

Maritime OPINTEL Report**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)
Report*****09 January 2013 – 06 February 2013***

07 February 2013

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1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

- 1. (U) NIGERIA:** On 04 February a chemical tanker was fired upon at the Lagos Anchorage.
- 2. (U) IVORY COAST:** On 03 February an oil tanker was hijacked approximately 70 nm South of Abidjan Port.
- 3. (U) INDONESIA:** On 02 February a chemical tanker experienced an attempted boarding at the Belawan Anchorage.
- 4. (U) NIGERIA:** On 31 January a product tanker was fired upon approximately 45 nm South-Southwest off Brass.
- 5. (U) MAURITANIA:** On 31 January a refrigerated cargo ship was boarded at the Nouadhibou Port.
- 6. (U) PHILIPPINES:** On 31 January a general cargo ship was boarded at the Manila South Quarantine Anchorage.

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for February 2013. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA).

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for February 2013. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-299), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for February 2013. For further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for February 2013. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or dgcommcentre@satyammail.net, or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636 (MSCHOA).

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for February 2013. For further information e-mail smb@msecurity.ru or Fax: +7 (495) 607-01-95 (MSCHOA).

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN**: No current incidents to report.

C. (U) **SOUTH AMERICA**:

1. (U) PERU: On 23 January the tanker OVERSEAS PEARLMAR was boarded in the vicinity of 04:34 S – 081:16 W, at the MBM Terminal, Talara Port. Robbers boarded a berthed tanker and escaped with ship's stores unnoticed. Upon investigation, it was found the robbers boarded

via the hawse pipe by dismantling the anchor chain metal guard and then forced their way into the forecandle store by breaking the watertight door padlock hinge. Incident reported to the authorities. (IMB, IMO)

2. (U) GUYANA: On 09 January the LPG Tanker CONISTON was boarded at approximately 06:48 N – 058:10 W, at the Ramsburg Terminal, Georgetown. Two robbers armed with guns and long knives boarded a berthed LPG tanker from the offshore side by using a grappling hook. They took the C/O and shore security guard as hostage, proceeded to the master's cabin and stole ship's cash and escaped. No injury to crew. (IMB, IMO)

D. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

(U) ATLANTIC OCEAN: On 17 January the tanker ALGA experienced a suspicious approach in the vicinity of 08:02 N – 034:30 W, approximately 1,205 nm off the coast of Guinea. Two white skiffs containing unknown number of suspected pirates attempted to advance towards the vessel. Due to increasing speed and utilizing evasive maneuvering, the Captain was able to distance the tanker and escape without incident. (IMB)

E. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC:** No current incidents to report.

F. (U) MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA:

(U) EGYPT: On 28 January a passenger vessel being reported as ISAND OF RHODES was fired upon at 31:15 N – 032:18 E, at Port Said. The Greek-owned ship came under fire from unknown persons during a regular inspection by the Consular Harbor-Master. It should be noted that there is tension in Port Said following the court decision on the soccer tragedy that resulted in over 70 deaths. As soon as the ship came under fire, it left the port. All passengers and crew are safe, as is the Consular Harbor-Master who was carrying out the inspection. (AP)

G. (U) WEST AFRICA:

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 04 February the chemical tanker PYXIS DELTA was fired upon at 06:19 N – 003:24 E, at the Lagos Anchorage. Armed persons with guns approached and fired upon an anchored chemical tanker carrying out doing STS operations. The response of the onboard naval security team resulted in the armed persons moving away. One crew member received a gunshot wound to the leg as a result of the gunfight and was evacuated for medical treatment. The crew member passed away upon arrival at the hospital. (IMB, IMO)

2. (U) IVORY COAST: On 03 February the oil tanker GASCOGNE was hijacked in the vicinity of 04:07 N – 003:54 W, approximately 70 nm south of Abidjan port. Owners of the oil tanker reported that they had lost contact with their vessel and its 17 crew members while underway and suspect the vessel had been hijacked. Vessel was released by the hijackers on 06 February, after stealing an unknown quantity of its fuel cargo. Two of the crewmembers were slightly injured during the incident. (IMB, TW)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 31 January the product tanker OLIVIA II was fired upon at 03:46 N – 005:19E, approximately 45 nm south-southwest off Brass. A product tanker under way noticed

three skiffs approaching it at high speed. A suspected mother vessel was observed on radar at a distance of around 1.2 nm. As the skiffs closed duty officer raised alarm and non essential crew mustered in citadel. Vessel commenced evasive maneuvers and headed towards a nearby oil terminal to seek assistance from naval guard vessels. A further two skiffs were noticed approaching the vessel and all skiffs fired towards the bridge and accommodation. A RPG was also fired but missed the vessel. The attack lasted for nearly one hour before the skiffs broke off. Crew safe but vessel sustained damage due to the firing. (IMB)

4. (U) MAURITANIA: On 31 January a cargo ship was boarded at 20:53 N – 016:59 W, at the Nouadhibou Port. Two robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored refrigerated cargo ship while the remaining six robbers waited in the boat. Alert duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped empty handed. Port control contacted but no response received. (IMB)

5. (U) IVORY COAST: On 16 January the tanker ITRI was hijacked at 03:27 N – 001:06 W, at the Abidjan Anchorage. Pirates boarded and hijacked the tanker carrying 5,000 tons of jet fuel with an estimated worth of \$5 million. The tanker was first seized while preparing to deposit the Jet A1 fuel at the port. The crew of 16 were held hostage and locked in a dining room while the hijackers siphoned off 5,000 tons of cargo. All crew members and the tanker were released unharmed on 22 January. After release, the vessel then proceeded to Lagos port. (IMB, IMO, BBC)

6. (U) CONGO: On 15 January the container ship GRAND was boarded at 04:43 S – 011:46 E, at the Pointe Noire Anchorage. Three robbers armed with knives disguised as fishermen in a small boat approached and boarded the anchored container ship. Duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped empty handed in their boat. Port control was contacted, but received no response. (IMB, IMO)

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

1. (U) INDIA: On 29 January the product tanker BW YANGTZE was boarded in the vicinity of 22:01 N – 088:06 E, at the Haldia Anchorage. Robbers armed with knives and a gun, boarded a product tanker at anchor and started lowering mooring ropes. Duty Officer spotted the robbers and raised alarm, informed Master. The robbers escaped with the stolen ship's stores. VTIS and Coast Guard informed. (IMB, IMO)

2. (U) INDIA: On 27 January the chemical tanker CHAMPION TRUST was boarded at 17:01 N – 082:24 E, at the Kakinada Anchorage. Eight robbers in two boats armed with long knives approached the anchored tanker. Two of the robbers boarded the tanker and stole the ship's stores from the forecastle. Duty crew noticed the robbers and informed the officer on watch who raised the alarm and informed the Master. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with the stolen stores. Port control was informed. (IMB, IMO)

I. (U) PERSIAN GULF: No current incidents to report.

J. (U) SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 02 February a chemical tanker experienced an attempted boarding at 03:55 N – 098:48 E, at the Belawan Anchorage. Six robbers armed with knives in a wooden motor boat approached an anchored chemical tanker. One of the robbers attempted to board the tanker by hooking a ladder near the mid ship manifold area. Alert duty crew spotted the robbers and informed the D/O who raised the alarm, sounded ship's whistle and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. (IMB)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 31 January a general cargo ship was boarded at 14:33 N – 120:54 E, at the Manila South Quarantine Anchorage. Three robbers in a boat approached and boarded an anchored general cargo ship. Alert crew saw the robbers near the forecastle store and raised alarm. Seeing crew alertness the robbers escaped with stolen ship stores. Incident reported to VTMS and Coast Guard who advised to double watches and maintain proper look out. (IMB)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 January a barge in tow was boarded at 02:08 N – 108:45 E, at approximately 20 nm west-northwest of Pulau Merundung Island. An unknown number of pirates from a fast moving fishing boat boarded a barge being towed by a tug. They forced open and stole goods from the containers on the barge and escaped. (IMB)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 January the chemical tanker SIVA MUMBAI was boarded at 01:42 N – 101:29 E, at the Dumai Inner Anchorage. Robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker, stole engine spares, and escaped unnoticed. The theft was discovered after departure from the port during maintenance work for generator engine. Some foot prints were discovered on the floor. (IMB, IMO)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 January the tanker TORM OHIO was boarded at 01:22 S - 116:56 E, at the Balikpapan Outer Anchorage. Two robbers boarded the anchored tanker waiting for pilot. D/O on bridge raised the alarm and sounded the fog horn upon noticing some movements at the forecastle deck. On hearing the alarm, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped. Upon investigation, it was found the forward rope hatch lock was broken and ship's stores stolen. Incident reported to port authority via local agent. (IMB, IMO)

6. (U) BANGLADESH: On 16 January the bulk carrier DIANA BOLTEN was boarded at 22:17 N – 091:43 E, at the Chittagong Anchorage. Five robbers armed with long knives boarded the anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain during cargo operations. The Second Mate noticed the robbers and asked the deck watchman to check. While approaching the forecastle, the deck watchman was threatened by three robbers. The Master ordered the crew to enter inside the accommodation and lock the access. The Second Mate directed the spot light towards the robbers, whom then escaped thru the anchor chain. Upon inspection, it was found ship's properties were stolen. Port control and coast guard were informed; a navy/coast guard boat arrived and searched for the robbers. (IMB, IMO)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 January the bulk carrier HUA HENG 167 was boarded at 01:11 S – 116:46 E, at the Balikpapan Anchorage. Two robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain. Duty crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. All crew mustered and rushed to the forecastle. On seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed in their speed boat. (IMB, IMO)

K. (U) **NORTH ASIA**: No current incidents to report.

L. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN**: No current incidents to report.

M. (U) **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS**: No current incidents to report.

5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm

6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- **(U) Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- **(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- **(U) Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- **(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)

- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) ICOD: 06 February 2013