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MSC.4/Circ.234  
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## REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

### Issued monthly – Acts reported during February 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 29 February 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 30 January 2016 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.231 and MSC.4/Circ.233.

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

**IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

1	NAVE JUPITER Product tanker Marshall Islands 29724 9657038	11/02/2016 15:10 LT	WEST AFRICA Approx. 54nm SW of Brass Nigeria 03° 35.00' N 005° 42.00' E	A tanker underway spotted two skiffs approaching from the stern. Master raised the alarm, increased speed, commenced evasive manoeuvres and contacted the CSO. As the skiffs closed in, weapons and ladders were noticed. The pirates opened fire at the superstructure and threw handmade explosive devices onto the main deck, which did not explode. Three pirates managed to board the tanker using a ladder and fired several rounds. Non-essential crew retreated into the citadel. Master continued with the evasive manoeuvres. The pirates cut off the fuel to the main engines and generators. Master instructed the bridge team to go to the citadel. The pirates tried to gain access to the citadel but failed. Before they fled the pirates damaged all the communication equipment and stole crew personal effects. The Nigerian Navy boarded the tanker and rescued the crew members. No injuries reported. The tanker sailed to a safe port.	Pirates damaged the communication equipment and crew personal belongings were stolen	The alarm was raised, increased speed, commenced evasive manoeuvres and contacted the CSO. All crew members took shelter in the citadel.	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian Navy boarded the tanker and rescued the crew members
2	MAXIMUS Product tanker Panama 4535 9387164	11/02/2016 20:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 77nm South of Abidjan Côte d'Ivoire 04° 00.00' N 004° 00.00' W	Fourteen pirates armed with guns boarded and hijacked the tanker underway. All crew held. The pirates ransacked all the cabins and stole crew personal effects. Eight pirates disembarked the tanker on the high seas with two kidnapped crew members. A Togo Navy patrol boat was able to make contact and took a picture of the tanker. As the pirates had repainted the tanker's name and provided false information to the Togo Navy, a picture of the tanker was sent to the owners for verification. As the tanker sailed into the Nigerian EEZ waters, the Togo Navy handed over the co-ordination to the Nigerian Navy who dispatched a warship to shadow the tanker. On 20.02.2016, the Nigerian Navy boarded the tanker. After an exchange of gunfire, the pirates surrendered and the crew were rescued. One pirate was reported killed. The kidnapped crew were released on 20.03.2016.	Pirates boarded and hijacked the tanker. All crew taken hostage. Pirates ransacked all the cabins and stole crew personal effects. Two crew were kidnapped	-	Yes Togo Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian Navy boarded the tanker and rescued the crew members

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### IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

3	JASCON 67 Tug Nigeria 1922 9690779	26/02/2016 16:07 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 74nm SW of Bayelsa Coast Nigeria 03° 51.00' N 004° 39.00' E	Offshore tug underway spotted a speed boat being launched from a mother vessel. Five armed pirates approached and boarded the tug. The alarm and SSAS was activated. All crew members retreated into the citadel. The pirates damaged the securing doors and entered the accommodation. They ransacked and stole crew personal belongings. Before leaving the vessel they destroyed all navigation and communication equipment. The crew emerged from the citadel after around 10 hours and managed to sail the vessel to a safe port.	Pirates damaged the navigation and communication equipment and the securing doors. STBD bridge glass window was shattered. Crew personal belongings stolen	Alarm raised and all crew member took shelter in the citadel	Yes NIMASA Administration	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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### IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	PACIFIC WARLOCK Supply ship Singapore 2327 9250048	19/02/2016 14:45 LT	ARABIAN SEA Approx. 11nm SSE of Alang India 21° 14.40' N 072° 16.60' E	Robbers in four fishing vessels approached and boarded a rig towed by a tug underway. The tug's crew spotted the robbers stealing property from the rig. After around one hour five minutes, another two fishing vessels came alongside the rig. The tug raised the alarm, sounded five short blast, all crew mustered. The crew locked down the ship, monitored the situation and increased vigilance. Upon realising the crew had been alerted, the robbers fled with rig's property. VTS and local police were informed.	Property rig stolen	Alarm raised, sounded five short blast and crew mustered	Yes VTS and Local Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	Incident has been investigated by the agencies of coastal State, including Indian Coast Guard, agents and port authority.
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### IN PORT AREA

1	NORD GUARDIAN Product tanker DIS (Denmark) 30241 9448712	03/02/2016 02:00 LT	NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN Callao Anchorage Peru 12° 00.00' S 077° 12.00' W	Seven robbers in two speedboats came alongside the tanker. Two robbers boarded the tanker but were spotted by the alert crew resulting the robbers fled without stealing anything.	-	The alert crew shouted and chased the robbers	Yes Coast Guard and Marine Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	CMA CGM HOMERE Container ship United Kingdom 17594 9362322	05/02/2016 03:50 LT	NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN Georgetown Anchorage Guyana	While at anchor robbers armed with knives boarded the ship and broke into the paint locker. Alert duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. Master notified the coast guard who dispatched a boat. Upon seeing the alerted crew and the approaching coast guard boat the robbers fled with stolen ship's stores.	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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### IN PORT AREA

3	EXCELSIOR BAY Product tanker Marshall Islands 29735 9697612	08/02/2016 22:00 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Kandla Outer Anchorage India 22° 47.00' N 070° 00.00' E	Five robbers in a boat approached the anchored tanker. Two robbers boarded the tanker using a grappling hook attached to a rope. Duty officer on bridge spotted the robbers and raised the alarm and crew's mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled in their boat with their accomplices. A search was conducted onboard, following which it was determined that the starboard midship locker padlock was damaged and cargo sampling equipment had been stolen. Port control informed.	The starboard midship locker padlock damaged and cargo sampling equipment stolen	Alarm was raised and crew mustered	Yes Kandla Port Control	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has intensified patrolling during the dark hours at Kandla, especially at the reported area of incident at outer anchorage.  ICG has rigorously started looking for suspicious small craft by scrutinising the modus operandi of the reported suspicious boat
4	SFL CLYDE Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 19998 9455911	09/02/2016 02:10 LT	WEST AFRICA Boma Anchorage Democratic Rep. of the Congo 05° 52.00' S 013° 02.00' E	Four robbers armed with knives in a motor boat approached and boarded the anchored bulk carrier ship. The duty crew on watch spotted the robbers and informed the OOW who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled with ship's stores.	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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## IN PORT AREA

5	SBI MAIA Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 34447 9705304	14/02/2016 00:15 LT	ARABIAN SEA SW of Tuna Buoy Anchorage India 22° 46.00' N 070° 00.00' E	Four robbers boarded the anchored ship using a grappling hook attached with a rope. The duty AB on routine rounds spotted the robbers trying to break open a boatswain store's padlock. He immediately informed the bridge. The alarm was raised, PA announcement made and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled empty handed. Kandla Tower informed.	Boatswain store's padlock damaged.	Alarm raised, PA announcement made and crew mustered	Yes Kandla Tower	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has intensified patrolling during the dark hours at Kandla, especially at the reported area of incident at outer anchorage.  ICG has rigorously started looking for suspicious small craft by scrutinising the modus operandi of the reported suspicious boat.
6	CHEMBULK BARCELONA Oil tanker Marshall Islands 20058 9278662	14/02/2016 03:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Batangas Anchorage Philippines 13° 43.00' N 121° 02.00' E	Robbers boarded the anchored product tanker and fled with ship's property. The C/O who was preparing the tanker for berthing noticed grappling hook marks on the deck. A search was conducted on board, following which it was determined that 5 fire nozzles, 5 fire nozzles keys, 6 male hose connectors, 6 female hose connectors, a bell and 6 connectors which have the fire hose cut off had been stolen. Local authority were informed through agents.	Ship's property stolen	Security search conducted on board. Immediately reported to company and agent.	No	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
7	SONGA FALCON Oil product tanker Marshall Islands 8505 9482653	15/02/2016 06:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Haldia Dock Complex, Kolkata India 22° 02.00' N 088° 06.00' E	An unknown number of robbers boarded a berthed tanker, took four mooring ropes from the main deck and fled. The robbery were spotted when the crew approached the aft stations to adjust the mooring ropes. Incident reported to authority	Four mooring ropes stolen.	Additional lookout posted	Yes Indian Coast Guard and MRRC Mumbai	Marshall Islands ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	India Coast Guard informed the port authority and carried out investigation.

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

**IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

1	PSKOV Gas carrier - LNG Liberia 113876 9630028	05/02/2016 07:20 LT	WEST AFRICA Approx. 16nm SW of Bonny Island Nigeria 04° 09.70' N 006° 58.30' E	Approximately seven persons in a speed boat chased and attempted to board the tanker underway. The alarm was raised, fire hoses activated, Master increased speed to maximum and took evasive manoeuvres. When the speed boat close in to a distance of 10 meters, machine guns and a ladder were sighted. Due to the hardening measures taken by the Master, the persons aborted the attempted boarding and fled.	-	Alarm raised, fire hoses activated, Master increased speed to maximum and took evasive manoeuvres	Yes Bonny Signal Station	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	FALCON Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 27986 9227821	20/02/2016 04:12 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Yemen 14° 42.00' N 051° 28.00' E	Three skiffs approached and attempted to board the ship. Armed guards prepared to shoot and the skiffs aborted and moved away.	-	-	Yes Local port control	Marshall Islands	-

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