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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 20 October – 17 November 2021**

17 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) PHILIPPINES: On 17 November, robbers boarded a utility vessel anchored in Batangas Bay.

B. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 November, gunmen attacked fishermen in the Ibeno local government area of Akwa Ibom State and stole eight outboard engines.

C. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 November, gunmen attacked fishermen in the Itanwa area of Ikot Abasi Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State and stole over ten 40 horsepower Yamaha outboard engines.

D. (U) PANAMA: On 12 November, a yacht anchored at Isla Naranjo Bajo, about 10 NM east of Colon, was approached late in the evening by three men in a local panga who threatened the yacht's crew.

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E. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 November, one robber boarded the Australia-flagged barge BM 2021, under tow by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged tug MTS VANTAGE, in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

F. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 November, at 0100 UTC, a general cargo ship reported being boarded approximately 58 NM southwest of Brass.

G. (U) PERU: On 8 November, robbers boarded a Ro-Ro car carrier anchored in Callao Anchorage.

H. (U) PANAMA: On 6 November, authorities announced the seizure of 3.5 tons of an illicit drug cargo from a vessel bound for the Netherlands.

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) PANAMA: On 12 November, a yacht anchored at Isla Naranjo Bajo, about 10 NM east of Colon, was approached late in the evening by three men in a local panga who threatened the yacht's crew. The panga came alongside, and it was apparent two of the three men were under the influence of alcohol or drugs. They asked to have a phone but could not say for what purpose, so the request was denied. Later one of the men showed a phone that they used to translate some of their demands. They were not subtle about looking at the yacht's outboard which was secured to the arch and they began looking into the hatches, while requesting beer and cigarettes. The men became increasingly impatient and rude, asking for a credit card to pay for "piracy protection." The crew was ultimately able to satisfy the men with a \$20 cash payment, and the panga departed westward toward Colon. The yacht pulled up anchor and departed eastward to Linton Bay. (www.noonsite.com)

2. (U) PERU: On 8 November, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged Ro-Ro car carrier LORD VISHNU anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:11W. A small boat was spotted by a duty crew member under the starboard bow flare of the vessel. As the duty officer was being informed, three robbers armed with knives were spotted close to the mooring station. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping in the small boat. A search confirmed a mooring rope had been stolen. The master informed local authorities of the incident and requested assistance; the information was passed to a naval patrol vessel. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) PANAMA: On 6 November, authorities announced the seizure of 3.5 tons of an illicit drug cargo from a vessel bound for the Netherlands. The seizure was carried out by officials of the National Aeronaval Service of Panama (Senan) on a container ship in transit from Chile at the Panamanian Pacific port. According to the details provided, a total of 3,499 packages of illicit drug substances were confiscated from 100 bags concealed in containers onboard the vessel. (www.fleetmon.com)

4. (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)

5. (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)

6. (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)

7. (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)

8. (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)

C. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:** No current incidents to report.

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)

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.martime-executive.com)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 15 November, gunmen attacked fishermen in the Ibeno local government area of Akwa Ibom State and carted away eight outboard engines. This latest attack came less than 48 hours after sea pirates attacked fishermen in Itanwa area of Ikot Abasi LGA and stole eight Yamaha outboard engines. (www.dailypost.ng)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 November, gunmen attacked fishermen in the Itanwa area of Ikot Abasi Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State and stole over ten 40 horsepower Yamaha outboard engines. (www.dailypost.ng)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 November, at 0100 UTC, a general cargo ship reported being boarded approximately 58 NM southwest of Brass, near position 0323N – 00541E. Five crewmen were reportedly kidnapped. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (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)

5. (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)

6. (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)

7. (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)

8. (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))

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

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

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)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



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

1. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 17 November, robbers boarded a utility vessel anchored in Batangas Bay, near position 13:44N – 144:02E. During routine rounds, a duty crewman noticed that the padlock to the boson store room had been broken. Upon searching the store room, three grinders, two firefighting nozzles, one electric extension cord, and one shackle were noted missing. All crew were reported as safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 12 November, one robber boarded the Australia-flagged barge BM 2021, under tow by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged tug MTS VANTAGE, in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:07N – 103:32E approximately 8.6 NM northeast of Pulau Karimun Besar. All crew aboard the tug are reported as safe. One coil of towing rope and mooring rope were reported stolen from the barge. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 November, at 0102 local time, robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait 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)

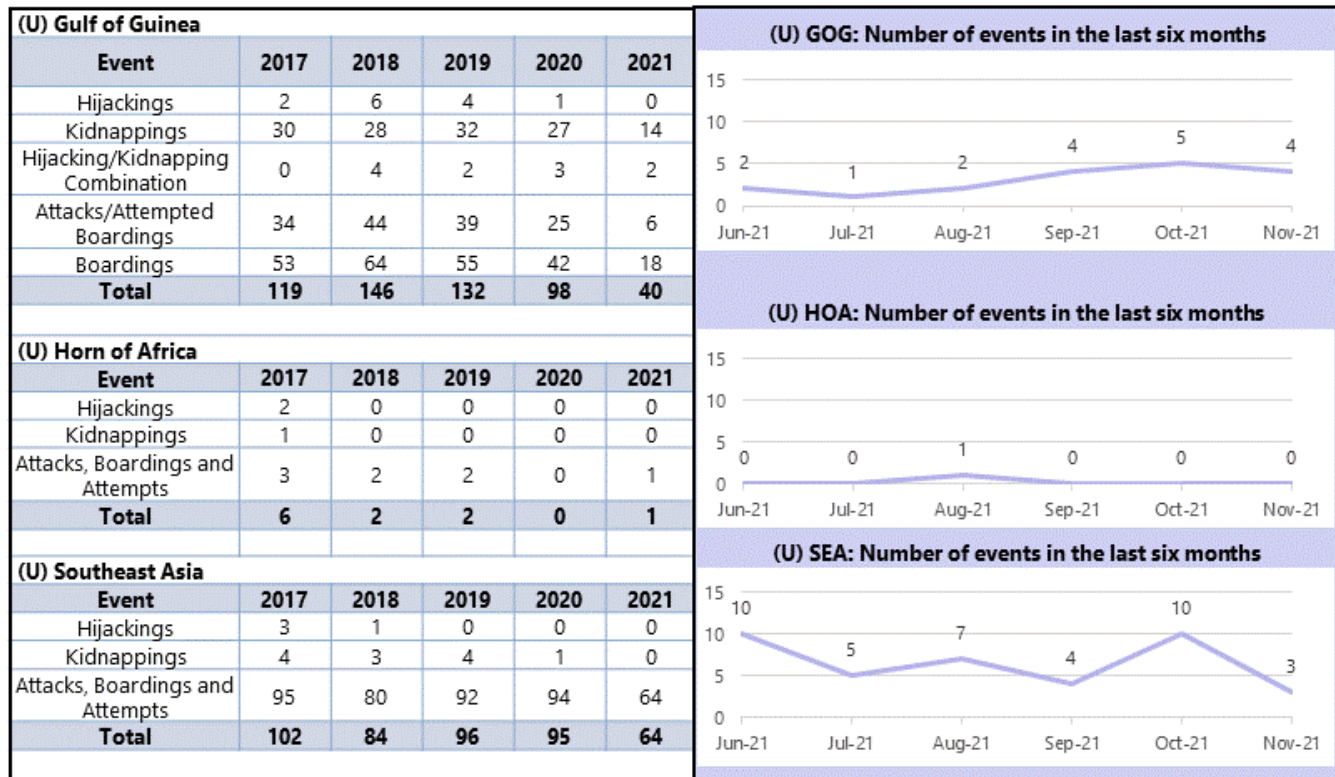
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 October, at 0110 local time, three robbers boarded the Greece-flagged tanker AEGEAN ANGEL while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:19E. The padlock to the steering room was found broken by a duty crewman, who then saw the perpetrators 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)

5. (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)

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:** 17 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/>