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ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 2-8 November 2021

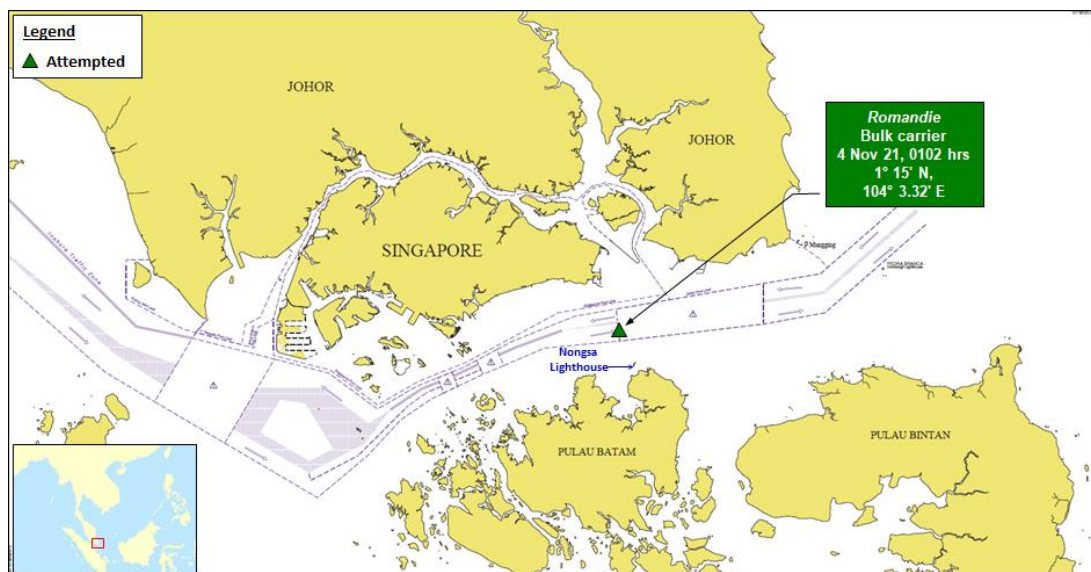
Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 2-8 Nov 21, one attempted incident of armed robbery against ships was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a bulk carrier while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Singapore Strait. The incident occurred on 4 Nov at approximately 3.2 nm northwest of Nongsa Lighthouse, Batam Island (Indonesia). The ship crew, while patrolling on deck anti-piracy rounds, sighted two perpetrators climbing from ship stern railing. He raised the alarm immediately and shouted at the perpetrators who aborted the attempt to board the ship. A search on board the ship was conducted with no further sighting of any unauthorized persons. All crew were accounted for. Nothing was stolen.

With this incident, a total of 37 incidents were reported in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (comprising 36 incidents in the Singapore Strait and one incident in the Malacca Strait) since January 2021.

The location of the incident is shown in the map below, and detailed description tabulated in the attachment.



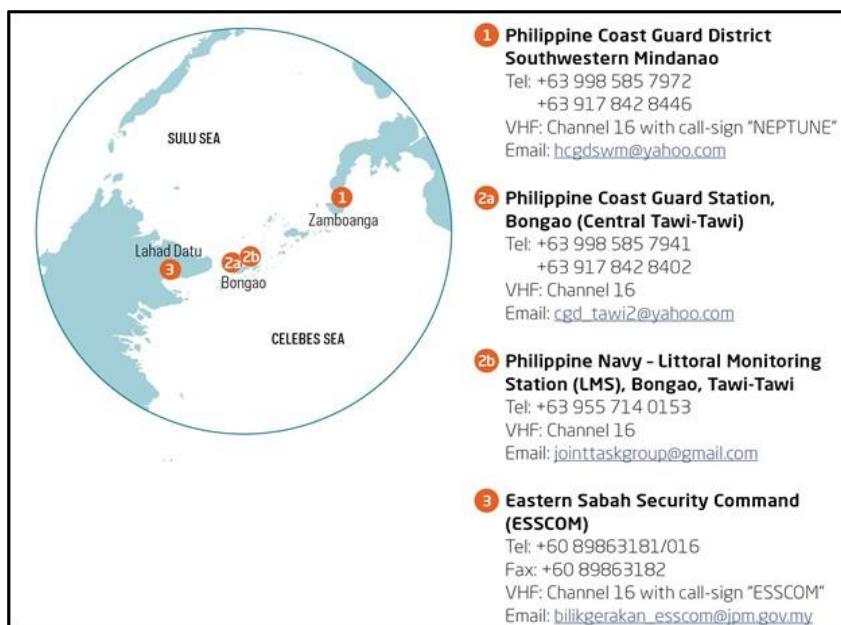
Location of incident

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

There is no incident of abduction of crew reported since the last incident in January 2020 up to today, and no crew is currently being held in captivity by the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

On 23 Apr 21, the Philippine Armed Forces conducted a military operation against members of the ASG during which one of the ASG leaders responsible for the abduction of crew in the area of Sulu and Tawi-Tawi had managed to escape. The threat of the abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah remains high particularly in the areas of Sulu and nearby waters off Tawi-Tawi.

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 the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) of Malaysia. The contact details of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown below:



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
2-8 November 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 Action Taken |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| INCIDENT IN ASIA | | | | | | | | | |
| ATTEMPTED INCIDENT | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Romandie Bulk carrier Switzerland 22697 9542829 | 4/11/21 0102 hrs | 1.0; 15.0' N, 104.0; 3.32' E Approximately 3.2 nm northwest of Nongsa Lighthouse, Batam Island (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Singapore Strait. (SOMS) | While underway, the ship crew while patrolling on deck anti-piracy rounds sighted two perpetrators climbing from ship stern railing. He raised the alarm immediately and shouted at the perpetrators who aborted the attempt to board the ship. A search on board the ship was conducted, and at 0124 hrs, the master updated Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) East that the search was completed with no further sighting of any unauthorised persons. All crew were accounted for. No items were stolen. The ship did not require any assistance and resumed her voyage for Vancouver, Canada. 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 Indonesian authorities. | The crew was not injured. No items were stolen. | The crew raised the alarm immediately and shouted at the perpetrators. A search on board the ship was conducted with no further sightings of any unauthorized persons. | Yes The master reported the incident to the Singapore VTIS East via VHF. | ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) | A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast were notified. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities. |