



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 7 June – 5 July 2023**



5 July 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.

#### **A. (U) U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-008-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom**

Issued on 30 June 2023. This revised advisory replaces U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-001. Issue: Piracy, Armed Robbery, and Kidnapping for Ransom (KFR) pose significant threats to U.S. flagged vessels transiting or operating in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) as well as U.S. mariners onboard a vessel or transiting to or from a vessel in the GoG. Guidance: Mariners transiting this area should visit the Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade-Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG) website at <https://gog-mdat.org/home> and the NATO Shipping Centre website at <https://shipping.nato.int/nsc/operations/global-maritime-risk/west-africa-gulf-of-guinea> for additional information on threats and specific recommendations for vessels. U.S. flagged vessels anchoring, transiting, or operating in this region must comply with their approved Vessel Security Plans. Additionally, the Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security Off the Coast of West Africa including the Gulf of Guinea (available under the Geography – Gulf of Guinea pull-down menu at <https://www.maritimeworldsecurity.org/>) provides additional guidance and resources for operating in this area. For any maritime industry questions about this advisory, contact [GMCC@uscg.mil](mailto:GMCC@uscg.mil). This Advisory will automatically expire on 29 December 2023.

**3. (U) Summary:**

- A. (U) GUINEA:** On 5 July, six perpetrators attempted to board a tanker anchored off Conakry.
- B. (U) INDONESIA:** On 4 July, four robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug underway in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).
- C. (U) INDONESIA:** On 3 July, one perpetrator boarded a tanker anchored at Tanjung Priok Anchorage off Jakarta.
- D. (U) MALAYSIA:** On 1 July, five robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug underway in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS.
- E. (U) CAMEROON:** On 30 June, perpetrators kidnapped five crewmembers from a cargo vessel anchored at Douala Anchorage.
- F. (U) CAMEROON:** On 30 June, armed perpetrators onboard several speedboats approached and fired upon two fishing vessels underway off Douala.
- G. (U) (LATE REPORTING) VIETNAM:** On 19 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Phu My Anchorage.

**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) PERU: On 21 June at 0001 local time, robbers boarded the anchored Liberia-flagged bulk carrier CAIPIRINHA at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:02S – 077:11W. Robbers stole ship's stores before escaping unnoticed. The duty crew discovered the theft during routine rounds and the ship reported the incident to the local agent. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)
2. (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)

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 5 July at 0200 local time, six perpetrators attempted to board a tanker anchored 14 NM south of Conakry, near position 09:17N – 013:45W. Duty crew spotted the perpetrators trying to board the tanker from a small boat using a ladder. Duty crew directed a light at the individuals attempting to board, causing them to flee empty-handed. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

2. (U) CAMEROON: On 30 June at 2345 local time, perpetrators kidnapped five crew members from the anchored Panama-flagged general cargo ship OYA 1 near buoy 27 at Douala Anchorage, near position 04:00N – 009:38E. The ship raised the alarm and notified the Cameroon Navy and Bataillon Intervention Rapide of the incident. A patrol boat came to assist and the remaining crew are reported to be safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive; MDAT-GoG; IMB)

3. (U) CAMEROON: On 30 June at 2240 local time, armed individuals fired upon two China-flagged fishing vessels, HAI LU FENG 13 and HAI LU FENG 14, while underway in the Wouri River near buoy 14 off Douala, near position 03:56N – 009:35E. The perpetrators approached the two fishing vessels onboard several speedboats, and

exchanged gunfire with members of the Cameroonian military aboard the fishing vessels. One of the perpetrators was likely killed during the exchange. The fishing vessels and crew were reported safe and sailed to Douala following the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive; IMB)

4. (U) GHANA: On 28 June at 0055 local time, three robbers boarded an anchored cargo ship at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:53N – 001:38W. The robbers were seen lowering paint buckets down the side of the vessel into a boat. The alarm was raised, crew mustered, and port control was notified. Following a search of the ship it was discovered that ship's stores had been stolen, including twelve drums of paint. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 June at 1800 local time, perpetrators kidnapped eight oil workers off a passenger boat transiting through Lagos Lagoon toward Tin Can Island, near position 06:25N – 003:21E. The perpetrators forced the oil workers onto their vessel and fled the area. The passenger boat was later found at a jetty in the northeast part of the Lagos Lagoon. Police confirmed the incident and have launched a manhunt for the suspected kidnappers. **UPDATE: The eight kidnapped oil workers were released on the evening of 2 July.** (Clearwater Dynamics)

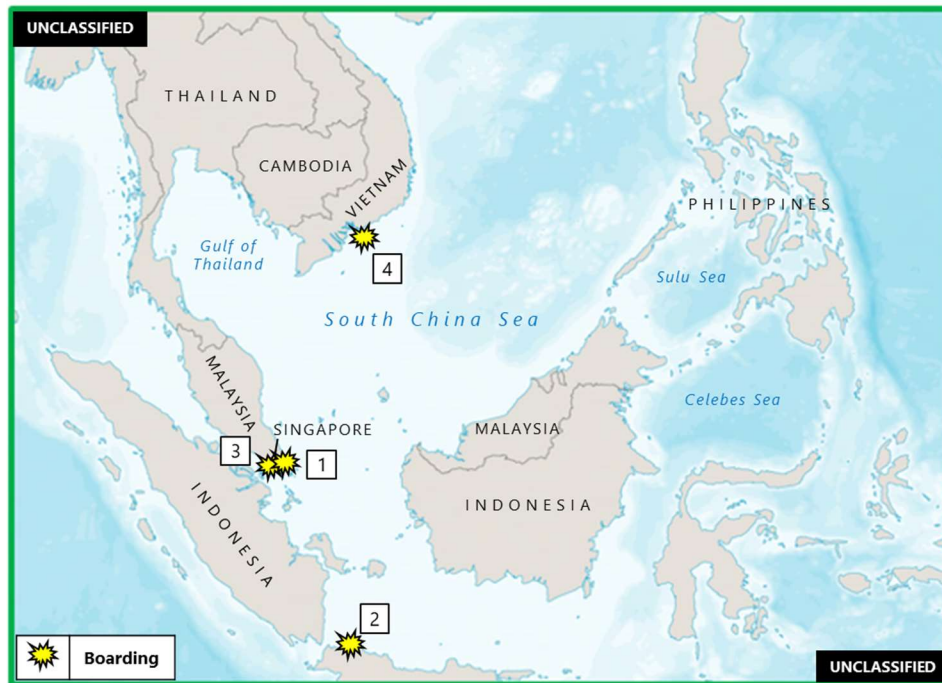
6. (U) GUINEA: On 22 June at 0435 local time, four armed robbers boarded an anchored cargo ship approximately 14 NM south of Conakry, near position 09:13N – 013:50W. They used force to steal money from the ship's safe and escaped. All crew were reported safe. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

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

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

1. (U) YEMEN: On 27 June at 0921 local time, two skiffs with up to six persons armed with guns onboard each skiff approached to within 50 meters on the port side of an underway tanker approximately 20 NM west of Al Hudaydah, near position 14:46N – 042:34E. No shots were fired. The vessel increased speed and commenced evasive maneuvers, resulting in the skiffs departing the area. The tanker and crew are safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

## I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 July at 0900 local time, four robbers boarded a barge under tow by a Malaysia-flagged tug in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:16N – 104:08E. The master reported seeing the robbers transferring scrap metal from the barge onto a sampan. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 July at 0345 local time, duty crew on routine rounds discovered an unauthorized person on the aft deck of a tanker anchored at Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta, near position 06:01S – 106:54E. After the raising of the alarm, the crew mustered and the perpetrator escaped with his accomplices in a waiting boat. A subsequent search of the vessel found that nothing had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 1 July at 2050 local time, five robbers boarded a barge under tow by a tug in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:13N – 103:30E. Once on the barge, the perpetrators transferred scrap metal from the barge onto two sampans. The Malaysian Marine Police from Johor subsequently detained the five perpetrators and two sampans and seized an estimated 100 tons of stolen scrap metal. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) (LATE REPORTING) VIETNAM: On 19 May 2023, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the Malta-flagged bulk carrier MV LEVANTE while anchored at Phu My Anchorage, near position 10:14N – 107:02E. The master reported that one small boat was sighted alongside the ship. While onboard, the robbers stole approximately 100 liters of paint. The crew members were safe following the incident. (ReCAAP)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 June at 0300 local time, three perpetrators armed with steel bars boarded an anchored tanker at Dumai Inner Anchorage, near position 01:42N – 101:28E. Duty crew noticed the perpetrators near the engine room. The perpetrators threatened to attack a crewman, but he escaped. The bridge raised the alarm and the crew mustered. The perpetrators, aware of the crew's alertness, escaped. The crew conducted a search and reported nothing missing. The local agent notified authorities of the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 June at 2215 local time, one perpetrator boarded the underway Iran-flagged bulk carrier DARYABAR in the Phillip Channel of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:03N – 103:35E. The master reported all crew safe and accounted for, and that no items had been stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to China. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 June at 0030 local time, four robbers boarded the underway Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier BONNY ISLAND in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:11E. The duty crew had discovered the robbers in the engine room and the master confirmed that all perpetrators had departed the vessel. No injuries occurred to the crew, and the vessel did not require assistance. The master reported engine spare parts stolen. The ship continued its voyage to South Africa. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 22 June at 0305 local time, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the underway Malta-flagged tanker SEAVIGOUR 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; vesseltracker.com; IMB; ReCAAP)
9. (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 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)
10. (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)
11. (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 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)



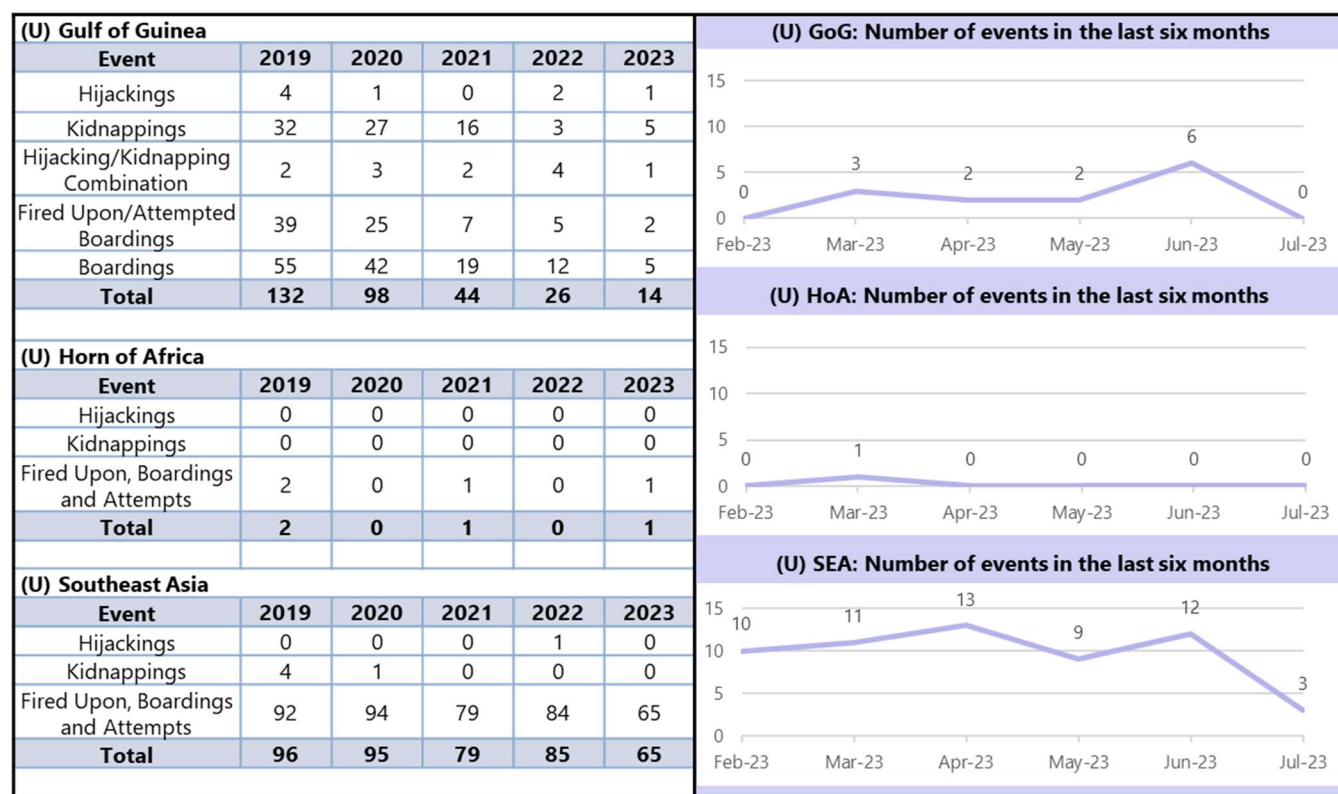
12. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 June at 0130 local time, one robber armed with a shovel-like weapon boarded the underway Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier ARIANA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:11N – 103:24E. The crew discovered the robber in the steering gear room. When 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)

13. (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)

J. (U) **INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:** No current incidents to report.

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="#">2023-008-Gulf of Guinea-Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom</a>	30 JUN 23	29 DEC 23
<a href="#">2023-007-Global – Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System</a>	6 JUN 23	3 DEC 23
<a href="#">2023-006-Worldwide – U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Industry Cybersecurity Resource Center Website</a>	24 APR 23	23 OCT 23
<a href="#">2023-005-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</a>	23 FEB 23	22 AUG 23



<a href="#">Strait, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threat to Commercial Vessels</a>		
<a href="#">2023-002-Worldwide – Maritime Port Vulnerabilities – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence</a>	17 FEB 23	16 AUG 23

(U) **ICOD:** 5 July 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/>