

UNCLASSIFIED



(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 28 April – 26 May 2021**



26 May 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:** No active warnings or advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 26 May, a robber boarded a cargo vessel berthed at Onne Port.
- B. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 24 May, robbers boarded a bulk carrier while underway in the Singapore Strait.
- C. (U) **INDONESIA:** On 23 May, robbers boarded a bulk carrier while underway in the Singapore Strait.

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:

1. (U) PERU: On 3 May, four robbers boarded an anchored product tanker at Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:12W at 19:30 local time. The robbers were armed with knives and took a duty crewman hostage, tying him up before stealing the crew member's personal belongings and ship's properties. The robbers then made their escape. The tied-up crew member was later found and the alarm was raised. The owners and port authorities were informed of the incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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: No current incidents to report.

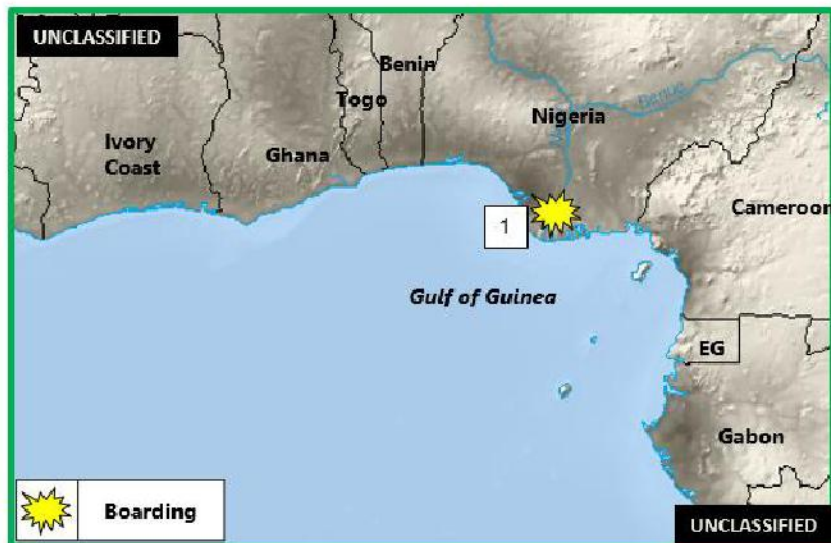
F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

Figure 1. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 May, a robber boarded a cargo vessel berthed at Onne Port at 04:20 local time near position 04:41N – 00709E. The robber escaped in a canoe after the duty watchman raised the alarm. Following the incident, security personnel and the Nigerian Navy were alerted. A patrol vessel was dispatched to investigate, and approximately one hour later the robber was apprehended. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GHANA: On 19 May, eight armed perpetrators in a skiff initially approached and fired upon a Ghana-flagged fishing trawler at 18:30 local time in position 04:33N – 000:15E, approximately 66 NM south of Tema. The trawler stopped, and five armed pirates boarded and remained onboard for about six hours. The pirates kidnapped five crew members (four Chinese nationals and one Russian), and removed personal crew belongings and other valuables. No injuries were reported to the remaining crew. The trawler's crew identified the pirates as Nigerian. After the kidnapping, the trawler headed back towards Tema port. (Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) LIBERIA: On 2 May, at least one robber boarded a container ship moored in Monrovia Port, near position 06:20N – 010:48W at 03:30 local time. A duty crewman discovered one intruder jumping overboard. A search revealed that some ship's properties had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) ANGOLA: On 29 April, two robbers boarded a container ship anchored in Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:41S – 013:17E at 02:00 local time. Ship's horn was sounded, crew was mustered and a search of the ship was

conducted. The incident was reported to port authorities and a patrol boat was dispatched to investigate. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) RED SEA: On 18 May, four persons onboard a small-sized boat suspiciously approached a non-government organization research vessel and fired shots into the air while in a position approximately 50 NM west-northwest of Hudaydah, Yemen, near 14:57N – 042:05E. No injuries have been reported. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 7 May, a U.S. Navy cruiser stopped and searched a stateless dhow in the northern Arabian Sea. According to a U.S. Navy 5th Fleet spokesperson, a large weapons cache was found during the search. "The cache of weapons included dozens of advanced Russian-made anti-tank guided missiles, thousands of Chinese Type 56 assault rifles, and hundreds of PKM machine guns, sniper rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. Other weapon components included advanced optical sights," according to the spokesperson. (Reuters)

3. (U) RED SEA: On 3 May, a vessel reported a suspicious approach approximately 60 NM west of Al Hudaydah, Yemen, near position 15:04N – 041:56E. The vessel was approached by two small crafts with six people onboard and came to within 15 meters of the vessel. All crew are reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

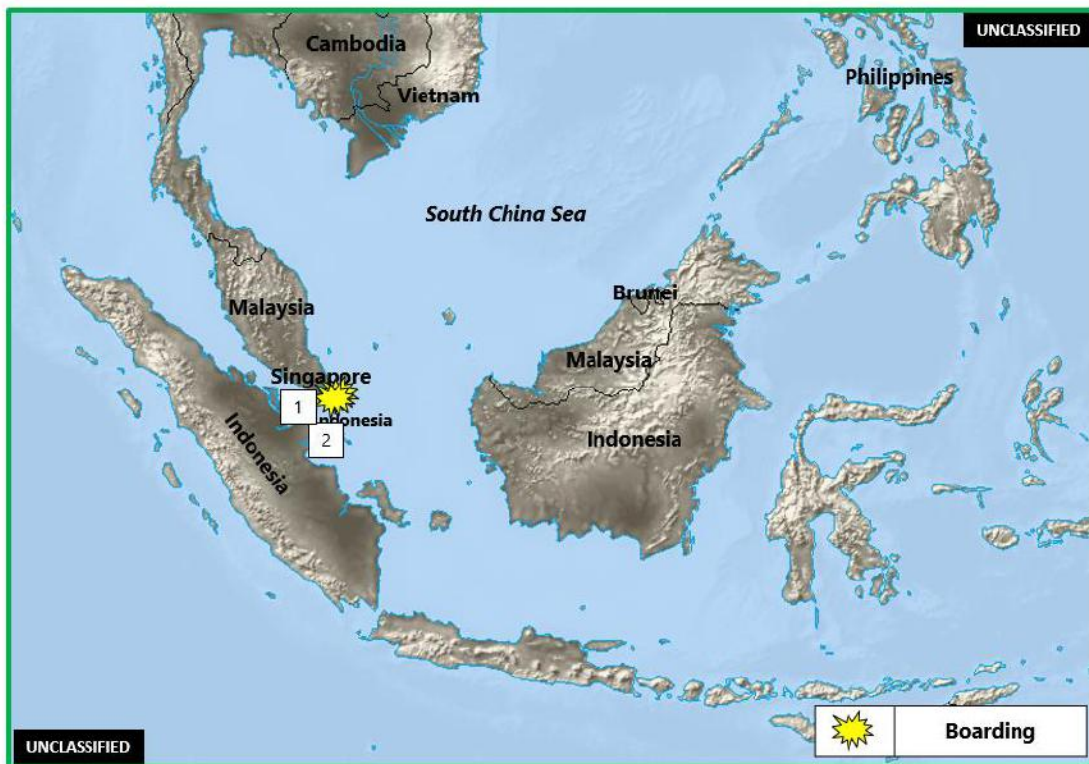


Figure 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 May at 00:48 local time, up to three robbers were seen in the engine room of Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier RB EDEN while it transited the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme near position 01:16N – 104:16E. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. The vessel anchored at the OPL (outside port limits), and a full search was conducted to ensure no robbers remained onboard. The search confirmed that the perpetrators had escaped and that nothing was stolen. The Master

reported the incident to the Vessel Traffic Information System on the VHF. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS).

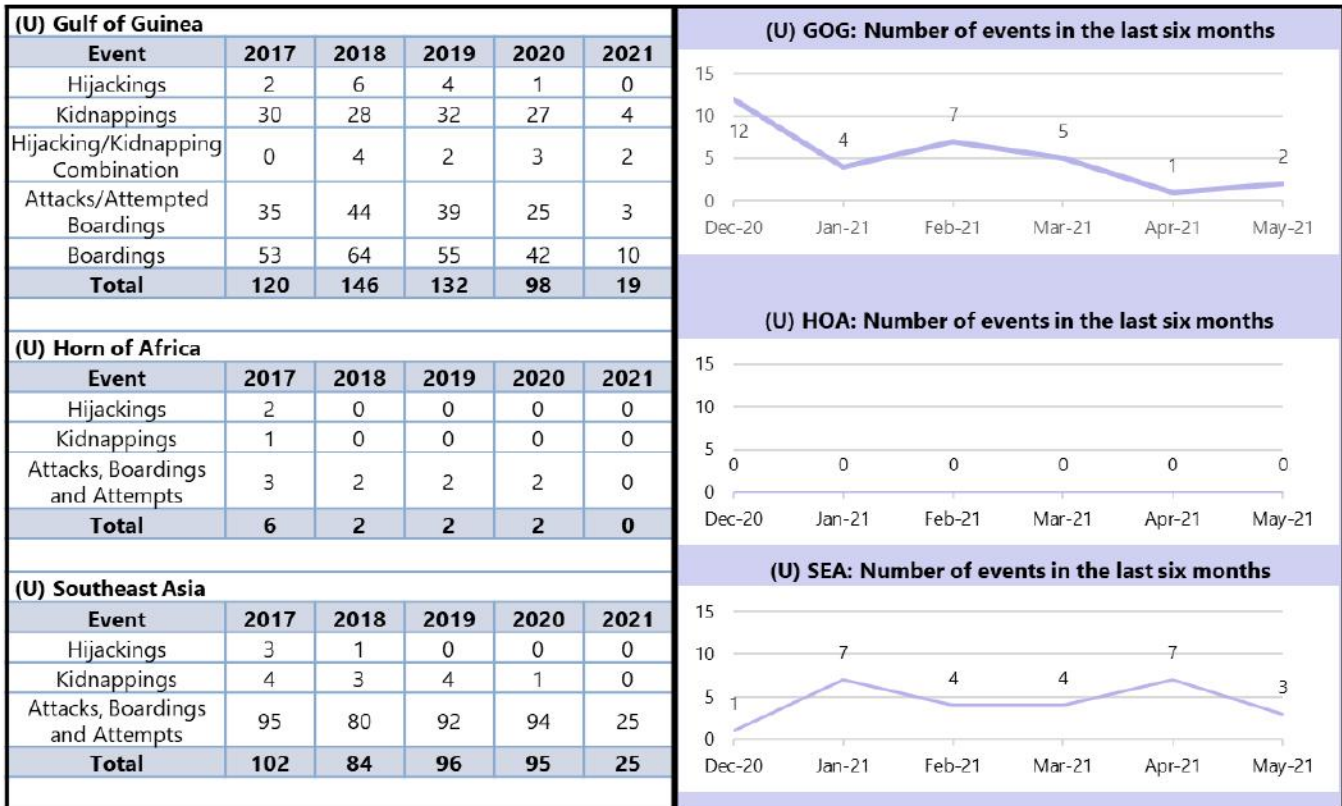
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 May at 22:30 local time, four robbers armed with knives were sighted in the engine room of a Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier ALEA while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme, near position 01:17N – 104:17E. The robbers threatened the crew on duty, who then retreated to the accommodation. Following this encounter, the alarm was raised and crew were mustered. The robbers escaped empty-handed. The incident was reported to Vessel Traffic Information System authorities. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS).

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 9 May, five robbers attempted to board the underway Greece-flagged tanker ASTRO PERSEUS in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme, near position 01:14N – 104:02E. A search of the ship was conducted, which confirmed that there were no perpetrators onboard and nothing was stolen. A hook attached to a rope was found on the stern of the vessel. (IMB: Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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:** 26 May 2021

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