



Website : www.recaap.org
 Tel : +65 6376 3063
 Fax : +65 6376 3066
 Email : info@recaap.org

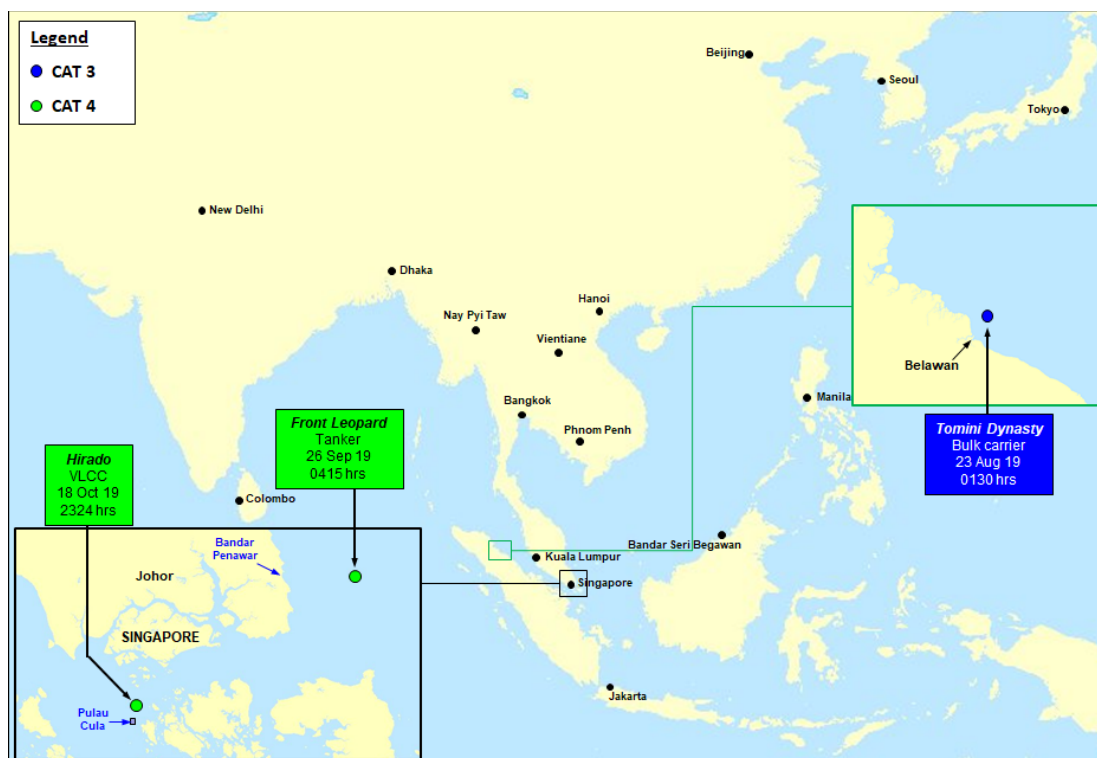
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

15-21 October 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 15 - 21 Oct 19, three actual incidents of armed robbery against ship in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Points. One was a CAT 3¹ incident in Indonesia and two were CAT 4² incidents, one in Malaysia and one in the Singapore Strait. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description is tabulated in attachment.



Location of the incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 3 incident is 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators could be armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. The crew was not harmed although there remains a small possibility that the crew could be subjected to duress or threat during the incident but not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, the perpetrators were unable to steal anything from the vessel, but in cases where losses were reported, stores and engine spares were commonly targeted items.

² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed and the crew not harmed.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high, ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via ReCAAP ISC Incident Alert dated 21 Nov 16 to all ships to reroute from the area, where possible. Otherwise, ship masters and crew are strongly urged to exercise extra vigilance while transiting the area, and report immediately to the Operation Centres of Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia (updated by ReCAAP ISC on 3 Jan 19) are as follows:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Four contact points are indicated with numbered circles: 1 (Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao), 2a (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao), 2b (Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao), and 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)).

- 1 Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao**
Tel: +63 998 585 7972
+63 917 842 8446
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
Email: hcgdswm@yahoo.com
- 2a Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)**
Tel: +63 998 585 7941
+63 917 842 8402
VHF: Channel 16
Email: cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com
- 2b Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi**
Tel: +63 955 714 0153
VHF: Channel 16
Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com
- 3 Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)**
Tel: +60 89863181/016
Fax: +60 89863182
VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
Email: bilikgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my

Contact details

In the event that the ship master is not able to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed in the ReCAAP ISC Advisory, he can contact the **Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre** at the following contact details:

Tel: +63-2-5273877 (direct)
+63-2-527-8481 to 89 (ext: 6136/37)
+63-917-724-3682 (mobile)
+63-929-825-3207 (mobile)

Email: pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph

The ReCAAP ISC advises the shipping industry and ships to enhance their situation awareness by referring to the *Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah* produced by ReCAAP ISC in July 2019. The Guidance is available at www.recaap.org.

RECOMMENDATION

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*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships
15-21 October 19**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INCIDENT IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	Tomini Dynasty Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 36308 9721360	23/0819 0130 hrs	3° 54.4' N, 98° 47.25' E Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia	While anchored, the duty crew noticed a small boat near the anchor chain and told the boat to move away as they were about to heave the anchor. As the duty crew was about to raise the alarm, two armed perpetrators who already boarded the ship held the duty crew at knife point and tied him up. When the ship was ready to heave up the anchor, the remaining crew proceeded to the forecastle. Upon seeing the crew approaching, the perpetrators snatched the duty crew's walkie-talkie and escaped through the hawse pipe after opening the security cover. The incident was reported to the local port control. The Indonesian Marine Police boarded the ship to investigate when she reached the berthing area. (Category 3)	No injury to the crew was reported. The duty crew's walkie-talkie was stolen.	The incident was reported to the Port Control.	Yes Port Control and Marine Police	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Indonesian Marine Police boarded the ship to investigate.
2.	Front Leopard Tanker Marshall Islands 62700 9703320	26/9/19 0415 hrs	1° 34' N, 104° 31' E Approximately 16 nm east of Bandar Penawar, Johor, Malaysia	While at anchor, the perpetrators boarded the ship unnoticed via the anchor chain. They stole the ship equipment from the forward store and escaped. The incident was reported to the regional authorities. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Ship equipment from the forward store was stolen.	The master reported the incident to the regional authorities.	Yes	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information.

	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 coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or International Organization	Coastal State Action Taken
3	Hirado VLCC Greece 159806 9377420	18/10/19 2324 hrs	1° 6.23' N, 103° 43.76' E Approximately 4.1 nm north northeast of Pulau Cula, Indonesia, in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait	While sailing, five perpetrators were sighted at the engine room. The master raised the alarm and the perpetrators escaped. The master conducted a search of the ship. Nothing was stolen and there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board the ship. The master reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF. There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew. The crew was safe and the ship continued her passage to the next port of call at Yingkou, China (Category 4)	The crew was safe. Nothing was stolen	The master raised the alarm and conducted search on the ship. Reported incident to Singapore VTIS via VHF	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The safe navigational broadcast was initiated. The Indonesian authority, Singapore Navy and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified.