

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

April 22 – 28, 2013 (Week 17)



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At Sea:

- For the second week in a row, no attacks or sightings have been reported in the High Risk Area (HRA). Nevertheless, masters are advised to remain vigilant at all times in transit or at anchorage and are reminded to implement protection measures across the entire HRA. The threat of piracy against merchant shipping continues throughout the entire HRA. Successful disruptions by naval forces over the past few months, in conjunction with masters' adherence and implementation of BMP4, have significantly reduced the pirates' abilities to capture vessels. However, pirates are still able to act far off the coast of Somalia and are likely in search of vessels of opportunity. Sailing yachts should avoid transiting the HRA. Past activity has demonstrated that pirates will attack both large and small yachts that pass their way. Despite the fact that attacks on merchant vessels appear to have decreased, the possibility of attacks and the successful pirating of sailing vessels remains likely due to their vulnerability and the reduction of revenue sources from captured vessels. Over the past few months, Pirate Attack Groups (PAG's) have made "soft-approaches" on merchant ships that are transiting the HRA. A skiff will often approach a vessel in order to probe the disposition of any embarked security team, if on board. If they elicit no response, the pirates may then launch an attack, sometimes accompanied by a second skiff. This practice seems to be designed to allow pirates to avoid needless expenditure of ammunition and personal risk without a significant probability of success.

Key Statistics

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

Updates:

- **22 April 2013** - The Supreme Court in India will soon pronounce its order on the Italian government's plea against the invoking of Suppression of Unlawful Acts 2002 and investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the killing of two Indian fishermen off Kerala coast.

On Land:

- **26 April 2013** - Officials have confirmed that Somalia's deputy chief prosecutor has been shot dead by three masked men in Mogadishu. The killing comes one day after the UK reopened its embassy in the capital city. Ahmad Shaykh Nur Maalin was attacked after he left a city centre mosque.
- **23 April 2013** - Somali armed forces and units of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have commenced their largest security operation in Mogadishu.
- **21 April 2013** - A Somali radio station editor has confirmed that unidentified gunmen have shot dead a journalist in Mogadishu, making him the fifth journalist to be killed in the country this year.

[Regional Reporting](#)

- **23 April 2013** - Ethiopia's Prime Minister has announced that his country will withdraw its troops from Somalia soon, voicing frustration with the Mogadishu government and African Union peacekeeping forces who are also battling Islamist militants in the country.

[Domestic News:](#)

- **25 April 2013** - UK Foreign Secretary William Hague has opened a new British embassy in Mogadishu, the first time the UK has had one in Somalia since 1991.

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Updates:

- **22 April 2013** - The Supreme Court in India will soon pronounce its order on the Italian government's plea against the invoking of Suppression of Unlawful Acts 2002 and investigation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into the killing of two Indian fishermen off Kerala coast. The Italian government has contended that if convicted, its two marines could face the death sentence, which is the mandatory punishment if a person is convicted under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act (SUA) 2002. On 22 March 2013, shortly after the return of the marines from Italy, external affairs minister Salman Khurshid told Parliament that India had offered Italy an assurance that its marines, Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, would not get the death penalty if they returned by the deadline that had been set by the Supreme Court. Khurshid further indicated that the case did not fall in the category of "rarest of rare cases," that attract the death penalty in India, so there was no fear of that. On 15 February 2012, the two marines, posted on security duty aboard an Italian-registered oil tanker, the Enrica Lexie, mistakingly shot and killed two Indian fishermen. The incident occurred about 20.5 nautical miles off the coast of Kerala. Although the case was initially tried in Kerala, the Italians have been contesting the jurisdiction of Indian courts in the matter, stating that the incident had occurred in international waters.

On Land:

- **26 April 2013** - Officials have confirmed that Somalia's deputy chief prosecutor has been shot dead by three masked men in Mogadishu. The killing comes one day after the UK reopened its embassy in the capital city. Ahmad Shaykh Nur Maalin was attacked after he left a city centre mosque. He is

the most senior official to be killed in Mogadishu since a new government took office last year. The killing also comes just one day after the UK's Foreign Secretary, William Hague, visited Mogadishu in order to open the first British embassy in Somalia since 1991. While the opening of the British embassy is the latest indication that the security situation in the city is generally improving after two decades of conflict, this latest murder indicates that attacks continue to be part of daily life.

- **23 April 2013** - Somali armed forces and units of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) have commenced their largest security operation in Mogadishu. The operation, in which helicopters are taking part in, started around 3:00 AM local time, concentrating on the Wardhigly district of Mogadishu where army officers are reporting that al-Shabaab militants are in hiding. According to officials, security forces are currently conducting house-to-house searches in neighborhoods located close to Hamar-Jadid, especially in the area between Industrial Road and the 30th Road. This security operation is aimed at securing the city after the deadly bombing that occurred just last week.
- **21 April 2013** - A Somali radio station editor has confirmed that unidentified gunmen have shot dead a journalist in Mogadishu, making him the fifth journalist to be killed in the country this year. Mohamed Abdullahi Haji, a news editor at the state-run radio station, has indicated that gunmen killed Mohamed Ibrahim Rage who worked for the station, at his home in the capital city. In Somalia, working as a reporter has developed into a dangerous job. Last year alone, eighteen media workers were killed, most of which were targeted killings. Although the Somali government has vowed to stop the attacks against journalists, so far minimal action has been taken. This latest killing of a journalist comes just one week after suicide bombers and gunmen attacked Mogadishu's main court complex, killing a number of people including one journalist. Last month, a suicide car bomber targeted Mogadishu's intelligence chief. Six people were killed in that attack, including a radio reporter.

Regional Reporting:

- **23 April 2013** - Ethiopia's Prime Minister has announced that his country will withdraw its troops from Somalia soon, voicing frustration with the Mogadishu government and African Union peacekeeping forces who are also battling Islamist militants in the country. After waging an ill-fated war in Somalia in 2006 - 2009, Ethiopia in 2011 once again rolled troops into Somalia to fight al-Shabaab, opening a third front alongside Kenyan troops and the African Union mission. At the time, Ethiopia had pledged to stay in the war-ravaged country until the Somali government could ratify a new constitution and its military was able to fend off the Islamist threat on its own. However last month, Ethiopian troops unexpectedly withdrew from Hudur, the capital of Bakool province, near the Ethiopian border, enabling al-Shabaab militants to retake the town. Although Hailemariam Desalegn, who replaced Ethiopia's long-serving Prime Minister Meles Zenawi in September, stopped short of announcing a full withdrawal, he voiced concern over the pace of progress in Somalia. Referring to pledges made by the African Union's AMISOM to replace Ethiopian troops, Hailemariam stated that "it has taken them (African peacekeepers and Somalia) a year already and they repeatedly assure us each month but fail to deliver so we pulled out." He further noted that "the main issue now is to accelerate our complete withdrawal towards our border. That is what we are fulfilling."

Domestic News:

- **25 April 2013** - UK Foreign Secretary William Hague has opened a new British embassy in Mogadishu, the first time the UK has had one in Somalia since 1991. The UK is the first European Union country to reopen an embassy in the country since the Federal Government of Somalia was established last year. Speaking from the new embassy site, the foreign secretary indicated that "we should be under no illusions as to the sustained efforts that will be required, in Somalia and from its

international partners, to ensure that Somalia continues to make progress.” Furthermore, he indicated that the opening of the embassy was “testament” to the strength of the UK/Somalia bilateral relationship, noting that “we will continue to work closely with the Somalia government on shared priorities, which include tackling conflict, countering terrorism and piracy, providing humanitarian assistance, and promoting UK interests in Somalia.” Accompanied by the President, the foreign secretary opened the “core office” of the new embassy, which consists of six customized shipping containers at Mogadishu International Airport where tonnes of sand-filled blast-proof fencing surround the area. The opening of the



new embassy also included a short ceremony and flag-raising. During his visit, Mr. Hague also met with representatives of the Somali civil society in order to discuss the prevention of sexual violence. Mr. Hague is leading efforts amongst G8 foreign ministers to tackle sexual violence in conflict and has announced £10m of fresh UK funding to support efforts against it. The UK’s prime minister is set to host a Somali Conference in London on 7 May. The conference, which will be co-hosted by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, aims to provide co-ordinated international support for the new government as it rebuilds the country after two decades of conflict. British Ambassador Matt Baugh, who has been working from Nairobi, Kenya, due to the numerous security concerns, will move into the office however the rest of the embassy compound is not expected to be completed until the end of July. The former British embassy, which was located close to the port, was closed in January 1991, following the overthrow of the government. The former building is now a ruin.

Map:





About MS Risk

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 - Crisis management
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 - Hostile operations support to commercial interests
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References are always available.

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