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MSC.4/Circ.37
8 July 2003

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during June 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 3,138, an increase of 32 since 31 May 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 previous 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, MSC.4/Circ.26, MSC.4/Circ.27, MSC.4/Circ.28, MSC.4/Circ.29, and during the current year being MSC.4/Circ.30, MSC.4/Circ.31, MSC.4/Circ.32, MSC.4/Circ.33, MSC.4/Circ.34, MSC.4/Circ.35 and MSC.4/Circ.36.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	HAKUFU Bulk carrier Panama 15944 8603224	12/06/2003 02:00 UTC	10°53'.00N 017°17'.00W About 90 NM west of Guinea-Bissau	Pirates boarded the ship unnoticed, while underway and escaped with ship's stores	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Embassy of Guinea, Malaysia	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	HANJIN BUSAN Container ship Cyprus 17933 7811367	21/06/2003 21:05 LT	00°51'.00N 105°05'.10E Off Bintan Island (Indonesia)	Eight pirates armed with guns and knives boarded the ship at STBD quarter from a speedboat, while underway. They took four crew members hostage, ordered Master to reduce speed and escaped with their loot	Master, Duty Officer, Chief Engineer and 2nd Engineer held hostage; ship's cash, properties and crew's cash stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Basarnas, Indonesia	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	EASTERN HONESTY Chemical tanker Panama 5372 9246944	22/06/2003 05:20 LT	00°43'.80N 105°27'.20E Off Bintan Island (Indonesia)	Two pirates armed with guns boarded the ship at poop deck from a speedboat tied to the stern, while underway. When their attempt to break open accommodation door failed and as crew mustered on bridge, they escaped leaving behind a 60m long rope they had used to tie up the speedboat. One accommodation door was damaged	One accommodation door damaged	Raised alarm, mustered crew and warned all ships in the vicinity via VHF	Yes. SAR, Basarnas, Indonesia and MPA, Singapore	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
4	RISHIKESH Bulk carrier India 28739 8321084	23/06/2003 02:30 LT	00°49'.00N 105°14'.00E Vicinity of Bintan Island (Indonesia)	Twelve pirates armed with guns and knives boarded the ship, while underway. They took three crew members hostage, went to the Master's cabin and forced Master to open his door. They assaulted Master, 2nd Officer and a crew and escaped with their loot	Three crew members taken hostage; Master, 2nd Officer and one crew assaulted and ship's cash, property and crew's cash and personal effects stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	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 INTERNATIONAL WATERS

5	DOCERIVER Bulk carrier Liberia 79184 8317801	25/06/2003 00:10 LT	01°07'.00N 105°05'.00E Vicinity of Bintan Island (Indonesia)	Eight pirates armed with guns and long knives boarded the ship, while underway. They took two crew members hostage, took them to the Master's cabin where Master was held at gunpoint and one crew member was injured and they escaped with their loot	2nd Officer, Duty A/B and Master held hostage at gunpoint; oiler injured; ship and crew's cash and personal effects stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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IN PORT AREA

1	ARNIS Container ship Cyprus 12997 8908727	25/03/2003 02:30 LT	Lagos Anchorage (Nigeria)	Three robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship at forecastle from a wooden boat, while at anchor. They held one watchman at knifepoint, injuring him and as crew mustered, they escaped with ship's stores and equipment. Attempts to contact port authorities failed and ship heaved anchor and moved out to drift away from port	One watchman held at knifepoint and injured; ship's stores and equipment stolen	Raised alarm and tried to contact port authorities	Yes. Nigerian Police	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response from the port authorities
2	SANTANA General dry cargo ship Colombia 3608 8201038	26/05/2003	South Pier - National Port Authority, Port Au Prince (Haiti)	Robbers mingled with stevedores and boarded the ship during cargo operations, while berthed. They opened bosun store and escaped with ship's properties	Deck spares and bagged cargo from holds stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Embassy of the Republic of Haiti notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	FEDERAL BERGEN Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 16983 8306797	28/05/2003 21:00 LT	Dowes Anchorage (Nigeria)	Two robbers armed with guns boarded the barge alongside the ship engaged in lighterage operations, while at anchor. They threatened a crew member and the supercargo, took away the barge and escaped with their loot	Barge missing; Ch. Off. threatened and crew's personal belongings stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Port Control and Nigerian Police	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
4	BRIGHT STAR General dry cargo ship Republic of Korea 5450 8114297	02/06/2003 10:30 LT	Mongla (Bangladesh)	Twenty robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship, while berthed and preparing to depart with pilot onboard. They threatened crew and escaped after 30 minutes with their loot. Master reported incident to port authorities but did not get any response	Crew threatened with knives and axes and ship's property and stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Coast Guard, Bangladesh	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response to call by Master

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IN PORT AREA

5	NEW VENTURE Bulk carrier Panama 15925 7354319	09/06/2003 04:15 LT	5 Miles from Sea Buoy, Kingston (Jamaica)	Five robbers boarded the ship, while at anchor and awaiting pilot. When spotted and crew mustered, they escaped with ship's stores in a outboard-engine boat. Kingston Coast Guard was notified	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm, sounded ship's whistle and mustered crew	Yes. Kingston Coast Guard and MRCC, Kingston	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
6	TRADEENES General dry cargo ship Panama 4860 9008079	10/06/2003 19:50 LT	Berth No.5, Buenaventura (Colombia)	Three robbers boarded the ship, while berthed. One entered the engine room and two went to the boat deck. When spotted and crew mustered, they escaped with ship's equipment. Pilot station and local agent were informed	Lifeboat lock damaged and safety equipment of lifeboat stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Pilot Station, Local Agent and MRCC, Bogota	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
7	COMMANDER EXPRESS General dry cargo ship Cyprus 18792 7708900	11/06/2003 21:30 LT	Fertilizer Jetty, Chittagong Port (Bangladesh)	Three robbers boarded the ship, while berthed, injuring two watchmen. When spotted and crew mustered, they jumped overboard and escaped with ship's stores in a waiting boat with seven other accomplice. Port authorities were informed	Two watchmen injured; ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port authorities and Coast Guard, Bangladesh	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
8	BUSSARA NAREE Bulk carrier Thailand 11474 9127057	12/06/2003 23:00 LT	Barranquilla Anchorage (Colombia)	Three robbers in a boat boarded the ship at forecastle, using grapnel hooks, while at anchor. When spotted by alert crew and searchlights directed at them, they jumped overboard and escaped in their boat	-	Raised alarm and directed searchlights at the robbers	Yes. Port control and MRCC, Cartagena	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Port control offered to notify Coast Guard; advised ship to contact them if robbers struck again
9	NEW VENTURE Bulk carrier Panama 15925 7354319	13/06/2003 01:40 LT	Kingston Inner Anchorage (Jamaica)	Four robbers boarded the ship at forecastle, while at anchor. When spotted and crew mustered, they escaped empty-handed. Kingston Coast Guard was notified at 02:00 LT	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Kingston Coast Guard and MRCC, Kingston	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Kingston Coast Guard came onboard at 05:45 LT to investigate
10	ART CARLSON Supply ship Vanuatu 3183 9258923	13/06/2003 04:30 LT	Luanda Bay (Angola)	Robbers boarded the ship, while at anchor and escaped with ship's properties	Ship's properties stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Agent notified to inform authorities and MRCC, Angola	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN PORT AREA

11	MAGANDA Bulk carrier Malta 18494 9086538	14/06/2003 13:10 LT	Chennai Anchorage (India)	Three robbers boarded the ship, while at anchor and broke into forecandle locker. When spotted, they escaped with their loot in a boat waiting with six accomplices. Port control was notified	Ship's equipment stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Port control and Chennai Coast Guard	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
12	MAERSK VALPARAISO Container ship Netherlands Antilles 23722 9225433	15/06/2003 00:50 LT	Rio Grande Outer Anchorage (Brazil)	Five robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at forecandle, while at anchor. A crew member who spotted them was forced to lie on deck at gunpoint. They opened four containers on deck and escaped in a boat with their loot	Bosun held at gunpoint; four containers opened and ship's equipment and property stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Pilot station, MRCC, Brazil and the Coast Guard	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
13	DIGNITY T Bulk carrier Panama 36196 8106745	16/06/2003 02:00 LT	Chennai Anchorage (India)	Three robbers boarded the ship at forecandle and broke into the forward locker, while at anchor. When spotted by alert A/B, they escaped with their loot in a waiting boat	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Chennai Port Control and Coast Guard, India	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
14	ANNE BOYE General dry cargo ship Denmark 1534 8413409	18/06/2003 03:30 LT	Chittagong Anchorage (Bangladesh)	Three robbers, in two boats, armed with long knives boarded the ship, while at anchor and when spotted by alert crew, they escaped with their loot	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port Authority and Coast Guard, Bangladesh	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
15	SEA ELEGANCE Container ship Singapore 17789 7817103	23/06/2003 03:30 LT	22°03'.80N 091°40'.30E Off Chittagong Anchorage Area (Bangladesh)	Two armed robbers, during heavy rain, boarded the ship, 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. Coast Guard, Bangladesh and port control	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
16	HALIA Tanker United Kingdom (Isle of Man) 28277 9047362	24/06/2003 02:50 LT	Batangas Anchorage (Philippines)	Two robbers armed with metal bars boarded the ship from small fishing boats, while at anchor. When spotted, they jumped overboard and escaped	-	Raised alarm and crew mustered	Yes. Coast Guard, Philippines	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
17	VEGA General dry cargo ship Singapore 16600 7906928	24/06/2003 04:05 LT	Pier 5C, Callao Port (Peru)	Two robbers wearing masks boarded the ship, while berthed and when spotted, they jumped overboard and escaped	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port control and MRCC, Peru	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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IN PORT AREA

18	MAJOR HOSHIAR SINGH PVC Tanker India 28704 8311194	27/06/2003 16:30 LT	Chennai Port (India)	A robber boarded the ship from a shore service boat, while berthed and alert crew caught him leaving the ship's gangway	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and caught robber	Yes. Local authorities and Coast Guard, Chennai	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
19	NA	28/06/2003 03:15 LT	00°00'.00N 117°35'.00E Bontang Anchorage (Indonesia)	Two robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at forecastle, while at anchor and escaped with their loot when spotted by alert duty officer	Life raft stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	POET VANDA Tug Singapore 122 8975615	18/06/2003 02:30 LT	00°52'.00N 103°33'.00E About 14 NM Off Tanjung Balai Karimun (Indonesia)	Seven robbers boarded the tug towing a barge laden with granites, while underway. They set the barge adrift and hijacked the tug and crew who were taken in a motorboat to an island and forced to disembark. Crew were later saved by some fishermen who landed them on Moro island. The barge has been located but the tug is still missing	Tug hijacked and missing; crew held hostage and left on an island	Alarm raised	Yes. MPA, Singapore; MRCC, Port Klang, Malaysia and SAR, Basarnas, Indonesia and other authorities	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

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	MMM COLORADO Ro-ro-cargo ship Malaysia 9367 7920857	04/06/2003 06:05 UTC	12°01'.60N 059°43'.50W Vicinity of Tobago Island, Caribbean Sea	Five pirates in an unlit fast craft came alongside several times attempting to board the ship, while underway. They abandoned attempt when ship took evasive manoeuvres	-	Raised alarm and took evasive measures	Yes. Coast Guard, Trinidad and Tobago	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	HAKUFU Bulk carrier Panama 15944 8603224	13/06/2003 07:30 UTC	09°05'.00N 015°35'.00W More than 90NM west of Guinea	About twenty armed pirates in a wooden craft attempted to board the ship, while underway. When spotted and crew mustered, they abandoned attempt	-	Raised alarm, sounded ship's whistle and crew mustered	Yes. Embassy of Guinea, Malaysia	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	RUBIN ENERGY Bulk carrier Panama 36560 9057587	13/06/2003 22:45 LT	12°46'.00N 043°15'.00E Bab El Mandeb Strait, Southern Red Sea	Pirates in a fast boat attempted to board the ship, while underway. When spotted and crew mustered, they abandoned attempt and retreated	-	Raised alarm, mustered crew and directed searchlights	Yes. French Maritime Defence Forces, Djibouti	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
4	LISBOA Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 5087 8017308	21/06/2003 05:50 LT	Off Dakar (Sénégal)	Five pirates in a high-speedboat attempted to board the ship using an aluminium ladder, while underway. When spotted by alert crew and searchlight was directed at their boat, they abandoned attempt and retreated	-	Raised alarm and directed searchlight	Yes. Port control and Senegal Navy	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	ANNE BOYE General dry cargo ship Denmark 1534 8413409	18/06/2003 03:30 LT	Chittagong Anchorage (Bangladesh)	Robbers attempted to board the ship, while at anchor and when spotted by alert crew, they abandoned attempt. Port authority was informed	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. Port authority and Bangladesh Coast Guard	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	A naval boat came to assist one hour later
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									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	GARRISON SAVANNAH Gas carrier-LPG Panama 5849 9250505	22/06/2003 16:18 LT	22°23'.00N 089°37'.40E Pussur River, Mongla (Bangladesh)	About ten robbers in a small fishing boat obstructed the ship under pilotage attempting to board, while underway. When ship increased speed and crew mustered, they abandoned attempt but followed the ship for several minutes	-	Raised alarm, increased speed and mustered crew	Yes. Bangladesh Coast Guard and port control	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Coast Guard arrived within 30 minutes and escorted ship until berthing
2	ECO CHARGER Bulk carrier Malaysia 13852 8413954	29/06/2003 03:20 LT	01°13'.00N 105°03'.00E Vicinity of Bintan Island (Indonesia)	Two small crafts were sighted on radar drifting at a distance of two miles when suddenly, one high- speed craft approached the stern of the ship, within 25 metres, attempting to board, while underway. When spotted by alert crew and ship took evasive measures, they abandoned attempt. The craft followed the ship for some time before retreating	-	Raised alarm and took evasive measures	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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