



**ICC INTERNATIONAL MARITIME BUREAU**

**PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY  
AGAINST SHIPS**

**REPORT FOR THE PERIOD**

**1 January – 31 March 2021**

**WARNING**

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April 2021

## INTRODUCION

The ICC International Maritime Bureau (IMB) is a specialised division of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The IMB is a non-profit making organisation, established in 1981 to act as a focal point in the fight against all types of maritime crime and malpractice. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) in its resolution A 504 (XII) (5) and (9) adopted on 20 November 1981, has *inter alia*, urged governments, interest groups and organizations to co-operate and exchange information with each other and the IMB, with a view of maintaining and developing a coordinated action in combating maritime fraud.

Outrage in the shipping industry at the alarming growth in piracy, prompted the creation of the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (IMB PRC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in October 1992.

### **The key advantages and services of the PRC are:**

- A 24/7 manned operations centre.
- A single point of reporting for all ships affected by piracy or armed robbery, as they trade through many different jurisdictions.
- Notifying the appropriate response agency of the reported incident, and liaising with these agencies until the crew and ship are safe.
- Warning ships in the vicinity of a threat by broadcasting sitreps of incidents via Inmarsat-C SafetyNET service.
- Alerting CSOs and ship managers of incidents via email.
- Keeping the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) updated of reported incidents.
- Assisting local law enforcement in apprehending and bringing the criminals to justice.
- Publish comprehensive quarterly and annual reports detailing incidents reported to the PRC.

The IMB PRC provides all its services ***free of charge*** to all ships irrespective of crew nationality, ownership, or flag.

This report is an analysis of 38 global maritime piracy and armed robbery incidents reported to the IMB PRC from 1 January to 31 March 2021. Incidents are occasionally reported late, resulting in changes to the tables and figures in subsequent reports.

Due to the continued debate concerning the Malacca Straits, these narrated incidents are shown separately. Similarly, because of the vast area affected by Somali pirates, these incidents are grouped together with the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea in the narrations section.

For further details on the anti-piracy service or to report an incident contact the 24-hour manned IMB PRC at:

**ICC International Maritime Bureau**  
**PO Box 12559, 50782 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**  
**Tel ++ 60 3 2078 5763 Fax ++ 60 3 2078 5769**

**E-mail: [piracy@icc-ccs.org](mailto:piracy@icc-ccs.org) / [imbkl@icc-ccs.org](mailto:imbkl@icc-ccs.org)**

**WhatsApp / Telegram: +60 11 2659 3057**

**24 Hours Anti-Piracy HELPLINE Tel: ++ 60 3 2031 0014**

## **DEFINITIONS OF PIRACY & ARMED ROBBERY**

The IMB PRC follows the definitions of Piracy as defined in Article 101 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and Armed Robbery as defined by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in its 26<sup>th</sup> Assembly session as Resolution A.1025 (26) “Code of Practice for the Investigation of Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships”.

### **Article 101 of UNCLOS defines Piracy as:**

*Definition of Piracy consists of any of the following acts:*

*a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed-*

*(i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;*

*(ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;*

*(b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;*

*(c) any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in subparagraph (a) or (b).*

### **IMO Resolution A.1025 (26) “Code of Practice for the Investigation of Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships” defines Armed Robbery as:**

*Armed robbery against ships means any of the following acts:*

*.1 any illegal act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of piracy, committed for private ends and directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such a ship, within a State’s internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea;*

*.2 any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described above*

Under the definitions of Piracy or Armed Robbery, the IMB PRC reports incidents as follows:

1. **Boarded:** An illegal act of perpetrators successfully gaining access onto the ship.
2. **Hijacked:** An illegal act of perpetrators successfully gaining access onto the ship and taking over the control of the ship from the Master and crew.
3. **Fired Upon:** An illegal act of perpetrators discharging weapons towards the ship while attempting to gain access onto the ship.
4. **Attempted:** An illegal act of perpetrators attempting to approach a ship with possible intention to board but remain unsuccessful due to the timely actions of the crew.

The consequences to the crew, ship, or cargo, as a result of the above illegal acts:

1. **Crew:** Kidnap, hostage, death, threat, assault, injury, missing.
2. **Ship:** Damage, especially due to the discharge of the weapons or when perpetrators willfully damage ship equipment and property.
3. **Cargo:** Theft or damage to cargo.

## **FUNDING**

The Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC), funded purely on donations, wishes to thank the following organisations that have financially contributed towards the Centre's 24-hour manned service:

- ANIA
- Assuranceforeningen Skuld
- Britannia Steam Ship Insurance Association Limited
- Gard AS
- Japan P&I
- Justships Ltd
- Merchant Shipping Cyprus
- Steamship Insurance Management Services Limited
- The North of England P&I Association Ltd
- The Standard Club Ltd
- Tsakos Shipping and Trading SA

The PRC is additionally non-financially supported by:

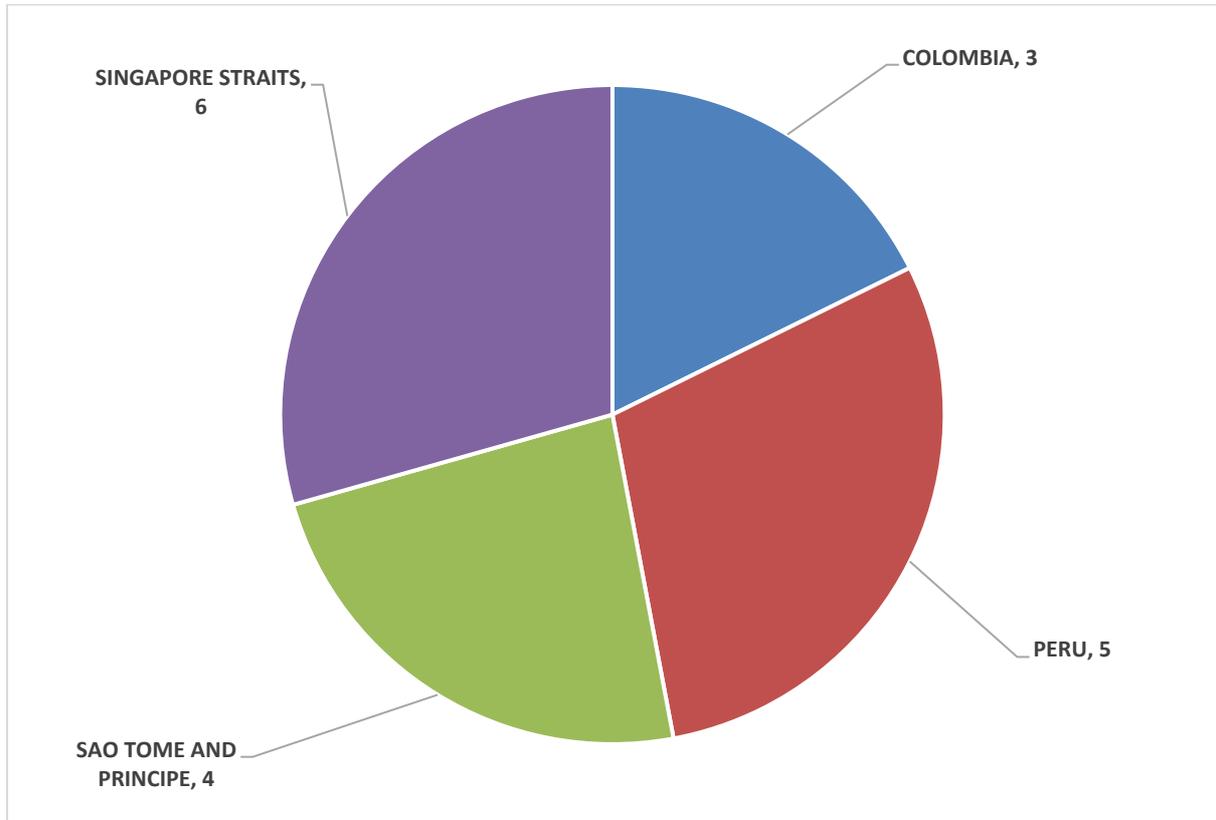
- ExactEarth ([www.exactearth.com](http://www.exactearth.com))
- Vesseltracker ([www.vesseltracker.com](http://www.vesseltracker.com))

**TABLE 1: Locations of ACTUAL and ATTEMPTED attacks, January - March 2017 – 2021**

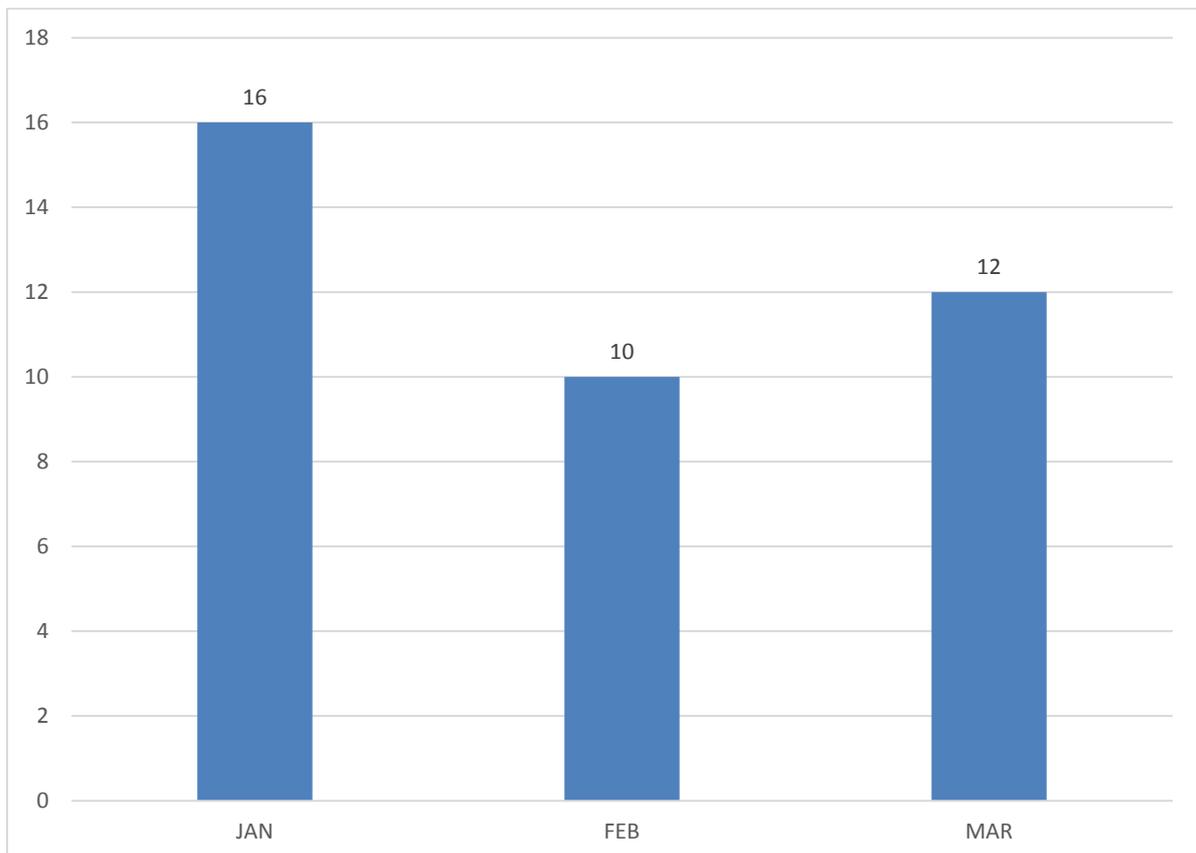
<b>Locations</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>S E ASIA</b> Indonesia	7	9	3	5	2
Malaysia	1	1		1	
Philippines	9	2	1	2	1
Singapore Straits	1			5	6
<b>EAST ASIA</b> China	1	2	3		
Vietnam		2			1
<b>INDIAN SUB</b> Bangladesh	4	4		1	
<b>CONTINENT</b> India	1	2	1	5	
<b>AMERICAS</b> Brazil		1	1	1	1
Colombia	2		1	1	3
Dominican Republic			1		
Ecuador	1	1			1
Haiti		3		1	1
Peru	1	2	1	3	5
Venezuela	2	5	4		
<b>AFRICA</b> Angola				3	2
Benin		5	1	3	1
Cameroon		1	1		1
Dem. Rep. of Congo					1
Gabon				1	2
Ghana		1	3		2
Guinea		1			
Gulf of Aden*		1			1
Ivory Coast			1	1	
Liberia			1		
Mozambique	1			1	
Nigeria	7	22	14	11	2
Sao Tome and Principe				1	4
Sierra Leone	2				
Somalia*	2	1			
The Congo	1				1
Togo			1	1	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total at year end</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>195</b>	

All incidents with \* above are attributed to Somali pirates.

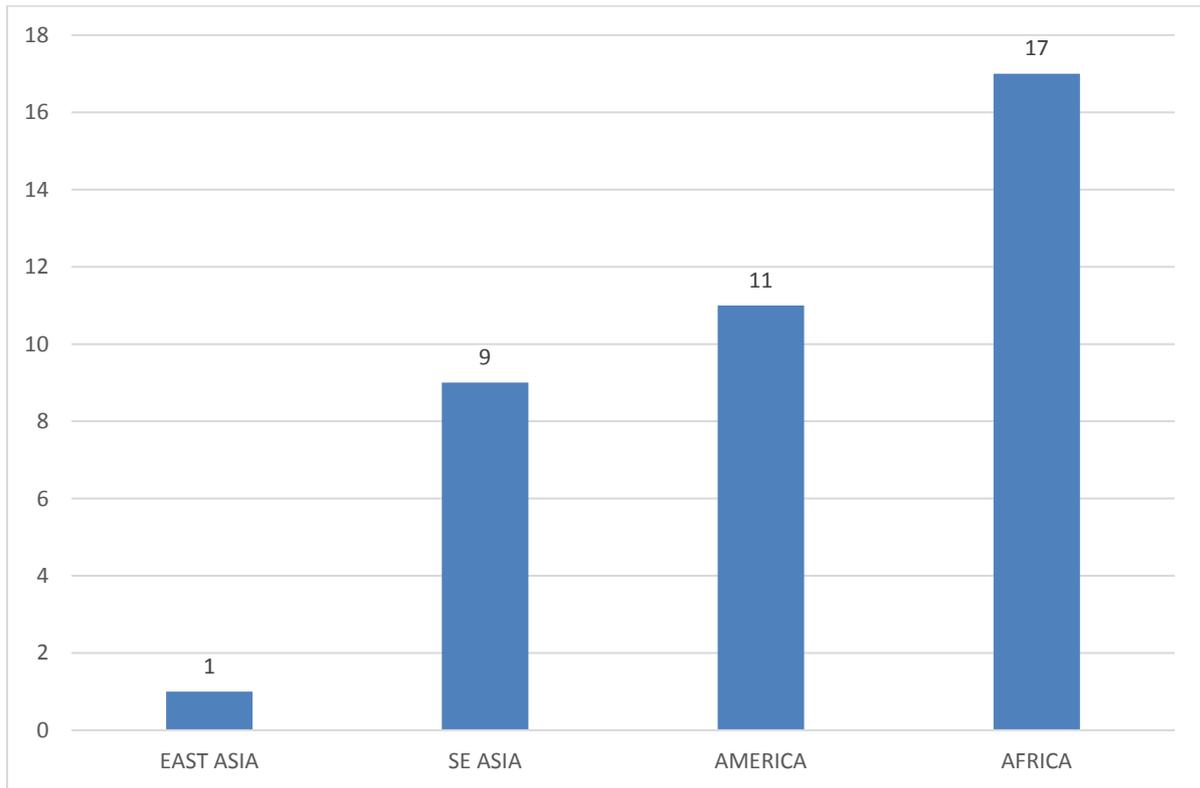
**CHART A: The following four locations recorded 47% attacks from a total of 38 incidents reported for the period.**



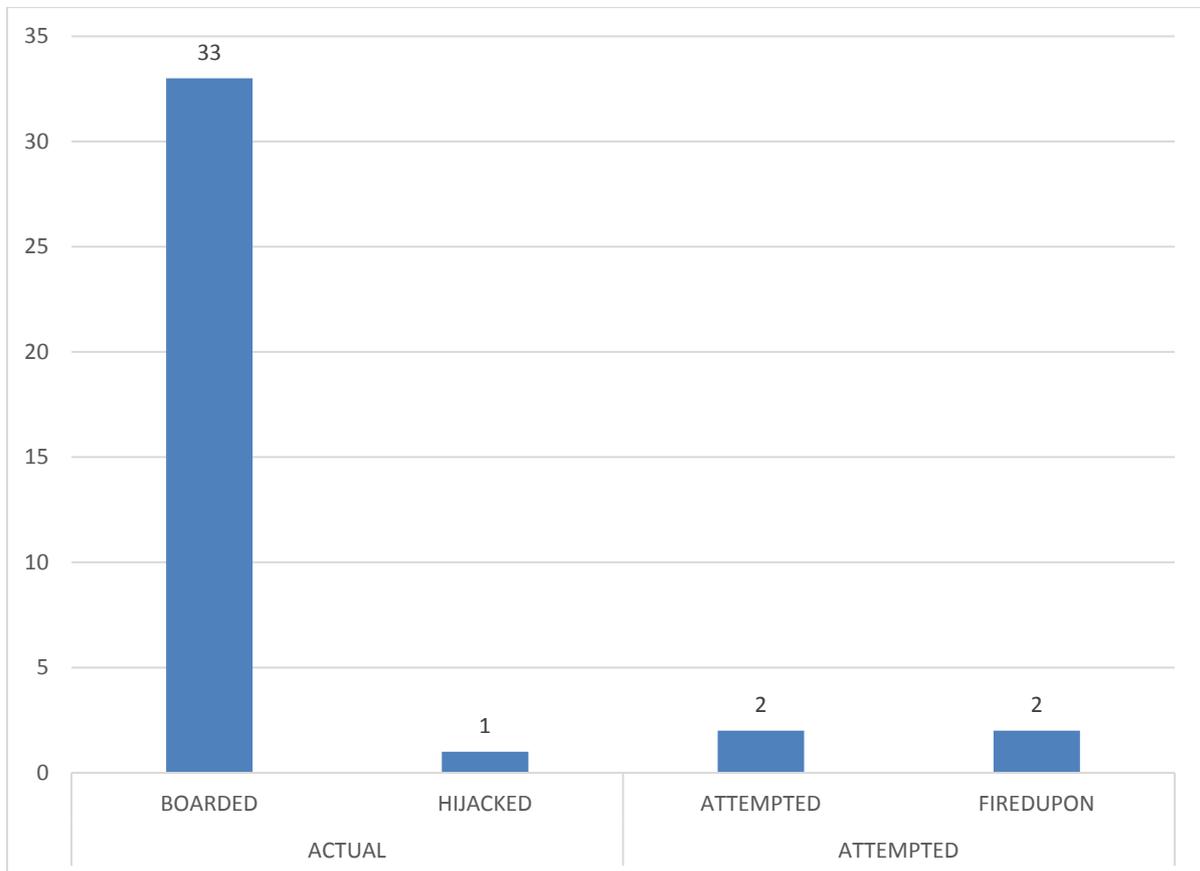
**CHART B: Monthly comparison of incidents during January – March 2021**



**CHART C: Total incidents as per regions of the world January – March 2021**



**CHART D: 89.5% of incidents involved vessels being boarded. January – March 2021**



**TABLE 2: ACTUAL and ATTEMPTED attacks by location, January – March 2021**

Location	Actual attacks		Attempted attacks	
	Boarded	Hijacked	Attempted	Fired Upon
<b>SE ASIA</b> Indonesia	2			
Philippines	1			
Singapore Straits	6			
<b>EAST ASIA</b> Vietnam	1			
<b>AMERICAS</b> Brazil	1			
Colombia	3			
Ecuador	1			
Haiti	1			
Peru	5			
<b>AFRICA</b> Angola	2			
Benin	1			
Cameroon	1			
Dem. Rep. of Congo	1			
Gabon		1	1	
Ghana	2			
Gulf of Aden			1	
Nigeria	1			1
Sao Tome and Principe	3			1
The Congo	1			
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>			

**TABLE 3: Ports / anchorages, with three or more reported incidents, January – March 2021**

Country	Location	01.01.2021 to 31.03.2021
Peru	Callao	5

**TABLE 4: Status of ships during ACTUAL attacks, January – March 2021**

Location	Berthed	Anchored	Steaming
<b>SE ASIA</b> Indonesia		2	
Philippines	1		
Singapore Straits			6
<b>EAST ASIA</b> Vietnam		1	
<b>AMERICAS</b> Brazil	1		
Colombia		1	2
Ecuador			1
Haiti		1	
Peru		5	
<b>AFRICA</b> Angola		2	
Benin			1
Cameroon		1	
Dem. Rep. of Congo		1	
Gabon			1
Ghana		1	1
Nigeria			1
Sao Tome and Principe			3

The Congo		1	
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>	

**TABLE 5: Status of ships during ATTEMPTED attacks, January – March 2021**

Location	Berthed	Anchored	Steaming
<b>AFRICA</b> Gabon	-	-	1
Gulf of Aden	-	-	1
Nigeria	-	-	1
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>

**TABLE 6: Types of arms used during attacks, January - March 2017 – 2021**

Types of Arms	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Guns	14	27	13	13	11
Knives	10	9	5	8	11
Not stated	18	30	18	24	14
Other weapons	1		2	2	2
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total at year end</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>195</b>	

**TABLE 7: Type of incident, January - March 2017 – 2021**

Type of Attack	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Attempted	4	12	4	6	2
Boarded	33	39	27	37	33
Fired upon	4	11	7	4	2
Hijack	2	4			1
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total at year end</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>195</b>	

**TABLE 8: Types of violence to crew, January – March 2017 – 2021**

Types of Violence	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Hostage	31	100	1	2	2
Kidnap	27	14	21	22	40
Threatened	3	3	1		2
Injured		2		2	
Killed	2				1
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total at year end</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>191</b>	

**TABLE 9: Type of violence to crew by location, January – March 2021**

Location	Hostage	Kidnap	Threatened	Killed
<b>SE ASIA</b> Indonesia			1	
<b>AMERICAS</b> Ecuador	1			
Haiti			1	
Peru	1			

<b>AFRICA</b>	Benin		15		
	Gabon		10		
	Sao Tome and Principe		15		1
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>45</b>		

**TABLE 10: Types of arms used by geographical location, January – March 2021**

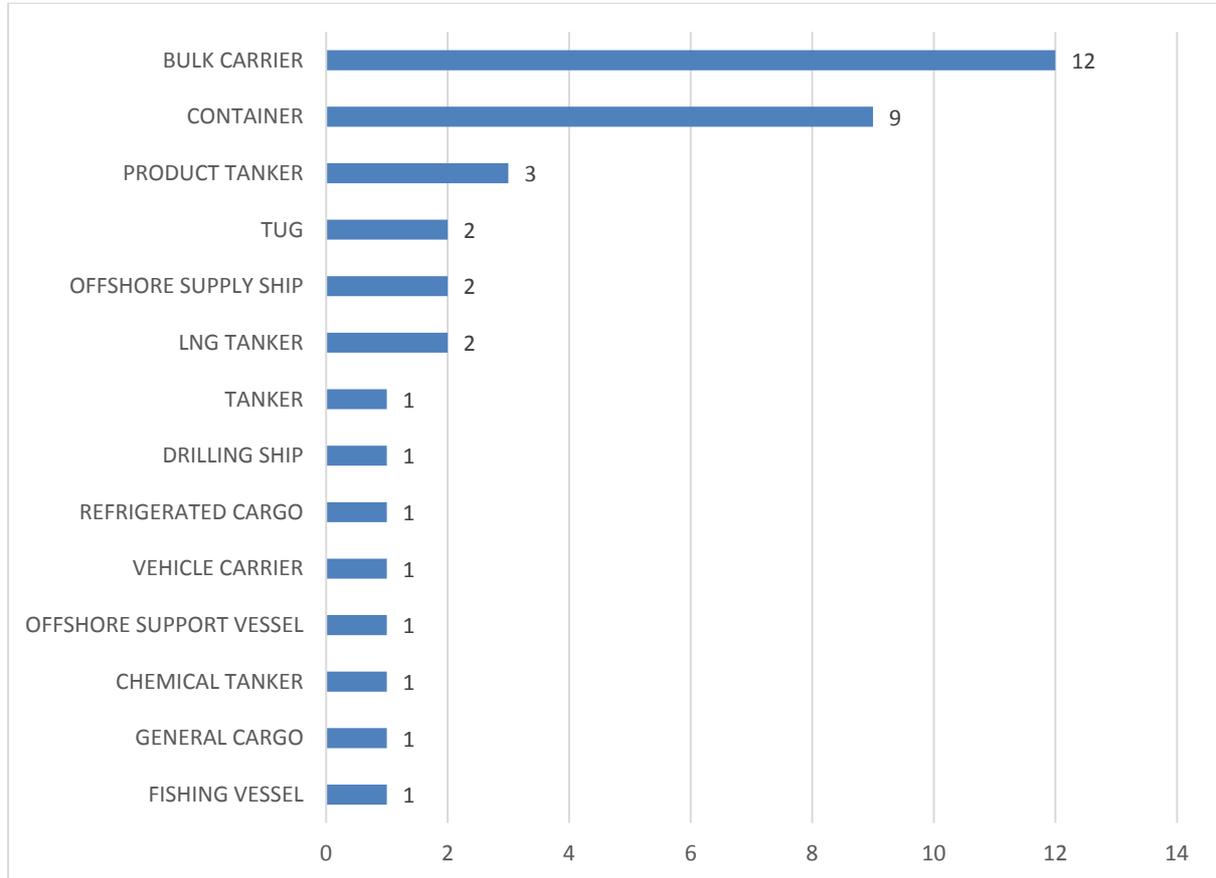
<b>Locations</b>	<b>Guns</b>	<b>Knives</b>	<b>Other Weapons</b>	<b>Not Stated</b>
<b>S E ASIA</b>				
	Indonesia		2	
	Philippines			1
	Singapore Straits		4	2
<b>EAST ASIA</b>	Vietnam			1
<b>AMERICAS</b>	Brazil		1	
	Colombia			3
	Ecuador		1	
	Haiti	1		
	Peru		3	2
<b>AFRICA</b>	Angola			2
	Benin	1		
	Cameroon			1
	Dem. Rep. of Congo			1
	Gabon	1		1
	Ghana	1		1
	Gulf of Aden	1		
	Nigeria	2		
	Sao Tome and Principe	4		
	The Congo		1	
<b>Sub total</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>		

**TABLE 11: Types of vessels attacked, January – March 2017 – 2021**

<b>Type</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Bulk Carrier	9	21	6	7	12
Container	3	5	5	8	9
Dhow	1				
Drilling Ship					1
General Cargo	4	3	2		1
Landing Craft			1		
Offshore Support Vessel	1		1	1	1
Refrigerated Cargo Ship		3		1	1
Supply Ship	3		1	4	2
Tanker Asphalt / Bitumen	1	2		1	
Tanker Bunkering	1				
Tanker Chemical / Product	12	20	11	13	4
Tanker Crude Oil	1	7	9	5	1
Tanker LNG	1				2
Tanker LPG	3		1	2	

Trawler / Fishing Vessel	1	3		1	1
Tug / Offshore Tug	2	2		4	2
Vehicle Carrier			1		1
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total at year end</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>195</b>	

**CHART E: Type of vessels attacked January – March 2021**

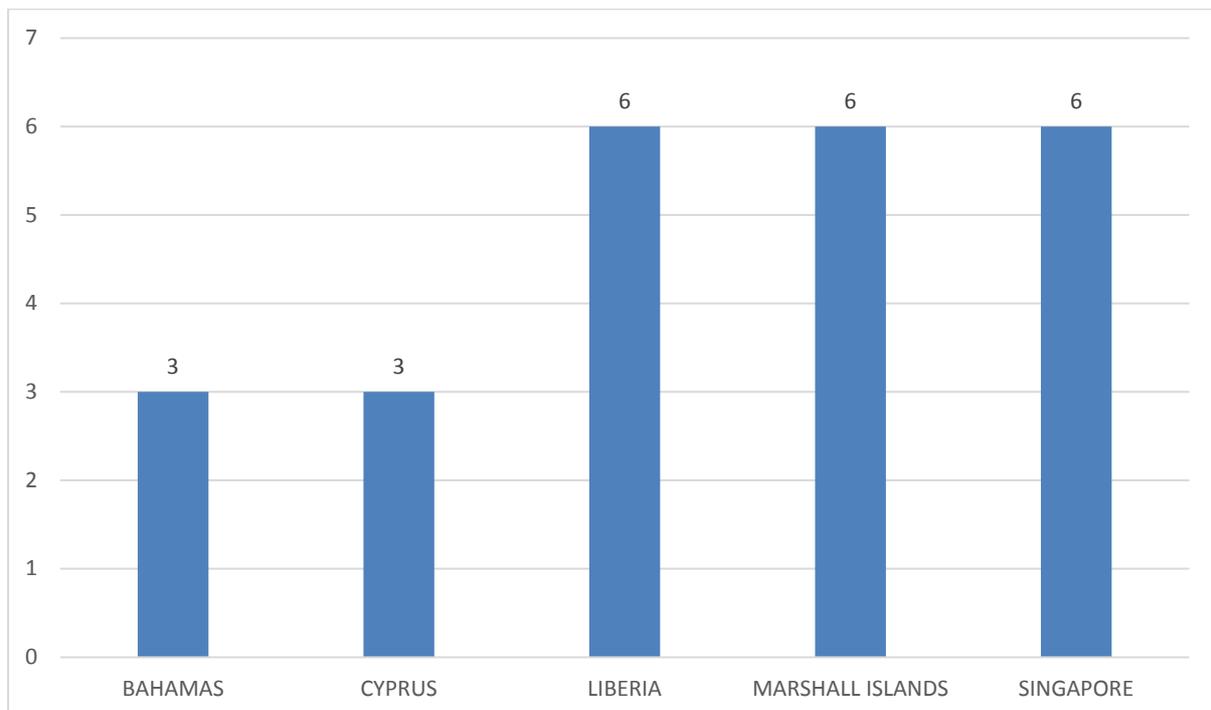


**TABLE 12: Nationalities of ships attacked, January - March 2017 – 2021**

Flag State	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Antigua and Barbuda	1	1	1		
Bahamas	1	3			3
Barbados		1	1		1
Bermuda					1
Chile		1			
China		2			1
Comoros				1	
Cook Islands		1			
Cyprus		2	1		3
Denmark				1	1
France			1		1
Germany					1
Ghana		1			
Gibraltar				1	
Greece			1	2	

Hong Kong (SAR)	3	4	2		1
India				2	
Indonesia	1			2	
Isle of Man			1	1	
Jamaica					1
Liberia	4	11	8	7	6
Luxembourg		1			2
Malaysia	1			1	1
Malta	5	3	4	2	1
Marshall Islands	7	14	4	10	6
Nigeria		1	1		
Norway	3	1			
Palau				1	
Panama	6	11	5	8	1
Philippines	2	1		1	
Portugal			1	1	
Saudi Arabia				1	
Singapore	3	7	7	5	6
Spain	1				1
Sri Lanka	1				
Vietnam	3				
Not Stated	1				
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Total at year end</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>195</b>	

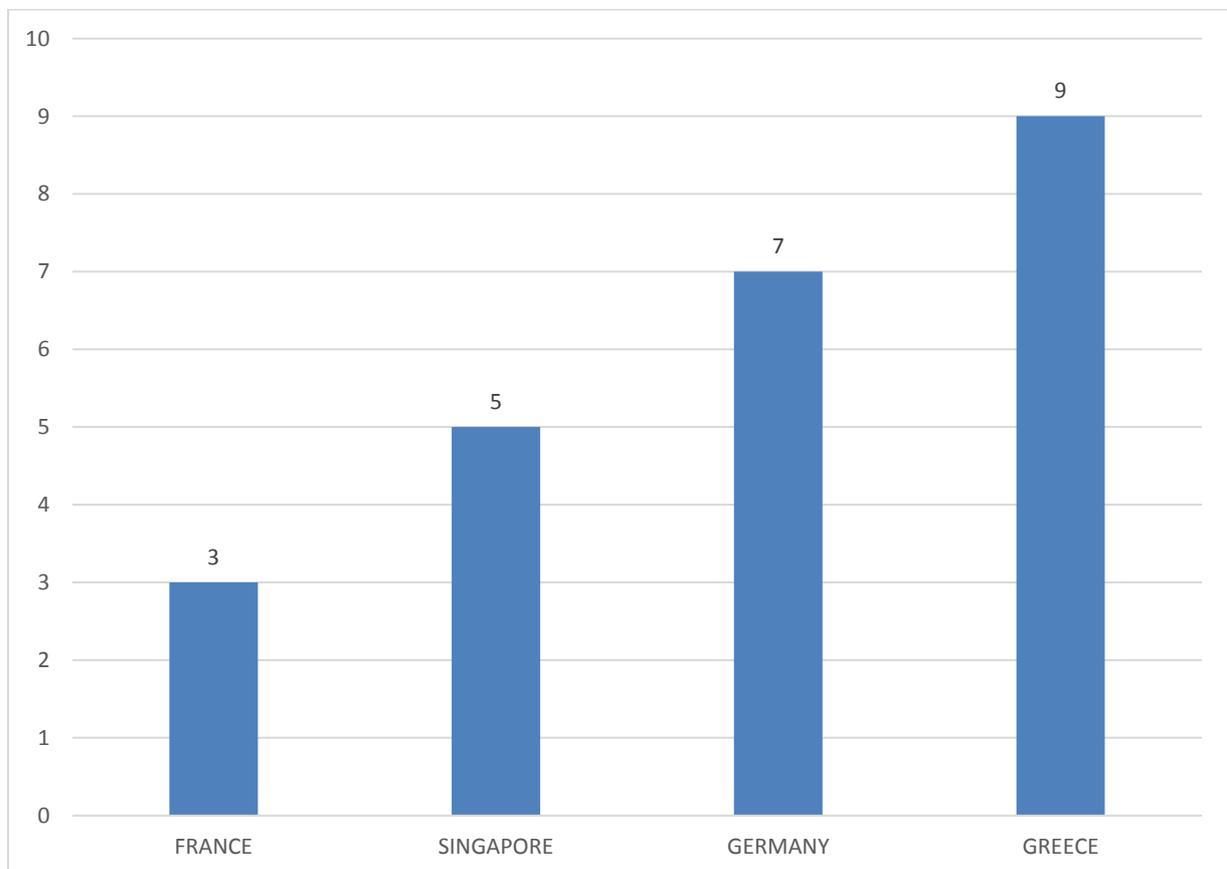
**CHART F: Flag States whose ships have been attacked three or more times from January – March 2021**



**TABLE 13: Countries where victim ships controlled / managed, January – March 2021**

Country	No of Ships
China	1
Cyprus	1
Denmark	2
France	3
Germany	7
Greece	9
Hong Kong	1
India	1
Indonesia	1
Malaysia	1
Netherlands	1
Poland	1
Portugal	1
Singapore	5
Turkey	1
UAE	1
United Kingdom	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>

**Chart G: Managing countries whose ships have been attacked three or more times from January – March 2021**



***OFF SOMALIA / GULF OF ADEN / RED SEA ATTACK FIGURES UPDATE***

From 1 January to 31 March 2021, one incident reported to the IMB PRC for Gulf of Aden.

The international navies patrolling these waters continue to coordinate and liaise with merchant and fishing fleets, to identify and apprehend pirate action groups.

All vessels are advised and encouraged to adhere to the BMP 5 recommendations while transiting these waters. Vessels employing Privately Contracted Armed Security Personnel (PCASP) should be cautious and not mistake fishermen for pirates in some heavy fishing areas.

As the IMB PRC continues to monitor the situation in the region, it cautions ship owners and master's against complacency. Somali pirates still retain the capability and capacity to carry out attacks.

The IMB PRC supports and compliments the role of the international navies, by relaying all reports received, to the response agencies as well as by broadcasting alerts to ships via the INMARSAT Safety Net Service.

***CONTINUED COOPERATION***

The positive information sharing, actions and cooperation between the Indonesian Marine Police (IMP) and the IMB PRC has resulted in an overall decrease in the number of incidents in the 10 safe designated areas, except for Muara Berau, as reported by ships. Actions by the IMP has resulted in a sharp decline in attacks on ships in this area. The IMB PRC is monitoring the situation and liaising closely with the IMP.

All ships intending to anchor, waiting for berth or drift should do so at the designated areas where IMP patrol boats would be stationed, to enable them to maximize their resources, to provide greater protection for ships.

Ships are advised to cooperate by maintaining strict anti-piracy and robbery watches and report all attacks and suspicious sightings to the local Authorities / IMP, as well as the IMB PRC. The IMB PRC will also liaise with local and regional Authorities to render necessary assistance.

In line with the Road Map Program Police Reforms Wave III, the Indonesian Authorities will continue to allocate and position resources and assets in 10 key designated areas of concern, to prevent sea robbery and piracy in, and around Indonesian waters.

In January 2021, the IMB was informed that the above will continue until further notice. The successful cooperation shows in almost all areas, a year to year drop in incidents. The IMB thanks the IMP for their support and contribution to the shipping industry.

***ACKNOWLEDGEMENT***

The IMB PRC appreciates the strong and vital cooperation from the Philippine and Malaysian Intel that had provided crucial information relating to safety of ships and seafarers at sea, particularly in the Sulu Sea/eastern Sabah waters. The successful cooperation has directly and indirectly saved many lives and properties at sea. The IMB PRC looks forward to the continued cooperation, and thanks both Intel Agencies for their commitment.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The IMB appreciates the assistance ( past and present ) and vital cooperation provided by the Coalition naval forces / EU naval force (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA) / MSCHOA / US Navy / French Alindien / NATO / UKMTO / Indian Navy / Iranian Navy / Malaysian Navy / Russian Navy / Chinese Navy / South Korean Navy / Japanese Maritime SDF/ Singapore Navy / Royal Thai Navy / and Yemeni Coast Guard and Navy, for assisting the many vessels that have been attacked by suspected Somali pirates, both in the Gulf of Aden, and off eastern / southern Somali coast, Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and other areas. The positive actions by the Navies including pre-emptive and disruptive counter piracy tactics, resulted in the drop in the number of attacks.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The IMB PRC appreciates the strong cooperation from the West African Authorities / Navies and international navies, especially the Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese Navies in the Gulf of Guinea. A special thanks to the Nigerian Authorities, particularly the Nigerian Navy and NIMASA, who have continued to provide prompt information, actions and valuable cooperation between Agencies. The IMB PRC looks forward to the continued cooperation from the West African Authorities/Navies and international navies in the area.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The IMB PRC thanks all the Masters and vessel owners/operators who have reported incidents to the Centre in a timely manner. It encourages all incidents to be reported in a timely manner. While the IMB PRC endeavours to always get a meaningful response from Regional Authorities, the reports also play a crucial role to increase awareness of this crime, which allows for additional resources to be allocated by authorities, to tackle the crime of piracy and armed robbery. Transparent statistics from an independent, non-political, international organization such as the IMB PRC can act as a catalyst to achieve this goal.

The IMB PRC wishes all Seafarers safe and secure voyages and remains available to assist in any manner.

## **PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY PRONE AREAS AND WARNINGS**

*All ships are advised to report all piracy and armed robbery attacks and suspicious sightings to local Authorities, their flag state and to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre as per IMO Cir 1334.*

**The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre can be contacted on:**

**E-mail:** [piracy@icc-ccs.org](mailto:piracy@icc-ccs.org) / [imbkl@icc-ccs.org](mailto:imbkl@icc-ccs.org)

**Tel:** +60 3 2078 5763    **Fax:** +60 3 2078 5769

**WhatsApp / Telegram:** +60 11 2659 3057. (Photograph or video submission encouraged).

**24 Hours Anti-Piracy HELPLINE is: +60 3 2031 0014**

*Mariners are advised to be cautious, take precautionary measures and follow all recommended guidelines, when transiting the following areas:*

### **SOUTH EAST ASIA AND INDIAN SUB CONTINENT**

**Bangladesh:** Robbers normally target ships at anchor. Most incidents reported are at Chittagong anchorages and approaches. Incidents in Bangladesh have fallen significantly over the past few years because of the efforts by the Bangladesh Authorities.

**Indonesia:** Taboneo, Dumai/Lubuk Gaung and Muara Berau anchorage and surrounding waters. Pirates / robbers are normally armed with guns / knives and / or machetes. Generally, be vigilant in other areas. Many incidents may have gone unreported. Pirates / robbers normally attack vessel during the night. When spotted and alarm is sounded, the pirates / robbers usually escape without confronting the crew. Therefore, a strict anti-piracy watch is recommended.

Meetings and continued dialog between the Indonesian Marine Police (IMP) and the IMB PRC resulted in positive actions by the Indonesian Authorities, which have so far brought down the number of incidents significantly. With the assistance and actions of the IMP, the incidents appear to be decreasing each year with great success.

The Indonesian Marine Police have advised all ships intending to anchor, to do so at / near the following areas where Indonesian Marine Police will conduct patrols for greater protection.

(After IMP-IMB started their cooperation, since 2014, no incident has been reported in the Adang Bay region. With this in view, in March 2021, IMP has decided to replace Adang Bay with Tanjung Butan at 01:11.30N – 104:12.30E as Singapore Straits and surrounding waters now classified as risky waters).

1. Belawan: 03:55.00N-098:45.30E
2. Dumai: 01:42.00N-101:28.00E
3. Nipah: 01:07.30N-103:37.00E
4. Tanjung Berakit/Bintan: 01:23.30N-104:42.30E
5. Tanjung Priok: 06:00.30S-106:54.00E
6. Gresik: 07:09.00S-112:40.00E
7. Taboneo: 03:41.30S-114:28.00E
8. Tanjung Butan: 01:11.30N-104:12.30E (effective 12 March 2021)
9. Muara Berau: 00:17.00S-117:36.00E
10. Balikpapan: 01:22.00S-116:53.00E

The Indonesian Authorities have advised IMB that in accordance with the Road Map Program Police Reforms Wave III, the above given ten locations prevention action of sea robbery / piracy in Indonesian waters will continue until further notice.

Ships are advised to maintain strict anti-piracy watch and measures, and report all incidents and suspicious sightings to the local authorities and the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre. The IMB PRC will also liaise with the local authorities to render necessary assistance.

**Malacca Straits:** Although the number of incidents has dropped substantially (no incidents have been recorded since 2016) due to the increased and aggressive patrols by the littoral states' authorities since July 2005, ships are advised to continue maintaining strict anti-piracy / robbery watches when transiting the Straits. Currently, there are no indications as to how long these patrols will continue or reduce. In some cases, incidents may have gone unreported. Situation currently remains stable.

**Malaysia:** Bandar Penawar, Johor - vessels attacked at anchorage. Off Tanjung Piai – vessels attacked while underway. Attacks have stopped and IMB PRC is monitoring and liaising with Malaysian Authorities/MMEA.

In / off Eastern Sabah – Militant activities resulting in several tugs / barges / fishing vessels being attacked and crews kidnapped. There were two kidnapping incidents in 2018 and two in 2019 and one in January 2020 off Tambisan, Sabah. The local Authorities have beefed up patrols. The IMB PRC is monitoring the situation. Merchant vessels are also at risk. Stay vigilant.

Ships are advised to take precautionary measures and maintain strict anti-piracy watch and measures. Vessels transiting these waters should refer to the Sabah Notice to Mariners NTM 14 of 2017 on the Ship Reporting System. Vessels are also urged to monitor the IMB PRC Warnings on potential incidents targets / description of militant boats issued by the Philippines and Malaysian Intel.

**Philippines:** Pirates/Militants in the southern Philippines conduct attacks on vessels in / off Sibutu passage / off Sibutu island / Tawi Tawi / Sulu sea / Celebes sea / off eastern Sabah. They attacked tugs/barges/ fishing vessels/yachts/merchant ships to rob and kidnap crews for ransom.

These kidnappings by militants have stopped (for merchant ships) since March 2017. In 2018 there were two incidents where crews were kidnapped off Sabah and two in 2019 and one in 2020 where smaller tugs and fishing boats were targeted. These kidnappers are believed to be affiliated with the ASG.

Vessels are advised to take precautionary measures and maintain strict anti-piracy watch and measures. Vessels transiting these waters should refer to the Sabah Notice to Mariners NTM 14 of 2017 on the Ship Reporting System. Vessels are also urged to monitor the IMB PRC Warnings on potential incidents locations / targets issued by the Philippines Intel/ Malaysian Intel.

Manila / Batangas / Tabangas – Be vigilant. Several past and recent incidents / robberies have been recorded.

**Singapore Straits:** A General Warning issued in December 2019 indicating sudden rise in attacks in Singapore Straits especially during the night. This Warning is still valid until to date as incidents are still occurring. It appears one or more groups are targeting passing ships including tugs/barges to rob them. Authorities have been notified and are aware of the situation. Vessels are advised to remain vigilant and to continue maintaining adequate anti-piracy / robbery watches and measures. Pirates / robbers attack ships while underway or while at anchor especially during the night. Pirates / robbers will abort the attempted attack once spotted and alarm sounded, and Authorities notified. Therefore, a strict watch is necessary.

**South China Sea:** Although incidents have stopped in the vicinity off Tioman / off Pulau Aur / off Anambas / Natuna / Mangkai islands / Subi Besar / Merundung areas, vessels are advised to continue to remain vigilant, especially during the night. In the past, several hijackings of small product tankers occurred off the coast of Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and in the South China Sea area. This trend started in April 2014, but the hijackings stopped abruptly in late 2015. The IMB is monitoring the situation. It has been reported that some criminals have been arrested by local Authorities both in Malaysia and in Indonesia.

There were three incidents reported in 2017 where two tankers were hijacked off Kuantan / Off Pulau Aur / East coast Malaysia.

**WEST AFRICA (Gulf of Guinea)** – As a general rule:

- (i) Follow recommendations and guidelines presented in the BMP WA.
- (ii) All crews to keep a vigilant lookout using all available means. Ships to adjust ETA for direct berthing or wait / drift / transit more than 250nm from coast, if appropriate and agreed by all in venture.

**Angola** (Luanda): Incidents of robberies reported.

**Benin** (Cotonou): Incident increasing in / off Benin. Vessels attacked and crews kidnapped. Incidents showed that the pirates / robbers in the area are well armed and violent. Currently pirates robbed vessels and kidnapped crews for ransom. In the past, tankers were hijacked and part cargo stolen (gas oil).

**Cameroon** (Idenao / Douala): Incidents dropped. Past incidents involved kidnapping of crews.

**Equatorial Guinea:** Incidents dropped. Past incidents occurred around 40nm from Luba. One incident involved hijacking and the other boarded with criminal intentions.

**Gabon** (Port Gentil): Incidents / kidnapping of crews occurred more than 70nm offshore.

**Ghana** (Takoradi): Robberies have been reported at the anchorages.

**Guinea** (Conakry): Robberies have been reported at the anchorages.

**Ivory Coast** (Abidjan): Incidents dropped but remains risky.

**Nigeria** (Lagos/Apapa, Off Bayelsa / Brass / Bonny Island / Port Harcourt): Pirates / robbers are often well armed, violent and have attacked and hijacked / robbed ships / kidnapped crews along / far from the coast, rivers, anchorages, ports, and surrounding waters. Incidents have also been reported up to about 200 nm from the coast. Generally, all waters in / off Nigeria remain highly risky. Vessels are advised to be vigilant, as many incidents may also have gone unreported. Kidnapping for ransom remains the biggest risk for crews. Vessels are advised to take additional measures in these high-risk waters. In the past, tankers were also hijacked, and part cargo stolen (gas oil).

**Togo** (Lome): Attacks reported at anchorage / in/off Togo. Vessels robbed and crews kidnapped. In the past, tankers were also hijacked, and part cargo stolen (gas oil).

**The Congo:** Pointe Noire/Off Point – stay vigilant.

**Sao Tome & Principe:** Vessels hijacked / attacked, and crews kidnapped. Vessels advised to maintain strict anti-piracy watch and measures.

**Red Sea / Gulf of Aden / Somalia / Arabian Sea / Indian Ocean:** No recent reported piracy attacks. There were a number of suspicious reports. Although the opportunity for incidents has reduced, the Somali pirates continue to possess the capability and capacity to carry out incidents. All merchant ships are advised to adhere to the recommendations in the latest BMP to ships, while transiting in these waters. The IMB PRC will continue to alert and broadcast information to all ships in the region via Inmarsat EGC Safety Net.

Although no reported incidents, the threat still exists in the waters off the southern Red Sea / Bab el Mandeb, Gulf of Aden including Yemen and the northern Somali coast, Arabian sea / off Oman, Gulf of Oman and off the eastern and southern Somali coast. In the past, vessels have been attacked off Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mozambique, as well as in the Indian ocean, and off the west and south coasts of India, and west Maldives. Be vigilant.

Generally, Somali pirates tend to be well armed with automatic weapons, RPGs and sometimes use skiffs launched from mother vessels, which may be hijacked fishing vessels or dhows. Masters and ship owners are encouraged to register and report their vessels as per the latest BMP procedures and ensure that their vessel is hardened prior to entering the high-risk area. While transiting through these waters it is essential to maintain a 24-hour visual and radar watch. Keeping in mind the warnings and alerts for the area, an early sighting / detection of an approaching skiff will enable an accurate assessment, allowing the Master and PCASP to make informed decisions to keep clear of small boats, dhows, fishing vessels and if necessary, take evasive actions and request assistance as needed.

Masters are reminded that fishermen in this region may try to protect their nets by attempting to aggressively approach merchant vessels. Some of the fishermen may be armed to protect their catch and they should not be confused with pirates.

**Vessels transiting in / off Yemen / Gulf of Aden:** Security risk due to civil war in Yemen. Vessels have been fired upon and approached. (not piracy related).

**Vessels transiting Straits of Hormuz / Gulf of Oman / Off Iran** – Two incidents in 2019 involving explosions on tanker reported. (not piracy related).

### **SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WATERS**

**Brazil** (Macapa): incidents increasing. Stay vigilant.

**Ecuador** (Guayaquil): Anchorage / river passage with pilot. Robbers well-armed. Fired upon.

**Haiti** (Port Au Prince):

**Mexico** (Puerto Dos Bocas): Pirates / robbers in this area armed with guns.

**Peru** (Callao): Incidents increasing. Robbery incidents continuing. Maintain vigilant watch and anti-piracy measures.

**Venezuela** (Puerto La Cruz / Puerto Jose): Incidents dropped. Ships are still reminded to maintain strict anti-piracy watch and measures especially at anchor.

#### ***IMB Maritime Security Hotline***

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has a dedicated hotline for seafarers, port workers, shipping agents, shipyard personnel, brokers, stevedores, and all concerned parties to report any information that they may have seen / heard / known etc. relating to any maritime crime including terrorism, piracy and other illegal activities. All information reported will be treated in strict confidence and will be passed on to relevant Authorities for further action. Maritime crime and security concerns us all and with your help, we can try to minimize the risks and help save lives and property.

The Maritime Security Hotline can be contacted 24 hours every day at:

Tel: +60 3 2031 0014 Fax: +60 3 2078 5769 E-mail: [imbsecurity@icc-ccs.org](mailto:imbsecurity@icc-ccs.org)

WhatsApp or Telegram at +601126593057. Photograph or video submission encouraged.

**REMEMBER: Your information may save lives. All information will be treated in strict confidence.**

## **TRENDS**

Thirty-eight incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships were reported to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) in the first three months of 2021 – compared with 47 incidents in Q1 2020.

The Q1 2021 figures are broken down as 33 vessels boarded, two attempted attacks, two vessels fired upon and one vessel hijacked.

Violence against crews continue with 40 crew kidnapped, two each threatened and taken hostage and one killed.

The Gulf of Guinea accounted for 43% of all reported incidents, including both fired upon incidents as well as the vessel hijacking. The Region also accounted for all 40 kidnapped crew as well as the crew fatality. The furthest recorded kidnapping occurred on 11 March 2021 when pirates kidnapped 15 crew from a Maltese flagged Chemical Tanker, 212nm south of Cotonou, Benin. A fishing vessel hijacked on 8 February 2021 was used by pirates as a mother vessel to facilitate other attacks. All vessel types continue to be targeted in the Gulf of Guinea, primarily for the kidnap of multiple crews.

The IMB PRC commends and thanks the Coastal response agencies and independent international navies tasked in the Region for actively responding to reported incidents.

A bulk carrier reported a skiff with armed persons and a ladder approaching it while underway in the Gulf of Aden. The onboard armed security team fired warning shots resulting in the skiff moving away. Vessels are urged to continue implementing BMP5 recommended practices while transiting these waters. The Somali pirates still maintain the capability for carrying out attacks.

Incidents continue to be reported against vessels steaming in the Singapore Straits with six reported in Q1 2021 compared to five in the same period last year. While these maybe considered opportunistic in nature, some of the perpetrators were armed with knives.

The information sharing cooperation between the Indonesian Marine Police and the IMB PRC continues with positive results. In Q1 2021, two anchored vessels were reported boarded compared with five in the same period in 2020.

Callao anchorage, Peru continues to be an area of concern with five incidents reported in the first three months of 2021 compared to three incidents during the same period last year. All vessel types are targeted.

Container vessels appear to be the target of attacks while underway or at anchor in Colombian waters. Perpetrators have been known to open containers and steal cargoes even while vessels are under pilotage. Masters are encouraged to report all incidents in these waters.

Since 1991 the IMB PRC's 24-hour manned center, remains a single point of contact to report the crimes of piracy and armed robbery. The Centre has not only assisted ships in a timely manner it provides the maritime industry, response agencies and governments with transparent data – received directly from the Master of the vessel under attack - or its owners.

The IMB PRC's prompt forwarding of reports and liaison with response agencies, its broadcasts to shipping via GMDSS Safety Net Services and email alerts to CSOs, all provided free of cost, has helped the response against piracy and armed robbery and the security of seafarers, globally.

## **OBSERVATIONS**

Narrations of the 38 attacks for 01 January to 31 March 2021 are listed on pages 24 to 30. The following serious incidents, in chronological sequence are described in more detail.

### **Benin:**

On 11 March 2021, a Malta flagged Chemical Tanker was attacked by armed pirates while underway at position Latitude 02:48 North and Longitude 002:36 East, around 212nm south of Cotonou, Benin at approximately 1512 UTC. Around nine pirates armed with AK47 assault weapons in a speed boat attacked and successfully boarded the tanker. Alarm raised and distress messages activated. A Nigerian Security Vessel was dispatched to assist the tanker. By the time the Security Vessel arrived at the location, the pirates had kidnapped 15 crew and escaped. The remaining six crew sailed the tanker under escort to a safe port.

### **Gabon:**

On 08 February 2021, a Chinese flagged Fishing Vessel FV Lian Peng Yu 809 was hijacked by pirates while underway at position Latitude 00:51.43 South and Longitude 007:20.20 East, around 83nm WSW of Port Gentil, Gabon at approximately 0620 UTC. The fishing vessel with 14 crew was attacked and boarded by pirates. The incident was reported to the IMB PRC by the Chinese Authorities. The IMB PRC liaised with Regional Authorities and international warship in the region. The hijacked fishing vessel was later intercepted by Gabon Authorities on 12 February 2021. Ten crew members were reported kidnapped. The remaining crew sailed the vessel to Gabon waters. On 06 March 2021, the 10 kidnapped crew were released safely.

### **Ghana:**

On 30 January 2021, a Marshall Islands flagged Bulk Carrier MV Rowayton Eagle was attacked by armed pirates while underway at position Latitude 02:55.0 North and Longitude 001:56.6 East, around 200nm SE of Accra, Ghana at approximately 0424 UTC. Armed pirates onboard a skiff with ladder attacked the ship underway. The crew noticed the pirates boarding and retreated into the citadel. Upon hearing of the incident, the IMB PRC immediately alerted and liaised with the Regional Authorities and the vessel operators. A Ghanaian Navy patrol boat was dispatched but was unable to assist due to technical difficulties. Owners advised the Master to sail towards the Nigerian EEZ waters to rendezvous with a Nigerian security team, which allowed the crew to emerge from the citadel and sail under escort to a safe port. All 19 crew reported safe.

### **Nigeria:**

On 14 March 2021, a Luxembourg flagged Offshore Support Vessel was attacked by armed pirates while underway at position Latitude 02:58 North and Longitude 002:53 East, around 208nm south of Lagos, Nigeria at approximately 0731 UTC. Around seven to 10 armed pirates in a small boat attacked and successfully boarded the vessel underway. Alarm raised, Authorities notified and all crew members retreated into the citadel. A Nigerian Security Vessel responded to provide assistance. The pirates fired at the vessel's bridge before escaping and before the arrival of the Security Vessel. Some equipment was destroyed. All 20 crew members reported safe. The Offshore Support Vessel proceeded to a safe port under the escort of the Security Vessel.

### **Sao Tome and Principe:**

On 23 January 2021, a Liberian flagged Container ship MV Mozart was attacked by armed pirates while underway at position Latitude 01:04.13 North and Longitude 005:05.22 East, around 98nm NW of Sao Tome island, Sao Tome and Principe at approximately 0535 UTC. An unknown number of armed pirates attacked and successfully boarded the vessel. One crew was reported killed and 15 were kidnapped. Remaining three crew managed to navigate the ship to a safe port. On 12 February 2021, the 15 kidnapped crew were released safely.

On 06 February 2021, a Marshall Islands flagged Product Tanker MT Sea Phantom was attacked by armed pirates while underway at position Latitude 02:00.02 North and Longitude 008:15.02 East, around 50nm NE of Principe island, Sao Tome and Principe at approximately 2254 UTC. Eight armed

pirates with AK47 assault weapons in a skiff attacked and successfully boarded the tanker with a long aluminium ladder. Alert crew noticed the pirates and retreated into the citadel. The pirates damaged the onboard communication and navigation equipment. Upon hearing of the incident, the IMB PRC immediately alerted and liaised with Regional Authorities including a Portuguese Navy warship. The crew managed to navigate the tanker to try and rendezvous with dispatched Cameroonian and Equatorial Guinean patrol boats. The tanker was later intercepted by the patrol boats and escorted to a safe port. All 18 crew and one superintendent reported safe.

On 09 February 2021, a Panamanian flagged Product Tanker MT Maria E was attacked by armed pirates while underway at position Latitude 01:35 North and Longitude 005:07 East, around 112nm NW of Sao Tome island, Sao Tome and Principe at approximately 1222 UTC. Around nine pirates armed with AK47 assault weapons and a ladder on a skiff attacked and successfully boarded the tanker. Crew onboard the tanker noticed the pirates boarding and retreated into the citadel. The IMB PRC immediately alerted and liaised with the operators, Regional Authorities and an international warship in the vicinity which escorted the tanker until an Equatorial Guinea patrol boat took over until the tanker was safely anchored. All 21 crew reported safe.

## 1 January – 31 March 2021

## ACTUAL ATTACKS

## SOUTH EAST ASIA (EXCLUDING MALACCA STRAITS)

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	03.01.2021 1940 UTC Anchored Boarded	Name Withheld Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 36421 -	00:15.8S – 117:34.3E, Muara Berau Anchorage, Indonesia	Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored ship. Duty crew spotted the robbers near the forecandle store escaping with ship's stores. Incident reported to local authorities.
2.	24.01.2021 1925 UTC Steaming Boarded	Ark Royal Bulk Carrier Barbados 27011 9219446	01:16.49N – 104:15.60E, Singapore Straits	Five robbers armed with knives boarded the ship underway. Crew mustered and a search was carried out. Nothing reported stolen. Incident reported to CSO and VTS.
3.	28.01.2021 1420 UTC Steaming Boarded	Elvia Bulk Carrier Liberia 50697 9570840	01:16.15N – 104:16.72E, Singapore Straits	Ten robbers armed with knives boarded the ship underway. General alarm sounded. All crew mustered. Incident reported to VTS.
4.	28.01.2021 1820 UTC Steaming Boarded	Vantage Wave General Cargo Liberia 22064 9506514	01:16.87N – 104:18.71E, Singapore Straits	Three robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship underway. Duty crew spotted the robbers in the engine room and raised the alarm. Crew mustered. Hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped empty handed. Incident reported to VTIS.
5.	29.01.2021 1910 UTC Berthed Boarded	Kota Nebula Container Singapore 20902 9494632	06:05.57N – 125:09.42E, Makar Wharf, General Santos City Port, Philippines	Duty crew onboard the berthed ship noticed two robbers near the lifeboat deck and raised the alarm. Crew mustered. Hearing the alarm and seeing the alerted crew, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped in a waiting canoe. A search was carried out. It was reported that ship's properties were stolen. Incident reported to the Local Agent, Port Authority and Coast Guard. The Philippines Coast Guard apprehended one robber responsible for the theft and managed to recover the stolen items.
6.	30.01.2021 1930 UTC Anchored Boarded	Surya Aki LNG Tanker Bahamas 20519 9060534	03:56.3N – 098:45.6E, Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia	Two robbers armed with knives threatened a duty AB on routine rounds onboard an anchored tanker. The AB retreated into the accommodation and informed the duty officer. Alarm raised, crew mustered, and local authorities notified. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with the stolen ship's properties. Port Control and Coast Guard responded and boarded the tanker to investigate.

7.	21.02.2021 0430 UTC Steaming Boarded	Danum 50 Tug Malaysia 165 9404261  Linau 133 Barge Malaysia 2010 -	01:06.38N – 103:44.68E, Singapore Straits	An Indonesian navy patrol boat noticed a suspicious boat alongside the barge under tow and called the tug Master to reduce speed. Naval team boarded the barge and arrested five unauthorised persons. Tug and barge continued their voyage after investigations were completed. Nothing reported stolen.
8.	24.03.2021 1925 UTC Steaming Boarded	African Queen Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 30936 9389930	01:17.0N – 104:18.1E, Singapore Straits	Five robbers armed with knives boarded the ship underway. Master raised the alarm, crew mustered, and a search was carried out. Nothing reported stolen. Incident reported to VTIS.
9.	30.03.2021 0230 UTC Steaming	Posh Falcon Tug/Tow Singapore 3513 9624586	01:12.4N – 103:32.7E, Singapore Straits	Robbers in two small boats approached the stern of the unmanned rig under tow. They detached and stole the emergency towline pickup buoy floating behind the rig and escaped. Incident reported to VTIS. Vessel and crew safe.

#### EAST ASIA

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	15.03.2021 1701-2300 UTC Anchored Boarded	Name Withheld Bulk Carrier Liberia 36421 -	20:54.9N – 107:16.7E, Campha Port, Vietnam	Unnoticed, robbers boarded the moored ship. They broke into two crew cabins, stole ship and crew cash, and escaped. Local authorities informed and an investigation was carried out.

#### AMERICAS

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	05.01.2021 0053 UTC Anchored Boarded	Sagittarius Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 17025 9550254	18:38N – 072:37W, Port-au-Prince Bay, Haiti	Duty officer onboard an anchored ship noticed a suspicious echo on the radar and asked the security patrol to investigate. The security patrol noticed a boat with around six robbers armed with a gun boarding using a ladder with hooks. Alarm raised and crew retreated into the accommodation. The robbers threatened the Ch/Engr attempting to secure an open accommodation door. Incident reported to the Coast Guard and PFSO. The Coast Guard responded and boarded the ship to carry out a

				search and investigate. Ship's properties reported stolen. Crew and ship safe.
2.	06.01.2021 - Anchored Boarded	Prague Express Container Germany 93750 9450399	10:18.41N – 075:33.66W, Cartagena Charlie Anchorage, Colombia	Unnoticed, robbers boarded an anchored ship and escaped with ship's properties. Onboard investigation revealed that the hawse pipe protection device was destroyed and the bosun store's padlock was damaged. The Authorities were informed through local agent.
3.	09.01.2021 0855 UTC Steaming Boarded	Duesseldorf Express Container Bermuda 53523 9143556	10:15.7N – 076:22.9W, Around 45nm West of Cartagena Sea Buoy Pilot Boarding Ground, Colombia	Around ten persons in a small craft approached and boarded the drifting ship. Alarm raised public announcement made, crew mustered, and security messages sent. Port Control instructed the ship to proceed to pilot station. The crew conducted a search and reported ship's properties stolen. The search party also noticed that some intruders were still onboard, and all crew immediately retreated into the accommodation. Upon arriving at the pilot station, a coast guard boat arrived and escorted the ship to the inner anchorage, where the police and coast guard boarded and searched the ship. Five intruders were found and detained.
4.	13.01.2021 0400 UTC Berthed Boarded	Nord Hudson Bulk Carrier Denmark 34617 9696797	Santana Port, Brazil	Unnoticed, robbers boarded the ship, stole ship's properties, and escaped. The theft was noticed by the duty crew during routine rounds. Incident reported to local police who boarded the ship for investigation.
5.	04.02.2021 1200 UTC Anchored Boarded	Morning Margareta Vehicle Carrier Singapore 51917 9367580	12:01.61S – 077:13.37W, Callao Anchorage, Peru	Unnoticed, robbers boarded an anchored ship, stole ship's stores and escaped. The theft was discovered by the duty AB on rounds. Incident reported to local agents.
6.	13.02.2021 0145 UTC Anchored Boarded	Torm Arawa Product Tanker Singapore 30302 9543548	12:00.62S – 077:11.86W, Callao Anchorage, Peru	Robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker. Duty crew on routine rounds noticed the robbers on the forecandle, retreated into the accommodation and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in a wooden motorboat. Crew mustered and a search was carried out. It was reported that ship's stores were stolen. Local Authorities informed through local agent.
7.	13.02.2021 0935 UTC Steaming Boarded	Pacific Trader Container Cyprus 9957 9406922	11:01.35N – 074:47.23W, Magdalena River Passage, Colombia	Five robbers boarded the ship under pilotage. Alert crew noticed the robbers. Master raised the alarm, crew mustered inside accommodation and pilot notified the port authorities. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen

				ship's properties. The ship was instructed to anchor to allow the coast guard to board and investigate.
8.	06.03.2021 2330 UTC Steaming Boarded	Pacora Container Jamaica 7464 9404821	02:20S – 079:58W, Around 10nm South of Guayaquil, Ecuador	Six armed robbers in two fast boats approached and boarded the ship under pilotage. Master raised the alarm, SSAS activated and contacted Guayaquil Authorities. The robbers took hostage one crew member and stole cargoes from the containers. Before escaping, they released the crew without any injury. It was reported that nine containers were opened and cargo damaged.
9.	11.03.2021 0210 UTC Anchored Boarded	Nordic Seoul Bulk Carrier Liberia 22860 9649861	11:59.57S – 077:14.10W, Callao Anchorage, Peru	Duty crew onboard an anchored ship noticed two robbers armed with knives on the forward mooring station and notified the duty officer. Alarm raised, PA announcement made, and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. Incident reported to local VTS and a Coast Guard patrol boat was dispatched to search the waters around the ship.
10.	16.03.2021 2230 UTC Anchored Boarded	Port Osaka Bulk Carrier Liberia 35207 9838541	12:01.1S – 077:10.5W, Callao Anchorage, Peru	Unnoticed, robbers boarded an anchored ship, broke into the forecandle store, stole ship's properties and escaped. The theft was noticed by duty crew on routine security rounds.
11.	17.03.2021 0100 UTC Anchored Boarded	Baker River Bulk Carrier Hong Kong 31336 9284269	12:00.92S – 077:11.99W, Callao Anchorage, Peru	Eight robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored ship. Duty AB was taken hostage, tied up, and later released by the robbers before escaping with stolen ship's properties. Incident reported to local port authorities and a Coast Guard patrol boat was dispatched to assist.

**AFRICA (EXCLUDING SOMALIA / GULF OF ADEN / RED SEA)**

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	04.01.2021 0048 UTC Anchored Boarded	Niledutch Breda Container Cyprus 39106 9612765	04:42.93S – 011:44.21E, Pointe Noire North Anchorage, The Congo	Robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored ship. General alarm sounded and all crew mustered in the citadel. The robbers stole ship's stores and escaped. The incident was reported to Port Control. All crew reported safe.
2.	18.01.2021 0300 UTC Anchored Boarded	Green Freezer Refrigerated Cargo Ship Bahamas 5084	06:02.00S – 012:21.50E, Banana Anchorage,	Three robbers in a small wooden boat approached and boarded an anchored ship. Duty crew on routine rounds noticed the robbers at the forecandle store and retreated into the

		8819304	Democratic Republic of the Congo	accommodation. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers escaped with the stolen ship's stores. Port Control contacted through VHF Ch.16. No response received.
3.	23.01.2021 0535 UTC Steaming Boarded	Mozart Container Liberia 28616 9337274	01:04.13N – 005:04.22E, Around 98nm NW of Sao Tome Island, Sao Tome and Principe	While underway, the ship was boarded by an unknown number of pirates. One crew killed. Fifteen kidnapped. Remaining three crew managed to navigate to a safe port. On 05.04.2021, the Owners confirmed that the 15 kidnapped crew were released safely on 12.02.2021.
4.	30.01.2021 0424 UTC Steaming Boarded	Rowayton Eagle Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 35812 9575216	02:55.0N – 001:56.6E, Around 200nm SE of Accra, Ghana	Crew onboard the ship underway noticed pirates boarding and retreated into the citadel. Upon hearing of the incident, the IMB PRC immediately alerted and liaised with Regional Authorities and the vessel operators. A Ghanaian Navy patrol boat was dispatched but was unable to assist due to technical difficulties. Owners advised the Master to sail towards Nigerian waters to rendezvous with a Nigerian security team, which allowed the crew to emerge from the citadel and sail, under escort, to a safe port. All crew reported safe.
5.	06.02.2021 2254 UTC Steaming Boarded	Sea Phantom Product Tanker Marshall Islands 8503 9326653	02:00.02N – 008:15.02E, Around 50nm NE of Principe Island, Sao Tome and Principe	Eight armed pirates boarded the tanker underway. Alert crew noticed the pirates and retreated into the citadel. The pirates damaged communication and navigation equipment. Upon hearing of the incident, the IMB PRC immediately alerted and liaised with Regional Authorities including a Portuguese Navy warship. Crew managed to navigate the tanker to try and rendezvous with dispatched Cameroonian and Equatorial Guinean patrol boats. The tanker was later escorted to a safe port. All crew reported safe.
6.	08.02.2021 0620 UTC Steaming Hijacked	Lian Peng Yu 809 Fishing Vessel China - -	00:51.43S – 007:20.20E, Around 83nm WSW of Port Gentil, Gabon	A fishing vessel with fourteen crew onboard was boarded and hijacked by pirates. The IMB PRC liaised with regional authorities and international warship in the region. The hijacked fishing vessel was later intercepted by Gabon Authorities on the 12.02.2021. Ten crew members were reported kidnapped earlier and the remaining crew members sailed the vessel to Gabon waters. On 06.03.2021, the 10 kidnapped crew were released safely.

7.	09.02.2021 1222 UTC Steaming Boarded	Maria E Product Tanker Panama 7064 9337822	01:35N – 005:07E, Around 112nm NW of Sao Tome Island, Sao Tome and Principe	Crew onboard the tanker underway noticed pirates boarding and retreated into the citadel. The IMB PRC immediately alerted and liaised with the operators, Regional Authorities and an international warship in the vicinity which was able to escort the tanker until an Equatorial Guinea patrol boat took over and stayed with the tanker until it was safely anchored. All crew reported safe.
8.	26.02.2021 0230–0300 UTC Anchored Boarded	Name Withheld Offshore Supply Ship France 3147 -	08:45.12S – 013:17.08E, Luanda Anchorage, Angola	Robbers boarded an anchored ship, stole ship properties and escaped unnoticed. The theft was noticed by the duty AB during routine rounds. Incident reported to port authorities.
9.	06.03.2021 0700 UTC Anchored Boarded	Name Withheld Offshore Supply Ship Luxembourg 1733 -	Douala Anchorage, Cameroon	Unnoticed, robbers boarded an anchored ship. The theft was noticed by the bosun during routine rounds. Search conducted and several ship's properties reported stolen. Incident reported to local port authorities.
10.	10.03.2021 0700 UTC Anchored Boarded	Flensburg Container Cyprus 9990 9252773	08:44.5S – 013:15.1E, Luanda Anchorage, Angola	Unnoticed, robbers boarded an anchored ship. The theft was noticed by the duty Bosun during routine rounds. The crew conducted a search and reported ship's properties stolen. Incident reported to local agent.
11.	11.03.2021 0120 UTC Anchored Boarded	Maersk Venturer Drilling Ship Singapore 60683 9633563	04:44.1N – 001:35.6W, Takoradi Anchorage, Ghana	An anchored ship was boarded by four unauthorised persons. Alert crew noticed the persons and informed the bridge. Incident reported to local port authorities and a security patrol team was dispatched. Nothing reported stolen.
12.	11.03.2021 1512 UTC Steaming Boarded	Name Withheld Chemical Tanker Malta 14034 -	02:48N – 002:36E, Around 212nm South of Cotonou, Benin	Nine armed pirates boarded the tanker underway. Alarm raised and distress messages activated. A Nigerian Security Vessel was dispatched to assist the tanker. By the time the security vessel arrived at the location the pirates kidnapped 15 crew and escaped. The tanker and remaining crew were escorted to a safe port.
13.	14.03.2021 0731 UTC Steaming Boarded	Name Withheld Offshore Support Vessel Luxembourg 6146 -	02:58N – 002:53E, Around 208nm South of Lagos, Nigeria	Armed pirates attacked and boarded the vessel underway. Alarm raised, Authorities notified, and all crew members retreated into the citadel. A Nigerian Security Vessel responded. The pirates managed to escape before the arrival of the Security Vessel. Crew reported safe but there were some damages to the vessel. The vessel proceeded to a safe port under the escort of the Security Vessel.

**ATTEMPTED ATTACKS**

**1 January – 31 March 2021**

**AFRICA (SOMALIA / GULF OF ADEN / RED SEA)**

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	14.01.2021 0849 UTC Steaming Attempted	Myrto Bulk Carrier Marshall Islands 43012 9518086	12:06.1N – 044:26.5E, Gulf of Aden	While underway, the ship noticed a skiff approaching. Alarm sounded and all crew mustered. At a distance of 0.2nm weapons and ladders were noticed in the skiff. The onboard armed team fired warning shots, resulting in the skiff aborting and moving away.

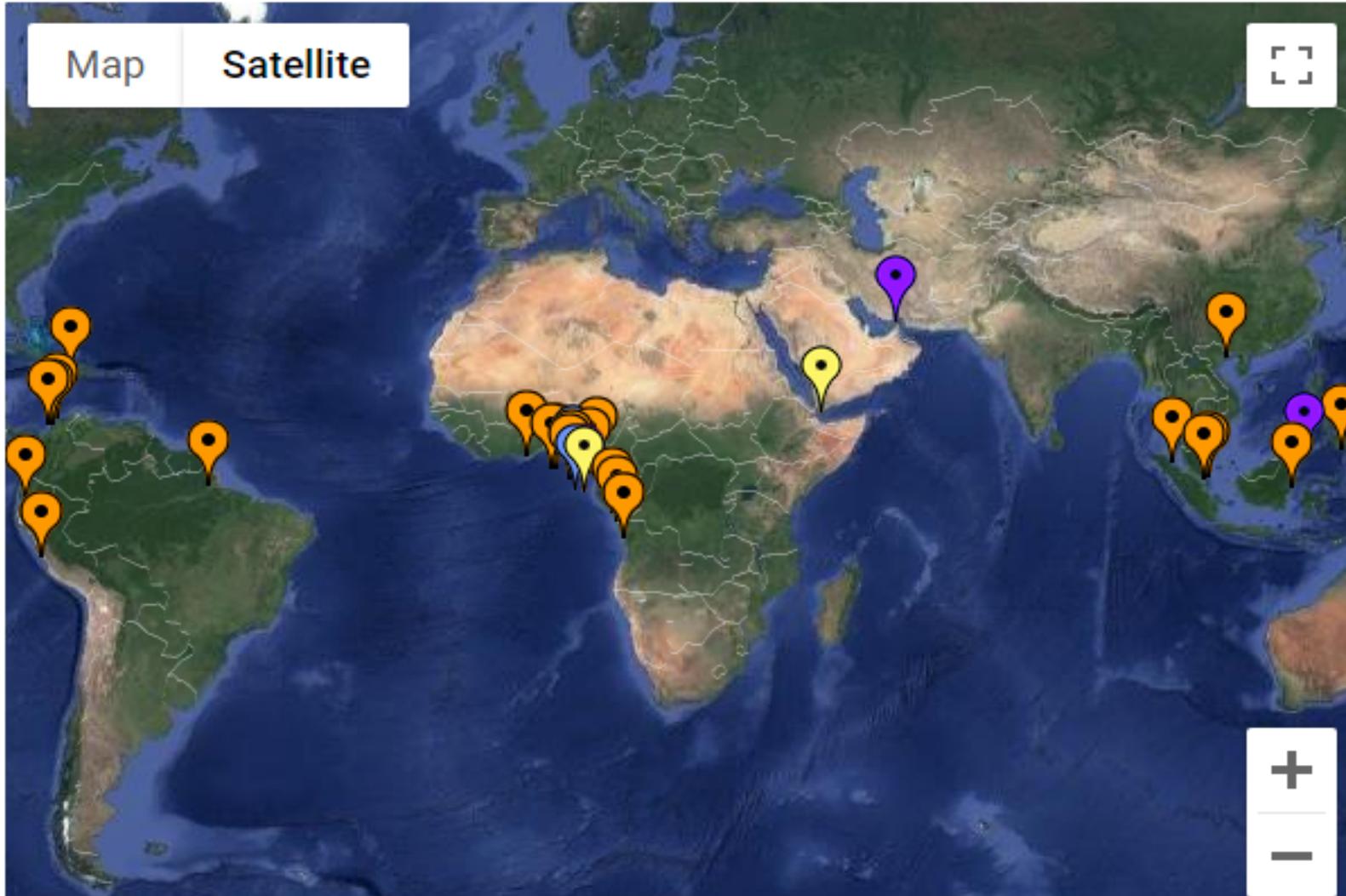
**AFRICA (EXCLUDING SOMALIA / GULF OF ADEN / RED SEA)**

Ref	Date Time	Name of Ship Type/Flag/Grt/IMO Number	Position	Narration
1.	13.01.2021 1900 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Maersk Cardiff Container Singapore 50869 9529255	02:23.58N – 005:31.00E, Around 120nm SSW of Brass, Nigeria	While underway, the ship was approached and fired upon by pirates in a small craft. Alarm sounded and all crew mustered in the citadel. The incident was reported to the Regional Authorities. Ship and crew reported safe.
2.	08.02.2021 0444 UTC Steaming Attempted	Seaking Tanker Bahamas 161382 9292187	00:59.8S – 007:32.3E, Around 75nm WSW of Port Gentil, Gabon	Crew onboard the drifting tanker noticed a mother vessel launching a skiff with four persons, which approached at high speed. Master raised the alarm, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and non-essential crew mustered in the citadel. The skiff managed to come alongside the tanker but due to the hardening measures taken by the Master, the boarding was avoided. Crew and tanker reported safe.
3.	08.02.2021 1810 UTC Steaming Fired upon	Madrid Spirit LNG Tanker Spain 90835 9259276	00:43.91S – 006:07.91E, Around 50nm SW of Sao Tome Island, Sao Tome and Principe	Alert crew onboard the tanker underway noticed a skiff approaching at high speed. Alarm raised, crew mustered and SSAS activated. As the skiff closed, hooks and a ladder were noticed. The pirates fired upon the tanker causing damage to the accommodation. Master increased speed and commenced evasive manoeuvres, resulting in the skiff aborting the attack and moving away. Crew and ship safe.



# IMB Piracy Report – January to March 2021

 = Attempted Attack     = Boarded     = Fired upon     = Hijacked     = Suspicious vessel



**Total number of attacks – 38**



# IMB Piracy Report – January to March 2021

 = Attempted Attack     = Boarded     = Fired upon     = Hijacked     = Suspicious vessel



**Total attacks Indian Sub-Continent – 0**

**Total attacks East & SE Asia – 10**



# IMB Piracy Report – January to March 2021

 = Attempted Attack     = Boarded     = Fired upon     = Hijacked     = Suspicious vessel



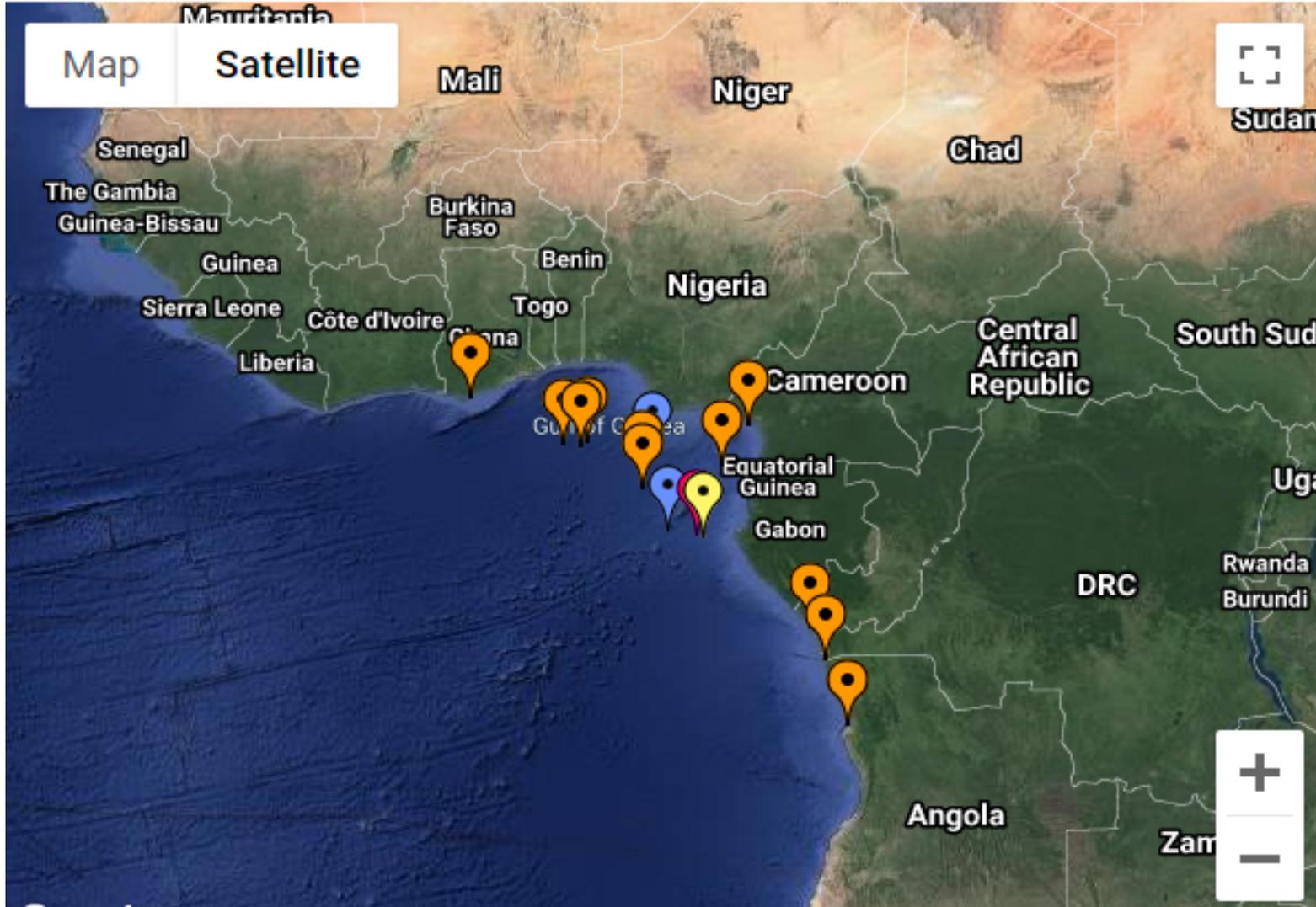
**Total attacks Red Sea / Gulf of Aden – 1**

**Total attacks east coast Somalia / Arabian Sea – 0**



# IMB Piracy Report – January to March 2021

 = Attempted Attack     = Boarded     = Fired upon     = Hijacked     = Suspicious vessel



**Total attacks Gulf of Guinea - 16**



# IMB Piracy Report – January to March 2021

 = Attempted Attack    = Boarded    = Fired upon    = Hijacked    = Suspicious vessel



**Total attacks South America - 11**