

Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Weekly Report (27 June – 3 July 2023)

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OVERVIEW

Two incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (both CAT 4¹ incidents) were reported to ReCAAP ISC. One incident occurred on board a bulk carrier while anchored at Phu My Anchorage, Vietnam, on 19 May. Paint were stolen from the ship. The other incident occurred to a bulk carrier while underway in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS) on 26 May. One breathing apparatus set was stolen. The crew members were safe in both incidents. Details of incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location		
	Singapore Strait	Vietnam	
raciois	Off Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia (1 incident)	Phu My Anchorage, Vietnam (1 incident)	
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Bulk carrier	
Date/Time	26 May at 0207 hrs	19 May at 2345 hrs	
Number of	Not known	Not known	
perpetrators		1 small boat	
Weapons	Not stated	Not stated	
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No Injuries	
Significance level	CAT 4	CAT 4	
Items stolen	One breathing apparatus set 100 litres of paint		

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC is concerned with the continued occurrence of incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS). With this incident occurred on 26 May, a total of 41 incidents were reported in the SOMS since January 2023. The Centre advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS; and the littoral States to increase patrols and enforcement in the area.

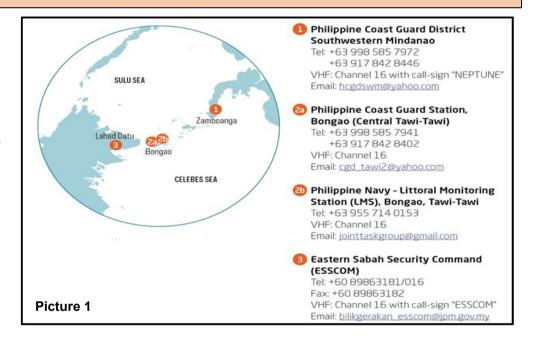
SITUATION OF ABDUCTION OF CREW IN THE SULU-CELEBES SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

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 <u>consider re-route from the area as an option based on its prerogative</u>.
- 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.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Ship master and crew are to report all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships to the nearest coastal State and flag State, referring to the Poster on the 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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 $^{{\}color{blue}*} \textbf{ Table at } \underline{\textbf{https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number\%20of\%20Incidents/2023/List\%20of\%20Incidents\%20for\%202023.pdf} \textbf{ for details of the incidents.} \\$

¹ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant". Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.