

UNCLASSIFIED



**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report,
24 February – 24 March 2021**



25 March 2021

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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:

A. (U) **MARAD ADVISORY 2021-004-Variou-GPS Interference**. Issued on: 19 March 2021. Multiple instances of significant GPS interference have been reported worldwide in the maritime domain. This interference is resulting in lost or inaccurate GPS signals affecting bridge navigation, GPS-based timing, and communications equipment. Satellite communications equipment may also be impacted. Over the last six months, areas from which multiple instances have been reported include the eastern and central Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf, and in the vicinity of the Suez Canal. The U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center (NAVCEN) and NATO Shipping Center websites contain information regarding effective navigation practices for vessels experiencing GPS disruption. This guidance recommends reporting such incidents in real time; noting critical information such as the location (latitude/longitude), date, time, and duration of the outage/disruption; and providing photographs or screen shots of equipment failures experienced to facilitate analysis. Contact Information: Maritime GPS disruptions or anomalies should be reported immediately to the NAVCEN at <https://go.usa.gov/xQBaw> or via phone at 703-313-5900, 24-hours a day. NAVCEN will further disseminate reported instances of GPS interference in this region to the NATO Shipping Center. This message will automatically expire on 15 September 2021.

3. (U) Summary:

- A. (U) SUEZ CANAL: On 23 March, the Panama-flagged container vessel EVER GIVEN ran aground and became lodged sideways while making a northbound transit of the canal.
- B. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 22 March, a vessel transiting the Strait of Hormuz reported a suspicious approach by one small grey boat with 3 persons onboard wearing masks.
- C. (U) INDIA: On 22 March, six fishermen from Tamil Nadu were injured when 2 boats carrying robbers boarded their fishing boat and ransacked it.
- D. (U) PERU: On 16 March, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage.
- E. (U) PERU: On 16 March, eight robbers, armed with knives, boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage.
- F. (U) VIETNAM: On 15 March, robbers boarded a moored bulk carrier at Campha 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 last 30 days. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event that 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:

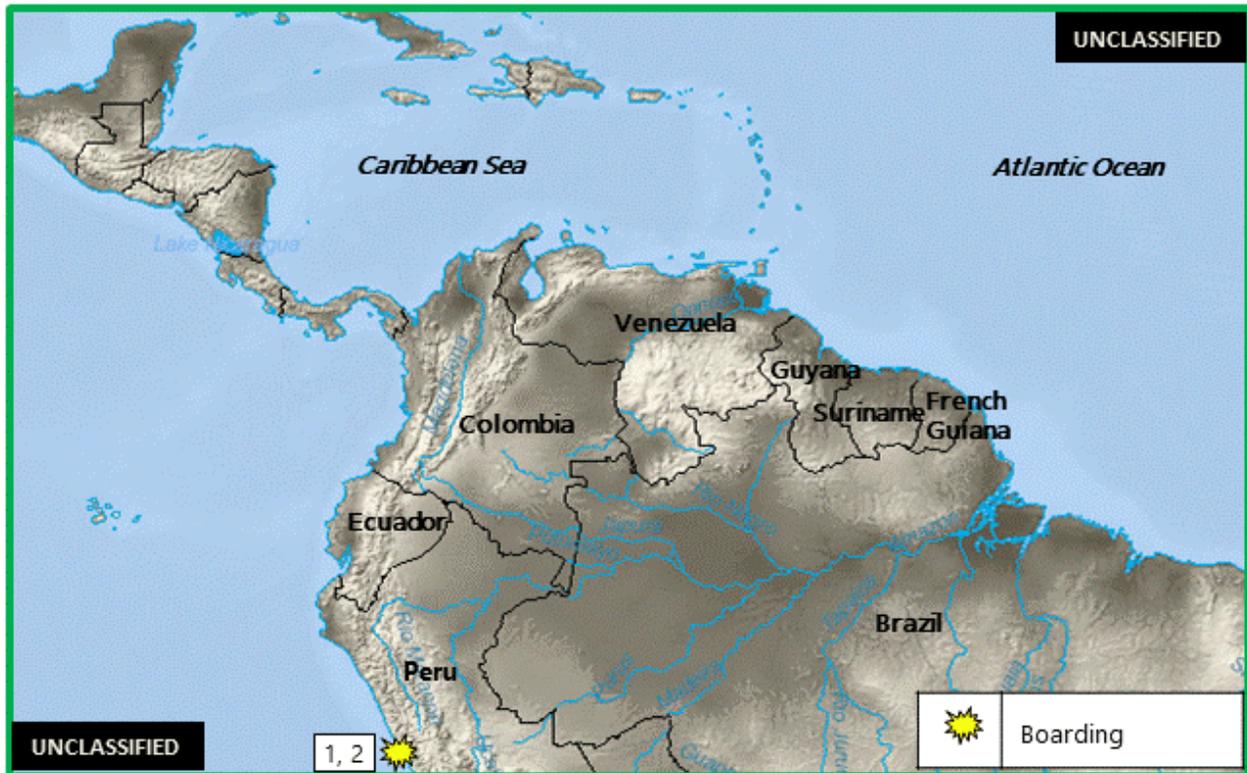


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PERU: On 16 March, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:10W. The robbers managed to board the vessel, break into the forecandle store room and steal ship's properties without being spotted. The duty crew noticed the robbery had taken place while on routine rounds. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) PERU: On 16 March, eight robbers, armed with knives, boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:11W. A duty crew member was threatened and restrained by the robbers. The perpetrators were able to steal ship's property and then released the crew member before making their escape. The incident was reported to the local port authorities, which resulted in a coast guard patrol vessel being dispatched to the scene to assist. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) PERU: On 10 March, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:14W. The robbers, armed with knives, were spotted by a duty crewmember on the forward mooring station. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping with stolen ship's property. The incident was reported to the local Vessel Traffic Service, and a coast guard patrol vessel was tasked to search the waters surrounding the bulk carrier. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: On 9 March, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in English Harbor. The robbers stole a dinghy. It was recovered the next morning from a nearby mangrove area, minus the 15-HP Yamaha outboard engine, fuel tank, fuel line and oars. A report was made to the marina and the police. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

5. (U) ECUADOR: On 6 March, robbers boarded the Jamaica-flagged container ship PACORA near Guayaquil. The robbers broke into nine specific containers before leaving the ship. (Dryad Global)

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:

1. (U) ENGLAND: On 19 February, authorities in Portsmouth International Port announced that they had seized 2.3 tons of cocaine hidden among a shipment of bananas arriving from Colombia. (Reuters)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 March, pirates boarded the Luxembourg-flagged offshore supply vessel BOURBON EVOLUTION 802 approximately 208 NM south of Lagos near position 02:58N – 002:53E. The crew is safe and stayed in the citadel during the boarding. (IMB; www.maritimebulletin.net; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 March, pirates boarded the Malta-flagged tanker DAVIDE B approximately 227 NM southwest of Lagos near position 02:47N – 002:35E. The pirates escaped with 15 kidnapped crewmembers. (IMB; Dryad Global; www.gcaptain.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GHANA: On 11 March, four robbers boarded an anchored drill ship. An alert crewman noticed the persons and informed the bridge. Incident reported to local port authorities and a security patrol team was dispatched. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)

4. (U) ANGOLA: On 10 March, robbers boarded an anchored container ship at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:45S – 013:17E. The robbers managed to board the vessel and steal two mooring lines without being spotted. The duty crew discovered the robbery had taken place during routine rounds. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 March, 10 crewmen, previously kidnapped from the Gabon-flagged fishing vessel LIAN PENG YU 809 on 10 February, were released after 24 days in captivity. (Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) CAMEROON: On 6 March, robbers boarded an offshore supply ship anchored in Douala Anchorage, near position 04:00N – 009:37E. The theft was noticed by the bosun during routine rounds. The crew searched the ship and ship's property was noted stolen. The incident was reported to local port authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) ANGOLA: On 26 February, robbers boarded an offshore supply ship anchored in Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:45S – 013:17E. The robbers were able to steal ship's property and escape unnoticed. The theft was noticed by a duty crewman during routine rounds. The crew conducted a search of the ship and confirmed the robbers had escaped. Incident reported to local port authorities. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics)

G. (U) ARABIAN GULF:



Figure 2. Arabian Gulf Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: On 22 March, a vessel transiting the Strait of Hormuz reported a suspicious approach by one small grey boat with 3 persons onboard wearing masks. The approach occurred approximately 21 NM north of Mina Saqr near position 26:20N – 056:01E. (Dryad Global)

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

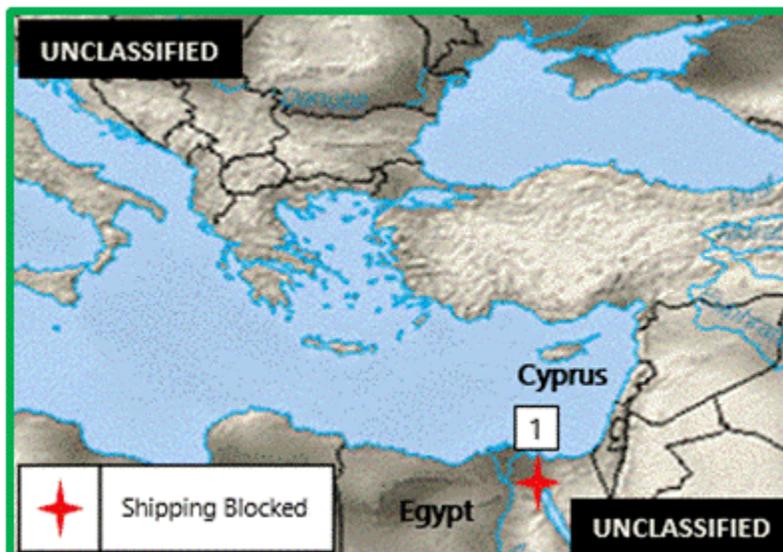


Figure 3. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SUEZ CANAL: On 23 March, the Panama-flagged container ship EVER GIVEN ran aground and became lodged sideways while making a northbound transit of the canal, blocking the path of dozens of other vessels. Reports indicate that as many as 100 ships were trapped in both directions. (www.maritime-executive.com)

3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: On 8 March, a vessel reported a suspicious approach approximately 105 NM southeast of Nishtun, Yemen, near position 14:43N – 053:31E. Four small crafts with two people onboard each craft approached the vessel. (Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) OMAN: On 25 February, the Bahamas-flagged vehicle carrier HELIOS RAY reported an explosion aboard the vessel approximately 44 NM northwest of Muscat at position 24:23N – 058:33E. The vessel and crew are safe and the vessel was able to return to a safe port. (Dryad Global, Clearwater Dynamics)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

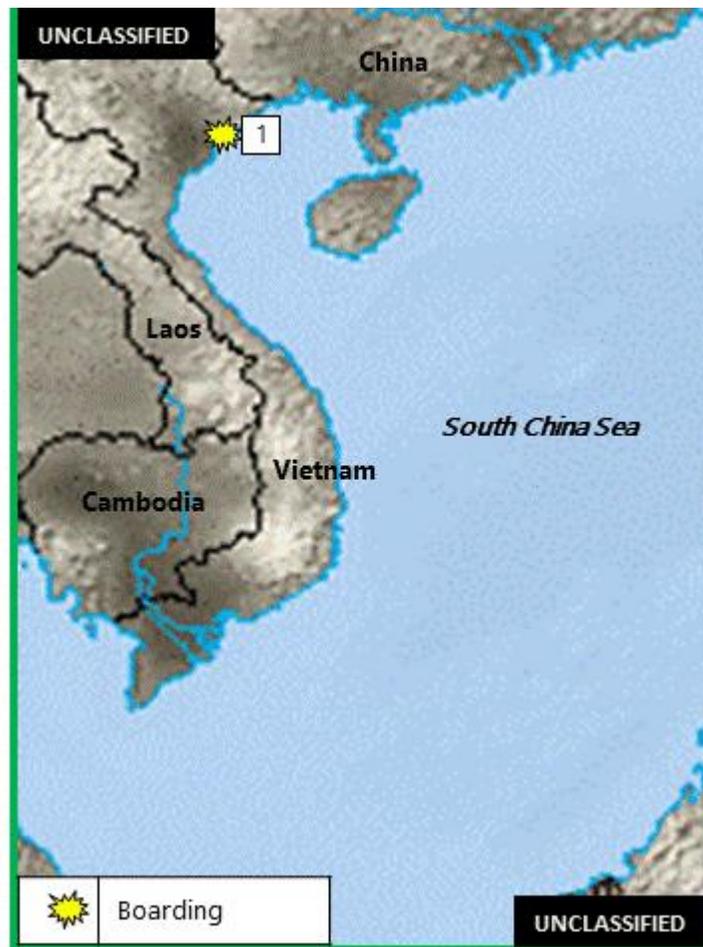


Figure 4. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) VIETNAM: On 15 March, robbers boarded a moored bulk carrier at Campha Port, near position 20:54N – 107:16E. The robbers broke into two crew cabins, stealing cash before making their escape. The local authorities were informed and an investigation was carried out. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 3 March, the Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier AKIJ PEARL reported a suspicious approach by a skiff carrying three persons 11 NM southeast of Sibutu Island, Tawi Tawi, near position 04:29N – 119:36E. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

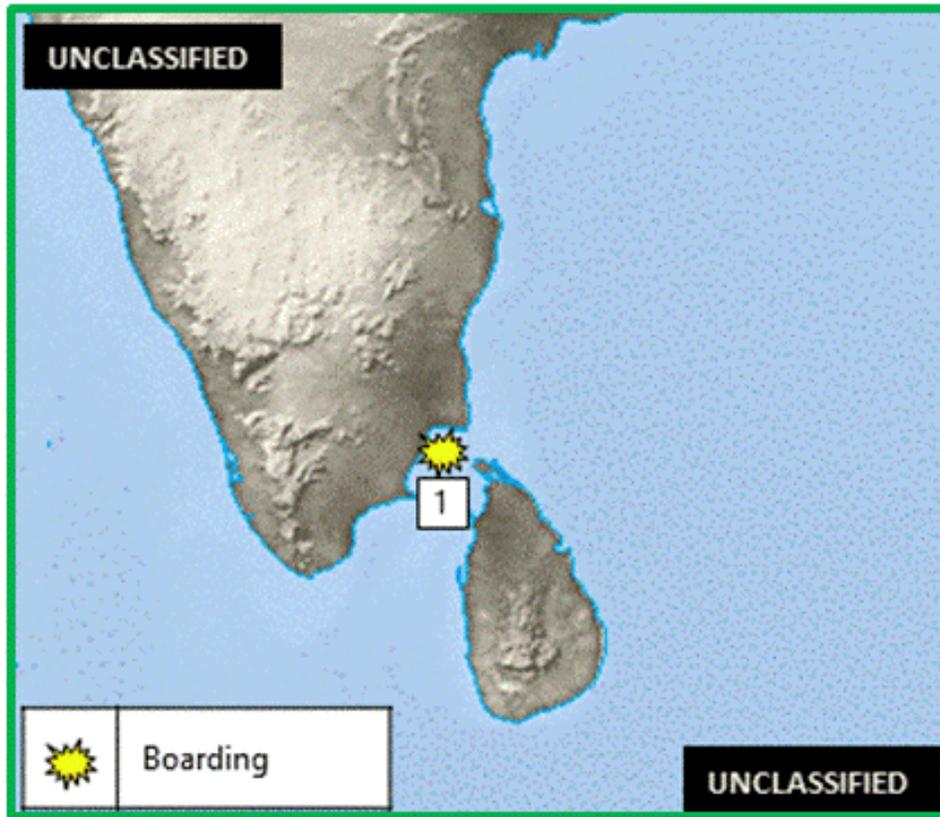
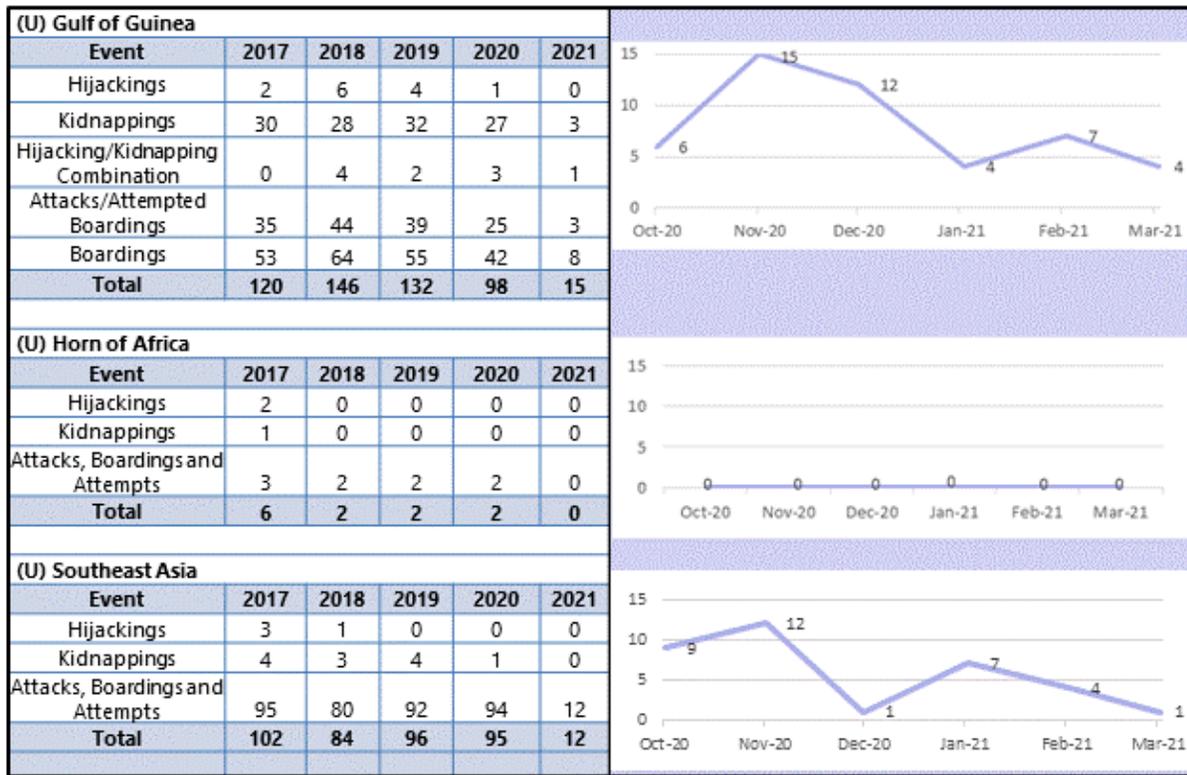


Figure 5. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDIA: On 22 March, six fishermen from Tamil Nadu were injured when a group of robbers in two speed boats boarded their fishing boat and ransacked it. The robbers stole their catch, personal electronics and GPS equipment before fleeing. (www.dtnext.in)

K. (U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

5. (U) **Appendix A: Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea Statistics and Trends**6. (U) **Appendix B: Definitions and Sourcing**

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 antishipping 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:** 24 March 2021

(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/>