



## PIRACY REPORT JULY 2017

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### Piracy and Acts of Armed Robbery of Ships

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## Analysis

- ❑ Few incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels were reported worldwide in July 2017.
- ❑ Nigeria and the Strait of Malacca are currently the areas with the highest geographical concentration of incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels. Venezuela; the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas off Malaysia; and Bangladesh all recorded high incidents in 2017.
- ❑ Continues military operations against Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu, Philippines as well as trilateral maritime patrols between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have suppressed maritime kidnappings in the Sulu and Celebes Seas on the short term. Several members of ASG were also arrested in recent months. The last successful kidnapping from a vessel was the two crew kidnapped from the tug, *Super Shuttle Tugboat 1* in March 2017. An attack on *MV Doña Anabelle* was aborted in April 2017 on arrival of the Navy and Coast Guard and an OSV was chased by two speed boats in May 2017. Crew should however still exercise vigilance, control access to and on the vessel and maintain regular communication with the shipping company.<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ The toll on ASG hostages kidnapped from vessels were high in past months – four hostages were beheaded and two killed in 2017. In July 2017 alone two hostages were beheaded, one was killed presumably during a contact between ASG and government forces and two escaped.
- ❑ On the coast of Nigeria 48 crew and passengers of vessels were kidnapped during seven reported incidents from January to end of July 2017. Five crew members were kidnapped from a general cargo vessel, *Oya 1* off the coast of Nigerian in July 2017. In another unconfirmed incident two crew members were kidnapped off the Agbara Field.
- ❑ An attempted boarding of a Bulk Carrier from a fishing vessel was reported off Dakar, Senegal. Attacks have not been reported in this area since 2003/2004.
- ❑ On 29 July 2017 Houthi rebels launched an attack in the Port of Mokha, Yemen with a remote controlled boat packed with explosives. The boat collided with a pier and detonated. No casualties or significant damage were reported. According to Houthi rebels the intended target was an Emirati vessel arriving from Assab Port, Eritrea.

## 2016 Incidents



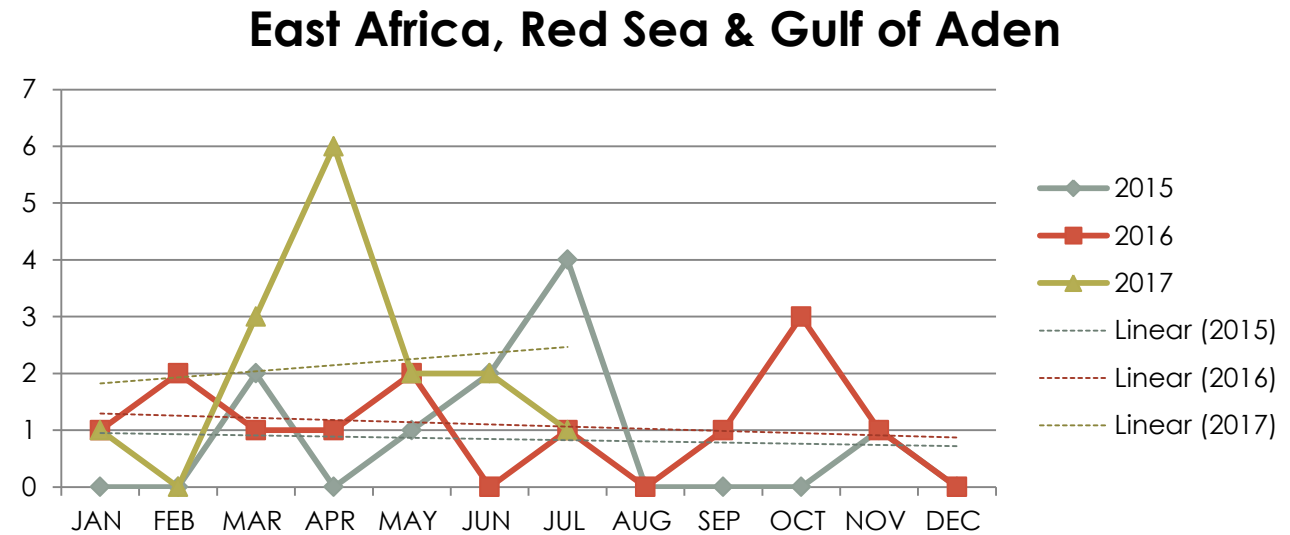
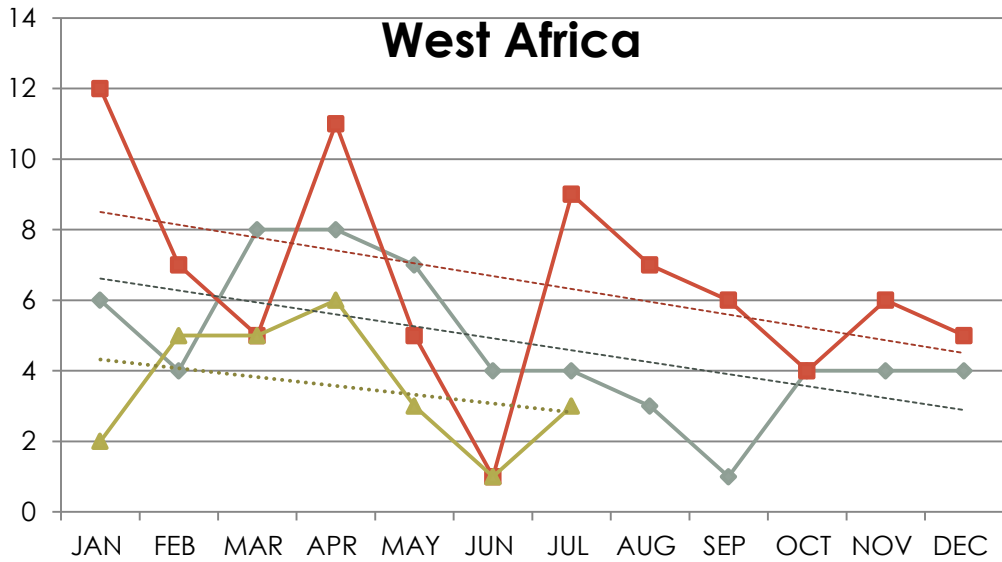
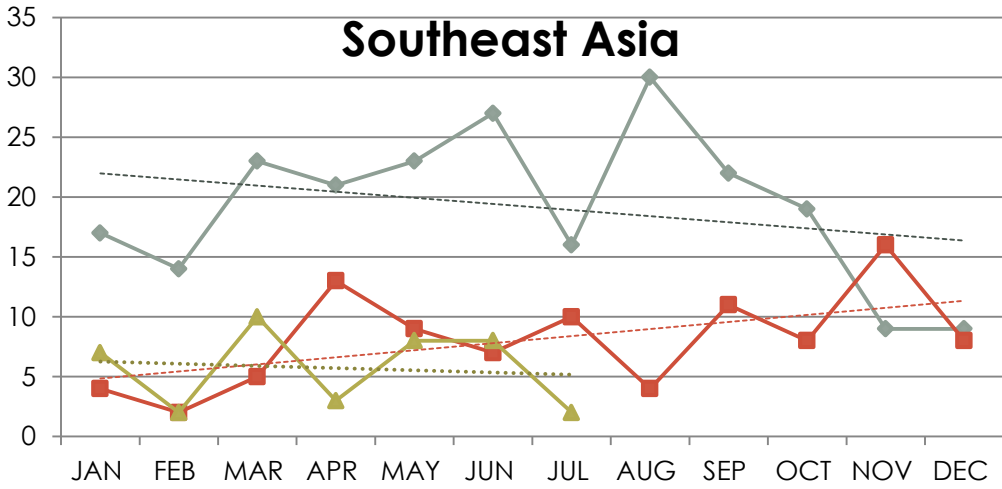
## 2017 Incidents



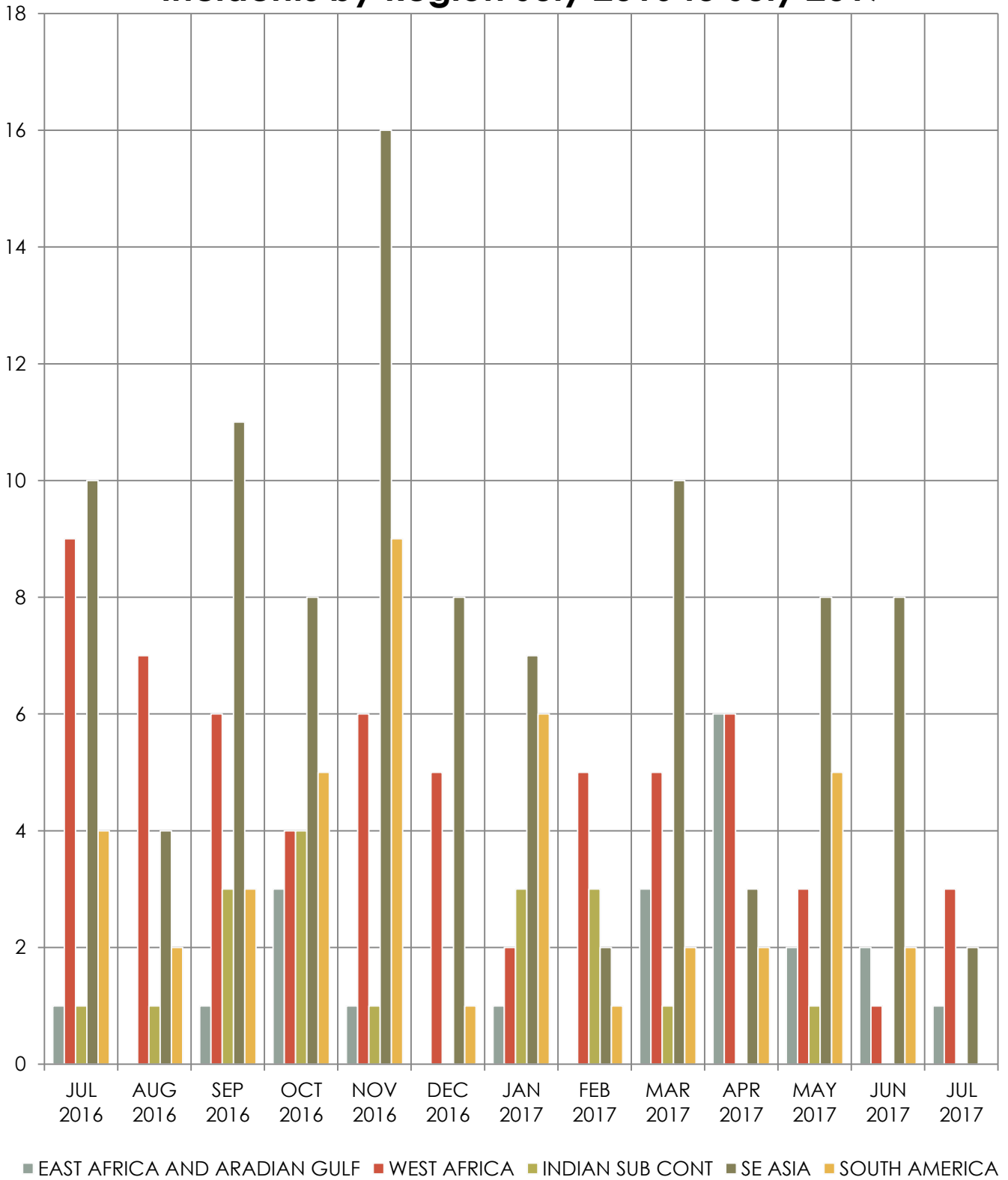
## July 2017 Incidents



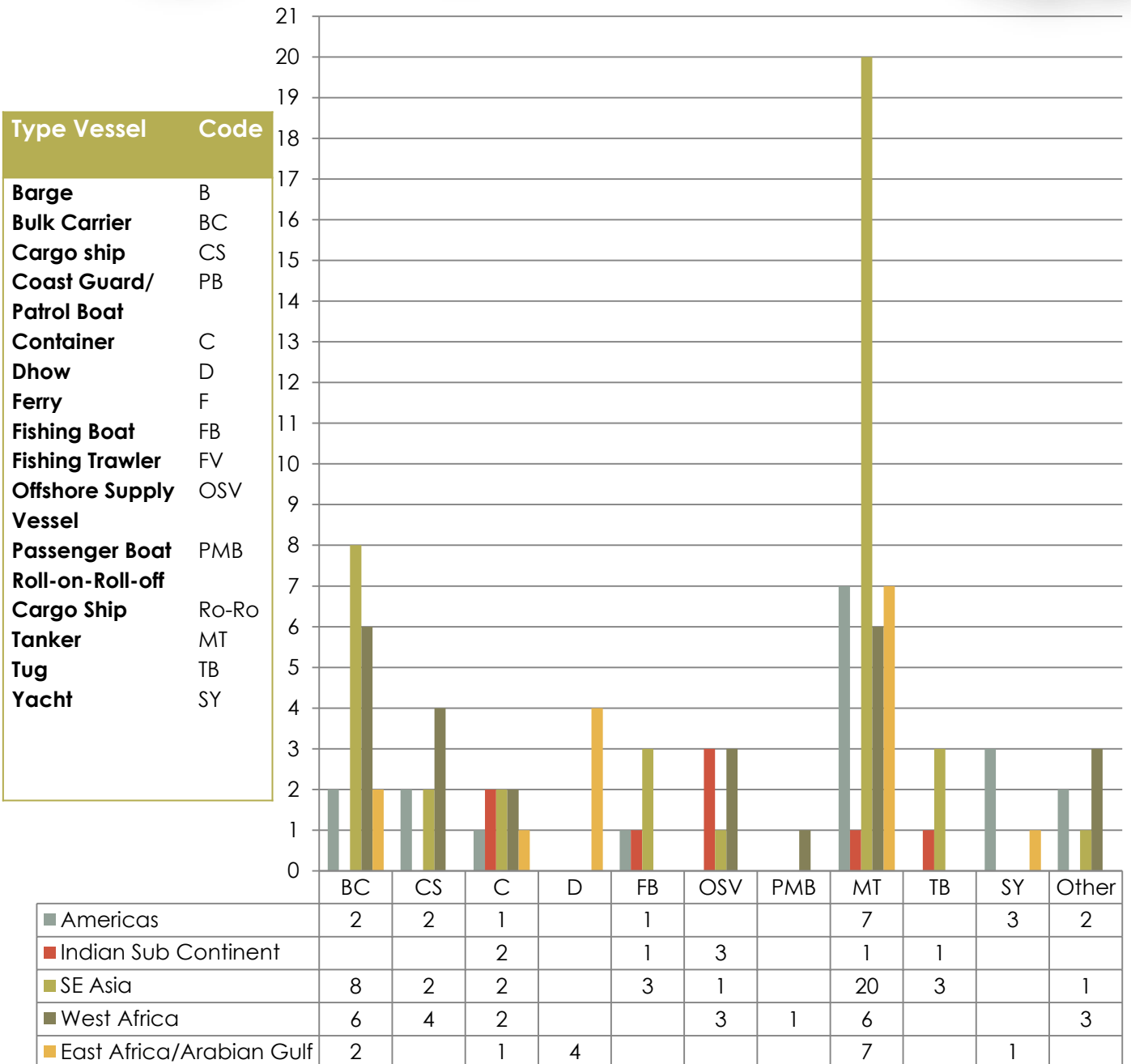
# Incidents of Piracy and Robbery of Vessels: 2015 to 2017



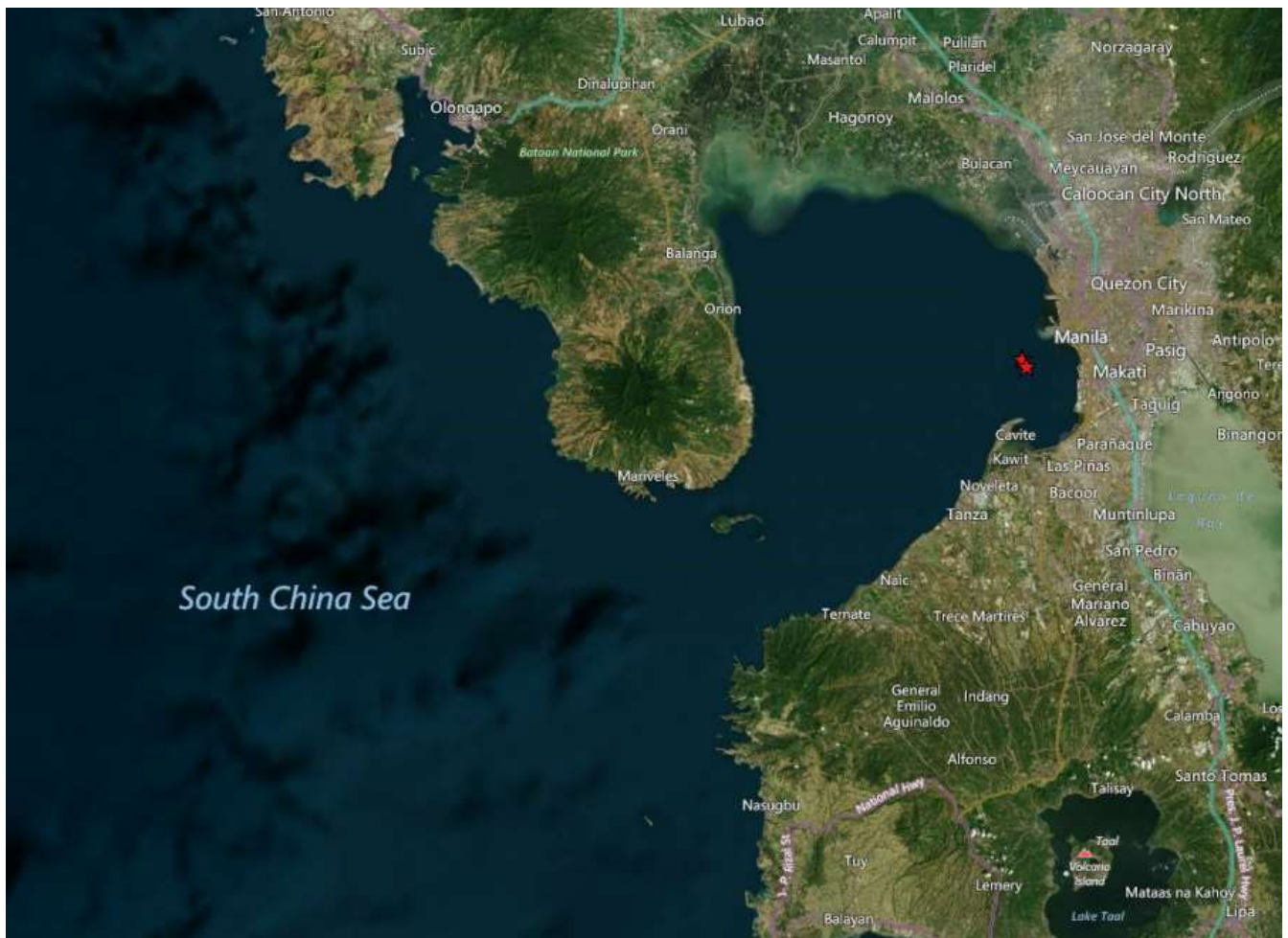
# Incidents by Region July 2016 to July 2017



# Incidents 2017: Type of Ship Attacked



# Southeast Asia



Two robberies were reported at the Manila South Harbour Anchorage, Philippines. In both cases survival and fire fighting equipment were stolen.

The Philippines and Indonesia launched Corpat Philindo XXXI-1,7 a series of coordinated maritime patrols in the Celebes Sea on the common boundary between the two countries. The patrols commenced on 12 July 2017.<sup>2</sup> A maritime security agreement named Indomaphil was also signed between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines to facilitate joint patrols. According to the agreement the naval assets of the three parties would be allowed to enter each other's maritime territory in pursuit of terrorists.<sup>3</sup>

## Feedback Abu Sayyaf Hostages

- ❑ **5 July 2017** – Two hostages from the *MV Royal 16* were beheaded by Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines. The bodies of Hoang Trung Thong and Hoang Va Hai were found by authorities in Tumahubong Village, Sumisip Town, Basilan.<sup>4</sup> The Bulk Carrier, *MV Royal 16* was boarded by ten armed men on 11 November 2016 approximately 10nm NNE of Basilan Islands, Philippines. They kidnapped six crew members.<sup>5</sup>

- ❑ **6 July 2017** – Two kidnapped crew members of the fishing boat, Romona 2 - Reyjim Rocabo and Roel Leones escaped ASG custody in Patikul, Sulu. They were on a motorcycle when intercepted by government forces.<sup>6</sup> Four fishermen were kidnapped from the *Ramona 2* in the Celebes Sea, Philippines on 20 December 2016.<sup>7</sup>
- ❑ **8 July 2017** – The body of Tran Viet Van's was found after troops and the ASG clashed in Sulu. He was one of six hostages from the Vietnam flagged Bulk Carrier, *Giang Hai*. It is not clear if he died during the contact.<sup>8</sup> The *Giang Hai* was attacked by armed men in speedboats near Baguan Island, Tawi-Tawi, Philippines on 19 February 2017.<sup>9</sup>
- ❑ **13 July 2017** – ASG sub-leader Omad Harun alias Abu Halipa and Ara Samindi were both arrested in two separate incidents. Both are connected to the *Giang Hai* kidnapping. Harun was arrested in Poblacion Taganak and Samindi in Taganak Town, Lagaan Island.<sup>10</sup>

## Far East



The Taiwan flagged fishing boat, *Jin Jin He Fa 2* was boarded by three Chinese men armed with knives 113nm of Qimei Township, Taiwan on 13 July 2017. They stole a large amount of cash. The Taiwanese Coast Guard Administration (CGA) dispatched three patrol vessels. They discontinued their efforts when the Chinese boat moved into Chinese territorial waters near Shantou City.<sup>11</sup> The matter was handed to Chinese authorities. Taiwan and China signed a Maritime Crime and Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement to combat cross-strait crime in 2009. Chinese police arrested 14 suspects and confiscated their boat the following day near Shantou City.<sup>12</sup>

## East Africa and the Red Sea



On 2 July 2017 two robbers attempted to board the container ship, *CMA CGM Utrillo* at Nacala Anchorage, Mozambique.<sup>13</sup>

Houthi rebels in Yemen launched a remote controlled boat packed with explosives on 29 July 2017 in the Port of Mokha, a Red Sea port in Yemen. The boat detonated at dawn when it collided with a pier near a group of ships. No casualties or significant damage were reported. According to Houthi rebels their target was a Emirati vessel arriving from Assab Port, Eritrea. Assab is leased by the UAE and is used by the Saudi led Coalition as a base for operations. Pro-government forces took Mokha back from Houthi control in February 2017. The Houthis is still in control of Hodeidah on the northern Red Sea coast of Yemen.<sup>14</sup>

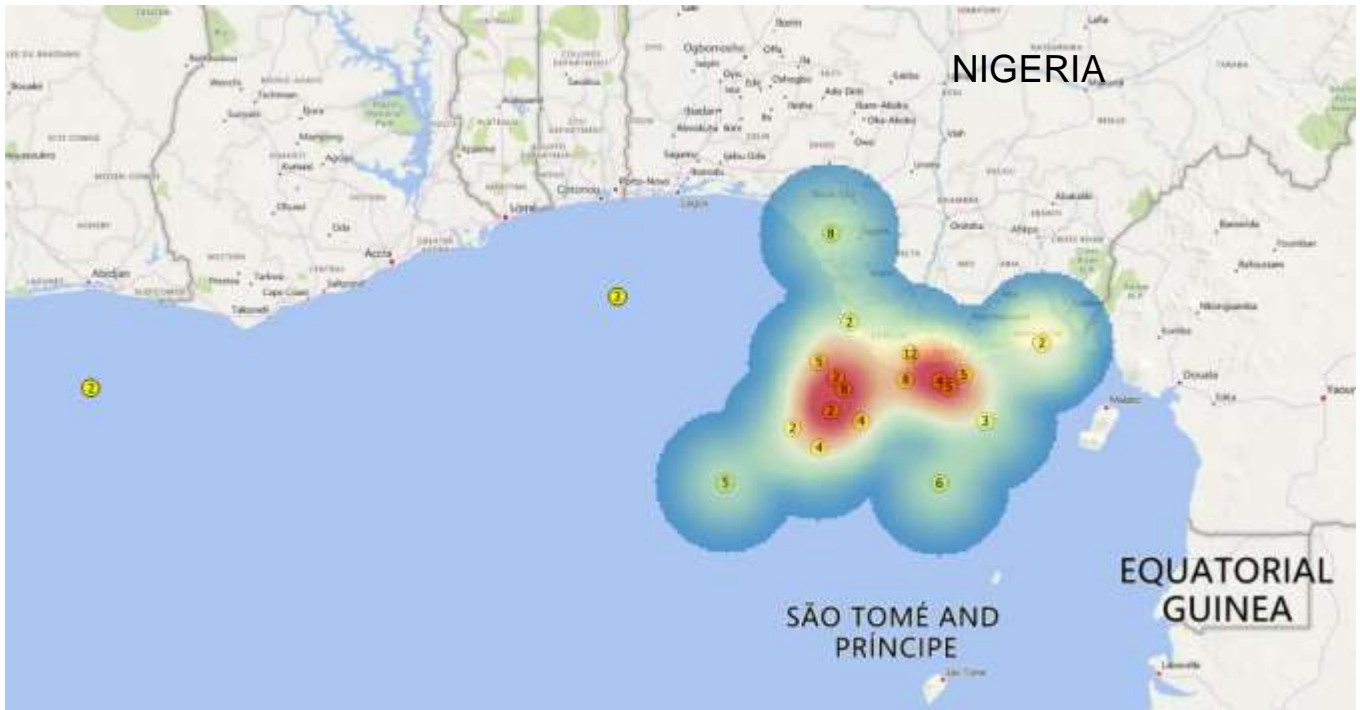


# West Africa



Four incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels were reported in the Gulf of Guinea. One of the incidents could not be confirmed.

- ❑ **12 July 2017** – According to unconfirmed reports the master and chief engineer were kidnapped from a vessel 33nm of the Agbara Field, Nigeria. Companies often do not report kidnapping in Nigeria as they prefer to handle the matter in house and keep ransom payments confidential.<sup>15</sup>
- ❑ **13 July 2017** – The general Cargo vessel, *UAL Houston* was boarded by four to five men approaching in a speed boat 16nm SSW of Bonny, Nigeria. The crew retreated to the citadel. The attackers left the *UAL Houston* when they were unable to breach the citadel. The Nigerian Navy found all crew safe.<sup>16</sup>



### Kidnappings from Vessels in Creeks and Offshore Nigeria: 2016 to July 2017

- ❑ **22 July 2017** – Men on a fishing boat attempted to board a Bulk Carrier, 65nm NW of Dakar, Senegal. As a result of bad weather and evasive manuevres the vessel managed to escape.<sup>17</sup> A series of similar attacks were reported in 2003 and 2004, but nothing since then.
- ❑ **30 July 2017** – Five crew members were kidnapped from a general cargo vessel, *Oya 1* near the Bonny Fairway Buoy, Nigeria.<sup>18</sup>

## End Notes

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