

Somali Piracy:

Maritime piracy continues, especially off the Somali coasts, despite significant efforts by shipping companies, captains, and crews; major international surveillance and prevention efforts by naval and air task forces; and growing intelligence about the pirates onshore and offshore.

In 2009, pirates attacked a total of 217 ships (22,000 ships passed through the Gulf of Aden alone, and others traversed the wider waters of the Indian Ocean), with 47 successful hijackings and the collection, in 2009, of more than \$60 million in ransom payments.

Some of the captured merchant ships and crew were held off the Somali coast for as long as nine months before being ransomed. One large oil tanker was ransomed in 2009 for about \$5 million, the largest ransom payment on record until the reported \$5.5 to \$7 million ransom paid for a Greek-owned oil tanker in early 2010.

In 2008, only 111 ships were attacked, up from approximately 50 in 2007. Of the 2008 attempted hijackings, 32 were successful. About \$55 million was delivered to the pirates for ransom in 2008.

The profits foregone and losses entailed by being hijacked in both 2008 and 2009 probably equaled the amounts paid in ransom.

Thus the costs to the industry each year due to Somali piracy were at least \$100 million.

At the beginning of 2010, 12 of the 47 vessels successfully hijacked in 2009 were still being held, along with 263 crew members.

They were joined within the first few days of January by two ships, a British cargo vessel taken 600 miles east of Somalia and a Singaporean chemical tanker en route to India seized in the Gulf of Aden, where no ship had been successfully hijacked since July 2009.

At least 24 mariners from those ships joined the 263 already held.

Between December 29th 2009 and April 7th this year Somali pirates successfully hijacked 9 Indian dhows, a Kenyan fishing vessel SAKOBA, a Taiwanese fishing vessel JIN-CHUN TSAI 68, a SOUTH KOREAN car carrier ASIAN GLORY, a Marshall Island Oil Tanker UBT OCEAN, 2 Turkish bulk carriers YASIN C And FRIGIA, a Singaporean chemical tanker PRAMONI, a South Korean VLCC SAMHO DREAM, a North Korean general cargo ship RIM, a British owned chemical tanker ST JAMES PARK, a Bermuda flagged TALCA, a Saudi oil tanker AL NISR AL SAUDI, Jamaican flagged MILTIADES, Panama flagged NAVIOS APOLLON, UAE owned ICE BERG 1, Antigua and Barbuda flagged ARIELLA, St Vincent and the Grenadines RAK AFRIKANA.

Currently the pirates are holding captive 242 crew members of 20 Ocean-going vessels.

Between April 2009 and April 2010 the gunmen held captive MV AL-KHALIQ, MV DELVINA and YASIN C laden with a total of 100,000 tons of cereal for Kenya and Ugandan millers.

During the said period the pirates also hijacked a container ship MV KOTA WAJAR laden with general cargo for Kenya and Uganda, a North Korean chemical carrier MT THERESA VIII laden with 35,000 tons of vegetable oil for Kenya, a chemical carrier MT BOW ASIR heading to Mombasa and a German cargo ship MV HANSA STAVANGER laden with containers for Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

In the said period DL COSMOS, TAIPAN, CHOL SAN BONG NYON HO, JASMINE ACE, AFRICA STAR, LIBERTY SUN, DELMAS NACALA, HARRIETTE, JOLLY ROSSO and MAERSK ALABAMA came under pirate attacks while under way to/from Mombasa port.

What became clear in 2008 and 2009, and continued into 2010, is that Somali Maritime piracy is big business.

About 1,500 pirates are involved, with 7 syndicates and fewer “bosses” controlling separate but linked enterprises largely financed and brokered from Kenya, Dubai, Lebanon, Somalia, and elsewhere. (Russia has also been mentioned.)

The appropriation of sizable ransoms, not thefts of valuable cargo or thefts from individual yachtsmen or seafarers, is the goal.

There are no political motives or ideological drivers.

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2010 ALL HIJACKINGS IN GULF OF ADEN AND IN THE WEST INDIAN OCEAN.

Hijacking	Date	Status Date	Days	Vessel Type	Flag State	Crew	Killed	Position and / or release data
Pramoni	01-01-2010	26-02-2010	55	Chemical Tanker	Singapore	24	0	Ely
Asian Glory	02-01-2010	08-04-2010	96	Car carrier	UK	25	0	Garacaad
Faize Osman	06-01-2010	31-01-2010	25	Dhow	India	12	0	Used as mothership / freed
Rim	03-02-2010	08-04-2010	65	General Cargo Ship	North Korea	10	0	Garacaad
Al Nisr Al Saudi	01-03-2010	08-04-2010	37	Product Tanker	Saudi Arabia	18	0	Garacaad(crew est)
Arzoo	01-03-2010	27-03-2010	26	Dhow	Comoros	14	0	Released (Used as mother ship)
UBT Ocean	05-03-2010	08-04-2010	33	Chemical Tanker	Marshall Isl	21	0	Harardhere
Sakoba	06-03-2010	08-04-2010	32	Fishing Vessel	Kenya	16	0	Used as mothership
Tabasamu	21-03-2010	21-03-2010	0	Fishing Vessel	Kenya	4	0	Used as mothership
Frigia	23-03-2010	08-04-2010	15	Bulk Carrier	Malta	21	0	Garacaad (Ely)
Hud Hud	23-03-2010	08-04-2010	15	Dhow	?	11	0	Possibly used as mothership
Talca	23-03-2010	08-04-2010	15	Reefer	Bermuda	25	0	Bargaal
Az Zabaniyah	25-03-2010	08-04-2010	13	Fishing Vessel	Yemen	12	1	Possibly used as mothership
Galata	28-03-2010	29-03-2010	1	Fishing Vessel	Seychelles	6	0	Freed by Seychelles coast Guard
Al Abi	29-03-2010	29-03-2010	0	Dhow	Iran ??	21	0	Freed by Seychelles coast Guard
Iceberg I	29-03-2010	08-04-2010	9	Ro- Ro	Panama	24	0	Enroute
Jin-chun Tsai 68	1-04-2010	02-04-2010	12	Fishing vessel	Taiwan	12	0	Enroute
Safina Al Gayatri	02-04-2010	04-04-2010	2	Dhow	India	21	0	Abandoned by pirates
Samho Dream	04-04-2010	08-04-2010	4	Crude Oil Tanker	Marshall Isl.	24	0	Enroute Haradheere
Taipan	05-04-2010	05-04-2010	0	Container Ship	Germany	15	0	Freed by Dutch Navy
Yasan C	07-04-2010	08-04-2010	1	Bulk Carrier	Turkey	25	0	Abandoned by Pirates
Rak Afrikana	11-04-2010	12-04-2010	1	General Cargo Ship	St. Vincent	26	0	Enroute

Breakdown Vessel Types	No.	Percentage
Bulk carriers (all types)	2	10%
Chemical / product tankers	3	15%
General cargo ships	2	10%
Container vessels	1	5%
Stone carrier / construction	0	0%
Supply ship / tug	0	0%
Crude oil tankers	1	5%
LPG / LNG tanker	0	0%
Ro- Ro vessels / car carriers	3	10%
Dhow	5	25%
Fishing vessels	5	20%
Passenger vessels	0	0%
Yachts / sailing boats	0	0%
	22	100%
Minus yachts, passengers, fishing and dhows		
Bulk carriers (all types)	2	18%
Chemical / product tankers	3	27%
General cargo ships	2	18%
Container vessels	1	9%
Stone carrier / construction	0	0%
Supply ship / tug	0	0%
Crude oil tankers	1	9%
LPG / LNG tanker	0	0%
Ro- Ro vessels / car carriers	3	18%
	12	

Flag State	No.	Percentage
Yemen	2	10%
Panama	1	5%
Malta	0	0%
Singapore	2	10%
Bermuda	1	5%
Egypt	0	0%
St. Vincent	1	0%
Seychelles	1	5%
Germany	1	5%
Greece	0	0%
Iran	1	5%
India	2	10%
Marshall Islands	2	10%
Pakistan	0	0%
Singapore	1	5%
Saudi Arabia	1	5%
North Korea	1	5%
Taiwan	1	0%
Thailand	0	0%
Turkey	1	5%
Malta	1	5%
UK	1	5%
USA	0	0%
Unknown	1	5%
	22	100%