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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report

28 January-2 February 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 28 Jan-2 Feb 20, three incidents of armed robbery against ships were reported to ReCAAP ISC. All three were CAT 4¹ incidents.

Of the three incidents, two occurred on board ships at anchorages in Indonesia (Belawan Anchorage and Taboneo Anchorage) and one occurred on board a container ship at anchorage in the Philippines (Manila South Anchorage). The location of the three 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. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Contact points are indicated by numbered red 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: bilanggerakan_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

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
28 January-2 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.	Cosco Sao Paulo Container ship Hong Kong, China 40465 9484388	29/01/20 0335 hrs	14° 32.9' N, 120° 54.7' E Manila South Anchorage, Philippines	While at anchor, the crew noticed several perpetrators on board the container ship. Two of the storage rooms were broken into. The crew searched for the perpetrators and checked on the inventory of the ship's property. The items stolen included one set of fireman breathing device, two sets of immersion and thermal protective suits, 28 casks of paints, 34 pieces of firehose hand guns and 34 pieces of fire hydrant covers. The master of the ship reported the incident to Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) Manila. The Philippine Coast Guard Sub Station boarded the ship for inquiry and advised the master and crew to strengthen their security measures and report similar incidents to the nearest Philippine Coast Guard units. (Category 4)	The items stolen included one set of fireman breathing device, two sets of immersion and thermal protective suits, 28 casks of paints, 34 pieces of firehose hand guns and 34 pieces of fire hydrant covers.	The crew searched for the perpetrators and checked on the inventory of the ship's property. The master reported the incident to VTMS Manila.	Yes Philippine Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Philippine Coast Guard Sub Station boarded the ship for inquiry and advised the master and crew to strengthen their security measures and report similar incidents to the nearest Philippine Coast Guard units.	

	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.	FSL London Petroleum/Chemical tanker Singapore 11587 9340465	26/01/20 1024 hrs	3° 56.2' N, 98° 45.2' E Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia	While at anchor, the duty officer on the bridge sighted a suspicious boat heading out from the ship. The duty officer informed the master who formed a security team to conduct a search of the ship. The security team found several buckets of paint, a fire hose, fire hydrant bronze caps and sounding pipe covers missing. From the investigation, it was likely that the perpetrators boarded the ship through the anchor chain hawse pipe. (Category 4)	Several buckets of paint, a fire hose, fire hydrant bronze caps and sounding pipe covers were stolen. The crew was not injured.	The duty officer on the bridge sighted a suspicious boat heading out from the ship and informed the master, who formed a security team to conduct a search of the ship.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available
3.	RHL Clarita Bulk carrier Liberia 32486 9358864	22/01/20 1730 hrs	3° 42.1' S, 114° 25.03' E Taboneo Anchorage, South Kalimantan, Indonesia	While at anchor, the crew of the bulk carrier discovered that the lock to the bosun store was broken. Ship properties including two rolls of power cable (75 m) and one used rope (25 m) were stolen. There was no sighting of the perpetrators on board. The incident was reported to the Taboneo Port Control, the local agent and the Company Security Officer (CSO). The CSO subsequently made a report to Banjarmasin Maritime Police. (Category 4)	Ship properties including two rolls of power cable (75 m) and one used rope (25 m) were stolen. There was no confrontation between perpetrators and ship's crew.	The master conducted search for missing items and reported incident to the CSO, who made a report to Banjarmasin Maritime Police.	Yes Taboneo Port Control	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available