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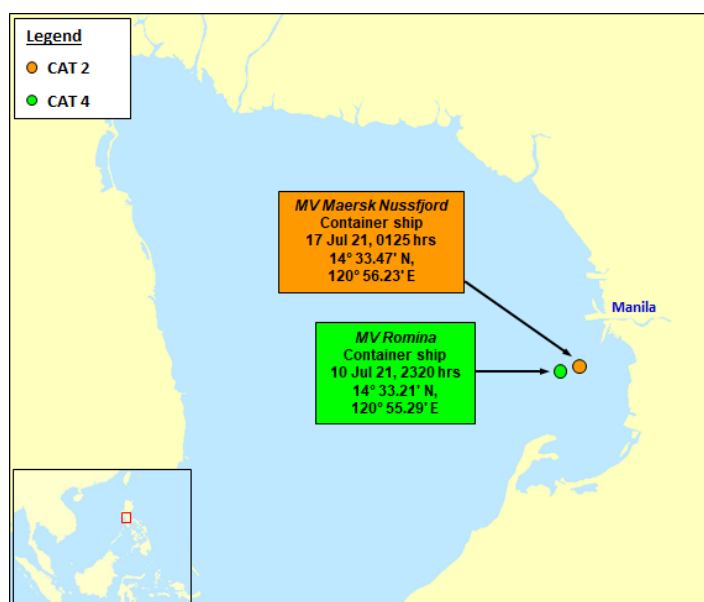
ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 21-26 July 2021

Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

OVERVIEW

During 21-26 Jul, two incidents (one CAT 2¹ incident and one CAT 4² incident) of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The two incidents occurred to ships while anchored at South Harbor Anchorage area, Manila (the Philippines) on 10 Jul and 17 Jul, respectively. In the CAT 2 incident, the perpetrator pointed an improvised gun at the head of a duty crew, stole his radio and tied him to the railings of the ship while the other seven accomplices stole a roll of new spare rope mooring line. In the CAT 4 incident, the duty crew sighted two perpetrators lowering some ship stores into their banca. In both incidents, the crew were not injured.

The locations of the two incidents are shown in map below, and detailed description of the incidents tabulated in the attachment.



Location of incidents

¹ CAT (Category) 2 incident is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

² CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.

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 had conducted the 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 from ships remains high in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah, 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:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Key locations marked include Lahad Datu, Bongao, and Zamboanga. Contact points are indicated by numbered circles: 1 near Zamboanga, 2a and 2b near Bongao, and 3 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
21-26 July 2021**

1	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	2 Date Local Time of Incident (LT)	3 Position of the Incident	4 Details of the Incident	5 Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	6 Action taken by the master and crew	7 Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?	8 Reporting State or International Organization	9 Coastal State Action Taken	10
INCIDENTS IN ASIA										
ACTUAL INCIDENTS										
1	MV Maersk Nussfjord Container ship Panama 25805 9894662	17/07/21 0125 hrs	14° 33.47' N, 120° 56.23' E South Harbor Anchorage area, Manila, the Philippines	While at anchor, due to heavy rain, the duty watcher left his post to take a rain suit from the gangway. On his return to his post, an unidentified person at the forecandle pointed an improvised gun at the back of the duty watcher's head, took away his two-way radio and tied him to the railing of the ship. Seven other unidentified persons then appeared on board the ship. They broke the padlock of the boatswain mate locker, and took away one roll of new spare rope mooring line. At about 0205 hrs, the eight unidentified persons left the ship using the loose rope from bow and escaped in an unmarked motor banca. The duty watcher untied himself from the railings and alerted an AB who then reported the incident to the duty officer. The duty officer sounded the alarm and reported the incident to the Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) Manila. A Maritime Patrol (MARPAT) was conducted within the area of responsibility of the Coast Guard Sub-Station Cultural Centre of the Philippines. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is currently coordinating with the other law	The crew are safe and no injuries reported. One roll of new spare rope mooring line was stolen.	The ship's alarm was sounded. The incident was reported to the Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) Manila.	Yes VTMS Manila	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The PCG conducted a MARPAT within the area of responsibility of the Coast Guard Sub-Station Cultural Centre of the Philippines. The unidentified persons were not found.	

	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
				enforcement agencies regarding the incident. [Category 2]					
2	MV AS Romina Container ship Portugal 17068 944821	10/07/21 2320 hrs	14° 33.21' N, 120° 55.29' E South Harbor Anchorage area, Manila, Philippines	While at anchor, the duty roving crew on deck saw two persons on the forecastle deck lowering some materials into their motor banca using a rope. Upon seeing the roving crew, the two persons jumped into the water and escaped. Upon inspection, the padlock to the boatswain mate store room was forcedly opened and items including four angle grinders, one electric drill and one portable welding machine were missing. The crew was not injured. The incident was reported to the Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) and the Coast Guard Station Manila immediately. A Maritime Patrol (MARPAT) was conducted within the area of responsibility of the Coast Guard Sub-Station Cultural Centre of the Philippines. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is currently coordinating with the other law enforcement agencies on possible identification of the perpetrators involved in the incident. [Category 4]	The crew are safe and no injuries reported. Four angle grinders, one electric drill, one portable welding machine were stolen.	The incident was immediately reported to the VTMS Manila and Coast Guard Station Manila.	Yes VTMS Manila and Coast Guard Station Manila	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The PCG conducted a MARPAT within the area of responsibility of the Coast Guard Sub-Station Cultural Centre of the Philippines. The two persons were not found. .