

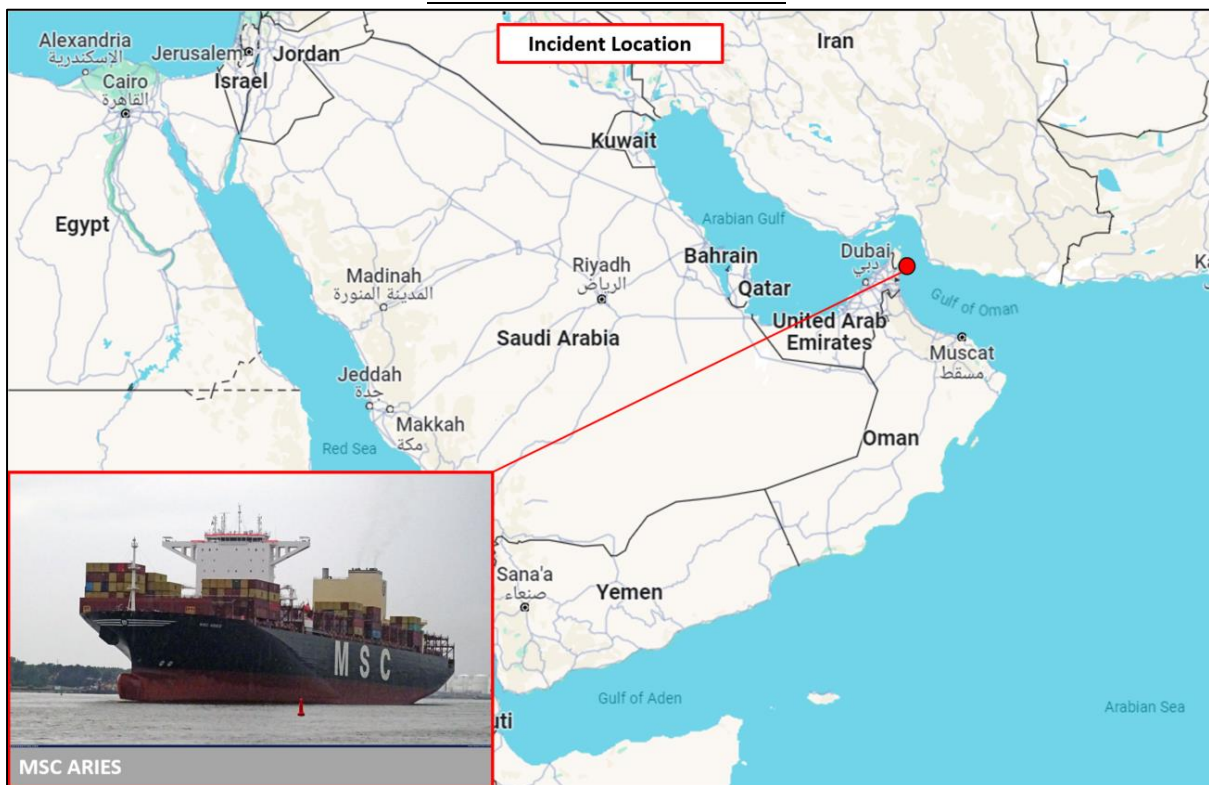


JMIC **SPECIAL INFONOTE 13APR 01** – SEIZURE OF MADEIRA-FLAGGED CARGO VESSEL, MSC ARIES, EXITING STRAIT OF HORMUZ

INCIDENT REPORT

1. There was a reported seizure of a Madeira-flagged Cargo Vessel, MSC ARIES (IMO: 9857169), while the vessel was transiting outbound through the Strait of Hormuz at approximately N25°43', E56°41' on 13 Apr 24 at 02:37 (UTC). Reference UKMTO Incident Warning 669. (See **Picture 1** for incident location).

Picture 1: Incident Location



2. The JMIC has confirmed that MSC ARIES was boarded by personnel inserted by helicopter. Subsequently the vessel has altered course North into Iranian TTW and all communication with the vessel has ceased.

3. JMIC assesses that MSC ARIES was likely “targeted” due to perceived Israeli affiliation through ownership.



JMIC GUIDANCE

4. Freedom of navigation and the free flow of maritime commerce continue as a top priority within the wider region.
 - a. The current threat assessment identifies vessels with an Israeli association at highest risk

5. **Vessels** intending to transit this area are recommended to:
 - a. Exercise caution
 - b. Conduct a risk assessment prior to entering the area
 - c. Review security measures/incorporate appropriate vessel hardening measures into their security plans
 - d. Ensure AIS is transmitting, consistent with provisions of the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)
 - e. Do not loiter
 - f. Share instances of suspicious activity with UKMTO
 - i. UAV sightings
 - ii. Communications challenges

6. **Shipping Companies** are recommended to:
 - a. Conduct threat & risk assessment of all their vessels and especially those that may have previous Israel ownership or associations
 - b. If an association is made, shipping companies are recommended to provide the information to UKMTO prior to transiting this area
 - c. Ensure their managed vessels receive and follow the guidance for vessels
 - d. Review digital footprint



Joint Maritime Information Center



Additional Resources on Incident:

UKMTO Reporting Visit: <https://www.ukmto.org>

Email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org

Emergency Tel: +44 (0)2392 222060

Additional Resources on Industry Guidance:

BMP 5 – Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea:

<https://www.ics-shipping.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/bmp5-hi-res-min.pdf>

ATP – 02.1 NCAGS Guide to Owners, Operators, Masters and Officers:

https://shipping.nato.int/systems/file_download.ashx?pg=692&ver=2