



Weekly Security & Risk Report

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MAST Intelligence

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The Security and Risk Report Series focuses on

- Operational risks in areas of instability which could affect the safety of commercial and private vessels and personnel ashore and at sea.
- In-country reporting on key countries where civil conflicts are directly impacting on maritime operations; and
- Reporting and analysis of incidents of terrorism, piracy and other related criminal activity.

MAST has a global reach and presence, delivering first hand, accurate and exclusive intelligence. MAST is entrenched and committed in continuing to support and promote the awareness of the very real risks that seafarers and other stakeholders face.

This Intelligence Report Series is a brief snapshot of MAST's Intelligence capabilities. MAST Intelligence specialises in providing clients with a suite of products and services, including; political and economic risk analysis, detailed port and vessel security briefs, vessel passage plans, threat and risk mitigation and travel risk management.

Working closely in conjunction with a host of experts, MAST Intelligence offers a market leading service pertaining to all maritime affairs and land-based guarding and asset protection provision.

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Issue 343

Issue 343 of the series reviews, analyses and threat assesses the conflict-affected coastal states of Somalia and Yemen, as well as security issues facing the UK, London and the global security and risk picture.

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Somalia & Yemen

Somali officials say two explosions on July 27th in the Lower Shabelle region killed at least 20 people, including the mayor of the region's capital. Islamist militant group Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack, VOA reported. They state that the al Qaeda-affiliated group has increased the scope and size of its attacks in recent weeks.

Al Shabaab militants execute 7 by firing squad in Somalia

Somali-based militant group al-Shabab has executed seven men in Somalia's south-western region of Bay. The execution that was conducted publicly took place in the vicinity of Buula-Fulay in Somalia's Bay region late on Saturday 30th. Six of the executed men were accused of spying for the Somali government and the US, Voice of America reported. Three of them were also accused of providing intelligence that led to the killing of senior Al Shabaab leaders, Yusuf Jiis and Abdulkadir Commandos, who were targeted in US airstrikes in 2020.

Al Shabaab strikes military base on Somalia-Ethiopia border

Al Shabaab terrorists attacked a military base on the Somalia-Ethiopia border on July 29th, The New Arab reported, sparking a fierce battle that left an unknown number dead. Mortars were used on the base in Ato, leading to a gun battle with the Ethiopian military and 'Liyu special police' from the country's Somali region, the paper reported. The incident has led to plans to create a secure buffer zone near the border to reduce the likelihood of further attacks by Al Shabaab.

Will Somalia's above-ground risks blunt its E&P licensing prospects?

S&P Global have recently discussed Somalia's ability to attract investment in its emerging oil and gas sector. They note that despite promising signs of political interest in investment and the 2020 Petroleum Law which offers offshore blocks for development, the security situation in the country makes any efforts extremely challenging. S&P Global said: "Somalia's political instability and pervasive insecurity mean that the country remains one of the least attractive nascent frontiers globally."

Kenya deploys 19 peacekeepers to Somalia

Xinhau reported on July 28th that Kenya was to send a group of police officers to Somalia to join the African Union Transition Mission in Somali (ATMIS), which aims to reduce violence in the country and combat Al Shabaab terrorism. ATMIS is planned to have over 1,000 personnel in the country, including five Formed Police Units to help with law enforcement issues.

Fear and anxiety for civilians in Yemen

The UN-brokered four-month truce in Yemen was set to end on August 2nd, with frantic diplomatic efforts by UN officials to get the Saudi coalition and Houthi rebels to extend it. At the time of this report (August 2nd), there has been no news on an extension. Al Jazeera reported on August 1st that Yemenis do not believe either side is ready to stop the war in the short term. Mohammed al-Samei, a Yemeni journalist in Taiz, told the media outlet: "The recurring violations committed since the start of the truce demonstrate the war-prone attitude of the Yemeni rivals, particularly the Houthi group."

Last week of truce sees the highest weekly number of child casualties in 2 years

An uptick of violence in Yemen led to 38 children being killed or injured in the final week of a UN-brokered truce, the highest number of child casualties in one week since early 2020, in a stark reminder of what children face without a complete cessation of hostilities. This came after an increase in armed violence in last month of the truce in Yemen resulted in 232 civilian casualties including 57 children, with the last week of July being the bloodiest in years with over 65 civilian casualties including 38 children, Save The Children said in a press release.

For further information, [please click here.](#)

UK Security News

The ringleader of a money laundering group which smuggled tens of millions of pounds of criminal cash out of the UK has been jailed for nine years, the National Crime Agency said on July 28th. Abdullah Mohammed Ali Bin Beyat Alfasasi arranged travel for couriers, who between them smuggled £104 million from the UK.

Britain in radiological dirty bomb warning - terror attack could hit within decade

The UK Express newspaper warned on July 30th that the threat posed to the UK by terrorists using a radiological dirty bomb has grown. Citing the UK government Integrated Security Review, which found that many sites where radioisotopes were stored are “generally poorly secured”, the paper said that “increased likelihood” of such a terror attack within this decade. Isotopes are regularly used by research centres, hospitals and clinics and veterinary centres, where their security may not be given priority.

Euro 2022 final: Wembley beefs up security for England vs Germany

Despite a lack of violence during the women’s Euro 2022 tournament, security at Wembley was increased for the final on Sunday 31st, the i Newspaper reported on July 30th. The men’s final in 2021 saw significant violence at the stadium, as ticket-less fans invaded the arena, kicking and punching their way past security teams to gain access. This year’s event saw significant improvements to the overall security response, particularly in the “technical, structural and personnel elements” areas, the paper reported.

UK to move convicted terrorists in separate cells to prevent them radicalising other jail inmates

Eastern Eye said on July 27th that UK Justice Secretary, Dominic Raab, is expected to introduce new measures which will see convicted terrorists isolated from other prisoners in order to prevent further radicalisation. The measure was recommended in a recent report on terror in prisons.

Sentencing guidelines for terrorism offences published

The Sentencing Council has published updated sentencing guidelines for terrorism offences in England and Wales following consultation. The

new guidelines, which will come into effect on 1 October 2022, update the current guidelines published in 2018 to reflect changes brought in by the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019 and the Counter-Terrorism and Sentencing Act 2021, Judiciary UK said on July 27th.

London News

Anti-lockdown protesters convicted after BBC journalist Nick Watt mobbed in London

The Evening Standard reported on August 2nd that six anti-lockdown protesters who were charged with verbally abusing a BBC journalist, Nick Watt, in London on June 14th 2021 have been convicted. The paper reported that five men and a woman chased Mr Watt, the political editor of the BBC Newsnight programme, and in the words of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, “hounded” him. The group was found guilty of using threatening or abusive words or behaviour with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress, the court heard. They will be sentenced later this month.

Man charged after 24-year-old dies on train platform

On August 1st, the Evening Standard reported that a man had been charged with the murder of a 24-year-old at Reading station following an alleged altercation. British Transport Police arrested a 42-year-old man who will appear in court next week charged with murder and possession of an offensive weapon.

For further information, please [click here](#).

Global Security News

The US has killed the leader of al-Qaeda, Ayman al-Zawahiri, in a drone strike in Afghanistan, President Joe Biden has confirmed. He was killed in a counter-terrorism operation carried out by the CIA in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Sunday, BBC News reported on August 2nd.

Ukraine: Latest updates

BBC News reported on August 1st that three British men accused of being mercenaries are to stand trial in a Russian proxy court in eastern Ukraine. John Harding, Dylan Healy, and Andrew Hill will be tried in the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, a breakaway region of Ukraine, Russian media said. The court, which is not internationally recognised, sentenced two British men to death recently. The Foreign Office said it condemned the exploitation of civilian detainees for political purposes.

Following the first successful grain export from Ukraine on August 1st (please see our Maritime Security report), the US has announced that it is to send a new consignment of weapons worth around \$550 million, The Guardian said on August 2nd. It will include ammunition for the High Mobility Advanced Rocket Systems (HIMARS), as well as artillery ammunition, according to National Security Council spokesperson, John Kirby.

CNN reported on August 2nd that Russian forces hit the city of Mykolaiv with artillery shells overnight. The shells struck a university dormitory, injuring a security guard but no fatalities were reported. Preliminary reports suggest that the weapons used were S-300 surface to air missiles, in an indication that Russian forces continue to use whatever munitions that are available.

On August 1st, Al Jazeera reported that Russian artillery strikes on Mykolaiv had killed Oleksiy Vadatursky, the owner of one of Ukraine's largest grain-producing and exporting companies. Al Jazeera further speculated on whether the missile strike on his home, which also killed his wife, Rusia, was deliberate and an attempt to further delay the export of grain commodities from the country. Al Jazeera reported on August 2nd that Ukraine's deputy foreign affairs minister Mykola Tochytskyi said "robust joint actions are needed to prevent nuclear disaster". He called for the international community to take steps to "close the sky" over Ukrainian power and nuclear plants.

Manchester Arena Inquiry: Arrest warrant issued for bomber's brother Ismail Abedi

Sky News reported on August 2nd that an arrest warrant had been issued for the brother of Manchester Arena bomber, Salman Abedi. Ismail Abedi refused to give evidence about his brother and police believe he left the country in 2021 and had an "unhealthy interest" in the Islamic State group. A warrant for his arrest was issued by Manchester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday August 2nd.

Iran's atomic energy chief says country could build a bomb but has no plan to

Iran's atomic energy chief says the country has the ability to build a nuclear weapon but has no plan to, an Iranian news agency reports. Mohammad Eslami's comments echo a similar recent statement by a senior adviser to Iran's supreme leader. Such public claims by top officials are rare and are likely to intensify concerns over the nature of Iran's nuclear programme. It has advanced its nuclear activities since a deal limiting them faltered, BBC News said on August 1st.

Industry and SIA News

Your sneak preview of some of our earliest confirmed speakers for SNG 2022

Securing New Ground 2022 is lining up to be SIA's best conference ever. From Bosch's president for North America, Michael Mansueti, who will be talking supply at the macro level, to Motorola Solutions' John Kedzierski, who will share his take on video surveillance and his firm's acquisition strategy, you'll get the insights you need as you plan your impact on the security industry. [Please click here](#) for further details.

For further information, [please click here](#).



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