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(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 15 September – 13 October 2021

13 October 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:

A. (U) No active Warnings or Advisories.

3. (U) Summary:

A. (U) FRANCE: On 11 October, at approximately 0100 hours local time, ten armed intruders boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier TRUDY while it was in the port of Dunkirk for a drug inspection, and took the crew captive.

B. (U) SINGAPORE STRAIT: On 10 October, two robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

C. (U) SINGAPORE STRAIT: On 6 October, robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme.

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D. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 October, armed men boarded two fishing vessels offshore of Ibaka in the Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The robbers stole outboard motors from both fishing boats.

E. (U) RED SEA: On 4 October, the Singapore-flagged tanker KHK EMPRESS reported a suspicious approach by one skiff in the Bab el Mendeb Strait.

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:

1. (U) PERU: On 26 September at 18:55 local time, six robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:11W. A duty crewman on routine rounds saw the robbers and raised the alarm. The robbers threatened the crewman with knives and escaped empty-handed. The local authorities were informed, and a patrol boat was dispatched to search the waters around the ship. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) GRENADA: On 23 September, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored in Anse la Roche. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

3. (U) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: On 17 September, robbers boarded an unoccupied yacht on a mooring near the marina dock in Luperon. They used a hacksaw to cleanly cut the padlock that locked the transom clamps to each other while the 15HP Yamaha outboard engine was stolen from the stern pulpit. A report was made to the police, port captain, and marina, and announced on the local VHF net. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org)

4. (U) VENEZUELA: On 15 September, a single-handed yacht on passage from Curacao to Brazil was boarded by Spanish-speaking pirates about 13 NM north of the Paria Peninsula, near position 10:58N – 062:38W. Initially two open boats with multiple large, new outboards and twenty men took control of the yacht. The pirates were all armed with automatic weapons and handguns. They beat the captain and forced his yacht close to shore in a remote and sparsely populated area. There was a well-established house/camp and other armed men visible ashore. Two additional boats and a total of 40 men then spent four hours threatening the captain with their weapons and ransacking the yacht while he was forced to circle close to shore. Eventually the pirates had taken all they wanted and the yacht proceeded on its voyage and made safe harbor in Chaguaramas, Trinidad. The captain was visited by the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard which took a full report. (www.safetyandsecuritynet.org; www.noonsite.com)

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

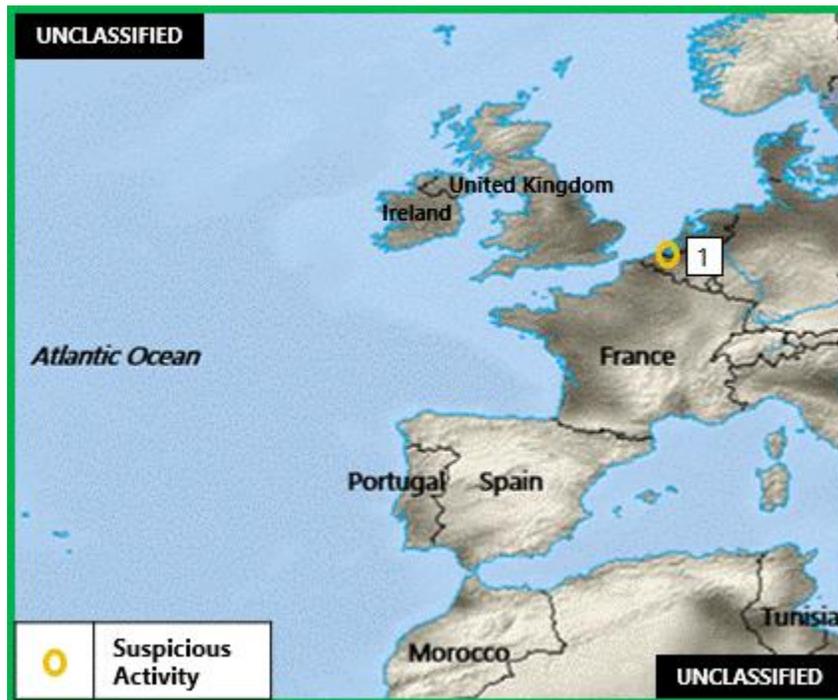
D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE – BALTIC:

Figure 1. Northern Europe – Baltic Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) FRANCE: On 11 October, at approximately 0100 hours local time, ten armed intruders boarded the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier TRUDY while it was in the port of Dunkirk for a drug inspection, and took the crew captive. The leaders of this unauthorized boarding party spoke English and were “violent and threatening” in their manner, according to local police. They searched the vessel, “accompanied by the captain,” but did not appear to take anything. They departed empty-handed at about 0500 hours. No serious injuries were reported. (www.maritime-executive.com)

2. (U) BELGIUM: On 1 October, Belgian authorities in the port of Ghent announced that they, with counterparts from the Netherlands, had interdicted a shipment of 500 kilograms of cocaine hidden among a cargo of fruit juice aboard a bulk carrier arriving from Brazil. (www.fleetmon.com)

3. (U) FRANCE: On 1 October, the Liberia-flagged bulk carrier TRUDY was boarded and inspected by French authorities in the English Channel, then taken to Dunkirk for further inspection after 1.1 tons of cocaine were found in a shipping container. The ship had left Brazil and was bound for Antwerp, Belgium. (www.fleetmon.com)

E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN – BLACK SEA: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

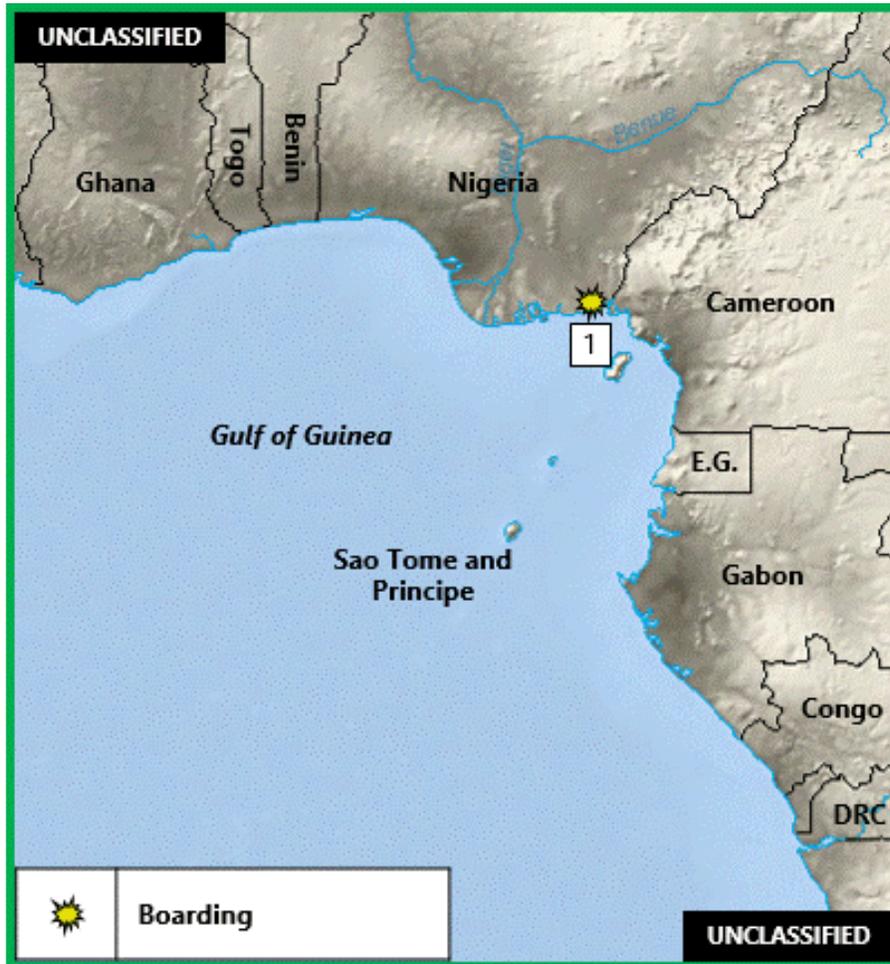


Figure 2. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 October, armed men boarded two fishing vessels offshore of Ibaka in the Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The robbers stole outboard motors from both fishing boats. A spokesman representing the fishermen said that 25 fishermen aboard the boats were stranded at sea because people were afraid to mount a rescue operation for fear of being attacked. (www.punchng.com; www.thisdaylive.com)
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 October, gunmen kidnapped two policemen from the Andoni Local Government Area of Rivers State. The victims were reportedly abducted from a passenger boat they had boarded at Ngo. (www.sunnewsonline.com)
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 28 September, gunmen attacked and abducted four fishermen in Ibaka, Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The victims include three Ghanaians and one Nigerian. They were

kidnapped in the vicinity of the Nigerian Navy FOB Base in the Ibaka waterway on their way to open waters for a fishing expedition. (www.punchng.com; www.vanguardngr.com)

4. (U) SAO TOME and PRINCIPE: On 26 September, a bulk carrier reported a suspicious approach approximately 32 NM northeast of Sao Tome, near position 00:51N – 006:59E. The vessel was approached by one skiff, approximately 12 meters long with a blue and white hull. The bulk carrier carried out evasive maneuvers and increased speed. The suspicious vessel stopped its approach after thirty minutes. A Gabonese Navy vessel then escorted the vessel to safety. (IMB; MDAT-GoG)

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

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



Figure 3. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) RED SEA: On 4 October, the Singapore-flagged tanker KHK EMPRESS reported a suspicious approach by one skiff in the Bab el Mendeb Strait, near position 13:06N – 043:07E. It was reported that there were eight to nine persons on the skiff and no boarding equipment or weapons could be seen. In response, the tanker increased speed and the onboard armed security team manned the bridge of the ship. (ReCAAP)

2. (U) SEYCHELLES: On 29 September, the owners of a yacht anchored in Eden Island Marina returned after an extended absence to find their yacht had been boarded and burgled. Many personal items, including cameras and cash, had been stolen. The local police were notified. (www.noonsite.com)

3. (U) RED SEA: On 18 September, a merchant ship underway in the southern Red Sea, near position 14:08N – 043:06E, approximately 13 NM west of Mocha, Yemen, reported an approach by two suspicious boats. The vessel's onboard armed security team displayed their weapons, resulting in the boats moving away. The vessel and crew are safe. Ladders were reportedly sighted in both small boats. (Clearwater Dynamics)

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:



Figure 4. East Asia – Southeast Asia Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SINGAPORE STRAIT: On 10 October, two robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme, near position 01:15N - 104:11E. After the robbers were seen in the engine room, the chief engineer was informed, and he then notified the bridge. The robbers escaped after the alarm was raised and the crew mustered. A search of the ship was carried out and nothing was reported missing. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) SINGAPORE STRAIT: On 6 October, robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme. The robbers boarded the vessel at some time between 00:00 and 06:00 local time, stole ship's spares, and escaped unnoticed. Duty crewmen discovered the theft while on routine rounds. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 October, three robbers boarded the Malaysia-flagged tanker AMELIA while underway at 0230 local time in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme, near position 01:15N – 104:06E. The alarm was raised and the ship was searched. The robbers had escaped with stolen engine spare parts. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP)

4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 6 October, two robbers boarded the Cayman Islands-flagged product tanker ORIENTAL ROSE anchored at Sandakan Inner Anchorage, near position 05:48N – 118:05E. The robbers were spotted on the forecabin by a duty crewman who informed the bridge. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the perpetrators made their escape with stolen items of ship's stores. The incident was reported to the local agent who informed the Port Authorities. (IMO GISIS; IMB; Clearwater Dynamics)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 September at 1518 local time, one robber was spotted boarding the Denmark-flagged tanker MAERSK CAELUM while anchored in Balikpapan Anchorage, near position 01:21N – 116:59E. The alarm was raised and the crew was mustered, after which the robber escaped. A search of the ship was conducted which confirmed nothing had been stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

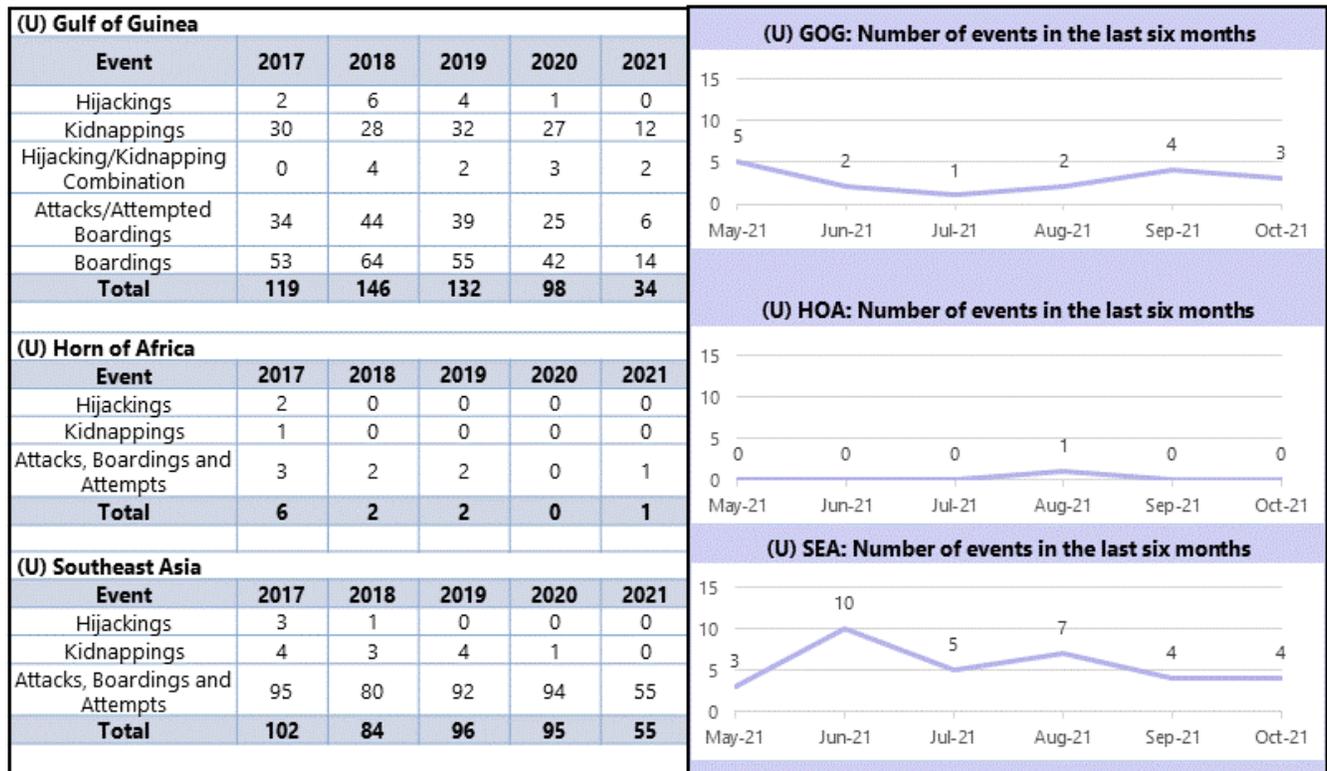
6. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 September at 0240 local time, five robbers boarded the Cyprus-flagged bulk carrier ASIA GRAECO underway in the east-bound traffic separation scheme of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:17N – 104:19E. A search was conducted, but the intruders were not found. Nothing was reported as stolen. (ReCAAP; Clearwater Dynamics)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 September at 2304 local time, three robbers boarded the Singapore-flagged bulk carrier DELPHINUS underway in the east-bound traffic separation scheme of the Singapore Strait, near position 01:16N – 104:19E. Upon being sighted by the ship's crew, the robbers jumped overboard. A search was carried out and it was discovered that generator parts were stolen. (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:** 13 October 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/>