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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 24 November – 22 December 2021**



22 December 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) **INDONESIA:** On 19 December, robbers boarded an underway bulk carrier in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

B. (U) **EQUATORIAL GUINEA:** On 15 December, an underway landing craft was attacked and fired upon while in transit about 10 NM northwest of Bata.

C. (U) **BANGLADESH:** On 15 December, the Bangladeshi Coast Guard reportedly foiled an attempted robbery against an underway chemical tanker about 37 NM from Cox's Bazar.

D. (U) **LIBERIA:** On 8 December, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored at Monrovia Anchorage.

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

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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:

1. (U) HAITI: On 10 December, at 2008 local time, three armed robbers were able to board a bulk carrier using a hook attached to a bamboo pole while berthed in Port Au Prince, near position 18:34N – 072:20W. The robbers lowered mooring rope to a small boat alongside the ship with one robber onboard. When the robbers saw a crew member, they pointed a gun at him; the crew member reported the boarding over his radio and another crew member came to assist, but was also threatened with a gun. The captain sounded the alarm and contacted port authorities. Three armed port security guards arrived on the scene, and the robbers jumped overboard while under fire. No crew member was reported injured during this incident. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) COLOMBIA: On 5 December, at approximately 0006 local time, robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged product tanker NORD STEADY while anchored at the port of Buenaventura, near position 03:53N – 007:03E. The robbers reportedly stole the sounding caps of five bunker tanks and two fire plan tube caps before escaping unnoticed. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) PERU: On 3 December, at 1930 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker in Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:12W. The crew on duty spotted the robbers on the forecastle. The alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered, which resulted in the perpetrators escaping empty-handed. The incident was reported to the port authorities and the local police boarded the vessel to conduct an investigation. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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 1. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 15 December, at 2130 local time, an underway cargo ship was attacked and fired upon approximately 10 NM northwest of Bata, near position 01:59N – 009:40E. Equatoguinean navy personnel onboard the ship returned fire and the pirates ended their approach. One navy personnel reportedly sustained an injury during the shootout. (IMB; MDAT-GOG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) LIBERIA: On 8 December, at 0500 local time, while anchored at Monrovia Anchorage near position 06:20N – 010:53W, the duty watchman onboard the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier DALARNA discovered bare footprints near the rescue boat station. A general alarm was raised and the crew conducted a search of the ship. The crew did not find robbers onboard, but a compass and 25 pieces of emergency food rations were reported missing from the freefall lifeboat. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 13 December, at 1527 local time, the Liberia-flagged container ship TONSBERG was attacked and boarded while underway approximately 48 NM southwest of Luba, Bioko Island, near position 03:11N – 007:49E. Six crew members were reported kidnapped, and one crew member was injured during the attack. According to the Danish Navy, two additional crew members are missing. The nationalities of the kidnapped crew are Polish, Ukrainian, and Filipino. The Danish frigate ESBERN SNARE was requested to provide assistance, and dispatched a helicopter to the location. As the helicopter approached the TONSBERG, a small skiff was seen alongside the container vessel with pirates and hostages onboard. The skiff then fled the scene and the Danish helicopter tracked it from a safe distance until it entered Nigerian territorial waters. Following the pirates' departure, the Danish sent a boarding team to the container ship to provide support. The injured crew member, who had been shot in the lower leg, received medical assistance onboard the Danish frigate and is reported to be in stable condition. There was no further information regarding the kidnapped crew members. A search for the two missing crew members is ongoing. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; Lloyds List; Fleetmon; Dryad Global; Maritime Executive)

4. (U) GABON: On 13 December, at 0235 local time, an anchored tanker was approached by a small boat with 12 persons onboard in Owendo Anchorage, near position 00:17N – 009:25E. The crew members shouted and directed their flashlights to the approaching boat. The boat came within about 15 meters before the perpetrators aborted their approach. The Gabonese authorities were informed and dispatched a patrol vessel to secure the area. (Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) GABON: On 13 December, at 0200 local time, five robbers armed with automatic rifles boarded an anchored supply vessel in Owendo Anchorage, near position 00:17N – 009:30E. The alarm was raised, and the crew mustered and retreated to the citadel. The incident was reported to the port authorities and the local Gabonese authorities were tasked to secure the area. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 24 November, the Royal Danish Navy frigate ESBERN SNARE, operating in the Gulf of Guinea, responded to reports of an increased threat of piracy south of Nigeria. The frigate deployed its Seahawk helicopter to carry out advance observations. The crew of the helicopter identified a speeding motorboat with eight suspicious persons and tools associated with piracy, including ladders, onboard. That evening, the ESBERN SNARE launched small boats with members of the Frogman Corps to board the suspicious motorboat. The ESBERN SNARE made attempts to hail the motorboat to allow the Danish soldiers to board. Receiving no response, the Danish soldiers fired warning shots, after which the suspected pirates fired directly on the soldiers. The Danish soldiers reacted in self-defense and returned fire. Reports state that five pirates were hit; four were confirmed killed and one was injured. The pirate boat sank following the exchange of fire. All eight pirates have been taken aboard the frigate, with medical treatment being issued to the injured man. (www.maritime-executive.com; www.gcaptain.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

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:

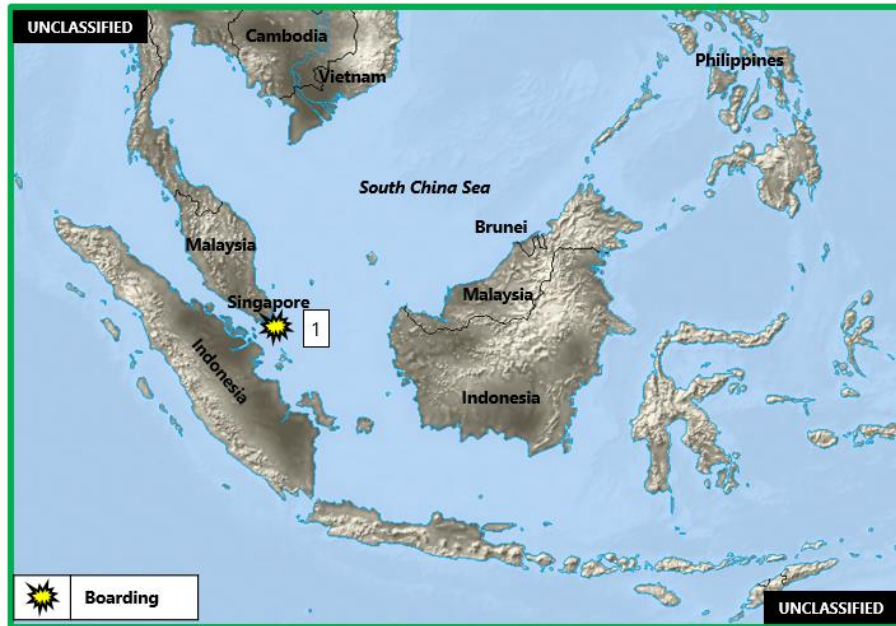


Figure 2. East Asia – Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 December, at 0020 local time, four robbers boarded the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier SEACON 8 underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:14N – 104:03E. The alarm was raised, and the crew mustered. A subsequent search of the ship did not find any of the perpetrators still onboard. The master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. The ship resumed her voyage following the search. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 15 December, at 2332 local time, robbers boarded an underway barge MERIDIAN PRIDE 2401 towed by the Malaysia-flagged tug KWANSOO 11 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:12N – 103:33E. The crew sighted 11 robbers onboard the barge, who came from about ten sampans that went alongside and managed to steal scrap metal. The crew were reported safe and the tug boat continued towing the barge to its destination. The incident was reported to the port operations control center. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 December, at 1925 local time, robbers boarded an underway barge towed by the Malaysia-flagged tug boat DANUM 53 in the Phillip Channel along the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:36E. Three robbers were seen onboard the unmanned barge, while two were on standby in a sampan tied alongside the barge. The master raised the alarm and the robbers made their escape empty-handed. The incident was reported to the port operations control center. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 December, at 2030 local time, four robbers attempted to board the underway Turkey-flagged bulk carrier NURI BEY in the Phillip Channel along the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near

position 01:02N – 103:39E. The crew on duty spotted the robbers onboard a small boat alongside the ship's portside, as they tried and failed to throw hooks attached to ropes on deck. The robbers aborted their attempts to board after the crew raised the alarm. All crew were reported safe and the ship continued her voyage. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 December, at 0038 local time, two robbers boarded the South Korea-flagged bulk carrier CH DORIS underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:03E. The master reported the incident to the port operations control center. All crew were reported safe and nothing was stolen. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 29 November, at 0400 local time, four robbers boarded the Marshall Island-flagged bulk carrier GLADIATOR underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:02E. The robbers were able to escape with stolen engine spare parts. All crew were reported safe. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 November, at 0300 local time, a Singapore-flagged tanker BW KRONBORG underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:13E was boarded. The duty engineer during his rounds noticed that the locks on the steering room were breached. A search was conducted and no perpetrators were found onboard. All crew were reported safe, but some engine spares were missing. The incident was reported to the maritime and port authority of Singapore. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 November, at 0020 local time, robbers boarded a Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier ATALANTI SB underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:02E. Three robbers were spotted boarding the vessel. The master requested assistance when informing the port operations control center and returned the vessel to Singapore, where the Singapore police will conduct an investigation. Nothing has been reported stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 November, at 0600 local time, robbers boarded the container ship NYK FUSHIMI anchored in Jakarta Anchorage, near position 06:01S – 106:54E. The robbers stole engine spares before escaping unnoticed. (ReCAAP; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

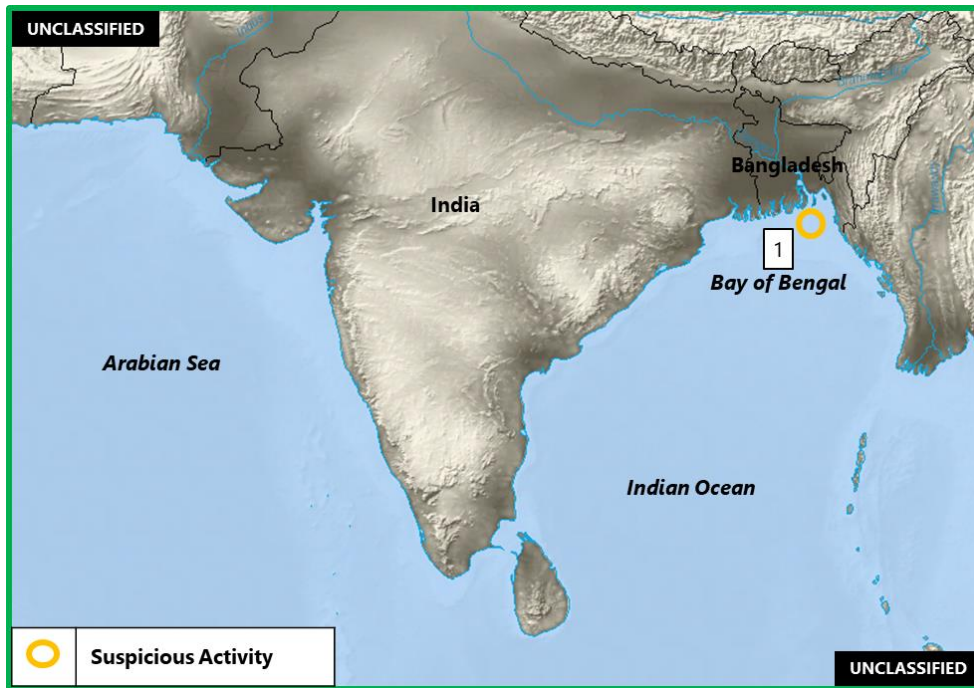
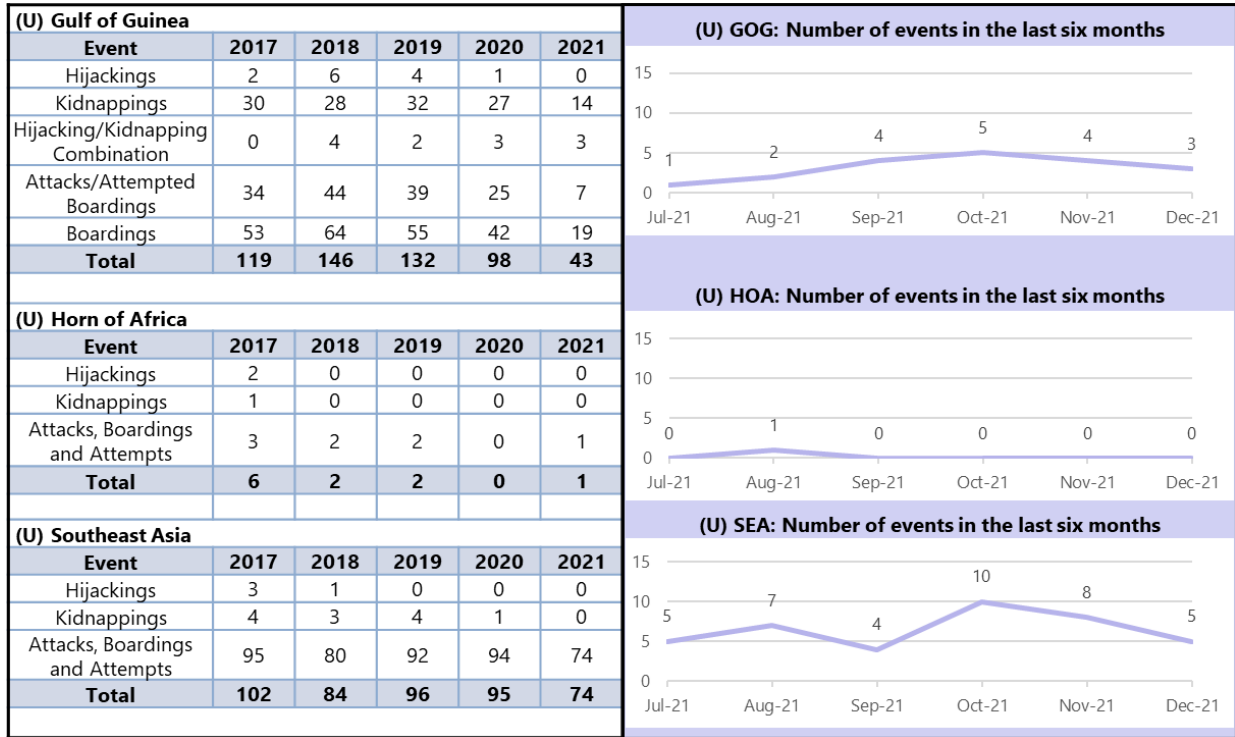
J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

Figure 3. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 December, at 0010 local time, the Bangladesh Coast Guard received a call from a local agent regarding an attempted robbery on an underway Indonesia-flagged Chemical Tanker LADINDA, approximately 37 NM from Cox's Bazar. According to press reports, the Bangladesh Coast Guard responded and foiled the attempted robbery. Two boats were seized and 43 robbers arrested by the coast guard during the operation. (Dhaka Tribune; TBS News; Bangi News)

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:** 22 December 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/>