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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 20 September – 18 October 2023**



18 October 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) INDONESIA: On 16 October, five armed robbers boarded an underway tanker in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 October, four unarmed robbers boarded an underway tanker in the eastbound lane of the Singapore 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.

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

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

1. (U) PERU: On 29 September at 0150 local time, between 15 and 18 robbers boarded the anchored Libya-flagged product tanker MAETIGA at Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:13W. The robbers tied up the duty crew and watchmen while they were conducting their routine rounds and held them at knifepoint before escaping with stolen ship's stores. The ship reported the incident to the port authorities; the Peru Coast Guard boarded to investigate the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) PERU: On 23 September at 0330 local time, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker MUREX at Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:13W. The perpetrators boarded the vessel from a small boat with six persons onboard and gained access to the tanker by crawling in between the anchor chain and the hawsepipe cover, which they later removed. The perpetrators threw the securing bar from the hawsepipe cover at approaching duty crew, who raised the alarm, resulting in the perpetrators fleeing the vessel and escaping in the waiting boat. During a search of the vessel, the crew reported nothing had been stolen. The ship made several attempts to call authorities, but no response was received. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:

1. (U) GERMANY: On the night of 6–7 October, an unknown number of robbers boarded the moored Switzerland-flagged passenger ship OLYMPIA on the Moselle River close to its confluence with the Rhine River in the city of Koblenz, near position 50:21N – 007:35E, and took the ship's 50-kg copper bell, secured with a lock, from the upper deck. Further damage occurred when the perpetrators broke into the ship's interior and stole other ship's properties. The Koblenz water police are investigating the incident. (vesseltracker.com)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA: No current incidents to report.

1. (U) EGYPT: On 29 September at 1945 local time, the chief officer onboard the Portugal-flagged bulk carrier NORDSUN berthed at Port Said, near position 31:10N – 032:20E, noticed two stevedores exiting from the helicopter storeroom. When the chief officer called out for the stevedores to stop, they ran away. One stevedore was apprehended with the assistance of a port safety officer. An investigation revealed that ship's stores and properties had been stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:

1. (U) GHANA: On 3 October at 0024 local time, four perpetrators in a local canoe approached the anchored Singapore-flagged container ship MAERSK VIGO at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:53N – 001:40W. After coming alongside the vessel, two of the perpetrators boarded the container ship and were spotted by the duty crew who raised the alarm. With the ship's crew alerted, the two robbers escaped with ship's properties. The

container ship notified local port authorities, and a security vessel moved to the ship's location. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; vesseltracker.com)

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

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

1. (U) YEMEN: On 5 October at 1200 local time, as many as 10 small craft approached an underway merchant vessel to within 50 to 100 meters in the Gulf of Aden, approximately 59 NM southeast of Aden, near position 11:57N – 045:25E. The vessel's crew observed ladders onboard two of the boats. The ship raised the alarm and notified authorities. The small craft continued to follow for 15 minutes, then turned away. Crew and vessel were reported safe. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 October, five robbers armed with knives and machetes boarded the underway Panama-flagged tanker PS FALCON in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:04N – 103:42E. The duty crew spotted the robbers in the engine room. The perpetrators tied up five crew members, and hit one of the restrained crew members on the head. The master raised the alarm, and mustered the crew. Following the incident, the master reported that no medical assistance was required, and that ship's properties had been stolen. The vessel continued its passage to Hong Kong. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 October, four unarmed robbers boarded the underway Marshall Islands-flagged VLCC (very large crude carrier) TRF HORTEN in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:38E. The duty crew sighted the robbers at the entrance of the engine room. The master raised the alarm, and mustered the crew to conduct a search of the ship. Following the search, the ship reported all crew safe and accounted for, and that spare engine parts had been stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. Authorities boarded the vessel to investigate and confirmed no perpetrators onboard. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

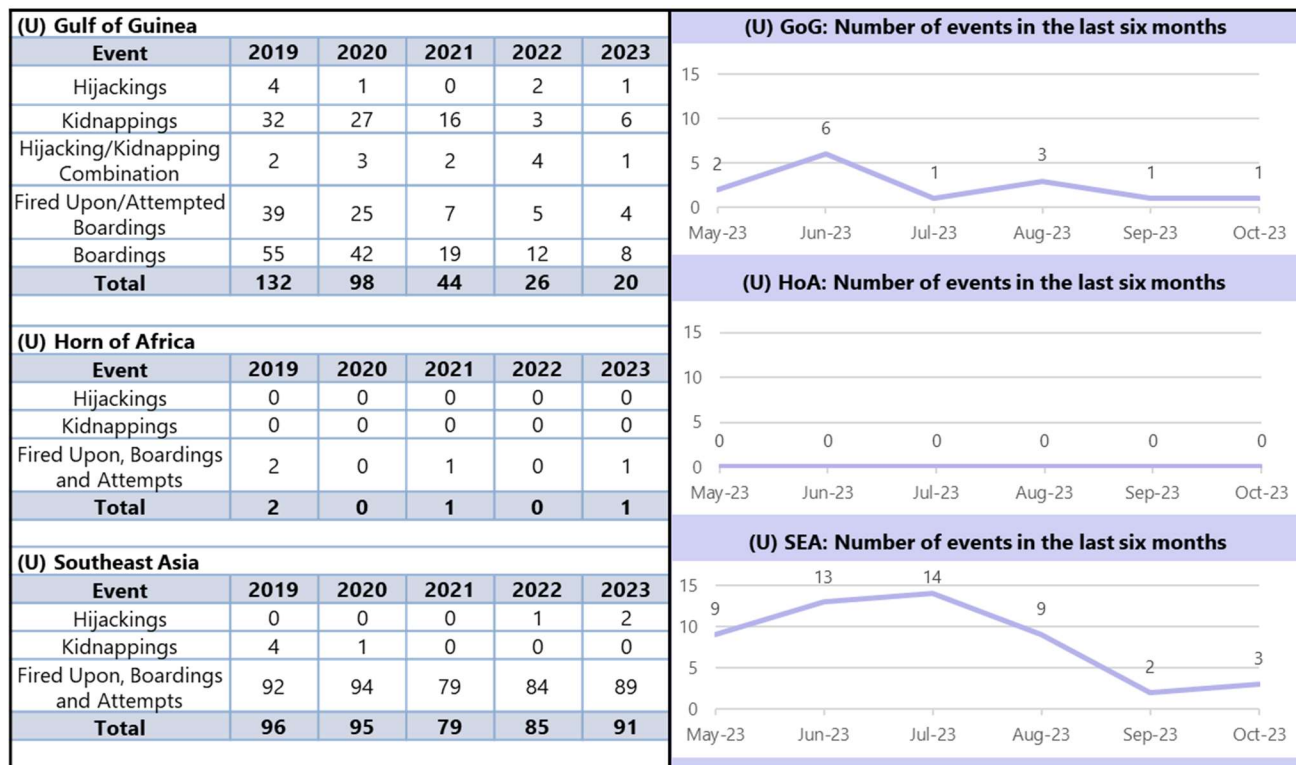
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 October at 0001 local time, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the underway Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier DIMITRIS A in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:40E. The duty crew sighted the perpetrators in the engine room. The ship's master raised the alarm and the crew conducted a search. Following the search, the ship reported that all crew were accounted for and nothing was stolen. The vessel did not require assistance and continued its voyage to Singapore. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com; ReCAAP)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) INDIA: On 20 September at 2300 local time, a duty crew member heard engine noise from the port side aft of the Singapore-flagged product tanker MAERSK BELFAST anchored at Kakinada Anchorage, near position 17:02N – 082:26E. While investigating, the crew member observed a boat moving away from the tanker, but was unable to determine the number of perpetrators onboard the boat. Crew members later conducted a search of the tanker and discovered two mooring lines were missing. The ship reported the incident to local authorities through the local agent. All crew were reported safe following the incident. (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
2023-013-Various – GPS Interference & AIS Spoofing	2 OCT 23	30 MAR 24
2023-012-Global – New U.S. Maritime Alert and Advisory Subscription Process	22 SEP 23	24 MAR 24
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:** 18 October 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/>