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MSC.4/Circ.231  
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## REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

### Issued monthly – Acts reported during December 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 December 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 30 November 2015 being MSC.4/Circ.218, MSC.4/Circ.219 (Annual Report), MSC.4/Circ.220, MSC.4/Circ.221, MSC.4/Circ.222, MSC.4/Circ.223, MSC.4/Circ.224, MSC.4/Circ.225, MSC.4/Circ.226, MSC.4/Circ.227, MSC.4/Circ.228, MSC.4/Circ.229 and MSC.4/Circ.230.

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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	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.231 ANNEX I
	Type of Ship								Gross Tonnage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN TERRITORIAL WATERS**

1	MARITIME DINAR Product tanker Marshall Islands 29956 9143685	02/12/2015 06:15 LT	ARABIAN SEA Sikka Crude Tanker Anchorage India 22° 39.80' N 069° 57.90' E	Five robbers armed with iron rods boarded the anchored product tanker and entered the tank cleaning store by breaking the padlock. Duty A/B on routine rounds spotted the robbers as they were lowering stolen ship's items into their boat. He immediately informed the duty officer on the bridge and retreated into the accommodation. The alarm was raised and crew's mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the alerted crew, the robbers fled. Incident reported to port control	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Sikka Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	FV CHOCKBOONNEE 5 Fishing vessel Thailand 1	02/12/2015 23:00 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Approx. 3.5 nm East of Lipe Island (Andaman Sea) Thailand 06° 29.00' N 099° 20.00' E	While underway, robbers boarded and hijacked the boat and forced the boat crew to jump into the water but held the Master who was later released in Tarutao Island, Thailand. The robbers then sailed the boat to Malaysia waters. The incident was reported to the Royal Thai Navy and Marine Police in the area. The Thai authority notified Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA), who despatched their assets and managed to intercept the boat and spotted two robbers on board. Investigation is currently ongoing to determine the details of the incident.	Crew was forced to jump on the water and Master was held.	-	Yes Royal Thai Navy and Marine Police	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand)	Thai Authority notified the MMEA about the hijacked fishing boat. MMEA intercepted the boat and spotted two robbers.
3	ALPHA ERA Bulk carrier Malta 87407 9220990	08/12/2015 00:20 LT	YELLOW SEA Tianjin Anchorage China 38° 46.70' N 118° 23.60' E	Three robbers armed with knives in a fishing boat approached and boarded the ship at anchor. Alerted crew spotted the robbers and immediately raised the alarm. Upon seeing the alerted crew the robbers fled in their waiting boat along with their five accomplices. The Master activated the Ship Security Alert System (SSAS) and informed the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) of the Flag State about the incident. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that nothing had been stolen and all crew safe. Incident reported to port authority and local agents.	-	Alarm raised, crew mustered and SSAS activated.	Yes Port Authority and VTS of Flag State	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (China)	-

\* The position given should be as accurate as possible including latitude and longitude co-ordinates or as a bearing and distance from a conspicuous landmark  
NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific

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

4	INDIGO HOPE Ore/bulk/oil Carrier Panama 132587 9487639	08/12/2015 04:20 LT	YELLOW SEA Caofeidian Anchorage China 38° 42.00' N 118° 48.00' E	Duty oiler on board the anchored ship spotted two robbers on the aft deck trying to open the diesel oil tank manhole cover. The duty oiler shouted and seeing the alerted crew the robbers jumped overboard and fled. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. A search was eventually conducted, following which it was reported that nothing had been stolen. Incident reported to Caofeidian VTS.	-	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was conducted on board.	Yes Caofeidian VTS	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	TOSCA Chemical tanker Liberia 26914 9251884	08/12/2015 13:55 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Belawan Anchorage Indonesia 03° 57.10' N 098° 47.30' E	The duty watchman on routine rounds onboard the anchored chemical tanker spotted an unknown person in the main deck. He immediately notified the OOW who raised the alarm and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, the unknown person fled empty handed in wooden motor boat with his three accomplices. Incident reported to port authority.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	STELLA LUCY Bulk carrier Singapore 94788 9721683	14/12/2015 01:25 LT	YELLOW SEA Tianjin Outer Anchorage China 38° 48.60' N 118° 19.80' E	While at anchor, the officer-on-watch spotted a suspicious small boat alongside the starboard quarter of the ship and immediately informed the Master. All crew mustered. After briefing, the crew proceeded to the starboard side to search for the robbers. The crew attempted to catch the robbers upon discovering the opened gas store tank with plastic hose inside. The robbers immediately tried to release the hose but to no avail, and they quickly fled. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that approximately 31.38 metric tonnes of oil were stolen. All crew was safe. Incident reported to China Coast Guard.	Approximately 31.38 metric tonnes of oil stolen	Master alerted, crew mustered, search conducted on board and attempted to catch the robbers.	Yes China Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	China Coast Guard on board the ship for investigation
7	ARABIAN EXPRESS Container ship Panama 15095 9148532	15/12/2015 08:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Vungtau Anchorage Viet Nam 10° 14.30' N 107° 01.40' E	Robbers boarded the anchored ship unnoticed and stole ship's stores while crew were busy preparing to anchor. The robbers were spotted during routine rounds. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that 15 cans of paint had been stolen. Incident reported to the port authority.	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam)	-

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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 PORT AREA

1	ORIENT GRACE Bulk carrier Vanuatu 33084 9650157	04/12/2015 21:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Campa Outer Anchorage Viet Nam 20° 42.00' N 107° 10.00' E	Six robbers armed with knives in wooden boat approached the anchored ship. Three robbers boarded the ship and threatened the crew on anti-piracy watch. The crew saw the robbers haul one coil of mooring rope into their boat. The crew notified the duty officer and retreated into the accommodation. The alarm was raised and crew mustered and remained on the bridge until the robbers fled with ship's stores. A search was conducted by boatswain at the forecabin of the ship, following which it was determined that one coil of spare mooring rope (new), welding cables and two drums of hydraulic oil had been stolen. Incident reported to local authority	Robbers threatened the crew and ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Local Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Viet Nam)	Port Authority boarded the ship for investigation
2	ASIA PEARL III Bulk carrier Singapore 22402 9502776	05/12/2015 01:39 LT	WEST AFRICA Pointe Noire Anchorage Congo 04° 45.00' S 011° 47.00' E	Three robbers boarded the anchored ship via the anchor chain. Duty crew on routine rounds spotted the robbers, raised the alarm and crew mustered. Upon seeing the alerted crew the robbers fled. A search was eventually conducted, following which it was determined that protective covers of anchor pipes had been damaged but nothing had been stolen. Incident reported to port control.	Protective covers of anchor pipes damaged	Alarm raised, crew mustered and search lights directed	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	SUDKAP General cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 6170 9210294	16/12/2015 04:02 LT	WEST AFRICA Matadi Anchorage Democratic Rep. of the Congo 05° 50.80' S 013° 25.80' E	Seven robbers armed with knives in a boat approached the anchored general cargo ship. Two robbers managed to board the ship. Upon seeing the duty crew approaching, the robbers fled. Incident reported to local authority.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Local Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	IVS KITTIIWAKE Bulk carrier Panama 19885 9310769	16/12/2015 04:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Campa Anchorage Viet Nam 20° 55.84' N 107° 17.59' E	Five robbers boarded the anchored bulk carrier during cargo operations unnoticed from a speed boat. They stole ship's property and fled. The robbers was spotted by the boatswain during routine rounds. Incident reported to local authority.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Local Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Vietnam)	-
5	MOL HOPE Container ship Singapore 17892 9629160	19/12/2015 04:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Manila Anchorage Philippines 14° 35.00' N 120° 49.00' E	An unknown number of robbers boarded the anchored container ship unnoticed, stole ship's property and fled. Evidence of the incident was discovered later in the day. Incident reported to Coast Guard.	Ship's property stolen	-	Yes Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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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 PORT AREA

6	EVER UNIFIC Container ship Singapore 69246 9168843	22/12/2015 03:20 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Manila North Harbor Outer Anchorage Philippines 14° 36.10' N 120° 50.50' E	While at anchor, the deck rover watch discovered and reported that the boatswain store was opened and a heaving line was laid-up on deck from inside of boatswain store water tight door down to anchor chain hawser pipe. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that three of immersion suits, one set of portable emergency lights for the forward life raft and one fire hose nozzle (3-way) had been stolen. All crew safe. The Philippines Coast Guard (PCG) boarded the ship for investigation thereafter.	Ship's stores stolen	The Chief Officer checked and inspected other equipment.	Yes VTMS Manila Control Center and Philippine Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	PCG personnel boarded the ship for investigation.
7	NAME WHITEHELD Product tanker Marshall Islands 30030	24/12/2015 08:00 LT	ARABIAN SEA Kandla Anchorage India 22° 46.00' N 070° 02.00' E	An unknown number of robbers boarded the anchored tanker unnoticed, stole ship's property and fled. Evidence of the incident was discovered later in the day.	Ship's property stolen	Search conducted on board	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
8	ALPINE MARIA Chemical tanker Liberia 29705 9655975	30/12/2015 00:15 LT	ARABIAN SEA Sikka Anchorage India 22° 37.00' N 069° 55.00' E	Two robbers in a small fast craft boat boarded the anchored tanker. The duty crew spotted the robbers, immediately raised the alarm and crew mustered. Upon seeing the alertness crew the robbers fled with stolen ship's property. Incident reported to port control.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Patrol boat was sent to the location

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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.231 ANNEX II
	Type of Ship								Gross Tonnage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN TERRITORIAL WATERS**

1	AQUA VENTURE Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 94710 9502582	18/12/2015 13:42 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Appr. 6.82nm NW of Doc Can Island Philippines 05° 57.00' N 119° 50.00' E	Approximately five robbers armed with guns in a speed boat approached and attempted to board the bulk carrier underway. The 2/O increased speed and commenced evasive manoeuvres. Upon seeing the ship moving away the robbers opened fire towards the bridge causing damage to the superstructure. All crew safe.	Robbers fired upon vessel, superstructure damaged	Increased speed and evasive manoeuvres applied	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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**IN PORT AREA**

1	UNION SAPPHIRE Tug Belgium 498 9220550	01/12/2015 04:00 LT	WEST AFRICA Pointe Noire Anchorage, Congo 04° 45.00' S 011° 50.00' E	Three persons in a boat approached and attempted to board the anchored tug. The duty crew alerted and immediate action taken directed the search light towards the boat and approached the person attempting to board via the tire fender. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the persons fled.	-	Crew alerted, search light directed towards the boat and approached the person attempting to board.	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	MYNIKA  Cyprus 45999 9525613	27/12/2015 22:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Taboneo Anchorage Indonesia 03° 43.50' S 114° 25.80' E	Four boats approached the anchored bulk carrier. One robber climbed the anchor chain and tried to enter through the hawse pipe. They were spotted by the duty crew who informed the bridge by walkie talkie. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Master and crew went forward and discovered the robbers had already fled in a speed boat.	-	Alarm raised and crew went forward to search for the robbers	Yes Local Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	EDWARD N Bulk carrier Liberia 91374 9597185	29/12/2015 02:55 LT	YELLOW SEA Caofeidian Anchorage China 38° 47.70' N 118° 16.20' E	Five robbers in large boat came alongside attempted to board the anchored bulk carrier. Alerted crew spotted the boat, raised the alarm and all crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew the robbers aborted and moved away.	-	Alarm raised and crew alerted	Yes VTS	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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