



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 13 October – 10 November 2021**

**10 November 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) SAUDI ARABIA:** On 2 November, authorities in the Port of Jeddah announced the seizure of 1.78 million Captagon tablets hidden in a shipping container manifested as carrying spices and legumes.

**B. (U) NICARAGUA:** On 30 October, a catamaran with three persons onboard departed Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras, for Isla San Andreas, Colombia. The catamaran reported three close-aboard suspicious approaches between 0550 local time and 0945 local time in an area between 35 and 50 NM offshore.

**C. (U) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:** On 29 October, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Chaguaramas and stole a dinghy with outboard engine.

#### 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:**

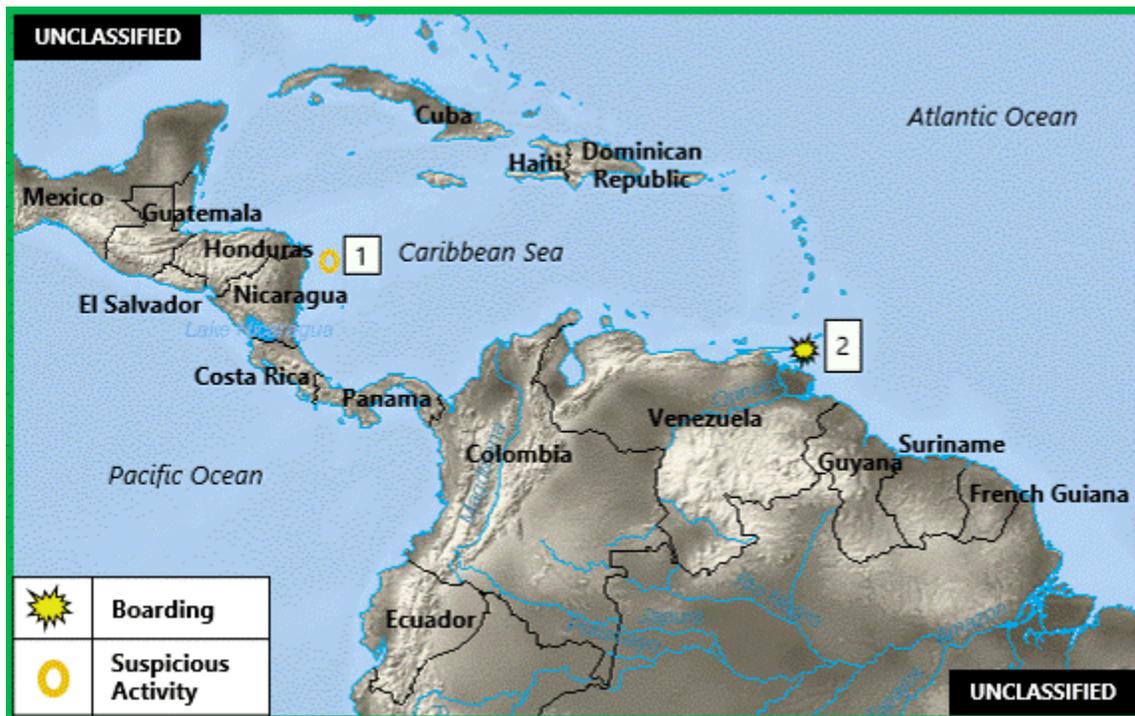


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NICARAGUA: On 30 October, a catamaran with three persons onboard departed Roatan, Bay Islands, Honduras, for Isla San Andreas, Colombia. The catamaran reported three close-aboard suspicious approaches between 0550 local time and 0945 local time in an area between 35 and 50 NM offshore. During the first two instances, one small boat and five men were involved in the approach. The last event included two small boats and 11 men. The catamaran executed evasive maneuvers, increased speed and had all three crew on deck as a show of force. The boats followed the catamaran for 30 minutes during the last event, eventually turning around and departing. Reports were made to the Colombian authorities upon arrival. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

2. (U) TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: On 29 October, robbers boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Chaguaramas and stole a dinghy with an outboard engine. A report was made to local authorities. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

3. (U) HAITI: On 27 October, at 0837 local time, unknown persons fired several gunshots at a bulk carrier berthed at the Port Au Prince VEP Terminal, near position 18:34N – 072:20W. Five armed guards from the terminal who were onboard the bulk carrier retreated to the citadel with the crew. All crew members were reported safe, but the vessel sustained some damage from the gunshots. The incident was reported to the local agents. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) GUATEMALA: On 24 October, a dinghy that was in the water and unlocked, and an 8 HP outboard motor were stolen from a yacht anchored in Rio Dulce, Fronteras. A report was made to local authorities. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

5. (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](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

6. (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)

#### **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-exective.com](http://www.maritime-exective.com))

#### **D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:**

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](http://www.fleetmon.com))

#### **E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:**

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](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

**F. (U) WEST AFRICA:**

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 November, eight armed robbers in one speedboat boarded a passenger boat transiting between Brass Island and Yenegoa, in the Bayelsa State waterways. The robbers approached and fired in the air, forcing the passenger boat to stop. The robbers then boarded the boat and stole passenger's belongings and the 75 HP outboard motor. All passengers were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 October, one merchant mariner from India, kidnapped on 5 September from the St. Kitts and Nevis-flagged offshore supply vessel TAMPEN, was reportedly released. (Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) GUINEA: On 25 October, seven robbers armed with knives and guns boarded a cargo vessel anchored at Conakry Anchorage, near position 09:22N – 013:40W. The robbers stole twenty-one computers of various types. The local authorities were informed. (Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (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](http://www.fleetmon.com))
5. (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](http://www.maritime-executive.com); [www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com); [channel16.dryadglobal.com](http://channel16.dryadglobal.com); 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) SAUDI ARABIA: On 2 November, authorities in the Port of Jeddah announced the seizure of 1.78 million Captagon tablets hidden in a shipping container manifested as carrying spices and legumes. (BBC)

2. (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)

**I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:**

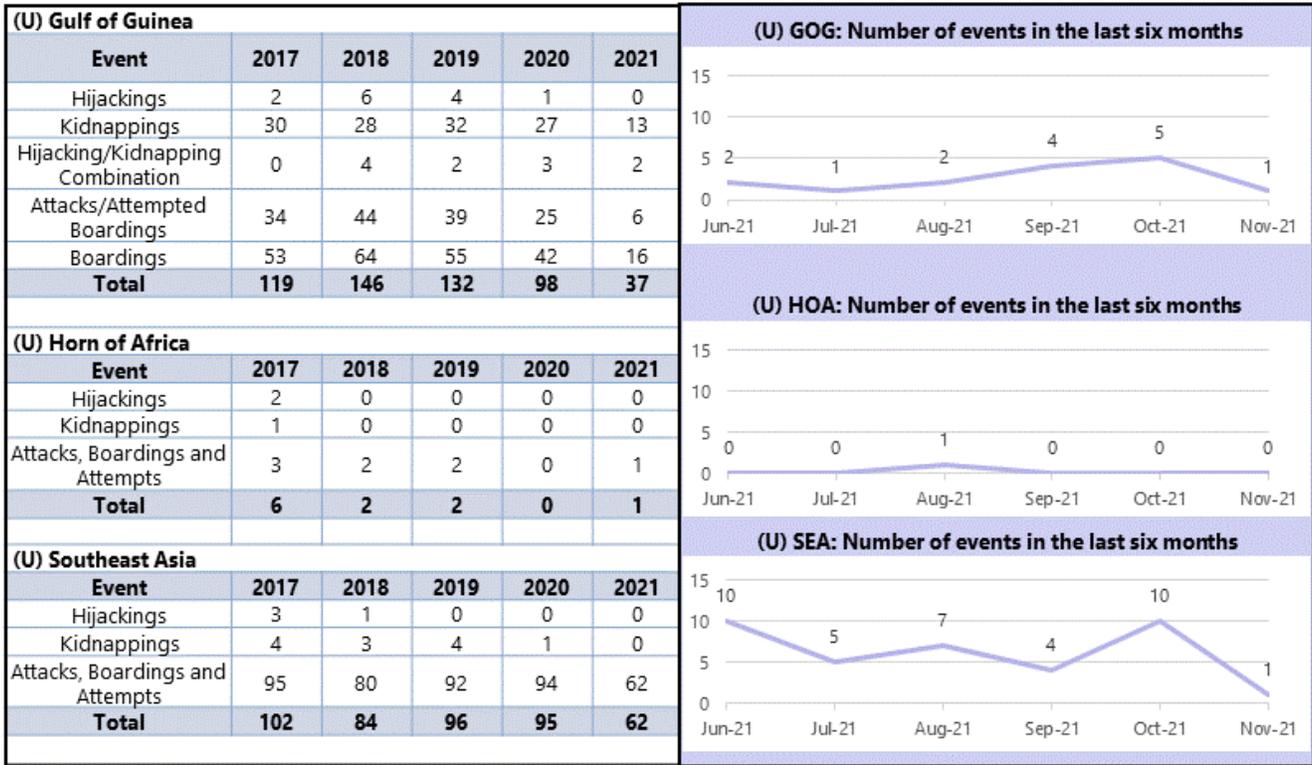
1. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 November, at 0102 local time, robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:15N – 104:03E. A duty crewman spotted two robbers onboard and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrators made their escape by jumping overboard. The master confirmed that all crew were safe and that nothing had been stolen. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 October, at 0110 local time, three robbers boarded the Greece-flagged tanker AEGEAN ANGEL while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:19E. The padlock to the steering room was found broken by a duty crewman, who then saw the perpetrators jumping overboard. A full search was completed. Nothing was stolen and no member of the crew was harmed. The vessel has continued her voyage to Thailand. (ReCAAP, Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (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 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)
4. (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)
5. (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 Singapore Strait 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)
6. (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 Singapore Strait 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)
7. (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 Singapore Strait 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)

**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:** 10 November 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/>