

18 June 2019



Incident Alert

Abduction of Crew from two fishing boats

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Incident Alert : 02/2019

Name and Type of Ship : Fishing boat (with marking SA/2325/F)
Fishing boat (with marking SA/5699/C).

Date/Time of incident : 18 June 2019 at about 0245 hrs (local time)

Area Description : Off Semporna, Sabah, Malaysia

Detail of Incident

On 18 Jun 19 at about 0245 hrs, about 10 men armed with high powered firearms, believed to be members of the Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) abducted 10 crew from two Malaysian-registered fishing boats (with markings SA/2325/F and SA/5699/C). The fishing boats were in the vicinity waters of Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia when the perpetrators boarded the fishing boats from one jungkong-type watercraft and one speed boat painted orange and white. The ASG members abducted four crew from the first fishing boat and six crew from the second fishing boat; and were sighted in the area of Pondohan, Tabawan, Sitangkai, Tawi-tawi, Philippines at about 0330 hrs on 18 Jun 19.

The Philippine authorities are stepping up its patrol efforts, conducting pursuit operations and intensifying its military operation to rescue the abducted crew and neutralize the militant group.



Reported by: Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)



Comments

This is the first abduction of crew incident reported in 2019. The last incident of abduction of crew occurred on 5 Dec 18.

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high as demonstrated by these incidents, the ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via the *ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert* dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area, and report immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Four incident locations are marked with numbered red circles: 1 (Zamboanga), 2a and 2b (Bongao), and 3 (Lahad Datu).

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