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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 23-29 November 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 23-29 Nov 21, two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both were CAT 4¹ incidents, and occurred on 25 Nov. Of the two incidents, one incident occurred on board a container ship while anchored at Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia; and the other incident occurred on board a bulk carrier while underway in the Singapore Strait at approximately 3.1 nm north west off Nongsa Light House, Batam, (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme. In the incident at Jakarta Anchorage, a broken padlock of the steering room was discovered by the crew, and engine parts were reported stolen. In the incident that occurred in the Singapore Strait, nothing was stolen from the ship and the perpetrators escaped immediately when the alarm was raised. The crew was not harmed in both incidents.

With the latest incident, a total of 39 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2021, including 24 incidents occurred off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia).

The location of the incidents is shown in the map below, and detailed description of the incidents is 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

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 below:



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: 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
23-29 November 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.	Atalanti SB Bulk carrier Cyprus 31293 9329813	25/11/21 0015 hrs	1° 14.6' N 104° 2.87' E Approximately 3.1 nm north west off Nongsa Light House, Batam, (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) [Straits of Malacca & Singapore (SOMS)]	While underway, three unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS, and deviated the ship back to the port of Singapore to ensure the safety of crew and the ship. The Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship to conduct a search upon her arrival. The ship was cleared with no sighting of the perpetrators on board. The crew was safe and nothing was stolen. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Force Coast Guard (PCG) were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities. [CAT 4]	All crew was accounted for, and the crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen from the ship.	The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS. The ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered. The master deviated the ship back to the port of Singapore and requested assistance from Singapore authority to conduct a search for the perpetrators on board the ship. A search on board was conducted with no sighting of the perpetrators	Yes The incident was reported to 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 Indonesian authorities. The Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship to conduct a search for the perpetrators on board upon her arrival back at the port of Singapore. The ship was cleared with no further sightings of perpetrators on board.

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2.	NYK Fushimi Container ship Singapore 44854 9487964	25/11/21 0600 hrs	5° 59.8' S, 106° 53.9' E Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia	While at anchor, the duty officer checked around the deck, and discovered broken padlock of the steering room. A search was conducted and engine spares were among the items stolen. There was no sightings of the perpetrators on board the ship. The crew was safe. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Engine spares were among the items stolen. The padlocks of the steering room were found broken.	A search on board the ship was conducted with no further sightings of the perpetrators. The master reported the incident to the local ship's company.	The shipping company reported the incident to the coastal State	ReCAAP Focal Point (Japan) ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available.