

UNCLASSIFIED



(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 24 May – 21 June 2023**



21 June 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) GUINEA: On 22 June, four armed robbers boarded an anchored cargo ship, approximately 14 NM south of Conakry.

B. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 June, two perpetrators boarded an underway tanker in the Phillip Channel of the Singapore Strait.

C. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 June, four robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

D. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 June, robbers boarded an underway offshore supply vessel in the eastbound lane of the Malacca Strait TSS.

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:

1. (U) ECUADOR: On 10 June at 0215 UTC, robbers in speedboats came alongside the underway Germany-flagged container ship CALLAO EXPRESS approximately 17 NM off the coast and 53 NM west-southwest of Guayaquil, near position 02:54S – 080:33W. The robbers attempted to board using ladders. The alarm was raised, deck lights illuminated, crew mustered, and the master conducted evasive maneuvers. The master informed the Ecuadorian Coast Guard, which dispatched a patrol vessel to the location. When the perpetrators spotted the patrol vessel, they aborted their attempt to board and departed the area. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) PERU: On 3 June at 0340 local time, robbers boarded the anchored Hong Kong-flagged product tanker BOCHEM LONDON at Callao Anchorage near position 12:00S – 077:11W. The duty crew spotted the robbers near the forecastle store and raised the alarm. The perpetrators, seeing the alerted crew, escaped with stolen ship's stores. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

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) GUINEA: On 22 June at 0435 local time, four armed robbers boarded an anchored cargo ship approximately 14 NM south of Conakry, near position 09:13N – 013:50W. They used force to steal money from the ship's safe and escaped. All crew were reported safe. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 June, at an unspecified time and location, pirates attacked two passenger boats each carrying twelve persons while underway from Abonema to Kula in the Akuku-Toru Local Government Area, Rivers State. Most of the passengers jumped into the river to avoid being abducted, which allowed the pirates to escape with both passenger boats. One female passenger, who was initially reported to have been kidnapped, was later confirmed killed. A spokesperson for the state police confirmed the incident and stated that investigations were ongoing. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 May at approximately 1800 local time, an unknown number of perpetrators kidnapped 15 passengers from a local passenger boat transiting the area around the Cross and Calabar Rivers between Calabar and Oron. No ransom demand by the kidnappers was reported. (dailypost.ng)

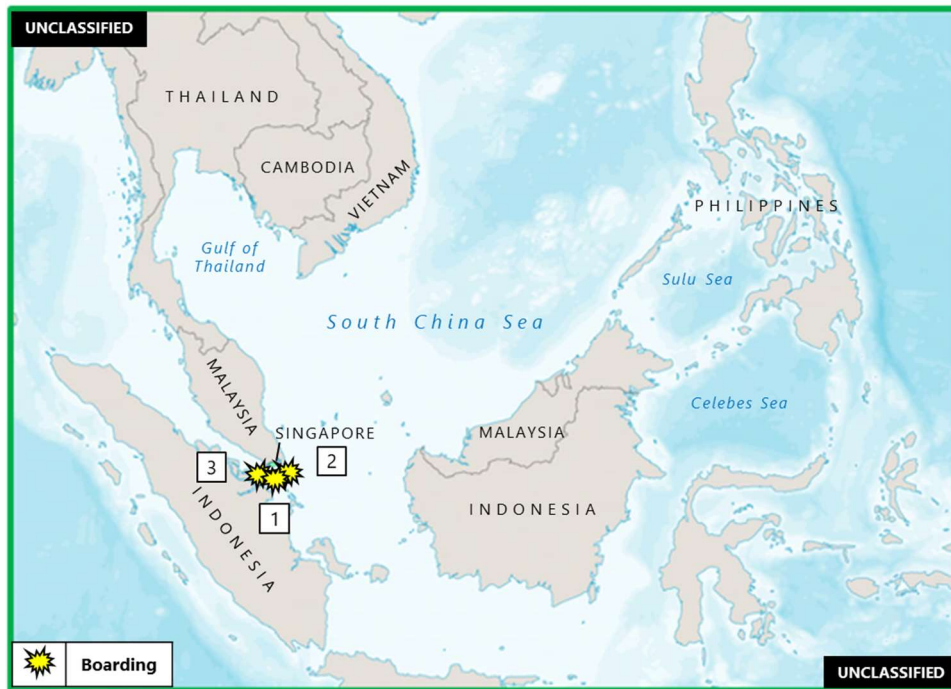
G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

1. (U) OMAN: On 4 June at 1235 UTC, three small craft with armed persons onboard approached a vessel underway in the Arabian Gulf approximately 14 NM north-northwest of Khasab Port, near position 26:26N – 056:11E. The vessel conducted evasive maneuvers. After 30 minutes, the craft departed the area. (UKMTO;

Clearwater Dynamics)

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) INDONESIA: On 22 June at 0305 local time, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded an underway tanker in the Phillip Channel of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:04N – 103:42E. The master reported no items stolen. All crew were safe and accounted for. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 June at 0445 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the underway Philippines-flagged bulk carrier VINCENT TRADER in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:16N – 104:12E. Duty crew sighted the four perpetrators in the engine room. The master sounded the alarm, mustered the crew, and had the crew conduct a security search. The master reported no further sighting of the perpetrators. One crewman was injured and engine spares were stolen. The ship continued its voyage to South Korea. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 June at 2350 local time, robbers boarded the underway Vietnam-flagged offshore supply vessel HAI DUONG 55 in the eastbound lane of the Malacca Strait TSS, near position 01:12N – 103:22E. After the vessel's closed-circuit television captured suspicious movement on the main deck, the master raised the alarm and mustered the crew. A search of the vessel revealed no further sightings of the perpetrators. The master confirmed

that items from a container and a coil of mooring rope had been stolen. The vessel reported all crew safe. Upon arrival in Singapore on 17 June, the master reported the incident to the local agent and the port operations control center. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 June at 0304 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier PANTAGRUEL in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:05N – 103:35E. The duty crew spotted the robbers in the engine room after which the master locked down the vessel. The master checked crew numbers and their safety. The crew conducted a search of the ship, which confirmed the perpetrators had escaped empty-handed. The ship reported all crew safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; ReCAAP)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 June at 0130 local time, one robber armed with a shovel-like weapon boarded the underway Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier ARIANA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:11N – 103:24E. The crew discovered the robber in the steering gear room. When spotted, the robber escaped. Nothing was reported stolen and all crew are safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to Brazil. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; ReCAAP)
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 June at 0135 local time, four robbers with knives boarded the underway Belgium-flagged bulk carrier CL CENTURY in the Phillip Channel of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:08N – 103:28E. The crew spotted the robbers in the steering gear room. After discovery, the robbers escaped empty-handed. All crew reported safe. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its passage to Mozambique. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; ReCAAP)
7. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 5 June at 2300 local time, robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored Liberia-flagged container ship MERKUR HORIZON at Manila Anchorage, near position 14:36N – 120:50E. The master confirmed that the perpetrators had boarded unnoticed and stolen a welding machine, two spare fire nozzles and a spanner. All crew members were safe and the ship did not require any assistance. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 June at 0400 local time, three perpetrators armed with knives boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier HOANH SON GALAXY while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:16N – 104:16E. The master reported the duty crew had discovered intruders in the engine room after which he sounded the alarm and mustered the crew. The perpetrators escaped in a small boat off the ship's stern. The master confirmed that nothing had been stolen and that crew members were safe. The vessel did not require any assistance and continued its voyage to China. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
9. (U) SINGAPORE: On 3 June at 0300 local time, robbers boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier ORANGE HARMONY while anchored in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:17N – 104:01E. The robbers boarded the vessel unnoticed as the crew conducted bunkering and stores replenishment operations. The crew detected the theft of engine spares after the ship's departure from the anchorage. During a search of the vessel, the crew noted footprints on the poop deck. The ship reported the incident to the Singapore Coast Guard. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 May at 2300 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the underway Singapore-flagged bulk carrier NORD ADRIATIC in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:04N – 103:42E. They restrained the chief engineer and stole his personal items. The chief engineer managed to free himself and alert the bridge. The crew mustered and searched the ship. The crew discovered that ship's stores had been stolen. The master confirmed the crew safe and the ship continued its voyage to Vietnam. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

11. (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)

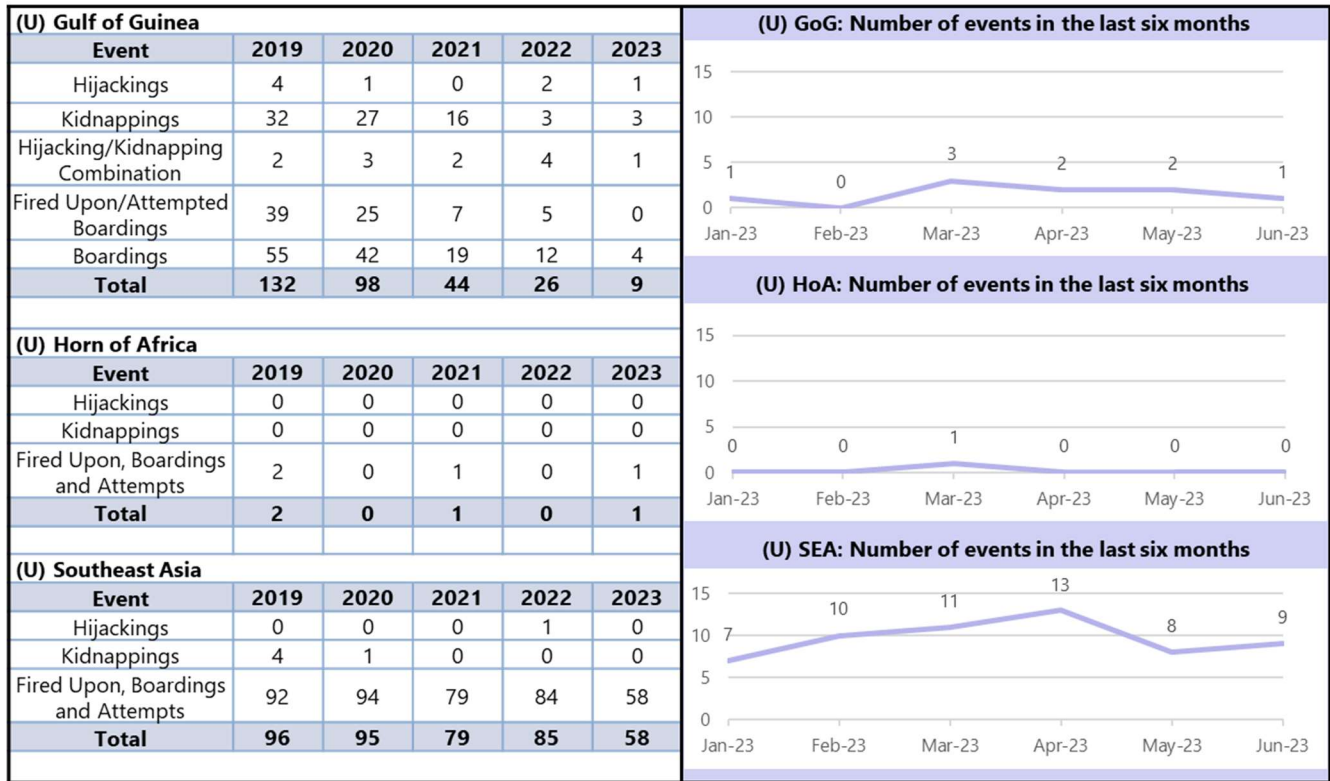
12. (U) MALAYSIA: On 26 May between 0300 and 0700 local time, an unknown number of robbers boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier CORINTHIAN PHOENIX underway in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:26N – 104:30E. Duty crew conducting routine rounds found that the storeroom had been broken into and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

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
2023-007-Global – Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	6 JUN 23	3 DEC 23
2023-006-Worldwide – U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Industry Cybersecurity Resource Center Website	24 APR 23	23 OCT 23
2023-005-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

(U) **ICOD:** 21 June 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/>