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MSC.4/Circ.149
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during February 2010

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 2010 and 28 February 2010 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.

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.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 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 5,257, an increase of 14 since 31 January 2010.

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 31 January 2010 being MSC.4/Circ.134, MSC.4/Circ.135, MSC.4/Circ.136, MSC.4/Circ.137, MSC.4/Circ.138, MSC.4/Circ.139, MSC.4/Circ.140, MSC.4/Circ.141, MSC.4/Circ.142, MSC.4/Circ.143, MSC.4/Circ.144, MSC.4/Circ.145, MSC.4/Circ.146, MSC.4/Circ.147 and MSC.4/Circ.148.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	RIM General cargo ship Republic of Korea 3493 7328554	03/02/2010 08:15 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden, 13° 04.00' N 047° 04.00' E	Armed pirates hijacked the ship taking all the crewmembers hostage	The ship was hijacked and the crewmembers were taken hostage	-	Yes Coalition forces	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	ASTA Tug Singapore 296 9522984	06/02/2010 00:02 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA North of Tioman Island, Malaysia 03° 12.10' N 104° 01.45' E	The tug departed Singapore enroute to Cambodia towing the Singapore-registered barge CALISTA with 12 crewmembers on board. It was hijacked by eight pirates dressed in black clothes and armed with rifles and parangs. The robbers locked all crewmembers in cabins and on 10 February set adrift all crewmembers in a life raft. They were rescued on 11 February by the Malaysian Navy. After days of investigation and search operations on suspicious movements of vessels, the Philippine Coast Guard discovered that the pirates changed the name of the tug from ASTA to ROXY-I. The tug was rescued and seven pirates were arrested on 25 February	Tug and barge were hijacked and 12 crewmembers were taken hostage	-	Yes MRCCs of Indonesia, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Thailand and Philippines, MPA Singapore	ReCAAP ISC	Philippine Coast Guard rescued the tug and arrested seven pirates
3	SONGA EMERALD Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 11259 9473937	13/02/2010 22:30 UTC	WEST AFRICA off Conakry, Guinea 09° 11.38' N 014° 32.03' W	Pirates armed with rifles boarded the tanker underway. Master raised alarm, crew locked all access doors, mustered on bridge and hid in a safe place. Pirates tried to gain entry into the locked accommodation door. Due to the alarm continuously ringing, the pirates abandoned the attack and escaped	Pirates fired upon the ship	Master raised alarm, No crew locked all access doors, mustered on bridge and hide in safe place		ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	TOPNICHE 7 Tug Singapore 250 9183453	10/02/2010 11:37 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Bay of Bengal, Myanmar 20° 24.61' N 092° 15.56' E	Two robbers in a boat boarded the Singapore-registered barge RAPID, which was being towed by the tug TOPNICHE 7 while underway. The robbers stole a canvas and some ropes before they escaped	A canvas and some ropes were stolen	-	Yes Bangladesh Focal Point	ReCAAP ISC	-
2	THEODOR STROM Container ship Liberia 28270	13/02/2010 05:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA South of Tanjung Ayam, Malaysia 01° 18.40' N 104° 12.48' E	Five robbers armed with knives boarded the ship while at anchor. The robbers threatened the Duty Oiler and searched for ship stores. The Duty Officer activated general alarm and crew mustered	Duty oiler was threatened with a knife	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	ReCAAP ISC	-

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

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

3	PROSPECT Tanker Singapore 47266 9387762	14/02/2010 07:45 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN Visakhapatnam Anchorage, India 17° 37.70' N 083° 21.60' E	Three robbers using ropes and a hook boarded the tanker from astern. When sighted, the OOW raised general alarm and duty security patrol rushed to the poop deck. Robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores	Ship's stores stolen	The Officer of the Watch raised the general alarm while a duty security patrol rushed to the stern to intercept the robbers	Yes Police Control and Indian Navy	ReCAAP ISC	-
4	IOLCOS CELEBRITY Bulk carrier Panama 35629 8005276	24/02/2010 02:40 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Vung Tau Anchorage, Viet Nam 10° 15.40' N 107° 04.90' E	Three robbers boarded the ship at anchor using ropes with hooks. They attempted to enter the forecastle store. Duty crew spotted them and reported to OOW who raised alarm and sounded ship's whistle. Robbers jumped overboard and escaped in a wooden boat	-	Raised alarm and sounded ship's whistle	Yes Pilot station	ReCAAP ISC	-

IN PORT AREA

1	BARWAAQO General cargo ship Panama 5623 7229411	24/09/2009	EAST AFRICA Near Mogadishu harbour, Somalia	Robbers ordered the Master to turn the ship away from the port of Mogadishu. Security forces in Somalia rescued the ship and the crewmembers, preventing the robbers from hijacking the ship and taking the crewmembers as hostages. During the attack and rescue operation, the Master was killed and one policeman and three crewmembers were reported to be injured. The vessel was towed to port by tugboats as its engine was damaged	Master was killed during the attack. One policeman and three crewmembers were injured. The ship's engine was damaged	-	No	Syrian Arab Republic	-
2	SAMPURNA SWARAJYA Tanker India 21827 9176656	14/02/2010 08:35 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Vishakhapatnam roads, India	Three robbers in a boat approached the ship while at anchor from the port side. The Master noted that the boat did not cross the bow of the tanker and raised the alarm. Upon investigation by the crew, two of the robbers were discovered on board and a third was attempting to board the vessel. The robbers fled when detected by the crew	-	Alarm raised and crew investigated, who detected the robbers	Yes Port Control	ReCAAP ISC	-
3	CIC BREVES General cargo ship Bahamas 4860 9008146	19/02/2010 05:30 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (A) Georgetown Anchorage, Guyana 06° 41.60' N 058° 11.25' W	Ten robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at anchor. They threatened a duty crew with a knife at his neck. They entered into the forecastle and bosun store and stole ship's stores and property. The robbers locked the crew in the bosun store and escaped	Duty crew was threatened with a knife and was locked in the bosun store. Robbers stole ship's stores and property	Alarm raised	Yes Port Authorities	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.149 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	AFRICAN ALBATROSS Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 20763 9493509	20/02/2010 22:30 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden, 18° 37.50' N 062° 48.80' E	Suspected pirate ship tailed the ship with intent to board. Master turned off all ship's lights, increased speed and altered course	-	Turned off all ship's lights, increased speed and altered course	No	ReCAAP ISC	-
2	KALYPSO Bulk carrier Singapore 38364 9161687	23/02/2010 16:45 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN 190NM off Oman Coast, Arabian Sea, Oman 16° 30.00' N 058° 50.00' E	Pirates in a high-speed boat attempted to board the ship underway. Master raised alarm, sent mayday messages, contacted warship and took evasive manoeuvres. The pirates tried to board using a ladder, but were unsuccessful due to the constant maneuvering and the barbed wire fencing around the ship	-	Raised alarm, sent mayday messages, contacted warship and took evasive manoeuvres	Yes UKMTO	ReCAAP ISC	-

IN PORT AREA

1	BLUE JASPER Tanker Singapore 56355 9395379	07/02/2010 07:50	SOUTH CHINA SEA Off Balikpapan Anchorage, Indonesia	The OOW observed a wooden boat on starboard side of the ship and informed the AB on watch on deck. AB shouted at the robbers and told them to leave. The robbers sailed away	-	-	No	ReCAAP ISC	-
2	INAGUA ESPANA Panama 1427 7728560	15/02/2010 23:45 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Port Au Prince Anchorage, Haiti 18° 34.93' N 072° 22.30' W	Robbers attempted to board the landing craft at anchor. The Master and duty crew managed to prevent the robbers from boarding	-	Master and duty crew prevented the robbers from boarding	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

* 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