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MSC.4/Circ.9
31 October 2001

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during October 2001

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 2001 and 31 October 2001, including a distinction between acts of piracy, acts of armed robbery against ships (annex 1) and attempted attacks (annex 2).

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 2,460, an increase of 22 since 30 September 2001.

3 Previous incidents reported to the Organization since the fifty-ninth session of the Committee have been circulated by various MSC circulars, those issued during the current year being MSC/Circ.989, MSC/Circ.990, MSC/Circ.992, MSC.4/Circ.1, MSC.4/Circ.2, MSC.4/Circ.3, MSC.4/Circ.5, MSC.4/Circ.6 and MSC.4/Circ.7.

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 draft Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships (MSC/Circ.984) (article 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."

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.9 ANNEX 1 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	LORNA Yacht Sweden	20/03/01 12:30 LT	10°44'.60N 062°22'.10W Punta Toleda, 2 nm off the coast (Venezuela)	A small canoe with five armed robbers approached the yacht from behind. They asked for cigarettes and when they got even closer they opened fire and immediately boarded. They left after about ten minutes	Crew member shot. Personal belongings stolen and VHF sets destroyed	-	Yes. Trinidad and Tobago Police informed	ISAF	Trinidad and Tobago Police investigated and handed over to the Venezuelan Embassy in Port of Spain. The Swedish Foreign Ministry assisted the Venezuelan Police on Isla Margarita
2	CAPE CLEVELAND Container ship Marshall Islands 9030 9187423	20/07/01 23:00 LT	Outer anchorage Vung Tau, Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam)	The Duty Officer noticed an unlit boat with several armed robbers on board near the ship's stern, while at anchor	Three mooring ropes stolen	-	Yes. MRCC Viet Nam and Vung Tau Port Control informed. Also tried to contact the pilot station but the personnel were unable to speak English	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	NAME NOT REPORTED Fishing vessels Philippines	26/08/01	Off Alicia, Zambaonga, Mindanao (Philippines)	Robbers armed with machine guns raked the vessels	Six fishermen's bodies left aboard two boats, which were stripped of their engines	Other local fishermen found the bodies and called the police	Yes, local police informed by other fishermen and PRC relayed message to the Coast Guard/MRCC Manila	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
4	CANELO ARROW General cargo ship Bahamas 32520 9107318	30/09/01 20:00 LT	Sebuku anchorage (Indonesia)	Three armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor. They later climbed down the anchor chain into their boat and escaped	One liferaft stolen	Duty watchman spotted the armed robbers	Yes. PUSKODAL/SAR Djakarta informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
5	MYRON N Bulk carrier Cyprus 38337 8811364	30/09/01 01:20 UTC	03°12'.00S 116°21'.00E Senakin anchorage, Kota Bahru (Indonesia)	A boat came alongside and two to three armed robbers boarded the ship, while at anchor. Later the armed robbers escaped with ship's equipment	Two 20-person liferafts stolen	Alarm was raised	Yes. Port control informed		

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									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	ANTWERP BRIDGE General cargo ship Bahamas 13521 8120832	04/10/01 22:30 LT	Douala port (Cameroon)	Armed robbers boarded the ship during loading operations and broke into the storeroom near the funnel	Ship's equipment stolen	-	Yes. Douala port police informed and letter of protest sent to port authorities	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Two soldiers and an agent arrived onboard to investigate
7	NAND SRISHTI Bulk carrier India 15836 7622106	06/10/01 00:00 LT	Mongla anchorage (Bangladesh)	Armed robbers boarded the ship, while at anchor	Entrance door broken. Chemicals and other items were stolen, including six zinc anodes welded to rudder	-	Yes. Coast Guard, Bangladesh informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	An enquiry was carried out
8	STAR SAPPHIRE Chemical tanker Liberia 22620 8819093	06/10/01 02:20 UTC	Abidjan roads anchorage (Côte d'Ivoire)	A small boat with four armed robbers approached, while at anchor. Two of the robbers armed with long knives climbed aboard via the anchor chain. They later escaped in their boat when spotted	Two mooring ropes stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Abidjan Marine Police informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
9	CAPE GEORJEAN Tanker Bolivia 2384 7118882	11/10/01	Off Cape Sierra Point (Sierra Leone)	Armed robbers boarded the ship from a motorboat, while underway. They shot at the crew and when the marine superintendent on board returned fire, the armed robbers escaped	No injuries sustained by the crew	Crew resisted armed robbers	Yes. RCC Falmouth, the Sierra Leone Embassy, United Kingdom and the Authorities in Sierra Leone informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
10	AEGEAN HAWK Bulk carrier Panama 27992 9181041	17/10/01 01:30 UTC	00°18'.20N 009°24'.90E Owendo (Gabon)	Six armed robbers boarded the ship from the forecandle, while at anchor. Crew tried to prevent the robbery but were unsuccessful	Ship's stores and equipment stolen	Attempt to chase armed robbers	Yes. SAR, Gabon informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
11	WISE KING Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 12283 8515037	18/10/01 11:35 LT	Mongla anchorage (Bangladesh)	Five armed robbers boarded the ship via anchor chain, while at anchor. When challenged by crew members, they jumped overboard and escaped in a boat	Watchkeeper attacked. One slip wire stolen	Crew challenged armed robbers	Yes. Port control and Coast Guard informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
12	NIASE Tanker Malta 18302 7407295	19/10/01 00:45 LT	Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)	A large boat with about 20 armed robbers came alongside the ship, while at anchor. They all boarded. Three robbers armed with long knives attacked the crew. The armed robbers escaped later	No injuries sustained by the crew. One mooring rope stolen	Crew raised alarm and informed local authorities	Yes. Port control was informed	Malta	Port Authority sent a patrol boat
13	MIMOSA Tanker Singapore 4629 9110432	21/10/01 03:30 LT	PTSC Oil Terminal, Vung Tau (Vietnam)	One armed robber boarded the ship from poop deck, using fire wire, while berthed. When spotted, he jumped overboard and escaped in a boat with three other armed robbers	-	Alarm raised	Yes. Port Control and Coast Guard and MRCC, Vietnam 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
14	KAPITAN ZHURAVLYOV Bulk carrier Malta 45278 8023292	22/10/01 02:05 UTC	Lagos anchorage (Nigeria)	Three robbers armed with knives boarded the ship from a speedboat, while at anchor and later fled	Ship's stores, crew's property and one VHF portable radio stolen. No injuries to the crew	-	Yes. Nigerian Navy informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
15	TEAM MARS Chemical tanker Norway 24330 7926253	22/10/01 10:00 UTC	Belawan anchorage (Indonesia)	Seven robbers armed with knives boarded the ship, while at anchor. Three of the armed robbers held an AB hostage and minutes later several other armed robbers boarded the ship using anchor chain. They threatened and held a second AB hostage. The duty officer then raised an alarm and the robbers jumped overboard and escaped	Two portable radio sets were stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered on deck	Yes. SAR/PUSKODAL, Djakarta, informed. Port control contacted but with no response. Pilot station alerted other ships in the vicinity after being contacted	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
16	BUNGA MELOR SATU Bulk carrier Malaysia 24550 9070711	25/10/01 05:00 LT	06°04'00N 126°12'40E Southern Mindanao (Philippines)	Crew noticed suspicious movements at the forecastle, while underway in fishing grounds with many boats around. When the flood lights were switched on, two armed robbers jumped into a small boat and fled at high speed with four others	One six-person liferaft stolen with lashing cut off	Crew alerted and made rounds at the forecastle	Yes. Philippines Coast Guard informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
17	SKUA General cargo ship Cyprus 8749 7422764	29/10/01 04:03 UTC	5.5 miles from South Mole Signal Station; Lagos anchorage (Nigeria)	Six armed robbers in small boats boarded the ship, while at anchor. The armed robbers later jumped overboard and escaped	Safety equipment and ship's stores were stolen	Crew alerted and alarm raised	Yes. PRC relayed message to the Naval and Port Authorities	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
18	DUNHINDA Tanker Sri Lanka	30/10/01	Point Pedro, Jaffna (Sri Lanka)	Armed robbers in five boats, attacked the ship with explosives, while underway. Full report being awaited	-	-	Yes. PRC relayed message to the Sri Lankan Navy Headquarters and requested full report	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Sri Lankan Navy provided assistance

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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. 9 ANNEX 2 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	CORAL RIGIDA Gas carrier-LPG Netherlands 5469 9212577	07/10/01 04:20 LT	Redeco Jetty 1, Merak (Indonesia)	The duty AB spotted a small boat alongside at stern, while at berth. Upon investigation a grappling hook with a rope ladder attached to it was found on the railing. Four armed robbers then started the boat's engine and fled when spotted by the crew	-	Crew released hook and directed search light on to the boat revealing four armed robbers	Yes. PUSKODAL, Djakarta informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	BAIZO Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 17150 9233868	13/10/01 02:30 LT	Cartagena terminal (Colombia)	Eight armed robbers in a motorboat attempted to board the ship from the starboard quarter, using their own ladder, while underway. Alert crew prevented boarding	-	Alarm raised and search lights directed	Yes. SAR/Coast Guard, Colombia informed	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	CAP NAJRAN Chemical tanker Norway 17561 7384857	28/10/01 10:40 LT	02°20':00N 046°23':00E Off Somalia	Crew spotted two boats with several pirates on board, about three to four miles from the ship, while underway. As the boats got closer and spotted alert crew on deck, they turned around and fired four shots at the ship which did not hit the ship	-	Alert crew on standby and ship changed course to stay far from coastline	Yes. PRC relayed message to the Djibouti French Defence Forces	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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