

Piracy payback: UN plans blitz on Somali bases

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, November 20, 2008

[Russia Today](#) 20 November 2008

Region: [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Theme: [United Nations](#)

The United Nations is reportedly planning military action against east African pirates. A source close to the UN Security Council told RT it's considering authorising a raid on bases along the Somali coast. If this happens, armed strikes could target land bases of known pirates threatening boats in the Gulf of Aden.

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the Security Council the surge in piracy against ships along the Somali coast has affected trade, and contributed to a humanitarian crisis.

He also said the country's transitional federal government is suffering. The East African nation has been without a functioning government since 1991 and has no navy to police its coastline.

In early June, the UN Security Council passed a resolution permitting countries to enter Somalia's territorial waters to combat "acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea."

The UN Charter allows the Council to order action like this if there is a perceived threat to peace or security.

Now the UN Security Council is expected to pass resolutions to freeze the assets and restrict the travel of individuals and organisations who violate the country's arms embargo.

Pirates' trophies

The crew of at least seventeen ships are being held hostage by pirates off Somalia, including three vessels seized in the past two days: a Greek bulk carrier, a Thai fishing boat and an Iranian bulk freighter.

International concern over shipping safety in the region has risen since a huge tanker, the Sirius Star, carrying up to 2 million barrels of Saudi oil was seized on Saturday.

Nine ships have been hijacked in the area in just two weeks. Over two hundred sailors are being held hostage by Somali pirates.

Indian warship sinks pirate vessel

On Wednesday pirates saw the first failure after a series of successful seizures. An Indian navy warship Tabar sank a pirate vessel in the Gulf of Aden when it attempted to ram Tabar.

The Indian ship is part of a multi-national force patrolling the region where one in ten merchant vessels comes under attack.

It is a multi-purpose vessel built at a Russian shipbuilding plant in St Petersburg. The ship entered the Indian Navy in 2004. Tabar is capable of leading military actions against ships and submarines as well as counter air attacks.

Earlier Tabar took part in battles with pirates. In early November it countered the attack at the Indian cargo ship Jag Arnav, making the pirates flee.

Indian military vessels were dispatched to the Gulf of Aden on October 3.

The original source of this article is [Russia Today](#)
Copyright © [Global Research](#), [Russia Today](#), 2008

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca