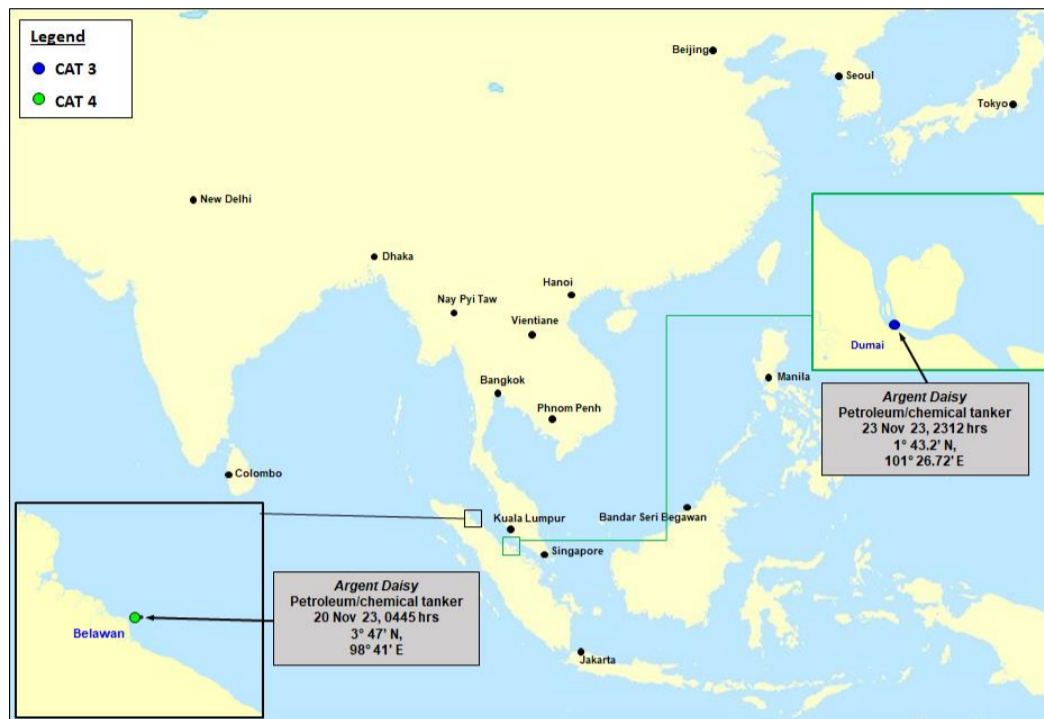


OVERVIEW

Two actual incidents of armed robbery against ships (one CAT 3¹ and one CAT 4²) in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The two incidents occurred onboard the same petroleum/chemical tanker while berthed at Belawan Wharf, Indonesia on 20 Nov 2023; and anchored at Dumai Anchorage, Indonesia on 23 Nov 2023. The details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location	
	Indonesia	Indonesia
	Ujung Baru Wharf, Belawan (1 incident)	Dumai Anchorage (1 incident)
Type of ship	Petroleum/chemical tanker	Petroleum/chemical tanker
Date/Time	20 Nov at 0445 hrs	23 Nov at 2312 hrs
Number of perpetrators	Not known	4 men
Weapons	Not stated	Knives/machetes
Treatment of crew	No injuries	Taken into custody temporarily
Items stolen	Unsecured items found missing	Nil
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 3

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting areas of concern, including the Straits of Malacca and Singapore; and littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in these areas.

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

Re-Assessment and Downgrading of threat level

The efforts by the Philippine Government in Zamboanga, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi through the conduct of continuous military operations led to the dismantling of the support base and neutralising the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Sulu archipelago. Against this backdrop, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), coordinated with other stakeholders and counterparts that have vital involvement in the maritime security of the Sulu-Celebes Seas, reviewed the threat situation and recommended further downgrading the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'MODERATE' to '**MODERATE LOW**', which implies that '**Incidents are unlikely to occur due to perpetrators' perceived lack of capability to orchestrate an attack. Nevertheless, minimal damages are expected to the vessel and crew in case of an attack**'.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- With downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of Crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes seas by the PCG, ReCAAP ISC have updated its Advisory for ships to "**exercise vigilance & adopt necessary preventive measures while transiting the area**".
- For ships transiting the area, the **ship masters and crew are strongly encouraged to exercise extra vigilance 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 in Picture 1.



Picture 1

RECOMMENDATIONS

Ship master and crew are to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State RCC and flag State, referring to the Poster on *Contact Details for Reporting of Incidents of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*, exercise vigilance and adopt appropriate preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia*.

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* Table at [https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2023/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202023%20\(caa%2027%20Nov%202023\)final.pdf](https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2023/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202023%20(caa%2027%20Nov%202023)final.pdf) for details of the incidents.

¹ **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. In cases where losses are reported, stores and engine spares are commonly stolen items.

² **CAT (Category) 4** incident is classified as 'least significant' in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.