



Piracy Report

Independent Global
Incident Analysis

PIRACY REPORT FEBRUARY 2018

Piracy and Acts of Armed Robbery of Ships

For Monthly Reports
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Analysis

- ❑ Thirteen incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels were reported in the Gulf of Guinea in February 2018. 60 crew members and passengers of vessels were kidnapped in the Gulf of Guinea during eight incidents in January and February 2018. 31 crew members were kidnapped off Benin, Cameroon and Nigerian during four incidents in February 2018 alone.
- ❑ In one such attack, the Product Tanker, *Marine Express* with a crew of 22, was hijacked from the Cotonou Anchorage, Benin during the night of 1 February 2018. The vessel was released on 5 February 2018 presumably after payment of a ransom. The cargo of 13 500 tons of gasoline was still intact.
- ❑ It is likely that kidnapping of crew will continue in the next few months in the Gulf of Guinea.
- ❑ Attacks on the Nigerian fishing community are annihilating the fishing community, leading to loss of equipment, vessels and injury and death of crew. The loss of jobs could also contribute to more piracy as jobless fishermen are a pool for recruitment by criminal gangs.
- ❑ Two attacks were reported in the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas between Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines in February 2018. None was successful.
- ❑ No robberies were reported at Manila Anchorages, Philippines during February 2017 after the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) arrested five suspects in January 2018.
- ❑ The Product Tanker, *Leopard Sun* was attacked off Mogadishu, Somalia on 22 February 2018. The crew implemented anti piracy measures and the onboard security team returned fire, effectively fending of the attack.
- ❑ Two robberies, one at Puerto la Cruz Anchorage and one at Puerto Jose Anchorage, Venezuela, were recorded in February 2018. Two similar incidents were reported in January 2018. Twelve incidents were reported at these anchorages in 2017.

2017 Incidents



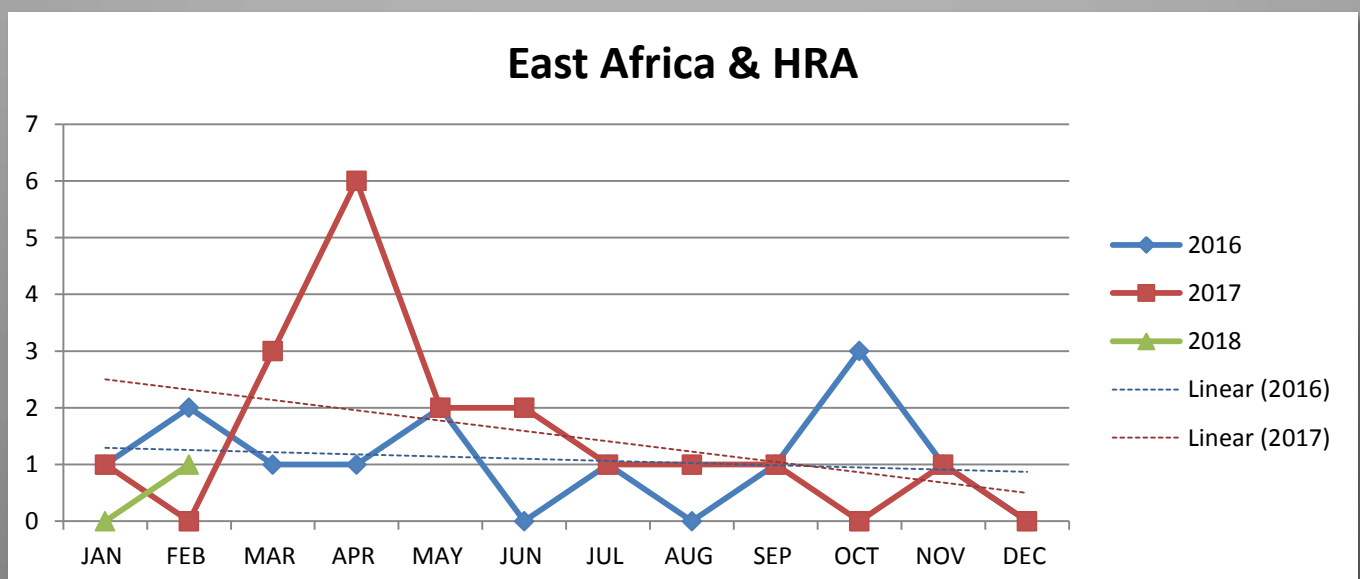
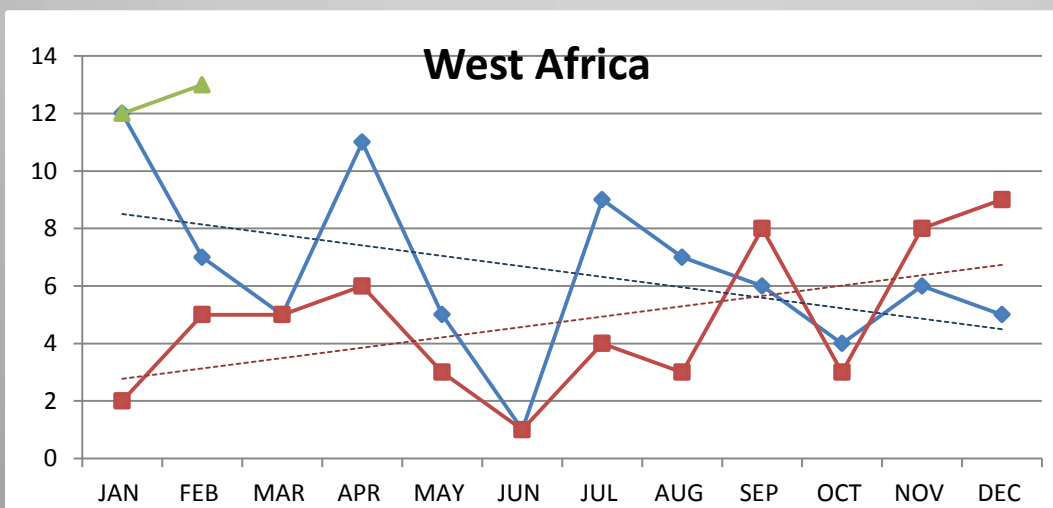
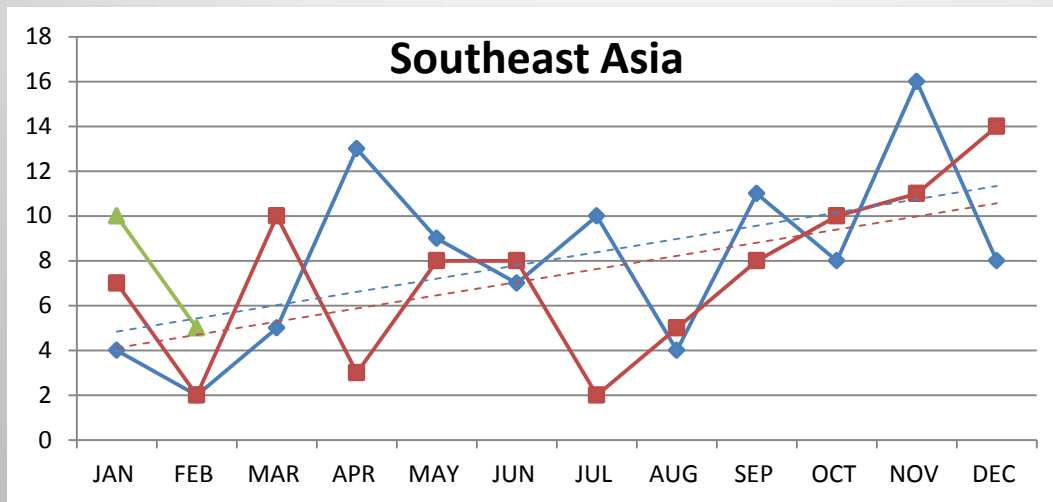
2018 Incidents



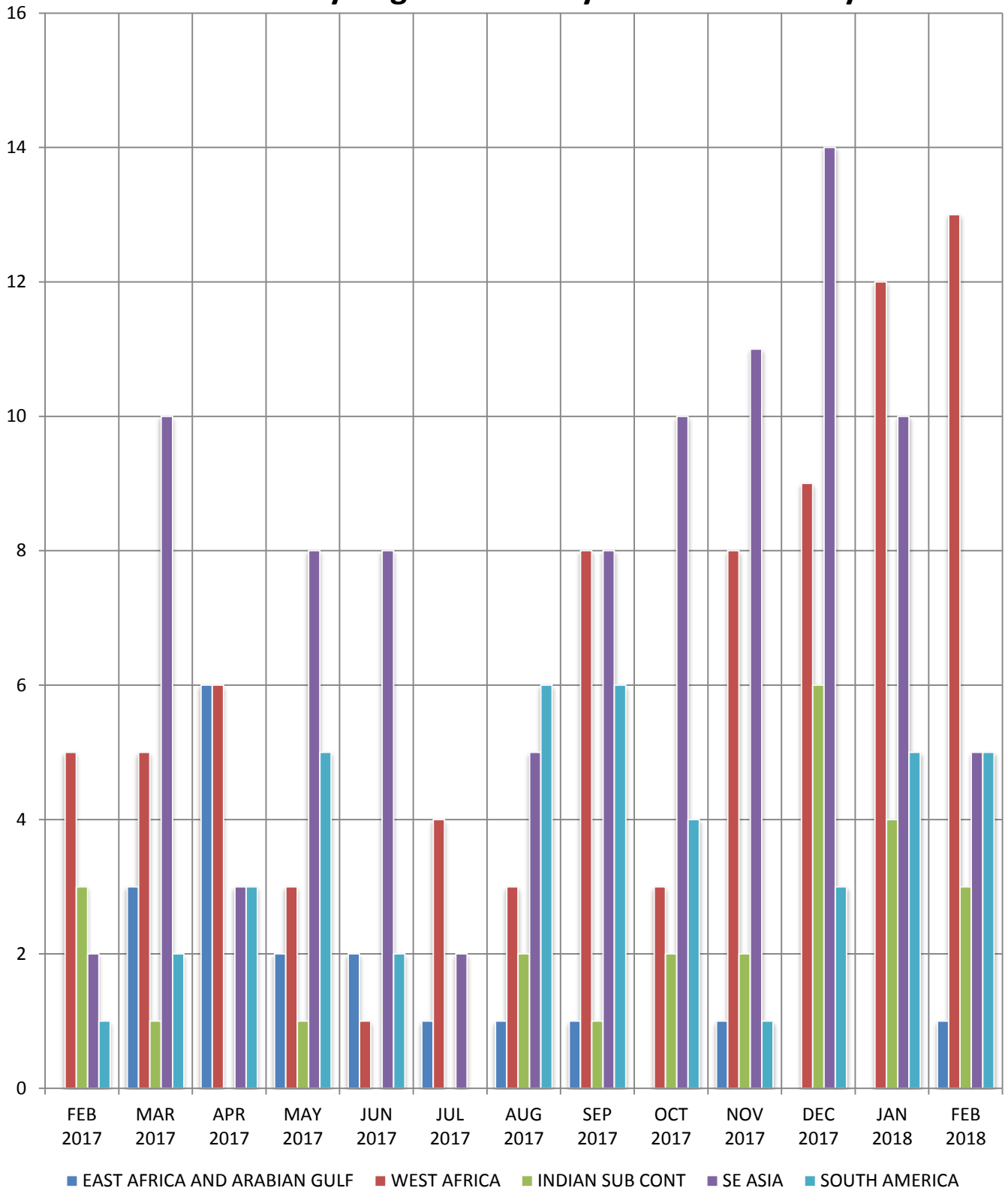
February 2018 Incidents



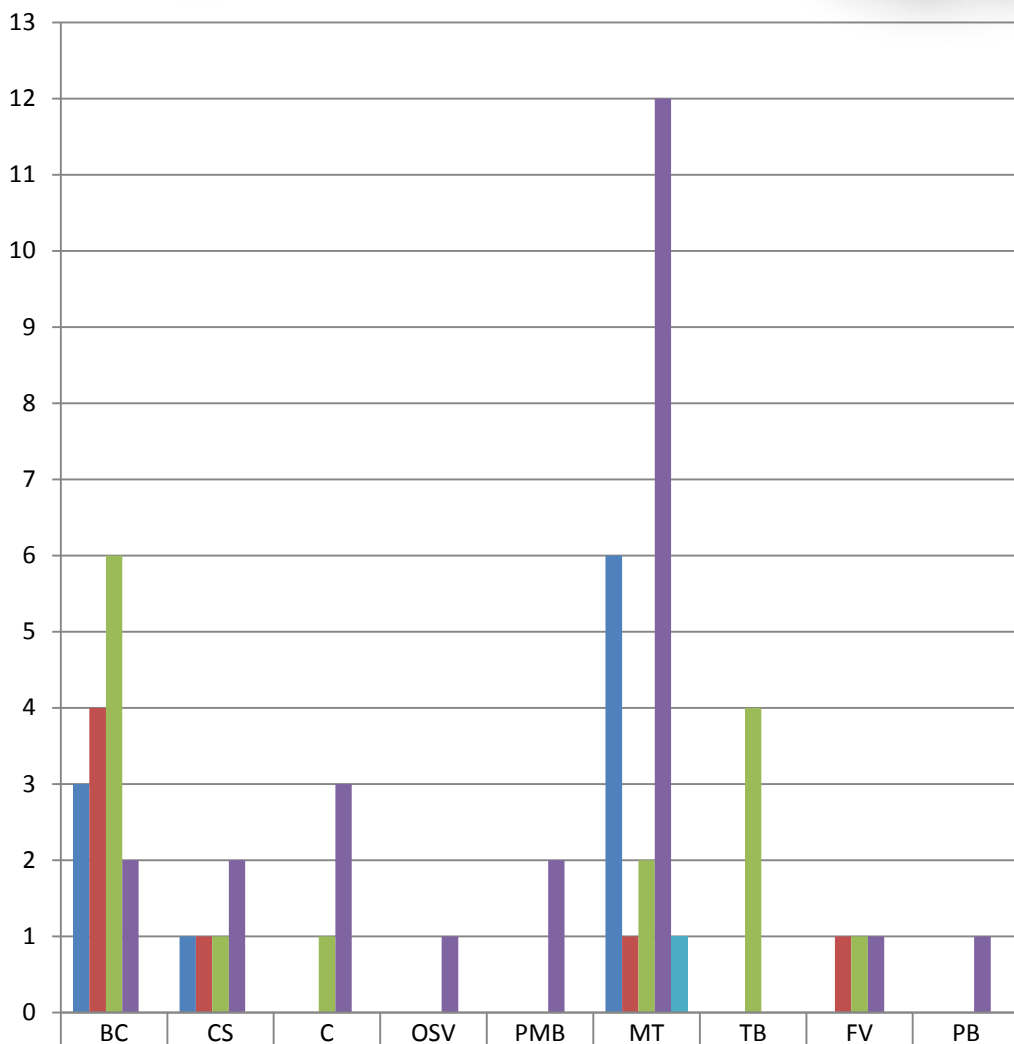
Incidents of Piracy and Robbery of Vessels: 2016 to 2018



Incidents by Region February 2017 to February 2018

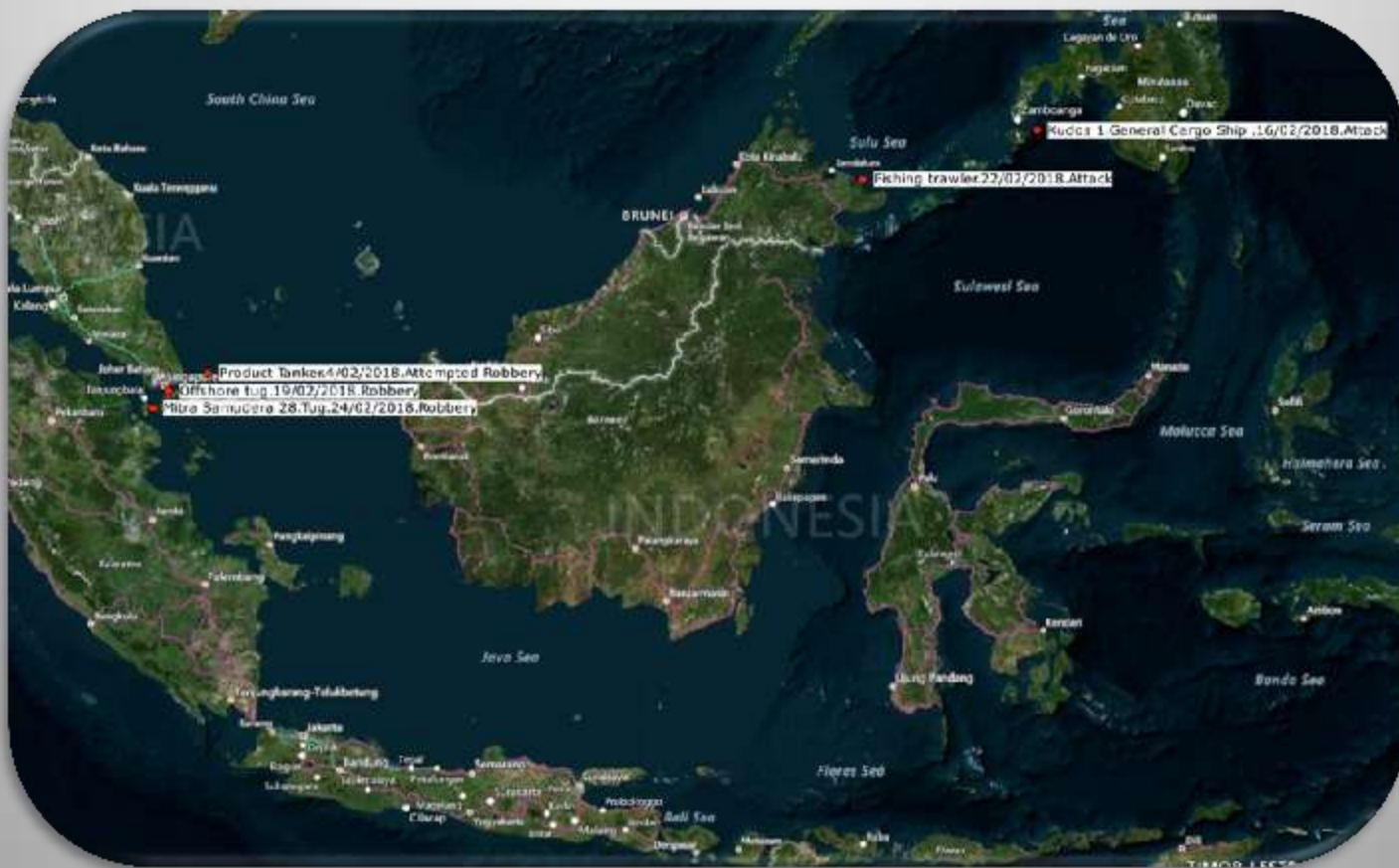


Incidents 2018: Type of Ship Attacked



	BC	CS	C	OSV	PMB	MT	TB	FV	PB
Americas	3	1				6			
Indian Sub Continent	4	1				1		1	
SE Asia	6	1	1			2	4	1	
West Africa	2	2	3	1	2	12		1	1
East Africa/Arabian Gulf						1			

Southeast Asia



Five incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels were reported in Southeast Asia in February 2018. Vessels were at anchor during two incidents. Two attacks were reported in the Sulu and Sulawesi Seas. Although assailants fired on the vessels in both cases, they were not able to board. A tug was boarded and robbed in Indonesian waters south of Singapore. Since the arrest of five suspects responsible for robberies on container vessel at Manila Anchorages, Philippines in January 2018 by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), no further robberies have been reported in February 2018.

- ❑ **16 February 2018** – At 22:40LT armed men from three motorized bancas, attempted to board the General Cargo Ship, *Kudos 1* approximately 4.4nm SE of Sibago Island, Basilan, Philippines. They attempted to board with the help of hooks tied to ropes. The master and crew repelled the attackers by throwing the attackers with boiling water. The gunmen fired on the vessel but retreated to about 500metres from the *Kudos 1*. The master also activated two flares. The attackers escaped towards Basilan. The PCG and Philippine Navy (PN) reacted to the distress signal and deployed vessels to the location. One crew member sustained cuts from glass fragments from the port window. The vessel also had gunshot damage on the port side.¹
- ❑ **22 February 2018** – Five gunmen in black fatigues approached a fishing trawler in a pump boat 11nm from Kuala Segama, Sabah, Malaysia. The fishermen were taking the nets in at the time. As they were about eight metres alongside the fishing vessel the armed men ordered them to stop and fired a shot at the fishing vessel. The crew retreated to the engine room. The gunmen moved to the bow and fired at the vessel. The trawler's skipper cut the nets and sped towards Sandakan. The gunmen continued firing on the trawler and eventually moved away. The trawler sustained some damage from the gunshots.²

- ❑ **24 February 2018** – The tug, Mitra Samudera 28 towing an empty barge was boarded by four armed men in Karimun Regency waters, south of Singapore. The tug was enroute to Sumatra after offloading coal. The crew were robbed. One crew member was also seriously wounded during the incident.³

Feedback MT MGT 1 Hijacking

Interpol issued a red notice for Udin Jawi, one of the suspects in the *MT MGT 1* hijacking in September 2018.³ Two Indonesian suspects Jawi and Arjuna, were identified .⁴ The Thai flagged Product Tanker, *MGT 1* was hijacked on 6 September 2017 approximately 54nm east of Kuala Dungun, Malaysia. A MMEA air asset located the vessel 37nm north east of Pulau Tenggol on 7 September 2017. Ten Indonesian suspects were arrested. A speedboat with three pirates onboard fled on approach of the helicopter. The suspects led investigators to the arrest of the mastermind, Heinrick Piterson Parera.



UDIN, JAWI

WANTED BY THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES OF MALAYSIA

IDENTITY PARTICULARS

Present family name: **UDIN**
Forename: **JAWI**
Sex: **Male**
Date of birth: **01/07/1967 (50 years old)**
Language spoken: **Indonesian**
Nationality: **Indonesia**

CHARGES

Published as provided by requesting entity

Charges: **(1) GANG ROBBERY (2) ARMED ROBBERY**

PHOTOS

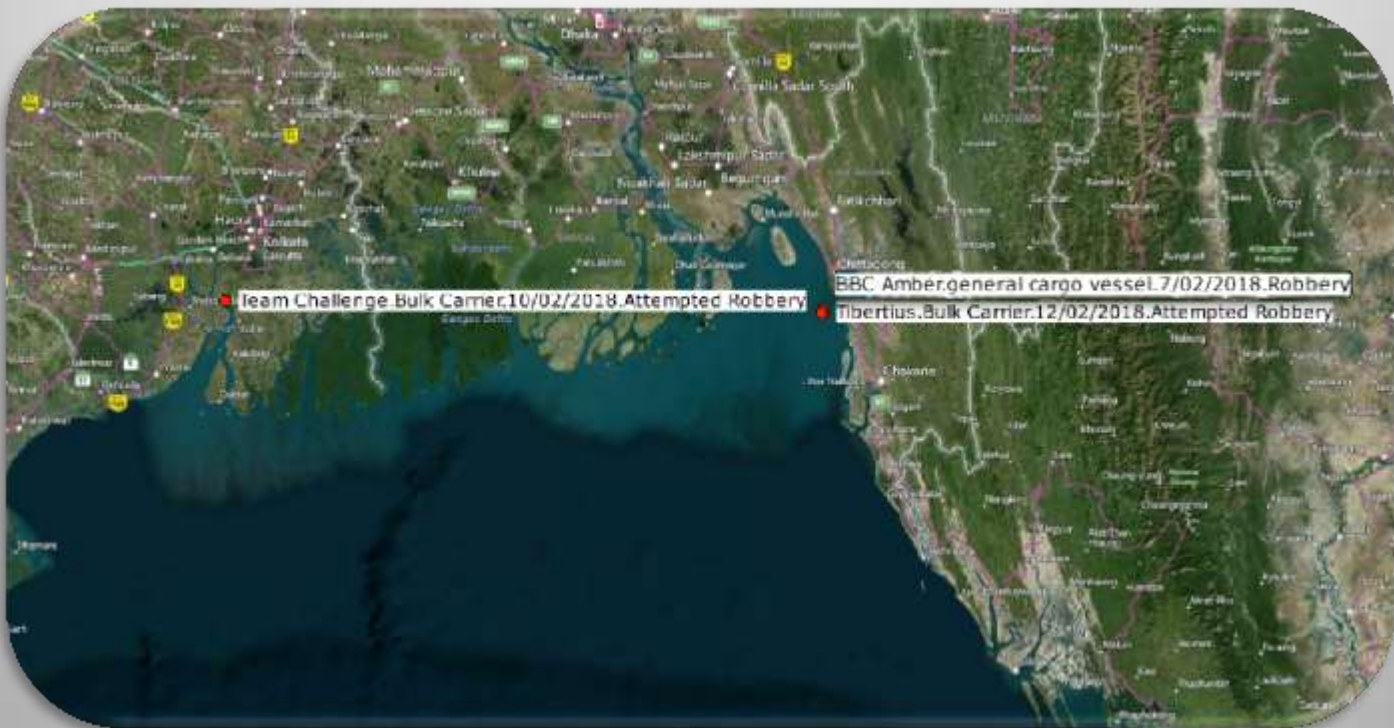


IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Your national or local police
[General Secretariat of INTERPOL](#)

This extract of the Red Notice has been approved for public dissemination

Indian Subcontinent



Two incidents were reported in Bangladesh and one in India in February 2018. A robbery and an attempted robbery were reported at Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh. An attempted robbery was also reported at Diamond Harbour Anchorage, Kolkata, India.

East Africa and the HRA

An attack on the Product Tanker, *Leopard Sun* was reported on 22 February 2018 approximately 315nm ENE of Mogadishu, Somalia. The tanker increased speed and the onboard security team returned fire resulting in the pirates abandoning the attack. The ship sustained damage due to gunfire.⁵

A legislative proposal was accepted in the lower house of Dutch parliament allowing security guards on Dutch ships sailing through areas where piracy is prevalent to keep their own weapons and use them when necessary. An amendment was however introduced stating that 180 degree camera surveillance should be maintained onboard and/or that security guards must wear body cameras. In case of an attack these images should be handed over to the Public Prosecutor. It is expected that the proposal would also carry majority support in the upper house of parliament.⁶ The use of cameras during piracy attacks have many advantages as it keeps record of the unfolding of events. Cameras will protect both the rights of security teams and fishermen operating in high risk areas.



West Africa

Thirteen incidents of piracy and robbery of vessels were reported off the Gulf of Guinea in February 2018 of which eight were recorded off the Nigerian coast. Four incidents, one off Cotonou, Benin, one off Cameroon and two off Brass, Nigerian, resulted in the kidnapping of 31 crew members. A robbery on an OSV was reported at Takoradi Anchorage, Ghana.

Kidnapping off Cameroon

- ❑ **9 February 2018** – A Chinese flagged fishing vessel was approached by men armed with AK-47s in a blue/green speedboat approximately 10nm SW of Idenao, Cameroon. They kidnapped three fishermen from the vessel.⁸ The vessel was identified as *Luwn Yui* or *Luwen-Yu 2*. It is possible that it was phonetically spelled and part of the name is *Yuan Yu*. A few dozen Ghanaian flagged vessels with *Yuan Yu* as part of their name are operational in the Gulf of Guinea. Several more vessels with the same name are flagged in China.



Attacks at Cotonou Anchorage, Benin

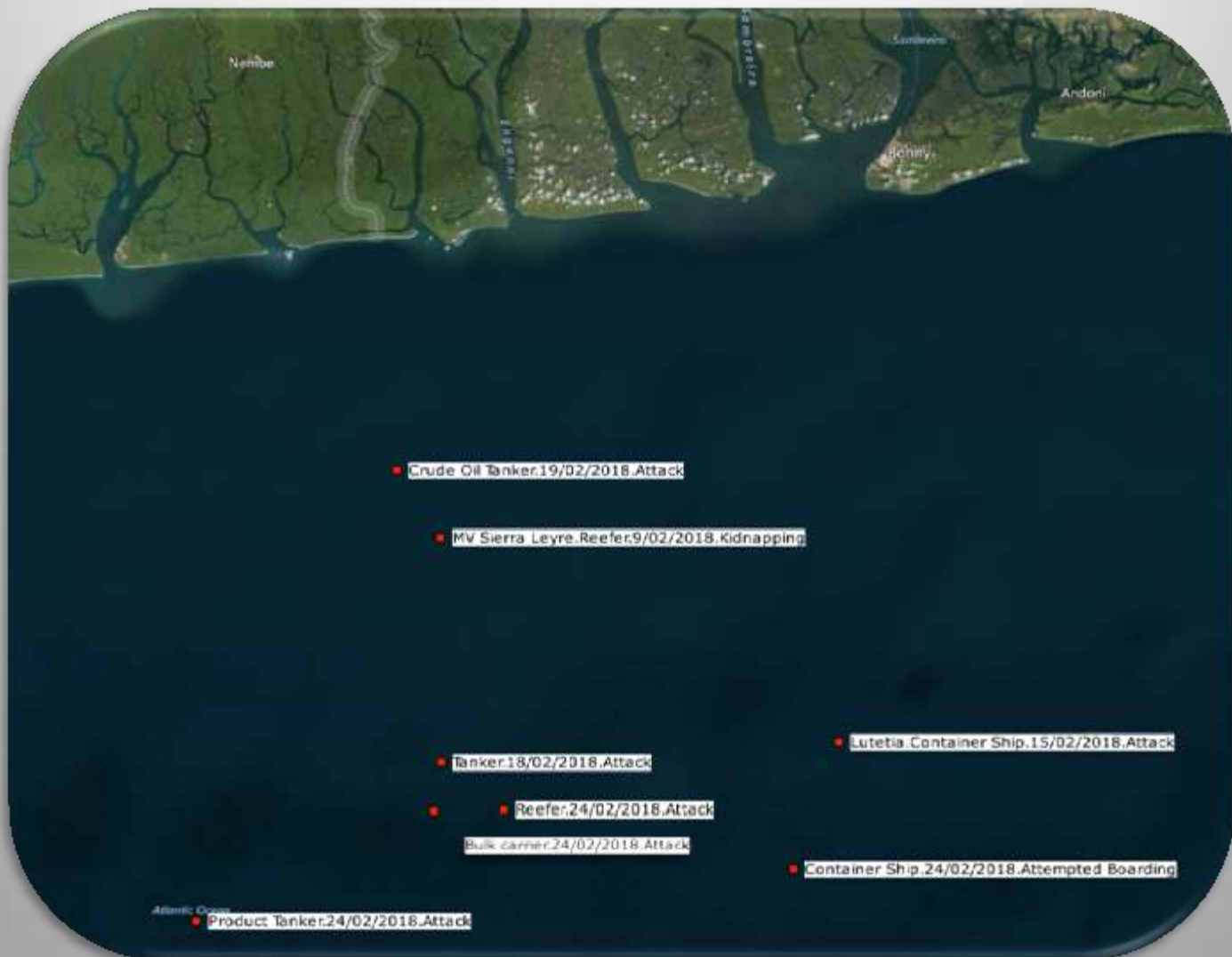
- ❑ **1 February 2018** – The Product Tanker, *Marine Express* with a crew of 22, was hijacked from the Cotonou Anchorage, Benin during the night. The vessel anchored off Cotonou on 31 January 2018 and disappeared from the anchorage without anyone noticing. AIS tracking and communication were also lost with the vessel. *Marine Express* was released on 5 February 2018 at 21:00LT presumably on payment of ransom. The cargo of 13 500 tons of gasoline was still intact. The crew were also robbed and cabins looted during the hijacking.⁷



- ❑ **17 February 2018** – At close to midnight the duty OOW on the tanker, *Sea Emperor* noticed three armed men on deck. SSAS was activated and all crew retreated to the citadel. The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre was contacted by the CSO which immediately alerted Benin authorities. Three patrol boats were dispatched to the scene. On arrival the pirates were no longer present. The ship's port hole was damaged by gunshots and other ship's property was also damaged during the attack.¹¹
- ❑ **27 February 2018** – Five armed men approached and fired on the Product Tanker, *St Marseille*, at Cotonou Anchorage. They succeeded to board the vessel. Two Beninese guards sustained injuries during the attack. The tanker was in ballast at the time. The men stole crew's properties, kidnapped the master and an engineer and left in the tanker's rescue boat. They released the master and engineer once they were safely ashore. The master and engineer contacted the local police and were returned to the tanker.¹⁸

Attacks off Brass, Nigeria

- ❑ **9 February 2018** – The Reefer, *Sierra Leyre* was approached 45nm SW of Bonny by five men in a speedboat. The crew activated SSAS, but the attacker managed to board the vessel after several attempts. The vessel drifted for more than seven hours after which they moved further offshore. The pirates kidnapped four crew members – the Master, Chief Officer, 2nd Officer and an Able Seaman.⁹
- ❑ **15 February 2018** – The Liberian flagged Container Ship, *Lutetia* was attacked 45nm off Bonny. The crew conducted anti-piracy manoeuvres. The armed guards on the security vessel escorting the *Lutetia*, returned fire on the pirates, resulting in them moving away.¹⁰



- ❑ **18 February 2018** – Six to seven pirates in a speed boat fired on a tanker approximately 42nm SE of Brass. The crew practiced best management practices and the pirates moved away. Two Nigerian Navy vessels escorted the tanker to Bonny anchorage.¹²
- ❑ **19 February 2018** – Six pirates in a black hulled speed boat approached a tanker approximately 25nm SE of Brass. The pirates made several attempts to hook an aluminium ladder on the tanker's railing but were unable to do so as the crew took evasive manoeuvres. They then fired on the tanker and moved away. A Nigerian Navy boat arrived on the scene.¹³
- ❑ **24 February 2018** – Armed pirates chased and fired on a Product Tanker approximately 48nm South of Brass. They abandoned the attack as there were armed naval personnel onboard the tanker.¹⁴
- ❑ **24 February 2018** – Armed pirates in two speedboats chased and fired on a Bulk Carrier while underway 55nm SW off Bonny. They abandoned the attack due to ship hardening measures and the presence of armed guards.¹⁵

- ❑ **24 February 2018** – Ten pirates in a speedboat chased and fired on a Reefer while underway 40nm SSW off Bonny fairway buoy. They abandoned the attack when the onboard armed guards returned fire.¹⁶
- ❑ **24 February 2018** – Eight pirates in a black hulled speed boat chased a Container Ship approximately 50nm SSW of Bonny Island. The crew conducted anti-piracy manoeuvres and non essential crew retreated to the citadel. The Nigerian Navy was contacted which told the master to rendezvous with their navy vessel in the area. The pirates were unable to hook a ladder on the vessel and moved away. A Nigerian Navy boat arrived on the scene.¹⁷

Update Sahara Energy Worker Kidnapping

The five oil workers employed by Sahara Energy kidnapped while travelling on a boat on the border between Edo and Delta States, Nigeria on 17 January 2018 were released on 2 February 2018.¹⁹

Attacks on Fishing Vessels in Nigeria

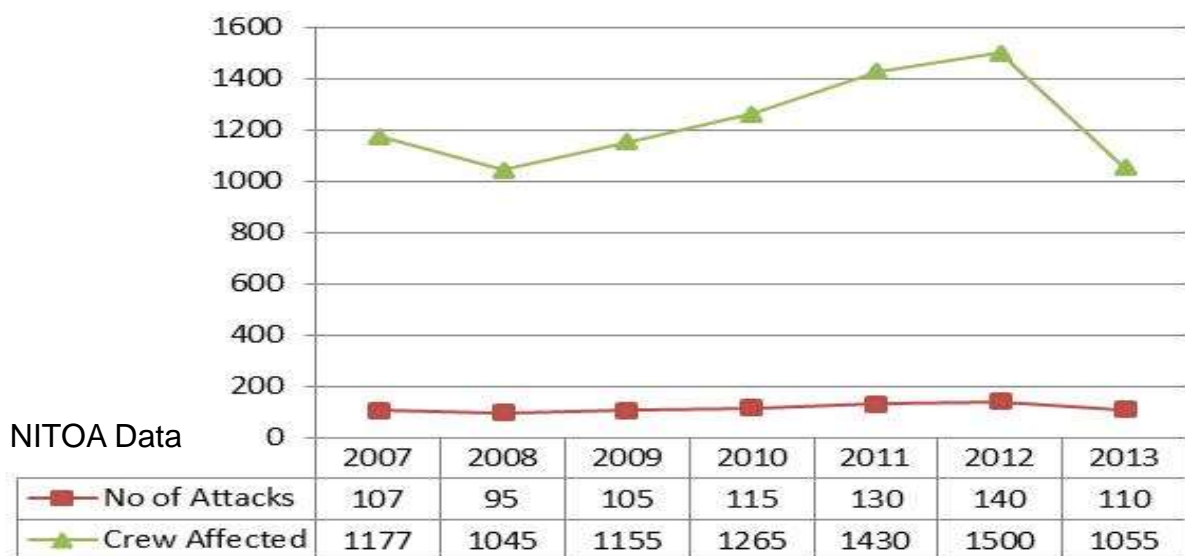
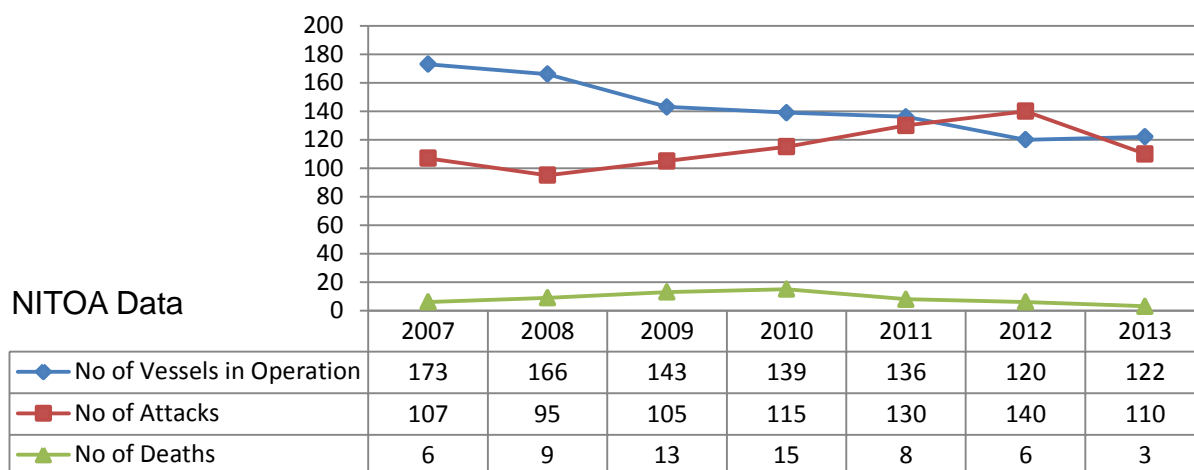
Attacks on Fishing Vessels 2013 to 2018



Attacks on fishing trawlers in Nigerian waters had a devastating effect on the Nigerian Fishing Industry in recent years, which also boils down to a loss for the Nigerian economy. A vicious circle is created where desperate fishermen are themselves driven to marine crimes through unemployment and loss of income, equipment and boats. Fishermen also often lose their lives during attacks. Due to the threat of attacks fishing grounds in certain areas became inaccessible.

Recently two studies by Nigerian scholars made use of piracy statistics on fishing vessels in Nigerian waters. The first is by Eyo Ambrose and Sampson Nwaka²² and the second by Omovigho Cynthia Brume-Eruagbere²³. Both were published in 2017.

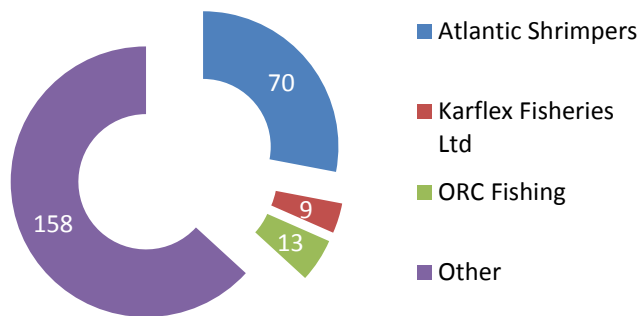
Attacks on Fishing Vessels Nigeria



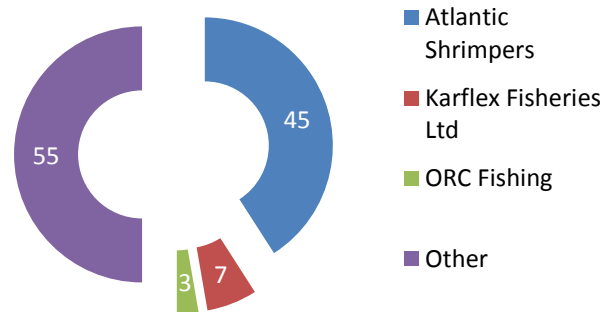
In the Ambrose - Nwaka study Nigerian Trawlers Owners Association (NITOA) data for 2003 to 2013 was used and in the Brume-Eruagbere study Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) data for 2013 to 2016 was utilized. The only year attacks were fully recorded on fishing vessels in Nigerian waters by NIMASA was 2013. Only one other attack was recorded in the dataset after 2013. The two datasets have the year 2013 in common and when combined paint an interesting picture of the situation at the time.

The NIMASA dataset is based on piracy distress calls. 58 attacks and failed attacks on fishing vessels were reported in 2013. These attacks were mainly attacks on three different companies, possibly because they were the only three companies reporting attacks. Some vessels recorded more than one attack over the period. Four other attacks not recorded in the database were reported in other sources which brought the total to 62 for the year. 110 attacks were recorded in the NITOA dataset in 2013. This seems plausible as the three companies that did report incidents to NIMASA collectively owns 37% of Nigerian fishing vessels.

Fishing Vessels in Nigeria



Attacks on Fishing Vessels in Nigeria 2013



NITOA, NIMASA and Internet Sources²⁴

According to the Ambrose - Nwaka study several fishing companies are not currently operational with only eight in 40 companies in operation or 122 out of 250 fishing trawlers. They argue that the Nigerian fishing industry could collapse if this trend continues.

Nigerian Fishing Areas – Attacks Fishing Vessels 2013 to 2018



NIMASA Data – Attacks Approximate

Areas Affected

According to the Ambrose - Nwaka study the following fishing areas are affected:

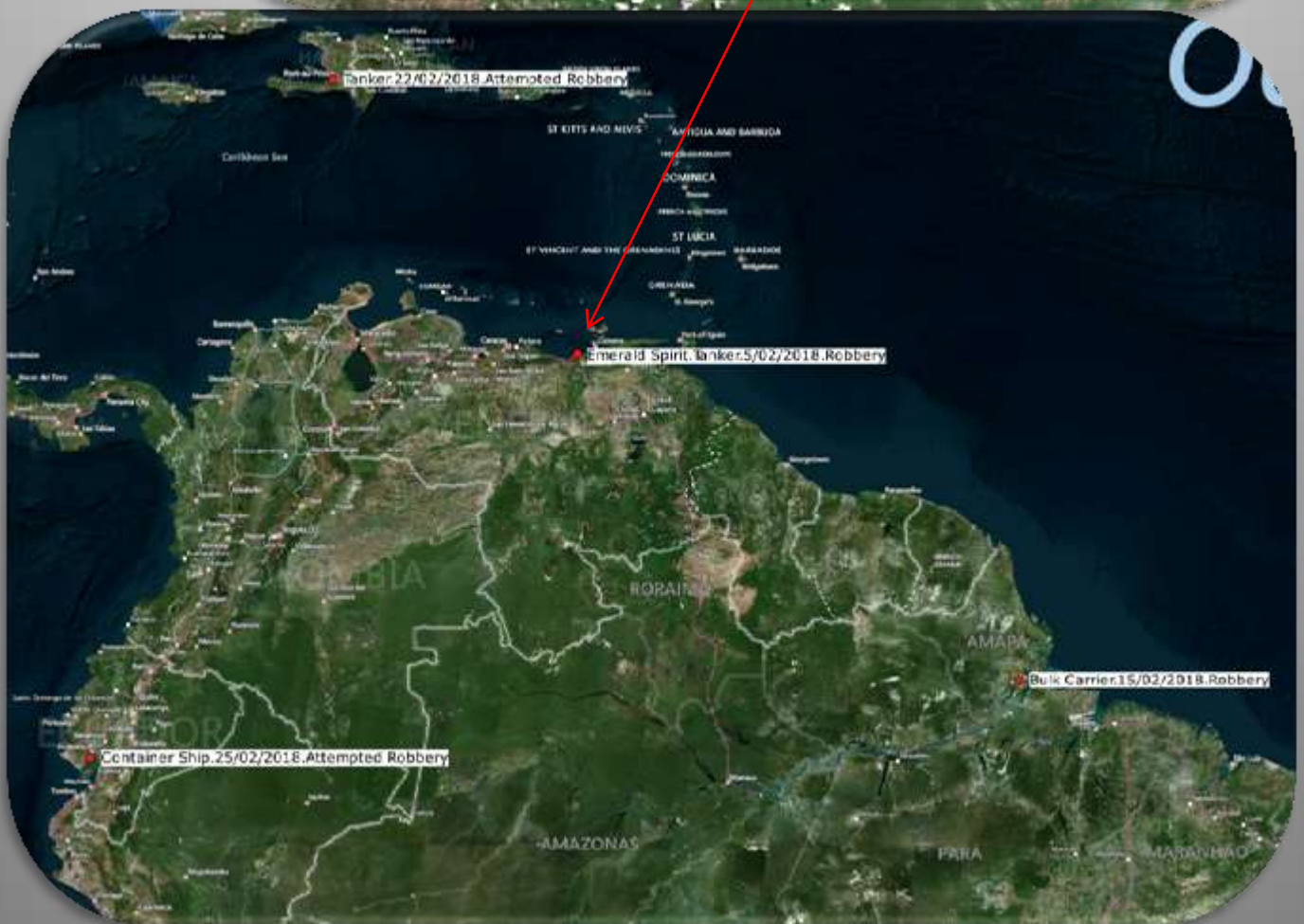
- ❑ **Lagos to Lekki Axis**
- ❑ **Awoye/Aiyetoro/Benin River**
- ❑ **Escravos/Forcados/Ramos/Dodo** – Attacks became more violent as sophisticated weapons increased. The Ramos - Escravos River is the access and escape route for pirates to the open sea.
- ❑ **Fish town/Brass/Bartholomew/Barbara** – Lawlessness and lack of security made this a no go area for fishermen.
- ❑ **Sombreiro/Bonny/BOT/Andoni/Opobo** – The Bonny estuary is used as an access route for attackers.
- ❑ **Qua Iboe/Calabar/Rio Del Rey**

Attacks on Fishing Vessels in Nigeria are hardly ever reported in the media or in any other sources. Only two attacks in Nigerian waters were reported in 2017. There is no doubt that attacks on the fishing sector have a negative effect on the Nigerian economy and on the maritime security situation in Nigeria as a whole. High unemployment in the fishing sector leave men with maritime skills with very few alternatives but to get involved in maritime crimes.

South America

Five incidents were reported in South America in February 2018. A robbery at Puerto la Cruz Anchorage and a robbery at Puerto Jose Anchorage, Venezuela; a robbery at Macapa Anchorage, Brazil; an attempted robbery at Port Au Prince Anchorage, Haiti; and an attempted robbery at Guayaquil Inner Anchorage, Ecuador were reported in February 2018.

- ❑ **27 February 2018** – While at anchor at Port Au Prince Anchorage, Haiti the AB onboard the tanker, Maersk Maya noticed two armed men on the forecandle deck. He raised the alarm and the crew mustered. One of the armed men fired a shot in the air after which the robbers fled the vessel.²⁰



Fugitive arrested in Brazil for murder of Sir Peter Blake in 2001

Jose Irandir Cardoso, involved in the robbery on the yacht Seamaster in 2001 that eventually led to the death of yachtsman Sir Peter Blake, has been captured by police after more than 15 years on the run. Cardoso was arrested in February 2018 after military police intercepted him at a routine stop on Marajo Island, Brazil. He was carrying his brother's ID at the time. His identity came to light after checking his fingerprints at a local police station. Cardoso disappeared after being sentenced to 32 years in prison.²¹

Cardosa part of a gang named the Water Rats fired on the yacht, Seamaster on 5 December 2001 while it was anchored at Macapa, in the Amazon River, Brazil. Blake had a rifle but it malfunctioned. He was shot in the back and died as a result. Two crew members sustained injuries due to knife wounds. The gang fled with the outboard motor and some watches. Ricardo Colares Tavares, the man that killed Blake received a 37 year sentence. Five other members of the gang received 32 year sentences.



Jose Irandir Cardoso Arrested

End Notes

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