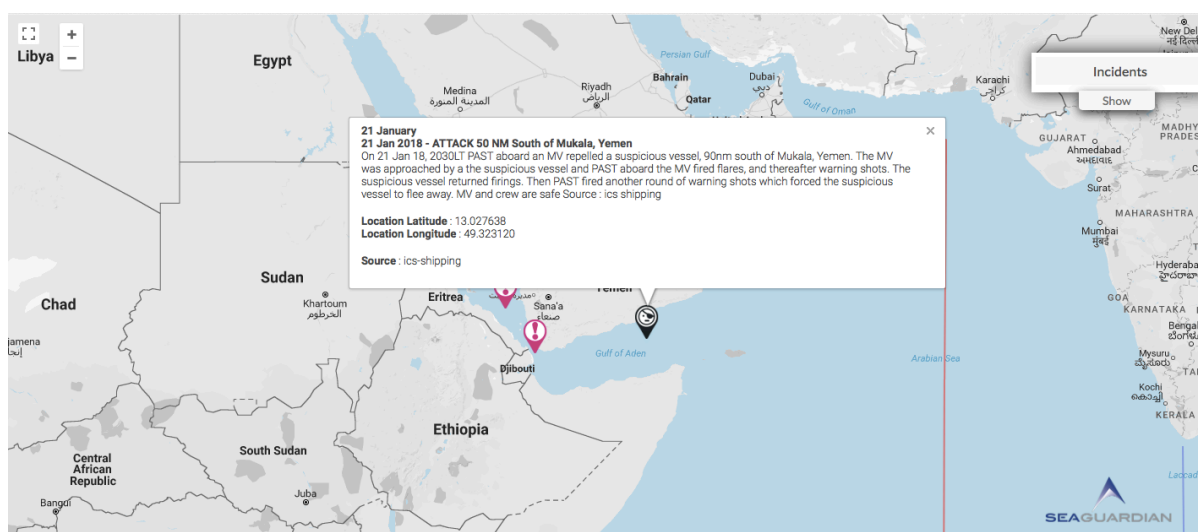


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Weekly Advisory / Situation Report 18 Jan – 25 Jan 18

Red Sea - Indian Ocean Incidents



- On 21 Jan 18, 2030LT PAST aboard an MV repelled a suspicious vessel, 90nm south of Mukala, Yemen. The MV was approached by a suspicious vessel and PAST aboard the MV fired flares, and thereafter warning shots. The suspicious vessel returned firings. Then PAST fired another round of warning shots which forced the suspicious vessel to flee away. MV and crew are safe.

Interesting information

- [US troops support Somali forces on the ground, hit al-Shabaab terrorists from the sky](#) US troops support Somali forces on the ground, hit al-Shabaab terrorists from the sky By: Kyle Rempfer ? 21 hours ago An MD-500 helicopter was apparently used to support an operation in Somalia. The picture was first posted to Twitter
- [After prison term for piracy, 41 Somali men fly back home](#) Around 9.30am, the men were brought to the airport's Terminal 2 in Mumbai police's vans

from Yellow Gate police station in South Mumbai where they had been kept in “safe custody” since their release from Kolhapur jail on January 2 and January 12.

-[Yemen update](#) The Saudi-led Coalition announced today that the ports of Hodeidah and Saleef will remain open to aid and commercial shipping for another thirty days.

-[Dutch Govt Looking into Bill on Armed Guards on board Ships](#) The Dutch House of Representatives is debating today a bill on the introduction of private security guards on board Dutch merchant ships to protect the vessels and their crews from pirate attacks, especially in the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters. At the moment, when sailing through the high-risk area near Somalia merchant ships are allowed to get protection

Threat assessment

-There was reported 1 incident in Red Sea last week, an attack took place 90nm south of Mukala and ended well after firing warning shots. There is a debate if this attack was piracy related or not. However due to the time of the incident (dark hours) and lack of no any other evidence apart from the returning firings from the suspicious vessel, it needs to be further investigated.

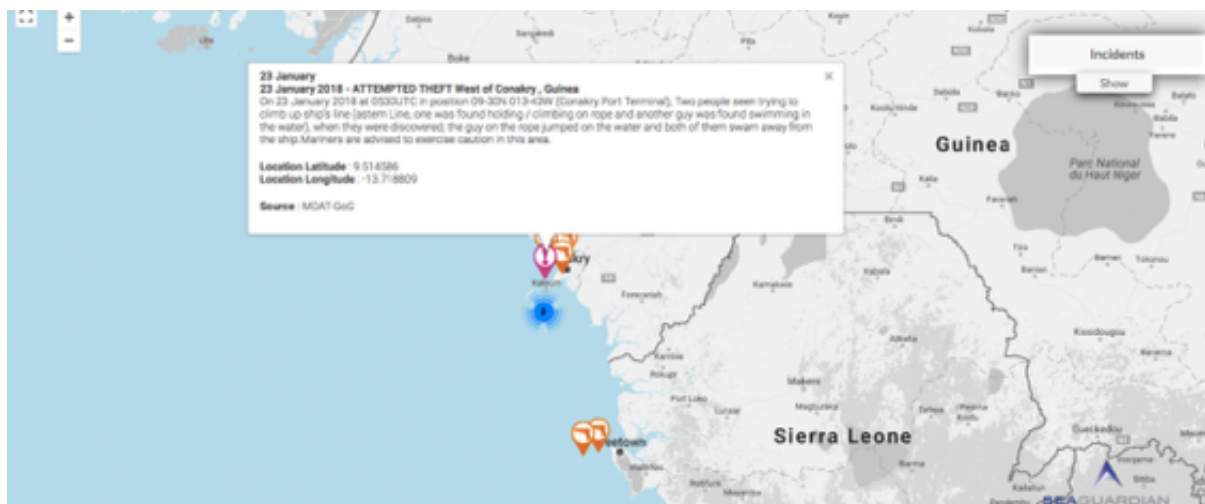
- In Yemen, the high risk and almost inevitable spill of violence stemming from the Yemen Civil war to the maritime domain in the form of terrorism, piracy or collateral damage from unrelated incidents remains. Houthi militia has been driven away from the straights themselves, they still hold the majority of the Red Sea Coast line. The Arab Coalition urged “Arms and ammunition smuggling activities into Yemen that are carried out by Al Houthi militias, threaten maritime security in this vital part of the world”.

- INTERTANCO, BIMCO and ICS has recently issued an interim guidance on maritime security focusing in Southern Red Sea and BAM areas. The purpose of the guidance is to help Company Security Officers (CSOs) and Masters in conducting a threat assessment in respect of transits through the Southern Red Sea and Bab al-Mandeb. Experience has shown awareness of other threats and application of the recommendations contained within this guidance, in conjunction with application of the BMP 4 recommendations, may prevent a successful attack. This guidance is

complimentary to and should be applied in conjunction with the application of BMP 4.

Sea Guardian continues to urge high levels of vigilance in the entire HRA with South Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Somali Coast, remaining areas where caution needs to be exercised considering the recent incidents. ALL advisories in effect in South Red Sea and Yemeni Coast must be adhered by all. Reduced military presence in the area makes strict BMP Implementation (including IRTC and group transit scheme use) of the utmost importance.

West Africa Incidents



- On 23 January 2018 at 0530UTC in position 09-30N 013-43W (Conakry Port Terminal), Two people seen trying to climb up ship's line (astern Line, one was found holding / climbing on rope and another guy was found swimming in the water), when they were discovered; the guy on the rope jumped on the water and both of them swam away from the ship. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this area.





-On 24th January 2018 at 09:00Zhrs, a merchant tanker was attacked near position 03°30'N – 006°20'E (South/50nm's from Brass, NIGERIA). Navies on board merchant tanker repelled the attack. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution.

Interesting information

- [Missing Vessel “MT Barrett” With 22 Crew Onboard Subject To Piracy Attack](#) The Union Maritime vessel, MT Barrett, a tanker which was at anchor off Benin, West Africa has been the subject of a Gulf of Guinea piracy attack since Wednesday 10th January. The company continues to work with all relevant parties to ensure the situation is resolved successfully and as quickly as possible.

- [Crew of Hijacked Product Tanker Released](#) Tanker operator Union Maritime reported Wednesday that the product tanker Barrett has been safely recovered from hijackers off Benin, West Africa. “Union Maritime can confirm that the MT Barrett has been released after a Gulf of Guinea piracy incident lasting six days. All crew are safe.

-[NIMASA’s satellite surveillance system down in 2017-Sources](#) NIMASA’s satellite surveillance system down in 2017-Sources January 21, 2018 Paul Ogbuokiri Paul Ogbuokiri Indications were rife on Friday that the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency’s (NIMASA’s) strategic satellite surveillance system have been out of operation for over one year, sources close to the maritime regulator revealed.

-[Nigerian govt reacts to Avengers’ threat to blow installations](#) Nigerian govt reacts to Avengers’ threat to blow installations Published on January 20, 2018 By Wale Odunsi Nigerian government through coordinator of the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) Brig -Gen Paul Boroh (rtd) has

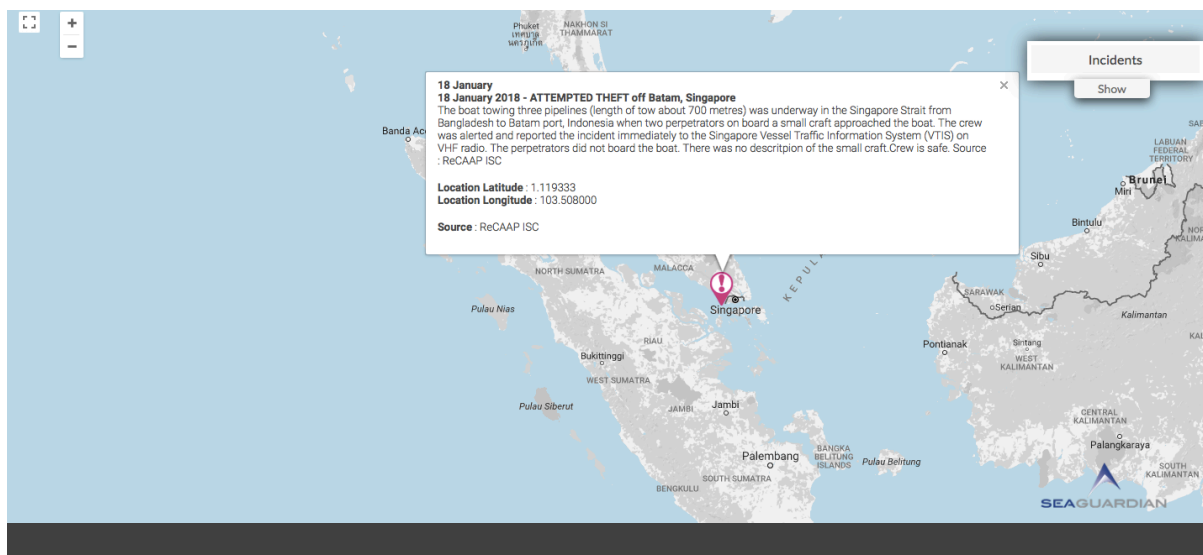
pledged with the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) and youths in the region to maintain the prevailing peace area.

Threat assessment

- There were reported 2 incidents in West Africa waters last week. In one of the attacks, the seafarers were repelled by the merchant navies aboard.
- Taking under consideration the overall trends and the recent US administration advisory and IMB annual report, Gulf of Guinea remains the world's hotspot for piracy and maritime crime, particularly marine kidnapping for ransom. As long as corruption, militant disruptions, degradation of marine environment and poverty of the Niger Delta communities can't be confined, it is clear that maritime piracy and kidnapping will continue to plague the waters of West Africa.

SEAGUARDIAN continues to reiterate the need for collective efforts and shared responsibility among regional authorities and the shipping industry in addressing the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Africa. In any case all ships transiting the areas of concern should enhance vigilance especially during hours of darkness and report all incidents to the nearest coastal State and flag State immediately.

South East Asia Incidents



- The boat towing three pipelines (length of tow about 700 metres) was underway in the Singapore Strait from Bangladesh to Batam port, Indonesia when two perpetrators on board a small craft approached the boat. The crew was alerted and reported the incident immediately to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) on VHF radio. The perpetrators did not board the boat. There was no description of the small craft. MV and crew are safe.

Interesting information

-[Analysis: Shady triangle – Southeast Asia’s illegal fuel market](#) SINGAPORE (Reuters) – An alleged oil heist in Singapore that has already led to 20 arrests, the seizure of at least one tanker and allegations that thieves siphoned thousands of tonnes of fuel from Shell’s biggest refinery is shining a spotlight on an illegal trade worth tens of billions of dollars worldwide.

-[17 Countries Participate in Piracy Meeting in Singapore](#) The first capacity building activity in 2018 by the Information Sharing Centre (ISC) of ReCAAP, the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia, kicked off on January 17 with 19 senior officers from 17 countries arriving in Singapore to take stock of the current situation

-[Illegal fuel market flourishes in Southeast Asia](#) AN alleged oil heist in Singapore that has already led to 20 arrests, the seizure of at least one tanker and allegations that thieves siphoned thousands of tons of fuel from Shell’s biggest refinery is shining a spotlight on an illegal trade worth tens of billions of dollars worldwide.

-[Abu Sayyaf free two Indonesian fishermen](#) Abu Sayyaf free two Indonesian fishermen (From left to right) Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia in Davao, Mr Berlian Napitupulu, fishermen Mr La Utu Raali and Mr La Hadi La Adi and Lieutenant General Carlito Galvez, commander of the Philippine armed forces’ Western Mindanao Command (WestMinCom).

Threat assessment

- There was reported 1 incident in South East Asia waters last week, where a small craft approached a merchant ship which was immediately alerted and as a result the perpetrators did not manage to board.

- The number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in 2017 have significantly decreased compared to 2016. There was no report of incident of abduction of crew from ships in the Sulu-Celebes Sea and waters off Eastern Sabah. All in all, of concern was the increase in the number of incidents occurred in SOMS.

- While no abduction cases have been reported since April 17, sea kidnappings remain a concern, as operations by enforcement agencies are still ongoing. Sulu- Celebes Sea and eastern Sabah region remain the most dangerous waters in SE Asia. Common patrols to fight the terrorist groups in addition with the shore-based efforts have managed to confine the surge of incidents

SEAGUARDIAN continues to reiterate the need for collective efforts and shared responsibility among regional authorities and the shipping industry in addressing the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. In any case all ships transiting the areas of concern should enhance vigilance especially during hours of darkness and report all incidents to the nearest coastal State and flag State immediately.

SEAGUARDIAN continues to reiterate the need for collective efforts and shared responsibility among regional authorities and the shipping industry in addressing the situation of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia. In any case all ships transiting the areas of concern should enhance vigilance especially during hours of darkness and report all incidents to the nearest coastal State and flag State immediately.

Overall Map of Incidents can be found [at our website](#).

We would also like to encourage the recipients of this report, to follow Sea Guardian's Social networks for up to date and real time information.



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