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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Fourth quarterly report (October to, and including, December 2009)

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 1 October 2009 and the end of December 2009, and a regional analysis thereof, including a distinction between acts of piracy, acts of armed robbery against ships and attempted attacks.

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.1025(26), Annex, paragraph 2.2), as follows:

"Armed robbery against ships" means any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of piracy, committed for private ends and directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such a ship, within a State's internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea;
- (b) any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described above".

3 The areas affected over the period under review were, East Africa (47 incidents, up from 18 reported last quarter), the South China Sea (20 incidents, down from 21 reported last quarter), West Africa (14 incidents, up from 10 as reported last quarter), South America (8 incidents in total, up from 6 reported last quarter), the Indian Ocean (6 incidents, down from 9 reported last quarter), 2 incidents in the Caribbean Ocean area, up from 1 reported last quarter, 3 incidents in the Pacific Ocean area, up from 1 reported last quarter and 3 incidents in the Atlantic Ocean area, down from 4 reported last quarter), Persian Gulf (1 incident, as reported last quarter), Arabian Sea (1 incident, up from 0 reported last quarter) and Caspian Sea (1 incident, up from 0 reported last quarter). Most of the attacks were reported in international waters while the ships were steaming.

4 During the period under review, about 242 crew members were held hostage, about 20 crew members were injured/assaulted, 2 crew members lost their lives and 16 vessels were hijacked. In some of the incidents reported, the crew were violently assaulted/attacked by individuals or groups of five to ten persons carrying knives.

5 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 5,219, out of which 98 occurred during the fourth quarter of 2009. Of these 98 reported acts, 44 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 FOURTH QUARTER OF 2009**

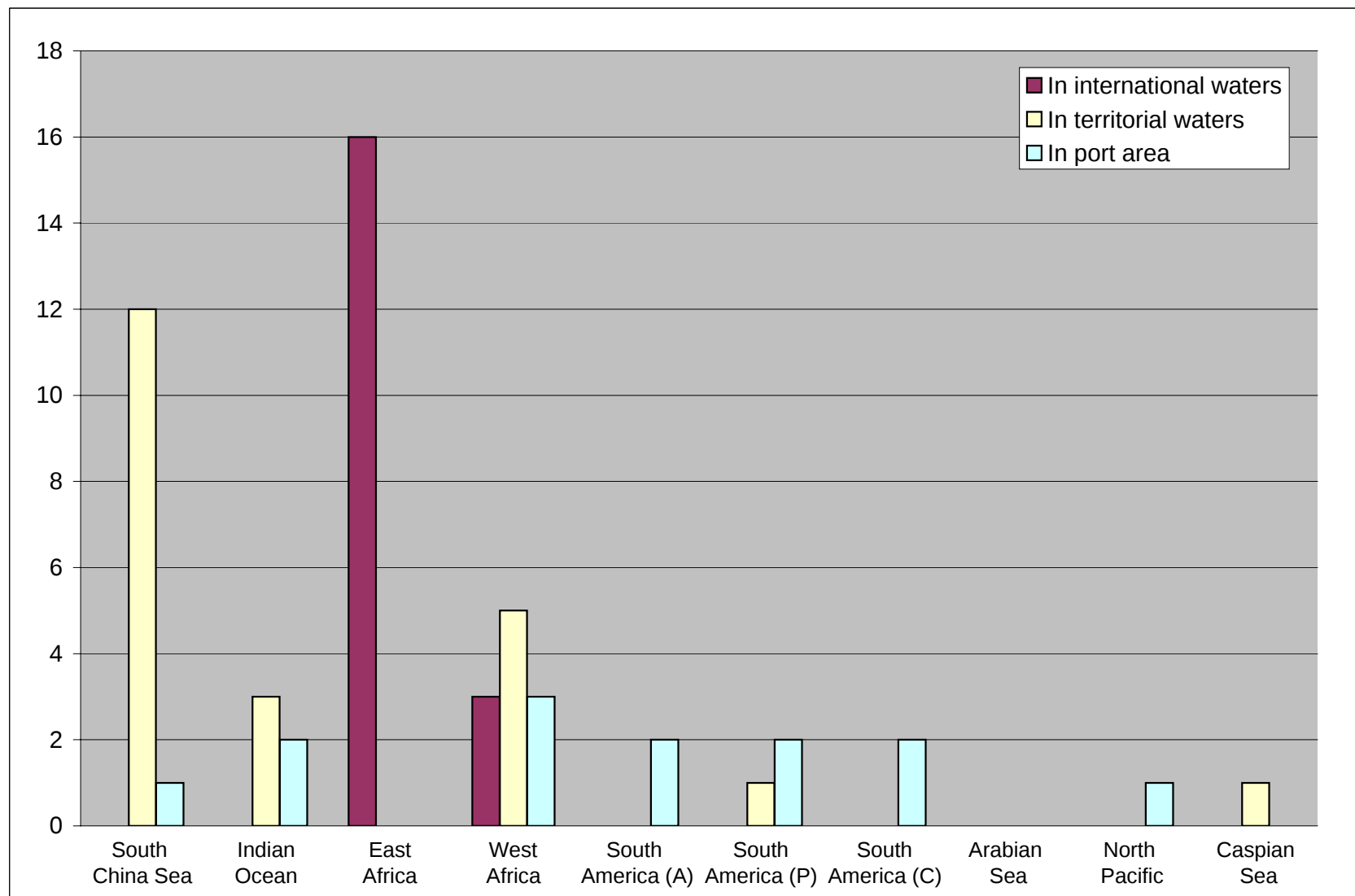
	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	West Africa	South America (A)	South America (P)	South America (C)	Arabian Sea	North Pacific	Caspian Sea
Location of incident										
In international waters			16	3						
In territorial waters	12	3		5		1				1
In port area	1	2		3	2	2	2		1	
Status of ship when attacked										
Steaming	3	1	16	4		1				
At anchor	8	4		5	2	1	1		1	
Not stated	2			1		1	1			1
Number of persons involved in the attack										
1-4 persons	5	1	1	2	1	1	1			
5-10 persons	5	2	1	5		1				
More than 10 persons		2		1						
Not stated	3		14	3	1	1	1		1	1
Consequences to the crew										
Actual violence against the crew	4			6		2				1
Threat of violence against the crew	4	3		1		1				
Ship missing										
Ship hijacked			16							
None/not stated	3			2	1		1		1	
Weapons used by attackers										
Guns	1		2	7		1				1
Knives	7	3		1						
Other		1	1	1						
None/not stated	5	1	12	2	2	2	2		1	
Parts of ship raided										
Master and crew accommodation				2						
Cargo area				1		1				1
Store rooms	3	4		6	1	2	2			
Engine room	4								1	
Not boarded										
Not stated	3		14	1						
Other										
Lives lost (unit: people)				1						1
Wounded crew (unit: people)	1			27		2				
Missing crew (unit: people)										
Crew hostage (unit: people)	6	1	232	3						
Assaulted (unit: people)										
Ransom										
Total number of incidents reported per area	13	5	16	11	2	3	2		1	1
Total number of incidents reported	54									

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 FOURTH QUARTER OF 2009**

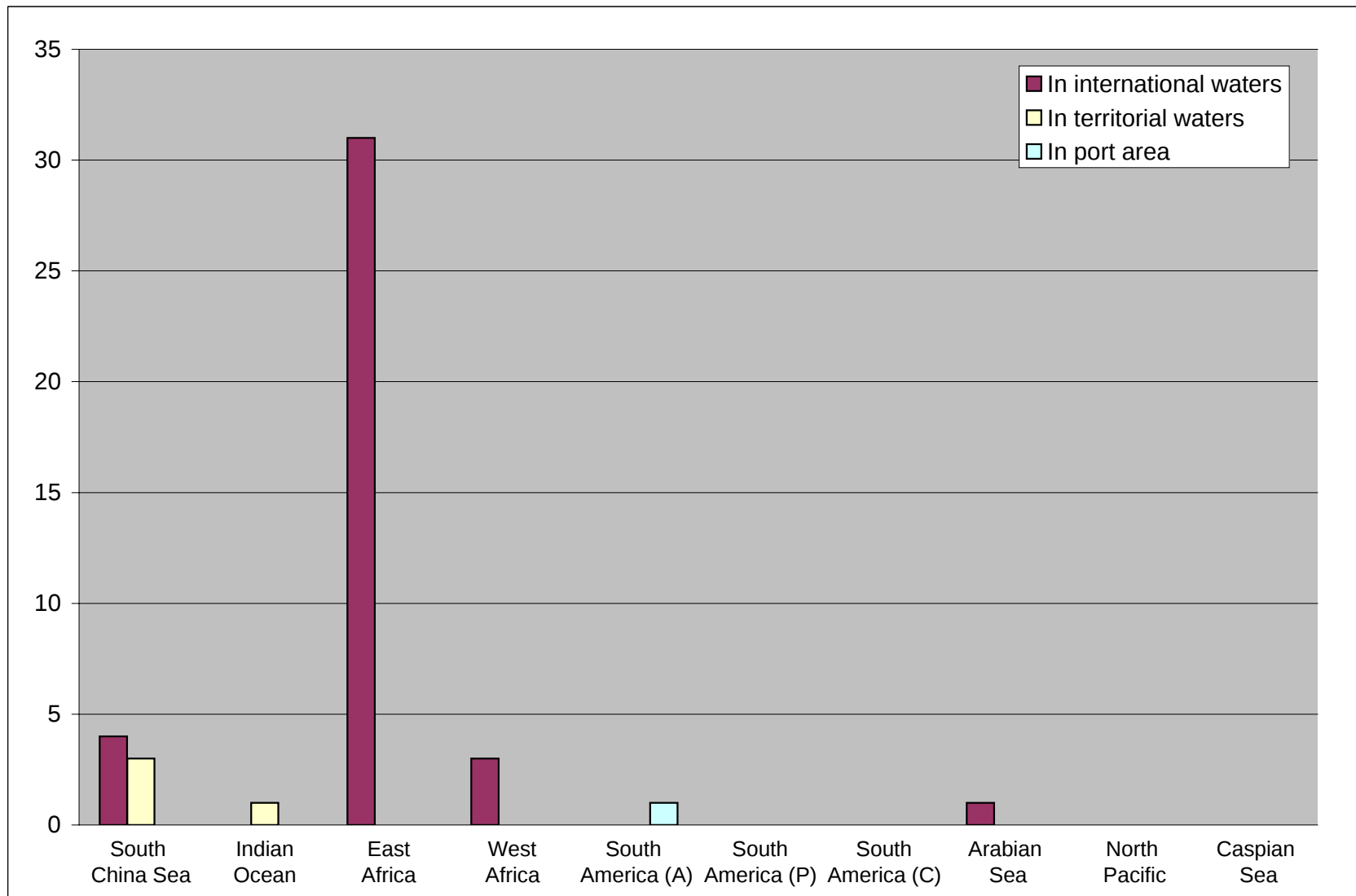
	South China Sea	Indian Ocean	East Africa	West Africa	South America (A)	South America (P)	South America (C)	Arabian Sea	North Pacific	Caspian Sea
Location of incident										
In international waters	4		31	3				1		
In territorial waters	3	1								
In port area					1					
Status of ship when attacked										
Steaming	5		31	3				1		
At anchor	1	1								
Not stated	1				1					
Number of persons involved in the attack										
1-4 persons	3									
5-10 persons	1	1	11	2	1					
More than 10 persons			2							
Not stated	3		18	1				1		
Consequences to the crew										
Actual violence against the crew	1		20							
Threat of violence against the crew	1			1						
Ship missing										
Ship hijacked										
None/not stated	4	1	7	2	1			1		
Weapons used by attackers										
Guns	4		16	3						
Knives										
Other			6							
None/not stated	3	1	6		1			1		
Parts of ship raided										
Master and crew accommodation										
Cargo area										
Store rooms										
Engine room										
Not boarded	7	1	31	3	1			1		
Not stated										
Other										
Lives lost (unit: people)										
Wounded crew (unit: people)			1							
Missing crew (unit: people)										
Crew hostage (unit: people)										
Assaulted (unit: people)										
Ransom										
Total number of incidents reported per area	7	1	31	3	1			1		
Total number of incidents reported	44									

ANNEX 3

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2009**

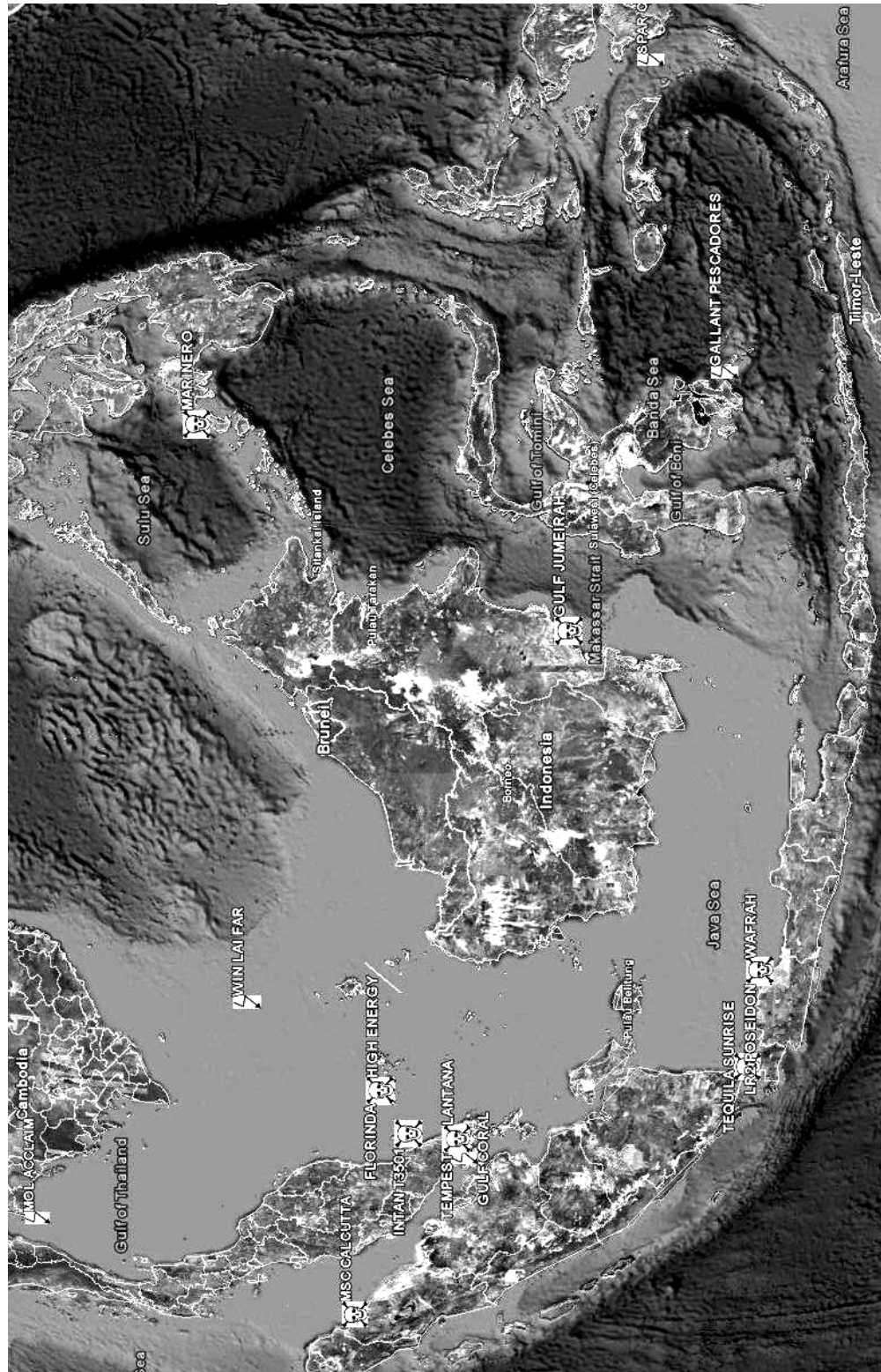
ANNEX 4

REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTED DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 2009



ANNEX 5

SOUTH CHINA SEA AND MALACCA STRAIT



Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

INDIAN OCEAN AND EAST AFRICA



WEST AFRICA



Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships

SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Allegedly attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships



Allegedly committed acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships