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## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 26 April – 24 May 2023**



24 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) **BANGLADESH:** On 24 May, as many as eight robbers armed with knives boarded a berthed tanker at Chittagong Port.

**B.** (U) **INDONESIA:** On 22 May, up to five robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

#### 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.

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**A. (U) NORTH AMERICA:** No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) PERU: On 27 April at 0200 local time, robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:13W. They tied up two duty crewmembers and stole their personal belongings, and ship's stores. The alarm sounded, the crew mustered, and a search of the vessel was carried out. The ship informed port control of the incident and a patrol boat was dispatched to search the area. (IMB; 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 – GULF OF GUINEA:**

1. (U) GABON: On 2 May at 0200 local time, perpetrators boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GREBE BULKER anchored at Owendo Inner Anchorage, near position 00:16N – 009:29E. The chief officer confirmed that three crew members had been kidnapped. The remaining crew members and vessel are reported safe. The tanker notified the local authorities of the kidnapping. UPDATE: On 22 May, ship owner Eagle Bulk Shipping and the government of the Republic of Georgia confirmed the safe return of the three crew members kidnapped from GREBE BULKER on 2 May. The kidnapped crew members spent 18 days in captivity. According to press reports, the released crew are believed to be the ship's Russian captain and two Georgians, the second and third officers. Georgian authorities reported that, post-release, the crew members received medical examinations in Nigeria. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive; Africanews.com)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 April at 0500 local time, eight perpetrators armed with knives boarded the berthed Liberia-flagged cargo ship MSC WAVE F at Tin Can Island, Lagos, near position 06:25N – 003:20E. After being spotted by crew members, the perpetrators escaped overboard to a waiting boat. Nothing was reported stolen and the crew was reported safe. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

**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:



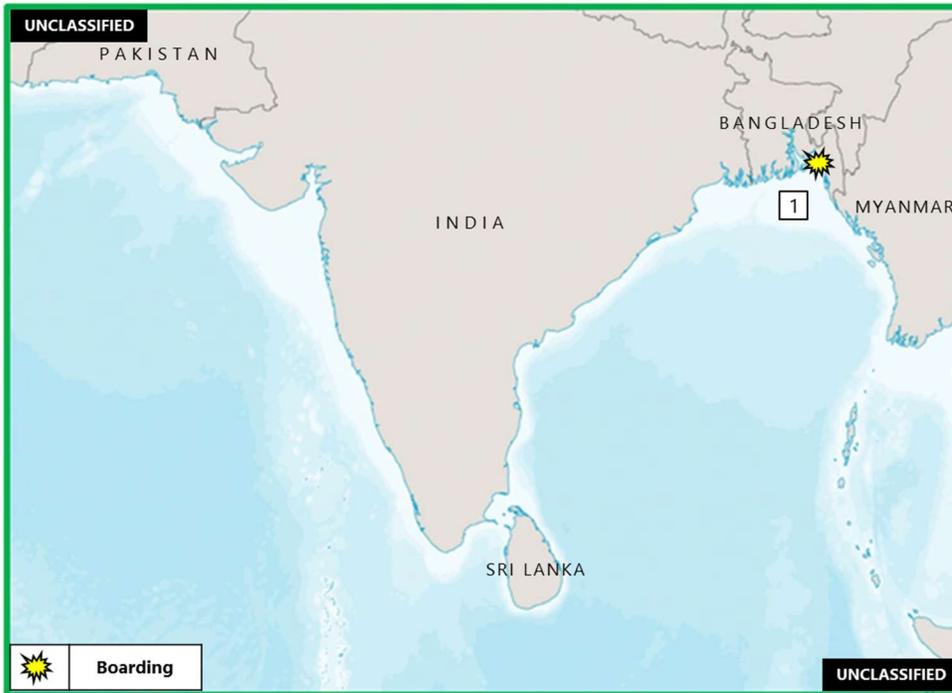
(U) Figure 1. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (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 Traffic Separation Scheme (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)

2. (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 KITTICHAJ 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)

3. (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. All crew members were reported safe and nothing has been reported stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 1 May at 0101 local time, two robbers boarded the anchored Panama-flagged container ship SOL STRIDE at Manila Bay Anchorage, near position 14:32N – 120:55E. Duty crew spotted the perpetrators as they escaped by jumping into the sea. Crew members searched the vessel and discovered ship's properties and stores had been stolen. The ship reported the incident to the Philippines Coast Guard who dispatched a patrol vessel to investigate and monitor suspicious boat traffic in the area. All crew members were reported safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 May at 0136 local time, four perpetrators boarded the underway Hong Kong-flagged product tanker RAINBOW STAR in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:13E. The ship sounded the alarm, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping empty-handed. All crew members were reported safe. The tanker did not require any assistance and continued its transit to the Philippines. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)
6. PHILIPPINES: On 27 April at 0345 local time, two robbers boarded the anchored Marshall Islands-flagged product tanker RIDGEBURY KATHERINE Z at Sangley Point Anchorage, Manila Bay, near position 14:33N – 120:52E. The robbers stole ship's stores before escaping. The ship reported all crew safe. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)
7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 26 April at 2230 local time, four masked robbers armed with knives boarded an oil rig 0.7 NM northeast of Tanjung Langsat Harbor Jetty, near position 01:27N – 104:01E. Authorities were notified that the robbers were stealing belongings from the two crewmen manning the platform and other rig equipment. A Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency patrol boat responded and apprehended the four robbers under the platform. The two crew members were reported safe but suffered minor injuries. The stolen rig equipment and personal belongings were recovered and returned. (Clearwater Dynamics)

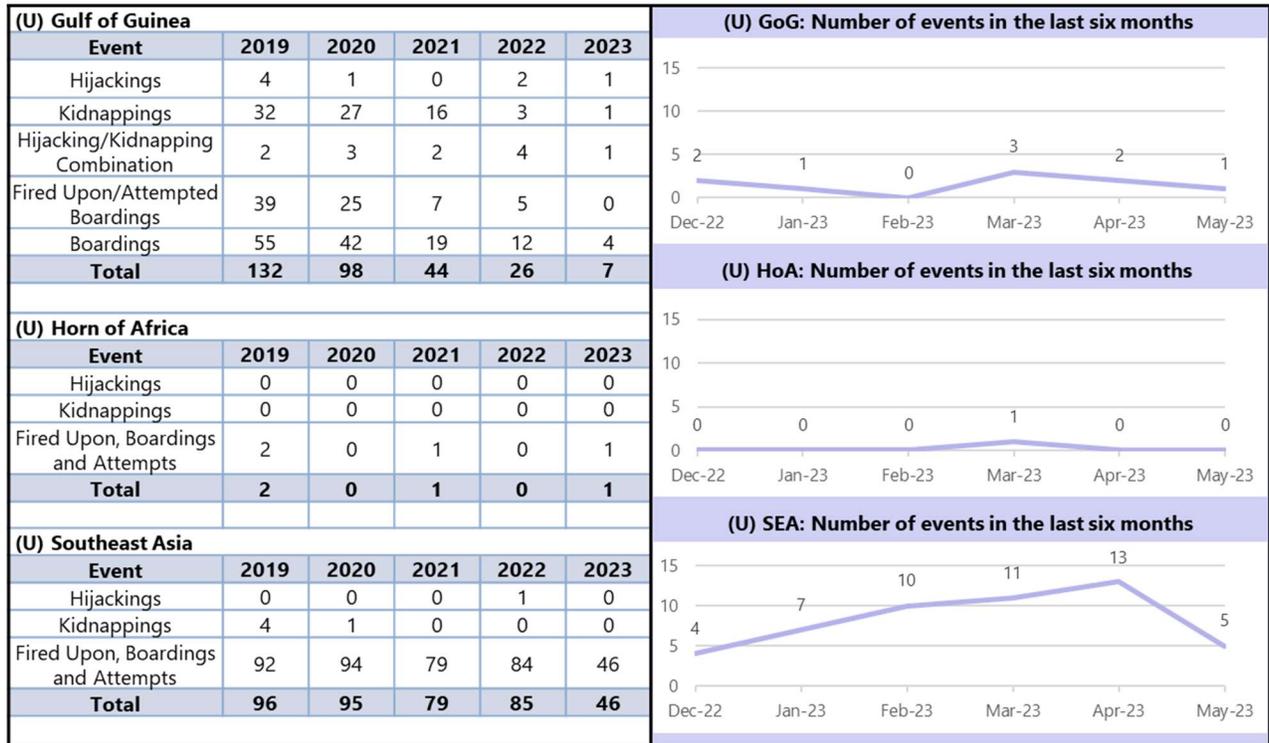
**J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

(U) Figure 2. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 May, up to eight robbers armed with knives boarded a berthed tanker 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)

**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
<a href="#">2022-005-Various – GPS Interference &amp; AIS Spoofing</a>	8 MAR 23	4 SEP 23
<a href="#">2023-004-Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations</a>	3 MAR 23	30 AUG 23
<a href="#">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</a>	23 FEB 23	22 AUG 23
<a href="#">2023-002-Worldwide-Maritime Port Vulnerabilities – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence</a>	17 FEB 23	16 AUG 23
<a href="#">2023-001-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	3 JAN 23	2 JUL 23
<a href="#">2022-011-Global-Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System</a>	12 DEC 22	10 JUN 23

(U) **ICOD:** 24 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/>