



***“Essential reading for all sailors, their employers, and not least their families.”***

To be taken hostage is a nightmare. For present-day sailors in the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, this is a fear they must live with on a daily basis. Luckily, the vast majority of attacks are unsuccessful; but for those unfortunate enough to be taken hostage by Somali pirates, this handbook is here to help.

This book ought to be essential reading for all sailors, their employers, and not least their families. Logically constructed and easy to read, it is packed with information about who the pirates are, their culture, etc. There is therefore no excuse not to be prepared.

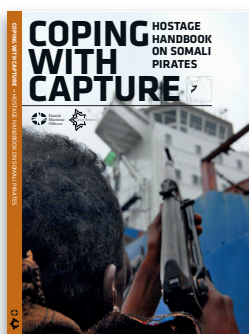
This is not light reading: torture, malnourishment, the risk of depression and fear all feature. But the book also has a long list of basic advice and guidance for hostages, including everything from how to use local customs to your own advantage, to how to behave when attempting to communicate with the pirates. If you have read the book before being taken hostage, your chances of getting through the situation relatively unscathed should be greatly increased. But you must remember to read it beforehand.

Families may also find it beneficial to read this book before their relatives set sail. You should, for example, consider whether you're financially secure enough to handle a hostage situation. The question is not whether you can pay a potential ransom – that should be the shipping company's problem – but whether you can manage everything else financially. The book also guides its readers through the entire ordeal, enabling families to better understand the negotiating process.

In addition to being a hostage handbook, this is also one of the best basic introductions to Somali pirates on the market. It is not a research book on piracy but a completely down-to-earth introduction to this scourge, which makes it an ideal read for everyone interested in piracy.

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