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MSC.4/Circ.122
18 July 2008

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during June 2008

1 In pursuance of the Maritime Safety Committee's instruction to the Secretariat to issue monthly reports of all incidents of piracy¹ and armed robbery against ships² reported to the Organization and, in addition, to issue, on a quarterly basis, composite reports accompanied by an analysis, on a regional basis, of the situation and an indication whether the frequency of incidents is increasing or decreasing and advising of any new feature or pattern of significance, the annex hereto provides, in the tabulated format agreed by the Committee, the summary of reports on incidents received between 31 May 2008 and 30 June 2008, including a distinction between acts of piracy and acts of armed robbery against ships (annex 1) and attempted attacks (annex 2). Further and as instructed by the Committee (MSC 75/24, paragraph 18.41), the Secretariat has, since July 2002, started classifying separately any reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery **at sea** (international or territorial waters) vis-à-vis acts of armed robbery allegedly committed **in port areas**, as well as **attempted** acts of armed robbery.

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 4,636, an increase of 20 since 31 May 2008.

¹ "Piracy" is defined in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (article 101) as follows:

"Piracy consists of any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal acts of violence or detention, or any act of depredation, committed for private ends by the crew or the passengers of a private ship or a private aircraft, and directed:
 - (i) on the high seas, against another ship or aircraft, or against persons or property on board such ship or aircraft;
 - (ii) against a ship, aircraft, persons or property in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State;
- (b) any act of voluntary participation in the operation of a ship or of an aircraft with knowledge of facts making it a pirate ship or aircraft;
- (c) any act inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b)."

² "Armed robbery against ships" is defined in the Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships (resolution A.922(22), Annex, paragraph 2.2), as follows:

"Armed robbery against ships means any unlawful act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of "piracy", directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such ship, within a State's jurisdiction over such offences."

3 Previous incidents reported to the Organization since the fifty-ninth session of the Committee have been circulated by various MSC circulars, those issued (on an annual, quarterly and monthly basis) during the previous twelve months and up to May 2008 being MSC.4/Circ.104, MSC.4/Circ.105, MSC.4/Circ.106, MSC.4/Circ.107, MSC.4/Circ.108, MSC.4/Circ.109, MSC.4/Circ.110, MSC.4/Circ.111, MSC.4/Circ.112, MSC.4/Circ.113, MSC.4/Circ.114, MSC.4/Circ.115, MSC.4/Circ.116, MSC.4/Circ.117, MSC.4/Circ.118, MSC.4/Circ.119 and MSC.4/Circ.120.

ANNEX 1
Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly committed against ships reported by
Member States or international organizations in consultative status

	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Time	Position of the incident*	Details of the incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and the crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or international organization	MSC.4/Circ.122 ANNEX 1 Coastal State Action Taken
N°									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	OCEAN SEAL Barge carrier Japan 12714 8766507	24/03/2008	SOUTH CHINA SEA Anambas Island, Indonesia 02° 52.50' N 105° 11.00' E	Pirates boarded the barge under tow and stole barge equipment and property	Pirates stole ship's property	-	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ, Indonesian Marine Police HQ, SAR Jakarta	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	BLUE OCEAN Tanker Indonesia 1280 8004117	21/05/2008	CHINA SEA Enroute from Sulawesi to Surabaya, Indonesia	About ten pirates armed with guns and knives boarded and hijacked the tanker laden with crude palm oil. Pirates took 14 crewmembers as hostage and sailed the tanker to unknown location. The Royal Malaysia Marine Police located and detained the vessel on 19.06.2008 at the port of Sandakan, where the vessel had discharged the cargo	Pirates hijacked the ship and took 14 crewmembers as hostage. Pirates discharged the cargo	-	Yes PRC relayed message to authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP focal point (Singapore)	The Royal Malaysia Marine Police located and detained the vessel
3	CATHAY 5 Tug Singapore 153 9447512	27/05/2008 03:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Singapore Straits, Singapore 01° 06.50' N 103° 45.58' E	Four pirates, armed with long knives boarded the tug towing a barge. The pirates stole cash and personal belongings of the crew. No injuries to crew members	Pirates stole cash and personal belongings of crew	-	Yes MPA Singapore	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP focal point (Singapore)	-
4	MEDBOTHNIA Container ship Cyprus 153 9447512	03/06/2008 20:00 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Off Anambas, Indonesia 03° 24.00' N 105° 31.00' E	Eight pirates armed with long knives and bars boarded the ship underway. Pirates stole ship's cash and crew properties and escaped. No injuries to crew.	Ship's cash and crew properties were stolen	-	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ, Indonesian Marine Police HQ, SAR Jakarta	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	RED WING Chemical tanker Liberia 4780 9327334	04/06/2008 12:30	SOUTH CHINA SEA Off Anambas Islands, Indonesia 02° 36.85' N 105° 09.00' E	Pirates in a wooden speedboat armed with long knives and bars boarded the tanker en route to Singapore. They stole ship's cash and crew property and escaped. No injuries to crew	Pirates stole ship's cash and crew property	-	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ, Indonesian Marine Police HQ, SAR Jakarta, MRCC Putrajaya & MPA Singapore	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP focal point (Singapore)	-

* The position given should be as accurate as possible including latitude and longitude co-ordinates or as a bearing and distance from a conspicuous landmark
NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific

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	Coastal State Action Taken								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	JIMEIDA General cargo ship Panama 16947 7615165	13/06/2008 02:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Port Campha Inner Anchorage, Viet Nam 20° 53.84' N 107° 15.66' E	Robbers boarded the ship from a small fishing boat. Duty AB, when patrolling the forecastle deck of the ship, discovered that three mooring ropes missing and one rope was hanging above sea from the fairlead. Ship Master reported the incident to the Vietnam Marine Police and advised local authorities to enhance security measures	Robbers stole ship's stores	-	Yes Local authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP ISC	-
2	LYRA LEADER Vehicle carrier Panama 62510 9284752	18/06/2008 05:30 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Port Au Prince Anchorage, Haiti 18° 34.20' N 072° 24.20' W	Robbers boarded the ship at anchor via the anchor chain. They stole ship's stores from the forward station and escaped	Robbers stole ship's stores	-	Yes PRC relayed message to Embassy The Republic of Haiti, France	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	WECOY 6 Tug Singapore 245 9301213	29/06/2008 01:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 10 NM south of Pulau Tioman, Malaysia	Six robbers armed with long knives and axes boarded the tug from a long white speedboat with twin outboard motors. Four other men stood by and waited in the speedboat. The robbers stole the crew's personal belongings, including a laptop, mobile phones, cash and a portable VHF radio and escaped towards Pulau Pemanggil	Crew's personal belongings, including a laptop, mobile phones, cash and a portable VHF radio were stolen	-	Yes MRCCs Malaysia and Singapore	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReeCAAP ISC	The Singapore Port Operations Control Centre initiated NAVTEX broadcast warning ships in the vicinity to look out for fast moving craft approaching their ships and to increase their anti-piracy watch

IN PORT AREA

1	KOTA RAJIN Container ship Singapore 9678 9296286	09/05/2008 03:50 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Semarang Port, Indonesia 06° 57.00' S 110° 26.00' E	Two robbers were found in the ship's engine room. The alarmed was raised and the robbers jumped overboard and escaped in a small boat	Two reefer extension wires were stolen	-	Yes Local agent informed Indonesian authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP focal point (Singapore)	-
2	NOVA FRIESIA Refrigerated cargo carrier Liberia 5389 8609084	05/06/2008 04:15 LT	WEST AFRICA Pointe Noire anchorage, Congo	Two robbers in a canoe approached the ship at anchor. One robber attempted to board the ship with a long pole attached with a hook. As the robber reached the main deck level, the duty AB hit him and he fell overboard. Port control responded after nearly two hours, but did not carry out an investigation	-	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific

N°	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Time	Position of the incident*	Details of the incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and the crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or international organization	Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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IN PORT AREA

3	BELISAIRE Chemical tanker France 7093 9229025	07/06/2008	WEST AFRICA Lagos, Nigeria	Robbers boarded the ship at berth from the outboard side. They attempted to open an inerted cargo tank. Duty AB spotted a robber and he jumped overboard and escaped. At the time of the incident there were no shore guards as there was no cargo operation in progress	-	-	Yes PRC relayed message to Nigerian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	ELLENS Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 9957 9374117	13/06/2008 23:51 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Anchorage B, Port of Chittagong, Bangladesh 22° 13.80' N 091° 44.30' E	Six robbers boarded the container ship from a wooden engine-driven boat. Master raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The robbers escaped with one rope. Master reported the incident to Chittagong Port Authority who in turn informed the Bangladesh Coast Guard. A patrol boat was dispatched to the incident area. However, due to the delay in the reporting and bad weather, the robbers have escaped when the patrol boat arrived	One rope was stolen	Master raised alarm and mustered the crew	Yes Chittagong port authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A patrol boat was dispatched to the incident area
5	YASA H MEHMET Bulk carrier Turkey 30303 9222510	28/06/2008 21:45 UTC	WEST AFRICA Takoradi Anchorage, Ghana	One robber, armed with a long knife, attempted to climb onboard the ship at anchor via the anchor chain. Alert duty watchman saw the robber and informed the duty officer who raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robber jumped into the sea and escaped with two other accomplices waiting in a boat	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes PRC relayed message to MRCC and Marine Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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ANNEX 2
Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly attempted against ships reported by
Member States or international organizations in consultative status

N°	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	Date Time	Position of the incident*	Details of the incident	Consequences for crew, ship, cargo	Action taken by the master and the crew	Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?	Reporting State or international organization	MSC.4/Circ.122 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	YM OCEAN Container ship 29872 7810923	03/06/2008 07:05 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf Of Aden, 12° 43.80' N 049° 51.50' E	Two pirate boats opened fire on the container ship underway. Two coalition warships, in the vicinity came to assist the ship. The pirates aborted the attack. All crew safe.	The ship was fired upon	-	Yes Coalition ships	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	NA Container ship	04/06/2008 22:20 LT	27 NM northeast of Pulau Tioman,	A small boat approached the ship from astern at a distance of 1.7 NM. The Master raised alarm, increased speed, took evasive action and enhanced anti-piracy watch on the poop deck. The boat increased its speed to 25 knots and maintained a parallel course with the ship. At 2243 hrs, the boat altered its course and increased the distance to 3 nm. The ship continued at the same speed for another hour to clear the area	-	Raised alarm, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and enhanced anti-piracy watchers on the poop deck	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP ISC	-
3	HEREFORD EXPRESS Livestock carrier Philippines 4634 8202202	07/06/2008 10:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Vicinity Of Kepulauan Sangir, Indonesia 03° 18.50' N 125° 05.80' E	Pirates in a speedboat chased and opened fire to the ship enroute to Australia. Master took evasive manoeuvres and raised alarm. Local units were sent to assist and respond accordingly. After two hours of continuous firing and chasing, the pirate boat aborted the attempt. Master fearing further attack from pirate boat, discontinued passage and returned to last port	Pirates opened fired to the ship. Serious damages to bridge, communication equipment and hull	Master took evasive manoeuvres and informed managers	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ, Indonesian Marine Police HQ, SAR Jakarta	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP focal point (Singapore)	Local unites were sent to assist the ship
4	HUDSON BAY Refrigerated cargo carrier Antigua and Barbuda 8052 8202654	21/06/2008 06:10 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden, 13° 08.70' N 048° 03.70' E	Two wooden speed boats approached the ship. One boat crossed the vessel's bow whilst the other remained on the portside. Not suspecting any pirate activity the Master sailed between the two boats, which then closed in on the ship. One of the craft was preparing ladder with hook in order to board. Ship raised the alarm and took an evasive action. The two speed boats aborted their attack and moved away. The vessel continued on her passage	-	Ship raised the alarm and evasive manoeuvres adopted	Yes PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain, UKMTO Dubai, Nato & Yemen Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	NA Tanker	24/06/2008 18:05 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA North of Bintan island Indonesia 01° 26.00' N 104° 36.80' E	The duty AB onboard the tanker reported three small suspicious boats at a distance of about 250 m on the starboard beam and starboard quarter of the tanker. The boats were blue and each measures about 12 m long, has a wooden hull and fitted with four large sea horse power engines. The four men in the boats were wearing blue oilskins. Master raised the alarm and activated anti-piracy measures. Other vessels in the vicinity were informed. The boats moved away at 18:20 hrs. and were seen heading towards Bintan island	-	Master raised the alarm and activated anti-piracy measures	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP ISC	-
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IN PORT AREA

1	BUNGA MASS 12 Container ship Malaysia 8612 9168570	26/06/2008 03:45	SOUTH CHINA SEA Yangon Anchorage, Myanmar 16° 38.80' N 096° 15.50' E	Six robbers in a speed boat tried to come alongside the ship at anchor. Alert crew raised alarm and directed the search light towards the boat. Seeing the alert crew the robbers turned away. Ships in the vicinity informed. Earlier the port authority and pilot had warned the Master of robbers in the anchorage.	-	Alert crew raised alarm and directed the search light towards the boat	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	HARRIER EXPLORER Supply ship Panama 4009 7807380	30/06/2008 02:00 LT	EAST AFRICA Berth No.12, Mombasa, Kenya	Alert crew spotted a robber while the vessel was at berth. The robber used a rope attached with a hook to gain access to the ship offshore side. As soon as the robber saw the alert crew he jumped overboard and escaped in a waiting boat	-	Local watchmen and duty crew on rounds foiled the attempt	Yes PRC relayed message to High Commission of the Republic of Kenya, Malaysia	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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