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MSC.4/Circ.249
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during April 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 30 April 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 March 2017 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.247 and MSC.4/Circ.248.

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	OS 35 Bulk carrier Tuvalu 20947 9172399	08/04/2017 13:10 UTC	ARABIAN SEA 147nm SE off Al Mukalla, Gulf of Aden Yemen 14° 02.90' N 051° 40.00' E	While underway armed pirates in a skiff came alongside and boarded the bulk carrier. The Master and crew stopped the engine and retreated into the citadel and establish communications. On 09/04/2017 the ship was boarded by naval personnel and all crew members are rescued. No pirates were found on board. The crew resumed control of the ship and sailed to a safe port.	-	Master and crew stopped the engine and retreated into the citadel	Yes Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO, Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC)	Naval boarding team boarded the ship.
2	VECTIS PROGRESS General cargo ship Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 7227 9626144	29/04/2017 07:37	WEST AFRICA Approx. 47nm SW of Bonny Islands Nigeria 03° 41.00' N 006° 46.00' E	Armed pirates in a speedboat approached and boarded the ship underway. The alarm was raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated into the citadel. The owners notified the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre, who in turn informed and liaised with the Nigerian Navy. A naval vessel was dispatched to assist the ship. The pirates damaged ship's equipment, stole crew cash and belongings and fled before the naval team boarded the ship to rescue the crew members. All crew reported safe.	Ship's equipment damaged, crew cash and belongings stolen	Alarm raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated into the citadel	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian navy dispatched a patrol boat to the location. The naval team boarded the ship to rescue the crew members

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	AL KAUSAR Dhow India	01/04/2017	ARABIAN SEA Enroute to Bosaso Somalia	A dhow with 11 crew members on board was boarded and hijacked by pirates while enroute to Bosaso. The dhow was taken to Somali coastal waters between Hobyo and El Hur. On 12/04/2017, Somali Forces managed to release the ship and the crew members. All crew members are in good health. A warship escorted the ship to the next port of call.	11 crew members hostage and the dhow hijacked	-	Yes MRCC Mumbai, India	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The Somali Force managed to release the ship and the crew members safely
2	ATLANTIC MANN Tug Nigeria 804 8305494	19/04/2017 09:34 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 10.8nm South of Brass Nigeria 04° 06.43' N 006° 15.34' E	An offshore tug was attacked and boarded by armed persons. They kidnapped eight crew members and fled. The Nigerian Navy responded to the incident. One crew member was reported injured and evacuated by helicopter.	The persons kidnapped eight crew members and one crew injured	-	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The injured crew was evacuated by helicopter
3	BALLENITA Container ship Marshall Islands 26412 9603609	22/04/2017 19:40 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 10nm SW of Olutanga Coast Philippines 07° 10.90' N 122° 39.90' E	Duty crew member onboard the anchored ship spotted a small boat near the anchor chain and the hawse pipe cover open. He immediately informed the OOW, who raised the alarm. Two robbers were seen fleeing from the ship. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that nothing reported stolen. Incident reported to Davao coast guard and pilot station via VHF CH.	-	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was carried out	Yes Davao Coast Guard & Pilot Station	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

* 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

IN PORT AREA

1 BLUE BALANCE Bulk carrier Panama 26058 9168491	07/04/2017 01:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Congo River Angola 05° 52.11' S 013° 02.49' E	Duty crew on routine rounds onboard the anchored bulk carrier spotted six robbers on the forecastle and immediately informed the duty officer on the bridge. The alarm was raised and ship's whistle sounded. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers fled in their boat with ship's property.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised and whistle sounded	Yes Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2 LUCINA PROVIDENCE LPG tanker Panama 46025 9349784	21/04/2017 19:00 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA JG Summit Terminal Jetty 1, Batangas Philippines 13° 40.50' N 121° 03.10' E	Unnoticed robbers boarded the tanker at berth, 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	Yes Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Port Authority boarded the tanker for investigation
3 MAINPORT CEDAR Research ship Marshall Islands 1659 9659323	28/04/2017 06:20 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (A) Georgetown Anchorage Guyana 06° 49.40' N 058° 10.20' W	Duty officer on routine rounds onboard the seismic support ship spotted a boat alongside the ship and raised the alarm. Upon seeing the alerted crew, five robbers were seen fleeing with stolen ship's property.	Ship's property stolen	Duty officer raised the alarm	Yes Port Control	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Port Control acknowledge receipt of the report

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MSC.4/Circ. 249 ANNEX I

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	ALHEERA Product tanker Panama 6519 9221803	15/04/2017 13:06 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Gulf of Aden 12° 53.77' N 048° 02.52' E	Five or six pirates armed with automatic weapons in a white coloured skiff approached and fired upon the tanker underway. The Master raised the alarm, contacted UKMTO and the non-essential crew members took shelter in the citadel. A warship in the vicinity was informed. The armed security team onboard returned fire resulting in the pirates aborting the attack and moving away. All crew and tanker safe.	Pirates fired upon the tanker	Master raised the alarm, increased speed and the non-essential crew members took shelter in the citadel. The armed security team onboard returned fire	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC), UKMTO	A military aircraft came to the location
2	AXEL SPIRIT Oil tanker Bahamas 62929 9282041	19/04/2017 08:45 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 59nm SSW of Brass Nigeria 03° 25.00' N 005° 46.00' E	Nine pirates in a skiff approached and fired upon a tanker underway. The alarm was raised, fire pumps started and non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. The ship increased speed and conducted evasive manoeuvres. While the Master communicated with the escort vessel, the skiff was seen aborting and moving away. The crew and tanker reported safe.	Pirates fired upon the tanker	Alarm raised, fire pumps started and non-essential crew retreated to the citadel	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	NAME WITHELD Refrigerated cargo carrier Liberia 6363	29/04/2017 04:08 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 38nm SW of Bonny Island Nigeria 03° 51.20' N 006° 46.00' E	Two aluminium hulled motorized boats with three to five pirates armed with automatic rifles chased and fired upon a reefer ship underway. The Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS and the Nigerian Navy was called on VHF Ch 16. Speed was increased and evasive manoeuvres commenced. The pirates came close and attempted to board the ship using a ladder. Three rocket flares were fired. The Master headed towards the Okwari oil field to seek assistance from the security vessels but seeing the boats aborting and moving away the Master altered and headed towards Bonny fairway buoy. The ship sustained damage due to the firing.	Ship sustained multiple gunshot damage	Alarm raised, SSAS activated, Master took evasive manoeuvres and distress call was made to Authority	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	LNG LOKOJA Oil tanker Bermuda (United Kingdom) 98798 9269960	29/04/2017 17:40 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 50nm SSW of Bonny Island Nigeria 03° 37.60' N 006° 44.10' E	Two boats with four to five pirates armed with rifles chased and fired upon the tanker underway. The tanker raised the alarm and took anti-piracy preventive measures. The Master spotted a ladder in one boat. The boats managed to come alongside the tanker but due to the hardening measures the pirates were unable to board and aborted the attack. All crew safe. The tanker sustained some damage due to the firing.	Tanker sustained some damage due to the firing	Alarm raised and the Master increased speed and took evasive manoeuvres	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

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NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific

1	SAFE SINO Product tanker Panama 27526 9149251	14/04/2017 07:00 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Approx. 10nm NE of Nishtun Yemen 15° 55.56' N 052° 20.75' E	Six persons armed with automatic rifles in a small boat approached and fired upon the anchored tanker. They attempted to board the tanker several times but failed and moved away. All crew safe. The tanker continued its passage.	Ship sustained gunshot damages	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Yemen Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	MV DOÑA ANNABEL Passenger ship Philippines	18/04/2017 07:54 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approximately 14 nm NW of Port Santa Maria, Siocon, Zamboanga Peninsula Philippines 07° 57.50' N 121° 55.96' E	While underway, three fast boats with unknown number of persons wearing bonnets and armed with guns surrounded and tried to approach the ship. The ship Master contacted the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and reported that they were in distress. Four persons tried to board the vessel but later left after seeing an approaching Philippine Navy boat and Air Force helicopter that was patrolling in the area. The authority located the ship and rendered assistance to her until she arrived safely at the port of Zamboanga City, Philippines.	-	Reported incident to the PCG	Yes Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines), Information Fusion Centre	After receiving the report from the ship Master, the PCG immediately coordinated with local authorities and deployed its floating assets to conduct maritime patrol in the area. The Philippine Navy also deployed its floating assets and the Philippine Air Force deployed two Huey helicopters. The authorities located the ship and rendered assistance until it arrived safely at the port of Zamboanga City, Philippines. The quick response and immediate presence of the authorities in the area prompted the persons to abort their attempt to board the

ship.

3 COSTINA Product tanker Sierra Leone 4462 8405701	22/04/2017 14:42 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Approx. 5.7nm East of Somali Coast Somalia 05° 42.00' N 048° 53.00' E	Six armed persons in a skiff chased and fired upon the tanker underway. The Master raised the alarm and sent distress message, to which a warship responded. The skiff chased the tanker for nearly two hours and then moved away due to the continuous evasive manoeuvres. One crew member reported injured. Information was later received that the pirates had been apprehended by the Spanish Navy, which was patrolling the area. The number of pirates arrested was however not given.	The persons fired upon the tanker. One crew reported injured	Alarm raised, sent distress message, increased speed and took evasive manoeuvres.	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Regional Maritime Rescue coordination Centre(RMRCC), Mombasa Information Sharing Centre (MSA ISC)	A warship responded to the distress call and provided necessary assistance
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IN PORT AREA

1 ARPEGGIO Bulk carrier Panama 42608 9636278	20/04/2017 02:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Samarinda Anchorage Indonesia 00° 15.70' S 117° 34.50' E	Three robbers boarded the anchored bulk carrier. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled without stealing anything.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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MSC.4/Circ. 249
ANNEX II

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NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific