

Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)
Report
15 May 2012 – 13 June 2012**

Maritime Crime/Piracy

14 June 2012

(U) Table of Contents

- 1. (U) Scope Note**
- 2. (U) Summary**
- 3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories**
- 4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
- 5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources**
- 6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References**

1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

(U) No current incidents to report.

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy scheduled for June 2012. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html and follow the application procedure. For further information, 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: Korean Navy convoy scheduled for June and July 2012. 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 (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-374), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese convoy scheduled for June 2012. For further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Russian Navy convoy escort schedule for June 2012. For further information e-mail smb@msecurity.ru Fax: +7 (495) 607-01-95. (MSCHOA).

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. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned 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:**

C. (U) **SOUTH AMERICA:**

1. (U) **ECUADOR:** Container ship boarded on 27 May while berthed at 02:17 S - 079:54 W, Contecon Guayaquil Terminal, Ecuador. Four robbers armed with knives boarded a berthed container ship during a formality inspection by the immigration and customs department. Duty bosun noticed the robbers boarding the vessel from the seaward side using ropes and hooks. One of the robbers went aft towards the accommodation area. The bosun reported to Master and Chief Officer via the walkie talkie and the alarm was raised. On seeing the alert crew, the robber on deck ran towards the bosun waving his knife. All four robbers jumped overboard and escaped with the three accomplices waiting in the boat. Port authority was informed and a coast guard boat was dispatched to search the area. (IMB)

2. (U) **COSTA RICA:** Container ship attempted boarded on 17 May at 09:58 N – 083:00 W, Puerto Limon Anchorage. Five robbers in a boat were noticed by alert deck watchmen alongside their container ship with boat hooks in an attempt to board. The duty officer raised the alarm and reported the incident to port authorities. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers aborted the attempt and moved away. (IMB)

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

E. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC:** No current incidents to report.

F. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA:**

1. (U) **EGYPT:** Bulk Carrier was boarded on 25 May while at anchor at El Dekheila Outer

Anchorage. A fishing boat was seen dropping anchor stern of a bulk carrier at anchor. The duty deckhand remained near the stern during his watch. Later the C/O noticed two robbers armed with knives near the forecastle lowering ship stores. Seeing the robbers with the knives, the crew waited until the pirates had departed before going forward to investigate. It was noticed that the hawse pipe cover was removed and the paint store padlock was cut using a hacksaw blade. (IMB)

2. (U) ALGERIA: Bulk carrier was boarded while on 29 May at berth at Port of Alger, Algeria. The duty crew at the aft mooring deck onboard a berthed bulk carrier noticed two robbers trying to open the port life raft. He reported to the Duty Officer who raised the alarm and had the crew mustered. Upon seeing the alert crew, the robbers dropped the life raft into the water, jumped overboard and escaped empty handed. The crew managed to recover the life raft and brought it back onboard the ship. Port control was later informed. (IMB)

G. (U) WEST AFRICA:

1. (U) NIGERIA: Tanker boarded on 01 June at 06:19 N – 003:29 E, Lagos Anchorage. Three armed robbers boarded the tanker from a wooden boat. The alarm was raised and the crew retreated into the citadel. After four hours the crew emerged from the citadel and found that the pirates had left. No damage was reported and the crew was reported safe. (IMB)

H. (U) RED SEA:

I. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

1. (U) KENYA: Chemical tanker was boarded on 24 May while berthed at 04:02 S - 039:38 E, Berth No. 8, Mombasa Port. A robber armed with a knife boarded a chemical tanker at berth during cargo operations. The robber attacked the duty officer on deck rounds, injured him, stole his personal belongings and escaped. The Master reported the incident to the port police and agent who boarded the vessel for investigation. (IMB)

2. (U) IRAN: General cargo vessel MAERSK TEXAS fired upon while underway on 23 May at position 25:29 N - 057:16 E, approximately 28 nm west-southwest of Bandar-e-Jask, Iran. Duty Officer onboard the cargo ship noticed a group of 10 skiffs at a distance of 2 nm from the ship on the starboard side. The forward skiff broke off from the group and approached the ship at a speed of 20-25 knots. The vessel's Master and security team were both informed. The alarm was raised, fire hoses and SSAS activated. UKMTO and the Iranian Navy were informed. The ship increased its speed and commenced maneuvering away from the skiffs. As the skiffs closed to 500 meters, the embarked armed security team fired warning shots. The skiffs ignored the warning shots and continued to approach aggressively and weapons were sighted on the skiffs. As the skiffs closed to 300 meters the security team once again fired at the skiffs and noticed that the skiffs returned fire towards the ship. Eleven additional skiffs were sighted on the port side advancing towards the ship. As the security team fired warning shots the skiffs stopped and moved away. The skiffs on the starboard side continued to chase the ship. After 12 minutes from the initial approach, the skiffs moved away towards a dhow in the vicinity. No damage or injuries to crew were reported. While the large number of skiffs involved resembles fishermen firing upon a merchant vessel transiting through their fishing area, vessel's master reported to

authorities that assailants' observed physical features resembled those of Somali pirates. (IMB, Open Press)

J. (U) **PERSIAN GULF**: No current incidents to report.

K. (U) **SOUTHEAST ASIA**:

1. (U) **INDONESIA**: Bulk Carrier boarded on 04 June at 03:57 N - 098:46 E, Belawan Outer Anchorage, Indonesia. Seven robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier at the forecandle. The duty A/B and D/O noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers threatened the crew with long knives and escaped empty handed in their boat. Port control and vessels in the vicinity were later informed. (IMB)

2. (U) **SINGAPORE**: Fishing vessel boarded while underway on 23 May at 04:50 N – 099:04 E, Malacca Straits. Armed pirates boarded the fishing vessel and took hostage six crewmembers and hijacked the vessel. Upon receiving the information, the MMEA immediately sent their patrol boat and rescued the vessel along with the crewmembers. All of the crewmembers were reported safe. The pirates left the vessel before the patrol boat arrived. (IMB)

3. (U) **PHILIPPINES**: Tug boat boarded on 17 May at Talicud Island. A tug towing a laden barge departed from Sasa port, Davao City at a slow speed heading to Thailand as a port of destination. 90 into minutes into the departure, the crew noticed 10 small boats surrounding the barge and around 30 pirates boarded the barge, stole and transferred the cargo to their boats and escaped. Incident reported to the Philippine police. (IMB)

4. (U) **BANGLADESH**: Tanker boarded on 22 May while at anchor at 22:15 N – 091:44 E, 3.9 nm northwest of Patenga Point Light. Pirates armed with knives boarded the anchored tanker, stole ship stores and escaped. The incident was reported to the coast guard who immediately dispatched high speed boats which searched the waters and caught three pirates and recovered the ship stores within 2.5h hours. (IMB)

5. (U) **INDONESIA**: Tanker robbed on 18 May at 03:42 S – 114:26 E, Taboneo Anchorage, Banjarmasin, Indonesia. The duty deck hand on roving deck patrol noticed five robbers in the forward store. Two of the robbers threatened him with a knife and the deck hand escaped and informed the Duty Officer who raised alarm and alerted the ship's crew. By the time the crew members went forward the robbers had escaped with stolen ship's stores. (IMB)

L. (U) **NORTH ASIA**: No current incidents to report.

M. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN**: No current incidents to report.

N. (U) **ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS**: No current incidents to report.

5. (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://www.nga.mil/portal/site/maritime>. 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 each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at [:http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm](http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm)

6. (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) **Firing 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 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 (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)

- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) **ICOD:** 14 June 2012