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MSC.4/Circ.235
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during March 2016

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, the annex hereto provides, in the tabulated format agreed by the Committee, the summary of reports on incidents received between 1 and 31 March 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.

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 subparagraph (a) or (b)."

² "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 29 February 2016 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.232 (Annual Report), MSC.4/Circ.233 and MSC.4/Circ.234.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	MADONNA 1 Chemical tanker Panama 11438 9407031	05/03/2016 09:00	WEST AFRICA Approx. 32nm SW of Bonny Island Nigeria 04° 05.00' N 006° 41.00' E	Ten armed pirates in a black speed boat approached and opened fire at the chemical tanker underway. They boarded the tanker using a grappling hook and ladder. The alarm was raised and non-essential crew members retreated to the citadel. Pirates kidnapped four crew members and left after an hour. The four kidnapped crew members were released safely on 27.03.2016.	Four crew members were kidnapped. The four kidnapped crew members were released safely on 27.03.2016.	The alarm was raised, crew retreated to the citadel and the remaining crew members sailed the tanker to a safe port	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian Navy currently holding the tanker for investigation
2	SAMPATI KI Product tanker Liberia 5031 9405772	26/03/2016 00:40 LT	WEST AFRICA Approx. 31nm SW of Bayelsa Coast Nigeria 04° 20.00' N 005° 10.00' E	Eight armed pirates boarded the tanker underway. They ransacked all the cabins, stole crew personal effects and kidnapped 5 crew members including the Master.	Pirates ransacked all the cabins, crew personal effects stolen and 5 crew members kidnapped. One porthole on bridge damaged	-	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian Navy are investigating the incident

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	BRAHMA 12 Tug Indonesia 198 9765407	25/03/2016 16:29 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 11nm WSW of Omapoy Island Philippines 04° 48.56' N 119° 12.53' E	Indonesian-registered tug boat Brahma 12 towing barge, Anand 12 loaded with 7,000 metric tons of coal departed Kalimantan, Indonesia for a power plant in Batangas, Philippines when 17 persons armed with firearms boarded the tug boat. They cast off the barge, hijacked the tug and took its 10 crew members as hostage. The tug was later abandoned off Languyan Island, Philippines and 10 crew members kidnapped. The tug was ransacked and all communication equipment onboard was damaged. The Philippines Police have taken custody of the tug and are presently investigating the case. On 01.04.2016, the missing barge was located by Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and it was towed to a safe port for investigation. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported that the 10 crew members who were kidnapped had been released on 1 May 16.	The barge was cast off, the tug hijacked, all communication equipment damaged and 10 crew members kidnapped. PCG reported 10 crew members who were kidnapped had been released on 1 May 16.	-	Yes Indonesian and Philippines Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	Philippines Police have taken custody of the tug and are presently investigating the case. The barge has been located by MMEA and it has been towed to a safe port for investigation
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* 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 PORT AREA

1	CANAL STREET Product tanker Liberia 28426 9539561	03/03/2016 04:45 LT	EAST AFRICA Mbaraki Wharf North, Mombasa Kenya 04° 04.60' S 039° 39.80' E	A robber armed with knives boarded the anchored tanker. Deck watchman on routine rounds spotted the robber, who threatened him and fled with ship's stores. The duty crew informed the OOW. The alarm was raised and crew's mustered. Mombasa port control informed.	Robber threatened the duty crew with a knife and stole ship's stores	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	Liberia ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Security patrol boat from Mombasa port control came alongside at vessel stern and enquired about the incident.
2	SBI SUBARU Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 34584 9705160	04/03/2016 09:00 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Jakarta Anchorage Area Indonesia	Crew discovered that the security padlock to deck store room was broken. A search was conducted onboard, following which it was determined that items were missing from where the fire fighting apparatus is kept.	Padlock to deck store room broken and ship's property stolen	Heightened and increased patrol and the number of watch keepers. Carefully checked all logs for any possible security breaches.	No	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	GREEN GLACIER Refrigerated cargo carrier Liberia 5136 9004401	09/03/2016 05:10 LT	WEST AFRICA Congo River, Port of Boma Congo 05° 52.28' S 013° 02.18' E	Three robbers armed with crowbars boarded the vessel from a wooden boat via a personal line attached with hooks. Ordinary seaman on security rounds spotted them attempting to open the manhole to hold 3 with crowbars. He immediately reported to the bridge by VHF. Ship's alarm was raised to alert the crew. The crew's alertness prompted the intruders to retreat to the awaiting wooden boat and escape. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that the locks were broken and seals for manhole were damaged. CSO was informed. Number of security watch at night was raised to 3 persons.	The locks broken and seals for manhole damaged	Bridge were informed, ship's alarm was raised. Number of security watch at night time was raised to 3 persons.	No	Liberia ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Four security guards boarded the vessel
4	NAME WITHHELD Product tanker Norway 26218	22/03/2016	SOUTH CHINA SEA Samudra Jetty No. 2, Bitung Port Indonesia 01° 26.31' N 125° 11.47' E	Robbers boarded the berthed tanker during cargo operations. They broke into the safety locker, stole ship's equipment and fled unnoticed. The incident was discovered during routine inspection upon departure. Incident reported to owner.	Ship's equipment stolen	Incident reported to owner.	No	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

5	MARATHA PROMISE Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 22863 9422809	22/03/2016 01:20 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Tg. Priok, Jakarta Anchorage Indonesia	Five robbers boarded the anchored ship. Duty AB on routine rounds was attacked and hit on the head. One robber stood guard near the AB, while the remaining entered the accommodation. The AB managed to call the bridge on the walkie-talkie. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the alerted crew, the robbers fled with items stolen from the engine room.	Items from the engine room stolen and one crew member was attacked and hit on the head	AB called the bridge on walkie talkie, alarm was raised and crew mustered. Continuous deck patrol maintained.	Yes Jakarta Port Authority	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	COUGAR ACE Vehicle carrier Singapore 55328 9051375	23/03/2016 22:20 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Callao Anchorage No. 1 Peru 12° 01.00' S 077° 12.00' W	Two robbers wearing face masks boarded the anchored ship preparing for berthing operations. Duty AB on routine rounds spotted some movements near the forecastle store and reported it to the OOW. Master immediately mustered the crew's and asked them to investigate. As the crew's approached the forecastle, they spotted two robbers jumping overboard with ship's stores. The crew's notified the Master that the robbers were wearing a uniform which resembled the shore watchman's uniform. Incident reported to Harbour Master.	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was made throughout the ship	Yes Harbour Master via local agents	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
7	SBI ATHENA Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 36336 9704829	27/03/2016	YELLOW SEA Yangzhou China 31° 16.00' N 119° 25.00' E	Duty Officer on security patrol at Yangzhou Conch terminal for loading operation discovered 5 fire nozzles from the fire boxes had been stolen.	5 fire nozzles from the fire boxes stolen	Master/SSO to implement additional security. CSO issued Security Advisory and sent to fleet for Masters/Crew notification and awareness. Relevant warning notices placed at the gangway notifying visitors for search requirements. Proper patrolling at the required frequent intervals for more effective security control onboard	No	Marshall Islands 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. 235 ANNEX II
	Type of Ship								Gross Tonnage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	BRIGHTWAY Tanker Singapore 83824 9588146	11/03/2016 13:25 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 108nm SW of Bayelsa Coast Nigeria 02° 52.00' N 004° 52.00' E	Eight pirates in a boat approached the tanker underway. Master raised the alarm, increased speed, commenced evasive manoeuvres, activated SSAS, sent distress messages and informed the CSO. All non-essential crew members mustered in the citadel. The pirates chased the tanker and told the Master to slow down claiming to be the navy. At a distance of 50 meters, the lookout identified guns and ladders in the boat. The Master continued with the evasive manoeuvres, fired two parachute rockets and continued with the Mayday calls via VHF. Due to the hardening measures of the tanker, the pirates aborted the attempted attack and moved away. Nigerian Navy responded on VHF to the distress call.	-	Master raised the alarm, increased speed, commenced evasive manoeuvres, activated SSAS, sent distress / Mayday messages and informed CSO. All non-essential crew members mustered in the citadel. Two parachute rockets were fired and continued with the Mayday calls via VHF	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The Nigerian Navy contacted the tanker and asked for the position and the nature of the threat
2	GLYFADA Bulk carrier Malta 26091 9104586	11/03/2016 20:05 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 96nm SW of Bayelsa Nigeria 03° 03.00' N 005° 03.00' E	Armed pirates approached and fired upon a drifting bulk carrier. The alarm was raised, main engine started and non-essential crew mustered in the citadel. After an hour, the pirates aborted the attempt and moved away. All crew safe.	Pirates fired upon the ship	Master raised the alarm, increased speed, commenced evasive manoeuvres and non-essential crew members took shelter in the citadel	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The Nigerian Navy contacted the vessel and advise to proceed to the reported coordinates

IN PORT AREA

1	MARATHA PROMISE Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 22863 9422809	30/03/2016 01:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Tg. Priok, Jakarta Anchorage Indonesia 06° 00.00' S 106° 54.00' E	Three skiffs approached and robbers attempted to board the ship at anchor. The alarm was raised and all crew mustered. The crew managed to deter the robbers by using the water cannon.	-	Alarm raised, crew mustered and activated the water cannon	Yes Port Control and Port Marine Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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