

**8 armed hijackers seen aboard seized tanker, says navy chief**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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At least eight armed hijackers were spotted on board a Malaysian fuel tanker that went missing last Thursday and has now been traced to Cambodian waters, according to the Royal Malaysian Navy Chief of Navy Admiral Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Jaafar said the hijackers on board the MT Orkim Harmony, now repainted and renamed Kim Harmon, were armed with pistols and machetes.

They also spoke in Malay with an Indonesian accent, he said in a tweet.

Aziz said RMN officers on board the navy vessel KD Terengganu were persuading the hijackers to surrender.

"The KD Terengganu is shadowing the vessel and is in communication with the vessel's captain. All crew are safe and unharmed," he said.

Meanwhile, RMN commander of Naval Region 1 Rear Admiral Datuk Azahari Abdul Rashid said the hijackers were demanding that they should not be arrested as a condition for the release of the crew.

The negotiation with the hijackers was being carried out over the radio, Azahari said, adding that the hijackers would not allow the RMN vessel KD Terengganu or vessels of the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) from getting close to the tanker.

The tanker went missing at 8.57pm on June 11 as it was ferrying the petrol from Melaka on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia to Kuantan on the east coast.

Of the 22 crew on board the vessel, owned by Magna Meridian Sdn Bhd, 16 are Malaysian five are Indonesian and one from Myanmar.

**Families in limbo**

Two families of the MT Orkim Harmony crew members are now relieved but still fearful after hearing news that the vessel has been found today.

Samsiah Baba, 60, mother of the captain of the vessel, Nor Fazly Sahat, 39, said although news of the discovery was announced today, she was still worried for her son.

"As long as I don't see him before my eyes, I will not be at peace," she told reporters in Alor Gajah today.

She said for the next few days she and her husband would be putting up with relatives in Kuala Lumpur as it is closer to the information centre and much easier to get access to information.

"I pray and hope all of them are safe and I will be able to meet my Fazly this Ramadan," she added.

Meanwhile, Tan Tiong Chan, 55, father of Tan Chee Hau, 23, an engine crew member onboard the tanker said he was relieved to hear the vessel had been located and all crew members were safe.

Tan said he only learned of the good news through an acquaintance at about 10am and subsequently contacted the maritime authorities.

"The maritime authorities informed they were monitoring the situation to bring the vessel back to the country. Nevertheless I am still anxious for my son's and his colleagues' safety in the vessel," he said when met at Pengkalan Balak, in Alor Gajah, today. – Bernama, June 18, 2015.

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