



OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 9 October - 8 November 2017

9 November 2017

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1. (U) Scope Note

1. (U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on piracy threats to, and criminal action against or that involves merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Warnings and Advisories

1. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 001/NOV/2017**: Category: SUSPICIOUS APPROACH. Description: At 1300UTC on 08 November 2017, an MV in position 1230N 04337E (in the vicinity of Mayyun Island) reported that 2 skiffs with 7 POB approached at speed to within 100 meters. Boats have subsequently withdrawn. MV is SAFE. Mariners are advised to exercise extreme caution when transiting this area. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information.

2. (U) **IMB WARNING 080600 UTC NOV 2017**: To: ALL SHIPS TRANSITING TAWI-TAWI / NORTH EAST SABAH WATERS / CELEBES SEA / SULU SEA / SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES. ASG planned kidnapping in Sabah waters and coastal areas. Philippines intel advised that at 032200 November 2017, ASG/KFRG sailed out from Silangkang, Parang, Sulu to execute their plan of seajacking/abduction of sea going vessel in Lahad Datu, Malaysia. The group is aboard a 2-engine, colored blue jungkong speedboat. As of the morning of 04 November 2017, the said group was monitored in Sitio Situggo, Brgy Dungon, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi from where they can launch attacks in the waters of Sitankai, Lahad Datu or Pearl Bank. Further information states that the group is targeting a Korean vessel but may opt for other ships and nationalities plying the Tawi-Tawi-Sabah waters. Extreme caution is advised. SOP/countermeasures necessary. All ships are advised to maintain strict anti-piracy watch and take additional measures report all attacks to local authorities and to the IMB piracy reporting centre as per IMO circular 1334.

3. (U) **MDAT-GoG Advisory Notice 001/NOV/17**: Category: SUSPICIOUS APPROACH. Description: At 0030UTC on 03 November 2017, an MV in position: 0559N - 00114E (Lome Anchorage) reported 1 vessel with 7 masked POB. Vessel approached the MV with intent to board. Togo Navy was called and a patrol vessel came into the vicinity. MV and Crew are SAFE. Source: Reported to MDAT-GoG via email. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice call 0033 298 22 88 88 for further Information.

4. (U) **MDAT-GoG Advisory Notice 003/OCT/2017**: Category: Irregular Activity. Description: On 27 October 2017 at 1617UTC, MT reported 5 speed boats in position 0041.8N - 00603.6E (34NM off Sao Tome). Each boat had 2 POB with green clothing. Vessel and crew are SAFE. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this area. Any queries regarding this advisory ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information.
5. (U) **MDAT-GoG Warning Notice 001/NOV/17**: Category: Attack. Description: On 01 November 2017 at 0925UTC, a merchant vessel was attacked in psn 040300N - 0070300E (near Port Harcourt, Nigeria). 2 pirates boarded the merchant vessel, then left in 2 speedboats and headed off on a northerly course. Mariners are advised to exercise caution in this area. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information.
6. (U) **MDAT-GoG WARNING NOTICE 003/OCT/2017**: Category: ATTACK. Description: On 25 October 2017 at 20:05Zhrs, a merchant tanker was attacked in position 03°35.5N 006°49.2E (200°/50NM from Bonny Island, NIGERIA). Two armed pirates boarded the vessel and crew mustered in the citadel. The vessel and crew are SAFE, currently being escorted by a Nigerian navy ship. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information.
7. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 004/OCT/2017**: Category: REPORTED ATTACK. Description: Reports received by UKMTO that at 0748UTC on 24 October 2017, a Wooden Vessel in position: 1150.0N 05435.0E, (IVO SOCOTRA ISLAND) was attacked by Pirates. Mariners are advised to exercise extreme caution when transiting this area. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information.

3. (U) Summary

- A. (U) YEMEN: On 8 November, a merchant vessel reported a suspicious approach by 2 skiffs near Mayyun Island.
- B. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 November, robbers armed with knives boarded an underway bulk carrier 21nm southwest of Pulau Mangkai, Kepulauan Anambas.
- C. (U) ITALY: On 3 November, a cargo of 24 million Tramadol pills was seized at the port of Gioia Tauro.
- D. (U) TURKEY: On 3 November, Turkish Coast Guard boats intercepted the fishing boat AKTASLAR B carrying 305 migrants in the Aegean Sea off the Canakkale coast.
- E. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 November, two robbers armed with knives and sticks boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda.
- F. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 November, three robbers armed with knives in a small wooden boat boarded an anchored offshore supply ship in Batu Ampar Anchorage, Batam.
- G. (U) BANGLADESH: On 3 November, a robber armed with a knife boarded a barge under tow in Kutubdia Anchorage.
- H. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 November, two skiffs suspiciously approached a tanker underway 21 nm south-southwest of Bonny Island.
- I. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 1 November, authorities announced the arrest of one person who tried to smuggle five live gazelles from Farasan Island.
- J. (U) ITALY: On 26 October, Italian police seized more than 100 tons of contraband diesel from a ship which set sail from Libya.
- K. (U) SAINT LUCIA: On 25 October, a chartered catamaran was boarded by 4 men in Soufriere.

L. (U) IRELAND: On 25 October, customs authorities in the port of Dublin announced the seizure of 9.6 million cigarettes smuggled from Rotterdam.

4. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for November 2017. To apply for JMSDF escort, 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 November 2017. 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 1-203-574-6387. Email: bluesea24@navy.mil.kr. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for November 2017. For further information, please e-mail planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 00870 773 121 248; or 441 203 136. (MSCHOA)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for November 2017. To register, email dgcommcentre-dgs@nic.in; 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 November 2017. For further information, e-mail smb@msecurity.ru; isps@msecurity.ru; or fax +7 (499) 642-83-29. (MSCHOA)

5. (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. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later found 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 - SOUTH AMERICA:

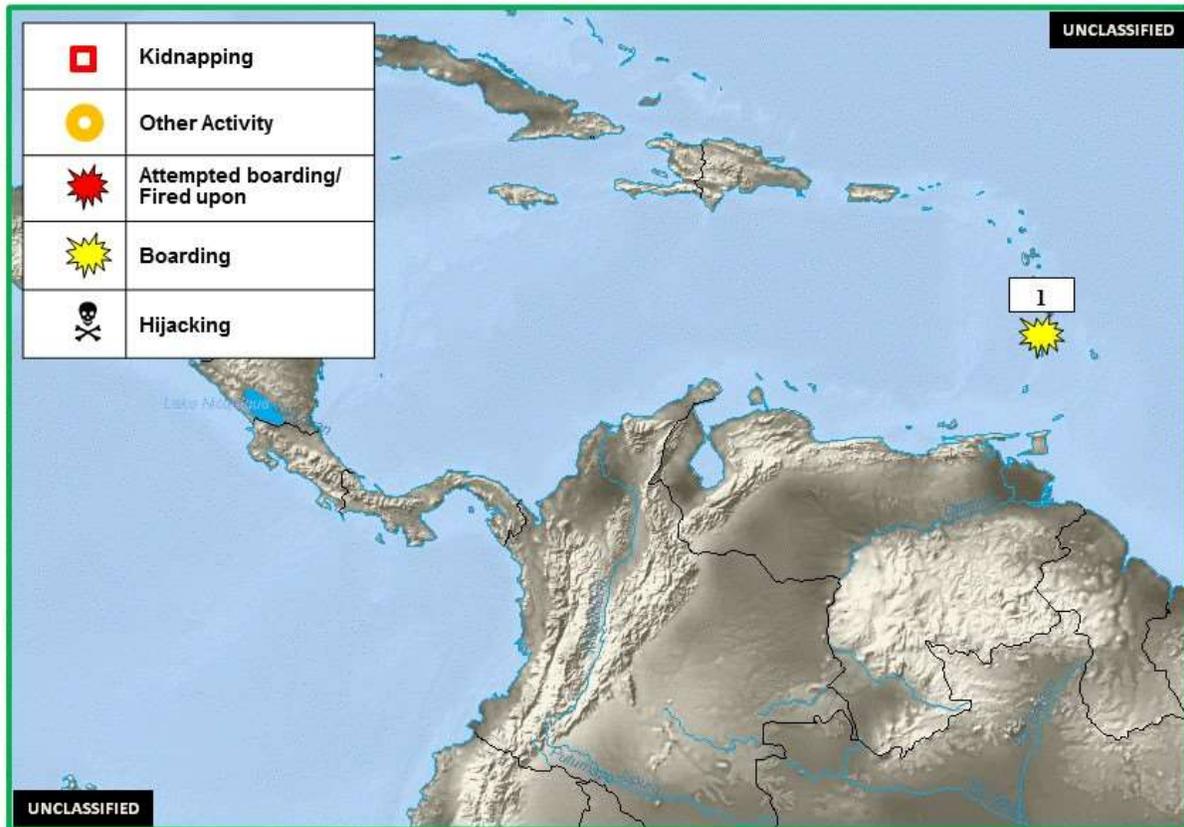


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SAINT LUCIA: On 25 October, a chartered catamaran was boarded by 4 men in Soufriere. Two of the men were armed with guns, and one with a knife, all had their faces concealed. The men made many threats and a short struggle ensued. One victim was hit in the face with a gun, the other struck on the head. The boarders demanded cash, cell phones, and passports. The cash and cellphones were surrendered readily and the passports and access to the locked cabin refused. After 20 terrifying minutes of further threats of violence and death the 4 men left with the dinghy. (www.noonsite.com)

2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 29 October, duty officers onboard an anchored LPG tanker noticed a small boat near the anchor chain, near position 10:19N - 075:31W, Cartagena Inner Anchorage. Alarm was raised. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers fled with stolen ship's properties. Port control was informed. Roving craft sent by port control. (IMB)

3. (U) BRAZIL: On 29 October, robbers boarded a passenger ferry on the Amazon River in the state of Para and robbed the passengers and crew. (www.ibtimes.co.uk)

4. (U) EL SALVADOR: On 27 October, authorities intercepted and seized a semi-submersible craft carrying 1.7 tons of cocaine. Three Colombian crew members and one Guatemalan man were detained on the boat about 229 nm off the coast. (www.asianage.com/world)

5. (U) VENEZUELA: On 20 October, a crewman onboard a tanker anchored near position 10:11N - 064:46W, Puerto Jose Anchorage, noticed five robbers on the poop deck and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped. A search was carried out through the tanker. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

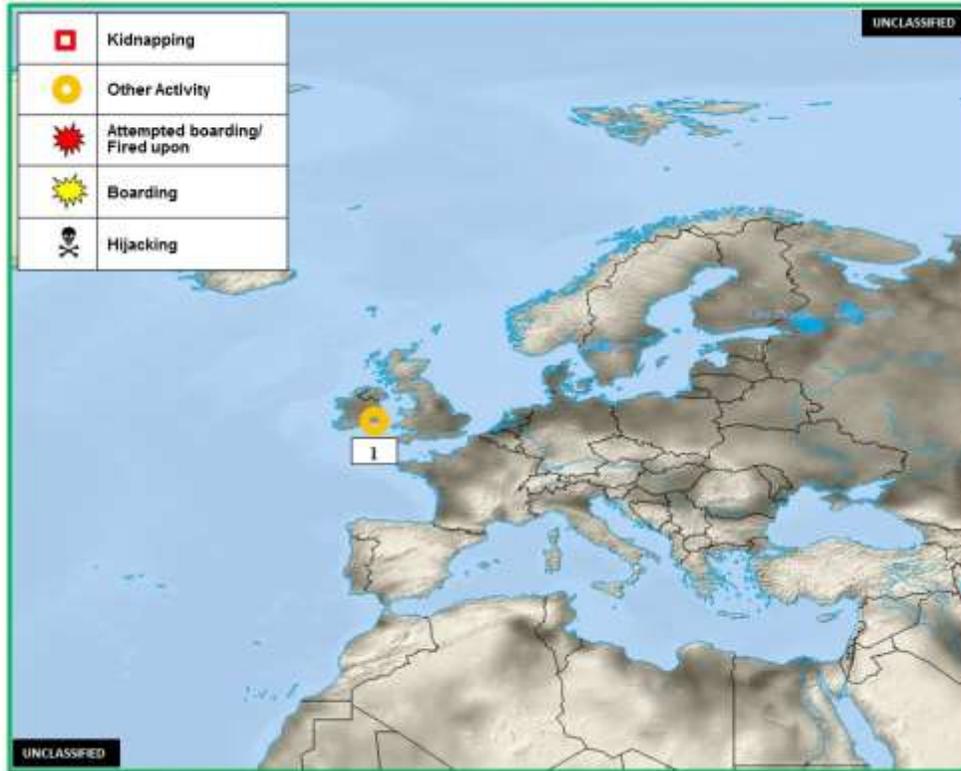


Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) IRELAND: On 25 October, customs authorities in the port of Dublin announced the seizure of 9.6 million cigarettes smuggled from Rotterdam. The cigarettes were identified in a shipping container, said to contain “tyres,” when authorities used a mobile x-ray scanner during a routine profiling and inspection operation. (www.irishexaminer.com)

2. (U) PORTUGAL: On 28 October, Portugal’s drug enforcement agency, jointly with the Portuguese Navy and Air Force intercepted the in the ro-ro cargo ship AGAT, off the coast of Morocco. As much as 1130 kilos of cocaine were found, destined for Europe. This was reportedly an international operation with involvement of law enforcement bodies of France and the UK. (www.fleetmon.com)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

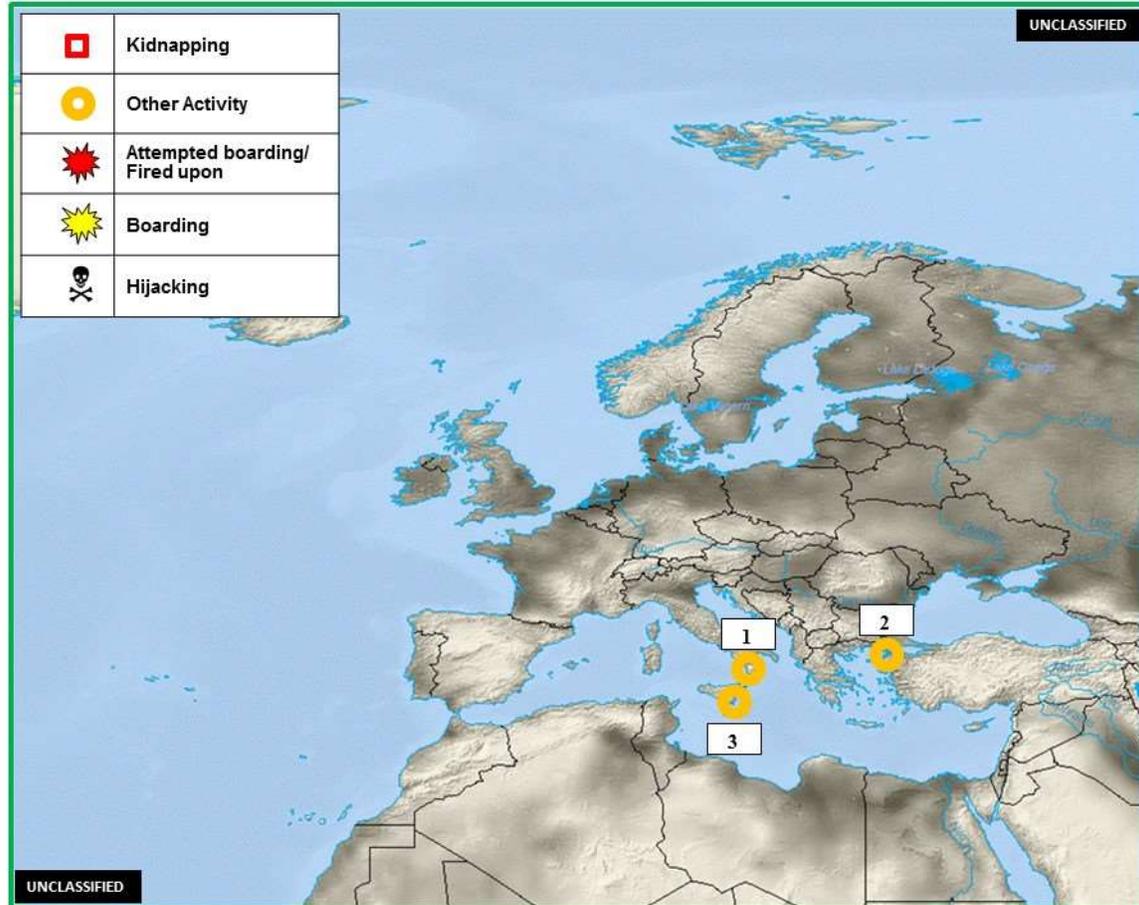


Figure 3. Mediterranean – Black Sea Area
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ITALY: On 3 November, a cargo of 24 million Tramadol pills was seized at the port of Gioia Tauro by the anti-terrorism section of the District Anti-Mafia Directorate in Reggio Calabria. The ship was from India and was reportedly bound for Libya. (La Stampa, BBC)

2. (U) TURKEY: On 3 November, Turkish Coast Guard boats intercepted the fishing boat AKTASLAR B carrying 305 migrants Aegean Sea off the Canakkale coast. The crew, consisting of 7 Turks, 1 Iranian and 2 Russians, were arrested on the charge of migrants smuggling. The ship was taken to Kepez port, Canakkale. (www.fleetmon.com)

3. (U) ITALY: On 26 October, Italian police seized more than 100 tons of contraband diesel from a ship which set sail from Libya and arrested the captain for smuggling and money laundering. The ship, which was flying a Togolese flag, carried the fuel in several hidden spaces, together with 11 tons of contraband cigarettes, a statement from finance police in the Sicilian town of Syracuse said. The ship's captain, a 25-year-old Indonesian, was put under house arrest. The other four crew members, also from Indonesia, were not arrested. (Reuters)

4. (U) ALBANIA: Between 30 and 31 October, the Albanian naval vessel ORIKU rescued 100 Syrians of whom 39 were children, in the Aegean Sea in two different operations, Albania's Minister of Defense said in a social media post. (www.ata.gov.al, the Albanian Telegraphic Agency)

2. (U) ITALY: On 9 October, authorities detained the Bulgaria-flagged general cargo ship SEVEN STAR in Salerno, as she was found carrying a cargo of hazardous iron waste. (www.safety4sea.com)

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA - RED SEA:



Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) YEMEN: On 8 November, a merchant vessel reported a suspicious approach by 2 skiffs near position 12:30N - 043:37E, near Mayyun Island. Seven persons were sighted in each skiff, both of which closed to within 100 meters of the vessel. (UKMTO)

2. (U) SAUDI ARABIA: On 1 November, authorities announced the arrest of one person who tried to smuggle five live gazelles from Farasan Island. The smuggler was discovered as his vehicle was loaded onto a ferry for the trip to the mainland. (www.gulfnews.com)

3. (U) YEMEN: On 24 October, armed pirates in two skiffs approached, fired upon an underway fishing dhow near position 11:50N - 054:30E, 37 nm southeast of Socotra Island. One crewman was reportedly killed and three injured. The coalition navies responded and assisted the fishing dhow. Medical and damage control assistance was provided by the coalition navies resulting in the fishing dhow being able to continue her journey. (IMB; UKMTO)

4. (U) YEMEN: On 20 October, an Iranian vessel with 19 sailors onboard was seized near Socotra Island by local fishermen. There was no immediate official Iranian reaction to the comments made by Yemen's Prime Minister on his Twitter account in which he said the ship was detained off the coast of Socotra, the largest island in an archipelago south of Yemen. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said that the Yemeni government, which Tehran does not recognize, had "claimed" that an Iranian vessel with a crew of 19 had been seized. There were no further details on the ship or its cargo. (Reuters; www.gcaptain.com)

5. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 15 October, an Iranian fishing boat captain reported that his boat had broken down and he had sighted two approaching fast boats. No further communication was received from the boat and its location is unknown. The boat had 20 crew onboard whose situation is unknown. (Iranian Labour News Agency (ILNA) website)

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

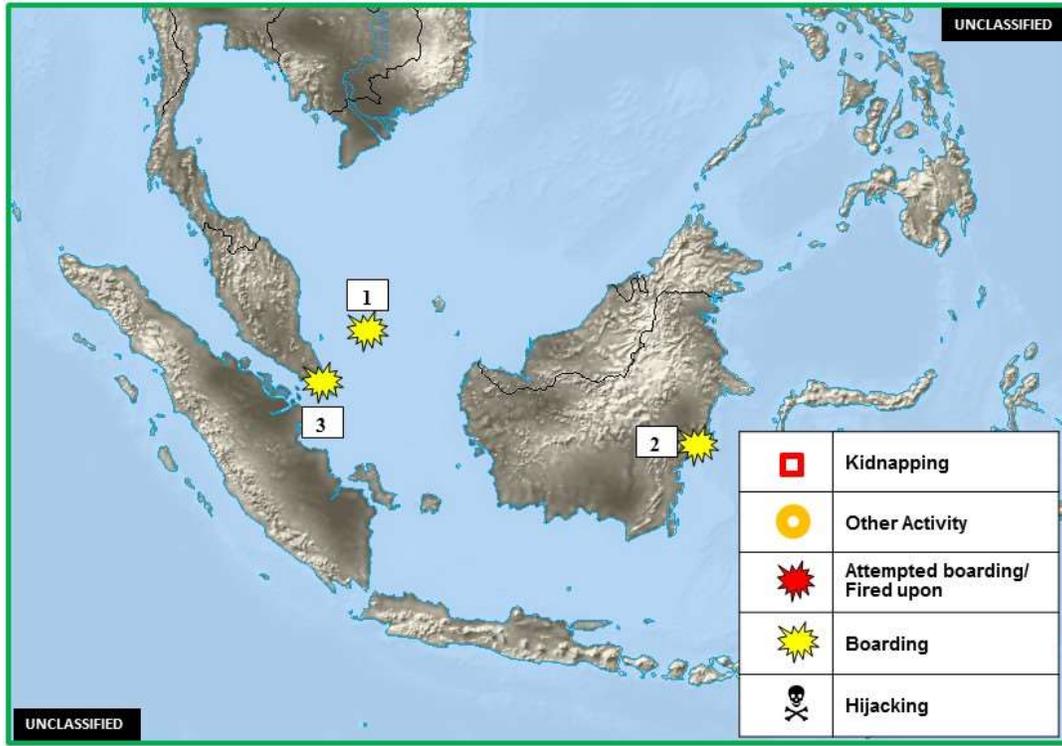


Figure 5. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

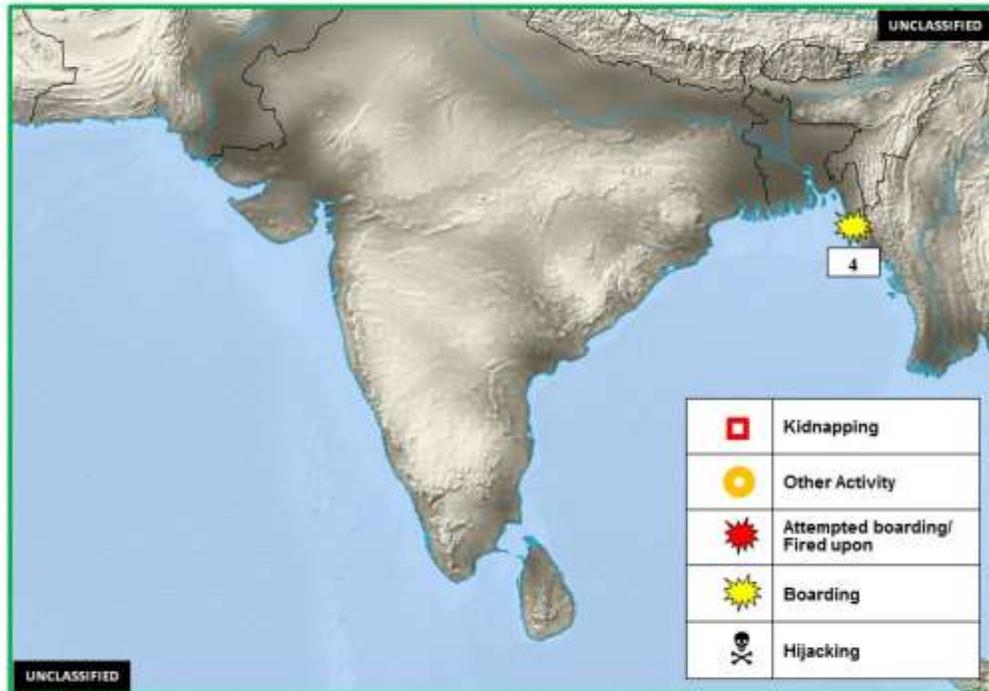


Figure 6. East Asia - Southeast Asia -
Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime
Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 November, robbers armed with knives boarded a bulk carrier underway near position 02:53N - 105:17E, 21 nm southwest of Pulau Mangkai, Kepulauan Anambas. They threatened the crew with the knives, stole ship's properties, cash and crew personal belonging, damaged communication equipment and escaped in a boat. (IMB)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 November, two robbers armed with knives and sticks boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:15S - 117:34E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, during cargo operations. They threatened a duty crewman and duty officer with knives, stole ship's properties and escaped with their accomplices in a waiting boat. Alarm raised and crew alerted. Master was unsuccessful in contacting port control. (IMB)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 November, three robbers armed with knives in a small wooden boat boarded an anchored offshore supply ship near position 01:11N - 103:59E, Batu Ampar Anchorage, Batam. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the robbers and shouted at them resulting in the robbers threatening him with their knives. The crewman immediately informed the bridge and the alarm was raised. Hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped. A search was carried out and ship's properties reported stolen. (IMB)

4. (U) BANGLADESH: On 3 November, a robber armed with a knife boarded a barge under tow near position 22:02N - 091:48E, Kutubdia Anchorage. The master switched on the search light and directed it towards the barge and notified port control and the Coast Guard. Seeing the alerted crew, the robber escaped with stolen barge properties. Coast Guard come onboard for investigation. (IMB)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 29 October, five robbers with knives in a skiff boarded a tanker underway near position 01:167N - 104:138E, 4 nm south-southeast of the Kampung Sungai Buntu Coast, and entered the engine room. They threatened the duty oiler with a knife and tied him up. As the robbers moved away, the duty oiler retreated into the control room and notified the duty officer. Alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. A search of the ship was carried out. Incident reported to Singapore port operations. Singapore Coast Guard called the vessel to ensure vessel was safe. (IMB)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 October, a duty crewman watch onboard a tanker anchored near position 07:51S - 109:04E, Cilacap Anchorage, spotted a robber near the emergency generator room. Alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Hearing the alarm, the robber, along with three other robbers, were seen escaping from the emergency generator room. On carrying out a search, nothing was reported stolen. Port control informed through local agents. (IMB)
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 October, five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored product tanker near position 01:27N - 104:38E, around 13 nm north-northeast of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan. Duty crewman on routine rounds spotted the robbers and informed the bridge. Alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed. All crew safe. (IMB)
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 October, four robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored LPG tanker near position 07.44S - 109.04E, Cilacap Anchorage. The duty crewman on routine rounds spotted the robbers on the main deck. Alarm raised, SSAS activated and all crew mustered. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. Local authorities boarded the vessel for investigation. (IMB)
9. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 October, a duty crewman onboard an underway bulk carrier near position 01:16N - 104:12E, 9 nm northwest of Todang, Bintan Island, noticed two unauthorized persons on the aft deck. Duty officer notified and alarm raised. Seeing the alerted crew, the persons escaped in their waiting boat. On carrying out a search, engine spares were reported missing. (IMB)
10. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 18 October, a merchant vessel near position 20:15N - 066:50E, approximately 170 nm southwest of Porbandar, India, reported 2 unknown vessels had followed the merchant vessel at a range of 50 meters for approximately 1 hour. Nothing else was sighted in the boats due to darkness. (UKMTO)
11. (U) INDIA: On 17 October, two robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 22:47N - 070:01E, Kandla Anchorage. Duty officer spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. (IMB)
12. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 14 October, armed men abducted five crewmen from F/V DANVIL 9 in the port of Poblacion on Pangutaran Island. A spokesman said the probable Abu Sayyaf captors were aboard two motorized bancas and immediately left the area after taking the victims. (www.newsinfo.inquirer.net)
13. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 October, two robbers in a wooden boat boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain near position 00:13S - 117:35E, Muara Berau, Samarinda Inner Anchorage. They stole ship's properties and threatened duty AB with knives. As the robbers were escaping, with stolen ship's properties, the duty AB raised the alarm and crew alerted. Local agent informed. (IMB)
14. (U) SINGAPORE STRAIT: On 12 October, five persons in two wooden boats approached and boarded an unmanned rig under tow near position 01:11N - 103:33E. The tug's master raised the alarm and notified the local authorities. Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency dispatched its assets to assist, however the persons had escaped. Vessel and crew are safe. (IMB)
- J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:** No current incidents to report.
- K. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN - SOUTHERN OCEAN:**
1. (U) NEW ZEALAND: On 31 October, four persons were arrested in Tauranga after they retrieved a shipment of cocaine from hidden container attached to the exterior of the hull. Customs and Police investigated the criminal ring for 5 months, and were expecting this cocaine shipment. An estimated 46 kilograms of cocaine was seized. (www.fleetmon.com)
2. (U) NEW CALEDONIA: On 25 October, authorities announced that the French Navy intercepted a yacht in New Caledonia's exclusive economic zone and found 578 kilograms of cocaine onboard. According to the public prosecutor, three people have been detained for questioning. (www.radionz.co.nz/international)

6. (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.

7. (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) **Fired 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 activity in 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
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- The Maritime Executive (website)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

(U) ICOD: 8 November 2017

(U) The PAWW and WTS reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:
<http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence-Community/Piracy>