

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- > Three incidents were recorded globally during the reporting period
- > East Africa HRA and Indian Ocean: No incidents were recorded during the reporting period
- > West Africa: Three incident were recorded during the reporting period
- > South and Southeast Asia: No incidents were recorded during the reporting period
- > Americas: No incidents were recorded during the reporting period

## ADVISORIES

- > Southeast Asia: ICC-IMB Releases warning indicating increased ASG activity
- > Persian Gulf: British vessels affected by insecurity

## RECORDED INCIDENTS



### REGIONAL SUMMARY

- > No incidents were recorded during the reporting period
- > Continuous piracy threat off the Somali coast and extending to the Gulf of Aden and Gulf of Oman. Actors involved in the ongoing conflict in Yemen have targeted vessels transiting the Bab-el-Mandeb Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS); increased vigilance is advised during daylight hours
- > High pressure dominates the weather pattern over the region producing mostly clear skies. Tropical Cyclone 02A is influencing all areas; expect increased winds and seas until 17 June. Southwest monsoon conditions resume after and will continue until September. Expect increased localised wind flow through the Strait of Hormuz due to funnelling effects (Source: US ONI)

### RECORDED INCIDENTS

NSTR

# CASTOR VALI

**REGIONAL SUMMARY**

- > Three incidents were recorded during the reporting period
- > Continuous threat off Nigeria, Benin, Togo and Ghana in addition to the coastlines of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- > High pressure continues to dominate the weather in the region. Isolated thunderstorms and rain showers can be routinely expected along the Gulf of Guinea coast (Source: US ONI)

**RECORDED INCIDENTS**



**01 13JUL2019. 2250 UTC. ATTACK. 02:58:42N - 004:44:24E. 108NM off Bayelsa state, Nigeria.** Approximately 14 pirates on board two speedboats (five to seven on board each) attacked a transiting cargo vessel deep offshore. The pirates are suspected of utilising a mother vessel.

**02 2. 08JUL2019. 2200 UTC. HIJACK. 04:12:00N - 008:53:00E. Idenao, Cameroon. Eight armed** pirates on board one speedboat attacked a fishing boat 5NM off the coast of Cameroon. Four to five crewmembers were kidnapped during the incident.

**03 08JUL2019. 2004 UTC. ATTACK. 04:31:00N - 006:55:00E. Billie river channel, Rivers state, Nigeria.** A group of armed assailants attacked a passenger vessel, robbing all passengers of their personal belongings. One unidentified male was shot and killed in the attack. Time and location are approximate.

Due to delayed reporting, the following incidents were not included in the last week's report:

**1. 03/07/19. 1700 UTC. ATTACK. NYA. 05:56:04N - 009:04:21E. Onne Port, Nigeria.** Manyu River, Manyu division, Cameroon. Approximately 30 armed men, suspected to be Anglophone separatists, ambushed and attacked a Cameroonian naval vessel with approximately 13 naval personnel on board. Three naval personnel were reported to have escaped the ambush and two were rescued by security vessels sent into the river following the attack. 10 personnel were originally reported missing. However, later reports suggested all navy personnel were found alive and in the river. Search and rescue teams have been deployed and remain in the area. Military sources say they have found the separatists location and are planning a raid to destroy the base. There is no more information at this time. Time and location are approximate.

# CASTOR VALI

## **SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA**

**THREAT LEVEL: MODERATE**

### **REGIONAL SUMMARY**

- > No incidents were recorded during the reporting period
- > Criminal boardings remain the primary threat to the region. However, the threat from Extended Duration Cargo Theft (EDCT) is present across the Malacca Strait and South China Sea
- > Expect strong gusts in and around scattered thunderstorms throughout the Malacca Strait and the Andaman Sea due to funnelling effects and daytime heating. The west Pacific Ocean's Tropical Cyclone Season runs from April to October. Expect numerous Tropical Cyclones to impact the region during this timeframe that could change the forecast (Source: US ONI)

### **RECORDED INCIDENTS**

**NSTR**

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## SPECIAL ADVISORIES

### PERSIAN GULF: BRITISH VESSELS AFFECTED BY INSECURITY

On 10 July a British oil tanker crossing the Strait of Hormuz eastbound was reportedly approached by three to five Iranian armed vessels near the island of Abu Musa and was ordered to change course and stop in nearby Iranian waters. However, before the tanker changed course, a British Navy ship positioned itself between the tanker and the Iranian vessels and sent out a warning whereby the Iranian vessels withdrew. The incident caused the UK's Ministry of Defence to issue a statement claiming the Iranian's actions were "contrary to international law", although Iran's Revolutionary Guard denies it tried to seize the tanker.

**Analysis:** Iranian President Hassan Rouhani stated that the UK would "see consequences" for the UK Royal Marines' seizure of an Iranian oil tanker bound for Syria on 5 July off the coast of Gibraltar. The incident on 10 July indicates that Iran is looking for a proportionate response to what it perceives to be an illegal act of piracy on the UK's part. Prior to the incident in the strait of Hormuz, the UK identified the existing vulnerability of British vessels in the region and raised its threat level to "critical", deciding to send a second warship. Although this likely increases the safety of British vessels transiting the region, sending additional naval military resources will have a negative impact on the escalating tensions between the US and Iran in the Strait of Hormuz. Consequently, in the medium-term there is a significant likelihood that the past week's events will lead to increased hostility in the region and, as such, higher levels of maritime insecurity.

### SOUTHEAST ASIA: ICC-IMB RELEASES WARNING INDICATING INCREASED ASG ACTIVITY

On 14 July ICC-IMB released its second warning regarding Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) activity within the past seven days. The update indicated an ASG "spotter" was reportedly seen in the vicinity of Sabah seeking potential victims in a kidnap for ransom operations. The previous warning, released on 7 July, stated that a seven armed ASG militants had been recorded as planning kidnap operations in and around the Tawi-Tawi area of the Philippines.

**Analysis:** There has been a significant increase in ASG activity concentrated around southern Mindanao and eastern Sabah since the beginning of 2019. According to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the extremist group carried out a suicide attack at a military base in the Municipality of Indanan, on the island of Jolo in Sulu province which killed six individuals and injured at least 22 others on 28 June. This incident represents the most significant ASG assault since the suicide attack carried out against Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Jolo on 27 January 2019, which resulted in the death of 21 individuals. This escalation of ASG activity is likely in response to mounting government pressure and public support of the Duterte administration. On 13 May candidates supporting President Duterte were highly successful in the midterm elections, which was likely perceived as a country-wide endorsement of his severe security policies and focus on eradicating ASG. It is likely ASG activity, including vessel hijacking and kidnap for ransom, will continue to increase in the coming weeks as a form of retaliation against government action and as a means of financing the group's operations.

## ANNEX A – THREAT TERMINOLOGY

The report’s findings are predictive and estimative. To communicate these findings clearly and in order to accurately compare threat levels, the report uses a variation of terminology used by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

TERMINOLOG	DESCRIPTION
Critical	The likelihood of an incident is <b>certain</b>
Severe	The likelihood of an incident is <b>almost</b>
Substantial	The likelihood of an incident is <b>probable</b>
Moderate	The chances of an incident are <b>about even</b>
Low	The likelihood of an incident is <b>improbable</b>

Piracy: NYA uses a modified version of the definition of piracy adopted by BMP5. For the purposes of this report, the term ‘piracy’ includes all violent and non-violent acts against vessels, her crew and cargo occurring either in internal waterways, territorial waters or deep offshore. Based on this definition, NYA classifies piracy incidents into six categories:

- > **Hijacking** – Crew lost control of the vessel and / or pirates kidnapped at least one crewmember and / or passenger(s)
- > **Boarding** – Pirates successfully board a vessel with the intent to hijack it but their attempt to take control of the vessel or kidnap crewmember(s) and / or passenger(s) failed
- > **Attack** – Vessel was attacked with gunfire or RPG fire, no boarding was successfully completed
- > **Pirate Action Group (PAG)** – Sighting or reporting of firearms and boarding equipment on board a suspicious vessel or sighting of a confirmed pirate mother ship
- > **Criminal boarding** – Vessel boarded with criminal intent, theft does not have to occur
- > **Suspicious approach** – Suspicious activity reported (i.e. a vessel was approached by unidentified skiff(s) with one or more persons on board)

## LIMITATIONS

Our opinion and advice are given on the basis of the information given to us in our instructions and the surrounding circumstances known to us to exist at the time when those instructions are given. We do not accept responsibility for verifying the information or investigating beyond its limits. Subsequent changes to relevant information or to the surrounding circumstances may affect the reliability of our opinion and advice but we do not accept responsibility for that effect. We do not accept responsibility for the outcome of action taken or not taken as a result of our opinion and advice unless the possibility of that action being taken or not taken is set out in specific terms in our instructions.

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