



PIRACY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2017

Piracy and Acts of Armed Robbery of Ships

For Monthly Reports
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Analysis

- ❑ Nigeria, the Strait of Malacca and the Philippines are currently the areas with the highest geographical concentration of incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels. Venezuela also recorded high incidents in 2017.
- ❑ The Thai flagged Product Tanker, *MGT 1* was hijacked on 6 September 2017 approximately 54nm east of Kuala Dungun, Malaysia. The Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) arrested eleven suspects in connection with the incident.
- ❑ The hijacking of the *MGT 1* had several similarities to the hijacking of the *C.P.41* in June 2017. The two incidents took place 70nm apart. Both vessels are small Thai flagged product tankers approximately 100m in length. Both had diesel oil onboard. Both attacks were launched at night by assailants speaking in Indonesian Bahasa.
- ❑ Another Thai tanker, *Senna 3* was also boarded and robbed while underway SSE of Pulau Aur, Malaysia in September 2017. Crews should remain vigilant in this area and implement security measures. Pirates have good knowledge and accessibility to information in the oil industry and companies should do their own risk assessment in this regard.
- ❑ 55 crew members and passengers of vessels were kidnapped on the coast of Nigeria during nine reported incidents from January to end of September 2017. Seven crew members and security personnel were kidnapped during two incidents in Nigeria in September 2017.
- ❑ Up to date no prosecutions against criminals involved with hijackings of commercial ships or kidnapping of crew of commercial vessels were recorded in Nigeria. This, as well as high militancy levels are some of the contributing factors in the occurrence of maritime crime against commercial ships in Nigeria.
- ❑ The socio-economic and political crisis in Venezuela is effecting maritime security. Eleven incidents of robbery and attempted robbery on tankers and cargo vessels were reported at Puerto La Cruz anchorages in Venezuela from January to end of September 2017. Four incidents were reported in September 2017.

2016 Incidents



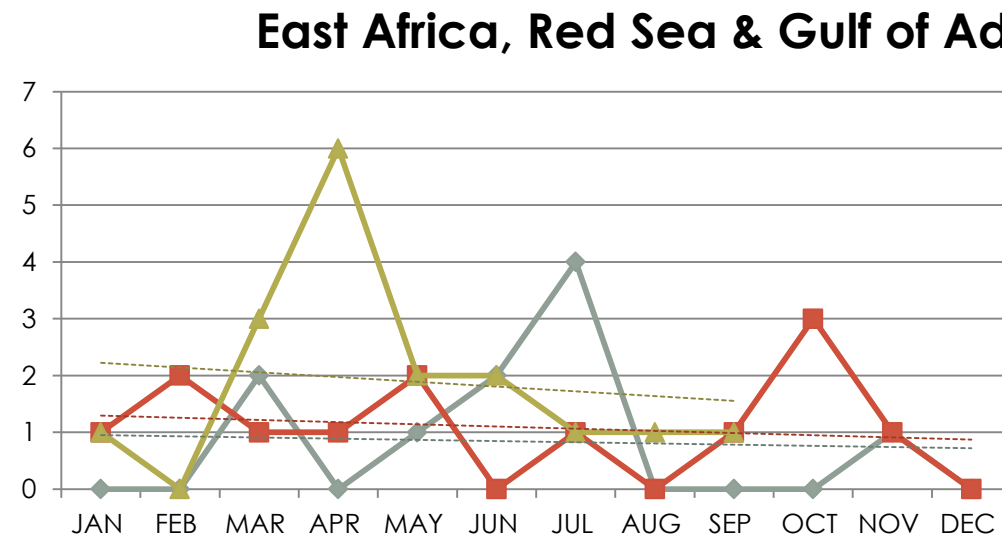
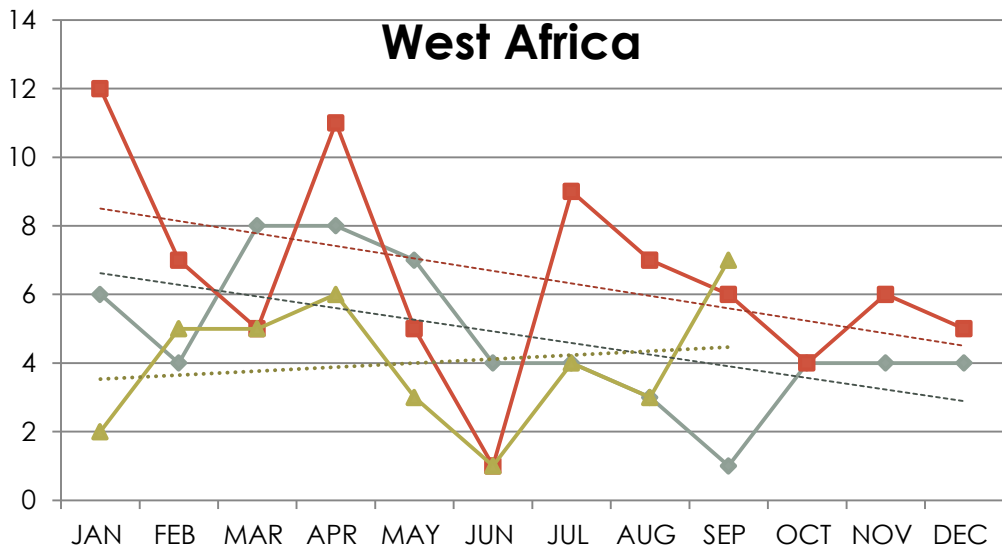
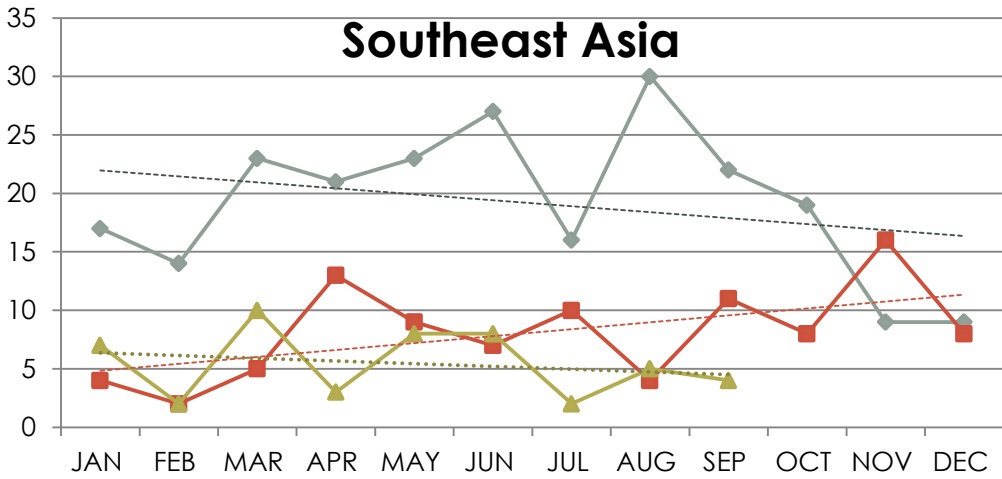
2017 Incidents



September 2017 Incidents

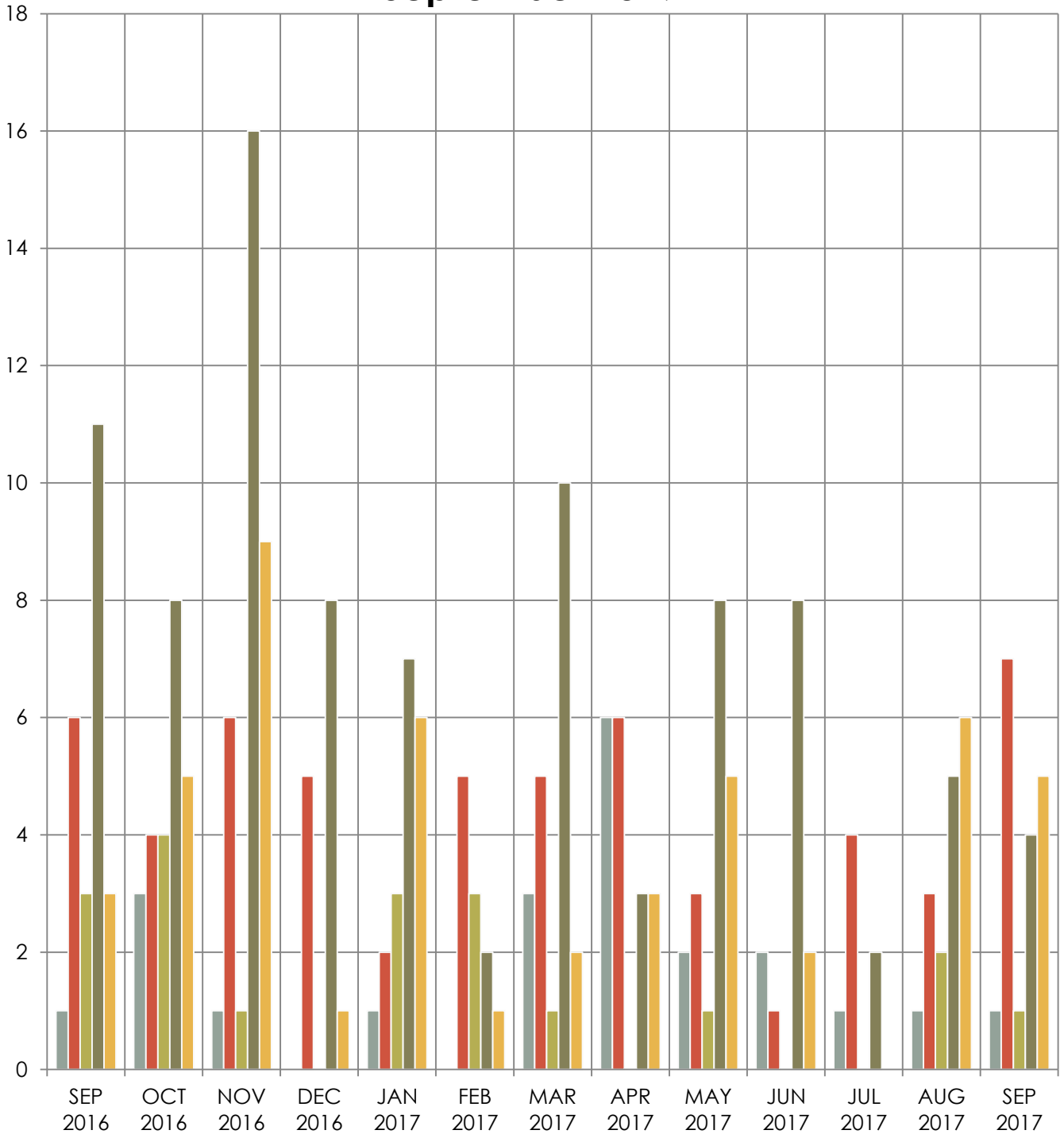


Incidents of Piracy and Robbery of Vessels: 2015 to 2017



- ◆— 2015
- 2016
- ▲— 2017
- Linear (2015)
- Linear (2016)
- Linear (2017)

Incidents by Region September 2016 to September 2017

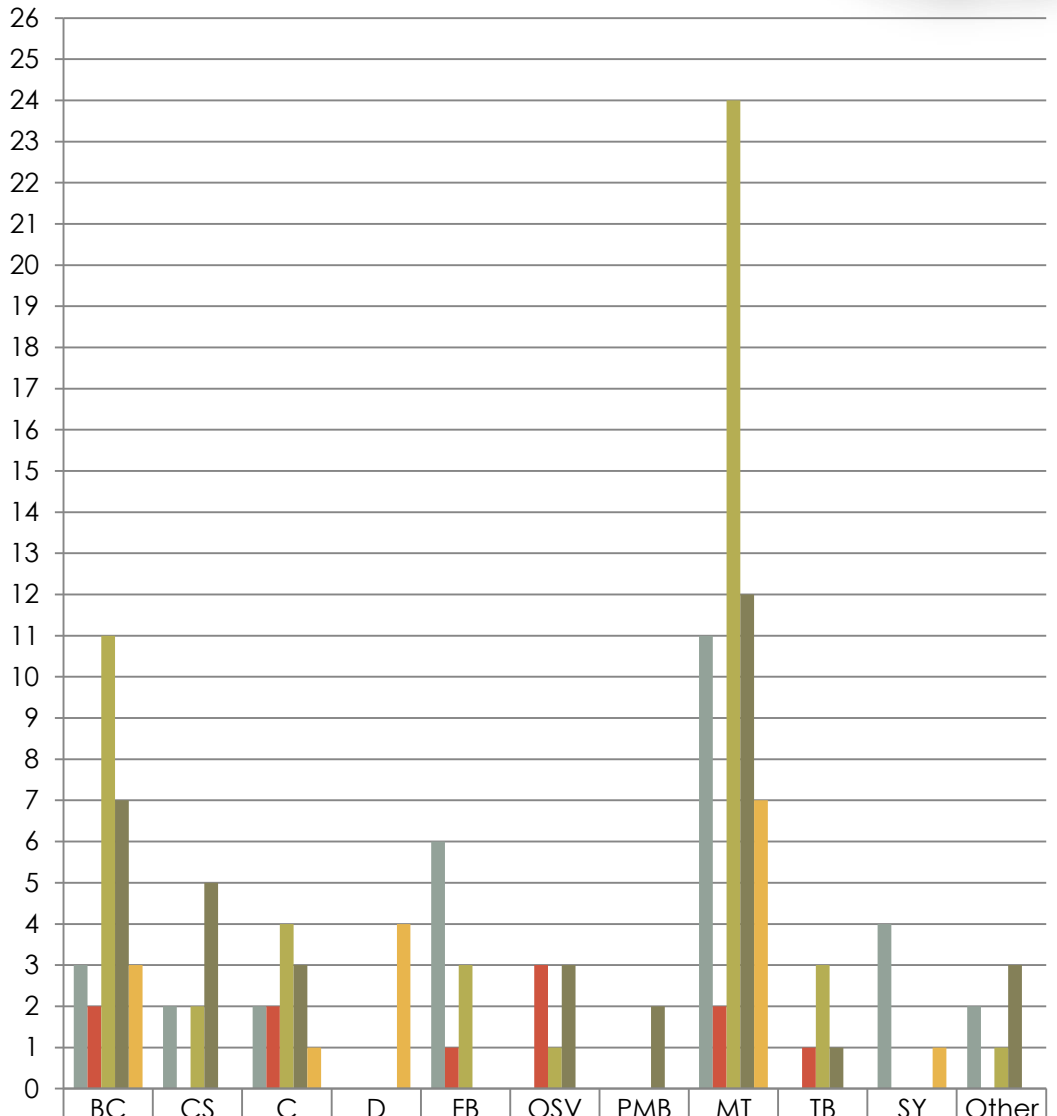


■ EAST AFRICA AND ARABIAN GULF ■ WEST AFRICA ■ INDIAN SUB CONT ■ SE ASIA ■ SOUTH AMERICA

Incidents 2017: 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



	BC	CS	C	D	FB	OSV	PMB	MT	TB	SY	Other
Americas	3	2	2		6			11		4	2
Indian Sub Continent	2		2		1	3		2	1		
SE Asia	11	2	4		3	1		24	3		1
West Africa	7	5	3			3	2	12	1		3
East Africa/Arabian Gulf	3		1	4				7		1	

Southeast Asia



6/09/2017. MGT 1.
Product tanker. Hijacking.

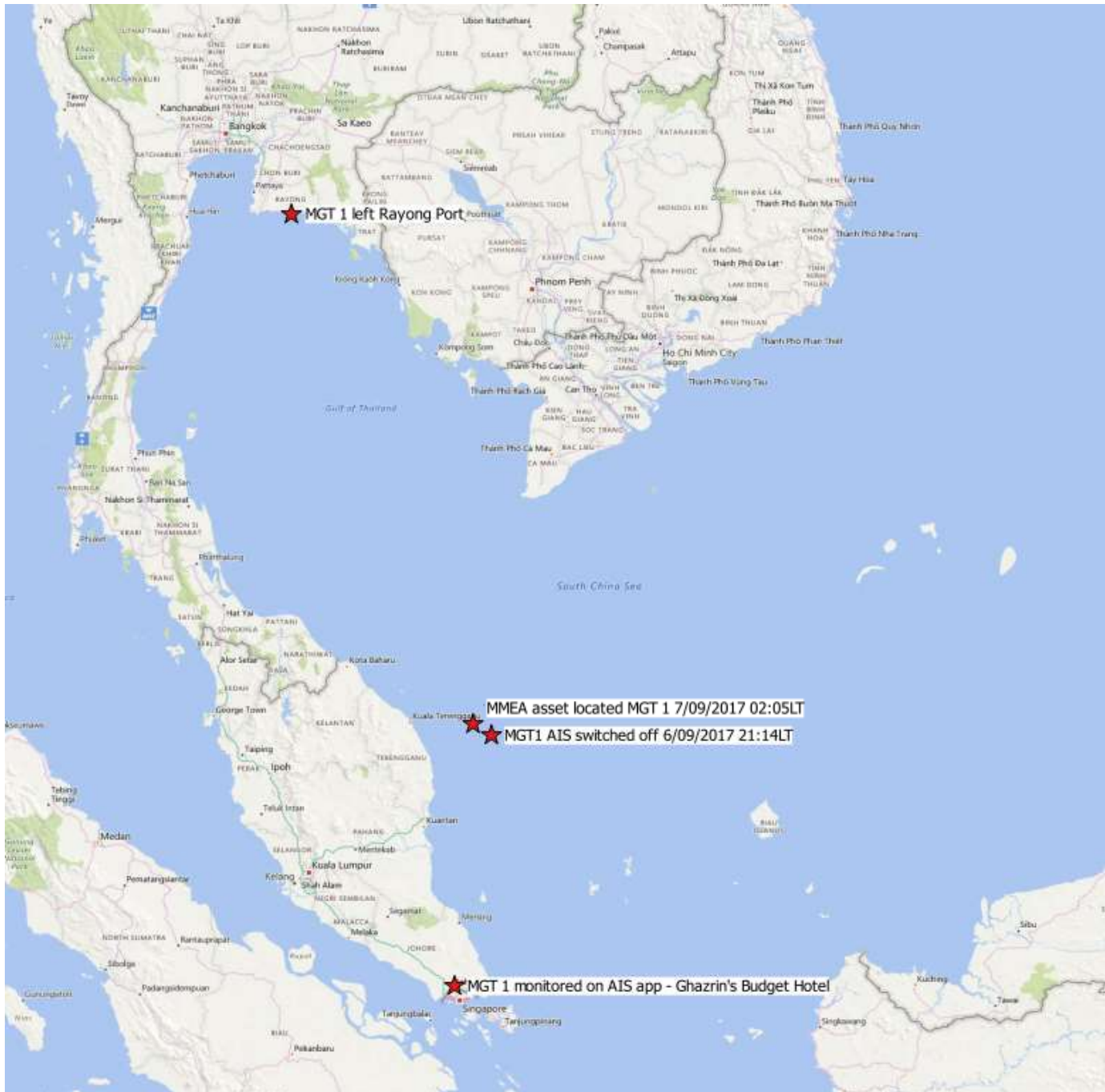
7/09/2017. Senna 3. LPG
tanker. Robbery while
Underway.

Four incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels were reported in Southeast Asia in September 2017. Two robberies were reported – one at Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, Indonesia and one at Campha Inner Anchorage, Vietnam. Both can be classified as petty theft. A tanker was hijacked and another was boarded and robbed while underway off Malaysia.

- **7 September 2017** – The Thai flagged LPG Tanker, *Senna 3* was boarded by four masked men armed with long knives while underway approximately 35 nm SSE of Pulau Aur, Malaysia. The pirates boarded from a small boat. They stole crew and ship's property and tied the crew up. They proceeded to cut the wires to the VHF handset and Inmarsat C-minisat.¹

6 September 2017: MGT-1 Hijacking

The Thai flagged Product Tanker, *MGT 1* was hijacked on 6 September 2017 at around 21:00LT approximately 54nm east of Kuala Dungun, Malaysia.² The pirates were armed with knives and machetes. Around 21:14LT Malaysian authorities were alerted that the owners, Marine Global Transport Co Ltd,³ lost Automatic Identification System (AIS) contact with the vessel.



MT MGT 1 Hijacking

The MMEA dispatched two ships and a helicopter to the last known location of the *MGT 1*. A MMEA air asset located the vessel 37nm north east of Pulau Tenggol at 02:05LT on 7 September 2017. They were rafted alongside another tanker while transferring diesel. One million litres of diesel oil from a load of 2.2 million were transferred to the pirate vessel. A small speedboat was spotted in the vicinity.

The speedboat with three pirates onboard fled on approach of the helicopter. The MMEA helicopter fired on the speedboat, but they managed to escape as the helicopter was almost out of fuel. Ten Indonesian suspects were arrested and both the pirate vessel and the *MGT 1* were escorted to Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia.⁴

R WFOV Man Mod Wht Day CENT- Inrpt R FAULT - No Data



TLat N 0° 0.000' TLon E 0° 0.000' Alt 0f 5 Rng: On Ins *****
at: N 5° 8.228' Lon: E 104° 16.450' Az: -93.2° El: 0.8° 07-Sep-2017 04:02:31

V Auto AF Day CENT- Inrpt R - No Data



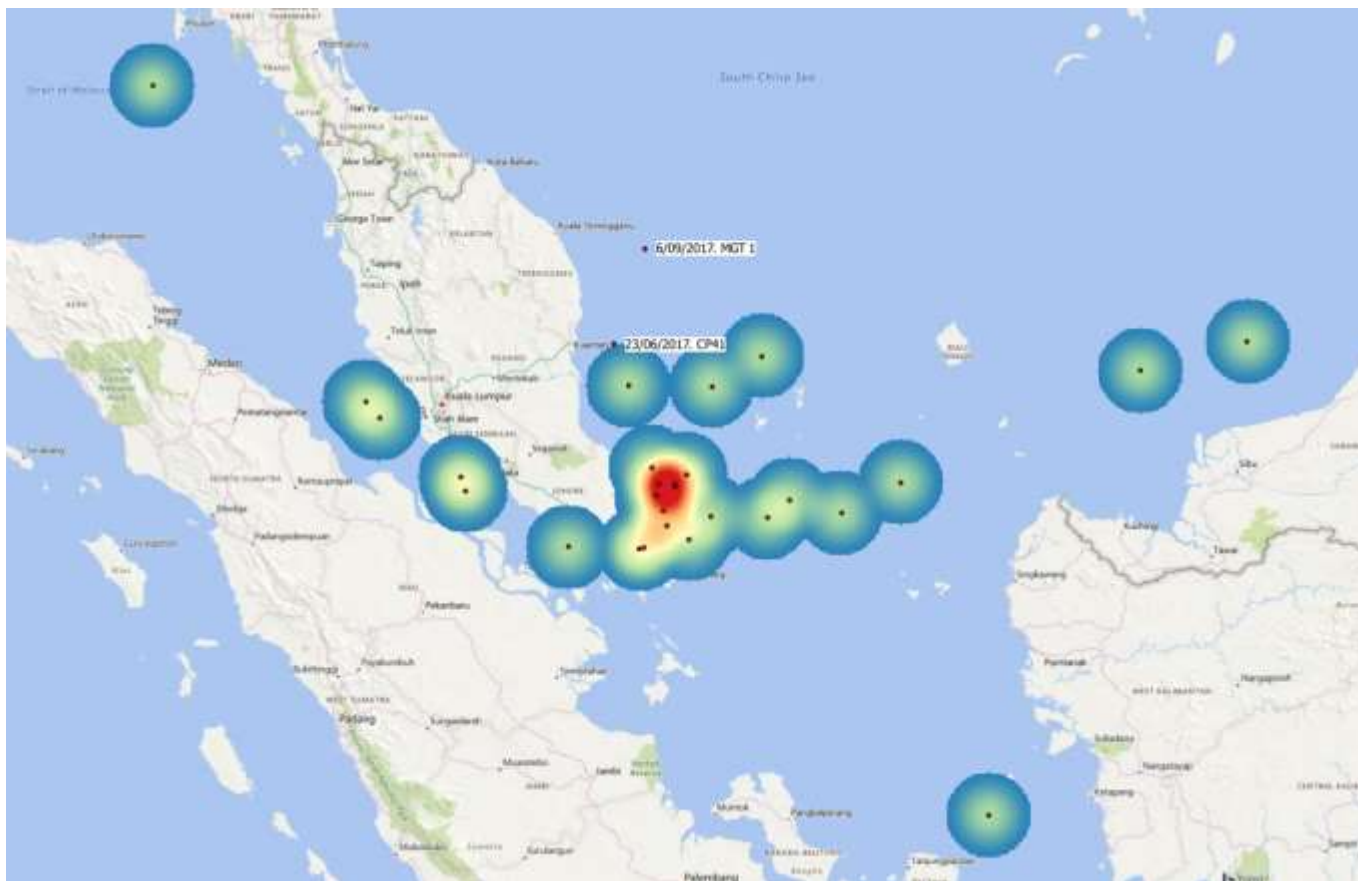
TLat N 0° 0.000' TLon E 0° 0.000' Alt 0f 5 Rng: On Ins *****
at: N 5° 8.249' Lon: E 104° 16.625' Az: -75.8° El: -22.4° 07-Sep-2017 04:06:30

MT MGT 1 with Pirate Vessel Rafted Alongside: Source Information Fusion Centre⁵

The suspects led investigators to the arrest of the mastermind, Heinrick Piterson Parera. He was arrested in the Ghazrin Budget Hotel in Larkin, Johor. He booked into the hotel prior to the attack and was tracking the *MGT 1* on online ship's AIS.

The pirates also robbed the crew of the *MGT 1* of personal possessions. Ten Indonesian nationals, Anne Raja, Arsito Mohd Hardi, Kreston Muhaling, La Abu, Bram Ali, Luther Marnis Zachawerus, Badiun, Meidy Hermanus Wajongkere, Rollan Kapahese and Oktemi Supri, were arrested for the incident.⁶ They all received a 16 year sentence.

The pirate vessel was initially identified as the *Neptune 09*, but the name seems to be fake.



Tanker Hijackings Southeast Asia since August 2013

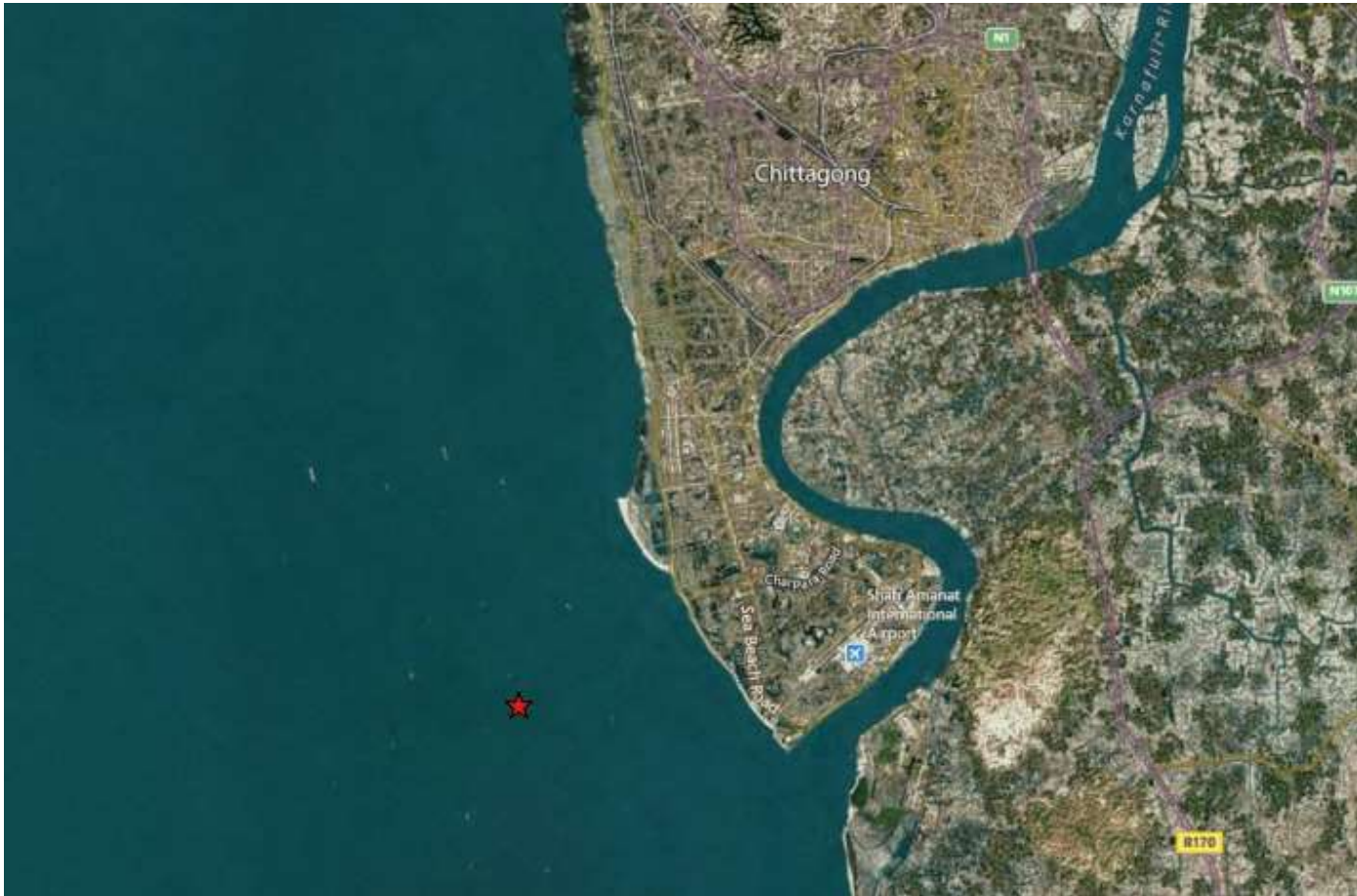
Almost all tanker hijackings in Southeast Asia take place in the Malacca Straits and its approaches with the hotspot to the east of Johor, Malaysia. 31 hijackings were reported since August 2013. Another tanker, *C.P.41*, was hijacked on the outer limit of this pattern on 23 June 2017. The last time a tanker was hijacked in Southeast Asia before the recent incidents was in May 2016 when the *Hai Soon 12* was hijacked off Pulau Serutu, Indonesia. The arrest of nine suspects interrupted pirate operations in this area.

The hijacking of the *C.P.41* had several similarities to the *MGT 1* hijacking. The two incidents took place 70nm apart. Both vessels are small Thai flagged product tankers approximately 100m in length. Both had diesel oil onboard. Both were boarded in darkness by assailants speaking in Indonesian Bahasa⁷

Feedback Abu Sayyaf Hostages

- **7 September 2017** – Saparuddin bin Koni and Sawal bin Maryam were rescued by security forces in the Indanan district, Sulu, Philippines. They were found in a van. They were kidnapped on 19 November 2016 from a fishing boat around 8.7nm South of Merabung, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia by five masked members of Abu Sayyaf.⁸

Indian Subcontinent



On 2 September 2017 four robbers armed with long knives boarded the anchored Bulk Carrier, *Arete. Gr* at Chittagong Alpha Anchorage, Bangladesh and stole ship's stores.⁹

East Africa and the Arabian Sea



- ❑ **29 September 2017** – A crew member was tied up by five robbers at Dar es Salaam Anchorage, Tanzania. Ship's stores and a VHF radio were stolen.¹⁰
- ❑ **28 September 2017** – Unconfirmed reports were received of a tanker under attack off Yemen. Five to six men in a small boat fired on the vessel.¹¹ It is likely that this incident is related to the conflict in Yemen. The vessel was close to the coast during the attack and close to the small port of Nishtun. Tankers make up 70% of the traffic to the port. The smugglers beach at Al Ghaydah is also located in this area. Ship to shore transfers were done in the past with dhows or small boats to this beach.¹²

West Africa



Seven incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels were reported in the Gulf of Guinea, although not all could be confirmed. Five of the seven were in Nigerian waters. Several of these incidents were violent. Two robberies of vessels were reported at Conakry Anchorage, Guinea and an attempted robbery at Lagos Anchorage, Nigeria. During both incidents at Conakry, robbers used crowbars to gain access to property. Two kidnapping incidents of crew were reported in Nigeria.

- ❑ **18 September 2017** – Kidnappers in four speedboats attacked the Cameroon flag General Cargo Vessel, *Donna Simop* near Parrot Island, Calabar, Nigeria. They kidnapped four Cameroonian and one Nigerian crew member.¹³
- ❑ **22 September 2017** – A tug towing a barge with a combined team of policemen from the Nigerian Inland Waterways, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and civilians on board was attacked by militants in Ekebiri Waterways, Southern Ijaw, Bayelsa, Nigeria.¹⁴ They were on their way to the Tebidaba flow station operated by the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC). Three members of the team were killed and a policeman is still missing. The attackers stole rifles.¹⁵ It is likely that this incident is political motivated.

- ❑ **25 September 2017** – Robbers attacked and robbed a passenger boat near the Obama Flow Station, Brass, Nigeria. Two passengers were killed when robbers fired indiscriminately while escaping.¹⁶
- ❑ **26 September 2017** – According to unconfirmed reports two crew members were kidnapped from a tanker 4nm south of Brass, Nigeria.¹⁷

South America



Four incidents were reported in Venezuela. Two robberies and an attempted robbery were reported at Puerto la Cruz Anchorage and another robbery at Puerto Jose Anchorage. During three incidents crew were tied up. A robbery was also reported at Cartagena Inner Anchorage, Colombia.

End Notes

1. <https://icc-ccs.org/index.php/piracy-reporting-centre/live-piracy-report/details/169/1464> viewed 11/09/2017; <http://www.recaap.org> viewed 13/09/2017
2. http://www.recaap.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=551&PortalId=0&TabId=78
3. <http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2017/09/21/mastermind-and-indonesian-henchmen-jailed-for-tanker-hijack/> viewed 22/09/2017
4. Information Fusion Centre, Spot Commentary 4/17, Attempted Piracy/Oil –Siphoning Incident on Oil Tanker MT MGT 1, Malaysia.
5. Ibid
6. <http://www.thesundaily.my/news/2017/09/20/11-indonesian-pirates-jailed-hijacking-oil-tanker>
7. Information Fusion Centre, Op Cit.
8. http://www.oni.navy.mil/Portals/12/Intel%20agencies/piracy/20170920_WTS.pdf?ver=2017-09-25-082512-807; <https://www.themalaysianinsight.com/s/13841/> viewed 26/09/2017
9. <https://icc-ccs.org/index.php/piracy-reporting-centre/live-piracy-report/details/169/1461> viewed 6/09/2017; <http://www.recaap.org> viewed 20/09/2017
10. <https://www.asket.co.uk/single-post/2017/09/29/UKMTO-Advisory-Robbery-Dar-Es-Salaam-Anchorage-piracy-marsec> viewed 29/09/2017
11. UKMTO Advisory
12. <http://al-bab.com/blog/2017/02/foxing-public-over-yemen-and-iran>; <http://www.trackpersia.com/iranian-weapons-boat-captured-off-yemen-coast/>
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16. <http://punchng.com/pirates-attack-boat-kill-two-in-bayelsa/> viewed 26/09/2017
17. <http://www.sguardian.com/2017/09/26-sep-17-piracy-attack-crew-abduction-4nm-south-brass-terminal/> viewed 28/09/2017