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MSC.4/Circ.248
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during March 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 March 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 28 February 2017 being 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), MSC.4/Circ.246 and MSC.4/Circ.247.

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	ELENI M Bulk carrier Malta 28718 9228033	30/03/2017	WEST AFRICA Approx. 32nm SW of Bonny Nigeria 04° 01.00' N 006° 48.00' E	Four persons in a small boat approached, boarded the ship as it approached the pilot boarding station. They kidnapped six crew members and fled. On 20/04/2017, the six kidnapped crew members were released safely.	Six crew members kidnapped	-	Yes MDAT-GoG, Joint Task Force (Op PULO SHIELD) Flag State	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	ARIS 13 Tanker Sri Lanka 1188 9012501	14/03/2017 18:30 UTC	ARABIAN SEA 1nm North of Aluula, Bari Somalia 11° 59.00' N 050° 45.00' E	The MV reported seeing armed persons in skiffs. Communications were lost with the ship but SSAS tracking showed that the ship had changed course and eventually anchored off the town of Caluula in NE Puntland. The company representing the ship's owner confirmed to UKMTO that there were 8 Sri Lankan nationals onboard and that they had been contacted by the persons holding the ship but no ransom demands had been made. On 16/03/2017 after negotiation between the Somali Government, the Puntland Maritime Defence Force and local elders the ship was released by its captors and was currently anchored off the Somali port of Bosaso. All the crew are safe.	Eight crew members taken hostage and the tanker hijacked	-	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO, Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC)	-
2	CASAYR II - NO.30 Dhow	23/03/2017	ARABIAN SEA Vicinity of Eyl Somalia	Pirates attacked and hijacked the dhow and took hostage its 20 crew members. The dhow had three skiffs onboard. The pirates released 13 crew members in one skiff. The dhow with the remaining crew and an unknown number of pirates sailed to an unknown location. The pirates released the dhow on 26/03/2017 after stealing one skiff along with food and diesel.	The dhow was hijacked. One skiff along with food and diesel stolen	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO	-
3	SUPER SHUTTLE TUG 1 & SUPER SHUTTLE RORO 9 Tug Philippines 225 8609709	23/03/2017 12:20	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 26 nm east of Matanal Point, Basilan Philippines 06° 34.80' N 122° 44.70' E	Tug boat, Super Shuttle Tug 1 towing roro cargo ship, Super Shuttle Roro 9 was en route from Cebu to General Santos City when four armed men boarded the tug boat from three green wooden speed boats. They abducted two crew members (identified as the Master and Chief Engineer, both of Filipinos nationality), and fled towards mainland Basilan. There were two armed men on board each speed boat. The remaining crew members were safe and	The boat Master and the Chief Engineer abducted. Latest report indicates that they were rescued on 24/03/2017 (boat Master) and 27/03/2017 (Chief Engineer) respectively.	Reported incident to the Philippine Authority	Yes Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Philippine Navy (PN)	Information Fusion Centre (IFC), ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	After receiving the report from the crew of passing ship, Coast Guard Station (CGS) Zamboanga immediately coordinated with local authority and

* 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

reported the incident to Philippine Coast Guard Station Zamboanga who immediately conducted a rescue operation and successfully rescued the two kidnapped crew members and deployed floating assets to conduct maritime patrol in the vicinity.

deployed its floating assets to conduct maritime patrol in the area.

The PN also deployed its speedboat and air assets after receiving the distress call from the tug boat. The authority were able to track down the Abu Sayyaf militants who fled on speed boats. The immediate response by the forces on the ground gave a chance to the abducted boat Master a chance to be rescued from his exhausted captors.

Moreover, on or about 27/03/2017, 10:30 p.m., the Chief Engineer was rescued by the Philippine authorities at vicinity shoreline of Sitio Sasa, Brgy. Basaka, Municipality of Hadji Mohammad Ajul, Basilan Province.

The PCG personnel were also

deployed to provide security to the tug boat while it anchored off Kaliwasan, Basilan.

IN PORT AREA

1	ADAMAS I Chemical tanker Panama 29924 9428683	01/03/2017 02:50 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Puerto La Cruz Anchorage Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 16.90' N 064° 42.80' W	Three robbers boarded the anchored product tanker. The alerted crew spotted the robbers. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled without stealing anything.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Puerto La Cruz Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	NAME WITHHELD Product tanker Norway 42835	09/03/2017 19:06 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Merak Anchorage OPL Indonesia 05° 52.90' S 105° 59.60' E	Duty crew onboard the anchored tanker spotted a boat closed to the stern and informed the OOW. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, one robber was seen jumping overboard and fled with two others waiting in the boat. Nothing stolen.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	MAERSK AEGEAN Chemical tanker Singapore 23297 9636644	11/03/2017 18:45 UTC	MALACCA STRAIT Lubuk Gaung Inner Anchorage, Dumai Indonesia 01° 42.80' N 101° 26.04' E	An unknown number of robbers boarded the anchored tanker, stole ship's property and fled unnoticed. The theft was discovered by the duty crew during routine rounds. Incident reported to the local agents.	Ship's property stolen	A search was carried out.	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The Indonesian Marine Police boarded the tanker for investigation
4	NANCY P Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 29225 9702194	14/03/2017 02:28 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Batangas Anchorage area "C" Philippines 13° 44.90' N 121° 01.50' E	While at anchor, the duty watch on routine rounds noticed that the lock of the forward storage locker was broken. He reported the incident to the duty officer who raised the alarm, conducted inspection of the ship and search for robbers on board. Some ship's property were reported stolen, and no robbers were found.	Forepeak store lock broken and ship's property stolen The following ship's property stolen: a. 1 pc ship's bell; b. 1 pc air valve cap; c. 5 pcs of scupper plug; and d. 5 pcs of fire hydrant cover	The duty watch reported the incident to the DO. The DO raised the alarm, conducted inspection of the ship and search for robbers on board. Antipiracy watches were doubled.	Yes Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Port State Officer and other PCG personnel boarded the ship for verification of the incident and conducted investigation.
5	NAME WITHHELD Oil tanker Singapore	17/03/2017 12:02	MALACCA STRAIT Lubuk Gaung Inner Anchorage Indonesia	The engineer reported some tools were stolen from engine room workshop via the steering gear access hatch. The emergency access to steering flat had been opened to carry out planned work in the engine room, but was overlooked when to securing afterward. The ship carried out detailed stowaway search to ensure no further threat to ship property and crew. The ship arranged double watches for patrolling on deck in dark hours. The agents and authority have been told to take appropriate action.	Ship's tools stolen	-	No	Information Fusion Centre (IFC)	-

6	GLOBAL PHENIX LPG tanker Panama 5917 9552719	22/03/2017 02:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA JG Summit Berth, Batangas anchorage area Philippines 13° 06.00' N 121° 01.00' E	While at anchor, the duty watch conducted routine rounds inspection, and spotted a robber armed with a long bladed knife hiding on the starboard side winch of the ship. When confronted, the robber threatened the crew member with a long knife. He reported the incident to the Master who raised the alarm, mustered the crew and checked on the inventory of the ship's property. The robber jumped into the water and fled in a small motor banca which was manned by his companion.	The robber threatened the crew member with a long knife. The following ship's property was stolen: a. 1 pc fire hose nozzle; b. 2 pcs fire hydrant cover; c. 2 pcs spanner; d. ship's bell; and e. 1 air connection cover	Duty crew confronted the robber. The duty watch reported the incident to the Master. The Master raised the alarm, mustered the crew and checked on the inventory of the ship's property.	Yes Port State Control , Philippines Coast Guard	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Port State Control personnel of Batangas boarded the ship and conducted an initial inquiry and investigation.
7	ZITA Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 38237 9760043	23/03/2017 01:15 UTC	EAST AFRICA Beira, Mozambique Berth No. 6 Beira Port Mozambique 19° 48.85' S 034° 50.06' E	While the crew was opening the holds after rain, the 3rd officer spotted two robbers on the poop deck cutting the two loose mooring ropes. Upon seeing the robbers armed with long knives he stayed away and alerted the Chief Officer and the other crew on his walkie talkie. Eleven (11) crew members proceed to the poop deck. Robbers saw the crew coming and they jumped into the water and threw the two cut mooring ropes overboard. The robbers fled in their boat.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Port Security Team and Local Police boarded the ship for investigation PSC boarded the ship
8	OVERSEAS ANDROMAR Product tanker Marshall Islands 30018 9265885	26/03/2017 17:30 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Batangas Anchorage area "A" Philippines 13° 43.70' N 121° 02.20' E	Duty crew onboard the anchored tanker spotted a robber climbing up the ship's anchor chain as he approached during routine rounds. The robber threatened the crew member with a knife, resulting in the duty crew member raising the alarm and retreating. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robber fled in a boat with his companion. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that ship's property had been stolen. Incident reported to the Philippines Coast Guard and Port Authority.	The robber threatened the crew with a knife. Ship's property stolen The following ship's property was stolen: a. 1 pc ship's bell; b. 1 pc fire nozzle; c. 1 pc fire hydrant cap; and d. 1 air supply cap	The master mustered the crew, checked on the inventory of the ship's items and reported incident to the Philippine Coast Guard.	Yes Philippines Coast Guard & Port Authority	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	Philippines Coast Guard boarded the ship for investigation
9	OCEAN AMBITION Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 44855 9717709	26/03/2017 20:15 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Taboneo Anchorage, Banjarmasin Indonesia 03° 43.08' S 114° 25.08' E	While at anchor, approx. four to five robbers boarded the ship from a boat via the ship's anchor chain. They cut the securing rope of the hawse pipe cover, shifted the butterfly nuts, opened the hawse pipe cover, broke the lock to the forecastle store, removed the internal securing arrangement of the forecastle booby hatch and took away two new mooring ropes. It happened during hours of darkness when small unlit boats cannot be seen visually and on radar. The duty AB on anti-piracy watch round noticed that the forecastle store door of the ship was open and the door was locked from inside. He informed the bridge immediately. The Chief Officer raised the alarm and together with the crew, conducted a check.	The hawse pipe cover and lock to forecastle stores broken. Two new mooring ropes of 72mm diameter with 220 metres length were stolen from the forecastle stores.	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was carried out	Yes Taboneo Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)	The Indonesian coastal patrol police boarded the ship to conduct investigation. The Taboneo port control advised the ship to intensify patrol and report immediately any suspicious boats in the

vicinity to the authority.

10 ANGELICA SCHULTE	28/03/2017	SOUTH AMERICA (C)	Four robbers boarded the anchored tanker. The	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised and	Yes	ICC-IMB Piracy	
Oil tanker	08:45 UTC	Cartagena anchorage	alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon seeing		crew mustered	Cartagena Port Control	Reporting Centre	-
Liberia		Colombia	the crew alertness, the robbers fled with stolen				Kuala Lumpur	
56163		10° 19.30' N	ship's property. Port Control notified.					
9296822		075° 32.10' W						

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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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	NAME WITHHELD	07/03/2017 08:34 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Yemen 13° 12.00' N 048° 58.00' E	A ship was approached by two skiffs while underway on 07/03/2017, at 0834 UTC, in position Lat. 13° 12' N - Long. 048° 58' E. The ship reported, that it was being approached by two skiffs with 16 to 20 armed people onboard. The skiffs followed astern of the ship for 40 minutes. The ship is safe.	-	-	No	Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC), UKMTO	-
2	SOFIA Bulk carrier Liberia 32983 9472086	08/03/2017 08:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 106nm SW of Bayelsa Coast Nigeria 03° 20.00' N 004° 28.90' E	Seven persons armed with guns in a skiff approached and fired upon the ship underway. Ship increased speed and commenced evasive manoeuvres. All non-essential crew retreated to the Citadel. After 40 minutes, the skiffs aborted the attack and moved away. All crews reported safe.	Ship sustained damage due to the firing	Alarm raised, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and the non-essential crew mustered in the Citadel	Yes MDAT GoG Centre	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	LA MANCHA KNUTSEN LPG tanker CSR (Spain) 116246 9721724	10/03/2017 05:18 UTC	WEST AFRICA 84nm South of Bonny Nigeria 03° 03.00' N 006° 57.00' E	A speed boat approached and fired upon the tanker underway. The Master raised the alarm, activated the water spray, commenced evasive manoeuvres, activated the SSAS, broadcast a distress message via VHF and mustered non-essential crew in the citadel. The boat managed to come alongside near the mid-ship manifold and attempted to hook on a ladder, which was unsuccessful due to the evasive manoeuvring. A security boat in the vicinity contacted the tanker via VHF and indicated that they were proceeding to assist, and the small boat moved away. The tanker continued her voyage. All crew safe.	Several bullet marks found on the tanker	Master raised the alarm, activated the water spray, commenced evasive manoeuvres, activated the SSAS, broadcast a distress message via VHF and mustered non-essential crew in the citadel.	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian Navy dispatched a navy boat to the location for assistance
4	CORA A Product tanker Panama 8251 9357638	29/03/2017 12:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 64nm SW of Bayelsa Coast Nigeria 04° 05.89' N 004° 42.03' E	Armed pirates in a boat chased and fired upon the tanker underway. The onboard armed naval security team returned fire resulting in the pirates aborting the attack and moving away. All crew safe. The tanker continued her voyage to her next port.	Bridge windows (4 pcs) & ship's accommodation structures sustained damage due to firing	SSAS activated, CSO informed and crew mustered. Onboard armed naval team returned fire	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian Navy mobilized naval team to the ship's position

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	PHU AN 268 General cargo ship Viet Nam 1599 9549293	05/03/2017 09:00 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 4.43nm NE of Lihiman Island Philippines 06° 20.50' N 118° 08.00' E	A speed boat with approximately six armed men on board was persistently in pursuit of ship. They approached and followed the ship for around 1.5 hours. The Master raised the alarm, conducted evasive manoeuvres and activated fire hoses while waiting for assistance by Royal Malaysian Navy (RMN). The RMN ship subsequently	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Royal Malaysian Navy and Malaysia Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Information Fusion Centre (IFC)	Two naval vessels from Royal Malaysian Navy were support the ship to the
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escorted her to Sandakan port safely.

safe port.

IFC has confirmed with the owner of Phu An 268 that there were no armed security personnel on board at the time of the incident; the ship was hardened with razor wire; and had water hoses and nets ready to repel a boarding.

IN PORT AREA

1 NAME WITHHELD Product tanker Marshall Islands 15591	19/03/2017 20:20 UTC	MALACCA STRAIT Dumai Anchorage Indonesia 01° 42.00' N 101° 28.00' E	Duty AB on routine rounds onboard the anchored tanker spotted one person attempting to climb onboard by using a bamboo stick attached to a hook. The duty AB informed the DO who raised the alarm. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the intruders aborted and moved away.	-	Alarm raised. Crew mustered. A search was carried out throughout the ship.	Yes Dumai Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2 PING AN Product tanker Marshall Islands 11438 9495856	25/03/2017 01:00 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Port Lubuk Gaung Anchorage, Dumai Indonesia 01° 43.00' N 101° 26.25' E	While at anchor, a crew member on security patrol sighted a robber attempting to board the ship at poop deck from the ship's astern area. The crew member alerted the duty officer on the bridge who raised the ship alarm and mustered the crew. The robber aborted the boarding and fled with three other accomplices who were on board a small craft. The crew was safe and a security search was conducted on board the ship. No ship's property was stolen. The robbers were subsequently arrested by the Indonesian Marine Police (IMP) who were patrolling in the vicinity.	-	The duty officer raised the alarm, mustered the crew, conducted security search and notified the Indonesian Marine Police	Yes Indonesian Marine Police	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The robbers were apprehended by the Indonesian Marine Police patrol boat

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