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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 3-9 December 2019

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 3-9 Dec 19, four incidents of armed robbery against ships comprising two actual incidents<sup>1</sup> and two attempted incidents<sup>2</sup> in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The two actual incidents were CAT 4<sup>3</sup> incidents: one occurred to a ship while underway in the Singapore Strait and the other incident occurred to a ship anchored at South Harbour Manila, Philippines. The two attempted incidents occurred at Visakhapatnam anchorage, India and off Pulau Sambu, Indonesia. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description is tabulated in the attachment.



Location of the incidents

<sup>1</sup> Actual incidents are incidents where pirates/robbers boarded the ship; and regardless of whether they stole any items from the crew, or took away any secured or unsecured items found on board the ship

<sup>2</sup> Attempted incidents are incidents where pirates/robbers tried but failed to board the ship.


<sup>3</sup> CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as 'least significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.

## Incident Outside Asia

The ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong) reported to the ReCAAP ISC a piracy incident occurred to a Hong Kong registered tanker outside Asia on 3 Dec 19. The ship was underway off Bonny, Nigeria when 10 pirates armed with automatic rifles, guns, knives and axe boarded the ship and abducted 19 crew members from the ship. Seven crew were left on board the ship.

## SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high, ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via 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 the 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. Key locations marked include Zamboanga, Lahad Datu, and Bongao. Contact points are indicated by numbered red circles: 1 near Zamboanga, 2a and 2b near Bongao, and 3 near Lahad Datu.

- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**  
Tel: +63 998 585 7972  
+63 917 842 8446  
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"  
Email: [hcgdswm@yahoo.com](mailto:hcgdswm@yahoo.com)
- 2a Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)**  
Tel: +63 998 585 7941  
+63 917 842 8402  
VHF: Channel 16  
Email: [cgd\\_tawi2@yahoo.com](mailto:cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com)
- 2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**  
Tel: +63 955 714 0153  
VHF: Channel 16  
Email: [jointtaskgroup@gmail.com](mailto:jointtaskgroup@gmail.com)
- 3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**  
Tel: +60 89863181/016  
Fax: +60 89863182  
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"  
Email: [bilanggerakan\\_esscom@jpm.gov.my](mailto:bilanggerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my)

Contact details

In the event that the ship master is not able to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed in the ReCAAP ISC Advisory, he can contact the **Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre** at the following contact details:

Tel: +63-2-5273877 (direct)  
+63-2-527-8481 to 89 (ext: 6136/37)  
+63-917-724-3682 (mobile)  
+63-929-825-3207 (mobile)

Email: [pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph](mailto:pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph)

The ReCAAP ISC advises the shipping industry and ships to enhance their situation awareness by referring to the *Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah* produced by ReCAAP ISC in July 2019. The Guidance is available at [www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The ReCAAP ISC urges ship master and crew to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt relevant preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships  
3-9 December 2019**

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local Time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Taken	State Action
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>INCIDENTS IN ASIA</b>										
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>										
1.	<b>CMA CGM New Jersey</b> Container ship Malta 54309 9351141	1/12/19 0540 hrs	14° 32.96' N, 120° 52.77' E  South Harbour anchorage, Manila, Philippines	While at anchor, the duty officer at the bridge noticed an alarm that came from the boatswain store portside. He informed the master immediately; and the crew was mustered. They proceeded to the boatswain store and discovered that the padlock to the store was broken, hawse pipe removed and some ship's properties were missing. The incident was reported to Port State Control Centre of Manila.  (Category 4)	The crew was not injured.  The ship properties stolen were: One angle grinder machine, one piece of welding inverter cable and six pieces of immersion suits.	The crew was mustered and an inventory of ship's property was conducted. The master reported the incident to Port State Control Centre of Manila.	Yes  Port State Control, Manila	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Port State Control Manila personnel boarded the ship to conduct inquiry.	
2.	<b>Kim Hock Tug 8</b> Tug boat Singapore 299 9557537  <b>LKH 7887</b> Flat top deck cargo barge Singapore 4448	6/12/19 1132 hrs	1° 10.59' N, 103° 50.6' E  Eastbound lane of Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait  (SOMS)	While the tug boat towing barge was underway, 10 to 15 small sampans came alongside <i>LKH 7887</i> and boarded the barge to steal the scrap metal cargo on board. A Singapore-registered tug boat, <i>Kim Hock Virgo</i> , was escorting <i>Kim Hock Tug 8</i> when the boarding occurred and assisted to chase away the sampans.  (Category 4)	The crew was not injured.  Scrap metal was stolen.	<i>Kim Hock Virgo</i> , which was escorting <i>Kim Hock Tug 8</i> , assisted to chase away the sampans.	Yes  Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System, IFC, Singapore Police Coast Guard and Republic of Singapore Navy	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available	

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local Time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
<b>ATTEMPTED INCIDENTS</b>									
3.	<b>Dione</b> Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 40622 9213363	1/12/19 0605 hrs	17° 36.89' N, 83° 21.98' E  Visakhapatnam Anchorage Area, India	While at anchor, six perpetrators in a skiff came near the ship and attempted to board the vessel by rope with hooks. The master reported the incident to Visakhapatnam Port Control, who advised the master to contact Indian Coast Guard (ICG). An ICG ship was then directed to assist the ship. Before the arrival of the ICG ship, one Indian Naval vessel came close to the bulk carrier. On seeing the Naval ship approaching the bulk carrier, the perpetrators cut off the rope and escaped.	The crew was not injured.  Nothing was stolen.	Master reported the incident to Visakhapatnam Port Control.	Yes  Visakhapatnam Port Control	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	Master was advised by the Port Control to contact ICG. An ICG Ship was then directed to assist the ship. Before the arrival of the ICG Ship, one Indian naval ship came close to the bulk carrier. Upon seeing the naval ship, the perpetrators cut off the rope and escaped.
4.	<b>BW Loyalty</b> Tug boat Singapore 160 9492622	6/12/19 0210 hrs	1° 10.95' N, 103° 56.63' E  Off Pulau Sambu, Indonesia	While underway, a suspicious boat with five to seven perpetrators approached the tug boat. One of the perpetrators attempted to secure a rope at port side but failed due to choppy water conditions and strong winds. The duty officer sounded the general alarm and the suspicious boat aborted the attempt to board the ship.	The crew was not injured.  Nothing was stolen.	The duty officer sounded the general alarm.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available
<b>INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA</b>									
5.	<b>Nave Constellation</b> Tanker Hong Kong, China 157039 9515929	3/12/19 1910 hrs	3° 6' N, 7° 7' E  Off Bonny, Nigeria	While underway, 10 pirates armed with automatic rifles, guns, knives and axe abducted 19 crew on board the ship. There were seven other crew who remained on board. The incident was reported to RMRCC Nigeria (NIMSA SAR) and Hong Kong MRCC.	Nineteen crew were abducted.  No damage to ship was reported.	The incident was reported to RMRCC Nigeria (NIMSA SAR) and Hong Kong MRCC.	Yes  RMRCC Nigeria (NIMSA SAR) and Hong Kong MRCC	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)	No information available