Incident Report: 05/2009

Date/Time of Incident: 1 June 2009 at 0245 hrs (local time)

Location of incident: 01° 19.23' N, 104° 15.89' E

Area Description: South of Tanjung Ramunia, Malaysia

Name and Type of Ship: Garnet / Bulk carrier

Details of Incident

On 1 June 2009 at about 0245 hrs, a Panama-registered bulk carrier, the Garnet, was anchored at approximately 01° 19.23' N, 104° 15.89' E (south of Tanjung Ramunia, Malaysia) when about seven or eight robbers armed with knives, boarded the ship. The ship departed Cambodia and had anchored at the said position since 30 May 2009. The ship was scheduled to discharge the cargo at Singapore.

The armed robbers boarded the ship from her stern, entered the engine room and tied up the duty oiler who was in the engine spare parts’ store room. The robbers took some engine spare parts and escaped. The duty oiler managed to free himself and reported the incident to the ship master. There was no report of injury to the 25 Chinese crew on board the bulk carrier.

The ship master reported the incident to the Singapore’s VTIS and the local agent in Singapore. The Singapore’s Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) who is also the ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) initiated a navigational broadcast on VHF and Navtex to warn mariners operating in the area about the incident. The MRCC Putra Jaya was also informed.

Reported by

ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)
Incident Alert

Comments by ISC

Between May 2008 and 1 June 2009, a total of eight incidents were reported in the vicinity off Tanjung Ramunia and Tanjung Ayam (close proximity to Johor port limits). All the incidents occurred when the ships were anchored in the vicinity. More details of these incidents would be reported in the ReCAAP ISC monthly report.

Ship masters and crew are advised to maintain vigilance at all times and take necessary precautionary measures when operating in the vicinity. The ReCAAP ISC encourages ship masters to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery to the nearest coastal state immediately.

Approximate location of incidents