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MSC.4/Circ.188
29 October 2012

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during August 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 August 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.

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

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."

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 6,484, an increase of 17 since 31 July 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 August 2012 being MSC.4/Circ.175, 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 and MSC.4/Circ.187.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	JASCON 33 Barge carrier Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 3147	03/08/2012 22:20 LT	WEST AFRICA Around 45nm SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria 03° 46.00' N 006° 40.00' E	Pirates armed with AK47s approached and boarded the anchored barge. They opened fire on the barge. Two naval personnel were killed and two naval personnel injured. The pirates stole the barge's property and cash and kidnapped four crew members before escaping. Incident was reported to Nigerian Navy and Bonny Station. Naval personnel were deployed to secure the barge. The four kidnapped crew members were safely released on 23.08.2012.	Pirates opened fire and killed two naval personnel and injured two more personnel. They stole the barge's property and cash and kidnapped four crew members	n/a	Yes Nigerian Navy and Bonny Station	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Naval personnel were deployed to secure the barge. Negotiations facilitated the safe release of the crew
2	COSTANZA General cargo ship Malta 6354 9171383	21/08/2012 02:30 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 20nm SW of Conakry Port, Guinea Guinea 09° 15.90' N 013° 58.30' W	Pirates attacked and boarded the anchored general cargo ship. All crew members immediately took shelter in the citadel. The pirates armed with AK47s and pistols damaged the bridge window shields, ransacked crew cabins and stole cash and personal effects. They disembarked from the ship at 0320 UTC. Master attempted to contact Conakry Port Control but was unsuccessful.	Pirates held three crew members captive during the raid and stole the crew's property	Raised the alarm; fire hoses activated	Yes Conakry Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	BINA MARINE 61 Tug Singapore 149 9572161	17/08/2012 05:00	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approximately 1.3 nm south of Pulau Tekong Kecil Lt, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 04.32' N 103° 42.78' E	While the pusher tug was towing barge Bina Marine 62, two robbers armed with sharp weapons boarded the tugboat. On boarding, the robbers tied the master and the crew and escaped with their personal belongings, including cash, mobile phones and laptop.	The crew did not sustain any injuries. The robbers escaped with personal belongings, including cash, mobile phones and laptop	The master reported the incident to the Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC)	Yes Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC) initiated broadcast to alert mariners in the vicinity and informed the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Singapore's Police Coast Guard (PCG), MRCC (KL) and MRCC (Jakarta)
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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

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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

2	MARCO POLO 17 Tug Singapore 100	19/08/2012 05:00	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approximately 6.6 nm south-southeast of Pulau Tekong Kecil Lt, Indonesia 01° 00.42' N 103° 39.96' E	While the tugboat was towing barge Marco Polo 268, approximately four robbers armed with knives boarded the tug boat from a speedboat. The robbers escaped with the crew's personal belongings and took with them rice and rations from the tug boat.	The crew did not sustain any injuries. The robbers escaped with personal belongings and took with them rice and rations	The master reported the incident to Singapore's Port Operations Control Centre (POCC)	Yes Singapore's POCC	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Singapore's POCC initiated a broadcast to alert mariners in the vicinity, and informed the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Singapore's Police Coast Guard (PCG), MRCC (KL) and MRCC (Jakarta)
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IN PORT AREA

1	HIGHBURY PARK Chemical tanker Liberia 11987 9505986	02/08/2012 02:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Dumai Anchorage Indonesia	Five robbers armed with long machetes and knives boarded the anchored tanker. Three crew members were taken hostage and their hands were tied. The robbers stole engine spares and escaped. No injuries to the crew.	Robbers took three crew members hostage and tied their hands, and stole engine spares	Alarm was raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Authority. PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesia Navy HQ & Indonesian Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	RUBY INDAH Bulk carrier Singapore 43217 9172416	06/08/2012 02:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta Indonesia 06° 00.30' S 106° 53.59' E	Four robbers boarded the anchored ship. They broke open the aft store and stole the ship's property. Duty O/S spotted the robbers, raised the alarm and ran after the robbers. While the O/S was grappling with two of the robbers, the other two robbers jumped into the water with the stolen property. On seeing the other crew approaching, the remaining two robbers jumped into the water and escaped with their accomplices.	Robbers stole ship's property	O/S raised the alarm, ran after the robbers and grappled with two of the robbers	Yes Tanjung Priok Pilot Station, PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ & Indonesian Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	OTTO SCHULTE Container ship Liberia 20624 9203461	09/08/2012 21:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Inner Anchorage, Bangladesh Bangladesh 22° 09.10' N 091° 44.50' E	About 10 robbers armed with long knives boarded the anchored ship from the stern. They held one crew member and threatened him with long knives and stole the ship's stores. OOW lost contact with the duty crew and raised the alarm. Crew members mustered and rushed to the aft mooring station. On seeing the crew alertness, the robbers released the duty crew and escaped with the stolen stores.	Robbers held the duty crew and stole ship's stores	Raised the alarm and all crew mustered	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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	Coastal State Action Taken								
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IN PORT AREA

4	NORD SINCERE Bulk carrier Panama 17018 9544384	10/08/2012 01:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Freetown Outer Anchorage, Sierra Leone Sierra Leone 08° 30.00' N 013° 32.70' W	Three robbers armed with long knives boarded the anchored ship. Alert OOW sighted the robbers and raised the alarm. Crew mustered and master informed port authority and local agent. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with the stolen stores. All crew were safe.	Robbers stole ship's stores	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	PACIFIC RETRIEVER Supply ship Singapore 1864 9236810	16/08/2012 05:00	WEST AFRICA Pointe Noire Anchorage, Congo Congo 04° 45.65' S 011° 49.55' E	Robbers boarded the anchored ship and escaped with some of the ship's stores. The duty crew on his security round discovered that the padlocks to the store rooms and the hydraulic pump room had been broken and forced open.	The crew did not sustain any injuries. The robbers escaped with some of the ship's stores	-	Yes Port Authorities	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
6	TRITON STORK Bulk carrier Panama 31242 9328675	17/08/2012 04:45 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Kutubdia Anchorage, Bangladesh Bangladesh 21° 52.00' N 091° 42.00' E	Robbers boarded the anchored ship, stole the ship's stores from the poop deck and escaped unnoticed. The theft was noticed by the duty crew during routine rounds. Port control and coast guard were informed.	Ship's stores were stolen	Continuous patrols were carried out and more shore watchmen were deployed	Yes Port Control and Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
7	PACIFIC BUCCANEER Supply ship Singapore 1974 9149445	17/08/2012 05:00	SOUTH CHINA SEA Kabil Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 06.30' N 104° 10.40' E	Approximately four to five robbers boarded the anchored ship. While conducting checks on the accommodation, the duty crew member spotted a robber on the main deck and raised the alarm. The robbers escaped in a small boat with some of the ship's stores.	The crew did not sustain any injuries. The robbers escaped with some of the ship's stores	The crew raised the alarm and mustered	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
8	ANUKET EMERALD Product tanker Panama 5581 9393644	18/08/2012 23:10 LT	WEST AFRICA Lome Anchorage, Togo Togo 05° 50.00' N 001° 14.00' E	Around 16 robbers armed with machine guns boarded the product tanker drifting in the anchorage area and sailed her to an unknown location. They damaged the tanker's communication equipment, speed boats, rescue boat, engines and its loading computer. They repainted the funnel, changed its name and removed its IMO number. During the cargo stealing into another ship, the hull was damaged and prior to departing the robbers stole the crew members' cash and personal belongings along with hand held radios, printers, scanners, anti-piracy and safety equipment. No injuries to crew. The tanker was released on 23.08.2012.	Robbers hijacked the tanker and held 18 crew members hostage. They damaged/vandalised parts of the tanker and stole its cargo, property as well as crew members' cash	Nil	Yes Togo Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

IN PORT AREA

9	ENERGY CENTURION Product tanker Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 42296 9387970	28/08/2012 03:00 LT	WEST AFRICA Lome Anchorage, Togo 06° 00.00' N 001° 16.00' E	Armed robbers boarded and hijacked the anchored product tanker. The Togo Navy received a distress call and dispatched a patrol boat which intercepted the tanker that was already underway. Instead of heeding the Navy's orders to stop the tanker, the armed robbers opened fire at the patrol boat, which returned fire. The tanker proceeded to a neighbouring country's waters and escaped. The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre informed all authorities in the region and broadcast a warning to ships in the area to look out for the tanker and report any sightings. A search by air and sea was carried out. On 30.08.2012 the armed robbers released the tanker, which proceeded to a safe port. Two crew members were reportedly injured.	Armed robbers boarded and hijacked the tanker. They took hostage 24 crew members. The ship sustained damages. Two crew members were reportedly injured	Nil	Yes Togo Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Togo Navy dispatched a patrol boat to the location. A search by air and sea was carried out. Togo surveillance aircraft and a French naval warship located the vessel
10	SVITZER BETA Tug Singapore 906 9592410	28/08/2012 07:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA PT Global Industries Yard, Batam, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 03.39' N 103° 54.48' E	Two robbers in a small fishing boat approached and boarded the berthed tug. The duty A/B on deck noticed the robbers, who were trying to steal the ship's stores, and raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped empty handed in their boat. Incident was reported to the ship yard security.	Nil	Raised the alarm	Yes Yard Security	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
11	MILETUS Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 32415 9423554	28/08/2012 20:15 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, Indonesia Indonesia 00° 15.40' S 117° 35.90' E	Robbers boarded the anchored bulk carrier and stole the ship's stores. The robbery was noticed by a crew member when he saw a person jumping overboard and a boat picking him up. On inspection, it was noticed that the forward storeroom door was forced open to allow access into the store.	Robbers stole the ship's stores	Nil	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
12	TAIHO MARU Bulk carrier Panama 40322 9140358	31/08/2012 04:15 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Dumai Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 42.80' N 101° 27.90' E	Three robbers armed with long knives approached and boarded the anchored ship. The robbers took hostage the O/S on duty. Duty A/B who saw the incident informed the OOW. Alarm was raised and crew were alerted. The shore security onboard the ship managed to convince the robbers to free the O/S. All crew were safe and nothing was stolen.	Robbers boarded the ship and took one crew member hostage	Alarm was raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Dispatched patrol boat to the location

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

IN PORT AREA

1	TERNEN Chemical tanker Norway 10549 9341316	06/08/2012 00:50 UTC	WEST AFRICA 4nm SW of Lome Breakwater, Lome Anchorage, Togo Togo 06° 03.00' N 001° 16.00' E	Eight robbers in a wooden craft approached and attempted to board the anchored tanker using a long pole with a hook. The alert watch keepers spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. All crew mustered. Seeing crew alertness, the robbers aborted the boarding attempt and moved away. Master reported the incident to Togo Navy and a patrol boat came to the location and searched the area.	None	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Togo Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A patrol boat came to the location and searched the area
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