



THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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MARINE SECURITY ADVISORY – 09/2023-Rev.2
(Supersedes Marine Security Advisory 08/2023 and supplements
Marine Security Advisory 01/2023)

Subject: Security Situation in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea

- References:
- a) [Interim industry transit advise, Southern Red Sea and Gulf of Aden](#)
 - b) [IMO Resolution A.1106\(29\)](#)
 - c) [CMF Guidance for Shipping Navigating the Southern Red Sea](#)

The following changes have been included:

- 1. Provided updated information on Operation Prosperity Guidance (OPG)**
- 2. Added urgent recommendation to avoid transiting the Southern Red Sea for next 48-72 hours**

Dear Owners/Operators/Company Security Officers/Masters:

The purpose of this Marine Security Advisory is to inform Owners/Operators/Company Security Officers/Masters of the imminent threat of attacks by armed skiffs, drones or anti-ship missiles in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea.

It has appeared that Houthi militia are threatening and attacking vessels that they believe as having direct affiliation/links with Israel, Israeli Nationals or ships directly associated with the Saudi-led coalition involved in the Houthi conflict with the Yemeni government. Over the last few weeks, the militia have engaged in threats and attacks on multiple vessels engaged in innocent passage through the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea. On multiple occasions the Houthi militia have launched missiles from drones and have demanded ships to turn around and proceed to Houthi controlled areas of Yemen.

Operation Prosperity Guardian'(OPG) has commenced in the Southern Red Sea (SRS). This is a presence and deterrence mission in support of the Freedom of Navigation, that will be conducted by an international Naval force under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), commanded by Combined Task Force 153. Vessels transiting in the SRS will note a significant increase in the number of coalition warships and aircraft operating in the area as part of this operation. Additional guidance is available in [reference c\)](#).

Liberian flagged vessels transiting the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea are to increase their security level to security level 3 and implement all protective measures in their Ship Security Plan. In addition, due to most recent strikes by the CMF on Houthi military targets, US Naval Forces Central Command Bahrain (NAVCENT) has advised shipping that there is a high degree of threat/risk to transits through the Red Sea, specifically in the areas from 12 to 16 degrees North and West of 46 degrees East in the Southern Red Sea and Bab al Mandab Strait. Therefore, Liberian flagged vessels should take an operational pause for at least the next 48-72 hours. In addition, it advised that ships that do continue to transit with AIS turned off should provide position reports to COMUSNAVCENT every 2-3 hours.

As per International Maritime Organization (IMO) **Resolution A.1106(29)** paragraph 22, if the master believes that the continual operation of AIS might compromise the safety and security of his/her ship or where security incidents are imminent, the AIS may be switched off. Be advised that Houthi militia have attacked ships with AIS switched on and off. While switching the AIS off can make it more difficult for the militia to track vessels, it will also make it more difficult for the vessel to receive support if needed. Limiting AIS data to the mandatory fields and omitting the next port of call could be considered.

All vessels should report to the UKMTO and register with the Maritime Security Centre for the Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) in accordance with industry BMP (Best Management Practices) and take advice from the coalition forces operating in the area. Best Management Practices 5 (BMP5) will continue to provide the necessary guidance for shipping to ensure threat and risk assessments are developed for every voyage to mitigate the risks presented by remaining security threats in the region. The shipping industry will continue to monitor and advise on maritime security threats to assist the safe transit of vessels and the seafarers.

In an emergency, vessels transiting the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea, should contact NAVCENT Battle Watch Phone: +973-1785-3879; Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) Primary Watch Floor Phone: +973-1785-0033, Contingency Mobile Phone: +973-3940-4523, Email: m-ba-cusnc-ncags@us.navy.mil.

When operating within territorial seas or calling ports within the previously defined HRA as shown on UKHO Chart Q6099, Masters shall set the vessel security level to the level set by the port State authority but may implement security measures in excess of the security level set by the port authorities based on their assessment of the conditions in the port. When operating outside territorial seas or ports within the previously defined HRA shown on UKHO chart Q6099, all Liberian flagged vessels shall operate at security level II. All security level changes should be reported directly to the Flag Administration by the Master via email security@lisr.com.

The Liberian Administration strongly recommends that Vessels Owners, Characters, Operators and Ships Masters continue to carry out pre-voyage threat and risk assessments to consider the latest maritime security information from organizations supporting the VRA. In addition, Liberian flagged vessels may consider using a Private Maritime Security Company (PMSC) to provide additional armed or unarmed security personnel while transiting the high-risk area. Authorized Private Maritime Security Companies.

Contact MSCHOA prior to transiting the Western Indian Ocean, the Somali Basin, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and the Red Sea.

The contact details of MSCHOA are:
Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
Email postmaster@mschoa.org
Telephone +44 1923 958545 +44 1923 958700
Fax +44 1923 958520 Website www.mschoa.org

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Register their vessels with UKMTO
Email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org; and ukmto@eim.ae
Phone: +44 - 2392-222060, +971-50-552-3215
Fax +44 1923 958520

Please keep LISCR's Security Department informed of any security incidents at:

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