

Nine-month piracy and armed robbery reports from IMB

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There were 132 incidents of armed robbery and piracy for 9mo 2020, reported International Maritime Bureau (IMB), up by 10% on the same period last year. IMB said that 110 ships were boarded, two ships were hijacked, 12 ships experienced attempted attacks and six ships were fired upon.

There were 134 cases of assault, injury and threats reported. There were 85 seafarers kidnapped, with an additional 31 held hostage onboard their ships.

Regions where incidents reported:

Region	Boarded	Hijacked	Attempted Attacks	Fired Upon
South East Asia	47	0	2	0
East Asia	3	0	0	0
Indian sub-continent	8	0	0	0
Americas	18	0	2	2
Africa	33	2	8	4
Rest of the World	1	0	0	0
Grand Total	110	2	12	6

Gulf of Guinea

The IMB report noted the increase in the number of attacks in this region. IMB warned that incidents were being reported further and further away from shore, with pirates becoming more organized, armed and often violent.

Waters off shore Somalia

No incidents were reported around Somalia in 9mo 2020. The last three hostages who had been held captive in the region were released in August 2020.

South America

The IMB report showed that there has been an increase of incidents in Brazil, Ecuador, Haiti and Peru. All ships were advised to maintain a vigilant watch and antipiracy measures when they are anchored or underway, particularly during river passages under pilotage.

Asia

In Singapore both the IMB and ReCAAP observed a rise in the number of armed robbery incidents within the Singapore Straits. The majority of the incidents took place during hours of darkness.

There had been a decrease in the number of incidents in Indonesia and in the Philippines. In the latter archipelago, there have been no kidnappings by militants reported since March 2017. However, there had been an increase in attacks at Manila anchorage areas, apparently as a result of the rise in the number of anchored ships in the Manila Bay area, where the IMO has designated a green zone for crew changes due to Covid-19 pandemic. Most of the incidents occurred during hours of darkness, with ship stores being stolen. Ships are advised to maintain strict anti-piracy measures while transiting these waters.

<https://www.standard-club.com/risk-management/knowledge-centre/news-and-commentary/2020/12/news-third-quarter-piracy-and-armed-robbery-reports.aspx>

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