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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 18-24 Aug 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 18-24 Aug 20, two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both were CAT 2¹ incidents and occurred at Batangas Anchorage, Philippines. The two incidents occurred within an interval of seven days, and the perpetrators demonstrated violence towards the crew. The ReCAAP ISC issued an Incident Alert (IA 05/2020) on these incidents on 25 Aug. The IA 05/2020 can be found at www.recaap.org.

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



¹ The ReCAAP ISC classifies CAT (Category) 2 incident as moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA

During 18-24 Aug 20, one incident outside Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The incident occurred on 18 Aug on board a drill ship while anchored at approximately 13 nm off Takoradi, offshore Ghana. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the 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 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. Four contact points are indicated with 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: hcgdsww@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: pcqcomcen@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
18-24 August 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	Action
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
INCIDENTS IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENTS										
1.	Vienna Wood N Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 31540 9593713	20/08/20 2021 hrs	13° 44.18' N, 121° 1.46' E Batangas Bay Anchorage Area, Philippines	<p>While the duty roving crew was performing his duty at the main deck, a perpetrator with a bolo (knife) attacked him. The duty crew tried to stop the perpetrator but accidentally grabbed the bolo, which resulted in a cut on his right palm. The perpetrator escaped empty-handed. The general alarm was raised immediately and first aid was administered to the injured crew.</p> <p>The incident was reported to the Port State Control (PSC) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). The PSC Batangas and Coast Guard Station (CGS) Batangas responded to the incident but did not find any watercrafts or person within the ship's surroundings. The injured crew was evacuated and brought to hospital for treatment.</p> <p>The master assessed that the perpetrator may have boarded the ship by throwing a line with hook.</p> <p align="right">(Category 2)</p>	<p>The duty crew suffered a cut on his right palm.</p> <p>Nothing was stolen.</p>	<p>The general alarm was raised immediately and first aid was administered to the injured crew.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>PSC Batangas and CGS Batangas</p>	<p>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)</p>	<p>The PSC Batangas and CGS Batangas responded to the incident but did not find any watercrafts or person within the ship's surroundings. The injured crew was evacuated and brought to a hospital for treatment.</p>	

	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
2.	Pacific Sapphire Chemical/oil product tanker Hong Kong, China 11572 9508158	14/08/20 1000 hrs	13° 46' N, 120° 59' E Bauan, International Port Inc., Batangas, Philippines	While at berth, one perpetrator armed with a long knife boarded the tanker by climbing the mooring lines located at the starboard astern of the ship. The perpetrator entered the cabin of the general steward, threatened him by pointing a knife at him and stole his personal belongings. The alarm was raised immediately, and the perpetrator escaped via the mooring lines in an unmarked blue small motor banca stationed at the astern of the ship. The Port State Control (PSC) personnel boarded the ship to verify the report and advised the master to file report with the Coast Guard Station (CGS) Batangas. (Category 2)	The perpetrator entered the cabin of the general steward, threatened him by pointing a knife at him and stole his personal belongings.	The alarm was raised immediately.	Yes PSC	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The PSC personnel boarded the ship to verify the report and advised the master to file report with the CGS Batangas.
INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
3.	Maersk Venturer Drill ship Singapore 60683 9633563	18/08/20 0350 hrs	4° 43.83' N, 1° 35.42' W Approximately 13 nm off Takoradi, offshore Ghana	While at anchor, a few perpetrators in a canoe approached and boarded the drill ship using ropes. The alarm was raised and a check on board the ship was conducted. Buckets of paint and boxes of new lashing equipment were stolen.	The crew was not injured. Buckets of paint and boxes of new lashing equipment were stolen.	The alarm was raised and a check on board the ship was conducted.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available