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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 21-27 May 19

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 21-27 May 19, one Category 2¹ incident and one Category 4² incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. This is the first Category 2 incident reported in 2019 which involved the crew being held hostage by perpetrators armed with knives; and cash and personal effects of the crew were stolen. Both incidents occurred in Indonesia. Category 2 incident occurred approximately 4 nm east of Pulau Mapur on 13 May 19 and Category 4 incident occurred at Lubuk Gaung anchorage in Dumai on 11 May 19. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed descriptions are tabulated in attachment.



Location of incidents

¹ ReCAAP ISC classifies Category 2 as moderately significant incident. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/ machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew are threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence but less severe in nature as compared to CAT 1 incident.

² ReCAAP ISC classifies Category 4 as the least significant incident. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not harmed.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS


Status of abducted crew

Based on the latest report from the Philippine Focal Point, **no crew** remains in captivity. Shown below is the summary of the latest status of 66 crew who had been abducted since March 2016:

NO. OF CREW ABDUCTED	NO. OF CREW RELEASED	NO. OF CREW RESCUED	NO. OF CREW KILLED/DIED	STILL IN CAPTIVITY
66	37	19	10	0

The rescue and release of the abducted crew is the result of the intensified military and law enforcement operations of the Philippine authorities. These operations are undertaken continuously in order to neutralise the militant group.

As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off eastern Sabah remains, ReCAAP ISC maintains 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. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. 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

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
21-27 May 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
INCIDENTS IN ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Princess Paula Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 19885 9300207	11/05/19 1800 hrs	1° 42.76' N, 101° 26.62' E Lubuk Gaung Anchorage, Dumai, Indonesia	While at anchor, the 3 rd Engineer of the bulk carrier discovered that the spare part room in the main engine room had been broken into. Some engine spares were stolen. The master raised the alarm and a search was conducted. The crew was not injured. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Spare part room in the main engine room was broken into and some engine spares were stolen.	The master raised the alarm and a search was conducted.	Yes Local port authority	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available.
2.	Da Yang Bai Li General cargo ship China 7216 9607978	13/05/19 0210 hrs	1° 0.1' N, 104° 54.8' E Approximately 4 nm east of Pulau Mapur, Indonesia	While underway, four perpetrators armed with long knives boarded the general cargo ship. The perpetrators entered the cabins of the master and an A/B; and tied them up. The perpetrators stole cash and personal effects of the master and A/B; cut the Inmarsat Telephone line and escaped. (Category 2)	The perpetrators tied the master and an A/B. They also cut the Inmarsat Telephone line. Cash and personal effects of master and A/B were stolen.	Master activated ship's Security Alarm and broadcasted to all crew.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available.