

"SARNIA NEWS" CIRCULAR

(Ref: 313/17/GP)

TO ALL SHIPOWNER CLIENTS

5TH April 2017

Re: *IMPORTANT NOTICE*** - Dhow Hijacked Off Somalia**

Please find below a new **ALERT** from Gray Page, a specialist maritime consulting group, providing important information regarding a vessel boarded by hijackers whilst sailing between Yemen's Socotra Island and the Somali coast, which is highly relevant for all ship owners' whose trading warranty within their insurance terms includes these areas. We would strongly recommend that Kidnap & Ransom insurance is arranged if trading to the 'high' risk areas.

We would suggest this information is distributed to the relevant personnel, as well as being sent to the Master(s)/Chief Officers(s) of your vessel(s) if relevant.

Best regards

Loss Prevention Team

From: noreply=graypage.com@www.graypage.com
[<mailto:noreply=graypage.com@www.graypage.com>] **On Behalf Of** Gray Page: Global Alerts
Sent: 03 April 2017 16:14
To: Sarnia
Subject: A new alert from Gray Page

Dhow hijacked off Somalia

Background

Gunmen, believed to be from Somalia, have hijacked an Indian flagged dhow.

The vessel, the AL KAUSHAR, was boarded by the hijackers on 1 April while it was sailing between Yemen's Socotra Island and the Somali coast.

The hijacking has been confirmed by India's Directorate of Shipping. A spokeswoman for the Directorate said the dhow had 11 crew members on board, all from India.

Assessment and Analysis

Reports in the India media said the dhow's captain had contacted the owner of the vessel to say it had been approached by a skiff, apparently seeking water.

The Indian Directorate of Shipping, quoted on 3 April, said there had been no ransom demand and that it was possible the hijackers would release the vessel after they had stolen its cargo.

The dhow was believed to be carrying oil.

The gunmen were reported to have taken the dhow to the Eyl area of northern Somalia.

US naval forces in the area said they were aware of the reports and were monitoring the situation.

The dhow had sailed from Dubai and was variously reported to have been heading to Bosaso in Somalia and Al Mukala in Yemen.

The hijacking of the dhow followed an incident some three weeks earlier when Somali pirates seized the product tanker ARIS 13.

That incident was swiftly brought to an end after authorities in Somalia's semiautonomous Puntland region intervened. Nevertheless it prompted warnings that instability in Somalia and resentment about foreign fishing fleets operating off the Somali coast could trigger a resurgence in pirate attacks.

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