PIRACY IN SOMALIA

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1. The context of Somalia

- Civil war since 1991
- the elected Transitional Federal Government (TFG) controls a small part of the capital and is constantly attacked by Islamist groups.
- Puntland located in the north of Somalia is regarded as the epicenter of piracy
- Somaliland seceded from Somalia in 1991, and advocates independence. The region is relatively stable
2. Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

- Lack of institution and law enforcement unit
- Geographic position
- High level of organization
- The continuing expansion of the area where they operate
- The significant increase of ransoms paid
- More aggressive tactics
- More violent attacks
Alleged reasons behind piracy

• IUU fishing

• Toxic waste dumping

• Lack of interest from the international community
3. Somali Pirates

Some figures

• IMB reported that the first semester of 2011 was the worst ever.
• 208 attacks reported so far for 168 in 2010.
• In the area of the Gulf of Aden 249 crew members and 13 ships are detained in 2011 (October).
• In 2010 the amount of ransoms that have been paid was 218 million USD
3. Somali Pirates Structures

1. Investors (Financial and sponsors)
2. Pirates
3. Support on the ground
4. Negotiators
5. Bankers
Investors

• **In Somalia**
  – Former chiefs of tribes
  – Pirates themselves

• **Abroad**
  – Somalians who are living abroad (Western countries but also in the region).

• The financiers would spend $30,000 on a pirate group who would hunt on high seas and $10,000 if they are operating on the Gulf of Aden

• The investment is aimed to cover the cost of:
  – Food; Weapons; Boats; Khat; Oil
Pirates

• Some have estimated them around 3000 to 4000 people
• 4 mains groups:
  – The National Volunteer Coast Guard (NVCG), specialized in intercepting small boats and fishing vessels around Kismayu on the southern coast.
  – The Marka group, most violent, operating around the town of Marka, they are using mother ships.
  – The Puntland Group, most organized composed of traditional Somali fishermen operating around Puntland
  – The Somali Marines, they are the most powerful and sophisticated of the pirate groups.
• The composition of a pirate boat is:
  – Fishermen with sailor skills
  – Former military or fighters
  – Technical expert who knows how to use modern equipments (GPS, Satellite phones)
  – “Accountant”
Pirates

Weapons

- Before the collapse of the government, Somalia bought for USD1 billion of weapons both from Soviet Union and the US. Pirates are using those weapons easily findable in black market.

- The types of weapons used for attacks are:
  - AK 47 (100$ in black market)
  - RPG-7 (could be bought in Somalia for 300$)
  - Mortar
Support on the ground

- People who give information to pirates
- People who are keeping the hostages (From villages)
- People who rent the dock
- Guns for hire who protect pirates
- They are around 2000 to 5000 people who are living with piracy incomes
Negotiators

- Language skills
- Mainly located outside Somalia
- They are receiving 5 to 10% of the amount
Bankers

- 40% of the ransom is estimated to be sent outside Somalia (USD 95 million in 2010)
- This part is intended to be used to buy houses and legal business abroad.
Ransoms

Somali Pirates: Ransom Distribution

- 30% Pirates
- 30% Sponsors
- 20% Support in the Ground
- 20% Futures activities
Ransoms
4. legal Framework

- International conventions, Security Council Resolutions, guidance documents of Piracy
  - UNCLOS Articles 100-107
  - SUA
  - UNSCR Res. 1816, Res. 1838, Res. 1846, Res. 1851, Res. 1897, Res. 1918, Res. 1976, Res. 2015
  - IMO Circ.1333, 1334, SN.1/Circ.281, MSC.1/Circ.1405, MSC.1/Circ.1406, MSC.1/Circ.1408
  - National Laws
4. Cooperation framework

Piracy Cooperation

- International
  - CGPCS
    - States
    - International Organizations
    - Industry Groups

- Regional
  - Djibouti Code of Conduct

- Bilateral
  - Bilateral agreements/other
    - Kenya
    - Seychelles
    - Mauritius
    - Tanzania
    - Djibouti
4. Prevention and Deterrence
Best Management Practices

- Barbed/Razor Wire
- Electric Fences
- Citadel
- Firehose
- Golf Balls launcher
4. Prevention and Deterrence

Private Security Companies

- The number of private companies have increased significantly during the last 5 years
- They are providing services: trainings, consultant services but also gunmen onboard
- The fees are between 4000 to 9000 thousand USD per day to cross the golf of Aden
- The question is still sensitive
4. Prevention and Deterrence
New Equipment Devices

- Sonic Deterrent Equipment
- Blinding light laser
- Emetic laser canon
- MK 38 Mod 2 Tactical Laser System (MGS)
5. Addressing Root Causes

- Pressuring and disrupting the flow of finance (*Hawalah system*)
- Identifying where the pirates purchase equipments (GPS, satellite phones)
- Implementing social and economic activities such as the telecommunication, fisheries, agriculture sector
- Mineral extraction
- Development at the micro level
6. Conclusion

• The pirates are:
  – More violent
  – More organized
  – With more equipments
  – They are recruiting more especially among young people

• The news preventions and deterrence measures are effective

• The phenomenon of piracy could only be addressed on the ground and must pass through the development of social and economic activities
THANK YOU