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(U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report, 30 August–27 September 2023**



27 September 2023

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1. (U) **Scope Note**

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) report provides information on threats to merchant vessels, the shipping industry, and other maritime stakeholders worldwide in the past 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) **Warnings, Advisories and Alerts:** See Appendix C for active advisories.

A. (U) U.S. Maritime Advisory 2023-012: Global – New U.S. Maritime Alert and Advisory Subscription Process

Issued on 22 September 2023. Issue: To better identify subscribed entities, identify additional entities who may benefit from receiving U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories, and to update subscriptions as personnel turn over, a new self-registration system is being launched by the U.S. government participants in this system. Additional info on the U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories system is available at <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci>. Those interested in receiving future U.S. Maritime Alerts and Advisories (including those currently registered under the legacy email subscription system) must self-register, prior to 30 November 2023 by following the subscription instructions at <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/msci/us-maritime-alerts-and-advisories-subscriptions>. For questions about this advisory, contact MARAD's Office of Maritime Security at MARADSecurity@dot.gov. This advisory will expire on 20 March 2024.

3. (U) **Summary:**

A. (U) PERU: On 23 September, two persons boarded an anchored LNG tanker at Callao Anchorage.

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B. (U) INDIA: On 20 September, robbers boarded an anchored product tanker at Kakinada 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 past 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:



(U) Figure 1. Central America – Caribbean – South America Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) PERU: On 23 September at 0330 local time, two perpetrators armed with knives boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker MUREX at Callao Anchorage, near position 11:59S – 077:13W. The perpetrators boarded the vessel from a small boat with six persons onboard and gained access to the tanker by crawling in between the anchor chain and the hawsepipe cover, which they later removed. The perpetrators threw the securing bar from the hawsepipe cover at approaching duty crew, who raised the alarm, resulting in the perpetrators fleeing the vessel and escaping in the waiting boat. During a search of the vessel, the crew reported

nothing had been stolen. The ship made several attempts to call authorities, but no response was received. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) PERU: On 2 September at 0220 local time, four robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored Denmark-flagged tanker TORM AMALIE at Callao Anchorage, near position 12:01S – 077:12W. They took one duty crewman hostage and tied him up. The bridge raised the alarm, resulting in the robbers escaping with ship's properties and stores. After the ship reported the incident to port control, the Peruvian Coast Guard responded and boarded the vessel to investigate. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

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:

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 11 September at 0035 local time, as many as five robbers armed with knives and steel bars boarded the berthed Liberia-flagged container ship MSC WAVE F in Lagos Port, near position 06:25N – 003:21E. The robbers escaped with a high pressure machine hose. The ship reported all crew and vessel safe to the port authorities. (MDAT-GoG; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

2. (U) ANGOLA: On 4 September at 0312 local time, two robbers in a canoe boarded the anchored Denmark-flagged offshore supply vessel MAERSK LOGGER at Luanda Anchorage, near position 08:44S – 013:18E. The duty crew on routine rounds discovered the robbers and raised the alarm, resulting in the robbers escaping with ship's properties. (IMB; Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

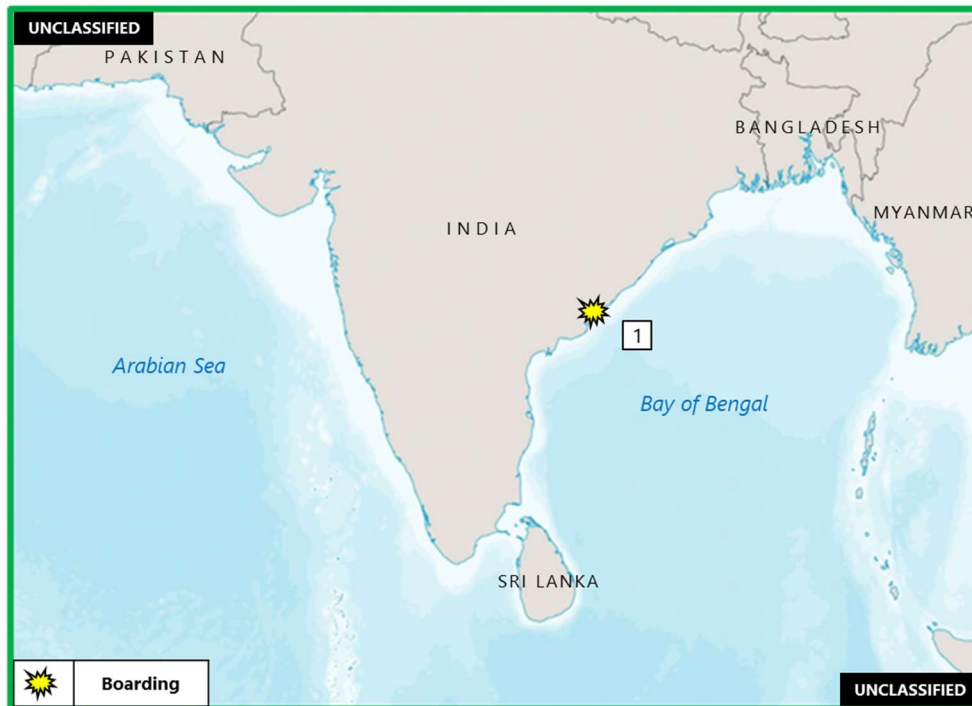
G. (U) ARABIAN GULF: No current incidents to report.

H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN – EAST AFRICA – RED SEA: No current incidents to report.

I. (U) EAST ASIA – SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 September (time not specified), six robbers boarded a berthed barge at Cilacap Port on the island of Java, near position 07:44S – 108:59E. Indonesian authorities apprehended one of the perpetrators and recovered two tons of coal stolen from the barge. (Clearwater Dynamics)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 September at 0135 local time, perpetrators boarded the underway Liberia-flagged bulk carrier YANGZE 8 in the eastbound lane of the Singapore Strait Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), near position 01:03N – 103:41E. The duty crew spotted four persons, one armed with a gun-like object, in the engine room. The master requested assistance from local authorities as some crew members were unaccounted for, having locked themselves in their cabins. A subsequent search confirmed that all crew members were onboard and that no perpetrators remained on the vessel. (Clearwater Dynamics; ReCAAP; vesseltracker.com)

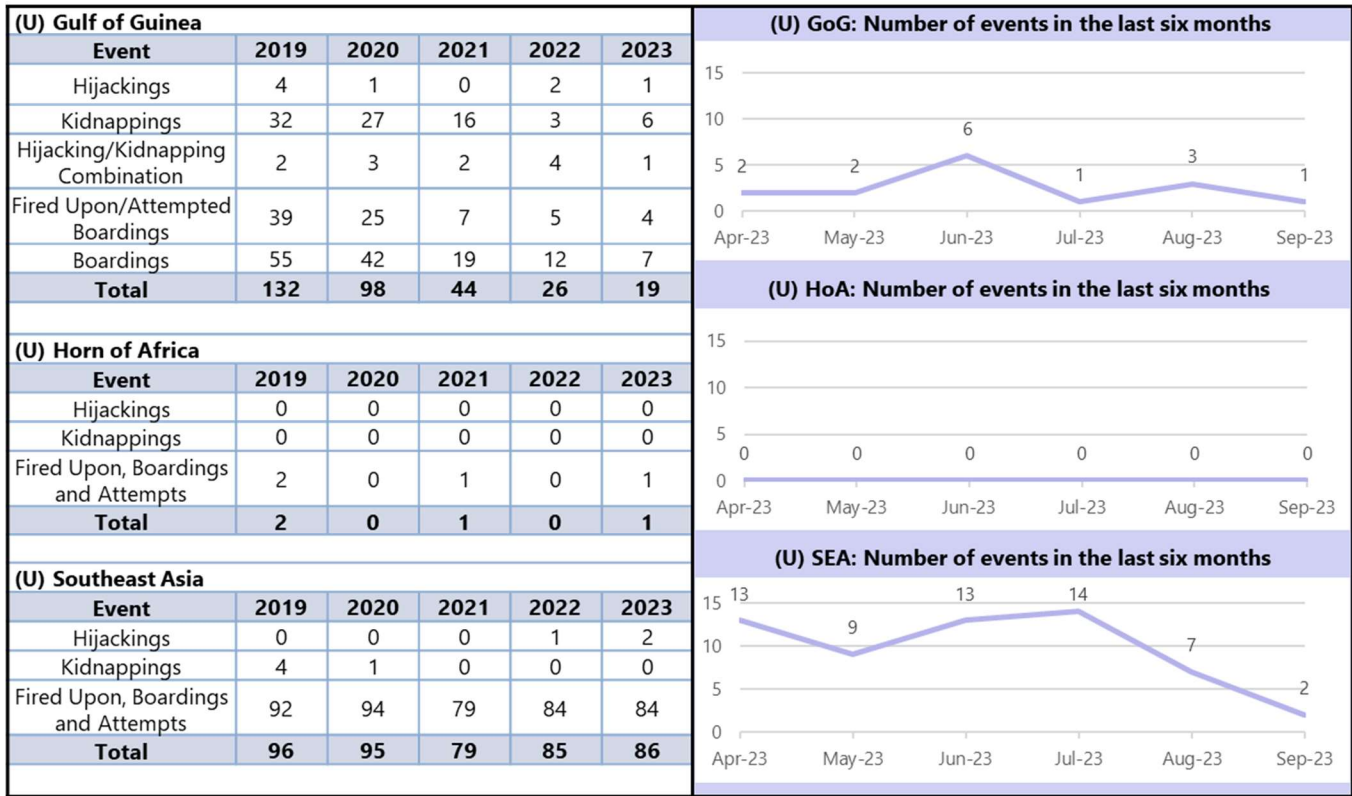
J. (U) INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:

(U) Figure 2. Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea

1. (U) INDIA: On 20 September at 2300 local time, a duty crew member heard engine noise from the port side aft of the Singapore-flagged product tanker MAERSK BELFAST anchored at Kakinada Anchorage, near position 17:02N – 082:26E. While investigating, the crew member observed a boat moving away from the tanker, but was unable to determine the number of perpetrators onboard the boat. Crew members later conducted a search of the tanker and discovered two mooring lines were missing. The ship reported the incident to local authorities through the local agent. All crew were reported safe following the incident. (Clearwater Dynamics; vesseltracker.com)

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.

7. (U) Appendix C: Active U.S. Maritime Advisories

Title	Effective Date	Expiration Date
2023-012-Global – New U.S. Maritime Alert and Advisory Subscription Process	22 SEP 23	24 MAR 24
2023-011-Persian Gulf, Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, Bab al Mandeb, Red Sea, and Somali Basin – Threats to Commercial Vessels	6 SEP 23	4 MAR 24
2023-010-Black Sea and Sea of Azov – Military Combat Operations	1 SEP 23	28 FEB 24
2023-009-Worldwide – Foreign Adversarial Technological, Physical, And Cyber Influence	23 AUG 23	19 FEB 24
2023-008-Gulf of Guinea – Piracy/Armed Robbery/Kidnapping for Ransom	30 JUN 23	29 DEC 23
2023-007-Global – Overview of the U.S. Maritime Advisory System	6 JUN 23	3 DEC 23
2023-006-Worldwide – U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Industry Cybersecurity Resource Center Website	24 APR 23	23 OCT 23

(U) **ICOD:** 27 September 2023

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