



Ref. T1/13.01

MSC.4/Circ.31
14 March 2003

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during February 2003

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 3,001, an increase of 27 since 31 January 2003.

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, MSC.4/Circ.27, MSC.4/Circ.28, MSC.4/Circ.29 and MSC.4/Circ.30.

ANNEX 1

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

N°	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. 31 ANNEX 1 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	NA Fishing trawler Malaysia	18/02/2003 00:01	17 NM off Penang, Malaysia	While underway, eight pirates armed with sub-machine guns boarded the trawler. They hijacked the trawler and ordered the skipper and two crew members to board the boat used by the pirates. Local police received a distress call from the boat and rescued the crew members	The trawler was hijacked together with her cargo and crew's properties, belongings and cash	Sent distress message	NA	IMB	Police sent one boat to tow back the pirate boat
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IN PORT AREA

2	POLAR DISCOVERY Tanker Luxembourg 7954 8511964	16/12/2002 06:10 LT	06°01'S 106°53'.7E Jakarta Indonesia	4 people boarded the vessel and stole the content of 1 liferaft	Stolen 1 liferat and full content (housing and painter remained on deck)	Sighting and screaming by the crew	Port authorities, pilot station and local agent informed	Ministere des Transports, Luxembourg	
3	INDIA STAR Container Antigua and Barbuda 9367 8417558	01/02/2003 02:30 LT	Container Berth No. 11 Dar-Es-Salaam Tanzania	While berthed and preparing for departure, pirates boarded the ship. Five shore watchmen were on board at the time. Due to crew alertness, pirates jumped overboard and escaped with the ship's stores. Local authorities were informed but took no action	Ship's stores stolen	Crew alerted	Yes. Local Police	PRC relayed message to the authorities	NA
4	BATU Bulk carrier Panama 24987 9142980	01/02/2003 02:45 LT	Adang Bay anchorage Indonesia	While at anchor, pirates boarded the ship preparing to depart. They stole two 20 person liferafts, which were secured with wires and clips. Master suspects stevedores on board may have assisted the pirates	Two 20 persons liferafts were stolen	Nil	Nil	IBM - PRC relayed message to SAR Jakarta	NA

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									Action by the coastal State
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IN PORT AREA

5	ALEXIS Bulk carrier Malta 16598 7433074	06/02/2003 00:00 LT	Berth No. 9 Chittagong Bangladesh	While berthed, two pirates armed with knives boarded the ship and broke into the forecastle store. They tried to steal the ship's stores but alert crew caught one of the pirates and handed him to the police. The other pirate jumped overboard and escaped	Nil	Alert crew caught one pirate	Yes. Local police	PRC relayed message to the Coast Guard	NA
6	MEKHANIK KARASYOV Tanker Ukraine 1902 8727898	07/02/2003 02:00 LT	Inner Road Anchorage, Santos Brazil	While at anchor, about ten pirates armed with guns boarded the ship from a boat. They stole the personal belongings of crew. When the crew spotted them, the pirates responded with gunfire, killing the Chief mate and injuring another officer, who was hospitalized	Pirates stole the personal belongings of crew. Chief officer was killed. 2nd officer was injured. Crew members were threatened	NA	Pilot station	IMB - PRC relayed message to MRCC Brazil. An official letter was sent to them requesting the authorities to investigate the incident	Injured officer was sent ashore for medical treatment
7	ISOLA AZZURRA Chemical Tanker Italy 9383 9125243	08/02/2003 04:30 LT	05°03'.5S 081°07'W Portuario de Paita Terminal Peru	While at berth, one pirate armed with a knife in a small boat boarded the ship at the poop deck. They duty A/B raised the alarm. The incident was reported to the coastal authority. The coast guard apprehended the pirate	Nil	Duty A/B raised the alarm	Yes, coastal authority was informed	IMB - PRC relayed message to the MRCC Peru	Coast Guard apprehended the pirate
8	IRENES MYTH Container ship Cyprus 31356 8202111	08/02/2003 23:04 LT	06°00'.1S 105°56'.5E Banten Roads Indonesia	While at anchor, six pirates armed with knives boarded the ship. Alert A/B spotted them and raised the alarm. The pirates fled empty handed	Nil	Alert A/B raised the alarm	Yes, local authority was informed	IMB - PRC relayed message to the SAR Jakarta	NA
9	TAMAN Tanker Liberia 26218 9105061	09/02/2003 03:50 LT	Tanker Berth No. 1-2, Rio Haina Dominican Republic	While at berth, about ten pirates armed with knives boarded the ship at fore and aft simultaneously and stole ship's property. Alert crew repelled the boarders. The local authorities were informed	Two liferaft lashings damaged and one liferaft supply stolen	Alert crew repelled boarders	Yes, local authorities were informed	IBM - PRC relayed message to the Dominican Republic Navy	NA

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IN PORT AREA

10	NOVA SCOTIA Refrigerated ship Antigua and Barbuda 5874 8216916	09/02/2003 04:00 LT	Dakar Roads, 2 NM SE of Lie De Goree Sénégal	While at anchor, two pirates armed with knives boarded the ship at stern and tried to steal the ship's stores. Alert crew spotted them and chased them away	Nil	Crew chased pirates away	Nil	IMB - PRC relayed message to the MRCC Senegal	NA
11	JOAN CHQUEST Supply ship United States 490 8127347	09/02/2003 16:50 LT	Bonny River, Onne Port Nigeria	While steaming, ten pirates armed with guns in a boat, came alongside the ship soon after departing Onne Port. They went to the bridge and ordered the chief officer to reduce speed. They then took the master as hostage and left for a nearby swamp area. The ship returned to Onne and informed the authorities and agents. After negotiations, the master was released unharmed. The master was advised that such incidents are common in Bonny River and other mariners should be cautious	Chief officer was threatened and Master was taken hostage	Nil	Yes, authorities and agents were informed	IMB - PRC relayed message to the Delta State Command HQ., Nigeria	NA
12	DELIA Bulk carrier Cyprus 25206 9133771	11/02/2003 03:50 LT	Halong Bay, Haiphong Anchorage Viet Nam	While at anchor, three pirates armed with knives and using grapnel hooks boarded the ship while discharging cargo. They broke into the paint store at the forecandle. Duty A/B raised the alarm and the pirates escaped by jumping into the water.	Nil	Duty A/B raised the alarm	Nil	IBM - PRC relayed message to the MRCC Viet Nam	NA
13	DELIA Bulk carrier Cyprus 25206 9133771	11/02/2003 04:50 LT	Halong Bay, Haiphong Anchorage Viet Nam	While at anchor, pirates boarded the ship but were spotted by the duty A/B who raised the alarm and alerted other crew members. The pirates escaped	Nil	Duty A/B raised the alarm	Nil	IBM - PRC relayed the message to the MRCC Viet Nam	NA
14	SANTORINI 3 Ro-ro ship Tanzania 6500 6612403	13/02/2003 02:10 LT	Mtwara Port Tanzania	While at berth, watchman onboard the ship spotted three pirates, one onboard and two others in the boat. The pirates stole ship's stores. The security personnel onboard informed the port police who arrived and fired warning shot. The pirates jumped into the water and escaped, leaving behind the loot and their boat. The loot and boat was recovered and an investigation is ongoing	Ship's stores stolen but was later recovered	The security personnel onboard informed the port police	Yes. Port police was informed	IBM - PRC relayed message to the Tanzania High Commission London	The port police arrived and fired warning shot

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN PORT AREA

15	SHAMROCK MOON Chemical tanker Panama 5979 9158991	18/02/2003 06:30 LT	Old Wharf No. 2, Dumai Port Indonesia	While at berth, two pirates armed with long knives boarded the ship. Duty A/B raised the alarm and crew mustered. When the pirates noticed the crew's alertness, they jumped overboard and escaped. The incident was reported to Dumai Police	Nil	Duty A/B raised the alarm and crew mustered	Yes. Incident was reported to the Dumai Police	IMB - PRC relayed message to SAR Jakarta	Dumai Police investigating
16	ICL PARTHIBHAN Bulk carrier India 31734 7616494	20/02/2003 01:15 LT	Sebuku Anchorage, East Kalimantan Indonesia	While at anchor, two pirates boarded the ship during loading operations via the hawse pipe. Duty crew raised the alarm. The pirates jumped overboard and escaped	Nil	Raised alarm and crew mustered	NA	IMB - PRC relayed message to SAR Jakarta	NA
17	DESTINY General cargo ship Panama 2946 7406760	20/02/2003 21:30 LT	Cartagena, Inner roads Colombia	While at anchor, pirates armed with guns boarded the ship from stern. They captured three watchmen, tied and placed them in the hold. Later another crew member noticed the pirates and informed the coast guard. Pirates fled	NA	Crew informed Coast Guard	Yes. Reported to Coast Guard	IMB - PRC relayed message to MRCC Cartagena	NA
18	BBC ARGENTINA Container Liberia 13066 9161182	22/02/2003 22:15 LT	Berth 5C, Callao Port Peru	While at berth, pirates armed with knives and crowbars boarded the ship. They broke open the forecastle locker and stole ship's stores and escaped	Pirates stole ship's stores	Duty A/B alerted the crew	Nil	IMB - PRC relayed message to the MRCC Peru	NA
19	MAERSK VANCOUVER Container Gibraltar 17189 9242625	24/02/2003 00:30 LT	Dakar Roads Sénégal	While underway, pirates boarded the ship and stole ship's properties from poop deck	Pirates stole ship's properties	Nil	Nil	IMB - PRC relayed message to the Senegal Navy	NA
20	PEQUOT Bulk carrier Liberia 36615 9115523	25/02/2003 00:05 LT	Outer Roads, Balikpapan Indonesia	While at anchor, pirates boarded the ship and stole ship's stores from forecastle locker and escaped. Attempt to contact the agent and authorities were futile. Ship doubled anti-piracy watch onboard	Pirates stole ship's stores	Ship doubled anti-piracy watch onboard	Nil	IMB - PRC relayed message to SAR Jakarta	NA
21	PROSPECTS General cargo ship India 14441 7724277	25/02/2003 23:45 LT	Jetty No. 4, Chittagong Port Bangladesh	While at berth, pirates boarded the ship and stole ship's stores from the forward mast house although six crew members were on anti piracy watch. The incident was reported to the port control	Pirates stole ship's stores	Nil	Yes, port control was informed	IMB - PRC relayed message to the Bangladesh Coast Guard	The Coast Guard and Port Police went onboard for investigation

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IN PORT AREA

22	AWERO LPG Liberia 1709 7522112	27/02/2003 04:55 LT	Lagos Roads Nigeria	While at anchor, one pirate armed with a knife and machete boarded the ship. He threatened duty A/B and escaped with ship's stores	Pirate threatened a crew member and stole ship's stores	Crew member shouted at the pirate and informed Duty officer	Nil	IMB - PRC relayed message to the Police HQ, Nigeria	NA
23	YUKIKAZE Chemical tanker Panama 10734 8217221	28/02/2003 04:00 LT	Dumai Port Indonesia	While at berth, three pirates armed with knives boarded the ship. They attacked the duty A/B, stole ship's stores and properties and escaped	Pirates attacked duty A/B and stole ship's stores and properties	Ship maintaining anti-piracy watch	Nil	IMB - PRC relayed message to SAR Indonesia	NA

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

24	SUHAILA Chemical tanker Malaysia 659 8820169	25/02/2003 10:30 LT	04°32'N 098°14'E 8 NM from OB Kuala Langsa (East Aceh) Indonesia	While underway, 4 boats with approximately 8 robbers per boat armed with AK47 rifles and rockets chased and fired at the ship. Bullets hit starboard side of the accommodation plating and destroyed bridge windows along with VHF radio on the bridge. The Chief Engineer sustained gun shot wounds in the head and his condition was serious. He was evacuated by a Navy boat for treatment at shore hospital at Belawan	The chief engineer was shot in the head. The bullets hit STBD side of the accommodation plating and destroyed the bridge windows along with VHF radio on bridge	Nil	Yes. Local agent	IBM - PRC relayed message to SAR Jakarta and contacted the duty officer by phone to send assistance to the ship on arrival at Belawan port	Navy boat arrived at location and evacuated the injured Chief Engineer for treatment at a shore hospital at Belawan
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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

N°	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. 31 ANNEX 2 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	MONNERON Chemical tanker Cyprus 28322 9162526	22/02/2003 13:10 UTC	09°56'N 051°43'E Off Somalia	Seven pirates in two small white open speed boats armed with machine guns and rockets fired upon a ship whilst underway. The ship took evasive action and cleared the area. No serious damage to ship or injuries to crew	Nil	NA	Reported to IMB-PRC, MRCC Cyprus	IMB - PRC relayed message to MRCC France	NA
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IN PORT AREA

2	RELIANCE Tanker Singapore 29919 8215986	07/02/2003 23:15 UTC	06°04'.4N 001°20'.9E Lome Anchorage Togo	While at anchor, eight pirates in a boat armed with knives attempted to board the ship by throwing grappling hook. Alert duty crew thwarted the attempt. The pirates then threw a small net in the water and pretended to be fishing. Throughout the night many small boats with 8-10 persons onboard, with little fishing gear made several rounds of the ship attempting to board. The port control was informed	Nil	Alert crew foiled the attempt	Yes. Port control	IMB PRC relayed message to the Port Autonome De Lome, Togo	NA
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

3	HANDY RAINBOW Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 13881 8323862	13/02/2003 01:00 LT	03°20'N 111°25'E Matu, Sarawak Malaysia	While underway, pirates in a craft attempted to board the ship. Alert crew foiled the boarding	Nil	Alert crew foiled boarding - raised the alarm	Nil	IBM - PRC relayed message to the Marine Police HQ.	NA
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