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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 23 August – 20 September 2023**



20 September 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 past 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) (LATE REPORTING) INDONESIA: On 7 September, six robbers boarded a berthed barge at Cilacap Port.

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.

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

1. (U) PERU: On 2 September at 0220 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored Denmark-flagged tanker TORM AMALIE at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:12W. They took one duty crewman hostage and tied him up. The bridge raised the alarm, resulting in the robbers escaping with ship's properties and stores. After the ship reported the incident to port control, the Peruvian Coast Guard responded and boarded the vessel to investigate. (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:

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 September at 0035 local time, as many as five robbers armed with knives and steel bars boarded the berthed Liberia-flagged container ship MSC WAVE F in Lagos Port, near position 06:25N – 003:21E. The robbers escaped with a high pressure machine hose. The ship reported all crew and vessel safe to the port authorities. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 4 September at 0312 local time, two robbers in a canoe boarded the anchored Denmark-flagged offshore supply vessel MAERSK LOGGER at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:18E. The duty crew on routine rounds discovered the robbers and raised the alarm, resulting in the robbers escaping with ship's properties. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

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

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

1. (U) YEMEN: On 25 August, an entity impersonating the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM) was directing merchant vessels in the vicinity of Aden Anchorage, near position 12:48N – 045:15E, to divert to Hodeidah Port in the southern Red Sea. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ERITREA: On 27 August at 1530 local time, one skiff with six people onboard approached a cargo vessel underway in the southern Red Sea, approximately 32 NM northwest of the Bab el Mandeb Strait, near position 13:05N – 043:05E. The skiff, traveling at approximately 25 knots, approached to within 0.4 NM of the cargo vessel. After the armed security team onboard displayed their weapons, the skiff changed course and headed away from the vessel. The skiff was reported to be 8-12 meters long and 1-meter wide with a black/grey hull. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



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

1. (U) (LATE REPORTING) INDONESIA: On 7 September (time not specified), six robbers boarded a berthed barge at Cilacap Port on the island of Java, near position 07:44S – 108:59E. Indonesian authorities apprehended one of the perpetrators and recovered two tons of coal stolen from the barge. (Clearwater Dynamics)

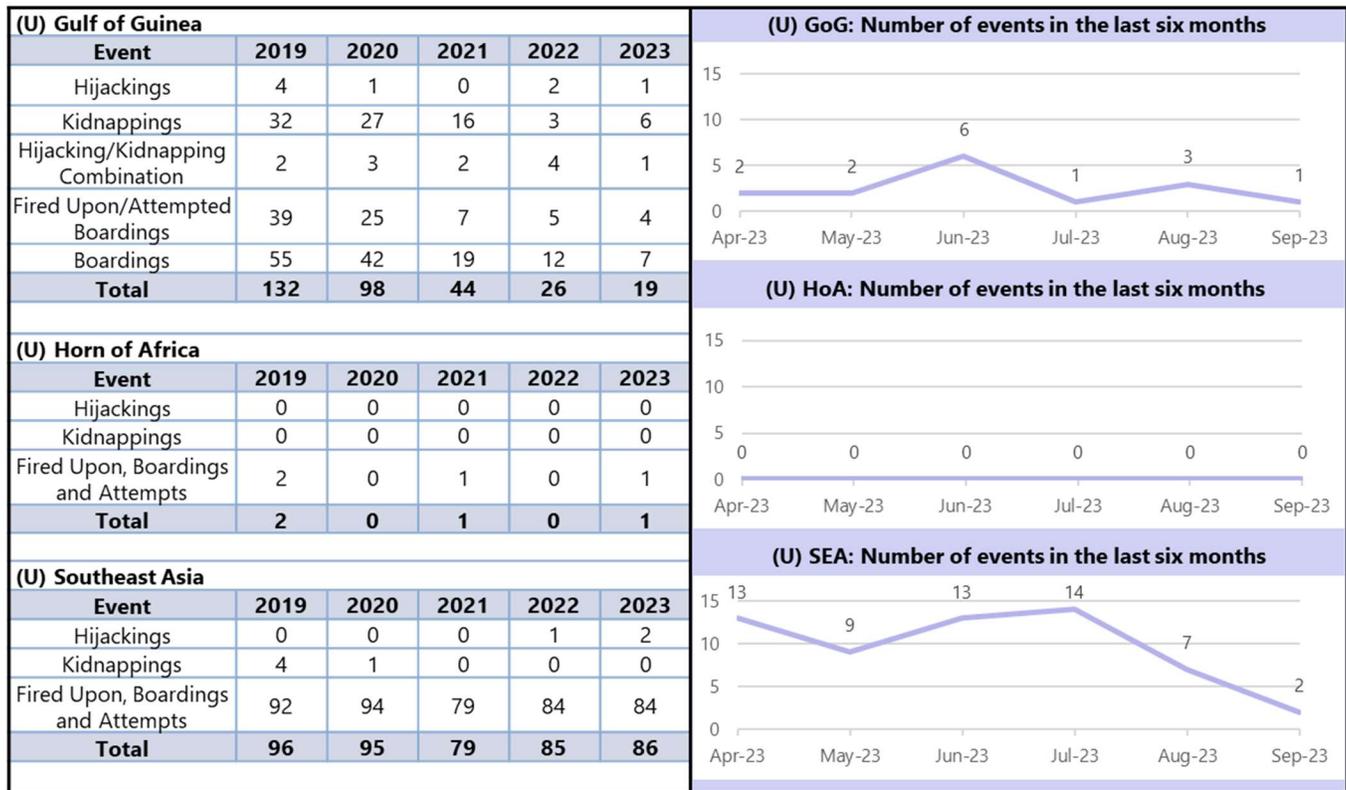
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 September at 0135 local time, perpetrators boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier YANGZE 8 in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:03N – 103:41E. The duty crew spotted four persons, one armed with a gun-like object, in the engine room. The master requested assistance from local authorities as some crew members were unaccounted for, having locked themselves in their cabins. A subsequent search confirmed that all crew members were onboard and that no perpetrators remained on the vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 August at 1600 local time, three robbers boarded the anchored U.S.-flagged bulk carrier SLNC SEVERN at the Belawan Port area along the Malacca Strait, near position 03:47N – 098:42E. The duty crew observed them on the forecandle. The bridge raised the alarm and the crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The ship reported the incident to local authorities through the local agent. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; 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 |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| 2023-011-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threats to Commercial Vessels | 6 SEP 23 | 4 MAR 24 |
| 2023-010-Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations | 1 SEP 23 | 28 FEB 24 |
| 2023-009-Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, And Cyber Influence | 23 AUG 23 | 19 FEB 24 |
| 2023-008-Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom | 30 JUN 23 | 29 DEC 23 |
| 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 |

(U) **ICOD:** 20 September 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/>