

Weekly Advisory / Situation Report 26 April- 9 May 2018

Red Sea - Indian Ocean Incidents



- No incidents were reported in Red Sea/Indian Ocean from April 26 to May 9.

Interesting information

- [An Emirati fishing boat was fired on by "pirates"](#) this week, as the vessel travelled through the usually serene waters of the Gulf of Oman. An Emirati fisherman said that a group of unidentified men shot at his vessel, just 90km off the coast of Fujairah emirate, in northern UAE.

- [At a recent port visit to the Seychelles](#), ITS Margottini's crew and embarked Force Headquarters Staff have built on the strong relationship between EU NAVFOR and the Seychelles authorities. The Seychelles provide important support to the success of the EU NAVFOR counter-piracy operation off the coast of Somalia since 2008.

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- [The Socotra Island](#) issue now joins a much larger strategic battle between Qatar and the UAE and between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Amid the Yemen civil war it appears that the UAE's presence will aid security in the Gulf of Aden and off the Horn of Africa. It also illustrates how the UAE is combining soft power of investment and aid to further its objectives.

- [A Portuguese family stranded off the Somali](#) coast was rescued in an open sea-aid operation by the Pakistan Navy (PN). The rescue effort was carried out by PNS Alamgir, 180 miles off the coast of the east African nation. The stranded family was provided with drinking water, rations, and fuel.

- [Pakistan Navy ship ALAMGIR](#) while conducting maritime security operations in the Gulf of Aden undertook successful rescue operation of a stranded Indian fishing dhow. The boat, ST MARYS, which sailed from the Indian port of Colochel with 12 crew men on board, was reported to become non -operational due to loss of engine propulsion in open sea near Salalah (Oman) for last eight days.

- [Indian Navy commanders discussed the country's maritime security](#) and review the naval force's mission-based deployments in the Indian Ocean Region, amid increasing Chinese activities in the strategic waters.

- [Yemeni government troops seized control of Al Bareh town](#) and neighbouring mountains west of the city of Taiz after heavy clashes with the Iran-backed Al Houthis, Yemen's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday night. Shortly after announcing the town's Al Bareh, Saleh's forces issued a statement saying they would pause advances in Al Bareh and head northward towards the port city of Hodeida where they would wait to receive orders to advance from their commanders.

Threat assessment

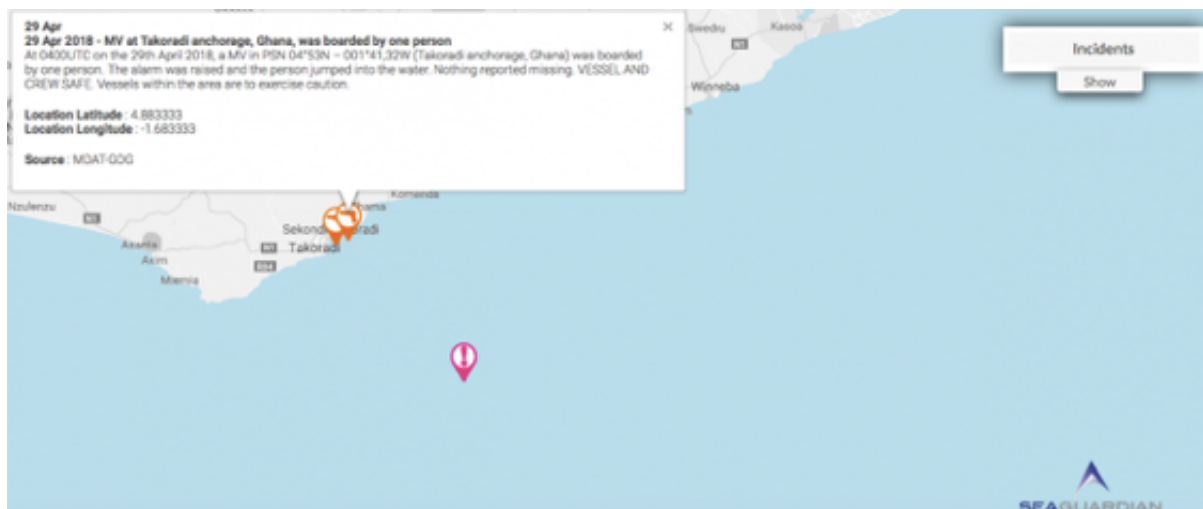
-No incidents were reported in this area during this time period; nevertheless, ships are recommended to exercise extreme caution while passing these waters.

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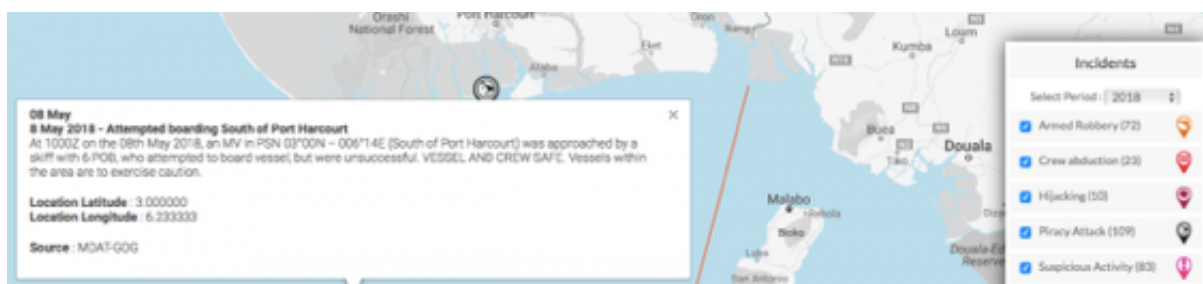
confirmed. On another interesting development last Week, Yemeni forces successfully seized cities near the suburbs of Hodeida and heading northward towards the port city of Hodeida.

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

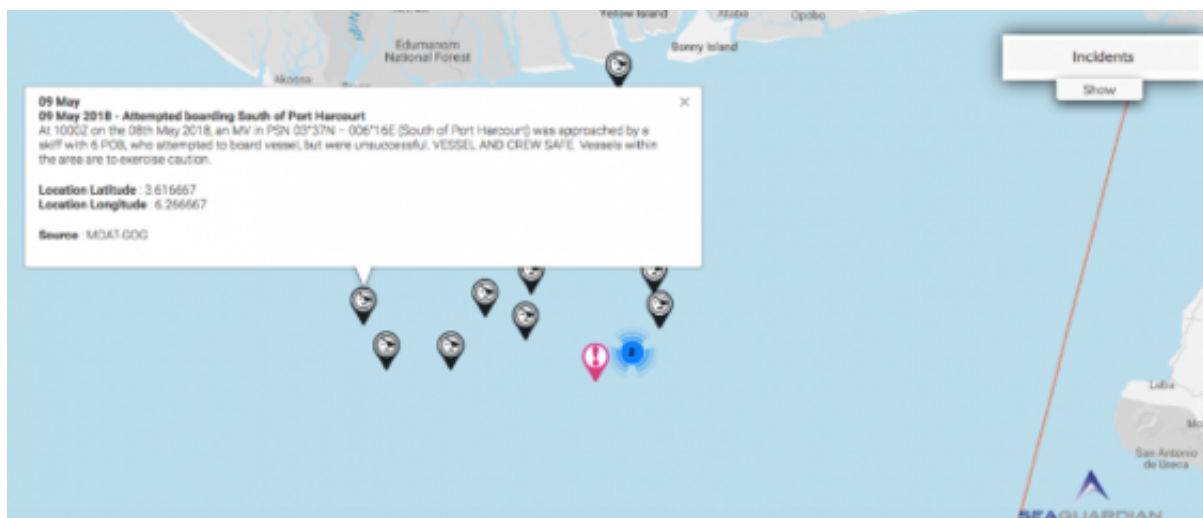


- At 0400UTC on the 29th April 2018, a MV in PSN 04°53N – 001°41,32W (Takoradi anchorage, Ghana) was boarded by one person. The alarm was raised and the person jumped into the water. Nothing reported missing. VESSEL AND CREW SAFE. Vessels within the area are to exercise caution.





- At 1000Z on the 08th May 2018, an MV in PSN 03°00N – 006°14E (South of Port Harcourt) was approached by a skiff with 6 POB, who attempted to board vessel, but were unsuccessful. VESSEL AND CREW SAFE.
Vessels within the area are to exercise caution.



- At 1000Z on the 08th May 2018, an MV in PSN 03°37N – 006°16E (South of Port Harcourt) was approached by a skiff with 6 POB, who attempted to board vessel, but were unsuccessful.

VESSEL AND CREW SAFE.

Vessels within the area are to exercise caution.

Interesting information

- [There have been recorded a total of 13 hijackings in the Gulf of Guinea](#) in the first quarter of 2018, seven of which occurred outside the Nigerian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Between 2015 – 2017, there have been recorded 93 hijackings in the Gulf of Guinea and only five of these incidents occurred outside of the Nigerian EEZ. As such, the high number of hijackings that occurred outside the Nigerian EEZ in Q1 2018 alone is historically significant and merits further attention.

- [Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria \(MWUN\) applauded the Minister of Transportation for boosting the Nigerian economy through security on the waterways](#). It is said that the present administration has done well in certain sectors like transportation, noting that the security on the waterways was commendable.

- [After spending 34 days in captivity in the hands of pirates, three Korean sailors](#) who were kidnapped on March 26, this year while fishing in Ghanaian waters near Keta in the Volta Region have been released. The three sailors were onboard Marine 711 when they were kidnapped and taken to the Bayelsa State in Nigeria.

- [Organised crime in the Niger Delta](#). Community leaders and political actors need the awareness, ability, and will to reject cooption by criminal elements no matter how tantalizing it may appear in the short term to monopolize the use of violence for political and monetary gains. Only by taking a proactive and holistic approach to the problem of organized crime and violence entrepreneurs in the Niger Delta can a repeat of the violence of 2015 be avoided in 2019.

Threat assessment

-Three incident took place in Nigeria and Ghana waters last week. The most significant of these incidents took place, where else, off shore Port Harcourt, which still remains a high risk area. On another interesting issue 3 Korean sailors, who were onboard Marine 711 when they were kidnapped and taken to the Bayelsa State in Nigeria, were released last week almost a month in captivity.

There have been recorded a total oh 13 hijackings in the Gulg of Guinea in the first quarter of 2018, and is remarkable to stress that seven of these incidents occurred outside the Nigerian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It seems that Nigerians are expanding their area of operation.

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



- Category: Planned Abduction of Crew 2. Description: The ReCAAP-ISC received information from Philippine Focal Point about the planned kidnapping by the members of Abu Sayyaf. The group will be using a blue 3-Engine Speedboat and expected to be underway to SABAH within the next 24hours. All Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution when transiting in the waters in Lahad Datu and surrounding waters in Sabah. 3. Source: Philippine Focal Point 4. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the area. 5. Any verified information on this incident is appreciated.

Interesting information

-[Pirates with black magic' attack shipping in Indonesian waters.](#) The joint war committee, with representatives from underwriting companies, still classes Tanjung Priok, Indonesia's busiest port, as a "war-risk zone" due to "war,

piracy, terrorism and related perils” in general, but without specific explanations. But the reality of pirates in Indonesia is not a made-in-Indonesia Jolly Roger that would take sea transport hostage. Indonesian-style piracy is closer to sea-thieves than Hollywood-style pirates. Piracy is carried out on the high seas, while these armed robberies occur in territorial waters.

- [ReCAAP ISC and RSIS Hold Piracy Roundtable.](#)

The Maritime Roundtable acknowledged that whether or not a “Single Reporting Centre” was feasible, the welfare of seafarers and safety of sea lanes are important, and that piracy must be effectively addressed. The Maritime Roundtable also affirmed the importance of continuing to build the capacity of Coastal States to combat maritime crimes, as well as ways to continue to enhance the cooperation between the regional authorities and the shipping industry.

Threat assessment

-No incidents were reported in this area during this time period; nevertheless, ReCAAP-ISC received information from Philippine Focal Point about the planned kidnapping by the members of Abu Sayyaf.

On another interesting issue, RECAAP last piracy roundtable facilitated a frank and open discussion on a ‘single reporting centre,’ which is an issue of keen interest to the shipping community.

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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