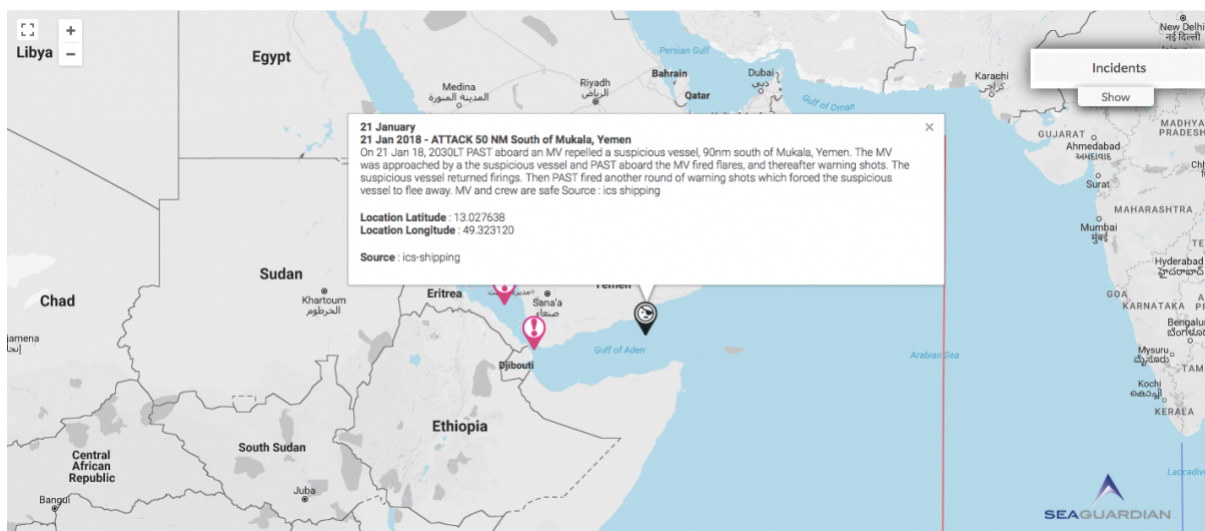


Date: 1 February 2018 at 13:42



Weekly Advisory / Situation Report 26Jan-01Feb 2018

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 the 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.

UPDATE :

The previously reported attack by pirates on MV NACC Valbella 90 NM off Mukalla, Yemen on 21 January, has been confirmed by DRYAD as an exchange of gunfire with a fishing boat's crew defending their equipment. The embarked security team onboard MV NACC Valbella had reported 'Aggressive Somali Pirates' whilst declaring that they themselves had fired volleys of shots first. The fishing crew who were armed as is commonplace in this area, returned fire in self defence and left the scene. Thankfully no fishermen were reported to have been injured or killed during this incident. The fishing vessel's crew did return fire at the Valbella, placing that vessel's crew in unnecessary danger – a situation which could have been avoided if confirmation of the fishing vessel's intentions had been assessed, before it had been shot at.

Interesting information

- [US maintains support of Saudi-led coalition in Yemen war even as NATO allies stop selling weapons](#) Germany and Norway have recently announced they would stop selling weapons to countries in the Saudi-led coalition waging war in Yemen. But the US told Business Insider that it has no intentions of halting weapons sales or support for the coalition. The war in Yemen has caused mass starvation and been dubbed “the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.”

- [Yemen's war within a war: What does new fighting mean?](#) A civil war within a civil war has broken out in Yemen. Rifts exploded within the U.S.-backed alliance joining Yemen's president and the Saudi-led coalition fighting Shiite rebels, as forces loyal to each side turned on each other in fierce fighting this week. As a result, the southern city of Aden has become a war zone

- [THE GATE OF TEARS: INTERESTS, OPTIONS, AND STRATEGY IN THE BAB-EL-MANDEB STRAIT](#) By Jimmy Drennan Introduction Some were surprised by the news that four U.S. soldiers were killed in an ambush in Niger and may have even wondered “why do we have troops in Africa?” Some also agree with the recent bipartisan call from Congress to end U.S. military support to the Saudi Arabian-led coalition's intervention in Yemen.

Threat assessment

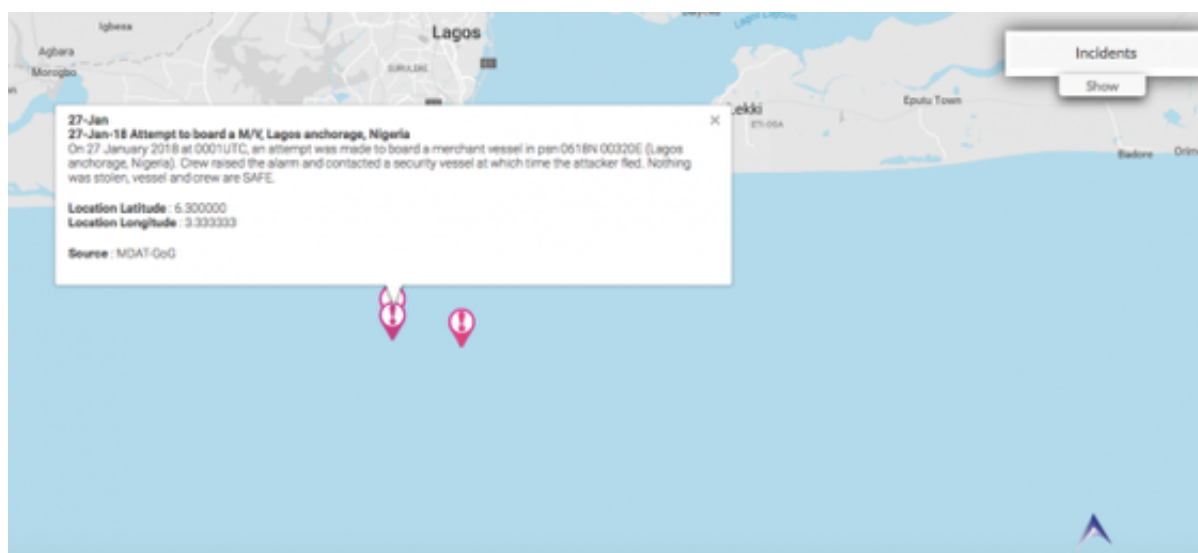
-There was reported an updated related to 1 incident in Red Sea last week, an attack that took place 90nm south of Mukala and ended well after firing warning shots. All in all, this situation could have been avoided if confirmation of the fishing vessel's intentions had been assessed.

- 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”.

See Guardian continues to urge high levels of vigilance in the entire HRA

Sea Guardian continues to urge high levels of vigilance in the entire IHA 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 27 January 2018 at 0001UTC, an attempt was made to board a merchant vessel in psn 0618N 00320E (Lagos anchorage, Nigeria). Crew raised the alarm and contacted a security vessel at which time the attacker fled. Nothing was stolen, vessel and crew are SAFE.

Interesting information

- [Nigeria: Amnesty – Militants Give Oil Companies 3 Days to Vacate Oil Communities in Ondo](#) A coalition of militant groups in Ondo State yesterday gave oil companies operating in the state three days to leave over non-enrollment of their members in the Federal Government Amnesty Programme. General Akinfemi Raymond, the secretary of the coalition, gave the ultimatum in Akure while addressing journalists.

- [Ensuring Maritime security](#) Nigerian Maritime Sector accounts for over 80 per cent of our international trade through transportation, fishing, oil and gas. But the irony is that 80 per cent of most criminal activities emanate from the maritime sector. It further means the drop in the crime rating of our country and the attendant improvement of our economy is dependant on the security

- [UN, African Union leaders urge more international cooperation](#) ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP) — The leaders of the United Nations (UN) and the African Union urged stronger international cooperation at the opening Sunday of the African Union summit in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. “I strongly believe Africa is one of the greatest forces for good in our world,” said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

- [Sustained Fight against Maritime Crimes](#) Chiemelie Ezeobi writes that the naval show of force from, Operations Awatse to Jagunlabi and the most recently Exercise River Sweep, is aimed at reinforcing the navy’s zero tolerance for criminality. It is no secret that the industrial scale at which Nigeria keeps losing its scarce oil resources to crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism is alarming.

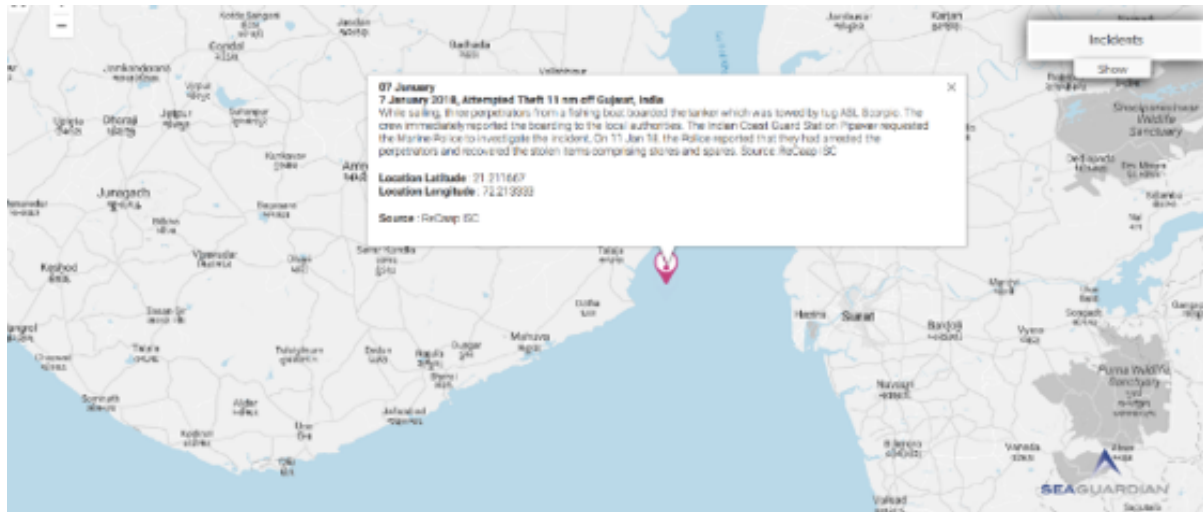
Threat assessment

- There was reported 1 incident in West Africa waters last week, where an attempt for stealing was being made to board a merchant ship but thankfully nothing was stolen and everyone is safe.

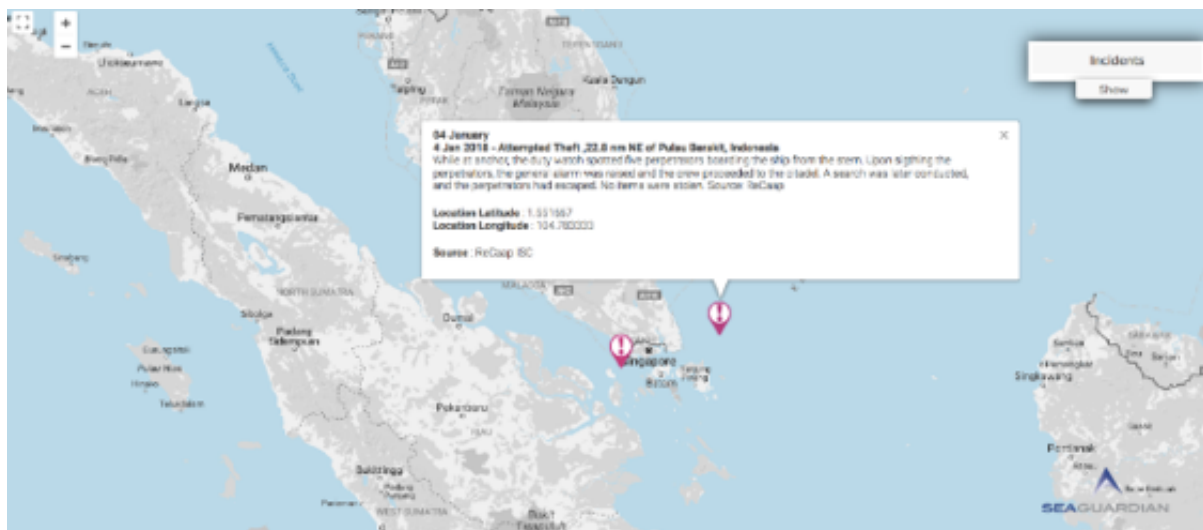
- Taking under consideration the overall trends Gulf of Guinea remains the world’s hotspot for piracy and maritime crime, particularly marine kidnapping for ransom. As long as corruption, degradation of marine environment and poverty of the Niger Delta communities can’t be confined, it is crystal clear that maritime piracy and kidnapping will continue to plague the waters of Gulf of Guinea.

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



- On 7 January 2018, 11nm off Gujarat, India While sailing, three perpetrators from a fishing boat boarded the tanker which was towed by tug ASL Scorpio. The crew immediately reported the boarding to the local authorities. The Indian Coast Guard Station Pipavav requested the Marine Police to investigate the incident. On 11 Jan 18, the Police reported that they had arrested the perpetrators and recovered the stolen items comprising stores and spares.



- On 4 January 2018, 30nm NE of Pulau Berakit, Indonesia While at anchor, the duty watch spotted five perpetrators boarding the ship from the stern. Upon sighting the perpetrators, the general alarm was raised and the crew proceeded to the citadel. A search was later conducted, and the perpetrators had escaped. No items were

Interesting information

- [Malaysia, Japan coast guards hail anti-piracy exercise](#) KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia's maritime agency and Japan's coast guard on Monday hailed a weeklong joint exercise focusing on combating piracy at sea as well as search and rescue operations. The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said in a statement that about 200 of its officials were involved in the exercise
- [Duterte: Indonesian, Malaysian troops can enter PH in pursuit of terrorists](#) DAVAO CITY – President Duterte on Saturday said Indonesian and Malaysian troops can enter the Philippines in pursuit of terrorists. Speaking to reporters upon his arrival from a state visit to India, the President said all Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur should do was to inform the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that they were pursuing terrorists.
- [India, ASEAN to deepen cooperation in combating terrorism](#) NEW DELHI: India and ASEAN countries today decided to deepen cooperation in combating terrorism through information sharing, capacity building and reiterated their commitment to battle the menace by disrupting and countering terror groups. In addition, leaders of the ASEAN and India decided to strengthen cooperation in combating other transnational crimes, including human trafficking, illicit drug trafficking, cybercrime, and piracy

Threat assessment

- There were reported 2 incidents in South East Asia waters last week, on January 7 there was an arrest of the 3 perpetrators whereas on January 4 the crew proceeded to the citadel after the alarm went off. The 4 perpetrators escaped without stealing anything.
- 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.

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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