LT in position 22:29N - 091:41E, around 3nm SW of Kumira, Chittagong anchorage, Bangladesh. Duty A/B informed the bridge who raised the alarm, sounded ship's whistle and crew mustered on the bridge. SSAS activated and two

rocket parachute flares fired. The robbers proceed to the forecastle, forced open the bosun store, stole ship properties and escaped after an hour. Reported (IMB) 8 Jun.

- **SE Asia** - Four robbers in a small boat approached and boarded an anchored Hong Kong-flagged general cargo ship, **Kweichow**, using a hook attached with rope at 0500 LT in position 01:40.2N – 104:25.9E, around 10nm ENE of Tanjung Balau, Johor, Malaysia. Duty A/B on routine rounds noticed the robbers on poop deck and informed the duty officer who raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed in their boat. A security alert was sent to ships in the vicinity. Reported (IMB) 7 Jun
- **SE Asia** - LATE Report | Robbers boarded an anchored Panama-flagged tanker, **Gemina**, at 1542 UTC in position 01:16N - 104:21E, approx 5nm N of Pulau Bintan, Indonesia. Robbers stole ship's property and escaped. Crew raised the alarm, mustered and activated SSAS. Reported 3 Jun.

Other Incidents:

- **SE Asia** - Singapore-flagged bulk carrier, **Nord Tokyo**, boarded and robbed off Indonesia 1 Jun.

Suspicious Activity:

- **Red Sea** - MV reported being approached by 1 skiff with 5 POB in position 12:53N - 043:14E, S Red Sea. The skiff maintained a parallel course for 20 minutes before closing on vessel. The vessel activated its hoses and the AST stood to. After 10 minutes the skiff had closed to 1100m and the AST displayed weapons resulting in the skiff moving away. Reported (UKMTO) 8 Jun.
- **Gulf of Aden** - MV reported a mothership and 3 skiffs with a CPA of 3 cables and they followed for 40 minutes in position 13:24N - 049:55E, IRTC, Gulf of Aden. 1 skiff closed to within 900 meters but no tripwires were seen. A coalition helicopter was sent to investigate. Reported (UKMTO) 8 Jun.

IMB - Vessels held: 0;

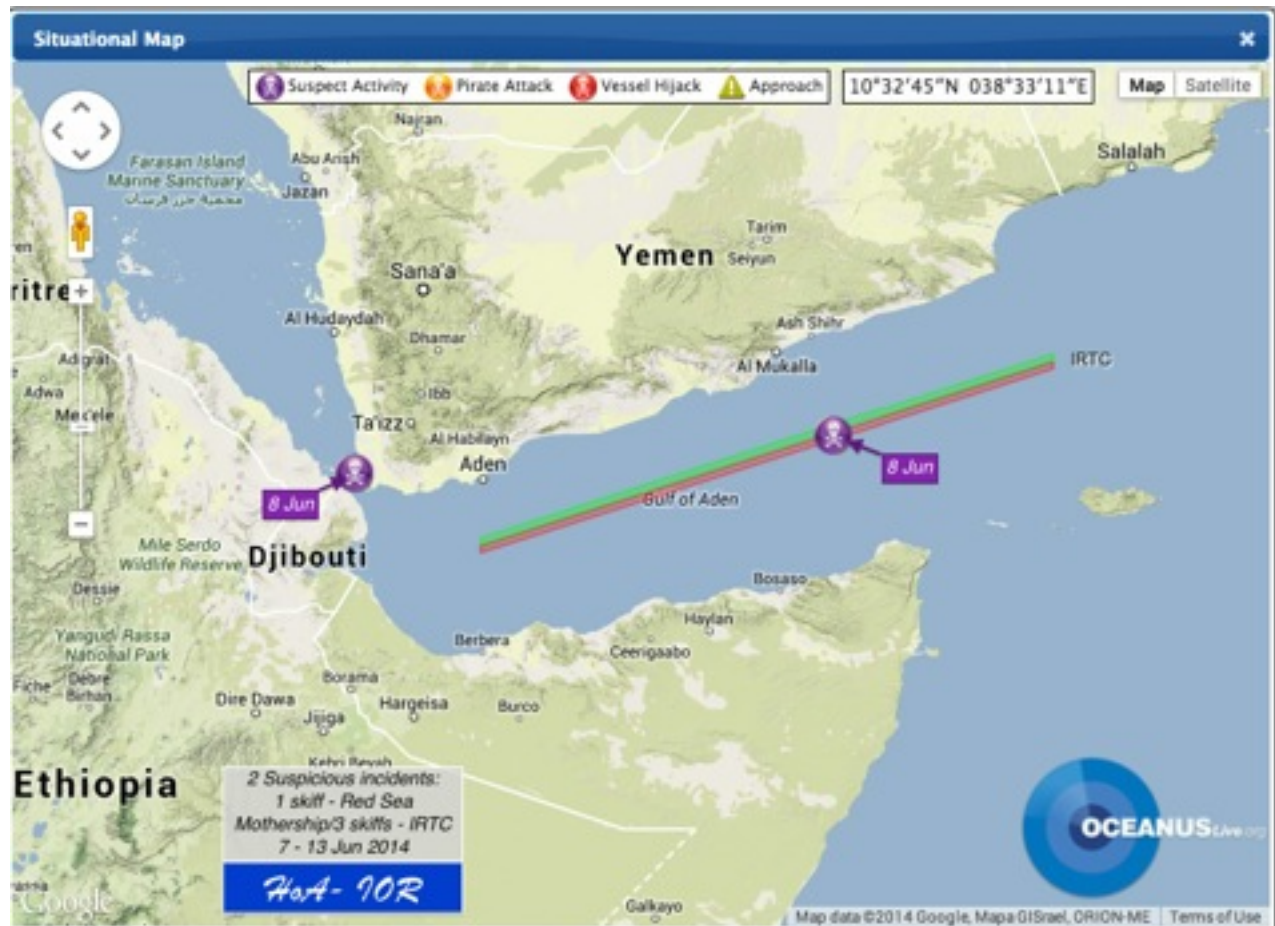
Worldwide Incidents 2014: 101 reported incidents

Somalia - NATO, EUNAVFOR & UKMTO state Vessels: 0; Hostages: 39; CGPCS - 38 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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