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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 28 June – 4 July 2022

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During the period 28 Jun – 4 Jul 22, two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (comprising one CAT 2¹ incident and one CAT 4² incident) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 2 incident occurred to a ship while underway in the Singapore Strait (SS), while the CAT 4 incident occurred to a ship while berthed at Belawan Port, Indonesia.

(1) The incident in the SS occurred to a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme on 4 Jul 22. The ship's engineer sighted six unauthorised persons armed with a pistol in the engine room. The ship alarm was raised and crew mustered. The master reported the incident to Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) West. The stolen items were engine spare part. All crew members were safe.

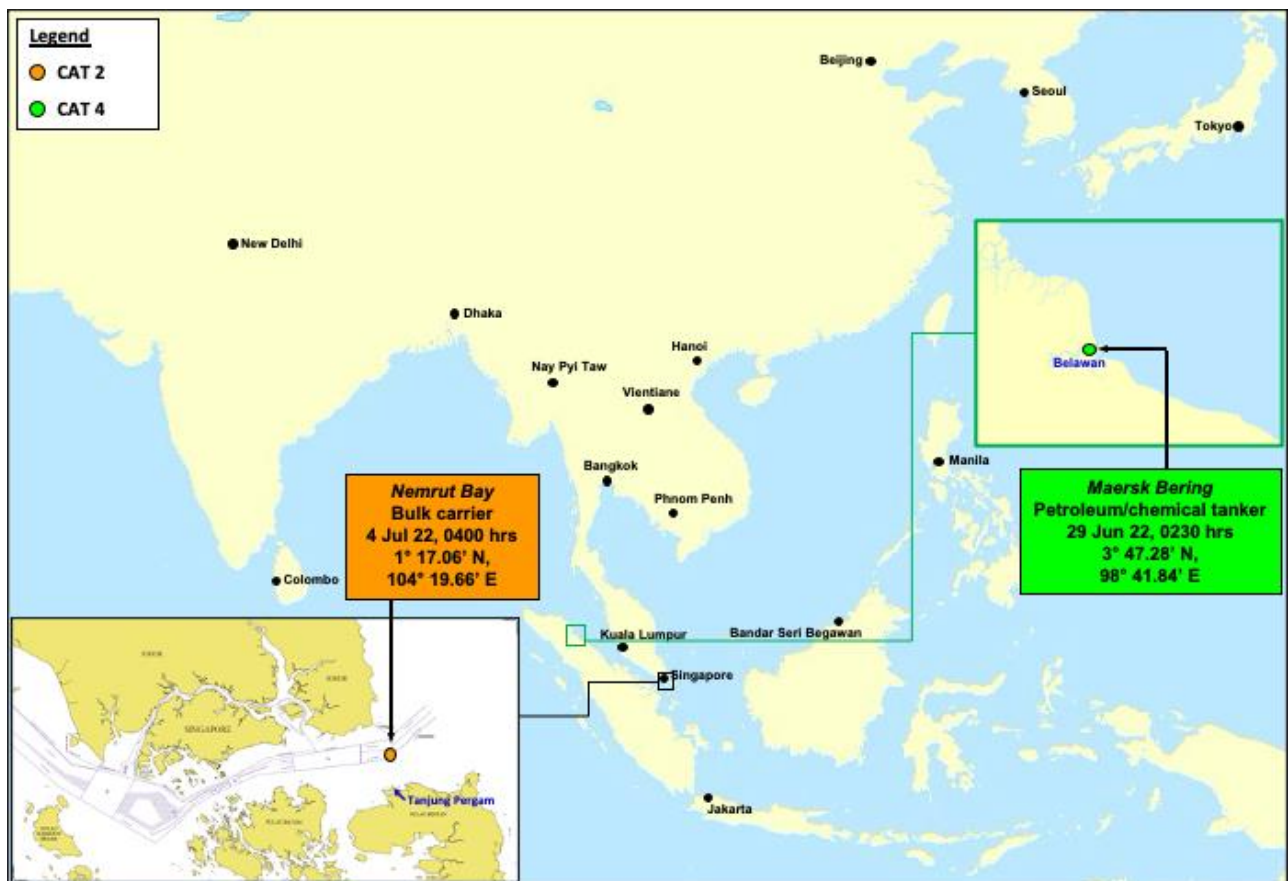
[With this incident, a total of 27 incidents (comprising 26 actual incidents and one attempted incident) were reported in the SS since January 2022].

(2) The incident at Belawan Port, Indonesia occurred to a petroleum/chemical tanker on 29 Jun 22. In the incident, the duty crew sighted two unknown personnel leaving the ship in an open boat. He informed the officer on watch immediately and conducted a search on board the ship. No perpetrators were sighted. The incident was reported to the shipping company and local agent. Several units of fire nozzles, hydrant caps and hydrant couplings were missing. The crew was not injured and the ship not damaged.

The location of the incidents are shown in the map below, and detailed description are tabulated in the attachment.

¹ CAT (Category) 2 incident is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.



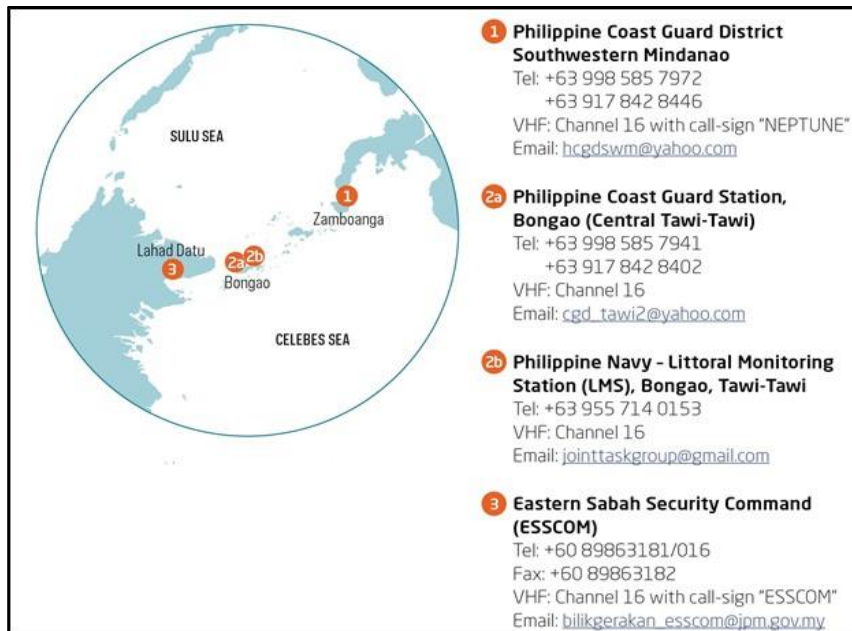
Location of incident

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 next page.



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

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
28 June – 4 July 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.	Maersk Bering Petroleum/chemical Tanker Singapore 19758 9299422	29/6/22 0230 hrs	3.0°; 47.28' N 98.0°; 41.84' E Berth no. 106/107 Port of Belawan, Indonesia	While at berth, the duty crew on board sighted two unknown persons leaving the ship in an open boat. He immediately informed the officer on watch. A search on board the ship was conducted by the crew. No perpetrators were sighted. Some items were reported missing. The ship was conducting loading operation at the time of incident. The incident was reported to the shipping company and local agent. The crew was safe. [Category 4]	All crew members were safe with no report of injuries. Some items were reported missing (comprising three units of fire nozzles, three units of hydrant caps and three units of hydrant couplings).	A search was conducted by the crew with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The master reported the incident to the shipping company and local agent.	Not known	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available
2.	Nemrut Bay Bulk carrier Panama 21627 9860788	4/7/22 0400 hrs	1.0° 17.6' N, 104° 19.66' E Approximately 6.2 nm north of Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait	While underway, the ship's engineer sighted six unauthorised person armed with pistol in the engine room. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) West. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore	All crew members were safe with no report of injuries. Some engine spare parts were reported stolen	The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board was conducted with no further sightings of the perpetrators. The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	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 Indonesian and authorities were informed.

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			(SOMS)	<p>Police Coast Guard were notified, and the Indonesian authorities were informed.</p> <p>No assistance was required from VTIS. In consultation with MSTF, the Singapore Port Operation and Control Centre (POCC) informed the ship master to seek assistance from the Indonesian authorities if required. At 0505 hrs, master reported that the search of the engine room and ship's accommodation was completed. Some engine spare parts were stolen.</p> <p>The ship resumed her voyage to Plymouth, New Zealand.</p> <p>[Category 2]</p>					