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MSC.4/Circ.120
16 June 2008

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during May 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 April 2008 and 31 May 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 4,616, an increase of 17 since 30 April 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 April 2008 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.118 and MSC.4/Circ.119.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	AL-AZIZ Fishing vessel Philippines	06/05/2008 14:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Off Tapul Island and Parang, Sulu Philippines	Four speed boats carrying 20 pirates, all armed with automatic weapons, attacked a fishing boat carrying 20 passengers. The pirates fired upon the fishing boat killing four passengers and injuring eight others. The wounded passengers were sent to shore for medical treatment.	Four passengers killed and eight passengers injured	-	Yes Siasi Police Station, Philippines	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	VICTORIA General cargo ship Jordan 3440 7906203	17/05/2008 09:05 LT	EAST AFRICA Coastal Waters off Somalia Somalia 02° 13.19' N 046° 49.38' E	Pirates boarded and hijacked a general cargo ship underway. Ship was on passage to Mogadishu, Somalia. Pirates then sailed the vessel to the coastal waters in Somalia. The ship and 21 crew members were released on 23 May on payment of a ransom	Pirates hijacked the ship and held crew hostage	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	AMIYA SCAN General cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 2546 9280718	25/05/2008 15:30 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden Somalia 13° 16.37' N 050° 49.80' E	Pirates hijacked the ship 80 NM off the coast of Somalia. Nine crew members are held hostage onboard. At present the ship is 2.5 NM from the coast. A ransom has been demanded. Further reports awaited	Pirates hijacked the ship and held crew hostage	Sent MAYDAY and activated SSAS alert	No	Antigua and Barbuda and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Two warships picked up MAYDAY call but without result
4	LEHMANN TIMBER General cargo ship Gibraltar (United Kingdom) 5285 9418286	28/05/2008 10:38 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 13° 10.20' N 048° 58.77' E	Four pirates in a speed boat attacked and hijacked the ship underway. They sailed the ship into Somali territorial waters. Further details awaited	Ship hijackers and crew held hostage	-	Yes UKMTO Dubai	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Authorities sent helicopter

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	KNF7547 Fishing vessel Malaysia 111	02/05/2008 02:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 4 NM off Tanjung Sauh Malaysia 03° 48.98' N 100° 43.03' E	The fishing boat and four crew members were attacked and hijacked while the crew was resting. The boat was taken to an Indonesian island and all crew were forced to jump overboard. A passing Indonesian fishing boat saved all crew and the crew were handed over to Indonesian Navy. All crew were repatriated to Malaysia safely after investigation.	Ship hijacked and crew thrown overboard	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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* 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.120 ANNEX 1 Coastal State Action Taken
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

2	KNF7548 Fishing vessel Malaysia 111	02/05/2008 02:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 4 NM off Tanjung Sauh, Malaysia 03° 48.98' N 100° 43.03' E	The fishing boat and four crew members were attacked and hijacked while the crew was resting. The boat was taken to an Indonesian island and all crew were forced to jump overboard. A passing Indonesian fishing boat saved all crew and the crew were handed over to Indonesian Navy. All crew were repatriated to Malaysia safely after investigation.	Ship hijacked and crew thrown overboard	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	HUDSON STRAIT Container ship Marshall Islands 9030 9187423	04/05/2008 23:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage Bravo, Bangladesh 22° 12.90' N 091° 45.00' E	Three robbers armed with knives boarded the ship from stern whilst seven robbers remained in the boat. They broke open padlock of store-room and stole ship's stores. Alarm raised and robbers escaped in the waiting boat.	Robbers stole ship's stores	Raised alarm	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	LEONE Tanker Barbados 4597 7351642	27/05/2008 05:45 LT	WEST AFRICA Offshore Lagos Nigeria	Four robbers armed with knives boarded the tanker at anchor. They lowered a hose into cargo tank No.1 and started to discharge cargo into the boat. Duty crew spotted them and raised the alarm. The robbers threatened the crew. Crew retreated into the accommodation and returned armed with pipes, sticks etc. On seeing the crew armed, the robbers threw their knives towards the crew and jumped overboard. No injuries to crew	Cargo stolen. Crew threatened with knives	Duty crew raised the alarm. Crew retreated into the accommodation and returned armed with pipes, sticks etc.	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	VAAL RIVER Container ship Cyprus 9940 9330252	04/05/2008 00:50 LT	WEST AFRICA Port Monrovia, Liberia	Three robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at berth. Robbers cut and stole reefer container electric cables. They escaped when sighted by ship's crew. Master tried to contact PFSO by VHF but there was no response	Robbers stole electric cables	Raised alarm	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	EMILIA General cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 6264 9184249	10/05/2008 03:30 LT	WEST AFRICA Tin Can Port, Lagos Nigeria	Robbers boarded the ship at berth. Alert crew raised alarm and the robbers jumped into their waiting boat and headed for another ship.	-	Alert crew raised alarm	No	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.120 ANNEX 2 Coastal State Action Taken
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	FAIRCHEM PEGASUS Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 11580 9286542	04/05/2008 14:20	EAST AFRICA Off Somalia Somalia 00° 57.00' N 051° 43.00' E	Two speedboats chased the tanker underway. Pirates opened fire on the tanker. Master took evasive manoeuvres and increased speed. Chase was aborted	Pirates fired upon the tanker	Master took evasive manoeuvres and increased speed	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	BOW CLIPPER Tanker Norway 23197 9047518	10/05/2008 16:25 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Northern Tip of Sumatra Indonesia 05° 35.00' N 097° 05.00' E	Pirates in military camouflage attempted to board the tanker underway using a bamboo pole attached to a hook. Master raised alarm and alerted ships in vicinity. Pirates aborted the attempt and escaped in their blue hull speedboat	-	Raised alarm	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	RED DRAGON Yacht Cayman Islands (United Kingdom)	19/05/2008 06:00 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 19° 49.30' N 050° 43.30' E	A speed boat crossed the bow of the yacht, underway, while two other speed boats approached from the stern. The Master of the yacht increased speed and enforced anti-piracy measures to prevent boarding. After a while, the speed boats moved away. The suspicious boats seemed to have been launched from a dhow, which was in the position 13:20.9n - 049:37.32e. Dhow's description: length 20m, red hull and white superstructure	-	Increased speed and enforced anti-piracy measures	No	UKMTO Dubai	-
4	RIVER ELEGANCE Container ship Panama 48161 9072147	19/05/2008 15:00 LT	EAST AFRICA 55 NM Off Somalia Coast, Gulf of Aden Somalia 12° 49.30' N 050° 36.30' E	Two small speed boats approached the ship underway from the bow. One of the speed boats had four pirates armed with automatic weapons and rocket launcher. The pirates aimed the rocket launcher towards the bridge and tried to board the vessel. Master raised alarm, took evasive manoeuvres and crew mustered. After 10 minutes, the pirates aborted the attempt and were seen approaching two other ships about 5 miles off	-	Master raised alarm, No took evasive manoeuvres, crew mustered and activated fire pump. SSAS activated	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

5	CAPE MERLIN Bulk carrier 77503 9056818	23/05/2008 04:30 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Eden 13° 16.20' N 049° 08.70' E	Four pirates armed with automatic guns and rocket launchers in a grey coloured, long speedboat approached the ship underway from the port quarter. They fired at the bridge and accommodation. Master raised alarm, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and crew mustered. OOW informed ships in vicinity via vhf ch. 16. The pirates tried to board the ship without success and finally aborted the attempt. One white hulled fishing boat, was noticed about 6 NM off	Pirates fired at the bridge and accommodation	Master raised alarm, No increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and crew mustered	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	TAIYOH II Tanker Singapore 39268 9006746	24/05/2008 14:20 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 13° 58.00' N 050° 42.00' E	Two boats with four armed pirates in each boat closed onto a tanker underway. The pirates opened fire with automatic guns and RPG. One RPG hit and damaged the port bridge wing. Evasive manoeuvres prevented the pirates from boarding. No injuries to crew and no pollution. After breaking off, the two boats were reported to be drifting in the same vicinity.	Pirates opened fire with guns and RPG	Master raised alarm, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and crew mustered	Yes Coalition Forces	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
7	FURTRANS BULK Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 25312 9188908	25/05/2008 06:10 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 13° 25.20' N 047° 57.80' E	Three boats closed onto a bulk carrier underway. There were four armed persons in each boat. The boats followed the bulk carrier at a distance of one cable and the armed men were heard shouting. Master raised alarm, all crew mustered and anti piracy measures enforced. After following the vessel for 25 minutes, the boats aborted the attempt and moved away	-	Master raised alarm, took evasive manoeuvres and crew mustered	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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