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MSC.4/Circ.187
4 September 2012

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during July 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 July 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 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 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 6,467, an increase of 21 since 30 June 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 twelve months and up to 31 July 2012 being MSC.4/Circ.174, 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 and MSC.4/Circ.186.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	AL MARU Product tanker Honduras 1007 7727504	05/06/2012 11:24 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 30 NM ESE off Horsburgh Singapore 01° 56.00' N 104° 54.00' E	While sailing, the tanker was approached by two small wooden boats and approximately six pirates armed with long knives boarded the ship. The pirates took control and hijacked the ship. On seeing a helicopter from the law enforcement agencies, the pirates left with the crew's cash and personal belongings.	The crew did not sustain any injuries. The cabin doors and communication equipment were damaged. The pirates stole the crew's personal belongings and cash	The chief officer informed the sister ship which relayed the message to the shipping company	Yes Royal Singapore Navy, Police Coast Guard Singapore, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and Malaysian Police	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	MPA issued a broadcast to warn mariners to step up anti-piracy watch when passing through the area. Indonesia and Malaysia counterparts were informed
2	NAME WITHHELD Chemical tanker Liberia 8539	25/06/2012 01:10 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 50 NM SE off Lagos Nigeria 05° 32.50' N 003° 32.00' E	Twelve pirates armed with guns in a speed boat boarded the drifting tanker. All crew were made to muster in the mess room while the master and Chief Engineer were allowed to remain on the bridge and engine room respectively. The tanker was made to sail towards Togo and back. The pirates raided all the crew's cabins where they stole cash, personal effects and then stole the ship's cash. The pirates disembarked at Escravos Terminal after 45 hours. All crew were safe.	The pirates raided all the crew's cabins where they stole cash, personal effects and then stole the ship's cash	-	Yes Togo Navy, Nigerian Navy & MRCC Nigeria. PRC relayed message to MRCC Nigeria & Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	LUTETIA Container ship Liberia 35881 9246695	02/07/2012 03:00 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Approx. 25NM off Guayaquil Ecuador 02° 33.70' S 080° 06.30' W	About 5-6 pirates in two speed boats approached and boarded the container ship underway using hooks attached to ropes and ladders. Master raised the alarm, crew mustered and armed themselves with crowbars and proceeded to the pirates' boarding area. 3/O noticed that one of the pirates was armed with a gun and the master immediately ordered all crew members to retreat into the accommodation and lock all the doors. The pirates started throwing some boxes into their boats. Master was unable to increase speed or take evasive manoeuvres due to depth and width of navigable water. Once the pirates' boats were full of stolen items, they jumped back into their boats and moved away.	Some cargo from containers was stolen	Master raised alarm, crew mustered, armed themselves with crowbars and proceeded to the pirates' boarding area	Yes Port Control, PRC relayed message to MRCC Ecuador & Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Coast Guard vessel arrived at location and two coast guard officers boarded the vessel for investigation

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IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

4	CONFIDENCE Tug Mongolia 297	13/07/2012	MALACCA STRAIT During passage in the Malacca Straits	An accommodation barge under tow by the tug from Penang to Pasir Gudang port arrived at anchorage and dropped anchor. Shipyard representatives boarded the barge and later the tug. They informed the tug master that the cargo on the barge's deck had been pilfered. It is suspected the theft may have taken place while on passage. A police report was lodged.	Cargo was stolen	-	Yes Local Police, PRC relayed message to MMEA and Marine Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	OLIVIA Container ship Germany 14936 9101510	15/07/2012 03:55 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 22NM SSW of Conakry Guinea 09° 13.90' N 013° 47.40' W	Seven pirates armed with guns and knives boarded the drifting ship awaiting berthing instructions. They entered the bridge, took hostage the 2/O and C/O and tied their hands behind their backs. Two pirates took the 2/O and knocked on the master's cabin. As the master opened the door, they slammed it into the master's face and then stole the ship's cash and crew's personal belongings. The pirates re-assembled on the bridge and took the crew members hostage until they disembarked into their waiting boat. Port control and ships in the vicinity were informed.	Pirates took hostage the crew members, stole ship's cash and crew's personal belongings	Crew co-operated with the pirates	Yes Conakry Port Control. PRC relayed message to MRCC Guinea	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	ARGOS General cargo ship Marshall Islands 19796 9278167	17/07/2012 01:45 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 1 NM Off Fairway Buoy, Cotonou Benin 06° 17.30' N 002° 28.10' E	Two robbers armed with guns boarded the cargo ship. They entered the master's cabin, stole ship's cash and escaped in a small wooden boat. Crew were not injured. Incident was reported to authorities who came onboard to investigate.	Robbers stole ship's cash	Ship increased security measures	Yes Benin Navy, Nigerian Navy & Port Control, PRC relayed message to Cotonou RCC, MRCC Lagos, Benin Navy & Nigerian Navy	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Benin Navy boarded the ship to investigate
2	WOODMAN 38 Tug Malaysia 194 9257307	27/07/2012 02:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Between Kudat and Bangli Island, Sabah, Malaysia Philippines 07° 56.33' N 117° 17.05' E	Six robbers in a speed boat attacked and hijacked a tug towing a barge (Woodman 39) while en-route to Samarinda, Indonesia. The pirates placed the 12 crew members in a life raft and set them adrift. The hijackers sailed the tug and barge to an unknown location. The 12 crew members were rescued by the Philippines Coast Guard on 01.08.2012 near Cotabato City, Philippines. The tug and barge were located on 03.08.2012 at General Santos in the Philippines.	The crew was rescued by the Philippines authorities on 31 July. The ship was hijacked and later abandoned	Reports indicate the crew was asked to jump overboard	Yes Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and the Indonesian authorities	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Philippines CG rescued the 12 crew members

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IN PORT AREA

1	STADT SEVILLA Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 35878 9440306	03/07/2012 20:50 UTC	EAST AFRICA Dar es Salaam Port United Republic of Tanzania	Robbers boarded the berthed container ship, stole ship's stores and escaped unnoticed. The theft was discovered by the duty A/B on rounds. Incident was reported to Port Security.	Robbers stole ship's stores	Master reported the incident to the Port Security Officer	Yes Port control, PRC relayed message to MRCC Dar es Salaam & Tanzanian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The Port Control placed watchmen at forward and aft of the ship
2	MAERSK VISUAL LPG tanker Singapore 47386 9320738	04/07/2012 06:55 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Visakhampatnam Anchorage India 17° 39.50' N 083° 23.30' E	Six robbers in a long wooden boat with sail and oars came alongside the anchored LPG tanker. Two of the robbers boarded the tanker and stole some items of the ship's property. OOW noticed the boat and asked the duty A/B to investigate. On seeing the robbers at poop deck, the duty A/B chased them. The robbers jumped into the water and escaped with the stolen items while their accomplices were waiting in the boat. Alarm was raised, port control was informed and crew did a search.	Robbers stole one set of fire hose and nozzle	Master raised the alarm and reported incident to Port Control	Yes Port Control, PRC relayed message to MRCC Chennai & Indian Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	Indian Coast Guard boat patrolled the anchorage area
3	MAERSK CUBANGO Container ship Hong Kong, China 50869 9525481	09/07/2012 15:20 LT	WEST AFRICA No 11 Inner Anchorage, Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire 05° 16.40' N 004° 01.80' W	While at anchor, two robbers boarded the ship from a small blue hull boat and escaped with 50 metres of spare mooring rope.	The crew did not sustain any injuries	The master reported the incident to the port authorities	Yes Port Control	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Hong Kong)	Abidjan Port Control relayed the message to port security and the local agent
4	K. NEPTUNE Bulk carrier Panama 18462 9634892	17/07/2012 03:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Dumai Anchorage Indonesia 01° 43.07' N 101° 27.72' E	Seven robbers armed with knives boarded the bulk carrier at anchor. They threatened the crew with knives, broke the padlocks of three stores and attempted to steal the ship's property. Alarm was raised, crew mustered and the authorities were informed. On noticing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped empty-handed. All crew were safe.	Robbers boarded the vessel, threatened the crew and attempted to steal the ship's stores	Alarm was raised, the crew mustered and informed the authorities	Yes Port Control, PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy and Indonesian Marine Police	ReCAAP ISC via Focal Point (Singapore), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	WEHR BLANKENESE Container ship Marshall Islands 16177 9149902	18/07/2012 20:40 UTC	EAST AFRICA Beira Port Mozambique 19° 49.00' S 034° 50.00' E	Robbers boarded the ship at berth, stole ship's stores and mooring rope and escaped unnoticed. Master informed port authorities and local agent. All crew were safe.	Robbers boarded the vessel and stole ship's stores and mooring rope	The master increased watches, phasing to random security watches	Yes Yes. Port Control via local agent, PRC relayed message to MRCC Mozambique	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN PORT AREA

6	EAGLE AURIGA Tanker Singapore 55962 9008744	22/07/2012 05:10 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Karimun Anchorage Indonesia 01° 05.74' N 103° 29.60' E	While at anchor, four robbers armed with one long pipe boarded the tanker from a small boat. On spotting the robbers, the ship's alarm was sounded. The robbers escaped with some engine spare parts.	Robbers stole engine spare parts	Ship's alarm was sounded. The master reported the incident to the port authorities	Yes Karimun Pilot station and Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ & Indonesian Marine Police HQ	Coast Guard officers and two port patrol officials boarded the tanker for investigation
7	KING HAKAN Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 90439 9490466	23/07/2012 07:40 UTC	EAST AFRICA El Dekheila Port Egypt 31° 09.00' N 029° 48.00' E	Six robbers in two boats approached a berthed ship from forward and aft during cargo operations. Without boarding the ship, the robbers were able to cut, and escaped with, two head and stern line eyes. The ship remained alongside and the crew members were able to re-moor the ship.	Robbers stole mooring ropes	The master raised the alarm, increased security rounds, improved co-ordination with onboard policeman and reported incident to Port of Alexandria Authority	Yes Alexandria Port Authority, PRC relayed message to JRCC Cairo, Egypt	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
8	URSULA Chemical tanker Singapore 11254 9440667	27/07/2012 23:30 UTC	WEST AFRICA Lome Anchorage Togo 06° 05.00' N 001° 18.00' E	D/O onboard the anchored tanker noticed on the radar a wooden boat approaching at a speed of five knots. Lookouts directed the search light towards the approaching boat and 12 armed robbers were identified. Alarm was raised and ship's horn sounded, but the boat continued to approach. All crew except the duty officer entered the citadel. The D/O tried to call the Togo Navy without success. After alerting other ships in the vicinity the D/O retreated into the citadel as the robbers boarded the tanker using ropes and hooks. After several attempts, and with assistance from other ships in the vicinity, the D/O eventually established communication with the navy and informed them of the boarding. After around 30 minutes, a Togo Navy boat arrived, confirmed no other boats were in the vicinity and asked the D/O to check the accommodation and other areas of the tanker. Once the crew established that no robbers were onboard, the navy personnel boarded the tanker, carried out a complete search of the tanker and took statements from the crew. Nothing was stolen and the tanker was not damaged.	Armed robbers boarded the tanker	Alarm raised, ship's horn sounded and all crew entered the citadel. SSAS was activated and the search light switched on	Yes Togo Navy, PRC relayed message to RCC Togo & Togo Navy Operations Centre	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Togo Navy boat arrived at the location. They boarded the tanker, carried out a search and took statements from the crew

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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IN PORT AREA

9	SICHEM FUMI Chemical tanker Panama 6275 9141895	28/07/2012 04:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Tanjung Perak Port, Surabaya Indonesia 07° 11.85' S 112° 43.57' E	Two robbers armed with knives boarded the berthed tanker. The ship's property was stolen. Later, the crew caught the robbers and recovered the stolen items.	Robbers stole ship's property. The crew did not sustain any injuries	Crew caught the robbers and recovered the stolen items	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ & Indonesian Marine Police HQ	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
10	NORD AARHUS Bulk carrier Singapore 21934 9595254	31/07/2012 08:40 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Buenaventura Anchorage Colombia 03° 49.40' N 077° 09.70' W	Three robbers in a black motor boat boarded the anchored bulk carrier. They broke the padlock at forecastle paint store and forward store. They were noticed by the duty crew who informed the duty officer on the bridge. Alarm was raised. Robbers jumped into the water and escaped in the waiting boat. Coast Guard was informed. On investigation it was discovered that the ship's stores had been stolen.	Ship's stores were stolen	Alarm was raised and a thorough search was carried out onboard	Yes Coast Guard, PRC relayed message to CG Colombia	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), Coast Guard boat arrived to patrol the area

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	SPILLANI Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 25498 9070773	12/07/2012 17:25 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden Somalia 12° 56.80' N 048° 03.50' E	Three skiffs approached the ship head on. Using evasive manoeuvres and other best management practices, the security team forced the pirates to abort the attack.	-	The master took evasive manoeuvres, raised the alarm and sounded the whistle. The security team positioned and activated water spray	Yes UKMTO Coalition Forces	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Not known at this time. Coalition warship acknowledged and advised the victim ship
2	MAA SAMUDA KHATUN Bulk carrier Bangladesh 24615 8419582	27/07/2012 11:45 UTC	EAST AFRICA Red Sea Sudan 13° 34.00' N 042° 39.00' E	Two white coloured skiffs with seven armed pirates in each skiff approached the ship underway in the TSS south of Hanish Al Kubra Island from the port and stb sides. As the skiffs closed in to 0.2 NM from the ship, ladders were sighted and the onboard armed security team fired warning shots, resulting in the skiffs moving away.	-	Master raised the alarm, took evasive manoeuvres and the armed security team fired warning shots	Yes PRC relayed message to CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, EUNAVFOR Atalanta, UKMTO, NATO Northwood, Alindien, Marlo Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CTF 151, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer & Yemen Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	BLUE SKY 1 Tanker Marshall Islands 24112 9335903	27/07/2012 00:30 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 8 NM off Lome, Togo 06° 00.00' N 001° 17.00' E	Robbers in three boats approached and attempted to board the anchored tanker. Master raised the alarm and crew activated fire hoses towards the boats. The robbers used rain coats and continued their attempt. Master heaved up the anchor and moved away from the location. Togo Navy was informed.	-	Master raised the alarm	Yes Togo Navy, PRC relayed message to RCC Cotonou and Togo Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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IN PORT AREA

1	ESHIPS DUGON Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 8473 9353890	30/07/2012 01:40 LT	WEST AFRICA Lome Anchorage Togo 06° 02.50' N 001° 16.50' E	Five suspects in a wooden boat approached the anchored tanker. Alarm was raised, crew mustered in the citadel and the Togo Navy was notified. The suspects aborted the attempt and moved away on seeing the navy patrol boat approaching. Later, at 0312 LT, another two boats with 16 suspects approached and came alongside the tanker from both sides and were observed investigating the fending arrangements around the tanker. Subsequent attempts to contact the Togo Navy were unsuccessful. Alarm was raised and ship's whistle was sounded continuously, resulting in the persons moving away.	16 suspects approached the tanker from both sides	Alarm was raised and ship's whistle was sounded continuously	Yes Togo Navy. PRC relayed message to RCC Togo & Togo Navy Operations Centre	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Togo Navy sent patrol boat to the location
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