

21 March 2021



Incident Update (2) – Rescue of Last Crew [Abducted from fishing trawler on 17 January 2020]

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Incident Update

Incident Update : Rescue of the last crew abducted from fishing trawler, SSK 00543 (occurred on 17 January 2020)

Date/Time of incident : 21 March 2021 at about 0643 hrs

Area Description : Vicinity of Kalupag Island, Brgy Kalupag, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi, Philippines

Detail of Incident

1. According to the Philippine Coast Guard (ReCAAP Focal Point), the Joint Operating Elements of the 2nd Marine Brigade of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was conducting intensified search and rescue operation in the vicinity of Kalupag Island, Brgy Kalupag, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi, Philippines on 21 March 2021 when they encountered two members of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) with the last crew who was abducted from fishing trawler SSK 00543 on 17 January 2020¹. While the AFP elements were engaged in a firefight with the ASG members, the abducted crew managed to escape from his captors and he was rescued by the AFP elements.



Location of the rescue of the last crew

¹ On 20 March 2021, the ReCAAP ISC issued the first Incident Update on the rescue of three abducted crew from a Jungkong-type watercraft that had capsized in the vicinity waters off Pasigan Laut Island, South Ubian, Tawi-Tawi, Philippines on 18 March 2021. The three crew were among the four crew who were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) from fishing trawler, SSK 00543 at approximately 4.24 nm off Pulau Tambisan, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia on 17 January 2020. The last crew was reported missing then.

Reported by: Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)

Comments

With the recovery of the last crew on 21 March 2021, all the four abducted crew of *SSK 00543* are rescued by the Philippine authorities.