(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 31 October–4 December 2019

06 December 2019

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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:

1. **(U) MARAD Advisory 2019-012-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Red Sea-Threats to Commercial Vessels.** Description: This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisories 2019-004 and 2019-008. References: U.S. Maritime Alerts 2019-004A, 2019-003A, 2019-002A, and 2019-001A. Issue: Heightened military activity and increased political tensions in this region continue to pose serious threats to commercial vessels. Associated with these threats is a potential for miscalculation or misidentification that could lead to aggressive actions. Vessels operating in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman may also encounter GPS interference, bridge-to-bridge communications spoofing, and/or other communications jamming with little to no warning. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit http://www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI

3. (U) Summary

1. (U) PERU: On 3 December, robbers boarded the Malta-flagged bulk carrier CANO in the Callao Anchorage.

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 December, pirates kidnapped 19 crew members from the Hong Kong-flagged VLCC NAVE CONSTELLATION approximately 66 NM south of Bonny Offshore Terminal.
3. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 1 December, robbers boarded the Malta-flagged container ship CMA CGM NEW JERSEY in the Manila Anchorage.
4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 30 November, robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker RIO DAYTONA off Batangas.
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 November, robbers boarded the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier CHINA PIONEER northwest of Paluau Tanjung Bntung Besar.
6. (U) SINGAPORE: On 27 November, robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier KMAX EVDOKIA southeast of Sungai Rengit.
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 November, robbers boarded a barge being towed by Malaysia-flagged tug HARBOUR LIBRA northwest of Pulau Nongsa.
8. (U) MALAYSIA: On 24 November, robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier FAYE 2.2 NM northwest of Pulau Nongsa.
9. (U) PERU: On 23 November, robbers boarded the Panama-flagged vehicle carrier GALVESTON HIGHWAY in the Callao Anchorage.
10. (U) GUINEA: On 21 November, robbers boarded a merchant vessel in Conakry Anchorage.
11. (U) RED SEA: On 19 November, unidentified assailants fired on a survey vessel from the shore at 1845 hrs local time during an operation off Mayyun Island in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.

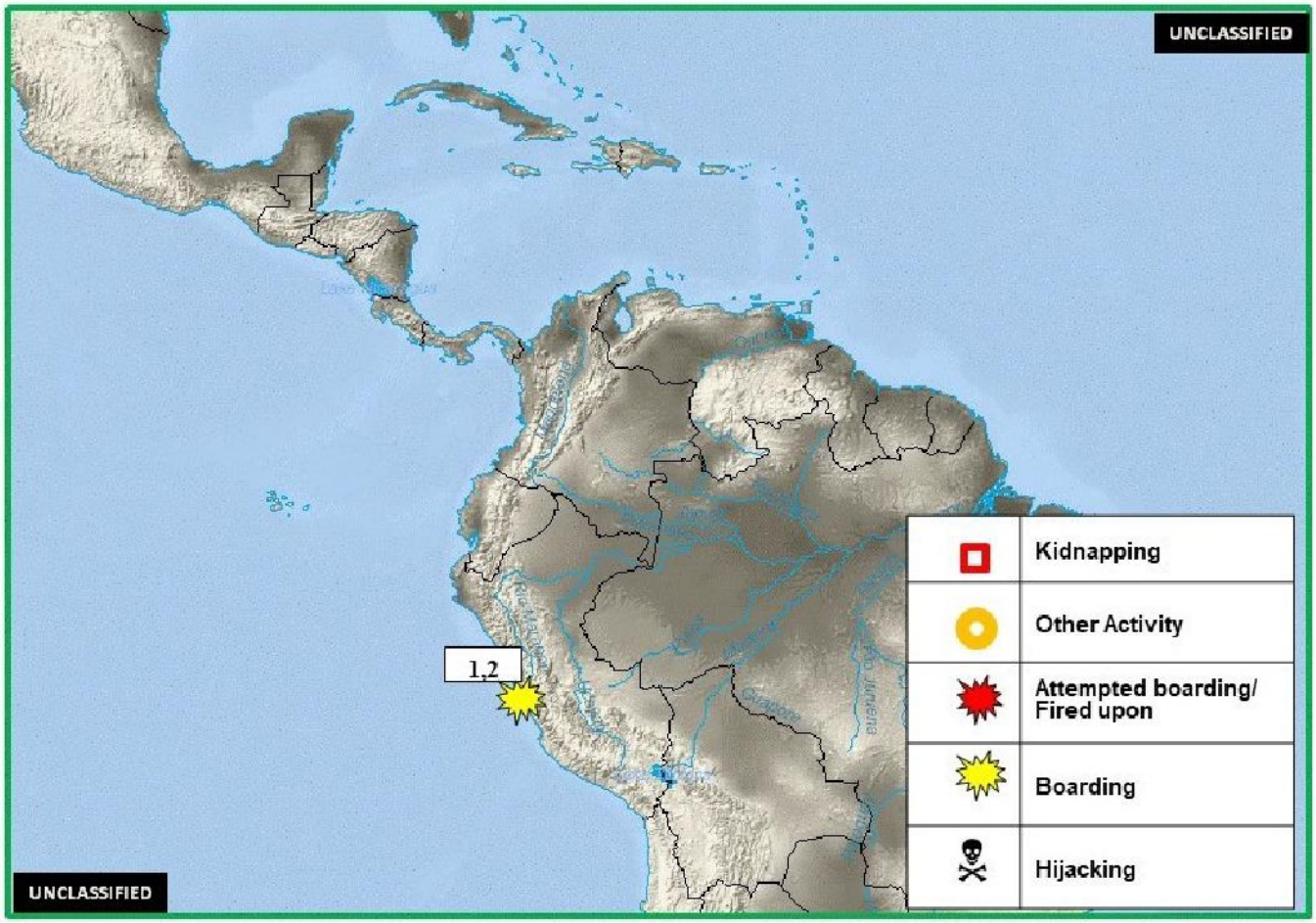
4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(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 past 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**:

1. (U) MEXICO: On 21 November, authorities in the port of Altamira found 134 packages of cocaine hidden among a cargo of ore onboard the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier DELPHI RANGER. (www.fleetmon.com)
2. (U) MEXICO: On 11 November, eight armed men in two fast boats attacked the Italy-flagged offshore supply ship REMAS near Ciudad del Carmen. During the boarding, two crewmen, both Italians, were wounded. Pirates ransacked the ship and fled. Injured seamen were transferred to a local hospital. REMAS moved to Ciudad del Carmen anchorage and anchored. (www.fleetmon.com)

B. **(U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA**:



(U) Figure 1. South America Piracy and Maritime Crime.

1. (U) PERU: On 3 December, watchkeepers onboard Malta-flagged bulk carrier CANO near position 12:01S – 077:13E, Callao Anchorage observed movement on the forecastle and notified the duty officer. The duty officer observed two robbers stealing a mooring line. When the duty officer raised the alarm, the robbers fled. The incident was reported to VTS. (IMB)
2. (U) PERU: On 23 November, during routine rounds, a duty crewman aboard Panama-flagged vehicle carrier GALVESTON HIGHWAY, anchored near position 12:01S – 077:11W, Callao Anchorage, found the forecastle store room entrance door and a forward hatch cover open. Upon investigating, the crew discovered three mooring lines missing. Incident reported to Callao port authority. (IMB, www.arxmaritime.com)
3. (U) GUATEMALA: On 15 November, robbers stole an 8-HP outboard motor from the secured dinghy onboard a sailing yacht anchored in Livingston. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
4. (U) BAHAMAS: On 14 November, 10 Haitian men armed with knives hijacked a Bahamas-flagged fishing boat south of Great Inagua. The Haitian men forced the three Bahamian crewmembers from the fishing vessel. The crewmembers had to swim several hours to make it ashore to report the incident. (www.bahamaspress.com)
5. (U) PANAMA: On 8 November, eight armed men boarded a yacht anchored in Bahia Nombre de Dios. They restrained and robbed the five person crew and escaped. Three crew were able to remove their restraints, went to Linton Bay Marina, and made reports there to the police, Coast Guard, and Port Captain. Two women were taken to the hospital for evaluation. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 7 November, robbers stole a 24-foot rigid hulled inflatable boat and outboard motor from the La Dunette dock in St. Anne. A search was made in the surrounding area and the boat was not located. The next morning, a police report was made. Later that morning, the boat was seen by others nearby and aground in a place that had been well searched the previous night. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
7. (U) PANAMA: On 3 November, five Spanish-speaking men boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Bahia Nombre de Dios. The two persons onboard were taken by surprise and were slightly injured in the scuffle, but cooperated as the armed men ransacked the yacht and stole cash, communications devices, electronics, and personal items. The yacht departed immediately for Linton Bay that night, where they made reports to the police, Coast Guard, and Port Captain. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

C. **(U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA**:

1. (U) SPAIN: On 24 November, Spanish police intercepted a 22-meter long "submarine" carrying 3,000 kilograms of cocaine on the country's northwest coast of Galicia. Police arrested two men from Ecuador, while a third escaped. (www.bloomberg.com; www.elpais.com)

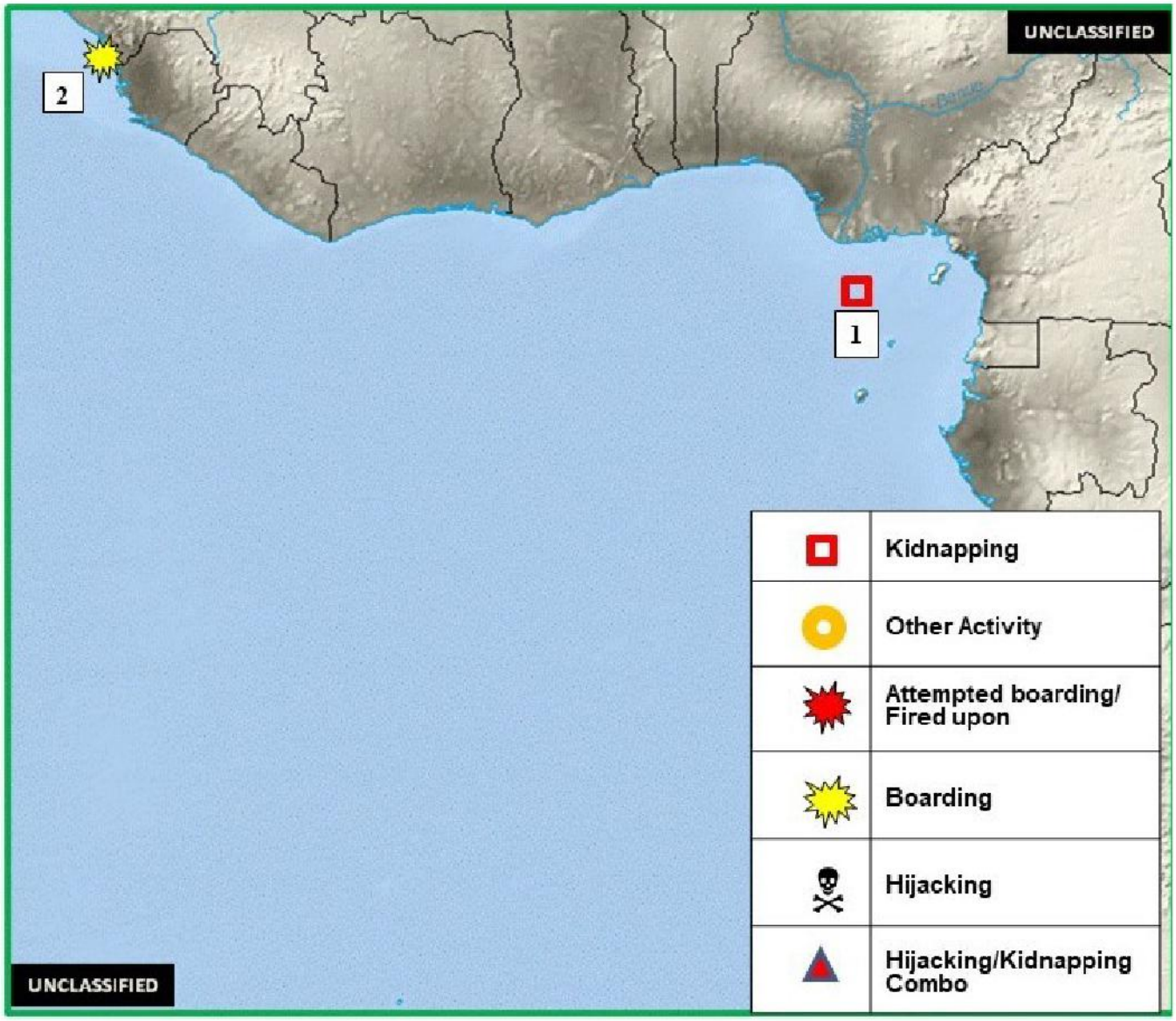
D. **(U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC**:

(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) **MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA**:

1. (U) GREECE: On 18 November, three crew of Panama-flagged general cargo ship ARMONIA were detained by Kavala port authority officials when they were found to be in possession of fake seaman certificates. The ship was detained for investigation. (www.fleetmon.com)
2. (U) ITALY: On 14 November, authorities in the Port of Gioia Tauro seized a ton of cocaine hidden in a cargo of bananas going to Germany. (www.ansa.it)

F. **(U) WEST AFRICA**:



(U) Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

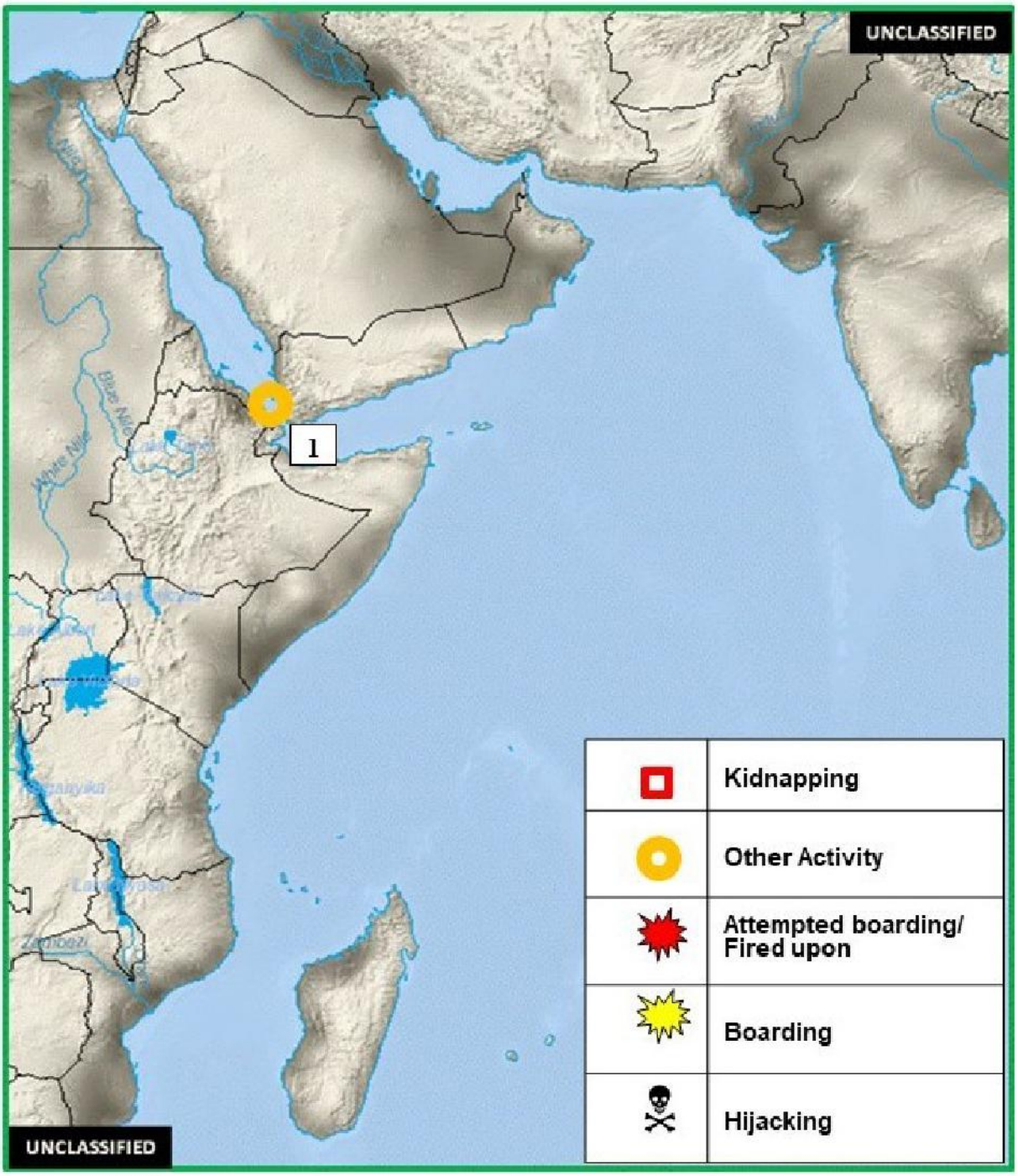
1. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 December, pirates kidnapped 19 crewmembers (18 Indian and 1 Turkish) from the Hong Kong-flagged VLCC NAVE CONSTELLATION approximately 77 NM south of Bonny Offshore Terminal. (www.newindianexpress.com)
2. (U) GUINEA: On 21 November, five robbers boarded a merchant vessel anchored near position 09:31N – 013:43W, Conakry Anchorage. Local authorities opened an investigation into the event. (www.arxmaritime.com)
3. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 20 November, pirates attacked the Singapore-flagged tug PACIFIC WARDEN near position 03:45N - 008:14E, approximately 33 NM west of Malabo. The pirates disembarked the ship. An Equatorial Guinea Navy ship is in the vicinity of the vessel. Investigations are ongoing. (IMB)
4. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 November, up to 10 armed men attacked a passenger boat transiting to Port Harcourt, kidnapping four immigration service officers. (www.punchng.com)

5. (U) MOROCCO: On 8 November, a duty officer onboard a bulk carrier berthed near position 30:25N - 009:38W, Silos Terminal, saw four unauthorized persons onboard the vessel. Alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the persons escaped. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)
6. (U) SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: On 7 November, armed persons in a skiff approached and fired upon a tanker underway near position 01:13N - 006:09E, 57 NM north-northwest of Sao Tome Island. Alarm was raised, vessel increased speed, and commenced evasive maneuvers. Fire pump activated and four parachute rockets discharged. Due to the actions of the master and crew, the skiff aborted and moved away. Vessel and crew safe. (IMB; www.fleetmon.com)
7. (U) TOGO: On 4 November, pirates boarded the Greece-flagged tanker ELKA ARISTOTLE near position 05:58N - 001:15E, 9 NM south of Lome. Pirates kidnapped two Filipinos, one Greek, and one Georgian. One security guard was also shot and wounded in the attack. (IMB; www.marinelink.com; www.gcaptain.com; www.fleetmon.com)
8. (U) BENIN: On 2 November, pirates boarded the Norway-flagged bulk carrier BONITA near position 06:14N - 003:32E, 9 NM southeast of Cotonou. Nine crewmembers were kidnapped. (IMB; BBC; www.marinelink.com; www.gcaptain.com; www.fleetmon.com)
9. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 November, robbers attacked three passenger boats taking a group of people to a wedding in Degama Local Government Area of Rivers State. The robbers stole personal valuables and their boats, forcing the people to swim ashore. When a rescue boat was sent to retrieve the passengers, the robbers attacked it, killing two people. When a second rescue boat subsequently arrived on the scene, the robbers fired upon it and sank it. (www.punchng.com)77

G. **(U) ARABIAN GULF**:

(U) No current incidents to report.

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

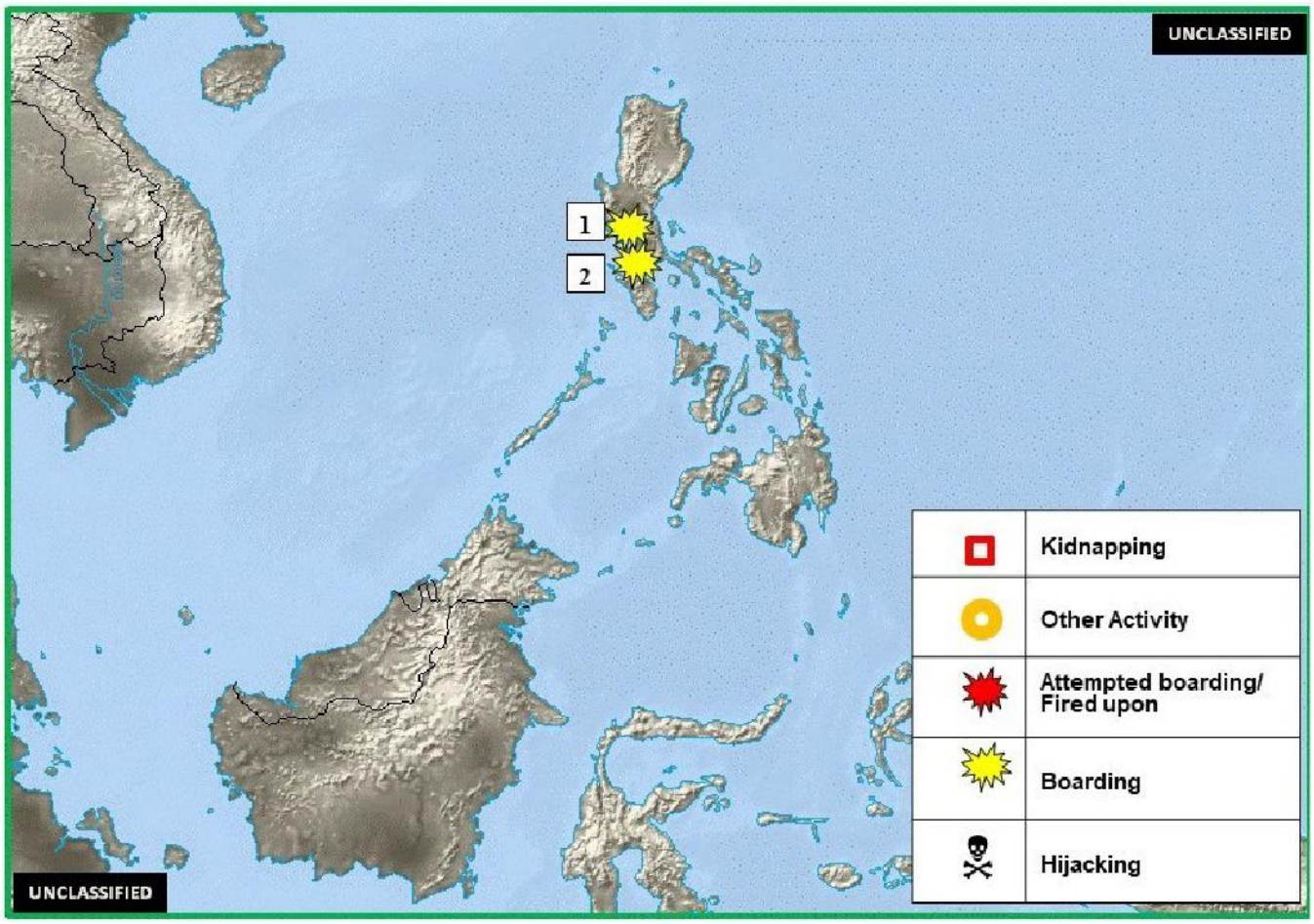


(U) Figure 3. Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

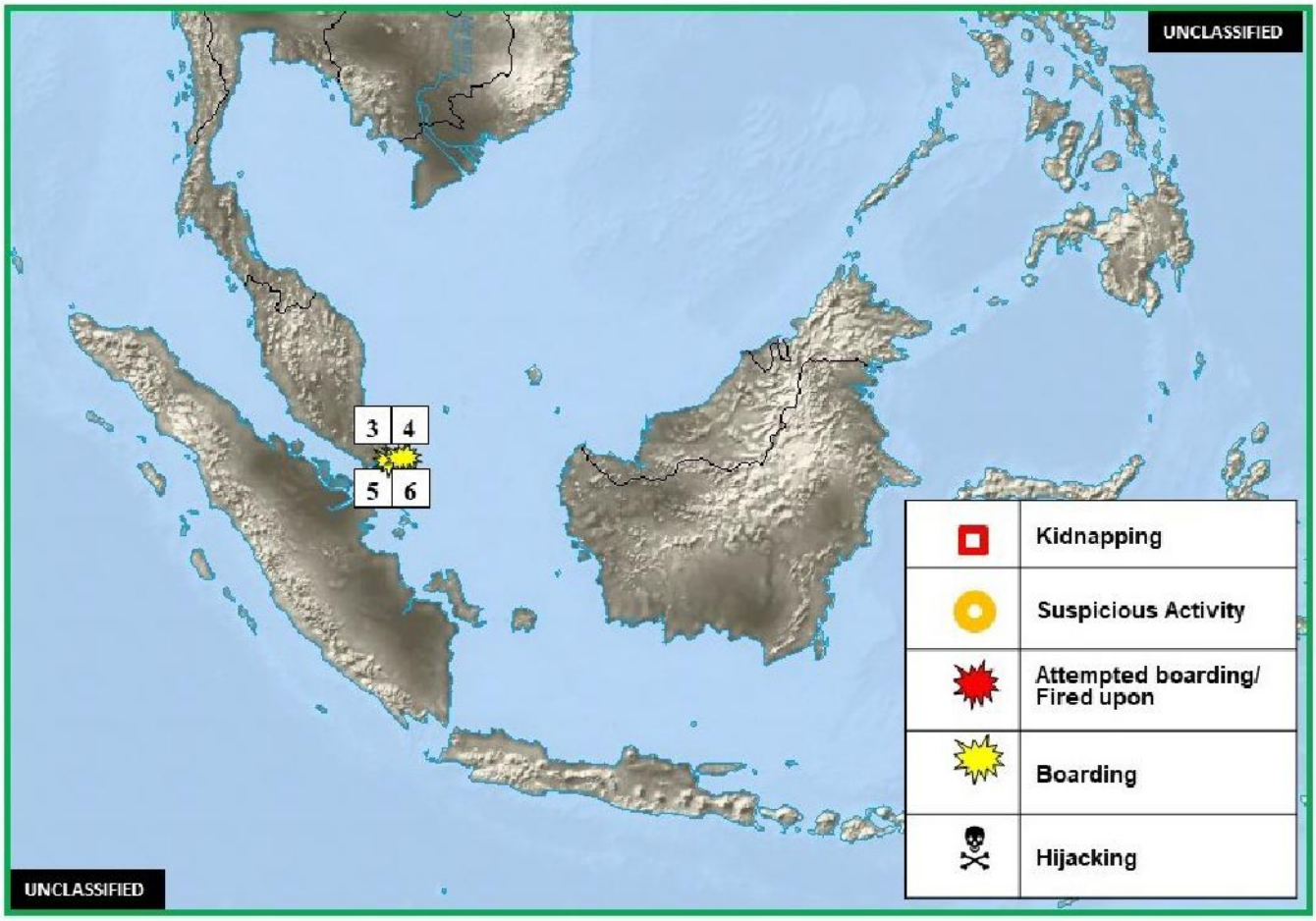
1. (U) RED SEA: On 19 November, unidentified assailants fired on a survey vessel from the shore at 1845 local time during an operation off Mayyun Island in the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait. (www.pviltd.com)
2. (U) MALDIVES: On 22 November, one man was injured when he was repeatedly stabbed during an argument onboard a fishing boat. Authorities stated that an argument broke out on a sea-cucumber fishing boat from Madduvari island in Raa atoll. (www.raajje.mv)

3. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 19 November, an alert duty crewman onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 14:22S - 040:42E, Nacala Outer Anchorage, noticed an unauthorized person on the forecastle deck and raised the alarm. Crew mustered and a search was carried out. Seeing the alerted crew, the person escaped. Nothing reported stolen. All crew safe. Incident reported to Port Control. (IMB)
4. (U) RED SEA: On 17 November, Saudi Arabia-flagged tug RABIGH 3 and another tug were seized by Houthi militia near position 15:25N - 042:18E, 14 NM northwest of Kamaran Island, Yemen. The tug was taken to Al Qaryah, Yemeni waters, off Kamaran Island. A number of sources said the tugs were towing a South Korean dredge, which was also seized. Sixteen people, including two South Koreans, were on the three vessels. Press reporting indicates that the ships and crews were released on 20 November. (IMB; www.fleetmon.dom; www.sguardina.com; Reuters; www.koreatimes.co.kr)
5. (U) SRI LANKA: On 3 November, navy forces boarded and seized a fishing boat found to be carrying 224 kilograms of heroin near Galle. Seven persons were arrested. (www.adaderana.lk)

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



(U) Figure 4. Phillippines Piracy and Maritime Crime



(U) Figure 5. Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 1 December, robbers boarded and robbed the anchored Malta-flagged container ship CMA CGM NEW JERSEY, near position 14:32N – 120:52E, within Manila Anchorage via the anchor cable and hawse pipe. The robbers broke the lock to Bosun stores and stole ships property. The incident was reported to port authorities. (IMB)
2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 30 November, two robbers boarded the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged tanker RIO DAYTONA via the hawse pipe, near 13:43N – 121:02E, in Alpha Anchorage, Tabangao, Batangas, Phillippines. When the duty officer raised the alarm, the robbers to fled. (IMB)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 November, four robbers, one armed with a 50-cm knife, boarded the underway Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier CHINA PIONEER, near position 01:16N – 104:13E, 7.6 NM northwest of Paluau Tanjung Bntung Besar, Indonesia. When the crew activated the ship's alarm and deck lighting, the robbers fled. A subsequent investigation by the crew revealed nothing was stolen. (IMB)
4. (U) SINGAPORE: On 27 November, robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier KMAX EVDOKIA near position 01:18N – 104:20E, 7 NM southeast of Sungai Rengit. The robbers fled after the crew raised the alarm. The crew conducted a full search, nothing was stolen, and the vessel and crew are safe. (www.arxmaritime.com)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 November, two robbers boarded a barge loaded with containers being towed by Malaysia-flagged tug HARBOUR LIBRA, near position 01:14N – 104:04E, 2.2 NM northwest of Pulau Nongsa, Indonesia, in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait. The robbers fled after the crew raised the alarm. Some twist locks and ropes had been stolen during the attack. (www.arxmaritime.com)

6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 24 November, five robbers armed with long knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier FAYE near position 01:16N – 104:14E, 2.2 NM northwest of Pulau Nongsa, Indonesia, in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) of the Singapore Strait. When the crew noticed the robbers entering the ship's engine room, they raised the alarm which resulted in the robbers fleeing. (www.pviltd.com; www.arxmaritime.com)
7. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 25 November, authorities in Manila announced the rescue of a UK citizen and his Filipino wife after they were kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf group fighters on 4 October. They are safe and unharmed. (www.thenational.ae)
8. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 22 November, authorities in the port of Cabangan in the province of Zambales, detained the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier DAYANG CENTURY. The ship was carrying a cargo of 57,000 tons of phosphogypsum, which was found to be slightly radioactive. The ship was detained and the crew arrested. The ship's papers did not reflect carrying a radioactive cargo. (www.fleetmon.com)
9. (U) SINGAPORE STRAIT: On 5 November, six persons in two speed boats approached a tanker underway near position 01:12.6N - 103:34.3E, 3.6 NM southwest of Singapore. Duty crewman noticed persons attempting to board the tanker and raised the alarm. Master increased the speed and took evasive maneuvers resulting in the persons aborting the boarding attempt. (IMB)

J. **(U) NORTHEAST ASIA**:

(U) No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 3 November, Australia's Maritime Border Command ship CAPE JERVIS intercepted an Indonesian fishing ship operating two miles inside Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone northeast of Darwin, on Australia's northwest coast. Authorities searched the vessel and found a suspected illegal catch of 16 shark skins, 63 fresh shark fins and 60 kg of shark flesh. (www.fis.com)

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 (WTS) 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 Weekly Piracy Update 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) The following terms have been adopted to describe the 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 by an unknown vessel.

(U) **Sourcing**

- 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)
- Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Norwegian Shipowners' Mutual War Risks Insurance Association
- 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) The Weekly Piracy Update (WPU) and WTS reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at: http://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Weekly-Piracy-Reports/

(U) ICOD: 04 December 2019