

## 9 - 15 Aug 2014 No. 33/14

### Africa virus fears; Bunker pirates apprehended in Thailand; Arm captains to stop pirates in Guyana; PMSCs should not look to Asia rescue; EU at fault for piracy says MEP -

African nations began implementing measures to avoid the threat of the Ebola virus spreading. From possible quarantine for ships in port to the suspension of flights, the virus continues to spread as travellers are treated in more countries.

Thai marine police arrested eleven bunker pirates following a raid of four boats modified for smuggling diesel fuel worth \$2.17M USD. Paid around \$932 per delivery, the Thai government allows diesel to be sold free of customs and excise taxes to fishermen operating in territorial waters.

The owner of a fishing vessel, which saw its five crew attacked by pirates off Guyana, believes piracy can only be stopped if the captains are armed with guns, although refused by the government on the grounds it would encourage fishermen to "fight at sea and kill each other."

Western private maritime security companies should not look to Asia as a potential new market, reports Lloyd's List. Placing armed guards on board tankers is virtually impossible due to local legislation and previous efforts by regional navies "worked well together to suppress it [piracy]."

Controversial UKIP MEP says UN frigates should stop immigrants jumping on dinghies bound for Europe and UK. The MEP also said that the only reason "we've got Somali pirates..." is because the EU has "raped the sea around there...". A general election takes place in 2015.

UN Security Council members visited Mogadishu for the first time at a time when the next phase of military operations against militants is to be launched. Differing interests of troop contributing nations to AMISOM stalls forward movement against the militants. As piracy has reduced the surge in heroin smuggling has come to the fore in East Africa. UN have been asked for help to improve arrest of traffickers.

Although Nigerian forces swoop on hideouts used by kidnappers in Bayelsa, maritime workers threatened to withdraw services in protest over pirate attacks. The next step? Appoint ex-militant and leader of MEND to head up a task force to secure the state's creeks and waterways.

ReCAAP ISC states 14 incidents occurred in Asia in July; a decrease from 21 in June 2014.

Egypt has launched a major development project to build a 72km-long canal alongside the existing Suez Canal. President Al Sisi claims it will be completed in one year.

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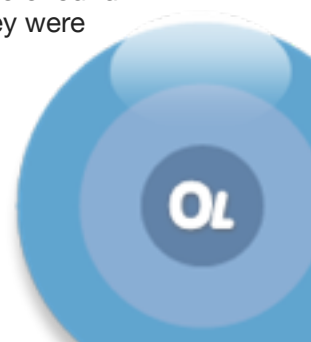
**We are pleased to have this opportunity to visit Somalia. Our visit underlines the commitment of the international community to Somalia's progress toward peace and stability.”**

**- UK'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AMBASSADOR MARK LYALL-GRANTS AID**

Pope Francis visited South Korea and met the families effected by the ferry disaster.

The Thai crew from FV Prantalay 12 have been held in captivity for over 4 years. UNODC Hostage Support Programme has engaged with pirates to provide medical visits and attempt to see their release on humanitarian grounds.

One man died after 34 people, including children, were found in a shipping container in Tilbury Docks in the UK. They were discovered when the ship, arriving from Zeebrugge, Belgium, was being unloaded.



# Regional Activity

## East Africa/Indian Ocean

GUNMEN ATTACKED a convoy of the Norwegian oil exploration company DNO near the Hudun town of Sool region on Monday night shortly after they left their base - [\*\*RBC Radio\*\*](#).

Armed militia fired on the convoy near Hudun but did not result any harm, According to residents in Hudun town who spike with RBC Radio.

The Norwegian company DNO entered the heavily disputed region of Sool in April 2013 after signing agreement with the breakaway region of Somaliland.

The agreement focused oil exploration on Block SL-18 in Sool region. Both Sool and Sanaag regions are disputed by Somaliland and Puntland. Meanwhile the Federal Government of Somalia previously protested against the agreement between DNO and Somaliland which is a breakaway region which has not been fully recognised.

Officials in Hargeisa said the local and international staff of the DNO left the area following the Monday's attack. [\*\*Read More...\*\*](#)

MEMBERS OF the United Nations Security Council arrived in Mogadishu this morning on a landmark visit to Somalia to review progress made by the Federal Government with assistance from the international community, and to demonstrate their continued support for the country's efforts to ensure a sustainable peace - [\*\*AllAfrica\*\*](#).

The visit by the fifteen-member body is led by the UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Mark Lyall-Grant, and Ambassador Usman Sarki of Nigeria. During the visit the Council members met with President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Prime Minister Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed, senior members of the Government and the Federal Parliament, and the leaders of the Interim Jubba Administration and Galmudug, Ahmed Islaan Madobe and Abdi Hassan Awale Qeybdid. They also held discussions with the senior leadership of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

(UNSOM), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and members of Somalia's civil society. The visit comes at an important time for Somalia as the country prepares to launch the next phase of military operations against Al-Shabaab, addresses a worsening humanitarian situation and pushes forward with political reforms to agree a federal system of governance.

Speaking at Mogadishu International Airport, the UK's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Mark Lyall-Grantsaid, "We are pleased to have this opportunity to visit Somalia. Our visit underlines the commitment of the international community to Somalia's progress toward peace and stability. [\*\*Read more...\*\*](#)

EAST AFRICAN states worried by a surge in heroin smuggling via their Indian Ocean ports want to boost intelligence sharing and possibly try suspected traffickers in local courts, an official at the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (ODC) said on Monday - [\*\*Reuters\*\*](#).

East Africa has become a key export route for Afghan heroin destined for Europe but regional maritime forces, short of funds and anti-trafficking expertise, have struggled to stem the flow of narcotics through their territorial waters.

Saeeda Verrall, a U.N. ODC official based in Mauritius, said regional states have asked the U.N. to help them improve maritime intelligence sharing and to create a legal framework to try suspected traffickers arrested in international waters.

"There is a recognition that this is a huge problem and that it requires a rethinking of how information is shared and a willingness to co-ordinate around the region," Verrall said.

So far the best defense against drugs trafficking for the likes of Kenya and Tanzania has been the Combined Maritime Force (CMF), a 30-nation naval force which has in east Africa mainly



focused on protecting busy shipping lanes from Somali pirates.

As piracy has waned in the last two years, CMF has shifted attention in east Africa to combating smuggling of illicit drugs and weapons. (Kenyan Guards Drugs pic) [Read more...](#)

THE OBAMA administration recently announced that the US will appoint an ambassador to Somalia for the first time in two decades. But the new ambassador will not be posted in Somalia's capital Mogadishu – where insecurity prevails - **Mail and Guardian**.

And the Pentagon has also acknowledged deploying a team of military advisors to the war torn Somalia, to assist Somali and other African troops battle against al-Shabaab. But this new expanding US involvement in Somalia's conflict would do little to make a difference in Somalia or bolster the position of US backed beleaguered Somali government.

The US and EU's narrative about Somalia is a country that is making slow but steady progress. They say the country made some gains in security and economic conditions, that al-Shabaab has been driven out most of population centres in south central Somalia, with the help of African Union troops, a legitimate Somali government has formed, and a road map calling for nationwide election by 2016 is in place.

But the facts on the ground show that Somalia is still a mess. President Hassan Mohamud's unelected government, the first Somali government the US recognised since 1991, barely controls Mogadishu – where al-Shabaab is waging asymmetrical warfare: car and suicide bombings, including the recent repeat attacks on Somalia's presidential palace and Parliament.

In addition, al-Shabaab is still wreaking havoc in south central Somalia and neighbouring countries. Describing the depth of corruption in Somalia, Ahmed Samatar, professor of international studies at Macalester College, who ran for president of Somalia in 2012, said in a recent interview with the Minnesota public radio, "Somalia's future is bleak because of the parochial clannish politics of incompetent and corrupt leaders, who are looking only after their own self interest" [Read More...](#)

SOMALIA HAS become the latest nation to join the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), an intergovernmental fisheries management body mandated to manage the tuna and tuna like species of the Indian Ocean and its associated impacted ecosystem - **FAO UN**.

The Horn of Africa nation, with one of the longest coastal lines joins global IOTC membership with over 30 nations to promote cooperation among members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of stocks covered by the organisation and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation facilitated Somalia admission into the IOTC through its mandate to develop and protect the world's fisheries resources. FAO's Assistant Director-General for the Africa region, Bukar Tijani hailed the move as a milestone.

"Admission of Somalia into the IOTC is a great step in ensuring sustainability of tuna species in the Indian Ocean but also a bold step to completely eliminate piracy which has plagued ocean since 2009," said Bukar.

Joining IOTC was an important step for Somalia which, among others, will enable Somalia to benefit from foreign tuna fleets operating under license in its EEZ, to develop its own fishing fleet



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in the future and contribute to the sustainability of the tuna resources. In addition, IOTC is in the process of developing a quota allocation criteria, and becoming a member ensures that Somalia will be included in future discussions on this important issue. 'This is also a special occasion for all us, as the IOTC this year, celebrates its 18th year since coming into force with a new member's acceptance to join, last May - the Federal Republic of Somalia. We are grateful to FAO and the Seychelles for their role in this very positive development", said Indian Ocean Tuna Commission's Executive Secretary, Mr. Rondolph Payet.

*Photo: Fisheries activities in Bossaso, Puntland under the SEED programme, the fishing community is being helped to improve market information systems [Read More...](#)*

INSUFFICIENT TROOPS and the growing divergence in the interests by regional countries are posing a major challenge to plans by the government of Somalia and African peacekeepers to launch a major offensive against Al Shabaab - ***The East African***.

Investigations reveal that differences in perspectives among the troop contributing countries of Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia continue to widen stalling forward movement in the past six months, even as the peacekeepers maintain that the territory controlled by the militants is reducing drastically.

In addition, the 22,126 combined troops of the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) are not sufficient to police the vast territory of Somalia and to sustain the final push against Al Shabaab.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, announced in Washington on Tuesday that "Operation Indian Ocean" by Amisom and the Somali National Army is set to begin in a few days.

However, Eloi Yao, the Senior public information officer and Amisom spokesperson doubted whether any major operations could be launched in days because a high level UN delegation is scheduled to visit Mogadishu next week to discuss issues of Amisom progress, security and political developments following the

recent formation of three semi-autonomous regions.

Mr Yao hinted that the operation was initially scheduled for September but it will depend on the factors on the ground. [Read More...](#)

AT LEAST 14 people were killed in heavy fighting when African Union peacekeepers entered a suburb of the Somali capital Mogadishu in an offensive against armed militias - ***Reuters Africa***. Frequent militant attacks in the Horn of Africa country show that a push by African Union peacekeeping troops has not weakened the Islamist al Shabaab group's capacity to wage asymmetric warfare in the capital, where coordination between Somali and foreign intelligence agencies is poor.

"At least 14 people, mostly militia, died in the fighting this morning. The government's aim is to secure the city," Major Abdullahi Farah, a senior police officer, told Reuters. [Read More...](#)

SOMALIA'S FRAGILE humanitarian situation is at risk of sliding back into emergency. Some 857,000 people, most of them displaced, are already in need of urgent life-saving assistance at least through June 2014 - ***Relief Web***. Early warnings indicate that the combination of the delayed April-June rains, a disrupted planting season and rising food prices in areas affected by the ongoing military offensive could further worsen the humanitarian situation in the country. The number of people in need may further increase if the main Gu rainy season (April to June) performs poorly.

#### KEY FIGURES



#### FUNDING: CONSOLIDATED APPEAL 2014



[\(Click to enlarge image\)](#)

The resumption of rainfall since early May has helped alleviate moisture stress on planted crops in agriculture dependent areas and replenished water and pasture in pastoral areas. The Gu harvest will largely depend on continued rains through June.

Despite this serious situation, funding for Somalia in 2014 is critically low. A total of US\$933 million is required to meet humanitarian needs for 2014, of which only 25 per cent (US\$230 million) has been funded. Humanitarians need urgent and sustained funding to save lives and strengthen the resilience to shocks of the vulnerable people.

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## West Africa

OBP would like to shift your attention to the west coast of Africa and discuss piracy in the Gulf of Guinea region. Recently receiving more international attention due to the high level of attacks, the waters off the coast of West Africa are some of the most dangerous in the world to transit - ***Oceans Beyond Piracy***.

While often discussed in the same vein, Somali-piracy and West African piracy are very different in terms of their roots, the business model utilized and the capacity of the regional nations to address the threat. These differences have had a great impact on the approaches used to combat piracy; the Somali-piracy crisis has been mitigated by the international community while regional nations are currently leading efforts to combat piracy off the coast of West Africa, with support from the international community.

As incidents of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea have risen regional nations have increased their commitment to combatting the threat in the region through the formation of regional agreements and a pledge to enhance capacities.

OBP is concerned about the level of attacks in the Gulf of Guinea region and the risk this poses for seafarers working on vessels in the region. OBP supports both the regional and international efforts being made to combat piracy in the region and acknowledges that combatting piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea will require a coordinated and multi-stakeholder response to address both immediate risks faced by seafarers and provide a comprehensive strategy to address the root causes. [Read more...](#)

Click for [video](#)



IN RESPONSE to the continued challenges of piracy and armed robbery in West Africa, a number of initiatives have been developed both regionally and internationally. Among the most prominent initiatives are the International Information Sharing Centres that are currently operating or are planned for the region. The featured chart gives an overview of the proposed and operating Information Sharing Centres in West Africa.

[Download Chart.](#)



IN A seeming indication that he is overwhelmed by rising insecurity and violent crimes in Bayelsa State, Governor Seriake Dickson has set up an 11-member task force to tackle issues of maritime insecurity in his state. The governor appointed Ebikabowei Victor-Ben, an ex-militant and leader

of the defunct Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), to head the task force charged with securing the state's creeks and



waterways against violent criminals. The ex-militant is popularly known as "Boy Loaf." -

#### **Sahara Reporters**

Bayelsa State has been plagued recently by a spate of high-profile abductions and homicidal attacks by pirates. Among recent kidnap victims were the 90-year-old mother of a senator from Bayelsa State as well as a brother of the speaker

of the state assembly. Both victims have since been released.

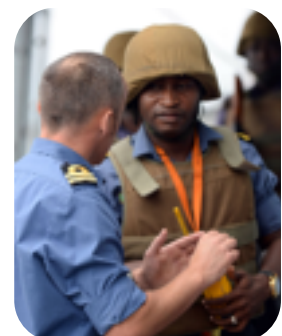
Some critics of Governor Dickson's constitution of the maritime security task force said the move was dictated by partisan political considerations. "This is all preparatory to the general elections in 2015 and the governorship election a year afterwards," said one critic who asked for anonymity. The source said the governor's move also signalled a lack of confidence in the established security agencies present in the state. "Bayelsa State is already the headquarters of the joint military task force in the Niger Delta," said the source, adding, "Why then do we need another task force headed by Boy Loaf if not for political reasons?"

A source close to Governor Dickson told SaharaReporters that the decision to constitute the "Boy Loaf" task force came after a coalition of ex-militant leaders brokered deals that led to the release of three recent high-profile kidnap victims, including Mrs. Florentina Paulker, mother of Senator Emmanuel Paulker, and Iniokpoemi Benson, a younger brother of the Speaker of Bayelsa House of Assembly, Kombowei Benson. A statement signed by Governor Dickson's spokesman, Daniel Iworiso-Markson, disclosed that the task force was aimed at stemming the tide of kidnappings, sea piracy, illegal bunkering and oil pipeline vandalism that have been on the increase in recent times in the state. [Read More...](#)

A ROYAL Navy frigate has been training with the Nigerian Navy allowing for an exchange of skills and techniques - **Royal Navy**.

HMS Iron Duke paid a short visit to Lagos, Nigeria, West Africa's most populous city where the frigate worked with the Nigerian Navy as well as hosting a UK Trade and Industry Expo.

The Portsmouth based Type 23 frigate is the second Royal Navy ship to visit the city after HMS Portland berthed there back in February.



Iron Duke's ship's company were given the opportunity to work closely with members of the Nigerian Navy and carried out lessons in navigation, seamanship, firefighting and damage control techniques as well as first aid. The training also allowed the ship's boarding team the chance to share their knowledge with their Nigerian colleagues. [Read More...](#)

THE CENTRAL Naval Command of the Nigerian Navy with headquarters in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, has handed over 20 suspected crude oil thieves to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission - ***Punch Nigeria***.

The handing over of the suspects took place on Wednesday at the command's Forward Operating Base, Formoso, Brass, Bayelsa State.

Commanding Officer, FOB Formoso, Capt. Noel Madugu, said the suspects were arrested at Sangana river in Brass Local Government Area of the state.

He said the suspects comprising 18 Nigerians, one Camerounian and one Ghanaian were on board the vessel MV ELMINA.

He said during the time of arrest, the captain of the ship could not provide the relevant documents to lift crude oil.

Madugu also said the suspects declared they were loading Automated Gas Oil (diesel), but when the products were tested, it was discovered to be crude oil.

Madugu, who paraded the suspects before handing them over to the officials of the EFCC, Port Harcourt office, noted that the culprits were arrested around 1.30am on August 7, 2014. [Read More...](#)

THE BRITISH Navy and its Nigerian counterpart will build a synergy through information and experience sharing in order to strengthen their capacity to deal with insecurity and illegal activities within Nigeria, the West African coast and across the Gulf of Guinea - ***AllAfrica***.

This was the submission of the Commanding Officer of the British Naval War ship, the Iron Duke, Tom Tredary during its six day working visit to Nigeria.

He said the move was inspired by the need for the Nigerian Navy and the British Navy to share

information and experience in order to boost maritime security within the Gulf of Guinea and especially within the West African coast.

Addressing newsmen on board the Iron Duke in Lagos, he said, "Maritime security is a problem that affects all nations. It's important that security is given the required attention in order to reduce illegal activities at sea. It requires concerted efforts by all navies to do that. We think that we can share experiences we have had in combating piracy in the Indian Ocean and Somalia. "This will help the Nigerian Navy to refine the techniques that they already use to try and bring a great deal of law and order in the Gulf of Guinea. We think that there is a lot that we can learn from each other because Nigerian Navy has a better understanding of activities around these waters and we have a great understanding of activities patrolling the Gulf of Guinea, so we can share experiences," he said. [Read More...](#)

ALL SHIPS coming into South African ports from West Africa are being quarantined as fear mounts of the deadly Ebola virus. There were reports yesterday that a container ship coming into the northern KwaZulu-Natal port of Richards Bay had been quarantined because of a suspected case of Ebola on board. This was denied by port and health officials - ***Times Live***. The current outbreak in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea has killed 1013 people, making it the worst outbreak since Ebola was discovered four decades ago. The Hammonia Pacificum was to have docked in Richards Bay on Saturday night but moored outside the port and a quarantine flag was hoisted.

Health officials said it was in line with new protocols.

"All ships from Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria are required to be quarantined while checks are done. All ships have to declare that there are no illnesses on board and satisfy certain port health requirements," the deputy director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Lucille Blumberg, said.

She said that in most instances the checks were made before the ships docked. [Read More...](#)

OFFICIALS IN Africa's most populous city are scrambling to avoid mistakes that have helped fuel biggest Ebola epidemic in history - [\*\*\*The Guardian\*\*\*](#).

The man was acting strangely even before he boarded the plane, hunching over in pain and avoiding physical contact with other passengers milling around the airport in Monrovia, Liberia's capital. Once airborne, he was sick several times. By the time he disembarked at Lagos airport – one of the busiest in the continent – he was no longer able to stand unaided, diplomats and a witness told the Guardian.

Those who rushed forward to help did not know Patrick Sawyer was in the final stages of an Ebola-induced breakdown, when the deadly disease is at its most contagious. More than 24 hours passed before the Liberian-American civil servant was diagnosed, allowing the virus to gain a foothold in Africa's most populous city and, for the first time, turning the threat of an urban outbreak into a nightmarish possibility.

After watching three regional neighbours - Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone - battle an eight-month epidemic, Nigerian officials are scrambling to contain a potential fourth frontline. [Read More...](#)

GHANA PORTS and Harbours Authority director-general Richard Anamoo has announced that the country needs a third port. Anamoo was speaking at a stakeholders forum held by GPHA to review progress of work on the port of Takoradi expansion project - [\*\*\*IHS Maritime 360\*\*\*](#).

Quoted by Ghana's official news agency, GNA, Anamoo said another port was needed to boost trade and promote the nation's socio-economic growth.

Despite the expansion at Takoradi, which got under way in December 2013 and includes dredging and land reclamation, Anamoo stated that the extra space at Takoradi would still not be enough to handle the increasing demand in maritime trade.

Ghana has seen a major increase in cargo moving through its two ports since it discovered oil in 2007. Today they handle about 17M tonnes of cargo - and container volumes are projected to double from the current 1M teu to 2M teu within the decade. [Read More...](#)

SHIPPING IS the heart of global economy and the maritime industry which is a sub-sector of the transport sector, accounts for nearly 90 percent of transport requirement of the world. In West Africa, seaborne trade accounts for over 60 percent of the total GDP of the countries in the region - [\*\*\*Business Day Online\*\*\*](#). Over the years, Nigeria's maritime industry has not attracted considerably the required local and foreign investment inflow that is proportionate to its contribution both to the Nigerian and West African economy despite its great potential and enormous investment opportunities. Some experts in Nigeria adduced lack of knowledge about the maritime sector and technical capacity as the basis for the very poor response that it has generated from investing public. Regardless, there are new indices and opportunities that portend the ability of Nigeria to develop the maritime industry through capacity building and professionalism.

Capacity building also referred to as capacity development is a conceptual approach to development that focuses on understanding the obstacles that inhibit people, governments, international organisations and non-governmental organisations from realising their developmental goals. It equally enhances abilities that will allow organisations to achieve measurable and sustainable results.

Nigeria with a coast line of 420nm, has an approximate sea acreage of 84,000 sq nm (287,4790sq km) almost equal to one-third the total land area over which it has sovereign rights to all living and non-living resources therein. Thus Nigeria with a homogenous interconnection of rivers and estuaries into its heartland is suitably poised to desire innovative ways to boost the maritime industry. Albeit, challenges of good governance, decay in national infrastructure and inappropriate allocation of resources stand as a detour to this lofty aspiration.

In order to transform the fortunes of the maritime industry, there is need for cooperation and synergy among the various government agencies and stakeholders. [Read More...](#)

MARITIME WORKERS in Bayelsa State have threatened to withdraw their services in protest over incessant pirates' attacks on passenger



boats in the creeks in recent times - [\*\*\*Talk Magazine Nigeria\*\*\*](#).

Lamenting what they described as the insensitivity of the state government to their plight, the boat operators, under the auspices of the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria, have issued a two-week ultimatum to the government to address the insecurity on the waterways, failure of which they will withdraw their services.

Chairman of the maritime workers union, Mr. Lloyd Sese, yesterday in Yenagoa, said that the waterways was no longer safe for any meaningful business due to the incessant attacks on passenger boats by the rampaging pirates leading to the death of some boat drivers and passengers. Governor Seriake Dickson had last week approved the appointments of a former leader of the defunct Movement of the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Ebikabowei Victor-Ben, A.K.A. Boyloaf and 10 others into its special task force to curb criminality in the creeks. [Read More...](#)

THE JOINT Task Force (JTF) in the Niger Delta, Operation Pulo Shield, on Thursday said its troops swooped on hideouts used by suspected kidnappers in Bayelsa coastal communities - [\*\*\*Vanguard Nigeria\*\*\*](#).

According to a statement from Lt. Col Mustapha Anka, Media Coordinator of the JTF, the operation was ordered by JTF Commander, Maj. Gen Emmanuel Atewe, following rising insecurity in waterways in the state.

The statement made available to News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Yenagoa said the troops flushed out and dislodged the kidnappers who engaged the troops in shoot out from their hideouts with bullet wounds.

Anka explained that the operation by Operation Pulo Shield's anti-illegal bunkering squad was led by Commanding Officer OF 5 Battalion, Lt. Col. Shu'aibu Nuhu, in collaboration with the Air Component of the task force.

"The Task Force Stormed a Camp at Meibegbemo located at Zobia of Faropo community of Southern Ijaw LGA dislodging the camp, recovering arms and ammunition before setting it ablaze.

"During a shootout miscreants escaped to the creeks with several gunshot wounds sustained during the exchange of fire. No arrest was made but caches of arms and ammunition were recovered. [Read More...](#)

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## Southeast Asia

THE THAI Marine Police discovered 370,000 litres of diesel on four boats modified for smuggling in Chanthaburi, Thailand, during a raid on 9 August - [\*\*\*IHS Maritime 360\*\*\*](#).

Eleven suspected bunker pirates were apprehended. The suspects were identified as Chaiyan Suksa-nguan, 45, of Laem Sing district, and 10 Cambodian crew.

The boats and cargo detained by the law enforcers are said to worth over THB70M (\$2.17M). Chaiyan allegedly confessed to having brought foreign diesel to the wharf many times for sale to fishing boats trawling off the Chanthaburi and Trat coasts. He was paid around THB30,000 (\$932) for each delivery.

Somyos Phumphanmuang, police general and deputy chief of Thailand National Police, said the government had allowed diesel to be sold free of customs and excise taxes to fishermen operating 12nm from shore, but the sale of untaxed oil onshore was illegal. [Read More...](#)

OFFICIALS IN Bangladesh called off the search Monday for an overloaded ferry that sank a week ago in one of the country's largest rivers, leaving more than a hundred people dead or missing - [\*\*\*The New York Times\*\*\*](#).

The ferry, the M.V. Pinak, had a capacity of 85 passengers but was carrying more than 200 when it capsized last Monday in Munshiganj district. Many of the passengers were returning from their home villages after celebrating Eid al-Fitr, the festival marking the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan.

Local chief administrator Saiful Hasan Badal said 46 bodies have been recovered and 61 people remain missing and are presumed dead.

He said the search was halted Monday after rescuers scoured more than 50 square kilometers (about 20 square miles) of the Padma river but failed to find the vessel. Bad weather and strong currents hampered the search, he said. Rescuers used two salvage ships, one survey ship and dozens of divers to search for the vessel.

[Read More...](#)

REPORTS FROM the field tend to indicate that the two German tourists who went missing last April in the high seas between Palawan and Sabah are in the custody of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), a source from the intelligence community based in Manila disclosed on Monday - **Noonsite**.



The source shared a copy of a photograph going the rounds of the intelligence community showing the two Germans surrounded by a group of men armed with heavy automatic

weapons, with two fighters

sitting on the ground and the two Germans holding what appears to be a German flag.

The two Germans were identified in previous media reports as Stefan Victor Okonek, 71 and Herike Diesen 55.

The ASG has gained notoriety with kidnap for ransom activities. [Read More...](#)

ACCORDING TO ReCAAP ISC, the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia has decreased from 21 incidents reported in June 2014 to 14 incidents in July 2014 - **OCEANUSLive**.

The ReCAAP ISC observes that the number of incidents fluctuated with a pattern of ups and downs over the one-year period of July 2013 to July 2014. The number of incidents decreased from 17 cases in July 2013 to nine in September 2013 before it increased to 20 in October 2013. This pattern of ups and downs continued in the subsequent months at an interval of four-month period (October 2013 to February 2014, and February 2014 to July 2014).

Of the 14 incidents reported in July 2014, close to 50% were petty thefts and the rest were armed

robbery against ships, including three Category 1 (very significant) incidents.

The three Category 1 incidents involved siphoning of Marine Gas Oil (MGO) and Marine Fuel Oil (MFO) from product tankers, Moresby 9 and Oriental Glory on 4 Jul 14 and 15 Jul 14 respectively; and an armed robbery onboard product tanker, Ji Xiang on 25 Jul 14.

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned and mindful of the number of incidents involving siphoning of fuel/ oil from product/oil tankers. In response, the ReCAAP ISC had promulgated a Special Report, entitled "Incidents of Siphoning of Fuel/Oil at Sea in Asia" which collated the modus operandi of pirates/robbers involved in these incidents, highlighted best practices and lessons learned through case studies; and recommended countermeasures to be adopted by ship owners, masters, crew and authorities in tackling with the situation.

[Full Report](#) [Read More...](#)

THE JAPANESE government is stepping up efforts to increase both its presence and the population's awareness of claims to remote islands off the western coast of its main islands. The plans include the stationing of troops, increased investment in development, and the strengthening of "maritime education." While these plans target islands from as far north as Hokkaido all the way south to Okinawa, they are still primarily concerned with exerting Japan's claims to islands that are disputed with China - **The Diplomat**.

The largest and most ambitious part of the plans announced this week is a bill the ruling Liberal Democratic Party is considering for this fall's Diet session. According to the Yomiuri Shimbun, the plan intends to designate "about 10 inhabited remote islands near national borders as 'special border remote islands' to intensively promote the islands' protection and development." As noted above, the islands run the length of Japan's west coast, and the bill seeks to assist islands that the government feels have been targeted by South Korean or Chinese entities in order to assert their claims or infringe on Japanese fishing rights. In light of these island's dwindling populations (due to a lack of industry and connectivity to the home islands), the bill would increase government

investment in ports, roads and infrastructure, as well as giving fishermen support “who suffer damage from illegal acts by foreign vessels.” More importantly, the plan also calls for the government to purchase property on these islands to be used by the Self-Defense Forces and coast guard as ports and airfields. [Read More...](#)

A MAJOR fire broke out at a Brisbane shipyard on Monday in a boat shed where a naval vessel was

under repair.

According to local reports 50 firefighters were battling the blaze, which broke out on the patrol boat “HMAS Bundaberg” -

**Seatrade Global.**

Pictures from 7News TV channel showed smoke billowing from the boat shed across the Brisbane skyline. The HMAS Bundaberg is a 2007-built 56 m patrol vessel and was under repair in a facility in Brisbane Marine Industry Park. Local reports said one man was treated for smoke inhalation but no other injuries were reported. [Read More...](#)

SEA CHAMPION, a Russian cargo ship, has caught fire in the Sea of Japan. The incident occurred on August 7 at around 7:40 a.m. LT off the coast of Primorye (7.4 miles south-east of Cape Swivel, Nakhodka) and resulted in one victim. The vessel was en route from Vladivostok to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky carrying vehicles and containers -

**Vessel Finder.**

According to preliminary investigations, the fire broke out in the engine room of the vessel, but the cause and all circumstances of the crew member's death are yet to be determined.

Although the crew managed to contain the fire, they were evacuated on a nearby fishing boat. The Sea Champion vessel was towed to Vladivostok



port, with the assistance of the tug Lazurit, where the fire was finally extinguished. [Read More...](#)

SAILORS FROM the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s Maritime Security Task Force are participating in an annual maritime exercise called Southeast Asia Cooperation And Training (SEACAT) with navies from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and the United States - **News Asia One.**

The Exercise SEACAT series, which started in 2002, will see navies practicing maritime information-

sharing and coordination of maritime security responses to seaborne threats such as piracy and terrorism from August 11 to 15.

Planning exercises will also take place at the Changi Command and Control (C2) Centre at Changi Naval Base (CNB).

The navies will also conduct drills involving the tracking of ships as well as the boarding of a merchant vessel simulated to be engaging in terrorist-related activities at sea. [Read More...](#)



## Americas/South America/Caribbean

BEERAM PERSAUD, owner of the fishing vessel that a five-man Corentyne crew was working on when they disappeared at sea, feels piracy can only be stopped if the captains are provided with guns - **Stabroek News.**

The frustrated Persaud of Number 60 Village told this newspaper in an interview that if the pirates know the fishing boats are equipped with guns they would not attempt to carry out attacks. He pointed out that fishermen had asked for guns before and government had refused on the

grounds that the fishers would “fight at sea and kill each other.”

According to him, that was a “baseless excuse.”

[Read More...](#)

## Other

AFTER HOURS casting their nets close to the Gaza shore, Palestinian fishermen sift through their catch in the dim dawn light, managing to scrape together a few piles of limp fish.

It's a miserable catch, the result they say of restrictions imposed by Israel, with their boats allowed only three nautical miles (5.6 km) offshore, following a month of no fishing at all during the recent fighting - ***Reuters***.

For years Gaza's fishing community - once one of its proudest and most productive industries - has been caught in the middle of a maritime feud, part of a wider conflict between the blockaded Palestinian enclave and Israel.

Israel shut down the waters off Gaza immediately after the war began on July 8, aware that the sea has been used as a means to attack Israel in the past. Four armed Palestinian frogmen who swam to southern Israel from Gaza were killed by Israeli forces on the first day of the conflagration.

As Palestinian and Israeli negotiators meet independently with Egyptian officials in Cairo to try to reach an agreement to end the conflict, maritime rights are one of the critical issues up for discussion. The deadline of the latest, 72-hour ceasefire expires at 2100 GMT on Wednesday, with no accord in sight. [Read More...](#)

KOREAN AIR Lines Co. is suspending flights to and from Kenya in what it says is a measure to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus - ***Punch Nigeria***.

The South Korean flag carrier said on Thursday it would stop operating flights between the southern city of Incheon and Nairobi from August 20. The carrier flies to Nairobi, which is its only destination in Africa, three times a week and did not say when it would resume its service.

Ebola has not been detected in Kenya yet during this most recent outbreak, the worst recorded.

The outbreak has killed more than 1,000 people since the start of the year in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Nigeria last month became the fourth West African country affected. [Read More...](#)

A MAJOR development project, launched this week by Egyptian President Abdul Fattah Al Sissi in the Suez Canal area, is aimed at emphasising the country's stability despite regional turmoil, analysts have said - ***Gulf News***.

“The main political message behind this project is that Egypt is stable enough to launch such a big project,” said Abdul Moneim Al Sayyed, the head of the non-governmental Cairo Centre for Economic Studies.

Al Sissi, who took office in June, declared on Tuesday the building of a 72-long-kilometre canal alongside the existing Suez Canal that links the Mediterranean and Red seas. Al Sissi said the new canal will be completed in one year rather than the planned three years to boost traffic at the 145-year-old waterway.

The new canal is part of an ambitious project estimated to cost \$8.2 billion (Dh30.1 billion) aimed at making Egypt a global trade and industrial hub. [Read More...](#)

DRY EXCAVATION work in the new Suez Canal commenced on Sunday as three thousand trucks and loaders in addition to 7,500 workers began work on site, Kamel al-Waziri, supervisor of “the New Suez Canal” project said, according to ***Al Arabiya News***.

Waziri, also an engineering unit chief of staff at the Egyptian armed forces, told reporters that as many as 40 companies are conducting these excavation works, adding that he expects the number to increase to 63.

More companies sought to conduct the excavation following an order from president Abedl-Fattah al-Sisi to decrease the project's duration from three years to one year, he added. According to Waziri, the current 40 companies will be digging dry-digging 35 kilometers for the new channel. He added that sand dredged from



excavation work will reach 0.5 million cubic meters every day.

Waziri said specific areas were assigned to companies based on the size of their operations and equipment. [Read More...](#)

EGYPT AND the countries of the Customs Union are looking into creating a free trade zone, Russian President Vladimir Putin said after meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi at the Black Sea city of Sochi - [RT.com](#).

"An important agreement was reached to establish cooperation between Egypt and the Customs Union [of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan]," said the Russian President. "And now we are looking at a possibility of creating a free trade zone."

He noted that this subject had been discussed at a meeting of the council of the Common Economic Space on July 7.

The two presidents also agreed upon the creation of a Russian industrial zone in Egypt, which will be part of a new Suez Canal project.

"Our talks have opened great prospects in this area. I hope that the creation of the Russian industrial zone in Egypt will become a component that will supplement the new Suez Canal project, which Egypt presented last week," Sisi said. [Read More...](#)

SPECIALISTS ON the U.S. container ship M/V Cape Ray continue their work in the Mediterranean Sea, neutralising chemical materials from Syria and contributing to what the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, or OPCW, on August 7 confirmed as the destruction of 74.2 percent of Syria's chemical stockpile - [US Dept of Defence](#).

U.S. military and civilian specialists aboard the ship began using the field deployable hydrolysis system to neutralise Syrian chemical materials on July 7, Director of Pentagon Press Operations Army Col. Steve Warren told reporters at the time, anticipating that it would take about 60 days to complete the job.

On August 5 at the Aberdeen Proving Ground-Edgewood Team CBRNE capabilities showcase, Adam Baker, a chemical engineer and project

manager with the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Centre, detailed the hard work that went into turning a land-based hydrolysis system into a field-deployable system in just five months. The project was given the go-ahead in February 2013. In November 2013, he said, "That's when they made the decision to start putting it on the Cape Ray."

Baker said the original chemical cargo from Syria consisted of about 600 tons of methylphosphonyl difluoride, usually called DF, the main precursor of sarin and other nerve agents, and 20 tons of mustard, a blister agent.

Today, a Pentagon spokeswoman confirmed that the Cape Ray crew now has neutralised 100 percent of the DF and is beginning to work on the mustard. [Read More...](#)

FORMER NSA contractor also says the U.S. was working on an automated cyberattack response system in WIRED

interview - [Time](#)  
National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden has claimed a team of NSA hackers was responsible for effectively knocking the entire country of Syria offline two years ago during a period of intense fighting in its still-ongoing civil war.

Snowden's claim is significant because many observers believed one of several other parties to be responsible for the outage, including Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, hackers aligned with but perhaps not a part of Assad's government, or Israel.

Snowden's story, as revealed in an interview with Snowden published Wednesday in WIRED, goes like this: The NSA team essentially tried to get access to a primary component of Syria's main Internet Service Provider. Syria only has one big ISP, making it a particularly inviting target for electronic snooping; setting up that backdoor would have given the U.S. unparalleled access to



nearly all digital communications within Syria, a major intelligence advantage. [Read More...](#)

A CONTROVERSIAL UKIP MEP says UN frigates should be used to stop immigrants jumping on dinghies bound for Europe and the UK - **[News Shopper](#)**.

Janice Atkinson was talking to News Shopper at her home in Chislehurst about standing in the 2015 general election alongside leader Nigel Farage.

She is set to contest a seat in Kent and will reveal



where at a party conference in September.

Mrs Atkinson, 51, said she thinks the party has a "very strong chance" of gaining MPs and said if elected she would continue to fight immigration and push for a European exit.

She explained she has witnessed "human

trafficking" at Kentish ports and said the European Union is at fault for prompting piracy.

Mrs Atkinson continued: "We've got to get frigates out in the sea to stop people getting on the dinghies - we need to go to the source in Turkey and North Africa.

"And the only reason we've got Somali pirates is because the EU has raped the sea around there. They're desperate."

The former Conservative, who stood for Parliament in 2010 but lost out to Labour, said she wants to "debunk racism myths" surrounding her party. [Read More...](#)

LIBYA'S DETERIORATING security situation has led to an exodus of aid workers and the suspension of development programmes, leaving tens of thousands of displaced and vulnerable people relying on skeleton networks run in part by volunteers - **[The Guardian](#)**.

In recent weeks, thousands of families have fled their homes in the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi, following clashes between rival militias, factions of whom seized control of the capital's international airport and a military base in Benghazi, and set fire to a major fuel depot.

This latest surge in violence comes after a highly contested election in June and while some steps have been taken towards forming a new parliament, the authorities are still struggling to manage law and order, prompting claims the country is heading back towards civil war.) [Read More...](#)

THE FIRST crude loading in nearly a year has begun at the Ras Lanuf terminal in Libya, a local port agent told Platts Monday, giving the beleaguered North African country a much needed boost - **[Platts](#)**.

Ras Lanuf, whose capacity is 220,000 b/d, was occupied by anti-government forces in August 2013, and was only handed back to state-owned NOC last month after rebels reached a deal with Tripoli.

Tanker owners have been cautious about sending vessels to Libya as rival militant groups and government forces continue to clash around the capital Tripoli and in the east of the country. The Gemini Sun Aframax tanker, owned by Zodiac Maritime, is currently loading a cargo at the terminal, with the charterer said to be Austria's OMV. [Read More...](#)

FOREIGN SECRETARY Albert del Rosario on Thursday said the Philippine government is not likely to hire another vessel to ferry Filipinos out of conflict-stricken Libya amid the dismal number of evacuees who signed up for evacuation by sea - **[GMA News](#)**.

"It's difficult to support another ship," Del Rosario said, as a number of Filipinos backed out of the planned evacuation by sea from Libya to Malta. "There will be no ship after this," he said, recounting the Philippine government's similar experience with Filipino evacuees who had a change of heart in leaving Libya during the first civil war in 2011.

At that time, the government also commissioned a ship to evacuate Filipinos. [Read More...](#)

DUE TO the more intense and more widespread fighting in Tripoli, and greater instability throughout Libya, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to Libya.

British nationals in Libya are strongly urged to leave immediately by commercial means - **FCO**. Commercial departure options are still available. A limited number of flights are leaving Misrata and Maitega airports for Cairo, Malta, Tunis and Istanbul. As flight schedules may change without notice, you should contact your airline or travel company for the latest information before travelling.

Land routes remain open but the security situation can change very quickly. There may be some delays and temporary closures at the border crossing. You should check the situation at the border immediately before intended travel.

A commercial ferry service between Tripoli and Valletta had been due to launch on Tuesday 12 August, but has now been cancelled. [Read](#)

[More...](#)



LIBYA'S NEW parliament has adopted a resolution asking the UN for help to deal with militia

violence across the country. The assembly has said it wants to integrate members of the militias into the regular army - **AllAfrica**.

Libyan lawmakers, meeting Wednesday in the far-eastern coastal city of Tobruk amid fighting in the country's two main cities, voted strongly in favor of an appeal for outside help.

An overwhelming majority, 111 of the 124 deputies present, voted for a resolution that would call on the UN Security Council to take action to protect civilians.

"The international community must intervene immediately to ensure that civilians are protected," MP Abu Bakr Biira told the AFP news agency, quoting from the resolution. There was no further elaboration from the assembly, elected on June 25, about what sort of intervention was needed to put an end to the mounting violence.

[Read More...](#)

THE GOVERNMENTS of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States strongly condemn the ongoing fighting and

violence in and around Tripoli, Benghazi, and across Libya - **US Dept of State**. We are in particular deeply concerned by the increasing toll the violence is taking on Libya's civilian population and institutions, as well as the threat it poses to Libya's democratic transition. We deplore the rise in the number of civilian casualties and express deep concern about the shortages in medical supplies, the displacement of thousands of families, the destruction of residences and infrastructure, as well as the halt in economic activity. We are deeply concerned about attacks carried out against the civilian population and civilian targets in Tripoli and Benghazi that may amount to breaches of international humanitarian law. These violations must stop and those responsible must be held accountable. [Read](#)  
[More...](#)

## South Korean Ferry

THE LATE owner of the ferry boat that sank in South Korea in April, costing 304 lives, will not be indicted, prosecutors said Tuesday - **UPI**.

The body of billionaire Yoo Byung-eun, 73, who was a target of an investigation into corruption prosecutors believe contributed to the ferry sinking, was found June 12. His family owned Chonghaejin Marine Co., which included the ferry boat Sewol.

Yoo faced corruption charges that included embezzlement of 129.1 billion won (\$125.1 million), breach of trust and tax evasion in the amount of 15.9 billion won (\$15.4 million). However, the Incheon District Prosecutors' Office announced their conclusion of no legal basis for an indictment.

"We made the decision that there is no arraignment right as it is confirmed that Yoo had died," an investigator said.

Thus far, 34 people, including members of Yoo's family, have been indicted. [Read More...](#)

A MEMBER of the South Korea Coast Guard involved in the Sewol incident has told a court his service did not have the correct training and equipment to rescue the passengers.

Sergeant Kim was on Mokpo Coast Guard patrol boat 123, one of the first to arrive at the disaster scene - [\*\*\*IHS Maritime 360\*\*\*](#).

He was giving evidence at the trial of 15 of the ferry's crew members who are accused of involuntary manslaughter and criminal abandonment on 12 August.

Kim said that although he was trained in drowning rescue he was not well informed about the rescue manual or trained in the rescue of large numbers of people.

Another crew member on the patrol vessel told the court he too was not trained in performing rescues from a stranded ship. Charges are still being considered against members of the coastguard service. [Read More...](#)

POPE FRANCIS was met by Park Geun-hye, the president of South Korea, and families of the victims of the April sinking of the ferry Sewol after he landed at an air base outside Seoul on Thursday morning - [\*\*\*The Telegraph\*\*\*](#).

The Pope, who is the first pontiff to visit South Korea since Pope John Paul II in 1989, was also greeted by others "in need of consolation in Korean society".

These included defectors from North Korea and the descendants of 124 Koreans who were executed for their faith between 1791 and 1888 and are to be beatified in a ceremony on Saturday. The Pope is scheduled to meet in private with families of the ferry disaster, which claimed the lives of 304 people - the majority children on a school trip - on April 16.

The relatives have already appealed to the Pope to publicly support a bill that would set up an inquiry to determine the cause of the accident. The legislation is presently held up in the Korean parliament due to political wrangling. [Read More...](#)

POPE Francis has said his first Asian mass before a 50,000-strong crowd in the South Korean city of Daejeon, which is playing host to Asian Youth Day — the largest gathering of young Catholics on the continent - [\*\*\*Time\*\*\*](#). The Associated Press (AP) reported that crowds crying "Viva il Papa" greeted him as his open-sided vehicle entered the soccer stadium where the service was held Friday

morning. K-pop singers and rappers warmed up the crowd before the pontiff's arrival.

The pope also met a group of survivors and family members of victims of April's



Sewol ferry disaster, in which almost 300 people, mostly high-school students, were drowned. He will be given a large cross carried by relatives who undertook a 21-day pilgrimage to Jindo Island, near the location where the Sewol capsized, AP said. Pope Francis expressed this hope that the tragedy would bring "all Koreans together in grief and confirm their commitment to work together in solidarity for the common good."

Later in the day, the pontiff tweeted in both English and Korean, encouraging young people "to see the things in life that really matter." [Read More...](#)

WE OPPOSE the agreement between the rival parties that squashed the family's requests. The Sewol Families Committee held a press conference in front of the National Assembly main building today on August 7, 2014 at 7pm and expressed their position on the agreement between the ruling party and opposition party about the Special Sewol Bill - [\*\*\*Asian Human Rights Commission\*\*\*](#).

The Saenuri Party and the New Politics Alliance for Democracy did not guarantee the right to investigate and the authority to indict to the Special Investigative Committee. They jointly announced that the investigation would be executed under a special investigator nominated by the President under the special investigatory law. This in fact completely ignored the petition submitted by the family members and signatures of 3.5 million citizens.

The Sewol Families Committee clearly states that they are opposed to the agreement between the ruling party and opposition party that completely rejected the request of the family members and citizens. They cannot accept the agreement between the two rival parties that took place without asking any questions to the Sewol Families Committee for their opinion.



The family members couldn't hide their anger upon hearing the news about the agreement between the ruling party and opposition party. This is because the agreement between the rival parties clearly rejected the requests of the family members and citizens. The July 30th elections resulting in favor of the ruling Saenuri party provided the perfect opportunity for the Saenuri party to blatantly escape the Sewol ferry situation. [Read More...](#)

AS PART of the government's move to improve maritime safety standards after the Sewol disaster, South Korea has lowered the permissible blood alcohol concentration for crew members - ***IHS Maritime 360***.

The limit has been cut from 0.05% to 0.03%. The country's Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries unveiled this as part of amendments to Maritime Safety Act on 10 August.

In South Korea's worst maritime disaster in decades, the Sewol ferry capsized during a routine Incheon-Jeju trip on 16 April, leaving 304 of 476 passengers and crew dead or missing. The government has since come under fire over its handling of the disaster.

Penalties for violating the amended law have also been made harsher.

Under the previous regulations, crew members of vessels with a capacity exceeding 5 tonnes faced a fine of up to KRW15M (\$14,569) or a two-year imprisonment. The same penalties applied to errant operators of passenger ships and fishing vessels, regardless of vessel size.

With the stricter laws, errant operators of vessels under 5 tonnes, as well as passenger ships and fishing vessels of any size, can be fined KRW500,000 if their blood alcohol concentration is between 0.03% and 0.1%. The fine goes up to KRW1M when the blood alcohol concentration is between 0.1% and 0.2%. A KRW2M fine would be imposed if the blood alcohol concentration exceeds 0.2%. [Read More...](#)

## Missing Malaysian Aircraft MH370



THE MALAYSIAN government has stepped in to save Malaysia Airlines, which after the MH17 and MH370 disasters has been losing \$2 million (£1.2m) a day - ***Huffington Post***. Malaysia's government-owned investment company, Khazanah Nasional, has unveiled a 1.38 billion Malaysian ringgit (£256m) deal to take full control of the line, expanding on its current 69% stake. The process has seen Malaysia Airlines suspend its shares on the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange,

In the first step towards a "complete overhaul" of the carrier, Khazanah Nasional offered to buy the remaining part of Malaysia Airlines at 27 sen (5p) a share, marking a 29% premium on the carrier's average share price over the last three months. "Nothing less will be required in order to revive our national airline to be profitable as a commercial entity and to serve its function as a critical national development entity," the fund said. Some experts expressed scepticism at Khazanah's ability to turn around the ailing airline. Shukor Yusof, an analyst with Malaysia-based aviation consultancy Endau Analytics, told AFP: "I don't take comfort in Khazanah overhauling the sick airline. I am very sceptical about it." [Read More...](#)

WITHDRAWALS OF up to SGD\$46,000 (RM111,000) have been detected from the bank accounts of four passengers of the doomed MH370 flight that vanished early March - ***Singapore Seen STOMP***.

City Commercial Crime Investigation Department chief Asst Comm Izany Abdul Ghany said the amount was withdrawn through a number of ATM transactions.

The bank concerned noticed the suspicious withdrawals on July 18. Following an internal investigation, the bank lodged a police report on Aug 2.

"We are investigating the case as unauthorised access with intent to commit an offence," ACP Izany told reporters after the handing-over of

duties at the Cheras district police headquarters here yesterday.

The offence, under Section 4(1) of the Computer Crimes Act 1997, provides for a fine of up to RM150,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 10 years, or both.

ACP Izany did not rule out the possibility of an inside job, adding that police were investigating the case from all angles.

"We are getting CCTV footage from the bank to identify the suspects involved," he said [Read More...](#)

POLICE HAVE identified possible suspects who made unauthorised withdrawals amounting to RM111,000 (S\$43,542.28) from the bank accounts of four victims aboard the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 - ***The Straits Times***.

City police Senior Deputy Commissioner Tajuddin Md Isa said both the police and the bank involved were conducting investigations on the matter.

"We have identified the suspects involved and are gathering more evidence before we take further action," Datuk Tajuddin told reporters at the police headquarters Thursday.

"Do not speculate on this matter and allow us to conduct a thorough investigation," he said.

Meanwhile, City Commercial Crime Investigation Department chief Izany Abdul Ghany explained that the suspects had transferred funds from three passengers' bank accounts into the account of a fourth passenger.

"The suspects then made an internet transfer of RM35,000 to another account, believed to be that of one of the suspects, two weeks prior to July 18 and made ATM withdrawals of RM5,000 daily until the account was empty. [Read More...](#)

## Downed Malaysian Aircraft MH17



DUTCH AIR crash investigators said Monday they expect to release an initial report into what brought down flight MH17 over Ukraine with the loss of 298 lives "in a few weeks" - ***AFP***.

There were 193 Dutch citizens aboard the Malaysia Airlines 777 when it exploded over strife-

torn eastern Ukraine on July 17 and the Dutch are in charge of victim identification and probing the cause of the disaster.

The West has accused pro-Russian separatists of shooting down the jet with a missile supplied by Russia. Moscow has accused Ukraine of shooting it down.

"We have sufficient information to compile a preliminary report," said Wim van der Weegen, spokesman for the Dutch Safety Board (OVV).

"We hope that it will be ready in a few weeks," he told AFP, announcing that international crash investigators had now returned to the Netherlands without visiting the crash site.

"In order to analyse the information... it's not essential to remain in Ukraine," Van der Weegen told AFP, saying the team will now be based in The Hague.

Ukrainian air crash experts, who are taking part in the international probe, had been at the crash site shortly after the crash, before the Dutch were tasked with leading the investigation, Van der Weegen said.

The deteriorating security situation prevented crash investigators under the OVV's leadership from reaching the remote site, although Dutch, Australian and Malaysian forensic experts did reach the area to look for body parts and personal belongings.

"Since we've taken over the investigation, there has been no new opportunity to get to the crash site," Van der Weegen said.

The OVV said in a statement that it was only investigating what brought down flight MH17, not who was responsible. [Read More...](#)



*Wreath laying ceremony by UN Security Council was at #MH17 memorial at Schiphol Airport*

US SECRETARY of State John Kerry demanded today that the people who shot down Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over Ukraine be brought to justice for their "unconscionable crime."

The plane, en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was shot down over eastern Ukraine on July 17, killing all 298 on board - ***New Straits Times***.

The search for body parts is still not complete due to fighting around the crash site.

Pro-Russian separatists using a surface-to-air missile have been blamed for the disaster, using weapons the West believes were supplied by Moscow, although Russia denies this and has blamed Ukraine for the tragedy.

The Netherlands lost 193 citizens and 38 Australian citizens or residents were among the dead.

"We affirm to Australia and the world that we absolutely demand justice for this unconscionable crime ... we will see this through together," Kerry said in Sydney after annual security talks. [Read More...](#)

MALAYSIA IS planning to station two police officers – one in Ukraine and one in the Netherlands – to continue the investigation into the recent Malaysia Airlines plane crash near Donetsk, Malaysian daily New Straits Times reported Tuesday, citing Malaysian Police Inspector-General Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar - ***Ria Novosti***.

One officer has already been sent to Kiev from London "to be on standby and to attend meetings," the newspaper said.

"The officer has been sent there and he will be attending meetings that will provide regular updates on the situation whilst we will be sending another officer to be placed in Eindhoven, [or] Amsterdam," the police chief said.

Abu Bakar spoke upon the return of his team Tuesday morning from Ukraine, where they investigated the MH17 crash site, which is likely to still hold the remains of some victims. They can only be recovered, he said, if a ceasefire is agreed between Ukrainian troops and independence supporters in the region. [Read More...](#)

DUTCH FORENSIC experts have identified a total of 127 victims of downed flight MH17, with 20 new names being released to families today, the Dutch national broadcaster said.

"Of the 20, some 15 were Dutch. The nationalities of the rest of the victims were not released," the NOS said on its website - ***NDTV***.

The Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 exploded over insurgent-held east Ukraine on July 17, killing all 298 on board, 193 of them Dutch, with the West accusing Russia-backed separatists of shooting it down and Moscow blaming Kiev.

The search for bodies was called off a week ago because of rising clashes between Kiev and the pro-Moscow rebels but the Dutch government hopes to return should the situation improve.

[Read More...](#)

MALAYSIA ON Thursday declared a national day of mourning on August 22, when 16 bodies from Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, downed over eastern Ukraine last month, are set to arrive from the Netherlands - ***GMA News***.

The government said it would decide next week if the day will also be a public holiday, signaling the closure of public offices and financial markets.

Twenty-four of the 43 Malaysians on the flight have been identified by Dutch investigators almost a month after the jetliner carrying 298 people was downed on July 17, suspected to have been hit by a surface-to-air missile.

"The names of the victims will be released on the day they are brought back to Malaysia," Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin told reporters.

"As for now, it is a national day of mourning, not a public holiday. We will discuss with the cabinet about this matter."

Authorities say that 15 of the 16 bodies to be brought back are those of Malaysians, while the last is a Dutch national, whose remains have been requested to be buried in Malaysia. [Read More...](#)

INDIA HAS called for a broad-based international investigation on the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 tragedy - ***Bernama***.

"The senseless loss of lives in the crash of MH17 on July 17 has left the international community with the responsibility to ensure safety of civil

aviation," said India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

Parties in conflict situations must urgently abjure violence and work for a diplomatic solution, she said in her address at the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, on Sunday.

The text of her speech was made available on the ministry's website.

"We must ensure that such a tragedy is never repeated," she said. [Read More...](#)

## Released by Pirates

NSTR

## Pirates in Court

NSTR

### Seaman Guard Ohio

NOTHING IS cut and dried in the case of the anti-piracy guards who no longer face charges in India but are low on money and unable to leave the country - **News.ERR.EE**.

An Indian court was to decide to return personal effects and bail bond to the 14 Estonians who were held for months in Chennai during a pre-trial investigation, then released. But the court managed to discuss only one of the items - the first 10,000 rupee (123 euros) bond paid by each of the men.

The court is expected to discuss the rest of the bond paid later - 25 million rupees (roughly 310,000 euros) - confiscated passports and personal belongings in a few days.

The captain of the ship the anti-piracy personnel were working on, the Seaman Guard Ohio, was released yesterday, which was one bit of good news for the men, uudised.err.ee reported. [Read More...](#)

TOP LAWYERS have lodged a legal bid for the return of freed pirate-hunter Nick Dunn's belongings - **Chronicle Live**.

A judge quashed the charges filed against the 28-year-old in a hearing in India last month but Nick is yet to be granted permission to leave the country.

He was arrested back in October along with five other British workers for the alleged illegal possession of weapons.

A petition has now been handed to a top court in India calling for the release of the former squaddie's passport and his belongings.

Nick's sister Lisa says the Government have now called on the Indian authorities requesting the release of the men's passports.

She said: "The charges were quashed and yet they still aren't home. The men are free men from a legal point of view and the country need to step in and intervene to get them home."

Nick was held with other workers after what they thought was a routine paperwork check on their security vessel Seaman Guard Ohio led to them all being arrested for illegal possession of weapons. He was released on bail from Puzhal Prison in Chennai in India in March, but was subject to strict conditions and was told he must remain in Chennai.

But despite a judge quashing the charges Nick is yet to be released from India. [Read More...](#)

## Private Security

WESTERN private maritime security companies should not look to Asia as a potential new market, as local legislation makes placing armed teams on board tankers virtually impossible, the Singapore-based Regional Co-operation Agreement on Combating Piracy has stated - **Lloyd's List**.

The claim comes despite growing concerns over oil cargo theft in the region, following at least nine reported attacks on tankers so far in 2014, with some evidence that the current spate of attacks is the work of a couple of well-informed criminal gangs, using intelligence on ship cargoes and routes to plan their operations.

But ReCAAP believes that shipping companies in the region do not feel the need to explore private security as an option and are instead banking on support from national armed forces.



“When piracy was at its height in the Malacca and Singapore Straits, regional navies worked well together to suppress it,” said ReCAAP.

“If history repeats itself, then Western PMSCs will not be needed in the region as a result.”

[Read More](#)

*[Note: Comments attributed to ReCAAP were originally part of the analysis by the commentator at MarSecReview] [Read More...](#)*

## International Response

IRANIAN NAVY Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said his force is powerful enough to protect security in the Persian Gulf and the Pacific Ocean without the help of any foreign states - **FNA**.

“Iran enjoys the ability to establish security in the Strait of Hormuz, the Persian Gulf, the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Oman,” Sayyari said, addressing Iranian university students in the Northern city of Babolsar on Saturday.

“There is no need to any other country for establishing security in the region and we ourselves are capable of doing it,” he added.

Elsewhere, Sayyari referred to the operations of the Iranian Navy’s fleet of warships beyond the territorial waters, and said, “At present we have moved out of the Strait of Hormuz and reached the Bab al-Mandab Strait 2,500km away.”

The Navy’s 30th fleet of warships, comprised of Alvand warship and Bushehr logistic warship docked in Iran’s Southern port city of Bandar Abbas in July after successfully conducting a 100-day mission of providing safe passage for Iranian shipping lines in the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and sailing through the equator and berthing in Sudanese ports, Tanzania’s Dar al-Salam port and Oman’s Salalah port. [Read More...](#)

## Piracy Costs

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## Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

THE HELLENIC Navy has contributed two gunboats and a frigate to the uphill effort by the coast guard to patrol Greece’s sea border with Turkey and manage the waves of migrants fleeing the Middle East and North Africa - **Ekathimerini**. According to Merchant Marine Ministry sources, the issue of boosting the Coast Guard’s force was



on the agenda in recent talks between Prime Minister Antonis Samaras and the

ministers of Defense and Merchant Marine, Dimitris Avramopoulos and Miltiadis Varvitsiotis.

The initial plan had been to put all six of the navy’s gunboats at the coast guard’s service. They were to display Coast Guard insignia so their presence in the Eastern Aegean could not be construed as an act of aggression by Turkey, Kathimerini understands.

However, it was finally decided that two gunboats and a frigate would be used, for now, with two Coast Guard officers assigned to each. [Read More...](#)

THE ITALIAN navy has brought nearly 1,500 migrants ashore in the port of Salerno. The people were rescued by other Italian ships and boats in deep waters between Sicily and the Libyan coast, reports Euronews.

Among the migrants, many women and children, some in need of medical care.

Over the weekend, two would-be migrants died when a boat carrying nearly 300 people sank off the coast of Libya. The bodies were of a woman and a child around nine years of age. [CLICK FOR VIDEO...](#)

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SPANISH EMERGENCY services picked up 470 immigrants travelling in dozens of rafts across the Strait of Gibraltar on Tuesday and 227 from the same stretch of water the day before, a spokesman for the Maritime Safety Agency said - [\*\*MarineLink\*\*](#).

More than 75,000 have tried to cross the Mediterranean from North Africa, landing in Italy, Greece, Spain and Malta, the UNHCR agency says, with about 800 people dying in the attempt. About 10,500 children, two-thirds of them unaccompanied or separated from their families, were included in those numbers, as people flee violence in Africa and the Middle East, often using unseaworthy vessels and with the help of smugglers.

On Tuesday, some 49 boats carrying mostly men, but also 68 women and 15 under-18s, made the journey from North Africa to the south of Spain, Spanish authorities said. It was not clear whether the boats were in difficulty when they were stopped.

The Mediterranean shipping lane is almost 15 km (9 miles) wide at its narrowest and is often used by migrants, crowded onto rafts and tiny fishing boats, trying to get to Europe.

The number of people trying to get to Europe across the Mediterranean is already about 60 percent higher than the whole of last year, the U.N. refugee agency said in July. [Read More](#)...

SPAIN AND Italy said on Wednesday they had rescued more than 2,300 African immigrants in just over 24 hours, plucking people from flimsy vessels as they made a desperate attempt to reach the shores of southern Europe - [\*\*Oman Tribune\*\*](#).

Enticed by a spell of calm waters, the number of Africans risking their lives on dinghies has surged, officials said – many searching for refuge from war and oppression, or in the simple hope of achieving a better life.

The numbers were unprecedented. Spain's maritime rescue services said they had picked up 920 people including 26 children from the Gibraltar Strait on Tuesday, and another 10 men trying to reach Spain on a single dinghy on Wednesday morning.

The Italian Navy said nearly 1,400 immigrants, many without life vests, had been rescued from the Mediterranean in 24 hours.

That brings the total to more than 98,000 rescued this year, said Italian senior immigration official Mario Morcone.

"These are people coming to Italy not for tourism but out of desperation. Many of them continue to lose their lives in these crossings despite our efforts," he told Italian radio Anch'io.

Spain's Red Cross, which cared for the sea-borne migrants on their arrival at the southern coastal town of Tarifa, said the scale of the influx on Tuesday was the highest they had witnessed.

[Read More](#)...

IZMIR ON the western Turkish coast has become a "hub of migrants wanting to illegally cross into Greece," report Hurriyet daily newspaper and the BBC - [\*\*Protothema\*\*](#). To this end, there are shops in the neighbourhood of Basmane selling supplies for refugees from Iraq, Somalia and Syria interested in crossing over to Greece.

Hurriyet reports that some 5,789 illegal migrants

have been caught by the Turkish coast guard in 2014. 38 people were detained for smuggling refugees to Greek islands.

Everyday Greek coast guards rescue undocumented migrants. Oftentimes their journey is fatal.

Shops in Izmir trading to illegal immigrants sell them life vests and other equipment prior to their



attempt to cross to Europe via Greece in what is apparently a lucrative business. [Read More...](#)

AN OMANI flagged tuna long-liner with the name NAHAM-4, with the call sign A4DK6, was detained in Cape Town in March 2013. The vessel's agent had been granted a permit to allow the vessel to undergo repairs and discharge fish in Cape Town. Once in port the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) made a port inspection that revealed inconsistencies between the amount of fish held on-board and the supporting documentation - **Stop Illegal Fishing**. This led to an investigation into the vessel by South African authorities that was supported by research from Triton Naval Architects. This research revealed that between 2010 and 2013 four different vessels had been operating with the name NAHAM-4 and that the vessel held in Cape Town was significantly larger than the NAHAM-4 that was authorised to fish in the Indian Ocean



Tuna Commission (IOTC) Convention area. As a result of the South African investigation, the Omani registered vessel owner Al-Naham and its representatives, Wu Hai Tao and Wu Hai Ping (both Taiwanese citizens), were charged and convicted on seven accounts relating to contraventions of the Marine Living Resources Act and IOTC's Conservation and Management Measures. The fish that was on-board was forfeited to South Africa and auctioned, and it is anticipated that the vessel will also be auctioned in the near future. According to the Muscat Daily, an Omani newspaper, the owners of the NAHAM-4, Al-Naham, have abandoned the vessel, leaving the South Africa agent Trade Ocean with debts amounting to USD 100,000. The agent is reportedly now taking legal action in

Taiwan against the owners of Al-Naham who are Taiwanese citizens to recover their financial losses. [Read More...](#)

## Seafarers' Plight

CREW MEMBERS of the Taiwanese fishing vessel, Prantalay 12, have been held by Somali pirates since 18 April 2010. Of the original 25 crew, six died when the ship capsized in July 2011. Four Thai crew members remain in captivity over 4 years later - **OCEANUSLive**. The Prantalay 12 was captured with two other



fishing vessels, Prantalay 11 and 14, with a total crew of 77 who had been looking for tuna and working out of Djibouti. Prantalay 12 was beached 14 July 2011.

UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime), with the help of the Puntland authorities and elders, obtained the release of 14 Burmese crew members in 2011. The remaining 5 Thais, one of whom has since died, were held ashore without any significant negotiations or communications in place.

The UNODC Hostage Support Programme (HSP) began a dialogue with the pirates holding the crew in 2013 that has subsequently led to renewed conversations with the Thai Embassy and the provision of medical visits from a UNODC HSP doctor and a humanitarian/medical package provided by the Embassy delivered by UNODC HSP through contacts in the Galmudug government.

Whilst the crew are alive and, apart from some minor ailments, are mostly well, the mental toll on

the four crew, after such a long time in captivity, is immense.

The UNODC HSP continues to put pressure on the pirates for a humanitarian release and is being actively supported by the Thai Embassy in Nairobi with consular support. It is emphasised that the UN does not engage in any ransom negotiations. In total, there remain 37 hostages still held by pirates in Somalia - all held for over 4 years - they include 7 Indians from MV Asphalt Venture; 26 (all from Asia) from FV Naham 3 and 4 Thais from FV Prantalay 12. [Read More...](#)

FOUR YEARS since seven Indian sailors became hostages of Somali pirates after their merchant vessels were hijacked, separate affidavits filed by the Ministry of External Affairs Ministry in the Supreme Court narrate a trail of inconclusive efforts made with the African nation to trace them - **The Hindu**.



The uncertainty over their fate led a Bench of Justices T.S. Thakur and Adarsh Kumar Goel to probe the government on steps taken to find these seven crew members of MV Asphalt Venture, a Panama-flagged vessel hijacked on September 29, 2010.

The last the government heard of T.B. Unnikrishnan, George Joseph, Sohan Singh, Bahadur Singh, Bhim Singh, Daniston and Manjit Singh were that they were held captive in an undisclosed location in Somalia.

A photograph of them taken in captivity is all relatives have. Their families' counsel in the Supreme Court, Gaurav Kumar Bansal, said the photo was taken in January 2013.

"What is being done now?" Justice Goel asked on Friday.

The government counsel termed the search a "tough task" and assured that "continued efforts are on" to track the sailors. The Bench has reserved the case for final orders. [Read More...](#)

AN INDIAN Master, Capt Sukhvinder Bhamra, was sailing onboard the MSC Vanessa when he received an email from Mr Abdul Gani Serang of the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) on the hardships faced by Mr Aman Sharma, recently released from captivity as part of the MV Albedo crew - **MPHRP**.

The Master and his crew started to collect money amongst the crew members of the ship. When he signed off, Capt Bhamra called Mr Sharma and informed him that he will try to collect about INR100,000 (USD1,650) from his ship's crew and will help him in the coming days. Mr Sharma has since received the first of this support: INR30,000 (USD500).

MPHRP would like to sincerely thank Captain Bhamra and his crew for their heartfelt and generous donations.

Capt Bhamra had this to say when MPHRP contacted him personally to thank him for the huge contribution for Aman Sharma (Capt Bhamra also provided the photograph for this article of Team MSC Vanessa who, in his words, "generously donated towards the noble cause of supporting a fellow seafarers in the time of need"): "It is sad that our fellow seafarers worldwide are either lacking support from their local governments, Seafarer unions or other Social organisations OR the help is extended after a great deal of delays. At times the delay is to such an extent that the help, when it finally arrives, is of little or no significance at all. [Read More...](#)



## Aid Workers Plight

NSTR.



## And Finally...

A MAN has died after more than 30 people - including children - were found in a shipping container at Tilbury Docks in Essex, police say -

**BBC News**.

Two people have been taken to hospital while others with "significant health problems" are being treated by ambulance crews.

The discovery was made on Saturday when the ship, which had arrived from Zeebrugge, Belgium, was being unloaded.

Essex Police has launched an investigation.

The East of England Ambulance Service said two people were being treated at Basildon Hospital and assessments of other patients were still being made at the scene.

A spokeswoman said: "Our initial priority is to assess the level and nature of any injuries, and ensure that those people in most need are treated first and taken to hospital."

In a statement, Essex Police said: "One man has sadly died and the others have significant health problems. They are being treated by ambulance crews and are being taken to local hospitals." [Read More...](#)



# Piracy Incidents

## Hijacks:

- NSTR.

## Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **West Africa** - Three robbers boarded an anchored Congo-flagged offshore support vessel, **Skandi Singapore**, at 2220 LT in position Pointe Noire Anchorage, The Congo. Alert crew noticed the robbers on deck and on the forecastle and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers escaped and were seen approaching another vessel. A broadcast on VHF Ch 16 was made to alert all ships in the vicinity as well as the port authorities. All crew safe and nothing stolen from the vessel. Reported (IMB) 11 Aug.
- **SE Asia** - Four robbers in a wooden boat approached an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged chemical tanker, **Bomar Prelude**, at 0630 LT in position 03:54N – 098:46E, Belawan Outer Anchorage, Indonesia. One of the robbers boarded the vessel and attempted to steal ship's stores from the forecastle store. Duty crew noticed the robber and informed OOW who raised the alarm, sounded ship's whistle and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robber escaped with his accomplices empty handed. Incident reported to Port Control and Coast Guard through the local agents. The Marine Police officials boarded the vessel for investigation. Reported (IMB) 11 Aug.
- **SE Asia** - Two robbers boarded an anchored Italy-flagged bulk carrier, **Giuseppe Mauro Rizzo**, at 0345 LT in position 00:17S – 117:41E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Indonesia. Duty AB spotted the robbers and raised the alarm and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped. Upon searching the vessel it was found that the padlocks to the store room were broken but nothing stolen. Reported (IMB) 8 Aug.
- **SE Asia** - Six robbers armed with guns in a skiff approached and attempted to board a Malaysia-flagged product tanker, **Pentradar**, underway at 2200 LT in position 05:241N – 100:05E, around 6nm West of Penang Island, Malaysia. Duty crew noticed the robbers and informed OOW who raised the alarm and switched on the deck lights. All crew mustered and fire hoses charged. Seeing the crew alertness the robbers aborted the attempted boarding. Port Authorities and MMEA informed. Reported (IMB) 2 Aug.
- **S America (A)** - Security minder of a boat in dry storage in Big Island Fajardo Puerto Del Rey Marina, Puerto Rico discovered broken locks on the stern lazarette and external companionway doors. Nothing was taken from the lazarette as robbers couldn't get into the cabin. It is unknown if other yachts in the storage area were similarly affected. The minder was informed that several outboards had been stolen from other stored yachts approx. 10 days prior, by person(s) unknown, but were later recovered inside the yard. This incident was reported to marina/boatyard management. Reported (CSSN) 1 Aug.

## Other Incidents:

- NSTR.

## Suspicious Activity:

- **Gulf of Oman** - India-flagged product tanker, Bon Atlantico, sent a distress signal reporting 3 suspicious skiffs at 1047 UTC in position 25:15N - 057:04E, East of Fujairah, Gulf of Oman. Three skiffs

chased the vessel with 1 skiff coming to within 50m but no shots fired. Skiffs aborted the chase and the tanker resumed passage. Reported 12 Aug.

IMB - Vessels: 0 Hostages: Not stated.

Worldwide Incidents 2014: 101 reported incidents

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

UNODC - 37 hostages, all held over 4 years.

MV Asphalt Venture - 7 Indians;

FV Naham 3 - 26 (all from Asia);

FV Prantalay 12 - 4 Thais

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

