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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 18 June – 15 July 2020



16 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: U.S. Maritime Advisory 2020-012 Gulf of Guinea - Armed**

Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom. This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2020-002. Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom (KFR) continues to serve as a significant threat to U.S. flagged operators with vessels transiting or operating in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG). According to the Office of Naval Intelligence's "Shipping Threat Reports" website at <https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>, 53 reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea occurred in the GoG region this year as of 6 July 2020. This is a 27 percent decrease from the same period in 2019; however, the number of kidnappings and hijackings remain almost the same. While boardings and attempted boardings to steal valuables from ships and crews are the most common types of incidents, almost a third of all incidents involve a hijacking and/or kidnapping. Approximately 50 percent of all incidents of piracy and armed robbery are taking place off Nigeria. So far in 2020, there have been 16 kidnappings, two hijacking/kidnapping combinations, and one hijacking in the GoG. For additional information see: <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/maritime-security-communications-industry-msci-web-portal>.

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 12 July, three robbers armed with knives boarded the eastbound Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier WOLVERINE in the Singapore Strait.
- B. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 10 July, Indonesian authorities seized the China-flagged fishing vessels LU HUANG YUAN YU 117 and LU HUANG YUAN YU 118 off the island of Batam.
- C. (U) **YEMEN:** On 9 July, the Saudi-led military coalition destroyed two unmanned remotely controlled explosive-laden boats 3.2 NM south of port of Salif.

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D. (U) GHANA: On 30 June, three robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at the Takoradi 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:**

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)

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:**

1. (U) ITALY: On 1 July, authorities in the port of Salerno announced the seizure of three shipping containers carrying approximately 14 tons of Captagon pills, a stimulant widely used by combatants in the civil war in Syria, including IS militants, who value its ability to inhibit fear and ward off tiredness. Officers tracked the three suspect containers to the port of Salerno in southwest Italy and found 84 million pills with a market value of €1 billion (\$1.12 billion) inside paper cylinders for industrial use. Investigators said the bust is the largest drug haul in the world in terms of both value and quantity. (www.bbc.com; www.cnn.com)

F. (U) **WEST AFRICA:**

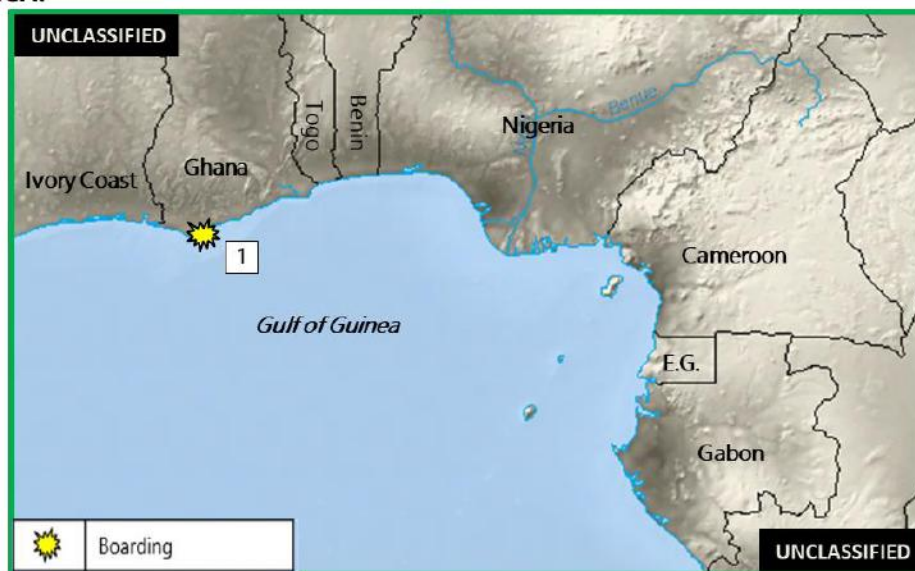


Figure 1. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GHANA: On 30 June at 2220 UTC, three robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Takoradi Anchorage in position 4:53N - 001:41E. The on duty crewmember spotted the robbers on the forecastle and informed the duty officer, who raised the alarm. The robbers escaped with ship's stores. The incident was reported to Takoradi Port Control. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) BENIN: On 2 July, pirates attacked and boarded the Singapore-flagged general cargo ship KOTA BUDI drifting and awaiting operational instructions 150 NM south of Cotonou, Benin at 03:49.3N - 002:25.0E. The pirates stole ship's properties, cash, and some of the crew's personal belongings before departing in a small boat with five Chinese hostages, leaving the remaining crew behind. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics; www.thedefensepost.com)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 July at 0420LT, pirates in two speed boats conducted a coordinated attack on the Singapore-flagged FPSO vessel SENDJE BERGE and security vessel HUDSON CAPT ELENDU operating approximately 29 NM SSW of Bonny Island at position 03:51N - 006:59E. One of the boats distracted the security vessel HUDSON CAPT ELENDU while pirates from the other boat boarded the FPSO. The pirates kidnapped nine Nigerian crewmembers. The Nigerian Navy responded to the incident. (www.offshore-mag.com, www.seatrade-maritime.com)

4. (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)

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

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



Figure 2. Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) YEMEN: On 9 July, the Saudi-led military coalition destroyed two unmanned, remotely-controlled, explosive-laden boats 3.2 NM south of port of Salif. Reportedly, the two remotely-controlled boats belonged to the Iranian-backed Houthi forces. (www.reuters.com, haaretz.com, Dryad Global)

2. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 30 June, a duty crewmember on routine rounds onboard a bulk carrier anchored in the Nacala Anchorage at 14:23S - 040:41E noticed a mooring line cut and missing. The crewmember raised the alarm

and the crew carried out a search of the vessel. The crew notified Port Control and a patrol boat responded to the scene. (IMB)

3. (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:



Figure 3. Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 July at 0215LT, three robbers armed with knives boarded the eastbound Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier WOLVERINE in Singapore Strait near 01:16N - 104:15E. The robbers were spotted in the engine room. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and the vessel was searched. The robbers escaped with ship's spare parts. The crew reported the incident to VTIS. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 10 July, Indonesian authorities seized the China-flagged fishing vessels LU HUANG YUANG YU 117 and LU HUANG YUANG YU 118 off the island of Batam. Following a tip off to Indonesian police, the authorities boarded and discovered the dead body of a 20-year-old Indonesian sailor in a freezer onboard the F/V LU HUANG YUANG YU 117. The sailor was reportedly tortured by the ship's captain and crew before dying last month. Authorities detained the vessels and conducted full investigation after the families of sailors reported heard stories of violence and abuse on the vessels. (<https://asia.nikkei.com>; www.scmp.com, The Maritime Executive)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 July at 0040LT, four robbers armed with knives boarded the eastbound Panama-flagged reefer FRIO OLYMPIC in Singapore Strait near 01:16N - 104:19E. The on duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew response, the robbers fled with four boxes of ship's spare parts. The crew reported the incident to VTIS. (IMB, ReCAAP)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 June at 0311LT, four robbers boarded the eastbound Marshall Island-flagged bulk carrier CARDINAL in Singapore Strait near 01:16N - 104:14E using a rope and hook. When the engineers spotted

the robbers in the engine room, they fled through the emergency steering room and jumped overboard. Nothing was stolen during the incident. (IFC MARSEC Weekly, Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)

5. (U) **PHILIPPINES:** On 26 June at 2217LT, robbers boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker ASIA ENERGY at Manila Quarantine Anchorage in position 14:33N - 120:48E. The robbers jumped overboard when spotted by the duty officer. The crew later discovered the robbers had managed to steal three immersion suits and two fire hoses. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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:** 15 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/>