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## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 29 January - 28 February 2018

1 March 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) **U.S. MARITIME ADVISORY 2018-005**: Threat Type: North Korea Sanctions Evasion. Geographic Area: Global. The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Coast Guard, issued an advisory on 23 February 2018, to alert persons globally to deceptive shipping practices used by North Korea to evade sanctions. These practices may create significant sanctions risk for parties involved in the shipping industry, including insurers, flag registries, shipping companies, and financial institutions. Guidance: The North Korea Sanctions Advisory is available at: [https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/OFAC-Enforcement/Documents/dprk\\_vessel\\_advisory\\_02232018.pdf](https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/OFAC-Enforcement/Documents/dprk_vessel_advisory_02232018.pdf). Contact Information: Contacts are provided within the North Korea Sanctions Advisory. Cancellation: This advisory will automatically expire on August 23, 2018.

B. (U) **MDAT-GOG Warning 004/FEB/2018**: Category: Attack. Description: On 22 February 2018 at 13:20Z, 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](mailto:watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org), emergency Tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88

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

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- A. (U) BENIN: On 27 February, five armed persons boarded M/T ST MARSEILLE anchored in Cotonou Harbor.
- B. (U) GIBRALTAR: On 27 February, HM Customs Marine Section assisted by Gibraltar Defense police officers seized approximately 150 cartons of smuggled cigarettes and arrested a Spanish national at Western Beach.
- C. (U) ECUADOR: On 25 February, one robber boarded a container ship anchored in Guayaquil Inner Anchorage.
- D. (U) UNITED STATES: On 24 February, U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement crews interdicted a Mexican lancha boat crew engaged in illegal fishing in federal waters off south Texas.
- E. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 February, two skiffs with 2 - 3 armed pirates in each skiff chased and fired upon a bulk carrier underway 45 nm southeast of Brass.
- F. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 February, 10 pirates in a speed boat, armed with automatic weapons, chased and fired upon a reefer vessel underway 40 nm south-southwest off Bonny Fairway buoy.
- G. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 February, eight armed pirates in a speed boat chased a container vessel underway nm south-southwest of Bonny Island.
- H. (U) SINGAPORE: On 24 February, tug MITRA SAMUDERA 28 with 11 crew, towing an empty barge, was boarded by four armed pirates in Karimun Regency waters, south of Singapore.
- I. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 23 Feb, Singapore-flagged product tanker LEOPARD SUN was attacked by pirates 159 nm off the central coast of Somalia.
- J. (U) UNITED STATES: On 22 February, U.S. Coast Guard officials seized 800 pounds of illegally caught black sea bass from a ship illegally fishing near South Carolina.
- K. (U) HAITI: On 22 February, armed robbers boarded a tanker anchored in Port Au Prince Anchorage.
- L. (U) ARGENTINA: On 22 February, the Argentine Coast Guard opened fire on a Chinese boat caught illegally fishing within Argentina's exclusive economic zone.
- M. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 February, a merchant vessel reported being attacked 67 nm southwest of Bonny.
- N. (U) MALAYSIA: On 22 February, a band of armed men attacked a fishing boat in Segama, Kinabatangan.
- O. (U) MEXICO: On 21 February, as many as 25 people were injured in an explosion aboard a ferry docked in Playa Del Carmen.
- P. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 February, authorities seized 1.6 tons of crystal methamphetamine hidden aboard a Singapore-flagged ship.
- Q. (U) NIGERIA: On 18 February, a speed boat with six to seven armed pirates chased and fired upon a tanker underway 42 nm southeast off Brass.
- R. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February, robbers boarded a tug anchored 3 nm west of Batu Ampar Port.
- S. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 17 February, an Indonesian fishing vessel was apprehended approximately 390 nautical miles off the western Australian coast.

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T. (U) ENGLAND: On 17 February, 5.8 million smuggled cigarettes were seized at Dover's Eastern Docks.

U. (U) DUBAI: On 12 February, police arrested five individuals who attempted to smuggle a large consignment of drugs hidden in a large drilling machine aboard a ship that arrived at Hamriyah Port.

V. (U) GHANA: On 8 February, port security arrested of four people who attempted to stowaway in Tema Harbor.

W. (U) IRELAND: On 3 February, authorities in the Port of Belfast seized 8 million smuggled cigarettes.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for February and March 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 (MLIT), 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 and March 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 and March 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 and March 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:**

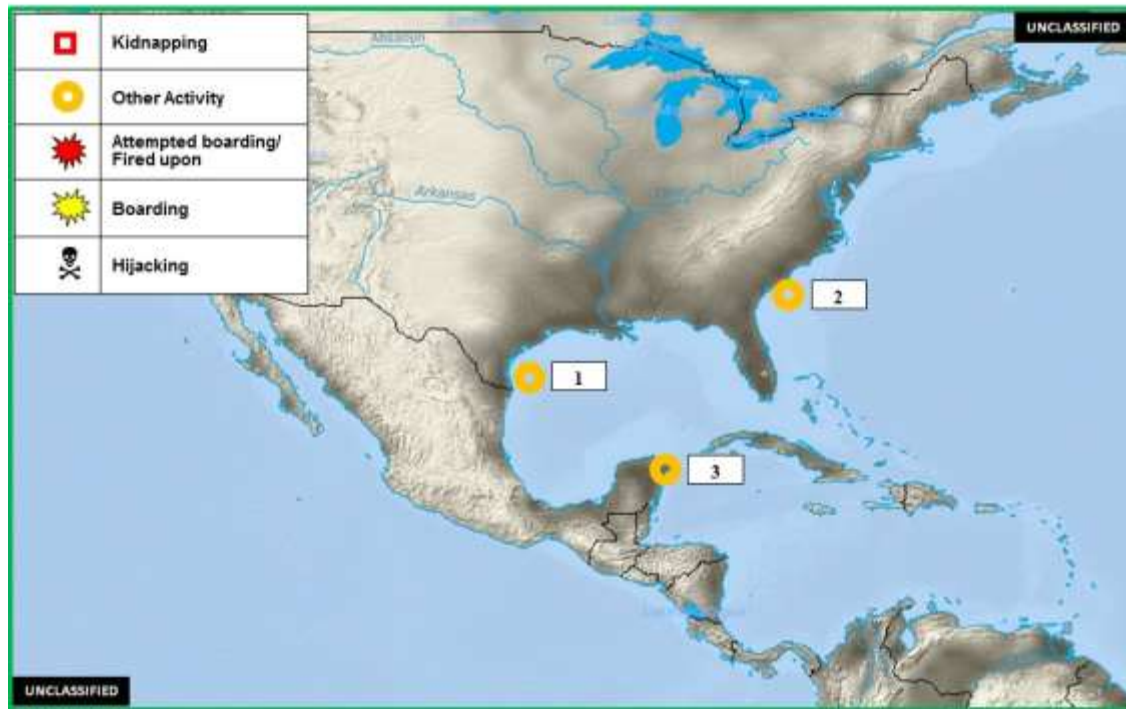


Figure 1. North America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) UNITED STATES: On 24 February, U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement crews interdicted a Mexican lancha boat crew engaged in illegal fishing in federal waters off South Texas. According to USCG, crews stopped one lancha with a total of four Mexican fishermen engaged in illegal fishing. The Coast Guard says, the lancha, with fishing gear onboard, was seized. The fishermen were detained. ([www.kristv.com](http://www.kristv.com))

2. (U) UNITED STATES: On 22 February, violations were issued east of Cape Romain, South Carolina after the U.S. Coast Guard saw the crew of a fishing vessel set and retrieve pots in a prohibited area. The Coast Guard found 800 pounds of illegally caught black sea bass aboard the vessel. ([www.wpde.com/news/local-and-state](http://www.wpde.com/news/local-and-state))

3. (U) MEXICO: On 21 February, as many as 25 people were injured in an explosion aboard a ferry docked in Playa Del Carmen. Video of the incident shows several people on the dock at the time of the explosion. Amazingly, there are no reported deaths or life-threatening injuries. Twenty Mexicans, three Canadians and two Americans are among the injured. The cause of the explosion is under investigation. ([www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com))

4. (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:

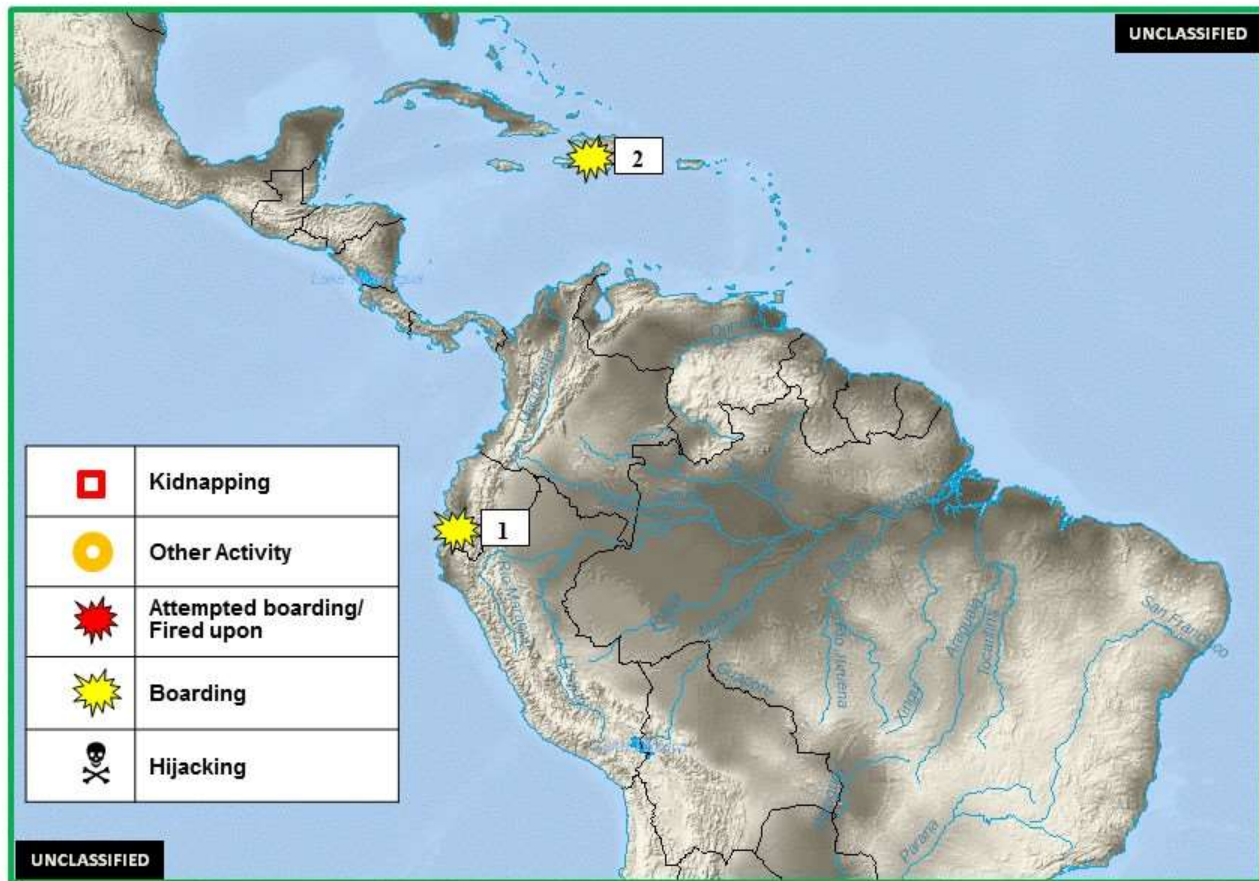


Figure 2. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

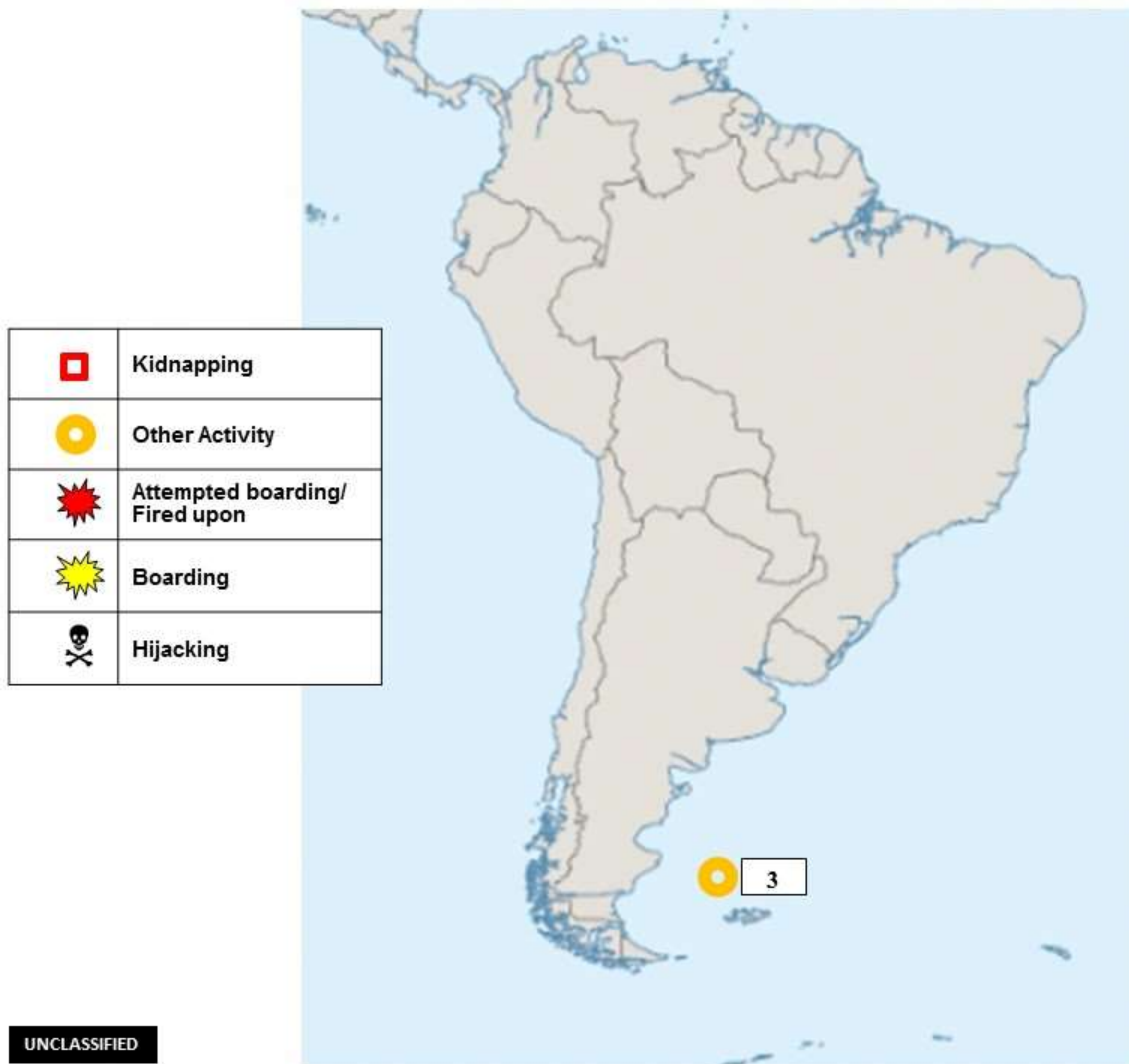


Figure 3. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ECUADOR: On 25 February, a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a container ship anchored near position 02:21S - 079:59W, Guayaquil Inner Anchorage, saw five robbers on the aft deck. One robber, with a gun was seen near the entrance to the steering gear room. The crewman retreated and informed the duty officer. Alarm raised and port control notified. A coast guard boat was sent to the vessel. All crew safe. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

2. (U) HAITI: On 22 February, a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a tanker anchored near position 18:34N - 072:24W, Port Au Prince Anchorage, saw robbers armed with guns on the forecastle deck and immediately raised the alarm. Crew was mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, one of the robbers fired a warning shot and escaped. Crew and ship reported safe. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB)

3. (U) ARGENTINA: On 22 February, the Argentine Coast Guard opened fire on a Chinese boat caught illegally fishing within Argentina's exclusive economic zone. The coast guard said the boat JING YUAN 626 was caught sailing within Argentina's exclusive economic zone along with four other vessels, all bearing Chinese flags. The authorities said the four vessels attempted to ram into the coast guard's boat and carried out other maneuvers putting the Argentine crew at risk. The fishing vessel's pursuit lasted almost eight hours in adverse weather conditions before Argentina's ministry of foreign affairs ordered the coast guard to end the chase. In 2016, a similar discovery of a Chinese boat illegally fishing in Argentina's exclusive economic zone ended with the sinking of the Chinese trawler LU YAN YUAN YU 010, forcing the crew to abandon ship. (www.fis.com; www.newsweek.com)

4. (U) BRAZIL: On 15 February, the duty officer onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:02N - 051:04W, Macapa Anchorage, saw the forecastle 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)
5. (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)
6. (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](http://www.fleetmon.com))
7. (U) PANAMA: On 10 February, a sailing yacht anchored in San Blas Nargana was boarded and an iPad was stolen. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
8. (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)
9. (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))
10. (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))
11. (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))
12. (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)
13. (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))

## C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

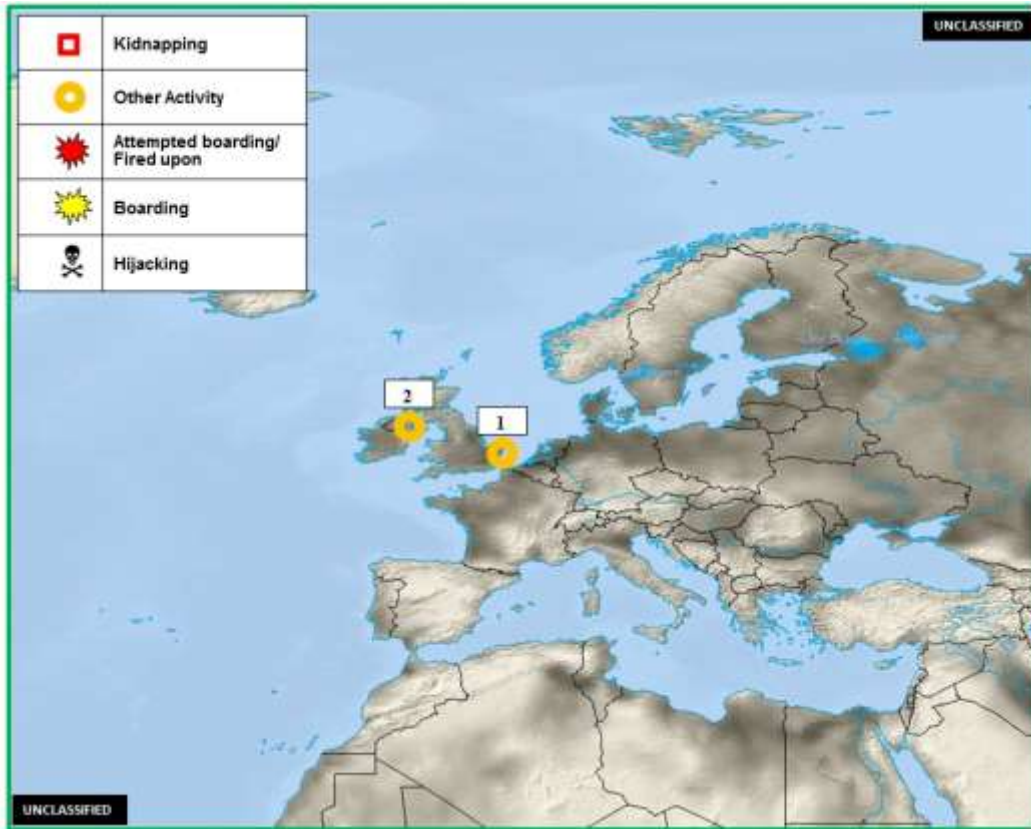


Figure 4 .Atlantic Ocean Area Piracy and  
Maritime Crime

1. (U) ENGLAND: On 17 February, 5.8 million smuggled cigarettes were seized at Dover's Eastern Docks. Border Force officers stopped a Polish-registered truck which had arrived at the Port on a ferry from Calais. Paperwork for the vehicle's load declared it was laden with pallets of insulation and "eco wood". When a search of it was carried out, only 6 pallets were found, along with 24 pallets of cigarettes. ([www.itv.com/news](http://www.itv.com/news))

2. (U) IRELAND: On 3 February, authorities in the Port of Belfast seized 8 million smuggled cigarettes destined for sale in the UK, hidden on a ship from Singapore, the Border Force said. The load was listed as bed linen, but during the search officers discovered 40 pallets with a total of 800 boxes containing the cigarettes. This is the biggest single seizure of cigarettes at the port in six years. ([www.irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com))

D. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:** No current incidents to report.



**E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:**

Figure 5. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy  
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GIBRALTAR: On 27 February, HM Customs Marine Section assisted by Gibraltar Defense police officers seized approximately 150 cartons of smuggled cigarettes and arrested a Spanish national at Western Beach. The individual was arrested when spotted trying to swim across the harbor back to Spain pushing two large bags containing the cigarettes. ([www.euroweeklynews.com/news](http://www.euroweeklynews.com/news))

2. (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](http://www.fleetmon.com))

3. (U) ITALY: On 16 February, 300 kilograms of cocaine were found on board the container ship 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](http://www.fleetmon.com))

## F. (U) WEST AFRICA

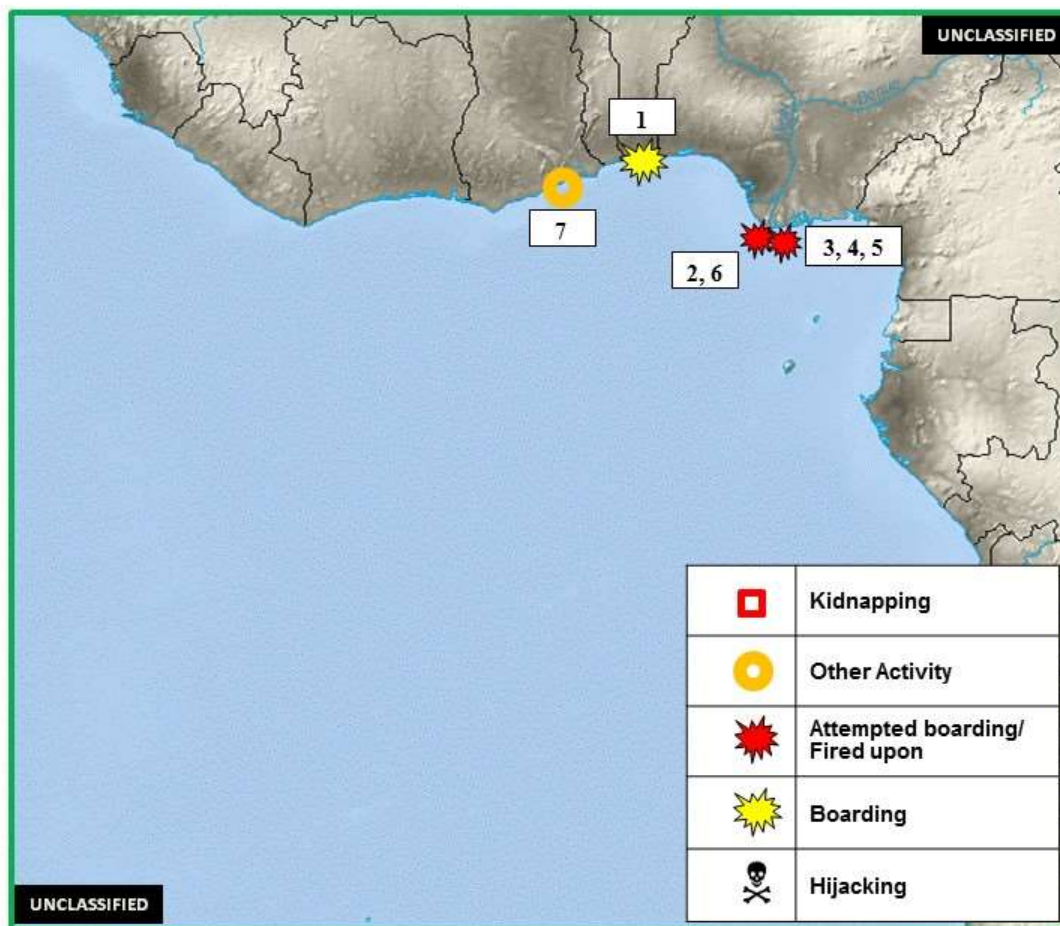


Figure 6. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BENIN: On 27 February, five armed persons approached the product tanker ST MARSEILLE anchored near position 06:21N - 002:25E, Cotonou Harbor in a speed boat. As they boarded the vessel they commenced firing and injured one of the Benin Navy guards onboard the tanker. All crew except the duty officer on the bridge retreated into the citadel. As the armed persons made their way to the bridge they fired upon and injured another Navy guard. They took hostage the duty officer and demanded the master, chief officer and chief engineer come on the bridge. The armed persons demanded the master heave up anchor but when they were notified that the tanker was in ballast they stole crew properties, kidnapped the master and one engineer and left the vessel in the tanker's lifeboat. The Benin Navy was notified to medivac the injured guards. Once the armed persons were safely ashore, they released the master and engineer who were able to make contact with the local police and later joined the tanker. (MDAT-GOG; www.fleetmon.com; IMB)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 February, two skiffs with 2 - 3 armed pirates in each skiff chased and fired upon a bulk carrier underway near position 03:38N - 006:37E, 45 nm southeast of Brass. Ship increased speed, crew mustered in a safe place and the armed guards were on standby. Due to the hardened measures, the pirates aborted the attempt. (IMB)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 February, 10 pirates in a speed boat, armed with automatic weapons, chased and fired upon a reefer vessel underway near position 03:38N - 006:42E, 40 nm south-southwest off Bonny Fairway buoy. The armed guards onboard the vessel returned fire, resulting in the pirates aborting the attack and moving away. All crew safe. Vessel sustained minor damage due to the gun fire. (IMB)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 February, eight armed pirates in a speed boat chased a container vessel underway near position 03:33N - 007:02E, 50 nm south-southwest of Bonny Island. Alarm was raised, SSAS activated, speed increased and all non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. Nigerian Navy contacted, who informed the master to rendezvous with their naval vessel in the vicinity. As the pirate boat closed the master commenced evasive maneuvers. Due to the hardening, the pirates were unable to hook their ladder onto the vessel and moved away. Nigerian Navy escorted the vessel to the pilot boarding point. (IMB)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 February, a merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 03:30N - 006:31E, 67 nm southwest of Bonny. (MDAT-GOG)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 18 February, a speed boat with six to seven armed pirates chased and fired upon a tanker underway near position 03:41N - 006:37E, 42 nm southeast off Brass. Alarm raised, crew mustered, evasive maneuvers commenced and Nigerian authorities contacted. Due to the vessel hardening, the pirates were unable to board the vessel and moved away. The vessel was escorted to Bonny anchorage by two Navy vessels. All crew are safe. Vessel sustained minor damage due to being fired upon. (IMB)

7. (U) GHANA: On 8 February, port security arrested of four people who attempted to stowaway from Tema Harbor. They were found onboard the vessel AS CARELIA at Berth 1 of Meridian Port Service which was leaving for Holland that night. They confessed to have been ferried on a boat from the Tema Fishing Harbor to the breakwaters at the Meridian Port Services, where they used a hook and bamboo-pole to hook the ship on which they climbed. ([www.ghanaweb.com](http://www.ghanaweb.com))

8. (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)

9. (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)

10. (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. (IMB)

11. (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)

12. (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))

13. (U) NIGERIA: On 9 February, a merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 03:43N - 006:45E, 45 nm southwest of Bonny. (MDAT-GoG)
14. (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)
15. (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)
16. (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))
17. (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))
18. (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 forecastle 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)

## G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

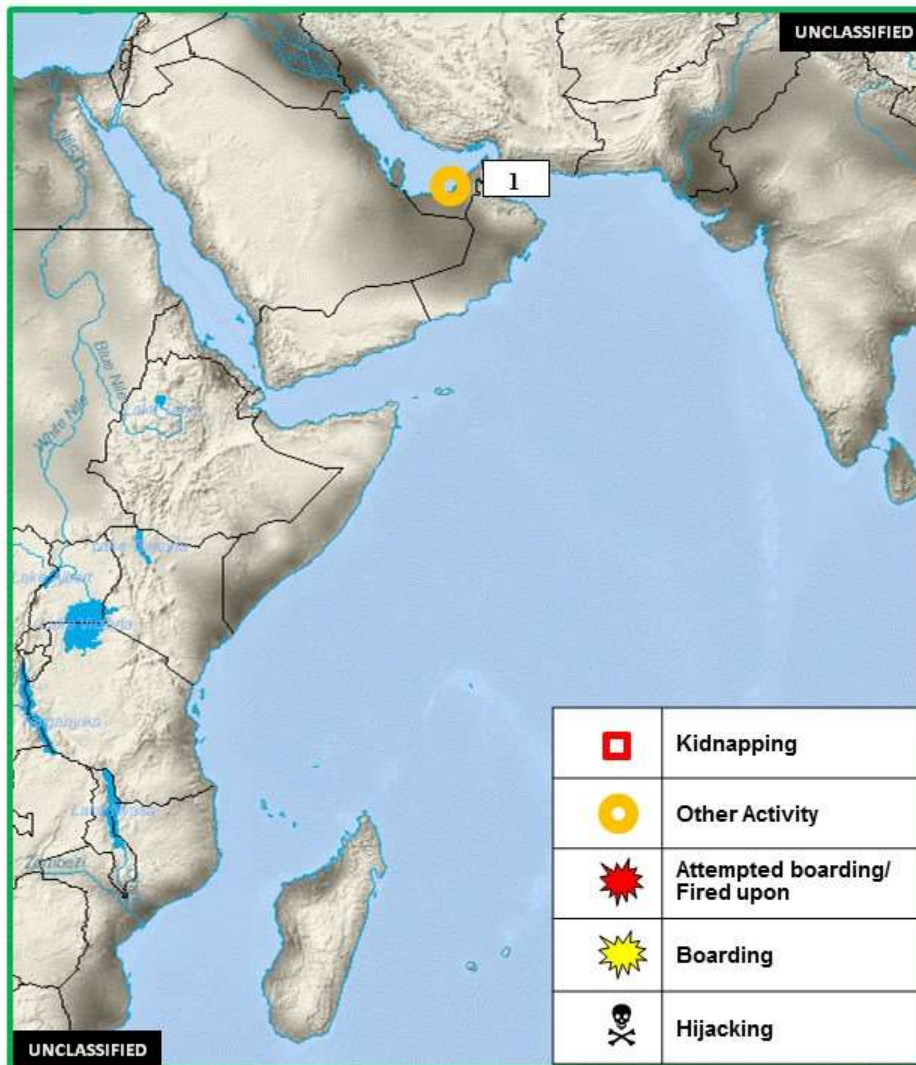


Figure 7. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) DUBAI: On 12 February, police arrested five individuals who attempted to smuggle a large consignment of drugs hidden in a large drilling machine aboard a ship that arrived at Hamriyah Port. On dismantling the machine, police found a huge quantity of pills, 783,800 in number, of three different drugs, concealed inside the cylinder in the front of the machine. In addition to this, 562 plastic bags with a total of 115 kg of captagon pills were found. ([www.khaleejtimes.com/news/crime](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/news/crime))

2. (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:

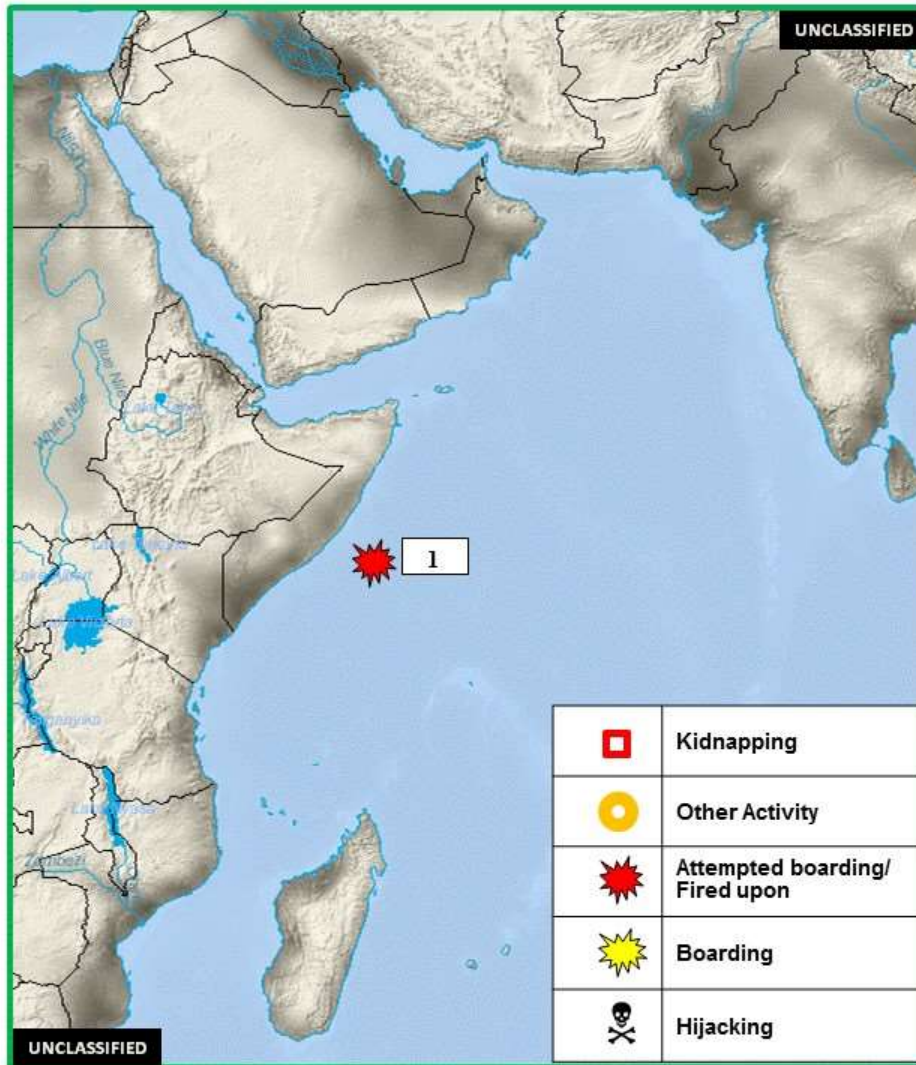


Figure 8. Indian Ocean - East Africa - Red Sea  
Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 23 Feb, Singapore-flagged product tanker LEOPARD SUN was attacked by pirates, near position 03:26N - 050:27E, 159 nm off the central coast of Somalia. The tanker was approached by three skiffs and was fired upon by armed pirates. The armed security team onboard the vessel returned fire, preventing the pirates from boarding the ship, United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said. According to EUNAVFOR, the vessel and the crew are reported to be safe. (UKMTO; [www.worldmaritimeneews.com](http://www.worldmaritimeneews.com))

2. (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)

3. (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](http://www.colombopage.com))

4. (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)

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

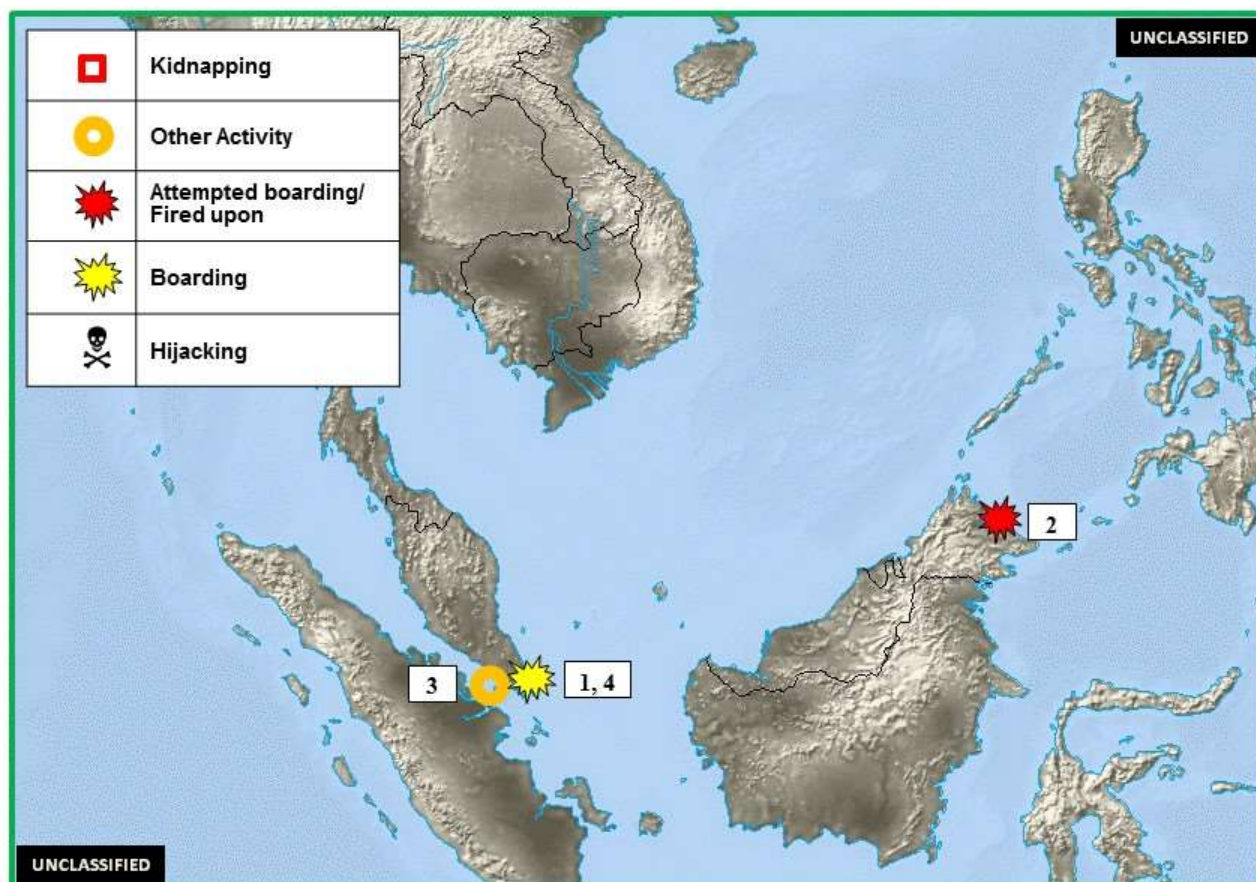


Figure 9. East Asia – Southeast Asia – Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SINGAPORE: On 24 February, tug MITRA SAMUDERA 28 with 11 crew, towing an empty barge, was boarded by four armed pirates in Karimun Regency waters, south of Singapore, while en route from Malaysia to south Sumatra after offloading cargo of coal. Crew were robbed, one of the crew was seriously wounded during the assault. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 22 February, a band of armed men attacked a fishing boat in Segama, Kinabatangan. The State Deputy Police Commissioner said the armed men were believed to have attempted to kidnap or rob the five fishermen in the boat but failed when they managed to escape. He said "Investigations revealed the armed men were from the Philippines based on the location of the incident near the national border with the Philippines," he told a news conference. The spokesman said police were in the process of identifying the group. (www.themalaymailonline.com)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 February, authorities seized 1.6 tons of crystal methamphetamine hidden aboard a Singapore-flagged ship in their second major drug bust this month, officials said. Customs inspectors said they spotted the vessel between Indonesia's Sumatra island and Singapore and reported it to police. A subsequent search of the ship turned up

the huge haul of narcotics stuffed into 81 rice sacks. Four Taiwanese crew were arrested. Earlier this month the Indonesian Navy seized 1.3 tons of crystal methamphetamine and arrested four Taiwanese crew on a ship spotted in the strait between Singapore and Indonesia. Indonesia has some of the world's toughest anti-drugs laws, including capital punishment for some trafficking cases. ([www.rappler.com/world](http://www.rappler.com/world))

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 February, robbers boarded a tug anchored near position 01:09N - 103:56E, 3 nm west of Batu Ampar Port. During routine rounds, the bosun reported the lock to the engine room hatch was broken. Investigations revealed several foot prints on the aft deck and a large number of spare parts missing. (IMB)

5. (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))

6. (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))

7. (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)

8. (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)

9. (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)

10. (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)

11. (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)



**J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:**

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.taipeitimes.com](http://www.taipeitimes.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](http://www.focustaiwan.tw))

**K. (U) AUSTRALIA- NEW ZEALAND:**

Figure 10. Australia – New Zealand Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 17 February, an Indonesian fishing vessel was apprehended approximately 390 nautical miles off the Western Australian coast by Maritime Border Command (MBC), together with the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA). The vessel was approximately five nautical miles inside the Australian fishing zone. MBC, a multi-agency task force within the Australian Border Force (ABF), was alerted to the presence of the vessel after it was detected by HMAS MAITLAND northwest of Broome on 16 February. HMAS MAITLAND was tasked to respond and subsequently intercepted the vessel in the early hours of 17 February. Royal Australian Navy and AFMA personnel boarded the vessel and located 15 crew, 1,110 kilograms of yellowfin tuna and 200 live baitfish. ([www.seafoodsource.com/news](http://www.seafoodsource.com/news))

## 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:** 28 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>