

Piracy Report SEA 089/14

Commercial in Confidence

INCIDENT MV Attack

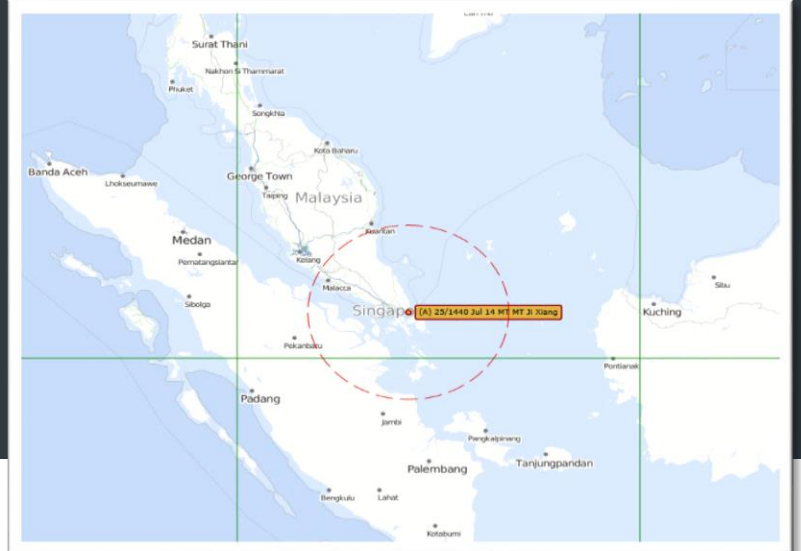
DTG 1440 UTC 25 July 2014

Position 01 19.3N 104 15.1E

Location Pengerang, Kota Tinggi, Singapore

Source

Confidence Level HIGH



DESCRIPTION: On 25 July at 22:40 local time an Indonesian sailor was shot in the neck during a pirate attack on Mongolian registered product tanker *MT Ji Xiang*. The criminal gang of seven Indonesians fled the scene and escaped toward Pulau Lima, when a maritime patrol boat arrived on the scene. In their haste to escape, the gang left behind two pistols and a machete onboard *MT Ji Xiang*. **(Source: Dryad/Media)**

DRYAD ANALYSIS: The motive for this attack is currently being investigated, whilst the injured sailor is being treated in hospital. Numerous maritime robberies have taken place in the eastern Singapore Straits during 2014. However the fact that *MT Ji Xiang* is a product tanker, raises the possibility that the gang were attempting to hijack the vessel for cargo theft. Two other tankers, *MT Orapin 4* and *MT Oriental Glory* were hijacked approximately 10 NM west of this incident in May and July respectively. In total there has been seven confirmed, and one unconfirmed hijack and cargo thefts reported in the area since March 2014. It is currently unknown if this vessel was boarded whilst at anchor or underway. Dryad Maritime's investigations into this incident continue.

DRYAD RECOMMENDATIONS: Extra vigilance by patrols and lookouts as well as increased security measures will normally be sufficient to mitigate the risk of boarding. Whilst the vast majority of maritime crime in the region features the threat of force, and sometimes beatings, this latest incident demonstrates the serious consequences of when criminals are armed with firearms. The original media report has been corroborated by the Malaysian Police to an official source, although the current condition of the injured seafarer is unknown.

All vessels are recommended to maintain strict 24 hour anti-piracy visual and radar watches within 100NM of Singapore, and actively implement recommended anti-piracy measures. A high visual presence on the upper deck is often enough to prevent a vessel being targeted. Crew members are also strongly advised not to be confrontational if faced with armed robbers and to alert any incident to the local authorities at the first opportunity.

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