

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

May 20 – 26, 2013 (Week 21)



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At Sea:

- Despite the south-west monsoon season, pirate activity has increased over the past week despite several weeks of minimal sightings and attacks. With the monsoon season setting in for the next few months, pirate action groups (PAG's) will likely stay within the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Oman, as sea conditions will be more stable, effectively providing them with some shelter from the harsher conditions further out to sea. Consequently, any vessels transiting through this area are reminded to remain extremely vigilant as it is likely that pirate groups will be operating in this region. Over the last several weeks, there has been an increased number of reports of suspicious approaches on merchant vessels, the majority of which have been located along the Western approaches to the Gulf of Aden. Military units have since been dispatched to the region in order to investigate the issues however they have been unable to positively confirm any skiffs or small craft with pirate paraphernalia, particularly boarding ladders, on board. Despite this, it is possible that skiffs with potential pirates are loitering in the area and conducting probes in order to test the responsiveness of the merchant vessels that are transiting the area. It should also be noted that due to the seasonal meteorological conditions, there is increased fishing activity in the Gulf of Aden, especially along the southern coastline of Yemen. Some reports appear to be interactions between legitimate fishing boats and merchant vessels transiting in close proximity to the traditional seasonal fishing areas. However merchant vessels are reminded to remain vigilant in the area.
- **21 May 2013** - The Duty officer on board an anchored Singapore-flagged container vessel, the APL Le Havre, noticed on CCTV, three robbers in boiler suits near the forecandle at 0215 LT in position 29:50N – 032:33E, Suez E16 Anchorage, Egypt.
- **20 May 2013** - Malta-flagged oil product tanker, the Enjoy, reported being attacked at 0730 UTC while in position 13:12N - 049:56E, about 100 nautical miles south southeast of Al Mukalla, Yemen, Gulf of Aden.
 - A Hong Kong, China-flagged bulk carrier, the Yongxing, reported coming under attack by 2 skiffs at 1220 UTC on course 252 deg in position 13:11N - 048:54E, IRTC, Gulf of Aden.
- **19 May 2013** - A cargo ship, the Se Pelagica, experienced a suspicious approach at 12:12N - 044:20 E, approximately 52 nautical miles south-southwest of Aden, Yemen.
 - Meanwhile in the Red Sea, a Panama-flagged tanker, the Fidelity 2, reported coming under fire at 1520 UTC while in position 12:19N - 043:58E in the BAM/Gulf of Aden.
- **18 May 2013** - Duty Officer on anchored Liberia-flagged chemical tanker, Gandhi, at 0155 UTC in position Alexandria Waiting anchorage, Egypt, noticed a robber lowering ship stores into a waiting boat.

Key Statistics

- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 3
- Sightings: 5
- Approach: 2
- Robbery: 2
- Releases: 0

Weather Analysis:

- The weather forecast throughout the following week will continue to deteriorate as the Southwest Monsoon season sets in. Throughout this week, small skiffs and boats will experience increased

difficulty in moving in waters off the coast of Somalia. Water conditions in the Gulf of Aden and in the Gulf of Oman will remain favorable for small skiffs and boats however the water conditions can worsen at any moment.

On Land:

- **26 April 2013** - Kenyan police officials have confirmed that at least six people have been killed in an attack by Somali militants on police posts in neighbouring Kenya.
- **25 May 2013** - An explosion in Baidoa's busy market has killed at least one person and injured fourteen.
- **23 May 2013** - Officials have confirmed that at least ten people have been killed in clashes that occurred between Ethiopian troops and al-Shabaab insurgents in the city of Beledweyen.

Domestic News:

- **22 May 2013** - Somali Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has received the African Union's Special Envoy to Somalia, Ambassador Mohamed Saleh Annadif.
- **21 May 2013** - The leader of Somalia's separatist region of Somaliland, Ahemd Mohamed Silanyo, hosted the European Union's Special Representative to Somali, Ambassador Michele Cervone.

International Developments:

- **26 May 2013** - The UK's Foreign Office has confirmed that one of the suspects in the Woolwich murder case was arrested in Kenya in 2010 and is believed to have been preparing to fight with Somali militant group al-Shabaab.
- **23 May 2013** - A spate of attacks by al-Shabaab insurgents in Somalia's capital in recent months has forced investors, businessmen and aid workers to have second thoughts in regards to expanding their operations in Mogadishu.

About MS Risk

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At Sea:

- Despite the south-west monsoon season, pirate activity has increased over the past week despite several weeks of minimal sightings and attacks. With the monsoon season setting in for the next few months, pirate action groups (PAG's) will likely stay within the Gulf of Aden and the Gulf of Oman, as sea conditions will be more stable, effectively providing them with some shelter from the harsher conditions further out to sea. Consequently, any vessels transiting through this area are reminded to remain extremely vigilant as it is likely that pirate groups will be operating in this region. Over the last several weeks, there has been an increased number of reports of suspicious approaches on merchant vessels, the majority of which have been located along the Western approaches to the Gulf of Aden. Military units have since been dispatched to the region in order to investigate the issues however they have been unable to positively confirm any skiffs or small craft with pirate paraphernalia, particularly boarding ladders, on board. Despite this, it is possible that skiffs with potential pirates are loitering in the area and conducting probes in order to test the responsiveness of the merchant vessels that are transiting the area. It should also be noted that due to the seasonal meteorological conditions, there is increased fishing activity in the Gulf of Aden, especially along the southern coastline of Yemen. Some reports appear to be interactions between legitimate fishing boats and merchant vessels transiting in close proximity to the traditional seasonal fishing areas. However merchant vessels are reminded to remain vigilant in the area.
- **21 May 2013** - The Duty officer on board an anchored Singapore-flagged container vessel, the APL Le Havre, noticed on CCTV, three robbers in boiler suits near the forecastle at 0215 LT in position 29:50N – 032:33E, Suez E16 Anchorage, Egypt. The alarm was raised, and fog horn sounded. Seeing the crews alertness, the robbers escaped. On inspection it was noticed that five container seals had been broken and contents of one container 'pilfered.'
- **20 May 2013** - Malta-flagged oil product tanker, the Enjoy, reported being attacked at 0730 UTC while in position 13:12N - 049:56E, about 100 nautical miles south southeast of Al Mukalla, Yemen, Gulf of Aden. The MV requested warship assistance due to being attacked by seven skiffs (position 13:12N - 049:59E). Warship sent helicopter and identified skiffs, which subsequently pulled back.
 - A Hong Kong, China-flagged bulk carrier, the Yongxing, reported coming under attack by 2 skiffs at 1220 UTC on course 252 deg in position 13:11N - 048:54E, IRTC, Gulf of Aden. Two skiffs, yellow and blue in colour, approached the vessel from the port side. At 3 nautical miles, the MV contacted a coalition warship. The pirate vessels with 12 pirates on board continued the attempted attack. The skiffs closed to 500m at which point the embarked armed security team on board, following implementation of all deterrent measures, fired 3 warning shots towards the skiffs. The skiffs aborted the attack and the MV continued on its intended course. No injury to crew reported.
- **19 May 2013** - A cargo ship, the Se Pelagica, experienced a suspicious approach at 12:12N - 044:20 E, approximately 52 nautical miles south-southwest of Aden, Yemen. Five pirates armed with AK-47 rifles and a RPG approached the general cargo ship. The vessel employed anti-piracy measures and the embarked armed guards fired warning shots at the skiff once it had closed to 400 meters from the vessel. This resulted in the skiff aborting the attempt and moving away. The crew and vessel are reported to be safe.

Key Statistics

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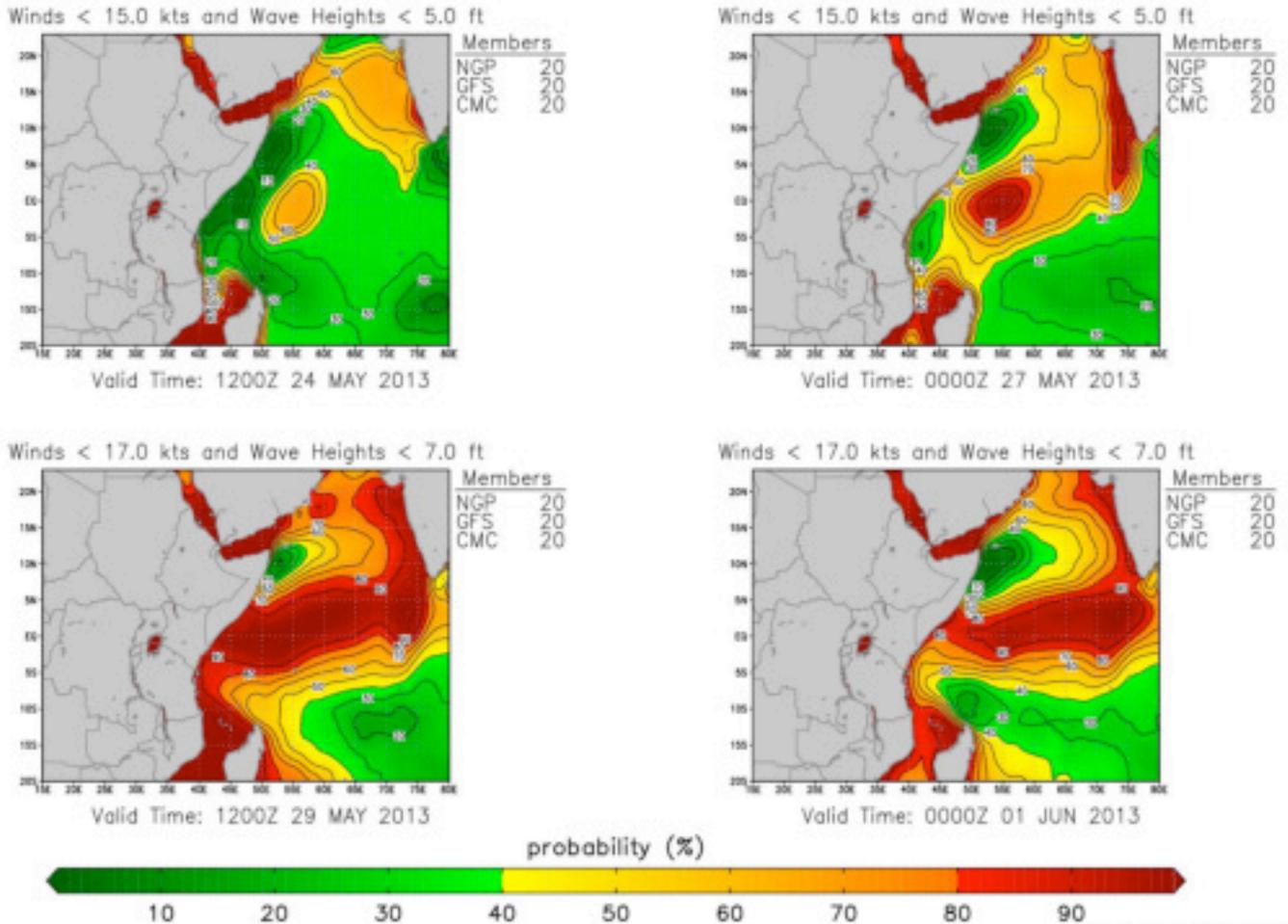
- Meanwhile in the Red Sea, a Panama-flagged tanker, the Fidelity 2, reported coming under fire at 1520 UTC while in position 12:19N - 043:58E in the BAM/Gulf of Aden. Tanker reported being fired upon by 1 red and 1 white skiff. Embarked armed security guards on board fired warning shots at 800m; coalition warship dispatched a helicopter in order to assist the tanker. The tanker has been reported safe.
- **18 May 2013** - Duty Officer on anchored Liberia-flagged chemical tanker, Gandhi, at 0155 UTC in position Alexandria Waiting anchorage, Egypt, noticed a robber lowering ship stores into a waiting boat. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Seeing the crews alertness, the robber escaped with accomplices.

Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Variable winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 1- 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with variable winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - In the western section of the Gulf, winds will be southeast at 5 - 10 knots with seas of 1 - 3 feet. In the eastern section of the Gulf, winds will be southwest with seas of 2 - 4 feet.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1 - 3 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 1- 3 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 7 - 9 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet.
- **Arabian Sea** - West-southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 3 - 5 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - South-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the northern Channel; with south-southeast winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the southern Channel.
 - **Extended Forecast** - Southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; with southeast winds of 5 - 10 knots and seas of 2 - 4 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - Currents in the northern Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden are northeasterly with most areas having average speeds of 1 - 2 knots. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable, having average speeds of 2 - 3 knots. Current speeds in the Somali Basin average between 1 - 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the onset of the southwest monsoon season. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of a low pressure system. Expect cloudy to mostly cloudy conditions with thunderstorms and rain showers throughout east African coastal areas.

Sea Conditions For This Week:

10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013052200



*** 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:

- **26 April 2013** - Kenyan police officials have confirmed that at least six people have been killed in an attack by Somali militants on police posts in neighbouring Kenya. According to officials, at least two of the victims of the attack, which targeted the Abdisugow and Damajale police posts, were policemen. David Kimaiyo, inspector general of the Kenyan police has indicated that six people are still missing after the attack which occurred on Saturday night. A spokesman for al-Shabaab has indicated that the group had carried out the attack, stating that eight people had been killed. Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, al-Shabaab's military operations spokesman, has indicated that "we have gone 35 kilometers (21 miles) into Kenya and burnt their base, Damajale, last



night." The spokesman further indicated that two people had been captured and taken into Somalia.

- **25 May 2013** - An explosion in Baidoa's busy market has killed at least one person and injured fourteen. The explosion, which occurred on Saturday morning, happened when a grenade was thrown at an Ethiopian military vehicle in the busy market in the capital city of the Bay region. According to local sources, the Ethiopian troops opened fire after the explosion had occurred. Shop owners in the market have indicated that no one was injured by the gunfire. Ethiopian officials have also confirmed that their troops were unharmed in the attack. The Governor of Bay region, Abdi Adan Heesow, has confirmed that one person was killed in the explosion. It is currently not known who committed the attack in Baidoa, however officials in the region have cited al-Shabaab as being responsible for the attack. The Bay region, once the headquarters of al-Shabaab, has been home to the Somali government forces as well as to the Ethiopian and AMISOM troops who are stationed in the country. Although the troops have managed to remove the terrorist organization from the major cities in the region, al-Shabaab continues to have a strong presence in the rural villages and an in even stronger presence in the neighboring region of Bakool.
- **23 May 2013** - Officials have confirmed that at least ten people have been killed in clashes that occurred between Ethiopian troops and al-Shabaab insurgents in the city of Beledweyen. The fighting began after al-Shabaab fighters opened fire on residents in a small town just on the outskirts of the city. Ethiopian troops quickly responded and arrived on the scene, causing the insurgents to retreat. Although government forces have since been able to secure the area, no militants were arrested

Domestic News:

- **22 May 2013** - Somali Prime Minister Abdi Farah Shirdon has received the African Union's Special Envoy to Somalia, Ambassador Mohamed Saleh Annadif. This comes at a time when federal parliamentarians withdrew a confidence motion against the Prime Minister. Prime Minister Shirdon and Ambassador Annadif met at the Prime Minister's office in Mogadishu and followed by a joint press conference whereby the Prime Minister sent his congratulations to those African countries which had deployed peacekeepers to Somalia. During the press conference, Prime Minister Shirdon indicated that "Somalia is one of the founding members of the African Union. As the AU celebrates its 50th year, I wish to send my congratulations to the African countries that deployed peacekeepers to help stabilize Somalia." In response, Ambassador Annadif stated that his discussions with the Prime Minister had focused on security progress which was achieved by Somali government forces aided by AMISOM peacekeeping troops. He further noted that

“AMISOM will continue to aid the Somali Government until security is fully restored in Somalia.” Meanwhile in Mogadishu, parliament Speaker Mohamed Osman Jawari chaired a parliament session with two hundred MP’s in order to discuss a confidence motion against Prime Minister Shirdon’s government. Speaker Jawari announced that “many MP’s have withdrawn from the motion,” which was submitted to the parliament’s leadership last week. He further indicated that “the motion is now supported by 53 MP’s, which is lesser than the 55 MP requirement for a motion to be discussed in Parliament.” Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, Prime Minister Shirdon, and a group of allied MP’s held consecutive meetings with the opposition group last week. According to sources, the meeting were “aimed at convincing MP’s to stop the confidence motion.” On May 12 of this year, the government in Puntland had issued a public statement warning against “political infighting” of federal institutions. This was followed days later by a motion to unseat Prime Minister Shirdon, which was signed by over 90 MP’s.

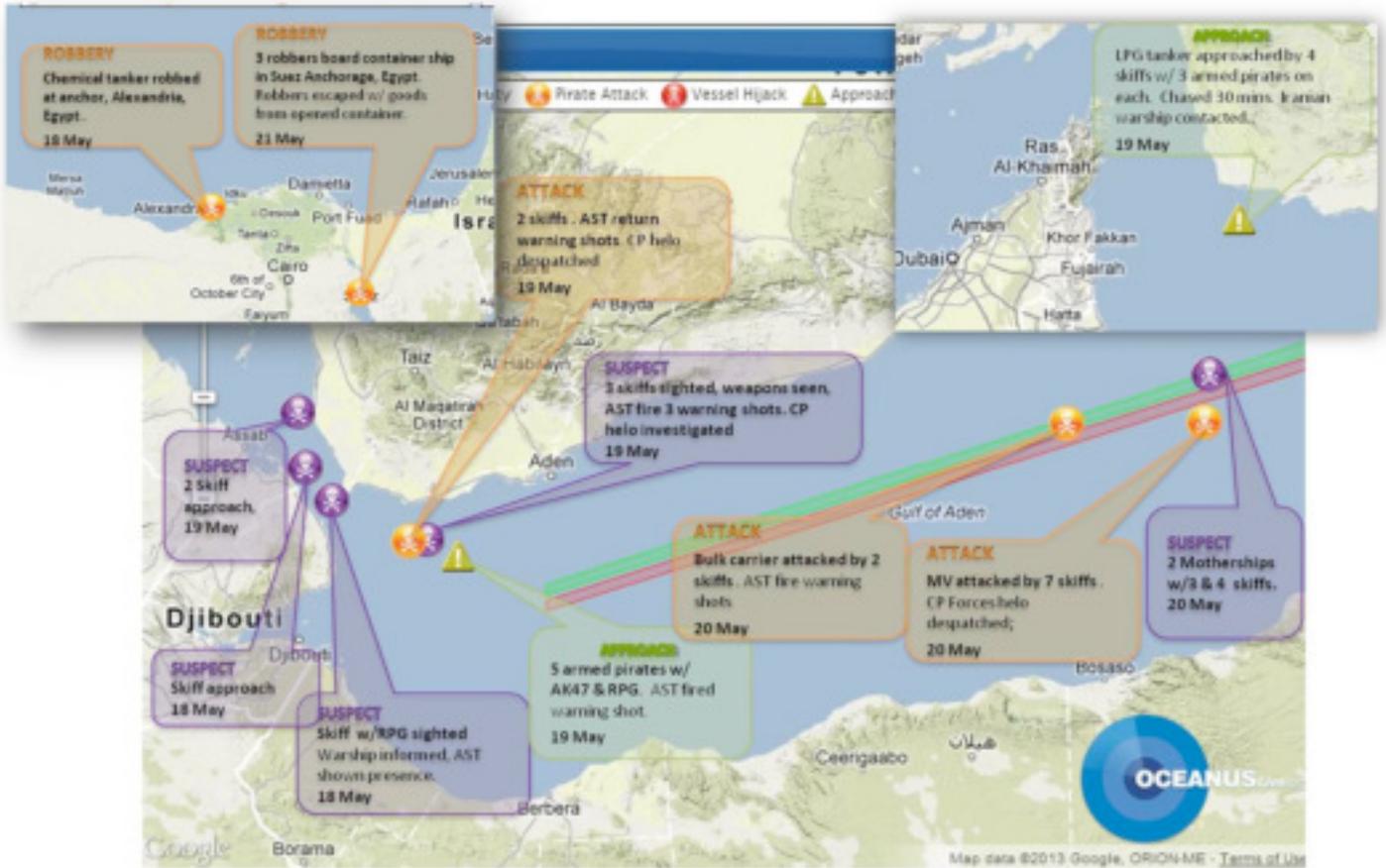
- **21 May 2013** - The leader of Somalia’s separatist region of Somaliland, Ahemd Mohamed Silanyo, hosted the European Union’s Special Representative to Somalia Ambassador Michele Cervone. The meeting, which was held in Hargeisa, was followed by a joint press conference between Somaliland’s foreign minister, Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi Omar and Ambassador Cervone. During the press conference, Minister Omar indicated that “in general, we discussed continuing cooperation between Somaliland and the EU, and in particular about the ‘New Deal’ initiative that the EU will be using to assist countries in Africa and other parts of the world, for security, political and economic development purposes.” Continuing, the Somaliland Minister emphasized that the EU will be “working directly with Somaliland and basing EU assistance on Somaliland National Priorities Plan.” In response, Ambassador Cervone stated that the EU will continue to “provide assistance to Somaliland based on the Priorities Plan of Somaliland.” Somaliland, which is located in northwestern Somalia, unilaterally declared its independence from the rest of Somalia in 1991 however it has not been recognized internationally.

International Developments:

- **26 May 2013** - The UK’s Foreign Office has confirmed that one of the suspects in the Woolwich murder case was arrested in Kenya in 2010 and is believed to have been preparing to fight with Somali militant group al-Shabaab. Officials have indicated that Michael Adebolajo was arrested in Kenya and was given consular assistance which was deemed “normal” under the circumstances. Mr. Adebolajo was arrested on Wednesday, shortly after the murder of soldier Lee Rigby. He and several others have been arrested on murder charges and acts of terrorism.
- **23 May 2013** - A spate of attacks by al-Shabaab insurgents in Somalia’s capital in recent months has forced investors, businessmen and aid workers to have second thoughts in regards to expanding their operations in Mogadishu. Although African Union (AU) and Somali forces pushed al-Shabaab militants out of the capital city in August 2011, and effectively fostered a period of relative peace which Mogadishu has not seen in years, which enabled Somalis living abroad to return, bringing new foreign investment capital with them, a recent spate of attacks is threatening the progress which has been achieved. The Turkish Red Crescent is currently in the process of reviewing its operations in Somalia. This is due to the security concerns which have arisen following a series of attacks. One such attack struck a car that was carrying Turkish aid workers on a day when gunmen and suicide bombers killed thirty-five people at the nation’s court complex. Turkey is just one of the country’s which is playing a large role in Somalia’s reconstruction. Turkish Airline is the first international airline to fly direct to Mogadishu. While the Turkish Red Crescent aid workers have been undertaking development projects, including street renovations and the construction of schools. Turkish aid workers are also responsible for rebuilding some of Somalia’s largest hospitals. A Western diplomat, who is based in Nairobi, has indicated that Turkey has become wary of the capital’s violent attacks. However Omer Tasli, the director general of the Turkish Red Crescent has indicated that although security can be a concern in Mogadishu, there will be no pull out. The al-

Qaeda-linked group al-Shabaab has often accused Turkish aid workers of importing secularism into the largely conservative Muslim nation. The terrorist group has also threatened attacks against its workers. Over the past few months, the militants have attacked restaurants and hotels in Mogadishu, making businessmen wary of investing their money. Furthermore, the deterioration in security has increased the demand for protection, leading some businessmen to set up unregulated private security companies. Although a number of security operations have been carried out in the past few weeks in Mogadishu, residents, and those coming in to do business, continue to be wary of further attacks occurring as it is evident that al-Shabaab militants continue to have the capabilities to carry out hit-and-run attacks in the city.

Map:





About MS Risk

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 - Planning and management
 - Due diligence and investigations.
- 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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