



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 20 August – 16 September 2020



17 September 2020

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) **Warnings and Advisories:** No current warnings or advisories to report.

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 September, the Cyprus-flagged dredger QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS was attacked by fishermen and activists as the ship moved to her new working site in the waters of Takalar Regency, southernmost Sulawesi.
- B. (U) PERU: On 9 September, robbers boarded a container ship anchored in Callao Anchorage.
- C. (U) INDONESIA: (Late Reporting) On 25 June, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Muara Berau Anchorage.
- D. (U) VIETNAM: (Late Reporting) On 14 June, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Vung Tau Anchorage.
- E. (U) MALAYSIA: (Late Reporting) On 15 May, robbers boarded a barge under tow approximately 3 NM south-southwest of Tanjung Piai.

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double counting is detected, or an incident is later found to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) NORTH AMERICA: No current incidents to report.

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



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

1. (U) PERU: On 9 September, a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a container ship anchored near position 12:01.49S - 077:12.65W, Callao Anchorage, saw a robber on the forecastle deck. Seeing the duty crewman, the machete-armed robber shouted and ran towards the crewman, resulting in the crewman retreating into the accommodation area. When the crew raised the alarm, the robber fled empty handed. The crew notified VTS and a patrol boat responded and search the anchorage area. (IMB)

2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 23 August, authorities from the country's Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the National Police, in a joint operation with Colombia's Navy, intercepted a semi-submersible carrying more than a ton of cocaine off the coast of the southern state of Nariño and arrested three men. The drugs were reportedly bound for a drug cartel in Mexico. (www.borderlandbeat.com)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

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

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

1. (U) LIBYA: On 4 September at 0200LT, a group of armed men under the command of the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) – including foreign mercenaries – forced the Comoros-flagged ship MOHAMED BEY into Ras Lanuf Port. The armed men fired live rounds and RPG shells to the vessel's flammable and dangerous area, which intimidated the crew into yielding to their demands. The vessel was scheduled to enter the commercial section of Ras Lanuf Port at 1100LT on the same day to load scrap when commandeered. There were no casualties reported. (Libya Herald, BBC)

2. (U) SPAIN: On 25 August, four stowaways were found onboard Antigua and Barbuda-flagged general cargo ship JANINA at Valencia. One of them claimed to be minor and he was taken ashore. The rest remained aboard. The ship left Valencia the same day, bound for Mostaganem, Algeria. (FleetMon)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

1. (U) ANGOLA: On 8 September at 2254LT, robbers boarded a container ship using the anchor chain at Luanda Anchorage near position 08:45S - 013:17E. When the crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm, the robbers fled empty-handed. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 September at 0930 UTC, pirates boarded the Liberia-flagged reefer ship WATER PHOENIX approximately 31 NM south-southwest of Lagos near position 05:53N - 003:17E. At the time, the vessel was transiting to Lagos. The pirates kidnapped two Russian nationals, one of which was the Captain, while the rest of the crew (5 Russians and 11 Filipinos) took shelter in the citadel. The Nigerian Navy responded, conducted a search, and escorted the vessel to safe anchorage. The rest of the crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global, FleetMon, Splash247)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 September at 0215LT, a small boat with unidentified individuals onboard approached a berthed tanker at Shorelink Jetty, Port Harcourt, at position 04:46N - 007:00E. The detailed naval security onboard directed the spotlight toward the approaching boat, but the boat continued its approach. The security detail fired three warning shots, which caused the boat to move away. The ship conducted a search and found no robbers onboard. The port authorities responded to the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) TOGO: On 29 August at 0230 UTC, seven or eight pirates onboard a small craft using grappling hooks attempted to board the anchored Bahamas-flagged container vessel BAHMAS in Lome at position 06:01N - 001:31E. The crew on watch spotted the pirates, raised the alarm, and repelled those boarding with the use of fire hoses. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global)

4. (U) IVORY COAST: On 29 August, robbers were able to board a tugboat anchored at Abidjan at position 05:15N - 004:00W. The robbers managed to steal an outboard motor and some safety equipment before escaping undetected. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) GHANA: On 28 August at 0730LT, six to eight pirates in a speedboat attacked and boarded the underway Ghana-flagged fishing vessel AP703 110 NM southeast of Tema at position 04:34N - 001:31E. Pirates kidnapped the vessel's South Korean Captain and Chief Engineer. The remaining crew took the vessel to Tema, where local authorities investigated the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global, IMB)

6. (U) DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO: On 23 August, two robbers boarded a vessel anchored near position 06:01S - 012:20E, Banana Anchorage. The robbers were observed on the forecastle by a duty crewman who raised the alarm. Crew was mustered and ship was searched. The crew reported one stolen mooring rope. (Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) SIERRA LEONE: On 21 August, seven armed robbers boarded the China-owned long liner SHANGHAI2 while anchored near position 08:25N - 013:07W, approximately 10 NM southeast of Freetown. The robbers were armed with machetes and a shotgun. The crew tried to defend their vessel but were assaulted. One of the robbers shot the captain in the leg. The Sierra Leone Navy responded, but the robbers had escaped by the time they arrived on the scene. The robbers stole crew's money, computers and a large quantity of fish. (www.maritimebulliten.net; Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) SENEGAL: On 20 August, a fight broke out aboard the Spain-flagged LNG tanker MADRID SPIRIT. One crewman was stabbed repeatedly, in the head, back and chest areas. The ship was enroute from Bilbao, Spain, to Nigeria and stopped in Dakar, Senegal, to get the injured crewman to a local hospital. The crew managed to disarm and immobilize the attacker, locking him into a service compartment. On arrival to Dakar, authorities took the perpetrator into custody. (FleetMon)

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

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

1. (U) YEMEN: On 9 September at 0600LT, a fast craft with ten individuals onboard approached the underway Norway-flagged tanker BOW ORION 28 NM southeast of Perim Island, near the Bab el Mandeb Strait at position 12:22N - 043:48E. The individuals requested the vessel stop via VHF radio. The Captain increased speed and carried out lockdown procedures while the armed embarked security team took their positions on the bridge. The fast craft came to within 400 meters before breaking off its approach. The crew spotted weapons onboard the fast craft during the incident. A fast craft previously approached a bulk carrier in the vicinity communicating via VHF radio that they were Yemen Coast Guard requesting specific information about the vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global)

2. (U) YEMEN: On 31 August, the Saudi-led military coalition intercepted and destroyed an unmanned, remotely controlled, explosive laden boat in Hodeidah governorate in the Red Sea. In a press statement, the coalition said the bomb-laden boat was launched by the Iran-backed Houthi "terrorist" militia. (Dryad Global, Saudi Press Agency)

3. (U) YEMEN: on 31 August at 0810LT, two skiffs approached an underway Singapore-flagged tanker 26.5 NM southeast of Perim Island, near the Bab el Mandeb Strait at position 12:26N - 043:46E. The skiffs with six persons onboard came to within 300 meters when the vessel sounded the alarm. The skiffs aborted their approach upon seeing the vessel's security team onboard. The vessel continued safely to its destination. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 27 August, the IS-affiliated terrorist organization Ansar al-Sunna moved units to the islands of 'Ilha Mionge/Nhonge' off the coast of Mozambique. The island is in the Mozambique Channel 12 miles southwest of the port of Mocimboa da Praia, which the Islamic affiliated group took control on 12 August. There were unconfirmed reports that beheadings and acts of kidnapping may have taken place, as well as the seizure of fishing vessels in the vicinity. (Bloomberg, Marine Link, Dryad Global)

5. (U) RED SEA: During the week of 21 August, the same private armed security member who held the bulk carrier JAEGER hostage for 3 days in July 2020 has done it again, on a different ship; reportedly for the same reason – non-payment of wages owed. The latest incident occurred aboard Mongolia-flagged survey ship GOLDEN PALM being used by a Spanish chartering firm. GOLDEN PALM is used as a floating armory for armed security teams. Reportedly, the incident was short-lived and has been resolved. (Splash247)

I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:

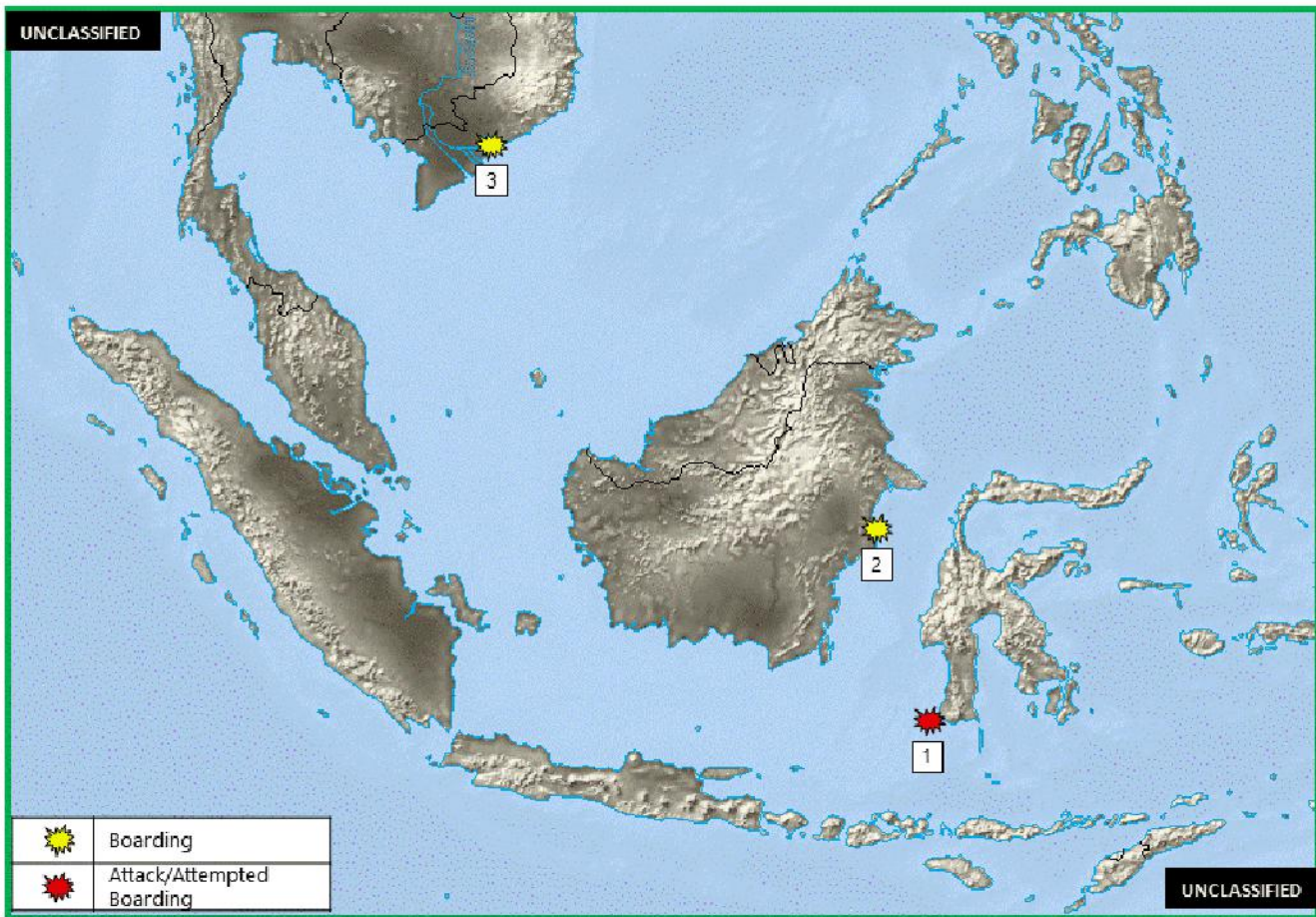


Figure 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 September, the Cyprus-flagged dredger QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS was attacked by fishermen and activists as the ship moved to her new working site in the waters of Takalar Regency, southernmost Sulawesi. The protestors threw stones and Molotov cocktails, which ignited several fires onboard. Protesters also cut several pneumatic cables. QUEEN OF NETHERLANDS had to return to Makassar Port for repairs. Marine police intervened and arrested 12 protesters. (FleetMon)

2. (U) INDONESIA: (Late Reporting) On 25 June, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 00:15.16S - 117:35.54E, Muara Berau Anchorage. The robbers broke into the bosun storeroom, stole ship's stores, and escaped unseen. The theft was noticed later by the duty AB on security rounds. The crew reported the incident to port control. The Indonesian Marine Police (IMP) boarded the ship for investigation. On 11 July, the IMP identified and apprehended three persons responsible for the theft, and managed to recover the stolen items. The master and the CSO were able collect the stolen items from the IMP Regional Directorate of East Kalimantan. (IMB)

3. (U) VIETNAM: (Late Reporting) On 14 June, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 102:10N - 107:03E, Vung Tau Anchorage. They stole ship's property and escaped unseen. The crew discovered the robbery while transiting to their next port. (IMB)

4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 August at 0040LT, a robber boarded a Marshall Island-flagged bulk carrier SEA DIAMOND underway eastbound in the Singapore Traffic Separation Scheme 25 NM southeast of Singapore near position

01:16N - 104:15E. The crew subsequently conducted a search, but the robber had escaped. The crew's security checks revealed nothing was stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)

7. (U) MALAYSIA: On 29 August at 2348LT, six robbers boarded the Iran-flagged bulk carrier AMINA underway eastbound of the Singapore Traffic Separation Scheme north of Bintan near position 01:16N - 104:16E. The crew subsequently searched the vessel and conducted security checks, but the robbers had escaped empty-handed. The vessel and crew continued to their destination. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 August at 0305 UTC, four robbers boarded the chemical tanker anchored in Dumai Anchorage near position 01:42N - 101:26E. When the duty crew spotted the robbers armed with knives, they raised the alarm and the crew were mustered in the citadel. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers fled empty-handed. After the crew reported the incident to the port control, local authorities responded and boarded the vessel to investigate. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

9. (U) MALAYSIA: On 25 August at 0500LT, a robbery occurred on the anchored Singapore-flagged tanker GS FABULOUS in the Sandakan Inner Anchorage at position 05:49N - 18:07E. The crew discovered the deck store's padlock broken and eleven drums of paint missing. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)

10. (U) MALAYSIA: On 25 August, an Indonesian boat skipper was killed in a botched attempt to smuggle out magpie-robins in the waters of Tanjong Kelisa. A senior member of the Johor Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) said the incident took place when four enforcement personnel on the boat KILAT 16 tried to stop one of two boats, which were smuggling out the birds. "Earlier, they stopped and inspected the first boat with two locals onboard and found 90 baskets of white rump shama and oriental magpie-robin which were believed bound for Indonesia. "When attempting to stop the second boat with three suspects onboard, the boat skipper tried to grab a firearm belonging to one of the enforcement personnel and was shot in the process and declared dead," the MMEA official told reporters. Four suspects comprising two locals and two Indonesians from the two boats were detained by MMEA while the body of the dead skipper was handed to the police for further action. (www.dailyexpress.com.my)

11. (U) TAIWAN: On 22 August, a 43-year-old Chinese citizen was arrest by local authorities when he arrived in Kaohsiung Port. The man is to be questioned as to his part in the killing of at least four men at sea seen in a video that went viral in 2014 and if the incident took place from a Taiwanese vessel. The case came to light after a 10-minute video was circulated on the internet in August 2014. In it, a man believed to be the captain is heard giving directions in Mandarin with a mainland Chinese accent over a loudspeaker to the crew as 40 rounds of live ammunition are fired, picking off four or five unarmed men in the water. No images of the shooters are seen. At the end of the video, the victims are seen floating face down, and the group of men filming the shootings from the deck of the boat pose for photos as their vessel continues on its course. The identity of the victims have not yet been identified. The Fiji police commissioner at the time said the victims were thought to be pirates after a confrontation with an Asian fishing crew, according to a Fijian Broadcasting Corporation report aired on 26 August 2014. Fijian police were involved in the investigation because the video is thought to have been uploaded on the internet before it was discovered on a mobile phone that was found in the back of a taxi in Fiji, international media reported. (www.focustaiwan.tw)

12. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 20 August, an attempted robbery occurred on a bulk carrier anchored near position 13:44N - 121:01E, Batangas Anchorage. A duty crew member on security rounds was attacked and injured by a robber armed with a knife. The duty crew member managed to escape and notify the duty officer. The alarm was raised, and crew was mustered. Hearing the alarm and seeing the alerted crew, the robber escaped. Incident was

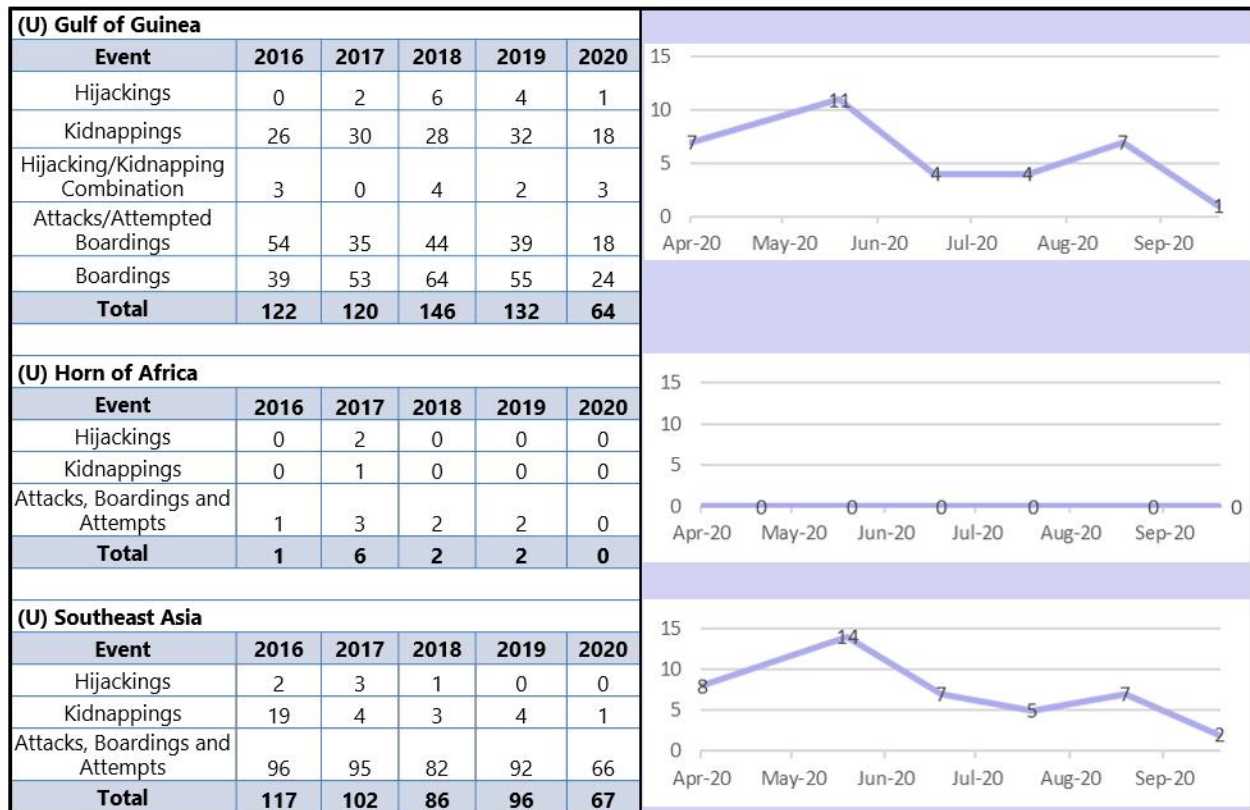
reported to the authorities and medical assistance requested. Doctors and coast guard officers boarded the vessel to treat the injured crew member and investigate the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT: No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) PAPUA NEW GUINEA: On 7 September, two suspected pirates were arrested by local authorities on Kanakota Island, Samarai-Murua District, Milne Bay province. Police following leads raided the village on the island and rounded up the pirates and confiscated two shotguns. They were suspected of belonging to a gang that attacked and robbed travelers at sea. (PNG–Post Courier)

5. (U) Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends:



A. (U) Definitions: In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, we use the following definitions to describe a range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized embarkation of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.

- (U) **Fired Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Hijacking/Kidnapping Combination** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement who forcefully remove crew members from vessel when disembarking.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained activity in close proximity of an unknown vessel.

B. (U) Sourcing: ONI derives information in this report primarily from government agencies, piracy reporting centers, maritime security companies, and open press.

(U) **ICOD:** 16 Sep 2020

(U) The Weekly Piracy Update (WPU) and Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal: <https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>