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SECTION 1 OF 2

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CITE OSC RESTON VA 688982

WARNING: TOPIC: DISSENT, DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL
POLITICAL, MILITARY, TERRORISM

SERIAL: AFP20090413410003

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: SOMALIA, UNITED STATES, FRANCE, KENYA

SUBJ: SOMALIA: SEAFARERS' OFFICIAL, ACADEMIC QUESTION US MOVE TO
FREE PIRATES' HOSTAGE (U)

SOURCE: SOMALIA TODAY IN ARABIC 12 APR 09 (U)

TEXT:

Unattributed report: "Experts: United States Was Wrong, Hostage
Liberation Operation Is Wake-Up Call for Pirates" (U)

Internet

OSC Translated Excerpt

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The US hostage liberation operation has raised many questions in
international and regional circles on the likelihood of an
increase in the force used by the pirates in their dealings with
the foreign nationals whom they hold on the coast of Somalia.
Seafarers Assistance Program Coordinator Andrew Mwanga name as
transliterated, stated in Mombasa that the rescue operation
apparently was carried out by members of the US Navy seals and
that the operation will change the calculations of future attacks
by the pirates. He added: "This is an awakening of the pirates
and it will increase risk. They might become far more violent,
like the pirates of old days."

The pirates generally have treated their hostages well, sometimes
providing them with grilled goat meat and in some cases have given
them telephones to contact their relatives. The worst reported

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violence was beatings from time to time, but no case of a hostage being killed by the pirates has been reported. Two separate attacks by French and US forces led to the rescue of the hostages and the killing of five pirates, which has raised fears of bloodshed on the high seas in the future.

Reuters quoted one of the pirates named Husayn by satellite telephone as stating: "The French and Americans will regret starting the killing. We do not kill, but gain ransoms. From now onward, we will do something whenever we see Frenchmen and Americans." The pirates hold more than a dozen ships with some 260 hostages, including up to 100 Filipinos.

passage omitted on US Coast Guard commander's statement to ABC on need for international agreements to allow the prosecution of piracy and the protection of shipments in Somali waters and on US Justice Department statement on whether to seek lawsuits in the United States

For his part, Dr Nasr al-Din Ibrahim, professor of political science at the African Institute for Research and Studies in the University of Cairo, questioned whether what is happening on the Somali coast falls under the rubric of piracy as determined by international law. In an article in latest issue of the International Politics publication, Dr Ibrahim stated that, according to international law, it is considered that the action of the pirates that do not aim at committing robbery and looting is coercion. He stated: "No cargo of any ship has been stolen and no member of the crew of hijacked ships has been killed. If the purpose of the hijacking was to fund the war in Somalia, it would have been better to steal the cargo of the Ukrainian ship that was carrying 33 modern tanks on board."

Dr Ibrahim added: "Most of these operations do not occur at sea, but in the territorial waters of Somalia. As one of the foreign studies showed, (European, Asian, and African) vessels conduct intensive fishing activities in its waters (the territorial waters of Somalia). Some pirates allege that their activities aim at protecting the natural resources of Somalia, and that the ransom funds should be considered as a legitimate tax."

He added in the conclusion of his article that: "In this context, consideration should be given to the acts that are committed to address the activity of foreign vessels in the territorial waters of Somalia as acts of legitimate self-defense to protect Somali fish resources, to prevent foreign ships from dumping nuclear waste on the Somali coast, or forcefully to collect passage tolls

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in the territorial waters of Somalia as long as there is no stable government capable of collecting those fees. The absence of a capable Somali government to protect the territorial waters does not justify these illegitimate activities by foreign ships in the territorial waters of Somalia."

Description of Source: Somalia Today in Arabic -- Privately owned news oriented website aiming to provide political, social and cultural news on Somalia to Arabic speakers; URL: <http://www.somaliatodaynet.com/news/>.

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Source Metadata

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/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 *****/

Article Metadata

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