ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report
19-25 January 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 19-25 Jan 21, one incident of armed robbery against ship in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 4\(^1\) incident (where the perpetrators were not armed and the crew not harmed) occurred on 25 Jan on board a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait.

The location of the incident is shown in the map; and detailed description of the incident tabulated in the attachment. This is the first incident reported in 2021 in the Singapore Strait since the last incident occurred on 30 Nov 2020. No incident was reported in the Singapore Strait in December 2020.

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

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: +63-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)
+63-998-585-5327 (mobile)
+63-917-842-8249 (mobile)
+63-8-527-3877 (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.*
<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 the 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</th>
<th>Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ark Royal</td>
<td>Bulk carrier</td>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>27011</td>
<td>9219446</td>
<td>25/01/21 0325 hrs</td>
<td>1.0° 16.58’ N, 104.0° 15.7’ E Approximately 7.1 nm north west of Tanjung Pergam, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia in eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (SOMS)</td>
<td>While underway, five unauthorised persons were sighted in the engine room. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search on board the ship was conducted. At 0506 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) that the search on board was completed with no further sighting of the unauthorized persons. The master reported that nothing was stolen, and all crew was safe and accounted for. He added that no assistance was required, and the ship would continue its voyage. A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy’s (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</td>
<td>The crew was safe and accounted for. Nothing was stolen</td>
<td>Ship alarm raised and crew mustered. A search onboard was conducted.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS via VHF</td>
<td>ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)</td>
<td>A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy’s (RSN) Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Malaysian and Indonesian authorities.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[Category 4]