



MENA Region Maritime Crime in Context

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* Views do not necessarily reflect those of employers.

Agenda

- Maritime insecurity as a nexus concept
- Overlapping conditions for maritime insecurity:
 - Crime / terror case study
 - Mediterranean migrant crisis case
- **Objective: Connect maritime insecurity in MENA to broader context**

Maritime insecurity as a nexus concept



The maritime domain is...

A multifunctional arena

The sea is a resource

- Risks: Competition, pollution

The sea is a medium for transport / trade

- Risks: Terrorism, conflict, piracy, accidents, smuggling

The sea is a sovereign space

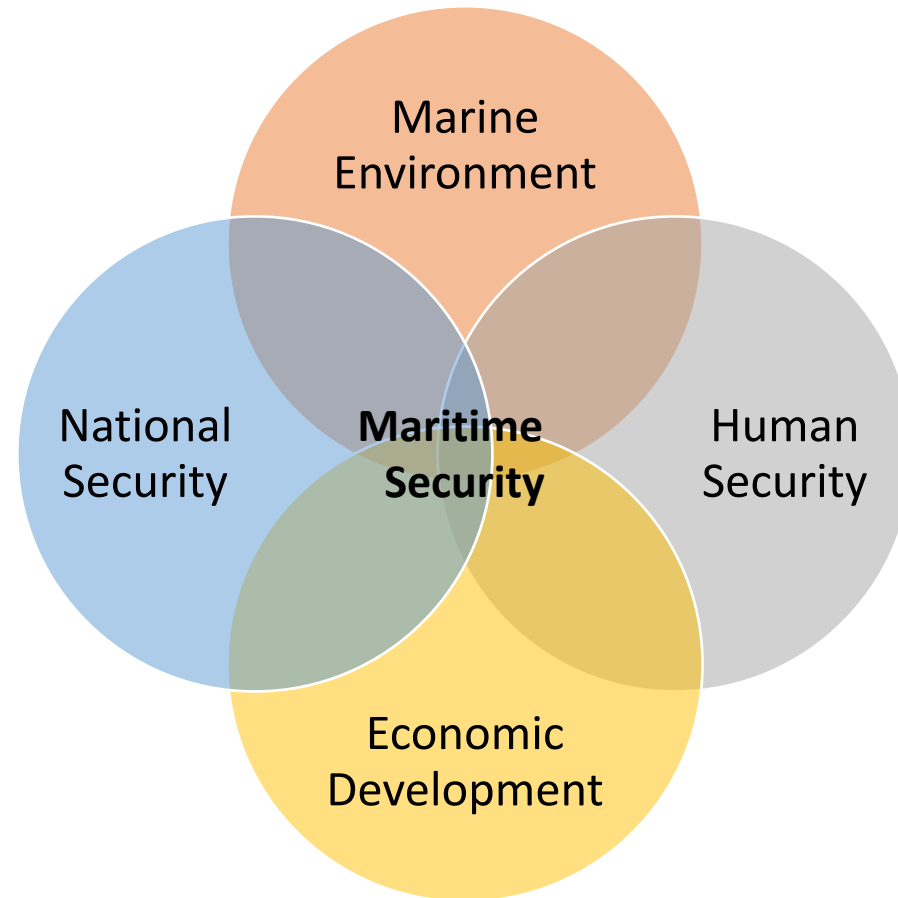
- Risks: Inter-state conflict, large-scale crime

The sea is an environment

- Risks: Pollution, exploitation

The maritime domain is...

Where security dynamics overlap



Maritime insecurity is:

Multidimensional

Piracy and IUU

IUU and human trafficking

Gunrunning and drug smuggling

Drug smuggling and terror financing

Oil theft and insurgency

Contextual



Crime / terror case study

Maritime crime
is a product of
its broader
environment

“Because the factors that encourage and sustain pirates and terrorist groups’ use of the sea are broadly similar, **their activities and operating areas can overlap...**”

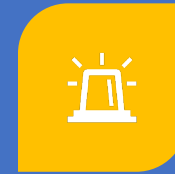
Conditions for piracy



LEGAL &
JURISDICTIONAL
OPPORTUNITIES



FAVORABLE
GEOGRAPHY



CONFLICT & DISORDER



INADEQUATE
SECURITY



PERMISSIVE POLITICAL
ENVIRONMENTS



CULTURAL
ACCEPTABILITY/
MARITIME TRADITION



REWARD

Look like most conditions for maritime terrorism

Legal &
jurisdictional
opportunities

Favorable
geography (perhaps
also secure land
borders)

Inadequate security
(low MDA)

Secure base

Cultural
acceptability /
maritime tradition

Promise of reward

*Charismatic
leadership

*State support

Maritime
terrorism
also breeds
maritime
crimes

Tactical support (i.e., maneuver)

Target (attacks at sea)

Take (financial motives)

Trafficking (illicit transit)

Tax (extortion)

Al-Qaeda and
Middle Eastern
affiliates

Levantine anti-
Israel groups

Indonesian groups
(Free Aceh
Movement—GAM)

Liberation Tigers of
Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
(Sri Lanka)

Nicaraguan
“Contras”

Philippine “Moro”
groups

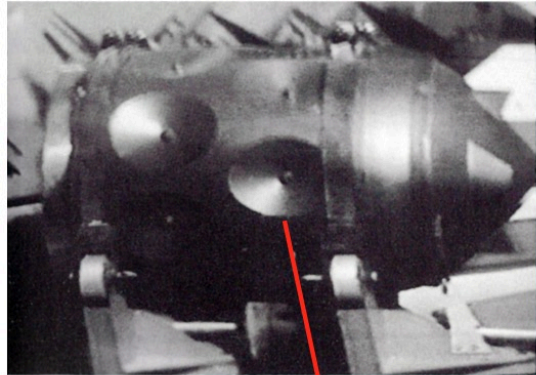
Houthis

Breakout groups in maritime terror are rare, but several are in MENA region

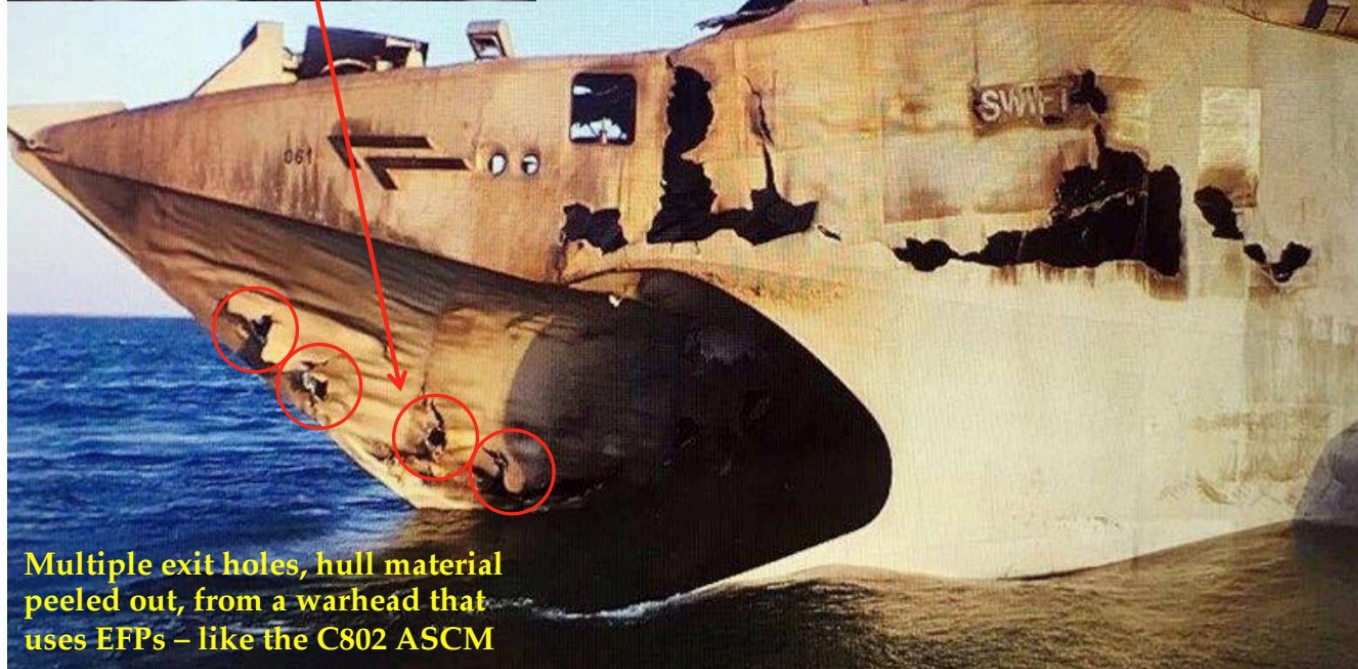
Prominent maritime terror incidents are clustered in MENA

- Achille Lauro (1985)
- USS Cole (2000)
- Limburg Tanker (2002)
- SuperFerry 14 (2004)





C802 Warhead



Multiple exit holes, hull material peeled out, from a warhead that uses EFPs – like the C802 ASCM

MENA houses technological innovations as well

- INS Hanit (2006)
- Swift, USS Mason (2016)
- Unmanned attack on KSA (2017)

Mediterranean migration case study

Mediterranean migrant crisis *feedback loops*



> 5,000 people died trying to cross the Med in 2016



Causes: Crisis and dislocation in MENA+ (Libya, Syria, Somalia)



Feedback loops: 1-Enforcement, 2-rescue, and 3-networks

Enforcement crisis

Feedback loop: “Officials started destroying wooden boats used by smugglers, hoping this would disrupt the criminal networks. But this had an unintended effect: **Smugglers increasingly used cheaper rubber dinghies.**”

Wooden boat from 2011



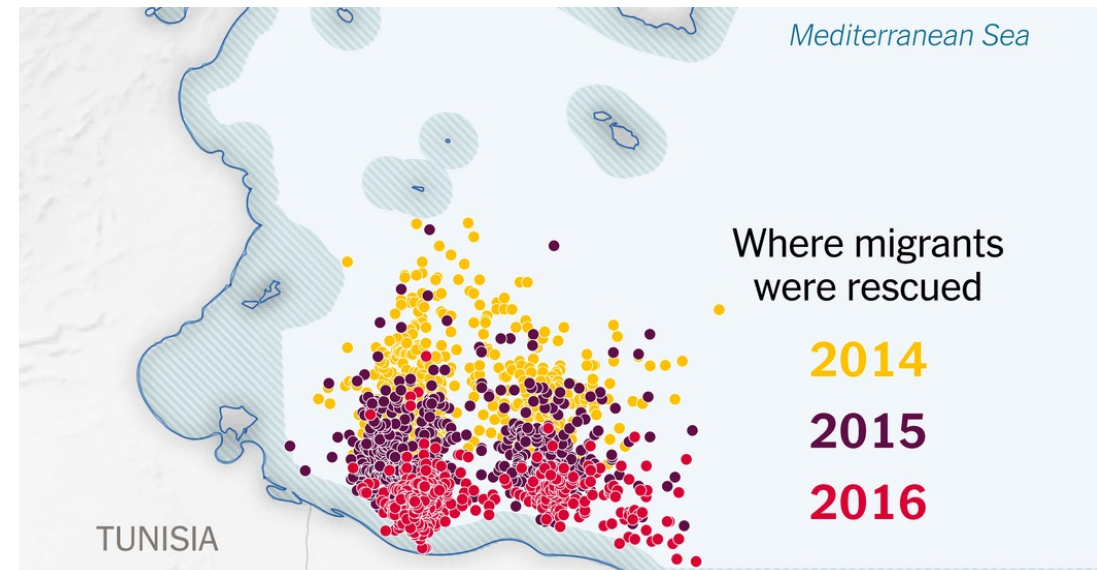
Rubber dinghy from 2016



Rescue crisis

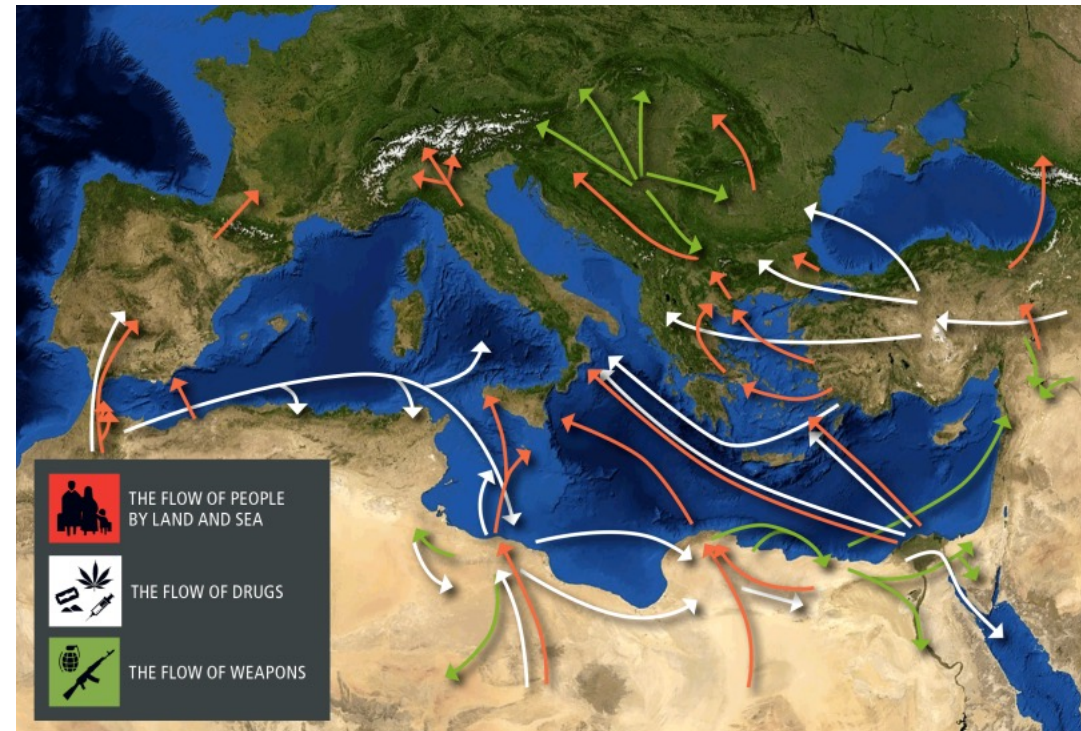
Feedback loop: The presence of rescuers contributes to a moral hazard, where smugglers cut costs and migrants take greater risks in hopes of rescue.

Meanwhile, “no evidence that reducing rescue efforts would reduce fatalities.”

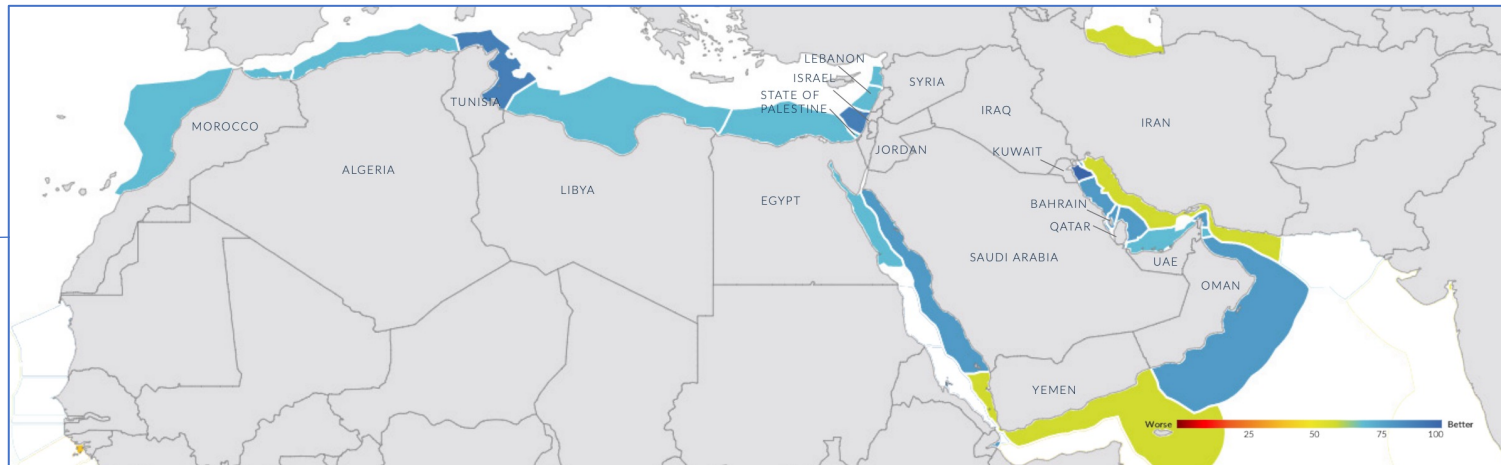


Networks

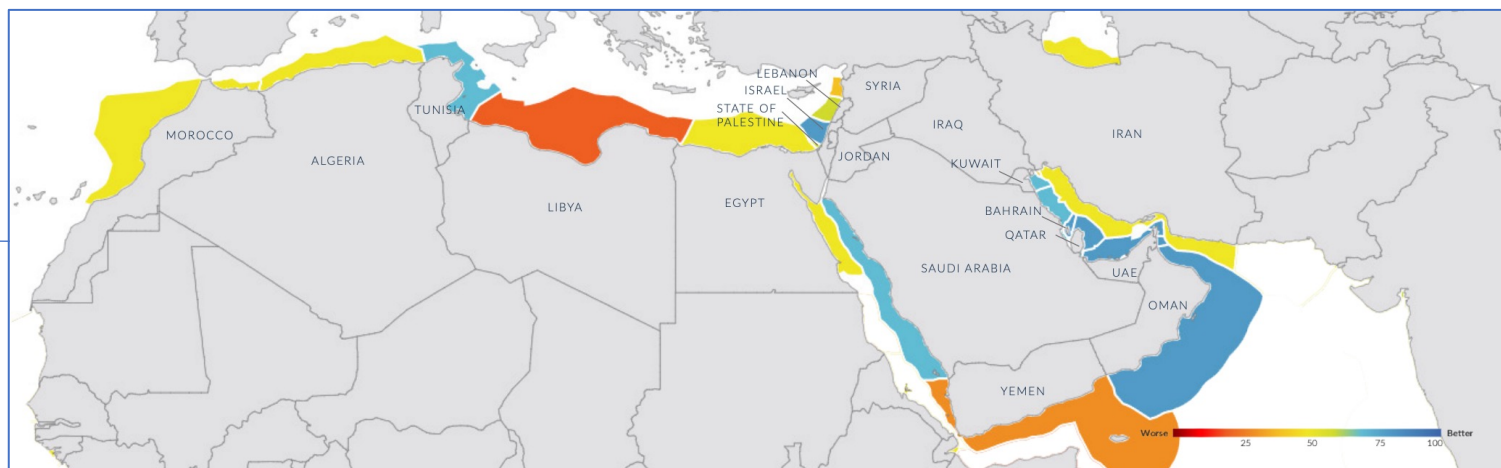
Feedback loop: Networks that forge documents, smuggle migrants, also traffic in other “products” (hashish to Europe, small arms to Syria)



Illicit trade



Mixed migration



One among many signals & challenges

Maritime enforcement

