REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during February 2018

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 28 February 2018 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."
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.

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 28 February 2018 being MSC.4/Circ.247, MSC.4/Circ.248, MSC.4/Circ.249, MSC.4/Circ.250, MSC.4/Circ.251, MSC.4/Circ.252, MSC.4/Circ.253, MSC.4/Circ.254, MSC.4/Circ.255, MSC.4/Circ.256, MSC.4/Circ.257, MSC.4/Circ.258 (annual 2017) and MSC.4/Circ.259.

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### 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>Flag</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>NAME WITHHELD</td>
<td>General cargo ship</td>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>9422952</td>
<td>09/02/2018</td>
<td>06:00 UTC</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA Around 48 nm SSW of Bonny Island, Nigeria</td>
<td>Armed pirates attacked, fired upon and boarded a vessel while underway. A crew member was injured during the gunfire. The pirates kidnapped four crew members, stole the ship’s property and cash and escaped. The remaining crew sailed the ship to open seas.</td>
<td>Four crew members kidnapped, cash and ship’s equipment stolen. Material damage to the vessel caused by gunfire.</td>
<td>Altered course, hand flares fired in the direction of the boat, crew hid in the engine room.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ASL SCORPIO</td>
<td>Tug</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>1730</td>
<td>07/01/2018</td>
<td>08:08 UTC</td>
<td>ARABIAN SEA 11 nm south of Alang, Gujarat, India</td>
<td>Three robbers boarded a tanker under tow by a tug. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Realizing the crew had been alerted, the robbers escaped with the ship’s stores and engine spares. The incident was reported to Indian Coast Guard. The three robbers were later arrested by the marine police and the stolen items recovered.</td>
<td>Ship’s stores and engine spares stolen.</td>
<td>Alarm raised and crew mustered.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Indian Coast Guard. PRC received information from MRCC India</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>NAME WITHHELD</td>
<td>Tug</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>4566</td>
<td>02/02/2018</td>
<td>02:45</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA Takoradi Anchorage Ghana</td>
<td>While at anchor, two robbers boarded the ship from a boat with three other robbers on board. The duty officer raised the alarm and reported incident to the local navy. The robbers escaped back to their boat. Upon investigation, the crew discovered that five heavy duty batteries had been stolen.</td>
<td>The crew was not injured. Five heavy duty batteries were stolen.</td>
<td>Reported the incident to the Navy.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Local Navy and flag State (Singapore)</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>EMERALD SPIRIT</td>
<td>Tanker</td>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>9403322</td>
<td>06/02/2018</td>
<td>02:12</td>
<td>SOUTH AMERICA (A) Puerto Jose</td>
<td>Four robbers boarded an anchored tanker. Duty AB on routine rounds noticed the robbers and immediately notified the OOW, who raised the</td>
<td>Ship’s property stolen.</td>
<td>Alarm raised, crew mustered.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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
alarm and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in a small boat with stolen ship's property. Incident reported to Port Authorities.

**4** Four robbers armed with guns boarded an anchored ship and threatened the duty watchman who managed to escape. Alarm raised, PA announcement made and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to the Bangladesh Coast Guard.

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**6** Persons armed with AK47 assault rifles boarded the fishing vessel, kidnapped three crew members and escaped. The Cameroonian Authorities notified and are currently investigating the incident.

**7** Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker. Duty AB on routine rounds saw the robbers and notified the OOW. The AB was threatened by one of the robbers. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with stolen ship's stores. The incident was reported to the Puerto La Cruz VTS. A Coast Guard patrol boat was dispatched to investigate.

**8** The OOW onboard an anchored ship noticed the forecastle door open and unauthorized persons on the forward deck. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped. On searching the vessel, ship's stores were reported stolen. Port Authority notified via local agent.

**9** Three motorized bancas, each with three persons on board, performed tactical manoeuvre to the portside amidship of ship. Armed with high powered firearms, the attackers attempted to board the ship using ropes and hooks.

The master and crew poured hot water onto the attackers. The master also activated two flares. The master and the crew poured hot water onto the attackers. The master also activated two flares.

The authorities monitored the distress signal and immediately responded by deploying assets to the location of the incident. The Philippine Coast Guard

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PCG medical officers provided medical assistance to the injured crew members. The PCG and Philippine Navy (PN) escorted the ship safely towards the port of Zamboanga City.

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.

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10  SEA EMPEROR  
Tanker  
Marshall Islands  
8503  
9383601  
17/02/2018  
22:50 UTC  
Duty OOW on board an anchored tanker noticed three armed persons on deck and immediately raised the alarm. SSAS activated and all crew ship's property found retreated to the citadel. The IMB Piracy Reporting Centre received the distress from the CSO and immediately informed the Benin Authorities.

Three patrol boats were dispatched to the location. They searched the waters around the tanker. A navy team boarded the tanker. On confirmation from the navy team that the tanker was clear of pirates, the Master and crew emerged from the citadel. Further investigation revealed that the ship's office port hole was damaged by gunfire and other ship's property found damaged.

11  NAME WITHHELD  
Tug  
Norway  
7473  
18/02/2018  
19:00 UTC  
During routine rounds on board an anchored vessel's spare parts offshore tug, the bosun reported that the lock to the engine room hatch was broken. Further investigation revealed several footprints on the aft deck and a large number of spare parts missing.

A search was carried out.

12  GREEN SKY  
Product tanker  
Liberia  
30263  
9676515  
20/02/2018  
01:45 UTC  
Duty AB on board an anchored tanker noticed six robbers boarding and notified the OOW. Master informed, ship's horn sounded, alarm raised and crew mustered in the citadel. The onboard Safety Advisor established communication with the Nigerian Navy patrol boat in the secure anchorage area and requested immediate assistance.

Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in their small black skiff. The Navy patrol boat proceeded towards the tanker and tried to chase the speed boat. The crew emerged from the citadel. Upon investigation, the ullage caps of some oil tanks were found opened. Nothing reported stolen.

13  MAERSK MAYA  
Tanker  
Singapore  
26900  
9367750  
22/02/2018  
05:25 UTC  
Duty AB on routine rounds on board an anchored Nil tanker noticed robbers armed with guns on the forecastle deck and immediately raised the alarm. Crew mustered. Seeing the alerted crew, one of the robbers fired a warning shot and escaped.
### IN PORT AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ship</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Incident Summary</th>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 CELINA STAR</strong>&lt;br&gt;Container ship&lt;br&gt;Liberia&lt;br&gt;9210086&lt;br&gt;37113&lt;br&gt;9836728</td>
<td><strong>25/02/2018 08:42 UTC</strong>&lt;br&gt;SOUTH AMERICA (P)&lt;br&gt;Guayaquil Inner Anchorage, Ecuador&lt;br&gt;Ecuador&lt;br&gt;02°21.30'S&lt;br&gt;079°59.70'W</td>
<td>Wellington, duty AB on routine rounds on board an anchored ship was confronted by five robbers on the aft deck. One robber, with a gun, was seen near the entrance to the steering gear room. The AB immediately retreated and informed the Duty Officer. Alarm raised and port control notified. A coastguard boat was sent to the ship. All crew safe. Nothing reported stolen.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes&lt;br&gt;PRC relayed message to Ecuador Coast Guard and Ecuadorian Navy.</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 ST MARSEILLE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Tanker&lt;br&gt;Luxembourg&lt;br&gt;5218&lt;br&gt;9367358</td>
<td><strong>26/02/2018 23:20 UTC</strong>&lt;br&gt;WEST AFRICA&lt;br&gt;Cotonou Anchorage, Benin&lt;br&gt;Benin&lt;br&gt;06°16.30'N&lt;br&gt;002°29.24'E</td>
<td>Five armed persons approached an anchored tanker in a speed boat. As they boarded the tanker, they commenced firing and injured one of the Benin Navy guards on board. All crew except the OOW on the bridge retreated into the citadel. As the armed persons made their way to the bridge, where they fired upon and injured another Navy Guard. They took the OOW hostage and demanded that the Master, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer come to the bridge. The armed persons then instructed the Master to heave up anchor, but when they were told that the tanker was in ballast, they stole the crew's property, kidnapped the Master and one engineer and escaped in the tanker's rescue boat. The Benin Navy was notified to evacuate the injured guards. Once the armed persons were ashore, they released the Master and engineer, who were able to contact the local police, later returning to the tanker.</td>
<td>Stole the crew's property, kidnapped the Master and one engineer.</td>
<td>Yes&lt;br&gt;PRC relayed message to Benin Navy Ops Centre</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### ANNEX II

**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>IMO Number</th>
<th>Gross Tonnage</th>
<th>Flag</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Position of 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>
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<th>Coastal State Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EBUONLA</td>
<td>Product tanker</td>
<td>5245 9014511</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>24/01/2018 09:00 UTC</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA Around 48Nm South of Brass, Nigeria 03° 30.00’ N 006° 20.00’ E</td>
<td>Armed pirates chased and attacked the tanker. The presence of armed naval personnel onboard the tanker resulted in the pirates aborting the attack. The tanker and crew members are safe.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Raised alarm and the onboard armed naval personnel repelled the attack.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>PRC received information from the Nigerian Navy.</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>BISKRA</td>
<td>Product tanker</td>
<td>8744 9030709</td>
<td></td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>03/02/2018 16:39 UTC</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA Around 60Nm SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria 03° 29.40’ N 006° 36.42’ E</td>
<td>Approximately 10 to 12 armed pirates in a high-speed boat, chased and fired upon a tanker while underway. Alarm raised and non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. Due to the Master’s evasive manoeuvres and the presence of the onboard naval armed team, the pirates aborted the attack and moved away. Incident was reported to Nigerian Navy. All crew was safe.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Alarm raised, crew retreated into citadel and Master carried out evasive manoeuvres.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Nigerian Navy</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>LUTETIA</td>
<td>Liberian Crude</td>
<td>35881 9246695</td>
<td></td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>15/02/2018 18:50 UTC</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA Around 40.62Nm SSW of Bonny Nigeria 03° 30.00’ N 006° 36.42’ E</td>
<td>Four pirates in a speed boat chased and fired upon a ship underway. The master increased speed and commenced evasive manoeuvres. Due to the presence of a Nigerian Naval escort boat the pirates aborted and moved away. Crew and ship reported safe.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>The master increased speed and commenced evasive manoeuvres.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>PRC relayed message to Nigeria Navy HQ.</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>BELEMA LIGHT</td>
<td>CRUDE</td>
<td>156809 9079066</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>18/02/2018 18:45 UTC</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA Around 40Nm SE of Brass, Nigeria 03° 41.50’ N 006° 37.50’ E</td>
<td>A speed boat with six or seven armed pirates chased and fired upon the tanker while underway. Alarm raised, crew mustered, evasive manoeuvres commenced and Nigerian authorities contacted. Due to the tanker’s hardening measures the pirates were unable to board the tanker and moved away. The tanker was escorted to Bonny anchorages by two navy vessels. All crew safe. The tanker sustained minor damage from gunfire.</td>
<td>Pirates fired upon the ship. The tanker sustained minor damage from gunfire.</td>
<td>Alarm raised, fire hoses activated, crew mustered, engaged manual steering and conducted evasive manoeuvres.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>PRC relayed message to Nigerian Navy</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>INTERIM</td>
<td>Tanker</td>
<td>25050 9039121</td>
<td></td>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>19/02/2018 08:24 UTC</td>
<td>WEST AFRICA Around 25Nm SE of Brass, Nigeria 04° 02.66’ N 006° 34.33’ E</td>
<td>Six pirates armed with AK-47 rifles in a black hull speed boat approached and attempted to board a tanker while underway. The Master raised the alarm, activated SSAS, transmitted distress message, increased speed and commenced evasive manoeuvres whilst the crew secured all access doors. The pirates made seven attempts to hook an aluminium ladder on the tanker’s railings, but were unsuccessful due to the evasive manoeuvres taken by the Master. The pirates then fired upon the tanker and moved away. A Nigerian Navy boat was in contact with the tanker and arrived at the location. The tanker and crew are safe.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Alarm raised, activated SSAS, transmitted distress message, increased speed and performed evasive manoeuvres whilst crew secured all access doors.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>PRC relayed message to Nigerian Navy HQ</td>
<td>ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**NOTE**: SOUTH AMERICA: *(A)* Atlantic; *(C)* Caribbean; *(P)* Pacific.
6 LEOPARD SUN
Product tanker
Singapore
22/02/2018
20:30 UTC
ARABIAN SEA
Around 315nm ENE of Mogadishu, Somalia
03° 28.10’ N 050° 27.80’ E
Two skiffs chased and fired upon the tanker while underway. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. The tanker increased speed and armed guards returned fire resulting in the pirates aborting the attack.

Pirates fired upon the tanker.

Alarm raised, crew mustered and the armed guards returned fire.

Yes
Flag State and UKMTO
ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur

7 KOTA SAHABAT
Container ship
Singapore
24/02/2018
10:16 UTC
WEST AFRICA
Around 50nm SSW of Bonny Island, Nigeria
03° 33.80’ N 007° 02.70’ E
Around eight armed pirates in a speed boat chased the ship while underway. Alarm raised, SSAS activated, speed increased and all non-essential crew retreated to the citadel. Nigerian navy contacted; they suggested rendezvous with their naval vessel in the vicinity. As the pirates’ boat closed in, the Master commenced evasive manoeuvres. Due to the hardening measures, the pirates were unable to hook their ladder onto the ship and moved away.

Alarm raised, non-essential crew mustered in the citadel, SSAS activated, speed increased and conducted evasive manoeuvres.

Yes
PRC relayed message to Nigerian Navy.

ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur
Nigerian navy vessel escorted the ship to the pilot boarding point.

8 CHINA FROST
Refrigerated cargo carrier
Cook Islands
24/02/2018
15:20 UTC
WEST AFRICA
Around 40nm SSW of Bonny Fairway Buoy, Nigeria
03° 38.10’ N 006° 42.00’ E
Approximately 10 pirates in a speed boat, armed with automatic weapons, chased and fired upon the ship while underway. The armed guards on board the ship returned fire, resulting in the pirates aborting the attack and moving away. All crew safe. The ship sustained minor damage from gunfire.

Pirates fired upon the ship. The ship sustained minor damage from gunfire.

Alarm raised and armed guard returned fire.

Yes
PRC relayed message to Nigerian Navy

ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur
Armed guard on board returned fire.

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1 TEAM CHALLENGE
Bulk carrier
Marshall Islands
09/02/2018
19:30 UTC
INDIAN OCEAN
Diamond Harbour Anchorage, Kolkata, India
22° 11.56’ N 088° 09.59’ E
Duty AB on routine rounds onboard an anchored ship heard an unusual sound coming from the anchor chain. Upon checking, he noticed one robber climbing the anchor chain. He also saw two more persons waiting in a small boat. The duty AB shouted at the robber resulting in the robber aborting the climb and escaping.

Nil
Raise alarm, crew mustered and directed search lights at the robbers.

Yes
Incident reported to the Authorities via local agents.

ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur
Authorities investigated the incident with the Managers of the vessel.

2 TIBERIUS
Bulk carrier
Marshall Islands
11/02/2018
21:20 UTC
INDIAN OCEAN
Chittagong Anchorage, Bangladesh
22° 07.70’ N 091° 43.41’ E
Five robbers armed with knives in a small boat attempted to board an anchored ship using ropes attached with hooks. The crew noticed the robbers and informed the Master and prepared the fire hoses to stop the robbers. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty handed.

Alarm raised, crew mustered, proceed to port side and drop all hooks.

Yes
Bangladesh Coast Guard

ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur