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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

14-20 June 2022

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During the period 14-20 Jun 22, one CAT 4¹ incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 20 Jun 22, on board a bulk carrier while underway at approximately 7.3 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait.

In the incident, the ship's crew sighted two unauthorised persons in the steering gear room. The ship alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted, with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen. All crew members were accounted for with no report of injuries. The location of the incident is shown in the map below, and detailed description is tabulated in the attachment.

With this incident, a total of 26 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2022 so far.



Location of incident

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are 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 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. However, as the ASG Commanders responsible for the abduction of crew in the Sulu area are still at large and with the persisting presence of remnants of the group, the threat of abduction of crew from ships remains potentially 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.



Contact details

In the event, the ship master is unable 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

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 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
14-20 June 2022**

	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
INCIDENT IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Dream Star Bulk carrier Panama 43226 9582996	20/6/22 0130 hrs	1° 16.7' N 104° 15.4' E Approximately 7.3 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, two unauthorised persons were sighted in the steering gear room. The alarm was raised, crew mustered and a search on board was conducted. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS). At about 0600 hrs, the master updated that they had completed search with no further sighting of the perpetrators. Nothing was stolen and all crew members were accounted for with no report of injuries. No further assistance was required and the ship resumed her voyage to Huangpu, China. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were informed. [Category 4]	All crew members were accounted for with no report of injuries. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search was carried out on board the ship, with no further sighting of the perpetrators.	Yes The master reported the incident 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, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were informed.