

28 June - 4 Jul 2014 No. 27/14**Indonesian Ghost Pirate Ship; Ghana picks up attacked ships; Pirate prison near closure; S Korean CG officials arrested -**

An Indonesian tanker has been found drifting in the South China Sea with no crew, no cargo but a well-stocked galley. The last AIS signal was in Sept 2010. The vessel is suspected to have been used by pirates to siphon and transport stolen oil from hijacked ships. It was found during the search for missing tanker, Arsenal last month. The Ghana Navy reveals details involving three vessels attacked/hijacked in the Gulf of Guinea in June. The investigations claim the incidents did not take place in Ghana waters, however, MT Fair Artemis taking refuge in a Ghanaian anchorage indicates the trust in Ghana's security arrangements. It was also revealed that AIS on the tanker was switched off 2 weeks prior to the hijack.

The prison facility in Garowe, Puntland, housing convicted pirates is in danger of closure due to electricity shortages. Whilst UN agencies and EU states pay for inmates' meals, education and health services, the Puntland government shoulders the bill for electricity and salaries of prison guards, or not.

Two Korean Coast Guard officials were arrested over the ferry disaster under suspicion of failing to carry out their duties at the time the Sewol ferry capsized, and are alleged to have falsified transcripts of their conversations with the ferry crew. Allegations include orders to erase weeks of CCTV footage inside the Vessel Traffic Services centre.

A Danish tanker, Torm Sofia, was reported to have been approached by a suspicious vessel in the Gulf of Aden, embarked security guards to used force to deter the approach, informing naval forces in the area.

A special report newsletter by MPHRP covers the freeing of the remaining MV Albedo crew, whilst the Ministry of Shipping in India has set up an Inter-Ministerial Group to secure the release of Indian sailors held captive by Somali pirates. Unverified reporting claims Indian crew from Asphalt Venture have been released.

The president of the Singapore Shipping Association stated that the traditional threats of piracy still loom in the SE Asian region, but all at the lower severity in comparison to East and West African waters, and warns that the threat increases the risk of pollution to the environment. Kenyan authorities detain a dhow transporting illegal cargo. after monitoring two vessels. The dhow was involved in smuggling firearms and drugs. An Australian warship boarded a suspicious dhow in the Indian Ocean and seize a record haul of hashish.

The Italian Navy continues to address the issue of hundreds of migrants between Sicily and N Africa, finding dead bodies when rescuing people in distress on the boats being used.

EUCAP Nestor continues to demonstrate the capacity building efforts in the Indian Ocean region whilst a study compares the strategies adopted by China and Russia to increase their reach.

“

... zero in on the pirates' nests and eradicate them”

- CAPTAIN PHILLIPS TALKING TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

EUNAVFOR is to have a new Op Commander in the form of a Royal Marine, Maj Gen Martin Smith will assume command of Op Atalanta in August.

Captain Phillips, of the hijack and film fame, met President Obama and came out on the offensive over the White House's new counter piracy plan, saying that more must be done to stop pirates. Meanwhile, the female naval officer who masterminded the rescue of Captain Phillips from Somali pirates has been appointed the US Navy's vice Chief of Staff, becoming the first woman to reach the rank of a four-star Admiral, the latest in a series of firsts for Admiral Michelle Howard, who was also the first black American woman to command an American warship.

Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

A 500-bed prison facility in the state capital of Garowe is on the verge of closure as electricity shortage reigns for day-to-day activities according to independent sources, **Garowe Online** GO has learned that harsh economic conditions resulted in the suspension of electricity service that was provided with prison by local electric company.

Garowe Prison, pirate complex and one of the largest facilities in the horn of Africa has been grappling with electricity price hike, with management board of the prison preferring generators over Nugal Electric Corporation (NEC)'s electricity consumption.

NEC's power price regulator reportedly read \$400 for each night but Puntland Government failed to pay 30 barrels meant for prison operations per month, sources added.



As part of counter-piracy efforts, UN agencies alongside some European nations with Denmark, Finland, Holland, Norway and the UK at the forefront shouldered inmates' meal, education and health service expenses while Puntland government is tasked with covering 80% of the electricity consumption and salary of prison guards. **Read More...**

SOME LAWMAKERS in Somalia's Puntland Parliament toured pirate prison in the state capital of Garowe after reports of closure emerged on Wednesday, Garowe Online reports - **AllAfrica**. The MPs met with Puntland Custodial Corps Commander-in-Chief Gen. Ali Nur Omar, Pirate prison commander and guards, listening to their complaint on prevailing matters over electricity shortage and unpaid salaries.

Gen. Omar briefed the visiting parliamentarians on pirate prison services, disclosing that they have been short of financial support.

Puntland Custodial Corps Chief said, the prison's support services have yet to be included in government budget.

MP Saed Abdi Samatar who addressed the media shortly after their visit to Garowe Prison noted that they will hold the ministries charged with the issue accountable for the dire situation in the prison.

The Editor-In-Chief of independently operated News Agency of Garowe Online has responded to statement sent to the media outlet by Puntland Custodial Corps Commander-In-Chief Gen. Ali Nur.

"Garowe Online's report on-Danish-funded Prison Facility in Puntland on verge of closure-on July 1 was carrying responsible media ethics and was in no doubt true," press statement from the Editor-In-Chief read. **Read more...**

A GROUP of pirates tried on Saturday to board the Danish vessel Torm Sofia in the Gulf of Aden in the Arabian Sea, but without success -

Copenhagen Post.

No-one was harmed and nothing happened to the ship, its cargo or the environment during the attempted attack, the shipping company Torm announced in a press release.

Torm Sofia was on its way from Sikka in India to New York City in the US when pirates in a small boat suddenly approached the Danish ship.

Onboard armed security guards used force according to their safety procedures, after which the pirates gave up and fled the scene.

"We are obviously pleased that both the crew and the armed guards did their job by the book. In this case, it was enough to avoid the pirates' attempt to board the ship," said Christian Sogaard-Christensen, the head of investor relations at Torm.

Read more...

FOR YEARS, the quick money



promised by piracy has lured many Somali youth into criminal networks, and many have disappeared, been jailed and even lost their lives. Determined to reverse this state of affairs, young Somalis are getting involved in the fight against piracy, raising awareness and seeking alternative ways to make a living - **Somali Current**.



Piracy attacks stood at 175 in 2011. By 2013, they had dropped to just 13 thanks to concerted increased patrols of the Somali coast by the Federal Government and the international community. Also key to reducing the impact of piracy is a shift on the attitude of local communities, who, according to research by community based organisation, the Somali Anti-Piracy Information Centre (SAPIC), increasingly view the practice negatively. SAPIC and local partners, including youth organisations, has led a communications campaign focused on highlighting the detrimental effects of piracy on coastal communities while encouraging alternative livelihoods for communities affected by piracy. **Read More...**

KENYAN AUTHORITIES are holding a merchant ship intercepted on Wednesday night on suspicion it was transporting illegal cargo - **Daily Nation Kenya**.

The Mv Alnoor was seized in Lamu as it sailed towards Mombasa.

Mombasa County Police Commander Sevelino Kubai said the ship was one of two vessels being monitored by security agencies after they set sail from Somalia.

He said Kenyan authorities had received information about ships suspected to be used for smuggling firearms and drugs and managed to intercept one of them.

Mr Kubai said the two ships had originated from Pakistan but entered Somalia under unclear circumstances.

"We intercepted one of the ships in Lamu which had 10 crew members from different nationalities and it was escorted to Mombasa under tight security. The Kenya Navy handed it over to police for further investigations," he said.

Senior police and Navy officers inspected the heavily guarded vessel at the Port of Mombasa on Thursday.

Mr Kubai said its documents indicate that the vessel was en-route to Zanzibar.

"The documents from the ship reflect that the consignment was loaded in Kenya and that they were destined to Kenya. This raises suspicions," he said. **Read More...**

This Weeks' Newsletter



Email: team@oceanuslive.org

THE CENTRE [India] on Friday told the Supreme Court that an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been set up by Ministry of Shipping to secure release of Indian sailors held captive by Somalian pirates and it is coordinating with UN bodies - **Zee News**.

In an affidavit filed by Ministry of External Affairs, the Centre said all concerted efforts are being made for securing early release of sailors.

"Ministry of Shipping has set up an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) headed by its Additional Secretary in order to address, coordinate and deal

with all matters pertaining to the hostage crisis arising out of piracy and hijacking at sea," it said. It said the Directorate General of Shipping, under the Ministry of Shipping, is the nodal organisation with regard to welfare of Indian crew onboard ships and it has already started a grievances redressal mechanism for seafarers in 2011. The affidavit said that the Ministry of External Affairs, through its Indian Missions abroad, continuously seeks the help of the foreign governments concerned and recently, High Commissioner of India in Nairobi wrote a letter to the President of Puntland state of Somalia. It said that Centre has prepared a comprehensive Piracy Bill, 2012 in consultation with different ministries to deal with the issue of pirates in international waters. **[Read More...](#)**

CHINA WILL reopen its embassy in Somalia after signs the East African country was making progress in its efforts to restore peace decades after the end of its civil war, the foreign ministry said on Monday - **[World Bulletin](#)**.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China will send a team to Somalia on July 1 to reopen the embassy, which was closed in 1991 as Somalia descended into chaos.

"China's reopening of the embassy in Somalia is a signal that China attaches great importance to relations with Somalia," Hong said at a daily briefing.

Once written off as a failed state, Somalia now has its most legitimate government for decades since President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud's election in 2012, but the government still struggles to exert influence beyond the capital and is plagued by recent attacks by al Shabaab. **[Read More...](#)**

THE US military has secretly maintained forces in Somalia since 2007, despite earlier public statements claiming it had no presence in the country until last October, defence officials said Thursday - **[Capital FM Kenya](#)**.

The United States has deployed up to 120 troops in the African nation and hopes to bolster its security ties to Somalia's government as it battles Al-Qaeda-linked Shabaab militants, a defence

official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP.

The US troops operating in Somalia have been mainly Green Beret special forces, who specialize in training and advising local armies, the official said.

Reuters news agency first reported the US troop presence.

In October last year, the Pentagon had portrayed the arrival of a handful of military advisers in Somalia as the first deployment of American forces to the country since 1993.

The Pentagon had chosen not to publicly reveal the military's footprint in Somalia out of concern for the safety of troops deployed and out of respect for the "sensitivities" of the Somali government, the defence official said.

But the head of Africa Command, General David Rodriguez, who took over his post last April, favours a less secretive stance particularly as Washington's defence relationship with Somalia progresses, the official said. **[Read More...](#)**

THREE PEOPLE died and four remain in a critical condition after being asphyxiated while stealing oil from a pipeline in Toamasina port, Madagascar - **[IHS Maritime 360](#)**.

On the night of 22 and 23 June, the seven men cut a hole in a pipeline that runs from the port past a container park to the Galana refinery. They installed a valve to enable them to siphon off fuel, filling 200-litre drums inside a container. Once all 70 drums had been filled, the container was to have been driven away. In the enclosed space the thieves were eventually overcome by fumes.

Three were found dead in the box, and the remaining four, who had managed to crawl outside, were in a coma when discovered by emergency workers.

Police believe that a well-organised network was behind the operation.

Quoted in local media, a refinery official estimated that criminals could abstract 10m3 of oil an hour. If continued at this rate over the three days a tanker needs to unload its cargo, the losses could threaten the country's fuel supply, he argued. Visiting the scene the following day, Madagascar strategic resources minister Joeli Valerien

Lalaharisaina said that the priority was to improve security and surveillance of the pipeline and tanker quay. [**Read More...**](#)

MAPUTO PORT [Mozambique] Development Company (MPDC) last week warned road haulage companies that their trucks must be registered with the port authority in order to comply with both the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code - [**IHS Maritime 360**](#).

Non-compliant vehicles face being banned from the port from 31 July. Rules for entering and working within the port were put in place in 2011, but the latest crackdown is to ensure the port maintains its accreditation to ISO 28000:2007 Specification for security management systems for the supply chain.

The port operates an ID card system for all port users. It has strengthened access controls, adding new gates and more electric fencing, lighting and intrusion detection systems. MPDC says it has increased its shoreside security patrols and is introducing water-side patrols. [**Read More...**](#)

West Africa

THE GHANA Navy has disclosed that the three vessels allegedly attacked by pirates and subsequently declared missing in the Gulf of Guinea have been found and brought to the Port of Tema - [**Spy Ghana**](#).

The vessels which were involved in the alleged pirate attacks are MT Fair Artemis, a Greek-owned oil tanker flying Liberian Flag, a Ghanaian registered fishing vessel by name MV Mariner 711 and a South African flagged vessel MT Sampatiki. Preliminary investigations conducted by the security agencies in Ghana and subsequently reported revealed that none of the three vessels was attacked in the Ghanaian maritime waters as was previously reported. According to Captain Ayola of the Public Relations Department of the Ghana Navy that led the rescue operations, the vessel M V Fair Artemis which was allegedly attacked by pirates on June 4, 2014 had 25 crew members on board of which one was a Ghanaian.

He explained that the vessel was allegedly attacked in the Togolese Waters, 53 Nautical Miles (NM) from the Port of Tema.

Briefing the media upon arrival of the vessels in the port, the Director General of GPHA, Richard Anamoo confirmed that the MT Fair Artemis was now taking refuge at the anchorage of the Port of Tema awaiting follow up investigations to be conducted with the Interpol to establish the basic facts of the narrative.

He reiterated that the fact that the MT Fair Artemis had immediately returned to the anchorage of the Tema port to seek refuge was an indication of the trust the vessel operators had in the Ghanaian safety and security arrangements adding that the vessel would not have returned to Ghana if her Port was not safe.

Mrs. Alice Torkornoo revealed that, the security and intelligence team which boarded the vessel upon its arrival at the Port of Tema after the alleged hijack discovered that the Automatic Identification System (AIS) had been switched off on the 14th of May, 2014 two clear weeks before the alleged hijacking without explanations. She said it was also reported that the crew admitted that the pirates operated all the equipment themselves on taking over the vessel without guidance from the crew. The team also reported that there were visible signs of vandalism but there was no engine log nor any other log book to be traced. The report further indicated that though the crew claimed that the gauges were vandalized they were able to determine that 3,800Mts of oil was stolen.

The General Manager further disclosed that in a similar incident, a Ghanaian registered fishing vessel, MV Mariner 771 with a 40 member crew of 36 Ghanaians, 3 Koreans and 1 Chinese was also said to have been raided by pirates between the Nigerian and Togolese waters in the same month of June. She said unlike the "MT Fair Artemis", the crew members onboard the "Mariner 711" were molested by the pirates. About 50 tons of oil and 10 tons of fish were subsequently seized. [**Read more...**](#)

MIXED REACTIONS have continued to trail what has been termed continued an "Illegal" detention of one Mr. Ovakpor Osagada, and two other crew

members of Bentech Nigeria Limited. It is a Marine Company said to be owned by one Chief Benard Edewor, by the Nigerian Navy, NNS Delta, Warri, on the pretext that the crew were engaged in sea piracy - **Naira Park**.

An investigation by a Sahara Reporters Correspondent revealed that the detainees, who include the Captain and Engineer of the vessel, have been in the Navy detention since April 1st, 2014. This came following an attack on the vessel by suspected sea pirates. The two are languishing in the cell without being granted bail, or handed over to the local police.

Osagada, who is said to be a deckhand at Bentech, and the crew, it was learned were sometime in the month of January, in the Vessel known as "MV GARE." Bentech Nigeria Limited also owns that vessel. It was contracted from Warri to convey foodstuffs to some clients on the high seas, and in the process, the vessel was attacked by sea pirates, who were heavily armed, invaded and carted away all the said food stuffs the ship had carried.

An impeccable company source that is familiar with the issue, who also confided in a Sahara Reporters correspondent had said, that following the 'sea pirate' development, the MV GARE vessel and her crew who were almost killed, had to return to Warri.

"Sometime in the month of March of this year the MV GARE Vessel and her crew was attacked by sea pirates, while conveying food stuffs to some clients on the high sea off of Escravos. In the process the, foodstuffs were carted away, and the Vessel, and her crew had to abort the journey, and return to Warri.

"Each time the Vessel and the crew embarked on such journeys, as in this latest case, Bentech Nigeria Limited often applied for eleven armed Naval personnel as escorts, that is, to accompany the crew on board, and that request was granted by the Naval authorities. In the two most recent cases, armed naval personnel from the Nigerian Navy, NNS Delta, Warri were on board the Vessel as escorts, when it was yet again attacked by sea pirates," the Bentech company source said.

"Upon the return of the Vessel and her crew to Warri, the Captain of the Vessel, and her Engineer, including Osagada, were arrested by the same

Naval Personnel on the 1st day of April of this year. As far as I know, up until this date, the three have remained in the custody of the Nigerian Navy, on the NNS Delta, in Warri, on the pretext that the crew 'were engaged in sea piracy.' It is an allegation the crew members have vehemently denied," the Bentech source recounted. **Read more...**

IN THE night of 23 October 2013, a group of embarked Nigerian policemen on board the tanker HISTRIA CORAL opened fire on a small boat that was approaching a tanker close by on Lagos roads, believing the vessel was under attack by robbers. The small boat, it turned out, was a launch filled with Nigerian Navy personnel, who were about to inspect the ROSE MARY. The episode ended with a stand-off between the Nigerian Navy and the policemen, who eventually locked themselves into the HISTRIA CORAL's citadel for several days before they were arrested along with the agent who brokered their services - **CIMSEC**.

This vignette is symptomatic for the state of maritime security in Nigerian waters.

Fundamentally, the problem is that, while legislation and capability exist, the patchy enforcement of the

applicable laws encourages ship operators, agents, mid-ranking military personnel and private security providers to search for "alternatives" which tend to emphasise practicality over legality. In this they are ably assisted by local "facilitators". The division of responsibilities between the Nigerian Navy and the Nigerian Maritime Police (NMP, a branch of the Nigerian Police Force, NPF) is relatively clear: the NMP has jurisdiction "on the Territorial Inland Waters, (measured from the inward limits of the coastal waterways from the fairway buoy), Ports, and



Harbours." It may extend beyond those limits in hot pursuit or when assisting other agencies.
Image: Example of a "permit" issued to a PMSC for embarking Nigerian Maritime Police by the Lagos Police Commissioner (Maritime) without authority of the Lagos state Inspector General of the Police. (Source withheld) [**Read more...**](#)

THE DEFENCE Intelligence Agency (DIA) has solicited for the support and cooperation of foreign military mission in the country as part of the efforts towards tackling the current security challenges in Nigeria. The Chief of Defence Intelligence (CDI), Rear Admiral Gabriel Edmund Okoi made the appeal recently in Abuja while addressing foreign Defence Advisers/Attaches (DAs) resident in Nigeria during the Agency's quarterly briefing - [**Defence Info Nigeria**](#).



The CDI enjoined the DAs to cooperate with the Agency by assisting in proffering solution to move Nigeria forward. He expressed delight with the cordial relationship already existing between the agency and the DAs, assuring them of a more harmonious working relationship. He pledged the Agency's support towards making their assignment in Nigeria less cumbersome. Earlier, the director, foreign liaison (DFL), Maj Gen JN Nimyel stated that the quarterly briefing was part of a scheduled routine update on the happening in Nigeria, with a view to communicating the true situation of events in Nigeria to the Armed Forces of their countries. He added that this would foster better cooperation between the countries. [**Read More...**](#)

Boko Haram

SUSPECTED ISLAMIC extremists sprayed gunfire at worshippers and torched four churches Sunday in a village just miles from the town where more than 200 schoolgirls were kidnapped, witnesses said - [**AP News**](#).

At least 30 bodies have been recovered but more are turning up in the bushes, where people tried to escape from Kwada village, said a member of a vigilante group that has had some successes in repelling attacks.

"They killed dozens of people and burned houses after attacking worshippers," survivor Mallam Yah said. He told The Associated Press by telephone from Chibok town, to which he escaped.

Some of the church buildings destroyed included the Protestant Church of Christ in Nigeria, the Pentecostal Deeper Life Bible Church and Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa, which is Hausa for Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, Yah said. The last was started by American missionaries from Illinois in the 1920s. [**Read More...**](#)

NIGERIA'S MILITARY says it has raided a Boko Haram intelligence unit thought to be linked to the recent abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls - [**BBC News**](#).

The cell leader Babuji Ya'ari was arrested, a military statement said.

Mr Ya'ari had been actively involved in the seizure of the girls as well as the killing in May of a traditional leader, the emir of Gwoza, the statement added.

More than 2,000 people have been killed this year in attacks blamed on Boko Haram militants.

Mr Ya'ari was a businessman who "participated actively in the abduction of schoolgirls" in the northern town of Chibok, the defence ministry statement said. [**Read More...**](#)

WHEN WASHINGTON imposed sanctions in June 2012 on Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau, he dismissed it as an empty gesture - [**Reuters Africa**](#).

Two years later, Shekau's skepticism appears well founded: his Islamic militant group is now the biggest security threat to Africa's top oil producer,

is richer than ever, more violent and its abductions of women and children continue with impunity. As the United States, Nigeria and others struggle to track and choke off its funding, Reuters interviews with more than a dozen current and former U.S. officials who closely follow Boko Haram provide the most complete picture to date of how the group finances its activities. Central to the militant group's approach includes using hard-to-track human couriers to move cash, relying on local funding sources and engaging in only limited financial relationships with other extremists groups. It also has reaped millions from high-profile kidnappings.

"Our suspicions are that they are surviving on very lucrative criminal activities that involve kidnappings," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield said in an interview.

Until now, U.S. officials have declined to discuss Boko Haram's financing in such detail.

The U.S. Treasury normally relies on a range of measures to track financial transactions of terrorist groups, but Boko Haram appears to operate largely outside the banking system.

The Treasury Department said in a statement to Reuters that the United States has seen evidence that Boko Haram has received financial support from Al Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb (AQIM), an offshoot of the jihadist group founded by Osama bin Laden.

But that support is limited. Officials with deep knowledge of Boko Haram's finances say that any links with al Qaeda or its affiliates are inconsequential to Boko Haram's overall funding.

[Read More...](#)

THREE WOMEN have been arrested in Nigeria for recruiting female members for the Islamist militant group, Boko Haram, the country's military says -

[BBC News.](#)

The women are said to have targeted widows and young girls, promising them marriage to Boko Haram members.

The militant group now has a female wing, the military says.

Boko Haram seems to be trying to get women to play a more active role in its insurgency, the BBC's Will Ross reports from Abuja.

Last month, a female suicide bomber died when she tried to attack a barracks in Gombe State - the first case of its kind in Nigeria.

The bomb detonated as she was being searched at a security checkpoint. One soldier was also killed.

Women have also been among those detained in mass arrests in cities like Maiduguri in northern Nigeria, a region where Boko Haram enjoys a measure of support. **[Read More...](#)**

Southeast Asia

GALUH PUSAKA, a product tanker registered in Indonesia, has been found drifting with navigational lights and engine off in South China Sea. The vessel had neither crew nor cargo, but its galley was well-stocked with fresh provisions - **[OCEANUSLive.](#)**

Galuh Pusaka was towed to naval base in



Tarempa (Indonesia). The last AIS signal received from the tanker dates back to Sept 24, 2010. The authorities in Indonesia suspect the vessel was used by pirates to siphon and transport stolen oil from hijacked ships. Lt. Col. Agung Jaya Saktika, Tarempa Maritime Authorities, said the tanker had significant damage and a lot of the equipment was missing (communication and navigation). A further investigation has been launched.

The authorities found the Galuh Pusaka whilst following a signal for another product tanker, Arsenal, missing. Its owner reported having lost contact with the vessel on June 17 near Anambas Archipelago (Indonesia) while the Arsenal was en route from Vietnam to Singapore. The authorities

in Indonesia launched an operation searching the area and that was where they came across Galuh Pusaka. **[Read More...](#)**

A MISSING Taiwanese fishing vessel, the Guo Rong 333 (國榮333), has been located in waters near Lombok, Indonesia, but the whereabouts of its captain, Chen Chih-wen (陳致文), remain a mystery, with an Indonesian crew saying he fell overboard during rough weather - **[Taipei Times](#)**. Chen's family and friends yesterday said they suspected that the ship had been commandeered by the crew, because communication with the vessel's satellite phone was cut off for days. Tracking the ship's GPS signal indicated that it was heading for Indonesia, instead of its intended destination, the Solomon Islands.

Chen was the sole Taiwanese aboard the ship when it set off on June 12 from Palau, with 12 Indonesian crewmembers.

An Indonesian naval ship intercepted the Guo Rong 333 north of Lombok Island yesterday [25 JUN].

Indonesian authorities questioned the crew, who said they ran into bad weather and Chen fell overboard.

Chen's family in Pingtung County said they do not believe what the crew said.

"Chen had many years of experience as a captain of fishing vessels. He would not have fallen into the sea. We want to know what really happened," said Chen Yi-fei (陳奕霏), the captain's younger sister. **[Read More...](#)**

THE TRADITIONAL threats of piracy still loom in region, but at the lower severity as compared to East coast of Africa and waters off West Africa, said the Singapore Shipping Association (SSA) - **[IHS Maritime 360](#)**.

Patrick Phoon, president of the SSA, said this yesterday during the 18th annual general meeting that focused on the international development of the industry and its impact on Singapore.

"The SSA adopts a zero tolerance policy towards pirate attacks against innocent trading ships. The ongoing threat of piracy and armed robbery does not only affect the safety of our seafarers, our ships and cargoes but also increase the risk of pollution to our marine environment," said Phoon.

Meanwhile, the SSA says that any global environment regulations that have been adopted must be practical, implementable and sustainable. These regulations must relate to the improvement of maritime safety and be subjected to a full and proper cost benefit analysis. **[Read More...](#)**

REAR ADMIRAL Cecil R Chen is the Vice Commandant for Administration of the Philippine Coast Guard and concurrently the District Commander, Coast Guard District National Capital Region-Central Luzon. The area of his responsibility covers Manila Bay, Subic Bay and Laguna Lake. Rear Admiral Chen joined Defence IQ for an exclusive interview on maritime patrol- **[DefenceIQ](#)**.

Which assets will the PCG seek to acquire over the next few years? Why is it important for you to add these capabilities?

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), in the Capacity Development of the Strategic Plan is prioritizing the acquisition of vital floating and air assets that will greatly enhance the performance of its mandated functions. Notably procurement proceedings are underway for the acquisition of ten (10) 40-meter Multi Role Response Vessel from Japan, one (1) 54-meter pre-owned naval vessel from France, and seven (7) Bell helicopters. Also in the pipeline is the procurement of four (4) 24-meter fast patrol boats and one (1) 82-meter offshore patrol vessel. Additionally, PCG is already in the process of procuring more equipment purposely for use during disaster relief and emergency response operations wherein the target is to acquire ninety (90) rubber boats, eighty (80) rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIB), three hundred (300) aluminium-hulled rescue boats and six (6) jet ski personal watercrafts.

The remarkable increases in the inter-island movement of people and commodities in the Philippines spurred by the success of the RORO Transport Network warrant sustained visibility of coast guard assets along navigational sea lanes and at the same time make available quick-response vessels for maritime incidents, disaster response and maritime security concerns. **[Read More...](#)**

ADMIRAL Zheng He is everywhere in China these days, even though he died almost 600 years ago. The government is promoting him to remind its people -- and Asia -- that China's destiny is to be



a

great naval power - **[Bloomberg](#)**.

Almost a century before Christopher Columbus discovered America, Zheng in 1405 embarked on a series of voyages with ships of unrivalled size and technical prowess, reaching as far as India and Africa.

The expeditions are in the spotlight in official comments and state media as China lays claim to about 90 percent of the South China Sea and President Xi Jinping seeks to revive China's maritime pride. In doing so he risks setting up confrontations with Southeast Asian neighbours and the U.S., whose navy has patrolled the region since World War II. Geopolitical dominance of the South China Sea would give China control of one of the world's most economically and politically strategic areas.

"The Chinese believe they have the right to be a great power," said Richard Bitzinger, a senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. "What we are seeing is a hardening of China's stance about its place in the world."

China's claim is based on a 1947 map, with a more recent version following a line of nine dashes shaped like a cow's tongue, looping down to a point about 1,800 kilometres (1,119 miles) south from the coast of Hainan island. The area overlaps claims from Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brunei and Taiwan. In the adjacent East China Sea, China contests islands administered by Japan.

The ambitions of China's leaders don't stop at the nine-dash line. **[Read More...](#)**

Americas/South America/Caribbean

AN OPEN wooden boat carrying 34 Cuban migrants sought refuge at a dock in the Cayman Islands on Sunday but was turned away, the second Cuban migrant vessel to be rejected in a week - **[World Bulletin](#)**.

Local law enforcement allowed the migrants to take on drinking water, but no food, before ordering the group to depart immediately or be taken into custody and repatriated to Cuba. Just a couple of days earlier, another boat carrying 30 Cubans was ordered to leave the British territory. The Cubans said they were mostly from the cities of Bayamo and Manzanillo in eastern Cuba, and were headed for the coast of Central America. Boats smuggling Cubans seeking to flee the communist-run island are frequently seen off the Cayman Islands, located in the Caribbean less than 100 miles (160 km) south of Cuba.

They are usually headed for Honduras, from where migrants make the long journey overland to reach the U.S. border with Mexico. Under the U.S. so-called "wet foot, dry foot policy," Cuban migrants who make it onto United States soil are allowed to remain while those intercepted at sea are turned back. **[Read More...](#)**

Other

A RUSSIAN naval ship carrying 400 sailors docked Monday at a French harbour to start weeks of training aboard a warship that France is selling to Russia as part of a criticised 1.2-billion euro (\$1.6 billion) deal - **[AP News](#)**.

France has pushed ahead with the 2011 contract — the biggest-ever sale of NATO weaponry to Moscow — despite renewed criticism after Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula.



The Russian ship Smolnii docked just behind the warship Vladivostock in the Atlantic coastal port of Saint-Nazaire, where restaurants had translated their menus into Russians in order to welcome the contingent.

The Russian sailors will spend the summer in Saint-Nazaire, learning how to operate Vladivostock. France says the ship can carry 700 troops, 16 helicopter gunships, and as many as 50 armoured vehicles. [**Read More...**](#)

RUSSIAN HACKERS have been systematically targeting hundreds of Western oil and gas companies, as well as energy investment firms, according to private cybersecurity researchers - [**The New York Times**](#).

The motive behind the attacks appears to be industrial espionage — a natural conclusion given the importance of Russia's oil and gas industry, the researchers said.

The manner in which the Russian hackers are targeting the companies also gives them the opportunity to seize control of industrial control systems from afar, in much the same way the United States and Israel were able to use the Stuxnet computer worm in 2009 to take control of an Iranian nuclear facility's computer systems and destroy a fifth of the country's uranium supply, the researchers said.

The Russian attacks, which have affected over 1,000 organisations in more than 84 countries, were first discovered in August 2012 by researchers at CrowdStrike, a security company in Irvine, Calif. The company noticed an unusually sophisticated and aggressive Russian group targeting the energy sector, in addition to health care, governments and defence contractors.

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

United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon Saturday said the UN is determined to work with the Kenya government in combating terrorism - [**Daily Nation**](#).

He said the UN will support Kenya's efforts to fight the global vice by boosting the capacity of the country's security agencies.

"I have had a very fruitful discussion on major political and security issues concerning counter-

terrorism, Somalia, South Sudan and the Great Lakes region," the UN Secretary General said.

"We have exchanged views at length about how the UN and Kenya can work together in countering the heinous attacks against the people and the country," he added.

Mr Ban made the remarks when he addressed the press after holding talks with President Uhuru Kenyatta at State House, Nairobi. [**Read More...**](#)

FOREIGNERS IN possession of a valid work or residence permit in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda will be given an East Africa Tourism visa valid for six months.

The decision was reached by the heads of tourism bodies in the three States and was announced on Sunday - [**Daily Nation**](#).

The East Africa Tourism visa, which came into force early this year, resulted from a joint initiative and decision made by the heads of state of the respective countries.

The cross-border visa between the three northern corridor states, which costs \$100 (Ksh 8,755) and is valid for 90 days for a foreigner, will now cost the same and be extended for six months for foreign residents residing in any of the states, according to a statement.

Kenya Tourism Board (KTB) Managing Director Muriithi Ndegwa said the preferential treatment to foreigners in the member states would entice them to tour and extend their stay within the northern corridor states. [**Read More...**](#)

THE DIPLOMATIC row that has left over 700 British soldiers stranded in Nairobi has taken a new twist with reports that the UK has hit back by expelling five senior military officers. Kenya Government sources Tuesday told The Standard that London had ordered the officers, who were undergoing training in the UK, to return home immediately - [**Standard Media Kenya**](#).

The highly-placed sources said that visas for the soldiers, who were yet to complete their training, were cancelled. The officers have reportedly already arrived in the country. "I think it's a tit-for-tat by the British who have asked our men to immediately leave," the source said, adding that this was part of the UK's pressure on Kenya over the renewal of Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) to allow more British troops to come to the country. [**Read More...**](#)

TWO EGYPTIAN policemen were killed on Monday trying to defuse bombs planted near Cairo's presidential palace by militants days before the anniversary of the army overthrow of an elected Islamist president - [**Reuters**](#).

The militant group Ajnad Misr, or Soldiers of Egypt, claimed responsibility for the blasts in a statement dated Monday.

"God had helped us to make our plan succeed in dragging the security officials to the trap made for them at Itahadiya (presidential) palace," it said on its Twitter account. [**Read More...**](#)

It is all the twenties which strike you. The twenty thousand political opponents reportedly banged up by Egypt's military junta since it seized power. Then there is the twenty million or so pounds Tony Blair is widely reckoned to pull in through his consultancy work, which has involved advising some distinctly repressive regimes, writes [**Alex Thomson for Channel4 News**](#).



The former prime minister's latest engagement with men who have blood on their hands – a lot of it – is Cairo. Tony Blair's people insist he will earn no money from his advising of "President" Sisi of Egypt, who seized power in the recent coup, sealed it in a phony election and has been banging up thousands who disagree with him ever since – and killing around 2,500 protesters on the streets.

He will be advising Cairo on a variety of economic matters. But he will find some old pals already there.

This morning the Guardian reminded us that one Alastair Campbell is already advising the junta on PR. You will remember too his own government

PR career ended in the fiasco of Tony Blair's Middle East policies – namely Iraq.

Tony Blair did find it within himself to criticise the junta's recent imprisoning of three Al Jazeera staff for whose liberty many journalists around the world – myself included – continue to campaign. But this latest commercial involvement – whether for direct cash or not – has made calls all the louder for Tony Blair to cease his involvement as the Middle East peace envoy who has brought nothing even approaching peace to the region.

UPDATE

A spokeswoman for Tony Blair told Channel 4 News: "The story is nonsense ... What is true, and we have made categorically clear, is that there is no commercial interest in, and absolutely no intention to make money from, Egypt."

So I asked, can we be clear – is Tony Blair acting in any way as an adviser to the Egyptian junta? Tony Blair's spokeswoman put me on hold and then said she would have to get back to me on that. [**Read More...**](#)

Read the response from the [**office of Tony Blair**](#).

EGYPT'S VITAL waterway saw the highest annual revenue in its history in the fiscal year 2013/14, the Suez Canal's head said on Wednesday - [**Ahram Online**](#).

According to Mohab Memish, the Egyptian canal brought in a whopping \$5.3 billion (LE37 billion), the highest revenues since its opening in 1869 and representing a 5.5 percent increase from the last fiscal year.

The artificial waterway which connects the Mediterranean and Red Sea saw around \$5.2 billion in revenues during the fiscal year 2012/13, official data showed. [**Read More...**](#)

THE U.S. ship MV Cape Ray arrived Tuesday in the southern Italian port of Gioia Tauro for the unprecedented transfer and destruction of about 1,300 tons of Syrian chemical weapons - [**Salon**](#).

The 648-foot (197.5-meter) U.S. government cargo ship has been fitted with two machines



designed to neutralize the most toxic chemicals, including mustard gas and the raw materials for sarin nerve gas, that were removed from Syria as part of the international effort to destroy its chemical weapons.

The most dangerous chemical weapons will be transferred from the Danish vessel Ark Futura to the Cape Ray, which will move into international waters for the destruction. [**Read More...**](#)

A BRITISH man who claims to have been fighting in Syria says he will only return to the UK to "raise the black flag of Islam over Downing Street and Buckingham Palace" - [**BBC News**](#).

The man, who is in his twenties, says he has been fighting for a year alongside a number of groups including The Al Nusra Front, who are linked to Al Qaeda.

He told Nicky Campbell on BBC Radio 5 live's Breakfast how his family reacted when they discovered he had gone to Syria.

Warning: Some people may find the nature of this interview disturbing or offensive. [**Read More...**](#)

LIBYAN INTERIOR Minister Saleh Marzouk gave the green light for citizens to get licenses for light weapons and ammunition in a bid to regulate the "overwhelming" spread of arms across the country, the ministry's spokesman said on Sunday - [**World Bulletin**](#).

"The Interior Minister has released a decree for issuing weapon licenses for citizens on the condition they meet certain criteria," spokesman Rami Ka'al told Anadolu Agency. "Each Libyan home now has one or more piece of weaponry," he added.

According to Ka'al, the criteria for issuing a firearms license dictate that the applicant be over 21 years of age with no criminal record.

Ka'al also said that Marzouk has fired over a thousand police officers for continued absence from work. [**Read More...**](#)

LIBYA'S GOVERNMENT says it has resumed control of two eastern oil terminals, Ras Lanuf and Sidra, that were seized by rebels last year - [**BBC News**](#).

The government said the move, which resulted from an agreement with the rebels, ended the country's oil crisis.

Rebels originally seized four terminals as they demanded more regional autonomy. The two other ports were returned to the government in April.

The country's exports have been badly hit by the oil blockade.

"Today we regained control of the ports at Ras Lanuf and Sidra," Libya's acting Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thani said at a joint news conference with rebel leader Ibrahim Jathran.

"We have successfully reached an agreement to solve the oil crisis," he added.

Mr Jathran confirmed the deal, describing it as a goodwill gesture. [**Read More...**](#)



THE UK drew up plans to train and equip a 100,000-strong Syrian rebel army to defeat President Bashar al-Assad, BBC Newsnight can reveal - [**BBC News**](#).

The secret initiative, put forward two years ago, was the brainchild of the then most senior UK military officer, General Sir David Richards.

It was considered by the PM and the National Security Council, as well as US officials, but was deemed too risky.

The UK government did not respond to a request for comment.

Lord Richards, as he is now, believed his proposal could stem the civilian bloodshed in Syria as rebels fought troops loyal to Mr Assad.

The idea was considered by David Cameron and Dominic Grieve, the attorney general, and sent to the National Security Council, Whitehall sources said. [**Read More...**](#)

South Korean Ferry

IN THE same narrow waterways where more than 300 people died this spring aboard the ferry Sewol, another ship owned by the same company crashed into an oil tanker 11 years earlier. The ferry's captain had chosen the difficult water path to cut a mere seven miles from its journey - **AP News**.

It was among five crashes, from 2003 to 2011, that government investigators blamed mostly on sailors of Chonghaejin Marine Co. ferries. Three of the incidents occurred within a 12-month span, and after those occurred, a government investigator chided the company for failing to make safety reforms.

None of the crashes caused fatalities, but together, some experts say, they were reason enough for regulators to suspend or even revoke the company's license. That never happened, and in fact Chonghaejin was allowed to expand by adding the Sewol to its fleet last year.

Chonghaejin's punishment for those five failures: two one-month suspensions for sailors, three verbal warnings to captains, one verbal warning to the company and a fine of 7.5 million won (\$7,400). The biggest fine that can be issued in ferry-safety cases is just 30 million won (\$29,400). The Korean Maritime Safety Tribunal, an arm of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries that serves as a maritime court, recommended safety changes to the company as well, but they were non-binding. **Read More...**

SOUTH KOREAN Authorities don't want any rallies to support victims in the tourism ferry accident claiming hundreds of victims - **eTurbo News**.

This surprising move was reported from South Korea's capital Seoul. A total of 344 people have been booked for investigation on charges of participating in "illegal" street rallies on behalf of the victims of April's ferry sinking, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office said it has arrested seven people, including a leader of a militant umbrella union, for further investigation

for allegedly violating relevant laws during massive protest rallies downtown. **Read More...**

TWO AND a half months after the Seoul ferry disaster, Maui divers Todd and Tiffany Winn are headed to South Korea to help search for bodies - **Hawaii News Now**.

Their team will look for 11 missing victims from the April tragedy that killed more than 300 people. "It'd be really nice to give the families a little bit of peace" says Tiffany Winn. "It's a pretty awful tragedy."

Her husband Todd added, "They may have been swept off the ship or they may be inside. There are substantial areas of the vessel that have not been searched."

South Korea's government requested the Winns' expert diving team explore the wreckage.

Their self-contained equipment allows them to stay underwater at depths of 100 feet for up to 6-hours, without an attachment.

Three divers have died so far in the challenging recovery effort.

Todd says of taking the dangerous assignment, "We talked about it. Even though there's a great amount of risk, it's the right thing to do." **Read More...**

EVEN AS more than 300 people were drowning when the Sewol ferry capsized, the Korea Coast Guard informed the country's president that 370 passengers and crew had been rescued - **IHS Maritime 360**.

This came to light when phone conversation transcripts between the coast guard and President Park Geun-hye were revealed yesterday during a hearing held by the parliamentary committee convened to probe the Sewol incident. Transcripts of phone calls between coast guard officials and the Blue House also suggested that the coast guard had procrastinated over rescue operations.

Around 09.45hrs local time, about an hour after the Sewol began listing, the Blue House's emergency management headquarters asked the coast guard if rescue work had begun.

According to the phone transcripts, the coast guard replied, "Well, it's not the time to start rescue work. We're just watching the situation

because no passenger has jumped from the ferry yet."

Precious time was also lost when at 12.50hrs that day when the coast guard held 119 rescue service workers from deploying divers to the scene, claiming that the coast guard was preparing for rescue work.

Transcripts show that barely 10 minutes later, the coast guard informed the Blue House that 370 people were rescued.

At 14.36hrs however, Blue House officials were dismayed to hear that only 166 people had been rescued at the time. **Read More...**

TWO KOREA Coast Guard officials have been arrested over the Sewol ferry disaster.

The Gwangju District Court said one officer, 43, is a centre leader of the Jindo Vessel Traffic Services Centre and the other officer, 39, is a CCTV footage administrator - **IHS Maritime 360.**



The two men are suspected of failing to carry out their duties at the time the Sewol

capsized off Jindo Island during a routine Incheon-Jeju trip on 16 April, in addition to allegedly falsifying transcripts of their conversations with the Sewol crew.

Of the 476 passengers and crew, 304 are believed to be dead. So far, 293 bodies have been recovered while 11 remain missing.

The court said the control centre failed to detect early signs of unusual activity over the waters they were monitoring when the Sewol began listing.

The centre leader is also being investigated over allegations that he told his staff to erase weeks of CCTV footage inside the centre that would indicate a negligence of duty. **Read More...**

Missing Malaysian Aircraft

MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES confirmed today that for the first time, compensation payments of 37,000 euros per family are being awarded to those of passengers of the betroted airliner MH370. The payments, are set to go to hundreds of families across Asia (mostly China and Malaysia) as the Malaysian government continues to evade questions about what they know regarding the disappearance of the plane.



Bazaar Daily Read More...

AT ABOUT 4 pm today there was a fire in MAS Avionic Shop, level 2, Hangar 2 in Subang. The Avionic Shop has been existent in MAS for more than 30 years and this is the first time that a fire broke out so mysteriously - **Wee Choo Keong.**

Avionic Shop is under the Aerospace Engineering of MAS and its CEO is non other than the highly qualified En Azhari Dahlan, who was specially "head hunted" from AirAsia during the infamous MAS – AirAsia shares suap swap. En Azhari Dahlan appeared briefly during the first day of the press conference on the missing MH 370. He didn't utter a word

and was just making up the number for the press conference. Thereafter, he went missing mysteriously from further press conferences on MH 370.



Avionic Shop is a workshop that repairs all avionic components / electronic box that was installed on the aircraft including MH 370.

This mysterious fire was equally unprecedented. It happened during this challenging time for MAS when the missing MH370 story has not been fully settled. **Read More...**

Released by Pirates

THREE OF the seven Indian hostages are currently in the safe hands of local administration in Hadhadho, Somalia en-route to Nairobi, Kenya. The whereabouts of the four other Indian hostages is not yet known, according to Andrew Mwangura - [Maritime Security News](#).

A Pirate leader is said to have been seriously injured while one gunman is said to have died during a heavy exchange of gun fire amongst gunmen holding captive seven Indian crew members of the Panama flagged MT ASPHALT VENTURE.

Reports filtering Mombasa last Wednesday evening indicates that fighting erupted amongst pirates holding captive the crew members soon after ransom money amounting to US\$ 500,000 was delivered to the gunmen to secure safe release of the hostages.

Initially the Pirates holding captive the seven former crew members of the MT ASPHALT VENTURE were demanding US1 million to release the hostages.

The hostages were held captive in a remote village known as FAA some 20 kilometers from Harardheere.

They were kept hostage by a pirate group under the leadership of Fathi Gacamey. [Read More...](#)

[Note: No official verification of the above report is available at time of publication]

Pirates in Court

NSTR

Italian Marines

NSTR

Seaman Guard Ohio

THE BATTLE to allow a former Wigton soldier to return home has come to a halt. - [News and Star](#). John Armstrong is one of six former British armed personnel currently on bail in India. The men are among 35 crew members on board the Seaman Guard Ohio who were arrested last October in connection with alleged weapons offences. They spent the first six months following their arrest in a Chennai jail, but – after major campaigning by families and friends of the crew, including the Armstrongs – 33 of the men were eventually released on bail.

The crew had been granted a potential reprieve, after the Indian court agreed to a hearing to have charges against the men quashed.

The date was twice postponed and then on Wednesday the court said it has “reserved its orders” on the case.

A spokesman for Mission to Seafarers, which has been supporting the crew and their families, confirmed that they were none-the-wiser either. “The judge provided no information on a new date or deadline for the conclusion of the trial,” he added. [Read More...](#)

Private Security

“INITIALLY THE doors within the shipping industry had been closed to private maritime security companies, and there was a definite “them and us” divide - [MarineLink](#). This has begun to break down, and we now see that PMSCs are very much a part of the logistics facilitation toolbox which ship owners have come to depend on,” says the latest issue of The Security Association for the Maritime Industry (SAMI) newsletter, excerpted as follows:

SAMI has joined the United Nations Contact Group on piracy, and this has allowed the maritime security industry a voice at the highest levels, and a conduit for information to be channelled. For a long time there was antipathy towards PMSCs – but now, it is able to communicate as respected, integrated and involved parts of the wider shipping community.

Maritime security has come a long way in a short time, and it is a testament to the quality providers who have worked hard to provide excellence to their clients, and those companies who have continued to support SAMI as we have worked to counter not just piracy, but industry myths, rumours and negativity too. [**Read More...**](#)

International Response

EUCAP Nestor provides Crime scene investigation and evidence handling training to 16 officers of the Maritime Police - [**OCEANUSLive**](#).

On 30 June, the European Union maritime capacity building mission, EUCAP Nestor, launched a two-week training on crime scene investigation and evidence handling for 12 officers from the Maritime Police and 4 of the Criminal Investigation Department of Zanzibar. The opening ceremony for this training, took place in the Police Academy, in the presence of several high ranking officers and a representative of the Director of Public Prosecution.

From 30 June to 11 July, a training team from the European Union maritime capacity building mission, EUCAP Nestor, carried out a crime scene investigation and evidence handling training for 12 officers from the Maritime Police and 4 of the CID-unit, among which 2 female officers.

When officers arrest suspected criminals, like smugglers or pirates, their action has to be lawful and the evidence has to be collected in a way that it can be used to prosecute and convict the criminal when brought to justice in Tanzania. The 16 officers will undergo two weeks of intensive theoretical and practical training. [**Read More...**](#)

FRESH FROM setting the record for the largest maritime heroin seizure, HMAS Darwin, operating in support of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF-150) has set another record in the fight against drug smuggling and the funding of terrorism - [**OCEANUSLive**](#)

The drugs, 6,248 kilograms of cannabis resin (also known as hashish or hash), are the largest maritime seizure of hash in the Indian Ocean to

date. On 28 June 2014 the drugs were discovered



aboard a dhow in international waters. In an operation lasting over 12 hours, boarding teams from HMAS Darwin conducted an intensive search finding the drugs hidden within the hull of the vessel.

Commander Terry Morrison, Commanding Officer,



HMAS Darwin, said of this achievement: "HMAS Darwin remains focused on the war against funding for terrorist organisations and I am proud of the continued dedication and professionalism of the crew onboard HMAS Darwin and the role they play as part of the Combined Maritime Forces." [**Read More...**](#)

EUCAP NESTOR HAS been operational in the Seychelles since January 2013. During this time, the EUCAP Nestor Country Office in the Seychelles has established itself as a key provider of capacity-building for local agencies working with maritime security. The mission has

strengthened the country's capacity to ensure maritime security in its waters and to fight the scourge of piracy - **OCEANUSLive**.

A team of EUCAP Nestor experts are embedded in the Coast Guard, Air Force, Police Force, and Judiciary where they provide advice, mentoring, and training. The mission is also providing equipment to Seychelles institutions.



The Coast Guard is the main agency enforcing the Seychelles' maritime security and combating piracy. EUCAP Nestor has two experts embedded in the new Coast Guard base who provide training and advice to their Seychelles counterparts. The mission has delivered the following:

A seven month Basic Training Programme for 21 new recruits to the Coast Guard. The training is a comprehensive programme covering a range of Coast Guard functions, including search and rescue, communication, navigation, seamanship, engineering, and security/safety.

Five major exercises with the Coast Guard and other agencies, such as the Air Force, Police, Judiciary, and SPDF, as well as EUNAVFOR Atalanta and NATO Ocean Shield vessels. The exercises have focused on counter-piracy operations, evidence-handling, oil-spill, firefighting, and search and rescue.

Donation of 10 semi-rugged laptops, 6 GPS, 2 electronic navigation devices (ECDIS), and 3 AIS positioning units.

Donation of and training on a deployable Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) to be used for boarding operations.

Training on crime scene investigation and forensics, evidence collection and handling.

Publication of a training manual on evidence collection at sea.

A tailored train-the-trainer course for 18 Coast Guard officers. This is to ensure the sustainability

of the training programmes EUCAP Nestor develops for the Coast Guard. **Read More...**

IN THE fluid, highly uncertain context of the post-Cold War period, rising powers have begun to engage more intensely in region-building, redefining their strategic vicinities through a combination of inter-state cooperation and military build-up. Although this topic has been addressed in depth with respect to China's behaviour in the Pacific and Russia's actions in the Arctic, relatively little has been published on region-building efforts by rising powers in the Southern Hemisphere - **Piracy Studies**. In the article Region-Building by Rising Powers: the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean Rims Compared, published last March in the Journal of the Indian Ocean Region, we compare the strategies that these two countries have pursued within their respective maritime spaces: the South Atlantic and the Indian Ocean. Although the geopolitics of those two regions are vastly different—broadly put, the Indian Ocean is marked by much sharper tensions and competitive dynamics—we find that these two rising powers have increasingly turned to the seas, and more specifically to maritime perimeters, as they work to increase opportunities and influence abroad.

In the case of Brazil, the government has drawn an analogy to the Amazon—long its foremost defence concern—to launch the “Blue Amazon” campaign, geared at convincing primarily domestic audiences of the need to improve naval dissuasion power in the South Atlantic, particularly in light of the discovery (announced in the mid and late 2000s) of substantial oil reserves on and off the Brazilian continental shelf in the Atlantic. Concurrently, Brazil has launched a naval upgrading programme that centres on the development, in cooperation with France, of a nuclear-powered attack submarine. Finally, Brazil has stepped up its cooperation with states all around the South Atlantic perimeter, in South America as well as in Africa, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

As for India, it exhibits many of the same strategies as Brazil, although—unlike its South American counterpart—India, itself a nuclear power, has to contend with the presence of

Pakistan on the perimeter of the Indian Ocean Rim. Another strategic concern is the operational presence established by the Chinese navy within the Indian Ocean since China joined anti-piracy efforts off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden. **[Read More...](#)**

GROWING CONCERN about the extent to which organised crime is undermining stability and prosperity on the African continent is galvanising a search for analytical tools and a clamour for more research to understand the contextual forces at play and how best to undermine them - **[IRIN News](#)**.

Whereas debates on organised crime primarily centred on the developed world, and then on Latin America and Central Asia, the focus has shifted to Africa. "Where analysts once questioned the relevance of organised crime as an issue in Africa, it is now increasingly being perceived as a quintessentially African concern," reads a report [<http://www.globalinitiative.net/unholy-alliances-organized-crime-in-southern-africa/>], *Unholy Alliances: Organised Crime in Southern Africa*, put out by the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, based on discussions by a panel of experts earlier this year. The report notes that of the growing number of mentions and resolutions made by the UN Security Council over the past eight years, 80 percent related to Africa.

Experts at the panel noted that there should be no "finger pointing" at the continent or its states and that "the most developed states in the world have roots in corruption and organised crime".

Furthermore, when trying to find solutions, "the role of Western countries and companies as exploiters and consumers in Africa must sit in the foreground." **[Read More...](#)**

THE EU's Political and Security Committee Thursday appointed a new Operation Commander for the EU Naval Force Somalia – operation ATALANTA – which aims to prevent piracy and armed robbery off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean - **[Kuwait News Agency](#)**.

Major General Martin Smith, Commandant General Royal Marines and Commander United Kingdom Amphibious Forces, will take up the post

of Commander of Operation ATALANTA on 28 August, said the committee in a statement. He will replace Rear Admiral Robert Tarrant, who has commanded the EU's counter piracy mission since 16 January 2013. **[Read More...](#)**



Piracy Costs

NSTR

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

THE ITALIAN Navy has found about 30 bodies in a fishing boat with hundreds of migrants between Sicily and the North African coast, Italy's media say - [**BBC News**](#).



The migrants appeared to have been asphyxiated, Ansa news agency reports.

The grim discovery was made when rescuers boarded the vessel to evacuate a number of people said to be in distress, two of them pregnant women.

The fishing boat with about 600 migrants is now being towed to the town of Pozzallo, southern Sicily. [**Read More...**](#)

Listen to Stafano Fremori, commander of the Italian Navy ship Grecale, out at sea, describe rescuing a fishing boat full of migrants. [**Listen to Interview on Soundcloud...**](#)



Seafarers' Plight

PRESIDENT OBAMA had been in office less than a year when Navy SEAL snipers opened fire on a small lifeboat in the Gulf of Aden, killing three armed Somali pirates and freeing an American mariner, Richard Phillips. That April 2009 ordeal has since become the stuff of legend, outlined in a bestselling book that was developed into the 2013 Tom Hanks movie "Captain Phillips." [**The Washington Post**](#)



Phillips met with the president in the Oval Office the following month. But it appears that will only take Obama so far. The captain is coming out in a public relations offensive against the White House's new counter-piracy plan. It is time for the United States to "zero in on the pirates' nests and eradicate them," Phillips said in news release published Wednesday by a maritime officers union.

The new White House plan, released June 20, states that pirates require land-based support and access to weapons in order to hijack ships at sea. It suggests that piracy at sea can only be reduced if bases on shore are disrupted or dismantled, and says the United States "will work with other governments and international organisations to disrupt and dismantle pirate bases to the fullest extent permitted by U.S. and international law." But, in a news release published by the International Organisation of Masters, Mates and Pilots, Phillips suggests that is not good enough. The governments of most of the countries where pirates operate "neither have the strong will nor resources to mount campaigns against these criminals," Phillips said. [**Read More...**](#)

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



Together in Nairobi: the released crew with MPHRP Regional Director for South Asia, Chirag Bahri, the UNODC team and Sri Lankan High Commission delegates.

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 (the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) 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."

MPHRP Acting Programme Director, Hennie La Grange, said, "For more than three years MPHRP has been supporting the families of the crew with regular contact and visits, has organised a series of combined and individual counselling sessions in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India, and has been providing, together with its partners, financial assistance to help with tuition fees, medicines and other living costs. " MPHRP's South Asia Regional Director, Chirag Bahri, flew to Nairobi and met the crew shortly

after their release, providing support in getting the crew new clothes, shoes, travel luggage, decent food and a trip to the hairdressers. Counselling and phone calls to their families were also arranged. **Read More...**

Aid Workers Plight

NSTR.

And Finally...

ITALIAN POLICE have released footage showing inside the wrecked cruise ship, Costa Concordia, weeks ahead of an operation to remove the vessel - **BBC News**.



The Concordia struck a reef off the island of Giglio in January 2012 and capsized, killing 32 people. Engineers wrenched the ship upright in September 2013, and have been attaching huge tanks to its sides so it can be towed away in the coming weeks. The ship is to be taken apart in its home port, Genoa. **Read More...**

THE FEMALE naval officer who masterminded the rescue of Captain Richard Phillips from the clutches of Somali pirates has been appointed the US Navy's vice chief of staff, becoming the first woman to reach the rank of four star admiral - **The Telegraph**.

It is the latest in a series of firsts during the 32-year career of Admiral Michelle Howard, 54. She was the first black American woman to command an American warship, the USS

Rushmore, and the first female graduate of the US Naval Academy to reach “flag rank”, or admiral. Her profile was raised when she led the April 2009 mission to rescue Captain Richard Phillips after he and his cargo ship, the Maersk Alabama, were seized by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean. The incident and rescue was later turned into a Hollywood film, starring Tom Hanks.

Admiral Howard had been transferred from a desk job in Washington to take command of the USS Boxer, an assault ship which was patrolling the Gulf of Aden, the stretch of the Arabian Sea known as Pirate Alley.

The Maersk was the first American flagged ship to have been seized by pirates since 1821.

Admiral Boxer recalled there was other pirate activity at the same time.

Having been told that Capt. Phillips had been taken hostage on a raft, she devised the plan to rescue him. **[Read More...](#)**



Image: Michelle Howard was the first black American woman to command an American warship, the USS Rushmore

Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- NSTR.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **SE Asia** - Two armed robbers in a wooden fishing boat approached and boarded an anchored tanker from the stern at 0330 LT in position 01:28N – 104:40E, off Pulau Bintan, Indonesia. Alert crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing alerted crew the robbers escaped empty handed. Reported (IMB) 2 Jul.
- **SE Asia** - Five robbers armed with guns boarded an anchored Panama-flagged vehicle carrier, **Barcelona**, at 2345 LT in position 05:59.47S – 106:54.24E, Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Indonesia. They entered the engine room, took the duty oiler hostage, tied and blindfolded him. They stole engine spares and escaped. The duty oiler freed himself and informed the D/O who raised the alarm and crew mustered. Master reported the incident to Pilot Station. The Indonesian Marine Police boarded the ship for investigation. Reported (IMB) 30 Jun.
- **West Africa** - Two robbers in a speed boat armed with long knives approached and boarded an anchored Antigua & Barbuda-flagged general cargo ship, **Jandavid S**, at 0045 LT in position 05:12.5N - 004:03.8W, Abidjan Anchorage, Ivory Coast. The duty A/B on routine rounds spotted the robbers at poop deck and informed the D/O who raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores in their boat. All crew mustered and a search was carried out throughout the ship. Port Control and ships in the vicinity were informed via VHF channel. Reported (IMB) 30 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - Six armed robbers boarded a Rep of Korea-flagged LPG vessel, **G Commander**, underway at 0500 LT in position 01:07N – 103:30E: 5nm East of Karimun Kechil Island, Indonesia. They entered into the engine room and took hostage an engine room crew, tied his hands and stole engine spares. While escaping they robbers released the crew who then raised the alarm. After mustering the crew searched the vessel. Reported (IMB) 30 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - Alert crew on board an anchored Panama-flagged container vessel, **Hanjin Qingdao**, spotted unauthorised persons on board their vessel at 0315 LT in position 01:25.3N – 104:44.3E: around 15nm NE of Bintan Island, Indonesia. Alarm raised resulting in robbers escaping with stolen ship stores. Reported (IMB) 30 Jun.
- **SE Asia** - While at anchor, onboard a Indonesia-flagged bulk carrier, **Piera**, the duty AB on rounds noticed the padlock to the forecastle store broken and sighted three robbers armed with knives at 0335 LT in position 01:17.6S – 116:47.6E, Balikpapan Inner Anchorage, Indonesia. He immediately informed the 2/O who raised the alarm. Seeing the crew alerted the robbers escaped with stolen ship stores. Reported (IMB) 27 Jun.

Other Incidents:

- **NSTR.**

Suspicious Activity:

- **Red Sea** - Merchant vessel reported 1 skiff on a parallel course at 3nm accompanied by a dhow at 1100 UTC in position 13:47N - 042:25E, Red Sea. The skiff with 5 POB closed to 900m then headed back to

the dhow where 5 additional personnel transferred to the skiff. As the skiff closed to 1200m the AST showed weapons and the skiff followed for a short time before stopping. Vessel and crew are safe. Reported (UKMTO) 4 Jul.

- [Red Sea](#) - Marshall Island-flagged bulk carrier reported approached by skiffs at 1845 LT in position 13:13N - 042:39E, Red Sea. Five skiffs followed astern of MV with further five skiffs approached at high speed to within 300 meters. One skiff observed with weapons (AK47 type) onboard. Master ordered fire hoses activated, conducted evasive manoeuvres, increased speed, informed CP forces. Embarked AST fired flares resulting in the skiffs abandoning their approach. Reported 30 Jun.
- [Gulf of Aden](#) - Merchant vessel reported a suspicious blue hulled skiff with 4 POB following at 10kts astern at 2nm at 1425 UTC in position 13:08.14N - 049:11.50E, IRTC, Gulf of Aden. The skiff closed to 1.5nm whereupon the AST fired a warning flare and the vessel increased speed. Vessel and crew are safe. Reported (UKMTO) 28 Jun.
- [Gulf of Aden](#) - Singapore-flagged product tanker, **Torm Sofia**, reported suspicious approach by a fishing vessel w/ 4 suspected pirates at 1210 UTC in position 13:15.4N - 049:11.3E, Gulf of Aden. No weapons or ladder sighted in boat covered by tarpaulin. Vessel crossed starboard bow at 3nm, then crossed closer approaching to starboard at 5m whereupon embarked AST stood to and fired warning shots, resulting in the skiff aborting its approach. Authorities informed, vessel and crew safe. Reported (TORM) 28 Jun.
- [Gulf of Oman](#) - Merchant vessel reported being approached by 2 blue and white hulled skiffs to 1400m at 1044 UTC in position 22:16.65N - 060:13.60E, approx 123nm SE of Muscat, Oman, Gulf of Oman. One skiff w/ 3 POB and the other w/ 2 POB. The AST gave loudspeaker verbal warning and showed weapons. The skiffs continued to approach whereupon AST fired a flare and warning shots. The skiffs withdrew only to approach again and the AST fired another flare and more warning shots. Vessel and crew are safe. Reported (UKMTO) 28 Jun.
- [Gulf of Aden](#) - Merchant vessel reported detecting at least 2 skiffs on radar approaching astern at 20kts at 2230 UTC in position 13:15N - 049:08E, IRTC, Gulf of Aden. The vessel activated fire hoses as the skiffs closed to within 1nm. A nearby warship launched a helicopter to investigate. Vessel and crew are safe. Reported (UKMTO) 27 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](#)



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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