Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia

Weekly Report (15-20 July 2026)

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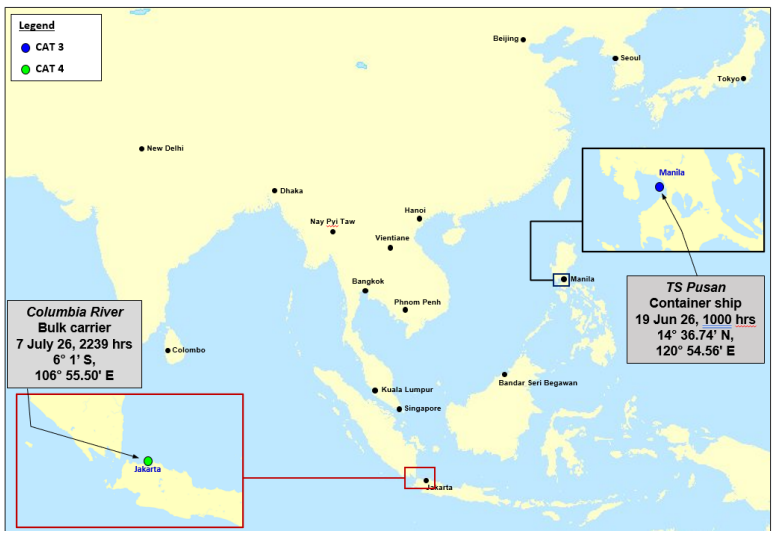
OVERVIEW

One CAT 3[1] incident and one CAT 4[2] incident of armed robbery against ships[3] in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. The CAT 3 incident occurred onboard a container ship while anchored at Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) Anchorage, Philippines on 19 June 2026. The CAT 4 incident occurred onboard a bulk carrier while anchored at the Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia on 7 July 2026. Some ship property / stores were stolen in the CAT 3 incident and some engine spares were stolen in the CAT 4 incident. Details of the incidents as shown in table (*).



Location	Philippines	Indonesia
	MICT Anchorage	Jakarta Anchorage
Date/Time	19 June 2026 at 1000 hrs	7 July 2026 at 2239 hrs
Type of ship	Container ship	Bulk carrier
Number of perpetrators	4	2
Weapons	Knives/bladed weapons	Not armed
Treatment of crew	Not stated	Not injured
Significance level	CAT 3	CAT 4
Items stolen	Ship property/stores	Engine spares

AREA OF CONCERN

Ships are advised to intensify vigilance and maintain sharp look-out while transiting the areas of concern or anchoring at ports and anchorages; and to report all incidents immediately to the nearest coastal State. The Centre also urges the coastal States to increase patrols/surveillance in their respective waters, respond promptly to incidents reported to them, strengthen coordination and promote information sharing on incidents and the criminal groups involved to arrest the perpetrators.

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

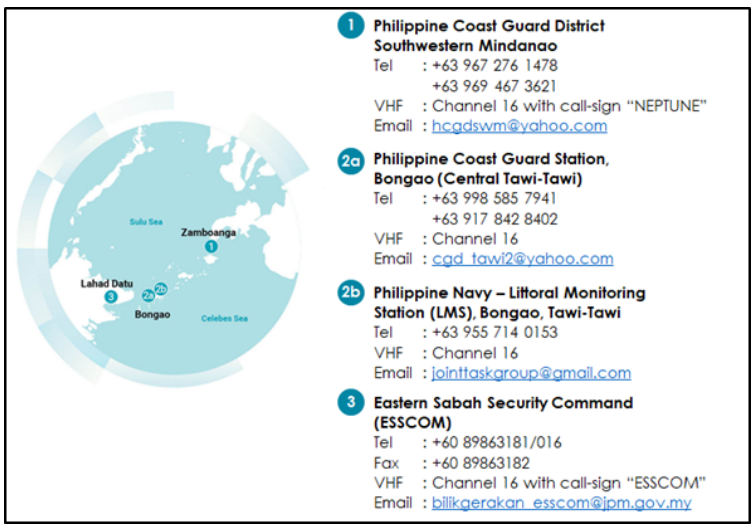
Situation Update

For a 6th consecutive year, there has been no report of incident of abduction of crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and waters off Eastern Sabah. The last incident occurred on 17 Jan 2020. In January 2025, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), coordinated with other stakeholders and counterparts further downgraded the threat level of 'Abduction of crew for ransom in the Sulu-Celebes Seas' to '**LOW**', meaning **'No information or monitored activities suggest an impending attack; hence incidents are not expected to occur**'.

ReCAAP ISC Advisory

The ReCAAP ISC, in its Advisory on 14 Feb 2025 advised ships to **"exercise vigilance when transiting the Sulu-Celebes Seas and report incidents to the Operation Centres of the Philippines and Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM)"**.

Also, to maintain communication with the relevant authorities when transiting the area. The **Contact Details** of the Operation Centres of the Philippines and ESSCOM of Malaysia are as shown in **Picture 1.**



Picture 1

In the event that the ship master or crew is unable to establish contact with the Operation Centres of the Philippines as listed, the **Philippine Coast Guard Command Centre** can be contacted at the following link for reporting of incident.

Tel: +632-8-527-8481 (ext: 6136/37)
+632-8-527-3877 (fax)
+63-966-217-9610 (mobile)
+63-977-792-8382 (mobile)
+63-909-929-1340 (mobile)
Email: pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph
pcgcommandcenter22@gmail.com

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*; both produced by the ReCAAP ISC.

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Contact us at:	E: info@recaap.org	T: +65 6376 3063	F: +65 6376 3066

* Table at https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number of Incidents/2026/List of Incidents for 2026.pdf for details of the incidents.

[1] **CAT (Category) 3 incident** is classified as "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.

[3] **Armed Robbery Against Ships** is defined in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Investigation of Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Assembly Resolution A.1025(26).

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