



MDAT – GoG

Quarterly Report 01-17

January – March 2017

INCIDENT DISPOSITION

IN THIS ISSUE

OVERVIEW

The MDAT-GOG has been in operation since 20 June 16. It is a virtual reporting mechanism supporting the interregional architecture defined by the Yaounde Code of Conduct. The primary output from the MDAT-GoG is to contribute by maintaining coherent maritime situational awareness in the central and western African Maritime Space, with the ability to inform and support industry, contributing to the safety and security of the Mariner in the regional maritime domain.

All vessels are encouraged to report to the MDAT-GoG using the existing reporting formats. The information supplied by vessels will be treated as commercially confidential.

All details can be found on SHOM Chart 8801CSD or UKHO Chart Q6114, 30 June 2016, to allow vessels to report their vessels when transiting the revised Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA), also described on both security charts with the MDAT-GOG, using the email address watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org . Phone number is monitored permanently (+33 298 22 88 88).

After several months of existence, it has been assessed useful to publish a Quarterly Report which would summarize all the events previously reported within the past Weekly reports or received later. We hope this could provide some helpful general overview concerning the events we have to face.

ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[Naval Oceanic and Hydrographic Service \(SHOM\)](#)
[Best Management Practice \(BMP\)](#)
[United Kingdom Hydrographic Office \(UKHO\)](#)
[IMB Live Piracy Reports](#)

032 events have been reported to MDAT-GoG this quarter.

Classification criterias

- Sighting and Irregular activity: All suspicious information with no proof of intent to board the vessel.
- Suspicious approach: Close approach with intent to board the vessel.
- Attempted boarding: **Actual** attempt to board a vessel.
- Boarding: Assailants board a vessel.
- Theft: Theft realized in territorial waters with no violence.
- Robbery: Theft realized in territorial waters with threat/violence to crew.
- Attack: Use of weapons by assailants at vessel.
- Kidnap: Crew taken off vessel by force.
- Hijack: Vessel taken by attacker, no longer under the control of the Master.

DETAIL OF EVENTS

**032/17 – ATTACK - On 30th March 2017, in position: 04°01.00N – 006°48.00E**

In the early morning, a merchant vessel was attacked by unknown pirates.

[\(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 13-17 and Warning 005/MAR/17\)](#)

**031/17 - ATTACK - On 29th March 2017, in position: 04°08.00N – 004°40.00E**

At 12:50Zhrs MDAT-GoG received information about an attack on merchant vessel.

[\(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 13-17 and Warning 004/MAR/17\)](#)

**030/17 - MISC - On 29th March 2017, in position: 00°30.31S - 007°31.58E**

Authorities reported to MDAT-GoG that a vessel could have been involved in an incident near Gabon. After further investigation, it appeared that vessel just was drifting. This event is so classified as a false alarm.

[\(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 13-17\)](#)

**029/17 - SIGHTING - On 19th March 2017, in position: 05°48.00N - 010°36.00W**

A merchant vessel spotted a suspicious craft (yacht type) following her for 20 minutes. Merchant vessel proceeded to evasive manoeuvres, then suspicious craft stopped and altered course.

[\(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 12-17\)](#)

**028/17 – SIGHTING – On 11th March 2017, in position: 05°59.90N – 001°13.50E**

Merchant vessel anchored off Lome, Togo, spotted six suspicious small boats approaching her. Even the fact that small boats were not fitted with nets, it appeared that small boats were fishing vessels.

[\(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 11-17\)](#)

**027/17 – SIGHTING – On 10th March 2017, in position: 03°58.47N - 000°23.49E**

Merchant vessel spotted two long fast boats at a distance of 6NM, approaching with a speed of 5kn. They were visible with binoculars. Vessel started engine and sailed by full speed. Fast boats then stopped proceeding. Due to large distance, MDAT-GoG had not enough information to classify this event.

[\(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 11-17\)](#)

**026/17 – ATTACK – On 10th March 2017, in position: 03°03.00N – 006°57.30E**

Merchant vessel has been attacked by a fast boat fitted with six gunmen. Assailants shot the vessel and tried to board with a long ladder. Assault was aborted after evasive manoeuvres.

[\(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 10-17 and Warning 003/MAR/17\)](#)

**025/17 – SIGHTING – On 9th March 2017, in position: 05°35.47N - 002°30.05E**

Merchant vessel enroute to SSA Lagos observed a suspicious boat (black hull) at a distance of 2.2 NM. The boat reduced its speed, stopped and waited for the vessel to come its beam (range 1.5 NM). The vessel increased speed to full and made large course alteration and started fire pump to activate the fire hoses rigged on deck and the boat appeared to follow the vessels astern. As the vessel was slightly faster, the distance increased and the boat aborted and moved away after nearly half an hour. After investigation, it appeared that boat was a fishing vessel.

**024/17 – SIGHTING – On 9th March 2017, in position: 15°39.00N - 018°20.00W**

Merchant vessel sighted one skiff that came within 2-4 cables of vessel, no person on board sighted or anything else.

**023/17 – ATTACK – On 8th March 2017, in position: 03°16.00N - 004°31.00E**

Merchant vessel was attacked by a skiff with 7 pirates armed on board. Attack failed.

[\(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 10-17 and Warning 002/MAR/17\)](#)

**022/17 – KIDNAP – On 7th March 2017, in position: 04°38.00N - 005°25.00E**

According to sources operating in the region, a merchant vessel has been attacked and boarded by an unknown number of assailants, when operating 7NM from the Pennington oil Terminal. The assailants have kidnapped the Captain, Chief Engineer, Chief Mate and one Able Seaman. It has been reported that the pirates have also stolen mobile phones, laptops and food supplies.

**021/17 – BOARDING – On 7th March 2017, in position: 04°41.00N - 007°09.00E**

Merchant vessel reported several men boarded the vessel, whilst berthed at ONNE PORT, Nigeria.

Assailants beat the Captain, who has been injured.

[\(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 10-17 and Warning 001/MAR/17\)](#)

**020/17 – SIGHTING – On 2nd March 2017, in position: 04°28.10N - 002°30.60E**

Crew on board a general cargo vessel underway noticed a suspicious boat doing 9 knots at a distance of 0.9NM astern. The vessel increased speed and made large course alterations and the boat appeared to follow. As the vessel was slightly faster, the distance increased and the boat aborted and moved away after nearly two hours.

(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 10-17 and Advisory 001/MAR/17)

**019/17 – IRREGULAR ACTIVITY – On 23rd February 2017, in position: 05°15.80N - 011°06.10W**

Merchant vessel has been followed by one suspicious vessel carrying two small boats. Suspicious vessel approached at about 5NM. Except the fact that vessel was followed, nothing was reported suspicious.

**018/17 – IRREGULAR ACTIVITY – On 22nd February 2017, in position: 03°02.00N - 002°06.00W**

Merchant vessel spotted one suspicious boat heading straight with a speed of 4.5kt at a distance of 4.8 NM. Vessel started engine and run away from the boat, who increased speed and chased her for few minutes. Closest Point of Approach was 2NM. MDAT-GoG had not enough information to provide advisory/warning or to classify this event as an illegal event.

**017/17 – SEARCH AND RESCUE – On 20th February 2017, in position: 05°50.83N - 010°02.75W**

Authorities requested information on a 110 tons vessel with 6 persons on board. EPIRB button has been pressed and thought to be in GOG area. After investigation, it appeared that vessel had sunk on the morning off Buchanan, Liberia. All crew safe.

**016/17 – ATTACK – On 19th February 2017, in position: 05°13.80N - 004°49.50E**

Merchant vessel had been attacked when sailing offshore FORCADOS at about 28 NM from the shore. 6 or 7 armed pirates came on board. The ship received assistance from Nigerian naval asset but pirates had already gone. Crew staid in citadel for 8 hours and are all safe.

(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 08-17 and Warning 004/FEB/17)

**015/17 – ROBBERY – On 18th February 2017, in position: 05°12.80N - 004°04.40W**

Merchant Vessel was boarded by robbers. They threatened the crew with knives, two mooring lines were stolen, and no crew member was injured.

(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 08-17 and Advisory 003/FEB/17)

**014/17 – SEARCH AND RESCUE – On 18th February 2017, in position: 17°40.52S - 011°24.93E**

UKMTO informed MDAT-GoG that a crew member was over board. This event took place out of VRA. MRCC CAPE TOWN took the lead.

**013/17 – IRREGULAR ACTIVITY – On 13th February 2017, in position: 04°45.70N - 003°38.70E**

Merchant vessel reported a small general cargo ship, with small boat alongside on port quarter, which was drifting. Vessel was too far to see something suspicious on board. MDAT-GoG had not enough information to provide advisory/warning or to classify this event.

**012/17 – ATTACK – On 7th February 2017, in position: 03°31.00N - 007°04.00E**

VHF distress message is relayed to MDAT-GoG. A merchant vessel has been attacked by at least two fast boats.

(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 06-17, Advisory 002/FEB/17 and Warning 003/FEB/17)

**011/17 – KIDNAP – On 5th February 2017, in position: 03°58.00N - 005°28.00E**

Merchant vessel was attacked by 3 fast boats. Ten pirates armed with automatic guns came on board the vessel. Intruders stayed about 2 hours before leaving, taking with them electronic devices and cash. 8 Crew members were abducted.

(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 06-17, Warning 001/FEB/17 and Warning 002/FEB/17)

**010/17 – ATTACK – On 4th February 2017, in position: 02°54.24N - 004°51.54E**

One small skiff with eight personnel armed with weapons approached a merchant vessel and escort vessel at a high speed and opened fire. Escort vessel returned warning shots and skiff retreated. All vessels are safe.

(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 06-17 and Advisory 001/FEB/17)

**009/17 – ATTACK – On 30th January 2017, in position: UNKNOWN**

An attack reported to have occurred off Bonny Island LNG Terminal in the early morning.

During the attack, one security boat would have sustained damage.

**008/17 – THEFT – On 30th January 2017, in position: 08°27.00N - 013°26.00W**

Two supposed-thieves boarded the vessel. They jumped overboard whilst general alarm sounded. Nothing was reported stolen. MDAT-GoG cannot confirm if assailants were thieves or stowaways.

(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 05-17 and Advisory 001/JAN/17)

**007/17 – STOWAWAYS – On 26th January 2017, in position: 32°39.00N - 009°23.00W**

A merchant vessel out of VRA reported 5 stowaways on board. The ship changed her destination to disembark them.

**006/17 – ROBBERY – On 25th January 2017, in position: 08°27.00N - 013°25.00W**

Three assailants with knives boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Pepel anchorage. The assailants were spotted on the vessel's forecastle and the alarm was raised. According to reports, the assailants threatened one crew member before escaping with stolen ship's store.

(MDAT-GoG Weekly Report 05-17)

**005/17 – ROBBERY – On 25th January 2017, in position: 08°27.00N - 013°25.00W**

Three robbers on board a small wooden boat boarded a merchant vessel anchored.

They stole mooring rope before being spotted and escaping.

**004/17 – HIJACK – On 19th January 2017, in position: 04°58.57N - 008°19.21E**

Merchant vessel was reported to have been hijacked by pirates off Calabar (Cross River States, Nigeria).

Seven crew members were on board. MDAT tried to contact company but has not enough information to provide advisory/warning or to classify this event.

**003/17 – IRREGULAR ACTIVITY – On 11th January 2017, in position: 02°01.00N - 000°23.00W**

Merchant vessel reported a suspicious boat while she was drifting. Vessel started engine and got underway. Small thin fishing boat then stopped chasing her.

**002/17 – SEARCH AND RESCUE – On 6th January 2017, in position: 03°01.00S - 005°37.00W**

Authorities contacted MDAT to request assistance for sailor with several fractures on board a fishing vessel. Information was released to local authorities and dealt with by them.

**001/17 – IRREGULAR ACTIVITY – On 4th January 2017, in position: 04°53.00N - 000°43.00W**

Merchant vessel received a call from supposed Ghana Navy (VHF16). He decided not to reply to them and proceeded to her destination.

QUARTERLY EVENTS

- (1) Hijack:**
Four incident to report.
- (2) Boarded – Boarding attempt:**
One incident to report.
- (3) Attack:**
Eight incident to report.
- (4) Robbery – Sea theft:**
Three incidents to report.
- (5) Suspicious approach:**
Nil incidents to report.
- (6) Sighting – Irregular activity:**
Eleven incidents to report.

WARNINGS and ADVISORIES

9 Warnings and 5 advisories have been issued this quarterly.

SERIAL	DATE	SUMMARY
WARNING 005/MAR/17	30/03/2017	ATTACK
WARNING 004/MAR/17	29/03/2017	ATTACK
WARNING 003/MAR/17	10/03/2017	ATTACK
WARNING 002/MAR/17	08/03/2017	ATTACK
WARNING 001/MAR/17	07/03/2017	BOARDING
ADVISORY 001/MAR/17	03/03/2017	SIGHTING
WARNING 004/FEB/17	19/02/2017	ATTACK
ADVISORY 003/FEB/17	19/02/2017	ROBBERY
WARNING 003/FEB/17	07/02/2017	ATTACK
ADVISORY 002/FEB/17	07/02/2017	ATTACK
ADVISORY 001/FEB/17	06/02/2017	ATTACK
WARNING 002/FEB/17	05/02/2017	UPDATE WARNING 001/FEB/17
WARNING 001/FEB/17	05/02/2017	KIDNAP
ADVISORY 001/JAN/17	30/01/2017	THEFT

CONTACT

Contact the MDAT-GoG:
 E-mail: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org
 Phone : +33 (0) 2 98 22 88 88 (emergency)
 Phone : +33 (0) 2 98 22 13 02 (exercise)

NOTES

Any queries regarding these Advisory Notices ring: 0033 298 22 88 88 only, for further information. ADVISORIES are not Classified as a Maritime Security Events and have not been verified by MDAT-GoG. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. MDAT-GoG is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.