



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **28 May – 24 June 2020**



25 June 2020

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to 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:**

(U) **IMB/PRC/Alert - 087-2020**. Malaysian Authorities Advisory issued 240600 UTC Jun 2020. This is a follow up advisory since 24 April 2020. This advisory is valid until June 2020. To all ships transiting Andaman Sea and northern part of Straits of Malacca including coastal areas off Bangladesh/off Myanmar. For the safety of human life at sea, ships are requested to lookout for human trafficking syndicates taking advantage of migrants where the migrants are put onto overcrowded and unseaworthy boats. These illegal boats are also easy target for pirates/robbers and pose great danger to migrant lives. These boats are said to en route to Malaysia. These illegal smuggling boats are usually modified fishing boats with a tarpaulin at the center of the boats for cover to avoid detection by sea and air. Each of these boats can carry between 200 to 500 people. While in these waters, ships are requested to lookout for any suspicious looking small/fishing boats with the above descriptions. Your information can stop these illegal trafficking and save lives at sea. Please report these sightings immediately to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre at: + 60320310014 / email: imbkl@icc-ccs.org.

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) **BENIN:** On 24 June, pirates kidnapped six fishermen from Ghana-flagged fishing vessel PANOFI FRONTIER approximately 60 NM south of Cotonou.
- B. (U) **THAILAND:** On 16 June, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier during cargo operations at Ko Sichang Anchorage.

- C. (U) GABON: On 15 June, authorities detained the Sweden-flagged vessel, HAWA III, thought to have been involved in four kidnappings.
- D. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 13 June, robbers boarded an anchored container ship in the Manila Anchorage.
- E. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 13 June, robbers boarded a container ship in the Manila Anchorage and escaped unnoticed.
- F. (U) INDONESIA: On 5 June, Indonesian Navy patrol vessel KRI KUJANG pursued and fired upon a tanker, Mongolia-flagged tanker KM TENGGIRI, that was suspected of illegally collecting oil from other ships in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) between Singapore and Indonesia.

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. 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:

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 10 June at 0030LT, a duty crew member spotted two robbers armed with a knife and pipe on the aft deck of an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage at 00:20N - 050:58W. When the alarm was raised, the robbers fled with some ship's property. The crew reported the incident to both the port authority and local agent. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) HAITI: On 3 June, five robbers armed with a machete and knives boarded an anchored tanker in the Port au Prince Anchorage area near position 18:35N - 072:33W. When a crew member detected the robbers, he raised the alarm. The robbers subsequently fled with ship's properties. This incident was reported to the port control. (Clearwater Dynamics)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

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

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:



Figure 1. Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BENIN: On 24 June at 1530LT, pirates on a speedboat boarded the Ghana-flagged fishing vessel PANOFI FRONTIER approximately 60 NM south of Cotonou in vicinity of 05:21N - 002:37E. The pirates kidnapped five South Koreans and one Ghanaian. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global, Maritime Security)

2. (U) GABON: On 15 June, authorities detained the Sweden-flagged passenger vessel HAWA III for possible involvement in four kidnappings off the coast of Gabon since the beginning of 2020. (www.lss-sapu.com)

3. (U) SAO TOME: On 16 June, individuals in two skiffs pursued the Cape Verde-flagged tug ARTIKE approximately 27 NM southeast of Sao Tome at 00:13S - 007:16E. No further information exists at this time. (Dryad Global)

4. (U) CAMEROON: On 12 June at 2330LT, six men in a speedboat attacked a Cameroon Patrol Boat during her patrol in the Bakassi Creeks near 04:28N - 008:34E. The Patrol Boat returned fire which resulted in one man in the speedboat being killed. The other five men jumped overboard. The Cameroon officials seized the speedboat which had two outboard engines, a number of weapons with ammunition, mobile phones, flashlights, and cash. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 9 June at 2000LT, individuals in a speedboat approached the Liberia-flagged container ship RIO CHARLESTON approximately 110 NM southwest of Brass at 03:14N - 004:43E. As the speedboat approached from the port quarter, the crew carried out evasive maneuvers, increased speed, and activated fire hoses. The crew's actions along with a heavy sea state likely caused the speedboat to depart the area. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.fleetmon.com, MDAT-GoG)

6. (U) GUINEA: On 9 June at 0015LT, robbers armed with knives and guns boarded a tanker at the Conakry Anchorage at 09:21N - 013:47W. The robbers assaulted five crew members and stole belongings from the crew before departing. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June at 1600LT, armed men in a speedboat hijacked a passenger boat transiting from Port Harcourt to Ke Clan, Degema near the Namasibi axis of the New Calabar River at 04:28N - 006:57E. During the hijacking, the pirates ordered the passengers to jump into the river. The 13 passengers who could swim jumped into the river. The pirates

subsequently hijacked the passenger boat with the two remaining female passengers and an infant still onboard. As of 8 June, media reported the whereabouts of the women and infant remained unknown. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.thenationonlineng.net, MAST Intelligence, Daily Post)

8. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 May at 2250LT, a speedboat with 10 armed and masked men approached an offshore platform approximately 50 NM northwest of Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo at 04:25S - 011:02E. The crew informed management and retreated to the engine room. A rescue team responded and determined the speedboat had departed the area prior to its arrival. (Clearwater Dynamics)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF: No current incidents to report.

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN - EAST AFRICA - RED SEA: No current incidents to report.

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:

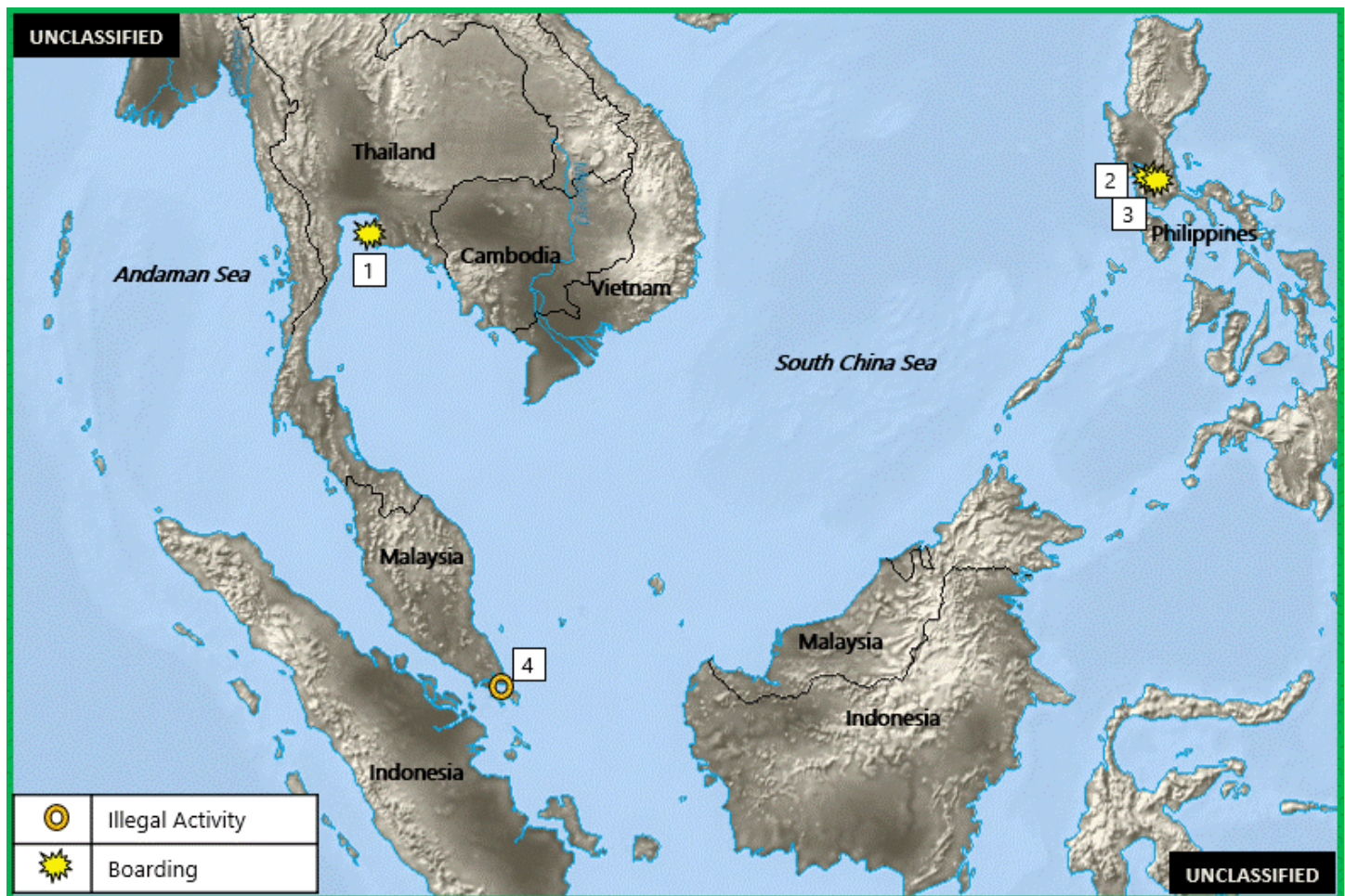


Figure 2. Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) THAILAND – LATE REPORTING: On 16 June at 1115LT, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier during cargo operations at Ko Sichang Anchorage at 13:11N - 100:50E. The robbers managed to break into aft store undetected and steal equipment. The crew noticed the break-in during routine operations and reported the theft to their agent and Port Facility Security Officer. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES – LATE REPORTING: On 13 June between 0400–0500LT, robbers boarded an anchored container ship in the Manila Anchorage area near position 14:33N - 120:53E. A duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the bosun store and paint room door padlocks broken and doors open. He immediately informed the duty officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. A search of the ship revealed that robbers had stolen ship's stores and properties. The crew reported incident to the port authority. (IMB)

3. (U) PHILIPPINES – LATE REPORTING: On 13 June at approximately 0325LT, robbers boarded a container vessel and escaped unnoticed near position 14:35N - 120:51E, Manila Anchorage. As the vessel was heaving anchor, a duty crewman spotted bolt cutters near the bosun store room and noticed that the lock had been cut. The crew conducted a search of the vessel, showing that nothing was stolen. The incident was reported to the Manila Vessel Traffic Management System. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) INDONESIA – LATE REPORTING: On 5 June, Indonesian Navy patrol vessel KRI KUJANG pursued and fired several warning shots at the Mongolia-flagged tanker KM TENGGIRI which was suspected of illegally collecting oil from other ships in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) between Singapore and Indonesia. In response, the tanker increased speed and headed to Singaporean waters. The Singapore Police Coast Guard subsequently responded. (www.manifoldtimes.com)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 June at approximately 0200LT, robbers boarded the anchored Singapore-flagged tanker BW ZAMBESI off Merak Anchorage Area at 05:54S - 105:59E. The robbers managed to enter the engine room undetected and steal generator spares before departing. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP, IFC, IMB)

6. (U) VIETNAM: On 14 June, the Vietnamese foreign ministry issued a statement that two Chinese ships attacked a Vietnamese fishing boat near the Paracel Islands. According to the ministry, a Chinese ship with the hull number 4006 pursued and collided with the Vietnamese fishing boat QNg 96416 TS approximately 8 NM off Lincoln Island, a Chinese-occupied land feature in the Paracels. Sixteen fishermen abandoned ship, but the fishing boat did not sink. The Chinese vessel returned, picked up the crew, and helped remove water from the fishing boat. Despite the ordeal, the Vietnamese fishing boat managed to return safely to Sa Ky, a fishing port outside of Quang Ngai. (Maritime Executive)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 June at 1900LT, two robbers in a small boat approached and boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Muara Berau Anchorage at 00:15S - 117:36E. The robbers used ropes with hooks to board the vessel. Once onboard, they managed to gain access to the forecastle store before being detected by the crew. The robbers fled empty-handed. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 May at 0420LT, a duty crew member on routine rounds noticed the forecastle skylight open and anchor pipe cover and padlock missing on his bulk carrier anchored at Muara Berau Anchorage at 00:16S - 117:36E. The crew subsequently conducted a search and discovered a robber had managed to steal ship's stores. The crew reported the incident to the Coast Guard who responded and conducted an investigation. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

J. INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) INDIA: On 29 May at 0800LT, 15 robbers in a fishing trawler came alongside and boarded another fishing trawler approximately 65 NM off Goa and Malvan (Maharashtra) at 15:30N - 072:50E. The robbers held the crew hostage and escaped with stolen fish, navigational equipment, and a wireless communication system. The incident was reported to the local police who succeeded in arresting the robbers and recovering all of the stolen goods. (Goa News Hub)

K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

5. (U) Appendix A: Definitions and Sourcing:

A. (U) **Definitions:** In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, we use the following definitions to describe a range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:

- (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 embarkation 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.

B. (U) **Sourcing:** ONI derives information in this report primarily from government agencies, piracy reporting centers, maritime security companies, and open press.

(U) **ICOD:** 24 June 2020

(U) The Weekly Piracy Update (WPU) and Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal: <https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>