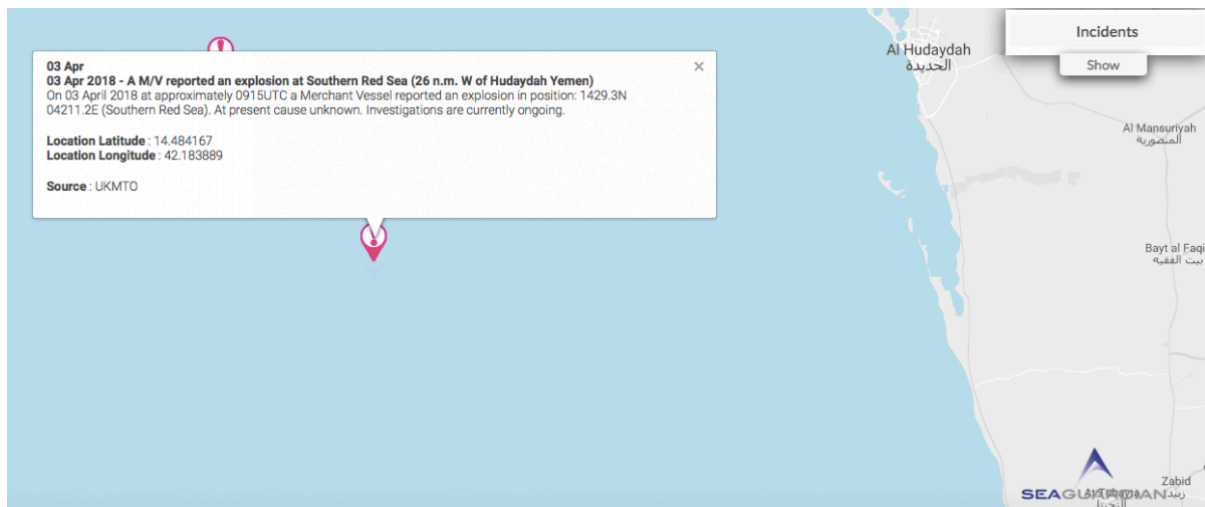


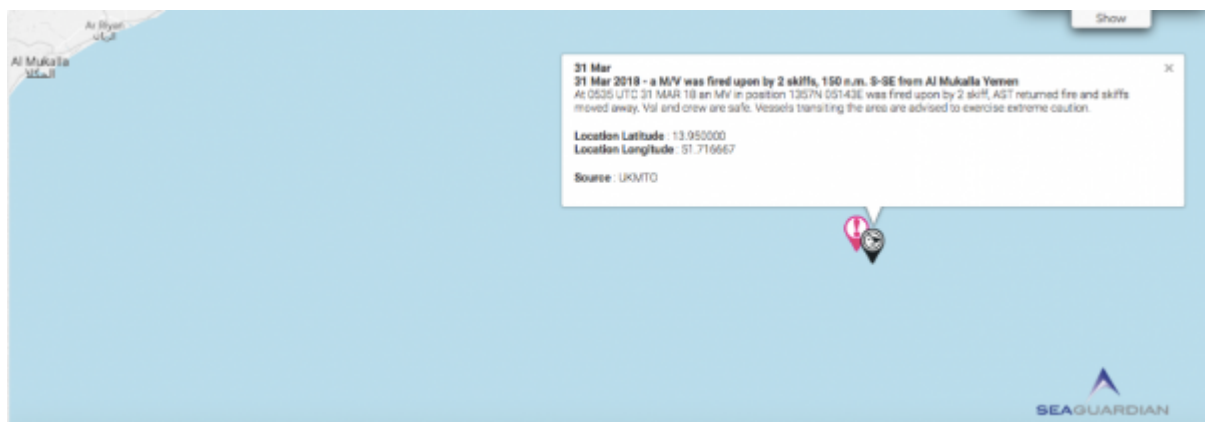
## Weekly Advisory / Situation Report

### 31 Mar - 11 Apr 2018

## Red Sea - Indian Ocean Incidents



- On April 03, at approximately 0915UTC a Merchant Vessel reported an explosion in position: 1429.3N 04211.2E (Southern Red Sea). The damage to the tanker was minimal due to the quick response from coalition warships.



- On March 31, at 0535 UTC 31 MAR 18 an MV in position 1357N 05143E was fired upon by 2 skiff, AST returned fire and skiffs moved away. Vsl and crew are safe. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution.

## Interesting information

- [Pirates Fire Upon Tanker in Gulf of Aden](#) A tanker was chased by armed pirates while underway in the Gulf of Aden on March 31. As the pirates closed in on the vessel in two skiffs, they started shooting causing minor damage to the ship, IMB Piracy Reporting Centre informed. The pirates were apparently planning to board the vessel as ladders were sighted in the skiffs
- [UK opens permanent military base in Bahrain to strengthen Middle East presence](#) Britain is a major player on the world stage and this new Naval Support Facility will help us tackle the growing threats to our nation' Britain has opened a permanent military base in Bahrain in an attempt to boost its role as a "major player" in the Middle East.
- [Australian family on dream sailing trip are almost attacked by stalking fleet of PIRATES off the coast of Yemen – only for Japanese and Pakistani warships to come to their rescue](#) The family are on a round the world sailing trip when they were threatened The pirates spent hours stalking the family and sizing up their prey Thankfully Japanese and Pakistani war ships were nearby and heard radio calls A helicopter and plane were sent to guide the family toward the warships

## Threat assessment

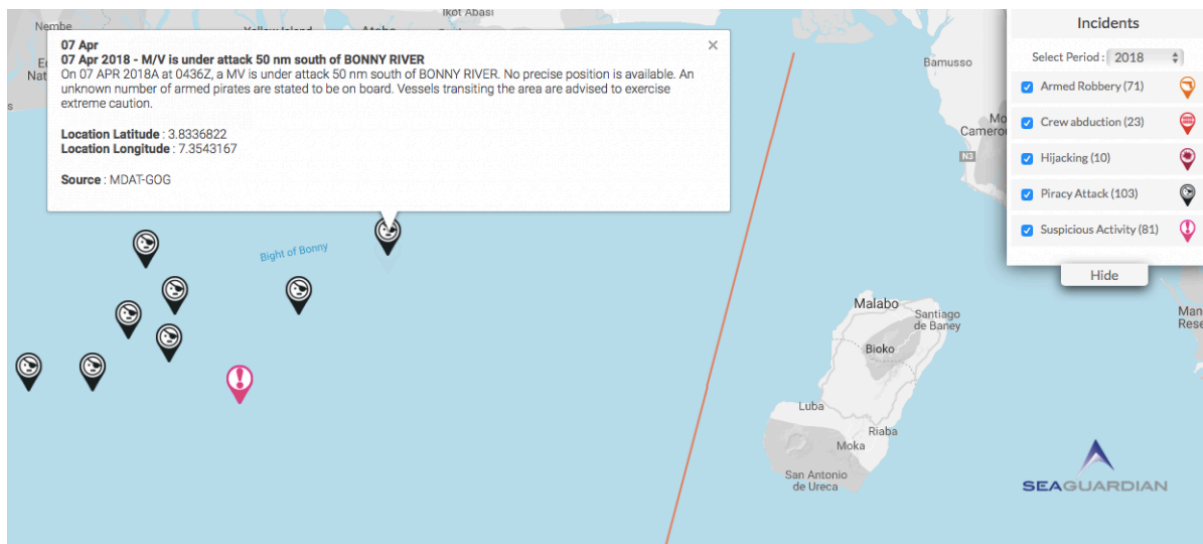
There were reported 2 incidents in Red Sea last week. More precisely on March 31, shots were fired upon skiffs from AST onboard an MV close to point B IRTC, in order to move them away something that was finally succeeded.

On the other incident Houthi rebels was behind the attack against a KSA tanker, which took place on 3rd of April at Bab el-Mandeb Strait. While the damage to the tanker was minimal due to the quick response from coalition warships, the fact remains that a merchant ship has been attacked, regardless it was KSA flagged, and that has ramifications for shipping as a

regardless it was not flagged, and that has ramifications for shipping as a whole.

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 07 APR 2018 at 0715Z, a MV is under attack at the following position 0337N 00707E (50 nm south of BONNY RIVER). Four armed pirates are on board. The crew mustered in citadel, nobody is reported injured. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution.

## Interesting information

- [NIMASA to save nine-man crew held on Lagos water](#) The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) is to investigate why the remaining nine crew members on board of two vessels held on Lagos water by the Nigerian Navy have not been released. NIMASA, it was

gathered, is working towards their release to assure national and international seafarers that the country is not above international law.

- [IMO participated in maritime security exercise focused on Gulf of Guinea maritime security](#). IMO says it participated in an annual maritime security exercise aimed at improving interoperability and cooperation among the maritime forces of Gulf of Guinea nations, Europe, and North and South America. The 2018 Obangame Express exercise (21-29 March) put special emphasis on encouraging navies and civilian agencies and different countries to work together

- [Pirate Attacks To Spark Fresh War Surcharge In Nigeria](#) Pirate Attacks To Spark Fresh War Surcharge In Nigeria Published on April 6, 2018 By YUSUF BABALOLA Unabated pirate attacks on Nigeria-bound vessels has underscore continued maritime security failings in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG), LEADERSHIP has learnt. The attacks continued unabated despite several initiatives by the Nigerian Navy to tackle piracy in recent years.

- [South Korea deploys anti-piracy warship after hijack of fishing boat off Ghana](#) South Korea has deployed a warship to the sea off Ghana after three South Korean sailors were kidnapped by pirates who have now been identified as Nigerians. The 500t Marine 711 with about 40 Ghanaian and three South Korean sailors was boarded by the Nigerian pirates on 26 March.

- [Pirate Attacks Worsen in Gulf of Guinea – IMB](#) A surge in armed attacks against ships around West Africa is pushing up global levels of piracy and armed robbery at sea, warns the International Chamber of Commerce's International Maritime Bureau (IMB). IMB's Piracy Reporting Center recorded 66 incidents in the first quarter of 2018, up from 43 for the same period in 2017, and 37 in Q1 2016.

## **Threat assessment**

- One incident took place in West Africa waters on April 7 where four armed pirates boarded the ship. The crew ended up in citadel. In the end, nobody was injured and the vessel headed back to port.

- In accordance with the last IMB quarterly report the Gulf of Guinea accounts for about 30 incidents in 2018 Q1, which is more than 40% of the global incidents in total. In West Africa, the situation remains rather perilous for seafarers and the oil and gas industry. A series of incidents off Ghana has seen South Korean crew kidnapped, leading to the country sending its own naval vessel there to assist in the search. The Nigerian Navy is to receive another batch of patrol boats.

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

- [Does ASEAN support US military presence in South China Sea?](#) On March 23, the US Navy destroyer Mustin made a non-innocent passage within 12 nautical miles of China's artificially built up and occupied Mischief Reef.

China saw this as yet another “serious political and military provocation”. This latest Freedom of Navigation Operation (FONOP) came amidst a downturn in US –China relations—particularly regarding the South China Sea (SCS)

- [Maritime security down south](#) Philippine Navy personnel lead a simulated inter-agency capability demonstration drill in the waters off Oslob, Cebu yesterday. Personnel from the Philippine Coast Guard, Central Visayas police, Bureau of Fire Protection and Oslob Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office likewise took part in the maritime exercises that highlighted their rescue, response and anti-terrorism capabilities.

## 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.

- Finally, it worths mentioning that the Philippines have just received a new MPA to suppress maritime crime and IUU fishing in their waters.

*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.*

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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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