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## (U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) Report 29 May–3 July 2019

03 July 2019

### (U) Table of Contents

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

#### 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:

1. (U) **UKMTO ADVISORY NOTICE 001/JUL/2019**: Category: Suspicious Approach. Description: At 0840 UTC on 1 July 2019 a merchant vessel in position 12:51N - 043:14E, Bab El Mandeb, was approached by 3 skiffs with up to 5 persons in each skiff. The skiffs approached to within 0.1 NM. The embarked armed security team showed weapons and skiffs departed. Vessels transiting the area are advised to exercise extreme caution. Source: Telephone and email. Any queries regarding this Advisory Notice ring 0044 2392 222060 only for further information. UKMTO Watchkeeper: email: watchkeepers@ukmto.org; emergency tel: +971 5055 23215, tel: +442392222060, fax: +971(0)43094254.
2. (U) **MARAD Advisory-Regional Conflict and Piracy**: This revised advisory cancels U.S. Maritime Advisory 2018-015 1. References: (a) U.S. Maritime Alerts 2018-001A, 2018-002A, 2018-002B, 2018-005A, and 2018-007A. Issues: Regional conflict and piracy threats continue to pose potential risks to commercial vessels operating in the above listed geographic areas. Conflict in Yemen continues to pose potential risk to U.S. flagged commercial vessels transiting the southern Red Sea, Bab al Mandeb Strait and Gulf of Aden despite the current cease-fire between the Houthis and the Saudi-led Coalition in the vicinity of Al Hudaydah, Yemen. Vessels in the conflict area should report hostile activities immediately and contact coalition naval forces on VHF Channel

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16. U.S. flagged commercial vessels should also contact the U.S. Fifth Fleet Naval Cooperation and Guidance for Shipping (NCAGS) detachment via the Fifth Fleet Battle Watch Captain at phone: +011 973 1785 3879 or email: [cusnc.ncags\\_bw@me.navy.mil](mailto:cusnc.ncags_bw@me.navy.mil) prior to entering the conflict area. Suspicious activities and incidents are also required to be reported by U.S. flagged commercial vessels to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center at phone: 1-800-424-8802 per 33 CFR Part 101.305. With regard to piracy, the newly released Best Management Practices to Deter Piracy and Enhance Maritime Security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (BMP5), and Maritime Global Security website at: [www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org](http://www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org) (which contains BMP5) provide excellent security recommendations and should be consulted prior to operating in the above listed geographic areas. U.S. flagged commercial vessels operating within High Risk Waters (HRW), as defined in U.S. Coast Guard MARSEC Directive 104-6, are required to comply with its requirements due to the risk of piracy, kidnapping, hijacking, and armed robbery in the HRW. Vessels are further advised to: • Navigate at least 200 nautical miles from the Somali coast to the extent practicable. Follow the guidance in Best Management Practices 5, BMP5 [www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org](http://www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org); and Yachting guidance can be found at: <http://www.mschoa.org/onshore/home>.

### 3. (U) Summary

1. (U) RED SEA: On 1 July, a merchant vessel underway 11 NM northwest of Perim Island, was approached by 3 skiffs.
2. (U) SENEGAL: On 30 June, customs officials in the port of Dakar seized 750 kilograms of cocaine hidden among a consignment of 15 new Renault automobiles.
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 30 June, robbers boarded a tanker anchored in Lagos STS Anchorage.
4. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 29 June, robbers boarded a sailing yacht berthed in Grand Anse D'Arlet twice in the same evening.
5. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 June, five Indian seafarers kidnapped on 20 April were released from captivity.
6. (U) GREECE: On 26 June, customs authorities in the Port of Piraeus seized at least 1.4 million Captagon pills from three shipping containers that had arrived from Syria.
7. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 13 June, robbers boarded and entered their closed, but unlocked yacht anchored in Canouan Charlestown Bay.

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

1. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for July 2019. 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: Email: [hqt-info-piracy@mlit.go.jp](mailto:hqt-info-piracy@mlit.go.jp) (MSCHOA)
2. (U) GULF OF ADEN: China Navy convoy schedule for July 2019. For further information, please email: [planavy@navy.mil.cn](mailto:planavy@navy.mil.cn) (MSCHOA)
3. (U) GULF OF ADEN: South Korea Navy convoy schedule for July 2019. 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 at the Escort Task Group CCC: Email: [cheonghae29@navy.mil.kr](mailto:cheonghae29@navy.mil.kr) or [cheonghae29@gmail.com](mailto:cheonghae29@gmail.com) (MSCHOA)

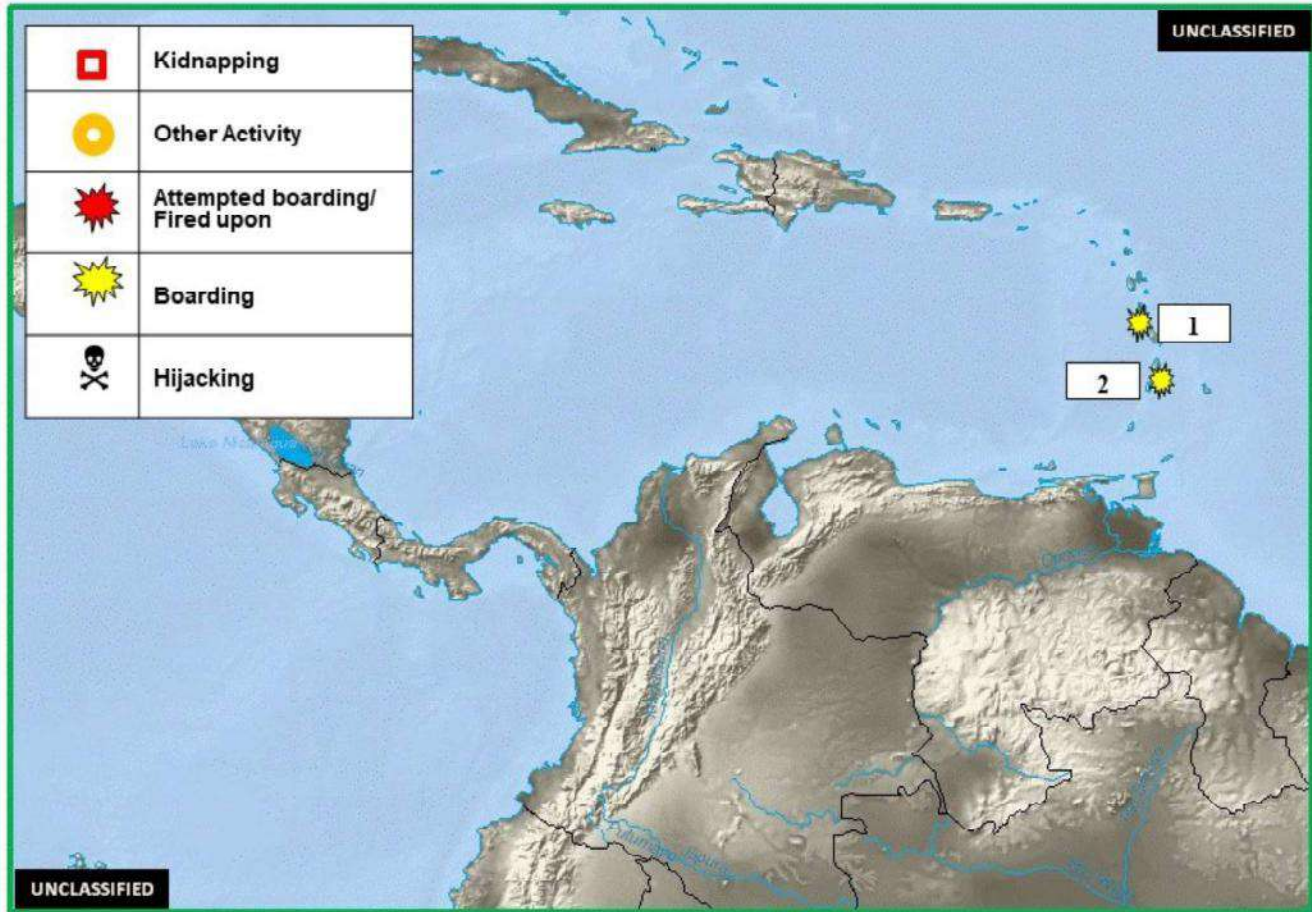
### 5. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(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 past 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) UNITED STATES: On 17 June, U.S. authorities seized 15,000 kilograms of cocaine hidden in shipping containers aboard the Liberia-flagged container ship MSC GAYANE, arriving from the Bahamas.

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



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

1. (U) MARTINIQUE: On 29 June, robbers boarded a sailing yacht berthed in Grand Anse D'Arlet twice in the same evening. Cash and cell phones were stolen. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
2. (U) SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 13 June, robbers boarded and entered a closed, but unlocked yacht anchored in Canouan Charlestown Bay. Cash and a phone were stolen from the chart table. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
3. (U) PANAMA: On 3 June, a dinghy and outboard were stolen from a sailing yacht anchored in Linton Bay. A police report was made. The dinghy was found nearby, minus the outboard engine. ([www.safetyandsecuritynet.org](http://www.safetyandsecuritynet.org))
4. (U) BRAZIL: On 31 May, six individuals armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier via the anchor chain near position 00:03N - 050:58W, Macapa Anchorage. A duty crew member on routine rounds spotted the persons and immediately informed the master, who raised the alarm. A PA announcement was made, whistle was blown, and all crew was mustered. A search of the ship was conducted. The ship's crew found the paint storeroom's lock broken and the ship's stores were stolen. (IMB)

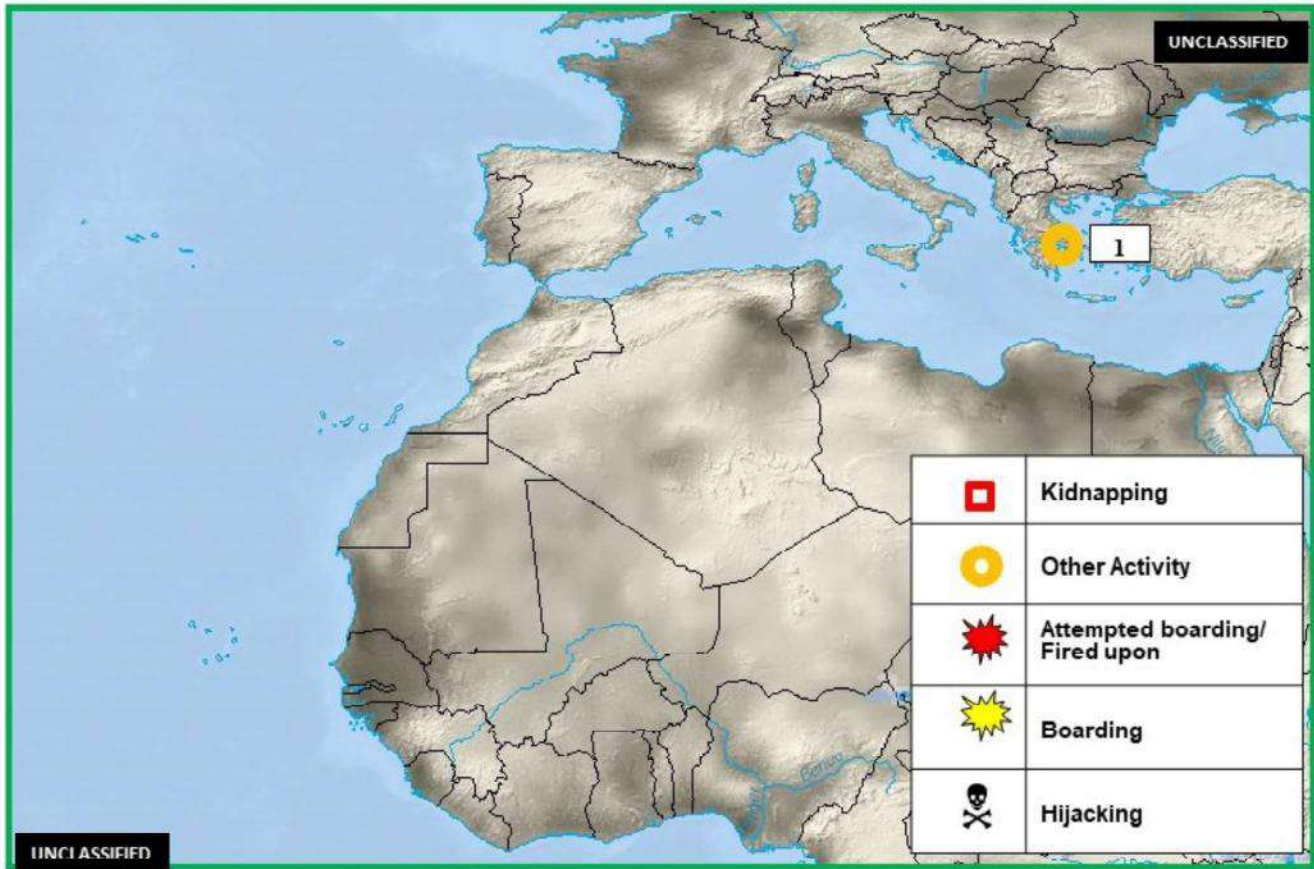
**C. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA:**

1. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN: On 4 June, authorities seized more than one ton of cocaine and arrested seven people aboard a Brazilian fishing boat in a drug bust on the high seas off Portugal backed up by international crime agencies. Portuguese police discovered 50 cloth sacks full of cocaine, apparently destined for the continental European market, inside a specially designed, hard-to-access compartment of the fishing vessel, a police statement said. ([www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com))
2. (U) AZORES: On 1 June, Portuguese authorities seized 592 kilograms of cocaine from a sailing yacht in the Port of Horta. The police said that the search of the yacht was the result of an international investigation as part of fighting drug trafficking on the high seas. ([www.theportugalnews.com](http://www.theportugalnews.com))

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

1. (U) RUSSIA: On 10 June, customs officials in the Port of St. Petersburg seized 400 kilograms of cocaine hidden in a shipment of canned fish coming from Ecuador. ([www.seanews.ru](http://www.seanews.ru))
2. (U) SCOTLAND: During the week of 10 June, activists from an environmental NGO prevented the departure of the Vanuatu-flagged drill rig PAUL B. LOYD JR from the Port of Cromarty Firth, north of Inverness. The activists reportedly climbed aboard the legs of the rig and stayed for a period of several days. Local police intervened and several arrests were made. ([www.marinelink.com](http://www.marinelink.com))
3. (U) RUSSIA: On 10 June, Federal Customs Service officers seized a shipment of 400 kilograms of cocaine hidden among a cargo of canned fish arriving from Ecuador. ([www.seanews.ru.en](http://www.seanews.ru.en))

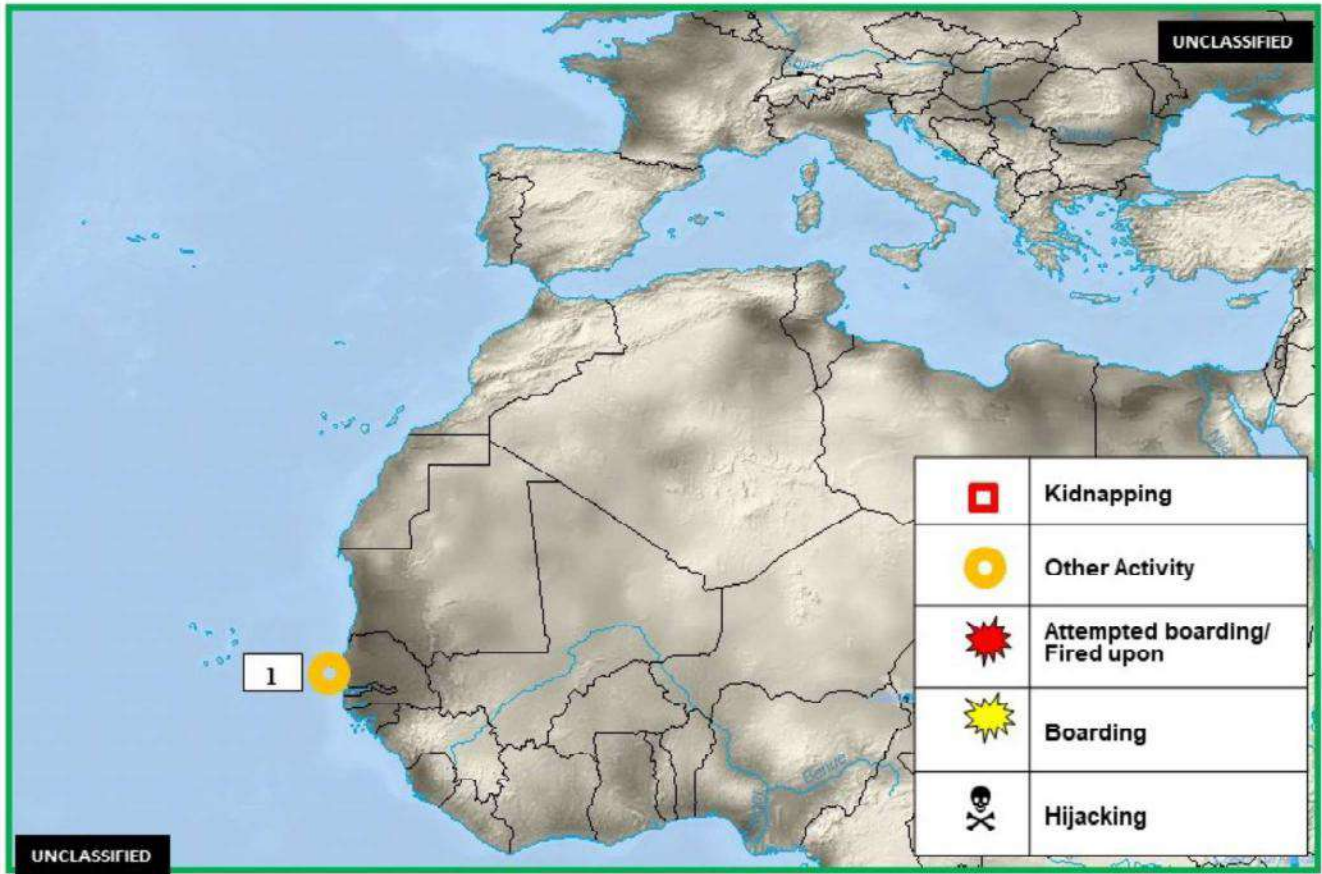
**E. (U) MEDITERRANEAN - BLACK SEA:**



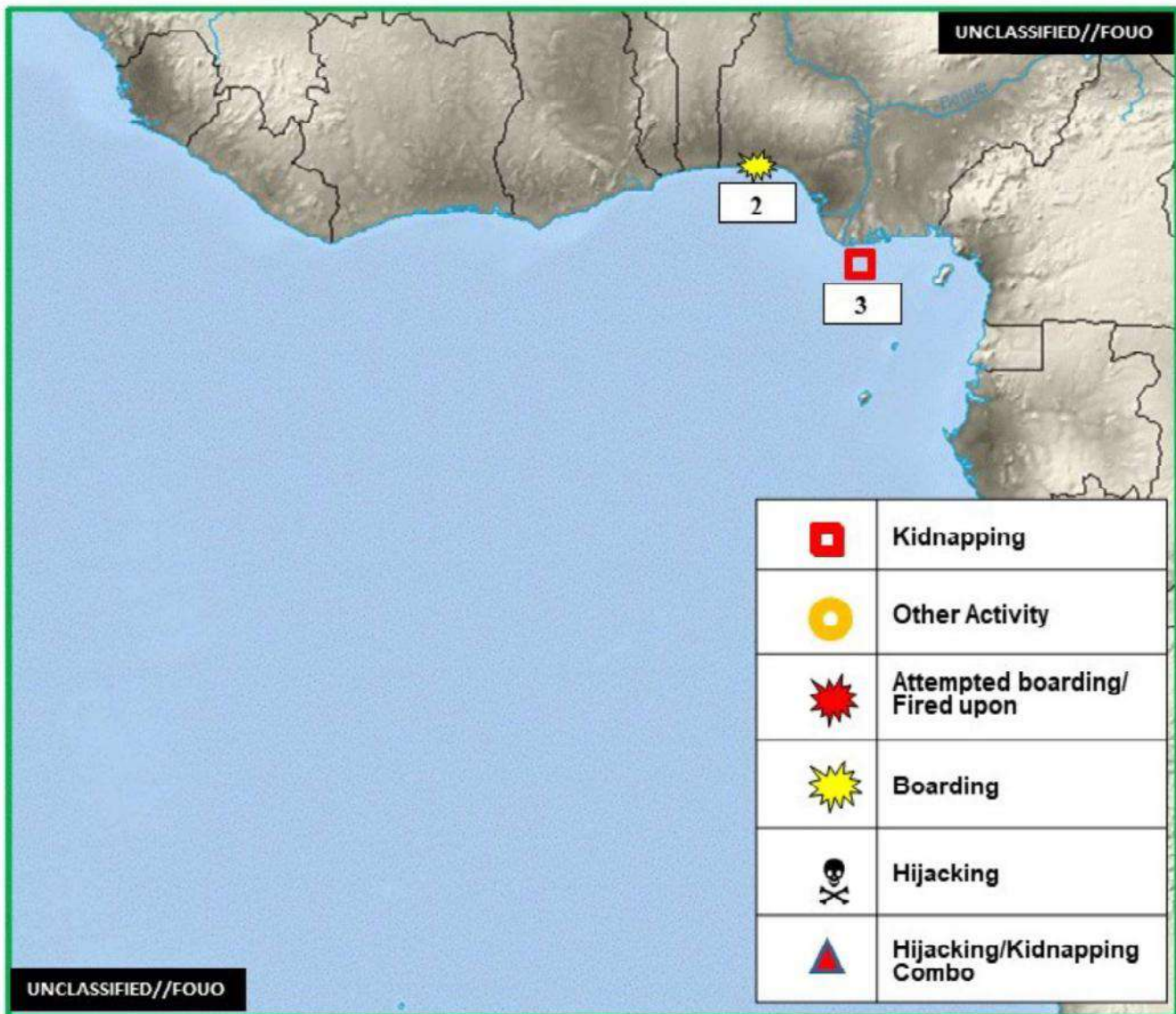
(U) Figure 2. Mediterranean - Black Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) GREECE: On 26 June, customs authorities in the Port of Piraeus seized at least 1.4 million Captagon pills from three shipping containers that had arrived from Syria. ([www.eksthimerini.com](http://www.eksthimerini.com))
2. (U) GREECE: On 22 June, Greek coast guard forces in Piraeus removed nine stowaways that were found inside a shipping container. The stowaways reportedly snuck aboard the ship in Casablanca, Morocco. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))
3. (U) SPAIN: On 17 June, Spanish authorities boarded the Moldova-flagged general cargo ship ELG in waters northeast of Oran, Algeria. A search of the vessel revealed 10 tons of hashish in 350 bales. The vessel was taken to Cartagena, Spain, for further investigation. ELG had been under surveillance for several months after law enforcement agencies from several countries found her movements suspicious. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))
4. (U) ISRAEL: On 9 June, Israeli naval forces arrested a Turkish man in the Port of Haifa after the man was found to be a stowaway. After his discovery, the man tried to set fire to areas of the ship. The ship, MSC CANBERRA, had arrived from Merin, Turkey. ([www.maritime-executive.com](http://www.maritime-executive.com); [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))

F. (U) WEST AFRICA:



(U) Figure 3. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime



(U) Figure 4. West Africa Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) SENEGAL: On 30 June, customs officials in the Port of Dakar seized 750 kilograms of cocaine hidden among a consignment of 15 new Renault automobiles. The vehicles were aboard the Italy-flagged vehicle carrier GRANDE NIGERIA that had arrived from Brazil. ([www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com))
2. (U) NIGERIA: On 30 June, two crew members onboard a tanker anchored in Lagos STS Anchorage observed a boat with 3 persons on board alongside the tanker. All crew were alerted and a naval patrol boat came to assist the vessel. The criminals fled with two stolen moorings lines. (MDAT-GoG; [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com))
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 27 June, five Indian seafarers kidnapped on 20 April were released from captivity. They were kidnapped from M/T APECUS near Bonny Island and held for 68 days. ([www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com](http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com))
4. (U) NIGERIA: On 3 June, five Port Harcourt-bound passenger-carrying speedboats traveling in a convoy were attacked by heavily armed sea pirates in military camouflage clothing. The gunmen stole personal valuables and two boats, and escaped. ([www.sunnewsonline.com](http://www.sunnewsonline.com))

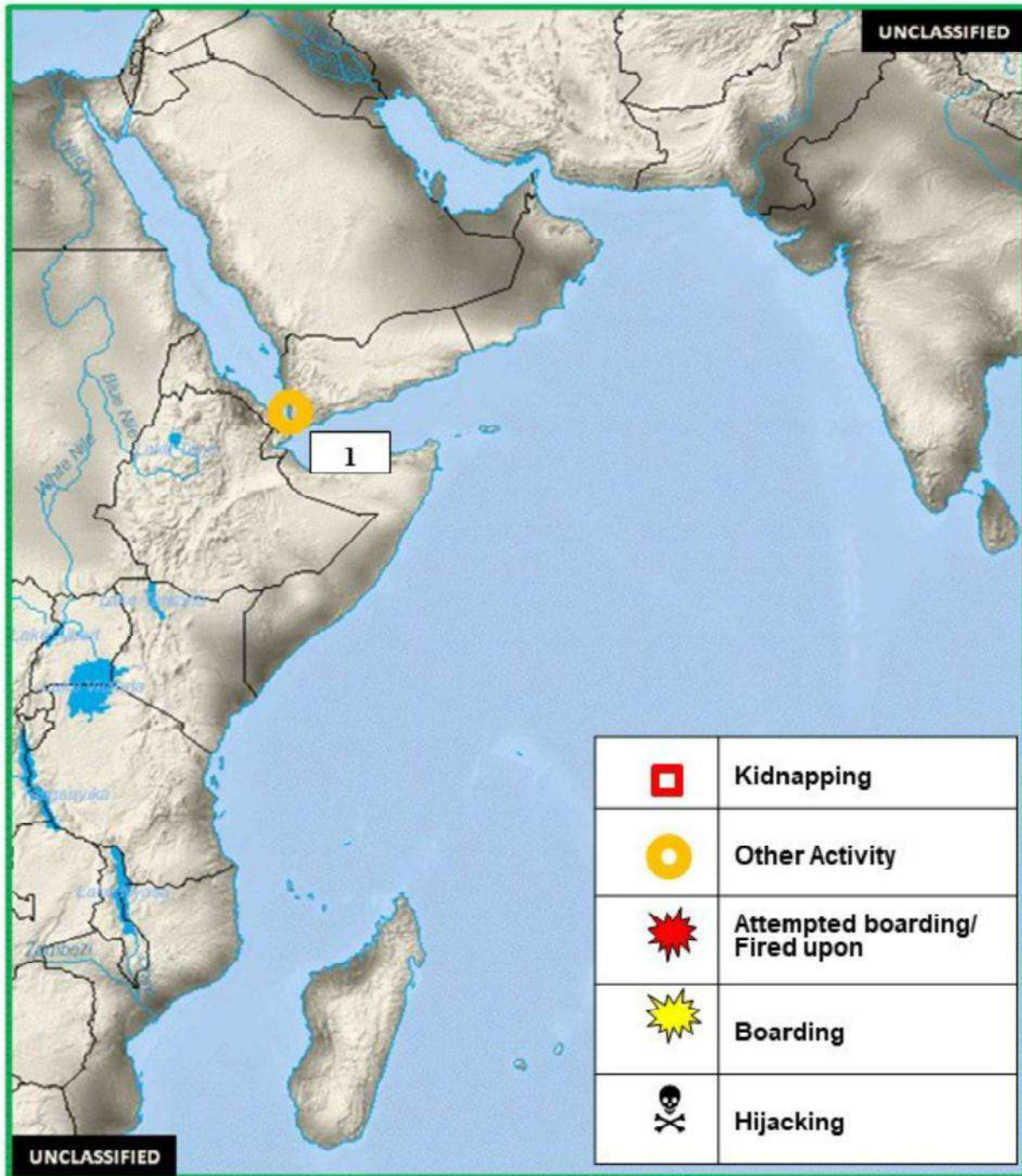
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5. (U) NIGERIA: On 1 June, heavily armed men attacked a Port Harcourt-bound passenger boat travelling in the Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State. They reportedly stole personal valuables and their boat.  
([www.sunnewsonline.com](http://www.sunnewsonline.com))

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

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





(U) Figure 5. Indian Ocean - East Africa - Red Sea Piracy and Maritime Crime

1. (U) RED SEA: On 1 July, a merchant vessel underway near position 12:51N - 043:14E, 11 NM northwest of Perim Island, was approached by 3 skiffs with 5 persons in each skiff. The skiffs approached to within 0.1 NM. When the embarked armed security team on the merchant vessel showed their weapons, the skiffs departed. The crew and vessel are safe. (UKMTO)

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2. (U) GULF OF OMAN: On 13 June, two tankers reported being attacked in the Gulf of Oman in an area south of Jask, Iran. Marshall Islands-flagged FRONT ALTAIR and Panama-flagged KOKUKA COURAGEOUS suffered exterior explosions resulting in fires. Both ships were reportedly abandoned and the crews rescued by nearby ships. (UKMTO; [www.fleetmon.com](http://www.fleetmon.com); [www.marinelink.com](http://www.marinelink.com); [www.sguardian.com](http://www.sguardian.com))

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

1. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 June, the chieftain of notorious "Fakir Bahini" pirate gang was killed in a gunfight with the Special Forces' Rapid Action Battalion in the Subarnachar Upazila of Noakhali district. ([www.observerbd.com](http://www.observerbd.com))
2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 22 June, three soldiers were killed with another injured in a rocket attack on an anchored Myanmar Army tugboat in Sittway, Rakhine State. An insurgent group fired the rockets. (Xinhua)
3. (U) MALAYSIA: UPDATE - On 21 June, Abu Sayyaf gunmen released the kidnapped fishermen after finding that they were Bajau fishermen who had no money to pay for their ransom, Malaysian and Philippine officials said. They were kidnapped on 18 June. ([www.globalnation.inquirer.net](http://www.globalnation.inquirer.net))
4. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 June, four fishermen were kidnapped from a Malaysian fishing vessel in Lahad Datu's Tambisan waters while en route to Semporna, Sabah. The hijackers are believed to be linked to Abu Sayyaf and may have fled with the hostages to Sitangkai Island. ([www.straitstimes.com](http://www.straitstimes.com); [www.globalnation.inquirer.net](http://www.globalnation.inquirer.net))
5. (U) MALAYSIA: On 18 June, six fishermen were kidnapped from a Malaysian fishing vessel in Lahad Datu's Tambisan waters while en route to Semporna, Sabah. The hijackers are believed to be linked to Abu Sayyaf and may have fled with the hostages to Sitangkai Island. ([www.straitstimes.com](http://www.straitstimes.com); [www.globalnation.inquirer.net](http://www.globalnation.inquirer.net))
6. (U) VIETNAM: On 12 June, customs authorities in the Port of Hai Phong found 3.5 tons of smuggled ivory and 4 tons of smuggled Pangolin scales hidden in barrels among a cargo of tar. ([www.ctvnews.ca](http://www.ctvnews.ca))
7. (U) PHILIPPINES: On 9 June, a Chinese fishing vessel collided with F/V GIMVER 1 with 22 Filipino fishermen onboard in the vicinity of Reed Bank, near position 11:34N - 116:49E. After the collision, the Chinese fishing vessel reportedly left the vicinity of the capsized Filipino vessel, according to a police report. "Fortunately, the Filipino crew were rescued by a Vietnamese fishing vessel and later transferred to another Filipino fishing vessel AJ THANKSGIVING and are now in good condition," the report further added. ([www.news.mb.com.ph](http://www.news.mb.com.ph); [www.devdiscourse.com](http://www.devdiscourse.com))
8. (U) PARACEL ISLANDS: On 2 June, Chinese persons boarded an anchored Vietnamese fishing boat near Triton Island in the Paracel Island group. The Chinese crew then took away two tons of squid. ([www.e.vnexpress.net](http://www.e.vnexpress.net))
9. (U) MALAYSIA: On 31 May, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 01:35N - 104:28E, 13 NM east-northeast of Bandar Penawar, Johor. Several crewmembers saw them and went to investigate. As they arrived, the person threatened them with a knife and escaped with his accomplice who was waiting in a boat. Incident reported to the local authorities. Coast guard boarded the vessel to investigate. Nothing reported stolen. (IMB)
10. (U) MALAYSIA: On 30 May, an unknown number of robbers boarded the barge SINAR JAYA 2912, being towed by Malaysia-flagged tugboat ASIA JAYA 28 near position 01:13N - 103:32E, 3.4 NM southeast of Tanjung Piai. The master of the tugboat reported to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF that an unknown number of perpetrators had boarded the barge on tow. The perpetrators escaped in a small craft, with some small tools stolen from the barge. (ReCAAP)

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

1. (U) EAST CHINA SEA: On 13 and 14 June, a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force ship observed several likely instances of transfers of material between a North Korea-flagged tanker and two unidentified ships. Japan's Foreign Ministry said the vessels were connected with a hose and are suspected of conducting ship-to-ship transfers that are banned under UN Security Council resolutions. ([www.world.kbs.co.kr](http://www.world.kbs.co.kr))
2. (U) JAPAN: On 5 June, local press announced the seizure of 2,450 pounds of amphetamines and the arrest of seven Chinese men because of a police stake out operation on the Izu coast, west of Tokyo. Police arrested the men while they were unloading bags of drugs from their boat onto the beach. (AP)

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

1. (U) FRENCH POLYNESIA: On 1 June, local press announced the seizure of 340 kilograms of cocaine from a sailing boat after it docked on the atoll of Apataki, east of Rangiroa, reportedly because of engine troubles. ([www.rnz.co.nz](http://www.rnz.co.nz))

**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) The following terms have been adopted to describe the 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 by an unknown vessel.

(U) **Sourcing**

- 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)
- Maritime Asset Security and Training (MAST) Ltd
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- Norwegian Shipowners' Mutual War Risks Insurance Association
- 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) The WPU 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>

(U) ICOD: 03 July 2019