

**GLOBAL MARITIME HIJACKS DECREASED IN 2016 BUT A SURGE IN MARITIME KIDNAPS AND CASES OF MARITIME TERRORISM POINTS TO A RISING THREAT FOR MARITIME OPERATORS*****Maritime Risk Analysis: 2016 in review***

- ***21% decrease in global maritime security incidents***
- ***83% decrease in maritime hijacks globally***
- ***27% of global piracy incidents took place in the Gulf of Guinea***
- ***One third of maritime kidnaps took place in South-east Asia***
- ***44% increase in maritime kidnaps globally***
- ***80% increase in security incidents in MENA driven by increase in cases of maritime terrorism***

London: 7 March 2017: Control Risks recorded an 83% decrease in maritime hijacks globally in 2016 compared with 2015. This was driven by a significant decline in hijacks-for-cargo and hijacks-for-bunker theft in South-east Asia and the Gulf of Guinea following improvements in regional law enforcement. The downward trend in the Gulf of Guinea and South-east Asia will continue in 2017, as Nigerian and Indonesian naval forces respectively continue their targeting of organised criminal syndicates.

In stark contrast to the decline in hijacks, maritime kidnaps increased by 44% globally in 2016, driven by an uptick in the Gulf of Guinea compared with 2015, and an unprecedented number of offshore abductions in the Sulu and Celebes Seas.

Another evolving trend in 2016 was the significant increase in cases where militants or terrorists targeted port infrastructure, naval and commercial vessels or offshore platforms. Libya and Yemen accounted for most of these, with several high-profile attacks recorded.

Sebastian Villyn, Maritime Risk Analyst at Control Risks comments that, "The trends seen globally in 2016 highlight the dynamic nature of groups engaged in offshore crime. The interplay between sociopolitical developments onshore and the frequency of offshore crime was particularly visible in the Gulf of Guinea, and it was also telling how assailants in different regions are responding to security measures, or lack thereof, for instance in South-east Asia. Despite an overall global decrease in maritime security incidents, high-severity cases of maritime terrorism and kidnaps increased. These trends are likely to continue and pose a significant threat to maritime operators in 2017. Operators should therefore ensure that they have access to reliable and up-to-date information on the current threat landscape.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About Control Risks**

Control Risks is a global risk consultancy specialising in political, security and integrity risk. The company enables its clients to understand and manage the risks of operating in complex or hostile environments. Through a unique combination of services, wide geographical reach and by adopting a close partnership approach with clients, Control Risks helps organisations effectively solve their problems and realise new opportunities across the world.

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