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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 22-28 June 2021

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 22-28 Jun 21, three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of these, two incidents (one CAT 3<sup>1</sup> incident and one CAT 4<sup>2</sup> incident) occurred to ships while underway in the Singapore Strait, and one incident (CAT 4 incident) occurred to a ship while anchored at Manila Quarantine Anchorage, Philippines.

The two incidents in the Singapore Strait occurred off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia on 26 Jun 21 within an interval of nine minutes. In one of the incidents, one perpetrator armed with knife was sighted at the steering gear flat of the ship. The perpetrator escaped upon being sighted. Nothing was stolen. In the other incident, four perpetrators were sighted in the engine room of the ship. Some engine spares were stolen. With the latest two incidents, a total of 19 incidents had occurred in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SS) since January 2021.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<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.



## 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).

However, on 3 Nov 20, the Philippines authorities had prevented a kidnap-for-ransom plan by the ASG. On 23 Apr 21, the Philippine Armed Forces had conducted the 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. Therefore, the threat of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high.

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:



- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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  
22-28 Jun 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>Mount Butler</b> Container ship Hong Kong, China 18826 9760586	22/06/21 0340 hrs	14° 0.33.9' N, 120° 55.2' E  Manila Quarantine Anchorage, Philippines.	While at anchor, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the ship. The master and crew raised the general emergency alarm and carried out a search operation on board the ship.  The crew was safe and some ship stores were stolen.  [Category 4]	The crew are safe and accounted for.  Ship stores were stolen.	The ship's alarm was raised  A search on board the ship was conducted.	The incident was reported to the ship's company agent.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)	The incident was not reported to the coastal State. However, the ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippine Coast Guard) had been informed and is conducting an investigation of the incident.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	<b>Busan Star</b> Bulk carrier Panama 33308 9592628	26/06/21 0005 hrs	1° 0; 16.5' N, 104° 0; 16.9' E  Approximately 6.2 nm north west of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS)  SOMS	While underway, one unauthorized person armed with a knife was sighted at the steering gear flat of the ship. The perpetrator escaped upon being sighted. There was no confrontation with the crew. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF. A search on board the ship was conducted. At 0109 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that the search was completed with no further sighting of the perpetrator. The crew was not injured, and nothing was stolen. The master declared no assistance was required and the ship continued her voyage for Ko Siichang, Thailand.  A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) were informed, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified.  [Category 3]	The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered.  All crew are safe and accounted for.  Nothing was stolen.	The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered.  A search onboard was conducted and no further sighting of the perpetrators onboard.	The incident was reported to the Singapore's 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.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3	<b>Sakizaya Champion</b> Bulk carrier Panama 41766 9680360	26/6/21 0014	1° 0; 17.15' N, 104° 0; 17.0' E  Approximately 6.7 nm north west of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS)  SOMS	<p>While underway, four unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. The perpetrators escaped upon being sighted. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted, with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master reported that some engine spares were stolen, and the crew was accounted for. The ship continued with her voyage for Vietnam.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>[Category 4]</p>	<p>The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered.</p> <p>All crew are safe and accounted for.</p> <p>Some engine parts were stolen.</p>	<p>The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered.</p> <p>A search on board the ship was conducted, with no further sighting of the perpetrators.</p>	The incident was reported to the Singapore's 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.