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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **21 May – 17 June 2020**



18 June 2020

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message 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 and Advisories:**

(U) **U.S. Maritime Advisory 2020-009-Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and Indian Ocean-Violence Due to Regional Conflict and Piracy.** This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2019-014. Issues: Regional conflict and piracy threats continue to pose risks to commercial vessels operating in the above listed geographic areas. Conflict in Yemen continues to pose potential risk to U.S. flagged commercial vessels transiting the southern Red Sea, Bab al Mandeb Strait, and Gulf of Aden. Threats may come from a variety of different sources including, but not limited to, missiles, rockets, projectiles, mines, small arms, unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned surface vessels, or waterborne improvised explosive devices. These threat vectors continue to pose a direct or collateral risk to U.S. flagged commercial vessels operating in the region. Additionally, piracy poses a threat in the Gulf of Aden, Western Arabian Sea, and Western Indian Ocean. For additional information see: <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/office-security/msci-portal/maritime-security-communications-industry-msci-web-portal>.

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 17 June, robbers boarded an anchored tanker off Merak Anchorage Area.
- B. (U) **SAO TOME:** On 16 June, two skiffs pursued the Cape Verde-flagged tug ARTIKE approximately 27 NM southeast of Sao Tome.
- C. (U) **VIETNAM:** On 14 June, two Chinese ships attacked a Vietnamese fishing boat near the Paracel Islands.

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D. (U) CAMEROON: On 12 June, six men in a speedboat attacked a Cameroon Patrol Boat in the Bakassi Creeks.

E. (U) BRAZIL: On 10 June, two robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage.

4. (U) Details: 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 last 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event 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:**

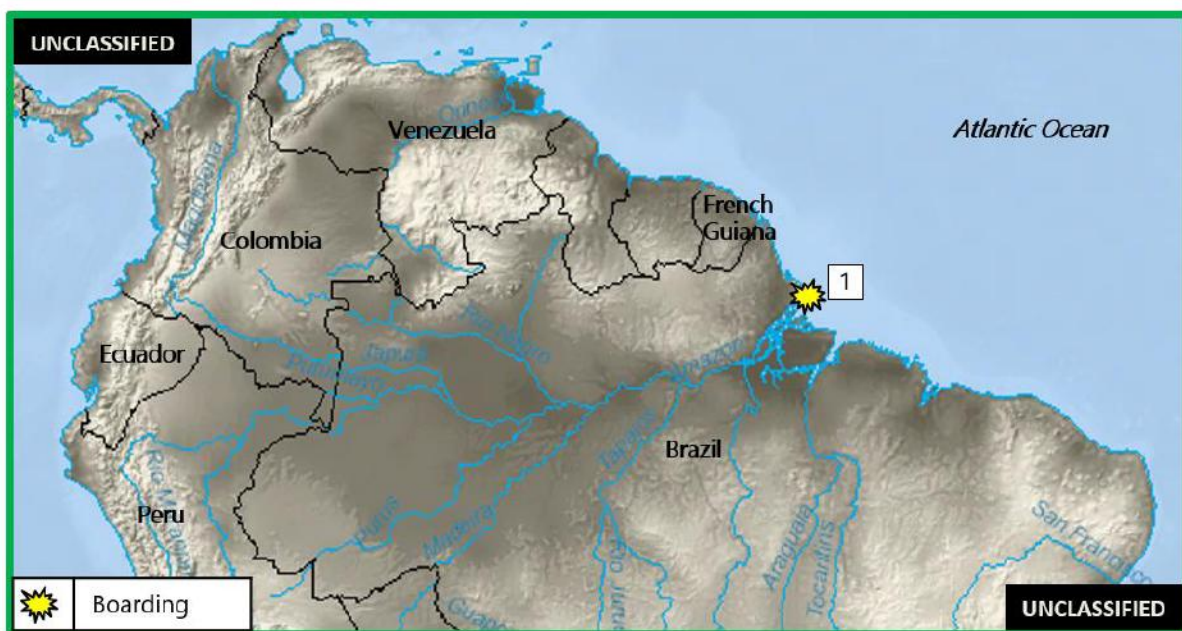


Figure 1. South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 10 June at 0030LT, a duty crew member spotted two robbers armed with a knife and pipe on the aft deck of an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage at 00:20N - 050:58W. When the alarm was raised, the robbers fled with some ship's property. The crew reported the incident to both the Port Authority and local agent. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) HAITI: On 3 June, five robbers armed with a machete and knives boarded an anchored tanker in the Port au Prince Anchorage area near position 18:35N - 072:33W. When a crew member detected the robbers, he raised the alarm. The robbers subsequently fled with ship's properties. This incident was reported to the port control. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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:



Figure 2. Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SAO TOME: On 16 June, individuals in two skiffs pursued the Cape Verde-flagged tug ARTIKE approximately 27 NM southeast of Sao Tome at 00:13S - 007:16E. No further information exists at this time. (Dryad Global)
2. (U) CAMEROON: On 12 June at 2330LT, six men in a speedboat attacked a Cameroon Patrol Boat during her patrol in the Bakassi Creeks near 04:28N - 008:34E. The Patrol Boat returned fire which resulted in one man in the speedboat being killed. The other five men jumped overboard. The Cameroon officials seized the speedboat which had two outboard engines, a number of weapons with ammunition, mobile phones, flashlights, and cash. (Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 9 June at 2000LT, individuals in a speedboat approached the Liberia-flagged container ship RIO CHARLESTON approximately 110 NM southwest of Brass, Nigeria at 03:14N - 004:43E. As the speedboat approached from the port quarter, the crew carried out evasive maneuvers, increased speed, and activated fire hoses. The crew's actions along with a heavy sea state likely caused the speedboat to depart the area. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.fleetmon.com, MDAT-GoG)
4. (U) GUINEA: On 9 June at 0015LT, robbers armed with knives and guns boarded a tanker at the Conakry Anchorage at 09:21N - 013:47W. The robbers assaulted five crew members and stole belongings from the crew before departing. (Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) GABON/EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 3 May, 13 pirates in a three-engine skiff boarded the Senegal-flagged fishing trawlers AMERGER II and AMERGER VII northwest of Libreville, Gabon at 00:30N - 009:06E and 00:55N - 009:08E. The pirates kidnapped six fishermen, three from each trawler. Three of the hostages are reportedly Indonesian, two are Senegalese, and one is South Korean. (Dryad Global, Clearwater Dynamics) UPDATE: On 6 June, pirates released the six hostages after receiving a ransom. The hostages are reportedly in good health. (Clearwater Dynamics; AFP, MAST Intelligence)
6. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June at 1600LT, armed men in a speedboat hijacked a passenger boat transiting from Port Harcourt to Ke Clan, Degema near the Namasibi axis of the New Calabar River at 04:28N - 006:57E. During the hijacking, the pirates

ordered the passengers to jump into the river. The 13 passengers who could swim jumped into the river. The pirates subsequently hijacked the passenger boat with the two remaining female passengers and an infant still onboard. As of 8 June, media reported the whereabouts of the women and infant remained unknown. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.thenationonline.ng.net, MAST Intelligence, Daily Post)

7. (U) REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 29 May at 2250LT, a speedboat with 10 armed and masked men approached an offshore platform approximately 50 NM northwest of Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo at 04:25S - 011:02E. The crew informed management and retreated to the engine room. A rescue team responded and determined the speedboat had departed the area prior to its arrival. (Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: On 25 May at 0545LT, a robber boarded the anchored Hong Kong-flagged container ship MAERSK REGENSBURG at Banana Anchorage at 06:01S - 012:20E. The duty crewmen raised the alarm when the robber was spotted removing a lashing from the deck. After being detected, the robber fled in a small boat, powered by an outboard motor. The crew subsequently searched the vessel and found nothing missing. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global)

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 23 May, 12 armed men in two speedboats ambushed a passenger vessel transiting from Bakana to Degema, River State in the Niger Delta at 04:44N - 006:54E. Four of the passengers were police officers. When the armed men opened fire on the vessel, the policemen initially returned fire. In the end, the boat driver and three of the policemen jumped into the water and swam to safety. The armed men subsequently attacked the remaining policeman and threw him into the water before departing the area with two civilian hostages. (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:

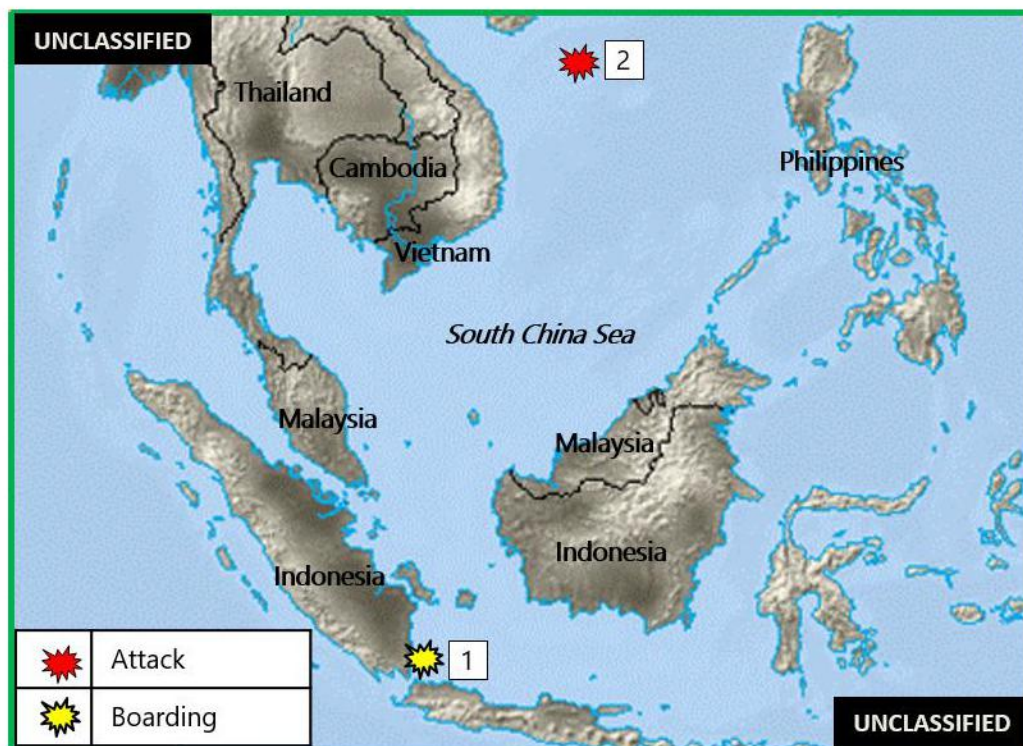


Figure 3. Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 June at approximately 0200LT, robbers boarded an anchored tanker off Merak Anchorage Area at 05:54S - 105:59E. The robbers managed to enter the engine room undetected and steal generator spares before departing. (Clearwater Dynamics, IFC)

2. (U) VIETNAM: On 14 June, the Vietnamese foreign ministry issued a statement that two Chinese ships attacked a Vietnamese fishing boat near the Paracel Islands. According to the ministry, a Chinese ship with the hull number 4006 pursued and collided with the Vietnamese fishing boat QNg 96416 TS approximately 8 NM off Lincoln Island, a Chinese-occupied land feature in the Paracels. Sixteen fishermen abandoned ship, but the fishing boat did not sink. The Chinese vessel returned, picked up the crew, and helped remove water from the fishing boat. Despite the ordeal, the Vietnamese fishing boat managed to return safely to Sa Ky, a fishing port outside of Quang Ngai. (Maritime Executive)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 June at 1900LT, two robbers in a small boat approached and boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Muara Berau Anchorage at 00:15S - 117:36E. The robbers used ropes with hooks to board the vessel. Once onboard, they managed to gain access to the forecastle store before being detected by the crew. The robbers fled empty-handed. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 May at 0420LT, a duty crew member on routine rounds noticed the forecastle skylight open and anchor pipe cover and padlock missing on his bulk carrier anchored at Muara Berau Anchorage at 00:16S - 117:36E. The crew subsequently conducted a search and discovered a robber had managed to steal ship's stores. The crew reported the incident to the Coast Guard who responded and conducted an investigation. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 May, robbers boarded a yacht off Sumatra at 03:58S - 105:53E. The robbers stole navigation equipment, radios, cell phones, cooking utensils, passport, and ship's equipment. The South Sumatra Regional Police responded and succeeded in locating the stolen items on 27 May. The suspects are still at large. (IFC MARSEC Weekly Report)

6. (U) VIETNAM: On 22 May at 0130LT, a crew member, following a cargo operation, discovered a theft had occurred on the anchored Liberia-flagged bulk carrier BALTIC COVE in the Campha Anchorage at 20:57N - 107:18E. The crew member discovered some hose nozzles in a drum near the paint store. A subsequent inspection revealed a hoisting wire was also missing from the bosun store. The incident was reported to the local agent. (ReCAAP, Clearwater Dynamics)

J. INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) INDIA: On 29 May at 0800LT, 15 robbers in a fishing trawler came alongside and boarded another fishing trawler approximately 65 NM off Goa and Malvan (Maharashtra) at 15:30N - 072:50E. The robbers held the crew hostage and escaped with stolen fish, navigational equipment, and a wireless communication system. The incident was reported to the local police who succeeded in arresting the robbers and recovering all of the stolen goods. (Goa News Hub)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 May at 2100LT, crew members on a berthed Singapore-flagged tanker FSL OSAKA noticed some of the mooring rope from the winch missing at Chittagong Port at 22:16N - 091:49E. A subsequent search by the crew revealed that robbers had managed to board the tanker undetected and steal a part of a mooring rope. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)

K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from government agencies, piracy reporting centers, maritime security companies, and open press.

(U) ICOD: 17 June 2020