

# **DIALOGUE WITH SHIPPING INDUSTRY**

## **Threat of Abduction of Crew in Sulu-Celebes Seas**

**ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre**

on

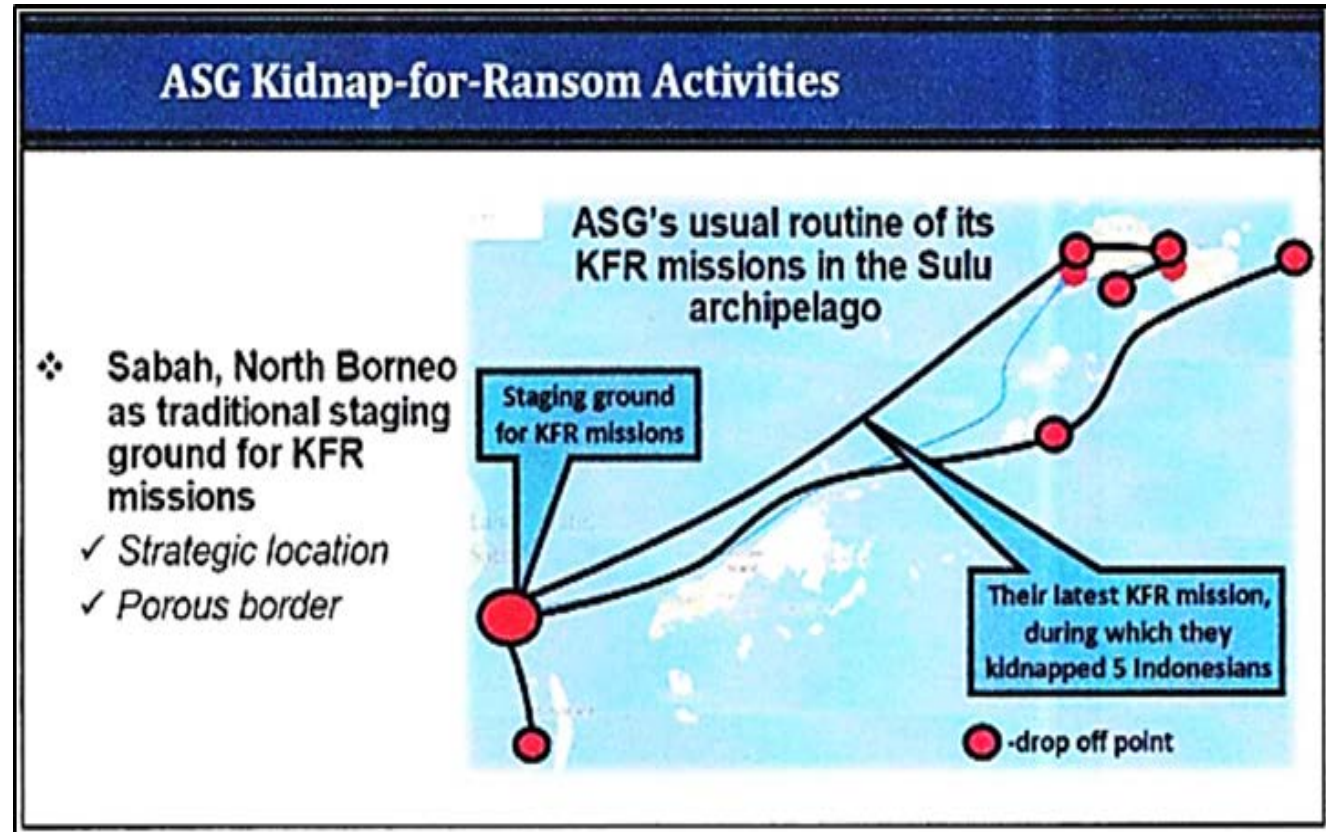
28 October 2022

## SCOPE

- Situation overview
- Abduction of crew incidents
- Military & Law Enforcement Operations
- Comprehensive threat assessment
- ReCAAP ISC Advisory

## Situation overview

- Vast waters of Sulu Sea worked to advantage of pirates who prey on ships passing by Tawi-tawi area & nearby waters off Eastern Sabah
- Abu Sayyaf Group's (ASG) Since March 2016, became notorious for seaborne abduction of crew for ransom
- Sabah, North Borneo, became traditional staging ground or theatre of operations for ASG.



# Abduction of Crew Incidents

- Government's relentless pursuit of ASG members in Southern Philippines, abduction of crew incidents continue to decrease.

(Year)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Jan-Sep 2022
Actual incidents (20)	12	3	2	2	1	0	0
Attempted incidents (11)	6	4	1	0	0	0	0

# Military and Law Enforcement Operations



Abu Sayyaf Group member surrendered to the military in Basilan in April 25, 2021. Photo from Western Mindanao Command FB page



ZAMBONGA. Two supporters of Abu Sayyaf bandits surrender to government authorities Friday, May 7, in the town of Onar, Sulu. A photo handout shows the two surrenderers (holding rifles) joining military and local government officials in a postally photo after their surrender.

ASG Sub-leaders & members surrendered to government & returned to fold of the law.



**Brother of Abu Sayyaf  
bombmaker Mundi  
Sawadjaan killed in Sulu  
clash**

APR 24, 2021 2:03 PM PHT  
RAPPLER.COM

# Comprehensive Threat Assessment



**PHILIPPINE NAVY**



**INTELLIGENCE  
SERVICE OF THE AFP**



**PHILIPPINE ARMY**



**NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE  
COORDINATING AGENCY**

## Threat Level Matrix

### TWO (2) FACTORS

#### • SEVERITY

- Pertains to **capability of perpetrators** to do harm and **intensity of outcome** of a perpetrated attack.

#### • LIKELIHOOD

- Pertains to probability of an attack from happening depending on credibility or accuracy of collected **information** on movements and activities of perpetrators, as well as their perceived **intent** to conduct atrocities.

Both factors are attuned with the *National Terrorism Threat Level Advisory System Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)* developed by the *National Intelligence Board - National Intelligence Committee (NIC-NIB)* which was institutionalized by virtue of Resolution No. 004 series of 2020.

# Comprehensive Threat Assessment (cont'd)

## Severity Factor

<b>MINOR</b>	Perpetrators were unarmed. No minimal damage incurred to vessel, property, and crew. No items were stolen. No attempt to abduct crew.
<b>MODERATE</b>	Perpetrators were armed. Crew may be subjected to duress and items may be stolen. Attempted abduction unsuccessful.
<b>MAJOR</b>	Perpetrators were armed. Crew was violently harmed/assaulted resulting in severe injury. There was a clear intent for abduction and hijacking which may or may not be successful.
<b>EXTREME</b>	Perpetrators were heavily armed and able to successfully Hijack vessel and abduct crew. In some cases, victims may also be killed during incident.



# Comprehensive Threat Assessment (cont'd)

## Likelihood Factor

<b>CERTAIN</b>	Chance of incident/attack from happening absolute.
<b>LIKELY</b>	Chance of incident/attack from happening common.
<b>POSSIBLE</b>	An incident/attack may or may not occur.
<b>UNLIKELY</b>	Isolated incident/attack may transpire.
<b>RARE</b>	Very little chance that an incident/attack may happen.

## Threat Level Matrix

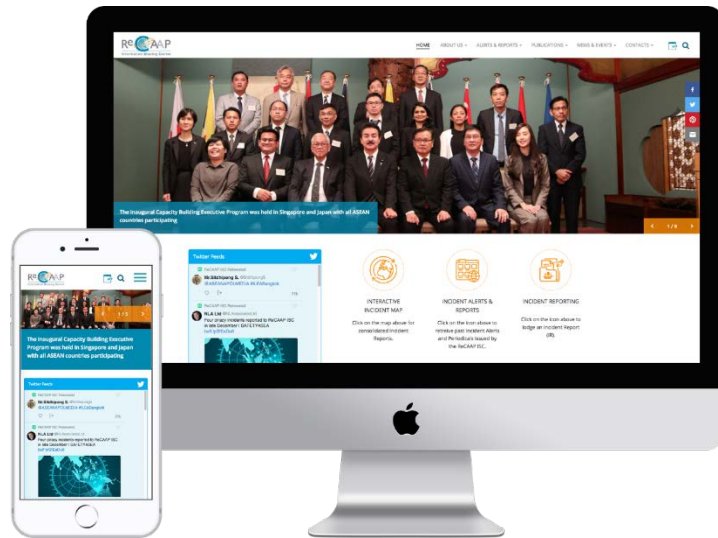
<b>HIGH</b>	Incidents are likely to occur with absolute certainty and severity.
<b>MODERATE HIGH</b>	There is credible information indicating plans/intent to conduct atrocities. Hence, incidents are more likely to occur with significant damages to vessel and crew.
<b>MODERATE</b>	<b>Incidents are possible to occur but are relatively less severe in nature.</b>
<b>MODERATE LOW</b>	Incidents are unlikely to occur due to perpetrators' perceived lack of capability to orchestrate an attack. Nevertheless, minimal damages are expected to vessel and crew in case there is an attack.
<b>LOW</b>	No information or monitored activities suggesting impending attack, hence, incidents are not expected to occur.

# 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 their 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.



# Get our Latest News and Reports



[www.recaap.org](http://www.recaap.org)



Mobile App



@recaapisc