Sri Lanka's navy detains suspicious ship flying Indonesian flag. (2007, December 26). *Pacific Asia news*.

Sri Lanka's navy detains suspicious ship

flying Indonesian flag

Colombo - Sri Lanka's navy detained a ship flying an Indonesian flag and with a crew from the same country after detecting it off the eastern coast of Sri Lanka, a military spokesman said Wednesday.

The ship was observed 90 kilometres off the eastern coast of Arugambay early Wednesday morning and was detained three hours later.

A 12-member Indonesian crew was on the ship at the time of the detention and measures are being taken to transport them to Colombo for questioning, the spokesman said.

During the past year more than 10 ships believed to be carrying military hardware for Tamil rebels in the northern part of the country have been destroyed by the navy in the north-eastern, and southern coastal areas.

Tamil rebels smuggle in most of their military hardware from the eastern coast of the country, where the navy has also stepped up its patrols.