Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 30 Jul - 05 Aug 19, two Category 4\(^1\) incidents of armed robbery against ship were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. One incident occurred to a tug boat at PT Darma Sentosa Marindo Yard, Batam Island Indonesia on 23 Jul 19. The other incident involved a general cargo ship at Lotus Port, Phu My Bridge, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam on 25 Jul 19. Both incidents occurred while the ships are at berth. The location of the incidents is shown in the map below, and description tabulated in the attachment.

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\(^1\) CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as 'least significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.
Incident outside Asia

The Focal Point (Singapore) reported to ReCAAP ISC one attempted incident of armed robbery against ships that occurred outside Asia. The incident occurred on board Singapore-registered chemical tanker *Torm Thor* on 26 Jul 19 while at anchor at Lagos Anchorage, 4.5 nm southwest of Fairway Buoy. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in attachment.

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 as demonstrated by the abduction of 9 crew\(^2\) 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:

\(^2\) The nine abducted crew were released on 21 Jun 19.
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

Guidance on the Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah

The ReCAAP ISC has produced the “Guidance on the Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah” as an advisory on the measures to be taken by ships transiting the area. It includes the contact details as well as Notice to Mariners (NOTAM) issued by the Philippines and Malaysia on the recommended transit corridor for safe passage. It shares the analysis of incidents based on the information collected from past incidents.

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

**30 Jul – 5 Aug 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship Name</th>
<th>Type of Ship</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Gross Tonnage</th>
<th>IMO Number</th>
<th>Date Local time of Incident (LT)</th>
<th>Position of the Incident</th>
<th>Details of the Incident</th>
<th>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</th>
<th>Action taken by the master and crew</th>
<th>Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?</th>
<th>Reporting State or International Organization</th>
<th>Coastal State Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Molengracht</td>
<td>General cargo ship</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>9524</td>
<td>9571533</td>
<td>25/07/19 1940 hrs</td>
<td>10.0; 44.45'N 106.0; 44.71'E Lotus Port, Phu May Bridge, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam</td>
<td>While at berth, the perpetrators in two small boats wearing mask and caps boarded the ship and stole its properties (2 complete set of breathing apparatus, 2 spare air tanks for breathing apparatus and 2 full set of chemical suits). They escaped when the officer on watch discovered them at the forecastle of the ship. The master informed the agent and reported to the coastal immigration. The crew is safe. (Category 4)</td>
<td>No injury to the crew and no damage to the vessel was reported</td>
<td>The master informed the ship's agent.</td>
<td>Yes Coastal Immigration</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam)</td>
<td>Local Authorities notified and boarded the ship for investigation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crest Onyx</td>
<td>Tugboat</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1727</td>
<td>9655717</td>
<td>23/07/19 0715 hrs</td>
<td>1.0; 4.15' N 103.0; 54.2' E PT Darma Sentosa Batam Island, Indonesia</td>
<td>While at berth, four perpetrators from a boat boarded the tugboat, broke in the storeroom and stole ship’s property. The incident was discovered when the Second Officer was on routine rounds noticing footprints on the deck. The ship’s alarm was raised and crew members mustered. All crew is safe. (Category 4)</td>
<td>No injury to the crew</td>
<td>The incident was reported to Shipyard Security</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</td>
<td>No information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torm Thor</td>
<td>Chemical Tanker</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>29484</td>
<td>9712292</td>
<td>26/07/19 0430 hrs</td>
<td>6.0; 18.06' N 3.0; 23.35' E 4.5 miles SW Fairway Buoy Lagos Anchorage</td>
<td>While preparing for ship to ship operation, two ship's crew found an unauthorized person at forecastle of the ship. The alarm was raised and crew checked the ship. The perpetrator fled the scene.</td>
<td>No crew was injured</td>
<td>The incident was reported to ship’s Chief Security Officer, local agents.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</td>
<td>Local Authorities notified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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