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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 6-12 June 2017

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 6-12 June 17, one incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC by the ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines) who is the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). The location of the incident is shown in map below; and detailed description tabulated in attachment.

The Focal Point also reported to the ReCAAP ISC the escape of one of the abducted crew of fishing boat *Ramona 2* on 6 Jun 17 (after being held in captivity for more than five months). Fishing boat *Ramona 2* was boarded on 20 Dec 16 by an unknown number of perpetrators who abducted its four crew. One of the crew was beheaded by the abductors on 13 Apr 17 in Sitio Pantay Minol, Brgy. Tanum, Patikul, Sulu. To date, the remaining **two** crew of *Ramona 2* are still being held in captivity. The updates on this incident were reported in previous ReCAAP ISC Weekly Reports covering the period 20-26 Dec 16 and 18-24 Apr 17.



Location of incidents

RECOMMENDATIONS

The ReCAAP ISC urges ship master and crew to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt relevant preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

The ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via the *ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert* dated 21 November 2016 to all ships to re-route from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the Sulu-Celebes Sea and eastern Sabah region, and report immediately to the following Centres:



Contact details of the centres

**Description of Incident of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia
6 - 12 June 2017**

NO	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Local time of Incident (LT)	Position of the Incident	Details of the Incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1	M/Tug 308 Tug boat Philippines SSL Barge 08 Barge Philippines	5/6/17 1223 hrs	5°48.36' N, 125° 44.55' E Vicinity of Sarangani Strait, Jose Abad Santos, Davao Occidental, Philippines	<p>While underway, 20 perpetrators carrying short firearms on board five motor bancas approached and boarded the tug boat. The perpetrators took away several gallons of fuel, paint and half sack of rice. The crew of the tug boat reported the incident to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) who immediately launched its assets and conducted maritime patrol in the area. The PCG located the tug boat and the barge; and rendered assistance to the tug boat.</p> <p>While the PCG team was conducting verification on board the tug boat, one motor banca with two perpetrators on board came alongside on the other side of the tug boat. The perpetrators who were not armed boarded the tug boat and were immediately apprehended by the PCG team. They were handed over to the Philippine National Police (PNP) for investigation and filing of appropriate charges in court.</p>	<p>The crew was not injured.</p> <p>Several gallons of fuel, paint and half sack of rice were stolen.</p>	Reported incident to the PCG.	Yes PCG	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	<p>The PCG immediately launched its assets, conducted maritime patrol in the area and located the tug boat and barge.</p> <p>The PCG team boarded the tug boat to conduct investigation.</p> <p>The team also apprehended two perpetrators who boarded the tug boat from another banca. The perpetrators were handed over to the PNP for investigation and filing of appropriate charges in court.</p>