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MSC.4/Circ.141
3 August 2009

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during July 2009

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 31 May and 30 June 2009, 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 5,076 an increase of 14 since 30 June 2009.

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 30 June 2009 being MSC.4/Circ.124, MSC.4/Circ.125, MSC.4/Circ.126, MSC.4/Circ.127, MSC.4/Circ.128, MSC.4/Circ.129, MSC.4/Circ.130, MSC.4/Circ.131, MSC.4/Circ.132, MSC.4/Circ.133, MSC.4/Circ.134, MSC.4/Circ.135, MSC.4/Circ.136, MSC.4/Circ.137, MSC.4/Circ.138, MSC.4/Circ.139 and MSC.4/Circ.140.

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."

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 Type of Ship Flag	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.141 ANNEX 1
	Gross Tonnage IMO Number								Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	SICHEM PEACE Chemical tanker Singapore 5451 9311268	05/07/2009 20:45 LT	WEST AFRICA 20 NM off Escravos, Nigeria	The ship was hijacked by pirates with six crew members on board and later released on 20 July 2009	-	-	No	United States	-
2	HORIZON 1 Bulk carrier Turkey 21630 7625732	08/07/2009 05:30 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden, 13° 44.00' N 050° 43.00' E	Pirates armed with automatic weapons in a skiff boarded and hijacked the ship taken 23 crewmembers hostage. They sailed the ship to Eyl. Further report awaited	Pirates hijacked the ship and took 23 crewmembers hostage	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	NAFEYA Dhow	10/07/2009	EAST AFRICA 14 NM from the coast of Bossaso, Somalia	The dhow was hijacked by seven pirates armed with automatic weapons while underway. 14 crewmembers were taken hostage. Coalition Forces assisted in the rescue of the dhow, which was released without payment of ransom on 15 July 2009	-	-	No	UKMTO	-
4	KENRYO Tug Singapore 370 9511624	12/07/2009 02:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Off Raffles Light House, Singapore Strait, 01° 08.91' N 103° 45.11' E	Five pirates armed with long knives and swords in a five meter long wooden boat approached the tug towing a barge underway. They boarded the tug and tied up the crew. They stole ship's property, crew personal belongings and cash and escaped	Pirates took hostage the crew and tied them up. They stole ship's property, crew personal belongings and cash	-	Yes VTIS and Coast Guard Singapore	ReCAAP ISC	-
5	WEIHAI 5 Tug	12/07/2009 02:25 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Northeast of Helen Mar Reef, Singapore 01° 08.29' N 103° 46.81' E	The tug was boarded by five masked pirates armed with knives while underway. The robbers stole cash and crew personal belongings. They also damaged ship's equipment before escaping in a speedboat	-	Contacted local authorities	Yes Port security and local Police	ReCAAP ISC	-
6	PNG EXPRESS Product tanker Honduras 1490 7724643	21/07/2009 00:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Off Tanjong Stapa, Malaysia 01° 17.94' N 104° 09.24' E	Six pirates armed with long knives in a boat came alongside and boarded the tanker at anchor. They tied-up the Master and crew. The pirates stole ship's and crew property. Malaysian Marine Police boarded the tanker and arrested five pirates. One jumped overboard and escaped, but he was "picked" up by a passing merchant vessel and handed over to the police	Pirates stole ship's and crew property	-	Yes Malaysia Marine Police	ReCAAP ISC	-

* 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

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	KAMISHIMA Bulk carrier Panama 53935 9057018	06/07/2009 11:10 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Bontang Anchorage, Indonesia 00° 00.00' N 117° 36.00' E	Robbers boarded the ship via the anchor chain while at anchor and through the hawse pipe which had been secured by the crew. They stole ship's property and escaped unnoticed	Ship's property stolen	Crew mustered	Yes Indonesia Navy and Marine Police	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	OEL FREEDOM Container ship Singapore 10676 8510362	06/07/2009 18:40 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage 'C', Bangladesh 22° 11.00' N 091° 46.00' E	Duty officer detected some boats near the stern of the ship at anchor. Crew mustered and saw 15 robbers onboard. One duty watchman was tied up and had been attacked with iron bars. Robbers stole ship's stores and property and escaped	Ship's stores and property were stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port control	ReCAAP ISC	-
3	DAGMAR Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 5684 9064695	12/07/2009 03:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Vung Tau Outer Anchorage, Viet Nam 10° 16.20' N 107° 04.60' E	Robbers boarded the ship at anchor. They stole ship's stores and property and escaped	Robbers stole ship's stores and property	-	Yes Vietnam Maritime Security Information Centre	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	ABRAM SCHULTE Product tanker Liberia 41503 9280586	12/08/2009 23:36 UTC	EAST AFRICA Abidjan Roads, Côte d'Ivoire 05° 12.50' N 004° 03.90' W	Two robbers armed with long knives boarded the tanker via forecandle. Ship's stores were stolen. When sighted, robbers escaped in a small boat	Ships' stores stolen	-	Yes Port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

IN PORT AREA

1	APL BOGOTA Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 6704 9298612	23/07/2009 20:15 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Puerto Limon Anchorage, Costa Rica 09° 58.50' N 083° 00.50' W	Two robbers in a boat boarded the ship at anchor. Crew noticed one robber trying to transfer ship's stores into the boat. The robber escaped with the stores and jumped into the water	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm	Yes Puerto Limon Harbour Master	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 Type of Ship Flag Gross Tonnage	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.141 ANNEX 2
	IMO Number								Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	SVYATTOY IOAN Bulk carrier Panama 34987 7922104	04/07/2009 18:00 UTC	EAST AFRICA Off Oman, 14° 51.30' N 058° 29.80' E	One small boat attacked the ship from stern and fired an RPG. Master took evasive action, increased speed and escaped	Pirates fired upon the ship	Master took evasive action and increased speed	Yes UKMTO Dubai	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	A ELEPHANT Tanker Liberia 145661 8608028	13/07/2009 04:30 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden, 12° 20.80' N 043° 54.30' E	Four pirates in a skiff armed with automatic weapons chased and fired upon the tanker underway. The skiff came closer and the pirates tried to hook a ladder onto the shipside. Master took evasive manoeuvres and contacted warships. Attempt was aborted	Pirates fired upon the tanker	Master took evasive manoeuvres	Yes Coalition warships	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	BALTIC STRAIT Container ship Liberia 18102 9363144	28/07/2009 21:57 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 75 NM Off Miri, Sarawak, Malaysia 04° 39.20' N	Twelve pirates, in a seven-meter long unlit boat, approached the ship underway. They chased the ship and tried to get alongside. 3/O raised alarm, took evasive manoeuvres, alerted crewmembers and Master fired three rocket flares. Pirates aborted the attempt	-	3/O raised alarm, took evasive manoeuvres, alerted crewmembers and Master fired three rocket flares	Yes Maritime Police	ReCAAP ISC	-

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