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MSC.4/Circ.233  
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## REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

### Issued monthly – Acts reported during January 2016

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 2016 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 2015 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.230 and MSC.4/Circ.231.

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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. 233 ANNEX I
									Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

1	AJEMISAN Supply ship Nigeria 1570 9688051	15/01/2016 05:40 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 30nm SW of Bayelsa Nigeria 04° 05.00' N 005° 25.00' E	Ten pirates in speedboat chased and fired at the tug underway. The crew retreated and locked themselves in the safe area. The pirates boarded the tug and damaged the navigation equipment, before fleeing with crew's personal belongings and cash.	Pirates chased and fired at the tug, navigation equipment damaged, crew's personal effects and cash stolen	Alarm raised, SSAS activated, Master increased speed, implemented evasive manoeuvres, crew retreated and locked themselves in the safe area	Yes Local Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A security boat escorted the tug to a safe area
2	LEON DIAS Product tanker Liberia 5720 9279927	29/01/2016 22:36 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 110nm SSW of Bayelsa Nigeria 02° 30.00' N 005° 35.00' E	Armed pirates attacked and took control of the tanker underway en route from Lome to Bata. The owners lost communication with the tanker and reported to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre who in turn notified and liaised with relevant authorities in the region. It was reported that the pirates shot and seriously injured one crew member. Before fleeing the pirates damaged the communication equipment and kidnapped five crew members. The remaining crew members managed to sail the tanker to Benin where a navy patrol boat assisted in the evacuation of the injured crew member. The tanker was then escorted to Cotonou anchorage for investigation.	Pirates held all 18 crew members and took control the tanker. One crew member was shot and seriously injured and five crew members were kidnapped.	The remaining crew members managed to sail the tanker to Benin waters	Yes Nigeria Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Benin navy patrol boat assisted in the evacuation of the injured crew member and the tanker was then escorted to Cotonou anchorage for investigation

**IN TERRITORIAL WATERS**

1	TRIDENT CHALLENGER Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 33044 9555149	05/01/2016 05:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Hon Gai Anchorage Viet Nam 20° 41.15' N 107° 10.32' E	Unknown number of robbers boarded the vessel and took property from the ship. The robbers were undetected by crew.	Ship's stores and property stolen	Alarm Raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Authority	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	SERJEANT LPG tanker Singapore 47347 9694634	23/01/2016 06:30 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Visakhapatnam Anchorage India 17° 39.00' N 083° 24.00' E	Duty crew conducting routine rounds on the anchored tanker discovered foot marks on the upper deck aft area. The alarm was raised. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that one international shore connection and 13 scupper plugs had been stolen. Port control was informed.	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and a search was conducted	Yes Vizag Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	Indian Coast Guard and Port Authority are conducting investigation.

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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	NORD POWER Bulk carrier Singapore 88594 9271626	01/01/2016 16:00 LT	YELLOW SEA Tianjin Outer Anchorage China 38° 49.00' N 118° 19.00' E	An unknown number of robbers boarded the anchored ship, stole fuel and fled unnoticed. Evidence was discovered by the duty crew who noticed the manhole cover was open. The Master, Chief Engineer, SSO and all personnel were informed of the incident. Tank sounding and quantity check was conducted, following which it was determined that about 39 metric tons of low sulphur marine gas oil from the storage tank had been stolen. Incident reported to port authority.	Approximately 39 metric tons of fuel stolen	Alarm raised, crew mustered and Master increased roving patrol frequency and double watch.	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
2	IVS SENTOSA Bulk carrier Singapore 20809 9528005	07/01/2016 01:55 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Hon Cam Anchorage Viet Nam 20° 43.00' N 107° 09.00' E	During routine rounds on board the anchored ship, the duty A/B spotted three robbers emerging from the cross deck where paint stores are kept. Upon being discovered, the robbers armed with knives chased the A/B. The A/B managed to safely retreat to the accommodation and informed the duty officer who sounded the ship's whistle and raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alerted, seven robbers were later seen running from the forecastle. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that 32 cans of paint had been stolen. Local authority informed.	The robbers chased the duty A/B with knives and ship's stores were stolen.	Alarm raised, ship's whistle sounded, crew mustered and conducted investigation	Yes Local Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The Authority boarded the ship for investigation
3	SHEBELLE General cargo ship Ethiopia 20471 9385594	07/01/2016 19:35 LT	ARABIAN SEA Kandla anchorage India 22° 49.00' N 070° 04.90' E	Robbers boarded the anchored ship unnoticed. Duty deck crew on routine rounds discovered two ropes hanging from the fore part of the ship, two broken locks of the stores and heard voices. He immediately informed the OOW who raised the alarm, sounded the fog horn and mustered the crew. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers fled empty handed. Port authority and coast guard informed.	Two locks damaged.	OOW raised the alarm, sounded the fog horn and mustered the crew	Yes Port Authority, Marine Police, Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	India Coast Guard immediately diverted the ship for sanitization and investigation.
4	CMB MEDOC Bulk carrier Panama 50633 9615171	11/01/2016 20:30 LT	ARABIAN SEA Kandla OTB Anchorage, Kandla Port India 22° 46.50' N 069° 59.00' E	The robbers boarded the anchored ship unnoticed during cargo operations. They stole ship's property and fled. Evidence of the incident was discovered by the crew while securing the deck. A search was conducted, which it was determined that 3 fog nozzles, hose couplings, 4 fire hydrant coupling, 4 hydrant caps, a signal bell and items inside the life raft had been stolen. Incident reported to local authority.	Ship's property stolen	-	Yes Local Authority, MRCC and Indian Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	-

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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

5	BOW KISO Tanker Panama 19420 9379894	11/01/2016 23:55 LT	ARABIAN SEA Kandla Anchorage India	Duty watchman onboard the anchored tanker spotted a small boat loitering nearby. Eight robbers were spotted near the forecandle store armed with knives. The alarm was raised and crew mustered on bridge. Upon seeing the alerted crew the robbers fled empty handed. Incident immediately reported to Port Control and Coast Guard.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control and Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	-
6	CREST HYDRA Special purpose ship Singapore 3023 9712527	15/01/2016 01:00 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Galang Anchorage, Batam, Indonesia 00° 44.00' N 104° 09.00' E	Four robbers armed with knives and swords boarded the anchored vessel. The cook spotted robbers at the paint store. Robbers threatened the cook to return to the accommodation area. Oiler also spotted the robbers via the security camera and informed the OOW. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that 40 tins of marine paint, two flashlights and a SCBA compressor had been stolen. Incident reported to The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and Information Fusion Centre (IFC).	Robbers threatened the cook and ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes MPA Singapore and IFC Singapore	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
7	SEA LION I Product tanker Marshall Islands 8503 9326639	24/01/2016 04:18 UTC	WEST AFRICA Ango Ango Anchorage Democratic Rep. of the Congo 05° 50.50' S 013° 25.90' E	Two robbers boarded the anchored tanker. Duty crew on routine rounds spotted the robbers and reported to the bridge. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew's alertness, the robbers fled with approximately 40 metres of mooring rope.	Mooring rope approximately 40 metres stolen.	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes PFSO, MTISC-GoG	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
8	DAWN MADURAI Product tanker India 28414 9116383	25/01/2016 01:30 LT	ARABIAN SEA Kandla Anchorage India 22° 48.83' N 070° 02.60' E	While at anchor, five robbers boarded the ship from a craft. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. The robbers fled with two fire hoses and two fire nozzles. All crew safe.	Two fire hoses and two fire nozzles stolen.	Alarm raised and crew mustered.	Yes Kandla Port Control	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	Informed the security agency
9	AAL KOBE General cargo ship Marshall Islands 23930 9498444	25/01/2016 23:55 LT	NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN Guanta Anchorage Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 16.30' N 064° 34.30' W	The unknown robber boarded the anchored ship unnoticed. 3/O discovered padlocks at the paint room and forecandle stores had been damaged. Ship's stores were missing. The incident was discovered later by the duty crew on safety rounds.	Padlocks at the paint room and forecandle stores damaged and ship's stores stolen	-	Yes PFSO	Marshall Islands 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**

10	POMER Product tanker Croatia 30638 9455739	28/01/2016 03:00 LT	ARABIAN SEA Kandla anchorage India	While at anchor, six robbers boarded the tanker. The Master reported the incident to Port Control nine hours later after the robbers fled. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that nothing had been stolen. All crew safe.	-	Master reported the incident nine hours later.	Yes Kandla Port Control	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	Informed concerned higher authority
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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. 233 ANNEX II
	Type of Ship								Gross Tonnage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

1	SILVER SKY Vehicle carrier Panama 39043 8519722	19/01/2016 11:00 LT	WEST AFRICA Approx. 37nm SW of Bayelsa Nigeria 03° 52.00' N 005° 33.00' E	Pirates in two speed boats chased and fired upon the ship underway. Master raised the alarm and SSAS, mustered all crew and activated the water hoses. After three hours the pirates abandon the chase. One crew member reported minor injury. Remaining crew safe.	Pirates chased and fired upon the ship. One crew member received minor injury	Master informed the Owners, raised the alarm and SSAS, sent distress message, mustered all crew and activated the water hoses	Yes MTISC-GOG	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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**IN TERRITORIAL WATERS**

1	GLOBE PEGASUS Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 32379 9403188	27/01/2016 06:20 UTC	ARABIAN SEA  Oman 23° 08.00' N 059° 32.00' E	Four suspicious speed boats were following the vessel and were able to get within one nautical mile. Armed guards fired parachute rockets as a warning and finally the chase ended and the speed boats moved away.	-	Additional look-outs were stationed on the Bridge.	No	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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