

3 Mar 10

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

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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 addressee when possible to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirement. The ONI message address is ONI WASHINGTON DC//11// or, the ONI Violence at Sea (VAS) desk may be contacted at commercial phone (301) 669-4784 or via e-mail: amoulder@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-Intel 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 IM Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The report displays all piracy and 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 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 protection.
Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target 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. INDIAN OCEAN: NATO warship sinks pirate ship off Somalia, 1 March 10. A NATO destroyer sunk a pirate mothership in the Indian Ocean off the Somali coast after allowing crew to leave, the alliance said Monday. The HDMS ABSALON, the Danish flagship of the three-vessel NATO flotilla in the region, disrupted a pirate operation by "scuttling" one large boat used by Somali gangs to transport attack teams to piracy hunting areas far off coast. The mothership was fired on and sunk after its crew members were transferred to a smaller boat in tow, which was allowed to return to the mainland. No further details were immediately available (AP).

2. BANGLADESH: Marine police engage in gun battle and arrest four pirates, 4 Feb
The Bangladeshi Marine Police with the assistance of the Coast Guard arrested four pirate Sundarbans after an intense gun battle near Hrbaria. Based on local intelligence, the po conducted a sweep of the area while members of the Julifiker Bahini gang were in midst of robbery. Upon arrival, the police encountered 25-30 armed men wearing police uniforms, w opened fire on the law enforcement personnel. A gun battle ensued and four pirates, thre which were siblings, were arrested. In addition, weapons, ammunition, and stolen goods w recovered (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk).

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

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, Latitude38.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 Press
Risk Intelligence/MaRisk, Maritime Security Risk Solutions
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 to the existence of, or potential for piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest or conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the double counting is detected or an event is later learned not to be as initially reported, explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one mes to dropping the erroneous report. Specific incidents will be reported for one month.

3. This week's reporting:

- A. Tanker reported suspicious approach 3 Mar 10, approximately 25NM northwest of Mokha Yemen.
- B. Tanker reported suspicious approach 28 Feb 10, Bab el Mandeb.

C. Tanker reported suspicious approach 2 Mar 10, approximately 14NM southwest of Aden, Yemen.

D. Tanker (AL NISR AL SAUDI) hijacked 1 Mar 10, approximately 45NM southwest of Al Mukalla, Yemen.

E. Trawler (AL-SHURA) fired upon, crewmember killed 20 Feb 10, off the coast of Bargal Somalia.

F. Tanker reported suspicious approach 2 Mar 10, approximately 360NM northeast of Soco Island.

G. Vessel reported suspicious approach 28 Feb 10, approximately 360NM east of Socotra Island.

H. Bulk carrier reported suspicious approach 23 Feb 10, approximately 340NM northeast Socotra Island.

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

A. NORTH AMERICA: No current incidents to report.

B. CENTRAL AMERICA-CARIBBEAN:

1. HAITI: Landing craft reported attempted boarding 15 Feb 10 at 2345 UTC while anchored in position 18:34.93N - 072:22.3W, Port au Prince. The alert master and crew managed to prevent robbers from boarding the vessel while anchored. The vessel is curren safe, no further information to report (IMB).

C. SOUTH AMERICA:

1. COLOMBIA: Passenger vessel hijacked 3 Feb 10 while underway in the Buenaventur waterways. The vessel was traveling from Buenaventura port to Puerto Merizalde when three gunmen brandished their weapons and ordered the passengers to jump overboard. A total of people were forced into the water before the gunmen proceeded to steal the vessel and fle unknown location. The Colombian coastguard responded to the incident and rescued all passengers and is currently leading the search for the vessel (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk).

2. GUYANA: General cargo ship robbed 19 Feb 10 at 0530 UTC while anchored at Grov anchorage. Ten robbers armed with knives boarded the vessel at anchor. They captured a member and threatened him with a knife at his neck. They entered the forecandle and bosu and stole ship's property. They locked the crew in the bosun store and escaped. Port au was informed (IMB).

3. PERU: Bulk carrier robbed 5 Feb 10 at 1935 local time while in Callao anchorag Robbers armed with guns boarded the vessel via the hawse pipe. The alarm was raised, but robbers managed to steal ship's stores before escaping. The incident was reported to por authorities (IMB).

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

E. NORTHERN EUROPE-BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

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

G. WEST AFRICA:

1. GUINEA: Chemical tanker boarded 13 Feb 10 at 2230 UTC while underway in positi 09:11.38N - 014:32.03W, approximately 50NM west of Conakry. Men armed with rifles boarded the tanker while underway. The master raised the alarm, and the crew locked all doors before mustering on the bridge in a safe place. The armed men tried to gain entry locked accommodation door but were unable to do so. Due to the alarm ringing, they abort attack and fled. The crew and vessel are safe (IMB).

H. INDIAN OCEAN-EAST AFRICA:

1. RED SEA: Tanker reported suspicious approach 3 Mar 10 at 0628 UTC while underway in position 13:37N - 042:58E, approximately 25NM northwest of Mokha, Yemen. Men in two small boats approached the vessel from the starboard side. The master raised the alarm, activated fire hoses, and conducted evasive maneuvers while contacting coalition forces for assistance via VHF. The suspicious boats approached at a distance of less than 50 meters followed the vessel for about one minute before they altered course and moved away. No injuries to the crew and no damage to the vessel were reported (Operator, IMB).

2. BAB EL MANDEB: Tanker reported suspicious approach 28 Feb 10 at 0350 local time while underway in position 12:32.5N - 043:26E. The duty officer onboard noticed two craft radar sailing parallel to the vessel. The crafts then started approaching the vessel. They raised and the crew mustered on the bridge. Counter piracy measures were enforced, including the use of floodlights to track the crafts and recorded sounds of dogs barking. Naval forces responded to the distress call and the suspicious crafts departed after almost 30 minutes.

3. GULF OF ADEN: Tanker reported suspicious approach 2 Mar 10 at 0345Z while underway in position 12:38.4N - 044:47.4E, approximately 14NM southwest of Aden, Yemen. The master reported four men in a skiff approached the vessel and attempted to board. The crew conducted evasive maneuvers and fire hoses were activated. After about one hour of chase the skiff moved away (IMB).

4. GULF OF ADEN: Tanker (AL NISR AL SAUDI) hijacked 1 Mar 10 while underway approximately 45NM southwest of Al Mukalla, Yemen. Pirates boarded and hijacked the vessel with its crew of 14, and have sailed it toward the Somali coast. No further information provided at this time (AFP, IMB).

5. GULF OF ADEN: Vessel (BARAKAAL I) fired upon 21 Feb 10 while underway in position 13:07N - 047:37E, 120NM southwest of Al Mukalla, Yemen. Master reported coming under fire from at least one skiff with men onboard. During the attempted boarding, the reported one of the pirates fell off and was recovered by the skiff. Two coalition warships responded and were able to intercept the skiff and arrest the suspected pirates (Reuters, AP).

6. GULF OF ADEN: Bulk carrier (ARIELLA) fired upon 5 Feb 10 at 0600 UTC while underway in position 13:00N - 048:45E, approximately 93NM southwest of Al Mukalla, Yemen. Six armed men in a speedboat opened fire on the vessel while underway. The vessel raised the alarm, sent out a distress call and contacted coalition assistance while conducting evasive maneuvering. A Danish warship responded by deploying a helicopter to intercept the attack. The armed men aborted the attack once the warship arrived on scene (IMB, AP).

7. GULF OF ADEN: Cargo ship (RIM) hijacked 3 Feb 10 at 0813 UTC while underway in position 13:04N - 047:04E, approximately 120NM east of Aden, Yemen. Pirates boarded and hijacked the vessel. There is no further information provided at this time (ONI, AP).

8. SOMALIA: Trawler (AL-SHURA) fired upon, crewmember killed 20 Feb 10 while underway off the coast of Bargal. The fishing trawler left Shahr port on 20 February and was attacked off the Bargal coast where one of the nine crewmembers was killed. The current location of the trawler is unknown and the Yemeni coast guard has launched an investigation into the incident (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk, LM: Yemen News Agency).

9. SOMALIA: Vessel hijacked 13 Feb 10 while underway approximately 20NM northeast of Eyl, Somalia. Vessel was boarded and hijacked by pirates while underway. There is no further information provided at this time (ONI analysis).

10. INDIAN OCEAN: Tanker reported suspicious approach 2 Mar 10 at 0530 UTC while underway in position 15:33N - 059:33E, approximately 360NM northeast of Socotra Island. The master reported five men in one skiff approached the vessel underway and attempted to board. The master raised the alarm and conducted evasive maneuvers while contacting coalition forces for assistance (IMB).

11. INDIAN OCEAN: Vessel reported suspicious approach 28 Feb 10 at 1451 UTC while underway in position 12:22.8N - 060:42.1E, approximately 360NM east of Socotra Island. Master first observed suspicious vessel, noted to be what looked like a fishing vessel, approximately 6NM away when the CPA became less than 1NM. Master altered course to port

in order to pass suspicious vessel on her stern. Upon making this course change, suspicious vessel then altered her course to once again bring CPA to less than 1NM. Master then employed a zig-zag maneuver while increasing speed, switching to second auxiliary generator, opening water tanks on deck, and alerting all vessels in the area over radio to the suspicious vessel's location. Crew was then mustered on the bridge and assigned to counter-piracy stations. Lookouts posted on vessel sighted two small boats attached to the side of the fishing vessel with four to six men on board. As master continued to increase speed, the suspicious fishing vessel stopped at approximately a 4.2NM range and turned back. Master continued to maintain best possible speed as vessel proceeded safely to its next port of call (Operator, IMB).

12. INDIAN OCEAN: Bulk carrier reported suspicious approach 23 Feb 10 at 1645 UTC while underway in position 16:30N - 058:50E, approximately 340NM northeast of Socotra Island. Armed men in a high-speed boat attempted to board the vessel using a ladder. The master raised the alarm, sent mayday messages, contacted coalition forces, and conducted evasive maneuvers. Due to effective counter measures, including barbed wire fencing, the men were unable to board the vessel. All crew members were reported safe (IMB).

13. INDIA: Tanker boarded 14 Feb 10 at 0835 local time while anchored in Vishakhapatnam. One boat with three robbers approached the vessel from the port side. When the boat did not cross the bows the master raised the alarm. As the crew went forward to investigate, they found two robbers onboard and a third attempting to board. The robbers fled soon as they saw the ship's crew. Port control was informed (IMB).

14. INDIA: Tanker robbed 14 Feb 10 at 0215 UTC while underway in position 17:37.7N 83:21.6E, Vishakhapatnam anchorage. Three robbers using ropes and a hook boarded the vessel from astern. When sighted, the watch officer raised the general alarm and secured the vessel to the poop deck. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The master informed port control and the Indian navy was contacted via VHF radio (IMB).

15. BANGLADESH: Fishermen attacked, kidnapped 13 Feb 10 while operating near Chhaprakhali Jelepara. The Manik Bahini and Julfikar Bahini gangs engaged in a two-hour gun battle before the Julfika Bahini syndicate assaulted 15 fishermen and then abducted them from the area for ransom. RI Comment: Although the name 'Bahini' is common within Bangladesh, there may be a connection between either of the Bahini gangs and Alauddin Bah a high profile gang leader who was killed in Chittagong port on 15 August 2006 after a gun battle with marine police. Alauddin was responsible for a number of attacks against merchant vessels and fishing trawlers prior to Fall 2006 and was wanted for 15 counts of (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk).

I. RED SEA: No current incidents to report.

J. PERSIAN GULF: No current incidents to report.

K. SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. BAY OF BENGAL: Barge (RAPID 3312), tug (TOPNICHE 7) robbed 10 Feb 10 at 1137 local time while underway in position 20:24.61N - 092:15.56E, approximately 40NM northwest of Sittwe, Burma. Two robbers in a boat named (MAYER DUAI) boarded the barge and stole a canvas and rope before departing. At approximately 1300 local time, the ship owner reported that the boat was shadowing the barge approximately 0.4NM away. At about 1520 local time the owner reported that the boat gave up chase. No crewmembers were harmed during the incident (ReCAAP).

2. MALAYSIA: Chinese nationals kidnapped 8 Feb 10 from Sivangkat Island. Mindanao police verified that members of the Philippine insurgent group, Abu Sayyaf, sailed to Sivangkat Island off the Sabah coast and abducted two Chinese nationals, Chen Yun Chung and Lai Won Chung. The operation was led by a known Abu Sayyaf member, Albader Parad, and it was confirmed that the militants stopped on the island of Tawi Tawi to refuel before continuing to Siasi, on Sulu Island. Intelligence reports suggest that the militants used two motor boats to conduct the insurgency operation. On 15 January, the American State Department issued an advisory for the eastern coast of Sabah in light of an elevated risk of terrorist and organized criminal activities (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk).

3. MALAYSIA: Tug (ASTA) missing, reportedly hijacked 6 Feb 10 while underway in position 02:59.4N - 104:00.6E, off Pulau Tioman. The tug, towing the barge (CALLISTA)

departed Singapore on 5 Feb 10. At about 0130 on 6 Feb 10, the vessel (AGENT) reported 1 communications with the tug. There were 12 crewmembers onboard at the time, and no cargo was onboard the barge. The tug was scheduled to arrive at Cambodia on 9 Feb 10. The ship owner suspected that the vessel had been hijacked and reported the incident to the Singapore Operations Control Centre who had issued a broadcast to all vessels to report sightings of (ASTA) and (CALLISTA) (ReCAAP).

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4. VIETNAM: Bulk carrier boarded 24 Feb 10 at 0240 local time while anchored in V Tau. Three robbers boarded the vessel using ropes with hooks and attempted to enter the forecabin store. The duty crew spotted them and reported to the officer on watch who raised alarm and sounded the ship's whistle. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped in a wooden boat. No injuries to the crew were reported (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. SEA SHEPHERD: Sea Shepherd anti-whaling activists involved in altercation with Japanese whalers 17 Feb 10, Antarctic Ocean. Anti-whaling activists from Sea Shepherd threw butyric acid and fired paint guns at a Japanese whaling ship, which then repelled the protesters with water cannons (CNN).

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5. Originator of this WWTTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate 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 WASHINGTON DC//11// or, the ONI violence at sea (VAS) desk may be contacted at comm. Phone (301) 669-4784 or via e-mail at amoulder@nmic.navy.mil//