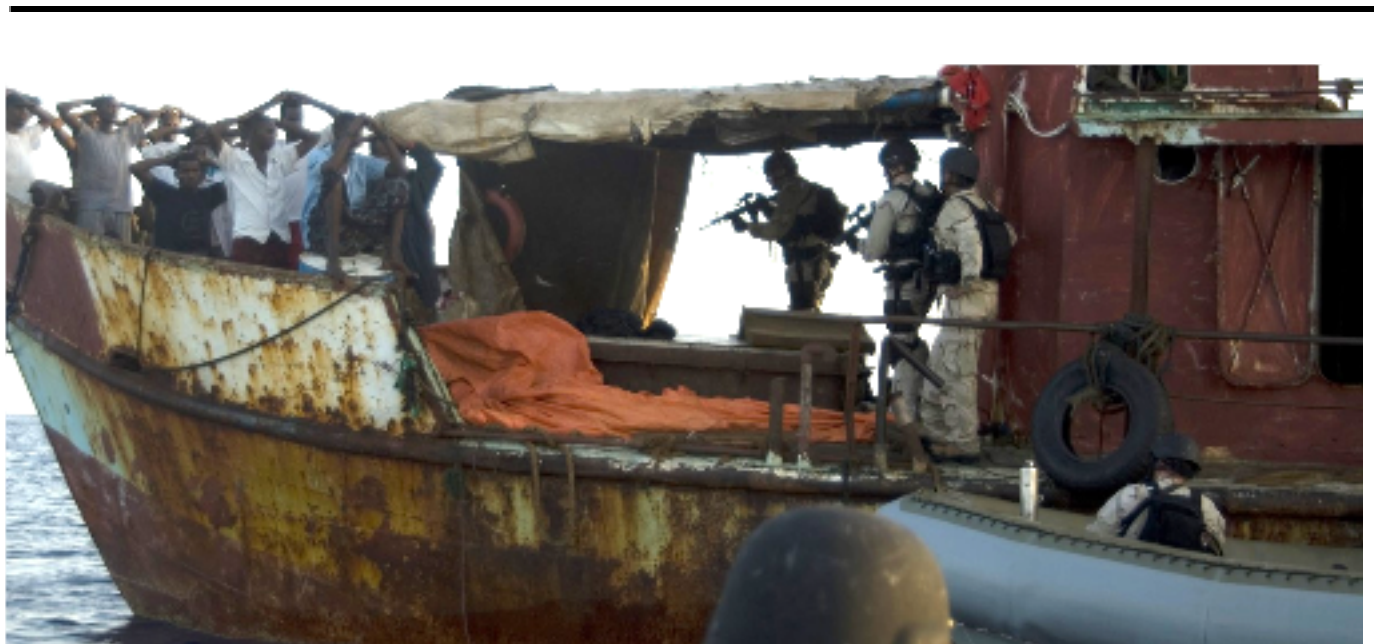


**Forum:** Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (MS CCPCJ)

**Issue 18-02:** Measures to prevent maritime piracy

**Student Officer:** Gisell Cottone

**Position:** Chair of Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (MS)



### Guiding Questions as you Read

How does maritime piracy influence the economy of diverse countries?

In what ways could this issue be prevented?

To what extent do countries have power over this problem?

## Introduction

### Key Terms

Trafficking  
Maritime Piracy  
Goods  
Hijacks

Although the word "pirate" may relate to images of large bearded men, eye patches, a hook and wooden legs, pirates are a current threat to our society. No country has control over the open ocean, creating perfect conditions to sneak illegal products from country to country, and because the ocean takes up to 75% of the Earth's surface, it is a challenge to maintain vigilance of all marine ports.

Marine piracy is the act of criminal violence by boat or ship with the purpose to attack or transport goods from one place to another. Modern pirates arm themselves heavily to attack their targets or defend themselves from any form of attack. They use their crew/hostages to help them during these operations; afterwards, they are killed, kept as slaves, or abandoned in the ship or an island. The main purpose of maritime piracy is to transport illegal goods from one nation to the other. This way of transportation is appealing to the pirates because it is a safer method to transport goods, due to the high quantity of unvilligilanced land near ports.

Pirates transport illegal products, such as fire weapons, illegal substances, people, and medicine. There are several continents involved in this issue, such as Africa, Asia and America but the major countries involved are Somalia and Yemen. These countries have the highest risk of a Pirate import/export or attack because these nations have lack of commercial-scale fishing, meaning they have little or no activity around the coasts. In addition, the levels of security and traffic of individuals in the coastal area are low, which is what pirates are looking for. Piracy affects the economy of every country by threatening the economic stability of countries as well as creating fear from terrorism and catastrophe.

An example of a pirate hijack could be March 13, 2017. On this day a group of pirates attacked a boat including tons of oil transported towards Somali capital. This lead the Somali government to lose millions of dollars on oil, also causing the oil price to increase. This example is one of the thousands showing how marine piracy affects people, as well as governments worldwide. Although this issue has not been completely eradicated, \$6.6 billion have been spent on the prevention of piracy.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Maritime Piracy:** Consists of any type of criminal acts of depredation, violence, and/or terrorism on the high seas.

**Trafficking:** Trading, dealing, or transporting an illegal object.

**Hijackings:** To take control over boats, aircrafts, or any other type vehicle using violence with the purpose of theft, assassination(s), terrorism, and/or enslavement of individuals.

**Globalization:** The process by which business and culture develop in the foreign, making the world more connected and developing international influence.

**Global economy:** the international exchange of goods and services expressed in monetary units, or money.

**Vessels:** A large ship or boat, in this case used for piracy.

**Corruption:** "dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers) "(Merriam Webster Dictionary). In other words, corruption consists of illegal practices made by government administrators.

**GDP:** Also known as Gross Domestic Product. It calculates the total value of services and goods produced by a country in a certain time, usually by year, and helps measure the health of the country and economic activity.

**Terrorism:** The use of intimidation and violence in attempt to achieve political goals, by creating a climate of fear and terror in citizens.

## Current Situation



Maritime Piracy crimes cases have been rising in the past years. *The Maritime Exclusive* mentioned crimes have increased by 19% from 2016 to 2017. Many of the reluctants transporting the cargo are forced individuals, due to slavery and human trafficking. Recently, the maritime sector has been boosted in commercial

exchanges around the world. This has led to maritime transport as a fundamental base in the global economy, thus, this process has been the key in the global economy of various African, Asian, and Latin countries. Even though piracy is condensed nowadays in Southeast Asia, coasts in Africa and the Middle East, the seas of the Indian subcontinent, the Gulf of Guinea, and, to a lesser extent, South America are also affected significantly. Piracy actions go under regional territories, leading to international effects in economy, therefore, influencing the worldwide economy. According to the IMB (International Maritime Bureau) , in the first six months of the year 2018, there have been 107 attacks issued globally. Many countries lack coast guards and surveillance, which permitted the pirates to successfully attack and transport heavy cargo vessels in speedboats, taking hostages and boarding.

### **Drug Smuggling**

Drug smuggling is the illegal transportation of substances or drugs across borders. Many pirates contraband drugs through countries, and it is considered to be their main cargo. Pirates use different techniques to hide and transport drugs, such as hiding the drugs inside other objects. Drug trafficking is the main source of income from pirates globally, explaining why most of the captured ships contain high quantities of drug substances. In 2017, the maritime drug trade produced around \$157 million dollars from drug smuggling in the US. To combat illegal transportation of drugs in the US, the government has suspended over \$8 million in federal resources.

### **Slavery**

Currently, there are around 58 million people enslaved worldwide. Slavery is when people are forced to follow orders and owned by other superior powers. Pirates transport and capture to different purpose: use them for their benefit, sell them, or trade them. There are many dehumanized hostages that help carry the cargo pirates transport. According to a research paper done by Arne Bialuschewski, as many as 30% of boats arriving at the coast of Africa, have some connection to slavery.

### **Illegal Trafficking of Weapons and Fire Guns**

Illegal trafficking of weapons and fire guns is common in marine piracy. The majority of pirates use guns to protect themselves and instill fear in people when attacking a

vessel. Pirates usually use electronic media to sell or buy their products; they use the black market. The black market is a group of websites where people trade illegal goods or services. The black market helps them sell their products in big quantities to other regions, explaining the reason of marine transportation of weapons.

### Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is very common in marine piracy. People are sold to be exploited or gain money from extraction of organs to sell to the black market. Humans are forced to be transported illegally from country to country to be used and exploited, breaking several human rights. According to the UN, 17% of the illegal cargo transported, amongst other types of cargo, is humans.

### Terrorism

Pirates are often in the search to steal resources from large boats containing cargo. When pirates attack other vessels, they often create terror and fear amongst the crew of reluctants in the ship, due to their use large guns, threats, and even killing in some cases. Many people are kept as hostages for extensive time periods, leading them to starvation or reproduction of diseases/infections, causing bad conditions of life and death.

### Corruption

Corruption is a universal issue. Many pirates have connections with individuals inside the government. These corrupted officials help the pirates load and transport the illicit cargo to other countries. Pirates often pay these officials in order to guarantee the transportation of the goods, by decreasing the security around the coast or paying guards not to catch them in the act. The lack of transparency in the country, in terms of financial and governmental actions, make the perfect circumstances for pirates to import/export their cargo.

**Comprehension Questions:** Is it important to decrease levels of corruption to eradicate piracy? Does your country help pirates by corruption? To what extent previous solutions have helped?

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### Somalia

Somalia is one of the most affected countries by piracy, with an average of 80% of pirates having some connection to Somali piracy. Somalia is considered to be a failed country (UN), due to its violence, terrorism, and famine. According to the United Nations, in 2016, pirates brought \$150 million as income into the government, equivalent to 15% of Somalia's GDP. In other terms, piracy has become a large source of income and foreign exchange for the country, making Somalia depend on the integration of money from piracy for the country to be sustainable. Somalia is considered to be the most corrupt country in the world, ranked number 1 by the United Nations. The majority of pirates pay off corrupt Somali officials to securely transport and discharge the goods they contain. Organized crime is present in Somalia, reducing the chances of pirates to fail during contraband, creating very hard conditions for the pirates to be caught by surveillance or coast guards.

### Nigeria

Over the past decade, the Gulf of Guinea, located in Nigeria, has had a large quantity of pirate attacks. Between 2017 and 2018, 88 cases of piracy were reported. The judicial process in Nigeria has been affecting the anti-maritime crime movement as well as corruption. Nigeria is also considered to be a corrupt country. Throughout the years, corrupt practices have increased due to the discovery of gas and oil, as well as the rise of the public administration. According to world maritime news, on the first three months of the year 2018, there were 22 incidents of piracy. According to the IMB, pirates from the Gulf of Guinea target different types of vessels, such as oil tankers, fishing boats, and refrigerated cargo. Femi Adesina, special advisor on publicity and media to the Somali President, Muhammadu Buhari, addressed the rise of pirate attacks over the years due to lack of employment. Since there are not enough jobs for the population of Somalia, people from a low economic class seek a way to survive, and often turn to piracy. General Somali security is searching for solutions to tackle this problem, as well as change its security methods to avoid the attacks and contraband.

## Malaysia

In the year 2017, around 93,000 vessels passed through the Strait of Malacca, located between the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra (an Indonesian island), representing 25% of the world's global ship traffic. Theft is very common in this body of water. Pirates are interested in hijacking vessels in this area because the ships usually contain expensive cargo in large quantities, such as gasoline or medicine. Pirates wait for their victims in narrow waters, as passing boats must slow down to go through them, which allows pirates to take advantage and attack the boat. This usually happens at night. According to the IMB, from 1995 to 2002, there have been 858 attacks and reports in total of pirate action, including theft, robbery, hijack, and boardings. The numbers of attacks and violence worldwide are increasing every year, Malaysia accounted for 34% of the incidents reported in 2018. Malaysia has responded in several ways, including improving surveillance and overall security, as well as acquiring a significant number of fast aircrafts and patrols to deal with attacks or robberies as fast as possible.

## Germany

Germany is also involved in the world of marine trafficking. There have been several reports from officials, coast guards, and the police marine trafficking action. Most of these actions take place in the Mediterranean, and recently, they got an attack from pirates, leaving several people dead and around 300 hostages. Pirates usually transport people having the illegal product to other places, including Germany, and then leaving them as refugees in that country. After Germany realized the situation, they took action with the help of the UN. They are implementing a new operation called "Mediterranean operation" consisting of satellites, drones, and cameras in several zones to identify and find pirates.

## Panama

The main income in Panama is the Panama Canal. The Panama Canal helps vessels go through the Pacific into the Atlantic ocean and vice versa, in a matter of seconds. Because Panama has so much influence in ship and vessels, Panama is affected by marine trafficking. On May 5th, 2018, a vessel was found on the port of Colon with a total of 208 packages containing various drugs, such as marijuana, cocaine, and

heroin, meant to reach Colombia. In 1989, Panama was a main influence on marine trafficking through the Panama canal due to its past leader, Manuel Noriega. Noriega was a corrupt president, who usually exported and imported illegal drugs and charged people money to transport cargo through the Panama Canal with illegal products on the vessels. This is an example of thousands reported by the police. Panama has been implementing new methods to avoid this issue, by checking the containers through X-ray screenings and putting cameras near ports and coasts to avoid the charge or discharge of illegal products.

## Timeline of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of event</b>
700-1050	Piracy starts to rise when Vikings created routes from northern Europe to Asia, Africa, Oceania and America.
15th-16th century	After the discovery by Christopher Columbus of the New World, piracy increases. Many Europeans start seeking routes and exploiting other ships with the purpose to own new land from America first. The battle was between the English, Spanish, French, Portuguesse and Germans.
1700-1730	Biggest increase of pirate attacks occur during this time period. The Caribbean was the most active area of piracy and attacks.
1850s	The Barbary Pirates harasses American ships close to North Africa. The US authorizes naval power against pirates.
1991	The Somali government collapses after many days of war and economic devastation. Piracy incredibly increases, due to unguarded coasts.
2006	The IMB announces ten vessels attacked by Somali pirates. First increase in pirates attacks for 3 years.
2013	The IMB reports 264 total attacks, 304 hostage-takings, 1 killing, and 12 hijackings in 2013. The peak of pirate attacks in years.



2017

The pirate attacks have been reduced by a 68% from 2013

## Past International Action

### **RESOLUTION 1816 / 2008 / PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA**

Asking authorization to increase surveillance on Somali coasts, as well as combating piracy/North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Operation Ocean Shield/ Somali Coast. The resolution was effective to a certain level, it helped decrease the problem, yet, not eradicating it.

### **RESOLUTION 1976 / 2011 / PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA**

Recalling previous resolutions and reinforcing methods/North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Operation Ocean Shield/ Somali Coast. The UN calls for the increase of security surrounding the coasts of Somalia, as well as implementing methods of surveillance to avoid corruption.

### **RESOLUTION 2383 / 2017 / PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA**

Renew for another years international authorization for naval forces to combat piracy/North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Operation Ocean Shield/ Somali Coast. The conference was successful and implemented the guard in the coasts of Somalia, preventing most of the cargo leaving Somalia territory.

## Possible Solutions

To tackle this issue, the root of the problem must be addressed. The majority of individuals turning into pirates are people from countries that lack of employment and are plagued by corruption. An example could be Somalia, filled with corruption and lack of jobs, causing the country to be the highest nation with marine piracy. To prevent government officials from practicing corruption or turning into pirates, the government should start an overseeing protocols where every government official is revised. Another solution is to guard high trafficked coasts while in territorial waters, to catch

them before they get lost in the immense ocean. This could be implemented by increasing security near coasts, also benefiting the country by providing more jobs, indirectly decreasing piracy as well.

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## Useful Links for Research

- I. IMB (International Maritime Bureau)
- II. United Nations
- III. IMO (International Maritime Organization)
- IV. INTERPOL Maritime Piracy