



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 17 February – 17 March 2021**



18 March 2021

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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:** No current warnings or advisories

#### 3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 March, pirates boarded the Luxembourg-flagged offshore supply vessel BOURBON EVOLUTION 802 approximately 208 NM south of Lagos.
- B. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 March, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker DAVIDE B approximately 227 NM southwest of Lagos.
- C. (U) PERU: On 10 March, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Callao Anchorage.
- D. (U) ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: On 9 March, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in English Harbor.

#### 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 that 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) PERU: On 10 March, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:14W. The robbers, armed with knives, were spotted by a duty crewmember on the forward mooring station. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local Vessel Traffic Service and a coast guard patrol vessel was tasked to the area, to search the waters surrounding the bulk carrier. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: On 9 March, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in English Harbor. The robbers stole a dinghy. It was recovered the next morning from a nearby mangrove area, minus the 15-HP Yamaha outboard engine, fuel tank, fuel line and oars. A report was made to the marina and the police. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

3. (U) ECUADOR: On 6 March, robbers boarded the Jamaica-flagged container ship PACORA near Guayaquil. The robbers broke into nine specific containers before leaving the ship. (Dryad Global)

D. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:**

1. (U) ENGLAND: On 19 February, authorities in Portsmouth International Port announced that they had seized 2.3 tons of cocaine hidden among a shipment of bananas arriving from Colombia. (Reuters)

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

## F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

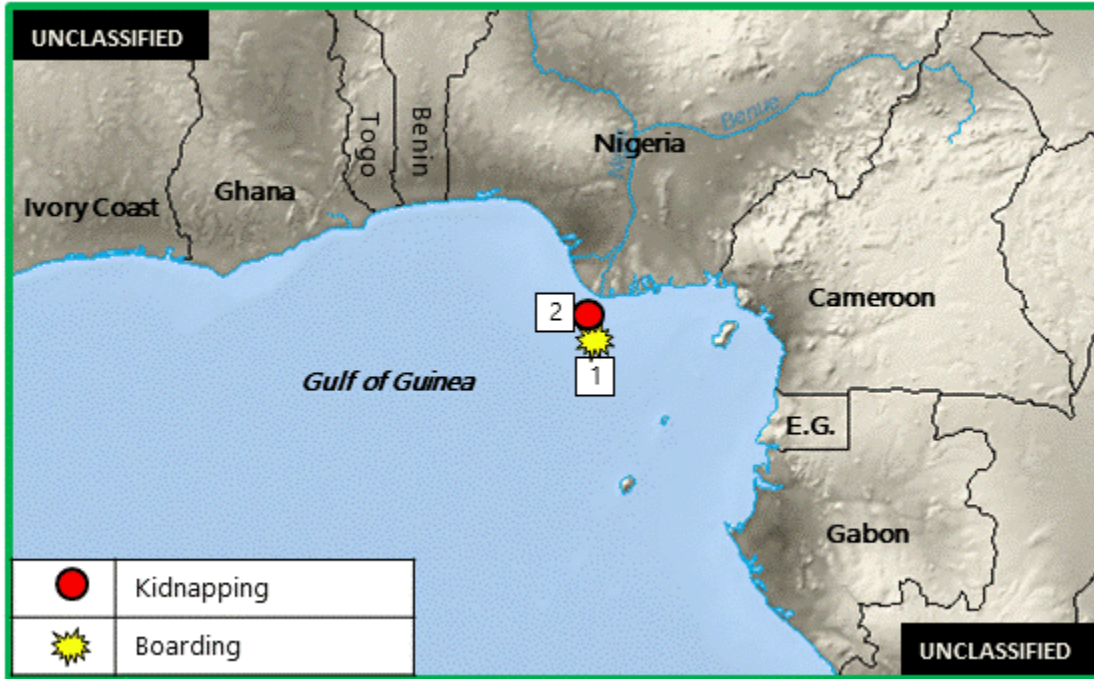


Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 March, pirates boarded the Luxembourg-flagged offshore supply vessel BOURBON EVOLUTION 802 approximately 208 NM south of Lagos near position 02:58N – 002:53E. The crew is safe and stayed in the citadel during the boarding. (IMB; [www.maritimebulletin.net](http://www.maritimebulletin.net); Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 March, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker DAVIDE B approximately 227 NM southwest of Lagos near position 02:47N – 002:35E. The pirates escaped with 15 kidnapped crewmembers. (IMB; Dryad Global; [www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com); Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) ANGOLA: On 10 March, robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:45S – 013:17E. The robbers managed to board the vessel and steal two mooring lines without being spotted. The duty crew discovered the robbery had taken place during routine rounds.

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 March, 10 crewmen, previously kidnapped from the Gabon-flagged fishing vessel LIAN PENG YU 809 on 10 February, were released after 24 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) CAMEROON: On 6 March, robbers boarded an offshore supply ship anchored in Douala Anchorage, near position 04:00N – 009:37E. The theft was noticed by the bosun during routine rounds. The crew searched the ship and ship's property was noted stolen. The incident was reported to local port authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) ANGOLA: On 26 February, robbers boarded an offshore supply ship anchored in Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:45S – 013:17E. The robbers were able to steal ship's property and escape unnoticed. The theft was noticed by a duty crewman during routine rounds. The crew conducted a search of the ship and confirmed the robbers had escaped. Incident reported to local port authorities. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 8 March, a vessel reported a suspicious approach approximately 105 NM southeast of Nishtun, Yemen, near position 14:43N – 053:31E. Four small craft with two people onboard each craft approached the vessel. (Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) OMAN: On 25 February, the Bahamas-flagged vehicle carrier HELIOS RAY reported an explosion aboard the vessel approximately 44 NM northwest of Muscat at position 24:23N – 058:33E. The vessel and crew are safe and the vessel was able to return to a safe port. (Dryad Global, Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) NORTH ARABIAN SEA: On 18 February, Combined Task Force 150 announced that one of its assets had boarded two dhows in a 36-hour period and seized a total of 2,145 kilograms of illegal drugs, including heroin and methamphetamines. The leader of the second boarding team commented, "Everywhere we looked onboard there were suspicious packages." ([www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

**I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:**

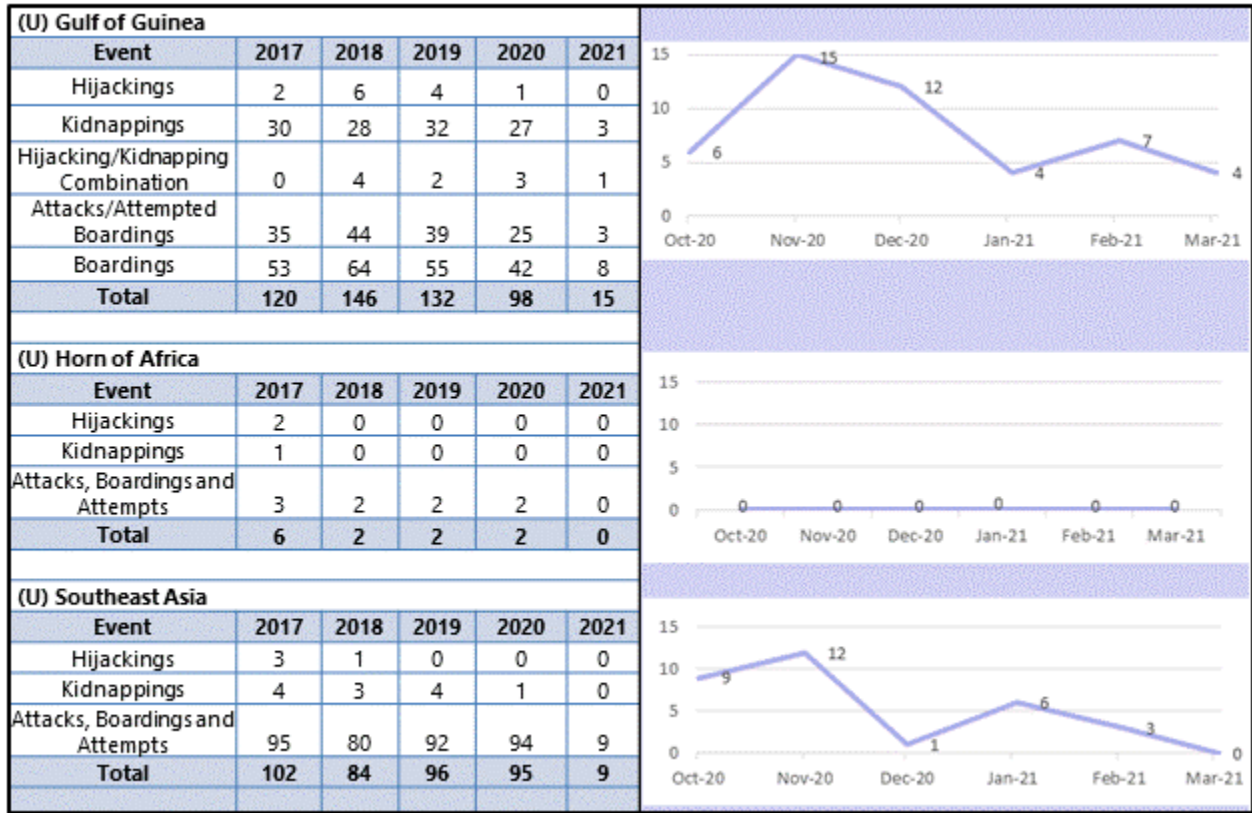
1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 March, the Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier AKIJ PEARL reported a suspicious approach by a skiff carrying three persons 11 NM southeast of Sibutu Island, Tawi Tawi, near position 04:29N – 119:36E. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 February, robbers boarded the barge LIMAU 133 under tow by Malaysia-flagged tug DANUM 50 in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme, near position 01:09N – 103:49E. Two small crafts were spotted alongside the barge by an Indonesian Navy patrol vessel. Three robbers were onboard the barge, passing stolen items to two perpetrators in the small crafts. The patrol vessel intervened, which resulted in five perpetrators being arrested, two small crafts seized, and 150 kilograms of steel wire recovered. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

**J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 18 February, criminals kidnapped two fishermen. Two days later, local coast guard forces in Hatia Upazila in Noakhali district arrested seven criminals. These criminals reportedly received a ransom payment for the two fishermen. ([www.observerbd.com](http://www.observerbd.com))

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

5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**



6. (U) **Appendix B: 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 antishipping 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) **Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement who forcefully remove crew members from vessel when disembarking.

- (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:** 18 March 2021

(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/>