REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during April 2017

1 In pursuance of the Maritime Safety Committee’s instruction to the Secretariat to issue monthly reports of all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships 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 30 April 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.

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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 March 2017 being MSC.4/Circ.237, 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 and MSC.4/Circ.248.
ANNEX I

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Ship Name</th>
<th>Type of Ship</th>
<th>Gross Tonnage</th>
<th>IMO Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Position of the incident*</th>
<th>Details of the incident</th>
<th>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</th>
<th>Action taken by the master and the crew</th>
<th>Was the incident reported to the coastal authority? Which one?</th>
<th>Reporting State or international organization</th>
<th>Coastal State Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>OS 35</td>
<td>Bulk carrier</td>
<td></td>
<td>9603609</td>
<td>08/04/2017</td>
<td>13:10 UTC</td>
<td>ARABIAN SEA 147° 39.90' E 07° 10.90' N 14° 02.90' N 051° 40.00' E</td>
<td>While underway armed pirates in a skiff came alongside and boarded the bulk carrier. The Master and crew stopped the engine and retreated into the citadel and establish communications. On 09/04/2017 the ship was boarded by naval personnel and all crew members are rescued. No pirates were found on board. The crew resumed control of the ship and sailed to a safe port.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Master and crew stopped the engine and retreated into the citadel</td>
<td>Yes, McCabe Authority</td>
<td>ICC/IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO, Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC)</td>
<td>Naval boarding team boarded the ship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>VECTIS PROGRESS</td>
<td>General cargo ship</td>
<td>9626144</td>
<td>7227</td>
<td>29/04/2017</td>
<td>07:37</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA Approx. 47°m SW of Bonny Islands Nigeria 03° 41.00' N 006° 46.00' E</td>
<td>Armed pirates in a speedboat approached and boarded the ship underway. The alarm was raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated into the citadel. The owners notified the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre, who in turn informed and liaised with the Nigerian Navy. A naval vessel was dispatched to assist the ship. The pirates damaged ship’s equipment, stole crew cash and belongings and fled before the naval team boarded the ship to rescue the crew members. All crew reported safe.</td>
<td>Ship’s equipment damaged, crew cash and belongings stolen</td>
<td>Alarm raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated into the citadel</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>Nigerian navy dispatched a patrol boat to the location. The naval team boarded the ship to rescue the crew members.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

1. **ARABIAN SEA**
   - **OS 35**
   - **NONE**
   - **9603609**
   - **08/04/2017**
   - **13:10 UTC**
   - **147° 39.90' E 07° 10.90' N 14° 02.90' N 051° 40.00' E**
   - **While underway armed pirates in a skiff came alongside and boarded the bulk carrier. The Master and crew stopped the engine and retreated into the citadel and establish communications. On 09/04/2017 the ship was boarded by naval personnel and all crew members are rescued. No pirates were found on board. The crew resumed control of the ship and sailed to a safe port.**
   - **-**
   - **Master and crew stopped the engine and retreated into the citadel**
   - **Yes, McCabe Authority**
   - **ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, UKMTO, Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC)**
   - **Naval boarding team boarded the ship.**

2. **WEST AFRICA Approx. 47°m SW of Bonny Islands Nigeria**
   - **VECTIS PROGRESS**
   - **General cargo ship**
   - **9626144**
   - **7227**
   - **29/04/2017**
   - **07:37**
   - **03° 41.00' N 006° 46.00' E**
   - **Armed pirates in a speedboat approached and boarded the ship underway. The alarm was raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated into the citadel. The owners notified the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre, who in turn informed and liaised with the Nigerian Navy. A naval vessel was dispatched to assist the ship. The pirates damaged ship’s equipment, stole crew cash and belongings and fled before the naval team boarded the ship to rescue the crew members. All crew reported safe.**
   - **Ship’s equipment damaged, crew cash and belongings stolen**
   - **Alarm raised, SSAS activated and all crew retreated into the citadel**
   - **No**
   - **ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur**
   - **Nigerian navy dispatched a patrol boat to the location. The naval team boarded the ship to rescue the crew members.**

**IN TERRITORIAL WATERS**

1. **ARABIAN SEA Enroute to Bosaso**
   - **AL KAUSAR**
   - **Dhow**
   - **India**
   - **01/04/2017**
   - **04:10 UTC**
   - **05° 45.00' N 09° 15.00' E**
   - **A dhow with 11 crew members on board was boarded and hijacked by pirates while enroute to Bosaso. The dhow was taken to Somali coastal waters between Hobyo and El Hur. On 12/04/2017, Somali Forces managed to release the ship and the crew members. All crew members are in good health. A warship escorted the ship to the next port of call.**
   - **11 crew members hostage and the dhow hijacked**
   - **-**
   - **-**
   - **Yes**
   - **MRCC Mumbai, India**
   - **ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur**
   - **The Somali Force managed to release the ship and the crew members safely.**

2. **WEST AFRICA Approx. 10.86m South of Brass Nigeria**
   - **ATLANTIC MANN**
   - **Tug**
   - **Nigeria**
   - **804**
   - **8305494**
   - **19/04/2017**
   - **09:34 UTC**
   - **04° 56.43' N 096° 15.34' E**
   - **An offshore tug was attacked and boarded by armed persons. They kidnapped eight crew members and fled. The Nigerian Navy responded to the incident. One crew member was reported injured and evacuated by helicopter.**
   - **The persons kidnapped eight crew members and one crew injured**
   - **-**
   - **-**
   - **Yes**
   - **Nigerian Navy**
   - **ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur**
   - **The injured crew was evacuated by helicopter.**

3. **SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 10.8m SW of Chutanga Coast Philippines**
   - **BALLENITA**
   - **Container ship**
   - **Marshall Islands**
   - **26412**
   - **9603609**
   - **22/04/2017**
   - **19:40 UTC**
   - **07° 10.90' N 122° 39.90' E**
   - **Duty crew member onboard the anchored ship spotted a small boat near the anchor chain and the hawse pipe cover open. He immediately informed the OOW, who raised the alarm. Two robbers were seen fleeing from the ship. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that nothing reported stolen. Incident reported to Davao coast guard and pilot station via VHF CH.**
   - **-**
   - **Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was carried out**
   - **Yes**
   - **Davao Coast Guard & Pilot Station**
   - **ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur**
   - **-**

* 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
## IN PORT AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Vessel Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Port</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Coordinates</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Authority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BLUE BALANCE</td>
<td>Bulk carrier</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA</td>
<td>07/04/2017</td>
<td>01:00 UTC</td>
<td>Congo River</td>
<td>Angola 05° 52.11' S 013° 02.49' E</td>
<td>Duty crew on routine rounds onboard the anchored bulk carrier spotted six robbers on the forecastle and immediately informed the duty officer on the bridge. The alarm was raised and ship's whistle sounded. Upon seeing the alerted crew, the robbers fled in their boat with ship's property.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>PROVIDENCE</td>
<td>LPG tanker</td>
<td>SOUTH CHINA SEA</td>
<td>21/04/2017</td>
<td>19:00 UTC</td>
<td>JG Summit Terminal Jetty 1, Batangas Philippines</td>
<td>13° 40.50' N 121° 03.10' E</td>
<td>Unnoticed robbers boarded the tanker at berth, stole ship's property and fled. The theft was discovered by the crew during routine rounds.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MAINPORT CEDAR</td>
<td>Research ship</td>
<td>SOUTH AMERICA (A)</td>
<td>28/04/2017</td>
<td>06:20 UTC</td>
<td>Georgetown Anchorage Guyana</td>
<td>08° 49.40' N 058° 10.20' W</td>
<td>Duty officer on routine rounds onboard the seismic support ship spotted a boat alongside the ship and raised the alarm. Upon seeing the alerted crew, five robbers were seen fleeing with stolen ship's property.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
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NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific
## ANNEX II

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship Name</th>
<th>Type of Ship</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Gross Tonnage</th>
<th>IMO Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Position of the incident*</th>
<th>Details of the incident</th>
<th>Consequences for crew, ship, cargo</th>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>ALHEERA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Product tanker&lt;br&gt;Panama</td>
<td>6519</td>
<td>9221803</td>
<td>15/04/2017</td>
<td>13:06 UTC</td>
<td>ARABIAN SEA&lt;br&gt;Gulf of Aden</td>
<td>12° 53.77’ N 048° 02.52’ E</td>
<td>Five or six pirates armed with automatic weapons in a white coloured skiff approached and fired upon the tanker underway. The Master raised the alarm, contacted UKMTO and the non-essential crew members took shelter in the citadel. A warship in the vicinity was informed. The armed security team onboard returned fire resulting in the pirates aborting the attack and moving away. All crew and tanker safe.</td>
<td>Pirates fired upon the tanker</td>
<td>Master raised the alarm, increased speed and the non-essential crew members took shelter in the citadel. The armed security team onboard returned fire</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ICC/IMB Piracy Reporting Centre&lt;br&gt;Kuala Lumpur, Regional Maritime Information Sharing Centre (ReMISC), UKMTO</td>
<td>A military aircraft came to the location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>AXEL SPIRIT</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oil tanker&lt;br&gt;Bahamas</td>
<td>62929</td>
<td>9282041</td>
<td>19/04/2017</td>
<td>08:45 UTC</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA&lt;br&gt;Approx. 59nm SSW of Bonny Island&lt;br&gt;Nigeria</td>
<td>03° 25.00’ N 005° 46.00’ E</td>
<td>Nine pirates in a skiff approached and fired upon a tanker underway. The alarm was raised, fire pumps started and non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. The ship increased speed and conducted evasive manoeuvres. While the Master communicated with the escort vessel, the skiff was seen aborting and moving away. The crew and tanker reported safe.</td>
<td>Pirates fired upon the tanker</td>
<td>Alarm raised, fire pumps started and non-essential crew retreated to the citadel</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ICC/IMB Piracy Reporting Centre&lt;br&gt;Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>NAME WITHELD</strong>&lt;br&gt;Refrigerated cargo carrier&lt;br&gt;Liberia</td>
<td>6363</td>
<td></td>
<td>29/04/2017</td>
<td>04:08 UTC</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA&lt;br&gt;Approx. 38nm SW of Bonny Island&lt;br&gt;Nigeria</td>
<td>03° 51.20’ N 006° 46.00’ E</td>
<td>Two aluminium hulled motorized boats with three to five pirates armed with automatic rifles chased and fired upon a reefer ship underway. The Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS and the Nigerian Navy was called on VHF Ch 16. Speed was increased and evasive manoeuvres commenced. The pirates came close and attempted to board the ship using a ladder. Three rocket flares were fired. The Master headed towards the Okwari oil field to seek assistance from the security vessels but seeing the boats aborting and moving away the Master altered and headed towards Bonny fairway buoy. The ship sustained damage due to the firing.</td>
<td>Ship sustained multiple gunshot damage</td>
<td>Alarm raised, SSAS activated, Master took evasive manoeuvres and distress call was made to Authority</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ICC/IMB Piracy Reporting Centre&lt;br&gt;Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>LNG LOKOJA</strong>&lt;br&gt;Oil tanker&lt;br&gt;Bermuda (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>98798</td>
<td>9269960</td>
<td>29/04/2017</td>
<td>17:40 UTC</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA&lt;br&gt;Approx. 50nm SSW of Bonny Island&lt;br&gt;Nigeria</td>
<td>03° 37.60’ N 006° 44.10’ E</td>
<td>Two boats with four to five pirates armed with rifles chased and fired upon the tanker underway. The tanker raised the alarm and took anti-piracy preventive measures. The Master spotted a ladder in one boat. The boats managed to come alongside the tanker but due to the hardening measures the pirates were unable to board and aborted the attack. All crew safe. The tanker sustained some damage due to the firing.</td>
<td>Tanker sustained some damage due to the firing</td>
<td>Alarm raised and the Master increased speed and took evasive manoeuvres</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ICC/IMB Piracy Reporting Centre&lt;br&gt;Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**NOTE:** SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific
1. **SAFE SINO**
   - **Product tanker**
   - **Panama**
   - **27526 9149251**
   - **14/04/2017 07:00 UTC**
   - **ARABIAN SEA**
   - Approx. 10nm NE of Nishtun Yemen
   - **15° 55.56' N 052° 20.75' E**

   Six persons armed with automatic rifles in a small boat approached and fired upon the anchored tanker. They attempted to board the tanker several times but failed and moved away. All crew safe.

   The tanker continued its passage.

   - **Ship sustained gunshot damages**
   - **Alarm raised and crew mustered**
   - **Yes**
   - **Yemen Port Authority**

   **Recommended Reporting Centre**
   - **ICC/IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur**

2. **MV DOÑA ANNABEL**
   - **Passenger ship**
   - **Philippines**
   - **18/04/2017 07:54 LT**
   - **SOUTH CHINA SEA**
   - Approximately 14 nm NW of Port Santa Maria, Siocon, Zamboanga Peninsula, Philippines
   - **07° 57.50' N 121° 55.96' E**

   While underway, three fast boats with unknown number of persons wearing bonnets and armed with guns surrounded and tried to approach the ship. The ship Master contacted the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and reported that they were in distress. Four persons tried to board the vessel but later left after seeing an approaching Philippine Navy boat and Air Force helicopter that was patrolling in the area. The authority located the ship and rendered assistance to her until she arrived safely at the port of Zamboanga City, Philippines.

   - **Reported incident to the PCG**
   - **Yes**
   - **Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)**

   **Recommended Reporting Centre**
   - **ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines), Information Fusion Centre**

   After receiving the report from the ship Master, the PCG immediately coordinated with local authorities and deployed its floating assets to conduct maritime patrol in the area.

   The Philippine Navy also deployed its floating assets and the Philippine Air Force deployed two Huey helicopters.

   The authorities located the ship and rendered assistance until it arrived safely at the port of Zamboanga City, Philippines.

   The quick response and immediate presence of the authorities in the area prompted the persons to abort their attempt to board the
Six armed persons in a skiff chased and fired upon the tanker underway. The Master raised the alarm and sent distress message, to which a warship responded. The skiff chased the tanker for nearly two hours and then moved away due to the continuous evasive manoeuvres. One crew member reported injured. Information was later received that the pirates had been apprehended by the Spanish Navy, which was patrolling the area. The number of pirates arrested was however not given.

Alarm raised, sent distress message, increased speed and took evasive manoeuvres. One crew member reported injured.

A warship responded to the distress call and provided necessary assistance. The number of pirates arrested was however not given.