



UNCLASSIFIED

## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 11 June – 8 July 2020



9 July 2020

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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 new warnings or advisories to report.

#### 3. (U) **Summary:**

- A. (U) BENIN: On 2 July, pirates kidnapped five crewmembers from the Singapore-flagged general cargo ship KOTA BUDI approximately 150 NM south of Cotonou, Benin.
- B. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 July, pirates kidnapped nine crewmembers from the Singapore-flagged FPSO vessel SENDJE BERGE approximately 29 NM SSW of Bonny Island.
- C. (U) ITALY: On 1 July, authorities in the port of Salerno announced the seizure of three shipping containers carrying approximately 14 tons of Captagon pills.
- D. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 July, four robbers armed with knives boarded a reefer vessel in the Singapore Strait.
- E. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 30 June, robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in Nacala Anchorage.
- F. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 June, four robbers boarded the Marshall Island-flagged bulk carrier CARDINAL in Singapore Strait.

- G. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 26 June, robbers boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker ASIA ENERGY in Manila Quarantine Anchorage.

#### 4. (U) Details: 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 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 27 June at 1910LT, three robbers boarded a bulk carrier anchored in the Callao Anchorage near position 12:01S - 077:10W. A duty crew member during routine rounds spotted the robbers, informed the duty officer, and started shouting at them. The robbers fled after seeing the crew's response. Authorities responded and conducted a search for the robbers. (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:**

1. (U) ITALY: On 1 July, authorities in the port of Salerno announced the seizure of three shipping containers carrying approximately 14 tons of Captagon pills, a stimulant widely used by combatants in the civil war in Syria, including IS militants, who value its ability to inhibit fear and ward off tiredness. Officers tracked the three suspect containers to the port of Salerno in southwest Italy and found 84 million pills with a market value of €1 billion (\$1.12 billion) inside paper cylinders for industrial use. Investigators said the bust is the largest drug haul in the world in terms of both value and quantity. (www.bbc.com; www.cnn.com)

#### F. (U) **WEST AFRICA:**

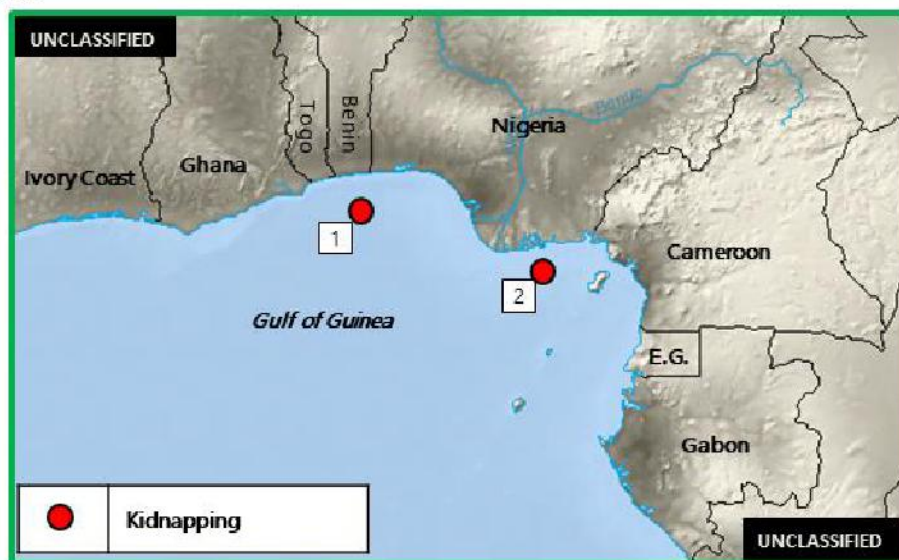


Figure 1. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime



1. (U) BENIN: On 2 July, pirates attacked and boarded the Singapore-flagged general cargo ship KOTA BUDI drifting and awaiting operational instructions 150 NM south of Cotonou, Benin at 03:49.3N - 002:25.0E. The pirates stole ship's properties, cash, and some of the crew's personal belongings before departing in a small boat with five Chinese hostages, leaving the remaining crew behind. (IMB, Clearwater Dynamics; [www.thedefensepost.com](http://www.thedefensepost.com))

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 2 July at 0420LT, pirates in two speed boats conducted a coordinated attack on the Singapore-flagged FPSO vessel SENDJE BERGE and security vessel HUDSON CAPT ELENDU operating approximately 29 NM SSW of Bonny Island at position 03:51N - 006:59E. One of the boats distracted the security vessel HUDSON CAPT ELENDU while pirates from the other boat boarded the FPSO. The pirates kidnapped nine Nigerian crewmembers. The Nigerian Navy responded to the incident. ([www.offshore-mag.com](http://www.offshore-mag.com), [www.seatrade-maritime.com](http://www.seatrade-maritime.com))

3. (U) BENIN: On 24 June at 1530LT, pirates on a speedboat boarded the Ghana-flagged fishing vessel PANOFI FRONTIER approximately 60 NM south of Cotonou in vicinity of 05:21N - 002:37E. The pirates kidnapped five South Koreans and one Ghanaian. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global, Maritime Security)

4. (U) GABON: On 15 June, authorities detained the Sweden-flagged passenger vessel HAWA III for possible involvement in four kidnappings off the coast of Gabon since the beginning of 2020. ([www.lss-sapu.com](http://www.lss-sapu.com))

5. (U) SAO TOME: On 16 June, individuals in two skiffs pursued the Cape Verde-flagged tug ARTIKE approximately 27 NM southeast of Sao Tome at 00:13S - 007:16E. No further information exists at this time. (Dryad Global)

6. (U) CAMEROON: On 12 June at 2330LT, six men in a speedboat attacked a Cameroon Patrol Boat during her patrol in the Bakassi Creeks near 04:28N - 008:34E. The Patrol Boat returned fire which resulted in one man in the speedboat being killed. The other five men jumped overboard. The Cameroon officials seized the speedboat which had two outboard engines, a number of weapons with ammunition, mobile phones, flashlights, and cash. (Clearwater Dynamics)

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

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

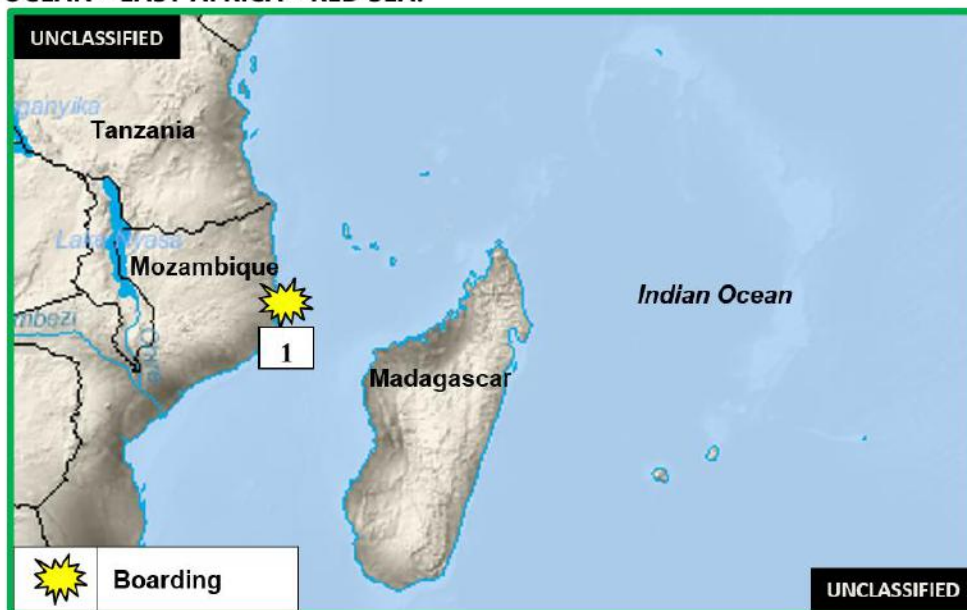


Figure 2. East Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MOZAMBIQUE: On 30 June, a duty crewmember on routine rounds onboard a bulk carrier anchored in the Nacala Anchorage at 14:23S - 040:41E noticed a mooring line cut and missing. The crewmember raised the alarm and the crew carried out a search of the vessel. The crew notified Port Control and a patrol boat responded to the scene. (IMB)

2. (U) YEMEN: On 29 June, a 10-meter-long gray skiff with four persons onboard approached an underway container ship approximately 27 NM southwest of Aden near position 12:23N - 044:54E. The crew identified the skiff at a distance of 4 NM approaching at a speed of up to 20 knots. The skiff approached within 0.1 NM. The captain activated the fire hoses, sounded the ship's whistle, and the crew retreated to the citadel. As the fire hoses were activated, the skiff stopped her approach at an approximate distance of 0.7 NM from the container ship's starboard side. The crew remained within the citadel until the skiff was 5 NM away. (Clearwater Dynamics, Dryad Global)

#### I. (U) EAST ASIA - SOUTHEAST ASIA:

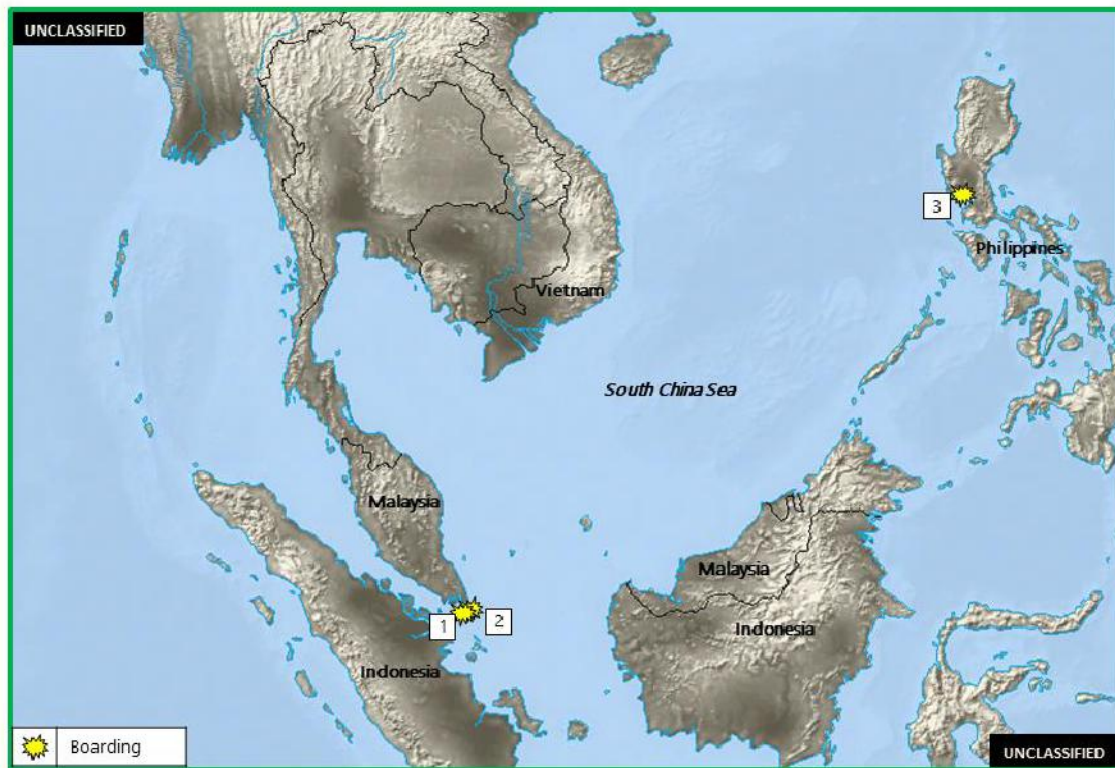


Figure 3. Southeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 2 July at 0040LT, four robbers armed with knives boarded the eastbound Panama-flagged reefer FRIO OLYMPIC in Singapore Strait near 01:16N - 104:19E. The on duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew response, the robbers fled with four boxes of ship's spare parts. The crew reported the incident to VTIS. (IMB, ReCAAP)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 28 June at 0311LT, four robbers boarded the eastbound Marshall Island-flagged bulk carrier CARDINAL in Singapore Strait near 01:16N - 104:14E using a rope and hook. When the engineers spotted the robbers in the engine room, they fled through the emergency steering room and jumped overboard. Nothing was stolen during the incident. (IFC MARSEC Weekly, Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP)



3. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 26 June at 2217LT, robbers boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged LNG tanker ASIA ENERGY at Manila Quarantine Anchorage in position 14:33N - 120:48E. The robbers jumped overboard when spotted by the duty officer. The crew later discovered the robbers had managed to steal three immersion suits and two fire hoses. (Clearwater Dynamics)

4. (U) THAILAND – LATE REPORTING: On 16 June at 1115LT, robbers boarded the anchored Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier MAGIC STRIKER during cargo operations at Ko Sichang Anchorage at 13:11N - 100:50E. The robbers managed to break into aft store undetected and steal equipment. The crew noticed the break-in during routine operations and reported the theft to their agent and Port Facility Security Officer. (Clearwater Dynamics, IMB, IFC MARSEC Weekly Report)

5. (U) PHILIPPINES – LATE REPORTING: On 13 June between 0400-0500LT, robbers boarded the anchored Hong Kong-flagged container ship SEASPAN FRASER in the Manila Anchorage area near position 14:33N - 120:53E. A duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the bosun store and paint room door padlocks broken and doors open. He immediately informed the duty officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. A search of the ship revealed that robbers had stolen ship's stores and properties. The crew reported incident to the Port Authority. (IMB, IFC MARSEC Weekly Report)

6. (U) PHILIPPINES – LATE REPORTING: On 13 June at 0325LT, robbers boarded the Portugal-flagged container ship CMA CGM PUGET anchored near position 14:35N - 120:51E, Manila Anchorage area. A duty crewman on routine rounds found bolt cutters near the Bosun store room and noticed that the lock had been cut. A search of the vessel revealed that ship's properties was stolen. The incident was reported to the Manila Vessel Traffic Management System. (Clearwater Dynamics, IFC MARSEC Weekly Report)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 17 June at approximately 0200LT, robbers boarded the anchored Singapore-flagged tanker BW ZAMBESI off Merak Anchorage Area at 05:54S - 105:59E. The robbers managed to enter the engine room undetected and steal generator spares before departing. (Clearwater Dynamics, ReCAAP, IFC, IMB)

8. (U) VIETNAM: On 14 June, the Vietnamese foreign ministry issued a statement that two Chinese ships attacked a Vietnamese fishing boat near the Paracel Islands. According to the ministry, a Chinese ship with the hull number 4006 pursued and collided with the Vietnamese fishing boat QNg 96416 TS approximately 8 NM off Lincoln Island, a Chinese-occupied land feature in the Paracel Islands. Sixteen fishermen abandoned ship, but the fishing boat did not sink. The Chinese vessel returned, picked up the crew, and helped remove water from the fishing boat. Despite the ordeal, the Vietnamese fishing boat managed to return safely to Sa Ky, a fishing port outside of Quang Ngai. (Maritime Executive)

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: 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 anti-shipping 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) **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:** 8 July 2020

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