



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 26 July – 23 August 2023**



23 August 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 2023-009-Woldwide-Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, and Cyber Influence**

Issued on 23 August 2023. This advisory seeks to alert maritime stakeholders of potential vulnerabilities to maritime port equipment, networks, operating systems, software, and infrastructure. Foreign companies manufacture, install, and maintain port equipment that poses vulnerabilities to global maritime infrastructure information technology and operational technology systems. This advisory references U.S. Government documents published over the past few years, illuminating the risks associated with integrating and utilizing the People's Republic of China's (PRC's) state-supported National Public Information Platform for Transportation and Logistics (LOGINK), Nuctech scanners, and automated port cranes worldwide. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/>. This advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-002 and will automatically expire on 19 February 2024.

**3. (U) Summary:**

**A. (U) INDONESIA:** On 8 August, 10 robbers armed with knives and steel bars boarded a bulk carrier underway off Tanjung Balai Karimum in the Singapore Strait.

**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:**

1. (U) GHANA: On 7 August at 0320 local time, five perpetrators onboard a canoe attempted to board a supply vessel anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:50N – 001:43W. The perpetrators abandoned the boarding attempt and fled after the ship's alarm was raised. The same vessel was the target of an attempted boarding on 5 August. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 August, an unknown number of perpetrators kidnapped two crew members from a fishing vessel operating in the vicinity of the Opobo River, near position 04:27N – 007:35E. UPDATE: On 16 August, both crew members were released. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GHANA: On 5 August at 2352 local time, an unknown number of perpetrators onboard a canoe attempted to board a supply vessel anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:50N – 001:43W. Crew spotted the canoe as it came alongside the starboard side of the vessel. The perpetrators fled after the ship's alarm was raised. (Clearwater Dynamics)

**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 8 August at 2036 local time, 10 robbers armed with knives and steel bars boarded a bulk carrier underway off Tanjung Balai Karimum in the Singapore Strait, near position 01:02N – 103:30E. The robbers entered the engine control room, where they took the third engineer hostage and tied him up. The robbers subsequently escaped with stolen engine spares. Following the activation of the dead man alarm, the chief engineer found the third engineer tied up in the engine room and informed the master. The master raised the general alarm and reported the incident to the Singapore vessel traffic service. Singapore Coast Guard boarded the vessel to investigate the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 11 August at 0002 local time, eight perpetrators armed with guns boarded the Malta-flagged container ship CNC PLUTO anchored at Manila Anchorage, near position 14:35N – 120:50E. They took a duty crewman hostage, tied him up, and stole his cell phone. The bridge sounded the alarm and the crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the perpetrators fled the ship. The ship reported the incident to local authorities and the Philippine Coast Guard arrived and boarded the ship to investigate. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 9 August at 0335 local time, three unarmed robbers boarded the underway Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier SOPHOCLES GRAECIA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:04N – 103:42E. Crew discovered the perpetrators in the engine room. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search of the ship found no further sign of the robbers onboard. The master reported that all crew were safe and that main engine spare parts were missing. Crew conducting a subsequent security check of

the vessel found a plastic molded replica toy gun. The ship reported the incident to the local authorities, Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded and searched the ship after it arrived in port. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 August at 2230 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier DORIC WARRIOR in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:02N – 103:39E. Crew spotted the perpetrators on the port quarter. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search of the ship revealed no further sign of the robbers. Main engine spare parts were reported missing. No crew members were injured during the incident. The ship reported the incident to local authorities; Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded and searched the ship after it arrived in port. (ReCAAP)

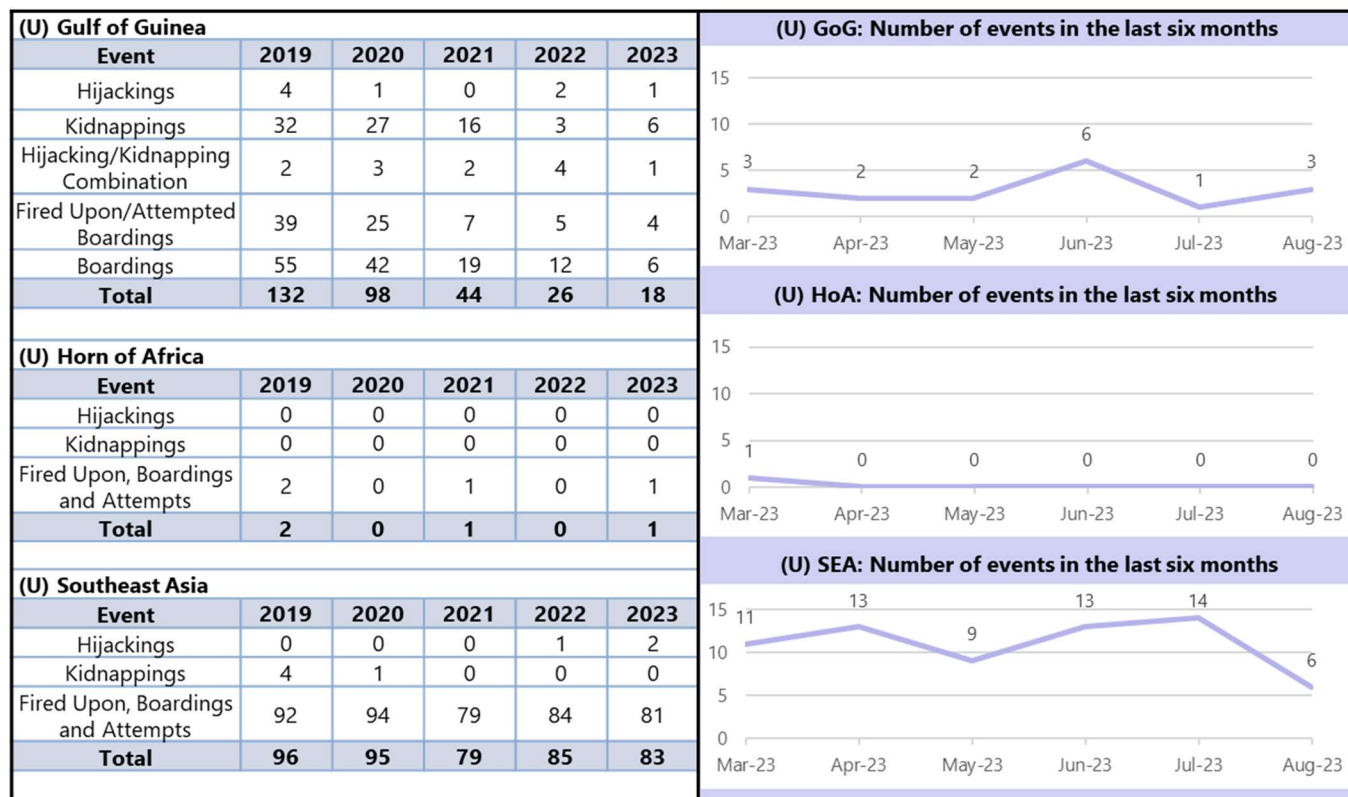
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 August at 2150 local time, four unarmed robbers boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier OSAKA STAR in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:02N – 103:38E. Crew discovered the perpetrators in the engine room, after which the alarm was raised and crew mustered. During a search of the ship, there was no further sighting of the robbers and main engine spare parts were discovered missing. All crew were reported safe following the incident. The ship reported the incident to local authorities; Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded and searched the ship after it arrived in port. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 August at 0058 local time, one unarmed robber boarded the underway Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier JAL KAMAL in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:16E. Crew discovered the perpetrator in the engine room. Upon being sighted, the robber fled the vessel. Following the incident, the master reported that all crew members were safe and that some main engine, generator, and fuel injection spares were missing. The ship continued its voyage to its next port of call in China. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

**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="#">2023-009-Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, And Cyber Influence</a>	23 AUG 23	19 FEB 24
<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

(U) **ICOD:** 23 August 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/>