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MSC.4/Circ.129
20 March 2009

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during December 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 30 November 2008 and 31 December 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 4,821, an increase of 25 since 30 November 2008.

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 November 2008 being MSC.4/Circ.113, MSC.4/Circ.114, MSC.4/Circ.115, MSC.4/Circ.116, MSC.4/Circ.117, MSC.4/Circ.118, MSC.4/Circ.119, MSC.4/Circ.120, MSC.4/Circ.121, MSC.4/Circ.122, MSC.4/Circ.124, MSC.4/Circ.125, MSC.4/Circ.126, MSC.4/Circ.127 and MSC.4/Circ.128.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	ENTEBE STAR 21 Tug Singapore 229 9336103	01/12/2008 21:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 7.3NM off Teluk Juara, East of Pulau Tioman, Malaysia 02° 51.00' N 104° 19.00' E	Ten armed pirates boarded the tug underway. They threatened the master and crew with knives. Pirates tied up the crew with ropes and locked them in a compartment. They escaped with tug boat and crew's cash, documents and personal belongings. On 02.12.2008 at 0215 LT, the 2nd officer reported the incident to the owners and the owners instructed the master to sail the tug to Thailand. Incident reported to local police	Pirates threatened the master and crew with knives.	Alarm raised	Yes Local police and Marine Police Malaysia	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	MASINDRA 7 Tug Malaysia 262 7419688	16/12/2008 07:15 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 13° 54.00' N 049° 39.00' E	Pirates boarded and hijacked the tug towing an unladen barge (AMD 1; Malaysia; GT1822) enroute to Port Klang, Malaysia. Pirates are now sailing the tug to an undisclosed location in Somalia.	Pirates took hostage 11 crewmembers and hijacked the tug	Alarm raised	Yes Yemen Coast Guard and PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	Office of Naval Intelligence, United States and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	BOSPHORUS PRODIGY General cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 3062 8415158	16/12/2008 09:04 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 13° 20.82' N 047° 57.63' E	Pirates in two speedboats armed with automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades (RPG) attacked and opened fire on the ship underway. Master transmitted mayday messages and took evasive manoeuvres. Pirates managed to board and hijack the ship. Eleven crewmembers were taken hostage. Crew and vessel released on payment of ransom on 03/02/2009	Pirates fired upon the ship, took hostage 11 crewmembers and hijacked the ship	Master transmitted mayday messages and took evasive manoeuvres	Yes Flag State and PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	Office of Naval Intelligence, United States and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

4	ZHEN HUA 4 Heavy load carrier China 26650 7354292	17/12/2008 04:19 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 14° 28.00' N 051° 36.00' E	Nine pirates in two speedboats chased and successfully boarded the ship. The pirates were on the main deck and could not enter the accommodation. Ship sent a distress message to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre which was immediately relayed to coalition naval forces to render assistance. A Malaysian warship was sent to assist and a Malaysian helicopter arrived on scene and opened fire on the pirates. Coalition naval forces informed that the warship was on its way to assist the ship. The pirates disembarked from the ship into a speedboat. Crew and ship are safe and proceeding to destination port	-	Closed all entrance into the ship's compartments and forced the pirates to be on the ship's main deck.	Yes Via IMB PRC to the Coalition Forces and PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFIC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	Office of Naval Intelligence, United States and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	KLONG PHYRA Tug	25/12/2008	SOUTH CHINA SEA 19° 42.30' N 107° 43.00' E	The anchored tug boat, towing a barge loaded with waste oil/fuel oil was reported missing and uncontactable by the company on 24/12/08. The last known position of the tug was at 21°12' N, 108°30' E. Subsequently on 25/12/2008, the master reported that the tug boat and barge had been towed approximately 109NM southwest from the last known position by about 8 to 9 hours when the entire cargo and drums were discharged onto a motor-driven barge. The radio equipment was also taken away. The master reported that the robbers who towed their tug boat and barge spoke Chinese and Vietnamese	-	Alarm raised	No	ReCAAP ISC	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	CONTI GUINEA Chemical tanker Germany 22000 9391402	06/12/2008 01:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Belawan Outer Anchorage Indonesia	Robbers boarded the ship at anchor. They broke the bosun store padlock and stole ship's stores. Attempts to contact the authorities were unsuccessful	Robbers broke the bosun store and stole ship's stores	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ, Puskodal, Indonesian Marine Police HQ & SAR Jakarta	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	EUGENIA B Bulk carrier Malta 26778 9166883	25/12/2008 00:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Saigon River Viet Nam 10° 41.22' N 106° 45.60' E	An AB stationed on forecastle deck heard some noises and he immediately conducted a search. Two robbers were seen escaping. Upon investigation store padlocks were found broken. Nothing stolen	-	Alarm raised	Yes PRC relayed to Maritime Security Centre, Vietnam	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

3	MACLOW Yacht France	26/12/2008	SOUTH AMERICA (A) Bahia de Todos Os Santos Brazil	Two armed robbers boarded the yacht at anchor and assaulted two crewmembers. Robbers stole ship's property, cash and crew's personal belongings before escaping. The two injured crew were given shore medical treatment. Authorities are investigating	Robbers assaulted two crew and stole yacht's property, documents, cash and crew personal belongings	Alarm raised	Yes Local police and PRC relayed message to MRCC Brazil	Office of Naval Intelligence, United States and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Authorities are investigating
4	ALLIED CENTURION Mobile offshore drilling unit Malaysia 2455 6716895	26/12/2008 03:40 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Johor Outer Port Limits Malaysia 01° 18.05' N 104° 08.90' E	Six armed robbers boarded the ship and stole ship's stores and property. 1 crew suffered head injuries but condition is stable. Authorities informed who later boarded for investigation	Ship's stores and property stolen.	Alarm raised	Yes Marine Police, Coast Guard and PRC relayed message to MRCC Putra Jaya & MMEA	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Authorities boarded for investigation
5	VELEBIT Bulk carrier Liberia 23277 8915237	28/12/2008 19:50 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Callao Anchorage Peru 12° 01.90' S 077° 11.10' W	Ten robbers boarded the ship at anchor. They took hostage one duty crew and tied his hands and legs. Robbers stole ship's stores and property and escaped. Port Control informed. A Coast Guard boat patrolled the area	Robbers took hostage one duty crew and tied his hands and legs. They stole ship's stores and property	Alarm raised	Yes Port Control and PRC relayed message to Coast Guard Venezuela	Office of Naval Intelligence, United States and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	NA Yacht	08/11/2008	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Port Elizabeth, Bequia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	While anchored and owners were away, robbers broke in and stole a substantial amount of money and a cell phone. The police were contacted and a report was filed	Cash and personal belongings stolen	Alarm raised	Yes The Police	Office of Naval Intelligence, United States	-
2	AFRODITE Tanker Bahamas 30053 9292620	02/12/2008 02:30 UTC	WEST AFRICA Tema Anchorage Ghana	Four robbers boarded the ship at anchor. They stole ship's stores and escaped when noticed. No injuries to crew	Robbers stole ship's stores	Raised alarm and crew mustered	Yes PRC relayed message to Ghana High Commission, United Kingdom	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	TULUM Tanker Singapore 28534 9222560	11/12/2008 01:42 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong 'A' Anchorage Bangladesh 22° 15.00' N 091° 44.00' E	Six robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at anchor. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Coast Guard boarded for investigation. Ship's stores stolen from bosun store	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Coast Guard and PRC relayed message to Coast Guard Bangladesh, Ministry of Shipping & Intelligence Office of ISPS	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Coast Guard boarded for investigation
4	A ELEPHANT Tanker Liberia 145661 8608028	20/12/2008 03:40 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage "B" Bangladesh 22° 14.39' N 091° 44.43' E	Duty oiler onboard the ship spotted armed robbers near the engine store area. The alarm was raised, crew alerted and authorities contacted. Robbers escaped with stolen engine spares.	Ship's stores stolen	Crew alerted	Yes Port Control and Coast Guard and PRC relayed to CG, Director Shipping Department	Office of Naval Intelligence, United States and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN PORT AREA

5	MV NEWTEC Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 16438	26/12/2008 03:05 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 2.9NM from Pulau Mungging Malaysia 01° 19.13' N 104° 17.32' E	Three robbers were believed to have boarded the ship at anchor and fled. The ship's crew searched for the suspected robbers and checked the bulk carrier. The ship master reported no injuries to the crew and no loss of item on board the ship	-	Alarm raised	No	ReCAAP ISC	-
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ANNEX 2
Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly committed against ships reported by
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	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.129 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
N°									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	GINGA SAKER Chemical tanker Panama 12110 9258155	03/12/2008 04:19 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 12° 59.49' N 047° 41.56' E	Pirates, armed with automatic rifles, in a speedboat fired upon the ship underway. They tried to board the ship twice, using a portable ladder, but were unsuccessful due to the evasive manoeuvres taken by the ship. Pirates aborted the attempted attack after two hours. A coalition helicopter came to investigate	Pirates fired upon the ship	Master took evasive manoeuvres	Yes UKMTO Dubai and PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	MAERSK REGENSBURG Container ship Liberia 9957 9332676	06/12/2008 11:42 UTC	EAST AFRICA Off southern Somalia 06° 42.00' S 046° 58.00' E	Two pirate skiffs were seen approaching the ship underway. The 2nd mate increased speed, raised alarm, activated fire hoses and mustered crew on bridge. The pirates fired upon the ship with guns and rocket propelled grenades (RPG). Master activated SSAS, DSC distress and increased speed to maximum. After sometime, the pirates stopped firing and the distance increased. The pirates reloaded their weapons and started firing again. For some reason, one of the skiffs slowed down and the other boat was just trailing without firing. Finally, the two skiffs stopped and aborted the attempted attack. No injuries to crew. A fire broke out on board the ship due to the gunfire and RPG. A white hulled fishing boat-like vessel was sighted 10NM away, which could be the pirate mother vessel	Pirates fired upon the ship causing fire onboard and some damages due to the gunfire and RPG	2nd mate increased speed, raised alarm, activated fire hoses and mustered crew on bridge. The Master activated SSAS, DSC distress and increased speed to maximum	Yes Kenyan Navy, MRCC Reunion, MRCC Germany, UKMTO Dubai, French Navy and PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer, Yemen Coast Guard, AFRICOM & Kenyan Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

3	IONIAN SEA Tanker Singapore 55790 8920244	12/12/2008 11:40 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 13° 31.00' N 048° 39.00' E	One boat with seven armed pirates chased the ship underway. Pirates were seen carrying automatic weapons, rocket propelled grenades (RPG) and a wooden ladder for boarding. Later, the boat aborted the chase and headed towards another vessel nearby. A navy helicopter arrived at location. Description of the speed boat: wooden construction, 8 – 10 metres in length, blue coloured hull, raised bow, speed about 17 knots	-	Master took evasive manoeuvres	Yes Marlo Bahrain, UKMTO Dubai and PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	ALTAIR General cargo ship Panama 16325 7813602	12/12/2008 12:12 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 13° 32.70' N 048° 37.50' E	Eight pirates armed with machine guns and rocket propelled grenades (RPG) in a blue coloured speedboat doing 17 knots attacked the ship underway. They fired upon the ship with machine guns and attempted to board the ship, twice, using a ladder. Crew managed to detach the ladder even though the pirates were firing at the ship. Pirates aborted the attempted attack and tried to attack other vessels in the vicinity. Coalition forces were informed	Pirates fired upon the ship	Master took evasive manoeuvres and crew detach the ladder	Yes Coalition warship and PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	CONTI EXPRESS General cargo ship Cyprus 17465 8009466	13/12/2008 11:45 UTC	EAST AFRICA 31NM SW of Ras Al Kalb, Gulf of Aden 13° 43.00' N 048° 17.00' E	One wooden speedboat with 5-6 pirates armed with automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades (RPG) chased and opened fire on the ship underway. Pirates attempted to board with a ladder. Master took evasive manoeuvres and contacted coalition warships for assistance. A naval helicopter arrived at location. Upon arrival of the helicopter the skiff aborted the attack	Pirates fired upon the ship	Master raised alarm, took evasive manoeuvres and crew mustered	Yes Coalition warship and PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

6	EKTURUS Tanker Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 14937 8409068	16/12/2008 07:40 LT	WEST AFRICA 41NM south of Bonny River Nigeria 03° 43.30' N 007° 13.80' E	OOW onboard the drifting ship observed two speedboats approaching. Engines were started and crew alerted. Several bullets from automatic guns were fired towards the accommodation. The boats were white in colour. Each boat had at least nine pirates dressed in blue/white clothes	Pirates fired upon the ship	Engines were started and crew alerted	Yes PRC relayed message to High Commission of The Federal Republic of Nigeria, Malaysia	Office of Naval Intelligence and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
7	NA Yacht	17/12/2008 09:35 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 14° 24.00' N 049° 52.00' E	Two high-speed boats converged on the yacht from port and starboard quarters at the same distance. The captain contacted UKMTO and coalition forces. The two approaching vessels headed south away from the yacht. Approximately one hour later, six small speedboats converged on their position off the starboard quarter. Two of them split from the group and headed around the stern, two more pacing the starboard quarter and the other two staying stationary. After sometime, they split off, headed south and seemed to converge on other vessels in the area. Several hours later, the captain noticed a vessel on the starboard bow with its port light showing and no other navigation lights on display, approximately 2NM away. The suspicious boat then changed its course and headed straight towards the yacht. A voice then came over the radio CH 16 in English ordering them to stop. Five armed Yemeni Coast Guard soldiers were onboard the yacht to provide security. The captain warned the vessel over the radio to steer clear or they will open fire. The vessel continued on a course directly towards them. When the vessel reached 0.25NM from the yacht, the armed Yemeni Coast Guard fired warning shots in the air while the captain relayed another radio warning. More shots were fired before the suspicious vessel eventually turned away and left. The yacht continued its voyage without further incident	-	Raised alarm and contacted UKMTO and the coalition forces	No	Office of Naval Intelligence, United States and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Yemeni Coast Guards boarded to provide security
8	NA Vehicle carrier	22/12/2008 05:30 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden, 13° 44.00' N 049° 05.00' E	Whie underway, an 8-metre white coloured skiff approached the ship from the starboard bow at a speed of approximately 25 kts. The Master contacted UKMTO who then dispatched a coalition helicopter that chased the skiff away	-	Raise alarm and contacted UKMTO	Yes Office of Naval Intelligence, United States	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

9	WADI AL-ARAB Bulk carrier Egypt 37550 9107681	25/12/2008 07:43 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 14° 13.72' N 050° 51.05' E	The ship underway was chased and fired upon by a pirate boat. The ship sent a distress message which was relayed by a passing ship to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) for assistance. The IMB PRC immediately contacted the authorities for assistance. A warship and a helicopter were sent to assist the ship. Seeing the naval helicopter approaching, the pirate boat aborted and moved away. One crewmember was injured on his leg from a bullet fired by the pirates. The injured crew was airlifted to a warship for medical treatment. The rest of the crew are safe. Ship proceeding to destination port	One crew received bullet injury on his leg.	Sent distress message, took evasive action	Yes PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFIC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	Office of Naval Intelligence, United States and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
10	S. VENUS Bulk carrier Panama 22221 8323111	31/12/2008 13:30 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 13° 08.00' N 047° 27.00' E	The ship underway was chased and fired upon by pirates in a speedboat. Alarm raised and attack was prevented by a French frigate in the vicinity which intercepted the pirates	Pirates fired upon the ship	Alarm raised	Yes PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFIC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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