

### Red Sea - Indian Ocean Incidents



- No incidents were reported in Red Sea/Indian Ocean from April 12 to April 25.

### Interesting information

- [Aftermath of Attack on Bahri's VLCC: What We Know So Far](#) A fully-laden very large crude carrier was shot by a projectile while underway in the southern Red Sea. The oil tanker was targeted by Houthi fighters while the ship was south-west of the port of Al Hudaydah in Yemen, on Tuesday, April 3.

- [Al-Qaeda Raids in Somalia Scuttle Africa's Plan to Withdraw](#) Al-Qaeda Raids in Somalia Scuttle Africa's Plan to Withdraw By Samuel Gebre and Nizar Manek 18 April 2018, 02:00 EEST Updated on 18 April 2018, 18:51 EEST African troops battling an al-Qaeda affiliate in Somalia for the past decade stand little chance of withdrawing by their deadline in two years as

the government remains fragile

- [Ramaphosa approves Op Copper extension](#) President Cyril Ramaphosa has approved the extension of the anti-piracy Operation Copper in the Mozambique Channel for another year.

- [Maritime security collective issue](#) TEHRAN, Apr. 23 (MNA) – Maritime security is a collective and global issue that requires securing wealth chains and nations' interests in the international waters, according to Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi at the 6th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).

## Threat assessment

-No incidents were reported in this area during this time period; nevertheless, ships are recommended to exercise extreme caution while passing these waters.

In the Bab el-Mandeb Strait the UN has quietly increased inspections of vessels due to visit Yemen ports in an attempt to further clamp down on illegal weapon smuggling.

In addition, there are rumours that Russia has signed a deal with Somaliland to build a naval base in the autonomous region.

*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*

# Incidents

**21 Apr**  
**21 Apr 2018 - Piracy attack / Boarding - 40 nm South of BONNY ISLAND, NIGERIA**  
On the 21st April 2018, a Merchant Vessel was boarded in the vicinity of 03°33N 007°02E (approximately 40 nm to the south of BONNY ISLAND, NIGERIA) Update: Twelve seafarers manning the FWN Rapide general cargo vessel were taken by pirates off the coast of Nigeria on April 21, Dutch company ForestWave, managers of the vessel, confirmed. FWN Rapide has meanwhile been moved to a safe position by two of the remaining seafarers, who are reported to be safe and unhurt. "ForestWave would like to stress its main priority is to establish contact with the missing seafarers and secure their earliest and secure return. The company's emergency response team is working around the clock and is liaising with the local and international authorities. ForestWave together with its local organizations are in close contact with the families of the valued seafarers to support them in these difficult times," the company said. FWN Rapide is a 2005-built vessel flying the Dutch flag and was on its way from Takoradi, Ghana to Port Harourt, Nigeria when it came under attack. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has reported a rise in armed attacks against ships in the Western Africa since the beginning of this year. There have been 22 incidents recorded in Nigeria alone, of 66 reported incidents in the first quarter of this year. Of the 11 vessels fired upon worldwide, eight were off Nigeria, including a 300,000 dwt VLCC tanker more than 40 nautical miles off Brass. Source: WorldMaritimeNews.com

Location Latitude : 3.550000  
Location Longitude : 7.033333  
Source : MDAT-GOG

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## Interesting information

- [Angola wants complementary strategies for maritime security](#) The information was provided on Monday in Luanda by Angolan Foreign Minister Manuel Augusto at the official opening of the 1st postgraduate course in Law of the Sea, designed to train Angolan cadres on issues related to the maritime domain, in the economic, legal, political, technological security, among others.

- [Tuna fishing companies halt operations for fear of pirate attacks](#) Fourteen tuna fishing companies have halted their operations in the country's waters for fear of pirate attacks. The development has come about as a result of increased attacks on vessels by pirates in the country's territorial waters since March this year.

- [Nigerians can't afford another 4 years poverty ridden administration, ex militants tell Buhari](#) EX-AGITATORS , under the aegis of National Assembly of Ex-militants, NAE, have frowned at the declaration of interest by President Muhammadu Buhari to run for second term in office, saying Nigerians could not afford another four years of poverty ridden administration.

## Threat assessment

-One incident took place in Nigeria waters last week where 12 seafarers were abducted.

Attacks on shipping off Nigeria and in the wider Gulf of Guinea are continuing with concerning regularity. Data collected by International Maritime Bureau (IMB) showed 29 incidents in the Gulf of Guinea in the first three months of 2018, most of them off Nigeria.

Security had been improving in Nigeria's ports and anchorages and was forcing pirates to operate further out to sea (a bulk carrier that came under attack on April 7 had been over 40 nautical miles (nm) south-southeast of the Nigerian port of Brass).

The latest incident, however, shows vessels in inshore waters remain at

The latest incident, however, shows vessels in inshore waters remain at risk. All waters in and off Nigeria and the wider Gulf of Guinea should be seen as dangerous.

Vessels are advised to keep strict watches, especially at night. They should minimise time spent in anchorages and avoid slow steaming. They are also advised to take 'hardening' measures and to carefully monitor the approach of unknown skiffs.

Sea Guardian continues to urge high levels of vigilance for all vessels operating GoG waters should adopt strict BMP4 implementation measures, follow MDAT-GoG guidelines and report any suspicious activity.

## South East Asia Incidents



- No incidents were reported in South East Asia during this time period.

## Interesting information

-[Philippines intensifies operations to rescue sailors; Asia piracy ebbs – ReCAAP](#) Singapore (Platts)–13 Apr 2018 409 am EDT/809 GMT The Philippine authorities have intensified its military operations to rescue

abducted crew from previous piracy attacks and neutralize the Abu Sayyaf group while the overall such incidents across Asia are on a decline, an anti-piracy watchdog said Friday.

- [We're watching anytime, anywhere, everytime: Indian Navy's cheeky message to China](#) Around 50 Indian Navy vessels are currently deployed in sea lanes, including in areas of India's maritime interest and in anti-piracy operations. New Delhi: In a cheeky warning to China, the Navy taking to its official Twitter handle said that India was watching the Indian Ocean region and was keeping a 24x7 vigil in the area.

- [China praises Pakistan Navy's efforts for maritime security](#) RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Navy Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi met his Chinese counterpart Shen Jinlong and Deputy Administrator of State Administration for Science, Technology & Industry (SASTIND) Xu Zhanbin in Beijing on Tuesday.

- [China's Belt And Road Initiative: Ambition And Opportunity – Analysis](#) For centuries, the Silk Road's web of trading routes connected major civilizations in East Asia with the Middle East and the European continent.

- [A First: Indonesia-Singapore Naval Exercise Features Maritime Counterterrorism Component](#) The incorporation of a maritime counterterrorism serial is testament to the growing emphasis on the area both bilaterally and regionally.

## **Threat assessment**

-No incidents were reported in this area during this time period; nevertheless, ships are recommended to exercise extreme caution while passing these waters.

Southeast Asia has seen some sabre-rattling this week, as China's PLA Navy hold a live fire drill near Taiwan.

In the Sulu-Celebes region, plagued by the threat of Abu Sayyaf terrorists, Malaysia has called for an expansion of the INDOMALPHI trilateral patrols.

*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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