

Somalia

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History

kids

Modern Pirates

Since 1991, Somalia has not had a working central government. Because of the lack of any central authority to enforce the laws of the country, Somalia has become a haven for pirates. Every year, 30,000 ships pass through the Gulf of Aden, off Somalia's northern coast, and many of them are in danger of being boarded by pirates, who leave from camps on Somalia's coast to take the crews hostage and demand a *ransom* (a payment) from the company who owns the ship or the cargo. With no effective government in place in Somalia, these pirates are able to rob with only a small chance of being caught by authorities. While a handful of nations have defended themselves against these pirates by sending armed escort ships to accompany the cargo ships or hiring armed security guards to guard the ships' cargo, the pirates continue to attack ships in the area. Until political stability returns to Somalia, the pirates will probably continue their attacks.

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