

## **"SARNIA NEWS" CIRCULAR**

(Ref: 314/17/GP)

TO ALL SHIPOWNER CLIENTS

19<sup>TH</sup> April 2017

**Re: \*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\*\* - Pirates Attack Products Tanker in Gulf of Aden**

Please find below a new **ALERT** from Gray Page, a specialist maritime consulting group, providing important information regarding continued pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden, 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)  
[<mailto:noreply=graypage.com@www.graypage.com>] **On Behalf Of** Gray Page: Global Alerts  
**Sent:** 18 April 2017 15:27  
**To:** Sarnia  
**Subject:** A new alert from Gray Page

## Pirates attack products tanker in Gulf of Aden

### Background

Reports from Chinese and Somali authorities indicate a pirate attack was made on the small chemical and products tanker ALHEERA in the Gulf of Aden on Saturday 15 April.

According to the Chinese People's Liberation Army news service, the Chinese navy frigate HENGYANG responded to a distress call from the ALHEERA. The HENGYANG drove the pirates away when it arrived on the scene. The Chinese Navy reported that the five armed pirates tried to board the ALHEERA from a skiff. The Somali authorities indicate gunfire was exchanged during the naval intervention, resulting in the deaths of two of the attackers.

### Assessment and Analysis

The 10,000 deadweight tonne dwt ALHEERA, which is controlled by United Arab Emirates based Link Energy, is the third merchant vessel to be attacked in recent weeks in the Gulf of Aden.

On 8 April pirates boarded a 35,360 deadweight tonne (dwt) bulk carrier OS 35 but failed to take control. Indian and Chinese warships came to the bulk carrier's assistance.

The ARIS 13, hijacked on 13 March while sailing between Djibouti and Mogadishu, was the first merchant ship to be successfully hijacked off Somalia since 2012. The vessel and crew were later released unharmed.

During this period there have also been at least three attacks on dhows, so the attempted hijacking of the ALHEERA brings the total number of attacks to six in six weeks.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), which coordinates shipping in the Gulf of Aden, has advised vessels transiting the area to exercise "extreme caution".

[Go to Threat Picture](#)

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