

OVERVIEW

One incident of armed robbery against ships in Asia (CAT 4) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The incident occurred to a chemical tanker while anchored at Kandla Anchorage, India. The details of the incident is in table (*).



Factors	Location
	Kandla Anchorage, India (1 incident)
Type of ship	Chemical tanker
Time of incident	26 Dec at 2120 hrs
Number of perpetrators	7
Weapons	NA
Treatment of crew	No injuries reported
Significance level	CAT 4
Items stolen	Ship Stores

AREAS OF CONCERN

With this incident, a total of five incidents were reported in India in the year 2022, which is the same as the total number reported in 2021. Of concern in Asia is the continued occurrence of incidents in the Singapore Strait (SS), which reported a total of 55 incidents in 2022 compared to 49 incidents in 2021; and the threat of abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas (details as shown below).

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

Downgrading of threat level

- The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), after careful consideration of inputs from stakeholders and counterparts with vital involvement in securing the Sulu-Celebes Seas maritime security measure, recommends the downgrading of the threat on the 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' from 'POTENTIALLY HIGH' to '**MODERATE**'. The MODERATE threat level implies that '**Incidents are possible to occur but are relatively less severe in nature**'.

Update of ReCAAP ISC Advisory

- As the threat of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas has diminished since January 2020 due to successful military operations and robust law enforcement initiatives, the ReCAAP ISC updates its Advisory to all ships to **consider re-route from the area as an option based on its prerogative**.
- 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 to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, exercise vigilance and adopt appropriate preventive measures taking reference from the *Regional Guide 2 to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia*.

* Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2022/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202022.pdf> for details of the incident.

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