



Office of
Deputy Commissioner
of Maritime Affairs

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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26 February 2024

MARINE SECURITY BULLETIN – 07/2024

Dear Shipowners, Operators and Masters of Liberian Flagged Vessels,

Subject: Multiple Attacks in the Bab al-Mandab Strait

On February 19, 2024 three vessels were attacked transiting the Bab al-Mandab Strait. One vessel, a bulk carrier, was attacked transporting a load of grain through the Gulf of Aden. The bulk carrier was attacked twice within a few hours near 12 32N 046 36E. The vessel suffered superficial damage via shrapnel, but the vessel was able to safely proceed to its next port of call.

A second bulk carrier was attacked transiting the Bab Al Mandab Strait, at approximately 12 42N 043 19E. The attack resulted in superficial damage to the accommodation superstructure. The crew has been reported safe and is proceeding to its next port of call.

The third, a general cargo vessel, was abandoned by its crew after a missile strike in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, at approximately 12 47N 043 17E. The vessel is currently taking on water and is in danger of foundering. The crew was safely evacuated with the help of a military vessel in the area.

The Liberian Registry encourages all vessels transiting the Red Sea to 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 advise from the collation 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.

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](#).

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.

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

When transiting the Western Indian Ocean, the Somali Basin, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Red Sea.

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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