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MSC.4/Circ.118

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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during March 2008

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 and, in addition, to issue, on a quarterly basis, composite reports accompanied by an analysis, on a regional basis, of the situation and an indication whether the frequency of incidents is increasing or decreasing and advising of any new feature or pattern of significance, the annex hereto provides, in the tabulated format agreed by the Committee, the summary of reports on incidents received between 29 February 2008 and 31 March 2008, including a distinction between acts of piracy and acts of armed robbery against ships (annex 1) and attempted attacks (annex 2). Further and as instructed by the Committee (MSC 75/24, paragraph 18.41), the Secretariat has, since July 2002, started 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.

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 4,566, an increase of 14 since 29 February 2008.

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 sub-paragraph (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.922(22), Annex, paragraph 2.2), as follows:

"Armed robbery against ships means any unlawful act of violence or detention or any act of depredation, or threat thereof, other than an act of "piracy", directed against a ship or against persons or property on board such ship, within a State's jurisdiction over such offences."

3 Previous incidents reported to the Organization since the fifty-ninth session of the Committee have been circulated by various MSC circulars, those issued (on an annual, quarterly and monthly basis) during the previous twelve months and up to February 2008 being MSC.4/Circ.101, MSC.4/Circ.102, MSC.4/Circ.103, MSC.4/Circ.104, MSC.4/Circ.105, MSC.4/Circ.106, MSC.4/Circ.107, MSC.4/Circ.108, MSC.4/Circ.109, MSC.4/Circ.110, MSC.4/Circ.111, MSC.4/Circ.112, MSC.4/Circ.113, MSC.4/Circ.114, MSC.4/Circ.115, MSC.4/Circ.116 and MSC.4/Circ.117.

ANNEX 1
Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly committed against ships reported by
Member States or international organizations in consultative status

N°	Ship Name	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	MSC.4/Circ.118 ANNEX 1
	Type of Ship								IMO Number
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	LONDON STAR Tanker Liberia 41966 9330343	02/03/2008 23:10 LT	WEST AFRICA Lagos Light House anchorage Nigeria 06° 18.30' N 003° 20.54' E	The AB on security patrol on main deck, aft port side, was attacked by two robbers armed with knives. The robbers took his shoes, portable VHF, wristwatch and gold necklace. Another watchman who witnessed the occurrence tried to protect the victim, raised alarm and the robbers jumped overboard. The AB suffered minor injuries	Crew member injured and robbed	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port Control	Liberia, ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and the Nigerian High Commission, Malaysia	No response from port control
2	THEODOR General cargo ship Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 10322 7804390	04/03/2008 01:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Ruby Cement Jetty, Chittagong Bangladesh	Three robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship. They assaulted and injured the shore-based watchman, cutting his face. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped with ship's stores. The injured watchman later received medical treatment ashore	Crew member injured	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, Coast Guard Bangladesh and the Intelligence Office of ISPS, Bangladesh	-
3	ATLANTIC STAR Bulk carrier Panama 16949 9350082	05/03/2008 01:05 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN Kandla outer anchorage India 22° 49.50' N 070° 02.50' E	Upon anchoring the outer anchorage, Kandla Tower informed the Master that security level II was being maintained in the outer anchorage area. Anti-piracy watchkeeping procedures were maintained. Watchkeepers spotted a robber on board the ship, raised the alarm and the crew mustered. The robber jumped overboard and was picked up by a red motorboat waiting with about six to seven accomplices. Nothing was stolen	-	Raised alarm and mustered crew	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, MRCC Mumbai, Coast Guard New Delhi, India	-
4	FANTASY I Chemical tanker Panama 12927 8007975	28/03/2008 02:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Kandla outer anchorage India 22° 47.18' N 070° 04.63' E	Three robbers boarded the ship at anchor via the main deck. Crew members were maintaining anti-piracy watches forward and aft. Alarm was raised as soon as the robbers were spotted. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in their waiting boat. Investigation revealed ship's stores stolen. Port authorities were informed	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, MRCC Chennai, MRCC Mumbai and Coast Guard India	-
5	LINA 2 Fishing vessel Yemen	31/03/2008	EAST AFRICA Near the west coast of Abd Al-Kuri island 12° 10.00' N 052° 10.00' E	Robbers in a boat attacked the fishing vessel. They fired at and injured the Master on his left shoulder. They stole three small zodiacs and headed towards Somalia. The vessel stayed two days in the island of Abd Al-Kuri and was then safely escorted to port of Mukalla by the Yemeni Coast Guard	Master shot at and injured; vessel's property stolen	Alarm raised	Yes Yemeni Coast Guard	Maritime Affairs Authority, Yemen	Yemeni Coast Guard escorted the vessel safely to port of Mukalla

* 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

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	MSC.4/Circ.118 ANNEX 1
									Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN PORT AREA

1	BW ORINOCO Tanker Panama 43797 9324320	02/03/2008 00:45 LT	EAST AFRICA Nacala Bay anchorage Mozambique	Robbers in three boats boarded the ship at anchor. They were in the process of lowering ship's stores when duty crew spotted them. Alarm was raised and crew mustered. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped. Port control informed	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Nacala Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, MRCC Maputo and High Commission Mozambique, London	-
2	MOTIVATOR Chemical tanker Marshall Islands 8539 9340386	08/03/2008 04:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Berth Jetty No.106, Belawan port Indonesia	Persons ashore diverted the attention of duty crew and shore watchmen while three robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship from the offshore side of the ship and stole ship's stores. The duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped in a small unlit craft	Ship's property stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes Port Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	BUTET Bulk carrier Cyprus 10897 7710173	24/03/2008 02:30 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong TSP Jetty Bangladesh 22° 16.60' N 091° 48.40' E	Four robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship during discharging operations. Fearing injuries, the crew on anti-piracy watch retreated into accommodation. Within ten minutes, the crew mustered and went forward to investigate. By then, the robbers had escaped in a waiting boat after stealing ship's stores	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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ANNEX 2
Acts of piracy and armed robbery allegedly attempted against ships reported by
Member States or international organizations in consultative status

N°	Ship Name	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	MSC.4/Circ.118 ANNEX 2
	Type of Ship								IMO Number
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	EIDE TRADER Barge carrier Marshall Islands 7258 7734167	02/03/2008 02:37 UTC	EAST AFRICA 390NM off Somalia coast 04° 40.20' N 057° 38.90' E	An orange painted dhow with white stanchions, while drifting, called up the ship, five nautical miles away, requesting her to stop because they had no food or water and they had 25 persons on board. As the ship altered course, the Master noticed that the dhow had increased speed and was heading directly for them. Seeing this, the Master suspected an attempted attack and altered course and headed away from the dhow. The ship and the dhow were both doing around 7 knots and after around 3.5 hours, the dhow altered towards Socotra island. The same dhow was later heard calling another ship to stop	-	Raised alarm, altered course and increased speed	Yes Master broadcast a security message via VHF 16	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, Nato Northwood, Marlo Bahrain, Nato UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFIC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer and Yemen Maritime Affairs HQ	-
2	MURSHIDABAD Bulk carrier India 28739 8409769	04/03/2008 14:40 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Indonesia 03° 17.20' N 124° 18.40' E	The ship underway was approached from a distance of 3-4 nautical miles by about 15-20 speedboats at speeds of 30-40 knots from all directions. Some came as close as 5 metres from the ship's stern. The ship raised alarm, increased speed, crew mustered, manoeuvred in a zigzag course and enforced anti-piracy measures. Master broadcast a security message on VHF Ch. 16 and contacted the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre. Seeing the crew vigilance, the speedboats moved away and regrouped near a fishing vessel in the vicinity. The ship continued to her port of destination	-	Raised alarm, increased speed, mustered crew, manoeuvred in a zigzag course and enforced anti-piracy measures	Yes Bakorkamla, Indonesian Navy Headquarters, Puskodal, Indonesian Marine Police Headquarters and SAR Jakarta	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	SCI DIYA Container ship Liberia 35881 9252735	05/03/2008 08:24 LT	ARABIAN SEA On voyage from Nhava Sheva, India to Suez Canal Egypt	During ship's passage from Nhava Sheva, India to the Suez Canal, while the ship was navigating in the northeastern part of the Gulf of Aden, she was approached by four suspicious open boats at the speed of 17-18.5 knots. By evasive manoeuvres and increasing speed, the ship escaped the suspected piracy attack	-	Raised alarm, took evasive manoeuvres, increased speed. Vessel proceeded in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden region under enhanced security measures	No	Liberia and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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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	MSC.4/Circ.118 ANNEX 2
									Coastal State Action Taken
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IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

4	TAIZAN Tanker Panama 160084 9244635	09/03/2008 10:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Off Luzon Philippines 18° 03.70' N 119° 55.44' E	The ship was passing a group of 15 fishing vessels. When about 1.5NM off, three boats left the group and approached the ship at high speed. One boat came within 10 metres of the ship. Master took evasive manoeuvres, raised alarm, sounded whistle and crew mustered. After 15 minutes, the boats aborted the chase	-	Master took evasive manoeuvres, raised alarm, sounded whistle and mustered crew	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur and MRCC Philippines	-
5	NAME WITHHELD General cargo ship Isle of Man (United Kingdom) 2815	29/03/2008 10:40 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden 14° 12.10' N 050° 44.80' E	Armed pirates in three speedboats attempted to board the ship underway. Master raised alarm, took evasive action and contacted coalition warship for assistance. After two hours, the speedboats aborted the attempt	-	Raised alarm and Master took evasive manoeuvres	Yes Coalition warship	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, UKMTO Dubai, Nato Northwood, Marlo Bahrain, Nato UK, CTF 150 N2, CIFC Watch, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer and Yemen Coast Guard	-

IN PORT AREA

1	HAMMONIA FORTUNA Container ship Liberia 25320 9336189	10/03/2008 09:42 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Guayaquil, Quarantine anchorage Ecuador	One rope and one sling were found fastened to the anchor chain in an attempt to board the ship. The attempt was unsuccessful because of proper security measures in place	-	Alarm raised	No	Liberia and ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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