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MSC.4/Circ.246
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during January 2017

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 January 2017 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 31 December 2016 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.243 and MSC.4/Circ.244.

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 | Coastal State Action Taken |
|----|--|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

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|---|---|------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 1 | OCEAN KINGDOM General cargo ship Philippines 7541 9202091 | 03/01/2017 15:24 LT | SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 21.6nm East of Basilan Island Philippines 06° 36.00' N 122° 41.00' E | Six persons in two speed boats, armed with automatic weapons, chased and fired upon while the ship underway. The Master raised the alarm and increased speed. Ship's distress message was relayed by Zamboanga radio station to the local authority who dispatched patrol boats to assist the ship. The ship sustained gunshot damage on the port and starboard sides. All crew safe. | Ship sustained gunshot damage on port and starboard side. | Alarm raised and ship speed increased. Distress call was made to authority | Yes Philippines Coast Guard and Philippines Navy | ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur | Patrol boat was dispatched to the area |
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

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| 1 | ALPHA BULKER Bulk carrier Panama 19885 9336763 | 08/01/2017 17:35 UTC | SOUTH CHINA SEA Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda Indonesia 00° 15.20' S 117° 34.00' E | Five robbers boarded the anchored ship. They tied the duty crew member to the foremast. Another duty crew member tried to contact the duty crew but received no response. As he approached the forecandle to investigate, he spotted the robbers and informed the OOW who raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled in their speed boat with ship's stores. | Ship's stores stolen | Alarm raised and crew mustered | No | ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur | - |
| 2 | FISHING BANCA Fishing vessel Malaysia | 18/01/2017 17:30 LT | SOUTH CHINA SEA 4 nm east of Bakungan Island, Taganak Municipality, Tawi-tawi Philippines 06° 05.00' N 118° 18.00' E | While sailing, nine unknown persons armed with guns boarded the fishing boat from a grey speed boat, abducted three Indonesian crew members and left the area heading towards Sulu. The local residents from Bakungan Island, Taganak reported the incident to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and local police. | Abducted three crew members. | - | Yes Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) & Local Police | ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines) | While conducting the maritime patrol in the area, the PCG stationed in Taganak spotted an abandoned fishing banca drifting in the vicinity of Bacungan Island, Tawi-tawi. The PCG towed the banca and turned over to Taganak Municipal Office together with several fishing |

* 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

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| 3 JAYA CRYSTAL Tug Singapore 2763 9594212 | 23/01/2017 10:00 LT | INDIAN OCEAN Cox's Bazar Bangladesh 21° 11.00' N 091° 43.00' E | While sailing, multiple small boats approached tug, Jaya Crystal which was towing another ship, EL Hadj. The Master immediately contacted the Chittagong Port Control and Bangladesh Coast Guard on Channel 12 and Channel 16 to request for assistance. In the meantime, Jaya Crystal performed zigzag manoeuvres in an attempt to deter the small boats from approaching. However, the master spotted a number of the robbers climbing onto EL Hadj and setting fire to the ship. Jaya Crystal began to fight the fire on the port quarter of EL Hadj but was interrupted when the Master had to manoeuvre both ships into deeper waters to prevent grounding. The small boats left the area after the Bangladesh Navy arrived at the location of the incident. The crew members were not injured and nothing was stolen. | - | Contacted Chittagong Port Control and Bangladesh Coast Guard on Channel 12 and Channel 16 to request for assistance. | Yes Chittagong Port Control, Bangladesh Coast Guard and Flag State | ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) | paraphernalia and navigational equipment. The PCG continues to try to verify reports as to the whereabouts of the rest of the crew members and other relevant information. Bangladesh Navy despatched navy ship to the location of the incident. |
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IN PORT AREA

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|--|------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 SILVER EXPRESS Product tanker Panama 26900 9380099 | 07/01/2017 22:50 LT | SOUTH CHINA SEA Batangas Alpha Anchorage Philippines 13° 44.00' N 121° 02.20' E | While at anchor, the duty watch spotted two robbers armed with long knives board the ship from a small boat. One of the robbers chased him with a knife. The duty watch ran towards the ship accommodation and locked all the access door while the Master raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers fled in their boats. The crew mustered and a search was carried out. It was reported that ship's property had been stolen. Incident reported to Coast Guard and they boarded the tanker for investigation. | Ship's property stolen The following items stolen: a. 1 x airline valve cap b. 1 x forecandle bell c. 3 x fire hydrants cap | Alarm raised and crew mustered | Yes Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) | ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines) | Patrol boat dispatched and Coast Guard boarded the ship for investigation. The PCG immediately conducted a maritime patrol in the area after receiving the report. |
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|---|---|-------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | NIJINSKY LPG tanker Singapore 16804 9364966 | 15/01/2017 02:15 UTC | SOUTH AMERICA (C) Jose Anchorage Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 12.00' N 064° 47.90' W | Two robbers boarded the anchored tanker via the anchor chain. The robbers threatened the duty AB with knives and tied him up on the forecastle. They then removed the hawse pipe cover and four more robbers boarded the tanker. The robbers took the AB's mobile phone, stole ship's property and fled. The AB managed to free himself and informed bridge who raised the alarm and crew mustered. Port Control informed. | Robbers threatened duty AB with knives and tied him up on the forecastle. AB's mobile phone and ship's property stolen. | Alarm raised and crew mustered | Yes Port Control | ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur | - |
| 3 | NAME WITHHELD | 16/01/2017 03:25 | INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong outer Anchorage Bangladesh 22° 06.60' N 091° 44.40' E | While at anchor, an unidentified number of robbers boarded the ship and stole 15 drums of paint (about 20 litres each). The Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) upon receipt of information via VHF about the incident, immediately dispatched Coast Guard Ship (CGS) Tawhid with a boarding team to conduct investigation. The Special Section of the CG force recovered all drums of paint and one high pressure jet machine. | The BCG recovered all drums of paint and one high pressure jet machine | - | Yes Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) | ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh) | Deployed the Special Section of Bangladesh Coast Guard force and recovered all drums of paint and one high pressure jet machine. |
| 4 | NAME WITHHELD Product tanker Malta 30000 | 16/01/2017 19:30 UTC | SOUTH CHINA SEA Mowtas Oil Terminal (MOT), Sandakan Port, Sabah Malaysia 05° 47.20' N 118° 01.50' E | During cargo operations, crew onboard the berthed tanker spotted a robber on the forecastle. Upon seeing the alerted crew approaching the forecastle the robber jumped overboard and fled with stolen ship's stores. | Ship's stores stolen | Alerted crew chased the robber | No | ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur | - |
| 5 | SPIRIT OF BANGKOK Container ship Marshall Islands 16986 9197349 | 16/01/2017 20:50 UTC | INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage Bangladesh 22° 06.60' N 091° 44.40' E | Ship was boarded by unarmed persons and ship's property was stolen. Port authority were eventually able to recover and return the stolen goods. | Ship's stores stolen | Crew mustered and search was carried out | Yes Chittagong Port Authority | Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur | Stolen items recovered by authority and returned to ship |
| 6 | SANTA FIORENZA Container ship Liberia 21583 9162253 | 18/01/2017 19:55 UTC | INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage Bangladesh 22° 05.80' N 091° 48.80' E | Four robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored ship using a hook attached to a rope. Duty crew spotted the robbers on the aft mooring station and raised the alarm, made an announcement on PA system and mustered the crew. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers fled with the ship's stores. The incident was reported to the Port Control and Chittagong Coast Guard. After a few hours the Coast Guard notified the ship that two suspicious boats had been stopped and searched but the stolen stores were not recovered. | Ship's stores stolen | Alarm raised and crew mustered | Yes Port Control & Chittagong Coast Guard | ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur | Patrol boat despatched |
| 7 | NAME WITHHELD Chemical tanker Malta 29658 | 24/01/2017 17:50 LT | SOUTH AMERICA (C) Mamonal Inner Anchorage Colombia 10° 19.30' N 075° 32.10' W | Unnoticed, robbers boarded the anchored tanker, stole ship's property and fled. The theft was discovered by the crew during routine rounds. | Ship's property stolen | Alarm raised and crew mustered | No | ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur | - |
| 8 | CHARLOTTE SELMER Bulk carrier Marshall Islands | 25/01/2017 00:35 UTC | WEST AFRICA Pepele Outer Anchorage Sierra Leone 08° 27.10' N 013° 21.20' W | Three robbers with knives reportedly boarded the anchored ship. The duty crew spotted the robbers on the forecastle and notified the duty officer who raised the alarm. The robbers threatened the crew | Robbers threatened duty AB with knives and ship's property stolen. | Alarm raised and crew mustered | Yes PFSO | Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur | - |

92079
9435064

9 JPO GEMINI
Container ship
Liberia
25672
9294020

30/01/2017
03:45 UTC

WEST AFRICA
Freetown Outer
Anchorage
Sierra Leone
08° 27.30' N
013° 26.40' W

with knives and then fled with stolen ship's
property

Duty deck crew onboard the anchored ship
informed the OOW that two robbers were sighted
on the forecastle. The alarm was raised, PA
announcement made and crew mustered. Upon
hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness,
the robbers fled without stealing anything.

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Alarm raised and
crew mustered

No

ICC-IMB Piracy
Reporting Centre
Kuala Lumpur

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ANNEX I

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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 | Coastal State Action Taken |
|----|--|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|-------------------------------|
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

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|---|--|-------------------------|--|---|---|--------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | GREAT SAILOR Chemical tanker Viet Nam 9419 9183477 | 05/01/2017 16:30 UTC | MALACCA STRAIT Singapore Strait Singapore 01° 15.10' N 104° 03.40' E | A tanker underway was chased by a speed boat. The Master raised the alarm, contacted the VTS, commenced evasive manoeuvres, increased speed and directed the spotlight towards the speed boat. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the speed boat aborted and moved away. | - | Alarm raised | Yes Singapore Authority | ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur | Escort vessel despatched to the ship |
|---|--|-------------------------|--|---|---|--------------|----------------------------|--|--|

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ANNEX II