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MSC.4/Circ.101
24 May 2007

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during March 2007

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 28 February 2007 and 31 March 2007, 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 4,296 an increase of 16 since 28 February 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 February 2007 being MSC.4/Circ.83, MSC.4/Circ.84, MSC.4/Circ.85, MSC.4/Circ.86, MSC.4/Circ.87, MSC.4/Circ.88, MSC.4/Circ.89, MSC.4/Circ.90, MSC.4/Circ.91, MSC.4/Circ.92, MSC.4/Circ.93, MSC.4/Circ.94, MSC.4/Circ.95, MSC.4/Circ.96, MSC.4/Circ.97, MSC.4/Circ.98, MSC.4/Circ.99 and MSC.4/Circ.100.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	AI MARU Tanker Honduras 1007 7727504	14/03/2007 16:26 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 30NM East of Bintan Island Indonesia 01° 07.29' N 105° 03.66' E	Ten armed pirates intercepted and boarded the ship from two grey-coloured fibre-glass speedboats with outboard engines. The crew activated the AIS alert system and broadcast a distress message. The crew was tied up at gunpoint and blindfolded. The pirates took control of the ship and the master was ordered to turn the ship North East towards Malapas Island. After steaming for 45 minutes, the ship's engines stalled 40NM from Horsburgh lighthouse. When the pirates could not restart the engines, they abandoned the ship and escaped in the speedboats. The crew managed to free themselves. VTIS was informed and the ship made its way to Singapore. There were no injuries to crew and all cargo intact but they stole crew's personal effects, ship's property and smashed all communication equipment	Crew members assaulted, communication equipment damaged, crew's personal effects and ship's property stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes VTIS Singapore, SAR Jakarta, Indonesian Navy Headquarters, PUSKODAL and Marine Police Headquarters	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	ABAN VII Mobile offshore drilling unit Panama 5250 8754683	22/03/2007 07:05 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN SW Coast India 08° 43.00' N 076° 14.00' E	Three pirates in two speedboats boarded the rig under tow by two tug boats. The pirates were noticed while preparing to transfer equipment from the rig to their speedboats. Master raised alarm and the pirates jumped overboard and escaped in their boats	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Coast Guard, India	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	MSC DENISSE Container ship Panama 28176 7435292	15/03/2007 16:40 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA 5NM South of Vung Tau Viet Nam 10° 14.40' N 107° 04.80' E	The ship at anchor was boarded by robbers at forecastle deck. Ship's stores were stolen	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Marine Police, Viet Nam	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	NA Fishing vessel Guyana	22/03/2007 23:30 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (A) Pomeroon River Mouth Guyana	Five robbers armed with guns in a speedboat fired upon the vessel and boarded. They ordered the fishermen to lie down on deck and stole ship's properties and escaped. There were no injuries to crew	Vessel fired upon and ship's property stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Guyana High Commission, United States	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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

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

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

3	GRACE CASABLANCA General cargo ship Hong Kong, China 5702 9353462	29/03/2007 02:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Bintulu G. Cargo Anchorage Malaysia 03° 14.00' N 112° 58.00' E	Five robbers armed with knives boarded the ship. The 2/O spotted them, raised alarm and alerted crew who proceeded to forecastle. Robbers threw shackles at crew but no one was injured. The robbers stole ship's stores and escaped in their boat. Port control was informed and a patrol boat arrived two hours later and conducted an investigation	Crew members assaulted and ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port Control, MRCC Putra Jaya and Marine Police Headquarters	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A patrol boat arrived two hours later and conducted an investigation
4	RHONEBORG Container ship Netherlands 19573 9031064	29/03/2007 03:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Roads Bangladesh	Two robbers using grappling hooks with ropes boarded the ship from a small boat near the stern. Alarm was raised by the deck watchmen who were attacked by the robbers armed with knives. The crew sustained serious cuts to their hands. The robbers jumped overboard and the small boat moved away. Port control was informed. The small boat was still near the ship but moved away when the Coast Guard came on board to investigate	Crew members injured	Alarm raised	Yes Port Control, Coast Guard Bangladesh, Ministry of Shipping and the Director General (Focal Point)	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Coast Guard came on board to investigate
5	SEVERN FISHER Tanker Gibraltar (United Kingdom) 6892 8116611	31/03/2007 01:00 LT	WEST AFRICA 12NM SW of Lagos Nigeria 06° 14.40' N 003° 14.40' E	Robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at anchor from the forecastle, using grappling hooks. They successfully cut mooring ropes and threw them overboard into a waiting boat. The watchmen informed the D/O who raised alarm and alerted crew members. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped when crew members went forward to apprehend them. The ship weighed anchor and drifted 35NM off port limit	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Nigerian Police and Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	GAS FORTUNE Gas carrier - LNG Marshall Islands 3529 9137595	07/01/2007 21:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Pertamina Jetty #4 - Plaju Indonesia 02° 59.10' S 104° 05.28' E	Three robbers gained access to the ship from the outboard side of the ship via a motorboat. The robbers held the 3rd Engineer and stole parts from the engine room. They were detected by the AB on watch. The general alarm was raised	One crew member held and ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Pertamina Plaju Agent	Marshall Islands	Unknown
2	SHIMAKAZE Chemical tanker Panama 10734 8217207	08/03/2007 03:45 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Sagar Anchorage India 21° 39.95' N 088° 01.05' E	One robber boarded the ship at poop deck. The 2/O noticed the robber, raised alarm and mustered crew. The robber jumped overboard and escaped with ship's stores in a small wooden boat. Port control informed	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port Control and Coast Guard, India	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

MSC.4/Circ.101
ANNEX 1

IN PORT AREA

3	NDS PRINCESS General cargo ship Panama 16564 7826893	09/03/2007 03:55 LT	WEST AFRICA Luanda Inner Anchorage Angola 08° 45.97' S 013° 16.39' E	Two robbers boarded the ship at forward. They tied up the duty A/B, snatched his walkie-talkie and tried to open the hawse pipe cover plate nuts. The duty A/B managed to untie himself and informed the D/O on bridge who raised alarm and sounded ship's whistle. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped with ship's property	Crew member assaulted and ship's property stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Local authority and Embassy of Angola, London	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	KOURION Tanker Singapore 50049 8413514	21/03/2007 18:55 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Dumai Port Indonesia 01° 41.20' N 101° 27.90' E	Three robbers armed with knives boarded the ship from port quarter. They entered accommodation. Master raised alarm, alerted crew and informed authorities. A search party conducted a thorough search onboard and found nothing missing	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Harbour Master, Indonesian Navy Headquarters, Marine Police Headquarters and SAR Jakarta	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	NORTHERN EXPLORER Research ship Panama 3072 8606460	12/03/2007 09:10 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Red Sea 18° 29.02' N 038° 19.26' E	Three pirates in a speedboat fired upon the ship. A Sudanese Navy vessel came to its assistance and detained the pirates. It appeared that after 20 minutes the pirates were released. No injuries to crew	Ship fired upon	Raised alarm and activated SSAS	Yes Sudanese authorities, MARLO Bahrain, UKMTO Dubai, CUSNC Fleet Watch Officer, CIFIC Watch, CTF 150 & Yemen Maritime Affairs	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A Sudanese Navy vessel came to its assistance and detained the pirates
2	NA Yacht	21/03/2007 09:50 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Gulf of Aden 14° 03.60' N 049° 07.00' E	Two vessels approached the yacht underway at high speed. Crew raised alarm, mustered crew and activated fire hoses. The yacht increased speed and took evasive manoeuvres. The vessels aborted attempt and moved away	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, NATO Northwood, MARLO Bahrain, NATO UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFIC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer and Yemen Maritime Affairs Headquarters	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	HEINRICH OLDENDORFF Bulk carrier Liberia 39893 9216406	28/03/2007 07:07 UTC	MALACCA STRAIT Malacca Strait 04° 40.00' N 099° 15.50' E	Four pirates in a 15-metre long grey hull wooden speedboat was observed drifting across the ship's intended course. The boat suddenly approached the ship underway. Master raised alarm, took evasive manoeuvres, mustered crew and activated fire hoses. Pirates attempted to board the ship with ropes and long stick with steps. After 20 minutes, the pirates moved away	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes MRCC Putra Jaya, Indonesian Navy Headquarters, Puskodal, Marine Police Headquarters and SAR Jakarta	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	NORTHERN EXPLORER Research ship Panama 3072 8606460	11/03/2007 18:12 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Red Sea 18° 32.56' N 038° 12.25' E	Fifteen robbers in a 12-metre long wooden boat, armed with AK-47 rifles, approached the ship conducting surveying operations underway and fired upon the bridge of the ship. The ship activated SSAS, contacted Sudanese authorities and took evasive action	Ship fired upon	Raised alarm and activated SSAS	Yes Sudanese authorities, MARLO Bahrain, UKMTO Dubai, CUSNC Fleet Watch Officer, CIFIC Watch, CTF 150 and Yemen Maritime Affairs	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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	Gross Tonnage IMO Number								
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

2	ZEAL Tanker Cyprus 16757 8028589	13/03/2007 04:10 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Balongan Anchorage Indonesia 06° 14.20' S 108° 26.50' E	Robbers armed with knives in an unlit boat approached the ship at anchor and threw a line onboard at the port quarter. On seeing the alert crew, the robbers aborted the attempt	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes SAR Jakarta, Indonesian Navy Headquarters and Marine Police Headquarters	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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