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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 14-20 Jul 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 14-20 Jul 20, two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the two incidents, one was a CAT 3¹ incident occurred on 16 Jul on board an offshore supply vessel while anchored at Kakinada, India. The other was a CAT 4² incident occurred on 26 Jun and was reported to ReCAAP ISC after verification by the Focal Point. The incident occurred on board a tanker while anchored at Manila Anchorage, Philippines.

The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.




Location of incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 3 incident is ‘less significant’ in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators could be armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. The crew was not harmed although there remains a small possibility that the crew could be subjected to duress or threat during the incident but not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, the perpetrators were unable to steal anything from the vessel, but in cases where losses were reported, stores and engine spares were commonly targeted items.

² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.

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 incident on 17 Jan 20 and information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia, the 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 Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. 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
- 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

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: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)
+632-998-585-5327 (mobile)
+632-917-842-8249 (mobile)
+632-8-527-3877 (fax)

Email: 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.

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
14-20 July 2020**

	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	
INCIDENTS IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENTS										
1.	MWV Falcon Offshore supply vessel Singapore 5312 9779290	16/07/20 2015 hrs	16° 58.7' N, 82° 16.75' E Jetty No NRW-3, Kakinada, India	While at anchor, the duty Able-bodied (AB) sighted one perpetrator was opening the generator door and trying to steal generator equipment using a spanner. The perpetrator was also armed with a knife. The AB immediately reported the incident to the bridge. The perpetrator fled by jumping into the water after his presence was discovered. A search on board the ship was carried out and the crew found one fire hose box was opened. Nothing was stolen. The crew was not injured. It was assessed the perpetrator had climbed on the jetty fender from under the quay side bridge to enter the ship which was a blind spot on the main deck of ship. The Kakinada Port control was informed. (Category 3)	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	A search on board the ship was carried out.	Yes Kakinada Port control	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available	
2.	Asia Energy Tanker Bahamas 101427 9606950	26/06/20 2217 hrs	14° 33.35' N, 120° 48.7' E Manila Anchorage, Philippines	While at anchor, the crew noticed four perpetrators on the forecastle of the tanker. The perpetrators jumped overboard when they were sighted by the crew. The master immediately reported the incident to VTMS Manila. Three immersion suits and two fire hoses were stolen. The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Three immersion suits and two fire hoses were stolen.	The master immediately reported the incident to VTMS Manila.	Yes VTMS Manila and Philippine Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Philippine Coast Guard's ship, <i>BRP Tubbataha</i> conducted patrol and inquiry into the incident.	