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## **(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 14 January - 13 February 2019**



14 February 2019

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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) No current incidents to report.

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

A. (U) CHINA: On 10 February, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Caofeidian Anchorage.

B. (U) LIBERIA: On 9 February, robbers boarded product tanker berthed in the Port of Monrovia.

C. (U) HONDURAS: On 8 February, a thief stole the unlocked outboard motor from the rail mount of a yacht anchored in Roatan West End.

D. (U) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: On 7 February, five fishermen kidnapped by Venezuelan pirates were released after a week in captivity.

E. (U) ARGENTINA: On 7 February, the South Korea-flagged vessel O YANG 77 was arrested by the Argentine Naval Prefecture Coast Guard for alleged illegal fishing in Argentine waters.

F. (U) GHANA: On 6 February, the Ghana Immigration Service, Tema Regional Command arrested two Ghanaians onboard M/V MARITIME VOYAGER attempting to stowaway.

G. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 February, robbers boarded a merchant ship anchored in Belawan Anchorage.

H. (U) TURKEY: On 5 February, authorities in the Port of Mersin seized 615 kilograms of cocaine in a shipping container.

I. (U) INDIA: On 3 February, robbers boarded a merchant vessel berthed at Oil Jetty No. 4, Kandla Port.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for February 2019. 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: China Navy convoy schedule for February 2019. For further information, please email: [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn), or call Tel: 441 221 061 or 00870 773120140. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for February 2019. 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)-870-776-444-280 or (001)-870-773-110-438. Email: [choiyoun981@navy.mil.kr](mailto:choiyoun981@navy.mil.kr) or [kes0539@hanmail.net](mailto:kes0539@hanmail.net) (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 31 January, an environmental NGO vessel was attacked by 20 small boats while patrolling in the northern Gulf of California. Molotov cocktails and projectiles were thrown at the ship, in addition to lead weights and large stones, shattering windows and setting the side of the ship on fire. Ship's crew fended the attackers off using emergency fire hoses, while Mexican Navy soldiers and Federal Police stationed onboard opened fired into the air and sea to deter the attackers. No one was injured during the attack. So far, no arrests have been made. ([www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

2. (U) UNITED STATES: On 20 January, authorities intercepted a boat carrying six people trying to enter Florida illegally by sea. The 20-foot boat was stopped about 30 miles east of Sunny Isles Beach. In a statement, authorities said two Jamaican men, a Dominican man and a Bahamian man were aboard the vessel, along with two U.S. citizens. ([www.washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com))

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

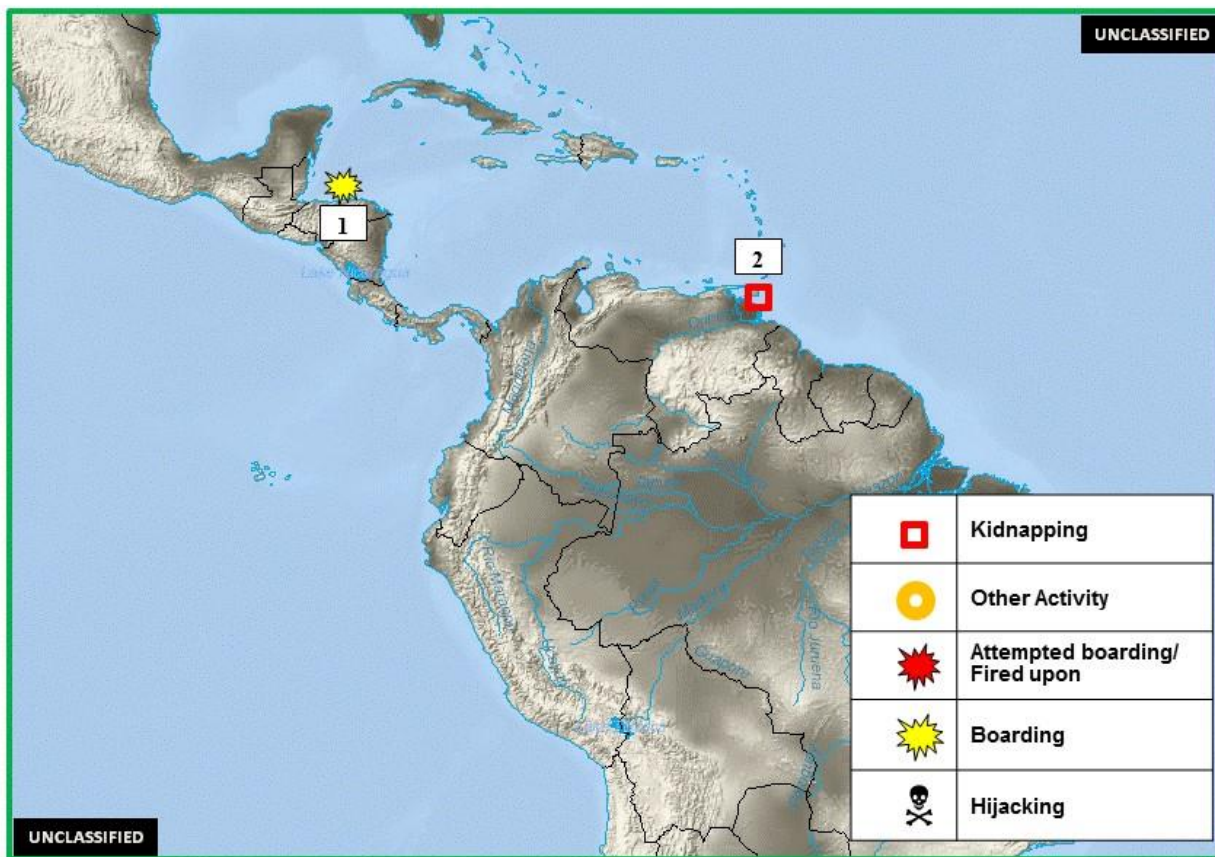


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime



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

1. (U) HONDURAS: On 8 February, a thief stole the unlocked outboard motor from the rail mount of a yacht anchored in Roatan West End. A nearby yacht had its dinghy fuel tank stolen the same night. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
2. (U) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: On 7 February, five fishermen kidnapped by Venezuelan pirates were released after a week in captivity. It is unknown if a ransom was paid, though the pirates initially demanded \$200,000. ([www.stlucianewsonline.com](http://www.stlucianewsonline.com))
3. (U) ARGENTINA: On 7 February, the South Korea-flagged vessel O YANG 77 was arrested by the Argentine Naval Prefecture Coast Guard for alleged illegal fishing in Argentine waters. ([www.fis.com](http://www.fis.com))
4. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 1 February, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Cumberland Bay. Cash and other valuables were stolen. Police report was made. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
5. (U) ST LUCIA: On 1 February, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Vieux Fort. A laptop computer and other valuables were stolen. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
6. (U) ST LUCIA: On 31 January, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Rodney Bay Gros Islet. A dinghy and outboard motor were stolen. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

7. (U) COLOMBIA: On 25 January, thieves attempted to steal an in-the-water, chain locked dinghy and outboard motor from a sailing yacht anchored in Cabo de la Vela. They were not successful. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
8. (U) COLOMBIA: On 25 January, thieves stole an in-the-water, chain locked dinghy and outboard motor from a sailing yacht anchored in Cabo de la Vela. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
9. (U) GRENADA: On 24 January, an unlocked dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored at the Woburn dock. Owners later found the dinghy nearby, minus the engine. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
10. (U) ST MARTIN: On 17 January, a 25-HP Yamaha 4S was padlocked to the dinghy, which had been left overnight at Marina Royale was stolen. A police report was made. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
11. (U) ECUADOR: On 18 January, authorities arrested three suspected pirates and seized weapons and communication equipment near Puna Island. Authorities arrested the suspects after they were alerted by local fishermen about a suspicious boat navigating in the area. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))
12. (U) VENEZUELA: On 17 January, robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 10:11N - 064:47W, Puerto Jose Anchorage. They stole ship's stores and escaped unseen. The theft was noticed by the duty crew during routine rounds. Port control informed. (IMB)
13. (U) PANAMA: On 13 January, at 2130 LT, a private yacht anchored in Portobello was approached by 6 men armed with handguns, using the ruse of selling water. They boarded the vessel and hit one crew member in the head with a gun and then spent a considerable time ransacking the boat, terrorizing the crew that was made to lay on the floor all the while the armed boarders repeatedly yelled "cocaine, cocaine." Cash, phones, computers and electronics were taken. Jewelry was left behind; no drugs were found onboard. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
14. (U) PANAMA: On 13 January, a panga with at least 4 men attempted to board a cruising yacht anchored in Portobello Bay at around 2300 LT. Surprised, the owner came on deck and responded aggressively verbally, and was only able to dissuade the hostile boarders when his large, 60 lb. dog came out on deck. Holstered pistols were visible to the captain. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

**C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:**

1. (U) PORTUGAL: On 24 January, Portuguese and Spanish police seized 430 kilograms of cocaine hidden in crates of bananas from Colombia in a joint operation at the Port of Leixoes. Investigators said that the banana company was being used as a front by Colombian drug trafficking gangs. The tip-off for the seizure came from Spanish police, local media sources reported. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

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

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

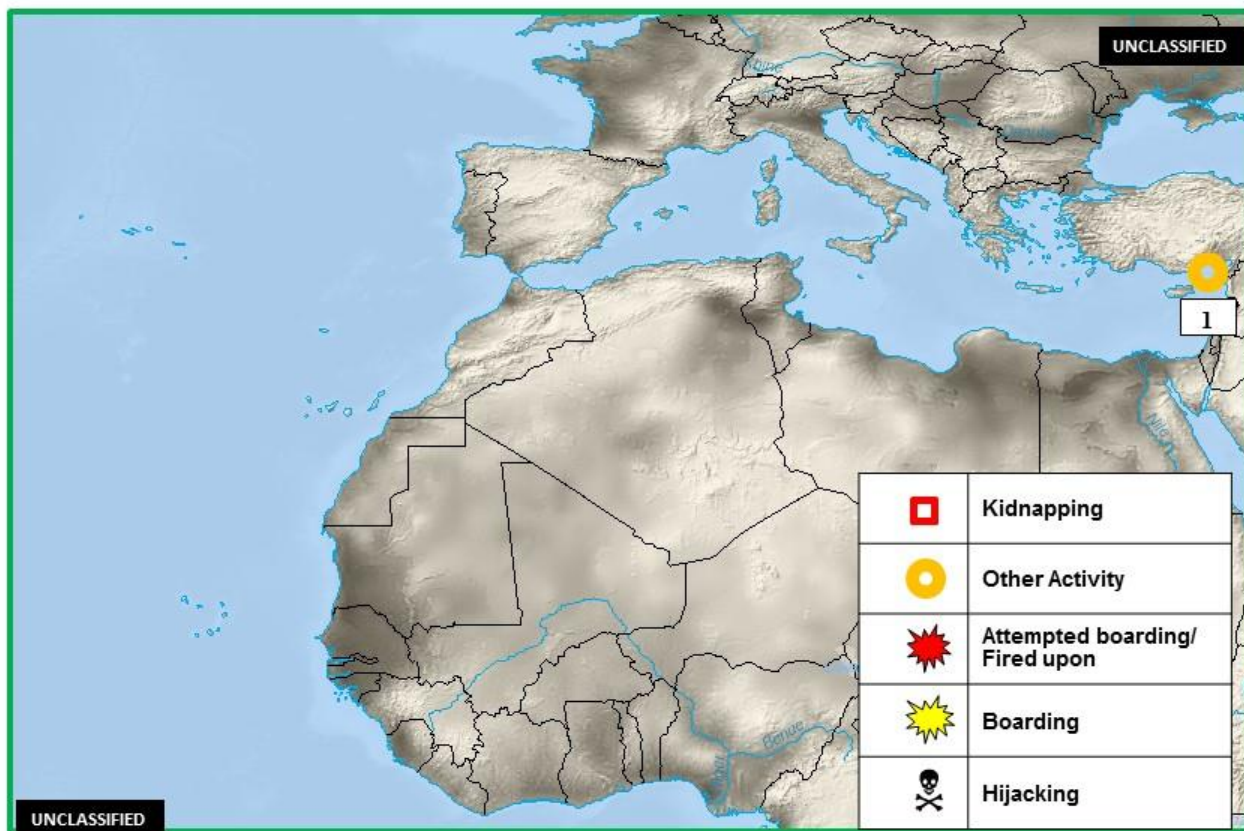


Figure 3. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy  
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) TURKEY: On 5 February, authorities in the Port of Mersin seized 615 kilograms of cocaine in a shipping container manifested to contain bananas from Ecuador. ([www.dailysabah.com](http://www.dailysabah.com))

2. (U) ITALY; On 31 January, customs authorities seized two tons of cocaine from a ship in the Port of Genoa. ([www.ansa.it](http://www.ansa.it))

3. (U) LIBYA: On 29 January, a fisherman was killed by an explosive device when fishing off the northeastern city of Benghazi. Blast fishing is common in Libya and leftover devices periodically kill or injure fishermen. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

## F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

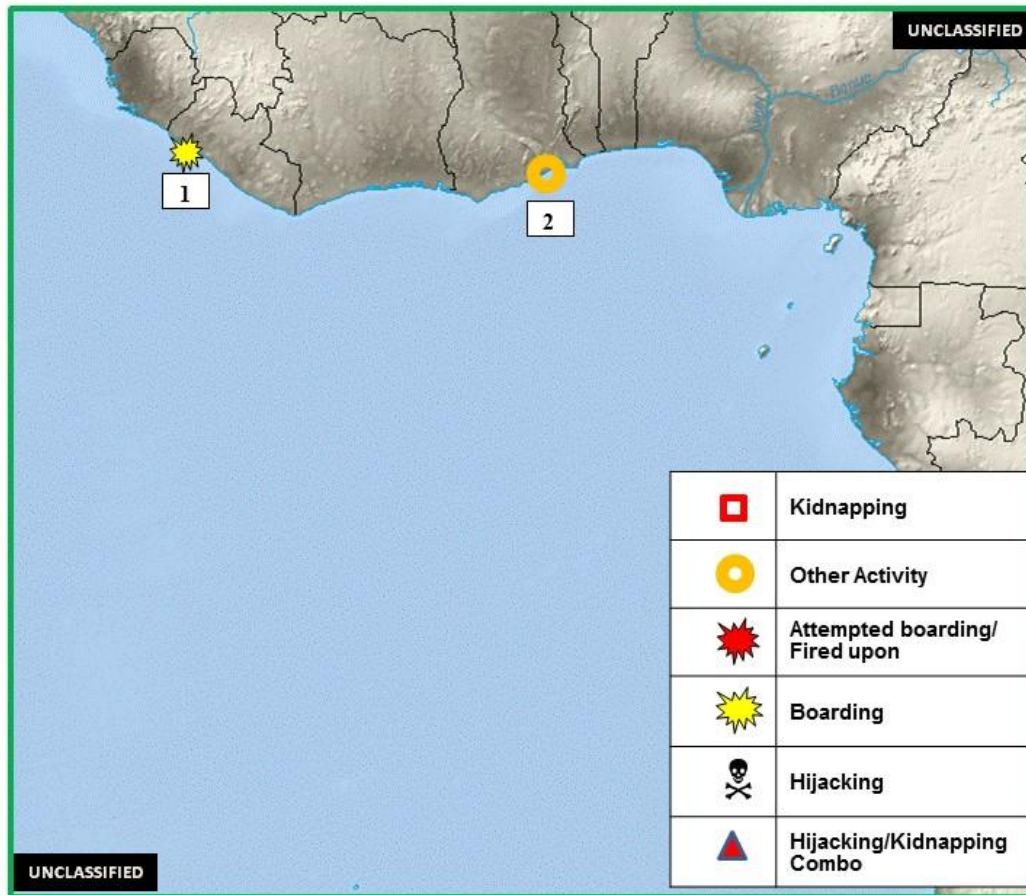


Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) LIBERIA: On 9 February, robbers boarded product tanker berthed near position 06:21N - 010:47W, Port of Monrovia. A duty crewman on routine rounds noticed a robber armed with a knife. Alarm was sounded, resulting in the robber escaping. On searching the vessel, ship's stores were reported stolen. Incident reported to local agent and port control. (IMB)

2. (U) GHANA: On 6 February, the Ghana Immigration Service, Tema Regional Command arrested two Ghanaians onboard M/V MARITIME VOYAGER attempting to stowaway to China. ([www.ghananewsagency.org](http://www.ghananewsagency.org))

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 February, two robbers boarded a merchant tanker vessel at Lagos Anchorage. The robbers approached the Singapore-flagged vessel in a canoe and boarded the ship during a ship-to-ship operation with another tanker. Security personnel aboard the tanker spotted the robbers and sounded the alarm. The robbers reportedly jumped into the sea upon hearing the alarm. ([www.pvilt.com](http://www.pvilt.com))

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 February, the Marshall Islands-flagged landing craft M/V LAETITIA V reported being attacked near position 02:33N - 004:44E, 137 nm southwest of Brass. Three crewmen were kidnapped. (MDAT-GoG; [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

5. (U) CAPE VERDE: On 31 January, the Panama-flagged general cargo ship ESER docked in the Port of Praia due to the death of a crewman onboard. During a search of the ship, 9.5 tons of cocaine was found. All crewmen onboard, 11 Russians, were reportedly arrested. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); [www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com))

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 January, six Russian crewmen from the container ship MSC MANDY, kidnapped in the Gulf of Guinea on 2 January, were released, according to Russian Embassy in Nigeria. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))
7. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 January, five to seven armed pirates in a skiff chased and fired upon a bulk carrier underway near position 03:32N - 006:11E, 45 nm south-southwest of Brass. General alarm was raised, deck lights switched on, speed increased and crew mustered in citadel. Armed guards onboard the vessel managed to repel the attempted attack. (IMB)
8. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 January, seven to eight armed pirates in a skiff chased, fired upon and tried to board a tanker underway near position 03:02N - 006:05E, 76 nm south-southwest of Brass. General alarm raised, non-essential crew mustered in the citadel and master commenced evasive maneuvers. Due to the hardening measures, the pirates moved away. Vessel and crew reported safe. (IMB)
9. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 January, a product tanker was fired upon while underway near position 03:43N - 006:10E, 35 nm south-southwest of Brass. General alarm raised, non-essential crew mustered in citadel and vessel conducted evasive maneuvers. Due to the hardening measures, the pirates moved away. Incident reported to the Nigerian Navy. (IMB)
10. (U) IVORY COAST: On 19 January, two robbers armed with long knives boarded a product tanker anchored near position 05:12N - 004:02W, Abidjan Anchorage. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed a ladder hooked to the ship's rail and two robbers near the poop deck winch. Duty officer notified and alarm raised. Master directed the searchlight towards the poop deck resulting in the robbers escaping with stolen ship's stores. (IMB)

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

1. (U) OMAN: On 15 January, the Omani Coast Guard arrested 15 foreign nationals from an unspecified country after seizing a boat containing 40,000 liters of smuggled fuel. The 15 people were detained after the boat was stopped in Omani waters off the coast from the city of Khasab. ([www.pviktd.com](http://www.pviktd.com))

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

1. (U) RED SEA: On 26 January, a merchant vessel anchored near position 14:59N - 042:49E, 10.8 nm northwest of Hodeidah, was approached by a skiff with 4 persons onboard armed with AK-47s and an RPG. Master activated security measures and the embarked armed security team displayed weapons as skiff circled at a distance of between 100-150 meters. Master sent Mayday call and informed Hodeidah Port Control who reported no knowledge of the armed personnel and speculated that they could be Coast Guard, despite lacking uniforms or vessel insignia. After making several approaches, the skiff left the area.  
([www.mast-security.com](http://www.mast-security.com))
2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 24 January, a U.S. Navy destroyer conducting maritime security operations in the international waters of the Gulf of Aden interdicted a shipment of illicit narcotics aboard a stateless vessel. The ship's visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team seized 4,700 kilograms of hashish while conducting a flag verification boarding. ([www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil))



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

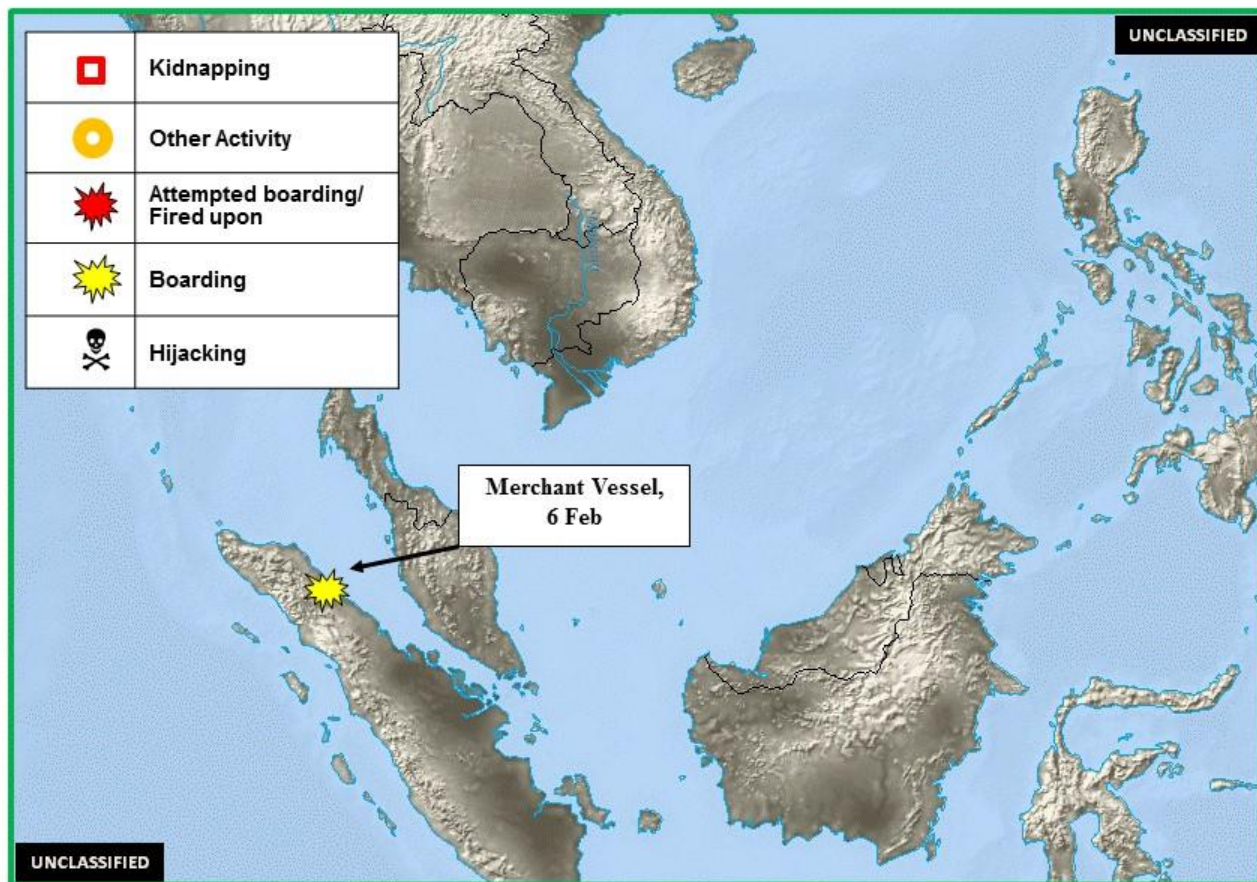


Figure 5. East Asia – Southeast Asia – Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

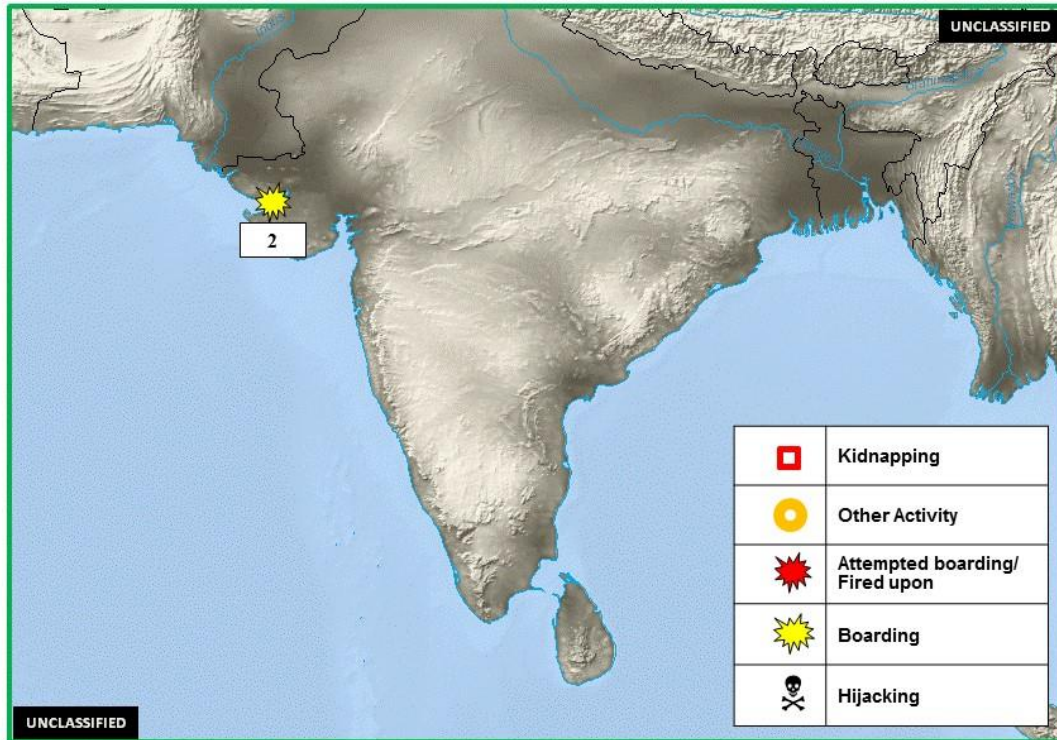


Figure 6. East Asia – Southeast Asia – Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 February, robbers boarded a merchant ship anchored near position 03:55N - 098:40E, Belawan Anchorage. A duty crewman on routine rounds noticed a robber escaping via the hawse pipe and raised the alarm. Crew mustered and upon searching the vessel ship's properties reported missing. (IMB)

2. (U) INDIA: On 3 February, robbers boarded a merchant vessel berthed near position 23:02N - 070:13E, Oil Jetty No. 4, Kandla Port. The chief officer on routine rounds noticed a boat under the forecastle and notified other deck crew. Seeing the alerted crew, the boat moved away. On inspection, it was noticed that a store room had been broken into, but nothing reported stolen. Port authorities notified. (IMB)

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 22 January, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) thwarted robbery activities by a group of individuals after MMEA patrol boat detained a boat with four sharp weapons in the waters of Semporna. The enforcement personnel spotted the pump-boat moving in a suspicious manner and found four sharp weapons – a samurai sword, a long machete, a knife and a short machete known as 'barong.' According to a spokesman, all the weapons were suspected to have been used to carry out piracy and extortion activities at sea previously by three men who managed to escape into shallow waters. (www.theborneopost.com)

4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 15 January, an Indonesian fisherman kidnapped on 11 September 2018, while in the waters of Gaya Island, Semporna, Sabah, was released to local authorities in Jolo, southern Philippines. It was stressed that the release was carried out without ransom, even though the kidnapping group repeatedly demanded a large ransom. (www.bbc.com)

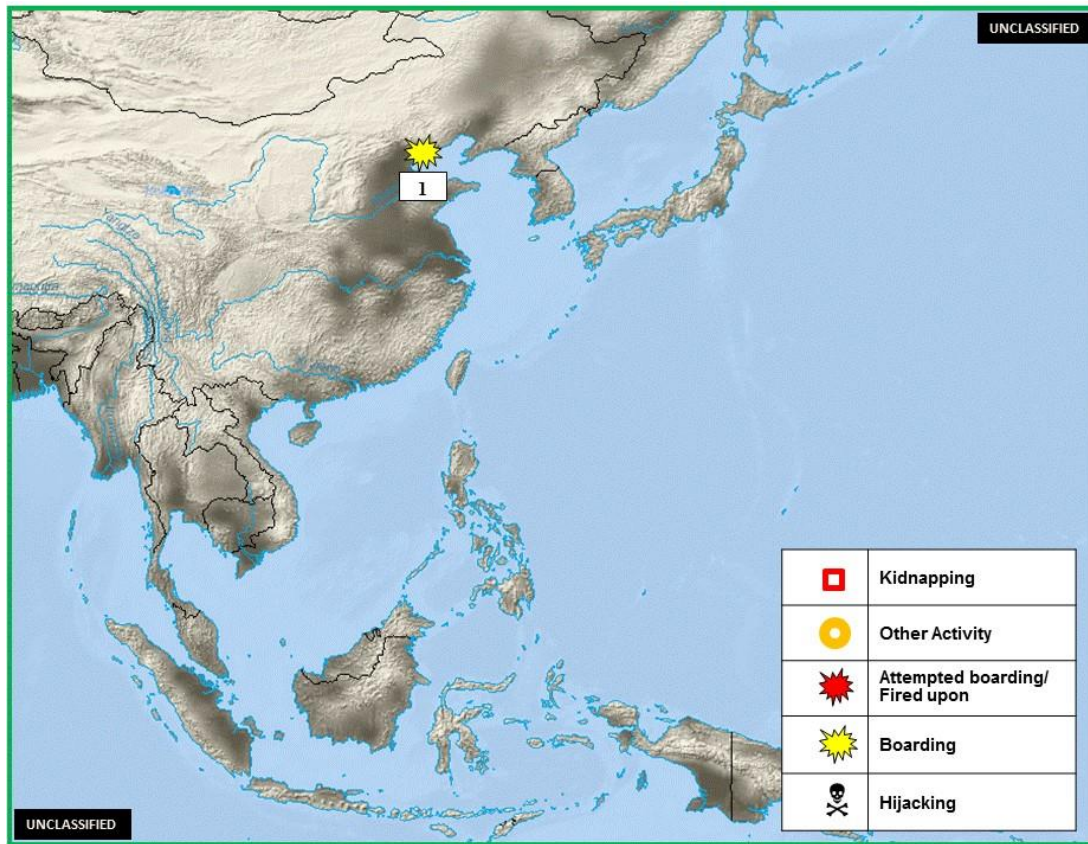
**J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:**

Figure 7. Northeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) CHINA: On 10 February, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 38:52N - 118:42E, Caofeidian Anchorage. The duty officer saw a hose connecting an open tank manhole to a small unlit barge alongside the ship. Alarm raised and duty crewman was instructed to investigate. Hearing the alarm, the duty officer noticed a robber lowering the hose and escaping in the barge. On sounding the tank, it was reported that fuel had been stolen. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB)

2. CHINA: On 30 January, a duty crewman onboard an anchored bulk carrier noticed an unlit barge alongside and raised the alarm. The ship was anchored near position 38:52N - 119:11E, Jingtang Anchorage. Two robbers wearing masks were seen lowering hoses and escaping from the quarter deck. On searching the ship, oil stains were noticed near a tank sounding pipe. All tanks were sounded. Nothing reported stolen. Local officials informed. (IMB)

3. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 18 January, two ship were believed to have engaged in ship-to-ship (STS) transfers involving North Korean vessels in violation of existing UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions against North Korea. The transfer appears to have taken place in the East China Sea around 410 kilometers off the coast of Shanghai, Tokyo said. While the Japanese Ministry of Defense could not identify the name or nationality of one of the ships involved, it asserted that the North Korean vessel was the AN SAN 1. The AN SAN 1 was designated by the UNSC in March 2018 and is already subject to an asset freeze and port entry ban. ([www.nknews.org](http://www.nknews.org); [www3.nhk.or.jp](http://www3.nhk.or.jp))

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

1. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 2 February, a Chinese fishing boat captain was arrested by the Japanese Coast Guard on suspicion of violating Japan's fishing rights and trying to avoid inspection in Japan's exclusive economic zone, about 300 kilometers southeast of Hahajima Island, Japan. The boat, containing the captain and ten crew members, reportedly turned

and sped off when the Coast Guard vessel from Yokohama sounded a siren and issued instructions to stop. The Japanese boat went in pursuit and after a 30 kilometer chase, the Chinese vessel was forced to stop. (www.pvilttd.com)

2. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 1 February, authorities in Coffs Harbour announced the seizure of 750 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a sailing yacht that had arrived from a South Pacific island. (www.coffscostadvocate.com.au)

## 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 embarkation of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.

**(U) Fired Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.

**(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.

**(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.

**(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.

**(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

### **(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
- 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
- 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:** 13 February 2019

(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>