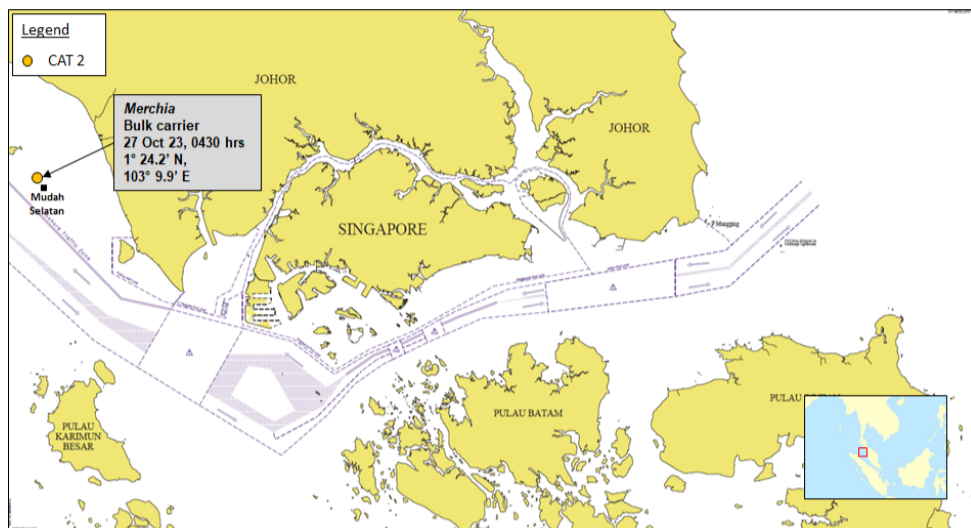


OVERVIEW

One actual incident of armed robbery against ships (CAT 2¹ incident) in Asia was reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred on 27 Oct 23 to a bulk carrier while underway in the Strait of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). Five perpetrators armed with knives boarded the ship, and the master was stabbed in the chest. His condition was reported to be stable and he was conveyed ashore for medical treatment when the ship arrived in Singapore. The details of incident is shown in table (*).



Factors	Location
	SOMS
	Off Mudah Selatan Lighthouse, Malaysia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	27 Oct at 0430 hrs
Number of perpetrators	5 men
Weapons	Knives
Treatment of crew	Master was stabbed in the chest
Items stolen	Nothing was stolen
Significance level	CAT 2

AREA OF CONCERN

With this incident, a total of 62 incidents were reported in the SOMS since January 2023. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the SOMS. The Centre advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS; and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in the area.

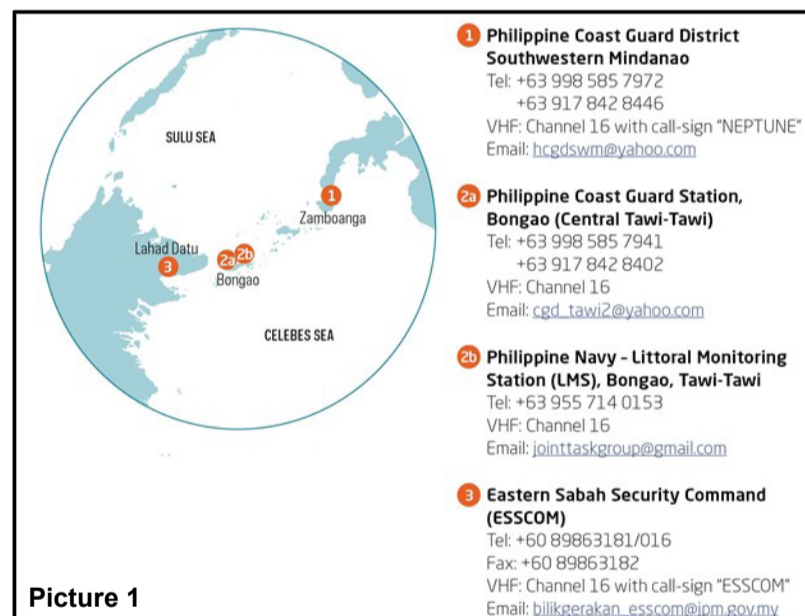
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

Re-Assessment and Downgrading of threat level

The measures undertaken by the Philippine Government in Zamboanga, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, with the conduct of continuous military operations and dismantling the support base of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu archipelago, ensures the likelihood of the end of the group through surrender, arrest, and neutralization. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), coordinated with other stakeholders and counterparts that have vital involvement in the maritime security of the Sulu-Celebes Seas, reviewed the threat situation and recommended downgrading the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'MODERATE' to 'MODERATE LOW', which implies that 'Incidents are unlikely to occur due to perpetrators' perceived lack of capability to orchestrate an attack. Nevertheless, minimal damages are expected to the vessel and crew in case of an attack'.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- With downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes seas by the PCG, ReCAAP ISC have updated its Advisory for ships to **"exercise vigilance & adopt necessary preventive measures while transiting the area"**.
- 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.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Ship master and crew are to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State RCC and flag State, referring to the Poster on *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*.

Follow us on:	W: www.recaap.org	Twitter: https://twitter.com/recaapisc	LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/recaap-information-sharing-centre
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) 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.