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gained broad prestige among militant Somali Islamists if they had succeeded in hitting Congressman Payne. Despite militants' failure to strike their intended target, the inability of AMISOM and Somali security forces to secure the airport's environs is evidence of the new government's slow progress in securing the capital. However, the Sheikh Ahmed government's willingness to acknowledge its short-comings in securing Mogadishu and to consult broadly with community and religious leaders will continue to impede al-Shabaab's efforts to win ascendancy in that city. So far, the government is retaining broad cohesiveness and optimism, and clerics' and elders' support appear solid. The government will open a recruiting drive among all Mogadishu clans and neighborhoods to increase interest and buy-in to government institutions. However, recruit training by foreign police and armed forces will encounter some resistance among anti-foreign elements in the cabinet and parliament.

For related articles go to: Pg 9 - 15 Somalia Related Articles

Sources: BBC, Xinhua, Reuters, Mareeg, 13 Apr 09 - earlier media reporting; C-VAC Somali Factions Primer

Kidnappers Threaten To Kill Two French Hostages In Darfur

Analysis/Road Ahead: The FLA will not release the kidnap victims in the coming weeks, and their demands are unlikely to be met since political will to retry the Zoc's Ark personnel is non-existent in France or in Chad. FLA is heretofore unknown, and if they are an autonomous organization, they may follow through on their execution threats to add to their long-term credibility.

The Bashir government is willing to risk stagnation of the humanitarian environment in Darfur to prove that it is not susceptible to international pressures. Therefore, there is a high probability that FLA is a Khartoum proxy. The group's sudden appearance could set a precedent for Khartoum to organize other groups for similar attacks, striking "soft" foreign targets without risking a confrontation with foreign forces. If food and medical conditions in that province degrade sufficiently, Darfur rebel groups will renew hostilities and attempt to remove political representatives from Khartoum.

For related articles go to: Pg 15 - 18 Sudan Related Articles

Sources: BBC, Reuters, 13 Apr 09 - Earlier media reporting.

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 Couple

Source: BBC, 13 Apr 09 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is an English language state-owned public broadcaster, located in the United Kingdom. Owned by the State, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis. BBC's estimated /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 3 *****/ circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences world-wide.)

The couple was seized almost 2 weeks ago.

A Dutch couple kidnapped by armed tribesmen almost two weeks ago have been released and are returning to the capital, a Yemeni official said. "They are with tribal intermediaries and are on their way back to Sanaa," the official said. The couple were seized while driving in the city and taken to a mountainous

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region 55 miles (90km) to the east. The tribesmen were seeking compensation from the government over the wounding of six tribesmen by police in 2008.

Trial Of 16 Al-Qaeda Suspects Resumed

Source: SABA, 13 Apr 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News.

SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

Sana'a penal court resumed on Monday a trial of 16 al-Qaeda suspects by listening to accusations against suspects No. 12, 13 and 14 who are a Syrian and Saudi and Yemeni.

The prosecution accused the suspects of involving in terror acts in several regions in the country during the period from December 2007 to August 2008. In the hearing, the two suspects denied all accusations against them and the third one rejected to reply. The 16 suspects accused to commit terror and criminal acts targeting foreigners, embassies and oil facilities as well as military camps and security checkpoints. These include a January 2008 shooting that killed two Belgian female tourists. The court decided to adjourn the trial until next Monday.

Terrorists Confess To Plots, Say Received Sums From Saudis

Source: Yemen Post, 13 Apr 09 (Yemen Post is an English-language newspaper, located in Yemen. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows a political bias towards Islamic policy, Muslim religious affiliation, and no bias against the USG or US military. The typical audience demography consists of: middle, middle upper & upper class, government allies, businessmen and investors. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion and business. The Yemen Post reaches audiences throughout the Middle East.)

Three terrorists of a 16-member suspected Al-Qaeda cell, currently on trial on charges related to committing and plotting terrorist attacks in the country, confessed during Monday's court session to planning to attack banks, steal money and target tourists in Yemen.

They said they had planned to raid against banks in different provinces to steal money and attack tourists particularly at the Dar Al-Hajar tourist attraction. They also confessed to committing previous terrorist attacks and said they had received sums from Saudi figures to carry out more attacks in Yemen. Moreover, they disclosed the places where they hid large weapons in areas where they previously carried out terrorist attacks

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including an attack on the Italian embassy early last year. The accused No. 12 Adnan Khalil Ismail said he met with the first accused Rawi Al-Sayari in Hadramout and a second time in Sana'a. The two visited the headquarters of the embassy and they then bought a Magellan set, used to identify positions which they later handed to their colleague Mahmoud Darwish to use it for attacking the embassy. The cell members, who went trial early last month, are accused of a string of attacks including the killing of two Belgian tourists in 2007. They are also face charged with attacks against the US and Italian embassies as well as a mortar attack against a foreigner residential complex in Sana'a which occurred mid last year in addition to charges related to attacking domestic military compounds. The cell members include 11 Yemenis, four Syrians and a Yemen with Saudi nationality.

SC Calls To Activate Military Existence In Abdul-Kuri Island

Source: SABA, 13 Apr 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News.

SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

A report issued by the Foreign Policies and Transportation Committee of Shoura Council (SC) has urged to set up a developed military location for Yemeni marine forces in Abdul-Kuri Island, in Gulf of Aden in Yemen.

The report has highlighted to set up comprehensive security plan covering Yemeni regional waters by marine patrols from coastguard and marine forces with the participation of security and intelligence institutions throughout coastal lines. The report considered establishing Arab marine forces working to to secure international navigation in the Red Sea and protect its entrance from possible threats to be the proper solution for combating piracy.

Rebels Blamed For Killing 2 Workers, Injuring 2

Source: Yemen Post, 13 Apr 09 (Yemen Post is an English-language newspaper, located in Yemen. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows a political bias towards Islamic policy, Muslim religious affiliation, and no bias against the USG or US military. The typical audience demography consists of: middle, middle upper & upper class, government allies, businessmen and investors. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion and business.

The Yemen Post reaches audiences throughout the Middle East.)

Two road workers have been killed and two others injured after

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armed people, believed to be Houthi followers, fired on them while they were going to work in the Mahather district of Yemen's volatile northern province of Saada.

Local sources said Houthi rebels intercepted the four workers and shot them killing two and injuring other two and the attackers then ran away. Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Houthi rebels expressed astonishment over accusations regarding the incident, saying the shooting was an intelligence act. He said the attack was a security conspiracy describing it as one similar to the bombing that targeted the Salman mosque in the province last year. However, the local sources said Houthi outlaws continue to breach /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 4 *****/

the rules, accusing them of escalating the situation in the province which reports recently affirmed was heading toward a six war between the government troops and the Houthi rebels. Two days ago, the authorities blamed Houthi followers of the killing of a tribal elder who was returning to his home after a visit to the Ghamr district. The elder paid a visit to the district where fresh confrontations between troops and Houthis to make sure that the reconciliation process between the two sides was proceeding well. They ambushed Yahya Qroosh killing him and injuring one of his escorts after their car came under a hail of heavy gunfire. On the other hand, an explosion was heard on Sunday in Dhale province which police later said it was a bombing that targeted the house of the judge of the province primary court. The bomb was blown up at the judge's car which was parked near his house. No injuries were reported in the attack which took place at 12:00. The car was severally damaged while no damage was caused to the house of the magistrate, police said. An investigation was launched.

Powerful Explosion Rocks Al-Dalie City

Source: Almotamar.net, 13 Apr 09 (Almotamar.net is an Arabic and English language Yemeni news aggregator and e-newspaper, located in Sana'a, Yemen. Owned by Yemen ruling party's General People Congress GPC, it shows a political bias towards the GPC political platform. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional and international news and sports. Almotamar.net's estimated online circulation/audience reach is 117 per 1 million reaching audiences in Yemen 26(-PERCENT-), Saudi Arabia 17(-PERCENT-), Egypt 9(-PERCENT-), the United Arab Emirates 6(-PERCENT-), and Kuwait 6(-PERCENT-).)

A powerful explosion shook the city of Dalie, Yemen at 00:40 am

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Monday inflicting heavy damage on the car of the Judge of the First Instance Court in the city but no casualties reported yet. Director General of the Amin Qarada thinks that the cause of explosion was an explosive charge planted in Al-Ziraa Quarter nearby the houses of the district's Director General and the Judge Nabil Jaghman. Almotamar Net said the explosion inflicted heavy material damage on the Judge's car. Immediately after hearing the sound of explosion police forces rushed to area of the explosion and started investigation measure to learn about motives of perpetrators of that criminal acts.

Plan For Combating Piracy Announced

Source: SABA, 13 Apr 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News.

SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

Minister of Defense Mohammed Nasar Ahmed announced on Monday that the ministry has a plan to combat piracy acts which target ships in Aden Gulf, east of Indian Ocean and Red Sea.

In his reply on a question by the members of parliament over efforts of his ministry in this issue, the minister said that the piracy is in the top agenda of the higher security committee that prepared the plan to deal with such acts. He pointed out to the regional and international cooperation to protect the stability and security of water outlets.

Dutch Hostages Finally Released After Fight Between Kidnappers And Shickhs

Source: Yemen Observer, 13 Apr 09 (Yemen Observer is an English language online weekly newspaper. Privately owned, it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis, business, economy, sports, culture, and society.)

The Two Dutch hostages were freed few hours ago and are in the way to Sana'a and released safe after a hand fight between mediators and people from the tribe of Bani Dhabyan that were divided amongst them, a local sources told the Yemen Observer.

Some of them said that they should keep them and some said that they should release them as this act of kidnapping has distorted the tribe's image in particular and the country in general. The governor of Sana'a, Noman Dowaid confirmed their release. A TV program that was broadcasted yesterday on Yemeni Satellite Channel, the anchor talked about the act of kidnapping. Several

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callers contacted the program and expressed their anger and resentment at the tribe, the kidnappers and the tribe's sheikhs describing the act as shameful and disgraceful. This resulted in the fight amongst the kidnappers and people from their tribe.

"The government will not pay ransom and will not yield to the demands of the kidnappers," Dowaid added in the interview in the program. The Dutch couple, Jan Hoogendoorn, 54 and his wife Helen Janszen, 49 were kidnapped 14 days ago last Tuesday by a group of armed men from the Al Siraj tribe in Bani Dhabyan. More details to come soon.

Al-Raimi Links To Al-Qaeda, Says Interior Minister

Source: SABA, 13 Apr 09 (SABA (AKA Yemen News Agency) is an Arabic and English language news agency, run by the government. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and Middle East News.

SABA's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences in Yemen.)

The Minister of Interior Mutahar Rashad al-Masri told the parliament on Monday that Abdullah Saad al-Raimi- have been arrested by the security forces- has ties with al-Qaeda network and two Old Sana'a and Sinin terror cells.

The minister added that al-Raimi was arrested with Fahid al-Wahish while they prepared a group of youths to commit terror operations, saying that al-Raimi would be sent to prosecution soon as he is considered as a dangerous terrorist. In his reply on a question by a member parliament over current tight security measures around the US embassy in Sana'a, the minister said that measures are temporarily. It is worth mentioning that the US embassy subjected last year for terror attack.

Horn of Africa Ethiopia Ethiopia Launches \$200mn Ethiopia-Kenyan Road Link Project

Source: APA, 13 Apr 09 (African Press Agency is an English and French language news website, located in Dakar, Senegal.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 5 *****/

Reporting focuses on African news and culture.)

Ethiopia launched on Monday, one of Africa's major trans-boundary highways, the Ethiopia-Kenya road link project worth over \$200 million.

The Ethiopian Roads Authority announced here that the highway project will be carried out between Hageremariam and Moyale towns on the Ethiopian side, which will cover 300 kilometres. The road would be one of Africa's major trans-boundary highways, according to the authority, which has finalized the environmental impact

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assessment and rehabilitation study of the project. The African Development Bank (AfDB) is expected to fund the project, which will commence this year. The road project constitutes a major highway linking Ethiopia to Kenya traversing as far as the port of Mombasa on the Kenyan coast, the authority said. The road would be vital in terms of commerce as it traverses major coffee-growing areas in the south Ethiopian states. Recently, a delegation of the project's financier, the AfDB toured the project areas. The road runs 300 kilometers as part of the Addis Ababa - Moyale route. This route is part of the 10,000 kilometre Cairo - Gaborone - Cape Town trans-boundary highway, which is the longest of the four main highway links in Africa.

Ethiopia Destroys Mines Stockpile

Source: BBC, 13 Apr 09 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is an English language state-owned public broadcaster, located in the United Kingdom. Owned by the State, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis. BBC's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences world-wide.)

Ethiopia is one of most heavily mined countries in Africa.

Ethiopia says it has destroyed its stocks of anti-personnel mines, in line with an international treaty. The government said it disposed of more than 54,000 mines, comfortably ahead of the deadline of June this year set out in the Ottawa Convention. It has retained just over 1,000 of the devices to train de-miners.

Ethiopia is one of the most heavily-mined countries on the African continent - a legacy of its border wars with Somalia and Eritrea. The Ottawa Convention is specifically about anti-personnel mines.

Ethiopia can, and does, still use other types of mines in its border zones, notably along its still tense boundary with Eritrea. But these are mines triggered by vehicles, unlike the anti-personnel devices which are triggered by a footfall, whether of an animal, an adult or even a child. The devices are often designed to maim rather than kill, to create as much of a burden as possible on an advancing army. Although the stockpile may have gone, some of Ethiopia's border areas are heavily mined and it has until 2015 to clear anti-personnel mines already in place. Meanwhile parts of the border are still very dangerous places. A landmine monitoring organisation calculated that more than 70

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people were killed or injured by mines in 2007 alone. A spokesman for Ethiopia's foreign ministry, Desalgn Alemu, said it was his country's painful experience with mines which had made it one of the first to sign up to the Ottawa Convention. "Ethiopia doesn't need those kinds of things to defend itself."

Somalia Somali Islamists Target US Congressman

Synopsis: A US congressman has had a narrow escape on a visit to Mogadishu after Somali insurgents fired mortars towards his plane as it was about to take off. Airport officials said one mortar had landed near the airport as Donald Payne's plane was due to fly and five others after his plane departed. Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the mortar attack. "We carried out mortar attacks against the enemy of Allah who arrived to spread democracy in Somalia," a spokesman for the group named as Sheikh Husein Ali Fidow was quoted as saying. "This government is welcoming America, which is our prime enemy and we will never stop attacking them." Payne had just left a half-hour news conference at the presidential palace in the capital when the attack happened, according to airport officials. Three people were wounded when one of the mortars hit a nearby neighborhood, residents said, but no one else was reported injured. Payne earlier met President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, among other Somali officials. He had discussed ways that the international community might be able to help war-torn Somalia. During his brief stop in one of the world's most dangerous cities, Payne was escorted by African Union (AU) soldiers, who are deployed in Somalia on a peacekeeping mission. "We realize that the government cannot do things overnight," said Payne, 74, who is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on Africa. "It's going to take patience and time for the government to be able to start to provide services to its people."

Analysis/Road Ahead: Al-Shabaab fighters in Mogadishu would have gained broad prestige among militant Somali Islamists if they had succeeded in hitting Congressman Payne. Despite militants' failure to strike their intended target, the inability of AMISOM and Somali security forces to secure the airport's environs is evidence of the new government's slow progress in securing the capital. However, the Sheikh Ahmed government's willingness to acknowledge its short-comings in securing Mogadishu and to consult broadly with community and religious leaders will continue to impede al-Shabaab's efforts to win ascendancy in that city. So

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far, the government is retaining broad cohesiveness and optimism, and clerics' and elders' support appear solid. The government will open a recruiting drive among all Mogadishu clans and neighborhoods to increase interest and buy-in to government institutions. However, recruit training by foreign police and armed forces will encounter some resistance among anti-foreign elements in the cabinet and parliament.

Sources: BBC, Xinhua, Reuters, Mareeg, 13 Apr 09 - earlier media reporting; C-VAC Somali Factions Primer

Al Shabaab Says Behind U.S. Congressman Attack

Source: Reuters, 13 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 6 *****)

affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

Somalia's militant Islamist rebel group al Shabaab said on Monday it was behind mortars fired at U.S. congressman Donald Payne as he left the anarchic Horn of Africa nation after a rare visit by a U.S. politician.

"We fired on the airport to target the so-called democratic congressman sent by (U.S. President Barack) Obama," Sheikh Hussein Ali, an al Shabaab spokesman, told Reuters.

Somali Mortars Miss US Politician

Source: BBC, 13 Apr 09 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is an English language state-owned public broadcaster, located in the United Kingdom. Owned by the State, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis. BBC's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences world-wide.)

A US congressman has had a narrow escape on a visit to Mogadishu after Somali insurgents fired mortars towards his plane as it was about to take off.

Airport officials told the BBC one mortar had landed near the airport as Donald Payne's plane was due to fly and five others after his plane departed. Mr Payne had just met leaders of Somalia's government in the capital. The al-Qaeda-linked Islamist

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militant group al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the mortar attack. "We carried out mortar attacks against the enemy of Allah who arrived to spread democracy in Somalia," a spokesman for the group named as Sheikh Husein Ali Fidow was quoted as saying by AFP news agency. "This government is welcoming America, which is our prime enemy and we will never stop attacking them." The BBC's Mohammed Olad Hassan in Mogadishu says Mr Payne had just left a half-hour news conference at the presidential palace in the capital when the attack happened, according to airport officials. The plane of the congressman was leaving and the mortars started falling.

Abukar Hassan, a police officer at Mogadishu airport, told Reuters news agency: "One mortar landed at the airport when Payne's plane was due to fly and five others after he left and no-one was hurt." Three people were wounded when one of the mortars hit a nearby neighbourhood, residents told Reuters. Mr Payne earlier met President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed and Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke, among other Somali officials. He had discussed ways that the international community might be able to help war-torn Somalia. The New Jersey Democrat said it was his first visit to Somalia since the early 1990s, when the country last had a stable government.

During his brief stop in one of the world's most dangerous cities, Mr Payne was escorted by African Union (AU) soldiers, who are deployed in Somalia on a peacekeeping mission. An AU official told AFP on condition of anonymity: "The plane of the congressman was leaving and the mortars started falling. There were no casualties, but the attack was aimed at the congressman. He flew out safely." Mr Payne discussed with his hosts Sunday's hostage drama in the Indian Ocean, when US forces shot dead three **Somali pirates** who had been holding an American ship captain for five days. They also discussed peace and reconciliation in Somalia and possible co-operation between Washington and Mogadishu, our correspondent says. The Somali prime minister said: "We discussed the current situation of Somalia, including the latest piracy incident, the progress the Somali government has made so far and the need for co-operation between the two countries. Our meeting ended in mutual understanding."

At the news conference earlier, Mr Payne said he was sure the Obama administration would look favourably on the Somali government, inaugurated earlier this year after a UN-backed peace process. "We realise that the government cannot do things

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overnight," said Mr Payne, 74, who is chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's subcommittee on Africa. "It's going to take patience and time for the government to be able to start to provide services to its people. "But the government will have a responsibility of proving that it's in the process of benefiting people," the former head of the Congressional Black Caucus added. Radical Islamist guerrillas who have sworn to topple the fragile transitional federal government control parts of Mogadishu and much of central and southern Somalia. The former top US diplomat for Africa, Jendayi Frazer, became the first high-ranking American official to visit Somalia in more than a decade when she landed in Baidoa in 2007, but the security situation kept her from visiting Mogadishu. US foreign policy on the Horn of Africa nation has been overshadowed by the killing of 18 US soldiers in Mogadishu in 1993. Somalia, a country of about eight million people, has not had a functioning national government since warlords overthrew President Siad Barre in 1991 and then turned on each other.

Somali Insurgents Fire Mortars At Visiting U.S. Congressman
Source: Reuters, 13 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

No injuries were reported.

Somali insurgents fired mortars towards U.S. congressman Donald Payne as he left the Somali capital on a rare visit by a U.S. politician to the anarchic Horn of Africa nation, police said.

"One mortar landed at the airport when Payne's plane was due to fly and five others after he left and no one was hurt," Abukar Hassan, a police officer at Mogadishu airport, told Reuters.

Interior Ministry Organizes Security Meeting

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 7 *****/

Source: Mareeg, 13 Apr 09 (Mareeg Online posts Somali news in English and Somali, receiving articles, stories and editorials from journalists world-wide and reprinting international/Somali services with only the condition that they pertain to Somalia. The site aims to stay 'above clan politics.' It updates daily and is hosted in London.)

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Officials discussed how to make Mogadishu more secure. The meeting was held in Nasa Hablod Hotel in Mogadishu and it was attended by clerics and clan elders. The Somali interior minister, Sheik Abdulkadir Ali Omar, said the aim of the meeting was to listen the ideas of the different parts of the society in Mogadishu and to how the security of the capital can be restored. "The continuing of fighting and firing mortars is not the interest of the Somali people. The government is ready to sit with the opposition and the opposition should accept in their side," said the interior minister. The chairman of the Somali clerics, Sheik Bashir Ahmed Salad, who attended in the meeting said the peace of the capital can only come with negotiation. He said the demanding of foreign troops by the government and the deployment of new troops violated the edicts by the Somali clerics who had demanded the withdrawal of the foreign troops. Mohamed Hassan Haad, the leader of Hawiye clan elders said people who want to take control of the capital are still fighting. The security minister of the government, Omar Hashi Aden, called for the interior ministry to secure the capital. The meeting comes two days after the Somali capital Mogadishu saw the worst shelling since the Ethiopian troops pulled out from the country.

Clashes In Mogadishu Claim Lives Of Ten People

Source: Garowe Online, 13 Apr 09 (Garowe Online is an English and Somali language online publication of Radio Garowe, a community FM radio station located in Garowe, Puntland. Most reporting focuses on: Somalia relevant news. Garowe Online reaches audiences in Somalia.)

At least 10 people were killed Sunday in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, as Islamist rebels and African peacekeepers exchanged artillery fire, Radio Garowe reports.

Most of the dead and wounded persons were families who recently returned to their Mogadishu homes after Ethiopian troops withdrew in January, locals said. At least 18 wounded persons were being treated at medical centres, according Rufai Ahmad Salad, who works at Dayniile Hospital. Al-Shabab Islamist hard-liners claimed responsibility for mortar attacks targeting the main port in Mogadishu, with witnesses saying African Union peacekeepers (AMISOM) responded to the attack with the heavy barrage of artillery fire. Somali government officials rejected the opposition's allegations that a ship unloaded military hardware for AMISOM peacekeepers. Located in the Horn of Africa region, Somalia has been mired in armed conflict since the early 1990s and

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more than a dozen attempts at restoring national order have failed.

Somali Security Minister Vows To Fight Armed Groups, Stabilize Capital

Source: Xinhua, 13 Apr 09 (Xinhua is a Chinese, English, Spanish, French, Russian, and Arabic language news agency, located in Beijing, China. Controlled by the Communist party of China's Propaganda Department, it has a limited degree of credibility and shows a political affiliation/bias towards the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Most reporting focuses on: local and international news, politics, business, culture, and education. Xinhua reaches audiences world-wide.)

Somali National Security Minister Omar Hashi Aden on Sunday condemned the continuing insecurity in the capital Mogadishu, and called on security forces "to wage holy war against" armed opponents.

Aden was speaking on the occasion of the 49th anniversary of the creation of Somalia's national armed forces in the capital where government forces and African Union (AU) peacekeepers face daily attacks from armed groups. "We can no longer tolerate the killing of our people on a daily basis by people trained by foreigners from Afghanistan and other countries who teach our youth to kill the best of us," Aden told military forces at the commemoration ceremony. "That is unacceptable and we should wage holy war against them." Aden urged security forces to be ready to stabilize the capital which has lately been the scene of attacks on government forces and the AU peacekeeping contingent protecting important government installations. The Islamist rebel groups of Al-Shabaab and Hezbul Islam (Islamic Party) have been continuing attacking the government led by the moderate Islamist leader, Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed, and AU peacekeeping forces in Mogadishu. The groups which control much of southern and central Somalia accuse the current government of being "un-Islamic" and failing to implement the Islamic sharia law in the war-torn Horn of Africa nation. On Saturday, a series of mortar attacks were launched by insurgent fighters on the Mogadishu seaport where supplies were being unloaded for the AU forces, leaving at least three people dead and nearly 20 others wounded. The attacks came soon after the spokesman for the Al-Shabaab Islamist group urged his fighters to attack government positions and AU peacekeepers in Mogadishu.

Eradicating Piracy Requires Restoration Of Peace In Somalia

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Source: Xinhua, 13 Apr 09 (Xinhua is a Chinese, English, Spanish, French, Russian, and Arabic language news agency, located in Beijing, China. Controlled by the Communist party of China's Propaganda Department, it has a limited degree of credibility and shows a political affiliation/bias towards the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Most reporting focuses on: local and international news, politics, business, culture, and education. Xinhua reaches audiences world-wide.)

The rampant piracy in the waters off Somalia will only cease when anarchy in Somalia ends and peace, stability and development are restored to the Horn of Africa nation, officials and analysts say.

The Gulf of Aden has caught worldwide attention recently as **Somali pirates** hijacked several vessels there since early April, which included a U.S.-flagged cargo ship. The United Nations said in a report released last month that, cases of piracy and armed /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 8 *****/

robbery at sea increased an unprecedented 11 percent worldwide in 2008. Of the 293 such incidents reported, 111 occurred off the coast of Somalia. The report said, there is a pressing need to tackle the problem of Somali piracy with concerted measures from various approaches, such as guaranteeing political process, supporting African states' peacekeeping efforts and strengthening law enforcement institutions. However, the long-term solution to the problem should include efforts to end domestic conflicts, anarchy and extreme poverty in Somalia. Since 1991, conflicts and turbulence have been cropping up one after another in the country with prevailing piracy. After President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed took office early this year, some positive changes have just taken place in the country's political situation.

However, rebel groups still control most of the country's central south areas, except Mogadishu, the capital city. Clashes between some rebel groups and government troops and African Union peacekeeping forces occurred from time to time, while bomb attacks happened frequently. Somalia's economy has also worsened in recent years, with its currency devalued and food price rocketing. A large number of adults across the country have no jobs and live on international aid. Under this situation, making quick money and becoming rich overnight like pirates seem attractive to some young people. That serves the root cause of the piracy problem in Somalia. Some experts on the issue hold that Somalia still needs more help from the international

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community, including more political mediating, more peacekeeping forces and more economic aid to achieve reconciliation among main factions and realize its national stability. The seas off Somalia cannot enjoy peace and quiet as long as the country has no peace. The piracy issue of Somalia shows the importance of the above-mentioned efforts from international community, as well as the meaning of the country's peace and stability to the safety of the region.

Somalia Court Gives Pirates Jail Terms

Source: Xinhua, 13 Apr 09 (Xinhua is a Chinese, English, Spanish, French, Russian, and Arabic language news agency, located in Beijing, China. Controlled by the Communist party of China's Propaganda Department, it has a limited degree of credibility and shows a political affiliation/bias towards the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Most reporting focuses on: local and international news, politics, business, culture, and education. Xinhua reaches audiences world-wide.)

A court in the semi-autonomous state of Puntland, northeastern Somalia, Sunday sentenced 17 suspected pirates to three years in jail each after they were accused of involvement in piracy that is plaguing the Horn of Africa coast.

The men were part of suspected pirates handed over by the French navy joining the international effort to patrol the Somali coast and the Gulf of Aden where piracy activities forced many countries to send warships to prevent the **Somali pirates** from hijacking ships on the important route. Lawyers for the suspects said their clients are fishermen who were mistakenly captured as pirates but the judge presiding over the trial said the men were caught red handed in piracy acts and have also confessed to their crimes. The semi-autonomous Somali state of Puntland is a hotbed for piracy in the Horn of Africa and a number of coastal towns, including the port town of Eyl, have become pirate strongholds where they own huge mansions and fancy cars, thanks to the hefty ransom payout from owners of the hijacked ships.

Hundreds of suspected pirates are now being held in prisons in Bossaso, the commercial capital of the state. The inmates remain in prison for several months without trial and some have escaped in mysterious circumstances. Local authorities say they do not have necessary facilities to hold the inmates and try them properly because of lack of funds for prison guards, lawyers and judges. At least six ships were hijacked this month by **Somali pirates**. An American captain was held hostage by pirates before

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freed on Sunday after days of ordeal on the high seas. The pirates on Wednesday took a Danish-owned cargo ship Maersk Alabama with the crew of 21 Americans on board. Capt. Richard Phillips allowed himself to be taken hostage in exchange for the freedom of the 20 others. The Maersk Alabama docked at the port of Mombasa, Kenya on Saturday night.

Sudan Kidnappers Threaten To Kill Two French Hostages In Darfur

Synopsis: The kidnappers of two aid workers in Darfur say they will kill them, unless six French aid employees convicted of abducting children in Chad are retried. One of the kidnappers, who named his group as the Falcons for the Liberation of Africa (FLA), said, "We demand France open the case of the Zoe's Ark criminals and judge them through a fair court. If the French government is not serious in negotiations with us and does not respond to our request, we will kill the two aid workers."

Chad's pardons two years ago for the French aid staff, three months after they were jailed, sparked public anger. The Aide Medicale Internationale staff, a French and a Canadian woman, were seized in south Darfur a week ago. The kidnappers have also threatened to target French interests if their demands are not met. Armed men kidnapped the pair from their compound in South Darfur's capital, Nyala, about 100km (65 miles) from the border with Chad on 4 April. It was the second kidnapping of aid workers since the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant last month for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for alleged war crimes in Darfur

Analysis/Road Ahead: The FLA will not release the kidnap victims in the coming weeks, and their demands are unlikely to be met since political will to retry the Zoe's Ark personnel is non-existent in France or in Chad. FLA is heretofore unknown, and if they are an autonomous organization, they may follow through on their execution threats to add to their long-term credibility.

The Bashir government is willing to risk stagnation of the humanitarian environment in Darfur to prove that it is not susceptible to international pressures. Therefore, there is a high probability that FLA is a Khartoum proxy. The group's sudden appearance could set a precedent for Khartoum to organize other groups for similar attacks, striking "soft" foreign targets without risking a confrontation with foreign forces. If food and medical conditions in that province degrade sufficiently, Darfur rebel groups will renew hostilities and attempt to remove political representatives from Khartoum.

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/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 9 *****/

Sources: BBC, Reuters, 13 Apr 09 - Earlier media reporting.

UN-African Union Mission Reports Return To Relative Calm In Darfur

Source: UN News Centre, 13 Apr 09 (UN News Service is an English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish language website for the UN. Owned by the UN, it has a general degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: UN related press releases, press briefings, and activities. UN News Service reaches audiences throughout the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Americas, and Asia Pacific.)

The mission has faced increased violence over the last month.

The joint United Nations-African Union (AU) peacekeeping mission in Sudan's war-ravaged Darfur region today reported that the security situation is now relatively calm despite some continuing acts of banditry and carjacking in North and West Darfur. Over the past month, the hybrid operation tasked with quelling the violence and protecting civilians in Darfur, known as UNAMID, had reported a rise in attacks on peacekeeping staff, carjacking, armed banditry, the burning of shelters in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and harassment of civilians in Darfur. There has also been concern over the safety of humanitarian workers, many of whom have been ordered to leave the region following the indictment on 4 March of Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the region. Over the past 72 hours, UNAMID said that its military force conducted dozens of patrols across the region, including 22 confidence-building patrols, 15 escort patrols, six night patrols, and one investigation patrol covering 45 villages and camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNAMID's police component also conducted a total of 96 patrols in and around the villages and IDP camps.

The hybrid force was set up by the Security Council to protect civilians in Darfur, where an estimated 300,000 people have been killed and another 2.7 million have been forced from their homes since fighting erupted in 2003, pitting rebels against Government forces and allied Janjaweed militiamen. More than one year on from transferring the task of suppressing the violence to UNAMID from the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS), well over 12,000 of the 19,555 military personnel authorized by the Security Council are now in place across Darfur. In related news, the second regular

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meeting of the Darfur Human Rights Forum will kick off tomorrow in El Geneina, capital of West Darfur state. The one-day meeting is aimed at promoting transparent and constructive dialogue on human rights issues between the Government of Sudan and UNAMID. Attending the gathering will be officials from the Government of Sudan at the local and national level; members of the Advisory Council on Human Rights (ACHR), also representing the Government; members of the diplomatic community; the AU; UNAMID and UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) Human Rights officials. Participants from the Darfur State Committees on Combating Violence against Women and Children will also participate.

Threat To Kill Two Sudan Hostages

Source: BBC, 13 Apr 09 (British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is an English language state-owned public broadcaster, located in the United Kingdom. Owned by the State, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis. BBC's estimated circulation/audience reach is unknown reaching audiences world-wide.)

Kidnappers want the retrial of 6 French aid workers.

The kidnappers of two aid workers in Darfur say they will kill them, unless six French aid employees convicted of abducting children in Chad are retried. Chad's pardons two years ago for the French aid staff, three months after they were jailed, sparked public anger. The Aide Medicale Internationale staff, a French and a Canadian woman, were seized in south Darfur a week ago. The kidnappers have also threatened to target French interests if their demands are not met. Armed men kidnapped the pair from their compound in South Darfur's capital, Nyala, about 100km (65 miles) from the border with Chad on 4 April.

The pair have been named as Canadian Stephanie Joidon and her French colleague, Claire Dubois. One of the kidnappers, who named his group as the Falcons for the Liberation of Africa, told Reuters news agency by telephone: "We demand France open the case of the Zoe's Ark criminals and judge them through a fair court. "If the French government is not serious in negotiations with us and does not respond to our request, we will kill the two aid workers." In 2007, six employees of French humanitarian group Zoe's Ark were convicted of trying to fly more than 100 children out of Chad to Europe without authorisation. The group, who denied the charges, were sentenced to eight years of hard labour

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by a Chadian court, but were pardoned in March 2008 by Chad's president.

The kidnapers allowed one of their captives to speak to media by satellite telephone on Sunday. Ms Joidon told AFP news agency: "We are being treated well. We do not know where we are. We wish our families much courage. We hope that all ends well." It was the second kidnapping of aid workers since the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant last month for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for alleged war crimes in Darfur. Four workers with Medecins Sans Frontieres were kidnapped at gunpoint from their Darfur home on 11 March and later released. Sudan expelled 13 aid agencies immediately after the indictment of Mr Bashir.

Sudan's Bashir Hails Obama's Overture To Islamic World
Source: Reuters, 13 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

Bashir also defended his expulsion of 13 foreign aid agencies.

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 10 *****/

Sudan's leader welcomed on Monday "positive signs" sent by U.S. President Barack Obama to the Islamic world, striking a more conciliatory tone towards Washington, seen as an enemy of Khartoum in the past. "We, our brothers and sisters, are seekers of peace and stability and we do not want our country to live under the shadows of swords and tension," President Omar Hassan al-Bashir said at the opening of the eighth session of parliament. "Our hands remain held out to those who call for peace and justice in accordance with the standards of fairness and dignity," he added, echoing a phrase used by Obama in his inauguration address. "We even welcome the positive signs sent by U.S. President Barack Obama to the Islamic world on more than one occasion." Washington has had tense relations with the Islamist government of Bashir, who came to power in Africa's largest country in a 1989 coup. The United States imposed economic sanctions on Sudan in 1997 and labelled it a "state sponsor of terrorism." Ties were strained further by the conflict in Darfur,

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which both Obama and his predecessor George W. Bush have called genocide, a description Sudan's government rejects.

Bashir also used his speech Monday to defend a decision to expel 13 foreign aid agencies from Darfur last month after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant against him for alleged war crimes in Sudan's western region. He said the decision was made "for the sake of protecting the sovereignty, security and independence of our country." Bashir's comments came after a visit to Sudan this month by Obama's special envoy to the country, Scott Gration, who met officials from the government, rebel groups and international organizations, promising to "look, learn and listen." Gration, who is expected to return to Sudan within months, said he was looking for friendship and cooperation from the Sudanese government but he did sound one note of criticism. After visiting a refugee camp in Darfur, he said he was concerned the region was on the brink of a deeper humanitarian crisis following the expulsion of the aid agencies. Gration's predecessor Richard Williamson, appointed by Bush, suspended talks on normalising relations with Sudan last year, saying northern and southern Sudanese leaders were not serious about reconciling after a decades-long civil war. International experts say at least 200,000 people have been killed and more than 2.7 million driven from their homes in almost six years of ethnic and politically driven fighting in Darfur. Khartoum says 10,000 people have died.

East Africa Kenya Three Suspected Mungiki Sect Members Lynched In Central Kenya

Source: The People, 13 Apr 09 (The People is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya and owned by veteran opposition leader Kenneth Matiba. The People reaches audiences in Kenya.)

Three suspected members of Kenya's outlawed politico-religious group were 11 April killed by residents of Kirinyaga District in central Kenya, privately owned People Daily newspaper reported 13 April.

The residents said they lynched the suspected Mungiki sect members and burnt their houses after being told to pay monthly fee, The People said. Police said they had arrested 30 suspected Mungiki sect members in the area. The Mungiki sect runs an elaborate extortion ring in Nairobi and central Kenya, and is blamed for recent gruesome murders.

Kenya Will Not Give Up Island In Dispute With Uganda, Says Foreign

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Minister

Source: APA, 13 Apr 09 (African Press Agency is an English and French language news website, located in Dakar, Senegal.

Reporting focuses on African news and culture.)

Kenya's Foreign Affairs, Moses Wetangula on Monday said that Kenya will not give up the disputed Migingo Island located in the shores of Lake Victoria to neighboring Uganda.

Speaking to reporters in Nairobi before he left the country to attend the African Union Council of Ministers meeting in Libya, Wetangula said that Kenya was awaiting a report of experts surveying the island and decide on its next move. The two East African countries are currently embroiled in a tussle over the ownership of the island but they agreed in March that a survey and demarcation of the island should be carried out in the next two months. The minister also denied that Uganda has refused to withdraw its forces in the island, saying that both Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and his Ugandan counterpart, Yoweri Museveni agreed in Lusaka, Zambia last week that Uganda should withdraw its forces from the place. Kenya insists that the island is on its side, a claim disputed by Uganda which has accused Kenya of encroaching on its land.

Scathing Attack For Kibaki And Raila

Source: Daily Nation, 13 Apr 09 (The Daily Nation is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the Nation Media Group Limited NMG, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias towards the Kibaki government, no religious affiliation, and a bias towards the USG or US military. The typical audience demography consists of: middle, middle upper & upper class, job seekers, government allies, businessmen and investors. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis, and entertainment. The Daily Nation's estimated circulation/audience reach is 190,000 reaching audiences in Kenya and the surrounding regions.)

President Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga have come under a scathing attack for harbouring corrupt ministers in government.

Former Justice and Constitutional Affairs minister Martha Karua and Garsen MP Danson Mungatana said corruption was rife in the government but the two principals had failed to stamp it out.

"The President and the Prime Minister have powers to sack dishonest ministers in PNU and ODM but have refused to act. They have failed," Mr Mungatana said. The two leaders demanded the immediate removal of the corrupt ministers, saying Kenyans were

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fed up with them. Ms Karua, who resigned recently citing frustrations over failure to push her reform agenda, said corruption was so rampant that funds to resettle displaced people and to buy fertiliser had been misappropriated. She said it was also no secret that money to buy maize for the starving had been

/****** BEGINNING OF SECTION 11 *****

misappropriated and those who pocketed the money continue to hold positions in government. Ms Karua said she had been fighting for reforms to streamline the operations of the Judiciary which favoured the "rich and people with influence". "The money meant to make the life of the poor better has ended up in the pockets of individuals with the full knowledge of the coalition," she said. Addressing a Narc Kenya rally in Kirinyaga East District, the two leaders said they were forced to resign their Cabinet posts because they could no longer stand the corruption. "We want to fight for the poor whose lives have been made difficult by corrupt ministers," Ms Karua said. The Gichugu MP said was in the race for the presidency and would win it. "I am ready to take over now given a chance," she said. She described President Kibaki as a good elder who preferred sitting on the fence rather than fight corruption.

Uganda's Spying Law Rings Alarm Bells In Kenya

Source: Monitor Online, 13 Apr 09 (The Monitor/The Daily Monitor is an English language independent daily newspaper, located in Kampala, Uganda. Owned by the Nation Media Group (NMG-Kenya), it has a general degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: local, regional, and international news as well as education and entertainment. The Monitor's estimated circulation/audience reach is 200,000 with an online circulation/audience reach of 23 per 1 million reaching audiences in Uganda 36(-PERCENT-), the United States 18(-PERCENT-), the United Kingdom 13(-PERCENT-), Australia 6(-PERCENT-) and Costa Rica 6(-PERCENT-).)

Kenya's telecoms operators are anxiously looking over their shoulders as the Ugandan government seeks legal grounds to have service providers bear the cost of spying on private phone calls.

The proposed law, to be tabled in parliament later this month, will require telecoms operators to buy equipment they need to eavesdrop on telephone conversations. Operators said the move will not only raise moral and ethical challenges but will also add to the high cost of doing telecoms business in Uganda and bring to an abrupt stop the recent gains consumers have made with

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the steady fall in calling tariffs. It is estimated that each operator requires between \$10 million and \$15 million to set up an effective telecommunications monitoring system. "The cost of such equipment would be prohibitive," said Mr Anthony Katamba, who is in charge of legal affairs for Mobile Telephone Network (MTN). Kenyan telecoms operators fear that a heavy cost burden on their counterparts in Uganda could stifle growth in cross-border phone calls to Uganda that is the highest in the region and has been steadily growing. Kenya's top mobile operators Safaricom and Zain either have associates in Uganda or are in revenue sharing partnerships with the country's key telecoms players.

There is also fear that Kenyan authorities, who have been jittery about telecommunication since last year's post poll violence, may want to follow in the footsteps of Uganda should the Museveni government succeed in enacting this law. Mr Michael Joseph, the Safaricom chief executive, said that while he recognizes the need for security agencies to access information they need to secure the country, such initiatives should be funded using tax money. "In view of the developments in Uganda, it is likely that this issue will also become the subject of public policy debate in Kenya," he said. "An ideal outcome would be a situation where the authorities are sensitive to both the legal remit and financial limitations of telecoms service providers which clearly does not enable us to conduct the business of espionage." Uganda's Interception of Communications Bill -- now infamously known as The Phone Tap Bill -- was originally introduced in 2007 to boost the Anti-Terrorism Act but shelved for two years due to immense opposition until its re-emergence last month.

Piracy: Kenya Backs Use Of Force

Source: The Daily Nation, 13 Apr 09 (The Daily Nation is an English language daily newspaper, located in Nairobi, Kenya. Owned by the Nation Media Group Limited NMG, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias towards the Kibaki government, no religious affiliation, and a bias towards the USG or US military. The typical audience demography consists of: middle, middle upper & upper class, job seekers, government allies, businessmen and investors. Most reporting focuses on: news, opinion, analysis, and entertainment. The Daily Nation's estimated circulation/audience reach is 190,000 reaching audiences in Kenya and the surrounding regions.)
The Foreign affairs minister said negotiations with pirates are useless.

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The Kenya Government has backed the use of force to dismantle piracy cells along the Gulf of Aden. The cells are responsible for hijacking of ships in the Indian Ocean. Foreign Affairs minister Moses Wetangula said this option was the best at the moment, but it would not be viable in ending the menace in the long term. "There's no point in negotiating with pirates. We should fight these people... piracy must be ended in all its forms and manifestations. "But as we do this, we should explore ways on how to deal with the root cause of this problem which is the instability of Somalia, a country which has not had a stable government for years," he said at a news conference Monday. "The existence of warlords in that country has indeed compromised security both inland and at sea. We must join hands with other countries having this common goal and end this once and for all."

The minister spoke a day after the US Navy rescued an American captain of a ship that was captured last Wednesday by pirates off the Somali coast. US navy snipers shot dead three pirates holding Captain Richard Philips, of the MV Alabama, in a dramatic rescue said to have been authorised by US President Barack Obama. Mr Wetangula said the increase in piracy especially off eastern Somalia posed a real threat to trade in East Africa. "Ships ferrying important cargo would definitely increase insurance premiums. This cost would ultimately be transferred to the consumers who will pay dearly. We must ensure that this is stopped." According to the International Maritime Bureau Piracy Reporting Centre, there have been 25 attacks on vessels off the coast Somalia resulting in seven hijackings this year - all of them since 1 March this year. Since the beginning of April, the bureau has confirmed five attacks, with three vessels hijacked and some 74 crew taken hostage.

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Mozambique Water Workers Hold Four Officials Hostage
Source: All Africa, 13 Apr 09 (All Africa.com is an English language online new aggregator, located in Washington D.C. It has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: African news and information through a diversity of opinions from more than 130 international media organizations. All Africa.com reaches audiences world-wide.)

Workers of the Provincial Water Supply Workyard (EPAR) in the

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western Mozambican province of Tete took three government officials and a businessman hostage on Friday, in order to put pressure on the authorities to pay them 10 months of wage arrears, reports the Beira daily paper "Diario de Mocambique". EPAR is closing down, and the contracts with the 55 workers have been cancelled. But the state-owned company has yet to make good its promises to pay all the money owing to the workers. The hostages were the director of the Rural Water Supply department, Joaquim Jorge, who is in Tete representing the director of the National Water Board, the head of human resources in the Public Works Ministry, identified only as Odete, her secretary, Cesaltina, and a businessman, Pedro Nunes. It took police intervention to free the hostages. The workers were angry at the decision to send in the police, since they thought that, with their drastic measure, they were about to solve the wages problem. The secretary of the local trade union committee, Felisberto Andrade, said that the workers had to resort to hostage taking because the authorities have failed to honour agreements to deliver a final solution by the end of March. Andrade added that the company has decided to rescind all contracts with the 55 workers (three of whom have subsequently died). He further explained that "we were holding the two Maputo envoys (Joaquim Jorge and Pedro Nunes) until the authorities tell us when and how the wage arrears will be paid. They sent here Joaquim Jorge, and a private business man whom we do not know, to work with us".

Tanzania Puts New Hurdle In Path To Common Market
Source: Business Daily, 13 Apr 09 (Business Daily is a multi language online news aggregator which is part of the World News Network. Most reporting focuses on: news and analysis on current events, world business, finance, economy, and sports. Business Daily reaches audiences world-wide.)

Tanzania is questioning the powers of a key organ of the East African Community, forcing negotiators back to the drawing board in the search of a breakthrough towards a common market. Tanzania's posturing on the relevance of decisions made by the East African Council of Ministers is the latest of the country's parting of ways with the other four members -- Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi - on the future of the regional bloc. The country has in the past raised concerns over the common market on the grounds that free movement of labour and goods and access to land by members of other states would destabilise its economy. The questioning of the validity of the council's decisions has left

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negotiators who had gone to Kampala hoping to clear most hurdles on the integration process looking at a long drawn out affair.

The EAC Secretariat said in a statement that Tanzania's concerns stemmed from Article 87 and 88, which centred on regulations, directives and decisions as well as the conclusion of the relevant annexes. "Tanzania maintains it is the partner states and not the council that should conclude regulations, directives and annexes to give full effect to the provisions of the common market protocol," the secretariat said. Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi, and Uganda's have insisted that the role is the preserve of the council of ministers. Tanzania also maintained that it would not budge on its earlier position regarding land and residency rights.

Uganda UAE To Explore Ugandan Oil

Source: New Vision, 13 Apr 09 (New Vision is an English and Swahili language daily newspaper. Owned by the State, it has a general degree of credibility but shows a political bias towards the government of President Museveni. New Vision's estimated circulation/audience reach is 35,000 reaching audiences throughout Uganda.)

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has promised to support oil mining in Uganda.

The outgoing UAE ambassador to Uganda, Albasha Essa, made the promise last week at a farewell meeting with the Vice-President, Prof. Gilbert Bukenya, at his home in Kakiri in Wakiso district. Uganda is preparing to start oil production in the first quarter of 2010. Essa congratulated Uganda upon being appointed to the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member. Bukenya also commended Essa upon his new appointment as head of African affairs desk in the foreign ministry of his country. He urged him to woo tourists from the Emirates to Uganda. The Vice-President appealed to the outgoing UAE envoy to support Uganda's drive to produce food and process it, which would fetch more foreign exchange for the country. Bukenya also said the Government of Uganda was committed to developing cottage industries, by training women in making beads and embroidery.

Government Blamed On Hunger In Eastern Uganda

Source: UG Pulse, 13 Apr 09 (TBD)

The government of Uganda has been blamed for neglecting the people of Teso despite of the hunger most parts of Teso region are currently facing.

Forum for Integrity in Leadership (FIL) president Emmanuel

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Tumusiime says that government has not shown any concern to the people of Uganda who are dying of hunger in Teso, Karamoja and in camps of Amuria district. Tumusiime says that the Members of Parliament from the region have not helped to put pressure on the government to undertake an appropriate response to the hunger problem. He says that even the Ministry of disaster preparedness which is responsible for giving relief has not help much, leaving many people to starve. Tumusiime says that instead of debating how to solve the problem of hunger in Uganda, MPs are busy debating issues like giving retirement packages to top government officials, which issues Tumusiime says are not of public concern.

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Piracy US Weighing Where To Charge Captured Somali Pirate
Source: AP, 13 Apr 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

The Justice Department was considering whether to prosecute a **Somali pirate** in Washington or New York, U.S. officials said following the rescue of a U.S. hostage and the apprehension of his only surviving captor.

The decision will determine where the pirate will be flown in what is shaping up as the first U.S. piracy case in recent memory. Three pirates were killed Sunday in a military operation that rescued Capt. Richard Phillips, who had been held hostage aboard a lifeboat for days. A fourth pirate was in discussions with naval authorities about Phillips' fate when the rescue took place. Both piracy and hostage-taking carry life sentences under U.S. law. Two U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case, said the Justice Department is considering whether to leave the case in the hands of federal prosecutors in Washington or New York. "He's in military custody right now," FBI spokesman John Miller said. "That will change as this becomes more of a criminal issue than a military issue." Navy Vice Admiral Bill Gortney, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, said the disposition of the captured pirate had yet to be determined. "We have multiple

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avenues," Gortney said at a Pentagon news conference conducted by telephone. "We could possibly bring him back here to the United States and try him since this was an American flag vessel." He said prosecutors were also considering taking the pirate to Kenya, where the military has an agreement under which captured pirates will be tried. But that agreement has never been used following an attack on a U.S. ship. Washington federal courts normally handle cases involving crimes committed against U.S. citizens abroad. But the FBI office in New York takes the lead when crimes are committed against U.S. citizens in Africa. BOTH Miller and Justice Department spokesman Dean Boyd said no decisions have been made regarding charges against the surviving pirate. "The Justice Department will be reviewing the evidence and other issues to determine whether to seek prosecution in the United States," Boyd said. Attorney General Eric Holder will have the final say about where the pirate will be charged. Holder said last week that the U.S. hasn't seen a case of piracy against an American ship in hundreds of years. U.S. prosecutors do have jurisdiction to bring charges when a crime is committed against a U.S. citizen or on a U.S. ship. Phillips was taken hostage after his cargo ship was attacked by pirates. The crew thwarted the hijacking but the pirates fled with Phillips into a lifeboat. Officials said the pirate surrendered to U.S. forces. Details of the surrender were not immediately clear but, under international law, the Navy has the right to hold pirates captured at sea and does not need to negotiate extradition with another country. The U.S. does not have an extradition treaty with Somalia. The U.S. is treating the matter as a criminal case because officials have found no direct ties between East African pirates and terror groups. Because the U.S. is not at war with Somalia, piracy cases are governed by U.S. and international law. The FBI investigates crimes committed on the high seas but piracy cases are unusual. Assaults on cruise ships are the most common offenses investigated at sea. "If there were ever a U.S. victim of one of these attacks or a U.S. shipping line that were a victim, our Justice Department has said that it would favorably consider prosecuting such apprehended pirates," Stephen Mull, the acting undersecretary of state for international security and arms control, told Congress last month.

US Captain's Rescue Raises Stakes In Piracy Ops

Source: AP, 13 Apr 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest new

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organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

Stakes have been raised for future hijackings.

The killing of three **Somali pirates** in the dramatic U.S. Navy rescue of a cargo ship captain has sparked concern for other hostages and fears that the stakes have been raised for future hijackings in the busy Indian Ocean shipping lane. Sunday's rescue of Capt. Richard Phillips followed a shootout at sea on Friday by French navy commandos, who stormed a pirate-held sailboat, killed two pirates and freed four French hostages. The French owner of the vessel was also killed in the assault. The two operations may have been a setback for the pirates, but they are unlikely to quell the brigands, who have vowed to avenge the deaths of their comrades. Experts indicated that piracy in the Indian Ocean off Somalia, which transformed one of the world's busiest shipping lanes into one of its most dangerous, has entered a new phase with the Navy SEAL rescue operation of Phillips. It "could escalate violence in this part of the world, no question about it," said Vice Adm. Bill Gortney, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command.

The International Maritime Bureau said Monday it supported the action by the U.S. and French navies, but cautioned it may spark retaliatory moves by pirates. "We applaud the U.S. and the French action. We feel that they are making the right move, although the results sometimes may be detrimental," said Noel Choong of the IMB's piracy center in Kuala Lumpur. He did not elaborate, but for families of the 228 foreign nationals aboard 13 ships still held by pirates, the fear is revenge on their loved ones. "Those released are lucky, but what about those who remain captive?" said Vilma de Guzman, the wife of Filipino seafarer Ruel de Guzman. He has been held by pirates since Nov. 10 along with the 22 other Filipino crew of the chemical tanker MT Stolt Strength.

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The U.S. rescue operation "might be dangerous (for) the remaining hostages because the pirates might vent their anger on them," she said. So far, **Somali pirates** have never harmed captive foreign

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crews except for a Taiwanese crew member who was killed under unclear circumstances. In fact, many former hostages say they were treated well and given sumptuous food.

The pirates had operated with near-impunity in the Gulf of Aden north of Somalia, and more recently in waters south of the country after a multinational naval force began patrolling the Gulf. Choong said there have been 74 attacks this year with 15 hijackings as compared to 111 attacks for all of last year. About 20,000 merchant ships pass through the Gulf of Aden yearly on their way to and from the Suez Canal. The modus operandi of the pirates is simple: Board unarmed or lightly armed merchant ships, fire shots in the air or at the hull to intimidate the crew, divert the ships to hide-outs on the Somali coast and wait for the owners to pay millions of dollars in ransom. But the game changed last week when the pirates boarded the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama. In an act of courage, Phillips offered himself as hostage in return for the safety of his crew. The pirates transferred the 53-year-old Phillips, a Vermont native, to a lifeboat. But the pirates had not counted on the U.S. military's resolve. After a five-day standoff during which a small U.S. flotilla tailed the lifeboat, Navy SEAL snipers on a destroyer shot and killed three pirates and plucked an unharmed Phillips to safety. A fourth pirate surrendered.

The comrades of the slain pirates immediately threatened retaliation. "From now on, if we capture foreign ships and their respective countries try to attack us, we will kill them," said Jamac Habeb, a 30-year-old self-proclaimed pirate, told The Associated Press by telephone from the pirate hub, Eyl. Abdullahi Lami, one of the pirates holding a Greek ship in the pirate den of Gaan, a central Somali town, told the AP that pirates will not take the U.S. action lying down. "We will retaliate for the killings of our men," he said. Giles Noakes, chief maritime security officer of the largest international shipping association, the Denmark-based BIMCO, says it is premature to say Phillips' rescue will lead to an escalation of violence. "The question here is whether there will be a change of attitude in the pirates and in their modus operandi. We hope the change will be that they will be even more deterred because of the successful action by both the Maersk Alabama crew and the navies," he said. Many of the governments whose ships have been captured -- including Taiwan's Win Far 161 with a multinational crew of 30 -- are in talks with the pirates and would not comment on the

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consequences of the American rescue for fear of jeopardizing the negotiations. "We are monitoring the situation closely, but the ship owner wants to keep a low profile to help with their negotiation with the abductors," Taiwanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Henry Chen said. He said the crew, comprising 17 Filipinos, six Indonesians, five Chinese and two Taiwanese, were safe as of Monday. Some families also wonder if Phillips' rescue drew so much of attention because of his nationality. "It's difficult when the ship's crew are all Filipinos because we are ignored," said de Guzman. "Maybe if there are Japanese, Koreans or British among the crew, the case would get more attention."

US Captain Freed; **Somali Pirates** Vow To Retaliate

Source: AP, 13 Apr 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

230 foreign sailors are still held hostage.

Bracing themselves on a rolling warship in choppy seas, U.S. Navy snipers fired three flawless shots to kill a trio of **Somali pirates** and free the American sea captain being held at gunpoint, a Navy commander said Monday. Angry pirates vowed retaliation for the deaths, raising fears for the safety of some 230 foreign sailors still held hostage in more than a dozen ships anchored off the coast of lawless Somalia. "From now on, if we capture foreign ships and their respective countries try to attack us, we will kill them (the hostages)," Jamac Habeb, a 30-year-old pirate, told the Associated Press from one of Somalia's piracy hubs, Eyl. "(U.S. forces have) become our No. 1 enemy." The nighttime operation was a victory for the world's most powerful military, but few experts believed it would quell a rising tide of attacks in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Interviewed from Bahrain, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command chief Vice Adm. Bill Gortney said the takedown happened shortly after the hostage-takers were observed by sailors aboard the USS Bainbridge "with their heads and shoulders exposed." U.S. Defense officials said snipers got the go-ahead to fire after one pirate held an AK-47 so close to Capt. Richard Phillips' back that the

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weapon appeared to be touching him. Two other pirates popped their heads up, giving snipers three clear targets, one official said.

The military officials asked not to be named because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the case. The Navy released images of the scene from an unmanned drone that showed snipers positioning themselves on the fantail of the USS Bainbridge. The snipers fired simultaneously. Asked how the snipers could have killed each pirate with a single shot in the dark, Gortney described them as "extremely, extremely well-trained." He told NBC's "Today" show that the shooting was ordered by the captain of the Bainbridge.

The SEALs arrived on the scene by parachuting from their aircraft into the sea, and were picked up by the Bainbridge, a senior U.S. official said. He said negotiations with the pirates had been "going up and down." The official, asking not to be publicly identified because he, too, was not authorized to discuss this on the record, said the pirates were "becoming increasingly agitated in the rough waters; they weren't getting what they wanted." Just as it was getting dark, pirates fired a tracer bullet "toward the Bainbridge," further heightening the sense that the incident was ratcheting up, the official said. He said when the time snipers fired, Phillips' hands were bound. Phillips was not hurt in
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several minutes of gunfire Sunday. News of Phillips' rescue caused his crew in Kenya to break into wild cheers and brought tears to the eyes of those in Phillips' hometown of Underhill, Vermont, half a world away from the Indian Ocean drama. President Barack Obama called Phillips' courage "a model for all Americans" and said he was pleased with the rescue, but added the United States still needed help from other countries to deal with piracy and to hold pirates accountable.

The stunning resolution to a five-day standoff came after pirates had agreed to let the USS Bainbridge tow their powerless lifeboat out of rough water. A fourth pirate surrendered after boarding the Bainbridge earlier Sunday and could face life in a U.S. prison. He had been seeking medical attention for a wound to his hand, military officials said. In a move that surprised the pirates, the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama had put up a fight Wednesday when pirates boarded the ship. Until then, **Somali pirates** had become used to encountering no resistance once they boarded a ship in search of million-dollar ransoms. Yet Sunday's blow to their lucrative activities is unlikely to stop pirates,

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simply because of the size of the vast area stretching from the Gulf of Aden and the coast of Somalia. "This could escalate violence in this part of the world, no question about it," said Gortney, the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command. A Somali pirate agreed.

"Every country will be treated the way it treats us. In the future, America will be the one mourning and crying," Abdullahi Lami, one of the pirates holding a Greek ship anchored in the Somali town of Gaan, told The Associated Press on Monday. "We will retaliate (for) the killings of our men." On Friday, French navy commandos stormed a pirate-held sailboat, the Tanit, in a shootout at sea that killed two pirates and one French hostage and freed four French citizens. The pirates still hold about a dozen ships with more than 200 crew members, according to the piracy watchdog International Maritime Bureau. Hostages are from Bulgaria, China, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Russia, Taiwan, Tuvalu and Ukraine, among other countries. Vilma de Guzman, whose husband is one of 23 Filipino sailors held hostage since Nov. 10 on chemical tanker MT Stolt Strength, feared Phillips' rescue may endanger the lives of other hostages. "The pirates might vent their anger on them," she said. "Those released are lucky, but what about those who remain captive?" She also criticized world media for focusing so much on the U.S. captain but giving little attention to other hostages.

Aboard the Bainbridge, sailors passed along a message from Andrea Phillips to her husband: "Richard, your family loves you, your family is praying for you, and your family is saving a chocolate Easter egg for you, unless your son eats it first." Phillips himself deflected any praise. "I'm just the byline. The real heroes are the Navy, the SEALs, those who have brought me home," Phillips said by phone to Maersk Line Limited President and CEO John Reinhart. Phillips' 17,000-ton ship docked Saturday with 19 crew in Mombasa, Kenya, and crew there they expected to stay for several days before returning home. Chief mate Shane Murphy said spoke to Phillips by telephone Monday. "He's absolutely elated and he could not be prouder of us for doing everything we were trained to do," Murphy said. It was not immediately known when or how Phillips return home. In Vermont, Maersk spokeswoman Alison McColl choked up as she stood outside the family's house and read their statement. "Andrea and Richard have spoken. I think you can all imagine their joy, and what a happy moment that was for them. They're all just so happy and relieved. "Andrea wanted me to tell

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the nation that all of your prayers and good wishes have paid off because Captain Phillips is safe," she said.

The ship had been carrying food aid bound for Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda when the ordeal began Wednesday hundreds of miles (kilometers) off Somalia's eastern coast. As the pirates clambered aboard and shot in the air, Phillips told his crew to lock themselves in a cabin and surrendered himself to safeguard his men. Phillips was then taken hostage in an enclosed lifeboat that was soon shadowed by three U.S. warships and a helicopter. Phillips jumped out of the lifeboat Friday to try to swim to freedom but was recaptured when a pirate fired into the water, according to U.S. Defense Department officials. Gordon van Hook, the top Maersk official in Mombasa, said the FBI was wrapping its investigation, while the U.S. coast guard was conducting a separate own query and a third-party security firm was inspecting the ship to be sure it was not seriously damaged during the ordeal. The surviving fourth pirate is in military custody for the time being. Kenya's foreign minister said his country had not received any request from the United States to try the captured pirate but would "consider it on its own merit." When the United States captured pirates in 2006, Kenya agreed to try them. Ten pirates were convicted and are serving prison sentences of seven years each.

US Muscle Won't Deter Hardcore Somali Pirates

Source: Reuters, 13 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

Future hijackings may be more violent.

The U.S. rescue of an American sailor is unlikely to deter the most committed **Somali pirates** and could make future hijackings more violent, complicating efforts to tame the lawless seas off the Horn of Africa. Regional experts do not expect Washington to follow Sunday's operation with an assault on pirate redoubts onshore to end their defiance of an international flotilla of naval patrols. Not only would that endanger 260 other hostages, it could also play into the hands of Islamist militants and reduce Washington's clout in the peace-building that remains the only

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long-term solution to rebuilding the world's most failed state. But any move to militarise the overall U.S. approach to Somalia following the killing of three pirates in Sunday's rescue risks boosting anti-American feelings in a country already deeply suspicious of U.S. motives, experts say. That in turn could complicate the provision of international support to a fledgling transitional government that is trying to strengthen its

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authority and end 18 years of armed chaos. The U.S. military is alive to the dangers of escalation. Vice Admiral Bill Gortney, head of the U.S. Navy's Bahrain-based Fifth Fleet, said of the rescue: "This could escalate violence in this part of the world, no question about it."

In Mogadishu, Hassan Mohamed, an activist of the Peace and Human Rights Network, said further U.S. armed action against pirates would stir political tensions already inflamed by a two-year Ethiopian occupation that ended only in January. "The best solution is to support the Somali government so it can act against the pirates. If this is done the pirates can be destroyed," he said by telephone from Mogadishu. "It's true that Somalis don't want these piracy problems: The gangsters who used to make problems for people with their checkpoints on land are now making problems for us out at sea." "But Americans have not been welcome in Somalia since they supported the Ethiopian invasion. The feeling is that Americans want to destroy us. The feeling is that America doesn't want Somalia to stand on its own two feet." He said the best way for Washington to suppress piracy off Somalia was to help the country achieve stability onshore, where a young interim government headed by a moderate Islamist faces attacks by al Shabaab, an al Qaeda-aligned guerrilla force. Al Shabaab's main foe until the end of January was an Ethiopian occupation force sent into the country with tacit U.S. approval in 2006 to crush supposed al Qaeda activity. Experts say the pirates are well aware they would trigger painful Western retribution if they allied with al Shabaab. "The pirates know that if they collude with al Qaeda or al-Shabaab that will be a game changer, and they like the game as played just fine," Somali expert Ken Mankhaus told a web discussion forum hosted by The Washington Post. Even in the short term, an increased Western military effort against the pirates would do little in practical terms to stop a lucrative ransom trade, analysts say. The seas are just too vast to be patrolled effectively and the incentives for

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the pirates and the powerful local business interests they serve are just too great.

A Somali academic in Mogadishu said: "Somalis are not intimidated by American muscle. Revenge culture is prevalent here: These guys will not fade away and say 'I'm going home'." "The American problem has always been 'short-term, quick fix, macho man'. It does not resolve the core issue," said the expert, who declined to be identified for security reasons. Washington should do more to help the new government extend its rule and counter fears it is in league with regional giant Ethiopia, Somalia's historic foe, the academic said. "If it does not, then there are many reasons for piracy to continue. Number one, this is a gold rush -- death is not a deterrent. And number two, the people involved are not nobodies. There is investment in this by daring and committed people." Commander Chris Davies of the NATO Maritime Component Command, a force combating Somalia piracy, said the Western response would be adapted as circumstances dictated but big changes in policy were unlikely.

"Thus far, it's not political. It's not fundamentalists. It's not terrorists. It's moneymaking," he said. "That's the message we've picked up. The pattern has been that hostages have been treated very well. Broadly the worst we've seen is the occasional beating. "You could arm the merchant ships but that has legal problems, and who's to say the pirates won't then escalate the situation? They have the money to buy more arms." He said ships should continue to follow industry guidelines intended to reduce vulnerability: "Inform the maritime authorities (of the voyage). Use the internationally-recognised (Gulf of Aden) transit corridor. Use speed. Use manoeuvres. Use water cannon to deter attack. Keep a good lookout."

US Military Considers Attacks On Somali Pirates' Land Bases
Source: Bloomberg, 13 Apr 09 (Bloomberg is an English language news and media company, located in New York City, U.S. Owned by Michael R. Bloomberg, it has a strong degree of credibility. Most reporting focuses on: business and financial news.)

The U.S. military is considering attacks on pirate bases on land and aid for the Somali people to help stem ship hijackings off Africa's east coast, defense officials said.

The military also is drawing up proposals to aid the fledgling Somalia government to train security forces and develop its own coast guard, said the officials, who requested anonymity. The plans will be presented to the Obama administration as it

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considers a coordinated U.S. government and international response to piracy, the officials said. The effort follows the freeing yesterday of Richard Phillips, a U.S. cargo ship captain held hostage since April 8 by **Somali pirates**. Security analysts said making shipping lanes safe would require disrupting the pirates' support network on land. "There really isn't a silver-bullet solution other than going into Somalia and rooting out the bases" of the pirates, said James Carafano, senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based group. In 1992, under then-President George H.W. Bush, U.S. forces that landed in Somalia to confront widespread starvation found themselves in the middle of a civil war. Forty-two Americans died before former President Bill Clinton pulled out the troops in 1994. No such broad military effort is being seriously considered now, the defense officials said. The defense officials cautioned that any actions, whether diplomatic or military, would need the support of the Somali people, who are traditionally suspicious of foreign intervention. President Barack Obama, who gave permission for the military operation to free Phillips yesterday, is coordinating the U.S. response to piracy with other countries and the shipping industry to reduce vessels' vulnerability to attack, boost operations to foil attacks and prosecute any captured suspects, said a senior administration official.

The administration official, who requested anonymity, declined to provide further details. U.S. officials said the goal of a response to the piracy problem would be to encourage Somalis to help clamp down on lawlessness and to ease poverty, an outgrowth of 18 years without a strong central government. "Piracy is one symptom of the difficult situation in Somalia," said Laura Tischler, a State Department spokeswoman. Under discussion are ways to send more direct food and agricultural aid to the country, the defense officials said. The U.S. military's African Command, or Africom, could lead the land-based effort. Unlike

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other commands, Africom doesn't have large military units. It also has only one permanent base, in Djibouti. The staff of Africom is half civilian and half military personnel and includes representatives from the Departments of State, Treasury and Health and Human Services. Any U.S. actions on the seas may be coordinated by the Fifth Fleet, which is based in Bahrain. Also, efforts to ferret out pirates may be jointly conducted with the

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Federal Bureau of Investigation, the defense official said. The U.S. has used a similar partnership between the military and law enforcement to fight drug cartels in South and Central America. U.S. action would come as new approaches to fight piracy have emerged over the past seven months. In August, countries increased ship escorts and naval patrols around the Gulf of Aden, site of most East African attacks. In December, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed an anti-piracy resolution.

The UN measure allowed for attacks on pirate land bases and led to the formation of a 28-nation group that has met twice since January to coordinate diplomatic, legal and military efforts. In January, the U.S. also signed an agreement with Kenya to prosecute suspected pirates handed over by the U.S. military. The U.S. will try anyone who attempts to hijack U.S. ships or hold U.S. captives, Tischler said. Countries should use existing legal codes, such as the Law of the Sea Treaty and Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, to develop a process for prosecuting pirates, U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Thad Allen said. There are "ample legal requirements and jurisdiction to be able to take action against these pirates," Allen said yesterday on ABC's "This Week." "That's what we should be doing." The Obama administration also is urging shipping companies and international maritime groups to employ private security forces and take steps such as unbolting ladders that pirates could use to board a vessel. The U.S. should make sure to involve other countries, international aid organizations and the shipping industry in its plans, security analysts said. Lack of coordination has been a major reason for the proliferation of piracy incidents, said Yonah Alexander, director of the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies' International Center for Terrorism Studies, a Washington-based policy group.

"Everyone is trying to water their own tree rather than looking at the whole forest," said Alexander, co-author of the soon-to-be-published "Terror on the High Seas: From Piracy to Strategic Challenge." "The international community doesn't have a coherent, holistic strategy to deal with this." Current military efforts have had limited success, security analysts said. In January, the U.S. formed Task Force 151, which uses ships, helicopters and Marine Corps snipers to thwart piracy in the region. In February, the task force prevented pirates from seizing two vessels. It also responded to the seizure of Phillips'

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vessel, the Maersk Alabama, which is operated by Maersk Line, the Norfolk, Virginia-based U.S. unit of Copenhagen-based A.P. Moeller-Maersk A/S. About 25 warships from the European Union, the U.S., Turkey, Russia, India and China have concentrated their efforts to protect the Gulf of Aden. In response, the pirates have moved south and further out to sea. The capture of the Maersk Alabama, which was hijacked 500 miles south of the Gulf of Aden in the Indian Ocean, shows the futility of concentrating security forces solely at sea, said Neil Livingstone, chairman and chief executive officer of ExecutiveAction LLC, a Washington-based anti-terrorism consultant for businesses. "It's a massive area," he said. "You can't patrol all of it." The region Somali pirates operate in is equal in size to the Mediterranean and Red Seas combined.

The U.S. should take as its model the 1801 decision by then-President Thomas Jefferson to send a naval force to assault the land bases of Barbary pirates, who were extorting money from U.S. merchant ships off Libya's coast, security analysts said. The pirates eventually succumbed to a mixture of U.S. military and diplomatic pressure. Before taking any action, though, the U.S. should come up with a plan so it isn't caught unprepared like it was during its 1992 Somalia intervention, Carafano said. "We need to be a little more thoughtful and rational" this time and develop a detailed strategy, he said.

Pirates Fear Further US Intervention

Source: Financial Times, 13 Apr 09 (Financial Times is an English language international daily business newspaper, located in London, England. Owned by Pearson PLC, it has a general degree of credibility and exhibits a strong influence over the financial policies of the British government. The typical audience demography consists of: policymakers and business leaders around the world. Most reporting focuses on: international economic and political news, comments, and analysis. Financial Times' estimated international circulation/audience reach is 450,000 and its estimated UK circulation/audience reach is 140,000 reaching audiences internationally.)

Somalia's pirates have been acting more nervously and co-operating unusually closely among themselves following Sunday's killing of three pirates by US navy snipers and a French attack on a seized vessel, people involved say.

The changes suggest pirates fear further US military intervention and could increase the danger for seafarers in future incidents,

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according to some observers. The three pirates were shot on Sunday as the US Navy rescued Richard Phillips, captain of the Maersk Alabama, from a drifting lifeboat. He had been held hostage since Wednesday after he handed himself to pirates in return for the release of his US-flagged container ship. On Saturday, French special forces stormed the Tanit, a French yacht seized by pirates, killing one hostage and two pirates. Pirates have seized four ships in the past week alone in the Indian Ocean off Somalia's east coast. The area, which has seen more than half this year's successful ship hijackings off Somalia, is far larger than the Gulf of Aden, off Somalia's north coast, which saw the majority of last year's attacks. Stephen Askins, a partner at Ince & Co, London-based solicitors specialising in piracy, said there had been an undoubted increase in nervousness among Somalis negotiating over captured ships. "Key personnel are much more difficult to get hold of," he said. There were also signs of pirates moving ships away from their traditional anchorages off the town of Eyl, the main base for raiders from the northerly Darod clan, according to one western military analyst. "We saw a lot of ships anchored off Eyl but not as many now," the analyst

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said. The move could signify growing local resentment at the presence of pirates in the area, as well as growing nervousness of an onshore attack by US or other international forces on areas seen as pirate bases. "Local populaces that used to support the pirates may be pushing back a little bit," the analyst said. Yet Abdi Garad, a pirate chief based in Eyl, told AFP they would now target American interests. "Next time we get American citizens I wish they will expect no mercy from us," he said. Groups that normally work in competition also appear to be co-operating in the face of the increased threat. Vessels hijacked both by the more southerly Hawiye clan and the Darod converged on the site of the Maersk Alabama stand-off in an attempt to lend support, both Mr Askins and the analyst said. "That demonstration was quite unusual," Mr Askins said. However, Mr Askins said pirates coming from desperately poor Somalia still had more to gain by continuing with attacks than they might lose from military intervention. "The risk-reward ratio still remains in the pirates' favour," he said. The pirates' chances of being caught are also lower in the Indian Ocean than in the smaller Gulf of Aden. Vice-Admiral Bill Gortney, head of US naval forces in the Middle East and Horn of Africa, said on Sunday that in the Gulf of Aden

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it was possible to keep warships close enough to merchant ship routes to respond quickly to attacks. "On the east coast of Somalia, such a vast area, we simply do not have enough resources in order to cover all those areas," he said. Future attacks might also be more violent following Sunday's events. "This could escalate violence in this part of the world," the Vice-Admiral said. "No question about it." The only good news is that with US-flagged merchant vessels rare and the US Navy far more numerous than others, pirates' specific threats against US interests were probably hollow.

"They absolutely don't want a war with the United States," the military analyst said. Adm Gortney said the "ultimate solution" for tackling piracy was "on land". He said US efforts to clamp down on piracy, including sending 130 pirates to the judicial system, had not reduced the number of attacks. Robert Gates, US defence secretary, said on Monday there was "no purely military solution" to the problem, adding that the three pirates who were killed on Sunday were teenagers. "As long as you've got this incredible number of poor people and the risks are relatively small, there's really no way in my view to control it unless you get something on land that begins to change the equation for these kids," Mr Gates said. One defence official told the FT last week that the Pentagon would have to debate whether it needed to take military action inside Somalia, partly because of the difficulty in tackling the pirates at sea. But a senior defence official said on Monday there were no plans to send commandos ashore to disrupt the pirate networks. He said there were "some pretty serious practical challenges" in dealing with the pirates, including "figuring out which of the thousands of dhows are actually pirate ships (-ILLEGAL-CHARACTER-)u(-ILLEGAL-CHARACTER-) vice fishing boats." Another military official said the US was "working hard within the interagency and with international partners to stem its steady rise".

Military Crackdown Hasn't Deterred Pirates

Source: AP, 13 Apr 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences

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world-wide.)

Pirates have simply moved their operational areas.

Even in the glow of the U.S. Navy's daring rescue of a cargo ship captain from **Somali pirates**, the military is still searching for a solution to the epidemic of high seas piracy. The Navy's effort to coordinate with other international warships and the shipping industry to crack down on cargo vessel seizures has done little to deter the onslaught of multimillion-dollar ship ransoms, Vice Adm. Bill Gortney, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, said Sunday. Pirates have merely headed elsewhere to avoid the growing armada arrayed against them, Gortney said from Bahrain during a press conference detailing the operation that freed Capt. Richard Phillips and left three pirates slain and one in American custody. Despite heightened ocean crackdowns that led to criminal charges against 130 suspected pirates over the last three months, "it wasn't having an effect of drawing the number of attempts down," Gortney told reporters. The latest example of the military's handling of the **Somali pirate** problem was the most dramatic. It ended Sunday with the rescue of Phillips after Navy snipers fatally shot three Somalis who were holding him captive at gunpoint.

The 18-foot pirate boat was within 20 nautical miles of Somalia's coast when Navy **SEALs** opened fire, said a U.S. military official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. The pirates had tied up Phillips and were pointing an AK-47 assault rifle at him, Gortney said. Acting on authorization from the White House to take action to save Phillips' life, "the on-scene commander saw that the weapon was aimed at him (Phillips) and took it as that pirate was getting ready to use that weapon on him," Gortney said. "That would be my interpretation of imminent danger." President Barack Obama received updates around the clock, met with senior aides and pushed his staff to consider everything as the White House confronted one of its first international crises. After the Navy ended the standoff, Obama made his first comments on the matter after more than five days of silence. "We remain resolved to halt the rise of piracy in this region. To achieve that goal, we must continue to work with our partners to prevent future attacks, be prepared to interdict acts of piracy and ensure that those who commit acts of piracy are held accountable for their crimes," Obama said in a statement released Sunday.

The Justice Department was considering whether to prosecute the

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surviving pirate in Washington or New York, two U.S. officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case. Both piracy and hostage-taking carry life sentences under U.S. law. More than 100 ships off the Horn of Africa have been assaulted over the past year by pirates
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 19 *****/

based on the coast of Somalia. The Navy began focusing on the Gulf of Aden and seeing results, Gortney said, but as soon as ship seizures there began to lessen, the pirates shifted their activity south into the Indian Ocean. Over the past week, pirates commandeered at least seven new ships, including the Maersk Alabama. The movement to the Indian Ocean is worrisome because the expanse is one of the world's most crucial shipping lanes, with oil vessels and other merchant ships carrying billions of dollars worth of cargo. "As a result of our activity and a lot of Navy presence up in the Gulf of Aden, we saw both attempts and successful attacks go down," Gortney said. "But the last couple of weeks, we saw activity, attempts and successful attacks occur on the east coast of Somalia -- where this one did." Gortney said the Navy has been warning cargo ships to stay in deeper waters, away from the Somali coast, and to better protect themselves by hardening their ships against attacks. The Maersk Alabama was 230 nautical miles off the coast when pirates boarded before the crew fought back. Additional Navy ships have been sent to the region to patrol for pirates, Gortney said.

TV Show To Track U.S. Navy's Battles With Pirates

Source: Reuters, 13 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

A day after the violent rescue of a U.S. ship captain from **Somali pirates**, a cable television channel on Monday said it will air a reality show about the U.S. Navy's mission to stop piracy off the coast of Africa.

Producers and the Navy have been in talks for three months about the show, which is titled "Pirate Hunters: USN" and is expected to air as a one-hour special in the fall on Spike TV. The Navy will allow cameras from Spike and 44 Blue Productions to capture

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life aboard warships USS San Antonio and USS Boxer as their crews search for pirates. On Sunday, Navy snipers shot dead three **Somali pirates** holding cargo ship captain Richard Phillips captive off the coast of **Somalia**. Pirates abound in the region, where civil conflict complicates efforts to control the age-old scourge. "By all accounts it will get worse, pirates will get more deadly and certainly the Navy will try to counter that," said Rasha Drachkovitch, president of 44 Blue Productions. So far, most of the known fatalities involving Somali piracy have involved the pirates themselves: hostages are by most accounts well-treated and released unharmed, usually after ransoms are paid. If "Pirate Hunters: USN" is successful, it could return as a mini-series on Spike, Drachkovitch said.

Somali Pirates Move 3 Hijacked Vessels, 40 Captive Mariners
Source: Digital Journal, 13 Apr 09 (TBD)

Pirates told a Kenyan piracy-monitoring group that they fear reprisal attacks against their 40 foreign mariner-captives by rival Somali warlords after the recent assaults on hijacked boats by French, US and Chinese forces.

They fear that their rivals and also the 'Somali forces' who are reportedly hunting them, might target the tugboat and the two Egyptian ships. The Somalian warlords have vowed revenge attacks, also against Americans and French military forces. However, the expert of the Kenyan-based maritime group who told the story to Reuters news agency, also commented that there wasn't much danger of reprisals by Somalian warlords in the former Italian colony: "The pirates know Somalis and Italians are relatives," said Andrew Mwangura of the Kenya-based East African Seafarers' Assistance Programme. A local Somaliland commander, Mohammed Salah Dubeys, reportedly told Mwangura that the Italian ship and two Egyptian vessels were taken to near the fishing village of Las Qoray late on Sunday. "Three ships including the Italian tugboat arrived 16km from Las Qoray. We know that they are floating in the area. They hold 16 crew from the tugboat and 24 others from two Egyptian ships," said Dubeys. "What we can do is very little but we do inform the authorities," he also told Reuters by telephone. The tugboat, carrying 10 Italians, five Romanians and a Croatian, was seized on Saturday in the Horn of Africa. It was not known when the Egyptian vessels were first captured. From March 31 2009, a total of 17 vessels were held captive pending negotiations between owners and hijackers. Today there are nine vessels and 153 crew held hostage by pirate gangs, reports the

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ICC. A large variety of foreign navies are now patrolling the entire east-African coastline from the Gulf of Aden, the Horn of Africa, the Somali and Ethiopian coastlines all the way to Kenya, where piracy has also been reported rearing its ugly head of late.

Pirates usually try to take their captive mariners close to shore in their speedboats to evade capture from the much more cumbersome navy ships - and to be close to their colleagues in crime. Las Qoray lies right on the fault-line of a contested area of semi-autonomous Puntland region and breakaway Somaliland, whose warlords have fought over disputed regions in the past. Somaliland has offered the use of its ports to foreign navies fighting the warlords. The upswing in piracy off eastern Somalia reported last month by the ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has continued into April with a spate of attacks that threaten East African trade.

The latest attack was early on 8 April 2009 against the rescued US ship Maersk Alabama, some 550 km off the Somalia coastline. The ICC warns that this was the second container ship reported hijacked off Somalia in less than a week: a German-flagged and owned boxship was captured on 5 April. There have been 25 attacks on vessels off the East Coast Somalia, resulting in seven hijackings thus far this year - all of them since 1 March. The ICC warns that 'this surge marks the return of a high volume of pirate activity in the Indian Ocean.' Since the beginning of April, the PRC has confirmed five attacks, with three vessels hijacked and some 74 crew taken hostage. International Maritime Bureau director Pottengal Mukundan commented: "This recent surge of activity is worrying for a number of reasons, principally because attacks have taken place many hundreds of miles off the /***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 20 *****/

country's coastline. "The problem of Somali piracy has now spilled over to neighbouring countries, threatening trade routes into their ports. These recent attacks have shown that the pirate gangs are able to successfully operate far out to sea using motherships."

He continued: "Our advice, in line with the EU-led Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), is for all vessels not calling at East African ports to try and stay at least 600 nm from the coastline. We may have to review our advice in the light of the recent attacks." Last year saw a noticeable escalation in piracy focussed around the Gulf of Aden, they warned. "The

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international community responded, and the area is now patrolled by a Task Force made up of numerous foreign navies. The initiative has resulted in a reduction in successful attacks in the region, with only six hijackings resulting from 41 attempted attacks so far in 2009. "Whilst the number of attempted attacks has not significantly declined, the presence and intervention of the foreign navies has helped to prevent the vessels being hijacked. The IMB advises that Masters must maintain strict 24-hour piracy watches and be especially wary of any approaching small craft. "The Bureau further urges ships to report their presence and intended itinerary to the Horn of Africa coalition taskforce, and in the Indian Ocean to observe a Ship Security Level appropriate to the level of pirate attacks reported in the region. It also urges that Masters report all actual or attempted attacks, as well as any suspicious vessel movements, to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre. Such information could provide vital intelligence for other Masters navigating in the area, the PRC says, and has resulted in attacks being averted.

Hijacked Italian, Egyptian Vessels Taken To N. Somalia

Source: Reuters, 13 Apr 09 (Reuters is a multi language news organization, located in London, England. Publicly owned, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards the USG or US military. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, Reuters delivers news stories and news analysis to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the globe.)

Pirates take captives close to shore to avoid capture.

Pirates have taken an Italian tugboat and two Egyptian ships close to a fishing village near a disputed area of northern Somalia, officials and residents said on Monday. Separate assaults on hijacked boats by French and U.S. special forces have raised fears of more bloodshed off Somalia's coast, but a maritime group said the tugboat was unlikely to be a target of retribution by gangs in the former Italian colony. "The pirates know Somalis and Italians are relatives," said Andrew Mwangura of the Kenya-based East African Seafarers' Assistance Programme. "The information we had (on Sunday) was that the crew was in good condition." A local Somaliland commander said the Italian ship and two Egyptian vessels were taken to near the fishing village of Las Qoray late on Sunday.

"Three ships including the Italian tugboat arrived 16 km (10

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miles) from Las Qoray. We know that they are floating in the area. They hold 16 crew from the tugboat and 24 others from two Egyptian ships," said commander Mohamed Salah Dubeys. "What we can do is very little but we do inform the authorities," he told Reuters by telephone. The tugboat, carrying 10 Italians, 5 Romanians and a Croatian, was seized on Saturday in the latest hijacking of a ship off of the anarchic nation in the Horn of Africa. It was not known when the Egyptian vessels were first captured. Foreign navies are patrolling Somalia's coastline to combat piracy threatening vital shipping lanes in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. Pirates usually try to take captives close to shore to evade capture and be close to colleagues. Las Qoray runs between a contested area of semi-autonomous Puntland region and breakaway Somaliland, who have fought over disputed regions in the past. Somaliland has offered the use of its ports to foreign navies fighting the brigands.

Shipper Says Piracy Needs Multinational Solution

Source: AP, 13 Apr 09 (The Associated Press is an English language news organization. As one of the largest and oldest news organizations in the world, it has a strong degree of credibility and shows no political affiliation/bias, no religious affiliation, and no bias towards/against the USG or US military. Most reporting focuses on: news stories and news analysis delivered to thousands of daily newspapers, radio stations, and television outlets around the world. The AP reaches audiences world-wide.)

The president of Mobile-based International Shipholding Corp., which manages the M/V Maersk Alabama for owner Maersk USA, said Monday a multinational coalition must respond to Somali piracy. ISH President Erik L. Johnsen said one country cannot stand alone against pirates like the ones who raided the Maersk and held its American captain hostage. He said piracy calls for a multinational response from seafaring nations. "There's a risk out there and we have to address it," Johnsen told The Associated Press in an interview in his office overlooking Mobile's harbor. Johnsen said he had not had time to put any recommendations for dealing with piracy in writing to any government or industry group because the hostage-taking had just ended Sunday. "It was a very remarkable outcome," he said. "I can't tell you how pleased we are." Johnsen said his firm was very happy for the safe return of Maersk Alabama Capt. Richard Phillips. Johnsen said he spoke to Phillips' wife on Sunday. "She's a very brave woman who has a

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very brave husband," Johnsen said. U.S. Navy snipers killed three **Somali pirates** with single shots, freeing Phillips. Johnsen declined to comment on pirate threats of retaliation. He said ISH was part of the crisis team led by ship owner Maersk. The vessel is managed by International Shipholding under what is known as a bareboat charter. That means that IHS handles provisioning and crewing the vessel and then leases it back to Maersk. Johnsen said "vital trade lanes" must be protected, but he declined to say whether the coast of Somalia should be avoided completely. As for providing weapons to the small crew, he said, "It's more involved than simply arming the crew." Johnsen said a replacement crew will be sent to the U.S.-flagged Maersk where it's docked in Kenya. For security reasons, he declined to comment on the ship's future destination.

/****** BEGINNING OF SECTION 21 *****

Russia Confirms **Somali Pirates** Free Tanker With Russian Onboard
Source: RIA Novosti, 13 Apr 09 (RIA Novosti ("Russian Information Agency") is a multi language, Russian, English, German, French, Arabic, Persian, Spanish, Japanese, Taiwanese, and Mandarin, news and information agency, located in Moscow, Russia. RIA Novosti's estimated online circulation/audience reach is 381 per 1 million reaching audiences in Russia 41(-PERCENT-), the United States 6(-PERCENT-), Estonia 5(-PERCENT-), the Ukraine 5(-PERCENT-), and Germany.)

The Russian Foreign Ministry officially confirmed on Monday that **Somali pirates** have released the Norwegian-owned chemical tanker Bow Asir with a Russian crewmember onboard.

"According to reports from Russian embassies in Kenya and Norway, **Somali pirates** have released the Bow Asir tanker, seized on March 26," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. The Bahamas-flagged vessel with 27 crewmembers - a Norwegian captain and Russian first officer, as well as 19 Filipinos, five Poles, and one Lithuanian - was captured some 500 km (250 nautical miles) east of the port of Kismayo in southern Somalia. It was released on Friday after the owners paid a ransom, the Norway Post newspaper reported, adding that the pirates had demanded \$2.4 million.

Pirates Holding Stavanger And Castle Make No Demands As Yet
Source: Interfax, 13 Apr 09 (Interfax is a Russian, English, Ukrainian, Kazakh, and German language information agency, located in Moscow, Russia. Owned by the Interfax Information Service, it has a strong degree of credibility, shows no

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political affiliation and no religious affiliation. The typical audience demography consists of: Russian and foreign media groups, state and government organizations, major banks, corporations, investment companies and funds. Most reporting focuses on: political and business news, market data, ratings and analytics on Russia, CIS, China and Central Europe as well as extensive and detailed reporting on domestic and international issues. Interfax reaches audiences world-wide.)

No definite demands have been received from the pirates who seized the Hansa Stavanger and Malaspina Castle, ships that have two Ukrainians on board, Foreign Ministry press secretary Vasyl Kyrlych said on Monday.

"No demands have been received from the captors of these vessels," he said. He also added that the negotiations on releasing the ships Saldanha and Titan are going well. "To avoid information leaks, the details of the talks are being kept secret," Kyrlych said. He said that the crews of these two ships are treated well and have everything they need. The Foreign Ministry hopes for the rapid release of the hostages. As reported, **Somali pirates** hijacked the Hansa Stavanger, operated by Hamburg-based Leonhardt & Blumberg, in the Indian Ocean between Kenya and the Seychelles on April 5. UK ship Malaspina Castle was hijacked on April 6. Saldanha ship, which crew has one Ukrainian, was captured on February 22 in the Gulf of Aden. Trade vessel Titan was hijacked on March 19 in the Gulf of Aden. It has one Ukrainian onboard.

The Pirate Economy

Source: Foreign Policy, 13 Apr 09 (TBD)

Sunday's dramatic rescue of Capt. Richard Phillips brings to a felicitous end an incident involving the most egregious assault on U.S. commercial shipping in two centuries.

The last time maritime marauders were so bold, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison tasked the fledgling U.S. Navy and Marine Corps with taking the fight to the pirate havens along the "shores of Tripoli." This weekend's incident highlights what the world's best-trained military can accomplish under the right conditions.

But it also underscores the limits of force in the face of a seemingly intractable challenge posed by the **Somali pirates**.

According to the International Maritime Bureau, 111 of the 293 incidents of piracy or armed robbery at sea in 2008 took place off the coast of Somalia -- double the number from the preceding year. And 2009 is hardly off to an auspicious start. In spite of poor meteorological conditions -- hardly favorable for maritime

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forays -- there have already been more than a dozen seizures so far this year. The pirates aren't just getting lucky. Indeed, Somali piracy is quite the opposite of the helter-skelter often portrayed in the media; it is a highly structured enterprise built around a number of syndicates. Pirate bases in Eyl, in the northeastern Puntland region, and in Xarardheere, in central Somalia, stand out for their audacity and for the resources they command. The syndicates operate "mother ships" far offshore that serve as long-range platforms for the speedboats that attack commercial vessels; they own depots along the coast where the pirates resupply before bringing captured boats to their main bases; and they coordinate the networks to support pirate operations on land. A report to the U.N. Security Council last month by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon plaintively conceded that "these groups now rival established Somali authorities in terms of their military capabilities and resource bases."

Not only are the **Somali pirates** well-organized, but they have proven to be highly resilient to changes in the strategic environment. As I warned in an analysis two weeks ago, the pirates have not been intimidated by the international naval force that has assembled to prevent a repeat of last year's hijackings. Instead, they have shifted their operations to less patrolled areas, with strikes increasingly taking place farther and farther from the coast, on the high seas of the western Indian Ocean. The attempted seizure of the Maersk Alabama, for example, took place approximately 240 nautical miles southeast of the Somali shore. Mother ships, which resemble fishing vessels, have also worked hard to confuse antipirate patrols by avoiding the Somali coast altogether, docking instead at ports in other countries for refueling and resupplying (the U.N. report identified Al Mukalla and Al Shishr in Yemen). Historically, piracy has been a crime of opportunity, and there are few places with conditions more favorable than the de facto statelessness that has afflicted Somalia since the collapse of the country's last effective government in 1991. In this Hobbesian state, all sorts of individuals have become stakeholders in the political economy of piracy. In exchange for a share in the eventual ransoms, wealthy Somali businessmen finance the purchase and

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outfit of mother ships and skiffs as well as the recruitment and arming of their crews. In various ports, paid informants send information about vessels' defenses, crews, cargos, and

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itineraries, enabling pirate gangs to select their targets and plot courses for interception. The Maersk Alabama, for example, had left Djibouti en route for Mombasa, Kenya, four days before it was hijacked; that information alone would have enabled a potential attacker to narrow the search for it, even without the automatic identification system (AIS) transmitting on board, radar, and other technologies.

Once a vessel is seized and brought to a pirate base, negotiations begin between the pirates and representatives of the ship's owner and its insurer. Eventually, the ransom, which is nowadays typically about \$1 million -- although \$3.2 million and \$3 million, respectively, were paid to the captors of the Ukrainian-owned weapons freighter Faina and the Saudi-owned supertanker Sirius Star earlier this year -- must be delivered directly to the hijacked vessel by agreed-upon intermediaries, usually rather specialized security consultants. Although many people are involved in the process -- from the dealers who supply the pirates with the fuel to sail out, to the prostitutes who entertain them on their return -- some are more susceptible than others to pressure from the international community. Certainly, pirate financiers in the Somali diaspora are targets for legal proceedings if evidence can be found of their role. Ship owners and insurers also bear a measure of responsibility because their ransom payments are incentivizing more and more Somalis to embark on careers in piracy. Other profiteers to target include the regional Puntland government and al-Shabab, the al Qaeda-linked Islamist militant group that was formally designated a "foreign terrorist organization" last year by the U.S. State Department. Both entities receive a portion of the proceeds in exchange for allowing the pirates to operate in areas they control. That's an opportunity for a crackdown: A case could be made that the payment or handling of ransom is prohibited under international treaties (such as the U.N. Convention Against Corruption), U.S. domestic legislation (such as the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act), or other laws covering the finance and material support of terrorism. Still, Somalis are going to have to step up. Because piracy plays a huge economic role in communities where the marauders are based, attacking the enterprise requires building up local political and security capabilities so as to reduce the extent of the areas of "lawlessness" that the pirates have exploited up to now. Such a strategy includes developing a coast guard, perhaps initially under African Union or subregional auspices, that would

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constantly patrol the region along the shore. Over time, this coast guard might acquire the wherewithal to collect and process information useful in taking down the pirate networks altogether. Even if it was never as sophisticated as that, a local coastal patrol has better prospects for sustainability than the continued massive presence of warships from the blue-water navies of the world. Undoubtedly, a robust military response like that delivered Sunday by the U.S. Navy to the captors of Captain Phillips (and the French Navy last Friday to the pirates holding the yacht Tanit and its French civilian passengers) will be needed again to deal with pirate actions underway and to deter other potential maritime hijackings. Of course, as Bjoern Seibert convincingly argued here two weeks ago, the various naval efforts need to be better coordinated, if not integrated. Ultimately, however, piracy is far more complex than any naval patrol; it will require more than just the application of force to uproot piracy from the soil of Somalia.

J. Peter Pham is director of the Nelson Institute for International and Public Affairs at James Madison University and is senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. As a broker of open source information, the OSC hosts material from other government agencies, academic experts, and commercial open source providers. These reports are not intended to reflect US Government policy or the views of the OSC or any other US Government agencies and are not subject to OSC editorial standards. (U)

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