



# The Human Cost of Somali Piracy

## Victims of Somali Pirates in 2011

**3,863 Seafarers (100%)  
Attacked by Pirates with  
Firearms**

**3,863 seafarers were fired upon by armed pirates.** Numerous ships and crews have suffered attacks, some multiple times. Pirates are using increasing violence and firepower, often directed at the bridge and living quarters.

*"Pirates in two skiffs armed with AK47 and RPG approached a crude tanker underway. At a distance of 50 meters from the vessel the pirates fired seven RPG rounds and more than 300 rounds from AK47."* (IMB Piracy Reporting Centre)

**968 Seafarers (25%) on  
Vessels Boarded by  
Pirates**

**968 seafarers came into close contact with armed pirates** that gained access to their vessels after the initial assault.

**413 (44%) of these seafarers were rescued from citadels** by naval forces, often after waiting for hours or days in terror and uncertainty about their fate as pirates actively fought to break into the citadel.

**555 Seafarers  
(14%) Taken  
Hostage**

**555 seafarers were attacked and taken hostage in 2011.** Those seafarers not rescued are kidnapped and held for months without proper nutrition, access to medical care, or communication with their families. They all suffered abuse by pirates.

**+  
645 Hostages  
captured in  
2010**

**645 hostages captured in 2010** remained in pirate hands in 2011, reflecting a 50% increase in the average period of captivity to 8 months. Of these:

- 26 hostages held for over 2 years and
- 123 hostages held for over 1 year.
- Pirates additionally captured and held hostage 6 tourists and humanitarian aid workers.

Pirates use extreme force in attacks.

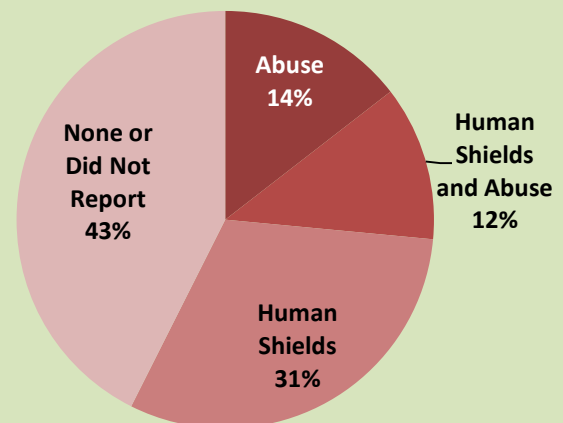


Photos courtesy of [www.saveourseafarers.org](http://www.saveourseafarers.org)

In 2011, 4,514 people were subjected to violent crimes by Somali pirates seeking financial gain. Of these, 1,206 were held hostage for an average of 8 months. Public reports show that 57% of hostages were mistreated:

- 174 hostages experienced extreme abuse
- 371 used as human shields
- 144 both subject to abuse and used as human shields

## Mistreatment of 1,206 Hostages

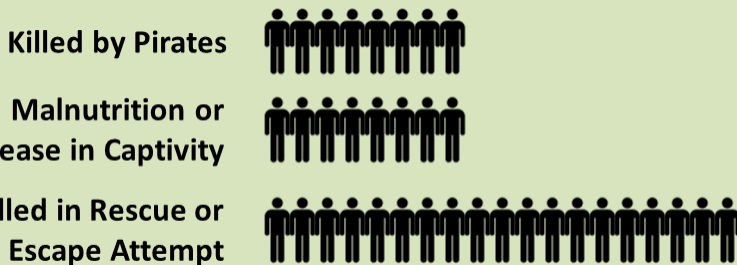


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## Mistreatment of Hostages

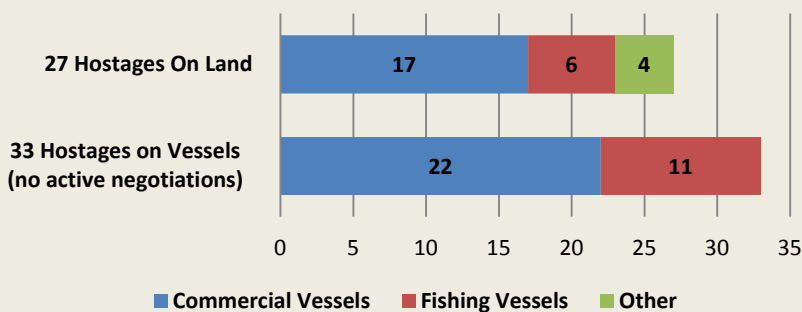
*“One crew was taken out, they started to intimidate him, put the automatic machine gun on his chest. We did not know what kind of bullet was inside when they fired. But fortunately the bullet was not true; but as a result, they burned his chest.” –Anonymous Seafarer*

### 35 Hostage Deaths in 2011



More hostages died because of piracy in 2011 than in any previous year since the resurgence of piracy off the coast of Somalia. The majority were caught in crossfire during rescue efforts while they were used as human shields.

### 60 High Risk Hostages



There are many hostages still held by pirates in 2012 that lack a clear way to secure a release from captivity. These include abandoned seafarers, hostages held back after the ransom was received, private sailors, and aid workers.

Flag states, ship owners/operators, seafarers, and



ICC International Maritime Bureau  
Helping business stay in business

the Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Program submitted 23 reports to the IMB on the treatment of hostages aboard vessels released in 2010 and 2011. These submissions resulted from the Declaration Condemning Acts of Violence Against Seafarers, signed by the flag states of Liberia, Marshall Islands, Panama, and the Bahamas. Based on these reports, the IMB found:

**100%**

of hostages faced regular threats of physical violence, continuous psychological stress and abuse, confinement loss of privacy, and loss of self-esteem.

**50%**

of hostages experienced physical abuse, including burning with cigarette butts, punching, pushing, and slapping.

**10%**

of hostages were subjected to extreme physical abuse, including being tied up in the sun for hours, locked in freezers, and having fingernails pulled out with pliers.

### Dangers of Piracy to Perpetrators

Open sources report that 111 Somali pirates were killed during 2011:

- 70% were killed in clashes with naval forces
- 27% were killed during fights with other pirates over hostages or ransoms
- 3% in clashes with Puntland security forces

## Primary Findings

- Although fewer hostages were captured in 2011, the violence faced by seafarers who transit through the High Risk Area has not subsided.
- All hostages were subject to deprivation and unacceptable conditions when held by Somali pirates.
- In extreme cases of violence and deprivation, 149 hostages have been held for more than a year and 35 victims were killed.