



MEDITERRANEAN MARITIME THREAT SUMMARY – APRIL 2008

The maritime crime picture in the Mediterranean area is developing. The area has a disjointed security picture with areas of excellent security on the Southern border of Europe juxtaposed against the worsening security picture in North Africa. Human traffic is proportionally the greatest threat to security and business continuity followed by the development of Al Qaeda sponsored terrorism in the Mediterranean rim. Indicative trends are:

PIRACY / MARITIME ROBBERY: Occasional opportunistic events in specific areas. The extent of the piracy/maritime robbery is not represented in the IMB figures.

Threat – Remaining low.

TERRORISM: Al Qaeda franchised terrorism is increasing across the Mahgreb (North Africa) as a direct result of a declared AQ policy of development in the area. There have been 15 AQ sponsored attacks across North Africa last year bearing out a theory that AQ are attempting to influence the area, bringing to fruition the words of Islamic fundamentalist and founder of the 'Muslim Brotherhood' Hassan al-Banna:

"We want the flag of Islam to fly over those lands again who were lucky enough to be ruled by Islam for a time, and hear the call of the muezzin praise God. Then the light of Islam died out and they returned to disbelief. Andalusia, Sicily, the Balkans, Southern Italy and the Greek islands are all Islamic colonies which have to return to Islam's embrace. The Mediterranean and the Red Sea have to become internal seas of Islam, as they used to be."

Operations near and visits to North Africa require detailed security planning. Turkey also presents a credible terrorism/organised crime risk.

Threat – Medium but developing.

HUMAN TRAFFIC: The whole Mahgreb border region is porous with a seasonal movement of Africans into Southern Europe with hubs in the vicinity of Gibraltar, Malta and Cyprus. The Europe wide border security agency called 'Frontex' is very limited in their ability to prevent the trade. A new technique of 'open landings' where smugglers scuttle vessels and demand assistance from passing vessels is a concern to yachts in the Mediterranean. Worldwide economic turbulence forecast this year is likely to cause a mass movement of people into Southern Europe.

Threat – High and worsening.

GUNS / DRUGS/ GOODS SMUGGLING: Albanian smuggling operations into Italy occur in a predictable route between two locations. The principal danger is from accidentally disrupting the trade as the criminals are notoriously violent.

Threat – Remaining low.

Dryad Maritime Intelligence Service

www.dryadmaritime.com

enquiries@dryadmaritime.com

Land Line: 0044 871 662 7115

Mobile: 0044 7903 581875