



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 3 – 31 May 2023**



31 May 2023

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) report 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, Advisories and Alerts:** See Appendix C for active advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) **MALAYSIA:** On 28 May, three robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

B. (U) **MALAYSIA:** On 26 May, a boarding occurred on a bulk carrier underway in the Singapore Strait.

C. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 25 May, perpetrators kidnapped fifteen passengers from a passenger boat transiting from Calabar to Akwa Ibom in the area around the Cross and Calabar Rivers.

4. (U) **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 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: No current incidents to report.

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 – GULF OF GUINEA:



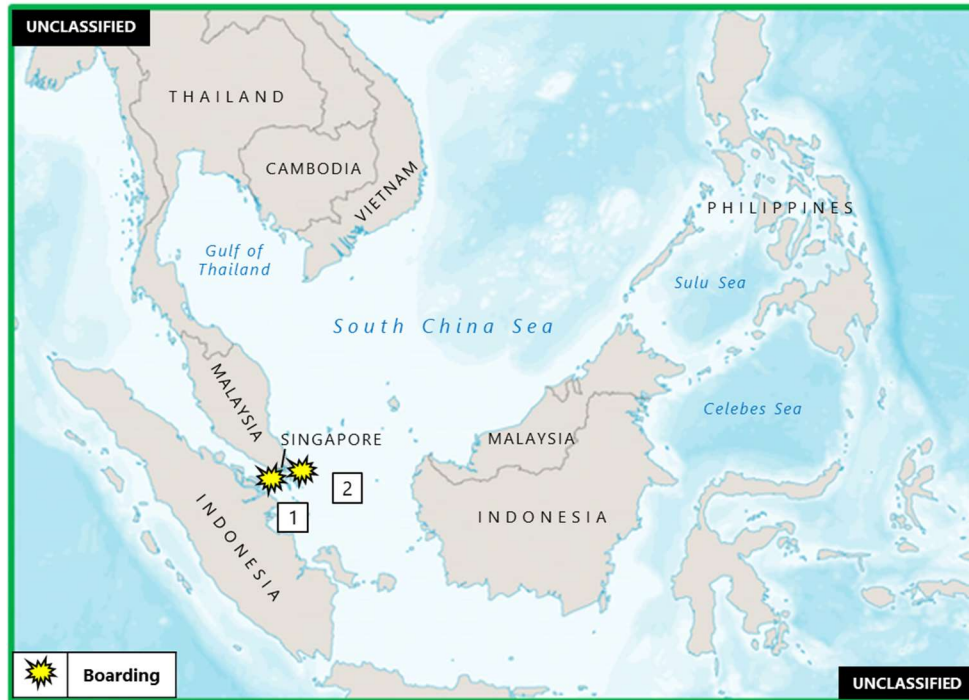
(U) Figure 1. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 May at approximately 1800 local time, an unknown number of perpetrators kidnapped 15 passengers from a local passenger boat transiting from Calabar to Akwa Ibom in the area around the Cross and Calabar Rivers. No ransom demand by the kidnappers has been reported. (dailypost.ng)

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:



(U) Figure 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 28 May at 2359 local time, three robbers boarded a barge under tow by the tug JIN HWA 47 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:12N – 103:32E. While onboard, the perpetrators stole scrap metal. The master sounded the alarm and the crew mustered. All crew members were reported safe and the vessel continued its voyage to Penang, Malaysia. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 26 May between 0300 and 0700 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier CORINTHIAN PHOENIX underway in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:26N – 104:30E. Duty crew conducting routine rounds found that the storeroom had been broken into and ship's properties were missing. The ship reported the theft to the local authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 May at 0230 local time, up to five robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier LUCKY SOURCE underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:02N – 103:39E. The duty officer spotted the perpetrators (one holding a knife) in the engine room and alerted the bridge. The master raised the alarm to notify the crew. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers fled the vessel and escaped. The ship reported engine spare parts and crew's personal belongings had been stolen, but no injuries with all crew accounted for. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; ReCAAP)

4. (U) THAILAND: On 10 May at 2200 local time, Thai Marine Police on patrol spotted one perpetrator onboard the anchored Thailand-flagged fishing trawler S KITTICHA 1 at the Sri Songkhla Dockyard, near position 07:19N – 100:57E. The trawler was unmanned and awaiting overhaul. The police boarded the trawler and found two other perpetrators cutting and pulling sheet metal in the engine room. All three perpetrators were apprehended. (ReCAAP)

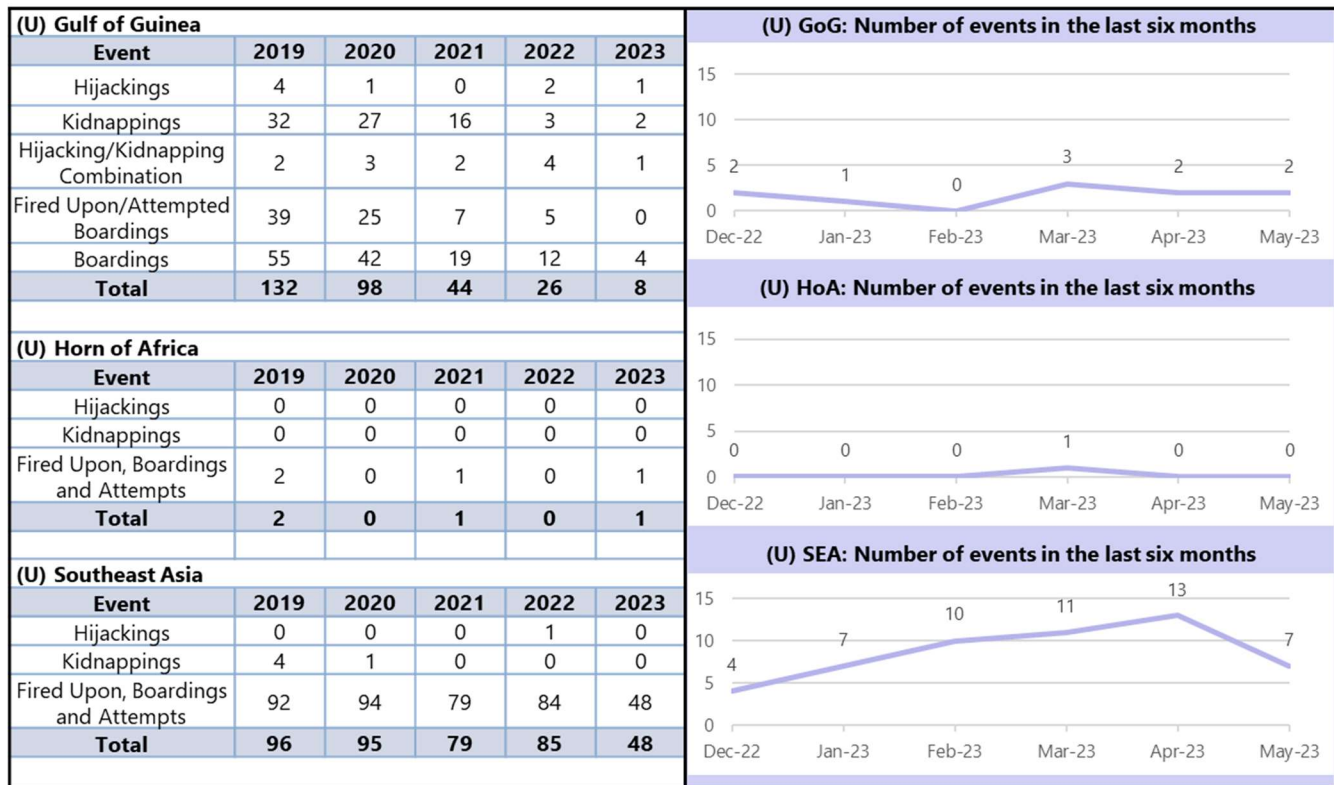
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 10 May at 0100 local time, a number of perpetrators boarded a barge under tow by the Singapore-flagged tug LANPAN 30 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:01N – 103:31E. Perpetrators boarded the barge from four small boats. The ship reported the incident to local authorities via VHF. The ship reported all crew members safe and that nothing had been stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 May, up to eight robbers armed with knives boarded the berthed India-flagged product tanker SUCCESS at Chittagong Port, near position 22:16N – 091:48E. The ship sounded the alarm and the crew mustered. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The ship reported the incident to the Bangladesh Coast Guard who boarded the vessel to investigate the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.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.

7. (U) Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2022-005-Various – GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing	8 MAR 23	4 SEP 23
2023-004-Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	3 MAR 23	30 AUG 23
2023-003-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab el Mandeb Strait, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threat to Commercial Vessels	23 FEB 23	22 AUG 23
2023-002-Worldwide-Maritime Port Vulnerabilities – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence	17 FEB 23	16 AUG 23
2023-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	3 JAN 23	2 JUL 23
2022-011-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	12 DEC 22	10 JUN 23

(U) **ICOD:** 31 May 2023

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