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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 27 Apr-3 May 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 27 Apr-3 May 21, one CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a barge while anchored at South Harbour Anchorage, Manila, Philippines. Five perpetrators boarded the barge and stole the cargo on board. Upon being sighted by the duty crew, the perpetrators jumped overboard. One of the perpetrators was arrested by the Philippine Coast Guard and pending prosecution by the Regional Court of Manila, Philippines.

The location of the incident is shown in the map and detailed description of the incident tabulated in the attachment.

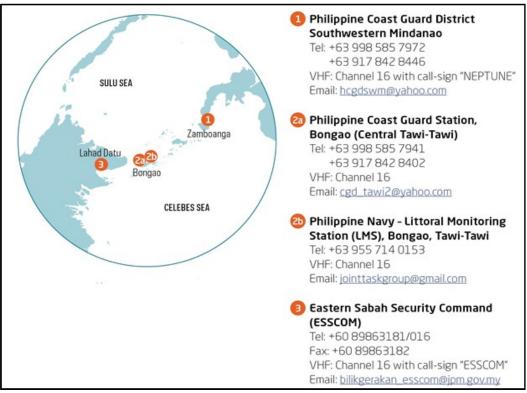


Location of incident

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 in 2021 so far, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). However, the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high as demonstrated by information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia (as reported in ReCAAP ISC's Warning issued on 2 Jul 20), and the operation on 3 Nov 20 by the Philippine authorities in preventing a kidnap-for-ransom incident. 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 (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as shown:



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 27 April-3 May 2021

Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number In	Date Local Time of ncident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	reported to coastal		Coastal State Action Taken
1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INCIDENTS IN ASIA								
ACTUAL INCIDENT								
1. Bak-Da 5 / 20	0/04/21	14.0; 33.0' N	While at anchor, the duty security	The crew was	The master and crew	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via	The PCG upon receipt of
Bak-Da 55 02		120.0; 56.0' E	guard spotted five perpetrators	safe.	conducted a search for		ReCAAP Focal	the report immediately
Tug boat /		•	onboard the barge transferring		the perpetrators and	The incident was	Point	proceeded to the location
barge		South Harbour		27 pieces of sawn	saw one of them asking	reported to the PCG	(Philippines)	of the incident and arrested
Mongolia		Anchorage,	"Jaime Franco". The duty security	timber were	to be rescued. The	Port State Control	(11 /	one of the perpetrators
Iviorigona		Manila, the Philippines.		stolen.	crew rescued the perpetrator and reported the incident to its agent and subsequently to PCG Port State Control.	and the Coast Guard at Sub Station of South Harbour.		who was charged under a case of violation of Article 308 of the Revised Penal Code (A.30, RPC) also known as "Theft" at the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Philippines.