

## Iranian navy chases American ship in Persian Gulf

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January 24, 2025



Liberty Maritime

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) is reporting a suspicious approach to a US-flagged ro-ro vessel *Liberty Power* in the Persian Gulf near Iran.

The vessel's master reported that the ship was approached by a small military craft around 6:30 am local time and it had been flashing a green laser light towards the bridge. The small military craft continued to hail the vessel.

According to security firm Vanguard, the craft undertook aggressive behaviour and was assessed to be attempting to force the vessel into Iranian waters.

The military craft also claimed to be the "Safarni navy", despite the master's assessment that it was an Iranian military craft following the sighting of an Iranian flag onboard.

Vanguard added that the Joint Maritime Information Center assessed the incident to be related to the Iranian large-scale military exercise Noble Prophet, or Great Prophet 19.

The 2011-built, 46,635 dwt roro is owned by the New York-based shipping firm Liberty Maritime. It has been part of the US firm's fleet since 2022.

Iran has detained a number of merchant ships in recent years.