



# WEEKLY REPORT



13/03/19

Maritime Security | Underwater Services | Operations Support | Agency Services

London | Lomé | Cotonou | Lagos



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## Africa Risk Compliance

Headquartered in London, UK and with branch offices in Lomé, Togo, Cotonou, Benin and Lagos, Nigeria, Africa Risk Compliance Limited (ARC) was established to bring together a team of Africa experts to address challenges faced by those operating in Africa. With roots in the security sector, our key service offering is the management and arrangement of security in the complex jurisdictions of the nations around the Gulf of Guinea.

ARC's range of services in West Africa include Security, Underwater Services, Operational Support and Agency Services, acting on behalf of our clients to advise and guide on the options available, allowing improved and informed decision making. Our depth of knowledge and experience in West Africa has resulted in the development of our business offerings that go far beyond basic security, meaning that our clients can rest assured that their assets and people are safe when ARC are engaged. We take pride in the fact that on so many occasions and with any range of problems encountered, from immigration to marine equipment procurement, we have always been positioned to support our clients need.

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# Maritime Security Incidents - Nigeria



## Reports

- **8 March 2019, 1610UTC. Suspicious Approach. 66nm SSW of Bonny Fairway Buoy, Nigeria.** A LNG tanker whilst inbound to Bonny NLNG terminal was approached by 2 speed boats with 6 men in each dressed in black with red ribbons. One speed boat crossed the vessel bow but armed escort vessel reacted and as she approached, the 2 speed boats left the area.
- **9 March 2019, 1550UTC. Kidnap for Ransom. 37nm SW of Bonny Fairway Buoy, Nigeria.** Whilst sailing from Port Harcourt to Forcados, the dive support vessel was attacked by armed pirates in 2 speed boats. The escort vessel responded to the attack and fired on the pirates. In the following firefight, 7 pirates were killed and one Nigerian Navy guard was fatally wounded. The pirates successfully boarded the vessel, and whilst some crew managed to reach a safe haven in the engine room, the pirates broke down internal doors, kidnapped 4 crew members and 1 passenger, stole crew and vessel belongings and vandalised the interior. Later in the day, the remaining crew emerged from the safe haven and sailed the vessel back to Bonny..

## Analysis

The two attacks in the last 7 days are likely the actions of the same pirate group of 2 speed boats that have conducted the attacks in the last fortnight. The kidnap incident on 9th March 2019 is notable, as it is the first attack where the armed escort vessel has failed to provide adequate protection and the pirates have managed to kidnap crew. This is likely due to the fact that the escort vessel only engaged with one pirate speed boat, allowing the second speed boat to board the merchant vessel. It also raises questions about the quality of the safe haven, and of the crew's training in quickly moving to that safe haven.

Current Threat Level: **HIGH**

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## Port Security Statistics

### Number of incidents in last 6 months

Lagos	9
Takoradi	5
Onne	3
Conakry	2
Pointe Noire	2
Lomé	2
Abidjan	1

### Terminals and Anchorages with highest number of incidents in last 6 months

Secure Anchorage Area, Lagos	5
Takoradi Anchorage	5
STS and Main Anchorage, Lagos	3
Federal Lighter Terminal, Onne	2
Conakry Anchorage	2
Pointe Noire Anchorage	2

## Stowaway Statistics

	Last 3 month	Last 6 months	Last 12 months
Lagos	2	3	5
Takoradi	1	1	1
Conakry	2	2	3
Dakar	0	0	1
Douala	0	0	1
Freetown	0	0	1

## Piracy Statistics

### Vessels Attacked

This month	5
Since start of 2019	30
Since start of 2018	189

### Crew & Passengers Kidnapped

This month	13
Since start of 2019	30
Since start of 2018	225

### Incidents involving security forces since start of 2018

Embarked Navy Guards	21
Armed Escort Vessel	6

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## Militant Activity

### Statements & Threats

5 March 2019. John Duku, the Convener for the Coalition of Niger Delta Agitators, stated that they would not recognise the result of the Nigerian Presidential Election that saw Buhari win. The group claimed that the elections fell "below the minimal acceptable standard. It was marred by serious irregularities, vote buying and outright alteration of results in favour of APC and Buhari...We want to restate our earlier stand that Niger Delta resources would not be used to run a compromised government". The Coalition of Niger Delta Agitators represents about 10 militant and ethnic groups from the Niger Delta region and regularly speak out on issues regarding the treatment of people in the Niger Delta and the use of natural resources (mainly oil and gas) from the region. The Coalition of Niger Delta Agitators has not engaged or claimed any involvement in violent protest or activities.

10 March 2019. A group named the Amalgamated Niger Delta Volunteer Force has threatened to attack oil installations in the Niger Delta region if the Nigerian government do not allow the residents of the Niger Delta to choose their own leaders. The statement was made by "Comrade" Orunene Alagbarigha, which may be an alias. The group stated that their threat was titled "Operation Red Warning; Desist or We Match Force with Force", and that "all international oil companies operating in the region are hereby put on alert as we will not be held accountable for any harm that may befall their people and facilities should these undemocratic actions by the national Government of Nigeria in the guise of election security continue."

### Attacks

Militants briefly kidnapped 6 journalists in Rivers State on 9th March 2019. The journalists were later released on the same day.

Militants also took several INEC staff and their ballot boxes hostage during an attack on their boats. Nigerian military personnel later freed the electoral commission staff and recovered the ballot boxes.

## Community Conflict

2 March 2019. Akuku-Toru LGA, Rivers State. 5,000 residents left the area following the killing of 2 soldiers by gunmen, and reprisal attacks by the Nigerian military which left more than 10 dead.

There were multiple reports of violence on 9th March 2019 across the Niger Delta region during the governorship elections, with several local leaders, including the Ijaw Youth Council, criticising the actions of political parties and the Nigerian military.

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## Industrial Action

Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) has issued a 21 day ultimatum to Chevron Nigeria Limited regarding the unionisation of Chevron's employees. MWUN accused Chevron of "deliberately shielding its employees from being unionised", and of not providing a list of all maritime companies that provide marine services to the oil major.

Communities in Bayelsa state have threatened to take Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to court, claiming that the oil major excluded indigenous contractors from contracts, and is therefore in breach of Nigerian Local Content Law. The communities gave SPDC 21 days to address their concerns.

Current Militant Threat Level: **MEDIUM**

Current Community Threat Level: **HIGH**

Current Strike/Industrial Action Threat Level: **MEDIUM**

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## Shipping News

NIMASA have stated that reports on pirate attacks in Nigerian waters may effect its bid to be elected to the International Maritime Organisation. The agency claimed that there are a similar number of attacks occurring in other country's waters around the Gulf of Guinea, and that NIMASA "always tell journalists that it is your duty as a reporters to report correctly and accurately."

Nigeria has asked several oil majors for unpaid taxes worth a total of \$20 billion. Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Total, Eni and Equinor have been asked to pay the Nigerian government between \$2.5 billion and \$5 billion each.

The two largest oil and gas unions in Nigeria have given their approval to Muhammadu Buhari's re-election as President of Nigeria. NUPENG and PENGASSAN released a joint statement congratulating him on the victory and stating that the focus should be on the "rehabilitation of the public refineries instead of the clamour for their sale by some sections of the political class".

There were delays in two Nigerian crude grades due to pipeline issues. Shell's Forcados crude oil was delayed by at least 10 days after a leak on main pipeline, and the Nembe Creek Trunkline, operated by Aiteo, was shut down on 28th February 2019 following an explosion and fire. The cause of the explosion is yet to be determined, but the pipeline has now been repaired.

Lomé port in Togo has overtaken Lagos port as West Africa's busiest container port, predominantly due to congestion and poor service at Lagos port. Tema port in Ghana is the third busiest by container volume, followed by Abidjan, Dakar and Cotonou.

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