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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 17-23 Sep 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia


OVERVIEW

The ReCAAP ISC did not receive incident report on piracy or armed robbery against ship during 17-23 Sep 19.

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

According to media report, on 24 Sep 19 three Indonesian crew on board a Malaysian fishing boat were abducted in the vicinity waters off Tambisan Island, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia. ReCAAP ISC issued a Warning to provide situational awareness to the mariners operating in the area. The Warning is attached.

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:



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

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*.

WARNING 01-09-2019

24/SEPTEMBER/2019

Name and Type of Ship: Fishing boat

Date/Time of incident: 23 September 2019 at about 1200 hrs (local time)

Area Description: Off Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia

1. Category: Abduction of crew

2. Description: On 23 Sep 19 at about 1200 hrs, seven masked-men armed with high powered firearms such as M16, RPG and pistols; believed to be members of the Kidnap for Ransom Group (KFRG) in Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) abducted three Indonesian crew from a Malaysian fishing boat. The fishing boat was in the vicinity waters of Tambisan Island, Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysia when the perpetrators boarded the fishing boat from two pump boats. The perpetrators then fled towards Tawi-tawi Island, Philippines. The Malaysia and Philippine authorities are stepping up its patrol efforts, conducting pursuit operations and intensifying its military operation to rescue the abducted crew and neutralize the militant group.

3. Source: Media Report

4. This information is provided to inform maritime situational awareness for mariners operating in the area.

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THIS WARNING IS PENDING VERIFICATION BY ReCAAP ISC

