

Red Sea - Indian Ocean Incidents



- On 8 Feb 18, 40NM SE of Sadah, Oman 2 blue hull skiffs with 7 POB approached an MV from Stbd side. Initially they stopped at the bow of the MT and then started approaching directly with high speed the vessel. MT started evasive maneuvers and PAST aboard alerted by firing 2 flares. Skiffs continued to approach the MT and then PAST showed their weapons and the skiffs passed from the stbd side to the port side and stopped. Closest distance 1000yds. The whole incident lasted 30m. Vessel and crew are safe.

Location Latitude : 16.557833

Location Longitude : 55.524833

Interesting information

- [CTF 151 – A SPOTLIGHT ON COUNTER PIRACY WITH OPERATION HAMAD](#) TODAY, Counter Piracy Focused Operation Hamad commenced. Although this first day of Operation Hamad is important as a milestone, all of those units and organisations involved in counter piracy operations know

These units and organizations involved in counter piracy operations know that the effort to keep piracy suppressed is a marathon and not a sprint.

- [Drugs, piracy, illegal fishing focus of US-led multinational marine exercise in Seychelles](#) (Seychelles News Agency) – Drug trafficking, illegal fishing and piracy are the focus of Cutlass Express, the seventh annual multinational maritime exercise now being hosted by Seychelles for one week. Cutlass Express which will end on Wednesday is sponsored by U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and conducted by U.S.

- [CUTLASS EXPRESS 18 SENIOR LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM](#) EU NAVFOR Deputy Commander (DCOM), Rear Admiral Alfonso Pérez de Nanclares, attended the Exercise Cutlass Express Senior Leadership Symposium in the Seychelles on 5th February 2018. The leadership event was hosted by the US Naval War College at the request of US Naval Forces Africa (NAVAF) to augment the Cutlass Express 18 maritime exercise.

- [Sri Lanka to make a request to establish the maritime operations secretariat for suppression of sea piracy off Somalia coast in the country](#) The Sri Lankan government plans to make a formal request to the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) establish the proposed maritime operations secretariat for suppression of sea piracy off Somalia coast in the country. Since 2005 there have been numerous incidents of hijacking of commercial ships by pirates in the Indian Ocean

Threat assessment

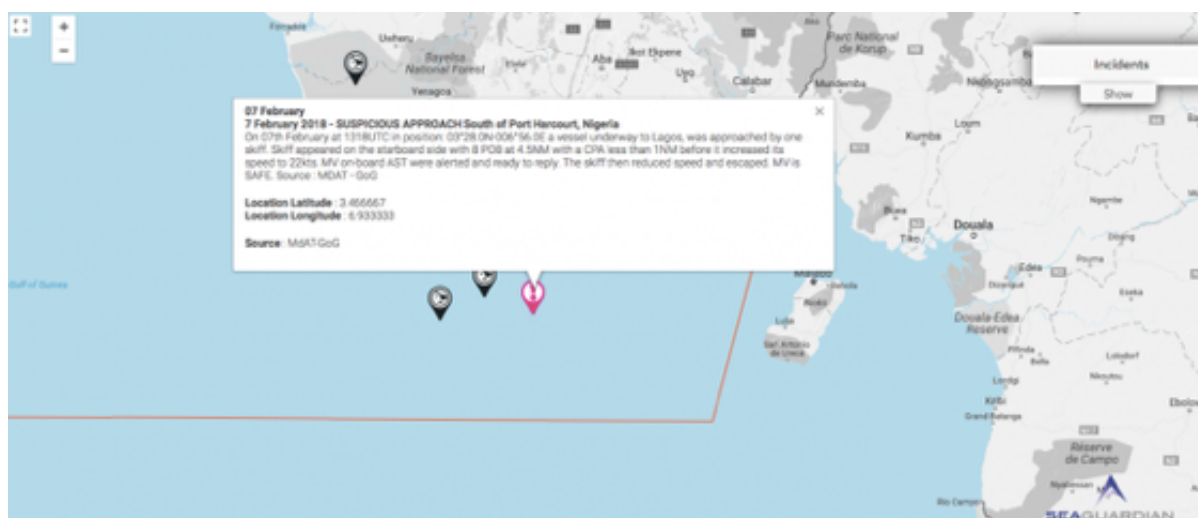
-There was reported 1 incident in Red Sea last week where 2 skiffs approached an mv and there were some flare shot from the security team. It cannot be confirmed if it was piracy related or not however movement of skiffs from the very beginning of this incident, which lasted almost half an hour, was aggressive.

- 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 straits 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”

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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 outmost importance

West Africa Incidents



- On 07th February at 1318UTC in position: 03°28.0N-006°56.0E a vessel underway to Lagos, was approached by one skiff. Skiff appeared on the starboard side with 8 POB at 4.5NM with a CPA less than 1NM before it increased its speed to 22kts. MV on-board AST were alerted and ready to reply. The skiff then reduced speed and escaped. MV is SAFE.

Interesting information

- [Pirates release crew of oil tanker hijacked off West Africa](#) Pirates have released 22 Indian nationals taken captive after their oil tanker was boarded off the coast of West Africa last week. The vessel, Marine Express, was carrying more than 13,000 tons of gasoline when it went missing in the Gulf of Guinea

- [Nigeria Strategic to Tackling Maritime Crimes in GoG – Nimasa](#) The

Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Dakuku Peterside has described the Nigerian maritime sector as strategic to tackling issues of insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG). Peterside, stated this in a paper titled: 'Nigeria's role in combating maritime insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea,' at the Royal Institute of International Affairs

Threat assessment

- There was reported one incident in West Africa last week where 1 skiff approached an MV that was quickly alerted. After that, the skiff escaped.
- Main issue was the release of 22 Indian nationals from MT MARINE EXPRESS. The MT, which was the subject of a pirate attack and seizure off Cotonou Anc on 1st of Feb, was back under the command of the Master and Crew on 6 Feb.
- Taking under consideration the overall trends Gulf of Guinea remains the world's hotspot for piracy and maritime crime, particularly marine kidnapping for ransom. As long as corruption, degradation of marine environment and poverty of the Niger Delta communities can't be confined, 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





- Two robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored at the Godau Anchorage in Vietnam. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre said the robbers threatened and injured the ship's bosun before tying him up. The bosun was able to free himself and warn the ship's master who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. A search of the ship showed that stores were missing. The incident was reported to the port authorities who boarded the vessel and began an investigation. The bosun was sent ashore for medical treatment. Details of his injuries were not disclosed. The incident happened on the evening of January 31.

Interesting information

- [Why Southeast Asia Remains a Hotbed for Piracy](#) Late last month, Japan and Malaysia concluded a weeklong joint coast guard exercise focused on combating piracy in Southeast Asia. Despite a recent decline, piracy is still a threat across the region and cooperation between states—including some, like Japan, that are outside the region—is seen as an important mechanism for mitigating it.

Threat assessment

- There was reported 1 incident in South East Asia waters last week, where some robbers threatened and injured and mv's bosun.
- 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

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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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