

CONTACT GROUP

ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPSC) was created on January 14, 2009 pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1851. This voluntary ad hoc international forum brings together those stakeholders affected by Somali piracy: countries from the region, Western Europe, Middle East and Asia, industry, seafarer's organisations and NGOs. The Contact Group coordinates political, military, and non-governmental efforts to tackle piracy off the coast of Somalia, ensure that pirates are brought to justice, and support regional states to develop sustainable maritime security capabilities.

Message from the Chairman

Dear colleagues,

Chairing the Contact Group on Piracy is a new undertaking for the European Union. It is both an honour and a responsibility. The European Union will approach it with enthusiasm and determination to see that piracy off the Coast of Somalia is pushed further back and that structural and sustainable answers are provided for this scourge that has cost so much to the region and to the entire world. It will be my privilege to work with all of you towards our common goal and I very much look forward to closely cooperate in the days and months to come.

To focus our work and concentrate our efforts, we have set three priorities. The first is what we have abbreviated to 'zero/zero': zero ships and zero seafarers in the hands of Somali pirates. We must never lose sight of the humanitarian cost of piracy and must continue to support those who have paid the highest price.

The second priority is to document the experiences and lessons learned we have collectively made in the fight against piracy off the Coast of Somalia over the past five years. The Contact Group is a unique phenomenon, it is our collective responsibility to see to it that the good work is captured in an adequate manner in order to make our experiences available to others.

The third and final priority is to restructure the Contact Group to make it more efficient, demand driven and to increase the involvement from the region in the Contact Group.

We are keen to learn your views, ideas and suggestions and invite you to get in touch with the EU Support Team for that matter.

With personal best regards,
Maciej Popowski



The Somali Maritime Resource and Security Strategy

Somalia has more than 3300 km (2000 miles) of coastline with access to abundant resources. The Somali government together with the International Community is working on a Maritime Resource and Security Strategy that will lay out how Somalia intends to provide security within Somali waters for maritime trade, fishing, exploration, transit and other lawful acts for the collective benefit of the Somali People.

Although maritime crime still represents a significant threat to Somali development, effective organised piracy as a problem has reduced. As Somalis look to the future, this progress presents the opportunity to cultivate and protect their maritime domain.

The Maritime environment represents to Somalis not only access to international commerce but also a major source of revenue from fishing and the extraction of non-renewable marine based resources. Whilst Somalis were not natural fish eaters, during times of famine and shortages of food the sea can be critical sources of food.

This maritime strategy, implemented throughout the region, will deliver improvements in governance, law enforcement and safety and have a positive impact on Somali citizens beyond the maritime area through livelihoods programmes, food security, improved access to goods and services and an export route for Somali products.

PIRACY STATISTICS		CURRENT NUMBER
	HOSTAGES HELD BY PIRATES	49
	VESSELS HELD BY PIRATES	It is believed that all vessels held by pirates have become defunct, have run aground and do not possess any oceangoing capacity

Source: International Maritime Bureau

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 13 January 2014 - **Piracy has reached its lowest levels in six years**, 264 attacks recorded worldwide in 2013 representing a 40% drop since Somali piracy peaked in 2011, according to the latest statistics from the International Maritime Bureau. IMB director Pottengal Mukundan said **the fall in Somalia-based attacks off east Africa was the main reason** for the drop in worldwide incidents. These figures are the lowest reported since 2006, when 10 Somali attacks were recorded (source: abcnews).
- 22 January 14 - **The new Ministry of Justice Headquarters in Hargeisa**, Somaliland, implemented by UNODC **was inaugurated in an open ceremony organised jointly between UNODC and the Ministry of Justice**. Members of the Government and international Community, including the UK who funded most of the project, attended the event that had the presence of the Vice President of Somaliland as well as United Nations high officials.
- 22 January 2014 - The **Seychelles launch** of the EU **Maritime Security Programme (MASE)** was **held on 22 January**. This important new programme will provide a wide array of crucial support to prosecutions of piracy and wider maritime crime in Seychelles and the region for four and a half years. **The project aims to strengthen the criminal justice institutions to prosecute piracy and maritime crime** effectively in accordance with international standards and respect for human rights. The **Mauritius launch** of the EU Maritime Security Programme (MASE) **was held on 27 January**.
- 23 January 2014 - **24 piracy suspects were convicted in Kenya on of voluntary participation in the operation of a pirate ship**. Each was given a sentence of 7 years. In the course of the trial, UNODC funded defence council, interpretation and video-link facilities for remote witness testimony.
- 29 January 2014 - Following the **hijacking of the oil asphalt tanker Asphalt Venture** (Panamanian flagged, Norwegian owned and managed) off Somalia on **28th September 2010, 7 Indian crew members are still being held by pirates in Somalia**, according to the International Maritime Bureau. The **crew's families have campaigned for the seafarers' release**, but in March 2012, the Somalia Report said that the pirates would continue to hold the crew members until the Indian government released pirates held in Indian prisons (source: EMSA News).
- 29 January 2014 - **Five suspected pirates** detained by EUNAVFOR were handed over for prosecution to Seychelles. The suspected pirates were **arrested by the Seychelles Police on arrival and remanded by the courts**.
- In January/February 2014 - **25 Somali nationals who completed their sentences in Kenyan prisons for the crime of piracy were repatriated to Somalia**. UNODC funded the flights and facilitated the repatriation with partial funding from the CGPCS Trust Fund.
- In **Mauritius, UNODC delivered a week-long training course on Maritime Crime and Criminal Justice to 28 Judges, Prosecutors and Legislative Advisers from Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles and Mauritius**. Funded by the Australian Government, the course was designed to build the knowledge and capacity of regional lawyers to prosecute piracy and maritime crime. The highest achieving participants on the course will have the opportunity to undertake a post graduate certificate in the maritime crime and justice field at an Australian university funded by the Australian Government.
- In **Seychelles UNODC delivered one week training courses to police and prison staff from the region, aimed at increasing their capacity effectively to investigate and detain suspects of piracy and wider maritime crime**. The Certificate in Maritime Crime & Law Enforcement and the Certificate in Maritime Crime & Correctional Administration were developed by UNODC in partnership with the University of Seychelles with support from the Australian Government. The courses have been accredited as a NQF level 5 short course qualification by the Seychelles Qualification Authority for award by the University of Seychelles, and are the first such academic qualifications to be developed in the region. A total of 55 **police and prison staff from Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritius and Seychelles undertook the course**.
- **UNODC funded and facilitated a Somali lawyer nominated by the Puntland Bar Association and a Seychellois legal aid lawyer to advise 34 Somalis convicted of piracy in Seychelles**. The lawyers provided independent legal advice to Somalis volunteering to be transferred to UNODC supported prisons in Puntland. UNODC provided a Somali interpreter for the individual advice sessions and prisoners also got to view a presentation on the facilities at the new prison in Garowe, Puntland.
- **REFLECS³ in Seychelles has established a humanitarian cell to provide situational information to the hostage support unit of UNODC**. The close cooperation between the two organizations will improve the understanding on the hostage situation in Somalia.
- The **UNODC Hostage Support Programme (HSP)** is also looking in to the well-being of families and the after care of released hostages as victims of crime. The focus is to address immediate needs, **find alternative ways of helping the hostages and their families based on their own input and gather lessons learned** for future analysis. So far the programme has visited ex hostages helped by the programme and their families in Ghana, Qatar and Sri Lanka. **The HSP funded by the Trust Fund board of the CGPCS has assisted in the release of over 67 seafarers**, and is currently providing direct support to 3 out of 4 hostage cases left in Somalia.

Caring For Seafarers And Their Families Affected By Somali Piracy

As of February 2014, 49 seafarers and fishers are still held hostage in Somalia - many of them for more than three years. The Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme (MPHRP) is in regular contact, assisting and supporting the families of 32 of these in Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Through its recently established MPHR Fund, MPHRP has also been providing limited support for medical care and education fees for their children. [Information on the Fund is available at www.mphrp.org/mphrf].

As agreed at the November Plenary meeting of the Contact Group, the Republic of Korea, as Chairman of Working Group 3, has submitted the recently endorsed "Interim Guidelines on Measures Relating to the Welfare of Seafarers and Their Families Affected by Piracy off the Coast of Somalia" to the IMO. Their co-sponsored submission invites the IMO's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) to issue a Circular for the use of member states and industry in dealing with the welfare of seafarers and their families affected by piracy incidents. [The 93rd session of the MSC meets 14-23 May 2014].



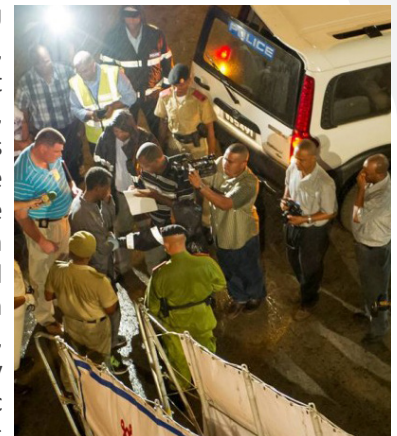
The families that wait - Photo: mphrp.org

Crew Of Indian Dhow *Shane Hind* Released



JS Samidare on patrol in the Gulf of Aden - Photo: JMSDF/CMF - CTF151

On Saturday 18 January, the EU Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) Somalia Operation Atalanta flagship FS Siroco, in cooperation with a Japanese Maritime Patrol Aircraft and a helicopter from the Japanese vessel JS Samidare, in associated support to the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF/CTF 151), freed the crew of the Indian Dhow *Shane Hind*. The dhow was believed to have been used by the five suspected pirates as a mother-ship in the attack on an oil tanker in the Gulf of Aden a day earlier. The initial attack was repelled by a private armed security team embarked on board the oil tanker. On 29 January 2014, international collaboration in the fight against piracy resulted in the transfer of these five men to the Republic of Seychelles, with the aim of prosecuting them for acts of piracy. The Seychelles play a leading role in achieving a legal finish against pirates in the region.



The men suspected of piracy are handed over to the Seychelles police - Photo: EU Naval Force

African Union adopts 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy

The African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government formally adopted the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy) during its 22nd Ordinary Session which took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 30-31 January 2014. The Assembly reiterated the geostrategic importance of seas and oceans in the socioeconomic development of Africa and the critical position they occupy within the post-2015 development agenda. Moreover, the Assembly expressed its commitment to preserve, protect and use oceanic spaces and resources to the benefit the African continent and its populations. To this end, the Assembly underscored the importance of reinforcing the capacity of member states to manage their exclusive economic zones (EEZ) and invited regional economic communities and regional mechanisms to develop and adopt a regional strategy against piracy, armed robbery and other illegal activities committed at sea, consistent with the 2050 AIM Strategy. [Source: official communiqués]

PIRATE TRANSFERS

- On 29 January 2014, international collaboration in the fight against piracy resulted in the transfer of five men to the Republic of Seychelles, with the aim of prosecuting them for acts of piracy.

PIRATE TRIALS

- On 24 January 2014 a Kenyan court sentenced 24 Somalis to seven years each in prison for attempting to hijack an Iranian merchant vessel in the Gulf of Oman in October 2010. The men were arrested by the Dutch navy working under NATO command (source: News24).

PIRATE REPATRIATIONS

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What The CGPCS Is And Why It Matters

The Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) is a unique inclusive and voluntary ad hoc collaborative construct working with the UN but is not of the UN. Established in January 2009, the Contact Group deliberately adopted an unusually open architecture with many diverse stakeholders, including national governments, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, the maritime industry and the private sector - responsible and productive actors who are willing and able contribute to solutions to piracy.

All stakeholders have in common an understanding that piracy is a international security challenge and has negative impact – everywhere, at all times, and under all circumstances. There is no ideological support for pirates and no sympathy anywhere for their cruel and criminal enterprise.

The Contact Group represents a new model of public-private partnership, and potentially a governance model for truly comprehensive approaches to complex problems.

Participation in the Contact Group is voluntary, based on national or sector interest; there is no formal structure, no rigid protocol, no standing infrastructure, no institutional overhead, no secretariat, and frankly, no rules. As a transient, issue-focused, political-level voluntary coordination body, the Contact Group maintains a very specific, limited focus on maritime piracy off Somalia.

Contact Group communiqués, while non-binding, are useful as bases for harmonizing the participants' respective efforts.

When more formal action is appropriate, UN member states can and routinely do initiate UN Resolutions that form the basis for national and multilateral policies and operations. The Contact Group, over time, has earned political legitimacy without any real structural formality. It works because it is based on mutual interest and trust. Relationships matter, and working together over time creates understanding and synergy.

[US Department of State]

CGPCS Poster Project - Call For Contributions

The CGPCS Chairmanship is keen to improve the visibility of the core programs, initiatives, projects, missions and operations that have been established in the fight against Somali piracy.

It is important to make the good work of the CGPCS stakeholders better known to the public and raise the awareness amongst stakeholders and general public.

For that purpose we are launching a CGPCS Poster Project.

The objective is to identify and capture the key initiatives, programs, operations ('projects') etc. in the fight against Somali piracy and produce per 'project' a banner (text, illustrated with a number of photos). Together these banners will form an exhibition that will be put on display at the CGPCS Plenary in New York in May. Complete sets will also be made available for states and organisations for display (for example in Ministries, airports, conferences, etc.).

CGPCS stakeholders are kindly invited to participate in this CGPCS Poster Project.

If you want to participate. Please get in contact with the EU Support team, Mr. Timo Lange (mediaops@mschoa.org) to indicate your interest. The EU Support Team and Oceans Beyond Piracy will provide design support if and when needed.

The deadline is 14 March 2014.

Technical specifications. Needed are a short synthesis of your project (max 300 words, summing up the key aims and achievements) and several photos (high resolution, JPEG). The size of the banner will approx. be 200 by 80 cm (80 by 30 inch). The banner will be printed on vinyl in full colour and placed in a retractable banner. The delivery is in New York in May.

This project is sponsored by the US Government and is realised with the technical support of Oceans Beyond Piracy.

Upcoming CGPCS and Piracy related events in 2014	Date
Meeting of CGPCS Working Group 1 and Working Group 5	12/13 May
16 th CGPCS Plenary Meeting in New York	14 May
Side event to the CGPCS Plenary	15 May
CGPCS Counter Piracy Week	October / November