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## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **22 January - 21 February 2018**



22 February 2018

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#### 1. (U) **Scope Note**

1. (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:**

A. (U) **MDAT-GOG Warning 004/FEB/2018**: Category: Attack. Description: On 22 February 2018 at 13:20Z Hrs, an M/V was attacked in position 03:30N – 006:31E, 67 nm SW of Bonny. Vessels in the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Source: Email. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. MDAT-GOG Watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org, emergency Tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88

B. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 001/FEB/2018**: Category: Sighting. Description: 20 Feb 2018 - UKMTO has received a number of reports relating to the sighting of groups of small boats operating in the vicinity of Point B at the eastern end of the IRTC (approximately: 14:28N - 053:00E). No aggressive behavior or pirate paraphernalia has been observed and it is assessed that the sightings are most likely related to an increase in fishing activity in the area. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information. UKMTO Watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org, emergency Tel: +971 5055 23215.

C. (U) **MDAT-GOG Advisory Notice 002/FEB/2018**: Category: Suspicious approach. Description: On 7 February at 1318 UTC in position 03:28.0N - 006:56.0E, a vessel underway to Lagos was approached by one skiff. Skiff appeared on the starboard side with 8 POB at 4.5 nm with a CPA less than 1NM before it increased its speed to 22kts. MV's onboard AST

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were alerted and ready to reply. The skiff then reduced speed and escaped. MV is SAFE. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. MDAT-GOG Watchkeeper Email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org, emergency Tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88

### **3. (U) Summary**

- A. (U) NIGERIA: On 20 February, six robbers boarded an anchored merchant vessel southwest of Lagos.
- B. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 February, six pirates armed with AK-47 rifles in a black hull speed boat approached and attempted to board a crude oil tanker underway 25 nm southeast of Brass.
- C. (U) BAHRAIN: On 19 February, police foiled an attempt to smuggle a large shipment of liquor into the kingdom.
- D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 18 February, a merchant vessel Point B in the IRTC, reported a suspicious approach by a skiff.
- E. (U) BENIN: On 17 February, three armed robbers boarded a tanker anchored in Cotonou Anchorage.
- F. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 16 February, an attack by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants was thwarted after boiling water mixed with oil was poured on the men as they tried to board the vessel.
- G. (U) TUNISIA: On 16 February, authorities detained the RO-RO ship URAL in the port of Sfax for a more thorough search after a consignment of weapons was found onboard.
- H. (U) ITALY: On 16 February, 300 kilograms of cocaine were found onboard the container ship M/V DIMITRIS C in Genoa.
- I. (U) BRAZIL: On 15 February, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Macapa Anchorage.
- J. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 February, four pirates in a speed boat chased and fired upon a container ship underway 40 nm south-southwest of Bonny.
- K. (U) VENEZUELA: On 15 February, three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker in Puerto La Cruz Anchorage.
- L. (U) BRAZIL: On 14 February, a diver was spotted near the container ship MSC MELINE, docked at Santos, at dawn. The diver fled, leaving behind him a floating waterproof bag with 28 kilograms of cocaine in it.
- M. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 February, customs officials arrested the vessel M/V JAYA INDAH 08 and 4 crewmen when the vessel was found to be carrying a large consignment of smuggled ammonium nitrate in the Riau Islands area.
- N. (U) PANAMA: On 10 February, a sailing yacht anchored in San Blas Nargana was boarded and an iPad was stolen.
- O. (U) VENEZUELA: On 6 February, four robbers boarded an anchored tanker in Puerto Jose Anchorage.
- P. (U) ST KITTS and NEVIS: On 5 February, a catamaran was boarded while anchored in Basseterre, St Kitts.
- Q. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 January, armed pirates chased and attacked a product tanker underway 48 nm south of Brass.

### **4. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements**

- A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for February 2018. To apply for JMSDF escort, visit

[http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime\\_fr2\\_000000.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html), please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932; Fax: +81-3-5253-1643. Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for February 2018. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at 001-646-466-9522. Email: chunghae26@navy.mil. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for February 2018. For further information, please e-mail [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn) or [etg546cn@163.com](mailto:etg546cn@163.com), or call Tel 00870 773 120 772. (MSCHOA)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for February 2018. To register, email [gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in](mailto:gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in); or visit [ww.dgshipping.com](http://ww.dgshipping.com). Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)

## **5. (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:**

1. (U) MEXICO: On 7 February, 42 kilos of pure cocaine, packed in two sealed bundles, were found by Navy divers attached to underwater hull of M/V VLCS CAUTIN at Lazaro Cardenas port. The ship arrived from Colombia on 6 February. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

### **B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:**

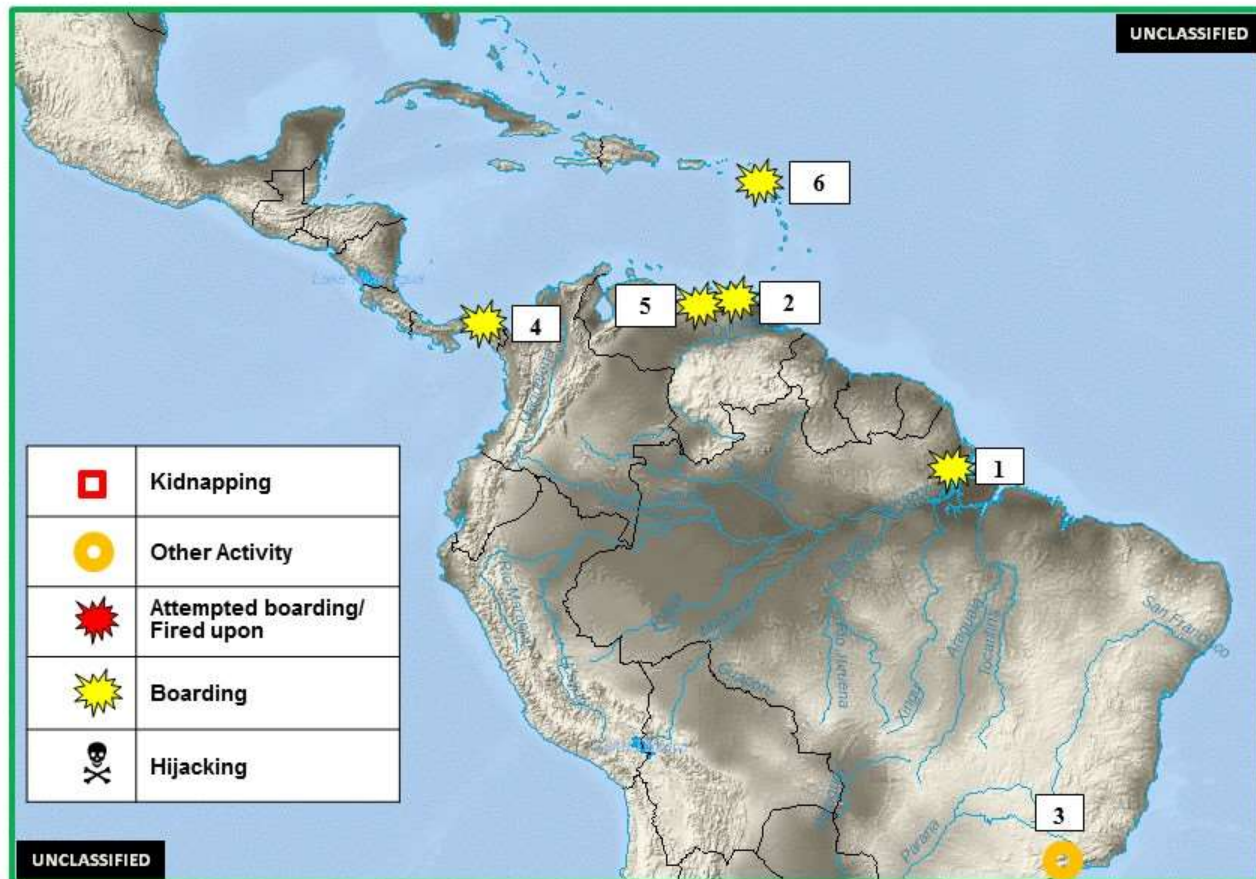


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 15 February, the duty officer onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:02N - 051:04W, Macapa Anchorage, saw the forecandle door open and unauthorized persons walk out onto the forward deck. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped. On searching the vessel, ship's stores were reported stolen. Port authority notified via local agent. (IMB)

2. (U) VENEZUELA: On 15 February, three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker near position 10:14N - 064:44W, Puerto La Cruz Anchorage. Duty crewman on routine rounds saw the robbers and notified the duty officer. The duty crewman was threatened by one of the robbers. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. Incident reported to the Puerto La Cruz VTS. A Coast Guard patrol boat was dispatched to investigate. (IMB)

3. (U) BRAZIL: On 14 February, a diver was spotted near the container ship MSC MELINE, docked at Santos, at dawn. The diver fled, leaving behind him a floating waterproof bag with 28 kilograms of cocaine in it. Police surveyed the ship's hull and later that day and found two more bags locked in a steel box, containing 57 kilograms of cocaine. (www.fleetmon.com)

4. (U) PANAMA: On 10 February, a sailing yacht anchored in San Blas Nargana was boarded and an iPad was stolen. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

5. (U) VENEZUELA: On 6 February, four robbers boarded an anchored tanker near position 10:10N - 064:47W, Puerto Jose

Anchorage. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the robbers and immediately notified the duty officer, who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in a small boat with stolen ship's properties. Incident reported to Port Authorities. (IMB)

6. (U) ST KITTS and NEVIS: On 5 February, a catamaran was boarded while anchored in Basseterre, St Kitts. The thief took cash, computers and cellphones before departing in the yacht's in-the-water and not locked dinghy. The dinghy was later recovered ashore and a police report made. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

7. (U) US VIRGIN ISLANDS: On 5 February, a yacht on E dock at the American Yacht Harbor had its locked 15-foot dinghy stolen overnight. A police report was made, CCTV cameras recorded the event and police arrested the culprit. The dinghy was found abandoned and returned to the owners. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

8. (U) US VIRGIN ISLANDS: On 3 February, a 16-foot dinghy locked to a yacht was stolen overnight from the Muller Bay area of Red Hook anchorage. A police report was made. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

9. (U) VENEZUELA: On 30 January, seven robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker near position 10:16N - 064:42W, Puerto La Cruz Anchorage and took hostage a duty crewman on routine rounds. They threatened him with a knife, tied him up to the windlass rail and stole his safety shoes and portable UHF radio. Another crew near the accommodation noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Crew mustered and a search was carried out and the duty crewman was released. The paint store was found broken into and ship's stores stolen. (IMB)

10. (U) COLOMBIA: On 29 January, the Colombian Navy announced that it had prevented the transport of drugs which were found onboard a merchant ship. The cargo ship ROTTERDAM EXPRESS, a Germany-flagged merchant ship, had left the port of Cartagena, heading to the Dominican Republic, when its crewmembers conducted a search of the ship in accordance with security protocols. During the search, they found unknown persons onboard the vessel, and called the San José Maritime Traffic and Surveillance Station of the General Maritime Directorate, reporting the incident. The Colombian Navy and Coast Guard went to the scene, boarded the ship and found 10 persons, who had managed to get on the vessel. The authorities searched the ship as well, and discovered 185 kilos of cocaine. After that the intruders were detained. ([www.safety4sea.com](http://www.safety4sea.com))

11. (U) HAITI: On 27 January, robbers boarded an anchored product tanker near position 18:34N - 072:24W, Port au Prince Inner Anchorage, stole two mooring ropes and a messenger rope and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds. Local authorities notified. (IMB)

12. (U) PERU: On 27 January, three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 12:01S - 077:12W, Callao Anchorage. They tied up the forward duty crew, stole ship's stores and crew's personal belongings and escaped. A search was carried out. Incident report made to port authorities and the local agents. (IMB)

13. (U) CAYMAN ISLANDS: On 25 January, five men were intercepted by police in two separate boats and have been charged with various offences relating to both drug trafficking and human smuggling. Police seized more than 700 pounds of marijuana after tracking one of the boats to the West Bay shoreline, where it was abandoned near Uncle Bob's Road. Two men were arrested. Three other men on the second boat who escaped police were arrested by customs officers the next day in Cayman Brac. ([caymannewsservice.com](http://caymannewsservice.com))

14. (U) ST LUCIA: On 25 January, a dinghy was stolen from a dock in Rodney Bay. It was not locked to the dock, but the engine was locked to the dinghy. It was taken to the Redduit Beach area and the outboard and fuel tank lock was cut and dinghy set adrift. Another boat owner anchored in the bay noticed it drifting the next evening and rescued it. The next morning, he turned the engineless dinghy in to the Customs Office who located the owner. It is not known if a police report was made by the owner. ([safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://safetyandsecuritynet.org))

15. (U) SAINT VINCENT and the GRENADINES: On 25 January, thieves boarded an anchored sailing yacht in Buccament



Bay. In an attempt to steal the dinghy, the thieves had lowered it from the davits until the locking cable went tight and prevented the theft. The dinghy was left partially suspended. Two sets of snorkel gear, a pair of binoculars and a handheld VHF were taken from the cockpit. The yacht departed immediately and no police report was made. (safetyandsecuritynet.org)

**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:**



Figure 2. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) TUNISIA: On 16 February, authorities detained the RO-RO ship URAL in the port of Sfax for a more thorough search after a consignment of weapons was found on board. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) ITALY: On 16 February, 300 kilograms of cocaine were found on board the container ship M/V DIMITRIS C in Genoa. Plastic bags with cocaine were found by ship's all-Ukrainian crew and reported to Italian authorities. The authorities commended the crew in finding and seizing of the drugs. Prior to Europe, the ship was calling a number of South and Central American ports. (www.fleetmon.com)

**F. (U) WEST AFRICA**

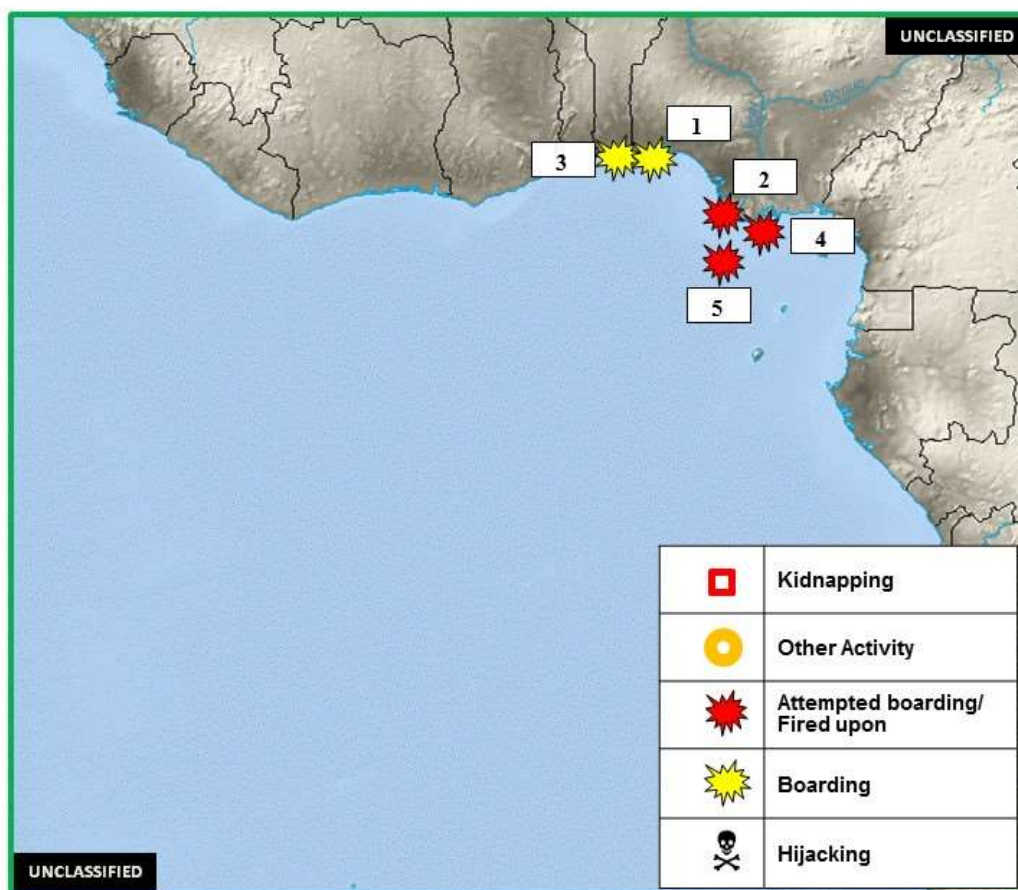


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 20 February, six robbers boarded an anchored merchant vessel near position 06:17N - 003:14E, southwest of Lagos. They jumped overboard once the vessel sounded alarms. Nothing was stolen. (MDAT-GOG)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 February, six pirates armed with AK-47 rifles in a black hull speed boat approached and attempted to board a crude oil tanker underway near position 04:02N - 006:34E, 25 nm southeast of Brass. Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS, transmitted distress message, increased speed, took evasive maneuvers and crew secured all access doors. The pirates made seven attempts to hook an aluminum ladder on the tanker's railing but were unsuccessful due to the evasive maneuvers taken by the master. They then fired upon at the tanker and moved away. A Nigerian Navy boat was in contact with the tanker and arrived at the location. The tanker and crew are safe. (IMB)

3. (U) BENIN: On 17 February, the duty officer onboard a tanker anchored near position 06:17N - 002:30E, Cotonou Anchorage, noticed three armed persons on deck and immediately raised the alarm. SSAS activated and all crew retreated to the citadel. The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre received the incident information from the CSO and immediately informed the Benin authorities. Three patrol boats were dispatched to the location. They searched the waters around the tanker. A Navy team boarded the tanker. On confirmation from the team that the tanker was clear of pirates, the master and crew emerged from the citadel. On investigating, the ship's office port hole was damaged due to a gunshot and other ship's property found damaged. (IMKB)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 February, four pirates in a speed boat chased and fired upon a container ship underway near

position 03:42N - 007:05E, 40 nm south-southwest of Bonny. The master increased speed and commenced evasive maneuvers. Due to the presence of a Nigerian naval escort boat the pirates aborted and moved away. Crew and ship reported safe. (IMB)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 January, armed pirates chased and attacked a product tanker underway near position 03:30N - 006:20E, 48 nm south of Brass. The presence of armed naval personnel onboard the tanker resulted in the pirates aborting the attack. The tanker and crew members are safe. (IMB)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 February, customs officials said they had seized banned drugs, including the powerful pain killer tramadol, which is popular with jihadists. A Nigeria Customs Service spokesman said four shipping containers of controlled and prohibited pharmaceuticals arrived in Lagos from India. ([www.businesslive.co.za](http://www.businesslive.co.za))

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 9 February, a merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 03:43N - 006:45E, 45nm southwest of Bonny. (MDAT-GoG)

8. (U) CAMEROON: On 9 February, criminals armed with AK-47 assault rifles boarded a fishing vessel near position 04:06N - 008:51E, 10nm southwest of Idenao, kidnapped three crew members and escaped. The Cameroonian authorities were notified and are currently investigating the incident. (IMB)

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 7 February, a vessel underway to Lagos, was approached by one skiff near position: 03:28N - 006:56E, 52 nm south of Bonny. Skiff appeared on the starboard side with 8 persons onboard at 4.5 nm with a CPA less than 1 nm before it increased its speed to 22kts. Armed security team onboard the vessel was alerted and ready to reply. The skiff then reduced speed and escaped. Vessel is safe. (MDAT-GOG)

10. (U) BENIN: On 1 February, the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC) received a missing vessel report from the owners of an anchored tanker MARINE EXPRESS, laden with 13,500 tons of gasoline awaiting berthing instruction in Cotonou. The IMB PRC notified the regional authorities and the international warships in the Gulf of Guinea, and a search was carried out. The IMB PRC broadcast a message to all ships in the region to look out for the missing tanker. On 6 February, the owners confirmed that the tanker was released. The crew and cargo reported safe. (IMB; [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); [www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com); [www.splash247.com](http://www.splash247.com))

11. (U) NIGERIA: On 31 January, duty crewman on routine rounds onboard an anchored product tanker in Lagos Anchorage saw two small boats tied up to the anchor chain and one robber on the forecandle deck. Duty officer on bridge was notified and the alarm was raised and fog horn sounded. Seeing the alerted crew, the robber escaped. Nigerian Navy patrol boat notified. The patrol boat arrived and searched the waters around the tanker. Crew searched the tanker. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

12. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 February, it was announced that the five staff of an oil company who were kidnapped at Ajoki community near Koko, Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State, were freed after spending 19 days in captivity. The workers were kidnapped on 17 January by a gang of gunmen operating in the area. ([www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com))

13. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 January, a duty crewman onboard an anchored product tanker near position 06:18N - 003:20E, Lagos STS Anchorage, noticed suspicious movement on the forecandle and informed the duty officer who noticed a person hiding behind the mooring winches. Alarm was raised, PA announcement made, ship's horn continuously blown, crew was mustered and a Nigerian Navy patrol boat notified. The patrol boat arrived and searched the waters around the tanker. Crew searched the tanker. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

14. (U) IVORY COAST: On 25 January, authorities seized 600 kilograms of elephant tusks and 600 kilograms of pangolin



scales, that were ready to be sent to Vietnam and other Asian countries. In an operation lasting several days that aimed to dismantle a major trafficking network, six suspects were arrested. "The ivory was ready for export to Vietnam. The pangolin scales were destined for Asia," according to the head of Ivory Coast's anti-smuggling unit. (www.reuters.com)

15. (U) GUINEA: On 23 January, a crewman on routine rounds onboard a container ship near position 09:30N - 013:43W, Conakry Port Terminal noticed one person attempting to gain access to the vessel by using the ship's line. Another person was seen in the water. Alarm raised. Seeing the alerted crew, the intruders aborted and swam away. (IMB)

16. (U) NIGERIA: On 23 January, unknown gunmen, attacked a marine police base in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa killing two policemen on guard duty. The Bayelsa Police Commissioner, said that the gunmen also stole two rifles and a 200 horsepower outboard boat engine. He further said "At about 2200hrs on Tuesday, some unknown gunmen suspected to be sea pirates came in two boats from different directions attacked our men that were at the marine base at Ogbia. We tried to be as defensive as possible. In the course of exchange of fire, we lost two policemen who were shot in action and they were able to make away with two of our rifles." Also a 200 horsepower outboard engine belonging to the Ogbia Local Government Area was carted away. (theeagleonline.com.ng)

17. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 January, a merchant tanker was attacked near position 03:30N - 006:20E, 50 nm south of Brass. Nigerian Navy troops onboard the ship repelled the attack. (MDAT-GoG)

18. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 January, a bulk carrier was attacked by 2 speed boats with 2 to 3 armed men in each boat near position 03:39N - 006:37E, 40 nm south of Bonny Fairway Buoy. The speed boats approached the ship on the starboard beam and fired towards the vessel, which increased speed and the speed boats turned away. Vessel and crew are safe. (MDAT-GoG)

19. (U) GUINEA: On 23 January, two persons attempted to board a cargo vessel near position 09:30N - 013:43W, Conakry Port Terminal. They were spotted trying to climb up ship's line. Alarm raised. Both jumped back in the water and swam away from the ship. (MDAT-GoG)

20. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 January, gunmen killed two policemen in Bayelsa State. The gunmen suspected to be sea pirates attacked Ogbia Marine Police Division in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. Two police officers were shot dead during the attack which lasted for over three hours. The gunmen also stole two 200-horse power outboard engines in the attack on the police station and escaped into the creeks in gunboats. (www. dailypost.ng)

#### **G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:**

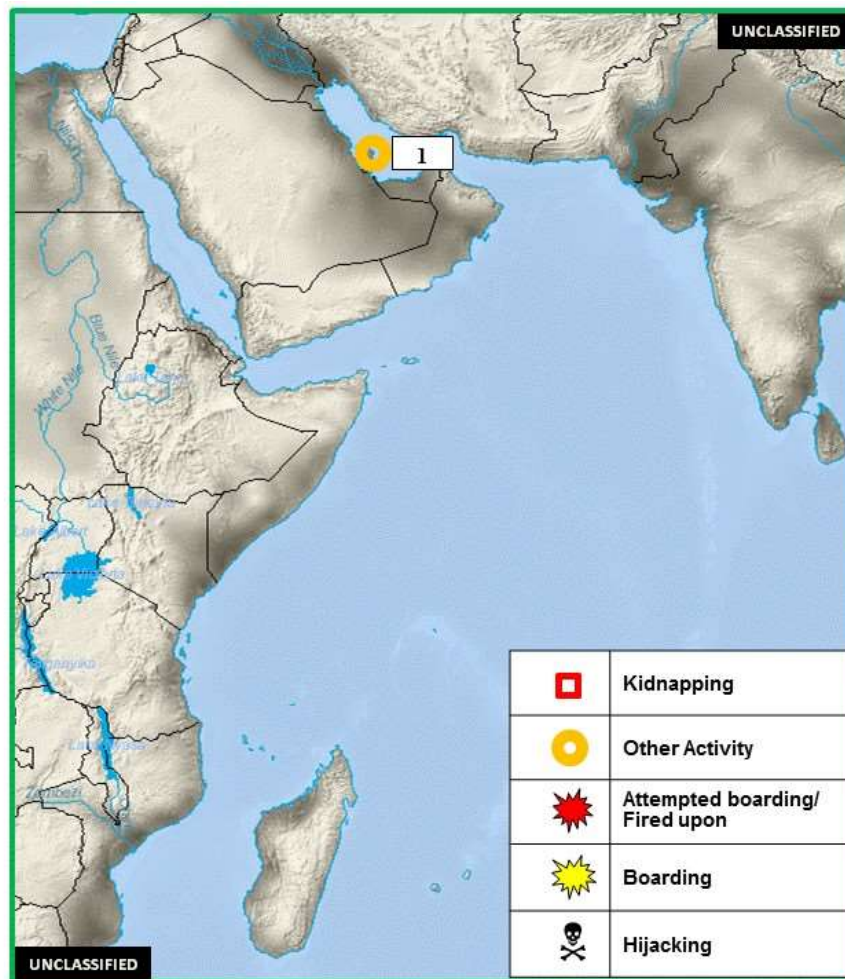


Figure 4. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BAHRAIN: On 19 February, police foiled an attempt to smuggle a large shipment of liquor into the kingdom. A gang of 21 individuals from different Asian countries were arrested during the operation, the Director General of Criminal Investigation and Forensic Science said. The smugglers used a sand carrier vessel to load the bottles from a boat further out to sea, then offloaded them with help from their accomplices in the area reserved for the company at the port. ([www.gulfnews.com](http://www.gulfnews.com))

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

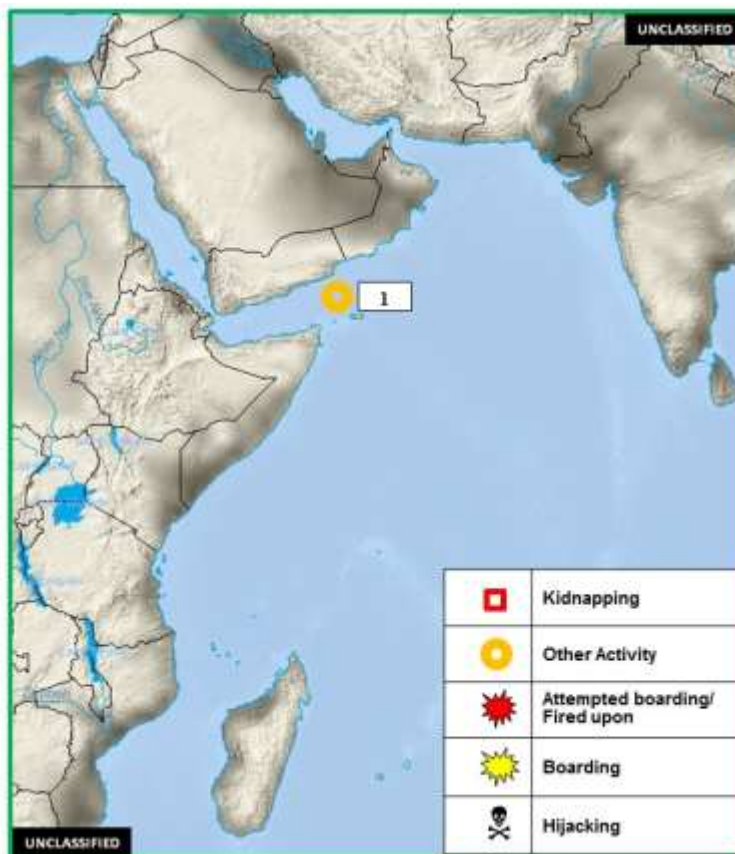


Figure 5. Indian Ocean - East Africa - Red Sea  
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 18 February, a merchant vessel near position 13:59N - 051:14E, near Point B in the IRTC, reported a suspicious approach by a skiff. (UKMTO)

2. (U) SRI LANKA: On 6 February, Sri Lanka Navy personnel arrested two individuals in the northern seas foiling an attempt to smuggle 3.7 kilograms of gold out of the country. Based on information received by the Navy, a fast attack craft attached to the Northern Naval Command apprehended the two smugglers with the gold in the sea area northwest of Kankasanthurai lighthouse. The suspects had concealed 37 biscuits of gold, each weighing 100g, in the dinghy used for smuggling. (www.colombopage.com)

3. (U) OMAN: On 28 January, authorities announced that they had successfully boarded a fishing boat and seized over a thousand packets of khat. A Royal Oman Police spokesperson released statement that read "The Anti-Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Department, led by Dhofar Governorate police, in cooperation with patrol teams of the Special Tasks Unit of Salalah, managed to seize a fishing boat with 1,050 packs of khat off the coast of Taqah." (timesofoman.com)

4. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: Australian and New Zealand joint forces seized 915 kilograms of heroin, valued in excess of \$274 million, in a counter-narcotics operation in the western Indian Ocean. A Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3K2 aircraft detected a suspicious vessel on 23 January and a crew from Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS WARRAMUNGA boarded the boat on 24 January. The illegal drugs were transferred to the frigate for disposal at sea. (www.radioaustralia.net.au/international)

#### I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA - INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

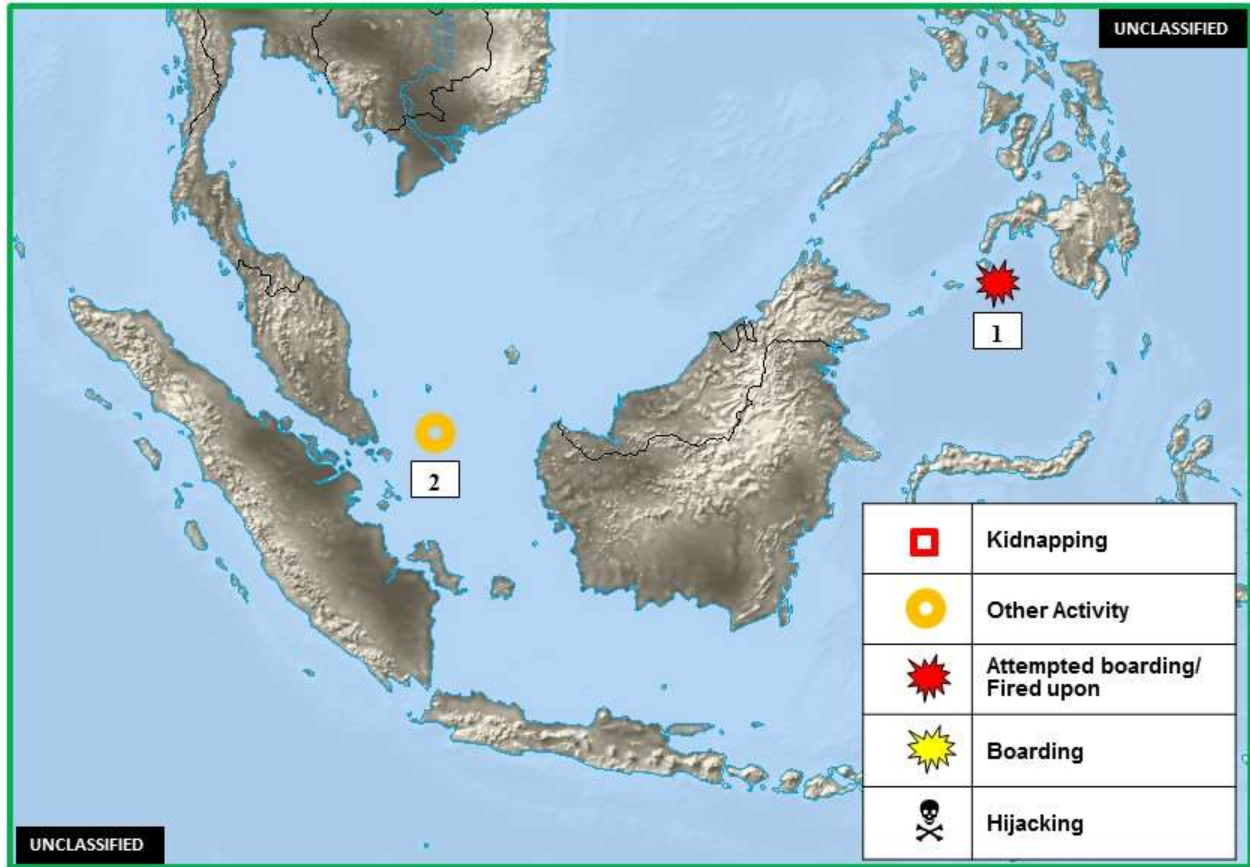


Figure 6. East Asia – Southeast Asia – Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 16 February, an attack by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants was thwarted after boiling water mixed with oil was poured on the men as they tried to board the vessel. The M/V KUDOS 1 was sailing off the waters of Basilan in the Philippines when it was attacked by men in three motorboats. After their boarding attempt failed, the pirates fired shots at the vessel and caused some damage and minor injuries as a result. The Western Mindanao Command Commander, praised the actions of the crew who foiled the attempt before naval and coast guard forces arrived on the scene. On arrival, Coast Guard personnel treated the injured crewmen and naval ships escorted the vessel to anchorage. ([www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com); [www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 13 February, customs officials arrested the vessel M/V JAYA INDAH 08 and 4 crewmen when the vessel was found to be carrying a large consignment of smuggled ammonium nitrate in the Riau Islands area. When the search was completed, 1,377 sacks, each weighing 25 kilograms, was impounded. ([www.batamtoday.com](http://www.batamtoday.com))

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 11 February, five robbers armed with knives in a small boat attempted to board a bulk carrier anchored near position 22:07N - 091:43E, Chittagong Anchorage, using hooks attached with ropes. The crew noticed the robbers and informed the master and prepared the fire hoses to stop the robbers. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty-handed. (IMB)

4. (U) INDIA: On 9 February, duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a carrier anchored bulk carrier near position 22:11N - 088:09E, Diamond Harbor Anchorage, heard an unusual sound coming from the anchor chain. Upon checking, he saw one robber climbing the anchor chain and two more persons waiting in a small boat. The duty crewman shouted at

the robber resulting in the robber aborting the climb and escaping. (IMB)

5. (U) BANGLADESH: On 6 February, four robbers armed with guns boarded a general cargo vessel anchored near position 22:08N - 091:44E, Chittagong Anchorage C, and threatened the duty watchman who managed to escape. Alarm was raised, PA announcement made and crew was mustered. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. The incident reported to the coast guard. (IMB)

6. (U) VIETNAM: On 31 January, two robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 10:39N - 107:00.9E, Godau Port. They took the bosun hostage and injured him with a knife and then tied him up. The bosun managed to free himself and informed the master who then raised the alarm and mustered the crew. A search was carried out and ship's stores were reported missing. Incident reported to port authorities who boarded the vessel for investigation. The bosun was sent ashore for medical treatment. (IMB)

7. (U) BANGLADESH: On 30 January, five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 21:48N - 091:48E, Kutubdia Anchorage. They threatened a duty crewman, who managed to escape and raise the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to Bangladesh Coast Guard who boarded the ship for investigation. Later, the Coast Guard managed to recover the stolen stores and delivered them to the ship. (IMB)

8. (U) BANGLADESH: On 26 January, during routine rounds duty crewman onboard a merchant ship anchored near position 22:10N - 091:42E, Chittagong B Anchorage found three lube oil drums on deck and suspecting something amiss, informed the duty officer who alerted the master and chief engineer. An investigation was carried out. The shore watchmen admitted to having drained the lube oil from the anchor windlass feed tank into the drums. Local agents informed. (IMB)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 January, two robbers boarded the tug DABO 105 near position 00:44S - 104:24E, Strait of Berhala. Bridge crew called for help over VHF and an Indonesian Navy patrol boat responded. It launched a small boat, boarded the tug and arrested the two robbers. (www.tribunnews.com)

**J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:** No current incidents to report.

1. (U) TAIWAN: On 4 February, more than 13 tons, or about 4,000, descaled and disemboweled pangolins were discovered in a cargo container at Kaohsiung's Pier 66, the Kaohsiung Customs Administration Office said in a statement, adding that it has launched an investigation to track the group behind the illegal import. The original shipping company failed to return a shipping container to its original address, saying that the recipient refused to accept the shipment, the Kaohsiung office said, adding that it opened the container to inspect the contents, as it found the application suspicious. The front section of the container contained frozen sardines, a cover for the pangolins in the rear of the container, the office said. The container was shipped from Malaysia to Kaohsiung on 27 December last year, but had remained in an unloading bay, as the recipient had not submitted its customs form, the office said. (www.taipetimes.com)

2. (U) TAIWAN: On 4 February, police raided a fishing boat at a pier in Kaohsiung and seized 1,289 kilograms of ketamine in the biggest drug bust in Taiwan's history. The drug bust was carried out after weeks of investigation and surveillance, based on a tipoff that a drug syndicate was shipping drugs into Taiwan, a spokesman said. The fishing vessel SHENG LI MAN, which is registered in Donggang in Pingtung County, was put under surveillance after it set sail in January because investigators discovered that it was not often engaged in fishing activities. (www.focustaiwan.tw)

**K. (U) AUSTRALIA- NEW ZEALAND:** No current incidents to report.

## 6. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources



(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

### **(U) Contact**

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

### **(U) Other Resources**

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: [http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence\\_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm).

## **7. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References**

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

### **(U) Terminology**

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

**(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 boarding 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.

**(U) Sourcing**

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- The Maritime Executive (website)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

**(U) ICOD:** 21 February 2018

(U) The PAWW and WTS reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:  
<http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence-Community/Piracy>