



PIRACY REPORT APRIL 2016

Piracy and Acts of Armed Robbery of Ships

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Analysis

- ❑ The 2016 heatmap illustrates that West Africa and Kandla Anchorages in India were the areas most affected by piracy and acts of armed robbery of vessels in the first four months of 2016. Secondary heat points are also noted. The heatmap indicates a concentration of incidents and not the severity of attacks.
- ❑ The highest concentration of incidents was recorded off Bayelsa, Nigeria with 26 reported attacks in this area in 2016. Two tanker hijackings and nine kidnappings of crew off vessels were reported since January 2016. Four of the kidnappings were off tankers and two off offshore supply vessels. A total of ten crew members were kidnapped during three separate incidents off Bayelsa, Nigeria in April 2016. Kidnappings in West Africa are likely to continue in the near future.
- ❑ The second hotspot off West Africa is located in the DRC and Congo and specifically Pointe Noire Anchorage, Congo with three reported incidents, Ango Ango Anchorage, DRC with one incident and Boma Port and Anchorage, DRC with two incidents. All these incidents can be classified as petty theft.
- ❑ Incidents in India can also be described as petty theft. No incidents were reported at Kandla in March and April 2016, but seven incidents were reported in January and February 2016.
- ❑ Five incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait and approaches in 2016, all petty theft. Four robberies and attempted robberies were reported at Jakarta Anchorages, Indonesia in 2016.
- ❑ Kidnapping for ransom by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) from vessels in the Sulu and Celebes Seas between Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia has escalated to a new level with the beheading of one of the Samal hostages, John Ridsdel in April 2016. This prompted integrated patrols by the naval forces of the three countries in this area. Although the kidnappings targeted tugs and smaller vessels to date, larger vessels will be targeted if the opportunity arises.
- ❑ The attack on a product tanker off the Port of Mukalla, Yemen is more likely linked to the security situation in Yemen and the seizure of the port by Yemeni and affiliated forces from Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) than Somali piracy.

2015 Incidents



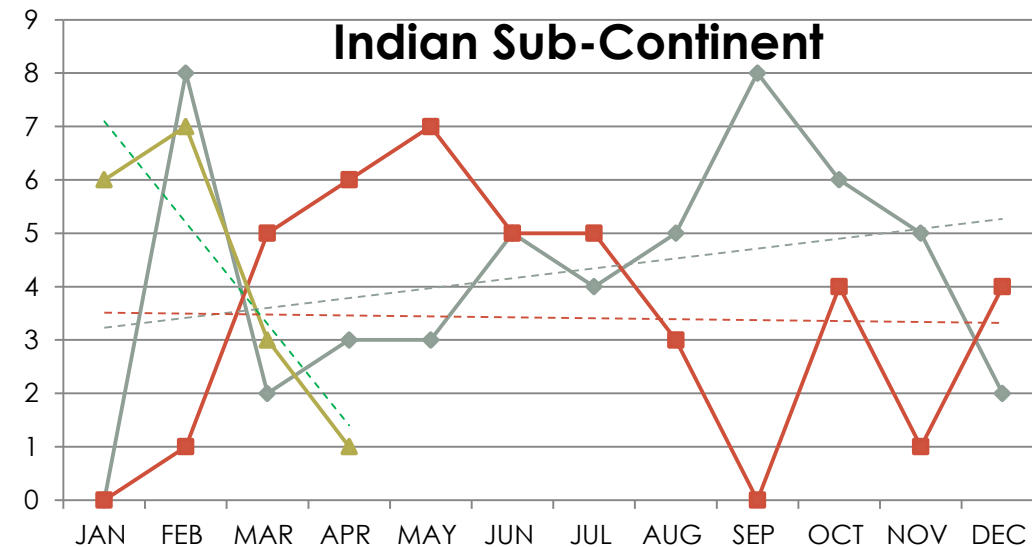
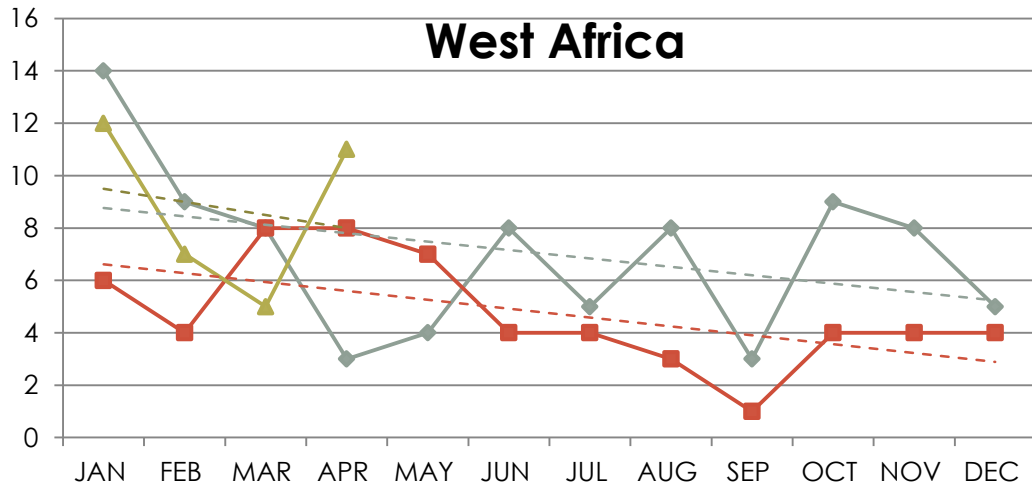
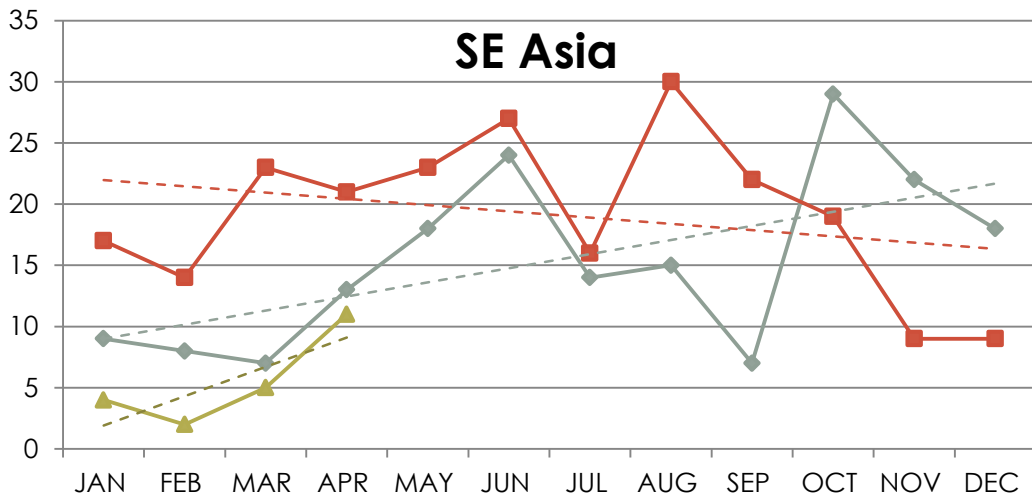
2016 Incidents



April 2016 Incidents

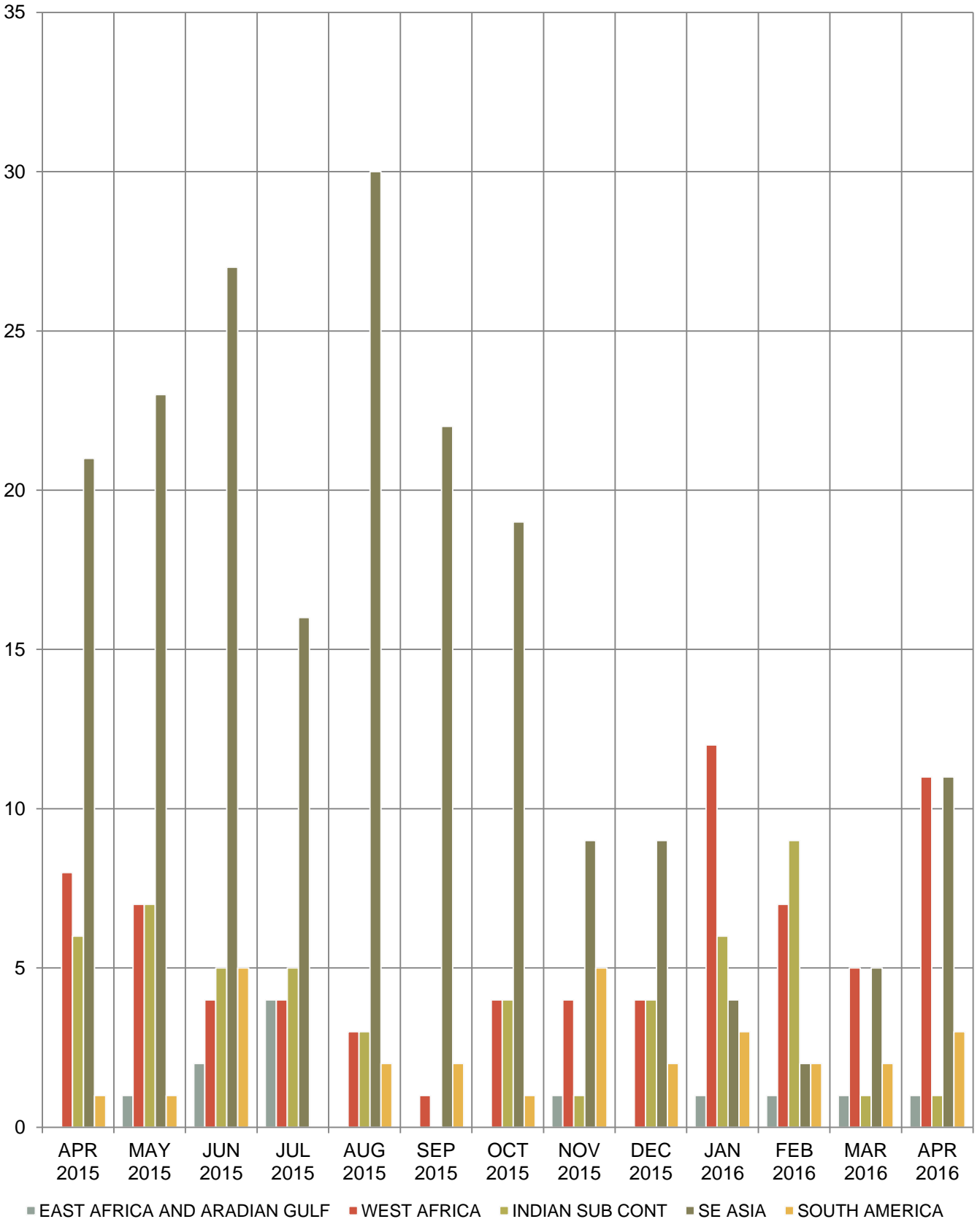


Incidents of Piracy and Robbery of Vessels: 2014 to 2016



- ◆ 2014
- 2015
- ▲ 2016
- Linear (2014)
- Linear (2015)
- Linear (2016)

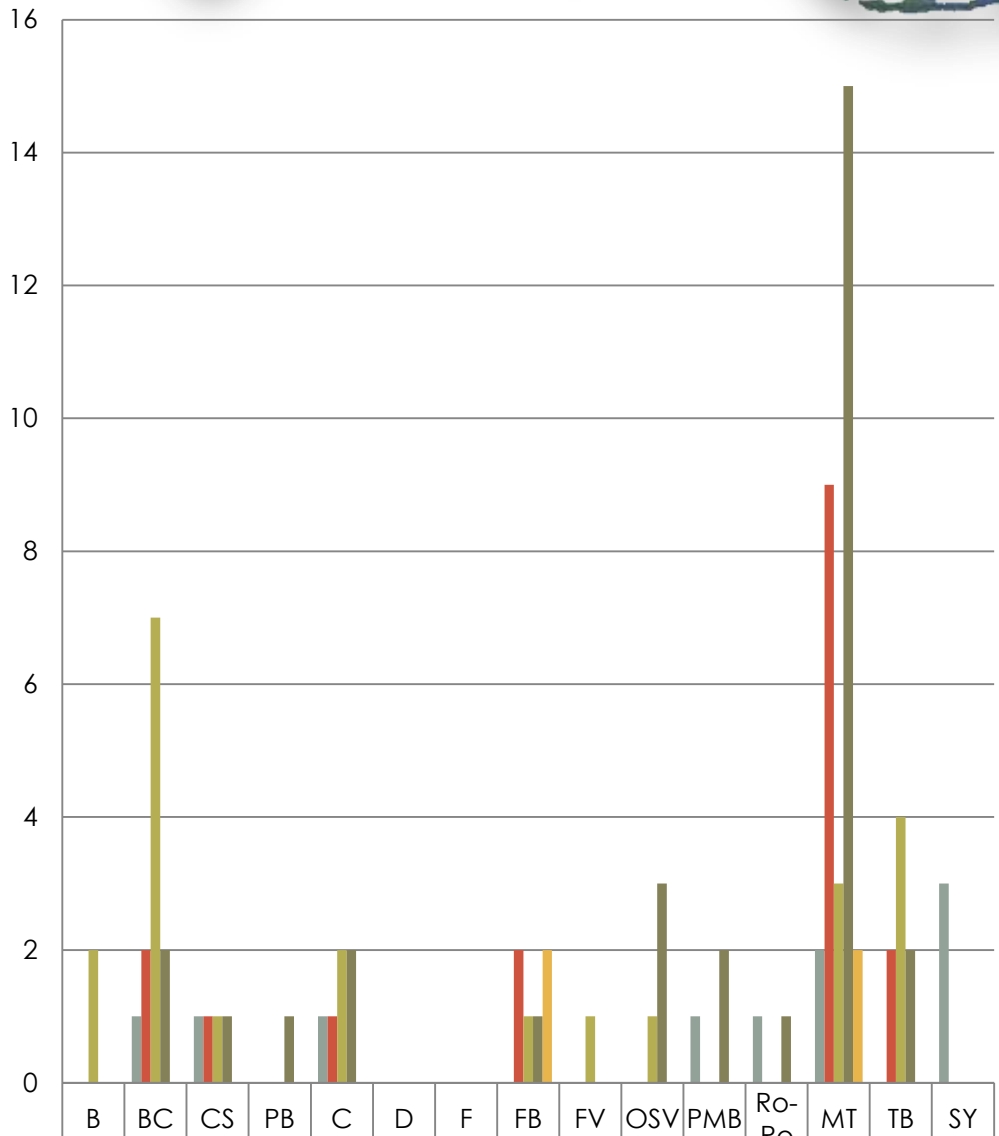
Incidents by Region April 2015 to April 2016



Incidents 2016: Type of Ship Attacked



| Type Vessel | Code |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Barge | B |
| Bulk Carrier | BC |
| Cargo ship | CS |
| Coast Guard/ Patrol Boat | PB |
| Container | C |
| Dhow | D |
| Ferry | F |
| Fishing Boat | FB |
| Fishing Trawler | FV |
| Offshore Supply Vessel | OSV |
| Passenger Boat | PMB |
| Roll-on-Roll-off Cargo Ship | Ro-Ro |
| Tanker | MT |
| Tug | TB |
| Yacht | SY |



| | B | BC | CS | PB | C | D | F | FB | FV | OSV | PMB | Ro-Ro | MT | TB | SY |
|--------------------------|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|-----|-------|----|----|----|
| Americas | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 3 |
| Indian Sub Continent | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | 9 | 2 | |
| SE Asia | 2 | 7 | 1 | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | 4 | |
| West Africa | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 2 | |
| East Africa/Arabian Gulf | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 | | |

Southeast Asia



Incidents in Southeast Asia are lower in 2016 compared to the preceding two years. Eleven incidents were reported in April 2016 which is an increase from the previous five months. Five incidents in Indonesian anchorages were reported. Robberies were reported at Anchorages at Samarinda, Semarang and Pulau Batam. Two attempted robberies were reported at Belawan and Jakarta. Two kidnappings off tug boats were recorded in the Philippines, allegedly by ASG.

- ❑ **1 April 2016** – The Malaysian flagged tug, *Massive 6* was underway from Manila, the Philippines to Tawau when they were boarded by eight armed men approximately 27nm southeast of Sempona, Sabah, Malaysia. They kidnapped the four Malaysian crew members¹, Wong Teck Kang, 31; Wong Hung Sing, 34; Wong Teck Chii, 29, and Johnny Lau Jung Hien, 21, and stole laptops and mobile phones. The remaining five crew resumed their voyage to Tawau. A photo of the four hostages appeared on the facebook profile of “Victor Troy Poz” early in April 2016. It is believed that the profile is fictitious and in all probability created by ASG in an attempt to open dialogue with families of the victims.²
- ❑ **15 April 2016** – The Indonesian flagged tug, *Henry* towing the barge, *Christi* was fired on by armed men in a speedboat about 25nm southwest of Sitangkai island, Tawi-Tawi. The tug and barge was underway from Cebu. Philippines to Tarakin, Indonesia. One of the crew was injured and four were kidnapped.³



The Photo of the four hostages From *Massive 6* posted on the facebook profile of “Victor Troy Poz”

Feedback Abu Sayyaf Hijackings of Vessels and Kidnapping Incidents in the Philippines

- ❑ John Ridsdel, one of four hostages kidnapped from Samal, Philippines by ASG on 21 September 2015, was beheaded by the group on 25 April 2016.
- ❑ On 25 March 2016 the Indonesian flagged tug, *Brahma 12* and barge, *Anand 12* were hijacked off Amapoy Island, Philippines. Ten Indonesian hostages were taken with the barge, presumably by Abu Sayyaf. The barge *Anand 12* was recovered on 2 April 2016 approximately 8.4 nm northeast from: the Tun Sharifah Rodziah Platform, and about 13,7 nautical miles southeast of Tungku.⁴ The Indonesian Foreign ministry confirmed a ransom demand for the hostages from the tug *Brahma 12* by ASG. The owners Patria Maritime Liners reportedly agreed to pay the ransom of US\$1 million (Rp 14.3 million) for the safe return of the ten hostages.⁵ The hostages were released on 1 May 2016. The hostages were delivered to the home of provincial governor Abdusakur Tan Jnr’s on Jolo Island, Philippines by persons unknown.⁶

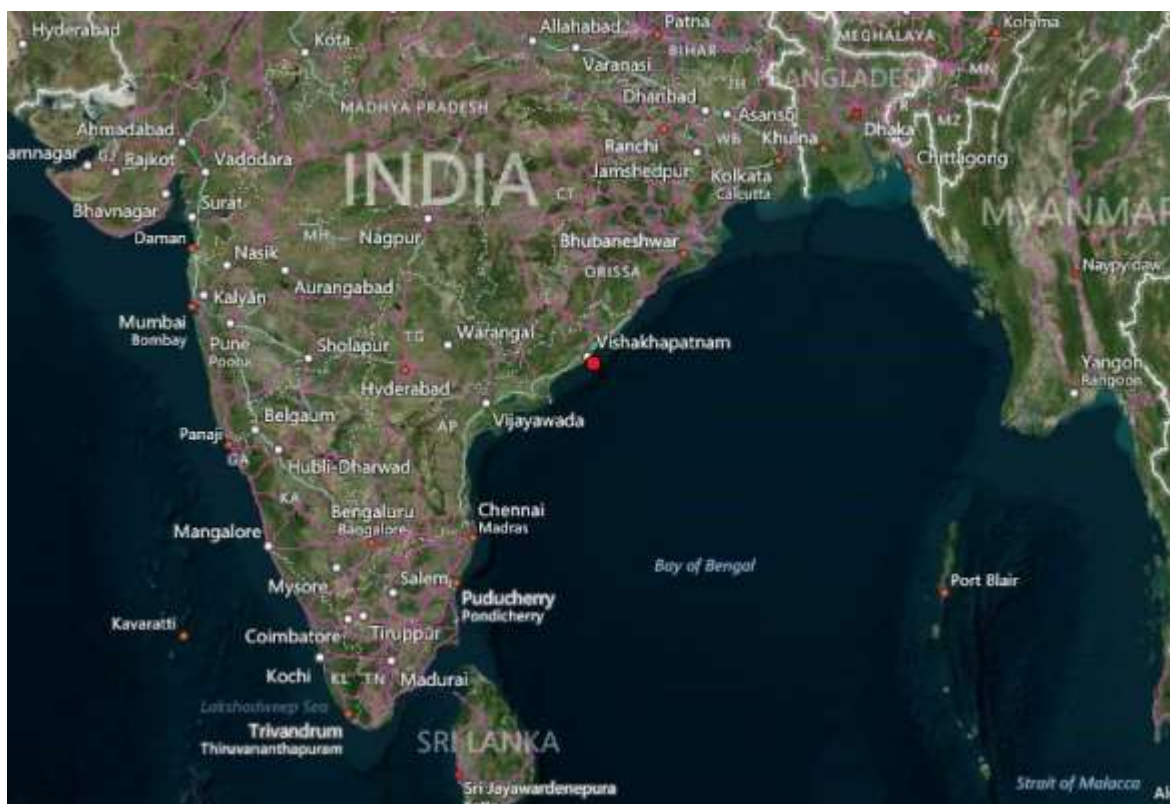
As a result of recent kidnappings in the area, the Malaysian Government imposed a temporary ban on the shipping route between Sabah and southern Philippines. Those that had already been issued with a permit will be escorted by the military.⁷ Patrols and aerial surveillance between Indonesia, Philippines and Malaysian navies and marine police in this area will commence to secure the sea lanes.⁸ Each navy will patrol their own maritime borders but the patrols will be integrated. Indonesia dispatched two warships to the area.

The Indonesian National Shipowners Association (INSA) suggested that vessels belonging to members should travel in convoy when transiting Mindanao.

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) suggested the following security measures while transiting the area⁹:

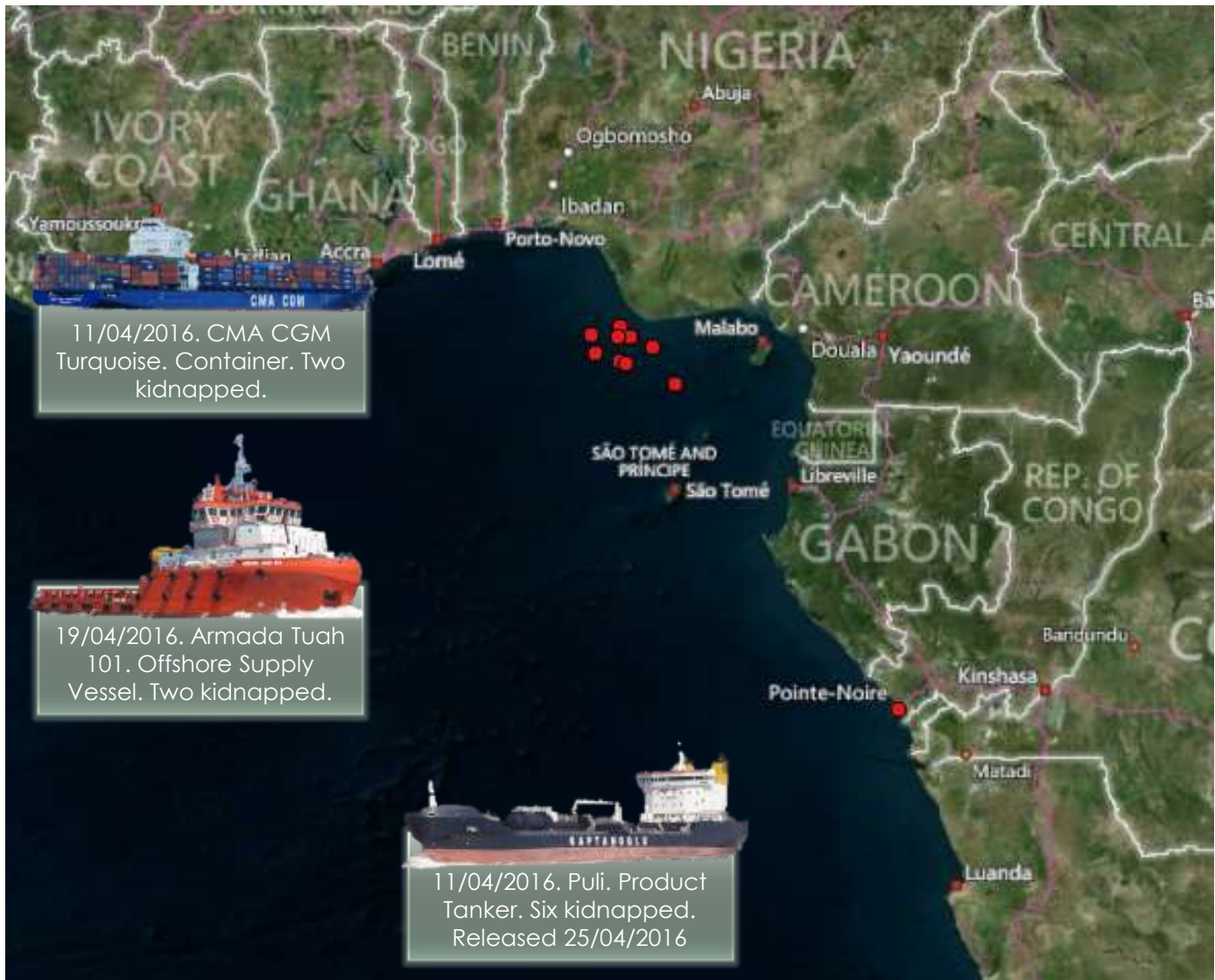
- ❑ Stringent watch-keeping while the ships are anchored.
- ❑ Keep vessel's surroundings well-lit and switched on the flood lights.
- ❑ Enhance vigilance, increase security watch rotations and sound the alarm when unknown people are sighted in the vicinity or on board the ships.
- ❑ Maintain a continuous watch to the advisories being issued on NAVTEX.
- ❑ Report all incidents in accordance with the IMO MSC circular of 1334.
- ❑ Reroute/Avoid area if feasible.
- ❑ Maintain continuous communications with enforcement agencies/company.

Indian Sub-Continent



On 30 April 2016 a tanker was robbed at Visakhapatnam Anchorage, India by robbers whom approached in a boat.¹⁰

West Africa



Eleven incidents were reported in West Africa in April 2016. A robbery took place at Pointe Noire Inner Anchorage, Congo. Ten attacks were reported off Nigeria with three resulting in the kidnapping of crew members.

- ❑ **11 April 2016** – The Product Tanker, *Puli* was approached by eight armed pirates in a speedboat around 118nm SSW of Port Harcourt, Nigeria while on route from Doula Port to Abidjan Port. The pirates boarded and stole cash, ship's property and other valuables and kidnapped six crew members.¹¹ The six crew members were released on 25 April 2016.¹²
- ❑ **11 April 2016** – The Container Ship, *CMA CGM Turquoise* was attacked 30nm SW of Bayelsa, Nigeria while underway from Bonga, Nigeria. The crew activated SSAS and all but two crew members mustered in the Citadel. The two crew members were kidnapped by the attackers.¹³
- ❑ **19 April 2016** – Two crew members were kidnapped from the Offshore Supply Vessel, *Armada Tuah 101* around 97nm SW of Brass, Nigeria.¹⁴

Feedback Kidnappings

The investigation into the hijacking of the tanker *MT Maximus*, hijacked on 11 February 2016 off Abidjan, Ivory Coast revealed an incoming telephone call to *MT Maximus* on 17 February 2016 at 22:00LT while the vessel was still under pirate control. A GSM phone number +2348170000979 called Inmarsat Satellite Phone number +8821644414815 onboard *MT Maximus*. The GSM phone number was traced to Charles Ekpemefumor alias Charles Parker or Captain Charles Agaba. The pirates arrested in February 2016 also implicated Charles Ekpemefumor as the mastermind behind the hijacking.¹⁵ He leased the mother ship, *MT Dejikun* used in the hijacking from Mustapha (Musty) Kenny Gani through a third party Steve Paul.¹⁶ Mustapha (Musty) Kenny Gani is the chairman of K&G's Marine LTD in Lagos. He is allegedly a Nigerian born Japanese national.¹⁷

East Africa and Arabian Gulf



A product tanker was fired on by two skiffs off the Port of Mukalla, Yemen. It is more likely that this incident is related to the security situation in Yemen than Somali piracy. AQAP took control of Mukalla a year ago, controlling 600km of Yemeni coastline including the Port of Mukalla. They extracted \$1.4 million from the national oil company and earned up to \$2 million a day from taxes and fuel entering the Port.¹⁸ They deployed speedboats with armed combatants who extracted fees from vessels. Controlling this part of the coast also gave them access to fuel and weapons to support their operations.¹⁹

Pro Yemini government forces seized the Port on 24 April 2014.²⁰ The Ash Shihr Oil terminal, 68km east from Mukalla was recaptured on 25 April 2015. Approximately 80 percent from the countries oil exports were shipped from this terminal.²¹ The terminal has been shut since AQAP took control.

25 April 2016 – The Product tanker, *Fair Apollon* was fire on off the Port of Mukalla, Yemen at around 00:15LT.²² Two Yemeni-type skiffs were spotted in the vicinity The onboard security team, Special Anti Piracy Unit (SAPU), returned fire keeping the skiffs from approaching.²³

Americas



Three incidents were recorded in South America and the Caribbean in April 2016.. A Bulk Carrier was robbed by armed men at Buenaventura Anchorage, Colombia and a robbery on a product tanker at Callao Anchorage No 12 in Peru failed. Two yacht charter guests were robbed of valuables in Salt Whistle Bay, Mayreau, St Vincent and the Grenadines. The police only responded to the incident the next day via a water taxi, as their patrol boat was without gas.²⁴

End Notes

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