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MSC.4/Circ.27
19 December 2002

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during November 2002

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 September 2002 and 31 October 2002, 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-a-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 2,905, an increase of 25 since 31 October 2002.

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 current year being MSC.4/Circ.13, MSC.4/Circ.14, MSC.4/Circ.15, MSC.4/Circ.16, MSC.4/Circ.17, MSC.4/Circ.18, MSC.4/Circ.19, MSC.4/Circ.20, MSC.4/Circ.21, MSC.4/Circ.22, MSC.4/Circ.23, MSC.4/Circ.24, MSC.4/Circ.25 and MSC.4/Circ.26.

ANNEX 1

Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly committed against ships reported by Member States or international organizations in consultative status

Nº	Ship's name Type of ship Flag Gross tonnage IMO No.	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. 27 ANNEX 1 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	CAPE YORK General dry cargo ship Cyprus 17210 8122581	03/11/2002 01:10 LT	01°03'.80N 104°56'.80E (Indonesia)	Pirates armed with long knives boarded the ship, while underway, entered the bridge and threatened duty officer and A/B. Duty officer alerted crew over ship's P.A. system and the pirates escaped empty handed	Two crew members threatened; one door broken	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. SAR, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	MONT BLANC Chemical tanker Liberia 22683 7923586	03/11/2002 01:30 LT	01°04'.00N 104°56'.00E (Indonesia)	Eight pirates armed with long knives boarded the ship at aft, while underway. They attempted to open Master's cabin but failed. They then took hostage and assaulted the Ch. Eng. who sustained serious injuries and was then used as hostage to facilitate their escape in a boat	Cash and personal belongings of Ch. Eng. stolen; he was assaulted and seriously injured	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	SWEET LADY II Bulk carrier Malta 35350 7917111	07/11/2002 00:01 UTC	12°22'.00N 054°45'.00E Off Socotra Island	Two armed pirates boarded the ship unnoticed, while underway. They ransacked Master's cabin and as Master returned to his cabin unaware, they took him hostage, demanding money and the safe key. Master ignored their requests and was severely beaten till he was unconscious and needed treatment on board and the pirates escaped with their loot	Master sustained serious injuries; USD33,028 and crew property stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. French Maritime Forces, Djibouti, the owners and managers informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	NA		Chittagong 'A' anchorage (Bangladesh)	Robbers, unnoticed by the crew, boarded the ship, while at anchor and escaped with their loot. Master suspects the local fishermen or crew from the lighters to be the perpetrators	Ship's properties stolen	Alarm raised	Yes	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN PORT AREA

2	CAPE SORRELL Container ship Liberia 10925 9106508	01/11/2002 00:40 LT	20°38'.00N 106°55'.00E Haiphong Pilot Station (Viet Nam)	A robber was spotted on board the ship at forecastle, while at anchor but escaped empty-handed when spotted by alert crew	-	Alarm raised	Yes. MRCC, Ho Chi Minh, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	BRISA AZUL Ro-ro-cargo ship Philippines 8359 9159012	01/11/2002 05:00 LT	01°21'.10S 116°57'.00E Balikpapan outer anchorage (Indonesia)	Robbers boarded the ship from starboard quarter, while at anchor and when spotted by alert crew, they jumped overboard and escaped in their waiting boat	-	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
4	ALEXANDRA Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 7361 9012795	02/11/2002 03:00 UTC	Tema anchorage (Ghana)	Seven robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship from a canoe, while at anchor and when spotted, they escaped with their loot in the canoe. Crew later discovered some containers had been forced open	Forecastle locker opened and ship's stores stolen; some containers opened but cargo intact	Alarm raised	Yes. Port authorities and the Ministry of Transport informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
5	LUCKY TRANSPORTER Bulk carrier Liberia 15763 8405218	06/11/2002 03:40 LT	Pier No. 1, Rio Haina port (Dominican Republic)	Five robbers armed with knives and wooden poles boarded the ship, while berthed and during cargo operations. They tied-up and assaulted the 2nd officer and A/B, destroyed a life raft before escaping with their loot. The 2nd officer and A/B sustained injuries and were sent ashore for treatment.	Two crew members injured; ship's property and crew belongings stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Navy, Port authorities and the Coast Guard informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Authorities came on board for investigation
6	ORANIA Container ship Panama 17473 7614343	06/11/2002 01:45 LT	13°05'.80N 080°21'.80E Chennai anchorage (India)	Three robbers in a small boat boarded the ship, using grappling hooks, while at anchor; when spotted, they jumped overboard and escaped	-	Alarm raised	Yes. Coast Guard informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
7	BBC AUSTRALIA General dry cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 3236 8917699	07/11/2002 02:05 LT	Chittagong anchorage (Bangladesh)	Seven robbers armed with knives, crowbars and big hooks, boarded the ship from stern, while at anchor. When spotted by the duty A/B, they jumped overboard and escaped with their loot	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Port control, local agents and Coast Guard, Bangladesh, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN PORT AREA

8	SALA Oil tanker Panama 153506 9036442	12/11/2002 18:45 UTC	01°21'.50S 116°58'.00E Balikpapan anchorage (Indonesia)	Five robbers boarded the ship, via anchor chain, while at anchor and when spotted, escaped in their boat	-	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
9	X-PRESS MALABAR Container ship Malta 7723 7510341	18/11/2002 02:10 LT	Fairway Buoy, Kochi (India)	A robber boarded the ship from forecastle from a waiting boat which had four accomplices, while at anchor. When spotted by the duty A/B, he jumped overboard and escaped	-	Alarm raised	Yes. Port Control and Indian Coast Guard informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
10	NEW ATLANTIA Oil tanker Singapore 48845 7709136	20/11/2002 10:30 UTC	01°24'.00S 116°56'.80E Balikpapan anchorage (Indonesia)	Six robbers armed with long knives and crowbars boarded the ship via starboard anchor chain, while at anchor. They broke open bosun stores and stole ship's property before escaping in a fishing boat	Ship's stores and one life raft stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Local agents, owners and SAR, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
11	TARJUN General dry cargo ship Bahamas 7170 8509399	24/11/2002 20:30 UTC	03°12'.00S 116°20'.00E Pemancingan anchorage (Indonesia)	Six robbers armed with knives in a wooden boat boarded the ship, via anchor chain, while at anchor. When spotted by alert duty crew, they jumped overboard and escaped in their waiting boat	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Local agent, Police and Sar, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Police came on board at 21:30 UTC for investigation
12	PHOENIX HOPE Ro-ro-cargo ship Panama 8061 9170937	25/11/2002 01:00 UTC	00°14'.70S 117°32'.80E Samarinda anchorage (Indonesia)	Robbers posing as stevedores, boarded the ship, while at anchor. They broke open bosun store and later escaped with their loot	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
13	PHOENIX HOPE Ro-ro-cargo ship Panama 8061 9170937	26/11/2002 21:50 UTC	00°14'.00S 117°32'.80E Samarinda anchorage (Indonesia)	Three robbers boarded the ship, while at anchor and attempted to steal a life raft. They escaped when spotted by alert crew	-	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	PEGASUS III Yacht Canada	09/07/2002 21:30 UTC	Vicinity of Florida Islands, Solomon Islands	Two persons attacked the yacht, while underway and after about 30 minutes, yacht reported she was clear of danger	-	-	Yes. MRCC, HONIARA, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Local Authority took action
2	LIMBURG Tug Netherlands 252 8117500	31/10/2002 13:00 LT	04°40'.00N 007°10'.00E Bonny river (Nigeria)	Fifteen robbers armed with wooden batons boarded the tug from a fast boat, while underway. They took the crew ashore, held them hostage for several hours and demanded a huge ransom for their release. Master, fearing for crew safety, paid with ship's cash and crew were released	Crew held hostage; ship's cash used to pay ransom	Master paid ransom	Apart from Nigerian Navy Headquarters, incident was not reported to coastal state authorities to avoid escalation	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	SINAR BATAM Container ship Panama 16705 9194505	04/11/2002 00:05 LT	00°52'.60N 105°07'.10E (Indonesia)	Eight pirates armed with long knives boarded the ship, while underway. They overpowered and tied-up the 3rd mate and forced him to phone and request Master to come to the bridge. As Master opened his cabin door, he was taken hostage, assaulted and his cabin ransacked. The pirates later jumped overboard and escaped with their loot	Crew taken hostage and assaulted; more than USD7,000 cash, crew belongings and ship's property stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
4	NORGAS VICTORY Gas carrier-LPG Liberia 8592 8017061	22/11/2002 00:30 LT	Rio Haina Port Dominican Republic	Four robbers armed with a rifle boarded the ship, whilst moored at buoys and when spotted by the duty A/B, they jumped overboard and escaped	Large quantity of safety equipment from life boat stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port authority and Dominican Republic Navy informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Police came on board to investigate

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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

Nº	Ship's name Type of ship Flag Gross tonnage IMO No.	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. 27 ANNEX 2 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	STAVROULA Bulk carrier Malta 10689 7713890	16/11/2002 16:16 UTC	11°33'.30N 054°34'.20E South East of Socotra Island	A pirate boat called the ship via CH 16 instructing her to divert course towards position 11:34N - 054:31E, while underway. They pressured ship to divert course by flashing signal light and reporting fishing nets on their course. Master took evasive measures and activated anti-piracy measures and the pirates chased the ship for about 30 minutes and abandoned attempt due to rough seas. Other boats in the vicinity were informed	-	Raised and activated anti-piracy measures	Yes. French Maritime Defence Forces, Djibouti, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	NA Fishing vessel	17/11/2002 01:30 LT	67NM Off Pantai Remis Coast, Perak (Malaysia)	Eight pirates crept out of the dark and fired at the ship engaged in casting nets, while steaming. One crew member was hit with a bullet and the skipper managed to steer the boat towards the coast	One crew member injured and ship was riddled with more than twenty bullet marks	Skipper steered the ship towards the coast	Yes	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	GIANNIS Bulk carrier Malta 23406 8617952	21/11/2002 05:03 UTC	12°41'.00N 043°20'.00E Strait of Bab-El-Mandeb, Red Sea	Eight persons in two white speedboats attempted to board the ship, while underway. When spotted by the duty officer, the speedboats disappeared in an SSE direction. Ship established contact with a military aircraft and reported incident	-	Raised alarm, mustered crew and activated pressurized fire hoses	Yes. Military aircraft and French Navy, Djibouti, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	NAGANITA Bulk carrier Norway (NIS) 24942 8307349	17/11/2002 06:00 LT	22°15'.00N 091°45'.00E Chittagong anchorage (Bangladesh)	Two crafts approached the ship at stern, while at anchor and when spotted by the duty officer, the crafts moved away. Later at 06:40, robbers in a craft removed all the zinc anodes	Zinc anodes stolen	Raised alarm and 3rd officer manoeuvred the rudder accordingly	Yes. Coast Guard, Bangladesh, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	DARYA RANI Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 26054 9139995	14/11/2002 21:15 UTC	17°51'.50N 120°08'.00E About 15NM off Luzon West Coast (Philippines)	Several unlit boats approached the ship, while underway. Two boats moved at high speed towards the ship and another boat came alongside with persons attempting to board. Alert crew illuminated shipside and directed searchlights; one of the boats retreated but the second boat trailed the ship for some time before disappearing	-	Raised alarm, illuminated shipside and directed searchlight	Yes. Coast Guard, Philippines, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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