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MSC.4/Circ.192
24 January 2013

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during December 2012

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, the annex hereto provides, in the tabulated format agreed by the Committee, the summary of reports on incidents received between 1 and 31 December 2012 including a distinction between acts of piracy and acts of armed robbery against ships (annex 1) and attempted attacks (annex 2). The Secretariat has, since July 2002, classified 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.

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 subparagraph (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.1025(26), annex, paragraph 2.2), as follows:

"Armed robbery against ships means any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of piracy, committed for private ends and directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such a ship, within a State's internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea;
- (b) any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described above."

2 Further, and as instructed by the Committee (MSC 89/25, paragraphs 18.9 and 18.10), the Secretariat has opened a "piracy and armed robbery" module on the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) (<http://gisis.imo.org>) in order to improve the timeliness of reporting of incidents and to enable users to generate their own search criteria and produce customizable reports. This database is now configured for public, read-only access and is searchable. Reports can be compiled in GISIS directly by Member States and registered public users. These reports can now include follow-up information, for example, dates of release of hijacked ships. Given that the new functionality in GISIS allows for user-defined piracy reports, the Committee agreed that the practice of publishing quarterly summaries was no longer warranted and would be discontinued with effect from May 2011.

3 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 6,569, an increase of 19 since 30 November 2012.

4 Previous incidents reported to the Organization since the fifty-ninth session of the Committee have been circulated by various MSC circulars, those issued during the previous 12 months and up to 31 December 2012 being MSC.4/Circ.181, MSC.4/Circ.182, MSC.4/Circ.183, MSC.4/Circ.184, MSC.4/Circ.185, MSC.4/Circ.186, MSC.4/Circ.187, MSC.4/Circ.188, MSC.4/Circ.189, MSC.4/Circ.190, and MSC.4/Circ.191.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	TORM KRISTINA Product tanker Denmark 57080 9169512	15/12/2012 14:58 UTC	ARABIAN SEA About 80nm NW of Muscat, Oman (off Somalia) Oman 24° 36.20' N 057° 32.30' E	Armed pirates in a skiff approached and opened fire on the tanker underway. The Master raised the alarm, commenced evasive manoeuvres, called UKMTO, sent distress alerts via VHF and SSAS and all crew retreated into the citadel. Navies in the vicinity responded to the distress signal and a naval boarding team was sent to rescue the crew. On boarding the tanker, no pirates were found. The crew regained control of the tanker and continued its passage.	Pirates fired on and boarded the tanker	Master raised the alarm, commenced evasive manoeuvres, sent distress alerts and SSAS and all crew retreated into the citadel	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A warship sailed to the location and rescued the crew members
2	WAO BRASS Supply ship Nigeria 390 8978423	17/12/2012	WEST AFRICA Enroute to Mobil Erah Oilfield, Nigeria Nigeria	Armed pirates boarded the offshore supply ship, kidnapped three crew members and escaped. The bosun later navigated the ship to Onne Port.	Three crew members were kidnapped	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	SP BRUSSELS Oil tanker Marshall Islands 3624 9387164	17/12/2012 14:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA At sea 40nm off Niger Delta Niger 03° 47.50' N 005° 37.10' E	Three pirates armed with heavy machine guns boarded and ransacked the oil tanker underway. They took hostage the Master, Chief Officer, 2nd Officer, Chief Engineer and 1st Assistant and stole the crew members' personal belongings. The crew did not sustain any injuries.	The pirates took hostage the Master, Chief Officer, 2nd Officer, Chief Engineer and 1st Assistant and stole the crew members' personal belongings	3/O took charge of the ship and navigated to Lagos	No	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	ASSO VENTUNO Supply ship Italy 1996 9183192	23/12/2012 19:45 LT	WEST AFRICA 40nm from the coastline, Bayelsa State, Nigeria Nigeria 04° 01.00' N 005° 14.00' E	Pirates armed with guns attacked and boarded the offshore supply ship underway and kidnapped four crew members. The ship sailed to a safe port after the incident. The other crew members did not sustain any injuries.	Pirates boarded the ship and kidnapped four crew members	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	K. NEPTUNE Bulk carrier Panama 18462 9634892	05/12/2012 03:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Belawan Port, Indonesia Indonesia 03° 47.02' N 098° 42.04' E	Four robbers boarded the berthed ship during discharge operations. They broke into the deck store, stole the ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. The theft was noticed during the hand-over watch and was reported to the local agent and the port authorities.	Robbers stole the ship's stores	Raised the alarm and the crew mustered	Yes Port Authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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* 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	Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN PORT AREA

2	PUTERI Tanker Mongolia 1553 7616236	07/12/2012 23:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA South of Tanjung Pelapas, Malaysia Malaysia 01° 13.15' N 103° 33.84' E	The Master spotted 10 masked men in two speed boats boarding the anchored tanker. The crew was alerted immediately and took refuge in the engine room while the duty officer and the Master locked themselves in the bridge. The robbers, armed with knives and guns, tried to enter the engine room and the bridge, but were unsuccessful. The ship sought assistance from tug boats in the vicinity. Three tug boats approached and surrounded the tanker. But the robbers remained onboard the tanker. After failing to enter the engine room and the bridge, the robbers subsequently left in their speed boats with the crew members' mobile phones and other personal belongings.	The robbers took the crew members' mobile phones and other personal belongings	The crew took refuge in the engine room while the duty officer and the Master locked themselves inside the bridge	Yes Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) & Singapore Port Operations Control Centre (POCC)	ReCAAP ISC	Notified the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Singapore Police Coast Guard and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Putra Jaya
3	LUMINOUS HALO Bulk carrier Panama 31242 9303039	10/12/2012 23:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Taboneo Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 03° 43.80' S 114° 26.40' E	Robbers boarded the anchored bulk carrier while the duty crew were busy attending to a barge. When the crew members returned to their watchkeeping duties they noticed the bosun store lock had been broken and the ship's property stolen. An investigation revealed that the robbers had accessed the ship through the anchor chain after managing to cut the wire lashing and breaking the padlock securing the hawsepipe covers. Local agents were informed.	The ship's property was stolen	The Master informed local agents	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	MERLION DUA Tanker Saint Kitts and Nevis 740 8518730	11/12/2012 01:50 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Around 3nm South of Tanjung Stapa, Pengerang, Johor, Malaysia Malaysia 01° 17.59' N 104° 08.31' E	Eight robbers armed with one gun and long knives approached and boarded the anchored tanker. OOW raised the alarm and informed the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and the crew secured all access doors and went into the safe room. The robbers forced their way to the bridge, engine room and the Master's cabin and stole the crew's cash and personal belongings. MMEA sent two patrol boats, boarded the ship and arrested the robbers. The ship's watchdog was killed and three crew members were injured.	Robbers stole the crew members' cash and personal belongings, injured some crew members including the ship's watchdog	OOW raised the alarm	Yes Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA)	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	MMEA apprehended the eight armed robbers

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IN PORT AREA

5	LORETO Bulk carrier Indonesia 26029 9197222	14/12/2012 21:05 LT	FAR EAST Nantong Working Anchorage, China 32° 00.24' N 120° 45.56' E	Three robbers tried to board the anchored bulk carrier through the gangway but were challenged by the alert crew and denied access to the ship. The robbers then managed to gain access to the ship via the alongside barge. The alert crew raised the alarm after they spotted the robbers attempting to lower ship stores. On seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers left the ship and entered the barge. Local agents were informed.	-	The Master raised the alarm and the crew members challenged the robbers	Yes Local authorities via agents	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	CLIPPER KAREN Chemical tanker Bahamas 7687 9323003	20/12/2012 22:35 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia 03° 57.00' N 098° 46.90' E	Robbers boarded the anchored tanker receiving provisions, stole the ship's property and escaped unnoticed. After an investigation, it was discovered that the robbers gained access to the forecabin by breaking through the razor wire. The local agent and the port authorities were informed.	Robbers stole the ship's property	Raised the alarm	Yes Port Authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
7	MADONNA 1 Chemical tanker Panama 11438 9407031	23/12/2012 00:30 LT	WEST AFRICA Abidjan Anchorage, Ivory Coast Côte d'Ivoire	Robbers armed with machine guns and knives boarded the anchored chemical tanker and took hostage the crew members. They forced the Chief Engineer and the Master to start the engines. As the engines had been disengaged by the crew, the ship was unable to sail. The robbers threatened and hit the crew members and then locked them inside the engine room while they ransacked the crew cabins. The robbers damaged some communication equipment, stole the ship's property and the crew's personal belongings and escaped.	Robbers hit the crew members, stole the ship's property including the crew's personal belongings and damaged the ship's communication equipment	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
8	SANKO MERCURY Bulk carrier Liberia 30488 9401934	29/12/2012 23:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Taboneo Anchorage, Indonesia 03° 43.10' S 114° 27.70' E	Robbers boarded the anchored ship while waiting to commence loading operations. They broke into the forward bosun store, stole the ship's stores and property and escaped unnoticed. The incident occurred between 29.12.2012, 2300 LT and 30.12.2012, 0400 LT and was reported to the local agent and the port authorities.	Robbers stole the ship's property	-	Yes Local agents and port authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
9	NORD DISCOVERY Bulk carrier Panama 30027 9309643	29/12/2012 23:20 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Taboneo Anchorage, Indonesia 03° 44.30' S 114° 25.60' E	Duty crew onboard the anchored bulk carrier found that the lock of the forward store had been broken. After checking, he saw the ship's stores lying on the deck and the robbers escaping in their two boats empty-handed.	Robbers boarded the ship and escaped empty-handed	-	No	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.192 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	PM SALEM Ro-ro-cargo ship Honduras 2943 6828040	10/12/2012 23:10 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 25nm SW Offshore, Bayelsa, Nigeria 04° 16.00' N 005° 19.80' E	Pirates armed with machine guns in a boat chased and fired at the ship underway. The Master raised the alarm, increased speed, sent distress message and all crew except the Master mustered in the safe room. The onboard security team returned fire and after around 20 minutes the firing ceased and the pirates moved away. Due to the exchange of fire, one security personnel was killed and two sustained injuries.	Pirates chased and fired on the vessel. One of the security personnel was killed and two sustained injuries	Master raised the alarm, increased speed, sent distress message and all crew members except the Master mustered in the safe room. The onboard security team returned fire	Yes Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), France	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	AGISTRI Tanker Liberia 81476 9597018	15/12/2012 04:30 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Around 45nm NE of Muscat, Oman, Gulf of Oman (Off Somalia) Oman 24° 10.00' N 059° 08.00' E	A dhow was seen launching a skiff which approached the tanker underway. The Master raised the alarm, increased speed, altered course, the crew members mustered and contacted authorities for assistance. At a distance of 0.2nm, weapons and ladders were seen on the skiff, prompting the onboard armed security team to fire warning shots resulting in the skiff moving away.	-	Master raised the alarm, increased speed, altered course, the crew members mustered and contacted the authorities for assistance. The security team fired warning shots	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	TSURUMI Tanker Panama 159960 9264893	20/12/2012 09:50 UTC	PERSIAN GULF Around 25nm South off Bandar-e-Jask, Iran (off Somalia) Iran (Islamic Republic of) 24° 46.90' N 057° 54.80' E	The tanker underway en route to Fujairah sighted a speed boat approaching at a speed of around 25 knots. The Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS, sent distress alert, took evasive manoeuvres, the crew members mustered and closed all accommodation doors. The distress alert was acknowledged by UKMTO and a helicopter was seen approaching the location. When the boat was around 0.5nm from the tanker, five masked persons with weapons and a RPG were identified. Seeing the helicopter, the boat altered and moved away from the tanker.	-	Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS, sent distress alert, took evasive manoeuvres, and the crew members mustered and closed all accommodation doors	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN PORT AREA

1	TRITON LARK Bulk carrier Panama 31275 9302841	01/12/2012 21:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Balikpapan Outer Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 23.00' S 116° 59.00' E	Robbers in an unlit small boat closed in on the anchored ship and attempted to board the ship through the anchor chain. Alert duty O/S noticed the robbers and informed the bridge who raised the alarm. All crew members rushed to the forecastle. On hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped in their boat. Port control was informed.	-	Alarm raised and the crew mustered	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	KORE Chemical tanker Russian Federation 5144 9637583	08/12/2012 11:35 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Belawan, Indonesia Indonesia 03° 55.10' N 098° 47.50' E	Three wooden boats with five robbers in each approached the anchored chemical tanker waiting for cargo operations. Due to the crew's alertness, the robbers were spotted and were unable to board the tanker. Before moving away, one of the robbers gestured to the crew that they would return during the night hours. The Master heaved up the anchor and sailed to the open sea.	-	The Master heaved up the anchor and sailed to the open sea	Yes Through local agent	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	FAOUE Product tanker Luxembourg 23246 9309382	11/12/2012 03:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Lome Anchorage, Togo Togo 06° 04.43' N 001° 16.33' E	Eight robbers in a wooden boat approached the anchored product tanker. Seeing the Togo Navy guards and the security team onboard the ship, the robbers aborted the attack and moved away. At 0330 LT, another boat with nine robbers approached the anchored tanker, however, they too moved away on seeing the armed Navy personnel. The Master was certain that it was an attempted attack as no fishing gear was seen inside the boat used by the robbers.	-	Armed security guards were on standby	Yes Togo Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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