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MSC.4/Circ.147  
5 January 2010

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

### Issued monthly – Acts reported during December 2009

1 In pursuance of the Maritime Safety Committee's instruction to the Secretariat to issue monthly reports of all incidents of piracy<sup>1</sup> and armed robbery against ships<sup>2</sup> 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 30 November and 31 December 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.

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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".

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 5,224, an increase of 27 since 30 November 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 November 2009 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.140, MSC.4/Circ.141, MSC.4/Circ.142, MSC.4/Circ.143, MSC.4/Circ.144, MSC.4/Circ.145 and MSC.4/Circ.146.

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**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.147 ANNEX 1
	Type of Ship								IMO Number
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

1	SHAHBAIG Fishing vessel Pakistan 74	06/12/2009 06:24 UTC	EAST AFRICA Off Somalia, Somalia 10° 50.00' N 060° 00.00' E	Armed pirates hijacked the fishing dhow taking 29 crew members hostage	The vessel was hijacked and 29 crewmembers were taken hostage	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	NAFEYA Dhow	16/12/2009 17:00 LT	EAST AFRICA Off Somalia, Somalia 02° 45.70' S 042° 37.11' E	About nine pirates armed with guns hijacked the dhow underway taking 13 crewmembers hostage	Dhow was hijacked and 13 crewmembers were taken hostage	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	ALMAHMOUD 2 Fishing vessel Yemen 3226	18/12/2009	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden,	Pirates hijacked the ship taking 15 crewmembers hostage. It is suspected that the pirates have used the ship as a pirate mother ship to attack other vessels	Ship was hijacked and 15 crewmembers were taken hostage	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	ST. JAMES PARK Chemical tanker United Kingdom 7926 9072836	28/12/2009 14:49 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden,  12° 58.00' N 048° 34.00' E	Pirates attacked and hijacked the ship underway. The pirates sailed the ship to the Somali coast	Ship was hijacked and 26 crewmembers were taken hostage	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	NAVIOS APOLLON Bulk carrier Panama 29499 9211145	28/12/2009 16:10 UTC	EAST AFRICA Off Somalia,  03° 22.00' S 059° 44.00' E	Pirates attacked and hijacked the ship underway. The pirates sailed the ship to the Somali coast	Ship was hijacked and 19 crewmembers were taken hostage	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

**IN TERRITORIAL WATERS**

1	WAFRAH Tanker Kuwait 63440 9328170	08/12/2009 03:25 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Balongan Anchorage, Indonesia 06° 13.62' S 108° 28.29' E	Four robbers boarded the ship from poop deck. They were spotted by the duty watchman who informed the bridge duty officer. Alarm raised and crew mustered. On seeing crew alertness the robbers escaped in a boat	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port authority	ReCAAP ISC	-
2	TROPICAL STAR Tug Belize 290 7047590	12/12/2009 18:00 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Anchorage 'B', Bangladesh 22° 12.60' N 091° 46.40' E	About 12 robbers armed with long metal bars in a small boat boarded the tug at anchor. They stole ship's stores and escaped. Local authorities informed	Ship's stores stolen	Sounded the alarm continuously and closed and secured all doors	Yes Local authorities	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

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.147 ANNEX 1
	Type of Ship Flag								Gross Tonnage IMO Number
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

## IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

3	CONNORTH Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 7171 9151876	15/12/2009 00:01 UTC	WEST AFRICA Tema Roads, Ghana 05° 38.80' N 000° 02.90' E	Ten robbers armed with machetes boarded the ship at anchor via the anchor chain. They held three duty crew, threatened them with the machetes at their throats and tied them up to bollards. The robbers stole ship's property and stores and escaped	Crewmembers were threatened and tied up. Ship's property and stores stolen	-	Yes Port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	TEMPEST Tug Netherlands 1368 7515377	20/12/2009 03:45 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 2 NM South of Tanjung Ayam, Singapore 01° 18.30' N 104° 11.60' E	Four robbers armed with long knives and steel pipes boarded the tug. They took the Duty Oiler hostage, but were noticed by the Duty AB on deck who informed the duty officer on the bridge via VHF radio. The Duty Officer alerted the crew. On realizing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped with ship's stores	Robbers took hostage the duty oiler and stole ship's stores	Raised alarm and crew mustered	Yes ISPS Singapore	ReCAAP ISC	-
5	MSC CALCUTTA Container ship Cyprus 17933 7811367	22/12/2009 17:10 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Belawan Outer Anchorage, Indonesia 03° 55.50' N 098° 46.60' E	Five robbers armed with knives boarded the ship unnoticed. They tied-up the hands and feet of the duty A/B and stole ship's property and stores. Alarm raised and crew alerted. Robbers escaped with stolen items	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port control	ReCAAP ISC	-
6	ANNA MARIA A Chemical tanker Liberia 7145 8417924	29/12/2009 21:16 LT	WEST AFRICA Lagos Anchorage, Nigeria 06° 17.73' N 003° 22.70' E	Three armed robbers boarded the tanker at anchor and stole crew's personal belongings and ship's equipment. The robbers left after two hours of being on board the ship	Crew's personal belongings and ship's stores stolen	-	Yes Navy HQ & The High Commissioner of Nigeria	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

## IN PORT AREA

1	MARINA 1 General cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 7878 9369095	01/12/2009 23:00 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Port Au Prince Anchorage, Haiti 18° 33.00' N 072° 23.00' W	Duty officer heard some noises on the poop deck and upon investigation found three robbers leaving the ship after lowering ship's stores	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and contacted authorities	Yes Port authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	CAP CASTILLO Container ship Liberia 28097 9374595	14/12/2009 21:00 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Callao Anchorage No.1, Peru 12° 02.00' S 077° 11.60' W	Duty officer raised the alarm when he failed to get a response from the anti-piracy duty A/B on deck. Crew found the A/B lying on deck with his hands and feet tied up and minor shoulder injuries. The robbers broke into the forecandle locker and stole ship's stores. Upon hearing the alarm the robbers escaped	A/B received injuries. Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and crew mustered	Yes Liberian Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

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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.147 ANNEX 1
	Type of Ship Flag								Gross Tonnage IMO Number
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### IN PORT AREA

3	SWAN ACE Vehicle carrier Bahamas 58685 9338826	16/12/2009 17:35 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (A) Callao Anchorage No.1, Peru	Robbers boarded the ship via anchor chain and by cutting the hawse pipe cover. They stole ship's stores and escaped. The crew was unaware of the incident as it occurred when they were assembled in the accommodation during port authorities inspection	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm and crew mustered	Yes PFSO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	HAVILDAR ABDUL HAMID Tanker India 37855 8316625	17/12/2009 19:29 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN Kochi Anchorage, India	Two robbers boarded the ship via anchor chain. The robbers broke open the forepeak store and stole ship's stores. Ship's crew noticed and chased them away. The robbers jumped overboard and escaped	Ship's stores stolen	Raised alarm	Yes Port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	SANTA SURIA	25/12/2009 02:29 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong anchorage 'B', Bangladesh 22° 14.42' N 091° 43.00' E	Six robbers armed with small knives, using a small wooden boat, boarded the ship at anchor. The robbers spoke Bengali among themselves. Members of the Coast Guard in a speedboat intercepted and apprehended four robbers. Two robbers escaped by jumping into water. Two drums of lube oil and two empty drums were stolen and later recovered	The two drums of lube oil drums and two empty drums were stolen, and later recovered by Coast Guard	Reported the incident to local authorities	Yes Chittagong port authority	ReCAAP ISC	-
6	NIKOLIS Bulk carrier Panama 4113 8204080	28/12/2009 00:20 LT	WEST AFRICA Lagos Anchorage, Nigeria 06° 20.50' N 003° 26.00' E	Robbers armed with automatic weapons attacked and boarded the ship at anchor. They assaulted and fired at the crew. Three crew were injured. The robbers stole crew personal property, ship's stores and equipment. Master attempted to contact authorities and agents for assistance. Injured crewmembers were taken ashore for medical treatment	Three crewmembers were injured. Crew's personal property, ship's stores and equipment were stolen	Master attempt to contact authorities and agents for assistance	Yes Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
7	GULF ELAN Chemical tanker Bahamas 29490 9335109	30/12/2009 06:45 LT	NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN Nansha Anchorage, China 22° 41.40' N 113° 41.80' E	Duty AB noticed a robber on forecastle. He informed duty officer on bridge who raised alarm and alerted crew. Upon inspection it was discovered that ship's stores had been stolen	Ship's stores stolen	Duty Officer raised alarm and crew alerted	Yes Local authorities	ReCAAP ISC	-

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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 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.147 ANNEX 2
									Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS**

1	SIKINOS Tanker Greece 78845 9191723	01/12/2009 09:30 LT	EAST AFRICA 1200 NM from Mogadishu, Somalia 12° 10.00' N 063° 32.00' E	Pirates in a skiff armed with guns chased and opened fire on the ship underway. The pirates attempted to board from port side, but failed and tried to board from starboard side. Due to the use of water jets from fire hoses and evasive manoeuvres, pirates aborted the attempt	Pirates fired upon the tanker	Raised alarm and made evasive manoeuvres. Crew fired rocket flares and activated fire hoses	Yes UKMTO and MSCHOA	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	BBC TOGO General cargo ship Antigua and Barbuda 6569 9428786	02/12/2009 14:09 LT	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden,  14° 26.40' N 054° 18.20' E	The Master of the ship underway spotted a mother vessel at a distance of 6 NM. The mother vessel launched two skiffs, which approached the ship at a speed of 14 knots. Master raised alarm, increased speed and took evasive manoeuvres. The pirates approached the ship from both sides. Master sent distress alert, activated SSAS alert, contacted coalition warship and authorities for help. The pirates approached the ship to 15 metres and fired automatic weapons. Pirates aborted the attempt	Pirates fired upon the ship	Activated SSAS alert, raised alarm, increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and contacted coalition warships for assistance	Yes Coalition Forces	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	NORDIC SPRITE Tanker Norway 80668 9159684	07/12/2009 05:01 UTC	EAST AFRICA Gulf of Aden,  12° 54.00' N 048° 07.00' E	Two skiffs chased the ship underway and opened fire with automatic weapons. Master enforced anti-piracy preventive measures and escaped the attack	Pirates fired upon the ship causing some damage	Master took anti-piracy preventive measures	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
4	CORAL GLOBE Bulk carrier Bahamas 25498 9070797	07/12/2009 13:43 UTC	EAST AFRICA Off Somalia,  00° 27.00' N 061° 39.00' E	Pirates in two skiffs chased and fired automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades at the ship underway. A fire broke out on deck. Master increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and sent distress message. Crew managed to contain the fire. Later, pirates aborted attack and moved away	Pirates fired upon the ship causing fire on deck	Increased speed, took evasive manoeuvres and sent distress message. Crew managed to put off the fire	Yes UKMTO	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	GALLANT PESCADORES General cargo ship Panama 5002 9175860	11/12/2009 08:20 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA  Indonesia 05° 15.90' S 123° 25.10' E	Four pirates, armed with guns and spears in a speedboat chased the ship. Master took anti-piracy measures and prevented boarding	-	Raised alarm, crew mustered and activated anti-piracy measures	Yes Indonesian Navy	ReCAAP ISC	-

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NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific

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.147 ANNEX 2
	Gross Tonnage IMO Number								Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

### IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

6	ALPINE MIA Tanker Hong Kong, China 29266 9391426	14/12/2009 09:50 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Off Babel Mandeb, towards IRTC Entrance,  12° 07.75' N 044° 19.65' E	Four or five pirates armed with automatic weapons in two small crafts with a speed of about 25 knots, chased the ship underway. The alarm was raised, the crew were mustered at the bridge and the Master took evasive action. Naval forces responded by sending two high-speed craft and a helicopter. Upon seeing the helicopter and the navy ships heading towards them, the pirates abandoned the chase	-	Increased speed and took evasive manoeuvres	Yes Coalition forces	ReCAAP ISC	-
7	NS STREAM Chemical tanker Liberia 27357 9318541	18/12/2009 18:23 LT	WEST AFRICA 60 NM Off Conakry, Guinea 09° 17.80' N 014° 49.30' W	Pirates armed with automatic weapons in a speedboat approached and fired upon the ship underway. Master increased speed, enforced anti-piracy measures, reported to authorities and prevented the pirates from boarding	Pirates fired upon the tanker	Raised alarm, sent distress messages, increased speed and took evasive manoeuvres	Yes Port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
8	MAERSK WARSAW Container ship Hong Kong, China 18123 9387451	27/12/2009 12:30 LT	EAST AFRICA Off Somalia,  08° 28.00' N 061° 01.00' E	The ship was chased by a white-hull fishing vessel with two small craft on each side. One craft was lowered and chased the ship for around 45 minutes before aborting the attempt	-	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
9	GULF CORAL Product tanker Bahamas 42446 9389851	28/12/2009 12:30 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Singapore Straits, Singapore 01° 04.70' N 103° 38.50' E	About six small unlit boats chased the ship underway. Pirates from one boat attempted to board. Master took evasive manoeuvres, enforced anti-piracy measures and prevented boarding	-	-	Yes Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
10	ALBUM Tanker Kuwait 57190 9240407	30/12/2009 04:45 UTC	EAST AFRICA Off Somalia,  11° 42.00' N 063° 00.00' E	Pirates in a skiff chased and fired upon the ship with rocket-propelled grenades. Master sent a distress signal and received assistance. Pirates aborted attempted boarding	Ship sustained damage	-	Yes Authorities	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

### IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	MOL ACCLAIM Container ship Panama 1200 9379571	24/12/2009 00:23 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 10 nm off Satahip, Thailand 12° 26.00' N 100° 54.00' E	Robbers fired upon the ship from a distance of 50 metres. The boat came from the batch of fishing boats around. The Master took evasive actions and the attempt was aborted	One door of the accommodation was hit	Master took evasive manoeuvres	No	ReCAAP ISC	-
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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.147 ANNEX 2
									Coastal State Action Taken
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**IN PORT AREA**

1	ZIM SAO PAULO II Container ship Marshall Islands 16801 9134672	15/12/2009 21:50 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (A) Puerto La Cruz Anchorage, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Duty seaman on board the ship spotted six robbers in a boat attempting to board the ship. Alarm raised and crew alerted. The robbers aborted the attempt and moved away	-	Raised alarm and crew mustered	Yes Port control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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