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(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 1 – 29 September 2021

29 September 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) No active Warnings or Advisories.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) SAO TOME and PRINCIPE: On 26 September, a bulk carrier reported a suspicious approach approximately 32 NM northeast of Sao Tome Island.

B. (U) PERU: On 26 September, six robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Callao Anchorage.

C. (U) GRENADA: On 23 September, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored in Anse la Roche.

D. (U) SAO TOME and PRINCIPE: (Late Reporting) On 11 September, a product tanker reported a suspicious approach approximately 35 NM southeast of Sao Tome Island.

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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 6 September, three robbers armed with spear guns boarded a catamaran anchored in the Bay of Punta Nizuc, south of Cancun. Family members were watching a movie with all the lights out at 2130 hours local time when the men appeared in the cockpit and began screaming for money and food. The crew cooperated, giving the masked men money and food items. The robbers tied up both adults and then tied the children nearby. They threatened to throw the children overboard while still tied, but did not physically harm anyone. The men ransacked the boat, and after collecting what they wanted the men departed in the yacht's dinghy. The crew was then able to untie themselves and subsequently recovered a backpack left behind in the cockpit that contained their cell phones and other valuables. A report was made to the police and the port captain. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

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



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

1. (U) PERU: On 26 September at 18:55 local time, six robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:11W. A duty crewman on routine rounds saw the robbers and raised the alarm. The robbers threatened the crewman with knives and escaped empty-handed. The local authorities were informed, and a patrol boat was dispatched to search the waters around the ship. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GRENADA: On 23 September, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored in Anse la Roche. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

3. (U) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: On 17 September, robbers boarded an unoccupied yacht on a mooring near the marina dock in Luperon. They used a hacksaw to cleanly cut the padlock that locked the transom clamps to each other while the 15HP Yamaha outboard engine was stolen from the stern pulpit. A report was made to the police, port captain, and marina, and announced on the local VHF net. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

4. (U) PERU: On 15 September, four robbers boarded a tanker anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:11W. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. Port control was informed, and a coast guard patrol boat searched the waters around the tanker. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) GUATEMALA: On 14 September, robbers stole a dinghy from a yacht anchored in El Golfete, near Texan Bay. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

6. (U) PERU: On 13 September, robbers boarded a container ship while anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:11W. The robbers were able to board the vessel, steal ship's stores and escape unnoticed. The robbery was discovered by duty crew on routine rounds. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) CURACAO: On 9 September, an engineless dinghy was stolen from its mooring in anchorage "B" in Spanish Waters. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

8. (U) COLOMBIA: On 1 September, the Colombian Navy announced the seizure of 1.8 tons of cocaine and a semi-submersible craft being used to smuggle the drugs. The seizure operation was carried out in an estuary in northern Nariño Department. (www.gcaptain.com)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

1. (U) UNITED KINGDOM: On 9 September, authorities from England's National Crime Agency, the Border Force, and Australian Federal Police boarded the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged yacht KAHU, in international waters north of Guernsey Island. Officials found 2,000 kilograms of cocaine on the yacht and arrested six men. (www.fleetmon.com)

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

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

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

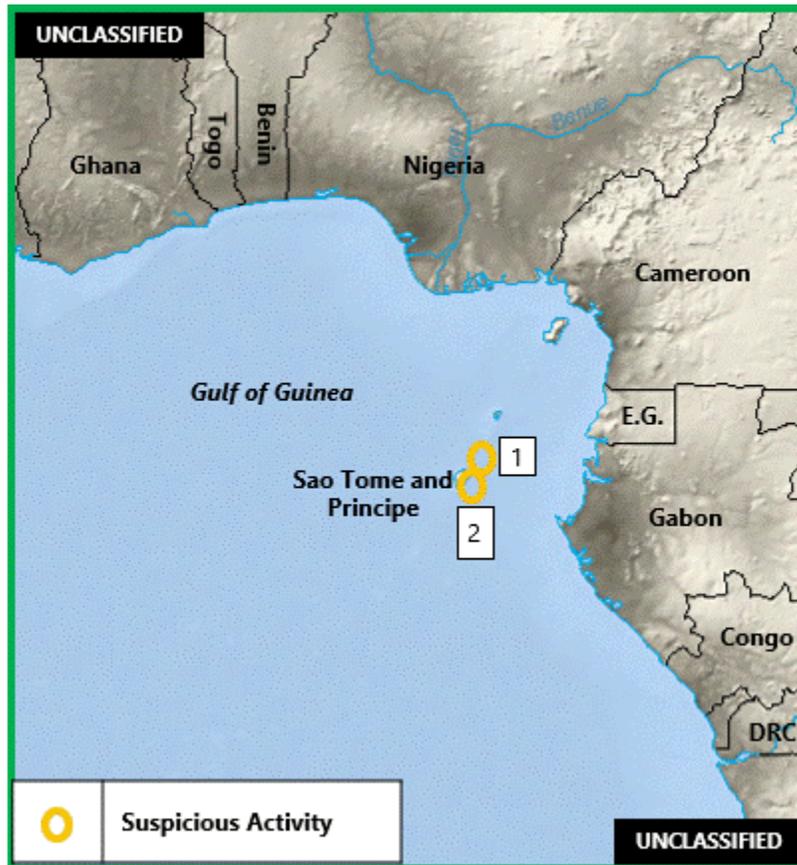


Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SAO TOME and PRINCIPE: On 26 September, a bulk carrier reported a suspicious approach approximately 32 NM northeast of Sao Tome, near position 00:51N – 006:59E. The vessel was approached by one skiff, approximately 12 meters long with a blue and white hull. The bulk carrier carried out evasive maneuvers and increased speed. The suspicious vessel stopped its approach after thirty minutes. A Gabonese Navy vessel then escorted the vessel to safety. (IMB; MDAT-GoG)

2. (U) SAO TOME and PRINCIPE: (Late Reporting) On 11 September at 08:20 local time, a merchant tanker reported a suspicious approach approximately 28 NM east of Sao Tome, near position 00:08N – 007:11E. The tanker initially spotted seven skiffs. Then three skiffs approached the vessel to a distance of 0.3 NM and altered their courses to be parallel with the vessel. After half an hour, the skiffs left the area and the vessel continued her voyage. The vessel and crew are safe. (IMB; MDAT-GoG)

3. (U) D.R. CONGO: On 14 September, robbers boarded a cargo ship anchored at Banana Anchorage, near position 05:59S – 012:24E. The robbers managed to board the vessel and steal ship's stores without being spotted. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) GHANA: On 6 September, six robbers in a small boat attempted to board a bulk carrier anchored in Tema Anchorage, near position 05:31.2N – 000:00.9E. A duty crewman saw the robbers, raised the alarm, and shouted at the robbers, who circled the ship and then moved away. Incident reported to the port control. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) GABON: On 5 September, five robbers boarded the St Kitts and Nevis-flagged offshore supply vessel TAMPEN while it was anchored in the Owendo Inner Anchorage, Libreville, near position 00:22N – 009:24E. The alarm was raised and the crew secured themselves inside the ship. Two crewmen were injured due to gunfire and required hospitalization. One crewman was reported as missing and presumed kidnapped. The remaining crew were reported as safe and local authorities were notified. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; www.hellenicshippingnews.com; www.rigzone.com; www.onmanorama.com)

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

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

1. (U) RED SEA: On 18 September, a merchant ship underway in the southern Red Sea, near position 14:08N – 043:06E, approximately 13 NM west of Mocha, Yemen, reported an approach by two suspicious boats. The vessel's onboard armed security team displayed their weapons, resulting in the boats moving away. The vessel and crew are safe. Ladders were reportedly sighted in both small boats. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDIA: On 15 September, authorities in the port of Mundra seized two shipping containers reportedly carrying a large consignment of heroin from Afghanistan. (www.fleetmon.com; www.india.in)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 September at 1518 local time, one robber was spotted boarding a tanker while anchored in Balikpapan Anchorage, near position 01:21N – 116:59E. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered, after which the robber escaped. A search of the ship was conducted which confirmed nothing had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 September at 0240 local time, five robbers boarded the Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier ASIA GRAECO underway in the east-bound traffic separation scheme of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:17N – 104:19E. A search was conducted, but the intruders were not found. Nothing was reported as stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 September at 2304 local time, three robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier DELPHINUS underway in the east-bound traffic separation scheme of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:16N – 104:19E. Upon being sighted by the ship's crew, the robbers jumped overboard. A search was carried out and it was discovered that generator parts were stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

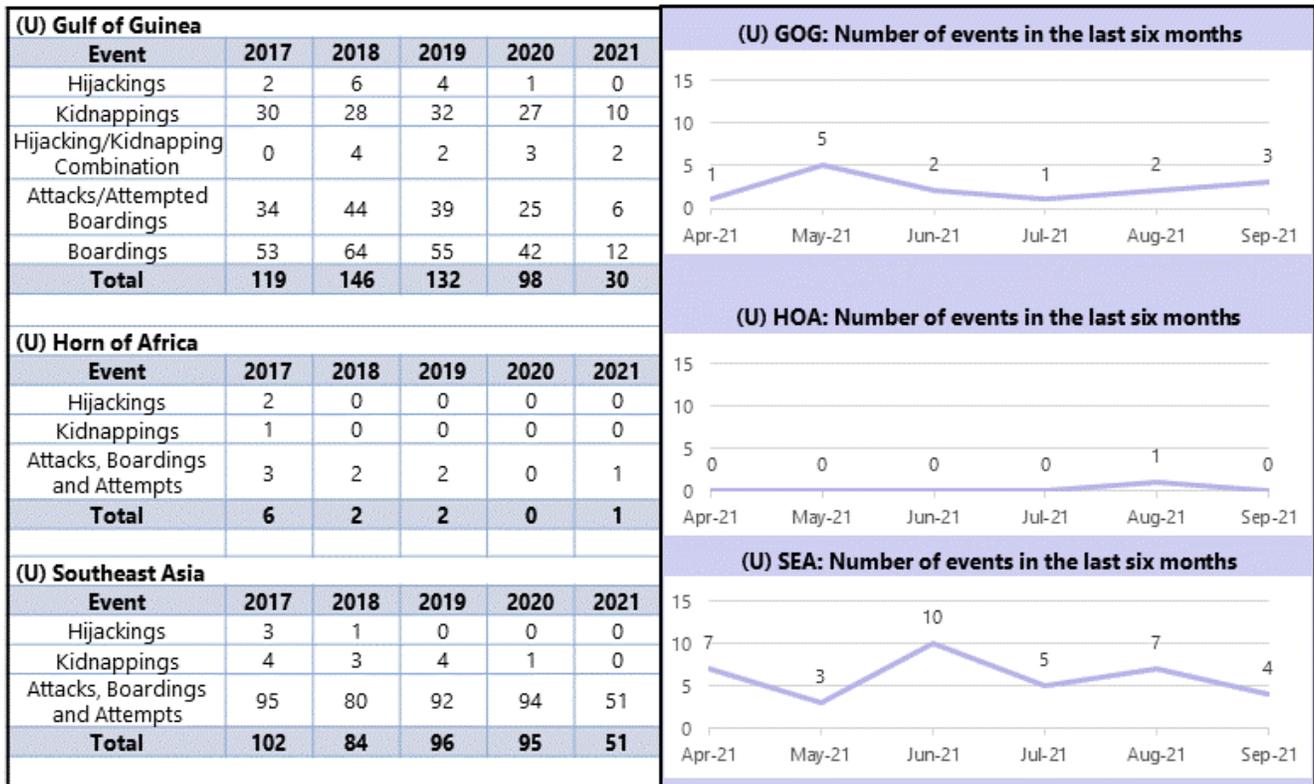
4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 13 September at 0415 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker ATHENIA underway approximately 3 NM southwest of Johor, near position 01:15N – 103:23E. A duty crewman spotted the robbers trying to enter the engine room. The alarm was raised, the crew was mustered,

and all deck lights turned on. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty-handed into a waiting boat with two other perpetrators. (IMB; ReCAAP; 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:** 29 September 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/>