Office of
Deputy Commissioner
of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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25 August, 2026

MARINE SECURITY BULLETIN – 30/2026

Subject: **Report of Piracy Activity in the Gulf of Aden**

Reference: **(a)** **Best Management Practices for Maritime Security (BMPMS)**

Dear Owners/Operators/Company Security Officers/Masters:

A commercial vessel was reported to have been boarded by unauthorized personnel on 20 August 2026 while transiting west in the Gulf of Aden, approximately 136 nautical miles East of Al Mukalla, Yemen. The tanker vessel made a distress call over VHF Channel 16 reporting it was being approached by an unauthorized vessel. The tanker has reportedly been boarded by six armed personnel who now have control of the vessel and are redirecting it towards Somalia.

Recommendations

A recent report indicates a Pirate Action Group operating in the Gulf of Aden In an effort to prevent further incidents and possible danger to crewmembers and vessels, the Registry strongly recommends masters, operators and shipowners to continue to follow the methods put forth in the Best Management Practices for Maritime Security (BMPMS) regarding defending against piracy attempts to include considering the use of private maritime security companies onboard the vessels.

The Voluntary Reporting Area (VRA) for vessels operating in the Indian Ocean region and administered by UKMTO has not changed. Ships entering the VRA are encouraged to report to the UKMTO and register with the Maritime Security Centre for the Indian Ocean (MSCIO) in accordance with industry BMP (Best Management Practices). 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@liscr.com**.

Best Management Practices MS 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 seafarers.

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, including use of **privately contracted security personnel**, as deemed necessary.

Contact Information

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

The Contact details for MSCIO are:
Maritime Security Centre – Indian Ocean (MSCIO)
Email: postmaster@mscio.eu
Telephone +33 (0) 298 220 220 / +33 (0) 298 220 170
Fax: +44 1923 958520
Website: www.ukmto.org

When transiting these waters, register your vessel with UKMTO:
Email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org
Phone: 2392-222060 / +971-50-552-3215
Fax: +44 1923958520

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

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