

French ship captures 11 possible pirates

by UPI

MOMBASA, Kenya -- French officials Wednesday said a French warship captured 11 suspected pirates off the coast of Kenya.

The officials told the BBC the warship *Nivose* on an EU piracy patrol captured the suspects following an unsuccessful attack on the U.S. cargo ship, the *Liberty Sun*, in waters of the region.

The French Defense Ministry said the suspects were captured nearly 550 miles from the Kenyan port of Mombasa, and that a regional pirate attack on a Liberian-registered ship also was thwarted.

U.N. special envoy for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, told the BBC the pirate attacks were threatening international peace and exploiting native Somalis.

"As everyone knows force is a last resort, but at the same time self-defense is legitimate," he said. "But we should not go there for the time being."

CNN said the French Navy had been monitoring the suspected pirates' activities prior to sending a helicopter to seize the suspects.

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