



INTERGRATED MARINE SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Intelligence update, April 19, 2009

Nato foils Somali pirates' attack

An attempted attack by Somali pirates on a Norwegian tanker was foiled by Nato warships and helicopters after an overnight pursuit in the Gulf of Aden.

Nato said a Canadian warship caught the pirates before releasing them after the gang attacked the **MV Front Ardenne**.

The alliance said the pirates had been released because they could not be prosecuted under Canadian law.

" We were faster and surprisingly more manoeuvrable than the pirate skiff "

Michael McWhinnie Canadian warship spokesman

American forces joined in Sunday's pursuit of pirates who used rocket-propelled grenades in an attack on the 80,000-tonne **MV Front Ardenne**.

Portuguese Lt Cdr Alexandre Santos Fernandes told AP news agency the raiders only stopped after repeated warning shots were fired.

He said the gang was interrogated and disarmed before being released.

A spokesman aboard the Canadian warship, the Winnipeg, Michael McWhinnie, said they had switched off all lights to hunt the fleeing pirates through the night.

"We blocked their path. We were faster and surprisingly more manoeuvrable than the pirate skiff," Mr McWhinnie told Reuters news agency.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/8006827.stm>

Published: 2009/04/19 10:56:46 GMT

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