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**22 May 2020**

To: All Masters, Ship Security Officers, Company Security Officers of Hong Kong registered ships, Hong Kong Shipowners, Hong Kong Ship Managers and Hong Kong Operators

## **Ship Operators Security and Quality Advisory No. 58**

### **Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia**

In recent years, it is observed that more ships had been targets of piracy and armed robbery in certain locations of Asia. The Regional Guide to Counter Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia has been developed by ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) in collaboration with various maritime organizations to help ships and seafarers avoid becoming the victims of maritime security incidents in these waters.

2. The key purpose of the guide is to assist those responsible for the operation of ships trading in Asia including companies, owners, masters, agents and seafarers in avoiding attacks, deterring attacks and delaying attacks, actions when attacked and evidence preservation.

3. All masters, ship and company security officers, shipowners, managers and operators should take into account the guidance when carrying out risk assessment and planning for voyages transiting areas where the threat of attack by pirates and armed robbers exists. The guidance is available on the ReCAAP ISC website:

[https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Regional%20Guide%20to%20Counter%20Piracy%20and%20Armed%20Robbery%20Against%20Ships%20in%20Asia%20\(high-res\).pdf](https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Regional%20Guide%20to%20Counter%20Piracy%20and%20Armed%20Robbery%20Against%20Ships%20in%20Asia%20(high-res).pdf)

4. Other guidance focusing on abduction of crew and sea robbery in Asia are also available on the ReCAAP ISC website:

Guidance on Abduction of Crew in the Sulu-Celebes Seas and Waters off Eastern Sabah

[https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Recaap\\_guidance\\_FA\(single\).pdf](https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Recaap_guidance_FA(single).pdf)

Guide for Tankers Operating in Asia Against Piracy and Armed Robbery Involving Oil Cargo Theft

<https://www.recaap.org/resources/ck/files/guide/Guide%20for%20Tankers%20Operating%20in%20Asia%20Against%20Piracy%20and%20Armed%20Robbery%20Involving%20Oil%20Cargo%20Theft.pdf>

5. It should be emphasized that routine ship security reporting is extremely important for remedial actions to be taken locally and for the formulation and institution of more effective preventive measures at regional and international level in the fight against piracy. The Information Fusion Centre (IFC) is the first point of contact for ships in the region offering a voluntary reporting scheme. The IFC can be contacted at:

Information Fusion Centre

Telephone : +65-6594-5728 (Office hour)  
+65-9626-8965 (Non office hour)

Email : [ifc\\_do@defence.gov.sg](mailto:ifc_do@defence.gov.sg)

Website : <https://www.ifc.org.sg/>

6. Hong Kong registered ships plying/trading in the South East Asia region are strongly recommended to participate in this service. In addition to reporting all incidents of piracy and armed robbery on board to the nearest Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Company Security Officer, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) and Hong Kong Marine Department (HKMD) (Email: [hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk](mailto:hkmrcc@mardep.gov.hk)). The IMB can be contacted at:

IMB Piracy Reporting Centre 24 Hours Anti Piracy Helpline

Telephone : +603 2031 0014

Email : [imbkl@icc-ccs.org](mailto:imbkl@icc-ccs.org) (General)

[piracy@icc-ccs.org](mailto:piracy@icc-ccs.org) (Piracy)

Website : <https://www.icc-ccs.org/icc/imb>

7. In addition, please find the following security information for your reference. All ship masters and companies should pay particular attention, exercise extreme vigilance and take necessary precautionary measures when any ship transiting the mentioned waters. The security information would be updated from time to time and the latest information could be acquired on our website:

[https://marsec.mardep.gov.hk/uploads/en/information/Security\\_information.pdf](https://marsec.mardep.gov.hk/uploads/en/information/Security_information.pdf)

Yours faithfully,

*No signature on website copy*

(Eric W.C. LEE)  
Senior Surveyor of Ships/  
Security & Quality Assurance Section  
*for* Director of Marine

190600 UTC MAY 2020

TO: ALL SHIPS TRANSITING IN AND OFF EASTERN SABAH/CELEBES SEA/SULU SEA/TAWI TAWI

WARNING WARNING WARNING

THIS WARNING IS AN ACTIVE WARNING BROADCAST TRANSMITTED SINCE 151100 UTC MAY 2020. BROADCAST WILL CONTINUE ON ALTERNATE DAYS.

ASG PLAN KIDNAPPING

THE IMB PRC HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION ON 15 MAY 2020 FROM PHILIPPINE INTEL THAT THE SULU BASED ASG - KFR GROUP IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT KIDNAPPING ACTIVITIES IN/OFF SABAH TARGETING FOREIGNERS/SEAFARERS IN THE MONTH OF MAY.

THE GROUP WILL DEPART FROM SULU TO TAWI-TAWI AND THEREAFTER TO SABAH ONBOARD A HIGH-POWERED BOAT

VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND MAINTAIN STRICT ANTI-PIRACY WATCH AND MEASURES.

EARLY ASSESSMENT / DETECTION WILL ALLOW SHIPS TO TAKE EVASIVE ACTIONS AND PREVENT BOARDING AND REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. CITADEL/SAFE ROOM IS IMPORTANT IN CERTAIN AREAS.

ALL ATTACKS AND SUSPICIOUS SIGHTINGS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND TO THE IMB PRC AS PER IMO CIR 1334.

THIS WARNING WILL BE RE-EVALUATED AGAIN ON 25 MAY 2020.

IMB PIRACY REPORTING CENTRE

24 HOURS ANTI-PIRACY HELPLINE +603 2031 0014 FAX: +603 2078 5769

EMAIL: [IMBKL@ICC-CCS.ORG](mailto:IMBKL@ICC-CCS.ORG) / [PIRACY@ICC-CCS.ORG](mailto:PIRACY@ICC-CCS.ORG)

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160600 UTC MAY 2020

MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES ADVISORY REF: MSIA-GOV/SECURITY/SAT01/0420

THIS IS A FOLLOW UP ADVISORY SINCE 24 APRIL 2020. THIS ADVISORY IS VALID UNTIL JUNE 2020.

TO ALL SHIPS TRANSITING ANDAMAN SEA AND NORTHERN PART OF STRAITS OF MALACCA INCLUDING COASTAL AREAS OFF BANGLADESH/OFF MYANMAR

FOR THE SAFETY OF HUMAN LIFE AT SEA, SHIPS ARE REQUESTED TO LOOKOUT FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SYNDICATES TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MIGRANTS WHERE THE MIGRANTS ARE PUT ONTO OVER CROWDED AND UNSEAWORTHY BOATS. THESE ILLEGAL BOATS ARE ALSO EASY TARGET FOR PIRATES/ROBBERS AND POSE GREAT DANGER TO MIGRANT LIVES. THESE BOATS ARE SAID TO ENROUTE TO MALAYSIA. THESE ILLEGAL SMUGGLING BOATS ARE USUALLY MODIFIED FISHING BOATS WITH A TARPAULIN AT THE CENTER OF THE BOATS FOR COVER TO AVOID DETECTION BY SEA AND AIR. EACH OF THESE BOATS CAN CARRY BETWEEN 200 TO 500 PEOPLE.

WHILE IN THESE WATERS, SHIPS ARE REQUESTED TO LOOKOUT FOR ANY SUSPICIOUS LOOKING SMALL/FISHING BOATS WITH THE ABOVE DESCRIPTIONS. YOUR INFORMATION CAN STOP THESE ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING AND SAVE LIVES AT SEA.

PLEASE REPORT THESE SIGHTINGS IMMEDIATELY TO THE IMB PIRACY REPORTING CENTRE AT: + 60320310014 / EMAIL: IMBKL@ICC-CCS.ORG.

IF POSSIBLE TAKE PHOTOS AND FORWARDED THEM TO US VIA EMAIL OR WHATSAPP OR TELEGRAM AT +601126593057. ALL REPORTS ARE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL.

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EMAIL: IMBKL@ICC-CCS.ORG / PIRACY@ICC-CCS.ORG

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30600 UTC APR 2020

TO: ALL SHIPS TRANSITING IN AND OFF EASTERN SABAH/FELDA SAHABAT /  
TAMBISAN, MALAYSIA/CELEBES SEA/SULU SEA/TAWI TAWI

WARNING WARNING WARNING

THIS WARNING IS AN ACTIVE WARNING BROADCAST TRANSMITTED SINCE  
301630 UTC MAR 2020 ON ALTERNATE DAYS.

ASG PLAN KIDNAPPING

THE IMB PRC HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM MALAYSIAN INTEL THAT  
ON 30 MAR 2020, THE SULU BASED ASG - KFR GROUP WAS MONITORED  
PLANNING TO CONDUCT KIDNAPPING ACTIVITIES IN/OFF SABAH. TARGET  
AREA IS SAID TO BE AROUND FELDA SAHABAT/TAMBISAN WATERS.  
SEAFARERS/VESSELS ARE ALSO AT RISK.

THE GROUP WAS MONITORED TO BE IN MAIMBUNG, SULU ON 30 MAR 2020  
USING ONE SPEEDBOAT PAINTED BELOW WITH YELLOW AND RED COLOUR.  
THE GROUP WAS SEEN HEADING TO BULU BULU, SITANGKAI ISLAND.

VESSELS ARE ADVISED TO REMAIN VIGILANT AND MAINTAIN STRICT  
ANTI-PIRACY WATCH AND MEASURES.

EARLY ASSESSMENT / DETECTION WILL ALLOW SHIPS TO TAKE EVASIVE  
ACTIONS AND OTHER ANTI PIRACY MEASURES TO PREVENT BOARDING AND  
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. CITADEL/SAFE ROOM IS IMPORTANT.

ALL ATTACKS AND SUSPICIOUS SIGHTINGS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES AND TO THE IMB PRC AS PER IMO CIR 1334.

THIS WARNING WILL BE RE-EVALUATED AGAIN ON 06 APRIL 2020.

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EMAIL: IMBKL@ICC-CCS.ORG / PIRACY@ICC-CCS.ORG

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301630 UTC MAR 2020

TO: ALL SHIPS TRANSITING IN AND OFF EASTERN SABAH/FELDA SAHABAT /  
TAMBISAN, MALAYSIA/CELEBES SEA/SULU SEA/TAWI TAWI

WARNING WARNING WARNING

SULU BASED ASG - KFR PLANNED KIDNAPPING

THE IMB PRC HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM MALAYSIAN INTEL THAT  
ON 30 MAR 2020, THE SULU BASED ASG - KFR GROUP WAS MONITORED  
PLANNING TO CONDUCT KIDNAPPING ACTIVITIES IN/OFF SABAH. TARGET  
AREA IS SAID TO BE AROUND FELDA SAHABAT/TAMBISAN WATERS.  
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