

# 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 15 – 21, 2013 (Week 29)



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### At Sea:

#### Suspicious Activity

- **16 July 2013** - An underway chemical tanker experienced a suspicious approach by three skiffs while in position 13:28N - 043:01E, approximately 16 nautical miles northwest of Mocha.

#### Key Statistics

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

### Weather Analysis:

- The weather throughout the following week will continue to be affected by the Southwest Monsoon. Throughout the week, small skiffs and boats will experience decreased mobility throughout the Gulf of Aden, however these conditions will begin to improve at the end of the week. In the Gulf of Oman and into the waters off the coast of Somalia, water conditions will continue to be poor. Further out to sea, water conditions will worsen. The Red Sea and the waters off Mozambique will continue to have calmer seas. Consequently, this region will likely see a number of pirate skiffs over the coming week.

### On Land:

- **17 July 2013** - At least two people, including an African Union (AU) soldier, were killed after a roadside bomb exploded in the southern Somali port of Kismayo.
- **15 July 2013** - On Monday, Ethiopian troops stationed in the Bay regional capital of Baidoa, in southern Somalia, handed over their military bases to AMISOM peacekeeping forces in the region.

### Domestic News:

- **15 July 2013** - Somalia's semi-autonomous northern region of Puntland has suspended its long-awaited local elections.

### Regional Reporting:

- **18 July 2013** - Two Spanish aid workers, who were kidnapped in Kenya nearly two years ago and held in neighbouring Somalia, have been freed according to their employer.

### About MS Risk

## Report on Somalia

July 15 – 21, 2013 (Week 29)

### At Sea:

#### Suspicious Activity

- **16 July 2013** - An underway chemical tanker experienced a suspicious approach by three skiffs while in position 13:28N - 043:01E, approximately 16 nautical miles northwest of Mocha. The onboard security team deployed while non-essential crew members were mustered into the citadel. The individuals on board the skiff had weapons, including an RPG. The skiffs departed the area when the security team fired warning flares. The chemical tanker has been reported safe.

#### Key Statistics

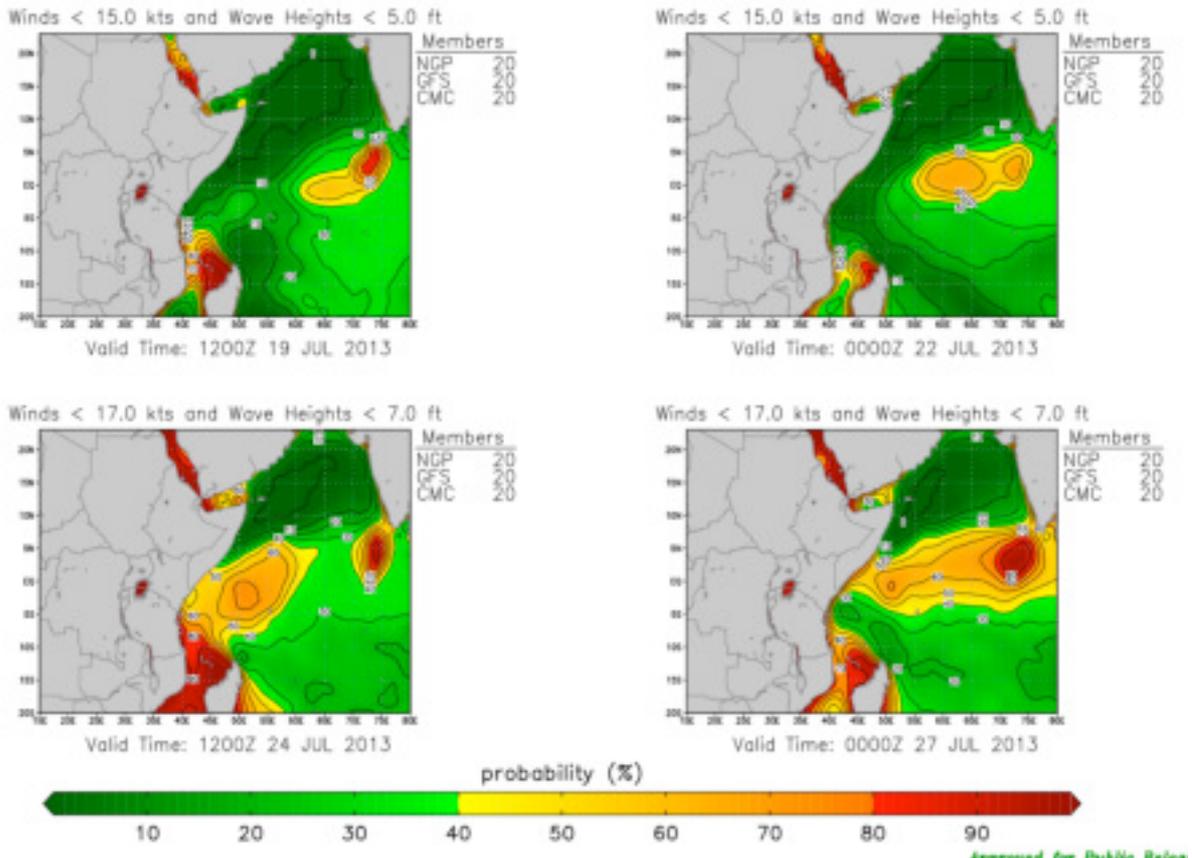
- Hijacks: 0
- Attacks: 0
- Sightings: 1
- Releases: 0

### Weather Analysis:

- **Gulf of Aden** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Gulf of Oman** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.
- **Somali Coast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 6 - 8 feet; with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 9 - 12 feet near the Horn of Africa.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 7 feet; with southwest winds of 20 - 25 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet near the Horn of Africa.
- **Arabian Sea** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southwest winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 8 - 10 feet.
- **Central African Coast/Indian Ocean** - Southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 6 feet.
  - **Extended Forecast** - South-southeast winds of 15 - 20 knots and seas of 5 - 6 feet.
- **Mozambique Channel** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the southern Channel.
  - **Extended Forecast** - Southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 3 - 4 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 - 15 knots and seas of 4 - 5 feet in the southern Channel.
- **Surface Currents** - The Northern Arabian Sea and GOA currents are variable with most areas having average speeds of 1 knot. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having average speed of 2 knots. Currents along the Somali basin are northeasterly averaging between 1 - 2 knots.
- **Synoptic Discussion** - The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the southwest monsoon. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of a low pressure system, creating a northwesterly flow. Expect clear to partly cloudy conditions throughout the central African coastal areas.

## Sea Conditions For This Week:

### 10-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013071700



\*\*\* 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:

- **17 July 2013** - At least two people, including an African Union (AU) soldier, were killed after a roadside bomb exploded in the southern Somali port of Kismayo. According to local reports, one AMISOM soldier and one civilian bystander were killed after a roadside explosion occurred along the main road which is commonly used by AMISOM convoys. The explosion also wounded three other civilians. Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for this attack. Jubbaland Vice President Gen. Abdullahi Ismail Fartaag has praised the region's forces in defending the port city and has called for public support for the peace operations in the region. Although Kismayo was once an al-Shabaab stronghold, the militant group was ousted from the city last August. However their control of the surrounding regions of southern Somalia has resulted in a number of hit and run attacks, demonstrating that the militant group continues to have a strong presence and remains a large security threat in the region.
- **15 July 2013** - On Monday, Ethiopian troops stationed in the Bay regional capital of Baidoa, in southern Somalia, handed over their military bases to AMISOM peacekeeping forces in the region. According to eyewitness accounts, the last battalions of Ethiopian troops have left Baidoa with their armored vehicles, tanks and artillery trucks. Local reports confirmed that AMISOM peacekeeping forces immediately occupied the vacated military bases. The swift changeover was made to prevent al-Shabaab militants from attacking the town during the Ethiopian troops' withdrawal. Ethiopia's withdrawal from Baidoa comes just five days after the country's troops vacated the Bay regional districts of Bardale and Qansahdheere. It also comes months after its troops vacated the town of Hudur in the Bakool region in March of this year. The town, which is located near the Ethiopian border, was almost immediately seized by al-Shabaab militants, and it remains under the militant group's control. Ethiopian troops intervened in southern Somalia in December 2006 and withdrew in January 2009. However they returned in early 2012 to aid the Somali government's stabilization operations in the Gedo, Bay, Bakool, Hiiraan and Galgadud border regions.

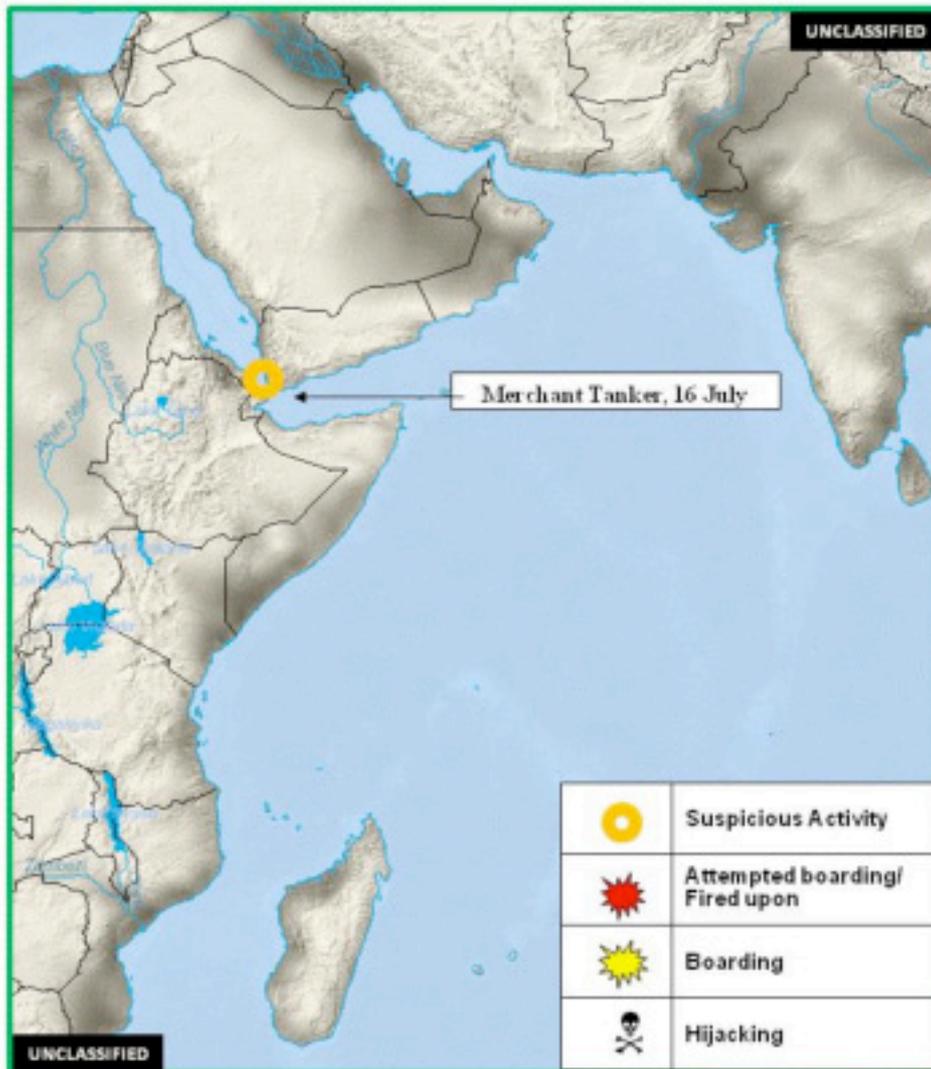
## Domestic News:

- **15 July 2013** - Somalia's semi-autonomous northern region of Puntland has suspended its long-awaited local elections. The region's government has announced that the risk of violence was too great to hold them. The government stated that "Puntland hereby suspends the local council elections" due to be held on Monday, warning of what it called "domestic spoilers and external manipulators funding and organising instability and election violence." No date has been set for the elections, however the Puntland government has indicated that they would be held "when it is appropriate." Although no further details were released, United Nations special envoy to Somalia Nicholas Kay called the suspension "wise" and urged restraint from all sides "following violent clashes." Tensions have risen ahead of the elections, with the Puntland government clamping down on press freedom, including ordering the closure of three private radio stations. Some opposition groups have been accused by the government of operating their own militia forces and clashes have broken out in political rallies in the region, including in the town of Galkayo where five people were killed earlier this month. However there have also been some peaceful rallies. Puntland, which forms the very tip of the Horn of Africa, along the Indian Ocean coast and the Gulf of Aden, recognizes the central government in Mogadishu, however it wants autonomy within a federation of states. While relatively stable, compared to southern Somalia, the region is also host to a number of pirate gangs on its coastline as well as multiple militia forces. It is also known that al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab fighters have set up bases in the rugged Golis mountains.

## Regional Reporting:

- **18 July 2013** - Two Spanish aid workers kidnapped in Kenya nearly two years ago and held in neighbouring Somalia have been freed according to their employer. In a statement released by Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), the organization confirmed that the two women are both “safe and healthy and keen to join their loved ones as soon as possible....Once again, MSF strongly condemns this attack on humanitarian workers who were in Dadaab offering life saving medical assistance to thousands of refugees.” MSF indicated that it would provide any further details before a press conference scheduled in Madrid on Friday. Montserrat Serra (40) and Blanca Thiebaut (30) were kidnapped on 13 October 2011 by gunmen who opened fire on their vehicle inside the Dadaab refugee camp complex. Their Kenyan driver was shot and wounded. At the time of the kidnapping, Kenyan police stated that they had been seized by members of Somalia’s Islamist al-Shabaab group; however no group has actually claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. Just days later, Kenya deployed its troops into neighbouring Somalia to fight al-Shabaab militants. Dadaab, said to be the world’s largest refugee camp, houses some 500,000 people who have fled years of conflict and drought across the border in Somalia. MSF, which at the time of the kidnapping had 49 foreign and 343 local staff in Dadaab, has since reduced its activity there to a minimum. Both women were working in MSF’s logistics group in Dadaab. Ms. Serra, a qualified teacher from Girona, Spain, had been working in Kenya for two months before she was kidnapped. She had previously worked on aid projects in Latin America and Yemen. Ms. Thiebaut, from Madrid, had recently completed a degree at the London School of Economics and is an agricultural engineer by training. The abduction of the Spaniards followed the kidnapping of a French woman and a British woman from the Kenyan coast near the Somali border. Briton Judith Tebbut, in her late fifties, was seized from a remote Kenyan resort on 11 September 2011, by armed men who killed her husband David. She was released in March 2012 after being held for more than six months. A ransom was reportedly paid by her son. Marie Dedieu, 66 and partially paralyzed, was seized from her beachfront home in the Lamu archipelago on 1 October 2011. She was reported dead later that month, with French officials stating that the death was probably due to her kidnappers depriving her of essential medication. On 25 October 2011, two aid workers with the Danish Refugee Council were seized by armed men in Galkayo in north-central Somalia. They were freed during a raid launched by US Commandos in January 2012. Meanwhile in January of this year, al-Shabaab fighters killed a French hostage, an intelligence agent known under the pseudonym Denis Alex who had been held since 2009, during a botched rescue attempt by French forces. A colleague of Mr. Alex, who had been kidnapped at the same time, managed to escape in August 2009. A Briton and Kenyan, who were employed by an Indian subcontractor of a UN agency and who were kidnapped in southern Somalia in 2008, are feared dead. While an American national kidnapped in January 2012 is still being held. Meanwhile, thirty-nine seamen of various nationalities from the Naham 3, a fishing vessel captured in March 2012, along with crew members from two other boats, are still being held in Somalia. The fate of a further fifteen crew members, whose vessel, the MV Albedo, sunk early last week, remains unknown.

Map:





## About MS Risk

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  - 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](http://www.msrisk.com)

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