

### OVERVIEW

Two CAT 2<sup>1</sup> incidents of armed robbery against ships<sup>2</sup> in Asia were reported to ReCAAP ISC. Both incidents occurred onboard container ships while at anchor in Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) Anchorage, Philippines, on 4 June and 12 June 2026. Perpetrators were armed with guns in both incidents. The crew members were not injured, but a crew member was threatened and some ship property/stores were stolen in one incident. Details of the incidents as shown in table (\*).



Location	Philippines	
	MICT Anchorage	
Date/Time	4 June 2026 at 0454 hrs	12 June 2026 at 1547 hrs
Type of ship	Container ship	Container ship
Number of perpetrators	4	6
Weapons	Knives and guns	Guns
Treatment of crew	Not injured	Threatened
Significance level	CAT 2	CAT 2
Items stolen	Not stated	Ship property/stores

### 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 SEAS AND WATERS OFF EASTERN SABAH

#### Situation Update

For a 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pcgcomcen@coastguard.gov.ph)  
[pcgcommandcenter22@gmail.com](mailto: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: <a href="mailto:info@recaap.org">info@recaap.org</a>	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](https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number_of_Incidents/2026/List_of_Incidents_for_2026.pdf) for details of the incidents.

<sup>1</sup> **CAT (Category) 2 incident** is moderately significant. Under this category, the perpetrators are likely to be armed with knives/machetes and in some incidents armed with guns. The crew is threatened or held hostage temporarily and, in some cases, the crew suffered injury and physical violence.

<sup>2</sup> **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).