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MSC.4/Circ.250
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during May 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 May 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 30 April 2017 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.248 and MSC.4/Circ.249.

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	ALICE Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 4202 9520273	28/05/2017 23:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 23.5 nm southwest of Pulau Mangkai Indonesia 02° 49.90' N 105° 17.40' E	While underway, six pirates armed with guns and knives boarded the ship using a rope. The Master and crew members were tied up; and ship's cash, crew members personal belongings and cash were stolen. The pirates thereafter fled in a small boat. After the pirates left the ship, the Master managed to untie himself and reported the incident to his Company Security Officer (CSO).	Ship's cash, crew personal belongings and cash stolen. The Master and crew members tied up.	The Master managed to untie himself and reported the incident to his CSO.	Yes IFC Singapore	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), Information Fusion Centre	ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore) initiated navigational broadcast of the incident. Republic of Singapore Navy and Singapore Police Coast Guard notified.
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	NAVE BUENA SUERTE Tanker Hong Kong, China 152727 9514561	03/05/2017 17:06 UTC	MALACCA STRAIT Approx. 7.8nm SSW of Pulau Kukup, Johor Malaysia 01° 16.60' N 103° 17.60' E	While underway, the 2nd Engineer spotted six robbers armed with knives in the engine room. Upon being spotted, the robbers forced the 2nd Engineer to show them the way out of the engine room. Nothing was stolen as the robbers were sighted before they could steal anything. The alarm was sounded immediately and a search was conducted on board the ship. No robbers were found. A report was made to the Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS) via VHF.	-	Alarm raised and a search conducted.	Yes VTIS	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)	-
2	GLORY General cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 6393 9378254	17/05/2017	WEST AFRICA Approx. 21nm South of Nigerian Coast Nigeria 03° 59.00' N 006° 46.00' E	While underway armed pirates boarded the general cargo ship. They kidnapped six crew members and fled. The remaining crew members sailed the ship to Bonny anchorage. The Nigerian Navy is investigating the case.	Six crew members kidnapped	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Dispatched a warship
3	TRF MARQUETTE Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 23676 9732785	18/05/2017 03:00 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Approx. 4nm West of Lecheria Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 11.31' N 064° 46.16' W	Robbers boarded by using rope and grappling hook to climb up to the main deck break of the forecabin area. Robbers stole ship's equipment and stores, then fled unnoticed.	Ship's equipment and stores stolen	Master and crew members searched ship for missing items and any suspicious item	No	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	GLORY OCEAN Cement carrier Singapore 10337 9116448	02/05/2017 06:50 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Berth No.5, Pertigalet Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 14.75' N 064° 33.44' W	Three robbers armed with knives boarded the berthed ship. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled without stealing anything.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Facility Security Officer	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	PFSO with additional armed guards came onboard the ship
2	UNIQUE DEVELOPER Product tanker Hong Kong, China 26914 9402809	02/05/2017 23:15 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Bravo Chittagong Anchorage Bangladesh 22° 13.90' N 091° 44.10' E	While at anchor, two robbers speaking in local dialect, armed with swords, boarded the poop deck of the ship from a three to four meters long boat with two other robbers on board. The duty crew spotted the robbers boarding the ship, informed the bridge and the duty officer raised the alarm by sounding the ship whistle followed by making an announcement over the PA system. The robbers fled without stealing anything.	-	Alarm raised, PA announcement made and crew mustered.	Yes Chittagong Port Control and Bangladesh Coast Guard	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong)	The local authority advised the ship to implement the anti-piracy watch.
3	NORD MARU Bulk carrier Singapore 30684 9284491	03/05/2017 01:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta Indonesia 05° 57.50' S 106° 55.60' E	While at anchor, the duty roving crew spotted three robbers boarding the ship through the stern from a wooden boat. The duty crew reported the sighting to the duty officer. The general alarm was immediately activated, and the robbers fled in an unlit wooden boat.	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and reported the incident to the local port authorities and flag State.	Yes Local port authority and flag State (Singapore)	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
4	KOTA LUKIS Container ship Singapore 39906 9439747	04/05/2017 01:30 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Callao Anchorage No.1 Peru 12° 01.02' S 077° 12.06' W	While at anchor, five to six robbers with masks, armed with knives, boarded the ship and attacked the duty AB and one shore security watchman. The attack took place after the AB completed his anti-piracy rounds. The armed robbers took the duty AB to the port side aft corner of the forecastle deck of the ship and tied him up. The robbers also tied up the security watchman while he was carrying out his watch duty at the forward station. The robbers stole the AB's walkie-talkie, and the personal belongings of the AB and the security watchman. They then entered through the forecastle deck manhole and stole the mooring ropes from the forward store before leaving the ship through the hawse pipe port side. The AB and the security watchman managed to free themselves immediately and ran to the aft station to report the incident to the bridge. The general alarm was raised and crew was mustered. The crew then carried out a search on board. No sign of the armed robbers was found.	Mooring ropes, ship's walkie-talkie and personal belongings of the duty AB and the security watchman stolen.	Alarm raised, mustered the crew and carried out a search on board the ship.	Yes Local port authority and flag State (Singapore)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	PRABHU LAL Bulk carrier India 30057	11/05/2017 20:12 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda Indonesia 00° 16.30' S 117° 37.90' E	While at anchor, a robber armed with knife boarded the ship via the anchor chain. The duty A/B on routine rounds sighted the robber and informed the OOW who raised the alarm and	-	Alarm raised, crew mustered and search conducted	Yes Local Port Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via	Ship was instructed to maintain strict anti-piracy

9263124			mustered the crew. Upon hearing the alarm and realizing that the crew had been alerted, the robber fled via the anchor chain and fled in a speed boat. A search was conducted on board the ship, following which it was determined that nothing had been stolen.				ReCAAP Focal Point (India)	watch	
6	SC DALIAN Chemical tanker Hong Kong, China 8539 9430454	21/05/2017 03:30 LT	MALACCA STRAIT MSSP Jetty, Lubuk Gaung Port, Dumai Indonesia 01° 43.72' N 101° 23.21' E	Six robbers wearing face masks and armed with long knives boarded the berthed tanker. The alert crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. The robbers stole ship's property and fled in their boat. Crew mustered and a search was carried out, following which it was determined that the outboard engine of a rescue boat had been stolen.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was carried out	Yes Local Port Authority and Coast Guards	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Contact Point (Hong Kong, China)	-
7	VECTIS EAGLE General cargo ship United Kingdom 6190 9594286	24/05/2017 04:20 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Approx. 1.05nm East of Isla Boraccha, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 17.22' N 064° 42.79' W	Six robbers boarded the anchored ship from the sea side in the vicinity of the Guanta port during the hours of darkness. They tried to open the paint room and forecandle store room, but they only managed to open the forecandle store room. Deck security alarm activated and the deck watchman spotted the robbers and informed duty officer who raised the alarm and crew mustered. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers fled immediately. A search was carried out, following which it was determined that ship's stores was stolen. The Master tried to contact Port Authorities by VHF but received no response.	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was carried out	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
8	NAME WITHHELD Product tanker Saudi Arabia 29165	24/05/2017 22:15 UTC	MALACCA STRAIT Dumai Anchorage Indonesia 01° 43.10' N 101° 25.80' E	Two robbers armed with a machetes boarded the anchored product tanker. The alarm was raised and crew mustered. The robbers fled with stolen ship's property.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
9	NORDATLANTIC Container ship Cyprus 25407 9241451	26/05/2017 02:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Freetown Offroads Anchorage Sierra Leone 08° 26.33' N 013° 28.16' W	Robbers boarded the anchored container ship unnoticed, stole ship's property and fled. The theft was discovered by duty crew during routine rounds.	Ship's property stolen	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
10	UNI CHALLENGE Bulk carrier Singapore 18465 9606546	31/05/2017 21:00 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN Cilacap Anchorage Indonesia 07° 45.65' S 109° 04.25' E	While at anchor, the duty oiler reported to the 2nd Officer that a robber was found in the engine room. The Master raised the alarm, proceeded to the ship's aft station and engine room and noticed that the access watertight door in the main deck to the engine room was open. A search was conducted but no robber was found on board. The chief engineer discovered that some spares from the engine stores room were missing.	Engine spares stolen	Alarm raised and the search conducted.	Yes Flag state	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-

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MSC.4/Circ. 250
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	POSH CONQUEST Supply ship Panama 2736 9451654	16/05/2017 18:03 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 26nm SW of Kepulauan Talaud North Sulawesi Indonesia 03° 32.00' N 126° 23.00' E	An offshore supply ship underway was approached by a small speed boat, which closed to approximately 30 metres. The alarm was raised, crew mustered and fire pump started to charge fire hoses. Upon seeing the alerted crew the boat aborted and moved away.	-	Alarm raised, crew mustered, main fire pump started to charge fire hoses	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	MUSKIE Tanker Marshall Islands 42771 9256638	31/05/2017 06:47 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Bab el-Mandeb, Red Sea Yemen 12° 35.00' N 043° 27.20' E	Ship was approached by two skiffs. Multiple rocket propelled grenades were fired at the ship from one of the skiffs. The armed security team on board returned fire. Later, an explosion was observed on one of the skiffs and the second skiff moved away. UKMTO was notified and two naval ships were dispatched to the location. MUSKIE sustained some damage from the attack, but is reported to be safe with no injuries to the crew.	Pirates fired upon the tanker. The tanker sustained damage	Alarm raised and non-essential crew mustered in the citadel. The onboard armed security team fired warning shots	Yes UKMTO	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Two warships proceeded to the area to assist the tanker

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	NAVIOS HIOS Bulk carrier Greece 31169 9254733	07/05/2017 14:40 UTC	PERSIAN GULF Approx. 12nm SW of Bandar E Jask Iran (Islamic Republic of) 25° 32.00' N 057° 33.00' E	Duty officer onboard a bulk carrier underway, spotted three suspicious skiffs approaching the ship. At the same time a vessel suspected to be the mother vessel was seen astern at a distance of 2 NM. As the skiffs closed the crew observed the persons in the boat holding ladders. The alarm was raised, speed increased, evasive manoeuvres commenced and Ras al Khor Port contacted, who informed the Iranian Navy. As the bulk carrier changed course the skiffs and the suspected mother vessel followed. After around 20 minutes the Iranian Navy called the bulk carrier to alter course at which point the skiffs aborted and moved away. All crew safe.	-	Alarm raised, speed increased, evasive manoeuvres commenced	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Informed Iran Navy
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IN PORT AREA

1 MOL DEDICATION
Container ship
Marshall Islands
39906
9352391

06/05/2017
00:30 UTC

WEST AFRICA
Abidjan Anchorage
Côte d'Ivoire
05° 10.88' N
004° 04.72' W

A suspicious boat was approaching from the aft of the ship. Duty officer alerted to duty men on deck. As the boat came alongside on port quarter, all crew were alerted, the whistle/ alarm was sounded, started fire pump for water jets on ship sides. The boat circled the ship closely then moved away. Incident informed to Abidjan port control on VHF Ch.12 . Seven persons spotted in that boat.

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Alarm raised, ship's whistle sounded, fire pump started and crew alerted
Yes
Abidjan Port Authority

Marshall Islands
ICC-IMB Piracy
Reporting Centre
Kuala Lumpur

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MSC.4/Circ. 250
ANNEX II