

## REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

### Annual Report – 2023

#### Background

1 In pursuance of the Maritime Safety Committee's request for the Secretariat to issue composite reports of all incidents of piracy<sup>1</sup> and armed robbery against ships<sup>2</sup> reported to the Organization accompanied by an analysis, on a regional basis, of the situation; an indication on whether the frequency of incidents is increasing or decreasing; and advising on any new feature or pattern of significance, the annexes hereto provide, in the tabulated format agreed by the Committee, a summary of reports on incidents received between 1 January and 31 December 2023, including a distinction between acts of piracy and acts of armed robbery against ships and attempted attacks (annex 2). Further, and as requested by the Committee (MSC 75/24, paragraph 18.41), the Secretariat has, since July 2002, been classifying 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.

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<sup>1</sup> "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 sub-paragraph (a) or (b)."

<sup>2</sup> "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."
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2 At its sixty-sixth session in June 1996, the Committee further requested the Secretariat to prepare, after March of every year, an annual summary of all acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships which had occurred during the previous year and had been reported to the Organization, based on their actual date and time of occurrence.

3 Pursuant to this request, the annexes hereto provide information on reports of piracy and armed robbery against ships received by the Secretariat since 1984, when relevant statistics started being compiled and, in particular, those which occurred in the course of 2023 as well as a regional analysis thereof.

4 At its eighty-fifth session in December 2008, the Committee also requested the Secretariat, *inter alia*, to include in future issues of MSC.4 circulars additional and separate annexes listing incidents occurring in waters off the coast of Somalia (see annex 5).

### **Monthly reports**

5 At its ninety-ninth session in May 2018, the Committee agreed to discontinue the monthly circulars containing reports on incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships, while maintaining the annual reports as part of the series of MSC.4 circulars. However, the Secretariat continues to make monthly reports available at IMO's public website. Further, reports of actual and attempted attacks by pirates and armed robbers against ships are continuously promulgated via the Piracy and Armed Robbery module of the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) as soon as they are received by the Secretariat from Member States and reporting organizations and entities. Users of the module can create and download customized reports, e.g. by geographical area or time period (guidance is available within the module).

### **Global and regional trends in 2023**

6 According to information received and made available in IMO's GISIS module on piracy and armed robbery, 150 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships were reported to the Organization as having occurred or been attempted in 2023. In 2022, 131 incidents were reported, whereas the number was 172 incidents in 2021. This, therefore, constitutes an increase of about 15% at the global level compared to last year.

7 From the data referred to above, it also emerges that the areas most affected by acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships in 2023 were the Straits of Malacca and Singapore area (85 incidents), West Africa (22 incidents), South China Sea (14 incidents) and South America (Pacific)<sup>3</sup> (14 incidents), followed by Indian Ocean (5 incidents), South America (Caribbean) (4 incidents), Arabian Sea (2 incidents), East Africa (2 incidents), South America (Atlantic) (1 incident) and Mediterranean Sea (1 incident).

8 The number of incidents that took place in the Gulf of Guinea (West Africa) increased in 2023 by 1 compared to 2022, when 21 incidents were reported. This constitutes an increase of about 5%. The number of incidents involving hostage/kidnapped crew increased by 3 to 5 incidents in 2023, with a total of 68 crew members reported as hostage/kidnapped (see annex 2). About 18% of incidents in this region occurred in international waters and 82% occurred in port area. (see annex 3).

9 The number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore area increased to 85 from 72 incidents reported in 2022. About 74%

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<sup>3</sup> As reported to MSC 76 (MSC 76/23, paragraph 16.2), the geographically large South American and Caribbean region has been sub-divided into three regions: South America (Atlantic), South America (Pacific) and the Caribbean. This change is reflected in all relevant reports issued as from 1 January 2003.

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of the incidents reported in 2023 were targeting a steaming ship in these Straits, compared to approximately 47% of incidents worldwide in 2023.

10 The number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships reported in the South China Sea increased by 10 from 4 incidents reported to the Organization in 2022. This represents an increase of 250%, but is similar to the same period in 2021, when 15 incidents were reported.

11 The number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Latin American regions and the Caribbean region taken overall decreased by 5 from 24 incidents reported in 2022. This total includes incidents in the Latin America Pacific region which remain at a level of 14 incidents, same as 14 incidents in 2022, whereas the Latin America Atlantic region is down by 5 incidents to 1 incident in 2023. The number of incidents in the Caribbean region is on par with 2022 when 4 incidents were reported.

12 The data reveals that the total number of crew reported as taken hostage/kidnapped in 2023 remains at 92 crew members, and this is an increase from 24 crew members held hostage/kidnapped in 2022. Around 74% of the crew members were reportedly taken hostage/kidnapped in incidents in West Africa in 2023.

13 The total number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships reported to the Organization as having occurred or having been attempted from 1984 to the end of December 2023 has risen to 8,868.

14 Information on each report of actual or attempted acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships reported to the Organization is available in the piracy and armed robbery module in GISIS, as explained in paragraph 5.

15 The annexes to this document provide a breakdown of the information referred to above as follows:

- .1 annex 1 provides a list of all acts reported to have occurred or to have been attempted in 2023 in chronological order of occurrence per each geographical area;
- .2 annex 2 provides a regional analysis of acts reported to have been allegedly committed or attempted during 2023;
- .3 annex 3 provides a graphical presentation by area, on an annual basis, of the acts reported to have been allegedly committed or attempted during 2023;
- .4 annex 4 provides a graphical presentation by area, on an annual basis, of reports received between 1984 and 31 December 2023; and
- .5 annex 5 provides a list of all acts reported to have occurred or to have been attempted in waters off the coast of Somalia in 2023.

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**ANNEX 1**

**LIST OF ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS AND ATTEMPTED  
ATTACKS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship Name</b>	<b>IMO No.</b>
<b>ARABIAN SEA</b>		
19/01/2023	MT MH Langoey	9330783
14/12/2023	Ruen	9754903
<b>EAST AFRICA</b>		
16/07/2023	Vishva Vikas	9487902
01/12/2023	Pacific Kohinoor	9800661
<b>INDIAN OCEAN</b>		
17/04/2023	PPS Luck	9407524
24/04/2023	Solar Roma	9887372
23/05/2023	Success	9285718
20/09/2023	Maersk Belfast	9299446
13/11/2023	Ginga Kite	9228291
<b>MALACCA AND SINGAPORE STRAITS AREA</b>		
04/01/2023	HK Tug 3 / LKH 9889	9399686
05/01/2023	Sinhin 5 / Sinhin 6	8739451
20/01/2023	S Cape	9255000
26/01/2023	MT CETO	9305348
27/01/2023	IZUMI	9901831
29/01/2023	LBC Green	9609469
01/02/2023	HK Tug 9 / LKH 2882	9767120
03/02/2023	Chryssa K	9595852
04/02/2023	Pacific West	9604029
08/02/2023	HK Tug 2 / LKH 3883	9210763
14/02/2023	Spica Harmony	9832468
15/02/2023	Malakand	9304198
17/02/2023	Otago Bay	9782015
17/02/2023	Ocean Creation	9398125
23/02/2023	Lowlands Amstel	9738947
23/02/2023	Metis	9498949
02/03/2023	Pacific Tamarita	9223980
10/03/2023	Bon Speed 10 / POE 2502	8979221

10/03/2023	Chios Trinity	9279379
19/03/2023	Stolt Sakura	9432969
27/03/2023	Bear Mizar	9224465
29/03/2023	Volta	9587362
31/03/2023	Nippon Princess	9380673
31/03/2023	Amani	9729910
31/03/2023	Prabhu Shakti	9398981
02/04/2023	Gibraltar Eagle	9702508
02/04/2023	Stolt Bismuth	9739290
02/04/2023	Jie Shun Da	9162966
10/04/2023	Target 10	5331705
13/04/2023	New Horizon	9486520
16/04/2023	Name Withheld	9124471
22/04/2023	Lion Kimtrans TB 6 / Asia Pride 2330	8535506
01/05/2023	Rainbow Star	9380049
09/05/2023	Lanpan 30 / Ombak Biru Satu	9734551
10/05/2023	S.Kittichai 1	
21/05/2023	Lucky Source	9333929
25/05/2023	Corinthian Phoenix	9451628
29/05/2023	Jin Hwa 47 / Jin Hwa 48	9026095
29/05/2023	Nord Adriatic	9767584
02/06/2023	Orange Harmony	9764099
03/06/2023	Hoanh Son Galaxy	9257797
10/06/2023	CL Century	9715816
12/06/2023	Ariana	9316048
13/06/2023	Pantagruel	9274903
16/06/2023	Hai Duong 55	9552628
19/06/2023	Vincent Trader	9855525
22/06/2023	Seavigour	9774185
24/06/2023	Bonny Island	9610731
26/06/2023	Lila Ace	9352597
26/06/2023	Daryabar	9369710
01/07/2023	Tug boat / Sung Fatt 36	
02/07/2023	Marianna Golden	9166766
04/07/2023	Jin Hwa 40 / Jin Hwa 41	9683752
11/07/2023	Atlantic Prestige	9856232
13/07/2023	Name Withheld	
14/07/2023	Efraim A	9520778
15/07/2023	MSM	9121730

15/07/2023	Tomini Royalty	9842736
19/07/2023	Super Ruby	9308120
21/07/2023	Fiji	9630664
21/07/2023	Stella Alice	9522697
22/07/2023	Edzard Schulte	9439852
23/07/2023	Jin Hwa 49 / Jin Hwa 39	9373981
06/08/2023	Jal Kamal	9875056
08/08/2023	Osaka Star	9740809
08/08/2023	Doric Warrior	9453511
08/08/2023	Sophocles Graecia	9843730
23/08/2023	Shotan	9709271
29/08/2023	SLNC Severn	9629988
30/08/2023	Nexus	9291468
01/09/2023	Yangze 8	9725732
08/10/2023	Dimitris A	9398656
13/10/2023	TRF Horten	9740342
16/10/2023	PS Falcon	9283617
16/10/2023	Fairchem Edge	9788954
17/10/2023	Maersk Valencia	9344954
22/10/2023	Navios Helios	9330317
23/10/2023	Etoile	9232060
26/10/2023	Merchia	9702493
01/11/2023	Matsushiro	9477672
15/11/2023	Argent Daisy	9382061
19/11/2023	Argent Daisy	9382061
22/11/2023	Argent Daisy	9382061
07/12/2023	Konrad Schulte	9478808
26/12/2023	Shokai	9940710

**MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

29/09/2023	Nordsun	9705158
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**SOUTH AMERICA (A)**

28/02/2023	Brigitte	9730270
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**SOUTH AMERICA (C)**

19/01/2023	NYK Rigel	9416977
12/02/2023	Frontier Sky	9488009
22/04/2023	CSCL Zeebrugge	9314234

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10/06/2023 Callao Express 9777606

**SOUTH AMERICA (P)**

09/01/2023 Name Withheld  
21/02/2023 Los Angeles Spirit 9318072  
09/03/2023 Gillingham 9490741  
26/03/2023 Sankaty Eagle 9490820  
28/03/2023 Tomini Entity 9831775  
27/04/2023 MSC Bari 9461441  
03/06/2023 Bochem London 9743849  
21/06/2023 Caipirinha 9714769  
18/07/2023 Seaspan Oceania 9286009  
24/07/2023 Nippon Maru 9478949  
02/09/2023 Name Withheld  
23/09/2023 Murex 9705641  
29/09/2023 Maetiga 9386861  
16/11/2023 Nordmosel 9741877

**SOUTH CHINA SEA**

13/03/2023 MV Merkur Horizon 9456989  
18/03/2023 MV CO Nagoya 9380271  
04/04/2023 MV Ever Boomy 9787015  
14/04/2023 Maersk Ningbo 9402639  
16/04/2023 Nordocelot 9673642  
27/04/2023 Ridgebury Katherine Z 9439797  
01/05/2023 Sol Stride 9322877  
19/05/2023 Levante 9457854  
04/06/2023 Merkur Horizon 9456989  
22/07/2023 Name Withheld  
10/08/2023 CNC Pluto 9760586  
05/11/2023 Elisabeth Oldendorff 9717656  
25/11/2023 Hansa Colombo 9357781  
25/11/2023 G.Crown 9982483

**WEST AFRICA**

25/01/2023 Seaclipper 9570101  
02/03/2023 Nord Stingray 9419735  
25/03/2023 Monjasa Reformer 9255878  
26/03/2023 Komodo 9328273



31/03/2023	Maersk Vigo	9401697
10/04/2023	Success 9	9258131
25/04/2023	Bourbon Shamal	
28/04/2023	MSC Wave F	9232462
02/05/2023	Grebe Bulker	9441312
22/06/2023	Nyon	9888039
28/06/2023	Maersk Roubaix	9332688
30/06/2023	Hai Lu Feng 13	
30/06/2023	Hai Lu Feng 14	
30/06/2023	Oya 1	8512126
05/07/2023	CB Caribic	9851713
05/07/2023	Haci Erdogan	
10/07/2023	UAL Osprey	9594315
22/07/2023	Shenghai2	
05/08/2023	Anggun	9390056
04/09/2023	Maersk Logger	9425722
10/09/2023	MSC Wave F	9232462
03/10/2023	Maersk Vigo	9401697

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Incidents reported to have been allegedly committed

	South China Sea	Malacca, Singapore Straits area	Indian Ocean	Arabian Sea	East Africa	South America (C)	South America (A)	West Africa	South America (P)
<b>Location of incident</b>									
In international waters	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	4	0
In territorial waters	0	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In port area	14	20	5	1	2	1	1	14	13
<b>Status of ship when attacked</b>									
Steaming	0	62	0	1	0	1	0	4	0
At anchor	14	21	5	1	2	1	1	14	13
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Number of persons involved in the attack</b>									
1-4 persons	4	53	0	1	0	2	0	9	5
5-10 persons	3	19	3	0	0	0	1	2	2
More than 10 persons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Not stated	7	11	2	1	2	0	0	4	4
<b>Consequences to the crew</b>									
Actual violence against the crew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Threat of violence against the crew	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ship missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ship hijacked	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
None/not stated	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Weapons used by attackers</b>									
Guns	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	6	1
Knives	0	30	2	0	0	0	1	1	7

Rocket-propelled grenades	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
None/not stated	12	48	3	1	2	2	0	11	5
<b>Parts of ship raided</b>									
Master and crew accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cargo area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Store rooms	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Engine room	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Main deck	4	23	1	0	0	0	1	5	3
Not boarded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not stated	7	18	3	2	1	2	0	12	5
<b>Other</b>									
Lives lost (unit: people)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wounded crew (unit: people)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Missing crew (unit: people)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crew hostage (unit: people)	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	68	9
Assaulted (unit: people)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ransom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total number of incidents reported per area</b>	14	83	5	2	2	2	1	18	13
<b>Total number of incidents reported</b>	140								

Incidents reported to have been allegedly attempted

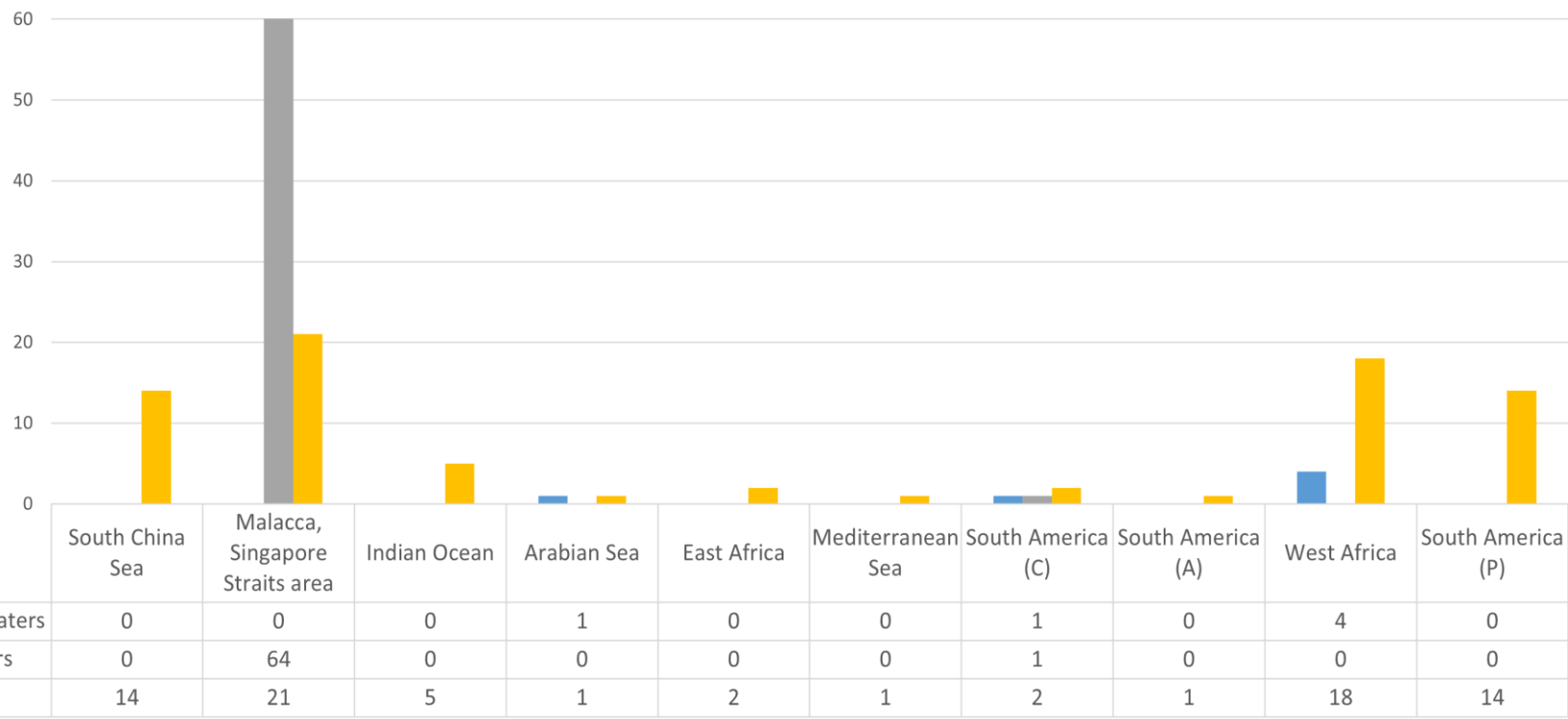
	Malacca, Singapore Straits area	Mediterranean Sea	South America (C)	West Africa	South America (P)
<b>Location of incident</b>					
In international waters	0	0	0	0	0
In territorial waters	1	0	1	0	0
In port area	1	1	1	4	1
<b>Status of ship when attacked</b>					
Steaming	1	0	1	0	0
At anchor	1	1	1	4	1
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Number of persons involved in the attack</b>					
1-4 persons	0	1	0	0	1
5-10 persons	2	0	0	2	0
More than 10 persons	0	0	0	0	0
Not stated	0	0	2	2	0
<b>Consequences to the crew</b>					
Actual violence against the crew	0	0	0	0	0
Threat of violence against the crew	0	0	0	0	0
Ship missing	0	0	0	0	0
Ship hijacked	0	0	0	0	0
None/not stated	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Weapons used by attackers</b>					
Guns	0	0	0	2	0
Knives	0	0	0	0	0
Rocket-propelled grenades	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0

None/not stated	2	1	2	2	1
<b>Parts of ship raided</b>					
Master and crew accommodation	0	0	0	0	0
Cargo area	0	0	0	0	0
Store rooms	0	0	0	0	0
Engine room	0	0	0	0	0
Main deck	0	0	0	0	0
Not boarded	2	1	2	4	1
Not stated	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other</b>					
Lives lost (unit: people)	0	0	0	0	0
Wounded crew (unit: people)	0	0	0	0	0
Missing crew (unit: people)	0	0	0	0	0
Crew hostage (unit: people)	0	0	0	0	0
Assaulted (unit: people)	0	0	0	0	0
Ransom	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total number of incidents reported per area</b>	2	1	2	4	1
<b>Total number of incidents reported</b>	10				

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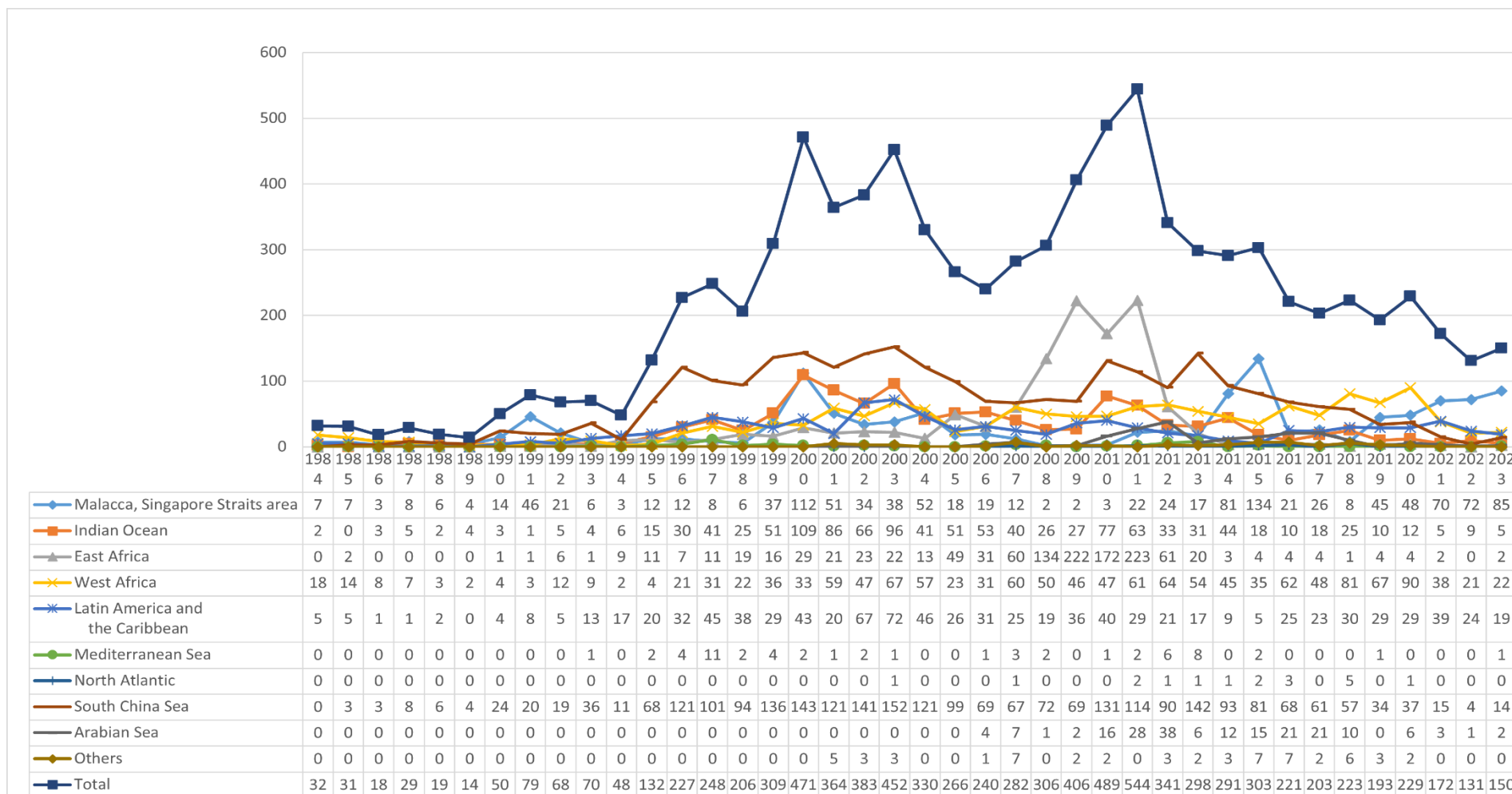
**ANNEX 3  
REGIONAL ANALYSIS OF REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS  
WHICH WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED OR ATTEMPTED DURING 2023**



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**ANNEX 4**  
**YEARLY STATISTICS OF INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED SINCE 1984 (REGIONALLY AND GLOBALLY)**



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**ANNEX 5**

**LIST OF ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST  
SHIPS AND ATTEMPTED ATTACKS IN 2023 OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Ship Name</b>	<b>IMO No.</b>
14/12/2023	Ruen	9754903

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