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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

22-28 Sep 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 22-28 Sep 20, two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both were CAT 4¹ incidents that occurred on board bulk carriers. Of the two incidents, one incident occurred on 23 Sep on board the ship while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. The other incident occurred on 14 Jun on board the ship while anchored at Vung Tau Anchorage, Vietnam. Both incidents were reported to ReCAAP ISC after verification by the ReCAAP Focal Point and Contact Point.

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




Location of 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.

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 (as reported in ReCAAP ISC's Warning issued on 2 Jul 20), 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: 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: 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
22-28 September 2020**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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	
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Uni Blossom Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 23303 9816567	23/09/20 0001 hrs	1° 15.4' N, 104° 5.5' E Approximately 3.5 nm northeast of Pulau Nongsa, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	The Chief Engineer discovered some engine spare parts were stolen when he was conducting his round in the engine room at about 0200 hrs on 23 Sep. No perpetrator was sighted. The master could not determine when the actual boarding took place. As the engine room was manned till 0001 hrs on 23 Sep, the incident was assessed to have occurred between 0001 hrs and 0200 hrs. The crew was safe. The master reported the incident via email to Singapore Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) on 25 Sep. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF), Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Indonesian authorities were notified. The ship was en-route to China. (Category 4)	The crew was safe. Two fuel injectors and some valves spares were stolen.	Crew were tasked to take inventory on the rest of the spares on board the ship.	Yes Singapore POCC	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Indonesian authorities were notified.
2.	Osaka Bay Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 31863 9789922	14/06/20 0001 hrs	10° 13.2' N, 107° 2.3' E Vung Tau Anchorage, Vietnam	While at anchor, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the ship unnoticed. They stole paint cans from the paint store (located in forecabin of ship) and escaped. The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Paint cans were stolen.	No information available	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)	No information available