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MSC.4/Circ.178
20 December 2011

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during November 2011

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 to 30 November 2011 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 of reporting of incidents and to enable users to generate their own search criteria and

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 of 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."

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 6,219, an increase of 27 since 31 October 2011.

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 twelve months and up to 30 November 2011 being MSC.4/Circ.164, MSC.4/Circ.165, MSC.4/Circ.167, MSC.4/Circ.168, MSC.4/Circ.170, MSC.4/Circ.171, MSC.4/Circ.172, MSC.4/Circ.173, MSC.4/Circ.174, MSC.4/Circ.175, MSC.4/Circ.176 and MSC.4/Circ.177.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	CHIN I WEN Fishing vessel China 290	03/11/2011 21:00 UTC	EAST AFRICA 260 NM south-west of Seychelles Somalia 06° 10.00' S 051° 10.00' E	Pirates attacked and hijacked a fishing vessel underway and took her 28 crew members hostage. The hijackers sailed the vessel towards the Somali coast. On 5/11/11, the crew managed to regain control of their vessel and a warship provided assistance. All 28 crew were safe.	Pirates took hostage 28 crew members and hijacked the vessel	Crew members managed to regain control of their vessel	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO, NATO Northwood, NATO UK, Yemen Coast Guard, MRCC Seychelles	A warship provided assistance to the vessel
2	ATLANTIC 3 Tug Malaysia 299 9476628	25/11/2011 23:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx 27NM east of Horsburgh Malaysia 01° 31.00' N 104° 47.00' E	While towing barge Atlantic 5 and sailing for Miri, Sarawak, an unknown number of pirates boarded the tugboat. The pirates damaged the communication system onboard the boat and escaped with the crew's personal belongings and cash. On 26/11/11 at about 2100 hours, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) located the tugboat anchored off Sg Rengit, east of OPL.	The communication system onboard the boat was damaged and the crew's personal belongings and cash were stolen	The Master reported the incident to the Malaysian Authorities	Yes Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point, Singapore, MMEA, Indonesian Marine Police	Located the tugboat anchored off Sg Rengit, east of OPL

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	OXL EMIR Ro-ro-cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 8861 9214587	03/11/2011 02:55 LT	NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN Freetown Sierra Leone 08° 30.06' N 013° 13.82' W	Two robbers boarded a general cargo ship at anchor. Robbers were spotted on main deck by duty watch man. Bridge was informed and alarm raised. The robbers escaped. Port authority was informed. Nothing was stolen and there were no casualties.	Robbers boarded the vessel	Duty watch informed bridge and alarm was raised	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UK High Commission in Freetown for onward action	-
2	WEALTHY Product tanker Singapore 1084	04/11/2011 02:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 2.5 NM south of Tg Ayam Malaysia 01° 18.65' N 104° 13.43' E	Seven masked robbers armed with long knives boarded the tanker from a boat. Five of them went into the galley, and another two proceeded to the C/O's cabin. One other robber was seen onboard the boat. The robbers ransacked the crew cabins, and tied up the crew with cable-ties. The master and one A/B sustained minor cuts during the struggle. The robbers escaped with the crew's personal belongings and valuables. The crew managed to free themselves after the robbers left the ship.	The robbers escaped with the crew's personal belongings and valuables. The crew were tied up with cable-ties	The master reported incident to the Malaysian Police	Yes Malaysian Police	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point, Singapore	-

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

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

3	KIMITRANS 3010 Barge carrier Singapore 3173	04/11/2011 19:33 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 3 NM north of Pulau Batam Indonesia 01° 14.86' N 104° 06.82' E	While sailing, an unknown number of robbers boarded the barge from a small boat. They escaped with an unknown amount of scrap iron in their small boat.	Crew was not injured. The robbers escaped with some scrap iron	Master informed Singapore Vessel Traffic Management (VTM)	Yes VTM Singapore	Singapore, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point, Singapore	A Republic of Singapore Navy patrol boat arrived at the location of the incident but did not spot any small boats in the vicinity of the barge.
4	HANSA ARENDAL Container ship Liberia 15988 9221059	08/11/2011 21:00 LT	NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN Guanta Outer Roads Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 27.10' N 064° 39.30' W	Robbers in a boat came alongside and boarded the drifting container ship. Duty watchman spotted three robbers on the main deck and informed the OOW who raised the alarm. The bridge crew directed searchlights towards the boat. On hearing the alarm, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped in their boat. On inspection, one container was found with a broken seal and the door had been opened, however, nothing was stolen. For safety, master sailed further out to sea.	One container was found with a broken seal and the door had been opened	OOW raised the alarm. The bridge crew directed searchlights towards the boat	Yes Port Control	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	MV SIAM JADE Bulk carrier Bahamas 16582 8400555	10/11/2011 04:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Bangladesh 22° 15.00' N 091° 45.00' E	While at anchor, the vessel was boarded by five robbers armed with knives in a small boat, who escaped with one mooring rope.	The crew were not injured. One mooring rope was stolen	The master reported incident to the Bangladesh authorities	Yes Bangladesh Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point, Bangladesh	Bangladesh Coast Guard undertook searches in the vicinity and conducted an investigation.
6	ERIA COLOSSUS Bulk carrier Panama 30811 9407512	14/11/2011 00:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Balikpapan Anchorage Indonesia 01° 22.46' S 116° 56.09' E	Alert duty crew noticed robbers on the forecastle deck attempting to rob ship's stores. The duty crew informed OOW who raised alarm and sounded the fog horn. Seeing alert crew, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped in a waiting boat. Nothing was stolen.	None	Raised alarm, sounded fog horn and crew alerted	Yes Balikpapan port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Indonesian Navy and Indonesian Marine Police	-
7	BETH Tanker Liberia 24112 9374416	16/11/2011 03:30 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Belawan Indonesia 03° 56.20' N 098° 47.50' E	Robbers boarded the tanker at anchor. Robbers stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. Master reported incident to port authority.	Ship's stores were stolen	All crew mustered and master conducted thorough search	Yes Port control	Indonesia, ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Indonesian Navy, Indonesian Marine Police	-

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

8	ELLEN S Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 9957 9374117	16/11/2011 21:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong, Bangladesh 22° 12.30' N 091° 42.20' E	Five robbers boarded a container ship at anchor. The master raised alarm and flashed search lights. The robbers escaped with ship's stores.	Ship's stores stolen	The master raised alarm and mustered all the crew	Yes Port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Bangladesh Coast Guard, Bangladesh Navy	-
9	MARITIME FIDELITY Bulk carrier Singapore 19724 9528861	20/11/2011 23:15 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage Bangladesh 22° 12.00' N 091° 45.00' E	Robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier at forecastle. The OOW alerted the crew on deck and they rushed to the forecastle. The robbers broke the forward store padlock and stole the ship's stores and escaped. The master made several attempts to contact the port authority but received no response.	Robbers stole the ship's stores	Master raised alarm and the crew mustered	Yes Port authority, but no response	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Bangladesh Coast Guard and Bangladesh Navy	-
10	MONOWARA General cargo ship Bangladesh 612 8304268	28/11/2011 19:30 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Bangladesh 22° 16.60' N 091° 48.10' E	While alongside berth, four to six robbers boarded the vessel and stole two mooring ropes.	The alerted crew informed Port authorities and the Bangladesh Coast Guard	The master informed the Port authorities	Yes Chittagong Port Authorities	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point, Bangladesh	The Coast Guard Authorities of Bangladesh deployed a patrol boat and apprehended the robbers.

IN PORT AREA

1	MY THINH Bulk carrier Viet Nam 8414 8915304	07/11/2011 02:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Yangon Port Myanmar 16° 46.00' N 096° 10.00' E	About seven robbers armed with rods, swords and catapults boarded the bulk carrier. The robbers stole some rope and working instruments before they escaped.	Some rope and working instruments were stolen	-	Yes Myanmar Port Authority	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point, Myanmar	-
2	SUN DIANA Tanker Panama 7215 9409508	14/11/2011 04:50 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Sandakan Port Malaysia 05° 50.00' N 118° 04.00' E	While at berth, four robbers armed with long swords boarded the tanker from a small wooden speed boat. The duty A/B noticed the robbers, ran inside the accommodation and informed the OOW, who raised the alarm. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in their speed boat. The crew was mustered and a check was conducted. Ship stores were missing.	Ships stores stolen	Duty A/B noticed the robbers, ran inside the accommodation and informed the OOW, who raised the alarm. The crew was mustered	Yes Local marine police	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point, Japan	-

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

IN PORT AREA

3	CELTIC SEA Oil tanker Singapore 59180 9402316	17/11/2011 20:10 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Vung Tau Viet Nam 10° 13.00' N 107° 04.00' E	While at anchor, the duty O/S noticed two robbers armed with metal rods on the poop deck starboard. The crew onboard alerted the bridge, raised the alarm and mustered the crew. The robbers escaped on hearing the alarm. The paint store lock was found broken and drums of paint were stolen.	Drums of paint were stolen	Crew onboard alerted the bridge, raised the alarm and mustered the crew	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point, Viet Nam	-	
4	GARDEN CITY RIVER Tanker Singapore 56146 9302970	30/11/2011 22:45 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Dumai Port Indonesia 01° 42.00' N 101° 29.00' E	Robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored crude oil tanker. Alert duty A/B sighted the robbers and informed the OOW who raised the alarm. Seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped. Nothing was stolen.	Robbers boarded the tanker	Master raised the alarm and mustered all crew	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Indonesian Navy, Indonesian Marine Police	-	

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	M.V. GREAT WISDOM Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 38910 9213545	08/11/2011 03:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Indian Ocean 12° 38.00' S 077° 55.00' E	While underway, the ship was chased by one suspect craft. The master and crew took evasive actions and reported the incident to the flag state. No boarding or attacks reported.	-	Evasive actions were taken by the master and crew	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point, Hong Kong	-
2	E.R. COPENHAGEN Container ship Germany 25630 9194878	11/11/2011 08:24 UTC	EAST AFRICA Around 450 NM east of Mombasa Kenya 03° 56.00' S 047° 14.00' E	Six pirates in a skiff armed with guns and rocket propelled grenades chased and fired upon a container ship underway. Master raised alarm, increased speed and all crew except the bridge team mustered in the citadel. After several attempts, the pirates aborted the attempted boarding due to the hardening measures taken by the ship. A mother vessel was in the vicinity. No injuries to crew, but there was some damage to the ship and cargo.	The vessel was fired upon and sustained some damage	Master raised alarm, increased speed and all crew except bridge crew were mustered in citadel	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO, NATO Northwood, NATO UK, Yemen Coast Guard	-
3	BW DANUBE Tanker Panama 43797 9365001	15/11/2011 04:18 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Off Salalah Oman 15° 49.10' N 055° 04.80' E	Eight pirates in two skiffs chased a product tanker underway. Master raised alarm, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and all crew except the bridge team mustered in the citadel. The security team onboard fired flares as a warning towards the skiffs. The pirates fired on the tanker and finally aborted the attempted attack and moved towards a mother vessel.	The vessel was fired upon	Master raised alarm, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and all crew except bridge crew mustered in the citadel	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO, NATO Northwood, NATO UK, Yemen Coast Guard	-
4	MSC JEANNE Container ship Panama 33113 7814826	21/11/2011 05:36 UTC	EAST AFRICA off Somalia Somalia 04° 03.00' S 042° 55.00' E	Six pirates in two skiffs armed with guns chased and fired at the container ship underway. Master raised alarm, took preventive measures and fired flares towards the skiffs, resulting in the pirates aborting the attempted attack and moving away.	Pirates fired at the ship	Master raised alarm, took preventive measures and fired flares towards the skiffs	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO, NATO Northwood, NATO UK, Yemen Coast Guard	-
5	STAR GAMMA Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 29295 9249300	27/11/2011 05:55 UTC	EAST AFRICA Approaching Suez Canal Egypt 15° 05.00' N 042° 00.00' E	Two dhow style boats approached the vessel within 1NM	-	Three warning shots fired, prompting the boats to turn away	No	Marshall Islands	-

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

6	VIOLETTA Container ship Marshall Islands 17360 9344710	29/11/2011 06:45 UTC	EAST AFRICA En route to Mombasa Kenya 02° 42.00' S 045° 26.00' E	Skiff started to pursue ship within 0.8 NM	-	The master raised the general alarm; all crew mustered at designated stations; all doors and exits secured. Security guards fired 2 signal parachutes and warning shots	Yes MSCHO, UKMTO, Marlo, IMB-PRC	Marshall Islands, ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Aircraft sent to survey area and confirmed presence of pirate action
7	CHRISTINA IV Bulk carrier Malta 37831 9189770	29/11/2011 08:57 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Salalah Oman 15° 02.00' N 056° 39.00' E	Armed pirates in a skiff approached and fired at a bulk carrier underway. Master raised alarm, carried out evasive manoeuvres and managed to evade the attack.	Pirates fired at the ship	Master raised alarm and took preventive, anti-piracy measures	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, NATO Northwood, Royal Oman Police and Yemen Coast Guard	-
8	MAERSK VENTURE Tanker Singapore 47386 9320764	30/11/2011 06:36 LT	EAST AFRICA Approx 65NM west of IRTC point A Somalia 12° 14.11' N 044° 09.50' E	While underway, three skiffs, which were at a distance of 2 NM apart, altered course and closed up to 0.5 NM. The ship increased speed, mustered crew and commenced ballast overflow. Due to the piracy counter measures initiated by the ship, the pirates aborted the chase.	-	The ship increased speed, mustered crew and commenced ballast overflow	Yes UKMTO	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point, Singapore	-
9	FANEROMENI Bulk carrier Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 27989 9290995	30/11/2011 14:00 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden Somalia 12° 18.00' N 044° 03.00' E	Six pirates armed with guns and rocket propelled grenades in two skiffs approached and fired at the bulk carrier underway. Master raised alarm, increased speed and all crew except the bridge team mustered in the citadel. The armed security team on board the vessel fired a warning shot. The pirates returned fire with AK-47. The exchange of fire lasted for about twenty minutes before the pirates aborted the attack and moved away.	Pirates fired at the ship	Master raised alarm, took anti-piracy and preventive measures. The onboard armed security team returned fire	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, NATO Northwood and Yemen Coast Guard	A warship proceeded to locate the skiffs

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	NAVISION IVORY General cargo ship Marshall Islands 6079 9191565	11/11/2011 05:50 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Buenaventura Colombia 03° 51.00' N 077° 05.00' W	Suspected robbers attempted to board using steel hook and rope	-	The watchmen reported to the bridge. The duty officer alerted all crew and the robbers aborted the attempted attack	Yes Colombia	Marshall Islands, ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Colombian Coastguard searched area with speed boats and search lights
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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.178 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

2	PIONEER PACIFIC Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 38267 9055620	20/11/2011 13:45 UTC	EAST AFRICA Bab el Mandeb Straits, Red Sea Djibouti 12° 27.00' N 043° 47.00' E	Two speed boats with eight persons in each boat approached the bulk carrier underway. The vessel fired hand flares when the boats were 600 metres away. The vessel heard the robbers fire at the vessel. The onboard security team returned fire, resulting in the boats moving away.	Robbers fired at the ship	Master raised alarm, No took preventive measures, fired flares and the onboard security team returned fire		ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO, NATO Northwood, NATO UK, Yemen Coast Guard	-
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