



B E R R Y & D O N A L D S O N

NEWS UPDATE

PIRATES MAKING THE BIG BUCKS

It seems that pirates who are “operating” off the east coast of Africa have been turning quite a trade.

Pirates off the coast of Somalia and the Horn of Africa have made between US\$339 million and US\$413 million in ransom profits over a seven-year period, according to a United Nations-backed report.



“The vast amounts of money collected by pirates, and the fact that they have faced virtually no constraint in moving and using their assets, has allowed them not only to thrive but also to develop their capacities on land,” said the chief of the implementation support section in the organised crime and illicit trafficking branch at UNODC, Tofik Murshudlu.

Piracy costs the global economy about \$18billion, costs that will eventually be picked up by the consumer. Although insurance often pays out the huge ransoms demanded, ultimately it's the end user who is paying the pirates.

The report also says that because the outbreak of piracy has reduced maritime activity around the Horn of Africa, East African countries have suffered a significant decline in tourist arrivals and fishing yields since 2006.

Source FTWOnline