REPORTED INCIDENTS OF PIRATE ATTACKS & HIJACKINGS OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA IN 2008

Sharp increase in reported pirate activity along the coast of Puntland in the Gulf of Aden (5 hijackings & 6 attempted hijackings) and dramatic reduction of pirate activity in southern Somali waters (January - April 2008)

Security Event

24 April 2008

1:4,100,000

Updated Version 1.5

Over 35 Somali refugees drowned after being forced into the water by smugglers along the coast of Yemen 20 February 2008

UNHCR estimates over 130 Somali refugees drowned after two smuggler boats capsized while en-route to Yemen (21 January 2008)

The ICC International Maritime Bureau issue alert for Gulf of Aden following increase in pirate activity (April 2008)

Pirates hijack French Yacht 'Le Ponant' on 4 April 2008 and take vessel to Garaad

Pirates hijack Russian Tug 'Svitzer Korsakov' on 1 Feb 2008 and take vessel to Eyl. Released on 18 March 2008.

Pirates hijack vessel 'Al-Khaleej' near Bossaso port on 21 April. Puntland forces launch naval operation and capture pirates, free vessel on 22 April 2008.

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) continues to recommend a minimum transit distance of 200 nautical miles away from the coast for those vessels not calling on Somali ports [IMB-ICC 2008]

Puntland government official arrested on 5 February 2008 for alleged links with pirates in Eyl holding the hijacked Russian vessel 'Svitzer Korsakov'. Official later released under 'mysterious circumstances' (Garowe Online report 24 February 2008).

U.S. Navy warships launch missiles at 3 targets in the village of Eyl, while hijacked Russian tug boat ' Svitzer Korsakov' was held offshore (12 Feb. 2008). Puntland forces launch ground operation against pirates on 13 Feb. 2008. Russian vessel released 18 March 2008 after $700,000 ransom paid.

After reported $2 million ransom paid, pirates release hijacked French yacht 'Le Ponant'. French launch helicopter raid inland from Garaad village, capturing pirates on 12 April 2008.

Somalia's TFG President Abdullah Yusuf Ahmed authorizes foreign military intervention to combat Somali piracy (16 April 2008)

France & U.S. draft new UN resolution to allow foreign warships (and aircraft) to pursue pirates within Somalia's territorial waters following the hijacking of the French yacht 'Le Ponant'

Spanish navy deploy frigate SPS Mendez Nuñez (F104) to support hijacked fishing vessel near village of Gaan (21 April 2008)

Pirates hijack Spanish fishing vessel 'Playa de Bakio' on 20 April 2008 and take vessel 5km off shore from Gaan. Only reported attack in southern Somali waters from Jan-April 2008.

Dutch begin 3 month (April to June 2008) naval escort of WFP food shipments, taking over from Danish naval patrols.

WFP has successfully delivered about 100,000 tones of food aid via 14 ships to Somalia since naval escorts began in November 2007.

* UKMTO Note: The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization 'advises there have been a number of reports of possible piracy incidents involving groups of small boats in [April 2008]. Current assessments ..suggest that they are more likely to be smugglers than piracy related. The small boats may possibly be attempting to trail larger merchant vessels to avoid radar detection or to create a ree from adverse weather. Is it also possible that suspicious crafts can actually be fisherman attempting to move merchant vessels away from their nets by approaching the ship to make it change its course. Small boats have been observed approaching on an interception course and have approached within 2NM. Masters are reminded that while

Somalia Piracy Map Description

- National / Regional Capital / Village
- International Border
- Province Boundary
- Refugee Ocean Route
- Dutch-WFP Escort Route
- Approximate Boundary of Somaliland & Puntland
- Limit of Somali Exclusive Economic Zone
- Somali Exclusive Economic Zone
- Somali 12NM (Territorial Sea)
- Recommended 200NM Exclusion Zone (ICC-IMB)

2008 Event

- Hijacked
- Attempted Hijacking
- Suspicious Approach
- Pirates Captured
- Pirate Land Base
- Suspected Pirate 'Mother Ship'
- Military Strike Against Pirates
- Refugee Boat Event
- Anti-Pirate Naval Patrol
- Port / Anchorage

Events Text Box Legend

- Pirate Event
- Security Alert
- Political Event
- Humanitarian

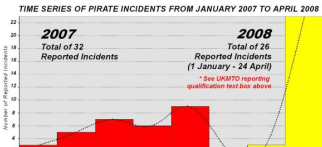
This map illustrates reported incidents of piracy off the Somali coast from January to 24 April 2008 (highlighted with red halo). Events from 2005 to 2007 are also shown. The incidents are classified into 7 types: 'Hijacked' where pirates have taken control of a ship; 'Attempted Hijacking' where pirates have deployed weapons in an attempted hijack; 'Suspicious Approach' where a group of pirates or suspicious vessel has followed or chased another ship; 'Pirates Captured' where pirates have been arrested; 'Pirate Land Base' where pirates concentrate; action; 'Suspected Pirate Mother Ship'; the suspected location of a large vessel used to launch multiple attacks with smaller, high speed boats in deep water; and 'Military Strike Against Pirates', where a foreign military power has deployed weapons in a military strike against either pirate vessels or their associated resources on land. A majority of reported 'Suspicious Approach' incidents may represent accidental vessel approaches misperceived as a pirate threat. Please see the reporting concern text box of the UKMTO.

Of special interest is the apparent dramatic reduction of pirate activity in southern Somali waters, and a corresponding increase in activity centered in the Gulf of Aden along the coast of Puntland, the semi-autonomous state of Somalia.

Summary of Reported Pirate Incidents Since 1 January 2008:

- 6 Hijackings (including Spanish vessel Playa De Bakio 20 April 08)
- 6 Attempted Hijackings (including Japanese Tanker Takayama 21 April 08)
- 14 Suspicious approaches *

TIME SERIES OF PIRATE INCIDENTS FROM JANUARY 2007 TO APRIL 2008



Map Scale 1:4,100,000 for A2 Print - 1 centimeter equals 41 kilometers

Map Projection: Transverse Mecator - WGS-84

Nautical Miles: 0 12.5 25 50 75 100 125 150 175 200 225

Kilometers: 0 50 100 200 300 400

Map Information Note: Date format of pirate incidents is mm/dd/yyyy

Incident Data	ICC-IMB, ONI-ASAM, Garowe, Shabelle MN
Satellite Data	ASTER, Formosat, Landsat ETM, MODIS
GIS Data Sources	NGA, NASA, GIST, UNOSAT, VLIZ, GEBCO
Map Production	UNOSAT (24 April 2008)
Projection	Transverse Mercator
Datum	WGS 1984

This map was produced by UNOSAT in support of the ongoing humanitarian operations across the Horn of Africa, and in response to the IMO resolution adopted 29 Nov. 2007 calling for continued monitoring of Somali pirate activity. A range of satellite data has been used in this analysis for the identification of coastal settlements and possible anchorage sites for hijacked vessels. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown here are not warranted to be error-free nor do they imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. This map was produced by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Operational Satellite Applications Program (UNOSAT). UNOSAT provides satellite imagery and related geographic information to UN humanitarian and development agencies and their implementing partners.

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