

# Maritime Security Incident Report

1 – 31 MARCH 2015

**TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS – 48 (OF WHICH PIRACY & ATTEMPTED PIRACY – 20)**

**3 ACT(S) OF TERRORISM      3 x PIRACY + Hij &/or Kid/1 x ROBBERY + Hij &/or Kid**

**0 ACT(S) OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY**

**(A) – ANCHORAGES; (B) – BERTHS**

**RELEASE OF HIJACKED VESSELS:**

**10 Mar 15 – Not known** – The Robertson and Caine catamaran was found 1 week after being stolen abandoned/beached at Mahahual. It is not known if there was any damage to the yacht, or if anything had been stolen from the yacht. (CS&SN). The vessel was stolen on 3 Mar 15.

## **Arms Seizures**

On 4 Mar 15, according to open source media reports, a Hong Kong/China flagged Chinese-owned bulk carrier (DA DAN XIA) has been detained in the Colombian port of Cartagena on the Caribbean coast after containers of explosives, canon shells, about 100 tonnes of gunpowder were found on board. The vessel was reportedly bound for Cuba with a cargo of grain. The Captain of the vessel has been arrested in Cartagena. China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the ship was carrying ordinary military supplies to Cuba and was not in violation of any international obligations. "It is completely normal military trade cooperation. At present, China is communicating with Colombia on this matter," Hua said. Cargo documentation the captain presented did not match the load the ship was found to be carrying, Luis Gonzalez, national director of the Colombian attorney general's office, told reporters. "Around 100 tonnes of powder, 2.6 million detonators, 99 projectiles and around 3,000 cannon shells were found," Gonzalez added. The attorney general's office said the ship's captain, Wu Hong, would be brought before a judge in order to be detained pending charges, and had been provided with an interpreter. Officials said he could be charged with illegal transport of military materials. Photographs from the prosecutor's office showed wooden cases inside a shipping container with labels stating Chinese defense manufacturer China North Industries Group Corporation (NORINCO) as the supplier. (Gray Page, Reuters)

On 4 Mar 15, the Israeli Navy raided a Panama flagged ship in the Red Sea filled with dozens of rockets allegedly supplied by Iran. A Military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner told reporters that Syrian-made M-302 rockets sent from Iran were on board. Each rocket has a range of up to 100 miles. "Iran trains, funds and arms terror groups in the region and around the world and its failed attempts to transfer the arms that were discovered this morning is more proof of that," Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said after the raid, Israel also released video of Israeli troops on the ships inspecting the rockets. The raid, likely carried out by Shayetet 13 — the Israeli equivalent of U.S. Navy SEALs — was codenamed operation "Full Disclosure." Lt Col. Lerner said the 17 crew members were probably unaware of what was hidden within their cargo, AP reported. (Maritime Connector, AP)

## **Drug Seizures**

On 10 Mar 15, the Colombian police and Navy reported the seizure of about 200 kilos of cocaine on board of the Panama flagged general cargo ship (CLARA E) in Barranquilla. Seven crew, including one Nicaraguan nationality and six Colombians, have been arrested for drug trafficking. (Vessel Tracker)

On 17 Mar 15, the Egyptian navy, acting on a tip, intercepted and detained the general cargo vessel (MARTHA QUINN) off the port of Damietta, Egypt. The Egyptian authorities were required to fire warning shots at the vessel after it failed to respond to requests for inspection and attempted to escape the scene. On boarding the ship, two tonnes of hashish was found packed into 68 shipping pallets. The eight man Syrian crew was arrested. (Gray Page, [www.news.odin.tc](http://www.news.odin.tc)) **COMMENT:** No data found on MARTHA QUINN, which was flying the Samoa flag. The vessel most probably was renamed recently.

On 15 Mar 31 investigators reported that the cruise liner COSTA CONCORDIA was carrying a huge shipment of Mafia-owned cocaine when it set off on its final voyage. 'Ndrangheta, the feared Calabrian crime syndicate, had its drugs hidden aboard the huge cruise ship that partially capsized on 13 Jan 12 with the loss of 32 lives, phone and tape recordings of gang members have revealed. "The same ship that made us a laughing stock around the world, took the piss out of us, too," 'Ndrangheta boss Michele Rossi is heard saying to an associate, Massimo Tiralongo,

according to police officers investigating the organisation's vast cocaine-trafficking operation. In addition to vessels operated by Costa Cruises, 'Ndrangheta also placed its drugs on ships owned by MSC and Norwegian Cruise Lines, which travel between Europe, North America and the Caribbean, according to details of the criminal investigation revealed in La Repubblica. Officers from the organised crime investigation group in Florence say that the drugs on the Concordia, which have not been found, were stowed aboard without the knowledge of senior officers or senior company officials, but almost certainly with the complicity of one or more crew members. The CONCORDIA was towed to Genoa in July last year to be scrapped in a complex, €100m operation, which is expected to last nearly two years. (Maritime Connector) **COMMENT:** It is well known that cruise vessels and their crew and passengers have been involved in drugs, either smuggling them or using them.

## Refugees/Immigrants

On 12 Mar 15, Turkish Coastguard units have fired on the Turkish flagged cargo ship (DOĞAN KARTAL) in the Dardanelles Strait before capturing 337 illegal migrants on board, including 85 children and 68 women. The cargo ship ignored the security forces' calls to stop off the Gallipoli peninsula. The Coastguard wanted to approach the ship, but the captain refused permission. The Canakkale Strait was closed to transit and Gallipoli-Lapseki ferry shuttles were also temporarily stopped during the operation. After halting the sea traffic, the Coast Guard fired on the engine room of the ship that was fleeing. After the rudder was locked, the ship finally stopped. Security forces boarded the ship at 6.30 p.m. and captured some 400 unregistered Syrian migrants. It was intended to take them to Gallipoli. It was found out that rioting migrants didn't let the captain stop the vessel. (Vessel Tracker)

## Reports of Suspicious Activity

On 7 Mar 15, weapons were sighted on board a blue and white skiff 23NM off the Yemeni coast, Red Sea. This incident occurred approximately 94NM northeast of a report of a suspicious approach involving a merchant vessel in the Gulf of Aden on 10 Mar 15. These two reports taken together increase the likelihood that at least one Pirate Action Group (PAG) is operative in the Gulf of Aden/Red Sea.

## Incidents Reported by MARISK during the Month but No Further Details Found: NTR

### ROBBERY/BULK (A)



30.03.2015: 0045 LT: Posn: 16:59N – 082:18E, **Kakinada Inner Anchorage, India, Bay of Bengal.**  
Four robbers in a fishing boat approached an anchored Belgium flagged dredger (BRABO). Two robbers boarded the ship. They were noticed by the 2nd Officer on routine rounds, who informed the bridge and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers escaped without stealing anything. Pilot Station informed. (IMB)

### ROBBERY/YACHT (A)



30.03.2015: night-time: Posn: **outside of the marina, Ilha de Itaparica, Brazil, South Atlantic.**  
A yacht was boarded during the night and robbed (the owners and their dog were on the boat sleeping and the boat was open, they noticed the theft the next morning). (Noonsite)

### ROBBERY/YACHT (A)



30.03.2015: day-time: Posn: **outside of the marina, Ilha de Itaparica, Brazil, South Atlantic.**  
A yacht was boarded during the day while the owners were at the marina. Luckily another boat noticed the thieves on board and chased them in their dinghy. The thieves were subsequently caught. (Noonsite)

**COMMENT:** The exact dates of these two incidents is not known but during the week ending 30 Mar 15. A couple from another yacht were attacked by 4 locals with machetes whilst on the beach to the left of the marina during the afternoon, and their bag was stolen.

### TERRORISM & KIDNAP/TANKER



29.03.2015: Posn: **Ibena Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria.**  
Five staff members from ExxonMobil were kidnapped by unknown gunmen 20 hours after the Presidential elections, from a Floating Storage and Offloading Vessel in, located within the oil-rich Niger Delta area of Nigeria. (ONI, www.ventures-africa.com)

**COMMENT:** This has all the hall-marks of a MEND style operation and is similar to the attack of the FPSO on 21 Mar 14 and the off-shore supply vessel on 19 Mar 15, see below.



29.03.2015: 0330 LT: Posn: 01:05N - 103:35E, **Around 5NM SW of Nipah Island, Indonesia, Malacca Straits.**

Ship's crew noticed three robbers on the poop deck. Alarm raised, crew mustered on the bridge and all water tight doors locked. A search was carried out and engine spares were discovered missing. VTIS informed. (IMB)

**COMMENT:** The category of this vessel has not been identified and is classed as a cargo vessel.

## PIRACY &amp; HIJACK/YACHT



27.03.2015: Posn: **between Belize and Roatan Island, Honduras, Caribbean.**

A sail boat chartered by a Canadian couple and skippered by a local Belizean was boarded by four men armed with guns and knives who demanded money and threatened the passengers and captain. The thieves did not believe that the amount of money they found was all there was and subsequently rammed the boat onto the coast at Escondido Bay, Honduras and fled. The thieves stole gasoline and water and damaged the boat's sails and engine. The passengers and captain were eventually found four days later after living on peanut butter, cheese and rainwater. (Noonsite)

## ROBBERY/BULK (B)



25.03.2015: 1930 LT: Posn: **Dolphin Buoy No.16, Bangkok, Thailand**

Four robbers armed with knives boarded a berthed Panama flagged bulk carrier (GLOBAL TRINITY). Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's properties. (IMB)

## ATTEMPTED ROBBERY/CARGO (A)



25.03.2015: 0230 LT: Posn: **Fishing Port Berth DNP 23, Abidjan, Ivory Coast.**

Four robbers boarded a berthed Liberia flagged refrigerated cargo ship (GREEN GLACIER). 2nd officer on routine rounds noticed the padlock to the central store room missing. As he opened the door to investigate four robbers pushed him and escaped. One robber jumped overboard while the other three left the vessel by the gangway. Local security watch observed the situation but did not take any action. Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was carried out. A number of cartons had been removed from the cargo holds and lay ready to lower into a wooden boat, however due to the alert 2/O no cargo was stolen. (IMB)

## ROBBERY/BULK (A)



25.02.2015: 0130 LT: Posn: 20:41.8N – 107:17.0E: **8.4NM SE of Hon Gai, Vietnam.**

Four robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier. OOW raised the alarm and all crew alerted. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. Agent and port authorities notified. (IMB)

## ATTEMPTED PIRACY/CARGO



25.03.2015: Posn: **in the INIM Field, off the coast of South Akwa Ibom, Nigeria,**

Unconfirmed Nigerian sources reported that three armed pirates had boarded an offshore supply vessel. All the crew members on board were mustered in the ship's citadel and the Nigerian owned crew/supply boat MV AUGUSTINA was deployed to the vessel's position to assist with repelling the attack. When the MV AUGUSTINA arrived, the pirates had disembarked. It is not clear what the pirates were able to steal from the vessel and further details of the incident have not been released. (PVI)

**COMMENT:** Initial reports indicated that it was the Vanuatu flagged offshore supply vessel (MV WILDEBEEEST), however this vessel was as at 1 Apr 15 off Cartagena, Venezuela in the Caribbean and is probably not the vessel attacked. Gray Page have reported that the vessel attacked was the Nigeria flagged offshore support vessel MABISEL WILDEBEEEST and no crew members were taken from the ship. No further information on this incident has been discovered and it is considered that this attack was unsuccessful and deemed to be an act of piracy.

## ROBBERY/YACHT (B)



24.03.2015: 0301 LT: Posn: **the Lagoon, St Martin (French), Caribbean.**

A dinghy which was stolen overnight was found with another stolen dinghy. Details about the theft and type of dinghy are unknown, (not know if locked or if police report was made) but was returned to the owner. (CS&SN)

**COMMENT:** This dinghy was recovered with the dinghy stolen a few minutes before, see incident below.

## ATTEMPTED PIRACY/CARGO



24.03.2015: Posn: 04:05 N – 007:30 E, **approx 20NM South of Port Harcourt., Nigeria,**

Unconfirmed reports emerged of an attempted piracy attack. It was not immediately clear what type of vessel was attacked or if the assault had been successful. (PVI, MTISC-Gog, ONI)

**COMMENT:** The Nigerian government did not release a comment on the incident. The category of this vessel has not been identified and is classed as a cargo vessel. No further information on this incident has been discovered.

## ROBBERY/YACHT (A)



24.03.2015: 0300 LT: Posn: **the Lagoon, St Martin (French), Caribbean.**

A dinghy which was locked by a cable to the aft pulpit was stolen when the lock was cut overnight. The owner went looking for the dinghy in the morning and found it. It was tied to a fence at a small apartment complex located in the lagoon, across from the French entrance. Prop was damaged. (CS&SN)

**COMMENT:** See also incident above.

## ROBBERY/YACHT (B)



23.03.2015: 2200 LT: Posn: **Marigot Gerry dock, St Martin (French), Caribbean.**

A dinghy with 20 HP outboard stolen at night from the Marigot ferry dock, not known if locked or reported to authorities. (CS&SN)

## ATTEMPTED PIRACY/CONTAINER



23.03.2015: 0630 LT: Posn: 01:10,10N – 103:28.40E, **approx 4NM NE off Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia, Malacca Straits.**

Four potential robbers were spotted attempting to board a Panama flagged container ship MSC ROSA M) underway. The Master informed the Singapore Port Operation Control Centre (POCC) about the incident. Subsequently, a search was conducted and it was determined that no perpetrators were on board the ship. No damage to the ship, nothing stolen and no injury to the crew. Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) were informed by Singapore POCC. Indonesian Authority was notified. (AFP, ONI)

## ROBBERY/BULK (A)



23.03.2015: 0430 LT: Posn: 20:43N – 107:11E, **Cailan Outer Anchorage, Vietnam.**

Robbers boarded an anchored Panama flagged wood chip carrier (PAX SILVA), broke into the forward store, stole ship's property and escaped unnoticed. (IMB)

## PIRACY & HIJACK/FISHING



23.03.2015: Posn: **near Ceel Huur, the Mudug region of Somalia, East Africa.**

An Iranian flagged fishing boat was reportedly hijacked while illegally fishing. Initial reports suggested that local maritime police had arrested the illegal fishermen and impounded their vessel, but a senior official in the Himan and Heeb administration has denied their forces were involved. (AFP, ONI)

**COMMENT:** The development of piracy off the HOA was as a direct result of the Somali authorities being unable to protect the fishing industry from foreign fishing boats and thus depriving the local community of their food and

employment. The local fishermen took action unilaterally and found that piracy of international cargo vessel was more profitable than holding rapacious fishing vessels operating off their coastline. Is history repeating itself?

#### ROBBERY/YACHT (A)



23.03.2015: 0100 LT: Posn: **Club Nautico, Cartagena, Colombia, Caribbean.**

The captain of an anchored sailing vessel (MUNEERA) woke to a faint noise and discovered a male on the aft boarding ladder leaning over the back of the tender, which was up on its davits, and another male leaning over it from a launcher. The captain shouted at the men who bolted in their launcher. The tender was secured to the yacht by a stainless steel cable with a heavy padlock and had a brand new outboard motor. (Noonsite)

**COMMENT:** This incident may be linked to the one below.

#### PIRACY/TUG & BARGE



22.03.2015: 2215 LT: Posn: 02:50.6N –104:30.7E, **Around 18NM East of Tioman Island, Malaysia, South China Sea.**

Around ten pirates armed with guns and knives boarded a tug towing a barge. They entered the bridge, apprehended the bridge team, then took them to the Chief Engineer's cabin where they robbed and held them hostage. The pirates took the Chief Engineer to the engine room and transferred part of the tug's bunkers into a small tanker. Before departing the pirates stole some equipment and damaged the tug's communication equipment. The entire operation lasted about five hours. (IMB)

#### ROBBERY/YACHT (A)



22.03.2015: Posn: **Club Nautico, Cartagena, Colombia, Caribbean.**

A kayak moored to an anchored yacht was stolen in broad day-light while the owner was below deck in the cabin. A launcher motored up to the vessel and untied the kayak and motored off. A search failed to locate the kayak. (Noonsite)

#### TERRORISM & KIDNAP/TANKER



21.03.2015: 2230 LT: Posn: 04:02.8N – 007:31.41E, **Around 36NM SE of Bonny Islands, Nigeria.**

Two speedboats approached an anchored Marshall Islands flagged FPSO (YOHO) and six pirates armed with guns boarded from one of the speedboats. They entered the accommodation area but were deterred by the sounding of the alarm and a security vessel named MISTER JACK approaching the FPSO. The pirates managed to kidnap and escape with three crew sailing north towards the Nigerian coast. (IMB, Gray Page)

**COMMENT:** This has all the hall-marks of a MEND style operation, see also the attack on the off-shore supply vessel on 19 Mar 15 below.

#### ROBBERY/TUG (A)



21.03.2015: 0900 LT: Posn: 22:06N – 091:44E, **Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh.**

Armed robbers boarded an anchored Curaçao (Kingdom of the Netherlands) flagged tug (SOUTHWIND) and stole ship's stores and properties. Alarm raised and crew mustered. As the crew approached the robbers threw stones at the crew resulting in the Master being injured. The robbers escaped with the stolen items in their boat. The Master heaved up the anchor and sailed further away from the anchorage area. (IMB)

#### PIRACY/CONTAINER



21.03.2015: 0545 LT: Posn: 01:6N – 103:34E, **about 9NM NE of Pulau Karimum Besar, Indonesia, Singapore Straits (SOMS).**

The Luxembourg flagged containership (MSC VANCOUVER) was boarded by seven men armed with knives and tools while underway. The robbers stole the second engineer's gold chain and watch before abandoning the vessel. The duty wiper on routine rounds found the 2/E tied up and released him. The Masters reported the incidents to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) who notified the Singapore Police Coast Guard, Republic of Singapore Navy and Indonesian authorities (ReCAAP)

## ROBBERY/BULK (A)



21.03.2015: 0230 LT: Posn: 03:56N – 098:45E, **Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia.**  
Five robbers armed with a gun and knives boarded an anchored Greek flagged bulk carrier (UNION EXPLORER). They took hostage the duty AB and tied him up. The robbers stole ships stores, incl. 400litres of paint, from the paint locker and escaped. The AB managed to untie himself and informed bridge who raised the alarm. Crew mustered and a search was carried out. (IMB)

### ATTEMPTED PIRACY/BULK



21.03.2015: 0100 LT: Posn: 01:13.6N – 103:58.3E, **2.8NM NW of Batam Island, Indonesia, Singapore Straits.**  
Four robbers boarded a bulk carrier underway. Duty Engineer spotted the robbers and informed the bridge. Alarm raised, crew mustered and Master informed the VTIS. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed. Singapore Coast Guard boarded the vessel for investigation. All crew safe. (IMB)

### ATTEMPTED PIRACY/BULK



21.03.2015: 0100 LT: Posn: 01:13.64N – 103:58.3E, **approx 3.8NM off Tanjung Sengkuang, Batam, Singapore Straits.**  
Four men boarded the Marshall Islands flagged bulk carrier (MV CAPETAN GIORIS) while underway. Nothing was missing onboard and the crew was safe. The Masters reported the incidents to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) who notified the Singapore Police Coast Guard, Republic of Singapore Navy and Indonesian authorities (ReCAAP)

### ATTEMPTED PIRACY/BULK



20.03.2015: 1155 LT: Posn: 06:00N – 119:13E, **around 26NM WNW of Pearl Bank, Philippines.**  
Persons in four speed boats approached a bulk carrier underway. Master raised the alarm, called Malaysian navy via VHF channel, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres, crew mustered and activated anti-piracy preventive measures. The boats chased the ship for around 20 minutes and then moved away. (IMB)

### ATTEMPTED PIRACY/TANKER



20.03.2015: Posn: **Bab al Mendab, Red Sea.**  
Iranian naval forces rescued an Iranian oil tanker from a pirate attack. Pirates in two boats launched an attack on an Iranian oil tanker and forced the vessel to stop. An Iranian naval group tasked with protecting the trade vessels rushed to the zone and chased away the pirates, who returned three hours later, this time on board six speedboats armed with semi-heavy weapons. The attackers fled ultimately after several hours of a determined clash with the Iranian servicemen. (SWATSySys, Tasnim) (IMB)

### ATTEMPTED PIRACY/BULK



19.03.2015: 0248 LT: Posn: 01:16.7N – 104:16.6E, **5.5NM North of Batam Island, Indonesia, Singapore Straits.**  
Three robbers boarded a Singapore flagged bulk carrier (ORE PATANAL) underway. Duty crew noticed the robbers and informed the bridge. Alarm raised and all crew mustered at the bridge. Master informed VTIS who then dispatched a Police Coast Guard (PCG) patrol boat to investigate. The robbers escaped when the patrol boat approached the vessel. All crew safe. The Master requested PCG's assistance to conduct a search on the ship. PCG conducted a search following which it was determined that no robbers were on board. No damage to the ship, nothing stolen and no injury to the crew. (IMB, IMO)

### TERRORISM & KIDNAP/CARGO



19.03.2015: 0030 LT: Posn: 04:14.12N – 008:02.17E, **around 19NM South of Kwa Ibo, Nigeria.**  
Six pirates armed with rifles boarded a Belize flagged supply vessel (MARIDIVE 603) operating in the



UBIT Exxon MBN field. Master raised the alarm, sent SSAS alert and crew mustered. Two Egyptian crew members, the captain and navigator, were kidnapped. The Nigerian Navy dispatched a patrol boat to the location 15 minutes after the call. Remaining crew reported safe. (IMB, MTISC-GoG, PVI)

**COMMENT:** This has all the hall-marks of a MEND-type operation.

**ATTEMPTED PIRACY/CARGO**



18.03.2015: 1418 UTC: Posn: 26:25N – 056:36E, **Straits of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman.**  
Four skiffs approached a merchant vessel underway to within 70metres. The merchant vessel increased speed and the skiffs moved away. No weapons or ladders were sighted. (PVI)

**COMMENT:** The category of this vessel has not been identified and is classed as a cargo vessel.

**ROBBERY/PRODUCT TANKER (A)**



16.03.2015: 1900 LT: Posn: 17:38.3N – 083:25.2E, **Visakhapatnam anchorage, India, Bay of Bengal.**  
Robbers boarded an anchored Marshall Islands flagged product tanker (FRONT DEE), stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. The theft was detected the next morning. (IMB)

**ROBBERY/YACHT (B)**



16.03.2015: 0245 LT: Posn: **Rodney Bay, Pigeon Island, St. Lucia, Caribbean.**  
A dinghy w/outboard (in the water) was locked to a yacht with a 6mm cable, owner investigated noise and interrupted the thief who had just finished cutting the cable with a hacksaw, the thief fled in his own dinghy. Reported to marina and coast guard. (CS&SN)

**ROBBERY/CARGO (A)**



14.03.2015: 0530 LT: Posn: 04:45S – 011:48E, **Point Noire Outer Anchorage, Congo.**  
Unnoticed robbers boarded an anchored Panama flagged barge vessel (GEOCEAN PROTIS). They broke open store room, stole ship properties and escaped. The incident was detected the next morning. (IMB)

**ROBBERY/PRODUCT TANKER (B)**



12.03.2015: 2254 LT: Posn: **Terminal 5, Apapa Port, Lagos, Nigeria.**  
Duty pump man onboard a berthed Marshall Islands product tanker (SEA FORCE), noticed two robbers hiding near the hatch cover of No.1 Cargo oil tank. He immediately informed the duty officer and alerted all crew. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers jumped overboard, disconnected their own hoses and escaped. Upon inspection, it was noticed that around five cubic meters of base oil was stolen. Agents and Port Security Officer informed. (IMB)

**ROBBERY/TUG (A)**



12.03.2015: 2254 LT: Posn: 22:06 N – 091:44 E, **Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh.**  
Armed robbers boarded an anchored tug and stole ship's stores and properties. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. As the crew approached the robbers, they threw stones at the crew resulting in the Ship's Master being injured. The robbers escaped with the stolen items in their boat. The Ship's Master sailed further away from the anchorage area. (IMB)

**ROBBERY/BULK (A)**



11.03.2015: 0100 UTC: Posn: 10:15N – 107:02E: **Vung Tau Anchorage, Vietnam.**  
Duty AB onboard an anchored Greek flagged bulk carrier (MAHITIS) noticed robbers on deck. He immediately informed the duty officer. Alarm raised, crew alerted. The robbers stole ship's stores and escaped. No injury to crew. (IMB)

**ATTEMPTED PIRACY/CARGO**



10.03.2015: 1348 UTC: Posn: 04:04N – 001:22W, **Around 150NM SE of Accra, Ghana, GoG.**  
A Merchant vessel reported a suspicious approach by a grey or white hulled 50metre sized vessel, possibly a fishing vessel at a speed of 12.5knots. (MTISC-GoG)

**COMMENT:** The category of this vessel has not been identified and is classed as a cargo vessel.

**ATTEMPTED PIRACY/CARGO**



10.03.2015: 1508 UTC: Posn: 13:23.9N – 050:02E, **approx 86NM SSE of Al Mukalla, Yemen, Gulf of Aden.**  
Two skiffs, containing a total of 7-8 people, approached a merchant vessel along the IRTC in the Gulf of Aden. Ladders were sighted on board one of the skiffs. The embarked armed security team fired two warning shots towards the skiffs prompting them to stop their suspected approach. The approach lasted for a total of 20 minutes. (PVI, Hellenic Shipping News, OCEANUSLive)

**COMMENT:** The category of this vessel has not been identified and is classed as a cargo vessel.

**PIRACY & HIJACK/PRODUCT TANKER**



09.03.2015: 2108 UTC: Posn: 01:43N – 105:50E, **Around 37NM South of Pulau Repong, Indonesia, South China Sea.**  
Seven pirates, in a speed boat, wearing masks and armed with guns and long knives boarded and hijacked a Malaysia flagged product tanker (SINGA BERLIAN) underway. They took hostage the crew members, damaged all the communication and navigational equipment, transferred the Marine Fuel Oil cargo into another vessel and escaped. One crew suffered minor injury during the incident. The Owners informed the MMEA who dispatched their vessel for investigations. (IMB)

**COMMENT:** It's not clear in the report whether the SINGA BERLIAN was sailed to a rendezvous or whether the second tanker came alongside her.

**ATTEMPTED PIRACY/BULK**



09.03.2015: Posn: **Gulf of Oman.**  
According to the Iranian Navy's public relations, a cargo vessel (PANAMA-GADE) called on the Iranian Naval forces for help when pirates on board a number of motorboats equipped with light weapons chased it for several hours. The Iranian Navy immediately dispatched a special operation team to the area on a frigate and a Ra'd (Thunder) vessel. The pirates fled the zone thereafter, and the Iranian forces escorted the Filipino ship as far as Pakistan's water border. (MSR)

**COMMENT:** This incident is interesting as it is the first time the Iranians have actually identified a foreign flagged vessel they have rescued. They variously describe this vessel as a Filipino vessel and/or Philippines flagged vessel. No vessel of this name has been discovered in the Philippines register of shipping or any other register for that matter. However, a Panama flagged bulk carrier (PANAMA JADE) has been identified, and the details may have been lost in the translation from Iranian to English. It has been decided to identify this vessel accordingly.

**ATTEMPTED PIRACY/BULK**



07.03.2015: 0930 LT: Posn: 06:13.11N – 119:50.18E, **Around 18NM NNW of Laparan Island, Philippines.**  
A suspected mother vessel disguised as fishing vessel deployed six high speed skiffs which chased a Malta flagged bulk carrier (BRAHMS) underway. The persons onboard the skiffs wearing camouflage clothes circled around and attempted to board the ship. Master raised alarm, water spray system activated, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres, broadcast security messages continuously via VHF channel 16 and contacted Philippines navy for assistance. Upon hearing the Philippines navy's reply on the VHF channel, the skiffs aborted the attempted attack and moved away. (IMB)

**ROBBERY/YACHTS (A)**



07.03.2015: 1000 LT: Posn: **in the vicinity of Key West, Morrocoy National Park, Venezuela, Caribbean.**  
Three families aboard three private (weekend motor) boats were boarded by armed gunmen and taken to a lonely place in the Park. They were locked in their cabins and suffered 7 hours of anguish while the



robbers ransacked their boats and stole everything. After stripping them of their belongings, the criminals fled aboard one of the boats at approx.1600hrs. (Noonsite)

**ROBBERY/YACHT (A)**



06.03.2015: Overnight: Posn: **Canouan, Charlestown Bay (Tamarind Hotel), St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Caribbean.**

An anchored boat which was locked, but with a window left open was boarded by an intruder who entered through the open window. The intruder rummaged through a money clip and purse and took \$400 cash while crew slept unaware on a windy, noisy night. Reported to the police. (Noonsite)

**ATTEMPTED ROBBERY/CARGO (B)**



03.03.2015: 0425 LT: Posn: **Apapa Berth No.9, Lagos, Nigeria.**

Eight robbers boarded a berthed Bahamas registered reefer ship (GREEN KLIPPER). Ship's security watch spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped empty handed. (IMB)

**ATTEMPTED ROBBERY/CARGO (A)**



03.03.2015: Posn: 01:08N – 103:55E, **vicinity of Cape Uncang, Batam Island, Indonesia, Singapore Straits.**

Six pirates attempted to board an anchored cargo ship. The robbers were spotted by an Indonesian Navy patrol boat and quickly apprehended. They were carrying two long knives and tools. ([www.tnial.mil.id](http://www.tnial.mil.id); [www.batampos.co.id](http://www.batampos.co.id), ONI)

**ROBBERY/YACHT (B)**



03.03.2015: Posn: **Lawson Rock, Honduras, Caribbean.**

An unlocked Robertson and Caine catamaran was stolen the Lawson Rock dock by an unknown number of persons. The incident was reported to the authorities. (CS&SN)

**COMMENT:** The catamaran was found 1 week later abandoned/beached at Mahahual. It is not known if there was any damage to the yacht, or if anything had been stolen from the yacht.

**ATTEMPTED PIRACY/CARGO**



01.03.2015: 0930 UTC: Posn: 12:24.7N – 047:51.9E, **around 103NM NW of Bosaso, Somalia, Gulf of Aden.**

A Merchant Vessel was approached by two skiffs on port bow from 0.6nm. One skiff w/ 5 POB and 2nd w/ 3 POB, all wearing black raincoat. MV turned on fire hose, sounded a long blast on ship's horn and crew mustered in citadel. At 900m from port beam AST fired warning shot. Skiffs increased speed to 13Kts and approaching on port beam, CPA 0.2nm. MV increased speed and altered course. MV sounded a second long blast on ship's horn, AST fired second warning shot. Skiffs followed MV at 12.5Kts for about 30mins then reduced speed and stopped in the water. No ladders and no weapons seen. Vessel is Safe. (OCEANUSLive, UKMTO)

**COMMENT:** The category of this vessel has not been identified and is classed as a cargo vessel.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC NON-STATE ACTIVIST GROUPS: NTR**