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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 18 – 24 June 2019

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

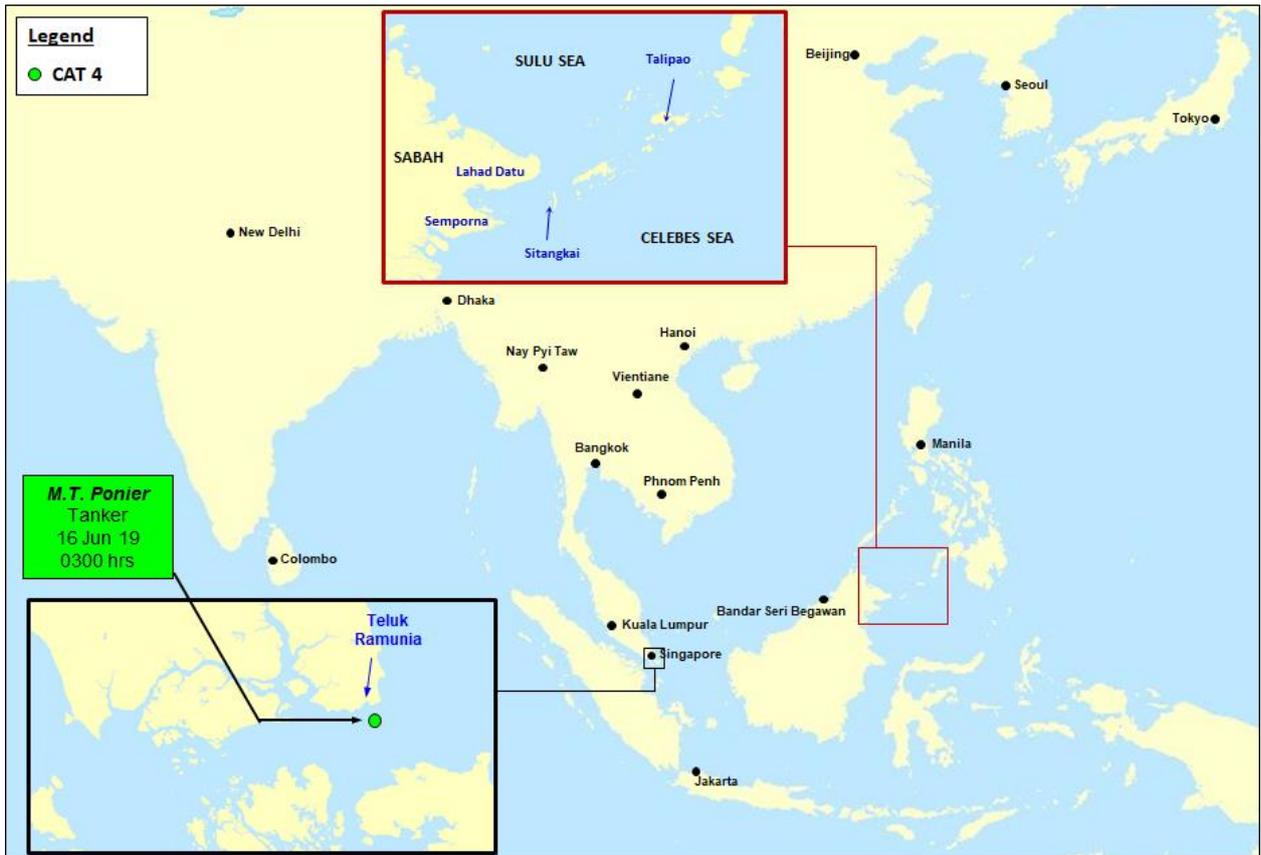
The ReCAAP ISC received report of one incident of armed robbery against ships occurred on 16 Jun 19 in Teluk Ramunia waters, off Pengerang, Malaysia. The location of the incident is shown in map below, and description tabulated in attachment.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS – UPDATE ON THE ABDUCTION OF 10 CREW FROM TWO FISHING BOATS ON 18 JUN 19

On 18 Jun 19, the ReCAAP ISC issued a Warning on the abduction of 10 crew from two fishing boats off Semporna, Sabah, Malaysia. Upon verification of the incidents by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the ReCAAP ISC issued an Incident Alert on the same day with information on the sighting of the abducted crew in the area of Pondohan, Tabawan, Sitangkai, Tawi-tawi, Philippines at about 0330 hrs on 18 Jun 19.

On 21 Jun 19 at about 2200 hrs, elements of the maritime police station were on mobile patrol at Bgy Kahawa, Talipao, Sulu and they sighted a group of nine men walking along the road. After interviewing the men, they were confirmed to be the abducted crew who were released by their abductors who could have realised that the abducted crew had no money nor anything to give as ransom. The nine men were brought to Talipao for custody and debrief. One of the abducted crew is still missing. Refer to map below.

This is the first abduction of crew incident reported in 2019. The last incident of abduction of crew occurred on 5 Dec 18.



Location of incidents

RECOMMENDATIONS

As the risk of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah is high as demonstrated by the abduction of 10 crew on 18 Jun 19, the ReCAAP ISC reiterates its advisory issued via the *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 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. Four contact points are marked with red circles containing numbers: 1 (Zamboanga), 2a and 2b (Bongao), and 3 (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

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
18 – 24 June 2019

	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
INCIDENT IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENT									
1.	M.T. Ponier Tanker	16/6/19 0300 hrs	1° 18.6' N, 104° 16.03' E Approximately 2.9 nm south of Teluk Ramunia, Pengerang, Malaysia	A Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) patrol team was on patrol when they sighted two wooden boats, both named <i>Lima Sore</i> , secured to <i>M.T. Ponier</i> that was anchored at about 2.9 nm south of Teluk Ramunia, Pengerang, Malaysia. Suspecting that something was amiss, the MMEA team conducted checks and found four perpetrators who attempted to steal items from the tanker, including scrap metal. All four perpetrators were arrested. However, two of the four perpetrators escaped by jumping overboard when one of the MMEA patrol boats broke down on the way back to the MMEA maritime base in Tanjung Pengelih, Malaysia. The two perpetrators were later arrested in Pulau Batam, Indonesia by the Indonesian authorities. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. The perpetrators attempted to steal items from the ship, including scrap metal. All four perpetrators were eventually arrested by the authorities	No information available	No	ReCAAP ISC via MMEA	The MMEA patrol team arrested four perpetrators. However, two of them escaped by jumping overboard, but they were later arrested in Pulau Batam, Indonesia by the Indonesian authorities.