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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 21-27 December 2021

### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

During 21 – 27 Dec 21, three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. All were CAT 4<sup>1</sup> incidents. Of the three incidents, two incidents occurred on ships while underway in the Singapore Strait and one incident on ship berthed at Kabil Terminal, Batam Island (Indonesia). In all three incidents, the crew was not injured.

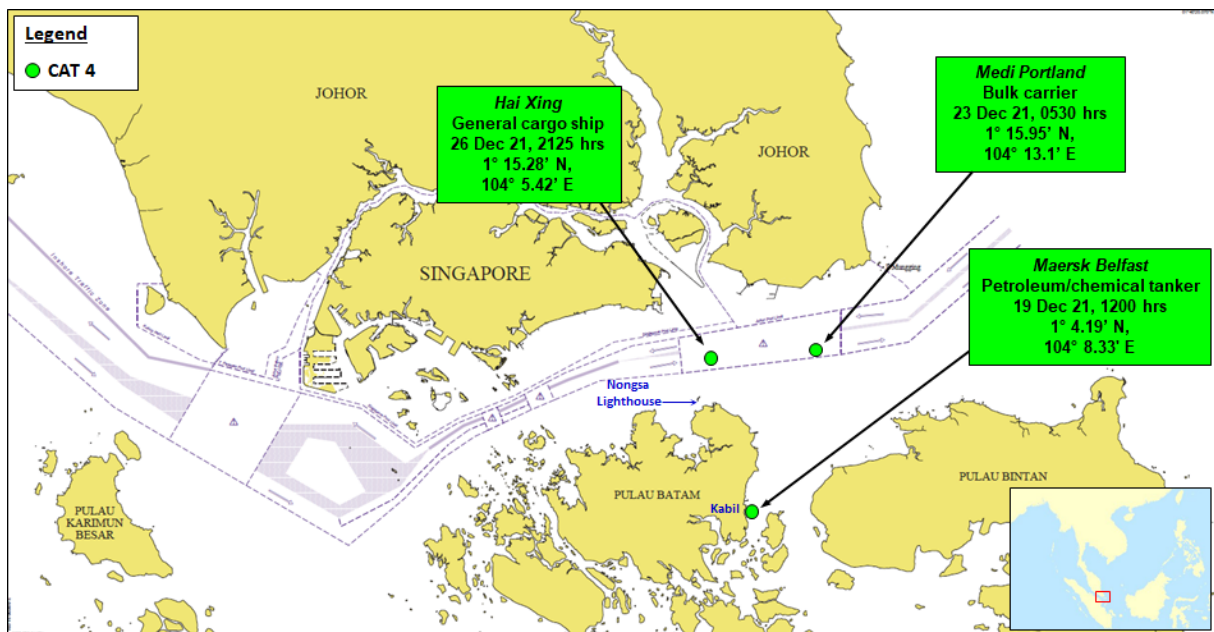
(1) The two incidents in the Singapore Strait occurred off Nongsa, Batam Island (Indonesia) on 23 and 26 Dec. Nothing was stolen in both incidents. With these incidents, a total of 48 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2021, including 25 incidents occurred off Tanjung Pergam, Bintan Island (Indonesia), and 12 incidents off Nongsa, Batam Island (Indonesia).

(2) The incident at Kabil Terminal, Batam Island (Indonesia) occurred on 19 Dec. The theft was discovered on 23 Dec when the crew carried out a routine safety round on deck. Four pieces of fire nozzles and four pieces of fire hoses were reported missing.

The location of the three incidents are shown in the map on the next page, and detailed description of the incidents are tabulated in the attachment.

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<sup>1</sup> CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as “least significant” in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators were not armed, and the crew not harmed.




Location of incidents

## 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 on the next page:



The map shows the Sulu Sea to the north and the Celebes Sea to the south. Three numbered red circles indicate contact points: 1 is near Zamboanga; 2a and 2b are near Bongao; and 3 is 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  
21-27 December 2021**

	<b>Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO</b>	<b>Date Local Time of Incident (LT)</b>	<b>Position of the Incident</b>	<b>Details of the Incident</b>	<b>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</b>	<b>Action taken by the master and crew</b>	<b>Was the incident reported to coastal authority? Which one?</b>	<b>Reporting State or International Organization</b>	<b>Coastal State Action Taken</b>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>
<b>INCIDENTS IN ASIA</b>									
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENTS</b>									
1.	<b>Maersk Belfast</b> Petroleum/chemical tanker Singapore 19758 9299446	19/12/21 1200 hrs	1°; 4.19' N, 104°; 8.33' E  Kabil Terminal, Batam,Indonesia.	While at berth, the master reported that a petty theft was suspected to have taken place on board the ship while berthed at Kabil Terminal, Batam, Indonesia on 19 December 2021.  The theft was discovered only on 23 December 2021 when the crew carried out a routine safety round on deck prior to berthing at the at next port, at Lubuk Gaung, Indonesia.  Four pieces of fire nozzles and four pieces of fire hoses were reported missing. The crew was safe and accounted for.  [Category 4]	The crew was safe and accounted for.  Four pieces of fire nozzles and four pieces of fire hoses were reported missing	A search on board the ship was conducted by the crew.	Yes  The master reported the incident to the Company Security Officer (CSO).	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	No information was given.
2.	<b>Medi Portland</b> Bulk carrier Panama 34967 9782625	23/12/21 0530 hrs	1°; 15.95' N, 104°; 13.1' E  Approximately 9.3 nm northwest from Nongsa Light House, Batam Island, (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS  (SOMS)	While underway, six perpetrators boarded the ship but later escaped in a sampan. Nothing was stolen. The crew was not injured. No assistance was required and the ship resumed her voyage to Xingang, China.  A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The Republic of Singapore Navy's (RSN) Maritime Security	The crew was safe and accounted for.  Nothing was stolen.		A RSN patrol ship reported the incident to the Singapore VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated.  The RSN MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified.

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO	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
				Task Force (MSTF) and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified.  [Category 4]					
3.	<b>Hai Xing</b> General cargo ship Panama 18597 9177636	26/12/21 2125 hrs	1.0°; 15.28' N 104°; 5.42' E  Approximately 3.3 nm northwest of Nongsa Light House, Batam Island, (Indonesia) in the eastbound lane of the TSS  (SOMS)	The Singapore Maritime Safety Task Force (MSTF) reported to Singapore VTIS that Singapore Naval Craft <i>RSS Independence</i> sighted four perpetrators boarded the the general cargo ship.  The master of the ship conducted a search on board the ship and reported no further sighting of the four perpetrators. Nothing was stolen. The crew was safe and accounted for.  The master confirmed that no assistance was required, and continue her voyage for Jinyang, China.  [Category 4]	The crew was safe and accounted for.  Nothing was stolen.	A search on board the ship was conducted with no further sighting of the perpetrators.  The master of the ship declared that nothing was stolen and no assistance required.	The Singapore Maritime Safety Task Force (MSTF) reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	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 Indonesian authorities.