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MSC.4/Circ.253
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during August 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 August 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 July 2017 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.251 and MSC.4/Circ.252.

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 TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	NAVIG8 EXCEED Tanker Marshall Islands 42750 9735608	03/08/2017 07:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 10NM North of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan, Indonesia 01° 24.00' N 104° 33.00' E	While at anchor, the duty crew noticed four locks to the steering flat compartment, air-conditioned room and garbage locker were broken. After a thorough search, it was discovered that the breathing apparatus compressor was missing from the emergency generator room. The robbers were not sighted. Upon discovery of the broken locks and missing item, the crew rigged razor wire around the ship and increased the number of crew on patrol on board the ship.	A breathing apparatus compressor stolen and four locks to the steering flat compartment, air-conditioner room and garbage locker broken.	Thorough search of ship and the crew rigged razor wire around the ship and increased the number of crew on patrol on board the ship.	Yes Information Fusion Centre (IFC)	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
2	STAR LILY Bulk carrier Panama 21192 9370422	21/08/2017 02:34 LT	MALACCA STRAIT Eastbound lane of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, approx. 1.3nm WNW off Helen Mar Reef Indonesia 01° 07.60' N 103° 45.27' E	While sailing, the crew spotted four robbers armed with machetes, had boarded the ship from a boat. The alarm was raised, accommodation area secured and anti-piracy measures activated on board. The robbers fled in a waiting boat. Nothing was stolen and the crew was safe.	-	The master raised the alarm, secured the accommodation area and activated anti-piracy measures. Reported the incident to Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System (VTIS).	Yes VTIS Singapore	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	The VTIS notified the Singapore Navy, the Singapore Police Coast Guard and the Indonesian authority.

IN PORT AREA

1	NORGAS SHASTA LPG tanker Singapore 9691 9254941	04/08/2017 21:55 UTC	WEST AFRICA Takoradi Ghana 04° 54.35' N 001° 39.69' W	Deck watch keepers onboard the anchored tanker spotted a robber near the starboard side poop deck and informed the OOW who raised the alarm. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robber jumped overboard and fled with his accomplice waiting in a boat. On carrying out a thorough search, it was reported that ship's property had been stolen.	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Port Control send a patrol boat for investigation
2	NAME WITHHELD Container ship Liberia 26435	05/08/2017 19:00 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Esmeraldas Port Ecuador	Unnoticed by crew, robbers boarded the berthed ship, stole brass sounding pipe covers and fled. The theft was discovered by duty crew on routine rounds.	Ship's property stolen	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

3	BW LIONESS Chemical tanker Singapore 29737 9675509	07/08/2017 22:40 UTC	WEST AFRICA Folawiyo Terminal, Apapa, Lagos Nigeria	Duty AB onboard the berthed tanker spotted two robbers trying to insert a flexible hose into 1P / 1S cargo tank. He immediately informed the duty officer who raised the alarm. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers fled with the flexible hose. A search was carried out throughout the tanker and nothing reported stolen. Port control informed.	-	Alarm raised and crew alerted	Yes Port control and Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, MDAT-GoG	-
4	CAPTAIN MIKE Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 46982 9296846	09/08/2017 UTC	EAST AFRICA Richards Bay South Africa	Unknown dock worker with fake documents boarded the ship and allegedly stole ship's property.	Ship's property stolen	Reported to local police	Yes Local police & Port authority	Marshall Islands	-
5	RHL AQUA Container ship Liberia 18480 9373498	10/08/2017 01:40 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 2.84 nm off Sangley runway, Cavite City Philippines 14° 32.70' N 120° 55.30' E	While at anchor, the duty deck watch spotted four robbers at the forecastle deck of the ship. He immediately reported the incident to the duty officer on watch who alerted the Master, sounded the general alarm and reported the incident to the Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) Manila. Upon hearing the alarm the robbers immediately jumped into the water and moved away with their motor banca towards an unknown direction. The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) proceeded to the location of the incident and conducted maritime patrol in the area. The crew members was not injured, two sets of breathing apparatus (SCBA) and one set of fire fighting outfit had been stolen.	Two sets of SCBA and one set of fire fighting outfit stolen.	The duty deck watch informed the duty officer stationed at the bridge who alerted the master, sounded the general alarm and reported the incident to the VTMS in Manila and the PCG	Yes VTMS Manila, PCG and IFC	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	PCG immediately conducted maritime patrol in the area to verify the report.
6	SBI SOUSTA Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 44069 9723643	11/08/2017 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN Haldia India 22° 02.00' N 088° 07.00' E	Duty AB discovered that the ship's property was missing	Ship's property missing	Thorough search of ship	Yes Information Fusion Centre (IFC)	Marshall Islands	-
7	WARNOW MASTER Container ship Cyprus 17068 9449833	16/08/2017 04:59 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Anchorage in the waters off South Harbour Manila Philippines 14° 33.90' N 120° 55.59' E	Alert duty crew member on security rounds, on-board the anchored ship spotted two robbers inside the starboard hawse pipe trying to open the cover and gain access onto the ship. He immediately reported the incident to the duty officer on watch who alerted the Master, sounded the general alarm and reported the incident to the Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) Manila. Upon hearing the alarm the two robbers fled in a waiting boat along with three accomplices.	-	The duty crew on security rounds informed the duty officer who alerted the Master, sounded the general alarm and reported the incident to the VTMS Manila.	Yes VTMS Manila	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	-

8 GSW FORWARD Product tanker Singapore 11261 9421271	19/08/2017 02:50 UTC	WEST AFRICA Lagos General Purpose Anchorage Nigeria 06° 20.70' N 003° 18.20' E	Alert duty watch keepers on the bridge of the anchored tanker spotted a floating object near the starboard bow and informed the armed security guard who fired warning shots. One robber was seen jumping overboard from the forecastle. The alarm was raised and PA announcement made. All crew except watch keepers were directed to the citadel. After the security guards checked the deck areas to ensure no unauthorised persons on board, the crew emerged from the citadel and carried out a thorough search on board the tanker. The crew noticed a flexible hose pipe inserted into a Butterworth pocket of No. 1S COT. One robber was spotted hiding in the hawse pipe. He was apprehended and tied up by the security guard and later handed over to the local agents. It was reported that the robbers had managed to steal some oil from the tanker.	Some ship's cargo stolen	Alarm raised and crew directed to the citadel. Security guard fired warning shot. One robber was apprehended	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	A Nigerian Navy vessel conducted a search for the robber boat
9 NAME WITHHELD Chemical tanker Panama 12247	29/08/2017 21:00 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN North Berth, Kakinada Port India	Unnoticed, robbers boarded the anchored tanker during cargo operations. They stole ship's stores and fled. The theft was discovered by the duty crew during routine rounds. Port control informed.	Ship's stores stolen	-	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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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
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IN PORT AREA

1	AQUABELLE Chemical tanker Malaysia 5256 9410193	13/08/2017 13:55 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Alongside the KBOT (Karamunting Bulk Oil Terminal), Sandakan, Sabah Malaysia 05° 48.34' N 118° 04.57' E	While at berth, the crew along with the cargo surveyor and the loading master were carrying out cargo gauging when the duty AB spotted one robber attempting to board the ship through its starboard side near no.1 cargo tank using a small rope. The cargo control room was alerted and the alarm was raised. The robber fled in a small boat with another person on board.	-	The master raised the general alarm, carried out search, rigged razor wire on seaside and posted extra lookout. He also reported the incident to the terminal loading master and the local authority.	Yes Port authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
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ANNEX II

* 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