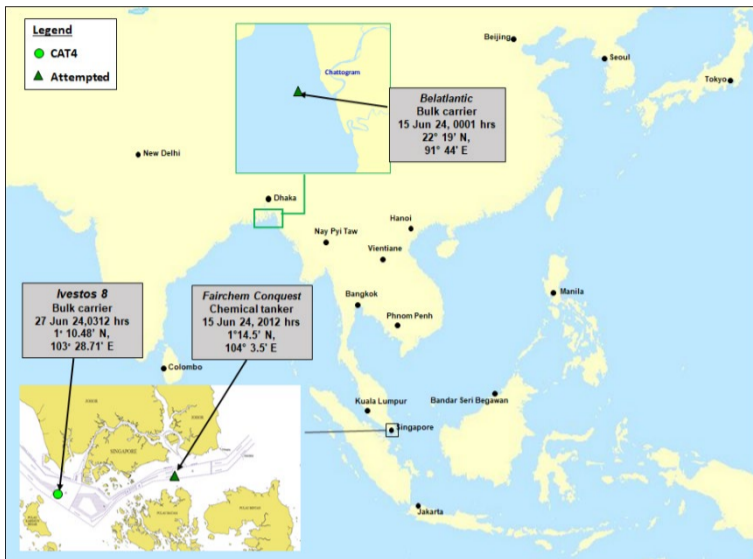


OVERVIEW

Three incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia (one actual¹ and two attempted² incidents) were reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The actual incident (CAT 4³) occurred on 27 Jun onboard a bulk carrier while underway in the precautionary area in the Singapore Strait (SS). The two attempted incidents occurred on 15 Jun; one onboard a bulk carrier while anchored at Chattogram Anchorage of Bangladesh, and the other onboard a chemical tanker while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the SS. Details of incident are shown in table (*).



Factors	Location		
	Bangladesh	Straits of Malacca and Singapore	
	Area A of Chattogram Anchorage (1 incident)	North of Pulau Batam, Indonesia (1 incident)	Near Pulau Iyu Kecil, Indonesia (1 incident)
Type of ship	Bulk carrier	Chemical tanker	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	15 Jun at 0001 hrs	15 Jun at 2012 hrs	27 Jun at 0312 hrs
Number of perpetrators	6	Unknown	1
Weapons	Not stated	Not stated	Not armed
Treatment of crew	Not stated	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	Attempted	Attempted	CAT 4
Items stolen	NIL	NIL	NIL

AREA OF CONCERN

With the two incidents in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore (SOMS), a total of 21 incidents were reported in the area since January 2024. The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to exercise enhanced vigilance when transiting SOMS, and the 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 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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* Table at <https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/Number%20of%20Incidents/2024/List%20of%20Incidents%20for%202024.pdf> for details of the incidents.

¹ Actual incident refers to incident whereby the pirates/robbers boarded the ship; regardless of whether they stole any items from the crew or took anything onboard the ship.

² Attempted incident refers to incident whereby the pirates/robbers tried but failed in their attempt to board the ship

³ CAT (Category) 4 incident is classified as "least significant" in nature. Under this category, the perpetrators are not armed, and the crew not injured.