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Weekly Advisory / Situation Report

25 May - 07 June 2018

Red Sea - Indian Ocean

Incidents

03 June
03 June 2018 - M/V in position 5nm West of Jazair Az Zubayr Island, was attacked by a skiff with 6 POB
 At 1512UTC on 03 June 2018 an MV in position: 14 57.1N 042 05.8E (approx. 5NM West of Jazair Az Zubayr Island) was attacked by a skiff with 6 POB. The skiff fired upon the vessel and AST returned fire before the skiff retreated. Vessel is SAFE.

Location Latitude : 14.950278
 Location Longitude : 42.085556
 Source : LKMTD

- At 1512UTC on 03 June 2018 an MV in position: 14 57.1N 042 05.8E (approx. 5NM West of Jazair Az Zubayr Island) was attacked by a skiff with 6 POB. The skiff fired upon the vessel and AST returned fire before the skiff retreated. Vessel is SAFE.

30 May
30 May 2018 - M/V reported an approached by up to 6 skiffs south of Mogadishu
 At 1205UTC 30 MAY 18, a MV reported an approached by up to 6 skiffs in position 01-38.47N 044-41.67E. (just south of Mogadishu). Vessel and crew are safe. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution.

Location Latitude : 1.633333
 Location Longitude : 44.683333
 Source : LKMTD

- At 1205UTC 30 MAY 18, a MV reported an approached by up to 6 skiffs in position 01-38.47N 044-41.67E. (just south of Mogadishu). Vessel and crew are safe. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution.

Interesting information

- [Saudi-led coalition closes in on Yemen port city Hodeidah](#) RIYADH/ADEN (REUTERS) – Forces backed by a Saudi- led coalition are closing in on Yemen’s Houthi-held port city Hodeidah, a coalition spokesman said, but did not specify whether there were plans for an assault to seize the western port, long a key target in the war.

Threat assessment

There were reported **two incidents** in Red Sea/Indian Ocean last week where fires were exchanged.

Waters off Yemen’s Red Sea and Gulf of Aden are considered a High Risk Area (HRA). Yemen’s civil war has now entered its fourth year and the resulting instability has threatened the region’s maritime security. The nearest mainland port to Jazair Az Zubayr Island is Hodeidah. The port is currently in the hands of Houthi rebels but a Saudi-led coalition force was reported last month to be closing in on the city. In January 2018, Houthi forces had threatened to block traffic in the Red Sea if the Saudi-led coalition advanced on Hodeidah. It is not clear if the reported attack on a merchant vessel on June 3 had any direct link to the Yemen conflict.

Staying in the IOR, AMISOM are looking at new logistical routes to supply their forces in Somalia, including sea routes. It seems ambushes and poor transport links are impacting operations in the country and making it harder to combat Al Shabaab fighters

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 2335UTC on 25 May 2018, in position 0618N 00320.2E (approximately 7NM south of Lagos, Nigeria) An attempt was made to board an MV. Alarm was sounded. The 2 POB jumped off the vessel into a Skiff. Vessel and crew are safe

Interesting information

- [Piracy Sustains High Shipping Costs On Nigerian Waters](#) Incessant pirate attacks and kidnappings are taking an alarming toll on shipping in Nigeria's territorial waters and the Gulf of Guinea. This year alone, freight costs have reportedly risen six times, amid fears insurance could also be hit

- [Alleged N2.6bn Fraud: Appeal Court Frees Akpobolokemi](#) A former Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Patrick Akpobolokemi, who was charged with an alleged fraud of N2.6bn, has been set free by the Court of Appeal sitting in Lagos.

- [Piracy off West Africa remains high](#) Piracy remains at elevated levels in West African waters, with 97 incidents recorded in 2017, including an increase in successful kidnappings compared to the previous year. This is according to Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) which in its The State of

Maritime Piracy 2017 report said that there were more successful kidnappings in 2017 than in 2016

Threat assessment

There was reported **One incident** in West Africa last week where an attempt was made to board a merchant vessel.

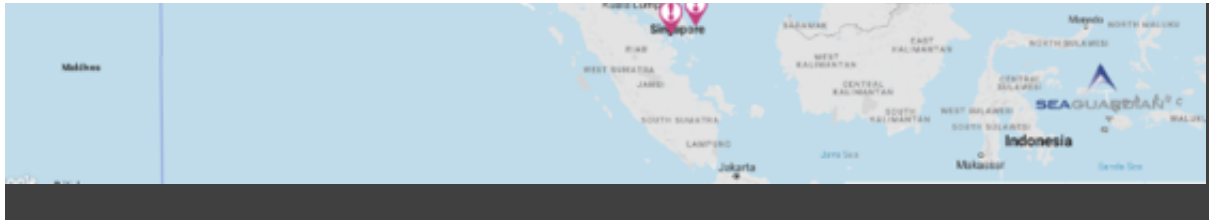
In the Gulf of Guinea, Nigeria has cancelled the \$195 million maritime security contract with Israeli firm, HSLI, citing allegations of fraud and corruption. The deal had been widely criticised in the Nigerian parliament and it's hoped that these sweeping 'cure all' deals will become a thing of the past and the country will improve its own capacity instead.

In the meantime, the Nigerian Navy is marking its birthday by conducting a number of anti-piracy drills in the region.

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





Interesting Information

[-Philippines, South Korea ties reaching 'new maturity,' Duterte says](#) MANILA, Philippines — The relationship between the Philippines and South Korea is reaching a “new maturity,” President Rodrigo Duterte said, as he cited the gains of what he described as a “meaningful and productive” three-day official visit to Seoul. Duterte said the Philippines is writing “a new chapter of cooperation” in its shared history with South Korea

Threat assessment

No incidents were reported in Southeast Asia last week.

In Southeast Asia, the curfew in the waters around Sabah has been extended once again, illustrating the fact that the threat from Abu Sayyaf Group terrorists remains, despite efforts to suppress the group. Thieves regularly target ships in Indonesian ports and anchorages. They board ships either alone or in gangs and generally operate at night. They are often armed with knives. It is rare for crew members to be assaulted and in most cases intruders flee when confronted. Ships are advised to use patrolled anchorages whenever possible and to maintain heightened vigilance both while underway and at anchor or at berth

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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