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MSC.4/Circ.117
28 May 2008

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during February 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 January 2008 and 29 February 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 4,552, an increase of 14 since 31 January 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 January 2008 being MSC.4/Circ.100, MSC.4/Circ.101, MSC.4/Circ.102, MSC.4/Circ.103, 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 and MSC.4/Circ.116.

ANNEX 1
Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly committed 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.117 ANNEX 1 Coastal State Action Taken
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	SVITZER KORSAKOV Tug Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 663 9389590	01/02/2008 14:00 UTC	EAST AFRICA North of Northeast of Somalian Coast (Cape Raas Casey), Gulf of Aden 12° 57.00' N 051° 24.00' E	Pirates attacked and hijacked the tug underway. The ship was held by the pirates near Eyl. The ship and crew were released on payment of a ransom on 18 March 2008	Tug hijacked with six crew members. Ransom paid	Alarm raised	Yes UKMTO Dubai	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, Nato Northwood, Marlo Bahrain, Nato UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFIC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer and Yemen Maritime Affairs HQ	-
2	SAFMARINE COTONOU Container ship Netherlands 21054 8417223	14/02/2008 03:41 LT	EAST AFRICA 20NM off Tanzania coast United Republic of Tanzania 06° 43.50' S 039° 43.80' E	Three pirates boarded the ship from a small wooden boat equipped with an outboard engine. The ship was drifting, awaiting berthing instructions. Alert duty crew noticed the pirates and the alarm was raised, ship's whistle sounded, crew mustered and master increased speed. Pirates fled immediately. Upon inspection, two containers were found opened	Two containers opened	Raised alarm and mustered crew	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Tanzania High Commission, London and UKMTO Dubai	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	MSC EMILIA S General cargo ship Panama 10932 7026522	03/02/2008 03:30 LT	EAST AFRICA Dar-es-Salaam Anchorage Area 4 United Republic of Tanzania 04° 46.00' S 039° 20.00' E	Twelve robbers in a speedboat approached the ship at anchor. Two robbers boarded the ship. Alert crew raised alarm, SSAS activated and port control informed. Ship's crew mustered and took necessary anti-piracy measures. The robbers jumped into the water and escaped in their waiting boat. A police patrol boat came for investigation	-	Raised alarm, mustered crew and took necessary anti- piracy measures	Yes Port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and Tanzania High Commission, London	A police patrol boat came for investigation
2	BOW CLIPPER Chemical tanker NIS (Norway) 23197 9047518	09/02/2008 00:30 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Kandla outer anchorage India 22° 46.70' N 070° 00.90' E	Duty watchman on the ship at anchor noticed robbers on the forecastle. On seeing the alert ship's crew, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped. The padlock of the forecastle store was broken, but nothing was missing	Robbers broke the padlock of the forecastle store	Raised alarm and mustered crew	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and MRCC Mumbai	-

* 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

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

IN PORT AREA

1	HS CHOPIN Container ship Liberia 38320 9323027	06/11/2007 02:45 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (A) Santos Roads Brazil	The ship was attacked by at least eight robbers while at Santos anchorage. The robbers held the duty watch AB hostage during the attack	Crew member held hostage; 29 containers were found with their seals missing or broken. No injury to crew	The general alarm was activated at 02:50 LT resulting in the release of the hostage (AB). Subsequently, the SSAS was activated. The Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and RCC Brazil were also notified and requested for assistance	Yes Santos port authorities were informed through VHF Channel 16/11 to make contact with Santos Pilot Station	Liberia and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Between 04:00 LT and 04:10 LT, a Santos Harbour Police boat was seen passing around the ship
2	EMILIA Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 6264 9184249	01/02/2008 03:15 UTC	WEST AFRICA Berth Tin Can No. 4, Lagos Port Nigeria	Three robbers boarded the ship at berth. Robbers broke into forward paint locker. Duty officer raised alarm and the robbers escaped in a waiting boat. Nothing was stolen	Forward paint locker damaged	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and the Nigerian High Commission, Malaysia	No response from port authorities
3	CAP VILANO Container ship Cyprus 28372 9311787	06/02/2008 00:52 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Callao anchorage No. 1 Peru	Robbers boarded the ship at anchor from a small boat. Duty crew spotted them, raised alarm and crew mustered. The robbers escaped. The authorities were informed. A Coast Guard patrol boat arrived after more than one hour, patrolled the waters around the ship for about ten minutes and moved away	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Tramar Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and MRCC Peru	Coast Guard patrol boat arrived after more than one hour, patrolled the waters around the ship for about ten minutes and moved away
4	SHAHRAZADE DREAM General cargo ship Hong Kong, China 16075 8811704	17/02/2008 05:40 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Berth No. 2, Sandakan port Malaysia 05° 48.00' N 118° 05.00' E	Duty crew on board the ship reported that a boat approached from the port bow. One robber was noticed on the forecastle deck passing ship stores to the other robbers in the boat. On seeing the alert crew, the robber jumped overboard and escaped with the ship stores. The forward booby hatch lock was found broken. The local police conducted an investigation	Booby hatch broken and ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, MRCC Putrajaya, Marine Police Headquarters and Marine Police Sandakan, Malaysia	Marine Police came for investigation

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IN PORT AREA

5	TIANJIN General cargo ship Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 23239 7729215	20/02/2008 03:30 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Tuticorin anchorage India 08° 45.80' N 078° 16.30' E	Robbers in two fishing vessels boarded the ship from the port and starboard side. The alarm was raised and port control informed. The robbers escaped. Nothing stolen. A patrol boat came and established contact with master and one vessel with seven crew members was apprehended	-	Raised alarm and informed port control	Yes Port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Coast Guard Mumbai and Coast Guard New Delhi	A patrol boat came and established contact with master and one vessel with seven crew members apprehended
6	HAPPY RIVER General cargo ship Netherlands 10990 9139294	21/02/2008 03:30 LT	WEST AFRICA Apapa berth No. 12, Lagos Nigeria 06° 26.30' N 003° 23.50' E	Two robbers managed to board the ship at berth in spite of armed Navy guards being on board. The robbers forced open the forecastle door and stole ship's stores. Duty watchman noticed the robbers and informed the guards. By the time the guards arrived forward, the robbers escaped in a speedboat	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and Nigerian High Commission, Malaysia	-

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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.117 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	MAERSK SEVILLE Container ship Liberia 94724 9299927	11/12/2007 17:30 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden	On transit through Gulf of Aden, the ship detected a number of fast moving targets on the radars. The targets moved towards the ship and pursued it for about 30 minutes. After the ship increased speed to max, performed sea-surface search with searchlights and increased patrols on deck, the suspicious boats backed off and disappeared from the radars	-	The vessel increased speed, searchlights were used for sea-surface search and deck patrols were increased	Yes CFMCC Bahrain	Liberia and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	KASAGISAN Tanker Bahamas 160216 9324100	01/02/2008 01:40 UTC	MALACCA STRAIT Malacca Strait 04° 00.00' N 099° 35.00' E	Six small speedboats attempted to approach the ship underway. The master increased speed and carried out evasive manoeuvres. The prompt action of the crew along with the worsening weather conditions resulted in the boats aborting the attempt	-	Raised alarm, increased speed and carried out evasive manoeuvres	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ, Indonesian Marine Police HQ, SAR Jakarta, Malaysian Marine Police HQ, MRCC Putrajaya, MECC Lumut, FOC RMN and MINDEF	-
3	ORIENTAL GREEN Tanker Malta 56955 9178317	01/02/2008 15:10 LT	EAST AFRICA 65NM North Northeast of Somalian Coast (Cape Raas Casey), Gulf of Aden 12° 55.00' N 051° 23.60' E	The officer on watch on the ship underway sighted a small wooden boat with four pirates onboard approaching the ship. Master informed, alarm raised, accommodation locked down, fire hoses rigged and fire pump started. The boat approached on the port side, at a distance of 60 metres and signalled the ship to stop. Master started taking evasive action by commencing a zigzag course. The pirates started firing at the ship accommodation. The ship continued zigzagging and activated the fire hoses. Pirate boat followed the ship for about 6 miles and aborted the attempt at 1530 hrs. No damage to the ship except for bullet marks. Informed ships in the vicinity via VHF	Ship fired upon with bullet marks on the ship	Raised alarm, mustered crew, took evasive measures and informed ships in the vicinity	Yes Combined Maritime Forces in Bahrain	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, Nato Northwood, Marlo Bahrain, Nato UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer and Yemen Maritime Affairs HQ	-

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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.117 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
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IN PORT AREA

1	LONDON STAR Tanker Liberia 41966 9330343	21/02/2008 23:40 LT	WEST AFRICA Lagos anchorage Nigeria 06° 18.40' N 003° 20.40' E	Just before watch handover time, the forward duty watchman heard the engine of a motorboat, approaching on the port side. He immediately alerted the others who commenced checking the port side. At the same time, the watchmen checked the starboard side realizing that the boat on the port side could be a decoy. The watchmen noticed four to five persons attempting to board the vessel via hooks attached to the starboard side deck. Duty officer raised alarm, watchman shouted at them, and the robbers slowly moved away	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and Nigerian High Commission, Malaysia	-
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