



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

ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

12-18 November 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 12-18 Nov 19, two attempted¹ incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Points. The incidents occurred in the Singapore Strait and at Alpha Anchorage, Batangas Bay, Philippines. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description is tabulated in attachment.




Location of the incidents

¹ Attempted incident is incident where perpetrators tried but failed to board the ship.

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 Zamboanga, Lahad Datu, and Bongao. Contact points are indicated by numbered circles: 1 near Zamboanga, 2a and 2b near Bongao, and 3 near Lahad Datu.

- 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
12-18 November 19**

	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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ATTEMPTED INCIDENTS									
1.	GT Equality Chemical tanker Vietnam 4159 9205512	5/11/19 2118 hrs	1° 12.6' N, 103° 34.3' E Approximately 4.8 nm southeast of Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia, in the westbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While the chemical tanker was departing from Tanjung Pelepas, Johor, Malaysia, six perpetrators in two speed boats attempted to board the ship. Upon sighting of the two speed boats, the alarm was raised. The master increased the speed and took evasive manoeuvres. The perpetrators aborted the attempt to board the ship. The ship resumed her voyage heading easterly. The crew was safe.	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised. The master increased the speed and took evasive manoeuvres.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available
2.	Silver Millie Tanker Marshall Islands 29327 9692363	9/11/19 0100 hrs	13° 45' N, 121° 1' E Alpha Anchorage, Batangas Bay, Batangas City, Philippines	While the tanker was dropping its anchor, the duty anchor detail of the watch noticed a perpetrator trying to climb through the ship's anchor chain. The duty officer shook the hawse pipe, causing the perpetrator to fall into the water. The perpetrator escaped towards an unknown direction.	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The duty officer shook the hawse pipe causing the perpetrator to fall into the water.	Yes Philippine Coast Guard District Southern Tagalog	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Philippine Coast Guard, and Bureau of Immigration, and Quarantine boarded the ship and conducted an initial investigation. They advised the master of the ship to enhance security measures to avoid recurrence of similar incident.