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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 10-16 August 2021

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 10-16 Aug 21, two incidents (one CAT 2<sup>1</sup> incident and one CAT 4<sup>2</sup> incident) of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC.

The CAT 2 incident occurred to a container ship while anchored off South Harbour Anchorage Area, Manila, the Philippines on 4 Aug. In the incident, the duty crew sighted three unidentified persons on board the ship. One of them armed with a knife tried to stab the duty crew who managed to avoid being stabbed. The other two perpetrators tied the duty crew with a rope on the forecastle deck. Ship stores were stolen but the crew was not injured.

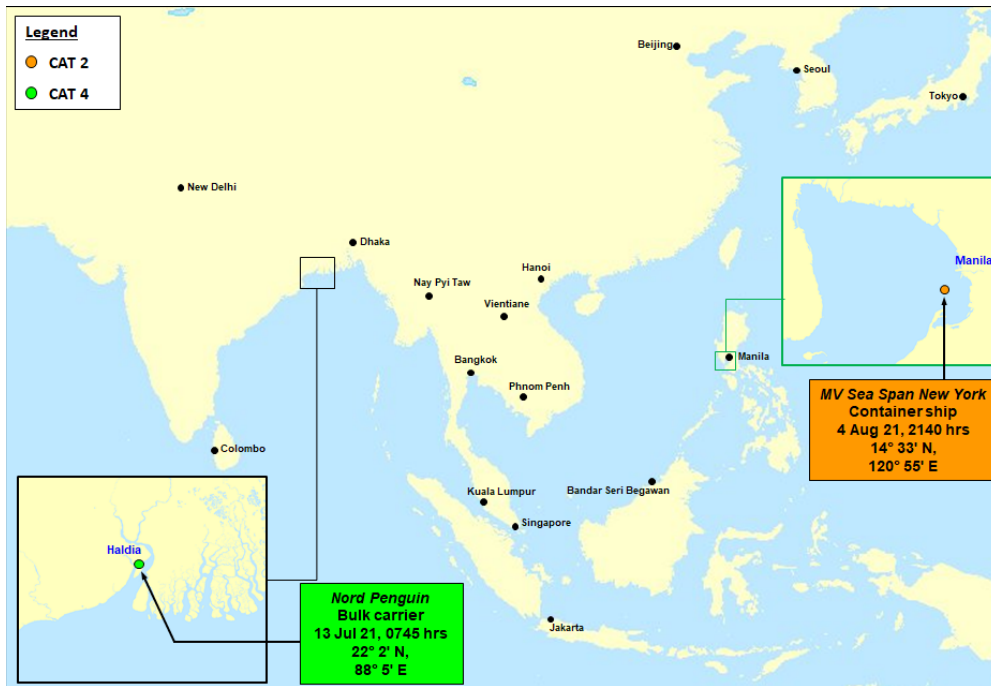
The CAT 4 incident occurred to a bulk carrier while berthed at Haldia Port, India on 13 Jul. The incident was reported by the flag State, verified and investigated by the coastal State. Based on the report by the coastal State, the padlock on the entrance door leading to the engine room from poop deck was broken, and engine spare parts were missing. Investigation of the incident by the police authorities at Haldia is ongoing.

The locations of the two incidents are shown in the map next page, and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.

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<sup>1</sup> CAT (Category) 2 incident is 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.

<sup>2</sup> CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.



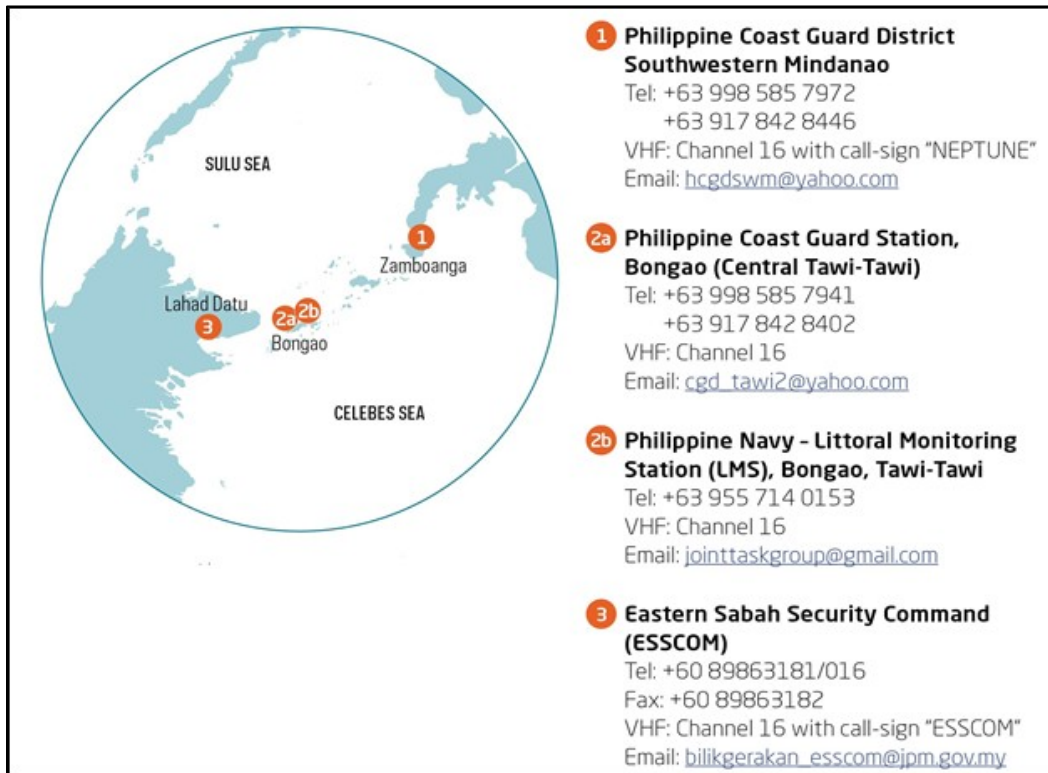
**Location of incidents**

**SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH**

There is no incident of abduction of crew reported since the last incident in January 2020 up to today, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

On 23 Apr 21, the Philippine Armed Forces conducted a military operation against members of the ASG during which one of the ASG leaders responsible for the abduction of crew in the area of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi had managed to escape. The threat of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high particularly in the areas of Sulu and nearby waters off Tawi-Tawi.

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 all incidents immediately to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown next page:



**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](mailto: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](http://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  
10-16 August 2021**

	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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>INCIDENTS IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENTS</b>									
1.	<b><i>MV Sea Span New York</i></b> Container ship Hong Kong, China 39941 9290115	04/08/21 2140 hrs	14° 33' N, 120° 55' E  Vicinity waters off Quarantine Nr. 12, South Harbour Anchorage area, Manila, Philippines.	While anchored, the ship's duty crew was at the forward of the ship conducting roving inspection when he noticed from a distant three unidentified persons on board the ship. The three persons were trying to steal the ship's property at the forecandle, and there were two other unidentified persons in a small boat. As the duty crew approached them, one person armed with a knife tried to stab the crew who managed to avoid being stabbed. The other two unidentified persons tied the duty crew with a rope on the forecandle deck.  The unidentified persons broke the padlock of the forecandle and stole two portable welding machines with cables, 20 reefer cables, three bronze nozzles, and five hydrant caps. They went down the ship using a loose rope and escaped. The duty crew managed to untie himself and reported the incident to the bridge. The general alarm was sounded and crew mustered. All the crew was safe. A roving inspection was subsequently conducted with no further sightings of the unidentified persons on board the ship. The incident was	The ship's general alarm was sounded and crew mustered.  The duty crew avoided being stabbed. He was tied up with a rope on the forecandle deck.  All crew was safe and accounted for.  Two portable welding machines with cables, 20 reefer cables, three bronze nozzles, and five hydrant caps were reportedly stolen.	Sounded the alarm and mustered the crew.  A roving inspection on board the ship was conducted, with no further sighting of the unidentified persons on board.	The incident was reported to the VTMS Manila.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Coast Guard Intelligence Group - National Capital Region and Coast Guard Sub-Station Cultural Centre of the Philippines on board Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat immediately deployed personnel to conduct counter action on the said incident.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
				reported to VTMS Manila.  [Category 2]					
2.	<b>Nord Penguin</b> Bulk carrier Singapore 43810 9687186	13/07/21 0745 hrs	22° 2' N, 88° 5' E  Berth No. 8, Haldia Port, India	While at berth, the ship's 3 <sup>rd</sup> engineer saw empty boxes scattered on the floor in the engine room. He checked the surrounding area and found that the padlock on the entrance door leading to the engine room from poop deck was broken. The ship crew carried out a search of the stores and ship's accommodation area, and reported that engine spare parts were missing.  The master reported the incident to the flag State, local agent and CSO. Upon receipt of the information from the flag State, the India Coast Guard (ICG) requested the Indian Coast Guard Station (ICGS) Haldia to verify and investigate the incident in coordination with the port control/local agent. The ICG Station Haldia reported that the incident has been registered with Haldia Police Station and investigation by the police authorities at Haldia is ongoing.  [Category 4]	The crew was safe and accounted for.  Engine spare parts were stolen.	The crew checked the surrounding area and carried out a search of the stores and ship's accommodation area.  The master reported the incident to the flag State, local agent and CSO.	The incident was reported to the flag State, local agent and CSO.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) and ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	Upon receipt of the information from the flag State, the coastal State, ICG requested the ICGS Haldia to verify and investigate the incident in coordination with the port control and local agent.  The ICGS Haldia reported that the case has been registered with Haldia Police Station and investigation by the police authorities at Haldia is ongoing.