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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 17-23 August 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 17-23 Aug 21, four incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of these, two were CAT 2¹ incidents and two were CAT 3² incidents. The two CAT 2 incidents occurred to ships while anchored at Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Indonesia, and at South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila, the Philippines, respectively. In both incidents, the perpetrators were armed with gun or knives and they tied up the crew. Engine spares were stolen in the incident at Tanjung Priok Anchorage, while buckets of paint were stolen in the incident at South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila.

Concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents and the increased level of violence at South Harbour Anchorage Area of Manila, the ReCAAP ISC issued an Incident Alert (IA 06/2021) on 23 Aug.

The two CAT 3 incidents occurred to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait. One incident occurred in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) and the other in the westbound lane of the TSS. In both incidents, the perpetrators were armed with knives and were sighted in the engine room of the ships. Engine spares were stolen in both incidents. With these two incidents, a total of 24 incidents had occurred in the Singapore Strait (SS) since January 2021.

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

¹ 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.

² 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 is 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.



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

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
17-23 Aug 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
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Good Luck 1 Bulk carrier Liberia 28665 9249269	21/08/21 0300 hrs	1° 18.0' N, 104° 14.8' E Approximately 3 nm south east of Tanjung Bulat, Johor, Malaysia, in the west bound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) (Straits of Malacca and Singapore)	While underway, four perpetrators armed with knives were sighted in the vicinity of the engine room. The perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted. At 1330 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that the search was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master declared some engine spares were stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was also shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. The master declared no assistance was required and continued her voyage to Singapore. Upon arrival in Singapore, the Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship to conduct a search.	All crew are safe and accounted for. Some engine spares were stolen.	The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted, with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	The incident was reported to the Singapore VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. The Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship to conduct a search upon her arrival in Singapore. At 0730 hrs, the Police Coast Guard updated that the search on board completed with no sighting of perpetrators on board.

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				At 0730 hrs, the Police Coast Guard updated that the search on board was completed with no sighting of the perpetrators. [Category 3]					
2.	Nefeli Bulk carrier Bahamas 40040 9291432	20/08/21 2220 hrs	1° 15.0' N, 104° 6.5' E Approximately 3.2 nm north of Nongsa Point, Batam island, Indonesia, in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) (Straits of Malacca and Singapore)	While underway, four perpetrators were sighted in the engine room. The perpetrators armed with knives confronted the chief engineer while making their escape. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted. At 2245 hrs, the master completed the search with no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. All crew are safe and accounted for. The master declared some engine spares parts were stolen. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was also shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities. [Category 3]	All crew are safe and accounted for. Some engine spares were stolen.	The ship's alarm was raised. A search on board the ship was conducted and no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. The master reported the incident via email to Singapore Port Security Department.	The incident was reported via email to Singapore Port Security Department.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.

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3.	CMA CGM Caimep Container ship Malta 40541 9431757	13/08/21 0130 hrs	14° 332.74' N, 120° 54.88' E Vicinity waters off Quarantine No. 16, South Harbour Anchorage area, Manila, the Philippines	<p>While at anchor, the duty watcher was proceeding to the forecastle deck (starboard side) to check the accommodation doors of the ship, a perpetrator appeared and aimed a gun at him. The perpetrator, along with four other perpetrators who served as look-outs, asked the duty watcher about the location of the storage room. The perpetrators took the duty watcher to the storage room and ordered him to open it.</p> <p>The perpetrators, then, tied the hands of the duty watcher with a rope at the forward centre bollard and stole 20 buckets of paint from the storage room. As the master and second officer of the ship could not contact the duty watcher, the deck cadet went to check. While checking, the deck cadet noticed a perpetrator with a knife who shouted at him not to move. The deck cadet escaped and reported the incident to the bridge using a two-way radio.</p> <p>At about 0142 hrs, the master sounded the alarm and whistle, used the search light as counter-measures and conducted muster of crew. The second officer found the duty watcher and untied him. At about 0150 hrs, the five</p>	<p>The perpetrators tied the hands of the duty watcher with a rope at the forward centre bollard.</p> <p>All crew was safe and accounted for.</p> <p>20 buckets of paint were stolen from the storage room.</p>	The master sounded the alarm and whistle, used the search light as counter-measures and conducted muster of crew.	The incident was reported to VTMS Manila, and a maritime patrol was conducted by the Coast Guard.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	A maritime patrol was conducted by the Coast Guard.

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				perpetrators left the ship using a loose rope and escaped in their small boat. The incident was reported to VTMS Manila and a maritime patrol was conducted by the Coast Guard. [Category 2]					
4.	Bulk Draco Bulk carrier Panama 38216 9749726	08/08/21 0120 hrs	6° 2' S, 106° 53' E Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta, Indonesia	While at anchor, four perpetrators armed with knives boarded the ship. They confronted the duty OS and tied him at the poop deck. The perpetrators broke the lock to the steering gear room entrance, and went down to the engine room. The perpetrators also confronted the duty oiler and tied him. Some engine spares were stolen. The duty AB during his round, sighted the crew who was tied up. He alerted the bridge and raised the alarm. The perpetrators escaped upon hearing the alarm. The crew was safe. [Category 2]	The perpetrators confronted and tied both the duty OS and duty oiler. The crew are safe and accounted for. Engine spares were stolen.	The ship's alarm was raised.	Jakarta Port Control has been notified.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Jakarta Port Control has been notified and is investigating the incident