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## ReCAAP ISC Weekly Report 23-29 August 2022

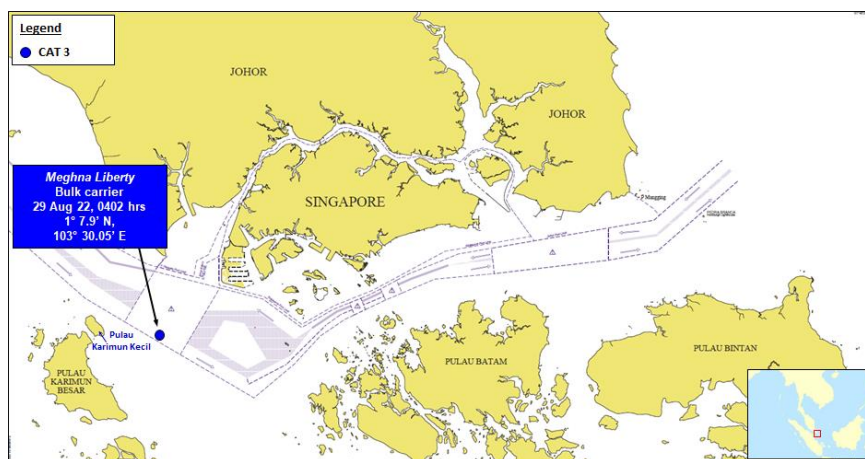
### Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia

#### OVERVIEW

One CAT 3<sup>1</sup> incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a bulk carrier while underway at approximately 5.4 nm east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia, in the precautionary area of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in Singapore Strait (SS) on 29 Aug 22. Nothing was stolen from the ship, and all crew members were safe.

With this incident, a total of 37 incidents were reported in the Singapore Strait since January 2022.

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



Location of incident

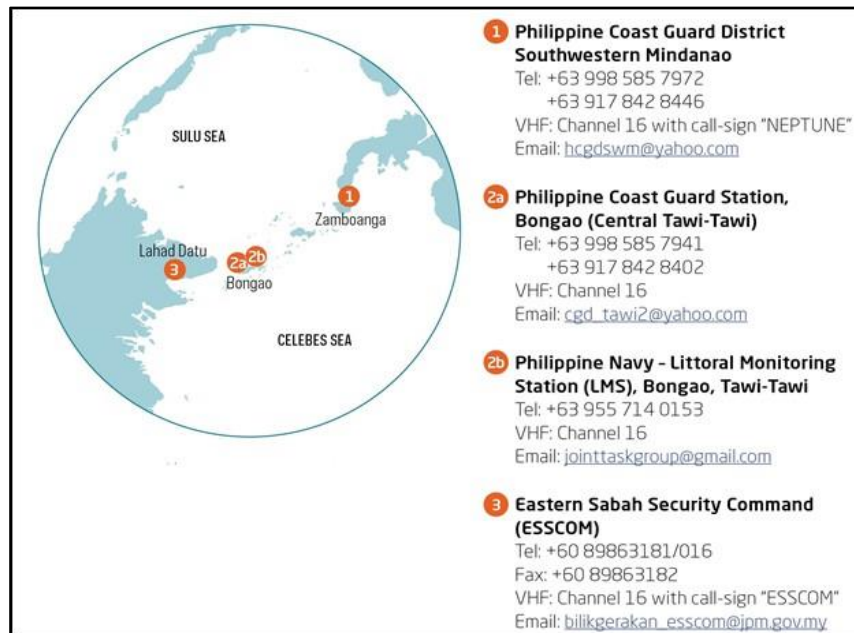
#### SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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

<sup>1</sup> CAT (Category) 3 incident is 'less significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are armed with knives/machetes or other items such as sticks or rods. Although the crew can be subjected to duress or threat during the incident, they are not harmed physically. In most CAT 3 cases, nothing is stolen.

However, as the ASG Commanders responsible for the abduction of crew in the Sulu area are still at large and with the persisting presence of remnants of the group, the threat of abduction of crew from ships remains potentially 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 next page.



#### Contact details

In the event, the ship master is unable 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 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

**Description of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships  
23-29 Aug 2022**

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
<b>INCIDENT IN ASIA</b>										
<b>ACTUAL INCIDENT</b>										
1.	<b>Meghna Liberty</b> Bulk carrier Bangladesh 31877 9668051	29/8/22 0402 hrs	1.0°; 7.9' N 103.0°; 30.05' E  Approximately 5.4 nm east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia, in the precautionary area of the traffic separation scheme, in Singapore Strait.  (SOMS)	While underway, three unauthorised persons were sighted in vicinity of the engine room. The perpetrators were armed with hammer, knife and metal rod. The ship sounded the alarm, and reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS).  Upon arrival at Singapore anchorage, the Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded the ship and conducted a search on board, with no further sighting of the perpetrators. No item was declared stolen, all crew members were safe.  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 of the incident. Information of the incident was shared with the Indonesian authorities.  [Category 3]	All crew members were safe with no report of injuries.  Nothing was reported stolen.	Ship's alarm was raised and crew mustered.  The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	Yes.  The master reported the incident to Singapore VTIS.	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	A safety navigational broadcast was initiated. The RSN's MSTF and Singapore Police Coast Guard were notified of the incident. Information of the incident was also shared with the Indonesian authorities.  The Singapore Police Coast Guard boarded and conducted a search on board the ship upon her arrival at Singapore anchorage, with no further sighting of the perpetrators.	