

UKMTO Weekly Report

12 - 18 Apr 2020

Command Overview

1. In line with UAE Ports Authority and UAE Government advice, UKMTO has suspended port visits until further notice. Commercial shipping companies and ship's masters can still receive the latest UKMTO Maritime Security update via telephone or by e-mail using the contact details at the bottom of this page. UKMTO Dubai and the Maritime Trade Information Centre (MTIC) will remain fully operational throughout the duration of the global pandemic and can be contacted as usual using the details promulgated in BMP5.
2. COVID-19, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and World Health Organization (WHO) have published specific advice for the Maritime Shipping Industry via their websites. The WHO guidance to commercial shipping can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/2xla6pp>. The IMO advice can be obtained via the following link: <https://bit.ly/39c8l5l>.
3. A number of media articles this week report on the boarding of a vessel in the Gulf of Oman (see page 3). UKMTO released the following Advisory and updates regarding this incident.

Warnings, Advisories & Notices

Advisory 001/Apr/2020

UKMTO was advised on 14th Apr 2020 at 1228UTC that a vessel had been boarded by armed men, while at anchor in position 25-41N 056-59E. The vessel is now reported to be at anchor approx. 3nm of Ras Al Kuh, in vicinity of 25-40N 057-00E. UKMTO is continuing to monitor the situation. All vessels in the vicinity are to stay vigilant and to report any incidents to UKMTO.

Advisory 001/Apr/2020—Update 01

The vessel previously reported has now been released and is now under the control of the Master. Vessel and crew are safe. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise caution.

Advisory 001/Apr/2020 Update 02

This is assessed to be an isolated incident of state-based intervention, with no wider threat to Maritime Shipping in the region. All vessels in the vicinity are to stay vigilant and to report any incidents to UKMTO.

No Warnings or Notices have been issued.



For further information or queries regarding UKMTO Warnings, Advisories or Notices ring: 0044 2392 222060.

This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region.

UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting.



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Vessels and Persons Held Captive

Details of Vessel	Vessels held	Souls held	Date Taken
Merchant Vessels	0		
Fishing Boats	0		
Dhows	0	3	26/03/15
Total	0	3	

Ships Briefed

Date	Location	Vessel
No Vessels visited this week See note below		

Future Events

Date	Event	Location
27 - 28 May 2020	SHADE	Bahrain
11 June 2020	MIEVOM	Dubai

Liaisons and Visits

With current restrictions due to COVID-19, all visits to our office and ships visits by Briefing Officers have been cancelled until further notice.

If anyone wishes to contact our Dubai office or to arrange a telephone briefing from UKMTO, please contact Lt Cdr Chris Long at +971 (0)50189 8389 or email dubai-oic@ukmto.org

Open Source Media Articles

UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of these open source media articles of interest.

- 16 Apr 20 - Brexit: How the UK is preparing to secure its seas outside the EU (The Conversation): <https://bit.ly/3ezU10s>
- 16 Apr 20 - Shipping and airline industries call for designated crew change airports (gCaptain): <https://bit.ly/3eBs2xd>
- 16 Apr 20 - Aircraft Carrier outbreak could hold clue to Coronavirus' Spread (gCaptain): <https://bit.ly/2XOchgG>
- 15 Apr 20 - U.S. Navy says Iran Revolutionary Guard vessels harassed U.S. Military vessels in Gulf (gCaptain): <https://bit.ly/2yfgmj7>
- 14 Apr 20 - Tanker boarded but later released in Gulf of Oman (Reuters): <https://bit.ly/3bg6kNf>
- 14 Apr 20 - Piracy and armed robbery a threat to ships' crews, warns IMB (ICC): <https://bit.ly/3ctJzWh>

Additional sources of Information

www.ukmto.org

[MSCHOA](#)

[Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#)

[United Kingdom Hydrographic Office](#)

[IMB Live Piracy Reports](#)

www.marad.dot.gov/MSC/

[NATO Maritime Command \(MARCOM\)](#)

www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org

[Middle East Navigation Aids Service \(MENAS\)](#)



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