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(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 3 October–6 November 2019

07 November 2019



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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:

1. (U) **IMB/PRC/Alert – 169-2019.** 020710 UTC NOV 2019 TO: ALL SHIPS TRANSITING IN/OFF BENIN / NIGERIA /GULF OF GUINEA. On 2 November 2019 at 0320 UTC near position 06:14.9N - 002:32.9E, approximately 8.9 NM SE of Cotonou, Benin. Nine crew members are missing. Remaining crew are sailing the vessel to a safe port. All vessels are advised to maintain a vigilant anti-piracy watch and measures. Passing ships are advised to stay at least 200 NM from coast, preferably 250 NM from coast. Early assessment / detection will allow ships to take evasive measures to prevent boarding and request for assistance. Report all attacks and suspicious sightings to local authorities and to the IMB PRC as per IMO Cir 1334. IMB Piracy Reporting Centre 24 hour anti-piracy helpline +603 2031 0014, fax: +603 2078 5769, email: imbkl@icc-ccs.org / piracy@icc-ccs.org.
2. (U) **MDAT-GOG Advisory 002/NOV/2019.** Category: Attack. Description: On 4 November 2019 at 0240 UTC, a merchant vessel was attacked in position 05:58N - 001:15E, Lome Anchorage, Togo. Vessels are advised to exercise extreme caution in this area. Source: Reported to MDAT-GoG by phone. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. This advisory is not classified as a Maritime Security Event and has not been verified by MDAT-GoG. This information is provided to inform maritime

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situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. MDAT-GoG is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting. MDAT-GOG Watchkeeper Email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org. Emergency Tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88.

3. (U) **MARAD Advisory 2019-012-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Red Sea-Threats to Commercial Vessels by Iran.** Description: This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisories 2019-004 and 2019-008. References: U.S. Maritime Alerts 2019-004A, 2019-003A, 2019-002A, and 2019-001A. Issue: Heightened military activity and increased political tensions in this region continue to pose serious threats to commercial vessels. Associated with these threats is a potential for miscalculation or misidentification that could lead to aggressive actions. Vessels operating in the Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, and Gulf of Oman may also encounter GPS interference, bridge-to-bridge communications spoofing, and/or other communications jamming with little to no warning. For more information about U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, including subscription details, please visit <http://www.marad.dot.gov/MSCI.21>

3. (U) Summary

1. (U) TOGO: On 4 November, pirates boarded the Greece-flagged tanker ELKA ARISTOTLE nine NM south of Lome. Four crewmembers were kidnapped.
2. (U) BENIN: On 2 November, pirates boarded the Norway-flagged bulk carrier BONITA nine NM southeast of Cotonou. Nine crewmembers were kidnapped.
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 November, robbers attacked three passenger boats taking a group of people to a wedding in Degama Local Government Area of Rivers State.
4. (U) PUERTO RICO: On 31 October, U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel interdicted a vessel near Guayama. A search of the vessel revealed 1,902 kilograms of cocaine.
5. (U) VIETNAM: On 29 October, coast guard authorities announced the seizure of Mongolia-flagged tanker OKI MARU for suspected fuel smuggling. When apprehended, the ship was carrying a cargo of 350,000 liters of diesel fuel without the proper permits.
6. (U) ST MARTIN: On 29 October, robbers stole a locked dinghy and 40-HP Honda outboard motor.
7. (U) COSTA RICA: On 28 October, authorities seized one ton of cocaine concealed among a cargo of banana and lime concentrate inside a container at Moin Port.

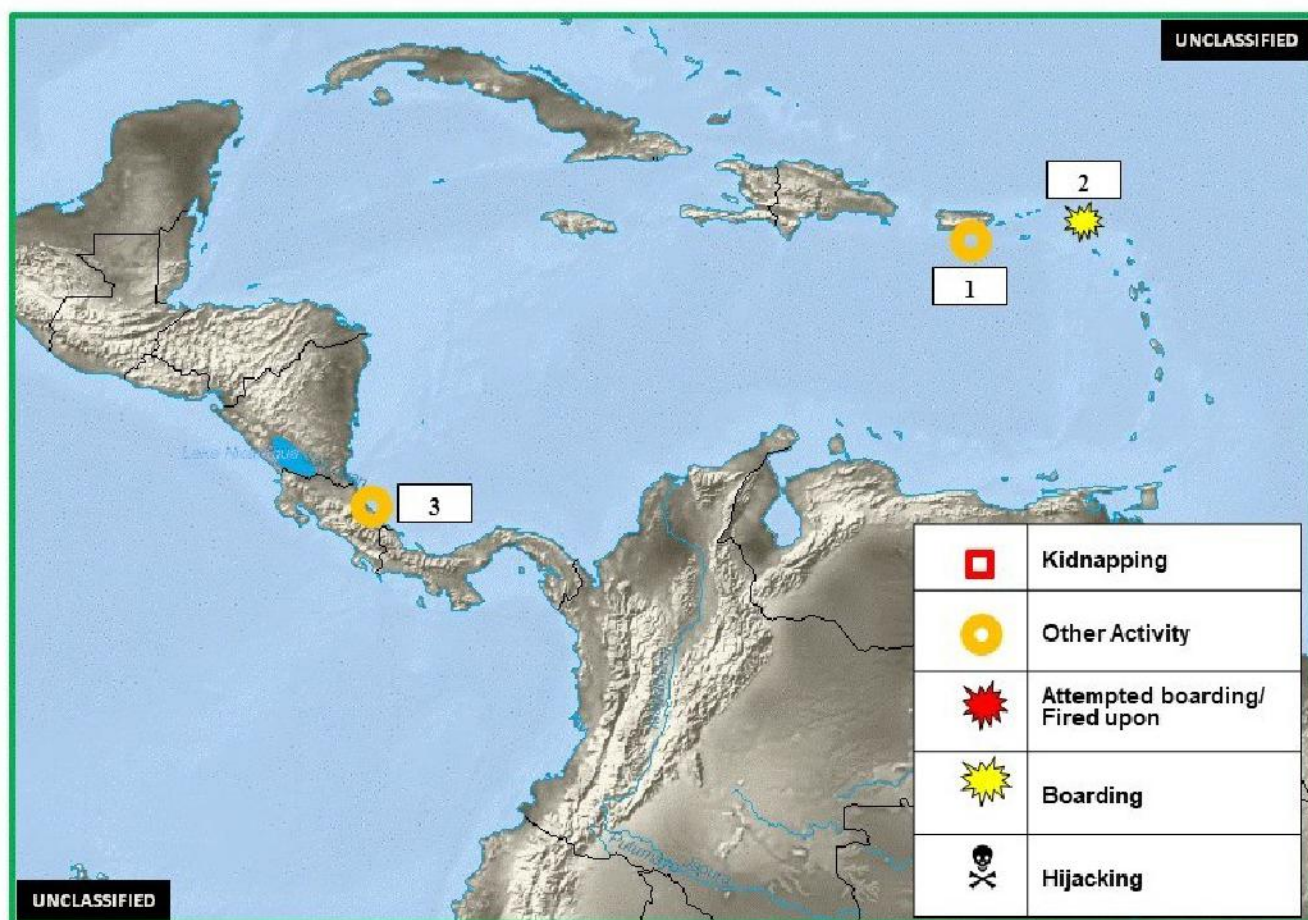
4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(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 past 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:

(U) No current incidents to report.

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



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

1. (U) PUERTO RICO: On 31 October, U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel interdicted a vessel near Guayama. A search of the vessel revealed 1,902 kilograms of cocaine. Two men from the Dominican Republic were arrested. (www.cbp.gov)
2. (U) ST MARTIN: On 29 October, robbers stole an inoperable dinghy and 40-HP Honda outboard motor. The Gendarmes later recovered the dinghy/outboard (only minor damage) which had been abandoned by the thieves. The Gendarmes returned the dingy to the owners. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
3. (U) COSTA RICA: On 28 October, authorities seized one ton of cocaine concealed among a cargo of banana and lime concentrate inside a container at Moin Port. Authorities seized the narcotics after identifying a suspicious container during a routine inspection. The narcotics were bound for Antwerp Port in Belgium. (www.pviltd.com)
4. (U) ARUBA: On 13 October, authorities intercepted a small tug boat and during a search of the vessel, 2.2 tons of cocaine were found. The vessel was seized and the five Venezuelans onboard were arrested. (www.insightcrime.org)
5. (U) BRAZIL: On 13 October, authorities seized 1.3 tons of cocaine concealed among a cargo of sugar in a container at Paranagua Port. Authorities found the narcotics during a routine cargo inspection. The narcotics were bound for Rotterdam Port in the Netherlands. (www.pviltd.com)
6. (U) PERU: On 12 October, three robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 11:59S - 077:11W, Callao Anchorage. Alarm was raised and crew was mustered. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers escaped in their boat. Further investigations indicated that the perpetrators opened the bosun storeroom skylight but were unable to steal anything. (IMB)

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7. (U) HAITI: On 12 October, robbers armed with guns and long knives boarded an anchored vessel near position 18:33N - 072:23W, Port Au Prince Anchorage. The robbers tied up a duty crewman. During the robbery, the ship's alarm was raised. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. Incident reported to pilot station. (IMB)
8. (U) GUATEMALA: On 11 October, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Río Dulce Shell Bay. The robbers stole a dinghy and outboard motor from the yacht. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)
9. (U) PERU: On 4 October, Peruvian officials detained a ship carrying 12.3 million dried seahorses worth approximately \$6 million, about 200 miles off the Pacific Coast. The seahorses were illegally purchased for use in Chinese medicine. (Associated Press)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

(U) No current incidents to report.

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:

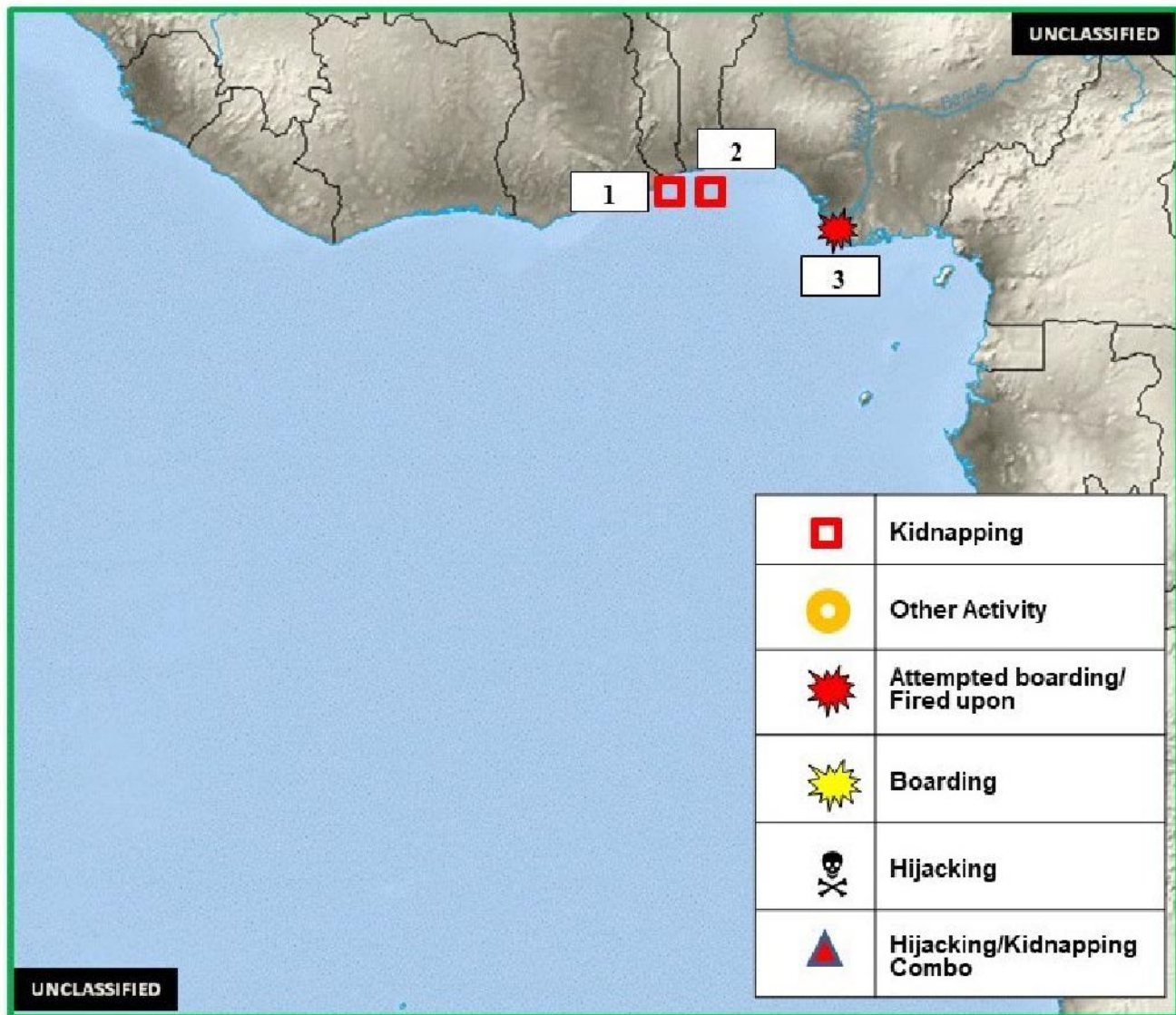
(U) No current incidents to report.

(U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

1. (U) LIBYA: On 27 October, two speedboats flying the flag of Libya fired shots at a German NGO rescue ship ALAN KURDI in international waters just outside Libya's territorial waters. The rescue ship received a report of migrants in distress. The NGO ship arrived on scene and found a large overloaded raft. ALAN KURDI's responders distributed lifejackets to the passengers and had begun to transfer them onboard when two white speedboats arrived. A crewman in one of the speedboats then fired a bow-mounted machine gun at the rescue ship. One Libyan boat took several of the migrants onboard, but these rescuees soon jumped off again, likely an indication of their reluctance to return to Libya. Despite the interference, ALAN KURDI's crew was able to rescue more than 90 people, and is heading toward Lampedusa, Italy. (www.maritime-executive.com)
2. (U) LIBYA: On 21 October, Libya's Coast Guard intercepted 126 migrants off the coastal town of Garabulli. The migrants were all nationals of unspecified African countries. Libya remains a key departure point for migrants trying to reach Europe, although attempted crossings have decreased since 2017. (www.pvilt.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

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(U) Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) TOGO: On 4 November, pirates boarded the Greece-flagged tanker ELKA ARISTOTLE near position 05:58N - 001:15E, 9 NM south of Lome. Pirates kidnapped two Filipinos, one Greek, and one Georgian. One security guard was also shot and wounded in the attack. (IMB; www.marinelink.com; www.gcaptain.com; www.fleetmon.com)
2. (U) BENIN: On 2 November, pirates boarded the Norway-flagged bulk carrier BONITA near position 06:14N - 003:32E, 9 NM southeast of Cotonou. Nine crewmembers were kidnapped. (IMB; BBC; www.marinelink.com; www.gcaptain.com; www.fleetmon.com)
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 November, robbers attacked three passenger boats taking a group of people to a wedding in Degama Local Government Area of Rivers State. The robbers stole personal valuables and their boats, forcing the people to swim ashore. When a rescue boat was sent to retrieve the passengers, the robbers attacked it, killing two people. When a second rescue boat subsequently arrived on the scene, the robbers fired upon it and sank it. (www.punchng.com)

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4. (U) CONGO: On 8 October, one robber boarded a research vessel anchored near position 04:45S - 011:49E, Pointe Noire Anchorage. The master heard noises coming from the bow area and saw the robber. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. The robber escaped in a waiting boat. (IMB)
5. (U) NIGERIA: On 7 October, eight robbers armed with guns boarded a tanker berthed in Apapa BOP Terminal, Lagos. An alert crewman saw the robbers and raised the alarm. Before escaping, the robbers fired toward the crew. No injuries reported. Cargo from the terminal's manifolds was reported stolen. (IMB)
6. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 October, robbers boarded a drifting fishing vessel experiencing machinery problems near position 04:21N - 006:52E, the mouth of the Sambreiro River. The robbers vandalized the vessel and escaped. The vessel's owners notified the Nigerian Navy, who were able to locate and inspect the vessel. (IMB)
7. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 October, three robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 06:17N - 003:13E, Lagos Secure Anchorage Area. They were spotted by a duty crewman who informed the duty officer. Alarm was raised. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped without stealing anything. Incident reported to Nigerian Navy after which a patrol boat arrived for investigation. (IMB)

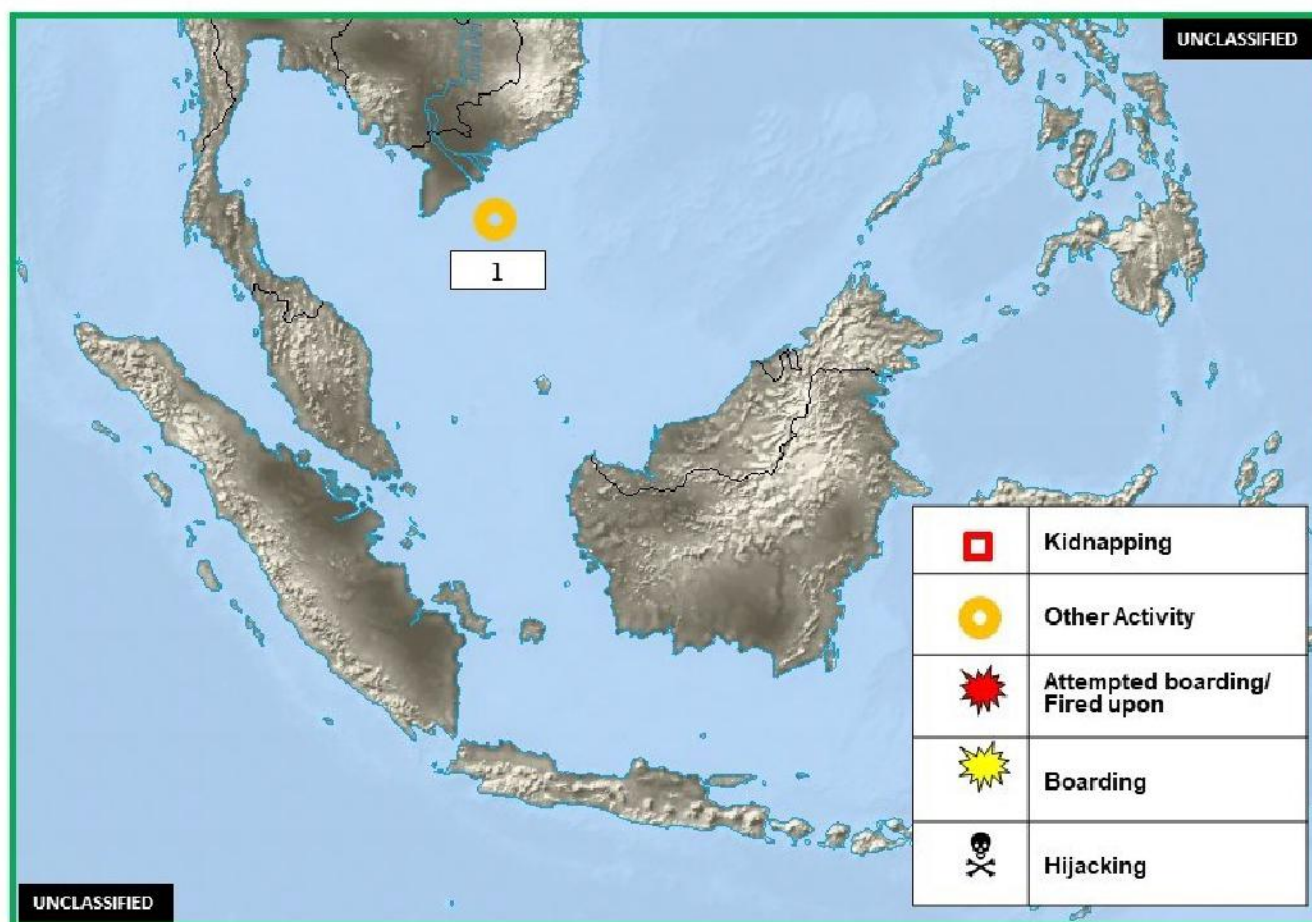
G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:

(U) No current incidents to report.

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

(U) No current incidents to report.

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



(U) Figure 3. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) VIETNAM: On 29 October, coast guard authorities announced the seizure of Mongolia-flagged tanker OKI MARU for suspected fuel smuggling. When apprehended, the ship was carrying a cargo of 350,000 liters of diesel fuel without the proper permits and transferring the fuel to an unidentified Vietnam-flagged vessel.
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 October, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged cargo ship CSK ENTERPRISE near position 06:01N - 105:53E, Cigading Anchorage. The robbers were sighted near the engine room entrance. The alarm was raised and crew was mustered. The robbers escaped without stealing anything. (www.arxmaritime.com)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 20 October, a duty oiler on routine rounds onboard an underway bulk carrier was taken hostage by five robbers armed with a gun and knives near position 01:03N - 103:38E. The robbers threatened the oiler and tied his hands. They then stole ship's spares and escaped. The oiler reported the incident to the OOW who raised the alarm and notified Singapore authorities. (IMB)
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 October, five robbers boarded the Greece-flagged tanker HIRADO near position 01:04N - 103:41E, 4.1 NM northeast of Pulau Cula. They were spotted in the engine room. Alarm was raised and the robbers escaped. The ship was searched and nothing was stolen. (www.arxmaritime.com)
5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 6 October, robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 01:18N - 104:07E, Johor Anchorage. The robbers stole ship's properties and escaped unnoticed. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the theft and notified the duty officer. (IMB)

6. (U) PHILLIPINES: On 6 October, a British man and his Filipino wife were abducted from a resort they owned in Tukuran town in Zamboanga del Sur Province. The gunmen fled with the couple in two motorized boats that departed in opposite directions. It is unknown if the couple is together or separated. The Philippine military has created a taskforce to attempt to rescue the couple. (www.stratstimes.com)

J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) SOUTH KOREA: On 19 October, the Korea Coast Guard (KCG) announced that they had seized two 40-ton Chinese fishing boats in the West Sea with 400 kilograms of illegally caught cod, squid, and Korean cero. The crew members violently resisted the Coast Guard's attempt to seize the vessels, throwing hand axes and shackles at the Korean officers. They face charges of obstruction of justice as well as violation of the Economic Zone Fishery Sovereignty of South Korea Act. (www.koreaherald.com)
2. (U) JAPAN: On 7 October, a North Korean fishing vessel fishing in Japan's EEZ collided with a Japanese Fisheries Agency patrol vessel that had warned it to leave the area. At least 60 crewmembers were rescued after they went overboard as the vessel sank. The incident took place about 350 kilometers northwest of the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture. (The Asahi Shimbun, AFP, Kyodo News)

K. (U) AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND - PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:

(U) No current incidents to report.

5. (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 (WTS) 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 Weekly Piracy Update and WTS reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm.

6. (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) The following terms have been adopted to describe the 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 by an unknown vessel.

(U) **Sourcing**

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News
- DNK Intelligence & Operations Centre (DNK IOC)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Lloyd's
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT- GoG)
- Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Norwegian Shipowners' Mutual War Risks Insurance Association
- 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)

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- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

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

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