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MSC.4/Circ.220  
23 February 2015

## **REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS**

### **Issued monthly – Acts reported during January 2015**

1 In pursuance of the Maritime Safety Committee's instruction to the Secretariat to issue monthly reports of all incidents of piracy<sup>1</sup> and armed robbery against ships<sup>2</sup> reported to the Organization, the annex hereto provides, in the tabulated format agreed by the Committee, the summary of reports on incidents received between 1 and 31 January 2015 including a distinction between acts of piracy and acts of armed robbery against ships (annex 1) and attempted attacks (annex 2). The Secretariat has, since July 2002, classified separately any reported incidents of piracy and armed robbery **at sea** (international or territorial waters) vis-à-vis acts of armed robbery allegedly **committed in port areas**, as well as **attempted** acts of armed robbery.

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<sup>1</sup> "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 subparagraph (a) or (b)."

<sup>2</sup> "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.1025(26), annex, paragraph 2.2), as follows:

"Armed robbery against ships means any of the following acts:

- (a) any illegal act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of piracy, committed for private ends and directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such a ship, within a State's internal waters, archipelagic waters and territorial sea;
- (b) any act of inciting or of intentionally facilitating an act described above."

2 Further, and as instructed by the Committee (MSC 89/25, paragraphs 18.9 and 18.10), the Secretariat has opened a "piracy and armed robbery" module on the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) (<http://gisis.imo.org>) in order to improve the timeliness of reporting of incidents and to enable users to generate their own search criteria and produce customizable reports. This database is now configured for public, read-only access and is searchable. Reports can be compiled in GISIS directly by Member States and registered public users. These reports can now include follow-up information, for example dates of release of hijacked ships.

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 previous 12 months and up to 31 December 2014 being, MSC.4/Circ.206, MSC.4/Circ.207, MSC.4/Circ.209, MSC.4/Circ.210, MSC.4/Circ.211, MSC.4/Circ.212, MSC.4/Circ.213, MSC.4/Circ.214, MSC.4/Circ.215, MSC.4/Circ.216, MSC.4/Circ.217 and MSC.4/Circ.218.

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

N°	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	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.220 ANNEX I	
									Coastal State Action Taken	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

**IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

1	MARIAM Product tanker Cook Islands 1100 8666472	11/01/2015 05:00 LT	WEST AFRICA Appr. 63nm SW of Bayelsa, Nigeria Nigeria 03° 44.00' N 004° 59.00' E	Ten pirates armed with rifles hijacked the tanker and held all nine crew members. They transferred the fuel oil cargo into another vessel and two pirates eventually departed with that vessel and the stolen cargo. The Ghanaian Navy dispatched a naval vessel to investigate as the tanker moved into its waters. The naval boarding team arrested the remaining eight pirates. During the incident the crew were mistreated by the pirates.	Tanker was hijacked, all nine crew members held and mistreated. Fuel oil cargo stolen	-	Yes PRC relayed message to Nigeria Navy HQ & MRCC Nigeria	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Ghana Navy rescued the tanker and arrested eight pirates as the tanker moved into Ghanaian waters	
2	OCEAN SPLENDOR Bulk carrier Panama 31756 9622825	14/01/2015 21:30 UTC	WEST AFRICA Appr. 157nm SSE of Accra, Ghana Ghana 03° 24.00' N 001° 21.00' E	Eight armed pirates boarded the drifting ship and opened fire to intimidate the crew. All crew members were held by the pirates who also destroyed the communication equipment, manhandled some crew members and stole crew and ship's property, before leaving the ship on 15 Jan 2015, at 0215 UTC.	Crew members held, some were manhandled by the pirates. Communication equipment destroyed. Crew and ship's property stolen	-	Yes PRC relayed message to MRCC Ghana & Ghana Navy Ops Centre	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-	
3	REHOBOT Tanker Indonesia 728	28/01/2015 22:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA In the vicinity of Lembah Island, North Sulawesi, Indonesia Indonesia	Eight pirates on a fast boat boarded and hijacked the tanker underway. All crew were set adrift in a life raft and later saved by local fishermen. The Tanker is still missing.	Tanker hijacked, all crew members taken hostage by pirates and set adrift on a life raft	-	Yes Owners reported the incident to the Indonesian Authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ, Indonesian Marine Police HQ & Philippines Coast Guard. Incident being investigated by the Indonesian Authorities	

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

#### IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

4	LU RONG YUAN YU 917 Fishing vessel Ghana 199 8673906	30/01/2015 05:00 LT	WEST AFRICA Appr. 27nm south of Takoradi, Ghana Ghana 04° 26.00' N 001° 43.00' W	Armed pirates boarded and hijacked the ship underway. The Togo Navy responded and engaged the pirates. Twenty crew members jumped overboard in an attempt to escape and were rescued by the Togolese patrol boat. The remaining seven crew were held. The pirates later left the ship and the crew on board sailed towards a safe port. One crew member has been reported killed during the incident, while three crew were missing.	Ship hijacked by pirates. one crew member reportedly killed, seven crew members held and three missing. Twenty other crew members jumped overboard, into the sea	-	Yes Ghana Navy & Togo Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Togolese Navy responded, engaged the pirates and saved twenty crew members who had jumped overboard
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#### IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	NAME WITHHELD Tug Belize	04/01/2015 04:11 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Appr. 6nm north of Bintan Indonesia 01° 19.47' N 104° 32.49' E	A barge carrying scrap metal and being towed by a tug boat was approached by a sampan. Two robbers boarded the barge and were seen taking scrap metal from it. Authorities were informed and the robbers fled upon seeing an approaching Singapore PCG boat. Ship and crew safe.	-	-	Yes Singapore Police Coast Guard	Information Fusion Centre (IFC)	Singapore Police Coast Guard boat in the vicinity received the ship's distress call and proceeded towards the tug boat
2	KIEN SAN 1 Tug Malaysia 192 9218600	08/01/2015 15:48 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Appr. 2.39nm north of Pulau Nipa, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 11.60' N 103° 38.81' E	While underway, robbers in two wooden boats boarded a barge under tow by the tug. They stole some scrap metal and eventually escaped. No injury to crew.	Some scrap metal stolen	Master requested assistance from Singapore VTIS	Yes Singapore POCC	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Singapore POCC informed Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). Also, a broadcast message was sent by Singapore POCC to warn other ships in the vicinity about the incident. PCG deployed patrol craft

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### IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

3	BW LOYALTY Tug Singapore 160 9492622	14/01/2015 05:50 LT	MALACCA STRAIT PT Idros Service Jetty, Batam, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 02.00' N 103° 54.00' E	Duty A/B on board the berthed tug spotted five robbers armed with knives. The alarm was raised and on seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped on a boat. Subsequently, a search was conducted throughout the tug and barge. Property was stolen from the barge.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Security	Information Fusion Centre (IFC) Singapore, ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	MINERAL FAITH Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 91971 9575668	18/01/2015 06:32 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Around 6nm east of Pulau Karimun Kecil, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 07.00' N 103° 31.00' E	While sailing, the Master of the ship reported sighting of footprints on board. The alarm was raised, the crew mustered and a search was conducted throughout the ship. No robbers were found on board, but ship's property was stolen from the emergency generator room. Master reported incident to Singapore VTIS. No injury to the crew.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was conducted throughout the ship	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ & Indonesian Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Singapore POCC informed Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG), Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Indonesia Piracy Centre and MRCC Jakarta.
5	FUJITRANS WORLD Vehicle carrier Liberia 27286 9210000	20/01/2015 01:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Appr. 5nm off Jakarta port, Indonesia Indonesia 05° 59.70' S 106° 54.50' E	While at anchor, duty oiler on routine rounds spotted four robbers on the ship's engine room. One of the robbers restrained him and threatened him with a knife. They eventually escaped with stolen engine spares. No injury to the crew	Engine spares stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered. Master attempted to contact the Port Authority but received no response	No	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Japan), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	EGRET OASIS Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 41254 9592006	22/01/2015 03:50 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Pulau Karimun Besar, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 06.00' N 103° 32.00' E	While underway, the boatswain spotted five robbers armed with knives on the poop deck. He informed the OOW who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Robbers assaulted some of the crew who retaliated. Boatswain injured. As more crew arrived to assist, the robbers escaped on their boat empty handed.	One Crew member injured	Alarm raised, crew mustered and search conducted throughout the ship	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ & Indonesian Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)	-

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N°	Ship Name Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage IMO Number	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	Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

## IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

7	APL DENVER Container ship Gibraltar (United Kingdom) 43071 9345960	28/01/2015 04:14 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Appr. 5.85nm south of Pulau Nipa Indonesia 01° 06.00' N 103° 32.00' E	While sailing, seven unauthorised persons were spotted in the engine room. The alarm was raised and a search of the ship was conducted but no intruders were found on board. No injury to the crew.	Engine spares stolen	Alarm raised and search of the ship conducted	Yes Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Singapore VTIS informed Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) and Indonesian authorities
8	WHITE CORAL Bulk carrier Panama 19817 9378826	28/01/2015 06:00 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Appr. 5.9nm south of Pulau Nipah, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 02.50' N 103° 39.00' E	Five robbers boarded the ship underway, stole ship's engine spares and escaped. The alarm was raised and a search conducted on the ship. All crew safe.	Ship's engine spares stolen	Alarm raised and search conducted on the ship	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ & Indonesian Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
9	AMBER HALO Bulk carrier Liberia 25074 9111929	29/01/2015 00:50 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Around Tanjung Priok Outer Roads, Jakarta, Indonesia Indonesia 06° 01.00' S 106° 55.00' E	While at anchor two deck watchmen on routine rounds noticed two robbers on the ship's forecastle deck. They immediately informed the OOW who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped on their boat. A search of the ship was conducted. Nothing stolen. Incident reported to Port Control.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy & Indonesian Marine Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
10	GLOBAL AQUARIUS Bulk carrier Panama 17021 9550436	31/01/2015 05:12 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Appr. 8.35nm northwest of Pulau Karimun Besar Indonesia Indonesia 01° 09.10' N 103° 27.06' E	While sailing, five robbers armed with knives and machetes were spotted on board. The Chief Engineer was held hostage in the engine room by the robbers. Two boats were sighted in the vicinity of the ship. Some time later, the master reported that there was no further sighting of robbers on board. No injuries to the crew.	Engine spares reported stolen	-	Yes Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Singapore VTIS informed Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), Singapore Police Coast Guard (PCG) and Indonesian authorities. Also, a navigational warning was broadcast to alert other ships in the vicinity about the incident

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## IN PORT AREA

1	NAME WITHHELD General cargo ship Liberia 19354	09/01/2015 07:00 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Cartagena Anchorage, Colombia Colombia 10° 18.31' N 075° 33.14' W	Robbers boarded the anchored ship during bunkering operations and stole the forward life raft. The incident was witnessed by the duty crew during departure and reported to Authorities.	Life raft stolen	-	Yes Port Authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	MUSANAH LPG tanker Panama 47985 9415648	10/01/2015 00:05 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Tanjung Uban Anchorage, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 04.80' N 104° 10.90' E	Three armed robbers boarded an anchored tanker and tied up the duty A/B. They entered the engine room store reportedly with the intention of stealing spares. Before leaving the ship, the robbers freed the A/B who reported the incident to the duty officer. Subsequently, a search of the ship was conducted but no stores were found missing. Remaining crew safe.	Duty A/B tied up. AB also sustained slight bruises on the wrists and mild swelling on the forehead	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was conducted throughout the tanker	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy HQ & Indonesian Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	PURE GRACE Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 26218 9112129	21/01/2015	WEST AFRICA Monrovia Port Liberia	While crew were engaged in cargo tank squeezing operations, robbers boarded the ship, took items from the ship's lifeboat and also attempted to steal the ship's rescue boat engine and rescue boat can. The robbers eventually escaped unnoticed.	-	-	Yes Monrovia Port Authority	Marshall Islands -	-
4	BULK ATACAMA Bulk carrier Panama 34801 9683130	25/01/2015 06:55 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Vung Tau port, Viet Nam Viet Nam 10° 10.69' N 107° 02.12' E	While anchoring at the buoy, three intruders boarded the ship from a small boat. Duty A/B spotted the robbers stealing ship's stores. The robbers confronted the A/B with pipes and knives but he managed to escape into the accommodation and informed the duty officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers escaped with ship stores stolen from the paint locker. Crew not injured.	800 litres of paint stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control and Harbour Master	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Ship boarded by Harbour Master for investigation
5	NAME WITHHELD Bulk carrier Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 32376	31/01/2015 15:30 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Belawan anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 03° 55.00' N 098° 46.00' E	While on routine rounds on board the anchored ship, the duty A/B spotted an unknown person at the forecastle deck. He immediately informed the Duty Officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Seeing the crew's alertness, the potential robber escaped on a boat, where two other persons were waiting. On further investigation it was discovered that the unknown person had accessed the forecastle deck by climbing the anchor chain and going through the hawse pipe cover opening. Nothing stolen.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes PRC relayed message to Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy & Indonesian Marine Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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**ANNEX II**  
**Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly attempted against ships reported by**  
**Member States or international organizations in consultative status**

N°	Ship Name	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.220 ANNEX II
	Type of Ship								Gross Tonnage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN TERRITORIAL WATERS**

1	SONGA BREEZE Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 11919 9423645	08/01/2015 02:34 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Kabil Anchorage, Pulau Batam, Indonesia Indonesia 01° 07.30' N 104° 10.70' E	Duty watchman on routine rounds, on board the anchored ship heard the sound of a boat engine. Upon further investigation, he found unknown persons trying to board the tanker. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Subsequently, a boat was seen departing from near the bow as the crew conducted checks throughout the tanker.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Kabil Port Control	Marshall Islands ICC- IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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