

13 AUG 09

Office of Naval Intelligence
Civil Maritime Analysis Department
Worldwide Threat to Shipping
Mariner Warning Information

POC: Andrew Moulder:
Comm (301) 669-4784
Fax (301) 669-3247
E-mail amoulder@nmic.navy.mil

David Pearl:
Comm (301) 669-4905
Fax (301) 669-3247
E-mail dpearl@nmic.navy.mil

1. This message provides information on threats to, and criminal action against merchant shipping worldwide in the last 30 days.

A. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) as an information addressee when possible to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The ONI message address is ONI WASHINGTON DC//11// or, the ONI Violence at Sea (VAS) desk may be contacted at commercial phone (301) 669-4905 or via e-mail: dpearl@nmic.navy.mil. Report may also be made to the National Response Center (U.S. Coast Guard) hotline: 1-800-424-8802 or the Maritime Administration, Office of Security, MAR-420; TEL 202-366-1883; FAX 202-366-3954; email owen.doherty@dot.gov.

B. 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. The report displays all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days and may be accessed through their web page <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>.

C. ONI's goal is to provide the maritime community with relevant information concerning threats to safe commercial ship operations for use by maritime personnel in implementing security. In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following are adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:
Boarding - Unauthorized presence on the ship whether in port or underway.
Robbery - Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
Kidnap - Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
Hijack - Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
Firing upon - Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
Attempted boarding - Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
Suspicious approach - All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.
Blocking - Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental authorities in lawful pursuit of their authority. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

D. Anti-piracy and crime current developments:

1. GULF OF ADEN: Turkish frigate captures five pirates off Somalia, 11 Apr 09. A Turkish frigate intercepted a skiff off Somalia and captured five pirates Tuesday on suspicion that they were preparing for attacks, the Turkish military said. The (GAZIANTEP), operating with NATO forces in the region, seized the skiff in the Gulf of Aden with the help of a helicopter and amphibian commandos, the statement said. The operation was launched after intelligence revealed that the boat was moving close to two ships, sailing under the British and Marshall Islands flags, within a "safe corridor" guarded by the multi-national naval force to ensure the safe passage of commercial vessels. "A possible ship hijacking has been prevented," the statement said, adding that instruments used in piracy were found on the skiff (AFP).

2. NORWAY: Norwegian frigate to fight Somali piracy, 2 Aug 09. The Norwegian frigate (FRIDTJOF NANSEN) has left home base and is heading for the coast of Somalia, where it will join the EU-led "Operation Atalanta" in its effort to fight pirate attempts. During the past few weeks the frigate and its 140 man crew have undergone test missions off the Norwegian coast. On board is also a unit of the Norwegian Special Naval Force (MJK), equipped with high speed boats which will be used to intercept pirates attempting to board cargo ships in Somali waters. The Norwegian frigate is initially on a six-month assignment (LM: Norway Post).

3. SOMALIA: Thousands of Somalis fleeing to Yemen, 28 Jul 09. The UN refugee agency says thousands of Somalis are preparing to cross the Gulf of Aden to Yemen after fleeing fighting around the capital of Mogadishu. The Geneva-based UNHCR says 12,000 civilians have taken shelter in the northern Somali town of Bossasso since early May. UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond says most are waiting for smugglers to take them across the perilous waters of the Gulf to Yemen, where 30,000 Somalis have already fled this year. Redmond told reporters Tuesday that overall some 232,000 Somalis have fled their homes since May 7 because of fighting between government forces and Islamist groups (AP).

4. PHILIPPINES: Bombs found aboard Philippine ferry, 26 Jul 09. Twelve bombs were found hidden inside a bathroom in a ferry in the central Philippines, raising fears of another bombing campaign by suspected Islamic militants, the coast guard said Sunday. The improvised explosive devices, made of bottles with gunpowder, blasting caps, shrapnel and wiring, were found hidden in a sack in the bathroom of the vessel (BLUE WATER PRINCESS) on Saturday just as it was about to depart the city of Lucena for the central island of Masbate. Explosive experts and bomb-sniffing dogs were immediately dispatched to check the vessel for other bombs, said coast guard spokesman Commander Armand Balilo. It was not clear if the bombs were intended to go off inside the ferry or were to be used elsewhere, said Balilo who also declined to identify any suspects. He said it was the coast guard's second discovery of large amounts of explosive material in just two weeks. Last week, a supply of ammonium nitrate and blasting caps was found in a port in the central city of Mandaue (AFP).

5. MALAYSIA: Malaysian marine police rescue hijacked ship, arrest pirates, 21 Jul 09. Malaysian marine police rescued 16 crew members of a Malaysian ship and detained five Indonesian suspected pirates, officials said. Six masked men had boarded the (PNG EXPRESS) early in waters off Johor state, and tied up the ship's Malaysian captain and 15 crew - all of whom are Thai nationals - before robbing them of their belongings, said federal marine police commander Isa Munir. However, less than an hour later, Malaysian marine police acting on a tip-off, rescued the crew and gave chase to the fleeing pirates. Isa said officers managed to detain five of the suspects, adding that a sixth escaped arrest by jumping into the sea. "All the suspects are Indonesians with valid passports. We managed to recover all stolen items along with four machetes, four masks, and binoculars belonging to the suspects," said Isa. All crew members were unharmed during the incident, he said (Deutsche Presse-Agentur).

6. GULF OF ADEN: French, Indian navies help free hijacked Indian boat off Somalia, 15 Jul 09. The Indian and French navies have helped free a small boat with 14 Indians on board that was hijacked by Somali pirates last week, an official said here Thursday. The small boat was hijacked by the pirates off the Somali coast Friday and was freed Wednesday after a joint operation by the two navies, the official said. The Somali pirates carrying rocket propelled grenades and AK-47s hijacked the Indian boat about 10NM off Bosasso in Gulf of Aden waters. The vessel had discharged its cargo at the Somali harbor and was proceeding to Dubai. The Somali pirates forced the boat towards Bab el Mandeb, north of Somalia, and tried to hijack the vessel (A ELEPHANT), a Liberian tanker, Monday. A French warship shadowed the pirated boat and exchanged information about it with the Indian naval ship. "The dhow was thereafter tracked continuously by the warships of both the navies. Attempts to board the dhow for investigation by the French ship were abandoned when the pirates threatened to kill the 14 crew held hostage on the dhow. Following the joint efforts by the Indian and French warships patrolling the waters of Gulf of Aden, the pirates steered the dhow towards the Somali coast and released it along with the crew on July 15," the Indian Navy official said. However, the pirates robbed the crew of all their cash and valuables. The hijacked boat was registered at Porbandar in India and was operating from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This is the sixth successful operation of the Indian Navy against the pirates in the region since November last (LM: Thaindian News).

E. Source codes: Information contained in this report is derived through direct reporting and analysis of reports of other agencies and commercial sources. Source codes will be added to new reports to enable users requiring more detail to make contact. Codes currently in use are:

AFP, Agence France Presse
 AP, Associated Press
 BBC, BBC News
 BIMCO, Baltic and International Maritime Council, Denmark
 DHS, U. S. Department of Homeland Security
 DOJ, U. S. Department of Justice
 DOS, U.S. Department of State
 DOT, U. S. Department of Transportation
 FP, Fairplay, London
 IMB, International Maritime Bureau, London and Kuala Lumpur
 IMO, International Maritime Organization, London
 INFO, Informa Group, formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
 LAT, Latitud38.com website
 LL, Lloyd's List, daily, London
 LM, local media
 MARAD, Maritime Administration, US
 MSC, Maritime Security Council, US
 MSCHOA, Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa <http://www.mschoa.eu/>
 NATO, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Brussels
 NGA, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Navigation Safety System
 ONI, Office of Naval Intelligence analysis and comment
 Operator, owner or operator of affected vessel
 OSAC, Overseas Security Advisory Council
 USCG, United States Coast Guard
 RAN, Royal Australian Navy
 ReCAAP ISC, Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center
<http://www.recaap.org>
 REUTERS, Reuters
 RNZN, Royal New Zealand Navy

SAP, Seafarers' Assistance Program, Kenya
STATE, U. S. Department of State
TW, Tradewinds
UKMTO, United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization
UPI, United Press International

2. 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 event is later learned not to be as 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. Specific incidents will be reported for one month.

3. This week's reporting:

A. Tanker fired upon, robbed 9 Aug 09, Punta Arena anchorage, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

B. Cruise ship (AQUA) robbed 6 Aug 09, near the town of Yucuruchi, Peru.

4. DETAILS: There is reported active violence against shipping, a credible threat to shipping, or the potential to develop into a direct threat to the safety of shipping in the following areas:

A. NORTH AMERICA: No current incidents to report.

B. CENTRAL AMERICA-CARIBBEAN:

1. COSTA RICA: Container ship robbed 23 Jul 09 at 2015 UTC while anchored in position 09:58.5N - 083:00.5W, Puerto Limon anchorage. Two robbers in a boat boarded the vessel at anchor. The crew noticed one robber trying to transfer stolen ship's stores into the boat. The robber escaped with stores by jumping into the water (IMB).

C. SOUTH AMERICA:

1. ECUADOR: Tanker fired upon, robbed 9 Aug 09 at 1340 local time while in Punta Arena anchorage, Guayaquil. Ten robbers wearing masks and armed with guns approached and opened fire on the vessel as they boarded it. They stole personal belongings, cash, and equipment before escaping. Local fishermen assisted the crew afterward and landed them ashore (IMB).

2. PERU: Cruise ship (AQUA) robbed 6 Aug 09 at approximately 0700 local time while underway near the town of Yucuruchi, close to the Amazon River. Nine masked men armed with guns and hand grenades boarded the vessel from a speedboat. They reportedly overcame two police officers guarding the vessel after a similar attack occurred nine days earlier. The robbers tied up the tourists, stealing valuables, including jewelry and cash, before escaping. Police reinforcements arrived and security in the area has been increased (Telegraph.co.uk).

3. PERU: Cruise ship (AQUA) robbed 26 Jul 09 just before midnight while underway approximately 625 miles northeast of Lima, in the vicinity of the town of Nauta. Six to seven pirates armed with pistols and rifles boarded the vessel and robbed the 24 passengers of their money and personal belongings before escaping. No passengers were injured (AP, TavelWeekly).

4. BRAZIL: Bulk carrier robbed 27 Jul 09 at 2355 local time while anchored in position 01:05.41S - 048:29.08W, Mosqueiro anchorage. Robbers armed with knives boarded the vessel at anchor. They tied up the watch officer's hands and stole ship's stores before escaping (IMB).

D. ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

E. NORTHERN EUROPE-BALTIC:

1. SWEDEN: Vessel (ARCTIC SEA) boarded 24 Jul 09 at approximately 0300 local time while underway in Swedish territorial waters. Eight to twelve armed men allegedly wearing masks and uniforms bearing the word "police" boarded the vessel using a black rubber boat. While onboard, the men allegedly assaulted and tied up many of the crew members. During this time, crew members were questioned about drug trafficking. The men stayed onboard the vessel for approximately 12 hours, during which time they rummaged through the cabins. The crew members were eventually released and the men departed the vessel. It's unknown if anything was stolen. Swedish police are currently investigating the incident. UPDATE: On 4 Aug 09, the vessel was expected to make a port call in Algeria, but never arrived. Russian authorities are investigating the incident and have begun searching for the vessel. There is no further information to provide at this time (AP, Bloomberg, LM: Times of Malta).

F. MEDITERRANEAN-BLACK SEA: No current incidents to report.

G. WEST AFRICA:

1. CÔTE D'IVOIRE: Tanker robbed 12 Jul 09 at 2336 UTC while anchored in position 05:12.5N - 004:03.9E, Abidjan anchorage. Two robbers armed with knives boarded the tanker via the forecastle. The robbers stole the ships stores, and escaped in a small boat when discovered (IMB).

2. NIGERIA: Vessel (SATURNAS) boarded, crewmembers kidnapped 3 Aug 09 at 2245

UTC while anchored in position 05:28.44N - 005:04.41E, Escravos anchorage in the western Niger Delta. The Lithuanian-flagged vessel came under attack by an unidentified group in a high-speed boat, according to a statement by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry. The men kidnapped five of the crewmembers, taking them to an unknown location, but left the remaining nine crewmembers onboard. No crewmembers were reported injured, while the vessel sustained no damage (Bloomberg, LM: Topnews.in).

3. NIGERIA: Bulk carrier fired upon 2 Aug 09 at 2317 UTC while anchored in position 03:55.46N - 006:37.32E, approximately 50NM southwest of Port Harcourt. Heavily armed pirates in two speedboats approached and opened fire. The vessel immediately heaved anchor and proceeded to open seas for safety reasons. One crewmember was injured (IMB).

4. NIGERIA: Oil facility attacked 12 Jul 09 at 2230 local time at the Atlas Cove jetty in Lagos. Four naval officers and four civilians were killed in an attack reportedly carried out by MEND. The militants exchanged gunfire with naval officers guarding the facility, before they used dynamite to hit 10 pipes. A MEND spokesman confirmed that the group was responsible for the attack. According to the spokesman, 18 militants in two gunboats were involved in the attack. About 20 workers were injured in the fire (LM: AllAfrica).

H. INDIAN OCEAN-EAST AFRICA:

1. GULF OF ADEN: Vessel fired upon 4 Aug 09 at 1310 UTC while underway in position 13:32N - 048:50E. Eight men in a 7-8m long, blue wooden boat armed with automatic weapons approached the vessel from the stern and opened fire. The general alarm was sounded and the crew mustered on the bridge. The master increased speed and conducted evasive maneuvers while activating the ship's alert system and contacting naval warships for assistance via VHF. After approximately 20 minutes, the boat abandoned its attack when a nearby warship dispatched a helicopter to provide assistance (IMB, ONI).

2. GULF OF ADEN: Bulk carrier fired upon 3 Aug 09 at 1500 UTC while underway in position 13:46.5N - 050:42.3E. Ten heavily armed pirates in two boats fired upon the vessel underway. The pirates failed to board the vessel due to evasive action taken by the master. All crew and ship properties are safe (IMB).

3. GULF OF ADEN: Vessel fired upon 30 Jul 09 at 1445 UTC while underway approximately 150NM east of Aden, Yemen. Vessel reported being fired upon by one skiff with 6-7 persons onboard. The skiff eventually aborted the attack and the vessel continued its transit (ONI).

4. GULF OF ADEN: Tanker (A ELEPHANT) fired upon 13 Jul 09 at 0420 UTC while underway in position 12:20.8N - 043:54.3E, approximately 30NM southeast of Bab el Mandeb. Four pirates armed with automatic weapons in a skiff, operating with the previously hijacked dhow (NAFEYA), chased and opened fire on the tanker. The skiff came close to the tanker and the pirates tried to hook a ladder onto the shipside. The master conducted evasive maneuvers and contacted nearby warships for help. A French warship responded and helped prevent the boarding. Due to successful defense measures, the pirates aborted the attempt (IMB, Reuters).

I. RED SEA: No current incidents to report.

K. PERSIAN GULF: No current incidents to report.

L. SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. MALAYSIA: Container ship reported suspicious approach 28 Jul 09 at 2157 local time while underway in position 04:39.2N - 112:45.0E, approximately 75NM west of Miri. Twelve men in a 7m long, unlit boat approached the vessel underway. They chased the ship and tried to get alongside. The duty officer raised the alarm, conducted evasive maneuvers, and alerted crewmembers while the master fired three rocket flares. The men aborted their pursuit (IMB).

2. MALAYSIA: Tanker boarded 21 Jul 09 at 0030 local time while underway in position 01:17.94N - 104:09.24E, approximately 3NM south of Tanjung Stapa. Six men armed with machetes boarded the vessel and tied up the vessel's captain and the 15 Thai crewmembers. Malaysian marine police received a tip-off about the attack and responded, arresting five of the men as they were robbing the ship (IMB, AFP).

3. SINGAPORE: Tug (WEIHAI 5) robbed 12 Jul 09 at 0225 local time while underway in position 01:08.29N - 103:46.81E, approximately 2nm southeast of Raffles Lighthouse, Singapore Strait. Five men armed with knives boarded the vessel as it was underway. The robbers stole cash and personal belongings from the crew. They also damaged equipment before escaping in a speedboat. The captain notified port security and local police who are investigating the incident. ReCAAP Comment: The incidents involving both the (WEIHAI) and (KENRYO) occurred in close proximity on the same day, and within half an hour interval. The modus operandi of the robbers in the two incidents is similar and it is likely that the same group of robbers is involved in the two incidents. Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance when operating in the vicinity (ReCAAP).

4. SINGAPORE: Tug (KENRYO) robbed 12 Jul 09 at 0200 local time while underway in position 01:09.90N - 103:46.0E, approximately 2NM southeast of Raffles Lighthouse, Singapore Strait. Five men armed with knives boarded the vessel as it was underway, towing a barge. The robbers stole cash and personal belongings from the crew. They also damaged equipment before escaping in a speedboat. The captain notified port security and local police who are investigating

the incident (ReCAAP).

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5. INDONESIA: Vessel (EMMA) hijacked 14 Jul 09 at 0430 local time while in waters off Batam Island in the Riau Islands province. Armed men in a wooden boat boarded the vessel while its crew were asleep and seized it. The men held the vessel for 13 days before local police arrested five of the seven men suspected to be involved in the hijacking. There is no further information to provide at this time (LM: Jakarta Post).

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6. SOUTH CHINA SEA: Tug (TAHIR) boarded 2 Aug 09 at 0130 local time while underway in position 02:51.65N - 105:06.12E, approximately 35NM west of the Mangkai Islands. Five robbers armed with parangs and machetes boarded the vessel from a small boat. The master mustered the crew and managed to repel the robbers from the tug. The window glass at the port side of the bridge was broken, but the tug continued its voyage to Singapore. Apart from a slight injury sustained by the master, none of the crew were injured. The incident was reported to the owner and Singapore's Port Operation Control Centre (ReCAAP).

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7. VIETNAM: Container ship robbed 12 Jul 09 at 0330 local time while anchored in position 10:16.2N - 107:04.6E, Vungtau outer anchorage. Robbers boarded the vessel and stole ship's stores before escaping (IMB).

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L. NORTH ASIA: No current incidents to report.

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M. PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN: No current incidents to report.

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N. ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS:

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1. GREENPEACE: Greenpeace protests bunkering operation in Bay of Algeciras, Spain 13 Jul 09. Greenpeace activists targeted a Spanish oil supply barge, scrawling "Spain Pollutes" on its flank in protesting bunkering operations. This action marks the launch of a three-month Mediterranean tour, during which Greenpeace flagship (RAINBOW WARRIOR) will visit Spain, France, Greece, Turkey, and Lebanon (LM: Gibraltar Chronicle).

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5. Originator of this WWTTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. The Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) can be contacted via message traffic at ONI WASHINGTON DC//11// or, the ONI violence at sea (VAS) desk may be contacted at comm. Phone (301) 669-4905 or via e-mail at dpearl@nmic.navy.mil.//