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MSC.4/Circ.119
12 June 2008

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during April 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 March 2008 and 30 April 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 4,599, an increase of 33 since 31 March 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 March 2008 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.115, MSC.4/Circ.116, MSC.4/Circ.117 and MSC.4/Circ.118.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	BRUM OCEAN Fishing vessel Yemen	01/04/2008	EAST AFRICA 75 NM South of Mukalla Port, Gulf of Aden Yemen 13° 30.00' N 049° 10.00' E	Robbers armed with guns attacked and hijacked the fishing vessel and sailed into Somali territorial waters. The fishing vessel, along with its 34 crew was released when a military helicopter intervened	Ship was hijacked	-	Yes Yemen Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A military helicopter intervened and rescued the 34 crew members and the vessel
2	LE PONANT Passenger ship France 1189 8914219	04/04/2008 09:48 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Eden 13° 12.00' N 050° 14.00' E	Ten pirates armed with assault rifles and RPG in two speed boats attacked the sailing cruise vessel while underway. They took hostage 30 crew members and hijacked the vessel to Somali coast. SSAS activated. Yemen Maritime Authorities and coalition forces informed. After payment of a ransom, some of the pirates were later arrested by French forces	Ship was hijacked	SSAS were activated	Yes Yemen Maritime Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	SPAR CETUS Bulk carrier Norway 25982 9154608	13/04/2008 02:05 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 12NM Off Mangkai Island Indonesia 03° 13.00' N 105° 26.00' E	Twelve pirates, in a speed boat, armed with guns, swords and iron bars approached the ship underway. Master raised alarm, crew directed fire hoses and SSAS activated. Pirates boarded the ship and stole crew's personal belongings, ship's cash and property. After 50 minutes, they left the ship. No injuries to crew except minor bruises. Ships in vicinity alerted	Crew's personal belongings, ship's cash and property were stolen	Master raised alarm, crew directed fire hoses, ships in vicinity alerted and SSAS activated	Yes JRCC Norway	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	MONALISA Tanker Singapore 3802 8113748	18/04/2008 03:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Off Mangkai Island Indonesia 03° 16.18' N 105° 26.68' E	Pirates armed with long knives in a speed boat boarded the tanker underway. They stole crew's personal belongings and ship's property and escaped. No injuries	Crew's personal belongings and ship's property were stolen	-	Yes MPA Singapore	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	PLAYA DE BAKIO Fishing vessel 2101 9010345	20/04/2008 14:52 UTC	EAST AFRICA Somalia 00° 06.24' S 049° 08.56' E	Pirates armed with guns and grenade launchers attacked the fishing vessel and hijacked it. The vessel and 23 crew were released on payment of a ransom on 26 April	Pirates hijacked the vessel to unknown location	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

6	TAKAYAMA Tanker Japan 150053 9052343	23/04/2008 01:10 UTC	EAST AFRICA 13° 00.30' N 049° 07.40' E	Five speed boats chased and opened fire on the tanker underway, in ballast. Vessel increased speed and enforced anti-piracy preventive measures. Speed boats aborted the attack after 30 minutes and disappeared. Some damage to hull possibly due to RPG fire. No injuries to crew	Pirates fired upon the vessel and damage the hull	Ship increased speed and enforced anti-piracy measures	Yes Ship's agent	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The ship was escorted by a warship and proceeded to the port of Aden for temporary repair
7	PU 2008 Tug Singapore 244 9430337	30/04/2008 23:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA South of Pulau Tioman Malaysia 02° 22.00' N 104° 24.00' E	Six pirates, in a dark blue speed boat, armed with long knives and wearing masks boarded the tug towing a barge underway. Pirates entered the accommodation and stole personal property and ship's stores and escaped. No injuries to crew	Pirates stole personal property and ship's stores	-	Yes Focal point, Singapore	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	MT SAMPURNA SWARAJYA Tanker India 21827 9176656	05/04/2008 03:30 LT	INDIAN OCEAN 9NM west of Cochin Light, Port of Kochi India 09° 57.10' N 076° 04.80' E	A crew on watch spotted the robbers on board the ship and raised the alarm. The robbers ran and jumped into their boat. They fled with one mooring rope about 210 metres long. The master reported the incident to the Port Authority of Kochi	-	Alarm raised	Yes Coast Guard India	ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	An Indian Coast Guard patrol vessel was dispatched to the location of the incident to investigate. The initial investigation revealed that there were many fishing boats operating in the vicinity at the time of the incident. The master and crew were not able to identify the fishing vessel used by the robbers due to poor visibility at the time of the incident
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

2	KUWANA General cargo ship Panama 20087 9333759	11/04/2008 15:50 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Manila Bay Philippines 14° 31.10' N 120° 50.30' E	Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored ship via the anchor cable and broke the hawse pipe cover securing. Two duty crew saw the robbers and raised alarm. The robbers succeeded in escaping with ships stores and property	Robbers broke the hawse pipe cover securing and stole ship's stores and property	Raised alarm	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	SUMY Bulk carrier Ukraine 14136 7701691	14/04/2008 03:40 LT	WEST AFRICA Lagos Anchorage Nigeria 06° 17.30' N 003° 22.40' E	Four robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at anchor. They took hostage one duty crew member, tied his hand and feet and injured another crew member. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, robbers escaped in their motor boat with ship's stores. Lagos port control informed	Robbers took hostage one duty crew, tied his hand and feet and injured another crew and stole ship's stores	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	YANGON STAR General cargo ship Cyprus 14539 7713735	16/04/2008 06:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Tanjung Priok, Indonesia 06° 01.90' S 106° 53.80' E	Ships crew noticed robbers on board just after anchoring. The robbers had broken into the safety equipment locker and had stolen ship stores. When challenged the robbers jumped over board and escaped. No injuries to crew	Robbers broke into the safety equipment locker and stole ship stores	Crew challenged the robbers	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	UBT BAY Chemical tanker Singapore 7500 9417476	17/04/2008 01:55 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Belawan anchorage Indonesia 03° 56.31' N 098° 46.14' E	Robbers armed with knives boarded the ship from a small boat. Duty crew member spotted them and tried to inform the bridge by walkie-talkie. The robbers attacked him with knives and a piece of wood. He received injuries on his arm and back. However, he managed to inform the bridge, which raised the general alarm. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped. Ship's stores stolen. Port authorities did not respond to calls on VHF radio	Duty crew assaulted and injured. Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	No response from port authorities
6	AL-KHALEEL General cargo ship United Arab Emirates	21/04/2008	EAST AFRICA 11 KM Off Bossaso Port Somalia	Robbers armed with guns opened fire on the cargo ship underway. They hijacked the vessel and took the 16 crew members hostage. Local security forces raided the vessel and rescued the 16 crew members and ship. All crew are safe. Some robbers were injured and captured	Robbers opened fire and hijacked the vessel and took 16 crew members hostage	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Local security forces raided the vessel and rescued the 16 crew members and ship

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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

7	PATARAVARIN 2 Tanker 699 8816314	25/04/2008 00:20 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Malaysia 01° 31.00' N 104° 24.50' E	Six robbers armed with guns boarded the tanker underway. The robbers ordered the Master to reduce speed. They checked the type of cargo the vessel was carrying. The robbers stole personal effects of crew before escaping	Crew's personal belongings were stolen	-	Yes Royal Thai Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Marine Police HQ, MRCC Putrajaya, MECC Lumut, FOC RMN, MINDEF and ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand)	-
8	RAIATEA General cargo ship Cyprus 2989 7637527	27/04/2008 21:45 UTC	WEST AFRICA Lome Anchorage Togo 06° 05.00' N 001° 17.00' E	Six armed robbers boarded the ship at anchor, via the forecandle. When spotted by crew, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped. Ship's stores stolen	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and crew mustered	Yes Lome Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
9	FREJA SPRING Tanker Panama 28546 9174488	29/04/2008	WEST AFRICA Lagos Anchorage Nigeria 06° 15.10' N 003° 22.20' E	Four robbers boarded the tanker at anchor. They stole ship's stores from aft locker and escaped immediately upon seeing alert crew. Lagos port control informed. Vessel weighed anchor and proceeded about 30 NM off the coast to drift while awaiting berth	Ship's stores stolen	Crew mustered. Vessel weighed anchor and proceeded about 30 NM off the coast to drift while awaiting berth	Yes Lagos port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	NOVA FLANDRIA Refrigerated cargo carrier Liberia 4574 8919893	02/04/2008	WEST AFRICA Boma Anchorage Democratic Rep. of the Congo	Two robbers boarded the ship at anchor. They broke the seal to the cargo compartment and commenced stealing the cargo. Duty watchman noticed some cargo on deck and raised the alarm. On seeing the watchman the robbers threatened him however upon seeing crew alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and escaped	Cargo compartment was broken and ship's stores were stolen	Alarm was raised	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	TABAGO BAY Container ship Liberia 9966 9373917	02/04/2008 05:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage Bravo Bangladesh	While the ship was at Chittagong anchorage Bravo in Bangladesh, a security watchman reported broken padlock from aft rope store and master and chief mate discovered two mooring ropes missing in spite of security measures undertaken prior to the occurrence	Ship's stores were stolen	Security rounds around the ship with VHF were arranged with reporting every ten minutes to the bridge. Radars on range 0.5nm for approaching small boats were in place. Ships in the vicinity were advised by VHF	Yes Port Control	Liberia and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN PORT AREA

3	HUDSON RIVER Container ship Cyprus 9940 9330848	08/04/2008 02:47 LT	EAST AFRICA Dar es Salaam Anchorage No. 6 United Republic of Tanzania 06° 46.40' S 039° 20.50' E	While at anchor, an anti-piracy watchman sighted one robber near the boson store. On sighting the watchman, the robber jumped overboard and escaped in a waiting boat. Alarm raised. Investigations indicated duty watchkeepers had abandoned their stations to look into a noise they had heard, allowing the robber to access the ship unnoticed	Ship's stores were stolen	Raised alarm and crew mustered	Yes Port control and Marine Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	OCEAN GRACE Oil tanker Liberia 28010 8321395	17/04/2008 03:00 LT	WEST AFRICA Lagos Roads Nigeria	Robbers attacked the ship during her stay at Lagos Roads, Nigeria	One crew member was injured. A mooring line was stolen	Security measures were taken	No	Liberia and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	CLAES MAERSK Container ship Denmark 20842 9064390	17/04/2008 04:55 LT	WEST AFRICA Apapa, Tin Can Island Nigeria	Ten robbers in two speed boats boarded the ship berthed alongside. They broke open the paint store and stole ship's stores. Alarm raised and ship's crew locked themselves inside the accommodation for own safety. Another group of robbers on motorcycles arrived near the ship and the stolen ship's stores were stolen. The two shore watchmen employed for security duties were missing during the incident and appeared once the robbers had gone. Authorities informed but no action taken	Robbers broke open the paint store and stole ship's stores	Raised alarm	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	At 0730 LT, authorities boarded for investigations
6	CHELSEA BRIDGE Tanker Bahamas 47249 8519966	21/04/2008 20:30 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Vung Tau Song Go Gia STS Anchorage Viet Nam	Robbers boarded the tanker from the forecastle. They broke open the forward store-room and stole ship's stores. Duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Fog horn sounded. Robbers escaped immediately. Later, a police patrol boarded for investigation. Anti-piracy watch doubled up. No injuries to crew	Robbers broke open the forward store room and stole ship's stores	Duty crew raised alarm and fog horn sounded	Yes Local authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A police patrol boarded for investigation
7	KAPITAN MASLOV Container ship Cyprus 16575 9130157	22/04/2008 03:15 LT	EAST AFRICA Dar Es Salaam Anchorage No.1 United Republic of Tanzania	Eight robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at anchor. Robbers overpowered and tied up the watch keepers. Alarm was raised by chief officer when he could not contact the watchkeepers. The robbers stole goods from several containers and escape with their loot. Port authorities informed	Robbers broke open three containers and stole goods	Raised alarm and informed ships in the vicinity	Yes Port Authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN PORT AREA

8	SEAN RICKMERS Container ship Marshall Islands 16986 9197349	22/04/2008 21:50 LT	EAST AFRICA 28NM Off Dar Es Salaam Pilot Station United Republic of Tanzania	Eight robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored ship. They tied up the duty crew member and stole his personal belongings, ship's stores and property. They broke open three containers and stole goods. Robbers escaped once the alarm was raised. Local authorities informed	Robbers tied up the duty crew and stole his personal belongings, ship's stores and property. They broke open three containers and stole its contents	Raised alarm and crew mustered	Yes Port Control and local authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Local Police boarded the next day for investigation
9	MARTHA RUSS Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 9956 9346562	26/04/2008 15:18 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Berth CCT3, Chittagong Port Bangladesh	Robbers boarded the ship, preparing to berth, while crew was busy at the mooring stations. As soon as the crew spotted the robbers, the alarm was raised. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
10	NA Container ship	29/04/2008 23:10 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage B Bangladesh	Eight robbers armed with sticks boarded the ship at anchor. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped without stealing anything. Authorities informed	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port authorities	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.119 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	SUNSHINE SKY Tanker Panama 9488 9146027	01/04/2008 09:15 LT	EAST AFRICA 05° 17.00' N 004° 43.00' E	Three speedboats chased and attacked the tanker while underway. The ship was attacked with automatic weapons and rocket launchers. Master took evasive manoeuvres and increased speed untill boats moved away. Alert raised. An hour later, five speedboats chased the ship again from various directions. Ship took evasive manoeuvres and prevented the boats from closing in. Later the boats moved away. One coalition warship was in the vicinity monitoring the five speedboats	Ship's funnel and lifeboat were damaged by gunfire/RPG.	Master took evasive manoeuvres and increased speed	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	One coalition warship in the vicinity is monitoring the five speed boats
2	ALEXANDER CARL Bulk carrier Republic of Korea 110627 9039169	28/04/2008 UTC	EAST AFRICA 90 NM Off Bosasso, North Coast of Somalia Somalia 12° 38.80' N 049° 46.90' E	Pirates, in two speedboats, fired upon the ship underway using machine guns and RPG in an attempt to board the vessel. The master increased speed and carried out evasive manoeuvres. Due to the actions of the Master and the high freeboard, the pirates were unable to board the vessel. Alert raised. A military aircraft was dispatched. The boats moved away	Pirates fired upon the ship using machine guns and RPG	Master increased speed and carried out evasive manoeuvres	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A military aircraft dispatched
3	NAVAJO PRINCESS General cargo ship Philippines 22053 8613413	28/04/2008 22:03	EAST AFRICA 35 NM Off Yemen Coast, Gulf of Aden Yemen 14° 15.50' N 050° 11.80' E	A bulk carrier underway observed on radar three speedboats approaching at high speed. Alarm raised and anti-piracy measures activated. All accommodation lights and navigations lights were switched off. The boats continued to follow and slowly close the vessel. Finally, to deter the pirates the chief officer threw wooden pallets and old garbage drums overboard in the path of the boats. This caused the boats to suddenly stop and abort the chase	-	Alarm raised and anti-piracy measures activated. All accommodation lights and navigations lights switched off	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	GENMAR GEORGE T Tanker Marshall Islands 79235 9886971	06/05/2008 02:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Off Escavros Nigeria 05° 17.00' N 004° 43.00' E	An unlit speedboat approached the tanker from the stern. Alarm raised and SSAS alarm activated. The speedboat fired warning shots from automatic weapons and left. No injuries to crew or any damage to ship suffered	-	Alarm raised and SSAS alarm activated	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	MAERSK MIAMI Container ship Liberia 56248 9001253	12/04/2008 08:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Passage from Suez Canal to Salalah, Oman 14° 34.00' N 050° 15.00' E	During the passage from Suez Canal to Salalah, Oman, duty officer on the bridge observed two small boats following the ship. The Master, who was also on the bridge, was immediately informed. After changing course several times and increasing speed, the attack was averted. The ship's owner, UK MTO Dubai and Piracy Center in Malaysia were informed. UK MTO contacted local coalition forces who swiftly arranged a helicopter which kept an overflight watch on the ship	-	Changed course and speed several times	No	Liberia and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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IN PORT AREA

1	FUGRO GAUSS Research ship Gibraltar (United Kingdom) 1684 7824883	22/04/2008 04:30 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Anchorage, Mumbai India 18° 55.30' N 072° 51.90' E	Four robbers in a motor boat attempted to board the vessel at anchor. Attempt failed due to strict anti-piracy watch	-	Enforced strict anti-piracy watch	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	TABAGO BAY Container ship Liberia 9957 9373917	29/04/2008 23:10 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage Bravo Bangladesh	Security watchman reported that an unauthorized person attempted to board the ship by means of rope attached to vessel's structure. Two wooden boats were noticed alongside the ship's port quarter with 8 to 10 persons in the boat. Attempt was unsuccessful	-	Bridge was immediately advised and general alarm with ship's whistle was sounded and crew mustered	Yes Port authority and Bangladesh coast guard	Liberia and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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