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## (U) **WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report** **5 November – 5 December 2018**

5 December 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:**

A. (U) **MDAT-GOG Warning 001/DEC/2018**: Category: Attack. Description: A vessel is under attack in position 03:08N - 006:20E at 1800Z, Mariners are advised to exercise extreme caution in this area. Source: Phone call. Any queries regarding this Warning Notice ring 0033 298 22 88 88 for further information. MDAT-GOG Watchkeeper email: watchkeepers@mdat-gog.org, emergency tel: +33(0) 298 22 88 88.

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

A. (U) MALAYSIA: On 5 December, four armed men boarded a tug boat at Pegasus Reef near Pulau Tambisan in Lahad Datu.

B. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 December, the offshore supply vessel SAAVEDRA TIDE was attacked 22.5 nm west-northwest of the EGINA Floating Production and Offloading Vessel.

C. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 December, a small unlit boat made a suspicious approach in the vicinity of a product tanker anchored in Lagos Anchorage.

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D. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 December, three robbers armed with guns and knives boarded an LPG tanker anchored in Merak Anchorage.

E. (U) BRAZIL: On 2 December, five armed men boarded the container ship CAP SAN MARCO in Santos outer anchorage.

F. (U) VENEZUELA: On 1 December, two robbers boarded a product tanker anchored in Puerto La Cruz Anchorage.

G. (U) ITALY: On 29 November, National Police, in coordination with the anti-drug directorate, seized 11 tons of hashish from a sailboat off the coast of Sicily.

H. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 7 November, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a charter catamaran moored in La Marin marina.

I. (U) ST LUCIA: On 7 November, a dinghy and outboard motor was stolen from a sailing yacht anchored in the Rodney Bay Inner Lagoon.

J. (U) BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS: On 6 November, a 42' charter catamaran was found at a mooring in Tortola. The catamaran was stolen about six weeks prior from Blue Lagoon, St Vincent and the Grenadines.

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

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for November and December 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 (MILT), 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 November and December 2018. For further information, please email: [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn), or call Tel: 441 221 061 or 00870 773 120 215. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: India Navy convoy escort schedule for November 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: Pakistan Navy convoy schedule for November and December 2018. The application deadline is at least 1 day prior to the convoy escort. To register with the Pakistan Navy Convoy, please send an email to: [fhq@paknavy.gov.pk](mailto:fhq@paknavy.gov.pk). (MSCHOA)

E. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for November and December 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) +1 646 466 9528 or (001) +1 646 466 9521. Email: [adenbay27@gmail.com](mailto:adenbay27@gmail.com) or [aden27@navy.mil.kr](mailto:aden27@navy.mil.kr). (MSCHOA)

F. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for December 2018. For further information, e-mail [smb@msecurity.ru](mailto:smb@msecurity.ru), [isps@msecurity.ru](mailto:isps@msecurity.ru) or fax +7 (499) 642-83-29. (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:** No current incidents to report.

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

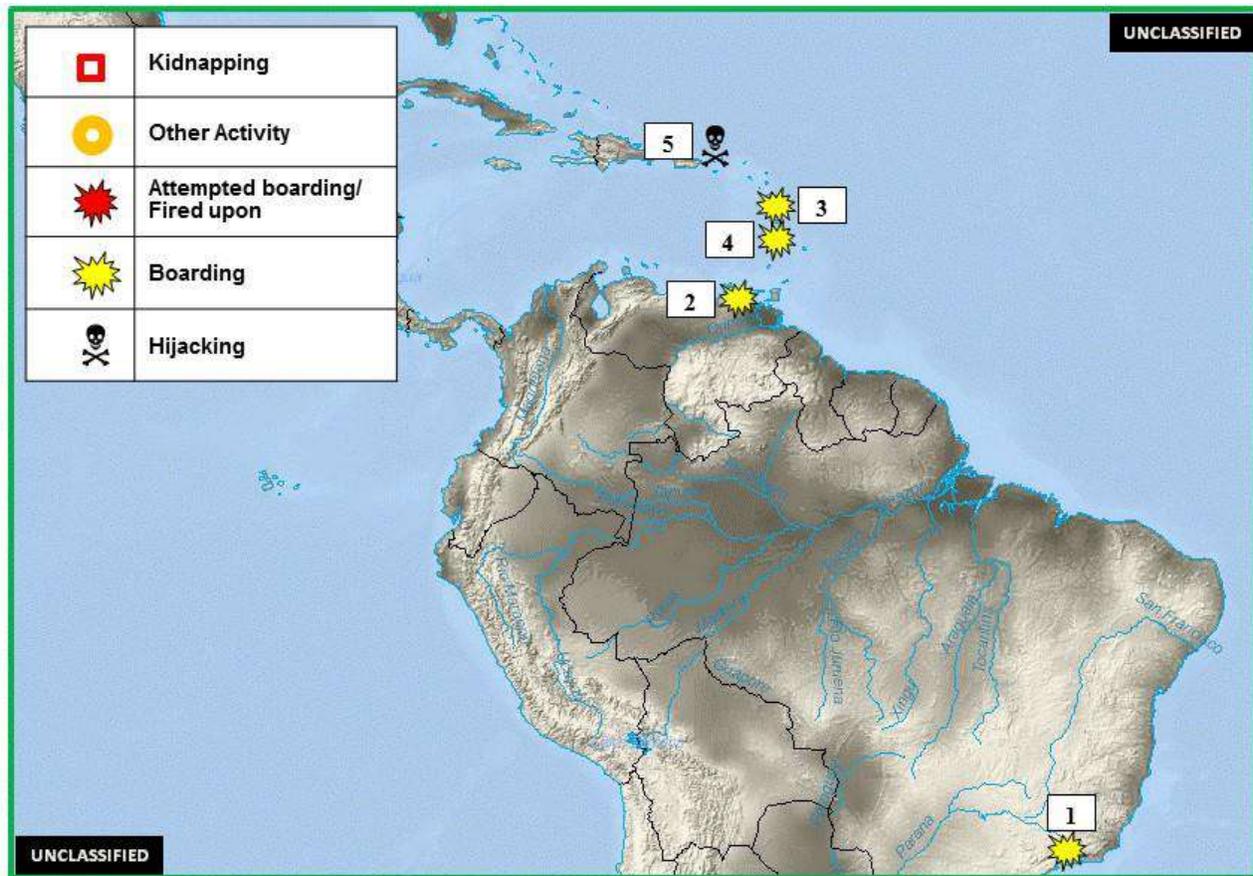


Figure 1. Central America - Caribbean - South America Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) BRAZIL: On 2 December, five armed men boarded the container ship CAP SAN MARCO in Santos outer anchorage. The ship was waiting for berth at Santos when the boarding occurred. A deckhand on watch was taken by surprise and tied up. Criminals stayed on board for 45 minutes, and then fled. Police suspected the boarding was another attempt to load cocaine in containers. After the ship was berthed, she was thoroughly checked, one broken container found, with no drugs in it. Another container was found inside a hold stacked among many others, which couldn't be accessed by the criminals without moving other containers. 402 kilos of cocaine were found hidden in this container. (www.fleetmon.com)

2. (U) VENEZUELA: On 1 December, two robbers boarded a product tanker anchored near position 10:32N – 067:21W, Puerto La Cruz Anchorage. The robbers attempted to open the forward store room door. Duty watch keeper spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Hearing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped without stealing anything. Incident reported to local authorities. (IMB)

3. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 7 November, a dinghy and outboard motor were stolen from a charter catamaran moored in La Marin marina. Report made to local police. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

4. (U) ST LUCIA: On 7 November, a dinghy and outboard motor was stolen from a sailing yacht anchored in the Rodney Bay Inner Lagoon. Report made to marina management. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

5. (U) BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS: On 6 November, a 42' charter catamaran was found at a mooring in Tortola. The catamaran was stolen about six weeks prior from Blue Lagoon, St Vincent and the Grenadines. Local police are investigating. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

6. (U) PERU: On 24 November, during routine rounds, duty crew onboard a vehicle carrier anchored near position 12:01S - 077:11W, Callao Anchorage, saw a masked robber on the forecastle deck and immediately informed the bridge. Alarm was raised, ship's whistle sounded and crew was mustered. Port control informed via VHF. Upon investigation, ship's stores were reported stolen. (IMB)

7. (U) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: On 10 November, thieves broke into an unoccupied but well locked yacht anchored in Luperon. The caretaker discovered the theft the next morning. A generator, compressor with hose, water pump and many tools were stolen. A stolen dinghy had been used to transport the goods and it was recovered. A report was made to the police, coast guard, port captain, the Puerto Blanco Marina, the tourist office and on the VHF net. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

8. (U) EL SALVADOR: On 19 November, authorities announced the seizure of a semi-submersible craft carrying 6.3 tons of cocaine. Four Colombians and a Guatemalan were detained aboard the vessel. ([www.thecourierexpress.com](http://www.thecourierexpress.com))

9. (U) ARUBA: On 16 November, a woman died after being strangled and thrown from the railing of a luxury cruise ship by her partner, with whom she was arguing in the ship's casino, according to witnesses. The man believed to be her partner was ordered off the ship in Aruba and taken into custody by local authorities. ([www.yenisafak.com](http://www.yenisafak.com))

10. (U) BRAZIL: On 14 November, authorities seized 1.3 tons of cocaine hidden inside two shipping containers at Santos port. Authorities found the narcotics during a cargo inspection operation. The containers, containing 690 kg and 605 kg of cocaine respectively, were bound for Hamburg, Germany and Antwerp, Belgium. ([www.pvilt.com](http://www.pvilt.com))

11. (U) DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: On 9 November, a robber boarded a sailing yacht anchored in Luperon. Cash was stolen. No police report was made. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))

### **C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:**

1. (U) SOUTH ATLANTIC: On 22 November, tuna fishing vessel F/V OCEANO PESCA 1 was rammed by Chinese tuna vessel F/V CHANG RONG 4 in an area approximately 430 nm east of Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, in an apparent dispute over fishing grounds. F/V OCEANO PESCA 1 survived the attack and reached home port on 25 November under her own power, though damaged. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

2. (U) ENGLAND: On 13 November, authorities seized several large bags filled with contraband tobacco offloaded from a boat inside of the Port of Cornwall and placed inside a waiting truck on shore. Police were dispatched and two Cornwall residents were arrested. The bags were found to contain a total of 1,064 kilograms of fine tobacco. ([www.standard-freeholder.com](http://www.standard-freeholder.com))

3. (U) SPAIN: On 17 November, six activists from an environmental NGO boarded the tanker STOLT TENACITY as the ship sailed in the Gulf of Cadiz. The ship diverted to the port of Algeciras, where arrangements were made for the authorities to escort the activists from the vessel the next day. ([www.worldmaritimenews.com](http://www.worldmaritimenews.com))

**D. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE - BALTIC:** No current incidents to report.

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

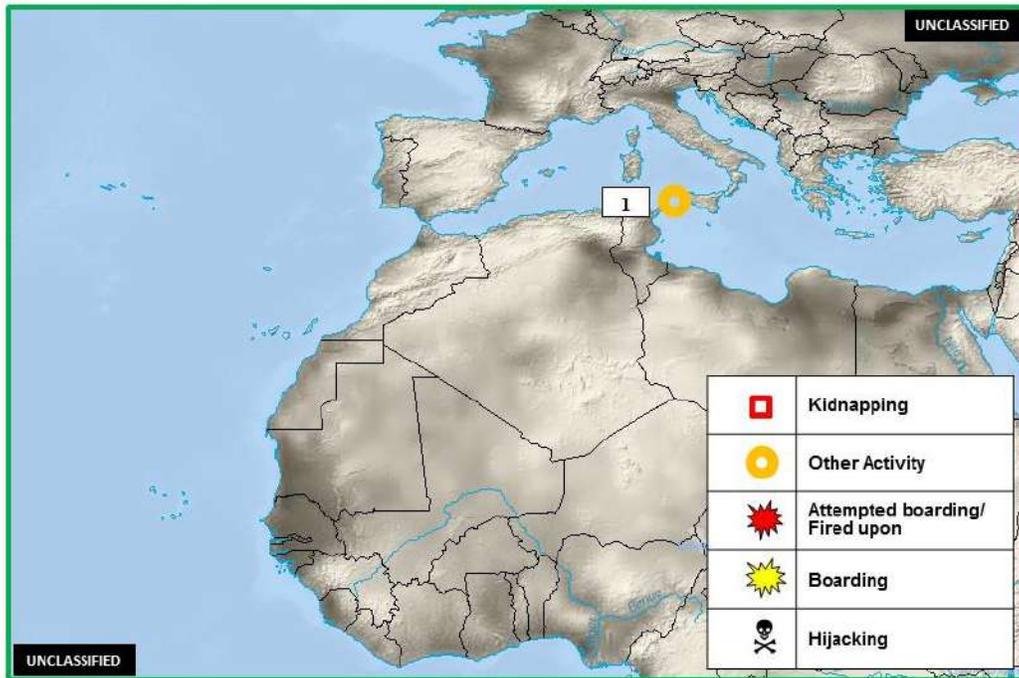


Figure 2. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) ITALY: On 29 November, National Police, in coordination with the anti-drug directorate, seized 11 tons of hashish from a sailboat off the coast of Sicily. Officers arrested two crew members suspected of being part of a criminal network of Moroccan origin that provided cannabis to international criminal organizations for later distribution in Eastern Europe. The boat had reportedly been under surveillance since it docked in the port of Melilla, Spain, before it collected a large amount of drugs in Algeria. ([www.pvilt.com](http://www.pvilt.com))

2. (U) UKRAINE: On 25 November, Russian forces seized three Ukrainian naval vessels in the Kerch Strait, preventing their access to the Sea of Azov, marking a significant escalation in tensions between the two countries. During the incident, two Ukrainian gunboats and a tug were reportedly captured, along with 23 Ukrainian crew, several of whom were reportedly injured. ([www.gcaptain.com](http://www.gcaptain.com); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); AP; [www.newschannel20.com](http://www.newschannel20.com))

3. (U) MOROCCO: On 7 November, Moroccan naval forces rescued approximately 140 migrants off its Mediterranean coast, the country's state-run news agency reported. (BBC; MAP - state-owned, government controlled Moroccan news agency)

## F. (U) WEST AFRICA:

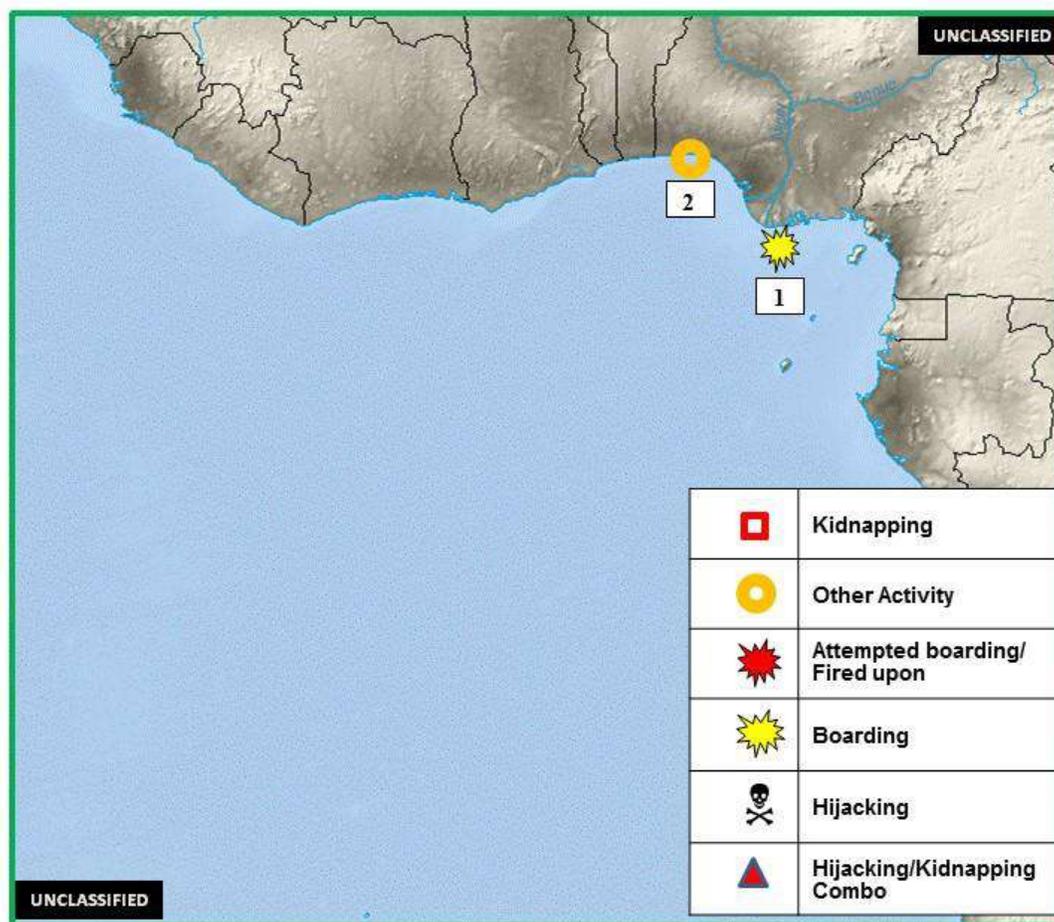


Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 December, the offshore supply vessel SAAVEDRA TIDE was attacked near position 03:08N – 006:20E, 22.5 nm west-northwest of the EGINA Floating Production and Offloading Vessel (FPSO). SAAVEDRA TIDE was on its way from the Abo oil field to the EGINA FPSO. The vessel and crew are now safe. (MDAT-GOG; [www.offshoreenergytoday.com](http://www.offshoreenergytoday.com))

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 December, a duty crewman on anti-piracy watch onboard a product tanker anchored in Lagos Anchorage reported that he could hear the outboard motor of an unlit boat approaching. Duty officer raised the alarm, made PA announcement and blew the ship's horn. Hearing the alarm, the boat moved away. (IMB)

3. (U) NIGERIA: On 22 November, a merchant vessel was boarded by armed pirates near position 04:13N - 008:03E, 19 nm south of the Kwa Ibo coast. Pirates escaped on board a blue-hulled boat following intervention from a security vessel. Vessel and crew are safe. (MDAT-GoG; [www.pviltld.com](http://www.pviltld.com))

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 21 November, a duty crewman onboard a tanker anchored near position 06:21N - 003:19E, Lagos Anchorage, noticed two robbers boarding the vessel using a rope. Alarm was raised and non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. Hearing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty handed. (IMB)

5. (U) GUINEA: On 21 November, eight robbers armed with guns and knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 09:19N - 013:44W, Conakry anchorage. They took hostage a duty crewman and forced him, with a knife on his

throat, to take them to the bridge. The armed robbers then took the 2nd Officer and the duty crewman to the master's cabin, where they hit the master and threatened to shoot the 2nd Officer before stealing cash from the ship's safe and other personal belongings. The robbers kept the three-crew hostage until they disembarked in waiting boats. Port control informed. (IMB)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 14 November, one robber boarded a merchant vessel anchored near position 06:16N - 003:17E, Lagos Anchorage. A duty crewman saw the robber found on the main deck. Alarm was raised and the robber jumped overboard. Nothing reported stolen. ([www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

7. (U) LIBERIA: On 7 November, an environmental NGO assisted the Liberian Coast Guard in the arrest of a foreign-flagged industrial trawler caught in artisanal fishing waters. Despite efforts to conceal her identity, the 32-meter trawler F/V BONHEUR was intercepted by the Liberian Coast Guard after crossing into Liberian waters from neighboring Côte d'Ivoire with its fishing gear in the water. The ship was arrested fishing five nautical miles off the coast, within the six-nautical-mile area the Liberian government banned industrial trawling to protect the livelihoods of Liberia's artisanal fishermen. ([www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com))

8. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 November, a merchant vessel reported being attacked near position 03:55N - 006:56E, 30 nm southwest of Bonny Island. (IMB; [www.pvilttd.com](http://www.pvilttd.com))

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

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

1. (U) PAKISTAN: On 26 November, authorities announced that during a joint maritime operation in Ormara town in Gwadar District in Balochistan, the Pakistan Navy and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) captured approximately 1500 kilograms of hashish. ([www.dunyanews.tv](http://www.dunyanews.tv))

2. (U) YEMEN: On 18 November, two Yemeni fishermen were killed by a sea mine planted by the pro-Iranian Houthi militias off the coast of Hodeidah port city, in the west of the country. ([www.english.alarabiya.net](http://www.english.alarabiya.net))

3. (U) INDIAN OCEAN: On 9 November, Indian Navy Ship SUNAYNA interdicted several boats carrying weapons in an area approximately 400 nautical miles northeast of Mogadishu, Navy officials said. Two high-caliber AK-47 and AKM rifles as well as ammunition were seized from the boats. The boats and crew were released after the search. ([www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com))

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

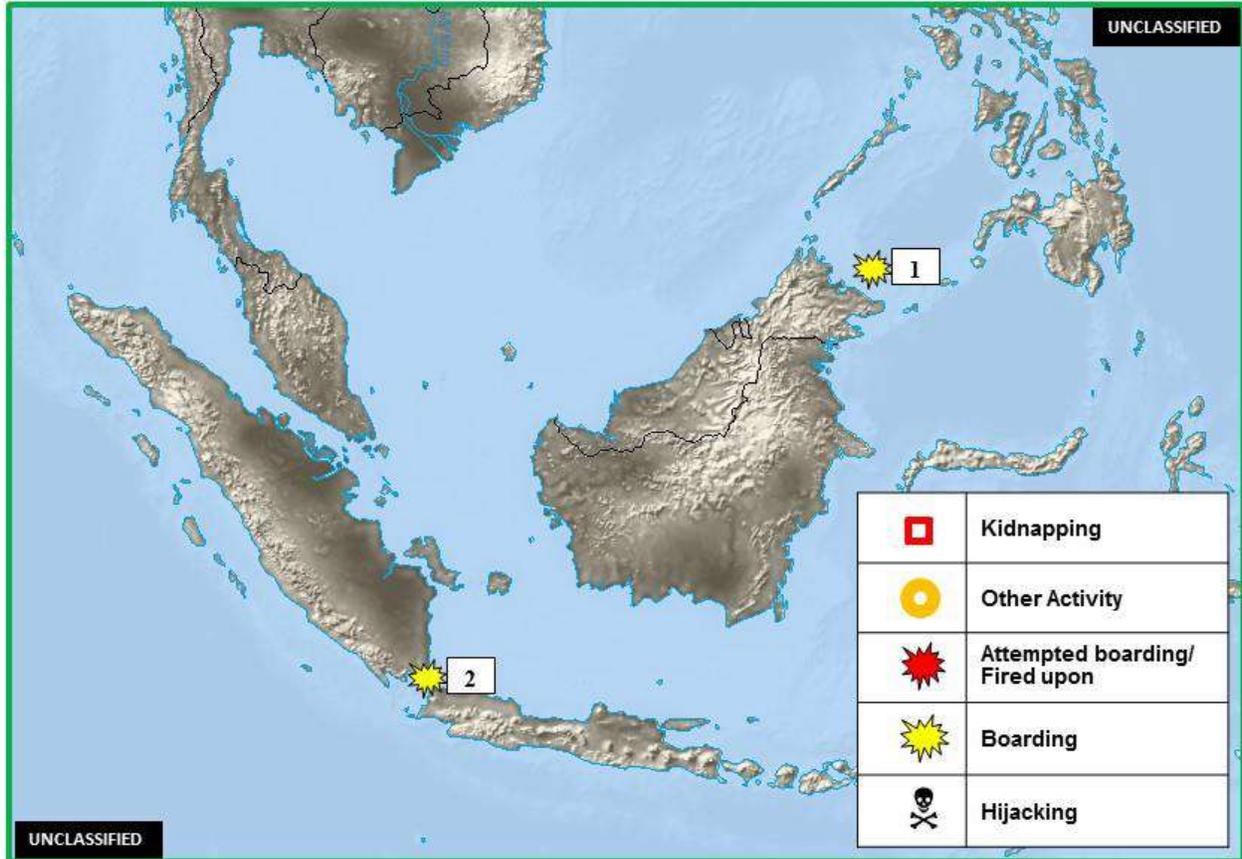


Figure 4. East Asia - Southeast Asia - Indian Subcontinent Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) MALAYSIA: On 5 December, four armed men boarded a tug boat at Pegasus Reef near Pulau Tambisan in Lahad Datu. The men fled in a four-engine speedboat after the shooting. The police were also investigating claims that the same men had attacked another boat with several crew members on board, not far from the first incident, after boarding the tugboat. Police are also trying to ascertain if anyone was harmed or taken hostage from the second boat. ([www.freemalaysiatoday.com](http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com))

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 3 December, three robbers armed with guns and knives boarded an LPG tanker anchored near position 05:52S – 106:04E, Merak Anchorage. The robbers took hostage two crew members and tied them up. They then entered the engine room, stole engine spare parts and escaped. (IMB)

3. (U) INDIA: On 17 November, robbers boarded an anchored product tanker, near position 017:02N - 082:26E, Kakinada Anchorage. They stole ship's stores and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds. Port control and agents informed. (IMB)

4. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 15 November, it was announced that officials of a local fishing company have sought the help of Philippine authorities to locate their fishing vessel with at least nine fishing crewmen aboard which went missing while on a fishing expedition off Celebes Sea. The owner of ZAVFI Inc. a fishing firm, said the crew of F/V SAVFI S2, contacted their base on October 29 where they informed their office that they were sailing back to the city's fish port after completing the

fishing expedition with a fish catch of 20 tons. (www.news.mb.com.ph)

5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 13 November, the Royal Customs Department seized 6.4 million smuggled cigarettes after searching, then impounding, a shipping container at Port Klang. (www.pressreader.com)

**J. (U) NORTHEAST ASIA:** No current incidents to report.

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

1. (U) AUSTRALIA: On 7 November, an Indonesian fishing vessel and its crew of five men were apprehended off the coast of Western Australia, suspected of illegally fishing in Australian waters. (www.fis.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 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.

## **(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:** 5 December 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>