

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

January 28 – February 3, 2013 (Week 5)



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At Sea:

- **30 January 2013** - A suspicious dhow was sighted in IRTC, GoA.
- **27 January 2013** - An Iranian oil tanker was attacked by two pirate boats just 20 miles off Masirah Island, Oman. .

Piracy Related News:

- **1 February 2013** - Two men who attempted to hijack a Japanese tanker off the coast of Oman have been jailed for a period of ten years by the Tokyo District Court.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 1
- Sightings: 1
- Releases: 0

Weather Analysis:

- Over the following week, weather conditions in the High Risk Area (HRA) will continue to be poor due to the current monsoon. As such, pirate activities are likely to remain concentrated within the Gulf of Aden as well as off the coast of Oman and into the Gulf of Oman. Pirate attack groups (PAG's) may also be sited in and around the Bab el Mandeb, in the Red Sea, as was the case several weeks ago. As such, vessels transiting through these regions must remain vigilant as it is highly likely that attacks and hijackings will take place in these areas. Further out to sea, water conditions will remain to be relatively good for pirate activities to occur. Consequently, any vessels transiting in more open waters must also remain vigilant. Due to the fact that Somali pirates have not successfully hijacked a vessel within the past six months, it is highly likely that the onset of the monsoon season will not deter them from going out to sea.

On Land:

- **31 January 2013** - Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has travelled to the town of Marka, which is located 70km (45 miles) south of Mogadishu, in order to assess the security situation in the town.
- **29 January 2013** - Two security guards have been killed in a suicide attack that occurred near the offices of Somalia's President and Prime Minister.
 - Meanwhile, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that it has resumed distribution of food aid in the southern port city of Kismayo for the first time in four years.
- **28 January 2013** - Two people were shot and killed on Sunday night in an area along the road that stretches between the towns of Lego and Bur-hakaba.
 - Just one year after allied forces took control of the town of Baidoa, a humanitarian crisis continues to linger in the region.

Domestic News:

- **30 January 2013** - Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon held talks with the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman in Mogadishu.
- **29 January 2013** - Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud has arrived in the Belgium capital of Brussels after he attended an African Union Summit which concluded on Monday in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Adaba.
 - During his first European Union visit, Somalia's President secured promises of an economic and political "New Deal from top European Union officials."
- **28 January 2013** - Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon held talks with the Italian envoy to Somalia, Andrea Mazella, who is currently in Mogadishu.
- **27 January 2013** - Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki held bilateral talks with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud at the African Union Conference Centre in Addis Adaba Ethiopia.

International Developments:

- **28 January 2013** - Intelligence sources are warning that al-Shabaab militants are redeploying their members in Nairobi, Mombasa and Garissa in order to orchestrate a number of terror attacks in Kenya.
- **27 January 2013** - With Sudan and South Sudan failing to agree on key border security measures, the new chair of the African Union, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn indicated on Sunday that more must be done to improve ties between the two neighbours.

About MS Risk

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January 28 – February 3, 2013 (Week 5)

At Sea:

- **30 January 2013** - A suspicious dhow was sighted in IRTC, GoA. The dhow had two skiffs on deck and was towing 1 skiff. It approached a vessel within 1.2 nautical miles in position 13:33.2N - 050:32.3E ([See Map](#)). No fishing equipment was sighted on board the dhow. Vessels transiting through the region are reminded to remain vigilant.
- **27 January 2013** - An Iranian oil tanker was attacked by two pirate boats just 20 miles off Masirah Island, Oman ([See Map](#)). The exact positioning of the vessel is unknown. An Iranian Navy warship responded by using defensive firepower.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 1
- Sightings: 1
- Releases: 0

Piracy Related News:

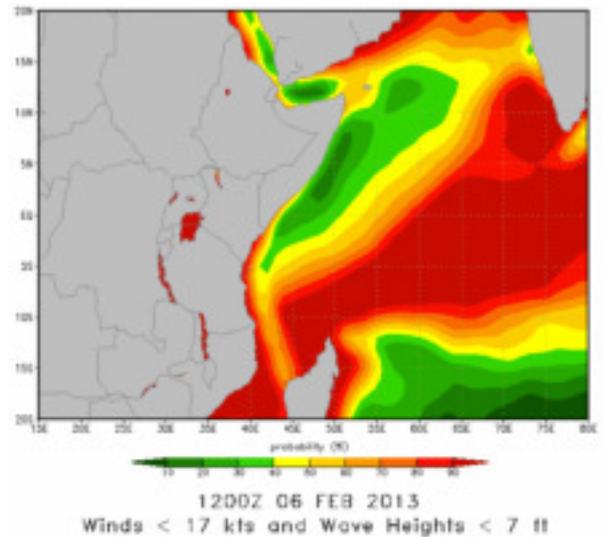
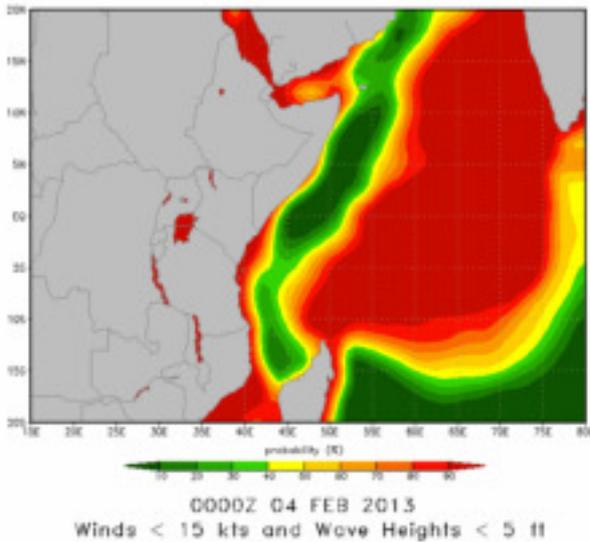
- **1 February 2013** - Two men who attempted to hijack a Japanese tanker off the coast of Oman have been jailed for a period of ten years by the Tokyo District Court. This is the first piracy prosecution to occur in Japan. The two men were amongst four African men that were arrested in March 2011 over the attack that occurred in the Indian Ocean. According to court documents, armed men tried to seize the tanker, which was operated by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and had twenty-four crew members on board. In his ruling, Judge Katsunori Ohno stated that 'it was an organized and dangerous crime by men armed with guns who sought to demand a ransom.' The United States Navy captured the men and handed them over to Japan's coastguard, which for the first time had applied the nation's new anti-piracy law that would allow them to transport the men to Tokyo in order to face trial.

Weather Analysis:

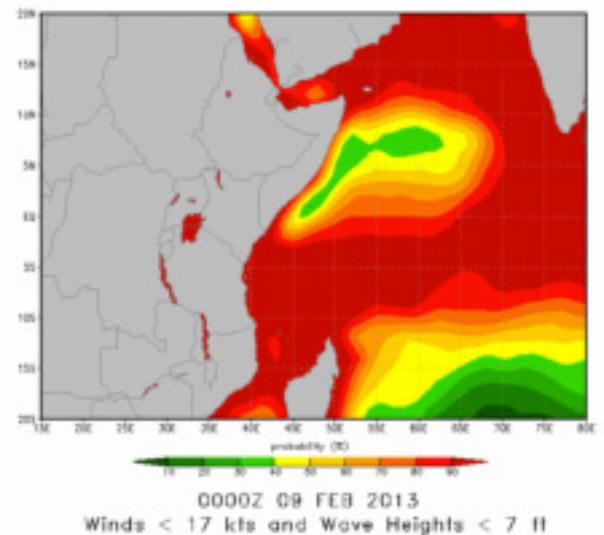
- **Gulf of Aden** - East-northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - East-northeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western portion of the Gulf; with northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the eastern portion of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Unsettled winds are expected to occur along the coast of Somali as well as along the Kenyan coast. This is due to a tropical cyclone, Felleng, which is currently located east of Madagascar. Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet are expected.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - Variable winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Northeast winds of 10 - 15 knot and seas of 4 - 6 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of strong low pressure and tropical cyclone conditions due to tropical cyclone Felleng, which is located east of Madagascar. Northwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 4 - 6 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet in the southern Channel.

- **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the northern Channel; in the southern Channel, winds will be east-southeast at 15 - 25 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The northern Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and the Mozambique Channel currents are variable with most areas having average speeds of 2 - 3 knots. Current speeds along the Somali Basin average between 1 - 2 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:

- **31 January 2013** - Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has travelled to the town of Marka, which is located 70km (45 miles) south of Mogadishu, in order to assess the security situation in the town. The Prime Minister was accompanied by several cabinet ministers, including the Interior and National Security Minister, Abdikarim Hussein Gulled, his Defence Counterpart Abdihakim Mohamed Fiqui and top military officials. This is the Prime Minister's first trip to Marka since he assumed office last year. Marka is the third largest port in southern Somalia. In late August of last year, Somali forces took control of the town from al-Shabaab militants who had been controlling it for close to four years.
- **29 January 2013** - Two security guards have been killed in a suicide attack that occurred near the offices of Somalia's President and Prime Minister. Three other guards were wounded in the attack when an assailant blew himself up at a checkpoint near the compound which houses the offices in the capital city of Mogadishu. Information Minister Abdullahi Hersi has confirmed that the bomber was a former member of al-Shabaab who recently had lost his job with the country's intelligence services. Officials have stated that the attacker detonated his explosives when he was being questioned at a checkpoint into Villa Somalia, which is a sprawling compound that houses both the offices of the President and of the Prime Minister. Currently it is not known as to whether Prime Minister Shirdon was in the compound at the time of the attack. President Mohamud was not in the country. Al-Shabaab have claimed responsibility for this attack. Although the newly elected government is attempting to rebuild Somalia after more than 20 years of conflict, one of the most complex challenges that it still deals with is al-Shabaab, which joined al-Qaeda last year. Although over the last eighteen months, al-Shabaab has lost control of major towns throughout the country, the group still controls large areas of southern and central Somalia and, as evidenced by this recent incident, is still able to carry out attacks. Although the number of suicide attacks in Mogadishu has decreased since the withdrawal of al-Shabaab from the capital in August 2011, this recent attack exemplifies the fact that the militants continue to pose a threat to the city's security.

 - Meanwhile, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has announced that it has resumed distribution of food aid in the southern port city of Kismayo for the first time in four years. The WFP, along with other international aid organizations, have not been allowed to work in the areas that were controlled by al-Shabaab however since African Union (AU) and government troops recaptured the city last September, feeding centres providing hot meals for 15,000 people have been set up in Kismayo. Despite the food aid coming in, a recent survey has indicated that high levels of malnutrition and food insecurity continue to be a major issue in the city. According to Stefano Porretti, WFP's representative in Somalia, "the survey showed that almost half the households in Kismayo are really struggling to meet their daily needs, and 24% of children below the age of five are malnourished." Years of fighting between rival clan-based warlords, coupled with Islamist militants who have staged attacks throughout the region, has led to an inability in the drought-prone country to deal with hunger and disease.
- **28 January 2013** - Two people were shot and killed on Sunday night in an area along the road that stretches between the towns of Lego and Bur-hakaba. According to a police report, the victims, who were all women, were in a passenger truck that was headed for Baidoa, the capital of Bay region, when unknown gunmen ambushed and opened fire at the truck. The incident resulted in two women being killed and six other sustaining injuries. The injured were rushed to health facilities located in Bur-hakaba town. Local authorities have confirmed that the gunmen escaped without stealing anything from the other passengers who were involved in the incident. The further indicated that they currently have not established a motive behind the incident. However reports from local residents indicated that the incident had occurred when the driver of the truck allegedly failed to stop the vehicle after one of the gunmen had signaled him to pull over. The incident comes at a time when government security forces are conducting security operations in the area in order to clear the region from bandits who have a history of attacking passengers and vehicles on the roads in Bay region.

 - Just one year after allied forces took control of the town of Baidoa, a humanitarian crisis continues to linger in the region. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), some US \$1.3 billion dollars will be needed in 2013 to fund hundreds of humanitarian projects that will target some four million Somalis. However while the OCHA is stipulating that the situation is worsening in the region, the local administration in Baidoa argues otherwise. The governor of the Bay and Bakool regions is instead requesting that the UN resettle the displaced people and give them enough funds that will enable them to restart their lives instead of spending millions in food aid which he stipulates

will never fully address the humanitarian crisis that is occurring in Somalia. This situation is similar to the situations that are going on in almost every region of the country. Recently, the Somali government also announced its plans to resettle the displaced from camps in Mogadishu. The majority of those in these camps come from the Bay and Bakool region, which was one of the worst hit areas by the famine. The town of Baidoa is the third largest city in southern Somalia and the fourth most important after Kismayo. It is also the business route for most of the commodities that are transported from the nation's capital to other towns throughout the region.

Domestic News:

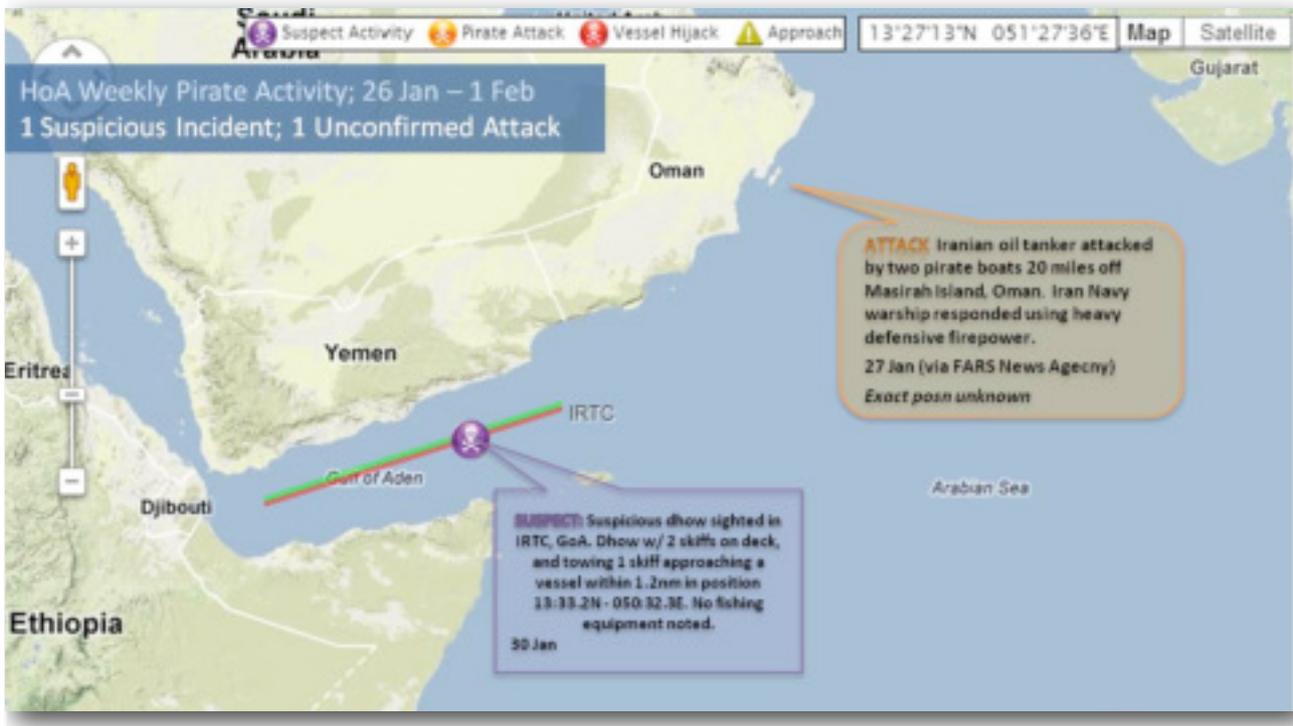
- **30 January 2013** - Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon held talks with the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman in Mogadishu. The two discussed the current political, security and justice systems in the country as well as the overall rebuilding of Somalia. The meeting was also attended by the UN special representative for Somalia, Augustine Mahiga. Speaking to reports shortly after the meeting, the Prime Minister stated that the strengthening of UN support for the Somali government was the key issue that had been discussed during the meeting, adding that the two also agreed to immediately materialize all the issues that had been agreed upon during their talks.
- **29 January 2013** - Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud has arrived in the Belgium capital of Brussels after he attended an African Union Summit which concluded on Monday in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Adaba. The Somali president's visit to Brussels is in response to an official invitation that he received from the European Union. The Somali president, is accompanied on his visit by officials from the Somali government, including Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation s. Fawzia Yusuf Haji Adam. During his visit, the president is expected to meet with the leaders of the EU countries.
 - During his first European Union visit, Somalia's President secured promises of an economic and political "New Deal from top European Union officials." This announcement comes just two weeks after the nation's government was formally recognized by the United States. President Mahmoud is on a two-day official visit in Brussels. On Thursday, he is expected to meet with the EU's 27 foreign ministers before he heads to London, England. After the meeting, European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso stated that "we agreed to enhance relations between Somalia and the EU." Hailing a "new era" in ties between Somalia and the EU, the EU's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton announced that the EU would host a global conference in the autumn in order to "come up with a New Deal for Somalia that will help deliver political, security and development support." Over the past five years, the EU has funneled some 600 million euros into Somalia as part of its three-pronged approach focusing on defence, diplomacy and development. It is highly likely that in the coming weeks, a similar formula will be implemented in Mali. The EU's President, Herman Van Rompuy further indicated that Mr Mohamoud's visit comes at a time when Somalia is on a "path to transforming and taking its rightful place in the community of nations." In recent months, a force of 17,000 African Union troops have been fighting alongside government forces, who have been manly trained by the EU, and Ethiopian troops in order to remove al-Shabaab militants from the capital city and from other key towns throughout the country. In light of their effort, the EU announced last week that is has extended its mission to train Somali soldiers for another two years at a cost of around 11 million euros. Since its launch in 2010, the programme has trained some 3,000 Somali troops. The EU's anti-piracy mission off the coast of Somali, EU NAVFOR, has also been extended until December 2014.
- **28 January 2013** - Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon held talks with the Italian envoy to Somalia, Andrea Mazella, who is currently in Mogadishu. During their meeting, the two discussed a range of issues which included bilateral relations between the two countries as well as Italy's role in stabilizing Somalia. Speaking to the media in Mogadishu shortly after the meeting, Prime Minister Shirdon indicating that his meeting with Mazella has further strengthened the relations between the two countries.
- **27 January 2013** - Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki held bilateral talks with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud at the African Union Conference Centre in Addis Adaba Ethiopia. The meeting, which was held during the 20th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of Sate and the Government of the African Union, is a follow up to the issues which were discussed during the Somali President's visit to Kenya last year. Speaking during the meeting, President Hassan indicated that his government had drawn an action plan on how to move forward with respect to enhancing the bilateral cooperation between Kenya and Somalia. The

Somali President also briefed his Kenyan counterpart on the progress that his government has made towards attaining peace and stability. On his part, President Kibaki indicated that Kenya would continue to support the Somali government in its reconstruction efforts. President Kibaki further noted that Kenya was also keen on strengthening its bilateral relations with Somalia.

International Developments:

- **28 January 2013** - Intelligence sources are warning that al-Shabaab militants are redeploying their members in Nairobi, Mombasa and Garissa in order to orchestrate a number of terror attacks in Kenya. Reports have indicated that operatives may have already managed to arrive at their target destinations and may be in the process of assembling IED's and getting other equipment from the cells that are stationed in major towns throughout the country. It is highly likely that attacks will target areas including the bombing of bars, buses, restaurants and churches.
- **27 January 2013** - With Sudan and South Sudan failing to agree on key border security measures, the new chair of the African Union, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn indicated on Sunday that more must be done to improve ties between the two neighbours. The AU summit, which was held over the weekend, also addressed the ongoing crises in Mali, the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Central African Republic (CAR) and Somalia. Ethiopia's Prime Minister replaced the outgoing chairman of the AU, Benin's President Thomas Boni Yayi on Sunday. During his acceptance speech, Desalegn called on the African leaders to concentrate their efforts on the crises that are going on in Africa, however he did highlight some the achievements that have been made in some areas over the past year, such as in Somalia. Desalegn stated that for the first time in two decades, there is a glimmer of hope for Somalia's peace and security as Somalia's government supported by AMISOM, continues to strengthen its hold over the capital city and other areas of the country from al-Shabaab militants. The Ethiopian Prime Minister indicated that "we should therefore consolidate the recent against hat have been achieved in both the political and security fronts in Somalia." He concluded his speech by calling for continued assistance to the Somali people in an effort to rebuild the war-torn East African nation.

Map:





About MS Risk

MS Risk is a privately owned company domiciled in the Isle of Man. It is underwritten by syndicate 2525 of Lloyd's of London for special risks case management in all jurisdictions. It also acts as retained advisors to syndicates in the Lloyd's of London specialty risk insurance markets: kidnap for ransom, extortion, hijack, illegal detention, illegal war tax, malicious product tamper, terrorism, political and war risk.

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- Project Management
 - Interim security
 - Training
 - Special assignments
- Crisis Response
 - Crisis management
 - Business continuity management
 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
- Virtual Security Director service for clients lacking a full time security executive.

References are always available.

More information is found at www.msrisk.com

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