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(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 29 September – 27 October 2021

27 October 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) NETHERLANDS: On 26 October, local authorities in Rotterdam found 529 kilograms of cocaine in a cargo hold during the search of the Liberia-flagged cargo ship TRUDY in the port of Rotterdam.

B. (U) SPAIN: On 26 October, activists from an international environmental organization blocked the port of Valencia to protest the arrival of the Marshall Islands-flagged LNG tanker MERCHANT.

C. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 25 October, pirates boarded the Vanuatu-flagged offshore supply vessel MONTET TIDE approximately 62 NM northeast of Santo Antonio, Principe.

D. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 25 October, pirates boarded the Panama-flagged container ship MSC LUCIA approximately 150 NM northwest of Santo Antonio, Principe.

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E. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 October, at 2250 local time, four robbers boarded a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme.

F. (U) ARGENTINA: On 23 October, the third officer aboard the Malta-flagged tanker AYANE was arrested by local authorities after the man reportedly shot and killed the vessel's captain and first officer the night before.

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: 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) ARGENTINA: On 23 October, the third officer aboard the Malta-flagged tanker AYANE was arrested by local authorities after the man reportedly shot and killed the vessel's captain and first officer the night before, while the vessel was anchored in Buenos Aires Harbor. (www.maritime-executive.com)

2. (U) ECUADOR: On 18 October, six armed men onboard a speedboat approached and fired upon a vessel approximately 2 NM northwest of Punta Jambeli, near position 03:11S – 080:20W. The vessel increased its speed and carried out evasive maneuvers, causing the speedboat to end its approach. All crew onboard the vessel were reported as safe. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) HONDURAS: On 11 October, a catamaran traveling from Utila and bound for Shelter Bay Marina, Panama, was approached on the port stern by three launchas at 0930 local time approximately 50 NM off the coast of Honduras, near position 15:41N – 082:40W. The three crew members presented themselves on deck with the intent to show menace, displaying what appeared to be a rifle and a barking dog. No weapons were evident in the lead launcha and it fell back, continuing to match the yacht's speed on the starboard side for a few minutes, then it turned and left on a beam run, followed by the other two launchas. The three launchas carried a total of 11–13 men. The crew continued their passage to Panama without further incident and planned to make official reports to officials there with the aid of marina personnel, as well as to their consulates. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

4. (U) CURACAO: On 9 October, robbers boarded a catamaran anchored at Royal Marine, Piscadera. The robbers stole the dinghy and outboard, along with a bicycle, a drone, dive gear, a camera, and other equipment. A police report was made. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

5. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 8 October, robbers stole the Canada-flagged catamaran KAILANI II from an anchorage near Young Island. A report was made to local authorities. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org; www.boatwatch.org)

C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:

1. (U) NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN: On 16 October, Spain's National Police and Portugal's Judicial Police seized 5.2 tons of cocaine from a sailboat about 300 NM off the coast of Portugal. Working in cooperation with the Portuguese Navy and Air Force, along with the organized crime unit of Spain's National Police Corps, the Portuguese authorities intercepted a 78-foot Spanish-flagged sailboat. A boarding team arrested three suspects, all foreign nationals, including one individual who is well-known to the authorities for small-craft trafficking operations. (www.maritime-executive.com)

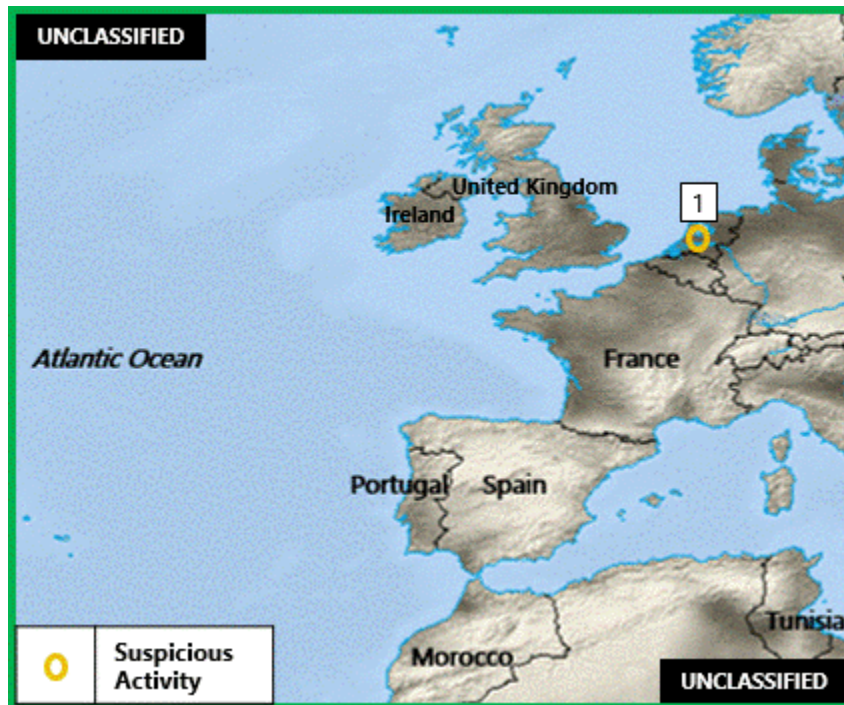
D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:

Figure 2. Northern Europe – Baltic Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 26 October, port workers in Rotterdam found suspicious packages in a cargo hold on the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier TRUDY and alerted local authorities. A search of the ship was conducted. During the search, 529 kilograms of cocaine were found in the ship's hold. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) FRANCE: On 11 October, at approximately 0100 hours local time, ten armed intruders boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier TRUDY while it was in the port of Dunkirk for a drug inspection, and took the crew captive. The leaders of this unauthorized boarding party spoke English and were "violent and threatening" in their manner, according to local police. They searched the vessel, "accompanied by the captain," but did not appear to take anything. They departed empty-handed at about 0500 hours. No serious injuries were reported. (www.maritime-executive.com)

3. (U) BELGIUM: On 1 October, Belgian authorities in the port of Ghent announced that they, with counterparts from the Netherlands, had interdicted a shipment of 500 kilograms of cocaine hidden among a cargo of fruit juice aboard a bulk carrier arriving from Brazil. (www.fleetmon.com)

4. (U) FRANCE: On 1 October, the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier TRUDY was boarded and inspected by French authorities in the English Channel, then taken to Dunkirk for further inspection after 1.1 tons of cocaine were found in a shipping container. The ship had left Brazil and was bound for Antwerp, Belgium. (www.fleetmon.com)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:



Figure 3. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SPAIN: On 26 October, activists from an international environmental organization blocked the port of Valencia to protest the arrival of the Marshall Islands-flagged LNG tanker MERCHANT, carrying a cargo of natural gas from the United States. (www.maritime-executive.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

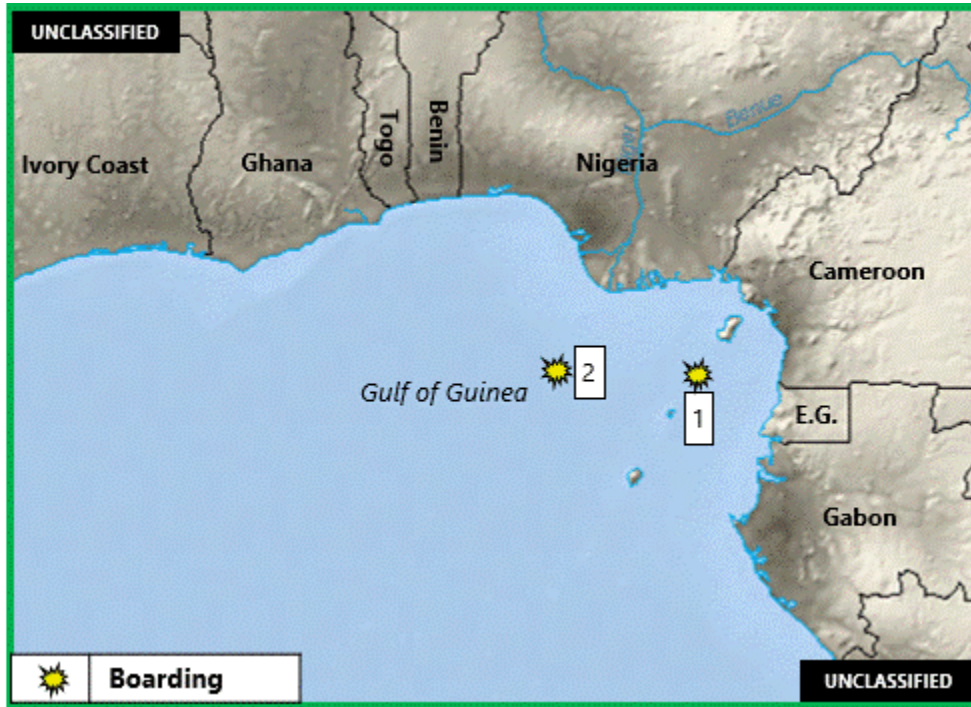


Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 25 October at 2126 UTC, pirates boarded the Vanuatu-flagged offshore supply vessel MONTET TIDE approximately 62 NM northeast of Santo Antonio, Principe, near position 02:35N – 007:59E. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics; www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 25 October at 0815 UTC, pirates boarded the Panama-flagged container ship MSC LUCIA approximately 150 NM northwest of Santo Antonio, Principe, near position 02:15N – 004:50E. The Russian Ministry of Defense reported that the Russian Navy destroyer VICE-ADMIRAL KULAKOV received a distress call from the vessel and dispatched a helicopter and a unit of Marines to assist. The pirates reportedly fled the vessel on the approach of the helicopter. The crew (consisting of 20 Ukrainians, one Russian, and one Romanian) remained in the ship's citadel while the pirates were onboard, and were all accounted for following the pirates' departure. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; Reuters; BBC; Interfax; www.maritime-executive.com; www.gcaptain.com; channel16.dryadglobal.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) GHANA: On 11 October, the Ghana-flagged fishing vessel AFKO 805 reported being approached by two speedboats approximately 105 NM southeast of Tema, Ghana, near position 04:19N – 002:10E. The armed guard onboard the fishing vessel fired warning shots, causing the speedboats to stop their approach. (IMB; www.fleetmon.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 October, five stowaways were arrested onboard M/T JANE in Lagos Anchorage after they were discovered in the rudder compartment of the ship. The stowaways came from different parts of Nigeria to Lagos State with the intention of travelling to Europe. (www.thisdaylive.com; www.allafrica.com)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 October, armed men boarded two fishing vessels offshore of Ibaka in the Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The robbers stole outboard motors from both fishing boats. A spokesman representing the fishermen said that 25 fishermen aboard the boats were stranded at sea because people were afraid to mount a rescue operation for fear of being attacked. (www.punchng.com; www.thisdaylive.com)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 October, gunmen kidnapped two policemen from the Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. The victims were reportedly abducted from a passenger boat they had boarded at Ngo. (www.sunnewsonline.com)

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

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

1. (U) RED SEA: On 19 October, a vessel reported being approached while underway approximately 13 NM west of Gurayrah, Yemen, near position 12:43N – 043:16E. Six persons onboard one small craft approached to within 50 meters of the vessel. Ladders were also sighted in the small craft. The armed security team onboard the vessel displayed their weapons, which resulted in the suspicious craft aborting its approach. The vessel and crew are reported as safe. (UKMTO; IMB; MSCHOA; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) RED SEA: On 4 October, the Singapore-flagged tanker KHK EMPRESS reported a suspicious approach by one skiff in the Bab el Mandeb Strait, near position 13:06N – 043:07E. It was reported that there were eight to nine persons on the skiff and no boarding equipment or weapons could be seen. In response, the tanker increased speed and the onboard armed security team manned the bridge of the ship. (ReCAAP)

3. (U) SEYCHELLES: On 29 September, the owners of a yacht anchored in Eden Island Marina returned after an extended absence to find their yacht had been boarded and burgled. Many personal items, including cameras and cash, had been stolen. The local police were notified. (www.noonsite.com)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



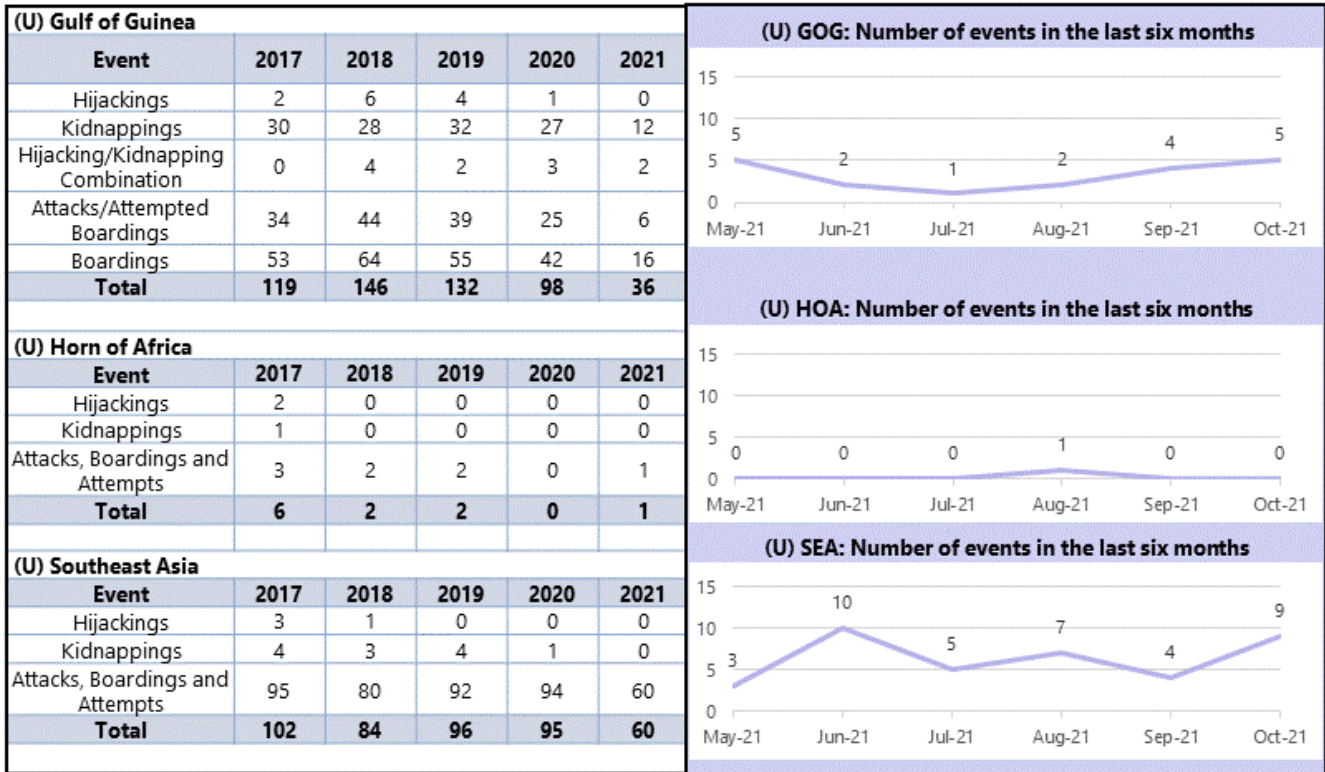
Figure 5. East Asia – Southeast Asia Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 24 October at 2250 local time, four robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier MAGIC NOVA underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:14N – 104:01E. The robbers were seen at the stern of the vessel and jumped overboard when spotted by the crew. A search confirmed nothing had been stolen. (IMO GISIS; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 20 October, robbers boarded the Panama-flagged cargo ship SUPER STAR while underway at 0200 local time in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:16E. Five robbers, two of them armed with guns, boarded the vessel but were unsuccessful in their attempts to steal ship's properties. The robbers escaped empty handed. All crew were accounted for, and the vessel continued its voyage. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 15 October at 2245 local time, five robbers boarded the Palau-flagged bulk carrier EMBRACE while underway in the eastbound lane of the TSS, near position 01:17N – 104:13E. A duty crewman spotted the robbers onboard the vessel and raised the alarm. All doors were closed and the crew mustered, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping empty-handed. The incident was reported to local authorities, who sent a Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency vessel to escort the bulk carrier to a safe anchorage area. (IMO GISIS; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 15 October, seven to eight robbers armed with knives boarded the Singapore-flagged tanker THERESA II while the vessel was underway at 0040 local time in the eastbound lane of the TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:02E. The duty oiler spotted the perpetrators in the engine room workshop. After being spotted, the perpetrators tied up the duty oiler, releasing him before they left the ship. The robbers were able to steal engine spares. All crew were reported as safe and the vessel has continued its voyage. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 October, robbers boarded the Panama-flagged tanker EVERRICH 7 while the vessel was underway at 2352 local time in the eastbound lane of the TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:03E. The robbers managed to board the vessel unnoticed, but were unsuccessful in their attempt to steal ship's stores. All crew were reported safe, and the vessel continued its voyage. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 October, two robbers boarded the Hong-Kong flagged bulk carrier ROSCO OLIVE while underway at 2330 local time in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme, near position 01:15N - 104:11E. After the robbers were seen in the engine room, the chief engineer was informed, and he then notified the bridge. The robbers escaped after the alarm was raised and the crew mustered. A search of the ship was carried out and nothing was reported missing. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) SINGAPORE STRAIT: On 6 October, robbers boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier TRUE CHAMPION while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme. The robbers boarded the vessel at some time between 00:00 and 06:00 local time, stole ship's spares, and escaped unnoticed. Duty crewmen discovered the theft while on routine rounds. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
8. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 October, three robbers boarded the Malaysia-flagged tanker AMELIA while underway at 0230 local time in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme, near position 01:15N – 104:06E. The alarm was raised and the ship was searched. The robbers had escaped with stolen engine spare parts. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
9. (U) MALAYSIA: On 6 October, two robbers boarded the Cayman Islands-flagged product tanker ORIENTAL ROSE anchored at Sandakan Inner Anchorage, near position 05:48N – 118:05E. The robbers were spotted on the forecastle by a duty crewman who informed the bridge. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the perpetrators made their escape with stolen items of ship's stores. The incident was reported to the local agent who informed the Port Authorities. (IMO GISIS; 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:** 27 October 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/>