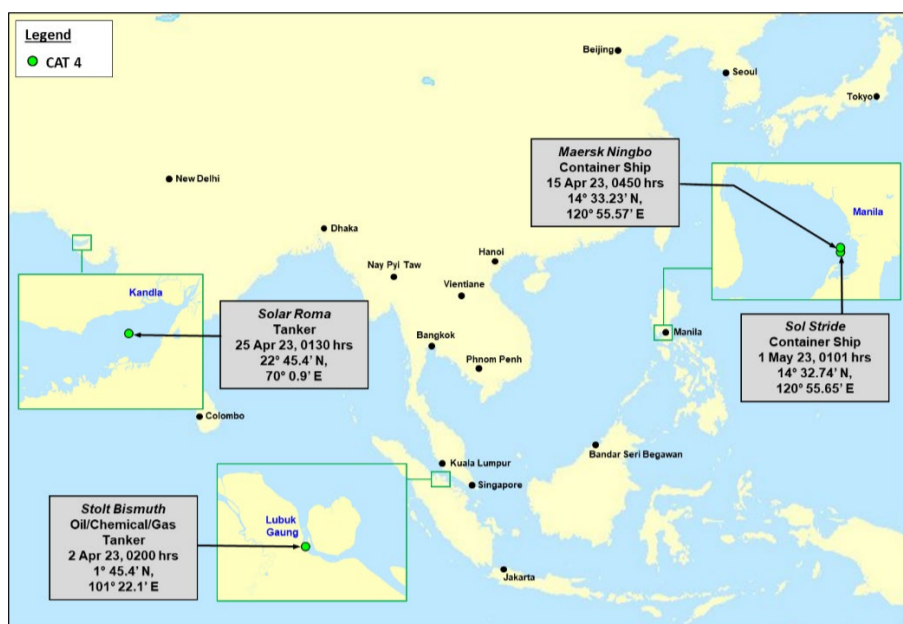


OVERVIEW

Four incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (all CAT 4¹ incidents) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incidents occurred on 2 Apr on board a tanker while berthed alongside at Port of Lubuk Gaung, Indonesia; on 15 Apr and 1 May on board container ships while anchored at Manila Bay Anchorage, the Philippines; and on 25 Apr on board a tanker while anchored at Kandla Anchorage, India. The crew members were not injured in all the four incidents. Ship stores were stolen in three of the incidents, and nothing was stolen in the other incident. Detail of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location		
	Indonesia	Philippines	India
	OSM Jetty 1, Port of Lubuk Gaung (1 incident)	Manila Bay Anchorage (2 incident)	Kandla Anchorage (1 incident)
Type of ship	Oil /Chemical/ Gas tanker	Container Vessels (2)	Tanker
Date/Time	2 Apr at 2000 hrs	15 Apr at 0450 hrs 1 May at 0101 hrs	25 Apr at 0130 hrs
Number of perpetrators	1 perpetrator	Unknown (1) 2 perpetrators (1)	5 perpetrators
Weapons	Not stated	Not stated (2)	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries (2)	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4	CAT 4
Items stolen	Nothing stolen	Ship stores (2)	Ship stores

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the occurrence of incidents at Manila Anchorage, Philippines. A total of six incidents were reported at Manila Anchorage since January 2023. The Centre advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance while anchored at Manila Anchorage; and the law enforcement agencies to increase patrols and enforcement in the area.”


SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

Downgrading of threat level

- The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), after careful consideration of inputs from stakeholders and counterparts with vital involvement in securing the Sulu-Celebes Seas maritime security measure, recommends the downgrading of the threat on the ‘Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas’ from ‘POTENTIALLY HIGH’ to ‘MODERATE’. The MODERATE threat level implies that ‘**Incidents are possible to occur but are relatively less severe in nature**’.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas has diminished since January 2020 due to successful military operations and robust law enforcement initiatives, the ReCAAP ISC updates its Advisory to all ships to **consider re-route from the area as an option based on its prerogative**.
- For ships transiting the area, the **ship masters and crew are strongly encouraged to exercise extra vigilance 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 in Picture 1.



1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao
Tel: +63 998 585 7972
+63 917 842 8446
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign “NEPTUNE”
Email: hcgdswwm@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

Picture 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ship master and crew are to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, referring to the Poster on the *Contact Details for Reporting of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*, exercise vigilance and adopt appropriate preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*.

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Contact us at: E: info@recaap.org T: +65 6376 3063 F: +65 6376 3066

* Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2023/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202023.pdf> for details of the incidents.

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant”. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.