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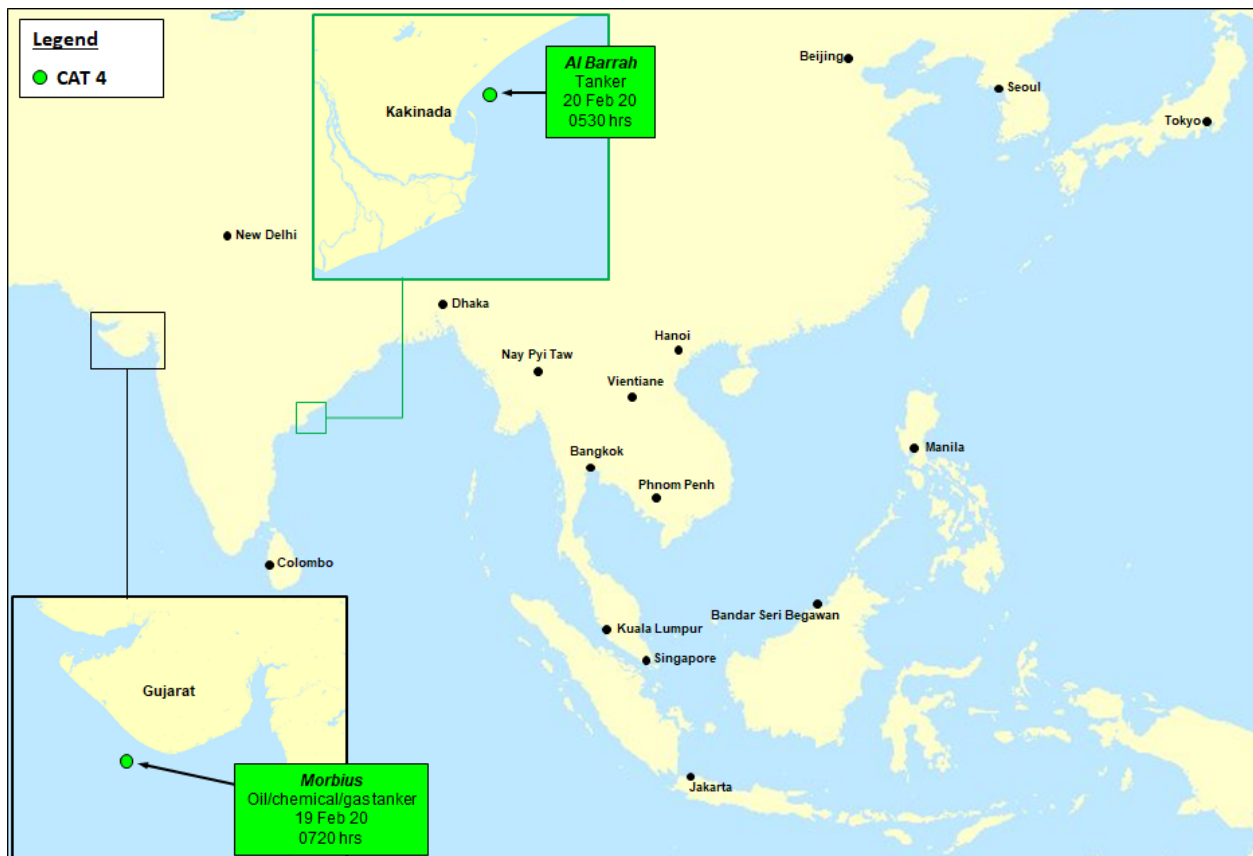
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

18-24 February 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 18-24 Feb 20, two incidents of armed robbery against ships were reported to ReCAAP ISC. Both were CAT 4¹ incidents. One incident occurred to a tanker while underway off Gujarat, India; and another incident occurred to another tanker anchored at Kakinada anchorage, India. The location of the two incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description tabulated in the attachment.




Location of the incidents

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.

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 recurrence of the abduction incident on 17 Jan 20, the 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. Three numbered locations are marked: 1 (Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao) near Zamboanga; 2a and 2b (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao and Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi) near Bongao; and 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)) 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: hcgdsww@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: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)
+632-998-585-5327 (mobile)
+632-917-842-8249 (mobile)
+632-8-527-3877 (fax)

Email: pcqcomcen@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
18-24 February 2020**

	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 Taken	State Action
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
INCIDENTS IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENTS										
1.	Al Barrah Tanker Saudi Arabia 23999 9332030	20/02/20 0530 hrs	17° 3.7' N, 82° 24.8' E Kakinada Anchorage, India	While at anchor, an unknown number of perpetrators boarded the tanker, stole two mooring ropes and eight paint drums, and escaped. The master reported the incident to pilot station Kakinada. The incident was also informed to the local agent, local police, India Coast Guard (ICG), Kakinada Port Control and other authorities. The ICG reported the incident to the coastal security police for investigation. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Two mooring ropes and eight paint drums were stolen.	The master reported the incident to pilot station Kakinada.	Yes Pilot station Kakinada	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	The ICG reported the incident to the coastal security police for investigation.	

	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
2.	Morbius Oil/chemical/gas tanker Comoros 58141 9165762	19/02/20 0720 hrs	20° 36.4' N, 70° 3.96' E 186 Nawabandar LT 08 nm Off Gujarat, India	While <i>Morbius</i> was underway and towed by tug boat, <i>Allianz Titanium</i> , nine perpetrators in a fishing boat approached the ship. Two of the perpetrators boarded <i>Morbius</i> while the remaining seven perpetrators waited in the fishing boat. The master reported the incident to India Coast Guard (ICG) on VHF Ch-16 and the local marine police. An ICG ship immediately rushed to the location of the incident and apprehended the seven perpetrators in the fishing boat. Thereafter, the ICG boarded <i>Morbius</i> and apprehended the remaining two perpetrators hiding in the ship. The ICG handed the nine perpetrators to Marine Police Station Pipavav. (Category 4)	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	No information available	Yes ICG and local marine police	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	An ICG ship immediately rushed to the location of the incident and apprehended the seven perpetrators in a fishing boat. Thereafter, the ICG boarded <i>Morbius</i> and apprehended the remaining two perpetrators hiding in the ship. The ICG handed the nine perpetrators to Marine Police Station Pipavav.