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Seizures on the Southern Route
Map courtesy of CMF



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC Maritime Crime Programme

in cooperation with:

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
The Republic of Seychelles
The United Republic of Tanzania
The Combined Maritime Forces

Addressing Narcotics Trafficking on the High Seas of the Indian Ocean

Targeting the Southern Route



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Shifting Trafficking Patterns and the role of the Combined Maritime Forces



- The northern land routes through the central Asian regions were the traditional routes for trafficking heroin out of Afghanistan.



- In the previous four years there has been a significant shift in trafficking patterns. The previously popular northern route and the Persian/Balkan route have witnessed a substantial decline in seizures and volumes of trafficked Afghan heroin. The shift is to southern routes to Africa and overland to Europe and North America.



- Opiate production within Afghanistan has increased during this period and narcotics traffickers are exploiting the lack of any legal framework for prosecuting trafficking on the high seas of the Indian Ocean.



- The increased presence of naval forces to counter the threat of terrorism in the Indian Ocean region has resulted in significant seizures of heroin consignments over the previous two years. The Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) have played an important role in disrupting the southern route.

- The most significant challenge to countering narcotics trafficking on the southern route is the lack of a prosecution model for interceptions on the high seas. UNODC proposes that the successful *piracy prosecution model* be considered as a viable option for the prosecution of narcotics trafficking at sea.

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Ending Impunity at Sea: Using the UNODC Piracy Prosecution Model



Handover



Investigation



Trial



Sentence



Transfer

- The threat of maritime piracy posed a similar challenge in 2008-2009 when an increased naval presence successfully intercepted pirates on numerous occasions. Due to the absence of a regional prosecution option the suspected pirates were often released.

- UNODC and regional States developed a *piracy prosecution model* which evolved into an effective process which provides a legal finish.

- Apprehended piracy suspects are transferred to prosecution States such as Seychelles, Kenya, Mauritius and Tanzania.

- With the support of UNODC, the local police conduct an investigation and the Public Prosecutor prepares a case for trial if evidence is sufficient.

- With the support of UNODC, the domestic judicial process provides legal aid and language interpretation to the accused. Resources are provided for evidence exploitation, age assessments and travel of foreign witnesses.

- If convicted, the pirates serve sentences in correctional facilities upgraded to UN standards. Pirates can transfer back to Somalia and serve the remainder of sentences there, if they so choose.