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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 12-18 January 2021

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW


During 12-18 Jan 21, no incident of armed robbery against ship in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. However, the ReCAAP ISC would like to advise ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance; and littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in areas of concern, including the Singapore Strait, the Sulu-Celebes Seas and at ports and anchorages.

#### INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA

During 12-18 Jan 21, one incident outside Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC by ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore). The incident occurred on 13 Jan to a container ship while underway South of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. The detailed description of the incident is tabulated in the attachment.

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

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, 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 20 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 all incidents 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 shown (next page):



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Three contact points are marked: 1 (Philippine Coast Guard District Southwestern Mindanao) near Zamboanga; 2a and 2b (Philippine Coast Guard Station, Bongao) near Bongao; and 3 (Eastern Sabah Security Command) 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
12-18 January 2021**

	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	
<b>INCIDENT OUTSIDE ASIA</b>										
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>										
1.	<b>Maersk Cardiff</b> Container ship Singapore 50869 9525255	13/01/21 1920 hrs	2° 23.0' N, 5° 49.0' E  South of Port Harcourt, Nigeria	The Company Security Officer (CSO) of the container ship reported that an unknown number of perpetrators were suspected to have boarded the ship, and the crew were gathered in the citadel. The master was communicating with the CSO via satellite phone and reported that all crew was safe. The CSO contacted the Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade, Gulf of Guinea (MDAT-GOG), the local security service provider and requested for naval assets in the vicinity to render assistance. On 14 Jan, a security vessel engaged by the company arrived at the location of <i>Maersk Cardiff</i> . After receiving confirmation from the security vessel that there was no sign of pirates on board, the crew came out of the citadel and resumed control of the ship.	The crew was not injured.	The crew was mustered to the citadel.	Reported to MDAT-GoG, requested for naval assets in the vicinity to render assistance, engaged local security service provider and reported to CSO.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information	