

Report on Somalia

Detailed Weekly Piracy Report and On-the-Ground Analysis



Piracy - At Sea - On Land - Domestic News - International Developments

Report on Somalia ~ SUMMARY

July 23 – 29, 2012 (Week 30)

At Sea:

- During this reporting period, there have been no piracy incidents reported in the High Risk Area (HRA).

Updates:

- **24 July 2012** - The crew members of the SHIUH FU No. 1 arrived in Beijing on Tuesday afternoon after more than 570 days at the mercy of the Somali pirates.
- **22 July 2012** - The saga of a Sri Lankan crew member aboard the MV ORNA seems no closer to ending. K.A. Sarathchandra Surasena, who served as a service engineer on board the vessel, has been held in captivity since the ship was hijacked by Somali pirates on 20 December 2010 some 400 nautical miles northeast of the Seychelles while on her way from Durban, South Africa to Okhaa, India.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Releases: 0

Piracy Related News:

- **25 July 2012** - A paper released by Ocean's Beyond Piracy has presented the first empirical study of penalties for piracy which indicates that the prosecution of Somali pirates as gone global.
- **24 July 2012** - A judge ordered the release of an alleged Somali pirate to home confinement while the government pursues an appeal which could delay the trial until next year.

Weather Analysis:

- Overall, the weather conditions for the following week will continue to be less favorable for pirate activities to occur as the South-western monsoon continues to impact piracy in the region. However water conditions will improve slightly off the coast of India as the week continues and as such vessels traveling through the area should take extra pre-cautions as it is likely that motherships will be patrolling the area. With the number of pirate attacks and hijackings drastically decreasing over the past few months, and with the monsoon season set to continue until the end of August, it is highly likely that experienced pirates will be more eager to attack in light of these improved conditions. Water conditions will also be favorable for smaller boats and skiffs to maneuver within the Gulf of Aden, where pirate attacks have been reported over the past few weeks. Water conditions will also improve in the Red Sea as well as in the Mozambique Channel. It is likely that less experienced pirate groups will continue to remain in the area and as such, any vessels traveling through these areas are advised to exercise extreme caution as it is likely that attacks or hijackings may occur.

On Land:

- **28 July 2012** - Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) soldiers, aided by African Union Peacekeeping troops (AMISOM) seized new areas of Somalia's Middle Shabelle region, including the town of Dani along with the surrounding farming areas which were previously controlled by al-Shabaab.
- **26 July 2012** - The British Ministry of Defense has confirmed that the United Kingdom has established a small military presence in Somalia.
 - Meanwhile in the region of Galguduud, a delegation of senior al-Shabaab officials, headed by their spokesman Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage and Sheikh Mukhtar Robow Ali, have arrived in central Somalia in a bid to raise funds and to mobilize recruits in their attempt to implement Islamic law across the country.
- **24 July 2012** - Security forces in Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland began a massive operation in Galkayo, the capital city of Mudug region.
- **23 July 2012** - After four days of meetings in Barawe, a port city located in Somalia's Lower Shabelle region, al-Shabaab have restructured its leadership as the hardline militant group continues to battle for control of the country.

International Developments:

- **27 July 2012** - About 90 Somali migrants stranded on a boat in the Mediterranean Sea for more than four days have been rescued.

Report on Somalia

July 23 – 29, 2012 (Week 30)

At Sea:

- During this reporting period, there have been no piracy incidents reported in the High Risk Area (HRA). Despite the continuance of South-West Monsoon season, it should be noted that pirate groups will likely operate closer to the shore in order to avoid the severe conditions further out to sea.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Releases: 0

Updates:

- **24 July 2012** - The crew members of the **SHIUH FU No. 1** arrived in Beijing on Tuesday afternoon after more than 570 days at the mercy of the Somali pirates. Amongst the 26 crew members were thirteen fishermen from the Chinese mainland, one from Taiwan and twelve from Vietnam. The boat was hijacked by Somali pirates in late December 2010, off the coast of Madagascar and forced to Somalia. Upon their arrival in Beijing, the crew members told reporters that they felt helpless and survived on meagre rations, often less than one meal a day during their 19-month captivity. After their rescue, the fishermen boarded the naval frigate Chang Zhou, one of several Chinese naval ships on regular anti-piracy patrol off Somalia. Once on board, they were escorted to the port of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania for a transfer that occurred on Saturday. The fishermen underwent daily physical examinations and a 24-hour emergency medical response team was on standby. However considering their ordeal, they were in good shape but still weak. The Vietnamese fishermen were handed over to embassy officials upon their arrival while the Taiwanese crew member returned to Kaohsiung. Most of the Chinese crew members are from the Anhui and Henan provinces. The SHIUH FU No. 1 was just one of a number of vessels seized by Somali pirates. From January to November 2008, around twenty percent of Chinese merchant ships passing through the waters off the coast of Somalia were attacked by pirates. Furthermore, a significant amount of China's oil imports from the Middle East passes through, or near the Gulf of Aden. Chinese naval ships have undertaken anti-piracy operations off Somalia since late 2008, and statistics show that they navy has escorted more than 4,700 ships from countries all over the world. In early 2010, Beijing also agreed to join a multinational effort in order to protect shipping in the Gulf of Aden and in the nearby stretches of the Indian Ocean.
- **22 July 2012** - The saga of a Sri Lankan crew member aboard the MV ORNA seems no closer to ending. K.A. Sarathchandra Surasena, who served as a service engineer on board the vessel, has been held in captivity since the ship was hijacked by Somali pirates on 20 December 2010 some 400 nautical miles northeast of the Seychelles while on her way from Durban, South Africa to Okhaa, India. Surasena is the only Sri Lankan amongst the ship's crew members. The pirates have allowed him to contact his family in Sri Lanka over the phone from time to time so as to force the family to pay the ransom demanded for his release. According to some reports, several members of the ship's crew including Surasena have been moved into the desert where they're being kept under trying conditions. According to Surasena's wife, the crew members only get a small portion of unsalted rice to eat and some water to drink. The family has also stated that the owners of the vessel, which is based in Dubai, have not made any attempts to pay the demanded ransom. Attempts to contact the Dubai-based owner have not been successful and at present, there are no ransom negotiations taking place.

Piracy Related News:

- **25 July 2012** - A paper released by Ocean's Beyond Piracy has presented the first empirical study of penalties for piracy which indicates that the prosecution of Somali pirates as gone global. Currently, ten nations on four continents have convicted Somalis who were involved in piracy and armed robbery at sea which began in 2008 while at least six other nations have cases pending. According to the report, any nation can arrest suspected pirates on the high seas however international law defines only the crime, not the penalty. Subsequently, the current piracy prosecutors have led to a massive cross-national variance in both actual and possible punishments. The paper examines the sentences in relation to the characteristics of the

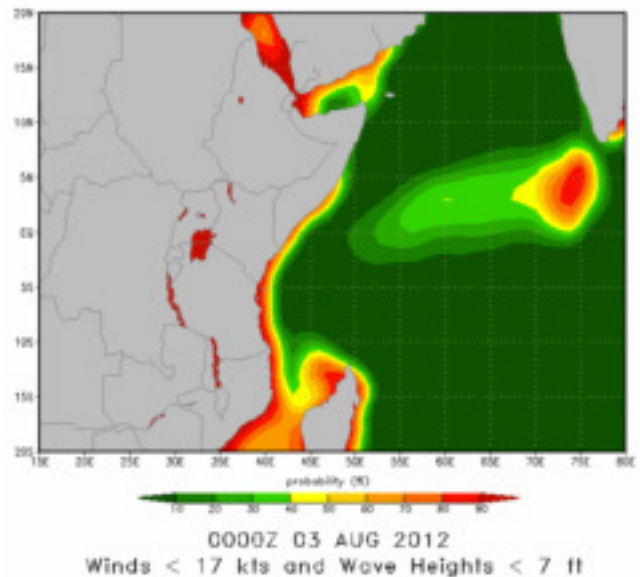
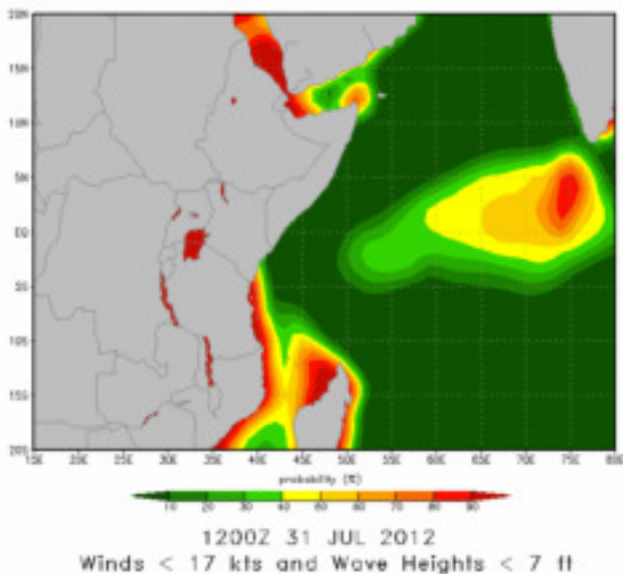
particular crimes as well as other factors. It finds that worldwide, the sentences that are imposed on pirates for similar crimes range from four years to life in prison. Furthermore, the average sentence globally is sixteen years - quite high in relation to sentences administered by international tribunals for more severe international offenses such as genocide and war crimes.

- **24 July 2012** - A judge ordered the release of an alleged Somali pirate and has sentenced him to home confinement while the government pursues an appeal which could delay the trial until next year. The trial of Ali Mohamed Ali was scheduled to begin next week however prosecutors stated on Tuesday that they were planning to appeal portions of a pre-trial ruling by U.S. District Judge Ellen Huvelle which could likely delay the case for months. The judge has agreed to let Ali stay under home confinement at a friend's house in nearby Centreville, VA., while his trial is pending. Ali is accused of negotiating a ransom payment during a November 2008 pirate takeover of a Danish merchant ship in the Gulf of Aden. He was indicted for conspiracy to commit piracy, piracy under the law of nations, conspiracy to commit a hostage taking and hostage taking. However on 13 July of this year, the judge dismissed the conspiracy to commit piracy count and ruled that for the other piracy count, the government would have to prove that Ali intentionally facilitated acts of piracy while he was on the high seas and not in Somalia's territorial waters or somewhere else. The judge also ordered that Ali wear a monitoring bracelet and that he leave the house only to meet with his lawyer or to go to mosque once a week.

Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - West-southwesterly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - West-southwesterly winds of 10 - 15 knots, becoming southwesterly at 6 - 10 knots with seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwesterly winds of 24 - 28 knots and seas of 9 - 12 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwesterly winds of 25 - 30 knots and seas of 9 - 12 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - West-southwesterly winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 9 - 12 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - West-southwesterly winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 9 - 12 feet abating to between 7 - 9 feet by the middle of the week.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southerly winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - South-southeasterly winds of 18 - 22 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - South-southeasterly winds in the northern Channel of 8 - 14 knots with seas of 5 - 7 feet. In the southern Channel, south-southeasterly winds of 18 - 22 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - In the northern Channel, south-southeasterly winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet, building to between 7 - 9 feet. In the southern Channel, south-southeasterly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet, building to between 9 - 12 feet.
- **Surface Currents** - Currents within the Gulf of Aden average around 1 - 2 knots. The northern section of the Arabian Sea and the Mozambique Channel currents are variable with most areas having average speeds of less than 1 knot. Water current along the Somali basin, continuing south off the northern Kenya coastline until about 5 degrees South will average around 2 - 3.5 knots.

Sea Conditions For This Week:



*** In this graphic, the green shading represents a reduced likelihood of small boats and skiffs operating in the area due to harsh sea conditions, while the red indicates a higher likelihood of favorable sea conditions for skiffs and smaller boats ***

On Land:

- **28 July 2012** - Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) soldiers, aided by African Union Peacekeeping troops (AMISOM) seized new areas of Somalia's **Middle Shabelle** region, including the town of Dani along with the surrounding farming areas which were previously controlled by al-Shabaab. Dani is located between Bal'ad town, which was seized by allied forces last month, and Jowhar town which still remains under the control of al-Shabaab. Ahmed Abdi, a senior TFG official, confirmed that the allied forces had captured the town and the local areas without a fight after the insurgents withdrew from the area shortly before TFG and AMISOM forces arrived. The plan to capture Dani town is part of a larger operation which includes the capturing of Jowhar and the rest of the Middle and Lower Shabelle regions which are still very much under the control of al-Shabaab. According to TFG officials, once Jowhar is captured, it will become the headquarters of the Middle Shabelle region. Furthermore, allied forces have confirmed that they plan to capture the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions before the elections which are set to take place at the end of next month. According to residents in the area, the forces have already begun to move towards the direction of Jowhar and are settled two kilometers from the town.



According to TFG officials, once Jowhar is captured, it will become the headquarters of the Middle Shabelle region. Furthermore, allied forces have confirmed that they plan to capture the Lower and Middle Shabelle regions before the elections which are set to take place at the end of next month. According to residents in the area, the forces have already begun to move towards the direction of Jowhar and are settled two kilometers from the town.

- **26 July 2012** - The British Ministry of Defense has confirmed that the United Kingdom has established a small military presence in Somalia. A team of 10 military advisers are based at the headquarters of the African Union force in the capital city of **Mogadishu**. They do not have a combat role, instead, their job is to help the AU with planning, communications and medical support. Reports have also indicated that some of the advisers have been seen in Afgoye, a strategic town located west of the capital which was recently taken from al-Shabaab. The confirmation of a British military presence in Somalia comes at a key moment in the efforts

towards a political transition. The UN-backed interim government is set to hand over its power to a new administration by 20 August of this year when a new president and parliament will be elected. The deployment of the British military also comes shortly after news pertaining to the corruption and misappropriation of funds that have tarnished the reputation of the current Somali authorities. Ethiopian troops, pro-government militias and African Union forces, which has US and European funding and which was boosted earlier this year to nearly 18,000 troops, have helped the transitional government recently to expand its control outside of Mogadishu. In the last few months, al-Shabaab have lost several key positions including Baidoa in central Somalia and the southern town of Afmadow.

- Meanwhile in the region of **Galguduud**, a delegation of senior al-Shabaab officials, headed by their spokesman Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage and Sheikh Mukhtar Robow Ali, have arrived in central Somalia in a bid to raise funds and to mobilize recruits in their attempt to implement Islamic law across the country. The two officials travelled from Marca, located in southern Somalia, and have been in Galguduud for at least three weeks on a mission to mobilize the community against the allied forces which are steadily seizing ground from the militants and are making their way to Kismayo, al-Shabaab's last stronghold in the country. ASWJ officials have confirmed that the two al-Shabaab officials are currently in Galguduud. Since their arrival in the region, they have been busy attempting to engage the locals in order to support their war against the allied forces. However after their pleas went unanswered, the leaders then demanded the locals to donate money, animals and fighters towards their jihad. According to reports from locals, those who refused to give money or animals would be accused of being Christians. The rising number of locals who are openly opposing al-Shabaab's demands demonstrates the militant's declining power and influence throughout the country.
- **24 July 2012** - Security forces in Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland began a massive operation in **Galkayo**, the capital city of Mudug region. Hundreds of security forces have been deployed in different phases over the last four days in order to combat crime and to conduct anti-piracy operations. The first convoy of security forces arrived at Puntland's military bases in northern Galkayo four days ago. Although Puntland officials have refused to specify the exact number of troops deployed, they have confirmed that their security operations are on-going and that they will be targeting piracy and other criminals. Officials added that at least five pirates have already been arrested by the Puntland's security forces during the first phase of the operations. Although initial reports stated that the five pirates arrested were suspected of kidnapping Kenyan aid workers, government officials have denied such claims. In a separate incident during the operations, security forces fought against pirates which resulted in the killing of two people, one of which was a pirate. Eyewitnesses near the scene have reported that fighting occurred after a pirate refused to stop his car for the security forces who at the time were checking the streets. The pirate refused to obey the orders and subsequently both groups opened fire at each other, which resulted in the death of the pirate. The city of Galkayo is divided in half with Galmudug controlling the southern part of it and Puntland controlling the northern side of the city. It has also been a hotbed for violence and is the site of at least three kidnapping cases involving two Danish Demining Group employees, one American journalist and two Kenyan aid workers.
- **23 July 2012** - After four days of meetings in **Barawe**, a port city located in Somalia's Lower Shabelle region, al-Shabaab have restructured its leadership as the hardline militant group continues to battle for control of the country. During the meetings, the leaders reorganized their chain of command and selected new leaders for a variety of key roles. The overall leader of the group remains to be Sheikh Ahmed Abdi Godane, who commands five regional administrations, each of which is responsible for its own military operations against the allied forces of Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopian and African Union peacekeepers. The newly formulated strategy of the leadership, which was declared on the 17 of June, greatly differs from the previous structure. Currently, every two or three provinces is headed by one leader, an amir, who is assisted by a deputy and other subordinates in the overall administration of their respective provinces. The two Jubba regions (Lower and Middle) will directly fall under the command of Sheikh Godane while all the other regions will now report to the second deputy. According to an al-Shabaab official, the new structure was implemented in order to improve military tactics. The official further explained that in the new structure, some regions are separately commanded by a single leader where the leader directly reports to the utmost leader in the three provinces. The new structure accommodates the former districts' leaders whose reports will be directed to the office of the provinces' utmost leader however the structure omits the former local leader of every province. Al-Shabaab's new administration will cover the entire country with the exception of Somaliland, a decision which has sparked a rift amongst some of the top leaders in the group. Exacerbating this rift is the fact that some of the newly named officials have been appointed to regions from which they do not hail from, such is the case with Sheikh Mahad of the Bay, Bakol and Gedo regions. The new structure also comes at a time when the militant group has lost more ground against the allied forces and when they are preparing to defend their

stronghold of Kismayo in the Lower Jubba region. Increased pressures from the allied forces has in effect forced al-Shabaab to restructure itself in a last bid to maintain a certain degree of control and power within Somalia.

Al-Shabaab Structure:

- Lower Jubba and Middle Jubba
 - *Abukar Ali Adan, falls directly under Godane (Tribe: Gaaljecel)*
 - *Hassan Yakub (Tribe: Eelay)*
 - *Abdullahi Dige Hiirow (Tribe: Hawiye; Sub-clan: Murusade)*
- Mudug, Hiiraan and Galgaduud Regions
 - *Yuusuf Ali Ugas, head of operations in Hiiran region (tribe: Hawiye; Sub-clan: Hawadle)*
 - *Awil Godac (Tribe: Hawiye; Sub-clan of Saleyban)*
 - *Fu'ad Mohamed Qalaf 'Shangole' (Tribe: Darod; Sub-clan: Oortable)*
 - *Abdishakur Ali Omar (Tribe: Hawiye; Sub-clan: Habargidir Sacad)*
 - *Halane Abdullahi Holac (Tribe: Hawiye; Sub-clan: Habargidir Sacad)*
- Mogadishu, Lower Shabelle and Middle Shabelle Regions
 - *Sheikh Mohamed Abdullahi Hirey, leader (tribe: Shikhal; Sub-clan Qudub)*
 - *Mohamed Hassan Omar Abu Abdurahman, ex-Banaadir officer in charge, is currently the head of the military's department of logistics (Tribe: Habar Gidir; Sub-clan: Ceyr)*
 - *Sheikh Yusuf Isse 'Kaba Kutukade,' head of the Middle Shabelle region (Tribe: Abgaal; Sub-clan Waceysle)*
 - *Maalim Mohamed Abdulle, head of operations (tribe: Hawiye; Sub-clan: Abgal)*
- Bay, Bakool and Gedo Regions
 - *Mahad Omar Abdikarim, leader (Tribe: Dir)*
 - *Qalif Mohamed Warsame, head of operations in Gedo region (Tribe: Habargidir; Sub-clan: Ceyr)*
 - *Maalim Janow, head of operations in the Bay and Bakool regions (Tribe: Eelaay)*
- Puntland, the semi-autonomous region in northern Somalia
 - *Yassin Osman Khalid 'Kilwa' (Tribe: Darod; Sub-clan: Warsangali)*
 - *Shiekh Abdikadir Ali Mumin (Tribe: Majerten; Sub-clan Ali Saleeban)*

International Developments:

- **27 July 2012** - About 90 Somali migrants stranded on a boat in the Mediterranean Sea for more than four days have been rescued. According to reports, the boat had left the Libyan capital of Tripoli in the hopes of reaching the Italian coast but by Thursday evening, the boat's generator had failed and their water supplies had run out. The migrants were rescued in a joint Libyan and Italian operation and have since been returned to Libya. According to those on board the boat, attempts were made to contact the coastguard however they had been provided with a wrong number in which no one answered. This however is not the first time that such an incident has occurred as earlier this month, 54 people died of dehydration while trying to sail from Libya to Italy in an inflatable boat. Since 1991, more than one million Somalis have fled the country. With no central authority for more than twenty years, piracy and lawlessness have flourished, factors which have also contributed to many fleeing the country.



NATO Shipping Centre Alerts
Operation Ocean Shield

