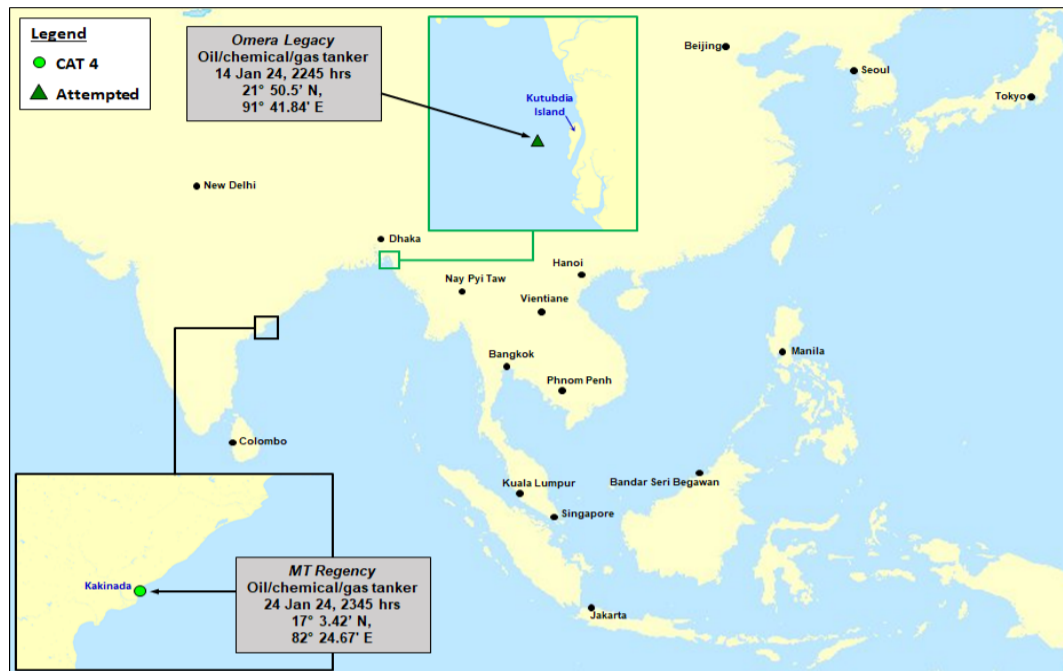


### OVERVIEW

**Two** incidents of armed robbery against ships (one CAT 4<sup>1</sup> and one attempted<sup>2</sup> incident) in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4 incident occurred onboard ship while at anchorage in Kakinada Port, India on 24 Jan 2024; and the attempted incident occurred onboard ship while at anchorage in Chattogram Port, Bangladesh on 14 Jan 2024. The details of incidents are shown in table below.



Factors	Location	
	Bangladesh	India
	Off Kutubdia, Chattogram Port (1 incident)	Kakinada Port (1 incident)
Type of ship	Oil/chemical/gas tanker	Oil/chemical/gas tanker
Date/Time	14 Jan at 2245 hrs	24 Jan at 2345 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Not known	6 men
Weapons	Not armed	Not armed
Treatment of crew	Not stated	No injuries
Items stolen	Nothing was stolen	Three mooring ropes
Significance level	Attempted	CAT 4

### AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to exercise enhanced vigilance and adopt necessary preventive measures when anchored/berthed at ports and anchorages, and when transiting areas of concern.

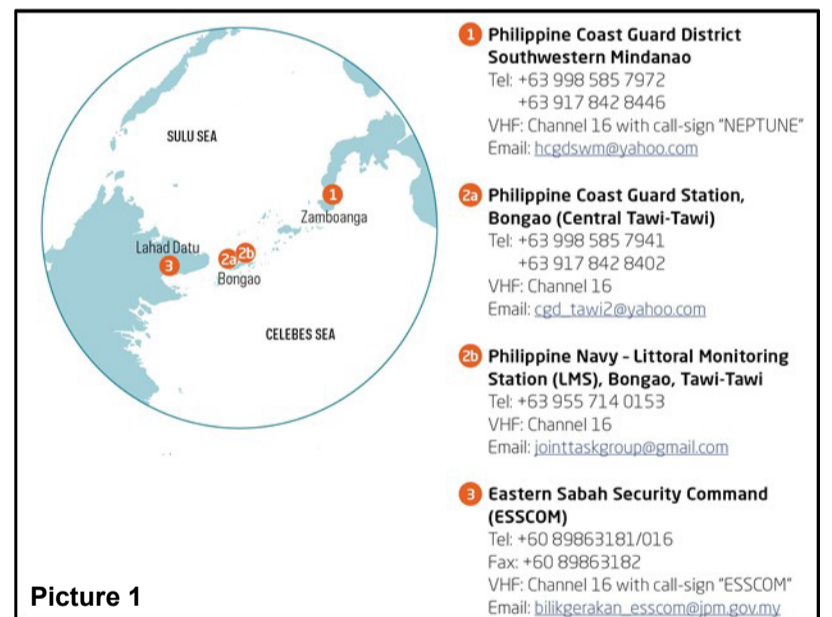
### SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

#### Re-Assessment and Downgrading of threat level

- The efforts by the Philippine Government in Zamboanga, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi through the conduct of continuous military operations led to the dismantling of the support base and neutralising the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu archipelago. Against this backdrop, 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 further 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.



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: <a href="http://www.recaap.org">www.recaap.org</a>	Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/recaapisc">https://twitter.com/recaapisc</a>	LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/recaap-information-sharing-centre">https://www.linkedin.com/company/recaap-information-sharing-centre</a>
Contact us at:	E: <a href="mailto:info@recaap.org">info@recaap.org</a>	T: +65 6376 3063	F: +65 6376 3066

\* Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2024/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202024.pdf> for details of the incidents.

<sup>1</sup> CAT 4 incident is classified as 'least significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.

<sup>2</sup> Attempted incident refers to incidents whereby the pirates/robbers tried but failed in their attempt to board the ship.