

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 4 June – 1 July 2020



1 July 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:** No current Warnings or Advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) **YEMEN:** On 29 June, a skiff approached an underway container ship approximately 27 NM southwest of Aden.
- B. (U) **PERU:** On 27 June, three robbers boarded a bulk carrier bulk carrier anchored in Callao 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) PERU: On 27 June at 1910LT, three robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in the Callao Anchorage near position 12:01S - 077:10W. A duty crew member during routine rounds spotted the robbers, informed the duty officer, and started shouting at them. The robbers fled after seeing the crew's response. Authorities responded and conducted a search for the robbers. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (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)

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:

1. (U) BENIN: On 24 June at 1530LT, pirates on a speedboat boarded the Ghana-flagged fishing vessel PANOFI FRONTIER approximately 60 NM south of Cotonou in vicinity of 05:21N - 002:37E. The pirates kidnapped five South Koreans and one Ghanaian. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global, Maritime Security)

2. (U) GABON: On 15 June, authorities detained the Sweden-flagged passenger vessel HAWA III for possible involvement in four kidnappings off the coast of Gabon since the beginning of 2020. (www.lss-sapu.com)
3. (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)
4. (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)
5. (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 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)
6. (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)

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

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



Figure 2. Gulf of Aden Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) YEMEN: On 29 June, a 10-meter-long gray skiff with four persons onboard approached an underway container ship approximately 27 NM southwest of Aden near position 12:23N - 044:54E. The crew identified the skiff at a distance of 4 NM approaching at a speed of up to 20 knots. The skiff approached within 0.1 NM. The captain activated the fire hoses, sounded the ship's whistle, and the crew retreated to the citadel. As the fire hoses were activated, the skiff stopped her approach at an approximate distance of 0.7 NM from the container ship's starboard side. The crew remained within the citadel until the skiff was 5 NM away. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global)

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) THAILAND – LATE REPORTING: On 16 June at 1115LT, robbers boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier MAGIC STRIKER during cargo operations at Ko Sichang Anchorage at 13:11N - 100:50E. The robbers managed to break into aft store undetected and steal equipment. The crew noticed the break-in during routine operations and reported the theft to their agent and Port Facility Security Officer. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB, IFC MARSEC Weekly Report)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES – LATE REPORTING: On 13 June between 0400-0500LT, robbers boarded the anchored Hong Kong-flagged container ship SEASPAN FRASER in the Manila Anchorage area near position 14:33N - 120:53E. A duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the bosun store and paint room door padlocks broken and doors open. He immediately informed the duty officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. A search of the ship revealed that robbers had stolen ship's stores and properties. The crew reported incident to the Port Authority. (IMB, IFC MARSEC Weekly Report)

3. (U) PHILIPPINES – LATE REPORTING: On 13 June at 0325LT, robbers boarded the Portugal-flagged container ship CMA CGM PUGET anchored near position 14:35N - 120:51E, Manila Anchorage area. A duty crewman on routine rounds found bolt cutters near the Bosun store room and noticed that the lock had been cut. A search of the vessel revealed that ship's properties was stolen. The incident was reported to the Manila Vessel Traffic Management System. (Clearwater Dynamics, IFC MARSEC Weekly Report)

4. (U) INDONESIA – LATE REPORTING: On 5 June, Indonesian Navy patrol vessel KRI KUJANG pursued and fired several warning shots at the Mongolia-flagged tanker KM TENGGIRI which was suspected of illegally collecting oil from other ships in the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) between Singapore and Indonesia. In response, the tanker increased speed and headed to Singaporean waters. The Singapore Police Coast Guard subsequently responded. (www.manifoldtimes.com)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 June at approximately 0200LT, robbers boarded the anchored Singapore-flagged tanker BW ZAMBESI 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, ReCAAP, IFC, IMB)

6. (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 Paracel Islands. 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)

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: 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 anti-shipping 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) **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.

(U) **ICOD:** 1 July 2020

(U) The Weekly Piracy Update (WPU) and Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal: <https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>