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MSC.4/Circ.28
20 January 2003

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during December 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 2,933, an increase of 28 since 30 November 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 year 2002 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, MSC.4/Circ.26 and MSC.4/Circ.27.

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. 28 ANNEX 1 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	KM ABDI MAKMUR Barter Trade Boat Malaysia	24/11/2002 13:00 LT	West of Kendi Island (Malaysia)	Pirates boarded the ship while underway, seized the documents and took the Master hostage. They damaged the engine, set the ship adrift with twelve crew members and Master was taken ashore to Aceh in Sumatra where they demanded a ransom. Master was released after ransom was paid and the ship and crew members are still missing	Master taken hostage and released after payment of RM60,000 ransom; ship's documents stolen, engine damaged and twelve crew members and boat still missing	Alarm raised	Yes. Authorities informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	The Royal Marine Police and Navy mounted a search for the missing ship and crew
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IN PORT AREA

1	TAMBOV Chemical tanker Liberia 26218 9112753	06/12/2002 01:10 UTC	10°19'.20N 075°31'.50W Bahia De Cartagena Colombia	Five pirates boarded the ship via anchor chain, while at anchor and broke open forecandle/bosun store. When spotted by the duty crew they jumped overboard and escaped with their loot	Ship's property and stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Coast Guard, Port Control and SAR, Cartagena informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Coast Guard sent a high-speed boat in pursuit of the pirates
2	X-PRESS MALABAR Container ship Malta 7723 7510341	10/12/2002 23:00 LT	4NM from Colombo Port (Sri Lanka)	Armed robbers in two boats boarded the ship, while at anchor and broke open four containers. Alert duty A/B spotted them and they jumped overboard and escaped	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port control, the Navy and MRCC, Colombo, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Naval boats were seen searching the area. The Harbour Police and Security came on board to investigate
3	PEARL OF JEDDAH Bulk carrier Cyprus 19868 7527198	11/12/2002 13:20 LT	Jakarta Anchorage (Indonesia)	Armed robbers in a small boat boarded the ship, while at anchor and when spotted, they jumped overboard and escaped	Ship's property and stores	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Jakarta Pilot Station and SAR, Jakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	
4	POLAR DISCOVERY Gas carrier-LPG Luxembourg 7954 8511964	16/12/2002 06:10 LT	Jakarta Anchorage (Indonesia)	Four robbers in a wooden boat boarded the ship, while at anchor and escaped with their loot	Ship's safety equipment stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Port authorities, Pilot station, local agent and SAR, Jakarta, 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

5	BLUE PRINCESS General dry cargo ship Liberia 24632 8311077	17/12/2002 05:30 LT	Samarinda Anchorage (Indonesia)	Five robbers armed with knives boarded the ship from starboard side, while at anchor. When spotted by duty A/B, they jumped overboard and escaped	Duty A/B sustained injuries trying to escape	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Local authorities and SAR, Jakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
6	TU KING Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 16749 7608344	18/12/2002 02:00 LT	03°42'.00S 116°24'.00E Sebuku Anchorage (Indonesia)	Five robbers in a boat, armed with knives, boarded the ship via anchor chain from starboard side, while at anchor. They broke open the paint store and when spotted, they jumped overboard and escaped with their loot	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Local agents and SAR, Jakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
7	ORANGE STAR Tanker Liberia 9026 7342976	20/12/2002 00:30 LT	24°07'.50S 046°17'.20W Santos Anchorage No. 4 (Brazil)	About eleven robbers armed with shotguns, handguns and machetes boarded the ship at stern, while at anchor and headed for the bridge. They entered the radio room, destroying the window and firing shots, took the Chief Officer hostage. They also broke into Master's cabin and escaped with their loot	Chief Mate taken hostage; cash and crew belongings stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Federal Police, Port Authority and MRCC, Brazil, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	The authorities took a statement from Master the next morning upon berthing
8	STAVANGER OAK Oil tanker Norway (NIS) 22943 8000642	21/12/2002 04:55 LT	Anyer (Indonesia)	Three robbers armed with long knives and guns boarded the ship, while at anchor. The duty motorman who spotted them was taken hostage and forced to lie on the deck and they escaped via funnel door with their loot	One crew taken hostage and engine spares stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. SAR, Jakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
9	SANTA VITORIA Bulk carrier Panama 40030 9244788	23/12/2002 19:30 LT	Balikpapan Inner Anchorage (Indonesia)	Three robbers in a boat boarded the ship via hawsepipe, while at anchor. When spotted by the duty A/B who chased them, they jumped overboard and escaped	Ship's property stolen	Raised alarm and duty A/B chased robbers	Yes. Port Control and SAR, Jakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
10	ALLORO Oil tanker Panama 42237 9162033	27/12/2002 08:50 LT	Balikpapan Anchorage (Indonesia)	Three robbers in a boat boarded the ship by bending the port chain hawse pipe metal cover, while at anchor and escaped with their loot	Ship's property stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port Radio Station and SAR, Basarnas, Indonesia, 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

11	NL 925 Tug/Barge Singapore 129 9117935	01/12/2003 20:30 LT	01°03'.46N 103°23'.54E (Indonesia)	Eight robbers armed with guns boarded the tug/barge (TKW 88), while at anchor. The 2nd Engineer was assaulted, taken hostage and moved to an anchored barge nearby and they hijacked the tug/barge	Tug and barge hijacked and 2nd Engineer assaulted	Alarm raised	Yes. MPA-Singapore, SAR-Basarnas, RCC-Medan and MRCC-Port Klang	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	HORNESTRAND General dry cargo ship Denmark 808 8023931	30/10/2002 01:30	Southeast of Pulau Mapor (Indonesia)	About ten robbers in a small 8m outboard motorboat attempted to board the ship. Two of them eventually boarded but fled when spotted	-	Alarm raised	Yes. Local authorities informed	Denmark	-
2	NA Fishing vessel Malaysia	28/11/2002 18:00 LT	30NM off Tanjung Tuan, off Port Dickson	Four robbers boarded the ship, while at anchor. The skipper was taken hostage and moved to a secluded island while two pirates remained on board. The skipper was forced to telephone his family for ransom and as they could not raise the ransom, the skipper offered the ship's equipment and stock of fish and he was released	Skipper taken hostage; ship's equipment and stock of fish handed over in place of ransom	Alarm raised	Yes. Local police informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	NA Fishing vessel Malaysia	28/11/2002 22:30 LT	Vicinity of Tuaran, Sabah (Malaysia)	Two robbers armed with M16 rifles boarded the ship, while underway; requested identification documents from the skipper and shot him in the lower abdomen. Four crew members were ordered to jump overboard and the ship was hijacked. The four crew members swam to safety where the incident was reported to police. Skipper's body was later recovered by the police	Skipper killed; four crew members threatened and ship hijacked	Alarm raised	Yes. Report lodged at Bukit Tinggi Police Station	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Police are investigating
4	KATJA General dry cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 6382 9235490	02/12/2002 01:15 LT	Georgetown (Guyana)	Three robbers boarded the ship from forecastle, while underway and when spotted, they escaped with their loot	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and Master attempted to contact port authorities	Yes. Coast Guard, Guyana, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response received from port authorities

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

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

5	AMERICA STAR Container ship United Kingdom 24907 7052909	15/12/2002 05:30 LT	Fairway Buoy, Kingston (Jamaica)	Robbers boarded the ship, while underway and broke into a container. They escaped when spotted	Ship's property and cargo stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Coast Guard, Jamaica, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
6	MODALWAN 11 Tug/Barge Malaysia	22/12/2002 04:00 LT	Vicinity of Batam Island (Indonesia)	Pirates hijacked the tug/barge (COASTWAY 1905c) with its cargo, while underway. The Master and Chief Mate were taken away in two speedboats towards the shore and the Chief Mate was later released. The fate of the Master is still unknown and the tug/barge with six crew members are still missing. Incident was reported to police by the Chief Mate	Tug/barge with cargo of 1800mt palm oil stolen; Master taken hostage and fate still unknown; six crew members still missing	Alarm raised	Yes. Police, MPA, Singapore, MRCC, Port Klang SAR, Jakarta and Malaysian Marine Police informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
7	NA Speedboat Malaysia	23/12/2002 19:30 LT	Batik Kelambu Islands, Off Semporna, Sabah (Malaysia)	Three robbers armed with M16 guns hijacked two speedboats towing a barge, while underway. Five crew members left adrift on the barge were later rescued by passing ships	Two speedboats hijacked and five crew members left adrift on the barge	Alarm raised	Yes. Local police informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
8	DARYA RANI Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 26054 9139995	24/12/2002 21:45 LT	12°56'.00N 100°44'.00E 13NM SSW of Kohsichang (Thailand)	An unlit boat approached and a robber boarded the ship using a hook, while underway. He ran aft and attempted to tie the boat to the railings and when spotted by crew, he jumped overboard and escaped	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. MRCC, Bangkok, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
9	SEA STAR General dry cargo ship Georgia 6601 7729825	27/12/2002 02:20 UTC	05°35'.50N 000°03'.70W Tema Outer Roads (Ghana)	Five robbers in a boat, armed with long knives boarded the ship, while at anchor and attacked crew at forecandle. When crew mustered, they jumped overboard and escaped	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port control and Ministry of Transport and Communication, Ghana, informed	ICC-IMB PRC 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

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. 28 ANNEX 2 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN PORT AREA

1	CHRISTOS Bulk carrier United Kingdom (Cayman Islands) 24978 8122816	07/12/2002 23:00 LT	Semarang Anchorage (Indonesia)	Robbers in a boat, posing as stevedores, attempted to board the ship from a barge alongside, while at anchor, hiding behind a cargo of plywood in the barge and abandoned attempt when spotted by duty crew	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. SAR, Djakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	ATLANTIC HARMONY Bulk carrier Panama 19908 9205603	09/12/2002 01:20 LT	1NM West of Sea Buoy, Buenaventura Outer Roads (Colombia)	Seven robbers armed with knives and steel bars and using grapnel hooks, attempted to board the ship, while at anchor. When spotted by alert crew on deck, they abandoned attempt	-	Alarm raised	Yes. Local agent, port authorities and MRCC, Bogota, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	GREVENO Bulk carrier Malta 13823 7631573	11/12/2002 18:05 LT	Lagos Anchorage (Nigeria)	Six robbers in a speed boat, armed with M16 machine guns, attempted to board the ship via anchor chain, while at anchor and abandoned attempt when spotted by alert crew. Master warned other ships in the area	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Local authorities and Nigerian Naval Department informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
4	ANGELIC GLORY Bulk carrier Greece 40597 9261798	15/12/2002 18:05 LT	04°01'.73S 115°59'.97E Pulau Laut, 2.3NM from I.B.T. Anchorage (Indonesia)	Two robbers in an unlit high-speed boat attempted to board the ship via anchor chain, while at anchor and when spotted by alert duty A/B, they jumped overboard and escaped	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. SAR, Jakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
5	DARYA RANI Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 26054 9139995	24/12/2002	Kohsichang Anchorage (Thailand)	An unlit boat came alongside and a robber attempted to board the ship, while at anchor. Alert crew spotted him and directed searchlight and he abandoned attempt and escaped	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew; Agent's and stevedore's boat sounded horn and directed searchlight at boat	Yes. MRCC, Bangkok, 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

6	ALICE OLDENDORFF Bulk carrier Liberia 28709 9183776	31/12/2002 23:10 LT	Outer Anchorage, Guayaquil (Ecuador)	Five robbers in a wooden boat attempted to board the ship, while at anchor and abandoned attempt when spotted by the duty officer	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Coast Guard Headquarters, Ecuador, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	MARIBOR General dry cargo ship Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 12117 7512741	21/12/2002 10:40 LT	05°24'.00N 097°30'.70E Off Aceh, Sumatra (Indonesia)	Four robbers in a 5m long blue-hull motorboat, armed with rifles, followed the ship, while underway. At about 50 metres from the ship, one of the robbers pointed a rifle towards the bridge. The boat later altered course and abandoned attempt. Other ships in the vicinity were notified via VHF radio	-	Raised alarm and Master notified ships in the vicinity	Yes. SAR, Jakarta, informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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