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Report on Somalia

Detailed Weekly Piracy Report and On-the-Ground Analysis

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

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Report on Somalia ~ SUMMARY
May 27 – June 2, 2013 (Week 22)

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At Sea:

- Despite the onset of the monsoon season off the coast of Somalia, pirate activity is continuing to occur in the Gulf of Aden and into the Red Sea as pirate action groups (PAG's) are attempting to successfully hijack a vessel while seeking shelter from the harsh weather conditions further out to sea. Vessels transiting the region are reminded to remain vigilant as it is highly likely that pirates will be patrolling the waters in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and into the Gulf of Oman, as these areas will be less affected by the monsoon season.

> **Key Statistics**
>
> - Hijacks: 0
> - Attacks: 0
> - Sightings: 2
> - Releases: 0

- *27 May 2013* - Liberia-flagged oil product tanker reported that a pirate action group (PAG), consisting of two skiffs, was moving fast towards the vessel at 13:20 UTC while in position 13:18N - 042:57E, approximately 21 nautical miles east northeast of Assab Eritrea, Red Sea.
- *26 May 2013* - Malta-flagged tanker observed three skiffs, with four pirates on board, moving east to west at a speed of 18 knots at 15:45 UTC while in position 12:56N - 043:10E, BAM, Red Sea, approximately 25 nautical miles east southeast of Assab, Eritrea.

On Land:

- *31 May 2013* - Al-Shabaab and Somali government forces, backed by AMISOM troops, clashed in the Lower Shabelle region on Friday night.
- *30 May 2013* - Gunmen have shot and seriously wounded a journalist in the southern port city of Kismayo.
  - Meanwhile in El Berde, in the region of Bakool, al-Shabaab militants have mounted an ambush on a Somali Government Forces' base.
- *28 May 2013* - According to reports, a suspected US drone has crashed in the southern Lower Shabelle region.
- *27 May 2013* - AMISOM and Somali authorities have rounded up a number of suspected al-Shabaab militants in a morning raid that occurred in Mogadishu's Wadajir district.

Regional Reporting

- *27 May 2013* - Somalia has been urged to resume its financial contribution to the African Union (AU).
  - Meanwhile during the IGAD's 22nd Summit, which was held in Addis Ababa, African leaders agreed that hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees currently living in Kenya and Ethiopia will be repatriated to Somalia.

24 hr Global Contact: +44 207 754 3555
www.msrisk.com

International Developments:

- *1 June 2013* - United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has called for a fast tracking of the peace process in Somalia in order to create an enabling environment that will attract investors and enable democracy to take root in the troubled country.
- *30 May 2013* - The Saudi National Campaign for the Relief of the Somali People has pledged a comprehensive aid package worth US $24 million which will focus on reconstruction projects in Somalia.
- *28 May 2013* - Kenyan security forces have posted more personnel along the border with Somalia after an attack on two police posts over the past weekend resulted in government officials recommending an increase of security personnel who are deployed in the north-eastern region of the country.

Special Report: Al-Shabaab Militants Gaining Ground In Kenya?

About MS Risk

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At Sea:

- Despite the onset of the monsoon season off the coast of Somalia, pirate activity is continuing to occur in the Gulf of Aden and into the Red Sea as pirate action groups (PAG's) are attempting to successfully hijack a vessel while seeking shelter from the harsh weather conditions further out to sea. Vessels transiting the region are reminded to remain vigilant as it is highly likely that pirates will be patrolling the waters in the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden and into the Gulf of Oman, as these areas will be less affected by the monsoon season.

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- *26 May 2013* - Malta-flagged tanker observed three skiffs, with four pirates on board, moving east to west at a speed of 18 knots at 15:45 UTC while in position 12:56N - 043:10E, BAM, Red Sea, approximately 25 nautical miles east southeast of Assab, Eritrea. The skiffs aggressively approached the vessel on the starboard side, closing to within 200 meters. No further information has been provided however the tanker is reported as safe.

On Land:

- *31 May 2013* - Al-Shabaab and Somali government forces, backed by AMISOM troops, clashed in the Lower Shabelle region on Friday night. Local residents have reported that heavy fighting occurred on Friday night after an attack was launched by al-Shabaab militants near the town of Wanlaweyn, which is located in the Lower Shabelle region. According to sources, more than ten people from the battling sides were killed in the clashes. Sources have also indicated that there were a series of explosions and heavy artillery which were heard on Friday. AMISOM has indicated that its troops countered the ambush by al-Shabaab militants who were targeting government forces who at the time were rehabilitating a road that runs through the region. The African Union (AU) has also reported that ir has captured a number of al-Shabaab fighters. In response, al-Shabaab responded by stating that its militants had inflicted many allied casualties in the attack on Friday, adding that they had destroyed an AMISOM military vehicle in the clashes. Commander of the AMISOM forces, Gen. Andrew Gutti, has stated that the operations against al-Shabaab will continue in the region as the allied forces attempt to sweep al-Shabaab from the militant group's remaining strongholds in the Lower Shabelle region.
- *30 May 2013* - Gunmen have shot and seriously wounded a journalist in the southern port city of Kismayo. According to local residents, unidentified attackers shot Abdikadir Abdirasak Sofe, a reporter for London-based Royal TV, while he was on his way home from work. Witnesses have reported that two men, one of them armed with an AK-47, opened fire at the journalist. The reporter, who reportedly was hit with a number of bullets to his upper body, was rushed to hospital. Two men were later arrested for the assassination attempt however it was not immediately clear what their motive had been. Somalia is one of the most dangerous places for journalists, with at least eighteen media workers killed last year. This latest attack follows the murders of at least four journalists this year.

- Meanwhile in El Berde, in the region of Bakool, al-Shabaab militants have mounted an ambush on a Somali Government Forces' base. According to local sources, the attack on a Somali government forces base in El Barde, which is the only city in the Bakool region that is under the control of allied forces, lasted only minutes and it is still unknown how many casualties were inflicted in the attack. Authorities in Bakool and the Somali Federal Government have not commented on the clashes that have occurred in El Berde.

- **28 May 2013** - According to reports, a suspected US drone has crashed in the southern Lower Shabelle region. Residents in the town of Bulo Marer have confirmed that they had seen the wreckage of a small plane however they were unable to confirm whether or not it was a US drone. Lower Shabelle region governor Abdikadir Mohamed Nur indicated that Islamist militants had shot at the aircraft over the town for a number of hours before it finally came down. Al-Shabaab responded through its Twitter account that an American unmanned aircraft had come down near a town under its control. The militant group further indicated that photographs of the drone would be published in the coming hours. The US Africa Command has not confirmed the reports of a drone being shot down in Somalia. The US uses drones in the country in order to support the Somali government and the African Union (AU) forces who are battling al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab.

- **27 May 2013** - AMISOM and Somali authorities have rounded up a number of suspected al-Shabaab militants in a morning raid that occurred in Mogadishu's Wadajir district. The joint operations, which was conducted by Somali government forces and AMISOM troops, was carried out in the neighborhood of Bulo Hubey, where men of varying ages were rounded up and taken to the Crime Investigation Department (CID) which is located on KM4 road. According to local sources, the authorities were searching every home in that neighborhood, resulting in dozens being arrested. AMISOM officials have indicated that the searches would enhance security in the city, adding that such operations would continue in the coming weeks. According to AMISOM spokesman Col. Ali Aden Hamud, "the searches will continue until we are sure that there are no al-Shabaab cells in Mogadishu." Such security operations are the result of AMISOM and SOmali authorities promising to improve security after a bloody courthouse massacre last month resulted in over thirty people being killed and another fifty left injured.

Regional Reporting:

- **27 May 2013** - Somalia has been urged to resume its financial contribution to the African Union (AU). According to a resolution that was submitted to the Heads of State and Government of the pan-African bloc meeting, Somalia was given a deadline of 31 December 2013 in order to pay its contribution to the AU, which is estimated to be at US $230,000 per year. Due to the fact that Somalia has been plagued for several years by a civil war, the country has not been able to pay a financial contribution to the AU.
  - Meanwhile during the IGAD's 22nd Summit, which was held in Addis Ababa, African leaders agreed that hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees currently living in Kenya and Ethiopia will be repatriated to Somalia. During the summit, the leaders indicated that the international community supported "the initiative by the governments of Somalia and Kenya and UNHCR to convene an international conference on repatriation of Somali refugees to be held later this year." According to Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta, one of the president's who attended the summit, the conference will be co-chaired by Somalia and Kenya and it will consult with Somali

leaders on how best to resettle the Somali refugees. There are hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees currently living in Ethiopia and Kenya. Dadaab refugee camp, which is located in north-eastern Kenya, is home to close to half a million Somali refugees.

International Developments:

- *31 May 2013* - Prime Minister Shinzo Abe renewed Japan's commitment to supporting Somalia's nation-building efforts, stating that Tokyo will resume direct aid to the country that is seeking to revive its economy and government following two decades of civil strife and political turmoil. At a special meeting in Yokohama, which was dedicated to discussing the issues confronting Somalia, Abe indicated that Japan's new assistance to the country will focus on enhancing its socio-economic conditions, maintaining law and order, and invigorating the country's fragile industries."

- *30 May 2013* - The Saudi National Campaign for the Relief of the Somali People has pledged a comprehensive aid package worth US $24 million which will focus on reconstruction projects in Somalia. According to the Organization of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), which is helping to co-ordinate the funds, the aid will cover all regions of Somalia and it will go towards education, health and agricultural sectors, in addition to the rehabilitation of displaced persons and all aspects of social welfare. According to Mohamed Idle Sabrie, deputy administrator of the OIC's office in Mogadishu, the purpose of the donation is to boost Somalia's reconstruction through various Saudi-supported programmes and construction projects, which will begin in mid-June. According to Mr. Sabrie, about 500,000 people will benefit from the aid money, which will be phased in over eighteen months. The first phase will concentrate on projects in Mogadishu.

- *28 May 2013* - Kenyan security forces have posted more personnel along the border with Somalia after an attack on two police posts over the past weekend resulted in government officials recommending an increase of security personnel who are deployed in the north-eastern region of the country. A security assessment team, led by Deputy Inspectors General Grace Kaindi and Samuel Arachi, visited the Abdi Sugo and Damajaley police camps in Garissa County, where a raid on Saturday killed at least six people, including a 15-year-old boy. Al-Shabaab has since claimed responsibility for the attacks, indicating that its militants had kidnapped two police officers during the raid. According to Deputy Inspector General Kaindi, the militant threat now requires twice as many military personnel and police guarding the villages along the border. It will also require additional funding and equipment. Furthermore, the Deputy Inspector General indicating that a satellite surveillance is crucial for monitoring the activities and movements that take place along the border with Somalia. In addition to the 15-year-old boy, two police officers, a Kenya Red Cross Society official and a teacher were killed on Saturday. There is currently a search underway for the missing police officers. Officials in Kenya have confirmed that two police officers have been kidnapped however no further information has been provided

Special Report: Al-Shabaab Militants Gaining Ground in Kenya?

Although an African Union (AU) military campaign to eliminate al-Shabaab in Somali has gained ground throughout the past year, al-Shabaab's fighters have continued to adapt to the changing conditions and have been able to reorganize themselves into small attack units.   Such a transformation was demonstrated last Saturday, when one of these heavily armed units crossed into Kenya and launched coordinated attacks on two police camps in the district of Liboi. At lease six people were killed in the attack.   Shortly afterwards, a spokesman for al-Shabaab posted on the militant group's Twitter account that "a small unit of Mujahedeen raided Kenyan bases, early last night taking over the base killing 8 Kaffur and injuring more than a dozen." This announcement effectively solidified their claims over the attack.   The statement also further indicated that two Kenyans had been kidnapped and that the militants were able to seize a large number of guns.
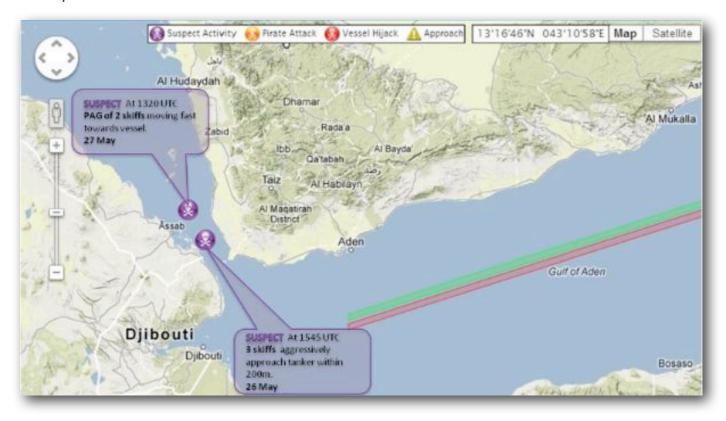
Since October 2011, when Kenyan troops first entered Somalia in order to track down the group, thirty attacks have been carried out by al-Shabaab in the cities of Nairobi, Garissa and Mombasa. Although in September 2012 al-Shabaab was expelled from the southern port city of Kismayo, which was the group's logistical and economic base, the threat did not end as the development disrupted operations only for a short period of time. Furthermore, while the group lost a number of key cities and towns, the militants continue to control may of the rural villages around Mogadishu and in the southern regions of the country, where they have implemented a strict form of Sharia law.

With losing key cities and their stronghold in Kismayo, al-Shabaab has looked towards reorganizing itself, which has resulted in an increase in hit-and-run attacks in Mogadishu, and a number of cross-the-border attacks in Kenya in an attempt to demonstrate to the Somali government, and to the world, that while they have lost space on Somalia, they have not lost the drive and capabilities to carry out their attacks. Al-Shabaab may now be seeking to gain further control of the southern regions of Somalia, especially those that located close to the porous Kenyan border.

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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    - Risk assessments and intelligence reporting
    - 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

24 hr Contact Information:

Email: operations@msrisk.com

Telephone: +44 207 754 3555

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