

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

July 31 to August 06

Brief Update: No 11-1/2026

Date: August 07, 2026

In references to:

- [THREAT / RISK SECURITY & SAFETY ASSESSMENT MONTHLY REPORT 11/2026, July 30.2026](#)

INSIDE

- Risks associated with political, military, trading, and maritime matters continue to be high in various connected theaters, where weak diplomacy, the presence of navies, and disruption caused by sanctions define the environment. In addition, organized crime, onshore instability, and exposure to infrastructure define additional challenges to ports, refineries, and shipping lanes, together with cyber vulnerabilities of critical maritime and energy infrastructure.

News finds this week (top three most important)

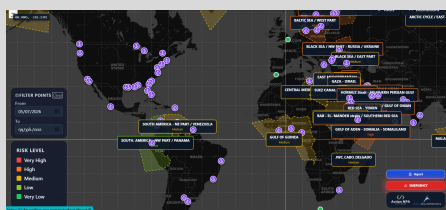
- **There is an increase in military and shadow fleet** activity, whereby Russia's repositioning of naval units and protection of merchant vessels could lead to miscalculation and instability.
- **International energy logistics** is also facing challenges arising from LNG expansion, control and restrictions on exports, and evasion of sanctions, which could affect routing and pricing.
- There is an increase in **crime and conflict situation** in western Libya affecting security and exposing ports, refineries, and adjacent shipping to risks.

Corporate conclusions

- Overall, the latest developments point to a firmer risk environment, with military, trade, and local security pressures remaining elevated across key maritime and energy corridors.

The observer

- **View of the risk environment for the coming week:** the risk will stay heightened, with the highest relating to the Russian LNG/shadow fleet operations, western sanctions, and instability in Western Libya. While there are potential threats to maritime and energy flows, the risk in the coming days appears to be more related to pressure and periodic incidents rather than escalation.
- **To sum up, attention should be paid to three trends:** any expansion or clampdown on the shadow fleet, changes in navigation risks in Hormuz, and new clashes in the area of Zawiya/Surman, which might impact refinery and coastal shipping operations. If needed, SEA GUARDIAN Intel Department could make it shorter by providing a bullet point or, if required in several paragraphs.



MARITIME SECURITY & NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY INCIDENTS

SOURCE / I.D	DATE	TYPE	SECURITY/SAFETY AREA
SG R&I REPORT 031-26 (MV YANINA)	July 31, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK /	BLACK SEA / NW PART
UKMTO WARNING 101-26 / MSCIO ALERT 83-26 (MT GasLog Shanghai)	July 31, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK	HORMUZ STRAIT / Coordinates 26.175000, 56.618889
UKMTO WARNING 102-26 / MSCIO ALERT 84-26	July 31, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK	HORMUZ STRAIT / Coordinates 26.350556, 56.611389
UKMTO WARNING 103-26 / MSCIO ALERT 85-26	August 02, 2026	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	HORMUZ STRAIT / Coordinates 26.442778, 56.523611
SG R&I REPORT 041-26 (MT MV NADEZHDA)	August 03, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK / Life losses	BLACK SEA / Coordinates: 44.305889, 37.572615
UKMTO WARNING 104-26 (MV MINOAN PIONEER)	August 03, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK	HORMUZ STRAIT / Coordinates 26.390481, 56.325055
UKMTO WARNING 105-26 (MSV Faize Noore Oliya)	August 04, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK	RED SEA / YEMEN / Coordinates: 13.171944, 43.140000
SG R&I REPORT 043-26	August 04, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK	BLACK SEA / Odessa / Coordinates 46.248438, 30.769335
SG R&I REPORT 044-26	August 05, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK	BLACK SEA / Odessa / Coordinates 46.204100, 30.746029
UKMTO WARNING 106-26	August 05, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK	GULF OF ADEN / Coordinates: 11.508056, 45.988889
UKMTO WARNING 107-26	August 05, 2026	MILITARY ATTACK	HORMUZ STRAIT / Coordinates 26.290833, 56.592778

Week's new findings

Global issues (Geo-Policy/Strategy/Economy)

Chart 1

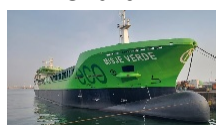


▲ On August 5, [Russia announced the expansion of its of LNG](#) fleet carriers to help maintain gas exports ahead of the EU's planned 2027 ban on Russian LNG. The new vessels are reportedly using sanctions-evasion tactics similar to Russia's oil "shadow fleet," although experts say building an LNG shadow fleet is much more difficult because the ships are highly specialized and costly. --->INFO SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND RESOURCES

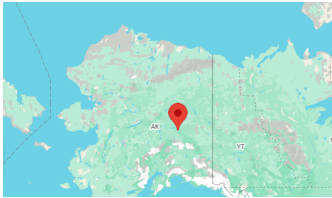
▲ On August 5, [China has further eased restrictions on refined fuel](#) exports for August, allowing refiners to export 2.7 million tons to overseas markets as domestic supply concerns ease. The move is expected to boost refinery output, though actual exports may remain below the permitted levels due to logistical constraints and ongoing uncertainty over crude oil supplies. --->INFO SECTOR: ECONOMIC AND RESOURCES PERFORMANCE / RESTRAINS.

ARCTIC CYCLE / BALTIC SEA

Chart 1



▲ On July 31, [the Norwegian cargo ship Misje Verde collided with](#) a pleasure boat off Sweden, killing a mother and daughter and injuring the father and son. Swedish police detained the captain on suspicion of negligence causing the deaths while investigation continues. --->INFO SECTOR: NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY / ENVIRONMENTAL



▲ On August 2, [hundreds attended the Arctic Lightning Air Show at Eielson US Air Force Base](#), where military and civilian aircraft, including F-35s and F-22s, were showcased. Air Force personnel highlighted the F-35's combat readiness, while attendees enjoyed a rare opportunity to see the aircraft up close. --->INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM



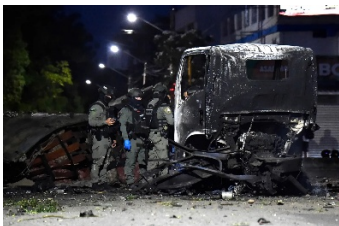
▲ On August 4, [Russia has redeployed the Northern Fleet destroyer Admiral Levchenko](#) from the Barents Sea to the Baltic Sea, where it was spotted near Germany's Fehmarn Island. Reports suggest the move may be intended to help protect vessels linked to Russia's "shadow fleet," although the exact purpose has not been officially confirmed. --->INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM

BRIEF ASSESSMENT / CONCLUSIONS

▲ The most important watch list item for the coming week is Russian shadow fleet-related naval escort activity in the Baltic Sea. The Swedish collision is an isolated incident, and the Alaskan air show represents regular readiness activity without any heightened threat.

SOUTH AMERICA – NW AFRICA / LIBYA

Chart 2



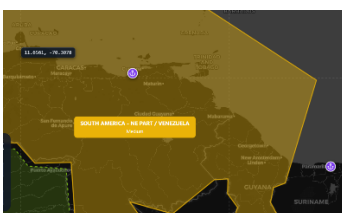
▲ On August 1, [at least 11 people were injured after an explosives-filled truck detonated](#) near a police station in Cúcuta, Colombia, days before President-elect Abelardo de la Espriella takes office. Authorities condemned the attack as security forces prepare for a major deployment ahead of his August 7 inauguration amid heightened violence and threats from armed groups. --->INFO SECTOR: PIRACY / ORGANIZED CRIME / BOARDING CONDITIONS



▲ On July 31, [China's detention of Panama-flagged ships has dropped](#) sharply after talks with Panama government, easing a dispute that followed changes in control of key Panama Canal terminals. The two countries have agreed to renew their maritime transport agreement, reducing inspections and helping restore smoother shipping operations. --->INFO SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND RESOURCES



▲ On August 5, [a mass jailbreak occurred at Surman prison in western](#) Libya as armed clashes between rival groups broke out in Surman and Zawiya. The violence killed at least three civilians, injured several others, disrupted the area near Libya's largest operating refinery, and prompted authorities to launch an investigation into the prison escape. --->INFO SECTOR: PIRACY / ORGANIZED CRIME / BOARDING CONDITIONS



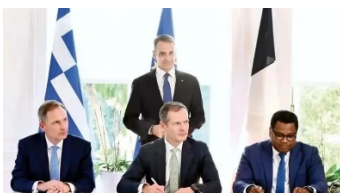
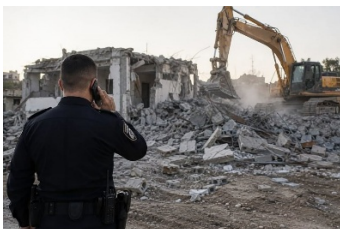
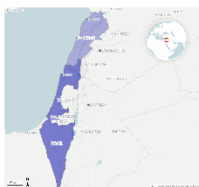
▲ On August 5, [Guyana announced the strengthening of energy partnerships across](#) the Caribbean, including new cooperation agreements with Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, as it prepares to significantly increase oil production by 2030. These initiatives aim to boost regional energy security, infrastructure, and investment, supporting the development of a more integrated Caribbean energy market. --->INFO SECTOR: ECONOMIC AND RESOURCES PERFORMANCE / RESTRAINS

BRIEF ASSESSMENT / CONCLUSIONS

▲ Inland volatility in Colombia and Libya is the primary concerns this week; China-Panama relations have normalized, while Guyana's energy agreements indicate regional development; the risk level is low to moderate.

BLACK SEA – EAST MEDITERRANEAN

Chart 3



▲ On July 30, [Romania's Transelectrica hosted a technical workshop](#) on the Black Sea Submarine Cable project linking Romania and Georgia, focusing on seabed surveys, cable routing, permits, and implementation. The EU-backed project aims to strengthen regional energy security, diversify electricity supplies, adding 1,300 MW of transmission capacity to Romania's grid. --->INFO SECTOR: ECONOMIC AND RESOURCES PERFORMANCE / RESTRAINS

▲ On August 2, [Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani met](#) Japanese official Keiichi Iwamoto in Damascus to discuss expanding bilateral cooperation, reconstruction, and investment. Both sides reaffirmed support for Syria's unity and stability as Japan continues to back the country's economic recovery efforts. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL

▲ On August 3, [the US-backed Trilateral Framework Agreement](#), signed by Israel, Lebanon and the US, aims to reduce border tensions through a phased Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, while at the same time expanding the Lebanese Armed Forces' (LAF) control. However, Hezbollah has rejected the deal, making implementation uncertain despite its potential to improve regional security, stability, and economic recovery. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL

▲ On August 3, [a US-backed Gaza disarmament framework is facing](#) uncertainty as Israeli military operations continue despite Hamas agreeing to the proposal. Mediators urged de-escalation, while Israeli officials rejected the plan, raising concerns that ongoing violence could undermine efforts toward a lasting ceasefire and Gaza's reconstruction. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL

▲ On August 3, [Ukraine declared the use of US-donated patrol boats to protect](#) commercial shipping in the Black Sea, clear mines, and help defend against Russian drone attacks near Odesa. As Russia intensifies strikes on ports and shipping, Kyiv has relied on a fast, agile "mosquito fleet" to maintain maritime security and keep vital export routes open. --->INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM

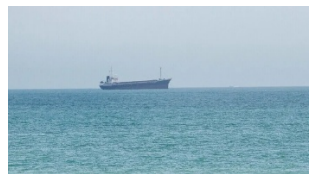
▲ On August 6, [French investment group Meridiam has become](#) the majority shareholder in the Great Sea Interconnector, the planned undersea power cable linking Greece and Cyprus. Greece said that the investment strengthens the project's financial and political backing, while Türkiye continues to oppose parts of the planned route, arguing it crosses its continental shelf and claiming that requires Ankara's approval. --->INFO SECTOR: ECONOMIC AND RESOURCES PERFORMANCE / RESTRAINS

BRIEF ASSESSMENT / CONCLUSIONS

▲ Fragile Lebanon-Israel and Gaza agreements are marred by Hezbollah and Israel oppositions, resulting in the suspension of the processes and maintaining high political risks in the Eastern Mediterranean region; Ukraine's use of mosquito flotilla against invasion points to the danger of continued shipping risks in the Black Sea area around Odesa; Black Sea cable and Greece-Cyprus underwater power line continue despite Turkey's opposition on the latter; the overall risk is moderate.

RED SEA – GULF OF ADEN

Chart 4



▲ On August 1, [Somaliland President Abdirahman Irro and a senior U.S. military delegation](#) discussed strengthening security cooperation, with a focus on protecting the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and Horn of Africa. Both sides emphasized shared interests in regional stability and cooperation against terrorism, piracy, and other security threats. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL

▲ On August 3, [a 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck 41 km north of Suez](#) early Monday at a depth of 10 km, according to Egypt's NRIAG. No injuries or damage were immediately reported. It follows a 5.7-magnitude quake near Marsa Matrouh in April 2026 that also caused no damage. --->INFO SECTOR: NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY / ENVIRONMENTAL

▲ On August 4, [the biggest escalation since the signing of the 2022](#) Pretoria agreement shook Ethiopia's Tigray over the weekend, with both the TPLF and members of the Ethiopian government blaming each other. A mass exodus of the region is taking place over fears of a full-blown regional conflict erupting, despite a pause in the fighting since August 1st.

--->INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM

▲ On August 4, [Yemen's internationally recognized government warned](#) that the Islamic Republic and the Houthis are seeking to impose transit fees on ships in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, using the route for political leverage and funding. Reuters also reported the Houthis are considering the plan, while Saudi Arabia has formed a 14-nation naval coalition to protect Red Sea shipping. --->INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM

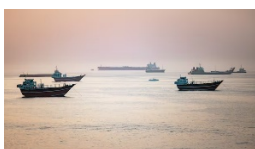
▲ On August 4, [six Saudi-flagged oil tankers have diverted from the Bab el-Mandeb Strait](#) and are sailing around the Cape of Good Hope instead, adding about two weeks to their journey. The rerouting follows Houthi threats against vessels linked to Saudi ports, raising security concerns in the Red Sea. --->INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM

BRIEF ASSESSMENT / CONCLUSIONS

▲ Risk in the Red Sea/Bab el-Mandeb is rising sharply due to threats by Houthis of imposing transit fees that have already forced tankers to reroute via the Cape of Good Hope despite the formation of a naval force by Saudi Arabia and others — in addition to the renewed conflict in Tigray, Ethiopia, and seismically active areas near Suez.

PERSIAN GULF – ARABIC SEA

Chart 5



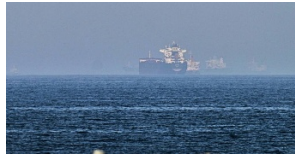
▲ On July 30, [Saudi Arabia's economy contracted by 4.8% year-on-year](#) in the second quarter of 2026, driven by a sharp decline in oil activity amid regional conflict and disruptions to energy exports. Despite continued resilience in the non-oil sector, the country is expected to face slower economic growth until oil trade normalizes. --->INFO SECTOR: ECONOMIC AND RESOURCES PERFORMANCE / RESTRAINS

▲ On July 31, [China condemned attacks on civilians and non-military](#) sites after an Iranian strike hit a Chinese company building in Kuwait, killing one worker. Beijing called for restraint and dialogue to restore stability in the Gulf amid escalating tensions between the US and Iran. --->INFO SECTOR: MILITARY / PARAMILITARY ACTIONS - TERRORISM



▲ On August 4, [according to The New York Times, Iran and Oman are](#) nearing an agreement to restore commercial shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. The proposed plan would route inbound and outbound vessels through separate channels, though US officials deny Iran would control the routes or collect tolls. Some US and Iranian officials have expressed skepticism about the arrangement.

--->INFO SECTOR: TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND RESOURCES



▲ On August 6, [Iran said it is close to finalizing an agreement with Oman](#) to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, with a possible announcement expected soon. The deal could restore shipping, ease global energy prices, and support renewed U.S.-Iran talks, but it reportedly depends on the U.S. easing restrictions on Iran's ports. The proposal remains unconfirmed and awaits final approval. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL

BRIEF ASSESSMENT / CONCLUSIONS

▲ There is a de-escalation of threat at the Strait of Hormuz, with Iran-Oman on the verge of an agreement over divided waterways, although that depends on US-Iranian compromise. There is also Saudi Arabian disruption of oil exports and an Iranian attack on China's facilities in Kuwait that show continuing effects of the regional conflicts – risk is high but tending to stabilize.

EAST ASIA – MALACCA STRAIT / TAIWAN

Chart 6



▲ On August 2, [Taiwan and Japan pledged to strengthen cooperation](#) and work with like-minded partners to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, according to Taiwan Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung. Both sides reaffirmed their close partnership in trade, technology, and regional security while emphasizing shared democratic values. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL



▲ On August 2, [Taiwan reaffirmed its sovereignty claim over](#) Scarborough Shoal after the Philippines submitted an official nautical chart to the United Nations to support its own claim. Taiwan called for South China Sea disputes to be resolved peacefully under UNCLOS and urged its inclusion in multilateral dispute settlement efforts. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL



▲ On August 3, [Singapore Defense Minister Chan Chun Sing said the](#) country can overcome future economic, security, and geopolitical challenges if it avoids complacency. Speaking ahead of Singapore's National Day, he stressed that the nation's continued success depends on staying globally connected, remaining vigilant, and working closely with regional partners. --->INFO SECTOR: POLITICAL

BRIEF ASSESSMENT / CONCLUSIONS

▲ This week, developments in the Indo-Pacific region involve more diplomacy than operational threats against maritime activities, such as security partnerships between Taiwan and Japan, South China Sea sovereignty talks regarding the Scarborough Shoal, and Singapore's vigilance message. All the above, even if they represent little risk to maritime operations, still keep the risk level low.

SEA GUARDIAN overall conclusions

- ⬆ **Politics** – The political discussions between Somaliland and the U.S. military delegation indicate ongoing military collaboration in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and the Horn of Africa, focusing on counterterrorism, anti-piracy and maritime security for international shipping.
- ⬆ **Performance/Restraints on Economic and Resource Development** – Russia has increased LNG carrier capacity before the EU implements a ban on Russian LNG, while China has relaxed refined fuel exports. Additionally, Vaalco Energy has made progress in offshore gas development in Gabon, and Guyana has increased energy partnerships in preparation for higher production levels.
- ⬆ **Military/Paramilitary Operations – Terrorism** – Russia has moved the destroyer Admiral Levchenko to the Baltic Sea, which may be used to protect its shadow fleet ships, though the intention remains unclear.
- ⬆ **Piracy/Organized Crime/Boarding Conditions** – In the prison break in Surman, clashes took place in western Libya leading to casualties of civilians and disruption in the vicinity of the country's largest producing refinery.
- ⬆ **Transportation Routes and Resources** – Active rerouting from two chokepoint crises, with tanker traffic opting for the Cape of Good Hope route, while Hormuz talks offer some hope for normalization.
- ⬆ **Navigational Safety / Environmental** – Two separate events (Sweden collision, Suez earthquake) indicate specific navigational dangers and not any emerging trends.

SEA GUARDIAN major observations

- ⬆ **Political risks:** Volatile alignments and elite bargains make access, guarantees, and regulatory signals less.
- ⬆ **Political dangers:** A lack of diplomatic achievements and instability in regional alliances make the risk of escalation quite high, particularly when great powers support disputed security arrangements.
- ⬆ **Military threats:** Naval operations, shadow/grey fleet security, and local conflicts indicate ongoing state and paramilitary pressure on important routes.
- ⬆ **International commerce:** Export restrictions, sanctions circumvention, and changes in energy deliveries are among the key disruptive factors for deliveries and pricing.
- ⬆ **Maritime transportation:** Chokepoints are a problem, which involves rerouting, convoy risks, and exposure near the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Baltic approaches, and Gulf-related routes.
- ⬆ **Organized crime:** Jail breaks, paramilitary group activities, and onshore insecurity are a risk to logistics, refineries, and port operations.
- ⬆ **Cyber threat:** There hasn't been any important cyber incident; however, the situation is risky due to critical infrastructure, maritime transport, and government involvement.