



Website : www.recaap.org
Tel : +65 6376 3063
Fax : +65 6376 3066
Email : info@recaap.org

ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 9-15 Jun 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 9-15 Jun 20, one incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4¹ incident occurred on 29 May to a fishing trawler while underway at approximately 20 nm along the coastline from Goa in a northeastern direction. As the exact position of the incident is to be confirmed, the map below shows the location of Goa, and 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

Situation Update

On 16 Jun, the ReCAAP ISC received information from the Philippine Coast Guard (ReCAAP Focal Point) that there was an arrest of three members of Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) by the Malaysian authorities in Sabah, Malaysia. The arrested ASG members were handed over to the Philippine authorities on 7 Jun. Nonetheless, as the threat of abduction of crew still exists in the area, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise enhanced vigilance while transiting the area.

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.

ReCAAP ISC Advisory

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high as demonstrated by the recurrence of the abduction incident on 17 Jan 20 and information of planned kidnapping by members of ASG on 22 May 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 follow:



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

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
9 – 15 June 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	
INCIDENT IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENT										
1.	Sea Blessia - I Fishing trawler India 87	29/05/20 0800 hrs	Approximately 20 nm along the coastline from Goa, India in a northeastern direction (the exact position of the incident is to be confirmed) (India)	While underway, a gang of 15 fishermen belonging to the local fishing community from Malwan, Maharashtra, India boarded the fishing trawler and stole the trawler's equipment and fish catch. The master reported the incident to the harbour coastal police station in Goa, India. The perpetrators were arrested by the Goa coastal police within 24 hours and investigation was ongoing. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. The trawler's equipment and fish catch were stolen.	The master reported incident to the coastal police in Goa and informed the owner.	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	The Goa coastal police arrested the perpetrators within 24 hours and investigation was ongoing.	