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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 3-9 Nov 2020

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 3-9 Nov 20, six CAT 4¹ incidents (where the perpetrators are not armed and the crew not harmed) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Of the six incidents, three incidents occurred on board ships while they were underway in the Singapore Strait (SS), two incidents occurred in Vietnam and one incident in Indonesia. The location of the six incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.

With the three incidents reported in SS, a total of 31 incidents have been reported in the area since January 2020. The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued increase of incidents in the Singapore Strait, and has issued an Incident Alert (IA 07/2020) on 9 Nov to advise ships to exercise utmost vigilance, adopt extra precautionary measures and report all incidents to the nearest coastal States; and urge the littoral States to increase patrols, enforcement and strengthen coordination among them and share information on the latest situation in order to make arrests of the perpetrators.



Location of incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature.

INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA

During 3-9 Nov 20, two incidents outside Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The incidents occurred on 4 Nov on board a bulk carrier while berthed at Satana, Brazil; and on 7 Nov on board a tanker while underway south of Cotonou, Benin. The detailed description of the incidents is tabulated in the attachment.

SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

On 3 Nov 20, the Joint Task Force (JTF) of Sulu has successfully thwarted a kidnap-for-ransom plan by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). The JTF has been monitoring the activities of the ASG members who planned to execute a kidnap-for-ransom plan in an undisclosed province in northern Mindanao. At about 0215 hrs on 3 Nov, the JTF located the ASG's boat near Sulare Island in Parang, Sulu; fired upon the boat and neutralised seven ASG members on board.

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 incident on 17 Jan 20 and information of planned kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia (as reported in ReCAAP ISC's Warning issued on 2 Jul 20), and the latest operation on 3 Nov by the Philippine authorities in preventing a kidnap-for-ransom incident, 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 red circles indicate contact points: 1 is located near Zamboanga; 2a and 2b are located near Bongao; and 3 is located 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

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: 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
3-9 November 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.	Atlantic Diana Bulk carrier Panama 17018 9515539	9/11/20 0308 hrs	1° 16.73' N, 104° 18.02' E Approximately 5.7 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, one perpetrator was sighted in the vicinity of the steering gear flat. The alarm was raised, crew mustered and a search on board the ship was conducted. There was no confrontation between the crew and the perpetrator. At about 0755 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that there was no further sighting of the perpetrator on board. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)'s Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The alarm was raised, crew mustered and a search on board the ship was conducted.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners.	

	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.	Lefkada Bulk carrier Liberia 23306 9767546	9/11/20 0220 hrs	1° 17.71' N, 104° 20.02' E Approximately 5.4 nm southeast of Tanjung Ramunia, East Johor, Malaysia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, two perpetrators were sighted in the vicinity of engine room locker. The alarm was raised, crew mustered and a search on board the ship was conducted. There was no confrontation between the crew and the perpetrators. At about 0340 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS that there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. The oil spill equipment locker was found unlocked and a lifebuoy was stolen. The crew was not injured. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. A lifebuoy was stolen.	The alarm was raised, crew mustered and a search on board the ship was conducted.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated.

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3.	Zeno Tanker Liberia 79668 9247429	8/11/20 2125 hrs	1° 16.47' N, 104° 12.53' E Approximately 4.4 nm south of Tanjung Bulat, East Johor, Malaysia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)	While underway, three perpetrators were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was immediately raised and a search on board the ship was conducted. There was no confrontation between the crew and the perpetrators. At about 2305 hrs, the master updated Singapore VTIS via VHF that there was no further sighting of the perpetrators on board. Some ship equipment including a sounding rod, an oil sampling rod, a portable breathing apparatus, portable instruments for measuring ullage and a portable spray painter were stolen from the engine room. The crew was not injured. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were informed; and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated to alert mariners. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Some ship equipment including a sounding rod, an oil sampling rod, a portable breathing apparatus, portable instruments for measuring ullage and a portable spray painter were stolen from the engine room.	The alarm was immediately raised and a search on board the ship was conducted.	Yes Singapore VTIS	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The RSN's MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard, and the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities were notified. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated.

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4.	Cape Martin Container ship Cyprus 28007 9360245	3/11/20 0130 hrs	10° 14.8' N, 107° 0.9' E Vung Tau Anchorage (on "H19"), Vietnam	While at anchor, the duty crew noticed seven or eight perpetrators had boarded the ship. The alarm was raised immediately. The perpetrators jumped overboard and escaped in a small boat. The crew conducted a search on board the ship and discovered 12 cans of paint were stolen from the paint store. The crew was not injured. The incident was reported to Vung Tau Port Control; and the Vietnam authorities and Vietnam Coast Guard were notified. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Twelve cans of paint were stolen from the paint store.	The alarm was raised immediately and a search on board the ship was conducted.	Yes Vung Tau Port Control	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam)	Vietnam authorities and Vietnam Coast Guard were notified.
5.	Hanyang Bulk carrier Singapore 24785 9714226	30/10/20 0800 hrs	10° 45.5' N, 106° 43.7' E Saigon River, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	While underway, the bosun discovered that the padlock of the masthouse No. 1 was broken. Upon investigation, some spares for ship anchor were missing from the masthouse. No perpetrators were found and the crew was not injured. The ship's Company Security Officer (CSO) was informed. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Padlock of the masthouse No. 1 was broken. Some spares for ship anchor were stolen.	The ship's CSO was informed.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available

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6.	SG Friendship Chemical tanker Panama 11594 9288576	28/10/20 0405 hrs	1° 42.5' N, 101° 28.2' E Dumai Anchorage, Indonesia	While at anchor, a perpetrator boarded the ship via the midpoint on the stern of the ship from a wooden motor boat with one OBM. The duty AB, while on his rounds noticed some wet steps on the poop deck and conducted a search. During his search, the perpetrator came out from his hiding place and escaped in the wooden boat with four other perpetrators waiting in the boat. The duty AB alerted the other crew immediately via walkie-talkie. The duty officer sounded the alarm and the crew was mustered. A thorough search was conducted on board the ship. Nothing was stolen and the crew was not injured. The incident was reported to the local police through the agents. [Category 4]	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The duty AB alerted the other crew immediately via walkie-talkie. The duty officer sounded the alarm and the crew was mustered. A thorough search was conducted on board the ship.	Yes Local police through agents	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA									
ACTUAL INCIDENTS									
1.	Torm Alexandra Petroleum/chemical tanker Singapore 30302 9466001	7/11/20 0615 hrs	3° 31.23' N, 2° 33.54' E South of Cotonou, Benin, West Africa	While underway, perpetrators boarded the tanker. The crew retreated to the citadel and the master was able to establish communication with the company office / CSO via satellite phone. At about 0855 hrs (UTC), the Italian Navy informed that the Italian frigate " <i>Federico Martinengo (F596)</i> " was responding and proceeding towards the ship. The Italian frigate subsequently sent its helicopter to the location of <i>Torm Alexandra</i> at about 1100 hrs (UTC). Upon seeing the helicopter, the perpetrators escaped from the ship. The Italian frigate arrived at the location of the ship at about 1600 hrs (UTC). The Navy personnel from the Italian frigate boarded the ship and did a sweep to ascertain that the perpetrators had left the ship. The crew came out from the citadel when the all clear was given.	The crew was not injured. Nothing was stolen.	The crew retreated to the citadel and the master was able to establish communication with the company office / CSO via satellite phone.	Yes Lagos MRCC, and MDAT-GOG	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Italian frigate " <i>Federico Martinengo (F596)</i> " responded and proceeded towards the ship. The Italian frigate subsequently sent its helicopter to the location of <i>Torm Alexandra</i> . Thereafter, the Italian frigate arrived at the location of the ship. The Navy personnel from the Italian frigate boarded the ship and did a sweep to ascertain that the perpetrators had left the ship.
2.	Nord Biscay Bulk carrier Singapore 35332 9799795	4/11/20 0400 hrs	0° 3.7' S, 51° 10' W Santana, Brazil	While at berth, the duty crew found the forecastle door opened with the padlock missing. There was no sign of any perpetrators on board the ship or nearby. Ship stores were found missing in the forecastle room. The ship's CSO was informed.	The crew was not injured. Ship stores were stolen.	The ship's CSO was informed.	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information available