



Friday, June 5, 2026

THREAT / RISK SECURITY & SAFETY WEEKLY BULLETIN (brief assessment)

Brief Update: No 09-2/2026

Date: June 05, 2026

Reference: SEA GUARDIAN Monthly Threat & Risk Assessment No 09-1/2026 30th April to 29th May, 2026

INSIDE

➤ This week, regional developments show increasing pressure on key chokepoints and ongoing conflicts from the Black Sea to the Horn of Africa. Humanitarian conditions in Yemen are getting worse, too. Fragmented state control and organized crime keep causing local problems. Yet, new ports and rail projects aim to create alternative trade routes and lessen dependence on contentious sea lanes.

News finds this week (top three most important)

- Iran's escalation around Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb
- RSF's move to build a parallel army and institutions in Sudan
- Deepening conflict-driven humanitarian collapse in Yemen

Corporate conclusions

➤ Rising regional risk looms large as Iran amps up activities near crucial chokepoints. Plus, Sudan slides towards more division, and Yemen's suffering gets worse, adding one more factor for a possible escalation of criminality in the area. All this heightens volatility and could disrupt major shipping lanes in the Middle East and Red Sea.

The observer

➤ Next week: tensions around the straits of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb are likely to remain high, Sudan and Yemen continue to be unstable with no clear de-escalation, and alternative trade routes will progress slowly without changing near-term maritime chokepoint risk.



New finds this week

ARCTIC CYCLE / BALTIC SEA

{ Chart 1 }



➤ [On May 29, it was published by FORBES](#) an article argues that Iran's control of the Strait of Hormuz could set a precedent for Russia to strengthen its claims over the Arctic Northern Sea Route. It warns that Russian and Chinese efforts to control key shipping lanes could threaten freedom of navigation, global trade, and international maritime norms, urging the U.S. and its allies to oppose such claims. -->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL

➤ [On June 5, the Trump administration is proceeding](#) with a new oil and gas lease sale in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Supporters say drilling could boost oil production, jobs, and revenue, while environmental groups and some indigenous communities oppose it due to climate and wildlife concerns. Although past lease sales saw limited interest, the area is believed to contain significant oil reserves. --->INFO SECTOR: ECONOMIC AND RESOURCES PERFORMANCE / RESTRAINS

SOUTH AMERICA – NW AFRICA / LIBYA

{ Chart 2 }



- [On May 31, the U.S. military said it struck](#) a suspected drug-trafficking vessel in the eastern Pacific, killing three men as part of its campaign against alleged narco-terrorists. Critics questioned the legality of the strike due to a lack of publicly disclosed evidence. ---> INFO SECTOR: PIRACY / ORGANIZED CRIME / BOARDING CONDITIONS
- [On June 4, Tajudeen Olanrewaju former minister of the Nigerian government](#) said that the rising of kidnappings and violence in southwestern Nigeria are driven by profit-motivated criminal groups and called for them to be treated as terrorists rather than bandits. ---> INFO SECTOR: ORGANIZED CRIME / TERRORISM
- [On June 4, Libya and China](#) discussed expanding cooperation in transport and investment, including attracting Chinese investments and restoring direct flights to strengthen trade ties. ---> INFO SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND RESOURCES
- [On June 5, it was announced that India is increasing imports of Venezuelan](#) oil, encouraging its companies to invest in Venezuela's energy sector. Both countries aim to build a long-term partnership, with Venezuela seeking investments and India diversifying supply amid Middle East instability. The cooperation depends on evolving U.S. sanctions and Venezuela's operational reliability. --->INFO SECTOR: ECONOMIC AND RESOURCES PERFORMANCE / RESTRAINS

BLACK SEA – EAST MEDITERRANEAN

{ Chart 3 }



- [On June 1, Romania's Defense Ministry](#) confirmed that the drone crashed into a residential building in Galați was a Russian-made Geran-2. Romanian officials said they would respond seriously to any threat to national security or sovereignty. ---> INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM
- [On June 3, Kurdish security forces \(Asayish\)](#) launched a security operation in al-Hasakah Syria, establishing checkpoints and enforcing a motorcycle ban to curb rising crime and security threats. ---> INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM
- [On June 4, Lebanese army forces entered](#) the southern town of Dibbine after Israeli troops withdrew, under renewed ceasefire arrangements aimed at expanding Lebanese army control in the area. ---> INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM

RED SEA – GULF OF ADEN

{ Chart 4 }



- [On June 2, it was stated that the Red Sea region further emerged](#) as a geopolitical hotspot while tensions around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait intensified. Reports of Israel's cooperation with Somaliland suggest moves to secure influence near this chokepoint amid Houthi attacks, embedding the area in a wider conflict zone and raising concerns over escalating rivalries. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL

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➤ [On June 3, the Sudanese RSF leader Mohamed Dagalo](#) announced a Defense and Security Council to form a new army from the RSF and allied rebels. This deepens the split with Sudan's Armed Forces under Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and increases the risk of Sudan's permanent fragmentation.--->INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM



➤ [On June 3, Iran reportedly suspended communication](#) with the US and raised tensions around key maritime routes, lifting oil prices on fears of disruption in the Strait of Hormuz and Bab el-Mandeb. Any disruption at these chokepoints could sharply raise shipping and freight costs and is already pressuring metal prices, such as aluminum. --->INFO SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND RESOURCES



➤ [On June 3, it was published that Yemen is expected to face](#) worsening food insecurity, with up to 1.5 million people in emergency hunger the period June–September 2026 and 1.8 million by the year-end. War, economic decline, aid cuts, and rising food prices are deepening malnutrition, especially among women and children, and agencies warn that without urgent funding the crisis will sharply deteriorate. --->INFO SECTOR: ECONOMIC AND RESOURCES PERFORMANCE / RESTRAINS

PERSIAN GULF – ARABIC SEA

{ Chart 5 }



➤ On May 31, an article was published [arguing that the Trump administration](#) has given inconsistent and changing explanations of its goals in the Iran war, including reducing Iran's missile capabilities, weakening proxy groups, and preventing nuclear weapons development. Because these objectives have shifted over time, it is unclear how success will be measured or whether the war is actually close to ending. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL



➤ [On June 1, 2026 Qatar's ports posted strong May 2026 growth](#), with container traffic up 44% month-on-month to over 73,000 TEUs. Rising cargo volumes, livestock imports, and ship calls signal stronger trade activity and reinforce Qatar's role as a regional logistics hub for trade, food security, and diversification. --->INFO SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND RESOURCES



➤ [On June 3, Abdolkarim Hashemi Nakhle Ebrahimi](#) said maritime restrictions have affected Iran's shipping and port activity but have not significantly disrupted trade. Iranian ports remain operational, trade with neighbours continues, and exchanges with the UAE persist indirectly despite sanctions and regional pressures. --->INFO SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND RESOURCES



➤ [On June 4, Turkey announced plans to extend](#) the historic Hejaz railway toward Oman to create an alternative trade route bypassing the Strait of Hormuz. The line would run via Syria and Jordan with later links to Saudi Arabia and Oman, forming part of wider regional rail–road plans such as Iraq's Development Road to boost Asia–Middle East–Europe connectivity. --->INFO SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND RESOURCES

EAST ASIA – MALACCA STRAIT / TAIWAN

{ Chart 6 }



➤ On May 31, Japan's Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi rejected China's claims that Japan is returning to militarism, arguing that China's rapid military buildup and lack of transparency are the real concern. Speaking at the Shangri-La Dialogue, he defended higher defence spending as necessary for national security and regional stability, insisting Japan's buildup remains focused on self-defence and peace. --->INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM

➤ [On June 4, China's pressure on Japan is aimed not only at Tokyo but also at testing the U.S.-Japan alliance.](#) Tensions have risen over Taiwan - Japan's military expansion, and Chinese accusations of renewed militarism. Beijing hopes to influence Washington's approach to Japan, but the strategy could backfire by encouraging Tokyo to further strengthen its defenses. With military incidents increasing and communication channels strained, the risk of miscalculation remains high. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL

SEA GUARDIAN overall conclusions

➤ **Politically**, major powers are fighting for control of crucial sea lanes, creating long-term tension over key chokepoints. Economically, conflict in Yemen is causing a total breakdown, sending the country into extreme food insecurity. Plus, Yemenis now rely heavily on external aid.

➤ **Insecurity** continues as state fragmentation and local armed groups create ongoing safety issues near vital routes. Also, piracy and what some call "narco-terrorism" stay strong, using more aggressive tactics. Responses to this have sparked legal disputes.

➤ **Strategically**, important routes face significant pressure as they adapt quickly. New hubs and pathways pop up to dodge troubled areas. Yet navigation is getting riskier due to drone and military operations close to coastlines and ports, which might lead to accidents and collateral damage. Weaponization of shipping is a fact that Sea Powers have to cope with.

SEA GUARDIAN major observations

➤ **Key chokepoints** like Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb, including the Arctic face mounting geopolitical tensions.

➤ **Conflicts** stretching from the Black Sea to the Horn of Africa are causing instability along key shipping routes.

➤ **Yemen** struggles with worsening food insecurity and relies more on aid.

➤ In countries like **Sudan, Syria, and Lebanon**, weak government control increases local security risks.

➤ **Organized crime and "narco-terrorist"** groups stay busy, although there's a robust yet sometimes challenged pushback against them.



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- **To top it off**, countries are beefing up port and rail connections to create workarounds.
- All this means **keeping an eye on chokepoints** and promoting alternate routes is crucial for maintaining freedom of navigation. International trade is like river water. If you install a barrier the river will open another passage to continue flowing.

