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MSC.4/Circ.116
2 April 2008

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during January 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 December 2007 and 31 January 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 4,538, an increase of 23 since 31 December 2007.

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 December 2007 being MSC.4/Circ.99, 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 and MSC.4/Circ.115.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	TI VE Yacht France 25	15/01/2008 22:45 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Bahia de Robledal, Isla de Margarita Venezuela 11° 03.00' N 064° 39.00' W	Five pirates armed with guns boarded the yacht. They assaulted the crew and robbed them of their personal belongings. One crew member was shot and injured. Incident reported to local authorities who undertook an investigation	Crew assaulted; one crew member shot and injured and personal belongings stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Local authorities and Naval Coast Guard Command, Venezuela	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Local authorities undertook an investigation
2	NA Fishing vessel	22/01/2008	SOUTH AMERICA (A) Off the coast of Coronie Suriname	Five pirates attacked the crews of 10 fishing vessels in the Atlantic Ocean and robbed them of their engines, fish and fish glue. Three of the vessels had returned to the Number 66 Fish Port Complex on the morning of 23 January 08. Some of the vessels drifted to the Coronie shore where the crew members awaited rescue; a rescue team from the complex had gone there with engines. Reportedly a suspicious boat was spotted on the Rose Hall shore on 25 January 08. A patrol was carried out but unable to trace the boat. A reward of \$500,000 for any information that can lead to the capture of the pirates had been sent out	-	Alarm raised	Yes UKMTO Dubai	UKMTO Dubai	A patrol was carried out but was unable to trace the boat

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NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific

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	Coastal State Action Taken								
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	O. M. AESTATIS Container ship Liberia 7170 9400590	01/12/2007 22:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA North Harbour, Manila Philippines 14° 33.60' N 120° 55.60' E	Six robbers armed with pistols boarded the ship using grapnels. The robbers were spotted onboard the ship by a duty crew who immediately informed the bridge via his hand-held radio set and sounded the ship's alarm. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped in their motorboat with the ship's life raft. There were no reported injuries	Life raft stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes The authorities and the Philippines Coast Guard (PCG)	ReCAAP Focal Point Philippines	The PCG immediately conducted a search of the area and checked all boats transiting the vicinity. The PCG advised all ship owners and the maritime community in Manila to be vigilant and adopt precautionary measures when their ships were at anchor or moored and to report similar incidents by VHF radio immediately to the PCG
2	MAKMUR ABADI-I Tug	23/12/2007 04:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Near Bilang-Bilangan island, off coast of East Kalimantan Indonesia	Seven men armed with sharp weapons boarded the tug towing a barge (MAKMUR ABADI-V). The robbers tied up the master and crew and locked them up in a room. They took control of the tug and steered her towards the port of Labuan, Malaysia. To disguise the ship, the robbers painted the tug black and changed its name from Makmur Abadi-I to Ocean Line-1 and the name of the barge from Makmur Abadi-V to Ocean Line-2. On 23 December 2007, at about 1000hrs, the Indonesian Navy ship successfully intercepted the tug, arrested the robbers and rescued the crew. Investigations by the authorities revealed that the robbers had falsified the tug's documents	-	Aalarm raised	Yes The Indonesian authorities	ReCAAP Focal Point and Antara News dated 28/12/2007	The Indonesian authorities dispatched a Naval ship which patrolled the vicinity and located the the tug and barge

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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

3	SYMS HUASHAN Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 9957 9306251	04/01/2008 09:20 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Vinh Ha Long Inner Anchorage, Haiphong Viet Nam 20° 51.80' N 107° 07.40' E	Seven robbers armed with knives, in a wooden boat came alongside the ship during anchoring operations. They stole ship's stores and attacked three crew members who tried to stop them. The duty watchman on board did not take any action to stop the robbers. No injuries to crew. Incident was reported to agent. Agent advised not to contact the police. No action taken	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Marine Police and Maritime Security Information Centre, Viet Nam	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP Focal Points	-
4	ACAVUS Chemical tanker Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 8531 9308754	05/01/2008 05:56 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Kakinada Roads India 16° 59.80' N 082° 26.70' E	Seven robbers in a 12-metre long open boat approached the ship at anchor. One robber boarded the ship using a grappling hook attached with rope via the poop deck. Duty A/B noticed the robber, challenged him and informed the OOW. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The robber climbed back into the waiting boat. Ship's property and stores stolen	Ship's property and stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes MRCC, Chennai, India	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP Focal Points	-
5	GLOBAL PATRIOT General cargo ship United States 26409 7504627	14/01/2008 01:44 LT	WEST AFRICA Luanda Anchorage Angola 08° 42.90' S 013° 18.80' E	Two robbers boarded the ship from a small boat. They broke open the forecastle paint store and stole ship's stores. Robbers were spotted by ship's crew. Alarm raised, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes UKMTO Dubai, Port authorities and Ministry of Home Affairs - Directorate of Exchange and Co-operation, Angola	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	GONDWANA Tug Belize 1137 7401320	16/01/2008 13:45 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Kakinada Roads India 16° 58.17' N 082° 24.26' E	Robbers in a small craft came alongside the tug, underway, towing a barge. They stole ship's stores. Alert crew raised alarm and mustered, took back the stolen stores and pushed the robbers back to their craft. The robbers boarded the barge and left after 20 minutes. Nothing was stolen. Local agent informed	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes MRCC Chennai, India	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP Focal Points	-
7	GLOBAL PATRIOT General cargo ship United States 26409 7504627	23/01/2008 06:20 LT	WEST AFRICA Luanda Inner Anchorage Angola 08° 46.20' S 013° 16.40' E	Pirates boarded the ship, broke open the forward paint locker and stole ship's stores unnoticed. The ship was later searched but no pirates were found. No injuries to crew. Authorities notified	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Port authorities, Luanda and Ministry of Home Affairs - Directorate of Exchange and Co- operation, Angola	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

8	NA Fishing vessel	26/01/2008	EAST AFRICA Near the village of Seyla, off the Puntland coast Somalia	Vessel was reportedly hijacked by six unidentified heavily armed gunmen and taken to Eyl. The name of the vessel is unknown; however, it is allegedly owned by an Omani company	Vessel hijacked	Alarm raised	Yes UKMTO Dubai	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
9	SCOTTISH BARD Tanker Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 20662 8810023	30/01/2008 21:30 UTC	WEST AFRICA Lagos Anchorage Nigeria 06° 17.62' N 003° 24.69' E	Four robbers armed with handguns and knives boarded the ship at anchor. Alert crew raised alarm and crew mustered. Robbers stole ship's store and escaped in a waiting boat	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Nigerian Navy and the Nigerian High Commission, Malaysia	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
10	SAMSUN EARNEST Bulk carrier Republic of Korea 19035 8307533	31/01/2008 19:55 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Callao No.1 Anchorage Peru 12° 01.80' S 077° 11.80' W	Four robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship at anchor. The robbers tied up the duty crew, stole his personal belongings, broke into the bosun's store and escaped with ship's stores. Master tried to contact Port Authority via VHF but got no response	Duty crew assaulted and personal belongings and ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Port Authority and MRCC Peru	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	No response from Port Authority

IN PORT AREA

1	W-O NOROC Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 9240 9232553	07/01/2008 02:35 LT	EAST AFRICA Berth No. 5, Beira Port Mozambique 19° 47.99' S 034° 49.77' E	Duty crew member on board the the berthed ship noticed a robber at forecastle deck and alerted crew. When confronted, the robber threatened the duty crew member with a knife. Noticing alert crew, the robber jumped overboard and escaped. Ship's stores stolen. Port facility informed	Crew member threatened and ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port facility and the High Commission of the Republic of Mozambique	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	RISANGER Chemical tanker NIS (Norway) 28246 9212369	08/01/2008 00:55 LT	WEST AFRICA Tema Anchorage Ghana	Three robbers armed with knives boarded the ship via forecastle. Duty A/B spotted the robbers who tried to catch him. Luckily, the A/B managed to escape. D/O raised the alarm, crew mustered and searched the area. It was observed that the robbers had unscrewed all the butterfly nuts of the forecastle hatch. However, as the hatch was locked from inside, the robbers could not enter the store. Nothing was stolen. Port Control informed	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port Control and MRCC Tema, Ghana	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	SCOTTISH BARD Tanker Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 20662 8810023	18/01/2008 03:53 LT	WEST AFRICA 3NM off Lagos Nigeria	Robbers boarded the ship during ship-to-ship cargo operations, stole ship's store and escaped. No injuries to crew	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Nigerian High Commission, Malaysia	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN PORT AREA

4	PRINCESS NADIA Bulk carrier Panama 84788 8409800	29/01/2008 04:15 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Pulau Laut Anchorage Indonesia	Four robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at anchor. Duty crew confronted them but that did not stop the robbers from stealing stores. The 2/O raised alarm, ship's whistle sounded and crew mustered. Fourteen crew members went forward. Seeing the crew, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped in a 30-metre long speedboat. Port authorities asked to be called after one hour when contacted by the ship	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port authorities, Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ, Puskodal, Indonesian Marine Police HQ and SAR Jakarta	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP Focal Points	Port authorities asked to be called after one hour when contacted by the ship
5	GO FRIENDSHIP Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 26136 9082958	30/01/2008 01:45 LT	WEST AFRICA Inner Anchorage, Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire	Two robbers boarded the ship at anchor. They stole ship's stores and escaped. Port authorities informed	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Port authorities and the Consulate of the Republic of Côte D'Ivoire, Singapore	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	ELBIA Cement carrier Panama 8323 7702140	31/01/2008 06:15 LT	WEST AFRICA 15NM SW off Bioko Island Equatorial Guinea 03° 12.00' N 008° 36.00' E	Ten armed persons in military clothing boarded the ship underway, identified themselves as Nigerian rebels and demanded food. After nearly six hours on board, they disembarked into speedboats where five other accomplices were waiting. No injury to crew or damage to the ship	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Cameroon Navy and the Embassy of Cameroon	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.116 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	NA Fishing vessel China	07/01/2008 06:50 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Beibu Gulf	About twelve alleged to be Viet Nameese fishing vessels fired at eleven Chinese fishing vessels. There were no reported casualties	-	Alarm raised	No -	ReCAAP Focal Points	-
2	LION CITY RIVER Tanker Singapore 56347 9329409	10/01/2008 21:55 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Phillips Channel, Straits of Malacca and Singapore 01° 05.60' N 103° 34.50' E	At a distance of 1NM, a small craft with its searchlight on, started impeding the safe passage of the ship underway. The ship altered course to manoeuvre clear of the craft. At the same time, the crew noticed another small unlit craft near midships on the port side. The ship enforced preventive measures and informed Singapore VTIS, who broadcast a security message to all ships in the area. A Navy patrol boat patrolled the area. VTIS assured Master that the ship was being monitored continuously	-	Raised alarm, altered course and enforced preventive measures	Yes VTIS Singapore, Bakorkamla, Singapore Police Coast Guard, MPA Singapore, SAR Jakarta and MRCC Putrajaya	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP Focal Points	VTIS broadcast a security message to all ships in the area. A Navy patrol boat patrolled the area. VTIS assured Master that the ship was being monitored continuously
3	COBRA Yacht Germany	29/01/2008 08:30 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN Southeast of Little Basses Sri Lanka 06° 00.80' N 082° 01.90' E	Pirates approached the yacht underway. Crew fired shots in the air and the pirates aborted the attempt. The pirates attempted to attack the yacht again at 1100 UTC	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes MRCC Sri Lanka	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and ReCAAP Focal Points	Sri Lanka Navy is investigating

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	ALTHEA Bulk carrier Malta 17697 9224855	04/01/2008 01:40 UTC	WEST AFRICA 7.5NM offshore, Lagos Anchorage Nigeria 06° 16.20' N 003° 22.70' E	Four armed robbers in a small rubber boat attempted to board the ship at anchor using grappling hook. Duty crew raised alarm and crew mustered with fire hoses. Robbers escaped. Nothing was stolen. Master tried to report to Port Control but no response	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Nigerian High Commission, Malaysia	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	No response from Port Control
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MSC.4/Circ.116
ANNEX 2

IN PORT AREA

1	SAFMARINE MEMLING Container ship Marshall Islands 23722 9193719	27/01/2008 21:05 LT	MEDITERRANEAN SEA Agadir Port Morocco	Three suspected robbers in divers' suits, without cylinders, swam to the ship at berth. Ship's watchmen saw them and raised alarm. The suspected robbers swam to another berth and escaped. Master informed Port Control. Port police arrived one hour later	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port Control and the Department of Maritime Fisheries, Morocco	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Port police came for investigation
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