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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 23 February – 23 March 2022**



24 March 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 current active warnings and advisories.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) GERMANY: On 23 March, a group of 20 protesters onboard rubber boats, and in the water wearing lifejackets, swarmed a tanker while underway from Ust-Luga, Russia, to Rotterdam, Netherlands.

B. (U) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats circled two tankers on their way to the anchorage area of Ambrose Bay, New York.

C. (U) DENMARK: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats came alongside a tanker while anchored at Kattegat.

D. (U) BELGIUM: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats swarmed a tanker while piloting to the port of Antwerp.

E. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats met with a tanker while on its way to the port of Rotterdam.

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F. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 March, robbers boarded and breached the lock of forecastle store of a bulk carrier berthed in port of Lagos.

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:



Figure 1. North America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats circled two tankers, the Greece-flagged MINERVA VIRGO and the Liberia-flagged CONFIDENCE, on their way to the anchorage area of Ambrose Bay, New York. According to press reports, environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA – CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA:

1. (U) PERU: On 13 March, at 2000 local time, seven robbers armed with knives boarded the Liberia-flagged container vessel ALGOL anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:02S – 077:12W. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered, and, upon hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped with stolen ship's stores and properties. The incident was reported to the local authorities who boarded the vessel and conducted an investigation. (vesseltracker.com; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)
2. (U) PERU: On 12 March, at 2000 local time, robbers boarded the Panama-flagged vehicle carrier ARIES LEADER anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:12W. The robbers escaped unnoticed with stolen ship's property. (IMB; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) PERU: On 10 March, at 0300 local time, seven robbers armed with knives boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier DAIDO AMBITION anchored at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:00S – 077:13W. The robbers took advantage of foggy weather conditions to board the vessel and restrain the on-duty crew member. When the duty officer received no response after trying to contact the on-duty crew member, the alarm was raised, and the crew were mustered. After hearing the alarm, the perpetrators released the restrained crew member and escaped into a small boat with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)
4. (U) US VIRGIN ISLANDS: On 5 March, at 0000 local time, the United States-flagged sailing vessel BLUE ROSE was stolen while berthed at St. John, Great Cruz Bay. The sailing vessel was unmanned and unlocked when it was stolen from the port. The incident was reported to the local authorities and a coordinated search is being conducted. The owner of the vessel has offered a reward of \$25,000 (USD) for information leading to recovery. (Caribbean Safety and Security Net)

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

D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:



Figure 2. Northern Europe – Baltic Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GERMANY: On 23 March, a group of 20 protesters onboard rubber boats, and swimming in the water with lifejackets, swarmed the Malta-flagged tanker STAMOS while underway transiting from Ust-Luga, Russia, to Rotterdam, Netherlands, near position 54:33N – 011:12E. According to press reports, these environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. The group painted the hull of the STAMOS with “oil fuel wars” in large letters, demanding the suspension of oil transport from the Baltic Sea to western European ports. (Bietegheimer Zeitung; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) DENMARK: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats came alongside the Greece-flagged tanker DELTA PIONEER while anchored at Kattegat, near position 57:39N – 010:38E. According to press reports, these environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. The group painted “oil is war” on the hull of the DELTA PIONEER in large letters. The ship has offloaded its cargo and remains at anchor. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

3. (U) BELGIUM: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats swarmed the Liberia-flagged tanker SCF BALTICA while transiting to the port of Antwerp, near position 51:19N – 004:19E. According to press reports environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. The group was holding banners and swimmers were also seen in front of the tanker. The tanker was loaded with 85,000 tons of fuel oil. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

4. (U) NETHERLANDS: On 20 March, a group of protesters onboard small boats met the Malta-flagged tanker WAIKIKI while on its way to the port of Rotterdam, near position 51:38N – 003:59E. According to press reports, environmental activists were protesting against oil imports from Russia. The tanker was loaded with 100,000 tons of crude oil. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA:

1. (U) UKRAINE: On 9 March, the Russian Navy reportedly moved the Ukraine-flagged seagoing tug SAPHIR to Sevastopol. This follows its seizure by the Russians on 26 February in the vicinity of Snake Island, near position 45:15N – 030:12E. (Fleetmon; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 9 March, crew members were evacuated from the Hong Kong-flagged container ship JOSEPH SCHULTE berthed at the Brooklyn-Kyiv container terminal. According to press reports, the evacuation was facilitated by multiple embassies in coordination with Ukrainian port authorities. The seafarers were transported to their respective consular offices for repatriation. (vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

3. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 9 March, crew members were evacuated from the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier GLOBAL AGLAIA berthed in the port of Yuzhnyi. According to press reports, the evacuation was facilitated by multiple embassies in coordination with Ukrainian port authorities. The seafarers were transported to their respective consular offices for repatriation. (vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

4. (U) UKRAINE: Prior to 9 March, crew members were evacuated from the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier STAR PAVLINA berthed at the port of Nikolayev. According to press reports, the evacuation was facilitated by multiple embassies in coordination with Ukrainian port authorities. The seafarers were transported to their respective consular offices for repatriation. (vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

5. (U) UKRAINE: On 8 March, a total of 40 crew members of four bulk carriers berthed at the port of Yuzhnyi, near position 46:37N – 031:01E were evacuated. The four bulk carriers involved were: the Greece-flagged MARAN ASTRONOMER, the Malta-flagged MARAN EXCELLENCE, the Panama-flagged NORD VIRGO, and the Marshall Islands-flagged OCEAN COURTESY. According to press reports, Ukrainian border guards facilitated the evacuation of the crew members from the four vessels and were transported to their respective consular offices for repatriation. (vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

6. (U) UKRAINE: On 3 March, the Bangladesh-flagged bulk carrier BANGLAR SAMRIDDHI was abandoned at Olvia Anchorage, Mykolaiv port area. Missiles struck the ship on 2 March, which caused a fire onboard and inflicted serious damage to the vessel's bridge and accommodations. One of the 29 crew members died during the attack. The remaining 28 crew members abandoned ship and were ferried from the anchorage area to a safer location. According to the latest press reports on 6 March, the 28 crew members made it to Romania and their repatriation to Bangladesh was being arranged by the Bangladesh embassy in Bucharest. (risingbd.com; The Business Standard; vesseltracker.com)

7. (U) UKRAINE: On 3 March, the Panama-flagged general cargo ship HELT sunk 23 NM southeast of Odessa, near position near 46:22N – 031:04E. According to press reports, the ship struck a mine that caused a hole below the

hull waterline and sunk bow first. It was first reported that two crew members were seen onboard the lifeboat and four were missing. Later press reports state that all of the six crew members were rescued and safe. Previous reports indicate that the ship was intercepted and reportedly used as a shield by the Russian Navy while underway to the port of Chornomorsk. (Fleetmon; vesseltracker.com; gcaptain.com; Maritime Executive)

8. (U) UKRAINE: Between 27 February and 6 March, crew members were evacuated from three bulk carriers berthed at the port of Illichivsk. The three bulk carriers were: Liberia-flagged S BREEZE and KEY KNIGHT, and the Marshall Islands-flagged STAR HELENA. According to press reports, multiple embassies, ship owners and ship operators coordinated with Ukrainian port authorities to facilitate the evacuations. The seafarers were transported to their respective consular offices for repatriation. (vesseltracker.com; Maritime Executive)

9. (U) UKRAINE: On 26 February, the Russian Navy intercepted and stopped the Ukraine-flagged bulk carrier AFINA while underway from port of Nikolayev, Ukraine to the port of Constanta, Romania 22 NM off Snake Island. The vessel was later escorted to Crimean waters and was detained 56 NM northwest of Sevastopol. (Dryad Global; Fleetmon; vesseltracker.com; Splash 24/7)

10. (U) UKRAINE: On 26 February, the Russian Navy intercepted and stopped the Ukraine-flagged bulk carrier PRINCESS NICOLE while underway from Ukraine to the port of Constanta, Romania southwest of Snake Island. The vessel was later escorted to Crimean waters and was detained 56 NM northwest of Sevastopol. (Dryad Global; Fleetmon; vesseltracker.com; Splash 24/7)

11. (U) UKRAINE: On 25 February, the Moldova-flagged tanker MILLENNIAL SPIRIT was hit by a rocket while underway approximately 12 NM south of Yuzhniy port, near position 46:22N – 031:07E. According to press reports, the Ukrainian authorities carried out rescue operations and were able to retrieve all crew members. Two of the rescued crew were reported to be in critical condition. The vessel was reported disabled, adrift and sinking. (Maritime Executive; Reuters; vesseltracker.com; Fleetmon)

12. (U) UKRAINE: On 25 February, the Panama-flagged bulk carrier NAMURA QUEEN was hit by a rocket while in the anchorage area of Yuzhniy port. According to press reports, the vessel was on its way to the port when its superstructure was hit inflicting serious damages and causing a fire onboard. The crew members immediately extinguished the fire. At least two crew members suffered minor injuries but all were reported safe. (Maritime Executive; vesseltracker.com; Fleetmon)

13. (U) UKRAINE: On 24 February, the Marshall-Islands-flagged bulk carrier YASA JUPITER was struck by a rocket while underway approximately 50 NM off the coast of Odessa, near position 45:39N – 030:55E. The blast damaged one of the ship's hatch covers and broke the bridge portholes. All of the crew were reported safe and the ship's hull sustained no significant damage. The vessel did not require assistance and continued her voyage to Constanta, Romania. (Maritime Executive; Reuters; vesseltracker.com; Fleetmon; Clearwater Dynamics)

F. (U) WEST AFRICA – GULF OF GUINEA:

Figure 3. West Africa – Gulf of Guinea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 March, at 0445 local time, robbers boarded a bulk carrier berthed in port of Lagos. The duty crew member discovered that the lock on the forecastle store was breached. The robbers escaped with an undetermined amount of paints. The investigation revealed that the robbers cut the anti-boarding razor wire on the vessel's waterside to board and escape the vessel. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 23 February, at 0300 local time, robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:46S – 013:15E. The robbers escaped with stolen mooring ropes and fire hoses. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (MDAT-GoG; 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:

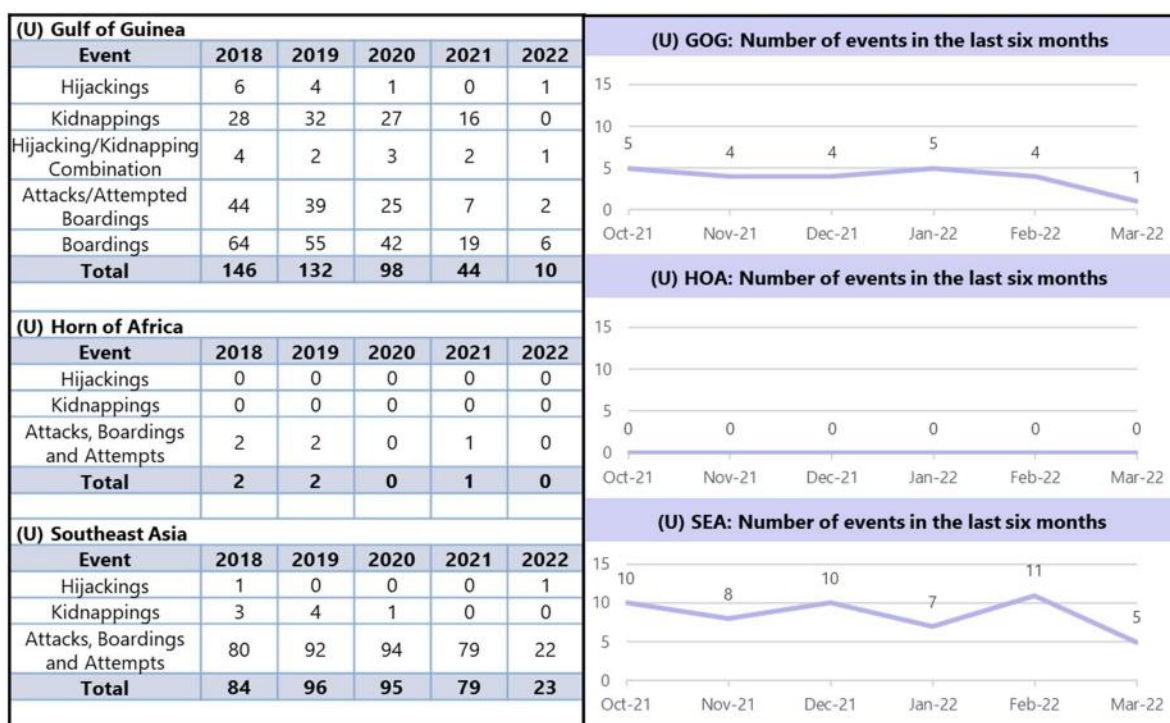
1. (U) INDONESIA: On 4 March, at 0025 local time, five unauthorized personnel were sighted in the accommodation deck of the India-flagged bulk carrier MAHA JACQUELINE underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:15N – 104:04E. After being detected, the five perpetrators escaped empty-handed. The incident was reported to the local authorities. The ship and all crew were reported safe, and the vessel continued her voyage. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March, at 0530 local time, six unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged tanker DAISY 2 while underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:00E. The six perpetrators were spotted in the engine room. Subsequently, the alarm was raised, the crew mustered and they searched the vessel. It was reported that the ship and all crew were safe and nothing was stolen. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
3. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March, at 0230 local time, four robbers armed with an axe and an iron bar boarded the underway Panama-flagged bulk carrier PENTA in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:14N – 104:03E. The four perpetrators were spotted in the engine room. After the alarm was raised, the crew mustered and searched the vessel. Following the incident, the ship returned to Singapore for further search and investigation. The Singaporean authorities later reported that the perpetrators were no longer onboard and nothing was stolen. The ship and all crew were reported safe, and the vessel continued her voyage. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
4. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 March, at 0210 local time, three unauthorized personnel armed with an axe and an iron bar boarded the Malta-flagged bulk carrier FLECHA underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:04E. The three robbers were sighted in the emergency generator room and immediately escaped. Reports indicate that the ship and all crew were safe and nothing was stolen. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
5. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 February, at 0435 local time, three robbers armed with knives boarded the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier AFRICAN MERLIN underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:02N – 103:38E. The three perpetrators were sighted on the main deck. After the alarm was raised, the crew mustered and searched the vessel. The robbers escaped with stolen engine spare parts. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
6. (U) INDONESIA: On 26 February, at 0240 local time, five unauthorized personnel were discovered on the stern deck of the Panama-flagged bulk carrier ROYAL JADE underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:03N – 103:41E. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. After hearing the alarm, the five robbers escaped into a small boat. A set of welding equipment was reported stolen. The incident was reported to the local authorities. The ship and all the crew were reported safe and did not require any assistance. (ReCAAP; IMB; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)
7. (U) INDONESIA: On 25 February, at 0240 local time, two unauthorized personnel were sighted in the engine room of the Liberia-flagged tanker BW CHEETAH underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait TSS, near position 01:15N – 104:08E. The two perpetrators made their escape through the engine room skylight. The crew mustered and searched the vessel. It was reported that a set of compressors for charging compressed air bottles was stolen. The ship and all the crew were reported safe. The incident was reported to the local authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 15 March, at 2255 local time, six unauthorized personnel boarded the Panama-flagged chemical tanker WAWASAN TOPAZ berthed at Chittagong, CUFL jetty, near position 22:14N – 091:50E. The duty crew member sighted the six robbers near the forecastle store and raised the alarm. After hearing the alarm, the perpetrators escaped with stolen ship's stores. The local authorities and the coast guard were contacted and conducted an investigation. The stolen items were later recovered and returned to the ship by the authorities. (ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com; Clearwater Dynamics)

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:** 23 March 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/>