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MSC.4/Circ.252
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during July 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 July 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 June 2017 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.249, MSC.4/Circ.250 and MSC.4/Circ.251.

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	NAME WITHHELD Product tanker Nigeria	31/07/2017 17:50 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 21nm SSW of Bonny Nigeria 04° 07.52' N 007° 00.04' E	Pirates attacked the tanker and stole the crew members personal belongings. Three crew members were reported missing. Nigerian Navy escorted the ship to Bonny anchorage.	Pirates boarded the ship. Crew personal belongings stolen. Three crew members reported missing	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A Nigerian Navy vessel escorted the ship to Bonny anchorage.
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	UAL HOUSTON General cargo ship Netherlands 5925 9542348	13/07/2017 06:52 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 16nm SSW of Bonny Nigeria 04° 08.91' N 006° 59.83' E	Six persons in a skiff boarded the ship underway. The alarm was raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated into the citadel. Nigerian Navy boarded the ship and found all crew safe.	-	Alarm raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated to the Citadel	Yes Netherlands Coast Guard and Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian Navy dispatched a patrol boat to the location and boarded the ship to rescue the crew
2	OYA1 General cargo ship Panama 851 8512126	30/07/2017 09:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Approx. 15nm SW of Bonny Island Nigeria 04° 10.12' N 006° 59.44' E	Armed pirates boarded the ship underway. The incident was reported to the Nigerian Navy who responded and located the ship. It was reported that five crew members were kidnapped. The Nigerian Navy vessel towed the ship to a safe port for investigation. On 19/08/2017, the five kidnapped crew members were released safely.	Pirates boarded the ship. Five crew members kidnapped	-	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A Nigerian Navy vessel responded and located the ship and towed the ship to a safe port for investigation

IN PORT AREA

1	E. R. MARTINIQUE Container ship Liberia 28927 9314985	10/07/2017 17:50 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 3.27nm from Pier 13 Manila South Harbour Anchorage Philippines 14° 33.80' N 120° 54.90' E	While at anchor, the duty officer conducted a regular security inspection on the deck area and discovered that the portside door of the forecastle store was open and the padlock was broken. He also spotted several footprints on the deck and a small boat with unknown number of robbers was moving towards the ship's bow. The duty AB reported the situation to the officer on watch on the bridge who raised the alarm. A general inspection and inventory of equipment were conducted, which it was determined that ship's fire hose nozzle had been stolen. Incident reported to the Coast Guard.	Ship's fire hose nozzle stolen	The duty AB reported to the officer on watch on the bridge who immediately raised the alarm. Conducted a general inspection and inventory of equipment.	Yes Philippines Coast Guard, Information Fusion Centre (IFC)	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	Upon receipt of the report, the PCG immediately deployed its floating asset with one (1) team of Special Operating Unit (SOU) on board to conduct maritime patrol in the area.
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2 COSCO FUKUYAMA
Container ship
Panama
40165
9400306

14/07/2017
11:30 UTC

SOUTH CHINA SEA
Approx. 2.91nm from
Pier 13, Manila South
Harbour Anchorage
Philippines
14° 33.30' N
120° 55.20' E

Two robbers boarded the anchored ship via the hawse pipe. Duty watch keeper informed the chief officer who raised the alarm. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers fled with a life raft and a fire fighting Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Manila VTMS informed. The Coast Guard boarded the ship for investigation.

A life raft and an SCBA
stolen

The duty officer reported the incident to the chief officer who immediately raised the alarm.

The master reported the incident to the local port authority.

Yes
Manila Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) & Information Fusion Centre (IFC)

ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)

PCG immediately deployed its floating assets and intercepted a motor banca John Andrea that was spotted near the area of incident.

The PCG team conducted search but yielded negative result.

The PCG advised the Master to be vigilant and enhance their ship security measures.

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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	FLAGSHIP LOTUS Oil tanker Marshall Islands 40953 9321184	05/07/2017 15:20 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Underway Red Sea Yemen 14° 17.90' N 042° 21.30' E	Oil tanker underway, en route from Fujairah to Rotterdam, was approached by 7 skiffs. Approximately 5 to 6 persons were sighted on each skiff. The security alarm was raised and all crew gathered in the citadel. 2 skiffs approached the ship at 350 yards from port side area, 1 skiff approached the ship at 400 yards from starboard side by, weapons were sighted - RPG - on the starboard skiff. 4 persons from security team - armed guards on board showed their weapons followed by warning shots resulting all 3 skiffs aborting the attack. All crew reported safe and no ship property damages reported.	-	Armed guards on board, showed their weapons followed by warning shots	No	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	SEAWAYS ROSEMAR Oil tanker Marshall Islands 40343 9232620	18/07/2017 06:00 UTC	ARABIAN SEA Underway Red Sea Yemen 12° 56.70' N 043° 13.90' E	2 skiffs were spotted on starboard and port sides. Each skiff had 4-8 persons on board. The skiffs were moving and changing course around the ship. Armed guards showed weapons and skiffs left the area.	-	Ship increased speed and activated fire hose. Armed guards showed weapons and skiffs left the area	Yes UKMTO	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	CMA CGM UTRILLO Container ship Cyprus 25803 9192430	02/07/2017 00:10 UTC	EAST AFRICA Nacala Anchorage Mozambique 14° 22.46' S 040° 42.42' E	Duty crew onboard the anchored ship spotted two robbers attempting to board. 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 Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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ANNEX II