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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 5 January – 2 February 2022**



2 February 2022

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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) GHANA: On 2 February, a robber attempted to board a container vessel anchored at Takoradi Anchorage.

B. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 January, two robbers boarded an underway tugboat in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS).

C. (U) ANGOLA: On 29 January, three robbers boarded two crew boats alongside each other at Luanda Anchorage.

D. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 29 January, armed pirates on a speed boat approached and fired upon an underway roll-on roll-off ship between Bata and Malabo.

E. (U) BRAZIL: On 25 January, alerted crew members foiled an attempted boarding on an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage.

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F. (U) BRAZIL: On 23 January, four robbers armed with a handgun and a machete boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa 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 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:**

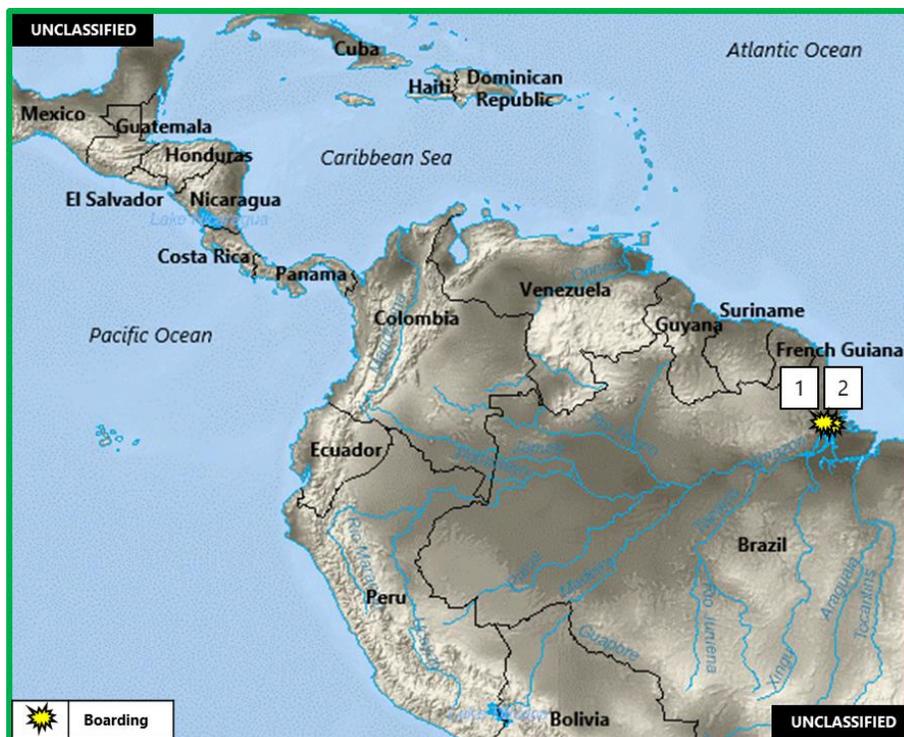


Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 25 January, at 1945 local time, crew members on the anchored Singapore-flagged bulk carrier KT BIRDIE foiled an attempted boarding at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:00N – 050:59W. Two small boats were seen approaching the vessel, after which three robbers wearing black diving suits attempted to board from different positions. The master raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The crew used anti-piracy hoses to repulse the perpetrators, and, at 2000 local time, the crew observed the three perpetrators fleeing in one of the two boats spotted earlier. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) BRAZIL: On 23 January, at 0120 local time, four robbers armed with a handgun and a machete boarded the anchored Singapore-flagged bulk carrier KT BIRDIE at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:00N – 050:59W. The robbers were spotted in the forecabin by the on-duty crew member. The robbers restrained the crew member and confiscated his handheld radio. After more than an hour, the perpetrator released the restrained crew member, who immediately raised the alarm. The crew were mustered, conducted a search, and discovered that the perpetrators escaped with stolen ship's property. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) VENEZUELA: On 25 January, at 0210 local time, a robbery occurred on the United Kingdom-flagged bulk carrier BERGE GALDHOPIGEN anchored at Guanta Anchorage, near position 10:16N – 064:35W. Two robbers were spotted onboard, the alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered. The perpetrators escaped with stolen ship's property and stores. The incident was reported to port authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) PERU: On 22 January, at 1940 local time, three robbers boarded the Panama-flagged bulk carrier VEGA ROSE anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:13W. The alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered, after which the perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The incident was reported to the agent and port authorities, who boarded the vessel and conducted an investigation. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) BRAZIL: On 10 January, at 0615 local time, three armed robbers with knives and guns boarded an anchored bulk carrier at Macapa Anchorage, near position 00:01N – 050:59W. The alarm was raised and the crew were mustered. The robbers went to the muster station and threatened the crew with guns while they loaded stolen items from the ship's stores into a waiting boat. The incident was reported to the local agent and authorities. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) VENEZUELA: On 7 January, a robbery occurred on the Portugal-flagged bulk carrier CRYSTAL CONFIDENCE berthed in the port of Pertigalete, near position 10:14N – 064:33W. The robbers escaped with a stolen lifeboat engine and spare parts from the ship. (vesseltracker.com; 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 – GULF OF GUINEA:

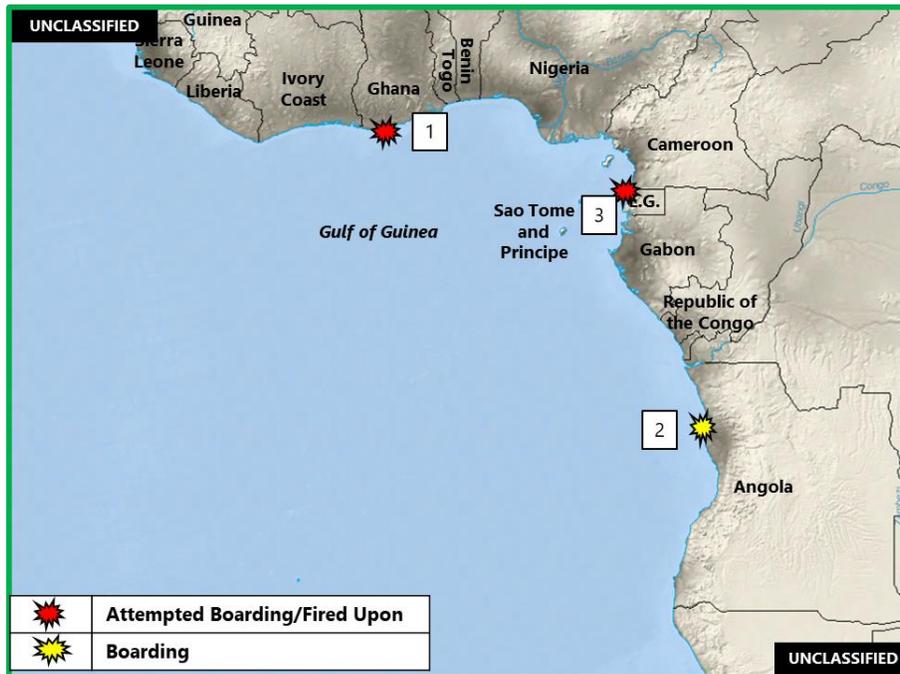


Figure 2. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GHANA: On 2 February, at 0116 local time, a robber was sighted attempting to board a container vessel anchored at Takoradi Anchorage, near position 04:54N – 001:42W, through the anchor chain. The alarm was raised, and the robber escaped on a waiting boat with two accomplices onboard. All the crew were safe and the incident was reported to the local authorities. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 29 January, at 0210 local time, three robbers boarded two Panama-flagged crew boats, SURFER 3601 and SURFER 3602, alongside each other at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:47S – 013:15E. After being spotted by the port security, the robbers escaped on a canoe powered by a small motor. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) EQUATORIAL GUINEA: On 29 January, armed pirates onboard a speed boat approached and fired upon the underway St. Vincent and the Grenadines-flagged roll-on roll-off ship DONA CANDIDA between Bata and Malabo, near position 02:05N – 009:35W. The armed military guards onboard the ferry returned fire, which resulted in the pirates moving away. (vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) IVORY COAST: On 24 January, at 2323 local time, pirates hijacked the underway Marshall Islands-flagged tanker B OCEAN approximately 53 NM south of Abidjan, near position 04:22N – 004:10W. Between 9 and 11 pirates armed with guns boarded the tanker, detained the crew, and turned off all communication and navigation equipment. The pirates asked the bosun to paint over the vessel name written on top of the bridge. They then used their own GPS equipment to rendezvous with an offtake vessel. Once alongside the offtake vessel, the pirates had the chief officer and bosun commence discharge operations, which lasted for approximately six hours. The

pirates escaped with stolen cargo, ship's properties and cash, and crew personal belongings and cash. The crew were reported safe. (Dryad Global; Fleetmon; IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) ANGOLA: On 23 January, at 0125 local time, a robbery occurred on a crew boat anchored at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:47SN – 013:14E. Two robbers boarded the vessel and forced their entry by breaking the padlocks with a bar. The robbers stole several pieces of ship equipment, and escaped into a waiting canoe with two or more accomplices onboard. The incident was reported to the port authorities. (IMB; MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

6. (U) ANGOLA: On 20 January, at 0100 local time, an undetermined number of robbers boarded a crew boat at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:46SN – 013:15E. They gained entry to the boat by breaking the padlocks on the accommodation entrance. The robbers escaped with a stolen water pump. The incident was reported to the port authorities. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 January, a group of fishing boats were boarded and robbed while fishing at the Brass River entrance, Bayelsa State, near position 04:15N – 006:15E. The robbers stole the outboard engines from the fishing boats and then escaped. The crew of the fishing boats were reported safe. (Clearwater Dynamics)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 January, an underway passenger boat with 17 people onboard was hijacked and kidnapped by pirates while on transit from Safe Journey Beach in Calabar, Cross River State, to Oron Beach in Akwa Ibom State waterways, near position 04:55N – 008:17E. According to press reports, eight armed pirates intercepted the boat with 16 passengers and one skipper onboard, comprised of 10 men and seven women, and took them to an undisclosed camp. On 19 January, the pirates released five of the hostages: a four-year-old child, a wounded man, a pregnant woman, an elderly woman, and the boat skipper. They were dropped off in Akpabuyo, Cross River State and were taken into custody by the local authorities. Twelve of the hostages remained in the camp. (Daily Post; People Gazette; NY Sahara Reporters)

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 January, three Cameroonian crew members, previously kidnapped from the Vanuatu-flagged supply vessel MONTET TIDE approximately 62 NM south of Santo Antonio, Sao Tome and Principe on 25 October 2021, were reported released. (Clearwater Dynamics)

10. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 January, six crew members, previously kidnapped from the Liberia-flagged container ship TONSBURG approximately 48 NM southwest of Luba, Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea on 13 December 2021, were reported released. (Clearwater Dynamics)

11. (U) LIBERIA: On 9 January, at 0500 local time, a robbery occurred on a tanker anchored at Monrovia Anchorage, near position 06:20N – 010:48W. The robbers stole an outboard engine and a fuel can, and then escaped unnoticed. The local authorities were informed and security in the area was increased. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

1. (U) YEMEN: On 20 January, at 1610 local time, an underway chemical tanker reported a suspicious approach by three small boats with a larger vessel nearby, approximately 53 NM southwest of Aden, near position 12:09N – 044:19E. The three small boats approached to within one NM of the tanker while the larger vessel came within three NM. The master reported that there appeared to be a ladder in one of the small boats. (UKMTO; Dryad Global; Clearwater Dynamics).

2. (U) OMAN: On 11 January, at 0948 local time, an underway tanker reported a suspicious approach by eight, white-hulled, unknown crafts, approximately 70 NM east of Muscat, near position 23:51N – 059:47E. The vessel and crew were reported safe and have continued their voyage. (UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

3. (U) YEMEN: On 5 January, at 1644 local time, an underway vessel reported a suspicious approach by a single unidentified craft, approximately 30 NM west of Port Saleef, near position 15:36N – 041:55E. The vessel and crew were reported safe and have continued their voyage. (Dryad Global; UKMTO; Clearwater Dynamics).

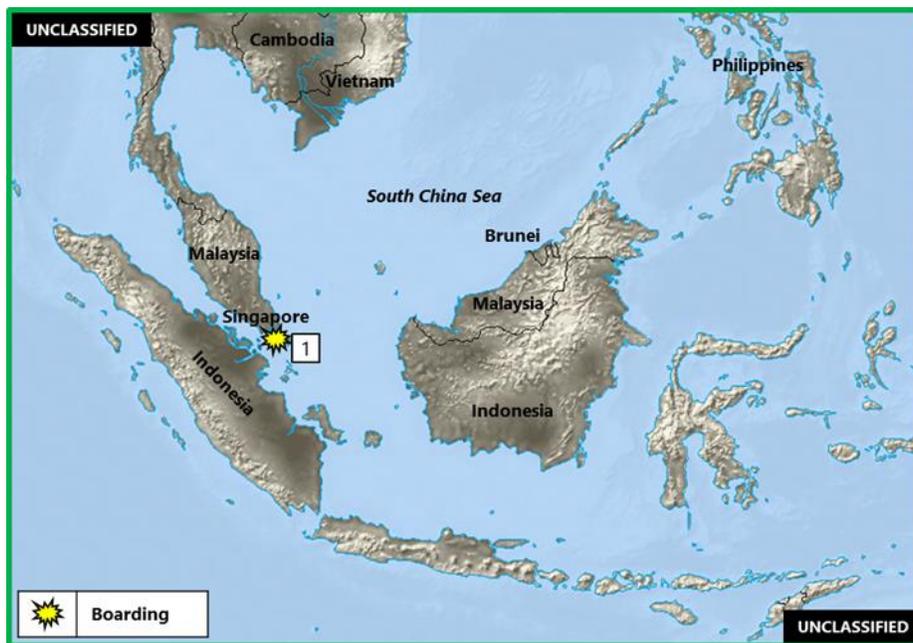
I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

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

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 January, at 0428 local time, two robbers boarded the underway Vietnam-flagged tugboat HAI DUONG 29 while towing the Panama-flagged platform HAKURYU 5 about 4.6 NM northeast of Karimun Kecil Island in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:10N – 103:29E. The robbers were seen on the vessel's closed circuit television system as they boarded. It was reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. The ship required no assistance and resumed her voyage. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 January, at 2110 local time, the Indonesian Navy arrested 47 robbers and seized eight boats caught stealing coal from a barge at Muara Kembang, buoy 17, Samarinda, East Kalimantan. According to press reports, the robbers managed to unload 31 tons of coal from the barge to the boats. The perpetrators and the boats were detained at Anggana naval station for further investigation. (Antara News; Kompas.com).
3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 10 January, at 2200 local time, an attempted boarding occurred on an underway Malaysia-flagged tanker CARLA in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:13N – 103:32E. Five robbers onboard a sampan approached the tanker and were able to hook a ladder to the side of the vessel. The alarm was raised, which resulted in the perpetrators aborting their attempt to board. The incident was reported to the port operations control center. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics).
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 January, at 0540 local time, four robbers armed with knives managed to board a Norway-flagged tanker BOW SANTOS underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:14E. The robbers were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and the vessel was searched with no sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen, all crew were reported safe, and the ship resumed her voyage. The master reported the incident to the authorities. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 8 January, at 0320 local time, four robbers, one armed with a long knife, boarded underway Liberia-flagged tanker BLUE SEA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:16N – 104:16E. The robbers were sighted in the engine room and escaped upon notice. The master reported that nothing was stolen and that all crew were safe. The ship required no assistance and resumed her voyage. (IMB; ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 6 January, at 1138 local time, an unauthorized person boarded an underway barge KIEN SAN 8 towed by the Malaysia-flagged tug KIEN SAN 1 in the westbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:13N – 103:33E. The perpetrator managed to escape with scrap metal in a sampan tied alongside the barge. The master reported the incident to the port operations control center. All crew were reported safe and the tugboat continued towing the barge to its destination. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 January, pirates hijacked the Indonesia-flagged tanker GRAHA DUA SATU at night while anchored in Morosi waters, Southeast Sulawesi, near position 03:42S – 122:38E. Six masked robbers armed with machetes climbed onboard while two remained on their speed boat. The pirates immediately restrained the eight crew members in the mess hall and instructed the bridge to maneuver the vessel to a specified position. Once arrived, the crew were restrained again in the mess hall. An unknown vessel berthed alongside the tanker and the diesel cargo was transferred from the GRAHA DUA SATU. The robbers left the ship early on 7 January, after robbing the ship and crew of valuables and cash. The vessel sailed back to Morosi waters that morning around 0700 local time. The incident was reported to the local authorities which immediately conducted an investigation. (Maritime Bulletin, Fleetmon)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) INDIA: On 19 January, at 2010 local time, a robbery occurred on an underway jack-up barge VIMLA-1 towed by the India-flagged tug ROSE approximately 7.5 NM southeast of Alang, near position 21:21N – 072:18E. The master spotted four perpetrators onboard the unmanned barge. The robbers subsequently escaped on a waiting

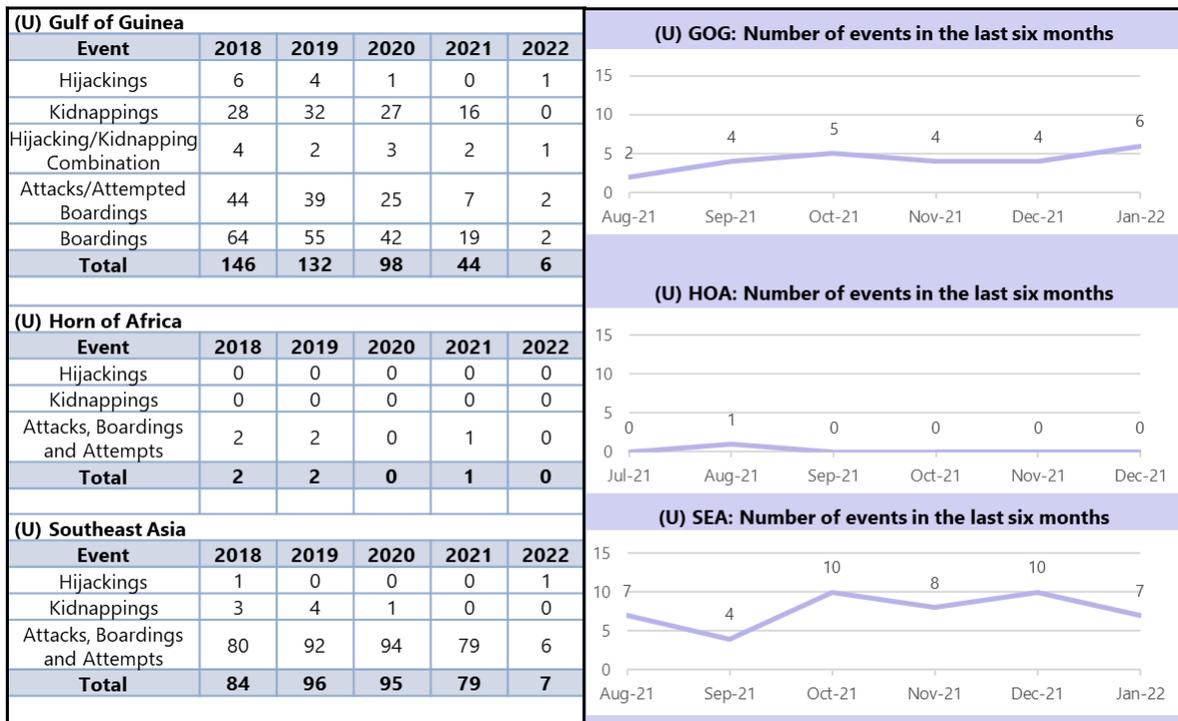
boat. The incident was reported to the Khambhat Vessel Traffic Service and an Indian Coast Guard vessel was dispatched. The Coast Guard boarded the barge on arrival and discovered the lock to the living space was broken and properties were stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 January, at 0000 local time, members of the Bangladesh Police Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested six suspected pirates armed with guns onboard a trawler in the Maheshkhali channel in the Bay of Bengal. Acting on a tip-off, members of the RAB police unit headed out to sea onboard a fishing vessel in the guise of fishermen. According to press reports, a suspicious group of individuals were seen onboard a trawler. The police boarded the trawler which led to the arrest of the six suspects and the seizure of three guns and 11 bullets in their possession. The suspects were detained at the local police station for further investigation. (Dhaka Tribune; The Financial Express; DBC24/7newstv; bdnews24.com)

K. (U) AUSTRALIA – NEW ZEALAND – PACIFIC OCEAN AREA:

1. (U) PAPUA NEW GUINEA: On 20 January, an underway passenger boat with eight people onboard was hijacked and robbed between Pik Island and Raicoast in Madang waterways. According to press reports, the armed robbers stole the boat engine and left the boat and the passengers stranded at sea. The local police stated that the wounded boat skipper survived by swimming to the shore, while one passenger was found dead and six are still missing. (The National PG)

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:** 2 February 2022

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intelligence Portal:
<https://www.oni.navy.mil/News/Shipping-Threat-Reports/>