

16 - 22 Aug 2014 No. 34/14

Notorious pirate chief arrested; Millions spent on Somali unaccounted; High seas shooting video examined; Duck & Monkey business -

A notorious Somali pirate deputy chief has been arrested by the Somali intelligence agency in Mogadishu. The deputy to Afweyne, now held in Belgium, was arrested along with 15 other people with weapons and vehicles.

Video footage of five men floating in water after being shot by laughing crew of a larger vessel has surfaced. Examination of the video speculates that the men are from East Africa or the Arabian Gulf.

According to an auditor's report, tens of millions of dollars spent on making Somalia safer has never had the work verified or even that the government partners had the capacity to do the jobs. About \$25 million was spent in 2013. Sierra Leonean forces have officially assumed AMISOM command in Kismayo from Kenyan forces - KDF were accused of violating Somalia's sovereignty. AMISOM will be leaving Somalia in 2016 as part of the roadmap for Somalia to run its own affairs; providing Al-Shabaab are 'cleaned out'.

Nigerian troops set a pirates' camp ablaze in Southern Ijaw. The camp is believed to be the base for those carrying out attacks and kidnaps in Bayelsa waterways. Nigeria's military unveiled a new aircraft to tackle high-seas piracy and oil theft. It is one of seven to be operated by NIMASA and the Air Force. The question is asked whether Ghana could be turning into a piracy hotspot following two recent attacks - a little early for such assessment.

Vietnam's national shipping line warns against rising piracy in SE Asia. Fifteen foreign tourists were missing after a boat sank between islands in eastern Indonesia. Ten people, including 5 Indonesian crew were rescued. A man whose 17-year-old child who died in the S Korean ferry disaster said he is ready to move on. He is tired of the political wrangling and mudslinging after 4 months. Malaysia observed a moment of silence following the arrival of the bodies of victims of flight MH17.

Guyana is to deny operating licenses to boat owners if they don't install tracking systems to help repel pirate attacks. US Coastguard and Bahamian forces rescue more than 400 Haitians illegally migrating in dangerously overloaded boats.

IMB warns of increased risk of cyber attacks on shipping and ports - the "next playground for hackers". Two men have been charged following the death of an Afghan migrant found in a container at Tilbury Docks in the UK.

Egypt has selected the consortium to develop the mega-project to transform the Suez Canal. The price tag for the project has not been stated. Libya has restarted oil exports from its biggest port for the first time since the end of a year-long blockade.

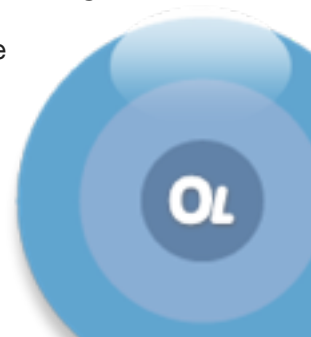
“

The arrest of Garfanji is also testament to the concerted efforts of the international community to disrupt the Somali piracy model and end the scourge, which has been plaguing the Indian Ocean since 2005”

- SEYCHELLES GOVT STATEMENT

A look at how the US and various European nations have dealt with hostage-taking and ransom demands has no surprises, but questions are raised whether policy is adhered. New 2-part report on maritime piracy states the importance of the issue as transnational humanitarian, economic and security challenges.

Super-sized duck continues its world tour whilst five Macaque monkeys stowaway on board a Maersk container ship.



Regional Activity

East Africa/Indian Ocean

MOHAMED ABDI Garfanje the deputy head of notorious Somali pirates has been arrested in Mogadishu - **Somali Current**.

According to Somali police sources Mohamed and another fifteen people were arrested with weapons and vehicles in Mogadishu house and now held in undisclosed prison in the city. His arrest comes as the federal government of Somalia is in the process of security the city from the former war lords through disarmament operation.

Mohamed Abdi Hassan famously known as Afweyne or big mouth who is the number one leader of the Somali pirates is now serving prison sentence in Belgium for piracy related case long the Somali coast. **Read More...**

THE SEYCHELLES government has commended the effort of the Somali government following the arrest of one of Somalia's most notorious pirate chiefs, Mohamed Garfanji, reports Seychelles News Agency - **OCEANUSLive**.

Garfanji is said to be responsible for multiple ship hijackings and hostage takings including of Seychellois nationals.

In a joint press statement issued this morning the Seychelles Ministry of Home Affairs and Transport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, the arrest is viewed as a positive step towards ensuring the security of the western Indian Ocean region which Seychelles shares with Somalia.

"The arrest of Garfanji is also testament to the concerted efforts of the international community to disrupt the Somali piracy model and end the scourge, which has been plaguing the Indian Ocean since 2005," read the statement.

Garfanji is allegedly responsible for kidnapping and torturing two Seychellois fishermen as well as hijacking Seychelles flagged ships and the island nation's government had been actively involved in international efforts to bring him to justice.

In October 2011 Rolly Tambara, aged 70, and Marc Songoire, aged 63, were taken hostage by Somali pirates while they were fishing and

remained captive in Somalia for a little over a year before being freed.

"Seychelles had issued an International Arrest Warrant that INTERPOL used as the basis for an INTERPOL Red Alert Notice on the pirate kingpin, Mohamed Garfanji," read the statement. **Read more...**

COMBAT SHOOK Mogadishu early Friday as government troops launched a dawn attack on a house belonging to a former warlord as part of a disarmament campaign. Seven people died in the violence - **Daily Star Lebanon**.

Explosions and gunfire were heard as troops battled militiamen loyal to the former warlord. The African Union military force in Somalia said the raid was carried out near the home of a former district commissioner, Ahmed Daci. The AU said that Daci's militia fired at AMISOM, precipitating a firefight.

"During the operation, the militia was overpowered and 20 were arrested, 15 guns and an assortment of ammunition recovered," AMISOM said on its Twitter feed.

In bloody scenes that recalled the days of daily warfare in this seaside city, wounded Somalis were carted off the hospitals and onlookers helped carry or push the casualties.

The dead included four civilians, two militia members and one soldier, said police officer Capt. Mohammad Hussein. Eight people were wounded, he said. **Read more...**

This Weeks' Newsletter **Recommends:**



**THE GLOBAL INITIATIVE
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANIZED CRIME**

THE PRESIDENT of the Fiji Tuna Boat Association, Grahame Southwick, says footage of men being shot on the high seas is most likely film of a piracy incident off the Somali coast taken last year -

Radio New Zealand.

The Fiji police are investigating the video which surfaced on the internet yesterday amid speculation the shot men shown floating among wreckage were Fijian.

Mr Southwick says the footage, which also showed several fishing boats congregating on the high seas, with one clearly identified as Taiwanese, did not make sense.

He says he decided to call his own Taiwan fishing contacts.

"Of course the Taiwan fleet pretty well all over the world talk to each other all the time in the Indian Ocean or the Pacific. They talk about fish catches, what's going on, so news spreads fairly quickly and they said 'oh yes, we know about this story. This is something that happened off the Somali Coast in 2013 and no, these aren't Fijians being shot, these are Somali pirates that got shot."

Read More...

AUTHORITIES IN several countries are examining a graphic video posted online that shows five men floating amid bits of a small upturned boat and being shot by laughing crew members of a larger vessel - **Voice of America.**

In the video, gunshots ring out as helpless men in the water desperately try to cling to remnants of their small boat.

The grainy video uploaded to the YouTube website this week, is titled "Fishing vessel fujian crew gettin shot, out side fiji waters" (sic).

But authorities in the Pacific islands nation of Fiji, including its navy, say the men seen being struck by gunfire and profusely bleeding in the water are not Fijians.

Interpol tells VOA News that its general secretariat headquarters in France "is working with several member countries to help determine the veracity of the video content, including its likely date, location and the identities of those involved."

Specialists in several countries, who have examined the video, speculate the distressed men in the water, who presumably were all killed, were

likely from the east African coast or the Arabian Gulf area.

On the 10-minute video three larger vessels are seen circling the smaller.

One can be identified: the Seychelles-flagged Taiwan-owned Chun 1 No. 217. Maritime databases list that vessel as a 725-ton fishing boat with a home port of Kaohsiung and managed by the Tching Ye Fishery in the same city. The vessel is known to operate in the Western Pacific and Indian oceans. But its current whereabouts are unknown. **Read More...**

THE African Mission to Somalia (AMISOM), a peace keeping mission operated by the African Union would be leaving Somalia in 2016, according to the latest assessment by stakeholders - **New Vision.** Lydia Wanyoto, the Acting Special Envoy of the African Union to Somalia and Eng. Sheik Sayid Ahmed Dahir, the Somalia ambassador to Uganda say that the roadmap of 2016 would be adhered to and that by that time the federal Government would have developed capacity to independently run the affairs of the war-torn state. Sayid Ahmed said that Somalia is on the right path and thanked regional Governments, especially Uganda for ensuring that the conflict is subdued. "Somalia will have no more conflict in the coming years; and with the help our friendly countries, we are now ready to take full control. We welcome the capacity building trainings that our partners are conducting and I urge our countrymen to enforce what they have studied for the betterment of our country," he said. According to Wanyoto, the process of Somalia becoming autonomous is almost achievable and that the only roadblock is the complete "flush out of Al-Shabaab" from the sea. "Going by the current projections, we are almost certain that we shall see take off in 2016 and according to our roadmap, AMISOM would be leaving Somalia in 2016. The target is achievable. So, as we clean out Al-Shabaab, we have the mandate to build capacity and this is a process we have embarked on," she said. **Read More...**

IN AN unannounced move by the African Union the AMISOM command in Kismayo has officially been transferred from the Kenyan Defense Forces

to Sierra Leonean forces a few weeks ago, as a top Somali government official confirmed to **Harar24 News**.



The government official, who requested that his name not be disclosed, stated that the decision to transfer the AMISOM command in the seaport town of Kismayo from the Kenyan forces to the Sierra Leonean forces came after the Somali government requested so from the African Union, after accusing the Kenyan forces of violating Somalia's sovereignty.

"The African Union accepted the request by the Somali government to remove the Kenyan forces from the AMISOM command in Kismayo, I can confirm that the command has been handed to Sierra Leonean troops" the government official told Harar24. "The Somali government filed a complaint to the AU in regards to the Kenyan forces after involving themselves in several violations, including preventing senior government officials such as ministers and MPs from accessing Kismayo without any right, whilst detaining some of them at the airport for days. The Kenyan forces were also involved in taking sides of certain clans during conflicts in the city, and have further been involved facilitating the illegal trade of charcoal from Kismayo's seaport, which was banned by the UN and Somali government" he further stated. **Read More...**

IN A letter dated August 9th, the envoys of the United Nations, European Union and the IGAD for Somalia sent a letter to Puntland President Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas which they have expressed their concern shortly after Puntland declared to have suspended its ties with the Federal Government of Somalia following the intent to form a new central state - **RBC Radio**.

In the letter the three foreign envoys made clear that the agreement to form the new central state of Somalia would not have an adverse effect upon the territory currently administered by Puntland in the North Mudug region which Puntland already complained. **Read More...**



Click **HERE** to enlarge

MORE THAN any other organisation, Harakat al-Shabab al-Mujahedeen, widely known as al-Shabaab, has left its mark on the recent history of Somalia. Political and radical Islam have a long history in the country, but no group has survived longer than al-Shabaab, and no group has emerged stronger from challenges and setbacks - **Hiiraan Online**.

More than any other actor involved in the two-decade-old Somali conflict, al-Shabaab has demonstrated its ability to adapt. Today, the group has emerged from an existential crisis and looks stronger than it has in years. Though al-Shabaab is often referred to as simply a "terrorist group," the term does not accurately describe the range of the group's activities. As perhaps the most important spoiler on Somalia's way toward peace,

al-Shabaab's current situation warrants an assessment.

After the Ethiopian retreat in 2009, al-Shabaab was able to extend its area of influence. The TFG stayed alive only thanks to the African Union Mission in Somalia, AMISOM. Its power didn't extend beyond a few square miles in the centre of Mogadishu. In much of the rest of southern Somalia, al-Shabaab was able to establish itself as the de facto government.

In 2011 AMISOM and the TFG undertook a concerted offensive that pushed al-Shabaab out of many important towns. They were soon joined by Kenyan troops in the south and redeployed Ethiopian forces, putting further pressure on al-Shabaab and ushering in a new elected Somali government elected year later. Meanwhile, al-Shabaab underwent a phase of internal conflict. Weakened by territorial losses, the group was predicted by many observers to be near its demise.

But al-Shabaab has emerged from its crisis and has regained the initiative. Today the group is not only the greatest threat to the existence of the fledgling Somali government. It has also committed high-profile terror attacks against targets in Kenya and Uganda. [**Read More...**](#)



THE UNITED Nations Development Program, the U.N.'s flagship anti-poverty agency, spent tens of millions to make terrorism-battered Somalia safer, but never verified that the work was done, or even that its government partners had the capacity to do their jobs, according to a scathing internal auditors' report - [**Fox News**](#).

According to the United Nations Development Program's project website, about \$25 million was spent in 2013 on the audited projects mentioned

in the organisation's internal report—roughly half the \$59 million spent on UNDP programs and management in Somalia that year.

The project website shows the work as being mostly centred in the capital of Mogadishu and intended to provide “coordination and support to Somali security sectors,” develop an “efficient, effective, professional civilian police service” and “policy and law making processes,” as well as a “community security” projects aimed at reducing “armed violence.”

In a brutal counterpoint to those activities, in June 2013, radical Islamic Al-Shabaab militants struck the main U.N. compound in Mogadishu, killing eight local and international security staffers, and forcing other U.N. staffers to remain in Kenya, where U.N. operations for Somalia have centred for years, in fear for their lives.

The report, prepared by UNDP's Office of Audit and Investigations, or OAI, was based an examination this past spring of UNDP's Somalia country office in Kenya—the hub of coordination for some 20 U.N. agencies—which maintains senior management offshoots in Mogadishu and outlying Somali centres. The OAI probe aimed at assessing “the adequacy and effectiveness” of UNDP leadership, coordination and management in Somalia during the preceding year. [**Read More...**](#)



FORMER WARLORD Abdi Nur Siyad who has been earlier targeted by Somali security forces for disarmament security operation in Mogadishu has escaped from the capital and reached Guricel town in central Somalia - [**AllAfrica**](#).

Dalsan Radio reporter in Guricel has confirmed the presence of Mr. Abdi Nur Siyad in the area however it is not clear which means of transport

the former war lord has used to escape Mogadishu and reach Guricel.

The former war lord is wanted by the government for illegal possession of weapons in the capital Mogadishu. **[Read More...](#)**

THE UNITED Nations Special Envoy for Somalia Nicholas Kay has announced that the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia UNISOM will open branch offices in Hargeisa, the capital of the self declared state of Somali land - **[AllAfrica](#)**. Addressing journalists in Hargeisa, Mr. Kay announced that his office is now preparing to extend its mission to Hargeisa after absence of one year from Somaliland. Mr. Kay said UNSOM and Somaliland will cooperate on many issues. Mr. Kay met with President Ahmed Mohamed Mohamud Silaanyo of Somaliland together with other leaders. Also, the president of Somaliland and Mr. Kay discussed how UN bodies can operate inside Somaliland.

UNSOM was established by the UN Security Council on 3 June 2013. Based in Somalia, UNSOM is mandated to support the Federal Government of Somalia with its peace and state building agenda, including the federalism process, review of the provisional constitution and elections in 2016. It also works to strengthen Somalia's security sector, promote respect for human rights and women's empowerment and assist in the coordination of international assistance. **[Read More...](#)**

West Africa

THE JOINT Task Force (JTF) in the Niger Delta says troops operating under its 'Operation Grand Slam' have set ablaze a pirates' camp at Meibegbemo, near Lobia and Furopa communities in the creeks of Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of the state - **[AllAfrica](#)**.

Armed youths, who occupied the camp, had been reportedly responsible for robbery attacks on vessels, passenger boats and ferries plying the Furopa channel, while their kidnapped victims were kept in the camp.

Joint media co-ordinator of the JTF, Mustapha Anka, a Lieutenant Colonel, said in Yenagoa on Thursday that the hoodlums also extend their criminal activities to neighbouring communities of Azuzama and Ekeni in Ekeremor area of the state. He said the criminals cash in on the difficult terrain in the region to perpetuate crimes in the waterways.

Anka said the camp was set ablaze after it was dislodged by the anti illegal-bunkering squad of the security outfit, which recovered arms and ammunition.

According to him, the recent hostages and attacks on the Bayelsa waterways, which led to the death of some of their victims, were allegedly perpetrated by the camp operators. **[Read more...](#)**

FOUR WORKERS of a construction company, Setraco have been kidnapped in the creeks of Nembe, Nembe Local Government Area of Bayelsa State - **[Daily Times Nigeria](#)**.

Caleb Agene, Otuoke Magic Kingdom, Gabriel Oghene and Godwin Odukpong were working on the multi-million naira Ogbia-Nembe road around 9pm on Saturday when they were abducted by gunmen.

The kidnapping occurred a few days after the state government set up an 11-man security task force, headed by a former leader of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), Ebikabowei Victor-Ben.

However, the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN), Bayelsa State chapter, has threatened to go on an indefinite strike, if the government fails

to protect its members from attacks by pirates.

[Read More...](#)

NIGERIA'S MILITARY on Tuesday took the wraps off a new aircraft to tackle high-seas pirates off the country's coast, as well as maritime hijackers and oil thieves - ***PM News Nigeria***.

The high-tech plane is one of seven to be operated by the state-run Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and the Nigerian Air Force.



It includes sensors, radar and Electro-Optic Surveillance and Tracking (EOST) equipment, which houses three cameras to monitor ships in Nigerian waters, said Sergeant Sunday Olalekan Omotosho.

"When fully operational, no vessel can escape our coverage," he told reporters before a demonstration flight from Lagos to Escravos in the Niger Delta and over offshore platforms in the oil-producing southeast.

The 20-seat plane can fly as low as 200 feet (60 metres) above the sea and passes on information about maritime traffic to the navy, who can intervene with fast-attack craft if necessary, he added.

"Our aim is to fight all manner of maritime crimes in the country. With this aircraft, we can spot any vessel hundreds of kilometres (miles) away," said Air Group Captain Enobong Eneh Effiom. **[Read More...](#)**

THE NIGERIAN Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) is partnering with the Nigerian Air force to provide air surveillance of the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), boosting air and water capabilities in addressing

the menace of piracy and criminality on the country's territorial waters. Andrew Airahuobhor reports - ***AllAfrica***.

As Nigeria battles to come out from the list of areas with dangerous waters, the recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and the Nigerian Airforce, seems to be a veritable platform to achieving it. The Agency's capacity to tackle illegalities at sea is further strengthened by the statutory role of the Nigerian Airforce in defending the territorial integrity of Nigeria by Air and their establishment of a reputable and efficient maritime capability in the Gulf of Guinea through their ATR 42 Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) and other platforms.

The Gulf of Guinea, which covers Nigerian waters, is regarded as the most dangerous waters after the Somalia and the Gulf of Aden waters. Nigerian waters has also been designated a "war-risk zone" by the International Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Clubs for purposes of maritime insurance on vessels, cargo and crew destined for Nigerian ports.

This means that vessels and cargo owners have had to pay higher premium on their insurance policies, but the cost is passed on to the end users of the products carried by the vessels.

The current prevailing maritime security challenges in Nigeria waters include: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea; Oil theft and pipeline vandalism; Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUUF); Dumping of waste & other matters; Illegal bunkering; Human trafficking and Smuggling of small arms and ammunitions. **[Read More...](#)**

TWO RECENT attacks have raised concerns that Ghana could be turning into a hot spot for piracy and armed robbery at sea. On Friday, 26 July, the oil tanker Hai Soon 6 was reported missing off Ghana's coast. This followed after an attack on the oil tanker Fair Artemis, which had taken place on 4 June 2014. Given that this area is not known to be a piracy hot spot, these attacks should sound an alert to West African authorities to take quick action and prioritise cooperation in maritime security - ***ISS Africa***.

This latest incident demonstrates that no West African country can claim to be immune from piracy, despite assurances to the contrary from Ghanaian leaders. This also highlights, more broadly, that there is a prevailing lack of cooperation among the operational personnel who are responsible for maritime security in West Africa; something which pirates are exploiting. The Ghanaian authorities have expressed confidence in the security of their coasts, and say that this is being achieved through a number of developments. These include the acquisition of patrol boats operated by the navy and maritime police; setting up of a vessel traffic management system; and security cooperation with neighbouring countries. Following the Fair Artemis hijacking, Paul Asare Ansah, Head of Public Relations for the Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, stated that 'Ghana regularly maintains the security of its anchorage, having obtained boats that constantly maintain vigilance over its waters together with the navy and the maritime police.' [**Read More...**](#)

THE Islamist terror group Boko Haram kidnapped at least 97 men and boys and killed 28 people this week in a raid on villages in Borno State in northeast Nigeria, a local leader and residents said Friday - [**CNN**](#).

Boko Haram gunmen also injured 25 others during the raid in which scores of homes were burned, the sources said.

The gunmen raided the farming and fishing village of Doron Baga and surrounding villages on the shores of Lake Chad, about 110 miles north of the state capital, Maiduguri.

The raid and kidnappings occurred on Monday, but the news did not emerge sooner due to lack of communication and because cell phone towers were destroyed in previous Boko Haram attacks. Boko Haram has been active as a violent group since 2009 and has killed Nigerians, both Christian and Muslim, at rates frequently exceeding 100 people weekly. [**Read More...**](#)

CHADIAN TROOPS have rescued 85 Nigerians kidnapped last week by the Islamist terror group Boko Haram, security and human rights sources in Nigeria said Saturday - [**CNN**](#).

Dozens of Boko Haram insurgents stormed the Doron Baga fishing and farming village on the shores of Lake Chad late Sunday through Monday and took away 97 young men and boys plus several women, residents said. The raiders killed 28 residents and burned scores of homes, according to residents.

The hostages were loaded onto motorboats and ferried into neighboring Chad, with residents saying they feared the hostages would be forcefully conscripted as foot soldiers.

Chadian security officials reported intercepting a convoy of buses carrying 85 Nigerians "believed to have been kidnapped by Boko Haram terrorists from Baga," a Nigerian security source said. [**Read More...**](#)

NORTHERN NIGERIA's riot police training academy has been overrun by Boko Haram Islamist militants, a witness in Borno state has told the [**BBC News**](#).

Shots were heard after the militants arrived in three armoured vehicles and on dozens of motorcycles, he said.

A police spokesman confirmed the attack while a senior security source said it had not been possible to communicate with the academy since Wednesday.

The Liman Kara college is near Gwoza town, seized by Boko Haram this month.

Thousands have been killed across north-eastern Nigeria since Boko Haram launched its violent campaign for an Islamic state in 2009. [**Read More...**](#)

Southeast Asia

SOME 14 cases of piracy and maritime crime report were reported in Asia in July, down from the 21 recorded in June, according to the latest monthly figures from the Singapore-based Regional Co-operation Agreement on Combating Piracy - [**Lloyd's List**](#).

The decline comes despite growing concerns over oil cargo theft in the region, with at least nine reported attacks on tankers so far in 2014.

There is 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.

Almost half of the July total was accounted for by petty theft, but there were three significant (category one) incidents in the month under consideration, ReCaap said.

These included two hijackings and one incident which it's believed would have become a hijacking were it not for the timely presence of a Malaysian patrol boat.

Commenting on the statistics, David Rider of Maritime Security Review said that 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. [**Read More...**](#)

VIETNAM NATIONAL Shipping Lines (Vinalines) warned its affiliates to remain vigilant against rising piracy in Southeast Asia - [**Thanhniaen News**](#).

Marine transport companies must strictly follow safety protocols and maintain frequent communications with their dispatchers, the state-owned corporation said in a statement.

According to Vinalines, pirates operating in Southeast Asia seek cargo and tend not to hold hostages for ransom like Somali pirates.

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) reported a total of 73 incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia during the first half of this year.

Of the 73 incidents reported, 18 were incidents of piracy and 55 were incidents of armed robbery against ships. Accordingly, 15 piracy incidents occurred in the East Sea (a.k.a. the South China Sea), two in the Bay of Bengal and one attempt in the Indian Ocean. [**Read More...**](#)

FIFTEEN FOREIGN tourists were missing on Sunday after a boat travelling between islands in eastern Indonesia sank, an Indonesian search-and-rescue official said - [**Reuters**](#).

Suryaman, based on the island of Lombok, told Reuters that 10 people had been rescued after the

ship sank on its way from that island to Komodo Islands.

He said he did not know the fate of the other 15 people on the vessel, which had a crew of five Indonesians and was carrying 20 foreigners.

The vessel left Lombok on Thursday night and sank on Saturday about 7 pm local time "and we only received a report at 8 am (on Sunday)," said Suryaman, adding that poor communication caused a delay in deploying a search-and-rescue team.

Local fishermen rescued five people before the team arrived, he said.

The official said that of the 10 rescued people, the nationalities were known for five - two each from New Zealand and Spain, and one from Britain.

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

Americas/South America/Caribbean

MEXICAN AUTHORITIES have arrested two Chinese men for illegal trading in totoaba, a species linked to the near-extinction of the porpoise-like vaquita marina - [**NZ Herald**](#).

The totoaba is a large, endangered fish whose swim bladder is prized by chefs in China. The bladders can fetch tens of thousands of dollars. Fishermen using gill nets to illegally catch totoaba in the Sea of Cortez are blamed for unintentionally sweeping up vaquitas.

Experts believe there now are fewer than 100 surviving vaquitas, which live only in the Sea of Cortez, also known as the Gulf of California.

The environmental prosecutors' office said Tuesday three Mexicans were arrested with four totoabas and three bladders.

The Chinese men were found in a vehicle with three dried bladders. [**Read More...**](#)

THE SOUTH American country of Guyana says it will deny operating licenses to boat owners if they don't install tracking systems to help repel pirate attacks - [**NZ Herald**](#).

Fisheries Minister Leslie Ramsammy said Tuesday that the systems would allow officials to monitor boats and suspicious activities. At least six

fishermen have been killed in pirate attacks this year and several others remain missing in waters between Guyana and neighboring Suriname. Ramsammy said a new licensing system will be imposed next year and that authorities will conduct inspections at sea to ensure boat owners are complying. [**Read More...**](#)

COAST GUARD crews and Royal Bahamian Defence Force (RBDF) rescued more than 400 Haitians illegally migrating in three separate at sea interdictions in the span of 11 days - [**USCG News**](#).

Monday, an aircrew aboard a Coast Guard C-130 aircraft from Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater located a 40-foot sail freighter riding low west of Ragged Island, Bahamas. Her Majesty's Bahamian Ship Arthur Dion Hanna arrived on scene the following day and safely disembarked 124 Haitian migrants and transported them to



Coral Harbour Base for further processing. The vessel was grossly overloaded with 100 males, 16 females and eight children.

Thursday, the RBDF interdicted approximately 180 Haitian migrants aboard another dangerously overloaded sail freighter illegally migrating northwest of Great Exuma Island, Bahamas. There was no Coast Guard involvement in this case. The crew aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Paul Clark interdicted and safely disembarked 101 Haitian migrants aboard an overloaded sail freighter Aug. 11 before turning them over to the RBDF. There were 71 males, 21 females and nine minors aboard the vessel. Crew members distributed life jackets to the group and moved them onto the cutter, where they received food, water and basic medical care.

"The Coast Guard strongly advises against taking to sea in an attempt to illegally enter the United States or Bahamas," said Cmdr. Timothy Cronin, Coast Guard 7th District deputy chief of enforcement. "These attempts unnecessarily put the lives of migrants and Coast Guard crews at great risk." [**Read More...**](#)

Click for [**video**](#)

DESPITE A ruling by the International Court of Justice on the maritime border dispute between Colombia and Nicaragua, the disagreement between the two Latin American nations continues - [**Latin Post**](#).

At the center of the dispute is a group of islands and maritime borders between the two countries, dating back almost two centuries. Both countries claim a group of three islands and the extended maritime borders that come with them.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague last ruled on the issue in November 2012, according to Fox News Latino, granting Colombia sovereignty over the three disputed islands but expanding Nicaragua's maritime territory by 120 square kilometers.

Colombia has vehemently rejected the ruling, sending warships into the contested area and breaking off relations with the Central American nation, hindering bilateral negotiations to redraw the maritime borders between the two nations.

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

Other

IRAN IS considering the construction of a big oil terminal in the port city of Jask off the Sea of Oman in the south of the country - [**Arabian Supply Chain**](#).

Reports from Tehran claim Pirouz Mousavi, managing director of the Iranian Oil Terminals Company (IOTC), said that the construction of the oil terminal in Jask – which involves storage tanks, loading and unloading wharves, single-point moorings (SPM) as well as onshore and offshore facilities – would need an estimated US\$2.5 billion in investment.

He said Iran's private sector as well as foreign companies may be invited to contribute to this project.

Mousavi added that three SPMs will be constructed in this terminal, adding that state-of-the-art technology will be applied to the storage tanks.

He stated that pipelines are to be laid out to deliver oil from Neka oil terminal near the Caspian Sea and also from oil-rich regions in southern Iran to Jask Port before being exported.

Mousavi said establishment of an oil terminal in Jask will shorten the distance for oil delivery and thereby exports costs.

According to Mousavi, Jask oil terminal will also boost Iran's storage capacity and provide the country with a bargaining chip in its oil transactions. **[Read More...](#)**

THE INTERNATIONAL Maritime Bureau (IMB) has highlighted the increased risk of cyber-attacks on shipping and ports – the “next playground for hackers”.

IT networks at ports and onboard ships are vulnerable to compromise via remote hacking, allowing criminals to generate release codes for specific containers, enabling people and drugs to be unwittingly transported by shipping companies, as well as high-value containers to be stolen - **[Seatrade Global](#)**.

IMB quoted Mike Yarwood, claims executive at insurer TT Club, who at a recent conference indicated that cyber-attacks were far from an abstract threat: “We see incidents which at first appear to be a petty break-in at office facilities. The damage appears minimal – nothing is physically removed.

“More thorough post incident investigations however reveal that the ‘thieves’ were actually installing spyware within the operator's IT network,” said Yarwood, adding that operators' personal devices were also targeted.

IMB also highlighted recent comments by accounting and advisory firm KPMG's cyber security director Wil Rockall, who warned that most port control systems are manned by engineers, not information security personnel. “Most ports and terminals are managed by industrial control systems which have, until very

recently, been left out of the Chief Information Officer's (CIO) scope. Historically, this security has not been managed by company Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and maritime control systems are very similar.

Last year it was revealed that drug traffickers had performed a two -year long multi-layer cyber attack against the port of Antwerp. **[Read More...](#)**

INSURERS ARE studying the implications of last weekend's incident where one man died and 34 others were rescued from a container unloaded at Tilbury Docks in the UK.

Shipping and haulage firms, concerned about future similar incidents, are looking hard at their insurance policies - **[IHS Maritime 360](#)**.



Neil Smith head of underwriting at the Lloyd's Market Association said liability would, on the whole, fall on a shipping firm that carried any illegal persons into the country, be it in a container or by other means.

"In the UK those who are found to be liable for bringing persons in illegally will have to carry the cost of their repatriation, " he explained.

"The matter is, however, not totally clear cut." The 34 survivors found last weekend after the unloading of a ferry from the Belgian port of Zbrugge have been treated for a range of injuries and hypothermia.

A man has been arrested on suspicion of manslaughter over the incident. **[Read More...](#)**

TWO MEN have been charged following the death of an Afghan migrant found in a container at Tilbury docks in Essex - **[BBC News](#)**.

Stephen McLaughlin, 34, of Rose Park, Limavady, Londonderry and Timothy Murphy, 33, of Elmgrove, Londonderry, have been charged with conspiring to facilitate illegal entry into the UK.

The dead man was among 35 Afghan Sikhs found at the docks a week ago.

The two lorry drivers from Northern Ireland are due to appear at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court later.

The 34 surviving people included 10 men, nine women and 15 children.

Their ages ranged from one to 72. [**Read More...**](#)

KNEELING IN the dirt in a desert somewhere in the Middle East, James Foley lost his life this week at the hands of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. Before pulling out the knife used to decapitate him, his masked executioner explained that he was killing the 40-year-old American journalist in retaliation for the recent United States' airstrikes against the terror group in Iraq - [**The New York Times**](#).



In fact, until recently, ISIS had a very different list of demands for Mr. Foley: The group pressed the United States to provide a multimillion-dollar ransom for his release, according to a representative of his family and a former hostage held alongside him. The United States — unlike several European countries that have funneled millions to the terror group to spare the lives of their citizens — refused to pay.

The issue of how to deal with ISIS, which like many terror groups now routinely trades captives for large cash payments, is acute for the Obama administration because Mr. Foley was not the lone American in its custody. ISIS is threatening to kill at least three others it holds if its demands remain unmet, The New York Times has confirmed through interviews with recently released prisoners, family members of the victims and mediators attempting to win their freedom. [**Read More...**](#)

JIHADISTS HOLDING US journalist James Foley wanted a \$132m (£80m) ransom for his release, his employer has said - [**BBC News**](#).

GlobalPost CEO Philip Balboni said the Islamic State (IS) militants had first demanded money last year.

Mr Foley was abducted in November 2012, and a video of his beheading was released by IS earlier this week.

The US has begun a formal criminal investigation into Mr Foley's death, with the attorney general warning that the country has a "long memory". Meanwhile, speaking at a press conference on Thursday, US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel described IS as an imminent threat and "beyond just a terrorist group". [**Read More...**](#)

U.S. Marines at Camp Pendleton's Edson Range welcomed a group of 10 senior military officers from various African nations as part of an ongoing military-to-military (M2M) familiarization program sponsored by U.S. Africa Command, Aug. 11, 2014 - [**Africom**](#).

Participants traveled from various parts of Africa to military bases in San Diego for a weeklong field learning and cultural exchange program from Aug. 11-16, 2014. This outreach effort is designed to extend the participants' knowledge of the U.S. military beyond the classroom for a hands-on exchange with Marines in a training environment. This M2M program is sponsored by AFRICOM's Directorate of Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems (C4S) or J-6, and led by Denis Gizinski who hopes these learning opportunities will create a lasting impact for the delegates. [**Read More...**](#)

KENYAN PRESIDENT Uhuru Kenyatta has nominated a new intelligence chief with experience in the war on al Qaeda-linked insurgents in neighbouring Somalia to stop a spate of attacks in Kenya blamed on Islamist militants - [**Reuters Africa**](#).

Kenyatta said he chose Major-General Philip Kameru for his success in intelligence-gathering in Somalia, where Kenyan soldiers are fighting al Shabaab insurgents as part of an African Union peacekeeping force.

The East African nation has suffered a string of gun and grenade attacks in the past several months, including an assault on the upscale Westgate shopping mall in the capital Nairobi last September in which at least 67 people were killed. Al Shabaab claimed the raid, saying it was part of a campaign of attacks to punish Kenya for sending its troops into Somalia. Kenyan troops began their push against al Shabaab in October 2011, after the militants carried out raids in Kenya. Kenyatta said in a statement that Kimeru has "extensive experience in operational and administrative matters. He has also undergone rigorous training both in Kenya and abroad". [**Read More...**](#)

EGYPT SELECTED a consortium of Egyptian and the Persian Gulf companies Tuesday to develop the government's mega project to transform the Suez Canal waterway into a hub of international investment and free trade zones, officials said - [**Al Arabiya News**](#).



Egyptian authorities say the massive development plan is badly needed to help boost an economy that has been ravaged by three years of political turmoil. The Suez Canal is a key source of revenue for Egypt, bringing in around \$5 billion annually. Canal Authority chief Moheeb Mamish said the Dar al-Handasah - a leading Mideast design, architecture and engineering consultancy registered in Bahrain - was chosen from 14 candidates to develop the project. He did not give the price tag for the project. The goal is to transform five ports at the northern and southern tips of the canal - Sukhna, Adiba, El Arish and two facilities in Port Said - into attractive investment zones, he said. [**Read More...**](#)

ALMOST A year after a sarin gas attack killed more than 1,400 people outside Damascus, the U.S. Defense Department quietly announced Monday that Syria's most dangerous chemicals have been neutralised - [**Foreign Policy**](#). Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel called Navy Capt. Richard Dromerhauser aboard the U.S. container ship MV Cape Ray Monday morning, Aug. 18, to congratulate his crew on finishing their work weeks ahead of schedule, according to the Pentagon. It was the first time the United States ever attempted to destroy chemical weapons at sea.

"While the international community's work to completely eliminate Syria's chemical weapons program is not yet finished, the secretary believes this is a clear demonstration of what can be achieved when diplomacy is backed by a willingness to use military force," Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby said in a statement. [**Read More...**](#)

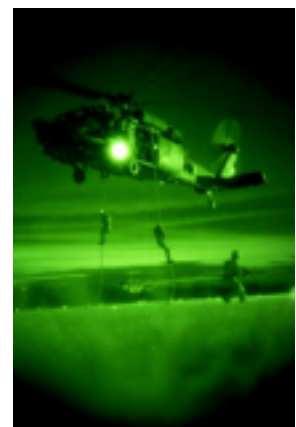
THE US military launched a secret mission to rescue a number of Americans, including slain journalist James Foley, held captive by militants in Syria this summer but failed to find them, the Pentagon has revealed - [**The Telegraph**](#).

The rescue mission was authorised by US President Barack

Obama after intelligence agencies believed they had identified the location inside Syria where the hostages were being held.

But the several dozen special operations troops who were dropped by aircraft into Syria did not find them and engaged in a firefight with Islamic State group militants before departing.

The officials said a number of militants, but no Americans, were killed. One American sustained a minor injury when an aircraft was hit, according to the officials, who described the mission under ground rules that they not be identified.



They did so one day after the militants released a video showing the beheading of Foley and threatening to kill a second hostage, Steven Sotloff, if US airstrikes against the militants in Iraq continued. Officials did not specify the number or identity of Americans believed held alongside Foley and Sotloff. [**Read More...**](#)

JIHADIST GROUP the Islamic State can be contained and eventually defeated, the top US general said Thursday, but only if it is engaged in Syria and not just in Iraq - [**Yahoo News**](#). "This is an organisation that has an apocalyptic, end of days strategic vision that will eventually have to be defeated," said General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Can they be defeated without addressing that part of the organisation that resides in Syria? The answer is no." [**Read More...**](#)

LIBYA HAS restarted oil exports from its biggest port for the first time since the end of a year-long blockade, a boost to the central government, which is struggling with a wave of clashes in the capital - [**The Telegraph**](#). The OPEC member's oil production has risen in the past few weeks to around 560,000 barrels a day as ports in the east have resumed work under a deal with a group of federalist rebels, adding to a crude market that is already well supplied. But in a reminder of the risk of further instability, the acting oil minister said he had resigned, while heavy fighting erupted in a suburb of the main eastern city Benghazi between forces of a renegade general and Islamist fighters. Explosions were so loud they could be heard in the city centre. Home to the headquarters of several oil firms, Benghazi is located some 130km from Zueitina, one of the four reopened eastern ports. [**Read More...**](#)

BIMCO AS well as other media outlets have reported that Benghazi port has been closed by the Libyan military. Vessel traffic to Benghazi is reported to have been redirected to Tobruk. On the other hand, the Association has also received tentative reports which may suggest that Benghazi port is still working to some degree (perhaps despite the closure).

This comes amid news from early last week that a Libyan fighter aircraft reportedly opened fire on a commercial vessel at the outer anchorage of Derna port - [**Skuld**](#).

What is clear is that the situation is rather volatile and fluid, not just for Benghazi but for Libya in general.

In general, the Association would advise members considering fixtures with calls at Libya to proceed with great caution.

Members may also wish to consider whether the charterparty terms would be sufficient to deal with the situation on the ground as it develops.

For members already fixed to call at a Libyan port, it may be prudent for the Association to be contacted in order to obtain more case-specific advice. [**Read More...**](#)

A SECOND tanker is waiting to load oil at Libya's Es Sider port, state-run National Oil Corp (NOC) said on Thursday, as the country's biggest crude export terminal swung back into action after being closed for a year - [**MarineLink**](#).

The OPEC member's oil production has risen in the past few weeks as major ports in the east have resumed work under a deal with a group of federalist rebels, adding to a crude market that is already well supplied.

A first tanker has been loading oil at Es Sider since Wednesday but a second had already arrived, NOC spokesman Mohamed El Harari said. "The other tanker is waiting." [**Read More...**](#)

South Korean Ferry

POPE Francis held his first mass in South Korea wearing a yellow ribbon on the left side of his chest to symbolize commemoration of the victims of the Sewol ferry sinking in April - [**Hani**](#).

The Pope, who switched out his ceremonial robes for a cassock as he left for his next engagement on Aug. 15, pinned on the ribbon after receiving it from a participant while entering Asia Youth Day mass that afternoon.

Ten relatives of victims of the tragedy met with the pope in front of the vestry that morning just before his Assumption mass at the World Cup Stadium in

Daejeon. They presented him handwritten letters and handkerchiefs, along with a yellow ribbon to symbolize the Sewol tragedy. Because of security issues, the items could not given directly to the pope, but were given to security guards in advance before the meeting.

After his meeting with the family members, the pope discovered the yellow ribbon while looking over the items and reportedly pinned it on his chest himself.

No one was more surprised than the families of the Sewol victims to see the pope wearing the yellow ribbon on the left side of his ceremonial garments. [**Read More...**](#)

IT'S BEEN over three months since the South Korean Sewol ferry capsized, killing 300 passengers onboard. It was a tragedy that sparked government reforms and national soul searching. But understandably, it's been much more challenging for the families of the victims, almost all of whom attended the same high school - [**World Crunch**](#).

The temporary memorial that was created after the April 16 ferry disaster is a giant, air-conditioned tent with an enormous altar that holds framed pictures of the high school students who died when the ship went down.

Flowers have been laid out in front of them, and there are packages of food. A note from a mother of one of the children says that she hopes to see her son again one day.

The memorial here in Ansan is the centre of grieving for the entire country. It's also the place where the families of the victims come to try to find solace. Tents are set up outside that offer various services for these relatives. Among them, legal advice.

"The parents who come here want to know how they can get support from the government, especially for single parents or how to take their childrens' pictures down off of websites," says attorney Jo Ah-ra.

But Kwon Oh-hyun, who acts as a spokesperson for families of the Sewol victims, says many of the relatives need more than just legal advice.

Following the accident, many quit their jobs. He says some just stay home and mourn. The

government is helping, but it might not be enough. [**Read More...**](#)

THE FATHER of one of the high school students killed in South Korea's ferry disaster was hospitalised Friday after mounting a 40-day hunger strike to demand a full independent inquiry - [**Yahoo News**](#).



Kim Young-Oh, who lost his 16-year-old daughter when the Sewol ferry capsized in April, was sent to hospital from Seoul's central Gwanghwamun Square, where he had been protesting, Park Yong-Woo, a spokesman for the victims' families, told reporters.

"He was in a dangerous state this morning, although he insisted he would continue his protest," the spokesman said. Kim had been taking only water and salts.

The Sewol capsized on April 16 off the country's southern coast with the loss of some 300 lives, most of them high school students on an organised trip.

Some relatives of the victims have been camped out in Gwanghwamun for weeks to push parliament to pass legislation setting up a full, independent inquiry. [**Read More...**](#)

A MAN whose 17-year-old child was killed in the April sinking of a South Korean ferry, the country's worst maritime accident in decades, said he is ready to move on, tired of the political wrangling and mud-slinging four months after disaster struck - [**Voice Of America News**](#).

But his nerves were on edge. He didn't want his name used and was wary of being overheard while taking a cigarette break during a meeting of grieving families.

"Everyone is getting exhausted. Most of us like me want to see some kind of closure," he said on Wednesday night in Ansan, the working class city southwest of Seoul where most of those killed in the disaster had been pupils at Danwon High School.

Families who lost loved ones in the tragedy are demanding accountability from the government, but many have grown weary of strident activists adopting their cause for political ends. [Read More...](#)

Missing Malaysian Aircraft MH370



MALAYSIAN POLICE have arrested a bank officer and her husband over allegations they stole more than \$30,000 from the accounts of four passengers aboard missing flight MH370, an official said Friday - [Huffington Post](#).

The couple have been held in police custody since Thursday on suspicion of withdrawing 110,643 ringgit (\$34,850) from the accounts of two Malaysian and two Chinese MH370 victims, said Zainuddin Ahmad, a district police chief in Kuala Lumpur.

Police are also looking for another suspect, a Pakistani man, who is believed to have received part of the money in his account through an online transfer, he added.

"We believe he is still in the country. But as to the full particulars of the case -- it's all still under investigation," Zainuddin told AFP.

Zainuddin declined to name the bank, where the woman in custody reportedly worked at for the last 10 years.

The Star daily reported that the four bank accounts were with HSBC and quoted HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd saying in a statement that the matter was referred by the bank to the police, declining further comment. [Read More...](#)

MALAYSIAN POLICE are still searching for a Pakistani national over the alleged theft of money from bank accounts belonging to four people

aboard missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, according to Malaysian investigators - [CNN](#).

"We are still trying to locate this Ali Farran, who last worked as a car mechanic," Assistant Commissioner Izany Abdul Ghany of the Kuala Lumpur Commercial Crime Investigation Department said Monday.

Authorities have arrested two people in relation to the alleged theft: an HSBC bank officer and her husband.

The bank officer is accused of using Internet banking to transfer money from four passengers' bank accounts into another passenger's account. About \$10,000 (35,000 Malaysian ringgit) was then allegedly transferred to a fifth account belonging to Farran, police said.

In total, about \$35,000 (110,600 Malaysian ringgit) was reported missing from the accounts of two Chinese passengers, Ju Kun and Tian Jun Wei, and two Malaysians, Hue Pui Heng and flight steward Tan Size Hian.

Police have yet to charge the couple, who have been in police custody since their arrest on Thursday. [Read More...](#)

HACKERS STOLE classified information from the computers of senior Malaysian officials involved in the hunt for missing flight MH370 and sent it to China, it has been claimed.

Officials at Malaysia's National Security Council and Civil Aviation Department were among the targets, according to a report in Malaysia's The Star newspaper - [The Telegraph](#).

The breach of security was detected by CyberSecurity Malaysia, a government agency controlled by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation. The group eventually had the "transmissions blocked and the infected machines shut down," the newspaper added.

However, Dr Amirudin Abdul Wahab, the head of CyberSecurity Malaysia, said the hackers succeeded in stealing significant amounts of information, including "minutes of meetings and classified documents". [Read More...](#)

THE NEXT phase of the hunt for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet MH370 will be very challenging in places - [BBC News](#).

Detailed information being gathered about the shape of the ocean floor west of Australia confirms the seabed in some locations to be extremely rugged.

Two vessels - the Fugro Equator and the Zhu Kezhen - are currently mapping an area covering 60,000 sq km.

This survey will guide a metre-by-metre search using towed instruments and submersibles.

This is likely to get under way towards the end of September.

The Australian authorities have warned that this could take a year to complete.

The Dutch-owned Fugro Equator and the Chinese naval vessel Zhu Kezhen are presently assembling a bathymetric (depth) map. [Read More...](#)

Downed Malaysian Aircraft MH17



DATUK SERI Najib Tun Razak has called on all Malaysians to unite as one nation in observing a minute of silence in honour the victims of the MH17 tragedy - [The Star Malaysia](#).

The Prime Minister said that after a month-long identification process of victims' remains, the first 20 victims will arrive home Friday morning at the Bunga Raya Complex, KL International Airport (KLIA).

"Tomorrow will be a national day of mourning for us. We mourn the loss of 298 lives on board the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 which went down on July 17th, 2014.

"Let us all unite in observing the minute of silence together as one nation in honour of the victims," Najib said on his Twitter account.

Najib said a nation-wide, one-minute silence will be observed and the exact time would be announced through official government radio and television channels.

The official ceremony to honour the victims of the MH17 tragedy will be held at the Bunga Raya Complex grounds. [Read More...](#)

MALAYSIANS OBSERVED a moment of silence following the arrival in Kuala Lumpur of the bodies

of 20 Malaysian victims of Flight MH17 that crashed in Ukraine in July - [BBC News](#).

A specially chartered plane took off from Amsterdam and landed around 10:00 local time (02:00 GMT).

National flags are flying at half-mast for the day of mourning.

Flight MH17 is believed to have been shot down by a missile fired by pro-Russian rebels. They deny the claim.

All 298 passengers and crew on board the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 died on 17 July.

From office workers to train drivers, many among the nation of 30 million observed a minute's silence as white hearses drove the remains from the airport to private funerals in various provinces. The country's public transportation, including the national rail system and Kuala Lumpur's monorail, paused during the minute of silence.

Prime Minister Najib Razak, who turned his Twitter and Facebook pages black, wrote a [condolence message](#) that was widely shared. [Read More...](#)



SKY NEWS is facing an Ofcom investigation after more than 200 people complained about a news report from the crash site of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 which saw a reporter rifling through a victim's suitcase - [The Independent](#).

The broadcaster was forced to apologise after the journalist Colin Brazier was filmed picking up a toiletry bag and a set of keys from an open suitcase at the scene of the devastating crash in eastern Ukraine.

During the broadcast, Brazier himself seemed to realise his mistake telling the audience: "I shouldn't really be doing this, I suppose."

He later also wrote an article for the Guardian in which he apologised for what he called a "serious error of judgment" and said, "at the weekend I got

things wrong. If there was someone to apologise to in person, I would." [**Read More...**](#)

KIEV SHOULD make public the records of communications between the Ukrainian air traffic control and the Malaysian Airlines flight 17 in the hours before it was shot down over Ukraine's turbulent east, Russia's UN envoy said - [**RT**](#). The issue was among several Russia raised at a UN Security Council meeting, which was called by Russia to discuss the progress of the investigation into the tragic incident, which killed 298 people in July, Vitaly Churkin said. Moscow sees the shortage of proper evidence known to the public so far as wrong.

"As far as we know, [UN's civil aviation watchdog] ICAO is being kept on the sidelines of the investigation, which has been conducted for some time," Churkin said.

Churkin added that Jeffrey Feltman, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who is to visit Kiev soon, would ask the Ukrainian government about the communications records between air traffic controllers and the plane.

"We have agreed that he would vent this issue among others," Churkin said. "How are the Ukrainians playing their part in the international investigation? What comes to mind: they must provide the records of communications of their air traffic controllers so that we could understand why they directed the Malaysian plane into the conflict zone." [**Read More...**](#)

Released by Pirates

NSTR

Pirates in Court

NSTR

Seaman Guard Ohio

HAVING BEEN ticked off by the Madras high court recently for booking crew members of the US anti-piracy ship under the Arms Act after the mercenary vessel was apprehended last year with

loads of guns on board near Thoothukudi coast, the TN police has decided to go on appeal to the Supreme Court, sources said - [**Deccan Chronicle**](#).

In July, the Madras high court had observed that the presence of MV Seaman Guard Ohio (flying the Sierra Leone flag) within Indian territorial sea was out of necessity (for food and fuel) and that the crew and the security guards cannot be prosecuted for an offence under the Arms Act. However, the top brass of the state police headquarters are said to have decided to fight the case in Supreme Court saying that MV Seaman Guard Ohio was a threat to India, particularly when the country had witnessed militants sneaking into the country through the sea route and unleashing an attack on the country. [**Read More...**](#)

Private Security

NSTR

International Response

A LOOK at how the United States and various European nations have dealt with hostage-taking and ransom demands for their citizens in recent years - [**5Eyewitness ABC News**](#):

UNITED STATES

U.S. policy prohibits government negotiation with terrorists, including paying ransom demands. Technically, family members or employers of captives could be prosecuted for paying ransom on charges of providing support to terrorists, although the government is wrestling with whether that should be changed.

BELGIUM

Belgium is widely thought to negotiate and pay ransoms if needed to free its citizens, even though the government in Brussels routinely denies ransom payments. A Belgian writer, Pierre Piccinin da Prata, was released from captivity in Syria last September alongside an Italian

journalist, Domenico Quirico of La Stampa, but neither Belgium or Italy commented on the circumstances of their release. In another incident, five aid workers held captive in Syria for several months, including a Belgian national, were released in May. Neither the aid group Doctors Without Borders nor the governments involved discussed details of the negotiations leading to their release.

BRITAIN

Unlike some European countries, Britain doesn't become involved in ransom negotiations, said Nigel Inkster, the director of transnational threats and political risk at IISS in London. But the government has not sought to prevent ransom payments on a private basis. "That is something qualitatively different," Inkster said. "When the government takes ownership, it invests the whole thing with a political significance."

FRANCE

France says it does not pay ransoms. In April, when President Francois Hollande welcomed home French journalist Nicolas Henin, he insisted that France honored its policy of not paying ransoms saying "it's a very important principle." French companies whose staff have been released after being taken hostage in Africa also deny unsourced accusations that they paid ransoms. However it is widely believed that funds may end up in terror coffers through middlemen.

[Read More...](#)

Piracy Costs

MARITIME PIRACY: New two-part report published by UNCTAD.



The report considers the costs and trade-related implications of maritime piracy and takes stock of regulatory and other initiatives pursued by the international community in an effort to combat piracy - UN Conference on Trade and Development **UNCTAD**. Part I of the report presents

overall trends in maritime piracy and related crimes, and highlights some of the key issues at stake by focusing on its costs and broader trade-related implications.

Part II of the report provides an overview of the contemporary international legal regime for countering piracy and identifies key examples of international cooperation and multilateral initiatives to combat the phenomenon.

The importance of oceans and seas for trade-led economic prosperity has increased in tandem with growth in the world economy, global merchandise trade and maritime transport activity. However, increased international trade volumes and value have also heightened the exposure and vulnerability of international shipping as a potential target for piracy, armed robbery and other crimes.

During the past decade, which has seen a dramatic rise in maritime piracy in East African waters and pirates becoming more sophisticated, violent and resilient, the issue has considerably increased in importance and emerged as a transnational humanitarian, economic and security challenge.

While intensified international counter-piracy efforts have since contributed to a reduction in the number of incidents in the region, this positive trend remains fragile and could be undermined and reversed unexpectedly.

[Maritime Piracy \(Part I\)](#) - An overview of trends, costs and trade-related implications

[Maritime Piracy \(Part II\)](#) - An overview of the international legal framework and of multilateral cooperation to combat piracy. [Read More...](#)

Smuggling/Pirate Fishing

WEST AFRICA must openly confront its political and governance weaknesses to curb the growing drug trade in the region, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo said on Wednesday - **Reuters Africa**.

"West Africa is no longer only a transit zone of drugs but an attractive destination where pushers take advantage of the weak political system to perpetuate their trade," Obasanjo, who chairs the West Africa Commission on Drugs (WACD), said

while presenting his report to Ghana's President John Mahama.

"We believe that we should confront openly the political and governance weaknesses which the traffickers exploit," Obasanjo said.

Former United Nations chief Kofi Annan set up the commission last year to explore ways to stem the increasing trafficking of drugs and its use in the region.

West Africa has long produced and consumed cannabis but its collection of weak states has over the last decade become a major transit zone for Latin American cocaine destined for Europe. Heroin from Asia is also passing through the region. **[Read More...](#)**

FISHING NATIONS that are refusing to provide tuna catch data to regional management organisations should be sanctioned, a tuna industry official told journalists in Suva, Fiji on Tuesday - **[Marianas Variety](#)**.

"The industry can provide accurate data," said Phil Roberts, the Singapore-based managing director of Tri-Marine International, a global supplier of tuna. "If they don't provide the data, don't wait about it in the newspaper, penalise them."

Roberts was commenting on concern raised by fisheries scientists earlier this month during presentations of new stock assessments that show bigeye tuna is now being over-fished and by island fisheries officials in Suva at a two-day tuna workshop who expressed concern about the lack of data from four Asian fishing nations.

Roberts and Dr. Transform Aqorau, CEO of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement or PNA, said Tuesday the refusal to provide fishing data to regional management authorities is tantamount to illegal fishing.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing includes mis-reporting and under-reporting, said Roberts.

"Failure to provide catch data should be considered IUU," said Aqorau.

Vessels engaging in illegal fishing have been blacklisted throughout the western and central Pacific and have been forced to pay heavy fines to resume fishing.

Aqorau's comments were referring to South Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan whose fleets of longliners fish the high seas in the western Pacific for bigeye and yellowfin tuna to feed global sashimi markets.

All are members of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission which regulates fishing on the high seas and requires all members to report operational catch data. **[Read More...](#)**

SAMSON HABTEMARIAM was 26 years old when he fled Eritrea, hiding in a truck. He had been imprisoned for more than a year, then held under house arrest, accused of cooperating with opposition forces - **[SBS Australia](#)**.

But after crossing the border, he was caught by Sudanese security forces who sold him as a prisoner to a tribe of Bedouin called the Rashaida. Samson Habtemariam eventually found himself in the Sinai Desert in neighbouring Egypt, along with other victims of a human-trafficking and organ-harvesting operation.

Speaking in the Tigrinya language, Habtemariam told SBS how tribal leaders ordered them all to pay a ransom of more than \$30,000 or they would lose their kidneys.

"They told us that they would sell one kidney for \$25,000 and two of our kidneys for \$50,000," he told SBS Radio's Tigrinya program.

The director of Human Rights Concern Eritrea, Elsa Chyrum, said Mr Habtemariam's case is definitely not an isolated one.

"Many like him who fled persecution in their own country were kidnapped at the Eritrean and Sudanese border and sold and resold by traffickers to the highest bidders and, from there, taken to the Sinai Desert," she said. **[Read More...](#)** Listen **[HERE](#)**



Seafarers' Plight

NSTR

Aid Workers Plight

NSTR.

And Finally...

SUPER-SIZED childhood bath toy is dominating the harbor in San Pedro today as it continues its world tour - **LA Times**.

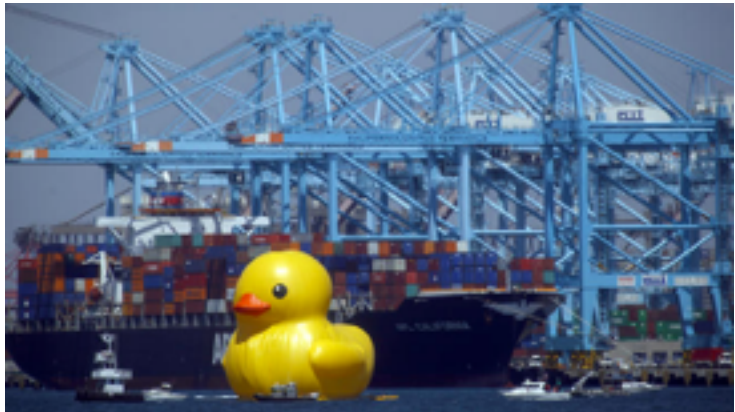
A six-story-tall floating "Rubber Duck" is making its West Coast debut at the Port of Los Angeles, where it will lead more than a dozen battleships and sailboats in the Tall Ships Festival L.A. parade that starts at 2 p.m. today.

Dubbed the world's largest rubber duck, the giant inflatable was created by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman.

"The friendly, floating Rubber Duck has healing properties," Hofman said on the event's website. "It can relieve the world's tensions as well as define them." Tickets to the event cost \$15 to \$19.

Rubber Duck will be tethered to a heavy barge to keep it from blowing away and will be illuminated until 11 each night, according to organizers.

The duck has appeared in Australia, Taiwan, China, Belgium, Japan, New Zealand, Brazil and Pittsburgh. **Read More...**



CREW MEMBERS from a Maersk Line container ship were in for a shock when they discovered some unexpected four-legged stowaways on board their vessel, reported ABC News on Wednesday - **Yahoo News Singapore**.

The ship's crew came across five long-tailed macaque monkeys after they sneaked on board when the vessel was docked in Malaysia earlier this month, according to a Maersk spokesperson.

The crew contacted Copenhagen Zoo who identified the monkeys. The macaques were lured into a make-shift cage with food recommended by the zoo experts.

The monkeys likely include an older male, a younger male, two females and one infant, added the spokesperson. **Read More...**



Piracy Incidents

Hijacks:

- NSTR.

Unsuccessful Attacks/Robberies (All regions):

- **West Africa** - Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored Italy-flagged research vessel, **Odin Finder**, at 0005 LT in position 04:44S –011:48E, Pointe Noire Anchorage, The Congo. Alert crew raised the alarm and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed. Reported (IMB) 14 Aug.
- **Caribbean** - Robbers using a rowboat boarded/entered a locked yacht after jiggling the lock mechanism free at around 0300 to 0315 LT in St. George's outside lagoon, Grenada. Items stolen included personal electronics. This incident and 3 other boardings/thefts the same night/same anchorage were reported to the Coast Guard and local police who are investigating. A total of 4 boats were victimized in this anchorage overnight. Reported (CSSN) 14 Aug.
- **SE Asia** - Fifteen armed robbers boarded an anchored Mongolia-flagged water barge, **DEWS**, at 2300 LT in position 01:19N –104:16E, around 2nm South of Teluk Ramunia, Malaysia. They tied up the crew, covered their faces, slapped and punched them and asked them the details of the cargo on board. As the vessel was a water barge the robbers stole the vessel's communication equipment and crew property before escaping. Reported (IMB) 10 Aug.

Other Incidents:

- **SE Asia** - Hong Kong, China-flagged container ship, **Kota Juta**, attempted boarding/robbery at 0440 LT approx 9nm NW of Pulau Karimumbesar in Malacca/Singapore Straits. Reported (ReCAAP) 21 Aug. Awaiting further details.
- **SE Asia** - Panama-flagged tanker, **Challenge Procyon**, boarded and robbed at 0405 LT, approx 23nm NW of Bintan Island, South China Sea. Reported (ReCAAP) 19 Aug. Awaiting further details.

Suspicious Activity:

- **Red Sea** - Bulk carrier underway notice 4 skiffs at 1.5nm at 1030 UTC in position 12:52.6N - 043:14.2E, BAM, Red Sea. Possible (black Yemeni dhow) mothership sighted at around 4nm. As skiffs (1 w/ 5 or 6 POB) approached the vessel, the Master raised the alarm, increased speed, commenced evasive manoeuvres and non-essential crew mustered near the citadel. At around 0.5nm, the embarked AST noticed a ladder in the skiff w/ 6 POB, AST raised weapons resulting in the skiffs aborting the approach and moving away. Reported (IMB) 18 Aug.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Merchant vessel was reported approached by 2 skiffs at 0550 UTC in position 24:33N - 057:58E, Gulf of Oman. 1 skiff w/ 4 POB another w/ 2 POB, closing to within 8 cables. Ladder said sighted and weapons fired into water. Embarked AST fired parachute flares; skiffs stopped and turned away after AST showed their weapons. Vessel is safe. Reported (NSC) 16 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](#)



Reported incidents in the HoA/IOR HRA.

OCEANUSLive.org *permits the reproduction of this image providing source and link are published (Map ToU)*

Any suspicious activity in HoA HRA should be reported to UKMTO in Dubai in the first instance (Email [UKMTO](#) or Telephone +971 50 552 3215) and on entering the UKMTO Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) bound by Suez, 78E and 10S.

follow on [Twitter](#) |



friend on [Facebook](#) |



forward to a [friend](#) |

