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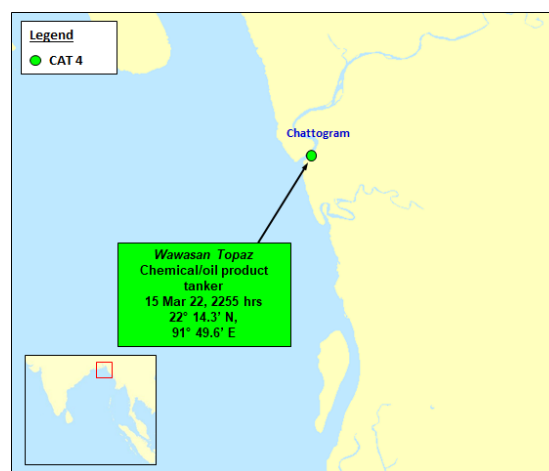
## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 15-21 March 2022

### Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

From 15-21 Mar 22, one CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incident of armed robbery against ship in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 15 Mar on board a chemical/oil product tanker while berthed at Chittagong urea fertilizer jetty, Bangladesh. Six perpetrators boarded the ship from a small wooden boat. The general alarm was raised and crew mustered. The perpetrators escaped with ship stores. The Bangladesh Coast Guard boarded the ship, investigated the incident and recovered the stolen items. The crew was safe during the incident.

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



Location of incident


<sup>1</sup> CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not harmed. In CAT 4 cases.

## 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).

The Philippine and Malaysian authorities continued to conduct pursuit operations and intensify military operations to neutralise the ASG. In 2021, the operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Philippines had resulted in the neutralisation of some ASG sub-leaders and members. However, as Mundi Sawadjaan (one of the ASG Commanders responsible for the abduction of crew in the Sulu area) is still at large, the threat of abduction of crew from ships 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:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Zamboanga, Lahad Datu, and Bongao. Contact points are indicated by numbered circles: 1 near Zamboanga, 2a and 2b near Bongao, and 3 near Lahad Datu.

- 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: [pccomcen@coastguard.gov.ph](mailto:pccomcen@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 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

**Description of Incident of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships  
15-21 March 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
<b>INCIDENT IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>									
1.	<b>Wawasan Topaz</b> Chemical/oil product tanker Panama 11749 9565601	15/3/22 2225 hrs	22.0; 14.3' N, 91.0; 49.6' E  Chittagong urea fertilizer jetty, Bangladesh.	While at berth, six perpetrators boarded the ship from a small wooden boat. The general alarm was raised and crew mustered. The perpetrators escaped with ship stores. The crew was not injured.  Within 20 minutes, the Bangladesh Coast Guard boarded the ship and investigated the incident. The Bangladesh Coast Guard duty patrol recovered the stolen items and handed them over to the ship master.  [Category 4]	The crew not injured  Ship stores were stolen. However, the authorities boarded the ship, investigated the incident and recovered the stolen items. The items were handed over to the ship master.	The general alarm was sounded and crew mustered.	Yes Bangladesh Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh)	The Bangladesh Coast Guard boarded the ship and investigated the incident.  The Bangladesh Coast Guard duty patrol recovered the stolen items and handed them over to the ship master.