



IMO

E

Ref. T2-MSS/2.11.4.1

MSC.4/Circ.123

9 February 2009

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Second quarterly report (April to, and including, June 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 March 2008 and the end of June 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, the South China Sea (25 incidents, up from 9 reported last quarter), East Africa (23 incidents, up from 11 reported last quarter), the Indian Ocean (8 incidents, down from 9 reported last quarter), West Africa (13 incidents, up from 12 reported last quarter) and South America (1 incident in total, down from 6 reported last

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."

quarter, 1 incident in the Caribbean Ocean area, no change from last quarter, no incidents in the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean areas, down from 2 and 3 respectively reported last quarter). No incidents were reported in the Malacca Strait, the Arabian Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Persian Gulf or North Atlantic Ocean. Most of the attacks were reported in port areas while the ships were at anchor or on berth.

4 During the period under review, four crew members were killed, about 101 crew members were held hostage, about 13 crew members were injured/assaulted, ten vessels were hijacked. 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 4,636 out of which 70 occurred during the second quarter of 2008. Of these 70 reported acts, 23 constituted alleged attempted attacks.

ANNEX 1

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

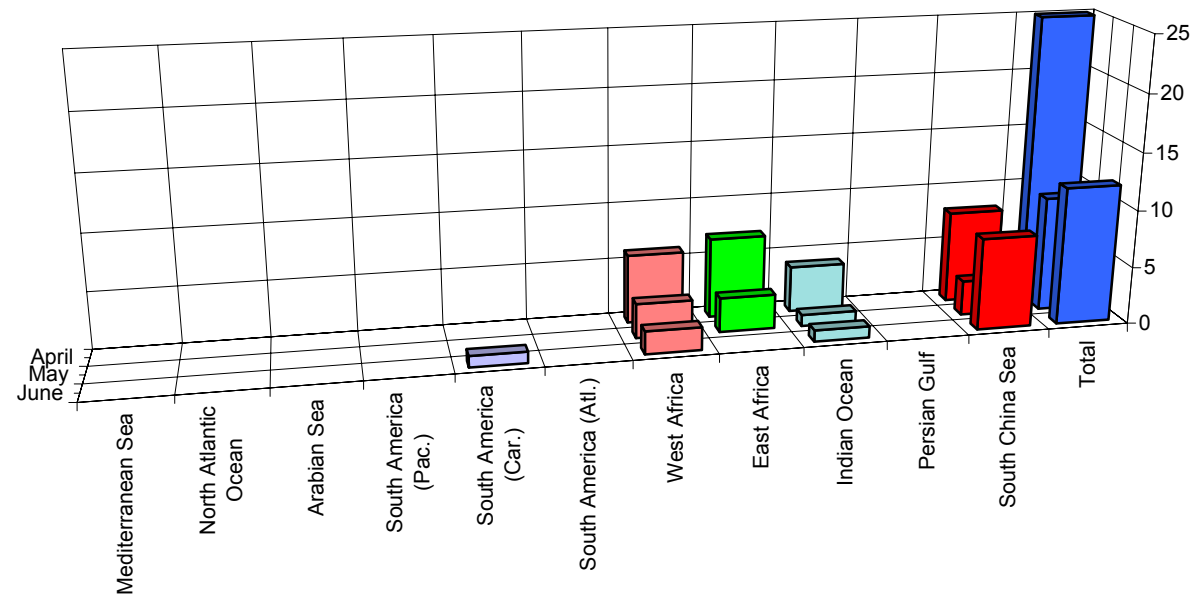
	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	South America (C)	West Africa
Location of incident					
In international waters	9		6		
In territorial waters	8	2	1	1	4
In port area	2	4	3		7
Status of ship when attacked					
Steaming	10		6		
At anchor	5	5	3	1	11
Not stated	4	1	1		
Number of persons involved in the attack					
1-4 persons	4	1	2		6
5-10 persons	4	2	3		1
More than 10 persons	2	1			1
Not stated	9	2	5	1	3
Consequences to the crew					
Actual violence against the crew	4		1		4
Threat of violence against the crew	3	1			1
Ship missing					
Ship hijacked	3		7		
None/not stated	9	5	2	1	6
Weapons used by attackers					
Guns	3		5		
Knives	9	1	2		3
Other		1			
None/not stated	7	4	3	1	8
Parts of ship raided					
Master and crew accomodation	6		3		
Cargo area		2			2
Store rooms	13	4	3	1	6
Engine room					1
Not boarded					
Not stated			4		2
Other					
Lives lost (unit: people)	4				
Wounded crew (unit: people)	9				2
Missing crew (unit: people)	30				
Crew hostage (unit: people)	14		75		12
Assaulted (unit: people)	1		1		
Ransom					
Total number of incidents reported per area	19	6	10	1	11
Total number of incidents reported	47				

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

	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	West Africa
Location of incident				
In international waters	3		12	1
In territorial waters	2			
In port area	1	2	1	1
Status of ship when attacked				
Steaming	5		12	
At anchor	1	2	1	1
Not stated				1
Number of persons involved in the attack				
1-4 persons		1	2	1
5-10 persons	2		1	
More than 10 persons		1	3	
Not stated	4		7	1
Consequences to the crew				
Actual violence against the crew	2		5	1
Threat of violence against the crew			2	
Ship missing				
Ship hijacked				
None/not stated	4	2	6	1
Weapons used by attackers				
Guns	1		7	1
Knives				1
Other		1	1	
None/not stated	5	1	5	
Parts of ship raided				
Master and crew accomodation				
Cargo area				
Store rooms				
Engine room				
Not boarded	6	2	13	2
Not stated				
Other				
Lives lost (unit: people)				
Wounded crew (unit: people)				
Missing crew (unit: people)				
Crew hostage (unit: people)				
Assaulted (unit: people)				
Ransom				
Total number of incidents reported per area	6	2	13	2
Total number of incidents reported	23			

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

ACTS ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED



ACTS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED

