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MSC.4/Circ.121
16 July 2008

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

First quarterly report (January to, and including, March 2008)

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its sixty-fifth session in May 1995, instructed the Secretariat to issue, as from 31 July 1995, monthly reports of all incidents of piracy¹ and armed robbery against ships² reported to the Organization and, in addition and 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 was increasing or decreasing and advising on any new feature or pattern of significance. 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 Annexed hereto is a composite report covering all reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships which occurred between 31 December 2007 and the end of March 2008, and a regional analysis thereof, including a distinction between acts of piracy, acts of armed robbery against ships and attempted attacks.

3 The areas affected over the period under review were, once again, South China Sea (9 incidents, down from 13 reported last quarter), Malacca Strait (2 incidents, down from 3 reported last quarter), East Africa (11 incidents, down from 14 reported last quarter), the Indian Ocean (9 incidents, up from 6 reported last quarter), South America (6 incidents in total, down from 8 reported last quarter, 2 incidents in the Atlantic Ocean area, down from 4 reported last quarter, 3 incidents in the Pacific Ocean area, no change from last quarter and 1 incident in

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 draft 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."

the Caribbean Ocean area, no change from last quarter), West Africa (12 incidents, down from 20 reported last quarter), Arabian Sea (1 incident, no change from last quarter), the Mediterranean Sea (1 incident, no change from last quarter), the Persian Gulf (zero incident, down from 2 reported last quarter) and the North Atlantic Ocean (zero incident, down from 1 reported last quarter). Most of the attacks were reported in port areas while the ships were at anchor or on berth.

4 During the period under review, one crew member was killed, about 7 crew members were held hostage, about 4 crew members were injured/assaulted, two vessels were hijacked and ransom was paid in one case. In several of the incidents reported, the crew were violently assaulted/attacked by individuals or groups of two to ten persons carrying guns or knives.

5 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 4,566 out of which 51 occurred during the first quarter of 2008. Of these 51 reported acts, 15 constituted alleged attempted attacks.

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2008**

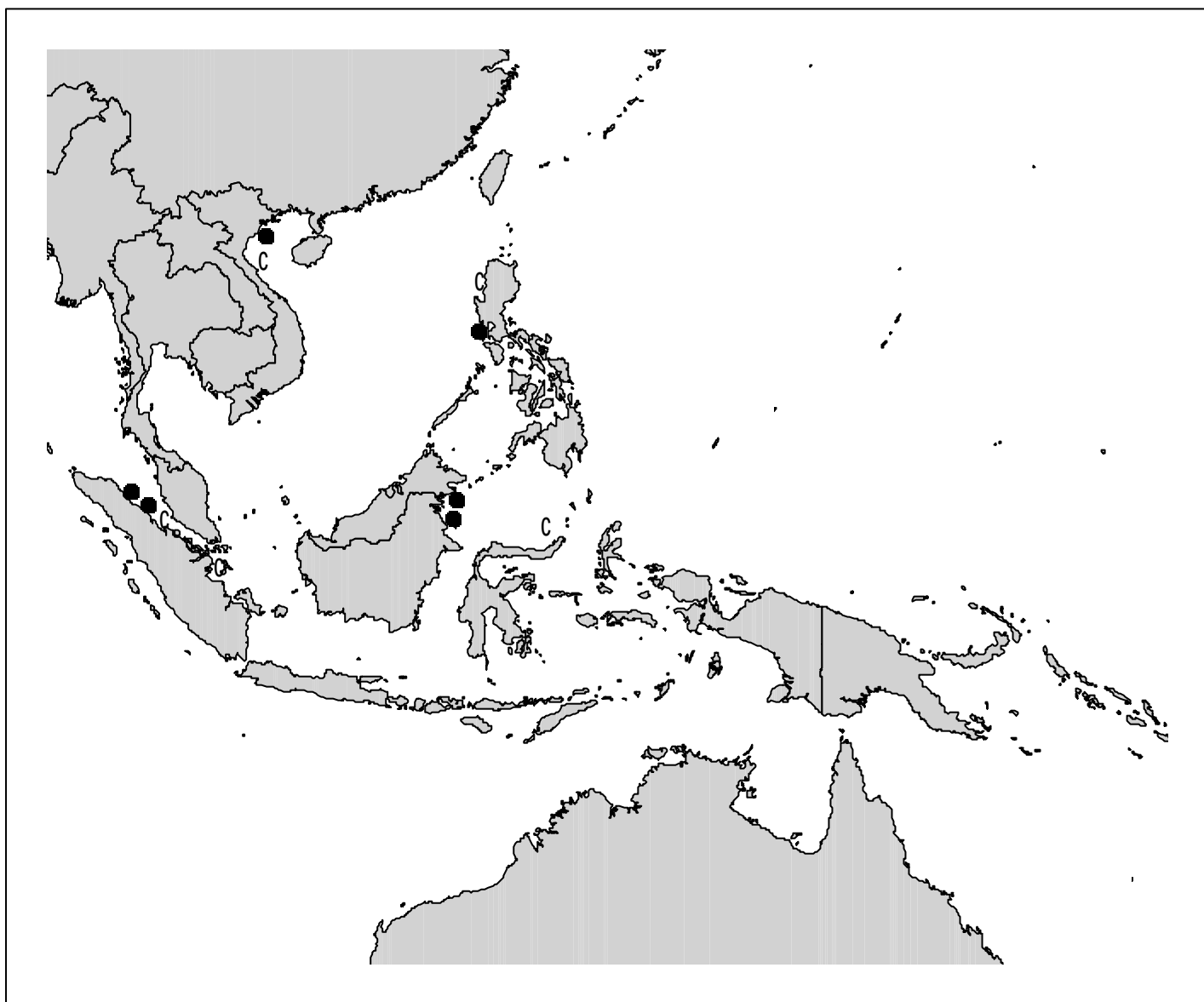
		FAR EAST			AFRICA		SOUTH AMERICA		
		Malacca Strait	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	West Africa	Atlantic	Caribbean	Pacific
Location of incident									
	In international waters				2		1	1	
	In territorial waters		3	6	3	4			1
	In port areas		3	2	2	6	1		1
Status of ship when attacked									
	Steaming		1	1	2	1			
	At anchor or on berth		3	5	3	8	1		2
	Not stated		2	2	2	1	1	1	
Number of persons involved in the attack									
	1-4 persons		2	4	2	7			1
	5-10 persons		3	1	1	1	2	1	
	More than 10 persons				1				
	Not stated		1	3	3	2			1
Consequences to the crew									
	Actual violence used against crew		1	1	2	1	2	1	1
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)					1			
	Ship missing								
	Ship hijacked				2				
	None/not stated		5	7	3	8			1
Weapons used by attackers									
	Guns		1					1	
	Knives		4	2	2	2			1
	Other								
	None/Not stated		1	6	5	8	2		1
Parts of the ship raided									
	Master and crew accommodation							1	1
	Cargo area		1	4	3	2	1		1
	Store rooms		4	4	2	8			
	Engine room		1		2		1		
	Not stated								
Total number of incidents reported per areas			6	8	7	10	2	1	2
Total number of incidents reported		36							

ANNEX 2
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2008

		FAR EAST			AFRICA		SOUTH AMERICA				
		Malacca Strait	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	West Africa	Atlantic	Caribbean	Pacific	Arabian Sea	Mediterranean Sea
Location of incident											
	In international waters	2	3	1	4					1	
	In territorial waters					1					
	In port areas					1			1		1
Status of ship when attacked											
	Steaming	2	2	1	4					1	
	At anchor or on berth		1			2			1		1
	Not stated										
Number of persons involved in the attack											
	1-4 persons				1	1					1
	5-10 persons										
	More than 10 persons				1						
	Not stated	2	3	1	2	1			1	1	
Consequences to the crew											
	Actual violence used against crew										
	Threat of violence (including crew being tied up but not physically attacked)		1								
	Ship missing										
	Ship hijacked										
	None/not stated	2	2	1	4	2			1	1	1
Weapons used by attackers											
	Guns		1		1						
	Knives										
	Other					1					
	None/Not stated	2	2	1	3	1			1	1	1
Parts of the ship raided											
	Not boarded	2	3	1	4	2			1	1	1
Total number of incidents reported per areas		2	3	1	4	2			1	1	1
Total number of incidents reported		15									

ANNEX 3

SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

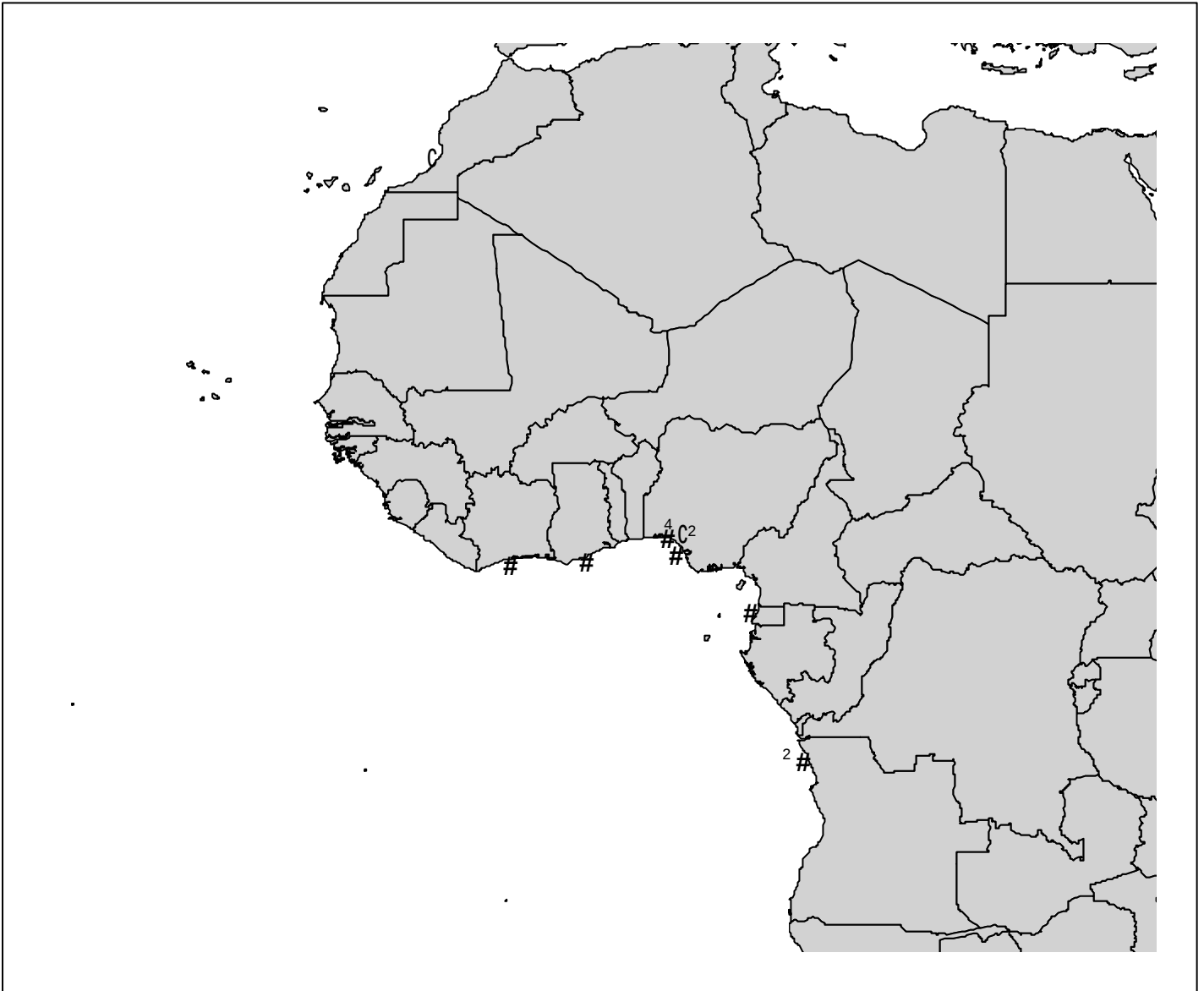
c Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA



- # Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- c Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

WEST AFRICA



- # Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- C Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

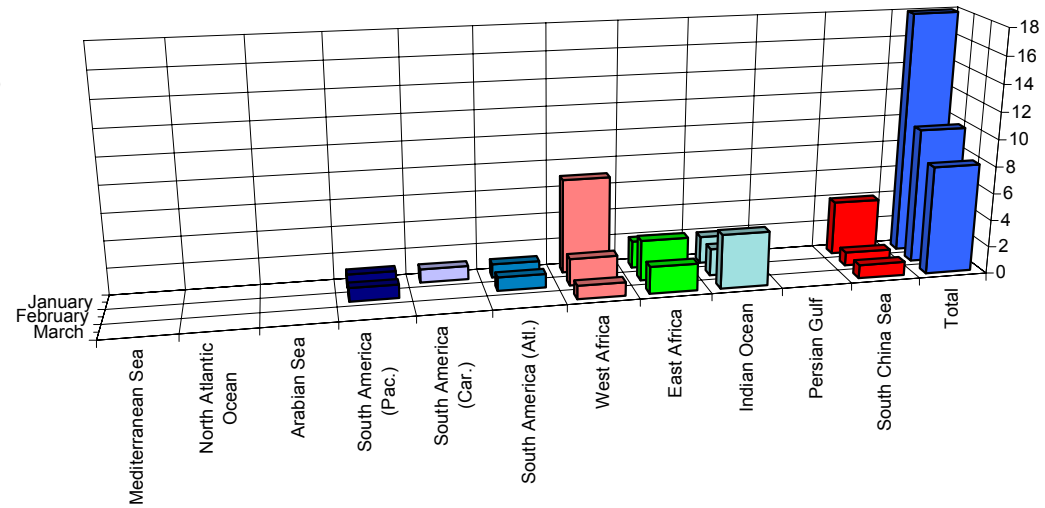
SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



- # Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships
- C Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

**ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY
COMMITTED OR ATTEMPTED DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2008**

ACTS ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED



ACTS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED

