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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 30 July – 5 Aug 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 30 Jul - 05 Aug 19, two Category 4¹ incidents of armed robbery against ship were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. One incident occurred to a tug boat at PT Darma Sentosa Marindo Yard, Batam Island Indonesia on 23 Jul 19. The other incident involved a general cargo ship at Lotus Port, Phu My Bridge, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam on 25 Jul 19. Both incidents occurred while the ships are at berth. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below, and description tabulated in the attachment.



Location of the Incidents


¹ 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 Focal Point (Singapore) reported to ReCAAP ISC one attempted incident of armed robbery against ships that occurred outside Asia. The incident occurred on board Singapore-registered chemical tanker *Torm Thor* on 26 Jul 19 while at anchor at Lagos Anchorage, 4.5 nm southwest of Fairway Buoy. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in attachment.

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 as demonstrated by the abduction of 9 crew² on 18 Jun 19, 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. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Contact points are indicated by numbered 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
- 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
- 2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**
Tel: +63 955 714 0153
VHF: Channel 16
Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com
- 3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**
Tel: +60 89863181/016
Fax: +60 89863182
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
Email: bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

Contact details

² The nine abducted crew were released on 21 Jun 19.

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

Guidance on the Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah

The ReCAAP ISC has produced the “*Guidance on the Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah*” as an advisory on the measures to be taken by ships transiting the area. It includes the contact details as well as Notice to Mariners (NOTAM) issued by the Philippines and Malaysia on the recommended transit corridor for safe passage. It shares the analysis of incidents based on the information collected from past incidents.

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
30 Jul – 5 Aug 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 the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Molengracht General cargo ship Netherlands 9524 9571533	25/07/19 1940 hrs	10.0; 44.45'N 106.0; 44.71'E Lotus Port, Phu May Bridge, Ho Chi Mihn, Vietnam	While at berth, the perpetrators in two small boats wearing mask and caps boarded the ship and stole its properties (2 complete set of breathing apparatus, 2 spare air tanks for breathing apparatus and 2 full set of chemical suits). They escaped when the officer on watch discovered them at the forecastle of the ship. The master informed the agent and reported to the coastal Immigration. The crew is safe. (Category 4)	No injury to the crew and no damage to the vessel was reported	The master informed the ship's agent.	Yes Coastal Immigration	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam)	Local Authorities were notified and boarded the ship for investigation.
2.	Crest Onyx Tugboat Indonesia 1727 9655717	23/07/19 0715 hrs	1.0; 4.15' N 103.0; 54.2' E PT Darma Sentosa Marindo Yard, Batam Island, Indonesia	While at berth, four perpetrators from a boat boarded the tugboat, broke in the storeroom and stole ship's property. The incident was discovered when the Second Officer was on routine rounds noticing footprints on the deck. The ship's alarm was raised and crew members mustered. All crew is safe. (Category 4)	No injury to the crew	The incident was reported to Shipyard Security	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information
INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA									
1.	Torm Thor Chemical Tanker Singapore 29484 9712292	26/07/19 0430 hrs	6.0; 18.06' N 3.0; 23.35' E 4.5 miles SW Fairway Buoy Lagos Anchorage	While preparing for ship to ship operation, two ship's crew found an unauthorized person at forecastle of the ship. The alarm was raised and crew checked the ship. The perpetrator fled the scene.	No crew was injured	The incident was reported to ship's Chief Security Officer, local agents.	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Local Authorities notified.