



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **24 September - 24 October 2018**



25 October 2018

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

1. (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:**

A. (U) **MDAT-GOG Advisory 002/OCT/2018**: Category: Attempted theft. Description: On 22 October 2018 at 2328 UTC, in position at 04:46N – 011:47E, Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo, a merchant vessel was boarded by armed persons. They boarded via the anchor chain. Crew and vessel are safe. VESSELS TRANSITING THE AREA ARE ADVISED TO EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION. Source: Reported to MDAT-GoG via phone. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. This advisory is not classified as a Maritime Security Event and has not been verified by MDAT-GoG. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. MDAT-GoG is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting. MDAT-GOG watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org, emergency tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 October, gunmen attacked a passenger boat in the Abonema waterways, kidnapping 10 persons, including a local community leader.

B. (U) STRAIT OF HORMUZ: On 23 October, a Royal Navy Type 45 Destroyer, HMS DRAGON, was confronted by three Iranian fast attack boats while escorting a trio of British vessels through the Strait of Hormuz.

C. (U) CANARY ISLANDS: On 23 October, Spanish authorities announced the seizure of the Moldova-flagged tug boat M/V

BREATH carrying 1,400 kilograms of cocaine.

D. (U) REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 22 October, armed robbers boarded a Hong Kong-flagged merchant tanker anchored in Pointe Noire Anchorage.

E. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 October, two robbers armed with a knife boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Muara Berau Anchorage.

F. (U) MALAYSIA: On 16 October, The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency detained two cargo vessels in Miri waters on suspicion of illegal fishing.

G. (U) VENEZUELA: On 14 October, two Guyanese citizens were kidnapped while operating a small passenger boat transporting people between Venezuelan and Guyana.

H. (U) PUERTO RICO: On 13 October, authorities working with Caribbean Corridor Strike Force partners seized 2,325 pounds of cocaine from a go-fast vessel near Las Paulinas Beach.

I. (U) VENEZUELA: On 10 October, five robbers with their faces covered and armed with large knives boarded a Hong Kong-flagged tanker via the anchor chain and hawse pipe in Jose Anchorage.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for October 2018. 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: China Navy convoy schedule for October 2018. For further information, please email: planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 441 221 061 or 00870 773 120 215. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: India Navy convoy escort schedule for October 2018. To register, email gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in; or visit ww.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Pakistan Navy convoy schedule for October 2018. The application deadline is at least 1 day prior to the convoy escort. To register with the Pakistan Navy Convoy, please send an email to: fhq@paknavy.gov.pk. (MSCHOA)

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for October 2018. 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 (001) +1 646 466 9528 or (001) +1 646 466 9521. Email: adenbay27@gmail.com or aden27@navy.mil.kr. (MSCHOA)

F. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for November and December 2018. 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:**

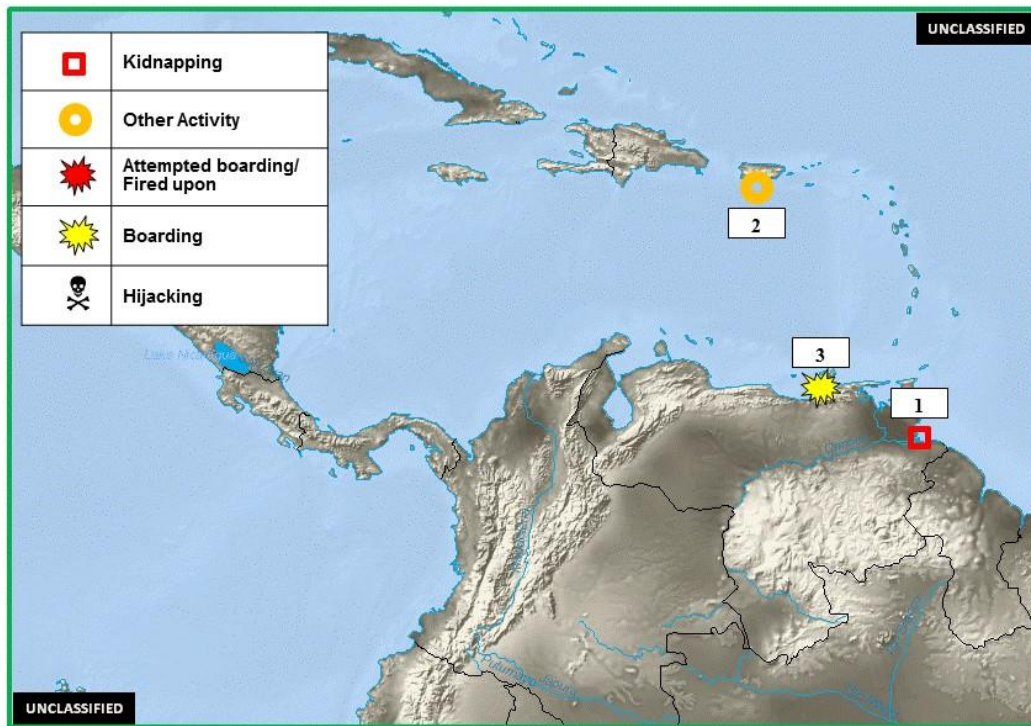


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) VENEZUELA: On 14 October, two Guyanese citizens were kidnapped while operating a small passenger boat transporting people between Venezuelan and Guyana. The next day, one of the men was found in Venezuela's Orinoco River, he had been killed and dumped in the river. The reason for their abduction is said to be ransom. (www.newsroom.gy)

2. (U) PUERTO RICO: On 13 October, authorities working with Caribbean Corridor Strike Force partners seized 2,325 pounds of cocaine from a go-fast vessel near Las Paulinas Beach in the municipality of Luquillo. (www.ice.gov)

3. (U) VENEZUELA: On 10 October, five robbers with their faces covered and armed with large knives boarded a Hong Kong-flagged tanker via the anchor chain and hawse pipe near position 10:13N - 064:50W, Jose Anchorage. They held the duty deck patrol crew from behind, tied him up and threatened to kill him. They then escaped with some unsecured items. Master reported the incident to local port authorities, flag state, owners and other concerned parties. The master and crew took extra measures by fabricating a metal plate to fit in the existing metal grill to the hawse pipe to prevent further unlawful access.

4. (U) COLOMBIA: On 15 October, the Colombian Navy seized one ton of cocaine in waters near Tumaco, Narino department. The drugs were found inside a hidden compartment of a small boat during a routine operation. (www.pvilt.com)

5. (U) VENEZUELA: On 8 October, Venezuela National Guard forces stated that they found 147.5 kilograms of cocaine

attached to the hull, below the waterline, of chemical tanker JOSE PROGRESS, berthed at Jose Petrochemical Complex. The tanker loaded was with 40,000 tons of methanol bound for Belgium. Twenty crewmen are presently under investigation. (www.fleetmon.com)

6. (U) ECUADOR: On 4 October, Ecuador’s counter-narcotics police seized a shipment of 296 kilograms of cocaine in a vessel that stopped at Puerto Bolivar, El Oro province, bordering Peru, the Interior Ministry said. They also said the drug was found in a container with boxes of bananas. (www.maritimeherald.com)

7. (U) ECUADOR: On 2 October; robbers boarded a Singapore-flagged container ship MAERSK NEWBURY while transiting under pilot at the Guayaquil River, near position 02:37S - 080:12W. The master alerted the local authorities when he sighted the presence of unauthorized persons onboard. One crewman was assaulted by the perpetrators and sustained a small cut on his forehead. The crewman escaped and hid in the forecandle store room. The perpetrators left the ship empty-handed when they realized that they had been discovered. A search was conducted by the Ecuador Coast Guard and no perpetrator was found. The injured crewman was given first-aid treatment and the ship resumed its voyage. (ReCAAP; www.pvilt.com)

8. (U) EL SALVADOR: On 28 September, naval forces intercepted a suspicious craft in the Gulf of Fonseca and seized 552 kilograms of cocaine. (www.sivtimes.com)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

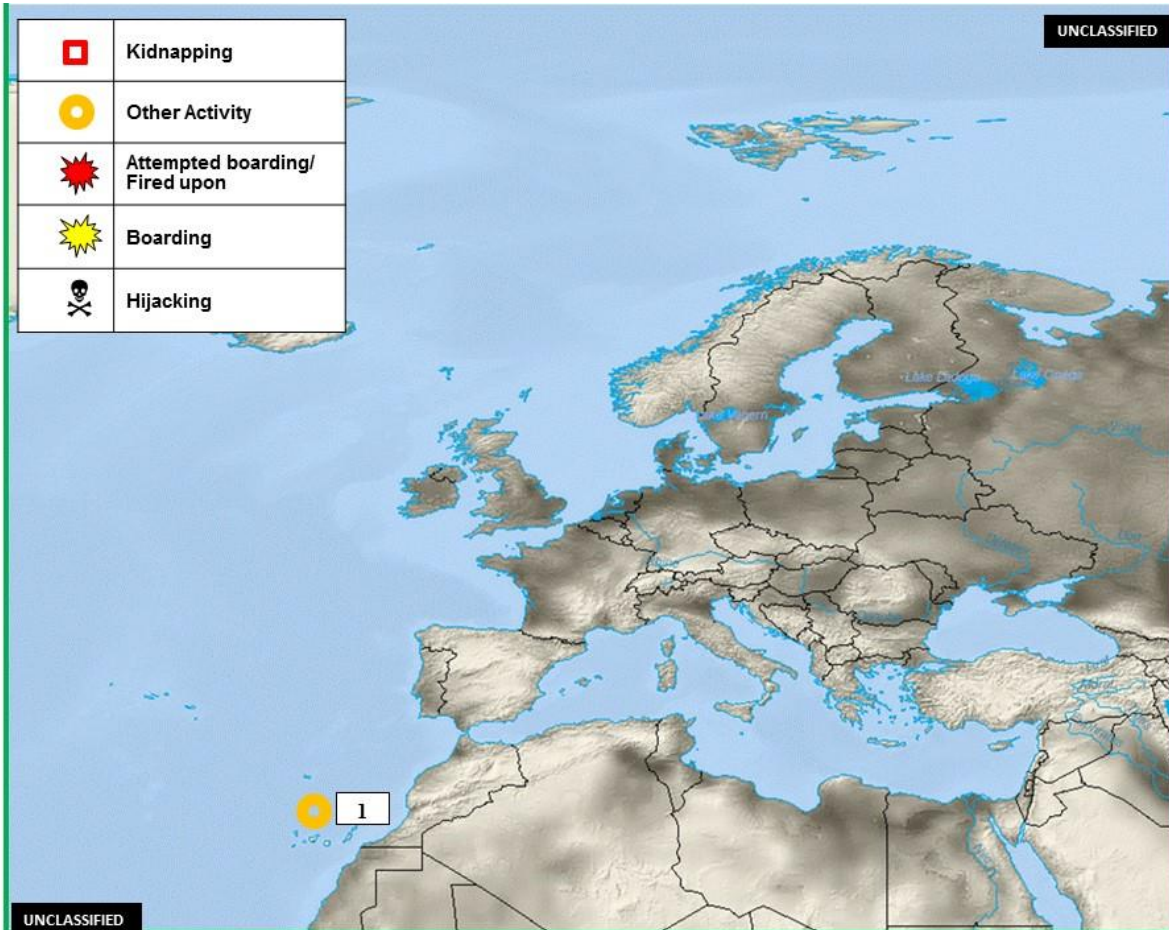


Figure 2. Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) CANARY ISLANDS: On 23 October, Spanish authorities announced the seizure of the Moldova-flagged tug boat M/V

BREATH carrying 1,400 kilograms of cocaine. (www.maritime-herald.com; www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) ENGLAND: On 4 October, authorities at the Immingham docks announced they had seized 35 kilograms of heroin and the same amount of cocaine, along with 250 kilograms of cannabis hidden in a shipping container holding fruit juice. The container had arrived the night before on a ship from Rotterdam. (www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk)

3. (U) IRELAND: On 26 September, customs officials in the Port of Dublin seized 25,700 bottles of smuggled beer. The contraband was discovered when they searched a truck that had disembarked a ferry from Holyhead, Wales. (www.irishtimes.com)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:

1. (U) LATVIA: On 3 October, police and Border Guard forces freed a man kidnapped on a yacht going from Sweden to Latvia. The massive operation was launched when the hostage tipped off his relatives that he'd being taken from Sweden to Latvia against his will. The Omega counter-terrorist force, as well as the armed forces and Border Guard were involved in resolving the situation. (www.eng.lsm.lv, Latvian Public Broadcasting)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

1. (U) GREECE: On 17 October, Greek Coast Guard personnel found a gas cylinder connected to the underwater section of the hull of container ship EVER CONQUEST, at Keratsini Piraeus Container Terminal. Fifty-one plastic packages were hidden in cylinder, containing 53 kilograms of marijuana. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) TUNISIA: On 15 October, customs officials at Tunis's La Goulette Nord Port seized 11,000 ecstasy tablets aboard a private truck that had arrived from the Italian city of Genoa. The narcotics were hidden inside a washing machine. Security forces arrested the owner of the vehicle, who had previously been held on suspicion of trafficking electronic cigarettes through La Goulette. (www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) LIBYA: On 10 October, the self-declared Libyan National Army (LNA) seized two Italian fishing boats with 13 crew Onboard, 46 kilometers from Derna Port, eastern Libya. None of the crew were injured. Both vessels and those onboard were taken to Ras Al-Hilal Port east of Benghazi, according to the LNA. The group said that the vessels were detained inside Libyan territorial waters but that the crew were not under arrest. (www.pvilttd.com)

4. (U) MOROCCO: On 25 September, a vessel of the Moroccan Royal Navy, patrolling the country's Mediterranean coast, was forced to open fire on a high-speed boat carrying illegal migrants after it refused to respond to its warnings. The smuggling speedboat was driven by a Spaniard in the northern Moroccan waters. He refused to stop the boat's engine and chose to ignore the warning shots leaving the Moroccan Navy no choice but to act, say the local authorities. (www.northafricapost.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

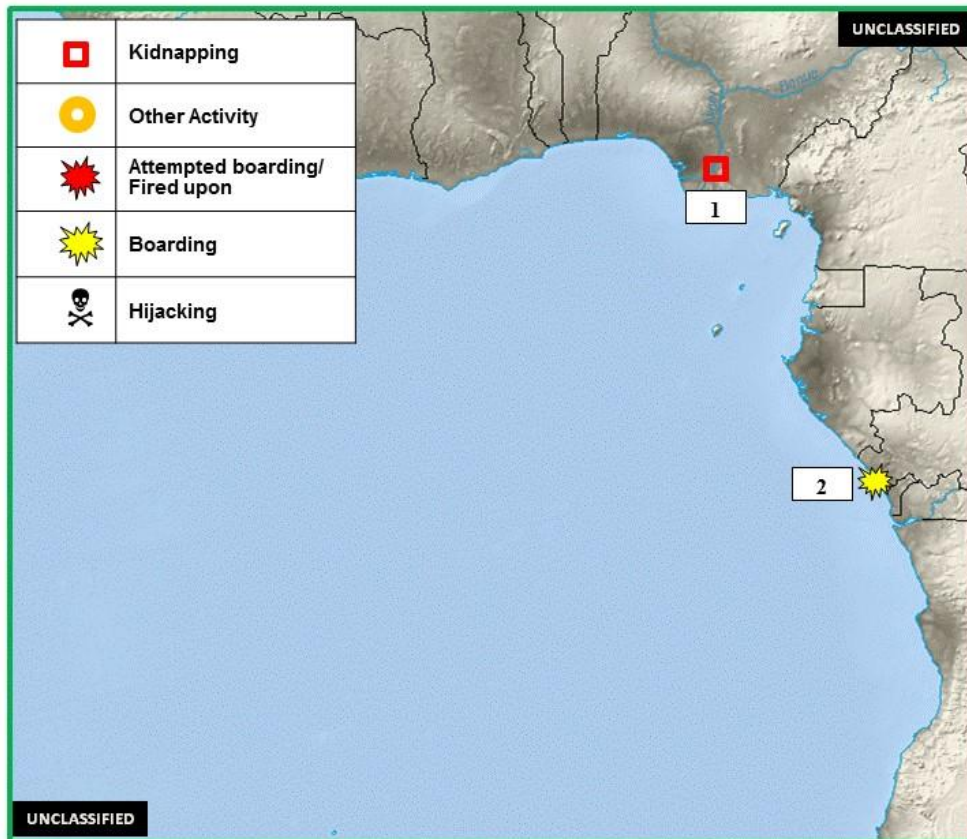


Figure 3. West Africa Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 October, gunmen attacked a passenger boat in the Abonema waterways, kidnapping 10 persons, including a local community leader. The group was returning from a meeting with other community leaders when the event occurred. (www.dailypost.ng)

2. (U) REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 22 October, armed robbers boarded a Hong Kong-flagged merchant tanker anchored near position 04:46N – 011:47E, Pointe Noire Anchorage. Robbers boarded via the anchor chain. Alarm was raised, robbers escaped with ship's property in a motor boat. Crew and vessel safe. (IMB; MDAT-GOG; www.pvilttd.com)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 October, a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a product tanker anchored near position 06:15N - 003:13E, Lagos Secure Anchorage Area, saw a speed boat alongside the anchor chain. Five persons armed with guns and hooks were noticed attempting to board the tanker. The duty crewman shouted at the intruders and informed the bridge. Alarm was raised and fire pump was activated. Upon hearing the alarm, the persons aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. Incident reported to local authorities who dispatched a patrol vessel which searched the waters around the tanker. A search was made throughout the tanker. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 October, two robbers boarded a product tanker anchored near position 06:17N - 003:13E, Lagos Secure Anchorage Area. Duty watchman noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and sounded ship's horn resulting in the robbers jumping overboard and escaping. A search was made throughout the tanker. Incident reported to local authorities who dispatched a patrol vessel. Upon investigation, nothing reported stolen. (IMB; www.pvilttd.com)

5. (U) GHANA: On 9 October, one robber boarded anchored vessel near position 04:53N - 001:45W, Takoradi Anchorage.

a crewman on routine security rounds saw the robber and raised the alarm. The robber escaped without stealing anything. (MDAT-GoG; www.pvilttd.com)

6. (U) GHANA: On 30 September, two robbers boarded a vessel anchored near position 04:54N - 001:41W, Takoradi Anchorage. The crew raised the alarm and the two intruders left the vessel. Nothing was stolen. Crew and vessel are safe. (www.pvilttd.com)

7. (U) REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 25 September, two robbers armed with knives boarded a vessel near position 04:41S - 011:45E, Pointe Noire Anchorage. Alarm was raised, robbers stole ship's property and escaped. (www.pvilttd.com)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 September, six armed pirates in a speed boat approached a tanker underway near position 02:45N - 006:39E, 100 nm south-southwest of Bonny Island. Master increased speed, took evasive maneuvers, raised the alarm, contacted the escort vessel, and the non-essential crew mustered in the citadel. The pirates fired two gun shots and moved away. All crew safe and no damage reported. (MDAT-GoG)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

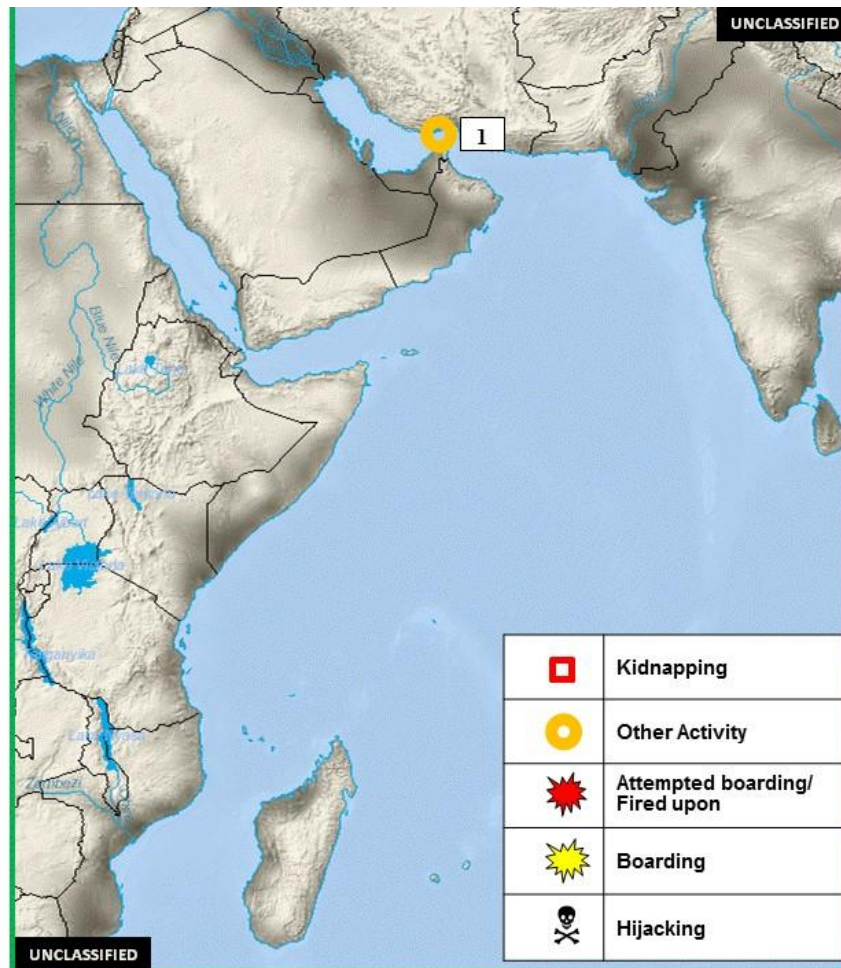


Figure 4. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) STRAIT OF HORMUZ: On 23 October, a Royal Navy Type 45 Destroyer, HMS DRAGON, was confronted by three Iranian fast attack boats while escorting a trio of British vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, sparking a stand-off between the naval forces. Both groups of vessels soon separated and continued their journeys. (www.pvilttd.com)

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

1. (U) SOMALIA: On 16 October, four armed pirates with AK-47s in a speed boat approached the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier KSL SYDNEY underway near position 00:49N - 050:53E, 341 nm east-southeast of Mogadishu. Ship's master raised the alarm, contacted local authorities, activated the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) and all crew mustered in citadel. Shots were fired at the merchant vessel. The armed guards onboard the vessel returned fire, resulting in the pirates aborting the attack and moving away. All crew safe. (IMB; UKMTO; www.pvilttd.com; www.gcaptain)

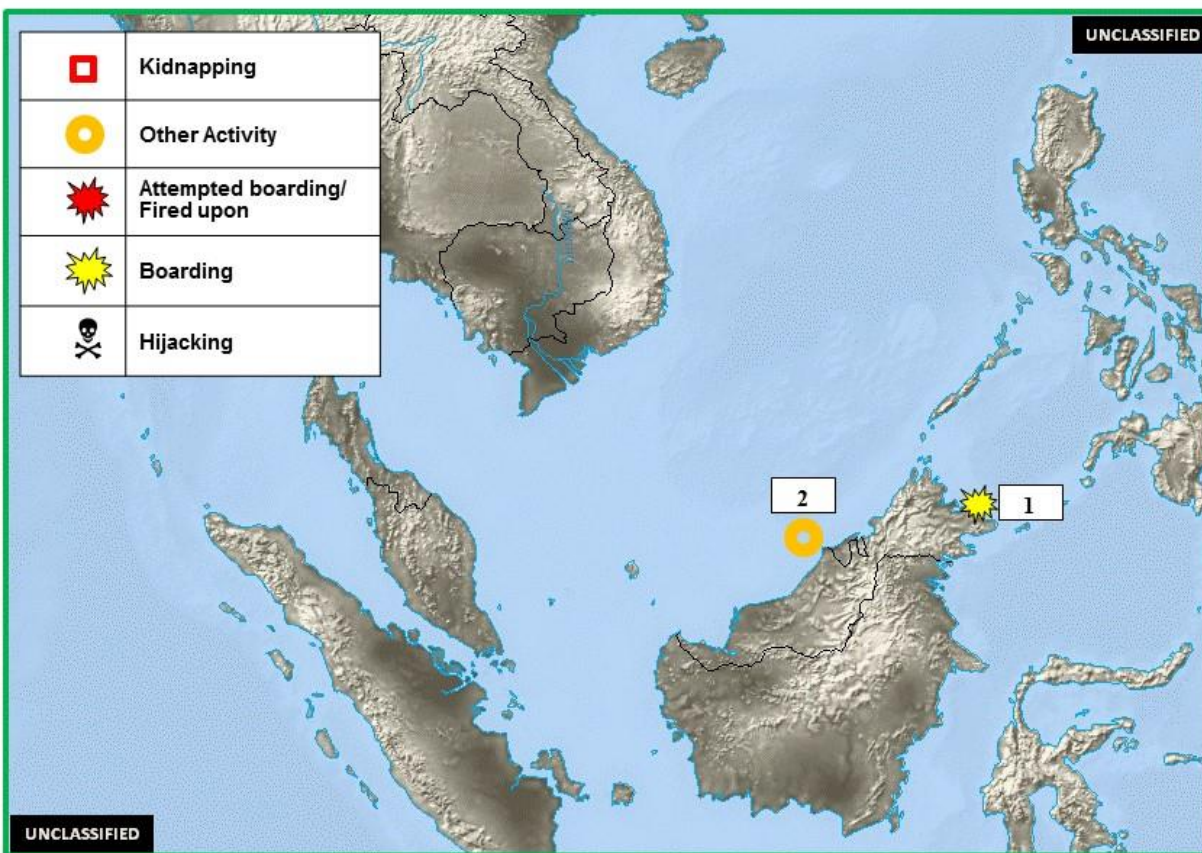
I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 October, two robbers armed with a knife boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:15S - 117:35E, Muara Berau Anchorage. Duty crewman saw the robbers on the forecandle deck and immediately informed the duty officer. Alarm was raised. Crew mustered and proceeded to the forward deck to investigate. On conducting a search, the crew discovered ship stores were stolen. The incident was reported to local authorities. (IMB)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 16 October, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) detained two cargo vessels in Miri waters on suspicion of illegal fishing. Thirty-nine Vietnamese crewmen were arrested and the fishing catch seized. A total of fifteen thousand kilograms of fish were onboard the two ships. (www.theborneopost.com)

3. (U) INDIA: On 11 October, robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged tanker GAS ODYSSEY. While anchored 11 nm off Tekra Light, Kandla, the watch crew found footprints on the main deck portside leading to forecandle and back to manifold area. Further investigation revealed that two scupper plugs and three cargo reducers were missing. (www.pvilttd.com)

4. (U) INDIA: On 10 October, robbers boarded the anchored LPG tanker BERLIAN EKUATOR near position 22:48N - 069:59E, Deendayal Anchorage, Kandla. The robbers stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. The theft was noticed by ship's crew during a routine stowaway search. Incident reported to port control. (IMB; www.pviltf.com)

5. (U) VIETNAM: On 5 October, authorities seized more than 8 tons of pangolin scales and ivory concealed in a plastic waste container at Tien Sa Port in Danang, the government said in a statement. The container was reportedly sent from Nigeria, according to the statement. (www.pviltf.com)

6 (U) PHILIPPINES: On 5 October, a sea marshal was wounded after a man attacked him with a knife during a security inspection onboard the passenger vessel EVER QUEEN OF ASIA. The attacker was shot and killed by responding sea marshals deployed to guard the ship. The attack happened while the vessel was sailing to Zamboanga from the island town of Siasi in the Sulu Sea. (www.manilatimes.net)

7. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 October, three men wearing facial mask armed with two pistols and one M16 rifle boarded a fishing banca near position 10:19N - 122:51E, waters between Guimaras Island and Negros Occidental. The robbers were driving a blue motor banca with "Juvelin" marking on its freeboard. They took the fishermen's fish catch and other valuable material. (ReCAAP; www.pviltf.com)

8. (U) INDIA: On 27 September, customs officials seized a consignment of 3 million smuggled cigarettes from 3 shipping containers in the Port of Chennai. On examination of the consignment, officials found carton boxes concealed inside the declared cargo of Calcium Carbonate bags which actually contained "Gudang Garam" cigarettes of Indonesian origin and transshipped from Dubai. (www.newindianexpress.com)

9. (U) MALAYSIA: On 26 September, two men armed with machetes boarded a drilling rig anchored near position 01:20N - 104:14E, 1.5 nm southeast of Tanjung Bulat, Johor, and robbed two onboard security guards. The robbers tied up the security guards and stole their personal items and communications equipment before departing the rig. The security guards were released by shore-based staff after a few hours when they failed to radio in. (IMB)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) CHINA: On 3 October, the master of a bulk carrier anchored near position 38:49N - 118:14E, Tianjin Anchorage, noticed a diesel oil tank manhole open and traces of oil leading towards the shipside. An investigation indicated that robbers had boarded the vessel, stolen oil from the tank and escaped unnoticed. (IMB)

2. (U) RUSSIA: On 4 October, customs authorities detained the captain of North Korea-flagged cargo ship TU RU BONG 2 when a search revealed \$180,000 of undeclared cash in several large black plastic bags. According to the Vladivostok Customs Service, the ship operates out of the North Korean port of Chongjin, the country's third-largest city. The Vladivostok Customs Service did not respond to questions about the authenticity of the confiscated bills; nor did they respond when asked whether the ship would be free to return to North Korea. (www.dailystar.co.uk)

K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:

1. (U) FRENCH POLYNESIA: On 2 October, a sailing yacht anchored in Papeete Marina was boarded. The robber took cell phones and cash and escaped. A report was made to local police. (www.noonsite.com)

2. (U) SOLOMON ISLANDS: On 27 September, authorities found 500 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the sailing yacht VIEX MALIN off Honiara. It is believed the cocaine was loaded in South America and intended to be imported to Australia. Additionally, two men were arrested in Sydney with police alleging the pair were involved in the planning to import the drugs. (www.abc.net.au)

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 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.

(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
- DNK Intelligence & Operations Centre (DNK IOC)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Lloyd's
- 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: 24 October 2018

(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>