Incident Report: 08/2009

Date/Time of Incident: 28 June 2009 at 0115 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 01° 57.18’ N, 104° 47.83’ E

Area Description: South China Sea (approximately 34 nm south of Pulau Aur, Malaysia)

Name and Type of Ship: White Tokio / General cargo ship

Details of Incident

On 28 June 2009, the Panama-registered general cargo ship, White Tokio was underway towards Niigata, Japan from Lumut, Malaysia with a cargo of loaded limestone in bulk. Between 0115 hrs to 0130 hrs (local time) on 28 June 2009, the general cargo ship was at position 01° 57.18’ N, 104° 47.83’ E (approximately 34 nm south of Pulau Aur, Malaysia) when six robbers boarded the general cargo ship from a boat.

The robbers held two Indonesian crew as hostage and demanded money from the ship master. The ship master gave money to the robbers who thereafter released the two crew and escaped in their boat. The ship master reported that the robbers spoke Bahasa.

No one was injured and the general cargo ship continued her journey to Niigata, Japan.

The ship master reported the incident to the Singapore’s Port Operation Control Centre (POCC) which is also the ReCAAP Focal Point for Singapore. The Singapore POCC initiated a broadcast on Navtex to warn mariners to maintain anti-piracy watch when passing through the area. The MRCC Putra Jaya was also informed.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
Comments by ReCAAP ISC

Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance when operating in the vicinity at all times.

The ReCAAP ISC encourages ship masters to report incidents of piracy and armed robbery to the nearest coastal state. This allows the law enforcement agencies to investigate the incident, and where possible, assist ships involved in incidents of piracy and armed robbery.

Approximate location of incident