



UNCLASSIFIED

(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 5 May – 2 June 2021**



2 June 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) **INDONESIA:** On 2 June, robbers boarded a bulk carrier while underway in the Singapore Strait.
- B. (U) **MOZAMBIQUE:** On 1 June, robbers boarded an anchored tanker vessel at Fernao Veloso Bay.
- C. (U) **BENIN:** On 31 May, pirates attacked, robbed and kidnapped crew of an underway fishing vessel.
- D. (U) **NIGERIA:** On 27 May, a passenger boat was fired upon while underway in inland waterways of Bayelsa State.
- E. (U) **INDIA:** On 26 May, robbers boarded an under tow chemical tanker.

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:** No current incidents to report.
- 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:**

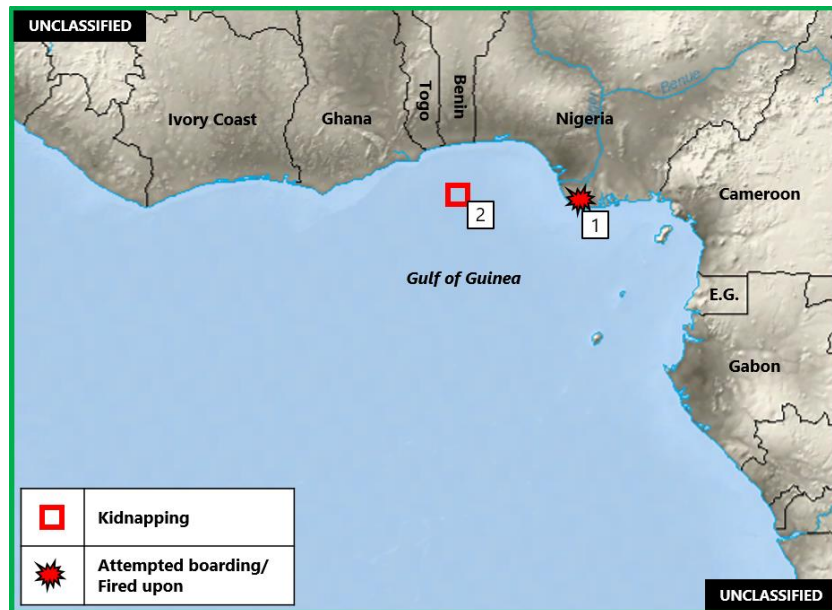


Figure 1. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BENIN: On 31 May, two skiffs approached Ghana-flagged fishing vessel IRIS S at 19:30 local time in position 04:33N - 002:23E, approximately 107 NM south of Cotonou, forcing it to stop. Seven armed pirates boarded the vessel and stayed onboard for about an hour. The pirates kidnapped five crew members—the captain, chief officer, second officer, chief engineer (all Korean nationals), and an engineer (Filipino)—and took personal crew belongings and other valuables. The remaining 31 crew members were left unharmed. (Clearwater Dynamics; Maritime Executive; IMB)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 May, an undetermined number of armed men attacked and opened fire on an underway passenger boat carrying nine passengers from Swali waterfront in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State to Koluama 1 in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. The attack resulted in the killing of a young girl and the wounding of the boat pilot. The wounded boat pilot managed to take the boat and the passengers to Koluama 1 and was evacuated to Yenagoa for medical treatment. (Clearwater Dynamics; Daily Trust; shipsandports.com.ng)

3. (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)

4. (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)

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

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

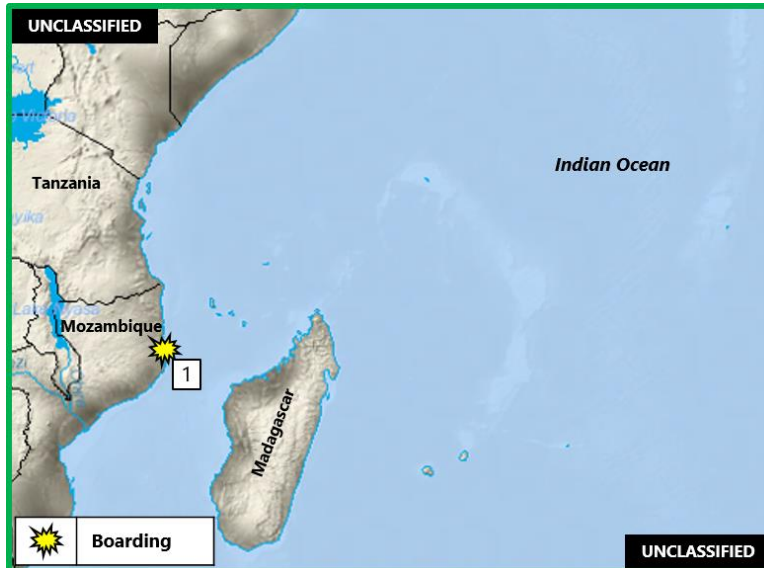


Figure 2. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 1 June, two robbers armed with knives were spotted by the duty crew onboard a tanker anchored at Fernao Veloso Bay Anchorage at 00:20 local time near position 14:22S – 04043E. The officer of the watch raised the alarm and the crew mustered. The perpetrators subsequently escaped without stealing anything. The incident was reported to the local port authority. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB)

2. (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)

3. (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)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

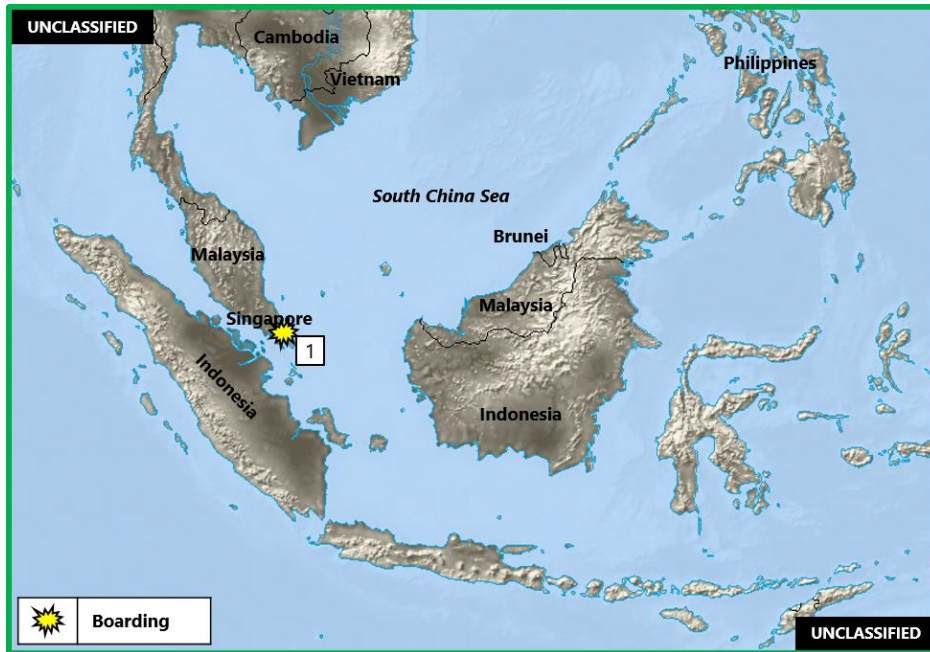


Figure 3. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 June, at 00:37 local time, four robbers armed with knives were sighted by the chief engineer in the steering gear room of a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme near position 01:16N – 104:14E. The master requested to return to Singapore in order to confirm that there were no perpetrators onboard and that nothing was stolen. All crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (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).

3. (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).

4. (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)

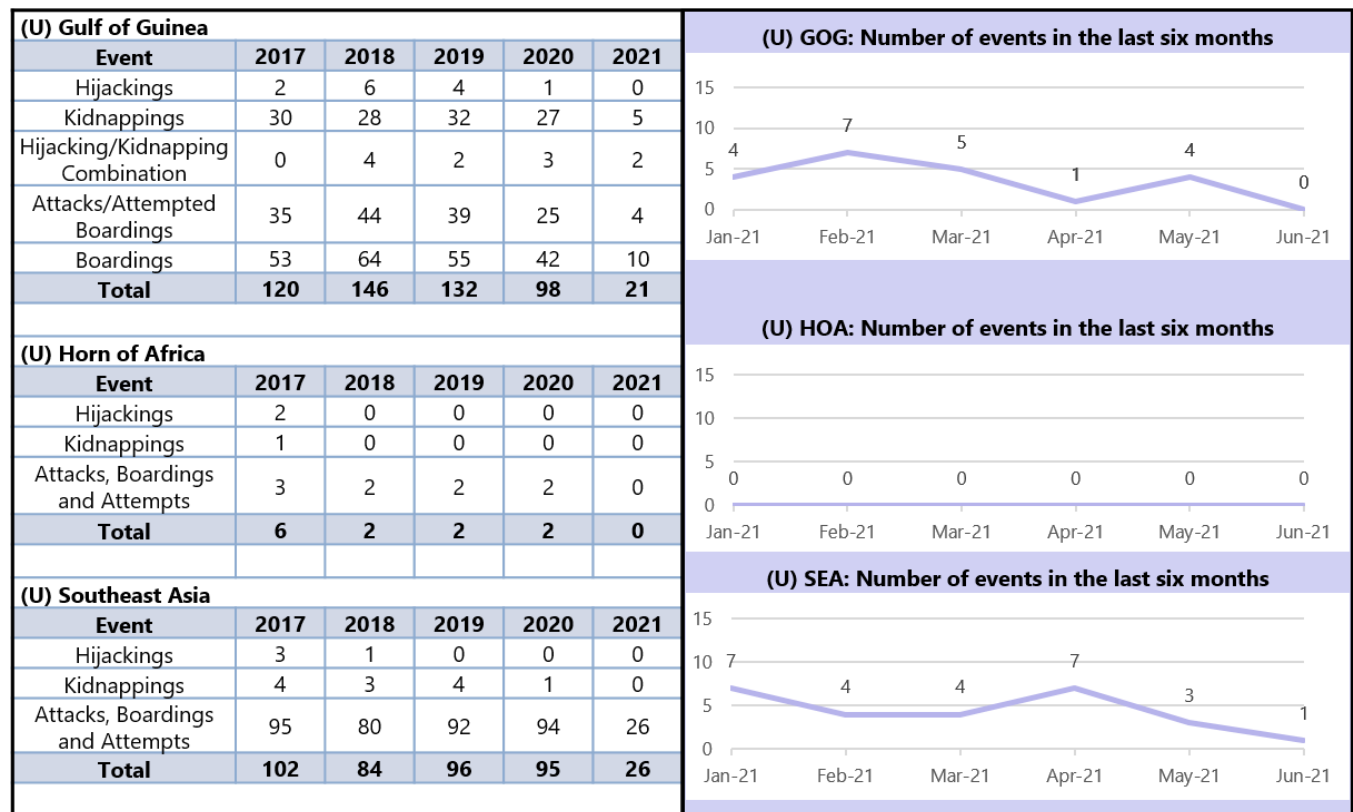
J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

Figure 4. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDIA: On 26 May, at 08:30 local time, ten robbers in two fishing boats boarded a Panama-flagged chemical tanker DAWN 1 under tow by tugboat VENTURE approximately 7 NM southeast of Mahuva, Gujarat, near position 21:00N - 071: 56E. The robbers approached the towed dead ship from the astern and used a ladder to board the vessel. The master of the tugboat activated an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, which resulted in a marine police vessel being sent to the location. The perpetrators made their escape before the marine police vessel arrived. The vessels were checked and investigated upon arrival in Alang anchorage the following day. No details available on the items stolen from the dead vessel DAWN 1. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS)

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:** 2 June 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/>