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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 7 July – 4 August 2021**

4 August 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 advisories or warnings.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) GUINEA: On 1 August, four robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Conakry Anchorage.

B. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 August, it was reported that five crewmen kidnapped from the Ghana-flagged fishing vessel IRIS S on 31 May, four South Koreans and one Filipino, were released.

C. (U) GHANA: On 31 July, robbers approached a container ship anchored in Tema Anchorage.

D. (U) BRAZIL: On 30 July, robbers boarded a cargo ship anchored in Fazendinha Anchorage.

E. (U) PAPUA NEW GUINEA: On 29 July, two robbers boarded a tanker anchored in Rabaul Anchorage.

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F. (U) COLOMBIA: On 29 July, two robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Cartagena Anchorage.

G. (U) SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: On 27 July, a merchant vessel underway approximately 93 NM west of Port Gentil, Gabon reported a suspicious approach by one fishing vessel and two small skiffs.

4. (U) 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:

1. (U) MEXICO: On 19 July, at least five armed men using two speedboats boarded the Sandunga oil platform, located in the Bay of Campeche. The robbers stole tools, supplies, self-contained breathing apparatuses, camera-equipped diving helmets, diving suits, flippers, boots, and workers' personal belongings.
(www.mexiconewsdaily.com)

2. (U) MEXICO: On 14 July, at 22:30 local time, a fishing boat with up to five persons onboard armed with a gun approached an offshore support vessel while anchored at Ciudad Del Carmen Anchorage area, near position 18:48N – 091:46W. Upon seeing the armed guard onboard the support vessel, they aborted their approach and moved away. The incident was reported to the port authority. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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



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

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 30 July, robbers boarded a general cargo ship anchored in Fazendinha Anchorage, near position 00:03S – 056:06W. They were able to board the vessel, steal items of ship's stores, and escape unnoticed. The robbery was discovered by a duty crewman conducting routine rounds. The incident was reported to the local agent who also informed the harbor master. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 29 July, two robbers boarded the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier OTAGO HARBOUR anchored in Cartagena Anchorage, near position 10:19N – 075:31W. A duty crewman on routine rounds saw the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship property. The incident was reported to local authorities. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS: On 18 July, robbers stole a dinghy and outboard motor from a sailing yacht anchored in Salt Pond Bay. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

4. (U) HAITI: On 15 July, at 21:30 local time, five robbers armed with firearms and knives boarded an anchored Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier MAESTRO DIAMOND, using long ladders, at Port Au Prince Anchorage near position 18:34N – 072:24W. The crew raised the alarm and mustered in the accommodation. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers made their escape empty-handed. The incident was reported to the port authorities. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS)

5. (U) GRENADA: On 15 July, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Mt. Hartman Bay and stole a dinghy and a 15-HP engine. A report was made to the coast guard. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) PERU: On 12 July, at 19:20 local time, five robbers boarded a product tanker using ropes while anchored at Callao Anchorage near position 12:01S – 077:13W. The duty crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Following their detection, the robbers escaped in a motor boat. The crew were mustered and search was carried out. The bosun's store padlock was cut, but no items were reported stolen. The incident was reported to Callao port control and the patrol boat in the vicinity was notified. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS)

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:

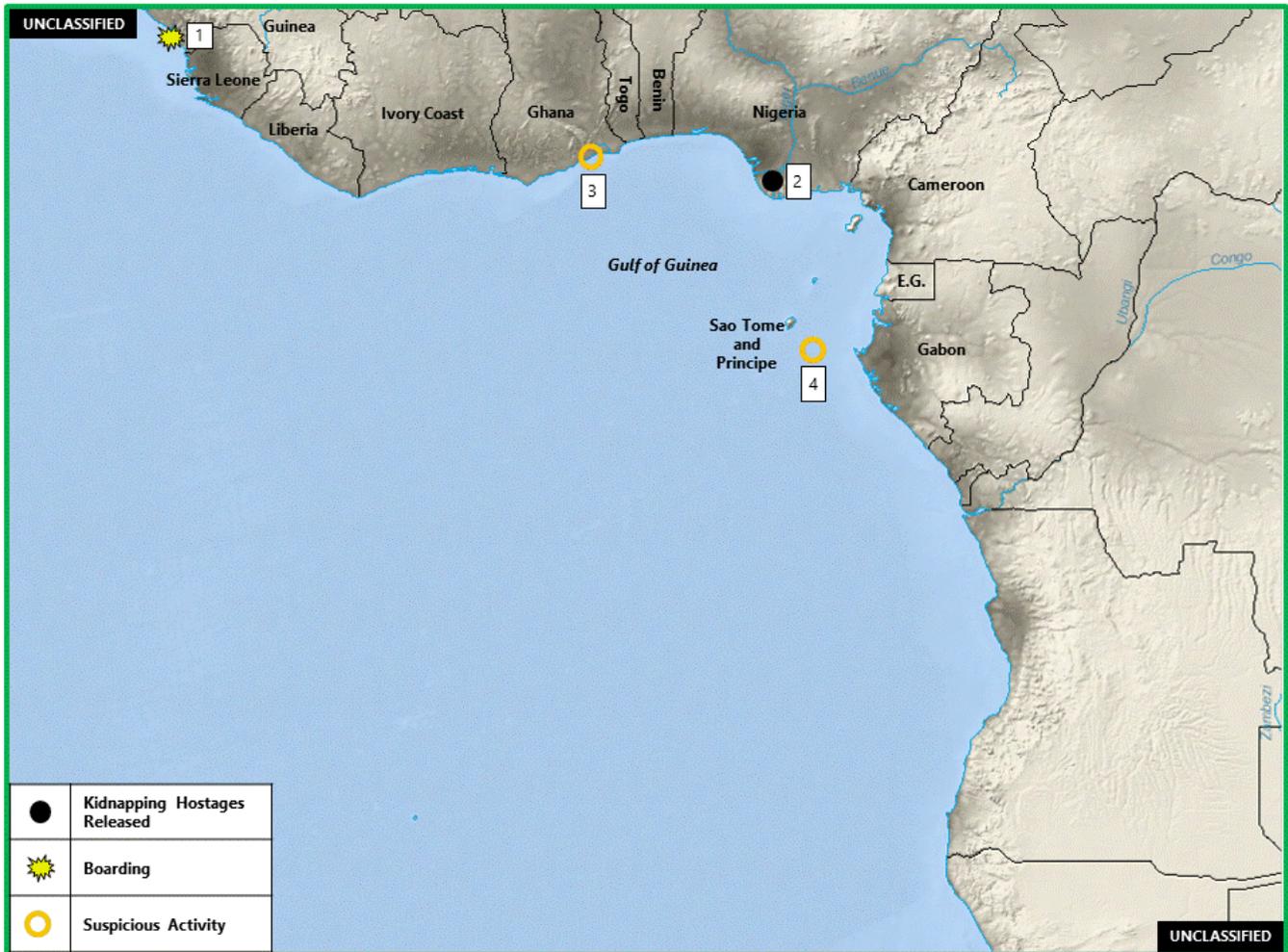


Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GUINEA: On 1 August, four robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Conakry Anchorage, near position 09:16N – 013:48W. The alarm was raised as the intruders forced their way into the accommodation area, resulting in non-duty crewmen locking themselves in their cabins. The intruders broke into the master's cabin, and forced the master to open the ship's safe and hand over cash. Then the intruders tried to kidnap the duty crew and master, but failed. The intruders escaped, taking cash and technical equipment from the master's cabin. The master returned to the bridge to inform the port authorities and activated the ships SSAS. Further investigations are ongoing. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 August, it was reported that five crewmen kidnapped from the Ghana-flagged fishing vessel IRIS S on 31 May, four South Koreans and one Filipino, have been released. (Clearwater Dynamics; www.koreaherald.com)

3. (U) GHANA: On 31 July, robbers approached a container ship anchored in Tema Anchorage, near position 05:35N – 000:03E. The robbers were spotted by duty crew members, the alarm was raised, and the fire hoses were activated. These actions resulted in the robbers departing. Within an hour, the same robbers approached the containership for a second time, however, this attempt was also unsuccessful. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: On 27 July, a merchant vessel underway approximately 93 NM west of Port Gentil, Gabon, reported a suspicious approach by one fishing vessel and two small skiffs. The incident occurred near position 00:53S – 007:07E at approximately 0400 UTC. (MDAT-GoG)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 July, suspected pirates kidnapped eight passengers from a passenger boat transiting along the Kula-Abonrma waterway in Rivers State. Five of the victims were working for the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria in Kula, in the Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of the state at the time of the incident. The eight persons were reported in local media as being released on 26 July. (www.punchng.com; www.allafrica.com)

6. (U) GUINEA: On 8 July, at 04:30 local time, seven robbers armed with firearms and knives boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier MACHITIS anchored at Conakry Anchorage near position 09:18N – 013:49W. The robbers managed to steal crew belongings before escaping. Port control was notified and all crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMB; IMO-GISIS)

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

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA: No current incidents to report.

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 17 July, eight robbers boarded the Panama-flagged container ship MAERSK NUSSFJORD while anchored in Manila Port South, near position 14:33N – 120:56E. One of the intruders pointed an improvised gun at a duty watchman's head, tied him to the ships railings, and stole his radio. Seven other intruders appeared and broke the padlock to the boatswain's locker, stealing a coil of new mooring rope. All eight intruders escaped from the vessel in an unmarked motorboat. The watchman untied himself and informed the duty officer, who raised the alarm. The incident was reported to the Port Authorities who tasked a patrol boat to search the area. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) (U) INDONESIA: On 17 July, at 00:40 local time, five robbers armed with knives boarded the Liberian-flagged bulk carrier ADVENTURER underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) near position 01:16N – 104:15E. The robbers were spotted in the engine room before making their escape. Nothing was reported stolen, and all crew were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 July, at 00:16 local time, robbers armed with a knife boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier STAR NIKE underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS near position 01:16N – 104:13E. The robbers were spotted in the steering room. Upon being discovered, the robbers made their escape. All crew were reported safe and an assessment is being conducted to identify which items were stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. PHILIPPINES: On 10 July, two robbers boarded the Portugal-flagged container ship AS ROMINA while anchored at Manila Port, near position 14:33N – 120:55E. A duty crewman discovered the robbers lowering materials by rope into a motorboat from the forecastle. Upon seeing the duty crewman, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped. An inspection confirmed that the boson's storeroom was broken into and a number of ship's items were missing. A maritime patrol was conducted within the area. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) INDIA: On 13 July, robbers managed to board a Singapore-flagged bulk carrier NORD PENGUIN unnoticed while berthed at Haldia port near position 22:02N – 088:05E. The duty crew in the engine noticed the padlock of the entrance door to the engine room broken and spares missing. Alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and a search was carried out. The incident was reported to the local agent. (Clearwater Dynamics; IMO-GISIS)

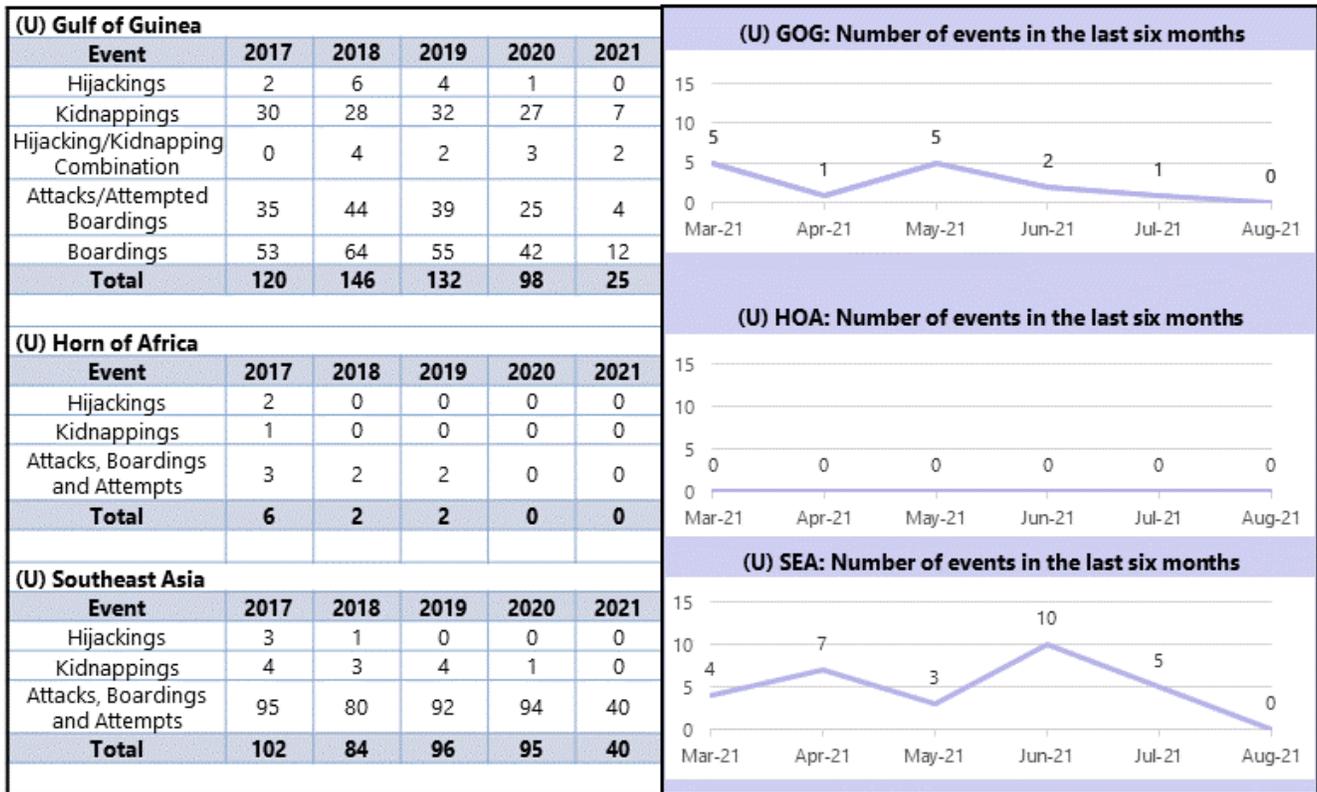
K. (U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:



Figure 3. Australia – New Zealand – Pacific Ocean Area Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) PAPUA NEW GUINEA: On 29 July, two robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker PUFFIN PACIFIC anchored in Rabaul Anchorage, near position 04:15S – 152:11E. The robbers were able to board the tanker and enter the accommodation area through a door on the starboard side upper deck. The robbers were spotted by duty crew members and the alarm was raised. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers made their escape with a laptop they had been able to steal from the ship's office. They used the port anchor chain to escape into a small, unlit rowing boat, in which a third perpetrator was waiting. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

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:** 4 August 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/>