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## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** 30 April - 30 May 2018



31 May 2018

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#### 1. (U) **Scope Note**

1. (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:**

1. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 002/MAY/2018**: Category: Suspicious Approach. Description: At 1205UTC on 30 May 18, an MV reported an approach by up to 6 skiffs in position 01:38N - 044:41E, just south of Mogadishu, Somalia. Vessel and crew are safe. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Source: Reported to UKMTO via telephone. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information. This advisory is not classified as a Maritime Security Event and has not been verified by UKMTO. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. UKMTO is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting. UKMTO watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org, tel: +971 5055 23215, fax: +971(0)43094254.

2. (U) **MDAT-GoG Advisory 005/MAY/2018**: Category: Attempted Boarding. Description: At 2335UTC on 25 May 2018, in position 06:18N - 003:20E (approximately 7 nm south of Lagos, Nigeria), an attempt was made to board an MV. Alarm was sounded. The 2 POBs jumped off the vessel into a skiff. Vessel and crew are safe. Source: Reported to MDAT-GoG via email. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. This advisory is not classified as a Maritime Security Event and has not been verified by MDAT-GoG. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the region. MDAT-GoG is not responsible for the accuracy of this reporting. MDAT-GoG watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org, tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88.

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

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- A. (U) SOMALIA: On 30 May, a merchant vessel reported an approach by up to 6 skiffs 46 nm southwest of Mogadishu.
- B. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded a Netherlands-flagged heavy lift vessel anchored 16 nm northeast of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan.
- C. (U) ALGERIA: On 29 May, authorities intercepted the container ship VEGA MERCURY and searched the vessel; more than 700 kilograms of cocaine were found.
- D. (U) GHANA: On 26 May, authorities arrested three persons in connection with illegal oil transfer at the canoes basin at the Tema port.
- E. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 May, seven robbers boarded a berthed ro-ro ship in Lagos Port.
- F. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 May, two robbers attempted to board a merchant vessel 7 nm south of Lagos.
- G. (U) MALAYSIA: On 23 May, officers with the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency office seized eight bags containing 410 kilograms of methamphetamines.
- H. (U) VENEZUELA: On 23 May, three robbers attempted to board an anchored product tanker in Puerto Jose Anchorage.
- I. (U) NIGERIA: On 23 May, a merchant vessel reported a boarding near position 06:15N - 003:12E, Lagos Anchorage.
- J. (U) MALAYSIA: On 22 May, authorities made the country's largest ever seizure of methamphetamines, officials said, finding nearly 1.2 tons of the drug disguised as tea in a shipment from Myanmar.
- K. (U) SPAIN: On 21 May, the Spanish Civil Guards confirmed the seizure of over 900 kilos of cocaine and 10 arrests.
- L. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 19 May, a Japanese P-3 maritime patrol plane detected what appeared to be a Chinese-flagged vessel 218 miles off Shanghai, conducting illegal transfers to a North Korean ship, identified as M/T JI SONG 6.
- M. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 May, five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier in Tarahan Anchorage.
- N. (U) CUBA: On 14 May, two men boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Cienfuegos Harbor and attempted to steal articles of value.
- O. (U) HONDURAS: On 13 May, a yacht transiting northward from Isla Providencia, Colombia to Grand Cayman, off the Gorda Banks was suspiciously approached at night.
- P. (U) GUATEMALA: On 11 May, a yacht anchored in Rio Dulce Nana Juana Marine had its in-the-water but locked dinghy stolen.
- Q. (U) GUATEMALA: On 4 May, an unlocked yacht anchored in Shell Bay was boarded while the owners were not onboard.
- R. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 April, four robbers in a skiff boarded a berthed container ship shortly after the mooring operations in Apapa Port, Lagos.

#### **4. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements**

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for May and June 2018. To apply for JMSDF escort, visit [http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime\\_fr2\\_000000.html](http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html), please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932; Fax: +81-3-5253-1643. Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: China Navy convoy schedule for May and June 2018. For further information, please e-mail: [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn) or [etg546cn@163.com](mailto:etg546cn@163.com), or call Tel 00870 773 120 772. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: India Navy convoy escort schedule for May and June 2018. To register, email: [gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in](mailto:gcommcentre-dgs@nic.in); or visit [ww.dgshipping.com](http://ww.dgshipping.com). Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22-22613636. (MSCHOA)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korea Navy convoy schedule for May and June 2018. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at 001-646-466-9522. Email: [chunghae26@navy.mil](mailto:chunghae26@navy.mil). (MSCHOA)

## **5. (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:**

1. (U) MEXICO: On 16 May, the Mexican Navy seized a boat carrying a shipment of 1.3 tons of cocaine off the Pacific coast in the state of Michoacan. The Ministry of the Navy and Army indicated that soldiers arrested six Mexican nationals and two Ecuadorians during the operation, 166 kilometers southwest of the port of Lazaro Cardenas. ([www.xinhuanet.com](http://www.xinhuanet.com))

2. (U) UNITED STATES: On 12 May, police near Santa Barbara, California, intercepted a panga-type boat carrying 3,000 pounds of marijuana and arrested 18 persons on suspicion of drug smuggling. ([www.keyt.com](http://www.keyt.com))

### **B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA - CARIBBEAN - SOUTH AMERICA:**

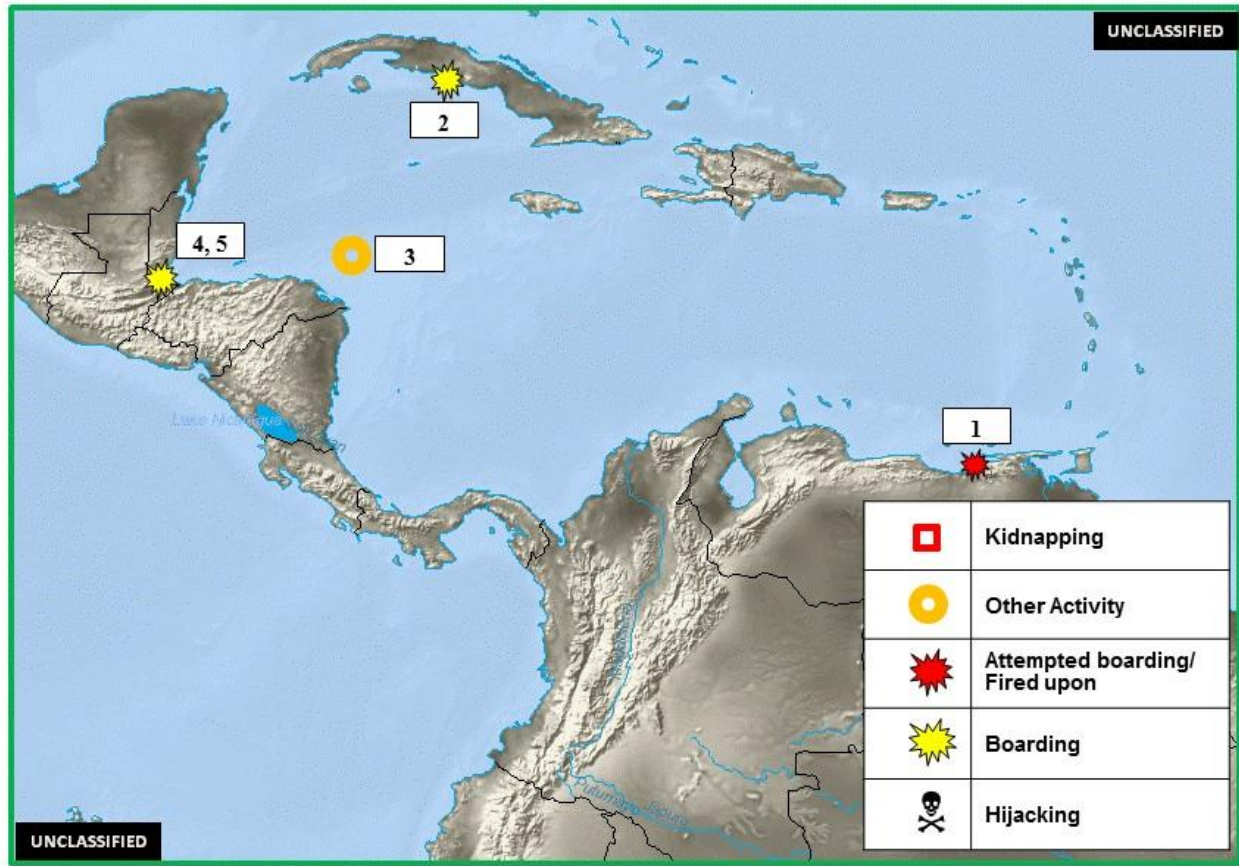


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) VENEZUELA: On 23 May, a white skiff with three robbers onboard came alongside an anchored product tanker near position 10:11N - 064:47W, Puerto Jose Anchorage. They tried to board the tanker via the poop deck. Duty crewman spotted the robbers and raised the alarm resulting in the robbers aborting the attempted boarding and moving away. (IMB)

2. (U) CUBA: On 14 May, two men boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Cienfuegos Harbor and attempted to steal articles of value and an unsecured dinghy. The owner was awakened and chased the would-be thieves off. There was no damage and nothing was taken. A report was made to the port captain and on the VHF net. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

3. (U) HONDURAS: On 13 May, a yacht transiting northward from Isla Providencia, Colombia, to Grand Cayman, at a position of 15:45 N - 081:32W was off the Gorda Banks and noticed a suspicious vessel on an intercept course from the west-southwest at 2245 hrs. At 2315 the suspect vessel was within a few hundred meters of the yacht, displaying only running lights. The yacht captain assumed it was law enforcement and turned on its lights and made several calls on VHF 16 that were not answered. The suspect vessel continued to track on an intercept course and increased speed in clear pursuit. The yacht captain believed the pursuing vessel to be a large boat, approximately 70 feet in length, similar to a fishing trawler type vessel. The yacht was making good speed with full sail and added engine to further increase speed and was able to outpace the suspect vessel, which after 20 minutes gave up the pursuit, then stopped dead and lit up. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

4. (U) GUATEMALA: On 11 May, a yacht anchored in Rio Dulce Nana Juana Marine had its in-the-water but locked dinghy

stolen overnight. The owners discovered that the painter and locking cable had both been cut. The dinghy (minus the outboard) was recovered in the mangroves, but the tubes had been slashed, and the fuel tank, fuel line, manual pump and oars had also been taken. A report was made to the marina and on the VHF net. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

5. (U) GUATEMALA: On 4 May, an unlocked yacht anchored in Shell Bay was boarded while the owners were not onboard. A medical device and personal electronic items were stolen. A report was made on the VHF net. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

6. (U) BRAZIL: On 20 May, officials from the state of Maranhão said a local fishing boat found a drifting vessel with 27 people aboard, including migrants from Senegal, Nigeria, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cape Verde, along with two Brazilians, the government said in a statement. Some were suffering from dehydration. A Brazilian newspaper, citing a Federal Police officer, said that both rescued Brazilians were arrested for human trafficking. The official also said the migrants paid to be illegally transported to Brazil. The boat had reportedly been at sea for five weeks. ([www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com))

7. (U) PUERTO RICO: On 14 May, authorities intercepted a 28-foot boat near Cabo Rojo. An inspection of the boat found 601 kilograms of cocaine. Two men on the boat were arrested. ([www.viconsortium.com](http://www.viconsortium.com))

8. (U) PERU: On 5 May, three robbers in a wooden boat with an outboard engine boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 12:01S - 077:10W, Callao Anchorage. They boarded using a hook attached to a rope. Duty lookout saw the robbers, raised the alarm and crew mustered. Duty officer sounded the ship's whistle and notified the port authorities. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores.

9. (U) GUATEMALA: On 4 May, authorities intercepted M/V TIAMAT and escorted it to the port of Puerto Quetzal for a thorough search of the ship. During the search, 2.8 tons of cocaine was found. The ship was en route from Ecuador to Ensenada, Mexico. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

10. (U) PERU: On 3 May, Peruvian authorities in Callao seized 400 kilograms of marijuana aboard the Portugal-flagged cargo ship EVER CONQUEST, which came from the Colombian port of Buenaventura, according to the Peruvian Prosecutor's Office. The contraband was found in rectangular packages inside five black sports bags in the crew compartments. ([www.maritimeherald.com](http://www.maritimeherald.com))

11. (U) JAMAICA: On 3 May, the Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) Coast Guard seized approximately 765 pounds of compressed marijuana when it intercepted a vessel off the coast of Westmoreland and detained three men, two locals and a Haitian. A JDF Coast Guard patrol team on board HMJS Cornwall was conducting routine patrols off the coast of Westmoreland when they spotted a blue motor-vessel acting suspiciously. The Coast Guard team approached the vessel in order to carry out a board and search, when the three men were spotted throwing a number of packages over board. The Coast Guard team recovered five packages that were thrown overboard and another 11 that were still onboard. ([www.caribbean360.com](http://www.caribbean360.com))

12. (U) SURINAME: On 2 May, pirates attacked another fishing boat, killing at least one fisherman. According to Mark Lall, secretary of Visserscollectief, a local fishermen's association, the captain of the boat was killed. The whereabouts of this crew member is unknown. ([www.demerarawaves.com](http://www.demerarawaves.com))

13. (U) TRINIDAD and TOBAGO: On 1 May, police arrested a Venezuelan man after he came ashore in a small boat near Boleau Beach Road, Icacos Village, Cedros. A search of the man revealed 10.8 kilograms of cocaine in his backpack along with a loaded .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol. ([www.menafn.com](http://www.menafn.com))

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

**D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:**



1. (U) IRELAND: On 8 May, a teen stowaway was discovered in a truck at a stadium in Dublin after traveling from Calais, France, across the English Channel, through England and across the Irish Sea. The truck is part of a convoy hauling equipment for an upcoming music concert. ([www.irishmirror.ie](http://www.irishmirror.ie))

#### E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:

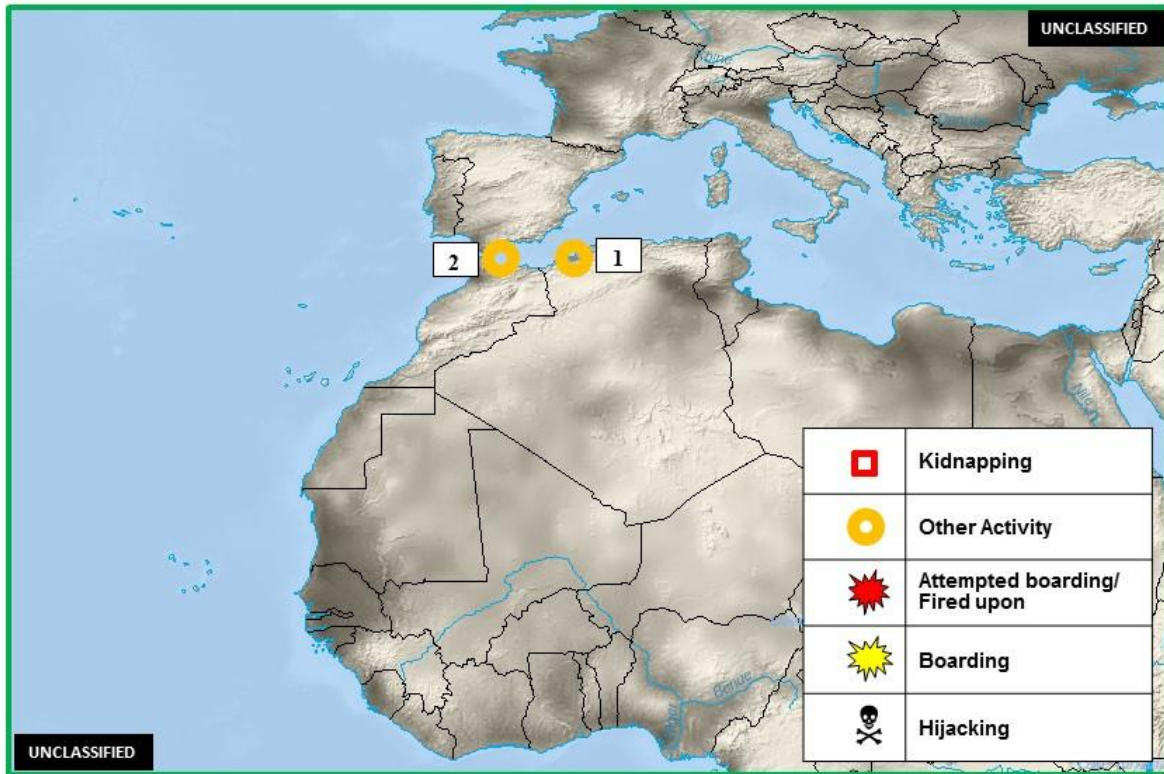


Figure 2. Mediterranean – Black Sea Piracy  
and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ALGERIA: On 29 May, authorities intercepted the container ship VEGA MERCURY using an Algerian Navy ship and Helicopter, off Oran. Algerian authorities were alerted by Spanish authorities about a probable drug shipment on board. More than 700 kilograms of cocaine were found in boxes marked as "halal meat." 14 people were arrested, including 3 from the ship's crew. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

2. (U) SPAIN: On 21 May, the Spanish Civil Guards confirmed the seizure of over 900 kilos of cocaine and 10 arrests in an operation centered on the port city of Algeciras in the southwest of the country. A Civil Guard statement explained the cocaine had come from South-America hidden in a cargo of fruit. ([www.menafn.com](http://www.menafn.com))

2. (U) SPAIN: On 19 May, the Spanish National Police intercepted a fishing boat 110 nm off the eastern Spanish coast, carrying 15 tons of hashish. The fishing boat was illegally sailing under a Maltese flag when it was spotted. All four of the ship's crew, consisting of a Bulgarian national and three Dutch citizens, were arrested. ([www.pvilt.com](http://www.pvilt.com))

3. (U) LIBYA: On 7 May, government officials announced that their coast guard had intercepted over 500 migrants in two separate operations off the country's northwestern coast. Over 400 migrants were intercepted off Garabulli while another 100 were stopped near Sabratha, the naval coast guard spokesman said. The migrants were taken to a detention center in Tripoli. ([www.pvilt.com](http://www.pvilt.com))

4. (U) AEGEAN SEA: On 4 May, a Greek navy gunboat was nudged by a Turkish cargo vessel while on patrol for unauthorized migrant crossings in the Aegean Sea, the Greek Navy said. The gunboat ARMATOLOS was on patrol off the island of Lesbos as part of a NATO operation when the incident occurred. A Turkey-flagged vessel "approached and touched" the Greek gunboat, the navy said in a statement. It then accelerated toward Turkish shores and did not respond to subsequent radio calls from the Greek gunboat, according to the statement. The Greek Navy said NATO authorities had been informed, adding that there were no injuries or any serious damage to the ship. Turkey's transport ministry later confirmed that there were no casualties on either side following the collision. (Reuters)

5. (U) ITALY: On 2 May, authorities intercepted a small ship carrying 2.5 tons of marijuana near Brindisi. Four Albanian smugglers were arrested. (www.ansa.it)

6. (U) TURKEY: On 1 May, a total of 89 kilograms of cocaine was seized at Istanbul's Ambarli Port. According to Turkey's Customs and Trade Ministry. The cocaine was hidden inside a container from South America loaded with bananas. (www.aa.com.tr)

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

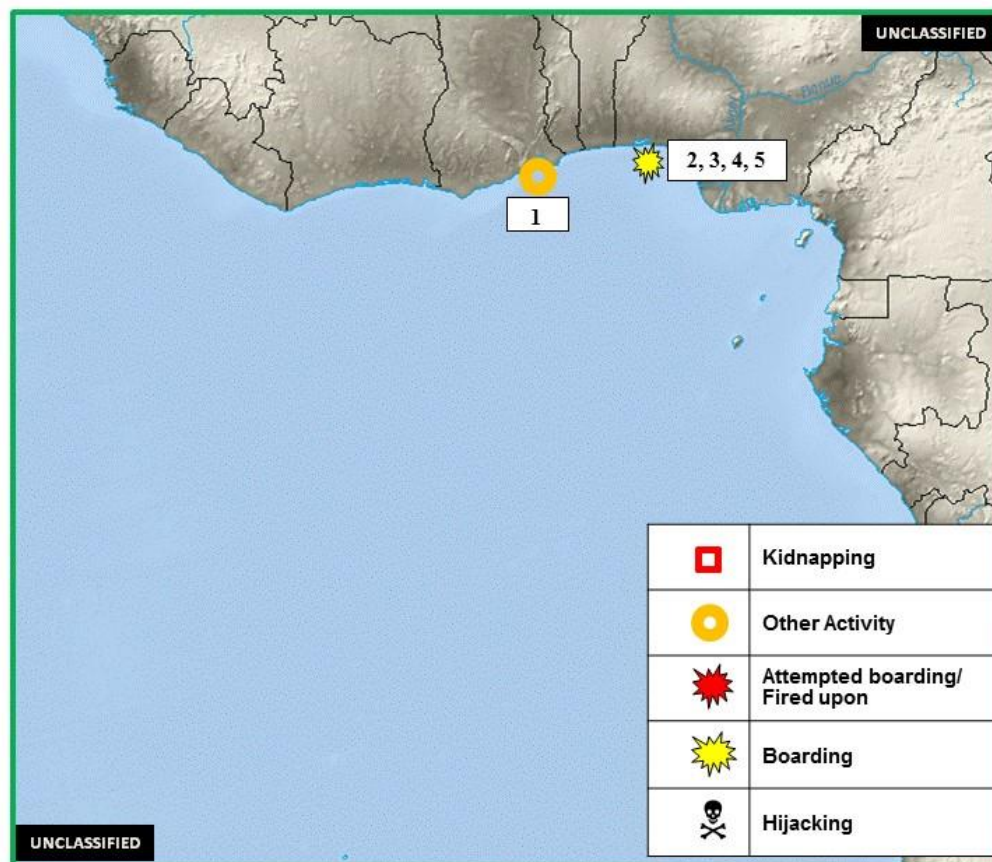


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GHANA: On 26 May, authorities three persons were arrested in connection with illegal oil transfer at the canoes basin at the Tema port. The culprits were said to have been caught while transferring oil from a specially designed canoe into three oil tanker trucks ashore using a pump. Checks revealed that the canoes, which have been crafted like fishing vessels, were being used to convey oil illegally into the port from ships at sea. (www.modernghana.com; www.ghanaweb.com)

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 26 May, seven robbers boarded a berthed ro-ro ship near position 06:52N - 003:57E, Lagos Port. They took hostage the duty crew, tied him up, took his UHF radio and asked for the location of the paint store and then stole ship's stores. The duty crew managed to free himself and raised the alarm resulting in the robbers escaping. A search was carried out. PFSO and local agents informed. (IMB)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 25 May, two robbers attempted to board a merchant vessel near position 06:18N - 003:20E, 7 nm south of Lagos. Alarm was sounded. The robbers jumped off the vessel into a skiff and escaped. (www.sguardian.com)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 23 May, a merchant vessel reported a boarding near position 06:15N - 003:12E, Lagos Anchorage. The intruder was sighted on deck, crew raised alarm and intruder jumped overboard and escaped in a skiff. (www.sguardian.com; MDAT-GoG)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 13 April, four robbers in a skiff boarded a berthed container ship shortly after the mooring operations near position 06:52N - 003:57E, Apapa Port, Lagos. Duty crewman on routine rounds noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped. On searching the ship, the bosun store room was found broken into and ship's properties noted missing. (IMB)

6. (U) GULF OF GUINEA: On 21 May, one pirate attempted to board a drifting product tanker near position 03:46N - 001:30E, approximately 140 nm south of Lome, Togo. The attempt was thwarted by a crewmember and the perpetrator fled in a skiff with a further 6 accomplices. Master reported a suspicious vessel in the vicinity from which the pirates could have approached his vessel. (IMB; MDAT-GoG)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 May, seven robbers attempted to board an anchored bulk carrier using a rope attached to a hook near position 06:26N - 003:23E, Lagos Anchorage. Duty crewman noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and alerted the security watchmen who notified the local authorities. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and moved away. (IMB)

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 23 May, Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement saying that 11 kidnapped crew of Dutch freighter FWN RAPIDE were released by pirates. No details were released. General cargo ship FWN RAPIDE was attacked by pirates in the Port Harcourt approaches, Nigeria on the morning 21 April. (www.fleetmon.com)

9. (U) NIGERIA: On 17 May, pirates attacked a merchant ship near position 03:53N - 006:42E, near Okwori Oil Field and kidnapped 4 crewmen. (MDAT-GoG)

10. (U) NIGERIA: On 8 May, six pirates in a speedboat came alongside and attacked a bulk carrier underway near position 03:37N - 006:16E, 41 nm south of Brass. They hooked a ladder on the ship's railing and attempted to board. Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS, took evasive maneuvers and non-essential crew members mustered in the citadel. Due to the hardening measures taken by the master, the pirates aborted the attempted attack and moved away leaving their ladder hanging on the ship's side. (IMB)

11. (U) GHANA: On 3 May, two robbers boarded an offshore supply vessel anchored near position 04:54N - 001:42W, Takoradi Anchorage. Duty watchman saw the robbers and raised the alarm resulting in the robbers escaping. The crew noticed the padlock for the paint locker broken but no items stolen. Port control informed. (IMB)

12. (U) GHANA: On 30 April, security officials in the port of Tema and the nation's immigration service announced the arrest of 6 stowaways from Tunisia. The foreigners reportedly hid in a cargo container in a vessel which sailed from the Port of La Goulette in Tunisia to the Tema Port. (www.modernghana.com)

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

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



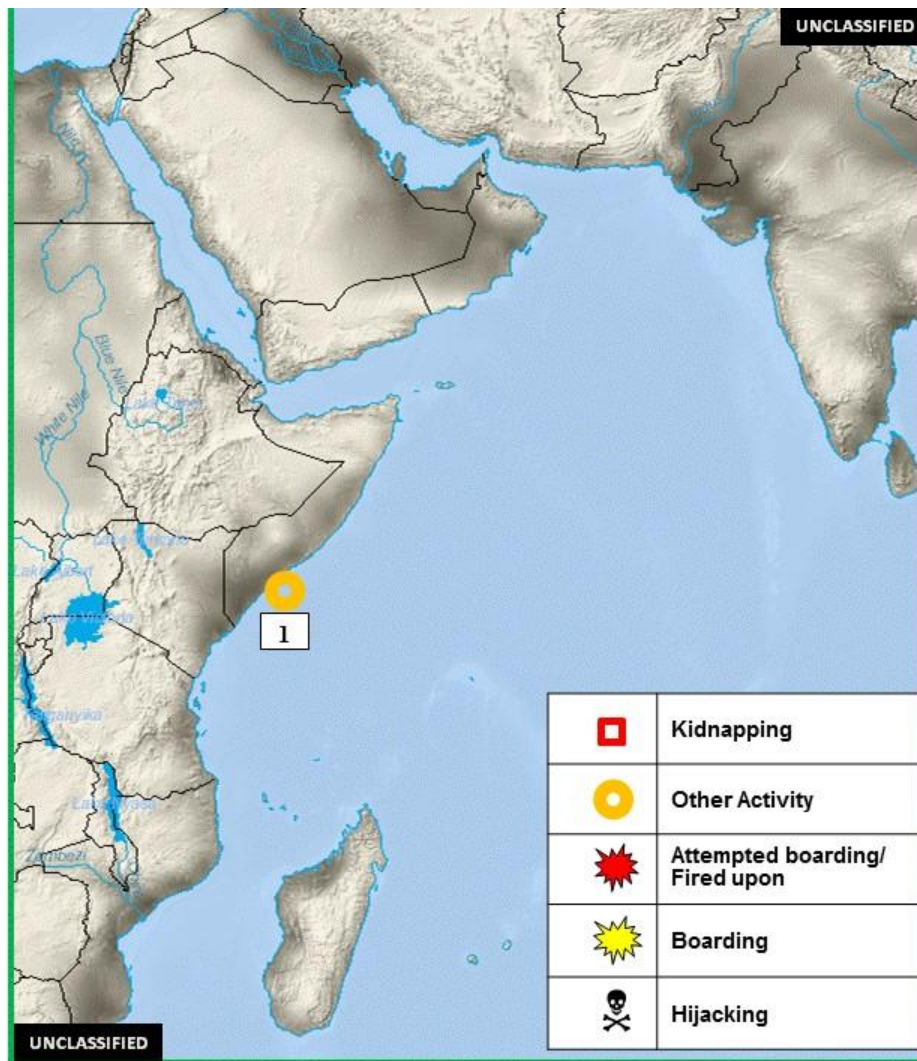


Figure 4. Indian Ocean – East Africa – Red  
Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SOMALIA: On 30 May, a merchant vessel reported an approach by up to 6 skiffs near position 01:38N – 044:41E. 46 nm southwest of Mogadishu. Vessel and crew are safe. (UKMTO)

2. (U) RED SEA: On 23 May, United Arab Emirates (UAE) state news agency WAM reported that UAE coalition forces had destroyed two boats “which were threatening a commercial oil tanker” in the Red Sea. Two other Houthi boats escaped. Later Saudi state news channel al-Ekhbariya said that remote-controlled speedboats rigged with explosives had tried to attack three commercial vessels being escorted by two coalition warships, but that coalition forces had foiled the attack and destroyed three speedboats. (www.reuters.com)

3. (U) SOMALIA: On 17 May, local media announced that Al-Shabab extremists had resumed exports of charcoal from the port of Burgabo, a small coastal town situated south of Kismayo city in the Lower Jubba region. Reportedly, a boat named AL SAFA 381980 carrying 1,500 bags of charcoal had recently sailed from that port to Iran and the United Arab Emirates. In February 2012, the UN Security Council banned charcoal exports from war-torn Somalia to stop funds for Al-Shabab which is fighting to topple the Western-backed Somali government. (www.radioshabelle.com)

4. (U) RED SEA: On 10 May, an explosion was reported inside the hold of the Turkish bulk carrier INCE INEBOLU, which was carrying about 50,000 metric tons of wheat to Yemen and was anchored near position 14:40N - 041:45E, 70 nm off the coast of Yemen. The captain reported no casualties and the wheat wasn’t damaged. It is unknown who fired the missile.

(UKMTO; [www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com))

5. (U) ARABIAN SEA: On 10 May, the Royal Australian Navy Frigate HMAS WARRAMUNGA interdicted a dhow carrying 295 kilograms of heroin as part of Combined Task Force (CTF) 150 Maritime Security Operations. This is HMAS WARRAMUNGA's eleventh successful interdiction in five months and brings the Royal Australian Navy Frigate's total of narcotics interdicted to approximately 19.3 tons of hashish and 2.1 tons of heroin. ([www.combinedmaritimeforces.com](http://www.combinedmaritimeforces.com))

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

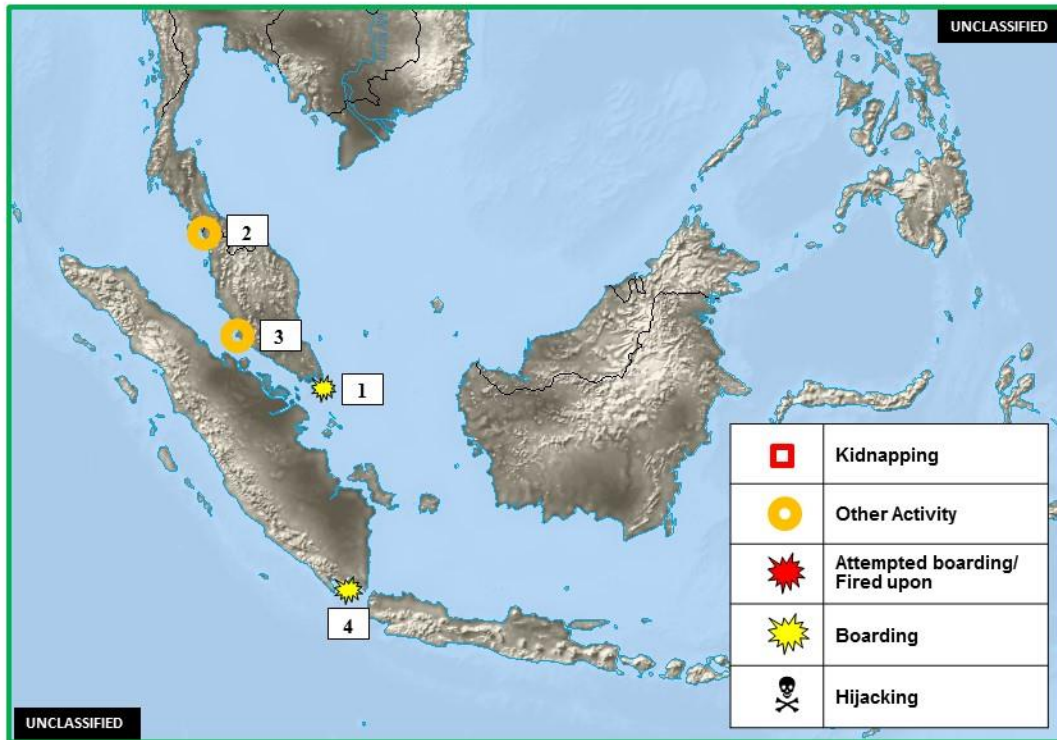


Figure 5. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 30 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded a Netherlands-flagged heavy load carrier anchored near position 01:06N - 104:11E, 16 nm northeast of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan. The ship's boatswain discovered the padlock of the paint store was broken and the door left open. Further investigation revealed that the padlocks of the garbage room, oxygen locker, acetylene locker and the bunker station were also broken and the doors were left open. Nothing was missing. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

2. (U) MALAYSIA: On 23 May, officers with the Kedah-Perlis Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency office seized eight bags containing 410 kilograms of methamphetamines from the country's territorial waters near the Malaysia-Thailand border. ([www.malaymail.com](http://www.malaymail.com))

3. (U) MALAYSIA: On 22 May, authorities made the country's largest ever seizure of methamphetamines, officials said, finding nearly 1.2 tons of the drug disguised as tea in a shipment from Myanmar. Six suspects were arrested. The bust comes as Southeast Asia reports a flood of the stimulant throughout the region. Indonesia and Thailand have also made record seizures of the drug this year. A total of 1,187 kg of the drug was shipped in a container from Yangon, Myanmar, to Port Klang. ([www.businessinsider.com](http://www.businessinsider.com))

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 18 May, five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 05:32S - 105:18E, Tarahan Anchorage. They took hostage a duty crewman, tied him up and threatened him with knives. The robbers stole ship's properties and engine spares and escaped. The crewman managed to free himself and raised the alarm. Duty officer sounded the ship's horn and crew was mustered. A search was carried out throughout the ship. (IMB)

5. (U) INDIA: On 19 May, officials announced they had broken a fuel smuggling ring in the port of Kandla. The officials boarded M/T AL HEERA upon its arrival from the UAE and took test samples of the fuel, manifested as 5,521 metric tons of Base Oil SN 50. Tests from a government lab revealed that the fuel was actually high-speed diesel; a restricted item which is permitted to be imported only by state trading enterprises. (www.dnaindia.com)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 May, three robbers armed with knives, boarded a bulk carrier anchored near position 05:52S - 106:04E, Merak Anchorage, and threatened the Duty AB on routine rounds. The robbers entered the engine room stole ship's spares and escaped. (IMB)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 19 May, six robbers boarded a tanker underway near position 01:10N - 103:27E, 2.5 nm east-northeast of Pulau Karimun Kecil. Duty engineer noticed the robbers, informed the master who raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty-handed. (IMB)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 15 May, robbers boarded a product tanker anchored near position 01:06N - 104:11E, Tanjung Uban Anchorage. The robbers stole ship's properties and escaped unnoticed. The theft was noticed during routine rounds. (IMB)

9. (U) MALAYSIA: On 8 May, authorities intercepted a small boat piloted by an unidentified teen. The boat was searched and 89 containers carrying 10,000 explosives detonators were found. The boat was leaving Lahad Datu and headed for a small island in the southern Philippines. The teen was detained. (www.pressreader.com)

10. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 May, four members of a suspected Filipino kidnap-for-ransom group were shot and killed in the waters off Lahad Datu. The authorities are investigating whether they belonged to a pro-Islamic State militant group in the southern Philippines. Sabah Police Commissioner Ramli Din said a team, consisting of members of the Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom), VAT 69 special forces units as well as marine police, detected a boat carrying five to six men behaving suspiciously. "The speedboat was heading towards a group of fishing boats. Our boat intercepted them and flashed our blue strobe lights," said Ramli during a press conference in Lahad Datu. "The suspects fired on the team, forcing them to return fire in self-defense. "Ramli said the team was unharmed but a bullet had hit the left side of their boat's bow. (www.freemalaysiatoday.com)

11. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 7 May, Bureau of Customs (BOC) operatives seized smuggled goods at the Port of Manila (POM) and Manila International Container Port (MICP). Several forty-foot shipping containers contained rice, houseware products, electronic cigarettes, cosmetics, counterfeit shoes, office chairs, and wheel rims. A Customs spokesman said the shipments from China arrived on separate dates and were consigned to different companies. (www.gmanetwork.com)

12. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 May, a duty crewman on routine rounds onboard a bulk carrier anchored near position 00:13S - 117:33E, Muara Berau Anchorage, heard noise coming from the hawse pipe and saw somebody trying to remove the hawse pipe protection cover. Duty officer immediately informed, alarm raised and ship's whistle sounded. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers aborted their attempted boarding and escaped. Crew mustered and a search was carried out. Nothing reported stolen. Duty officer tried to call the port control on VHF but received no response. (IMB)

13. (U) BANGLADESH: On 6 May, seven robbers in a wooden boat with an outboard engine approached and attempted to board an anchored bulk carrier near position 22:15.0N - 091:44.9E, Chittagong Alpha Anchorage, using a hook attached to a rope. The crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers aborted the boarding attempt. Local Authorities informed. (IMB)

14. (U) INDONESIA: On 5 May, robbers boarded a tanker anchored near position 01:27N - 104:36E, 12 nm north-northeast



of Tanjung Berakit, Bintan Island. The robbers stole ship's properties and escaped unnoticed. The theft was noticed during a routine emergency drill. (IMB)

15. (U) VIETNAM: On 3 May, the customs office at Port of Ho Chi Minh City seized 3.3 tons of pangolin scales illegally imported from Africa. The container was declared to contain dried cashew nuts and was in transit to Cambodia from Nigeria. (www.maritime-executive.com)

16. (U) MALAYSIA: On 1 May, Malaysian police intercepted a tanker with 131 Sri Lankans onboard believed bound for Australia and New Zealand, smashing a large human smuggling ring that has been operating for a year. Authorities halted the modified tanker off the coast of southern Johor state, a national police spokesman said in a statement. (www.sacbee.com)

#### J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:

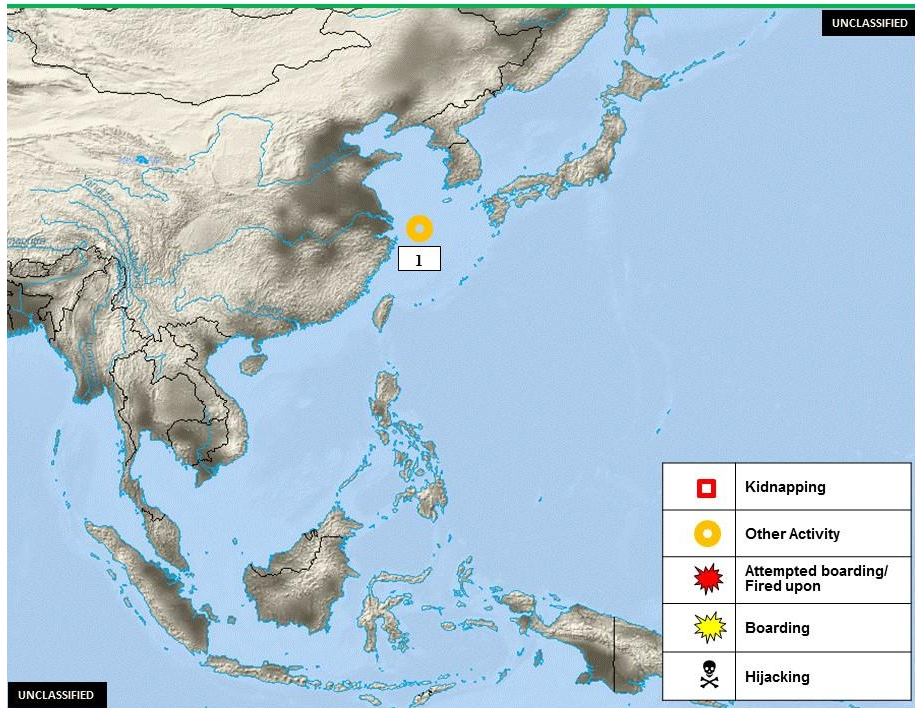


Figure 6. Northeast Asia Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 19 May, a Japanese P-3 maritime patrol plane detected what appeared to be a Chinese-flagged vessel 218 miles off Shanghai, conducting illegal transfers to a North Korean ship, identified as M/T JI SONG 6. The vessels, which lay alongside each other connected by hoses, with one of the ships flying what appeared to be a Chinese flag. In April 2018, the U.N. Security Council blacklisted dozens of ships and shipping companies over oil and coal smuggling by North Korea, including five based in China. The vessels are subject to a global port ban and must be deregistered. (www.reuters.com; www.gcaptain.com)

2. (U) HONG KONG: On 15 May, Customs officials at the Tsing Yi Customs Cargo Examination Compound impounded a shipping container found to be carrying 630 kilograms of smuggled pangolin scales and 2,660 kilograms of smuggled mercury. (www.7thspace.com)

3. (U) TAIWAN: On 4 May, police and Customs officials in Keelung cracked a firearms smuggling ring and confiscated guns and ammunition, the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) said. The 109 guns and 12,378 rounds of ammunition had been transported from Hong Kong to Taiwan by sea in a shipping container, CIB officials said in a news conference. Police also announced that six suspects were arrested. (www.focustaiwan.tw)

4. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 3 May, a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force vessel spotted a South Korean tanker beside a North Korean tanker, possibly conducting a ship-to-ship transfer of goods banned under UN Security Council resolutions. The South Korean government is investigating. [www.the-japan.news.com](http://www.the-japan.news.com))

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

1. (U) PACIFIC OCEAN: On 17 May, an Indonesian fisherman aboard F/V MING MAN HSIANG No. 38 was reported missing approximately 530 nautical miles northeast of Guam, while another crewman was seen with fresh knife cuts on his arms. The Taiwanese captain learned that the pair had been in a dispute, and that one of them had stabbed the other and pushed the victim into the water. Another fishing vessel in the area started a search for the crewman while F/V MING MAN HSIANG No. 38 returned to port. ([www.menafn.com](http://www.menafn.com))

### **6. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources**

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

#### **(U) Contact**

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

#### **(U) Other Resources**

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: [http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence\\_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm).

### **7. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References**

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

#### **(U) Terminology**

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

**(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 boarding 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.

### **(U) Sourcing**

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News
- DNK Intelligence & Operations Centre (DNK IOC)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Lloyd's
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Marine Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GoG)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- The Maritime Executive (website)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

**(U) ICOD:** 30 May 2018

(U) The PAWW and WTS reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:  
<http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence-Community/Piracy>