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MSC.4/Circ.189
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during September 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 30 September 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 6,504, an increase of 20 since 31 August 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 30 September 2012 being MSC.4/Circ.176, MSC.4/Circ.177, MSC.4/Circ.178, MSC.4/Circ.179, 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 and MSC.4/Circ.188.

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

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	RUDOLF SCHULTE Chemical tanker Singapore 19793 9576765	03/09/2012 20:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 03° 55.00' N 098° 46.60' E	Six robbers armed with guns and knives boarded the anchored chemical tanker using a hook attached to a bamboo pole. The duty A/B forward noticed the robbers and attempted to contact the bridge via his walkie-talkie but the robbers seized it, took him hostage and tied him up. While the robbers were stealing the ship's stores and property, the A/B managed to free himself and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped with the stolen items. Port control was informed.	The robbers took and held the duty A/B hostage. They attempted to steal the ship's stores and property	Duty A/B managed to free himself and raised the alarm	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	NA
2	ABU DHABI STAR Chemical tanker Singapore 29734 9418119	05/09/2012 00:53 UTC	WEST AFRICA Nigeria 06° 11.00' N 002° 56.00' E	A group of armed robbers boarded the drifting chemical tanker. The crew shut down/disabled all machinery and retreated into the citadel and contacted its owners/CSO for help. Acting on the distress message, the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre contacted the Nigerian authorities and foreign naval forces to locate and rescue the chemical tanker and its crew members. The Nigerian authorities despatched a helicopter and a warship arrived at the location and rescued all the 23 crew members and the chemical tanker. The warship escorted the tanker to a safe anchorage.	Armed robbers hijacked the tanker and held its 23 crew members hostage	The crew shut down all machinery/engine and retreated to the tanker's citadel and contacted its owners for help	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian authorities despatched a helicopter that located and encircled the tanker. A warship arrived at the location and rescued the tanker and the 23 crew members
3	PACIFIC INSTALLER Barge carrier 12248 9649342	06/09/2012	MALACCA STRAIT In the vicinity of Buffalo rock light, Straits of Malacca and Singapore Singapore 01° 09.41' N 103° 48.80' E	Robbers boarded the accommodation barge while being towed by tugboat Lady Cynthia. They escaped unnoticed with tins of paint and the ship's stores. The internal door on the port side and store container were forcibly opened.	Crew did not sustain any injuries. The robbers escaped with 40 tins of paint and other stores	-	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
4	MT MALHARI Chemical tanker India 8625 9414333	07/09/2012 03:18	INDIAN OCEAN Approximately 1.4 nm north west of Sagar Lt, India India 21° 40.15' N 088° 01.47' E	Approximately four to five robbers armed with knives and rods boarded the anchored tanker from the aft section. The duty crew spotted the robbers and informed the Duty Officer who raised the alarm. The robbers escaped with four mooring ropes.	The crew did not sustain any injuries. The robbers escaped with four mooring ropes	The Duty Officer raised the alarm and the crew mustered	Yes Indian Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	-

* 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 TERRITORIAL WATERS

5	SINAR BANTEN Container ship Panama 12598 9441740	11/09/2012 13:00 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 03° 54.00' N 098° 46.00' E	Five robbers in a small boat approached the anchored container ship. Of these, two robbers boarded the ship, broke into the forward store, stole the ship's property and escaped on seeing duty A/B approaching. Port control was informed.	Robbers boarded the container ship, broke the forward store and stole the ship's property	Proceeded to the forward store	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	SCORPIO Tanker Tuvalu 1861 7825112	14/09/2012 14:15 LT	MALACCA STRAIT 3nm off Tanjung Piai, Malaysia Malaysia 01° 14.84' N 103° 27.94' E	Coast Guard boat received a call to inspect the tanker during a routine patrol. On approaching the tanker, robbers were noticed descending into a speed boat tied alongside the tanker. The speed boat departed from the tanker and headed towards Karimun Island, Indonesia. There was another ship tied alongside the tanker suspected of stealing the cargo. The Coast Guard boarded the tanker and found the 12 crew members with their hands tied up. The Coast Guard released them and on investigation the crew members were informed that the robbers had stolen money and the crew's personal belongings. The crew did not know about the tanker that was alongside.	Robbers took hostage 12 crew members and tied them up. They stole money and the crew's personal belongings. Two crew members received injuries	NA	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The Coast Guard boarded the tanker and released the 12 crew members. The Coast Guard carried out an investigation
7	GO CANOPUS Tug Singapore 2310 9528926	25/09/2012 00:35 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 6.8nm NW of Bintan Island, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 16.10' N 104° 14.10' E	Officers on watch onboard the tug towing a barge underway noticed that two robbers had boarded the barge. The crew raised the alarm, activated SSAS, sent distress via VHF, reported the attack to Singapore Port Control and mustered. At 0237 LT, a police boat arrived on the scene but they could not find any small boats behind the barge. The police escorted the tug and left at 0250 LT. It is assumed that the robbers escaped on seeing the police boat. The tug continued the passage.	Nil	Raised the alarm, activated SSAS, sent distress message on VHF and crew mustered	Yes Singapore Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A police boat arrived at the scene to conduct an investigation

IN PORT AREA

1	BUM CHIN Chemical tanker Hong Kong, China 11571 9304320	04/09/2012 04:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Kabil Port, Batam, Indonesia Indonesia	Four robbers boarded the berthed chemical tanker and entered the engine room where a duty motorman noticed and challenged them. One of the robbers pushed and hit the motorman who then retreated into the engine control room, locked himself, raised the alarm and informed the OOW. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped. Coast Guard was informed and came onboard to conduct investigation.	The motorman was assaulted	The motorman raised the alarm	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Coast Guard boarded the ship to conduct an investigation
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IN PORT AREA

2	KIEL Product tanker Singapore 4568 9555199	08/09/2012	MALACCA STRAIT Off Tanjung Piai, Johor, Malaysia 01° 13.82' N 103° 34.81' E	Robbers boarded the anchored tanker during heavy rain, stole the ship's property and escaped. The theft was noticed by the duty crew after the rain had stopped.	Robbers stole the ship's property	Nil	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	BW BROKER LPG tanker Liberia 45805 9377781	08/09/2012 02:35 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Teluk Semangka, Indonesia 05° 34.90' S 104° 36.60' E	Five robbers armed with sticks in a small fishing boat approached and boarded the anchored LPG tanker. Crew on duty noticed the robbers and alerted the bridge who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped empty-handed.	-	The crew alerted the bridge who raised the alarm and mustered	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	NA
4	EMMANUEL LPG tanker Panama 5844 9580182	08/09/2012 03:35 LT	WEST AFRICA Douala Port, Cameroon Cameroon	While the shore security watchmen onboard the berthed LPG tanker were taking a break, armed robbers boarded the tanker, took hostage the deck cadet on duty and stole the ship's property. Before escaping, they released the cadet who immediately raised the alarm. The incident was reported to Port Control and a police team boarded the ship to conduct an investigation.	Robbers boarded the tanker, held the duty cadet hostage and stole the ship's property	Cadet raised the alarm after being released	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The local police boarded the LPG carrier to conduct an investigation
5	AS VALERIA Bulk carrier Liberia 32929 9453248	11/09/2012 03:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Kakinada Port Anchorage, India 17° 00.80' N 082° 16.90' E	Robbers boarded the anchored bulk carrier at Kakinada Anchorage, 3.5 miles off Vakalapudi Lighthouse, 17° 0.8' N 82° 16.9' E. A broken padlock was found and two mooring ropes from the bosun's store were stolen.	A broken padlock was found and two mooring ropes from the bosun's store were stolen	The master informed local Port Control	Yes Local Port Control	Liberia ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	LAMBAY Bulk carrier Liberia 41101 9493925	12/09/2012 22:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA At the Port of Samarinda, Indonesia Indonesia	While the bulk carrier was at anchor in the Port of Samarinda, Indonesia, watch officers noticed six robbers armed with knives. The emergency alarm was raised and the crew mustered on the forecastle desk. The forecastle locker was damaged and the ship's property (5 mooring ropes, 2 search lights and 1 ventilator) were stolen.	Crew were safe but the ship's property (5 mooring ropes, 2 search lights and 1 ventilator) were stolen	Crew mustered on the forecastle desk	No	Liberia ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
7	HARVEST FESTIVAL Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 37689 9170262	15/09/2012 00:30 UTC	MEDITERRANEAN SEA Anchored IPL Alexandria, Egypt 31° 11.80' N 029° 46.10' E	Robbers boarded the anchored bulk carrier. The master sounded the alarm and the crew tried to confront the robbers who escaped after taking the ship's life raft items. No crew injuries sustained. Authorities were informed.	No injuries to the crew, forward life raft items were pilfered	The master sounded the alarm, the crew confronted the robbers, then ran for safety, and secured the accommodation	Yes Port of Alexandria, Egypt officials	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN PORT AREA

8	E.R. COPENHAGEN Container ship Germany 25630 9194878	16/09/2012 02:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Jakarta Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 06° 02.03' S 106° 53.20' E	Six robbers emerging from an unlit boat boarded the anchored ship using a hook attached to a rope. They broke into the safety store and the deck store and stole the ship's equipment and property. Alarm was raised and the crew mustered. The robbers escaped with the stolen property.	Robbers stole the ship's equipment and property	Alarm was raised and crew mustered	Yes Harbour Master	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
9	LIBERTY PRUDENCIA Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 30374 9250141	19/09/2012 04:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh Bangladesh	Two robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored bulk carrier awaiting cargo operations and held the duty A/B hostage at knife point. Four more robbers boarded the ship via the hawse pipe. They searched the duty A/B for the keys to the store rooms and then tied him up. As no keys were found, the robbers broke into the store room and stole the ship's stores. Stevedores on an approaching lighter ship spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Seeing the alert crew and stevedores, the robbers escaped via the hawse pipe. Port control and coast guard were informed.	Robbers boarded the bulk carrier, held duty A/B hostage, and stole the ship's stores	The master raised the alarm	Yes Port Control and Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The Coast Guard deployed a patrol boat in the area
10	WESTERN CRUISER General cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 6668 9366146	21/09/2012 01:35 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Port-Au-Prince Anchorage, Haiti Haiti 18° 33.09' N 072° 22.01' W	Three robbers armed with machetes boarded the anchored cargo ship. The watchman on routine rounds noticed the robbers at forecastle deck. The robbers attacked the watchman and injured him. OOW raised the alarm and the crew mustered. On hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with the stolen stores. Port authority was informed and the coast guard arrived at the location three hours later.	Robbers stole the ship's stores, attacked and injured the watchman	OOW raised the alarm and crew mustered	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
11	E ELEPHANT Tanker Marshall Islands 160278 9424261	24/09/2012 05:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Nipah Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 07.10' N 103° 35.40' E	Two robbers attempted to board the anchored tanker from port quarter. The alert crew noticed the robbers and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers aborted the boarding and escaped. Authorities were informed via local agents.	Nil	The master raised the alarm and the crew mustered	Yes Local authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
12	FAIRCHEM COLT Chemical tanker Panama 11626 9304344	29/09/2012 19:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Belawan Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia	Three robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored chemical tanker at forecastle. They held the duty A/B at knife point and tied him up and stole the ship's stores. OOW raised the alarm on sighting the robbers and crew mustered. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped in their fishing boat with the stolen stores. Port control was informed.	Ship's stores were stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	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.189 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	TORM GERTRUD Tanker Denmark 30058 9240885	09/09/2012 19:35 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 34Nm SW of Lagos, Nigeria Nigeria 06° 09.03' N 002° 53.36' E	Pirates armed with guns chased and fired at the tanker underway. Master raised the alarm, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and non-essential crew mustered in the citadel. The pirates attempted to board the tanker several times and later aborted the attempted attack due to the evasive manoeuvres. No injuries to crew but there were several bullet marks on the superstructure.	Pirates fired on the tanker and attempted to board	Master raised the alarm, took evasive manoeuvres and mustered non-essential crew in the citadel	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian Navy deployed an escort while the tanker anchored off Lagos
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NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific