

Incident Report :	07/170507
Date/Time of Incident :	17 May 2007 at 0340 hrs
Location of incident :	02° 54' N, 119° 40' E
Area Description :	Celebes Sea
Name/Type of Ship:	<i>Port Pirie</i> /Bulk Carrier
<p>Details of Incident:</p> <p>The bulk carrier while sailing in the Celebes Sea was chased by a speedboat. The master of the bulk carrier sounded the alarm, informed the crew over the PA system and locked all entrances to the accommodation rooms. The speedboat ordered the bulk carrier to stop for boarding to check its documents and cargoes. However, the bulk carrier did not comply, as they were uncertain of the identity of the speedboat which eventually fired warning shots. Some of these shots had reportedly damaged the bulk carrier's starboard side glass and starboard compass repeater cover. Paint was peeled off at various places on the accommodation bulkheads.</p> <p>The bulk carrier proceeded at full speed, activated the ship security alert system and contacted the ship company and authorities to verify the identity of the speedboat. It was subsequently established that the speedboat was from the Indonesian Navy and firing of warning shots was part of their graduated procedures when ships being investigated did not respond.</p> <p>The master of the bulk carrier explained that the ship did not stop as they were not aware that the Indonesian Navy was checking on commercial ships plying the area. However, he was willing to provide the information required by the Indonesian Navy via the VHF without stopping the ship for boarding. This was agreed upon. No one was injured in the incident.</p>	
Reported by :	ISC Contact Point (Hong Kong)
Comments by ISC :	The ISC has verified with the Indonesian authorities and confirmed that this was not an incidence of armed robbery or piracy.