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MSC.4/Circ.244
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during December 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 December 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 30 November 2016 being MSC.4/Circ.232 (Annual Report), MSC.4/Circ.233, MSC.4/Circ.234, MSC.4/Circ.235, MSC.4/Circ.236, MSC.4/Circ.237, MSC.4/Circ.238, MSC.4/Circ.239, MSC.4/Circ.240, MSC.4/Circ.241, MSC.4/Circ.242 and MSC.4/Circ.243.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	RAMONA 2 Fishing vessel Philippines	20/12/2016 02:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 55 nm Southeast off Pata Island, Sulu, Philippines 05° 10.00' N 121° 42.00' E	While underway, an unknown number of pirates armed with firearms boarded the fishing boat from an unmarked speed boat. The pirates abducted all four crew members including the boat Master; and took away the Global Positioning System (GPS) and VHF radio from the boat which was left abandoned, unmanned and drifting. The sister boat, Melissa 2 found Ramona 2 when she passed by the vicinity.	The boat Master and three crew members abducted. The GPS and VHF radio taken from the boat.	-	Yes Philippine Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Philippines)	Alerted all Government units in the Sulu Archipelago areas.
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	PERMATA General cargo ship Panama 8714 9636137	01/12/2016 19:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Banjarmasin Anchorage Indonesia 03° 40.00' S 114° 27.00' E	Duty AB on routine rounds on board the anchored ship spotted three robbers on the forecastle deck. By the time the duty officer raised the alarm, the robbers fled through the hawse pipe.	The boatswain store door damaged	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Local Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Japan)	-
2	YAMATAI Heavy load carrier Panama 14538 9567714	02/12/2016 03:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Kabil Anchorage Indonesia 01° 05.90' N 104° 10.00' E	While at anchor, the ship's crew spotted three robbers on board the ship. The duty officer raised the alarm, made the PA announcement and crew mustered. By that time, the robbers fled. Incident reported to Batam VTS and Port Control. The authority boarded the ship for investigation.	-	Alarm raised, made the PA announcement, mustered the crew and report the incident to local port authority.	Yes Port Authority and Batam VTS	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Japan)	The port authority boarded the ship and conducted an investigation.
3	AEGIS FORTUNE Bulk carrier India 30447 9222601	07/12/2016 22:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda Indonesia 00° 14.39' S 117° 35.09' E	Duty AB on routine rounds on board the anchored ship noticed the skylight of forecastle store was open and the cover of the anchor chain had been removed. He also spotted two robbers in a small boat leaving the ship. By the time he raised the alarm the two robbers fled. He immediately informed the duty officer about the incident. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that two old mooring ropes had been stolen. Incident reported to the Port Authority through the local agents.	Two mooring ropes stolen.	The AB raised the alarm and informed the duty officer about the incident. The Master contacted the PFSSO and port authority.	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	The local Marine Police conducted an investigation on board.

* 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	BERGE HENG SHAN Bulk carrier Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 116760 9675949	28/12/2016 18:45 UTC	YELLOW SEA Jingtang Anchorage China 38° 55.10' N 119° 12.08' E	Two robbers boarded the anchored ship. Duty Officer on bridge spotted the robbers. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled without stealing anything. Incident reported to VTS Jingtang.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes VTS Jingtang	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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IN PORT AREA

1	GUNGA Product tanker Cyprus 4242 9479668	01/12/2016 00:30 LT	WEST AFRICA Luanda Anchorage Angola 08° 44.90' S 013° 17.50' E	Two robbers boarded the anchored product tanker. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled with stolen ship's stores.	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	BUENA REINA LPG tanker Singapore 2999 9643984	01/12/2016 03:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Cilacap Anchorage Indonesia 07° 46.17' S 109° 04.22' E	While at berth, four robbers armed with knives in a speed boat boarded the ship from the poop deck and held one of the AB hostage. They moved to the engine room, tied up the crew there and took the engine spares and 34 generator spares. A crew managed to sound the alarm, and the Master mustered the remaining crew upon hearing the alarm. The robbers immediately left the ship in their speed boat.	Engine spares and 34 generator spares stolen.	Informed the DPA and CSO. Alarm sounded and crew mustered	Yes Flag State	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
3	CENTAURUS OCEAN Bulk carrier Singapore 43291 9673824	08/12/2016 00:50 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda Indonesia 00° 17.70' S 117° 39.90' E	While at anchor, the Master reported sighting of three armed robbers at the forecandle deck of the bulk carrier. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled in their boat. Four mooring ropes were missing and the hawse pipe cover of the ship were dislodged. The Master reported incident to the local authority and provided information on the movement of the robbers boat.	Four mooring ropes missing, and the hawse pipe cover of the ship dislodged.	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Local Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	Authority boarded the ship for investigation
4	VOGE MASTER Bulk carrier Malta 88930 9339181	12/12/2016	YELLOW SEA Qinhuangdao Port China	Unnoticed robbers boarded the berthed ship during cargo operations. The theft was discovered after departure from the port on 14/12/2016 and it was reported that ship's property were stolen.	Ship's property stolen	-	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	NAME WITHHELD Malta 12819	23/12/2016	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Puerto Jose anchorage Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 11.80' N 064° 46.40' W	Unnoticed, robbers boarded the anchored LPG carrier and stole ship property and fled. The theft was discovered by the duty crew on routine rounds.	Ship's property stolen	Continuous patrolling and reporting to the Bridge	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	TRYSIL SPIRIT Oil product tanker Marshall Islands 57244 9593414	29/12/2016 00:01 UTC	MALACCA STRAIT Dumai Anchorage Indonesia 01° 41.70' N 101° 29.77' E	Two robbers boarded the ship from the poop deck (s). The OS spotted the robbers attempted opening W/T door leading to steering gear room on poop decks and failed. The OS immediately raised the alarm. The OOW activated the general alarm accompanied with ship's whistle fwd and aft. Upon hearing the ship's alarms/whistle, both the robbers jumped into the water where the 3rd person was waiting for them in a small motor boat.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered. Strict anti-piracy watch to continue.	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 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. 244 ANNEX II	
									Coastal State Action Taken	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	STAR NORITA Bulk carrier Norway 32371 9583134	08/12/2016 11:40 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Northwest of Tawi-Tawi Philippines 05° 29.30' N 119° 38.40' E	While underway, three unknown persons in a white and blue speed boat approached on the starboard side of the ship and stop at a distance of about 0.5 nautical miles. They wore black and white shirts. They aborted the attempted after seeing that the crew was alerted.	-	Ship's whistle sounded, increased speed, stopped cargo cleaning operation and made an announcement through Public Address (PA) system.	Yes Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS) Bongao, Philippine Navy	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	-
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IN PORT AREA

1	ZEFYROS Product tanker Panama 29924 9515917	12/12/2016 05:33 LT	WEST AFRICA Lagos Anchorage Nigeria 06° 18.31' N 003° 21.66' E	Three robbers in a small speed boat attempted to board the anchored tanker using ropes. The alarm was raised and crew mustered in the accommodation. The armed security team onboard fired warning shots resulting in the robbers aborting the attempted attack and moved away. Port Authority informed.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered. The armed security team onboard fired warning shots	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The Port Authority continue to monitor the ship.
2	ANTARCTIC Tanker Liberia 85421 9315185	15/12/2016 23:42 LT	WEST AFRICA Qua Iboe Anchorage Nigeria	Eight robbers in a skiff approached and attempted to board the anchored tanker using a long ladder. Duty Officer on the bridge noticed the attempt and informed the Master. The alarm was raised and crew mustered in the accommodation. Master requested immediate assistance from the local naval security patrol boat. Upon seeing the approaching patrol boat, the robbers aborted the attempted boarding and moved away.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered. Master requested immediate assistance from the local Naval Security patrol boat	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Naval security patrol boat approached the tanker for assistance

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