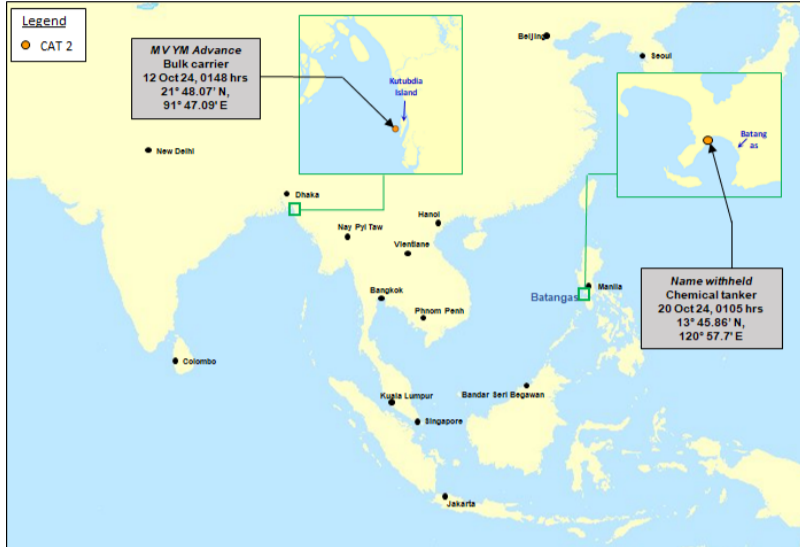


OVERVIEW

Two CAT 2¹ incidents of armed robbery against ships in Asia was reported to the ReCAAP ISC. The incidents occurred onboard a chemical tanker while at berth in the Mabini Seaoil Terminal, Batangas, Philippines on 20 Oct 2024 and onboard a bulk carrier while anchored at Kutubdia Anchorage, Chattogram, Bangladesh on 12 Oct 2024. Details of the incidents are shown in table (*).



Factors	Locations	
	The Philippines	Bangladesh
	Mabini Seaoil Terminal	Kutubdia Anchorage Chattogram
Type of ship	Chemical tanker	Bulk carrier
Date/Time	20 Oct at 0105 hrs	12 Oct at 0148 hrs
Number of perpetrators	1 men	12 men
Weapons	Handgun	Not stated
Treatment of crew	No injuries	No injuries
Significance level	CAT 2	CAT 2
Items stolen	Ship property/stores	Personal belonging & ship property/stores

AREA OF CONCERN

The ReCAAP ISC advises ships to continue to exercise enhanced vigilance when anchored or berthed at ports and anchorages, and transiting areas of concern, including the Straits of Malacca and Singapore; 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 **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.