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MSC.4/Circ.247
19 April 2017

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during February 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 28 February 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 January 2017 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.244, MSC.4/Circ.245 (annual 2016) and MSC.4/Circ.246.

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

1	BBC CARIBBEAN General cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 5261 9378242	05/02/2017 10:30 UTC	WEST AFRICA 45 nautical miles south- west off Brass Nigeria 03° 58.36' N 005° 28.36' E	3x speed boats and 1x Tug with ten pirates onboard armed with automatic weapons boarded the ship underway. The pirates kidnapped eight crew members and fled. One crew member came out from hiding and raised the SSAS. The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre received information from the Netherlands Coast Guard and contacted the ship, owners and liaised with the Nigerian Navy for assistance. Later, two more crew members came out of hiding and steered the ship further away from the coast, before heading towards a safe port.	Eight crew members kidnapped	SSAS activated	Yes Nigerian Navy & Netherlands Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, MDAT- GOG	A Nigerian Naval vessel was dispatched to the location
2	GAZ PROVIDENCE LPG tanker Panama 16777 9448504	07/02/2017 19:04 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 60nm South of Bonny Island Nigeria 03° 22.00' N 007° 13.50' E	Armed pirates boarded the tanker underway. The alarm was raised and most of the crew members managed to retreat into the citadel. The owners notified the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre, who in turn informed and liaised with the Nigerian Navy and all other relevant parties. A naval vessel was dispatched to assist the tanker. The naval boarding team reported the tanker to be free of pirates before the crew emerged from the citadel. Three crew members were reported missing and believed to be kidnapped. The naval vessel escorted the tanker to Bonny anchorage for investigation. On 28/02/2017, the three crew members were released safely.	Three crew members kidnapped but subsequently released	Alarm raised and most of the crew members managed to retreat into the citadel	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A Nigerian Naval vessel was dispatched to assist the tanker. The naval boarding team rescued 22 crew members
3	NAME WITHHELD Oil tanker Malta 4703	19/02/2017 07:09 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 33nm WSW of Forcados Nigeria 05° 12.66' N 004° 48.57' E	Armed pirates in a speedboat approached and boarded the tanker underway. The alarm was raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated to the citadel. The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre received the information from the Nigerian Navy and contacted the owners for further details and liaised with all parties. Two naval vessels were dispatched to assist the tanker. The pirates damaged ship's equipment, stole ship's property and crew personal belongings and fled before the naval teams boarded the tanker to rescue the crew. All crew were reported safe.	Pirates damaged ship's equipment, stole ship's property and crew personal belongings	Alarm raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated to the citadel	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Two naval vessels were dispatched. The naval teams boarded the tanker and rescued the crew members
4	GIANG HAI General cargo ship Viet Nam	19/02/2017 17:24 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 35nm, NNW of Doc Can Island, Sulu Philippines	While underway from Indonesia to Iloilo port, Philippines, an unknown number of pirates boarded the ship and abducted six crew members	One crew member was killed and six crew members abducted.	SSAS activated	Yes Viet Nam's Maritime Security Information	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Viet Nam) and	Viet Nam MRCC informed the

* 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

2875
9557329

06° 08.00' N
119° 24.00' E

(comprising the Master, Chief Officer, 3rd Officer, 2nd Engineer, 3rd Engineer and one crew member). One of the crew member died due to multiple gunshot wounds. The pirates destroyed the navigation and communication equipment of the ship before leaving the ship. At about 0910 hours on 20/02/2017, personnel of CGSS Taganak together with personnel of Philippine National Police (PNP) and Philippine Marines conducted joint maritime patrol in the vicinity waters off Baguan Island and rescued the remaining 10 Vietnamese crew members and the crew who was killed. Reportedly, the remaining crew are safe and ship is currently at TAGANAK Island (Turtle Island) to assist in investigations by the Philippine authorities. At the time of the incident, the ship was reported to be fully laden with 4,500 tonnes of cement cargo.

Navigational and communication equipment of ship destroyed.

Centre (MSIC), Viet Nam MRCC, Viet Nam Coast Guard (VCG), Viet Nam Navy (VN)

ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines), The Information Fusion Centre (IFC), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) about the incident.

The PCG Action Centre immediately directed Coast Guard District South Western Mindanao, CGS Bongao and Coast Guard Sub Station Taganak to conduct verification, security and search & rescue operation (SAR).

The PCG has alerted Coast Guard units and Bureau of Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (BFAR) vessels in the area, issued Notice to Mariners and has organized a pursuit operation in coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) & PNP units in the area.

On going preliminary investigation is being conducted by PCG personnel.

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	SKYTHIA Bulk carrier Malta 89990 9423920	14/02/2017 01:30 LT	YELLOW SEA Jingtang No.4 Anchorage China 38° 52.60' N 119° 10.00' E	While at anchor, four robbers (reportedly not armed) boarded the ship. The duty officer raised the alarm and SSAS alert was activated. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled without stealing anything.	-	Alarm raised and SSAS activated.	Yes Port Authority & VTS	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (China)	-
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IN PORT AREA

1	NAME WITHHELD Supply ship NIS (Norway) 3181	04/02/2017 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN 1 nm West of Kutubidia Island Bangladesh 21° 51.53' N 091° 48.36' E	Robbers boarded the anchored offshore supply ship and attempted to enter the accommodation. As all doors were secured the robbers were unable to enter.	-	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	NAME WITHHELD Supply ship Bahamas 3181	04/02/2017 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN 1 nm West of Kutubidia Island Bangladesh 21° 51.53' N 091° 48.36' E	An unknown number of robbers boarded the anchored offshore supply ship. They broke into the paint locker and fled with a large amount of paint. The theft was discovered by crew when they commenced work in the morning. Authority informed.	Large amount of paint stolen	-	Yes Bangladesh Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	JUMEIRAH BEACH Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 20969 9642045	07/02/2017 06:30 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Callao Anchorage Peru 12° 01.20' S 077° 12.00' W	Four robbers in a small boat came alongside and boarded the anchored bulk carrier using a rope. They threatened the duty crew member and tied him up. The robbers then stole ship's store and fled. Duty officer raised the alarm, crew mustered and a search was carried out. Incident reported to the port authority and the local agents.	Duty crew member threatened and tied up. Ship's stores stolen.	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	FAR STARLING Supply ship NIS (Norway) 3527 9629017	09/02/2017 21:30 UTC	WEST AFRICA Pointe Noire Anchorage Congo 04° 45.20' S 011° 49.20' E	Duty crew onboard the anchored supply ship spotted a boat alongside near the bow and informed the OOW. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled with ship's property.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	MMA PINNACLE Supply ship Singapore 5138 9696187	18/02/2017 06:00 LT	ARABIAN SEA Mumbai D4 Anchorage, Mumbai India 18° 54.20' N 072° 52.30' E	While at anchor, the project personnel and crew found that some items in the ship were missing. Upon further investigation, they found bare footprints of robbers at the access area on the port aft bollard /mooring station of the ship. The Master reported the incident to authority	Cables, first-aid box, spanners and fire hoses with nozzles stolen.	Master reported the incident to the local agent, CSO, Flag State, VTIS Mumbai & Indian Coast Guard	Yes Flag State (Singapore), VTIS Mumbai & Indian Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
6	NAME WITHHELD Tug	23/02/2017 03:55 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Batu Ampar Anchorage, Batam	Five robbers armed with knives boarded the anchored offshore tug. The alerted crew spotted	-	Alarm raised	Yes Indonesian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre	Sent a patrol boat

Indonesia
6641

Indonesia
01° 10.90' N
103° 59.20' E

the robbers on the CCTV cameras and raised the alarm. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled without stealing anything.

Kuala Lumpur

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ANNEX 1

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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 INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	DONGHAE STAR Bulk carrier Panama 45026 9592604	22/02/2017 13:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 10.4nm southwest of Pearl Bank and 37.8 nm northwest of LMS Bongao, Tawi- Tawi Philippines 05° 38.09' N 119° 36.63' E	While underway, the ship spotted three speed boats painted in black with five pirates on board wearing black. The boats were heading towards the ship's direction at a speed of about 20.5 knots chasing after the ship. Immediately, the crew contacted the Philippine Navy-Littoral Monitoring Station (LMS), Bongao in the area through radio. After which, the boats slowed down their speed. The ship proceeded to its next port of call with no untoward incident. The Philippine Navy (PN) informed the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi (JTFTT) and deployed PN vessels to continue patrols in the vicinity of Pearl Bank and approaches.	-	Reported the incident to Philippine authorities	Yes Philippine Navy (PN)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	Philippine Navy informed the Joint Task Force Tawi-Tawi and deployed PN vessel PS 35 to conduct maritime patrol and verify the report.
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ANNEX II