Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 30 Jun-6 Jul 20, two incidents of armed robbery against ship in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. Both were CAT 4\(^1\) incidents that occurred on board ships while they were underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait.

The location of the incidents is shown in the map below; and detailed description of the incidents 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.
INCIDENTS OUTSIDE ASIA

During 30 Jun-6 Jul 20, two incidents outside Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). Both incidents occurred on 2 Jul 20. The first incident occurred on board a Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel while anchored at Okwori field offshore, Nigeria and the second incident occurred on board a general cargo ship while drifting in the Gulf of Guinea. 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

Issuance of Warning. On 2 Jul, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) informed the ReCAAP ISC that five members of the Abu Sayyaf Group/Kidnap-for-Ransom Group (ASG/KFRG) were sighted in Barangay Sipangkot, Sitangkai, Tawi-Tawi on board a white with yellow and orange stripes speedboat powered by 250HP Yamaha engine on 21 Jun. The PCG validated that as of 30 Jun, the plan by the ASG to carry out kidnapping in Sabah and Semporna, Malaysia targeting foreigners and the abduction of crew from ships passing by the Tawi-Tawi and Sabah waters still stands. The ReCAAP ISC issued a Warning on 2 Jul with the latest updates. The Warning 02-2020 can be found at www.recaap.org.

ReCAAP ISC Advisory. 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, 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:

1. Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao
   Tel: +63 995 585 7972
   VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "NEPTUNE"
   Email: hcgdsw@yahoo.com

2. Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao (Central Tawi-Tawi)
   Tel: +63 917 842 8446
   VHF: Channel 16
   Email: cgd_tawi2@yahoo.com

3. Philippine Navy - Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao, Tawi-Tawi
   Tel: +63 953 714 0133
   VHF: Channel 16
   Email: jointtaskgroup@gmail.com

4. Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)
   Tel: +60 89863181/016
   Fax: +60 89863182
   VHF: Channel 16 with call-sign "ESSCOM"
   Email: billgerakan_esscom@jpm.gov.my
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](http://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
#### 30 June-6 July 2020

<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</th>
<th>Local Time of Incident (LT)</th>
<th>Position of Incident</th>
<th>Details of Incident</th>
<th>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</th>
<th>Action taken by the master and crew</th>
<th>Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?</th>
<th>Reporting State or International Organization</th>
<th>Coastal State Action Taken</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **INCIDENTS IN ASIA**

#### ACTUAL INCIDENTS

1. **Frio Olympic**
   - Reefere Vessel
   - Panama
   - 8487
   - 8801802
   - 02/07/20
   - 0040 hrs

   **Position of Incident**: 1° 16.88’ N, 104° 19.1’ E
   - Approximately 5.8 nm northwest of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Strait (SOMS)

   **Details of Incident**: While the reefer vessel was en route to Dalian, China, an unknown number of perpetrators were sighted on deck. The master raised the alarm and the perpetrators escaped immediately. The crew conducted a search on board and discovered that four boxes of spare parts were stolen. There was no confrontation with the crew.

   **Consequences**: There was no confrontation with the crew. Four boxes of spare parts were stolen.

   **Action taken by the master and crew**: The master raised the alarm and the crew conducted a search on board.

   **Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?**: Yes
   - Singapore VTIS
   - ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

   **Coastal State Action Taken**: A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN’s MSTF, Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authorities were notified.

   **Reporting State or International Organization**: ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)

   **Category**: 4
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Cardinal</strong></td>
<td>Bulk carrier</td>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>30645</td>
<td>9274575</td>
<td>28/06/20 0311 hrs</td>
<td>1° 16.55' N, 104° 13.83′ E</td>
<td>Approximately 7.7 nm northwest of Tanjung Tondang, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in the eastbound lane of the TSS in the Singapore Straits (SOMS)</td>
<td>While the bulk carrier was en route from Singapore to Qingdao, China, four perpetrators were sighted in the engine room workshop. Upon being sighted, the perpetrators escaped via the emergency steering room to the ship’s stern deck. A thorough search on board the ship was conducted twice with no further sighting of the perpetrators. The markings found on ship railings at the stern indicated that the perpetrators had escaped using hooks and ropes. There was no confrontation with the crew and nothing was stolen. The ship resumed her voyage. The ship’s CSO reported the incident to the Singapore Port Operations Control Centre (POCC). A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN, Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authorities were notified.</td>
<td>There was no confrontation between the perpetrators and the crew. Nothing was stolen.</td>
<td>A thorough search on board the ship was conducted twice.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Singapore POCC</td>
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<td>Kota Budi</td>
<td>General cargo ship</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>20886</td>
<td>9638630</td>
<td>02/07/20 2200 hrs</td>
<td>3° 43.3' N 2° 18.6' E Approximately 185 nm from nearest ashore, Gulf of Guinea</td>
<td>While the ship was drifting and awaiting for the next order, the AB came on the bridge to start his watch duty and found there was no one on the bridge. The chief officer later found five crew comprising master, chief engineer, 3rd officer, electrical engineer and chief cook missing. The remaining 15 crew on board the ship were safe. The company reported the incident to MDAT-GOG, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and a security company for assistance. The company is working with the local authorities to find the missing crew.</td>
<td>Five crew comprising master, chief engineer, 3rd officer, electrical engineer and chief cook were missing. No information available</td>
<td>Yes Local authorities. The company also reported to MDAT-GOG and MPA.</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</td>
<td>The company is working with the local authorities to find the missing crew.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sendje Berge</td>
<td>FPSO vessel</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>133871</td>
<td>7360057</td>
<td>02/07/20 0420 hrs</td>
<td>Okwori field offshore, Nigeria</td>
<td>While at anchor, armed pirates boarded the vessel and kidnapped nine crew on board. The remaining crew left on board were not harmed. The FPSO vessel is permanently moored in the Okwori field offshore, Nigeria.</td>
<td>Nine crew were kidnapped. No information available</td>
<td>Yes Local authorities</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</td>
<td>The ship manager is cooperating with the local authorities led by the Nigerian Navy.</td>
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