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MSC.4/Circ.78
21 December 2005

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during November 2005

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 October 2005 and 30 November 2005, 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 3,970, an increase of 13 since 31 October 2005.

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 October 2005 being MSC.4/Circ.62, MSC.4/Circ.63, MSC.4/Circ.64, MSC.4/Circ.65, MSC.4/Circ.66, MSC.4/Circ.67, MSC.4/Circ.68, MSC.4/Circ.69, MSC.4/Circ.70, MSC.4/Circ.71, MSC.4/Circ.72, MSC.4/Circ.73, MSC.4/Circ.74, MSC.4/Circ.75, MSC.4/Circ.76 and MSC.4/Circ.77.

ANNEX 1

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

N ^o	Ship's name Type of ship Flag Gross tonnage IMO No.	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. 78 ANNEX 1 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	LAEMTHONG GLORY General cargo ship Thailand 9077 7533006	06/11/2005 13:30 LT	EAST AFRICA 02°39'.50N 048°08'.20E East Coast of Somalia	Pirates hijacked the ship and took 24 crew members as hostage, while underway. They demanded a ransom for the release of ship. The ship was later released and her crew are safe	Ship hijacked and later released; crew members safe	Alarm raised	Yes. CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, Intelligent Watch, CTF 150, 150-N2, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer, Alindien, CINC Fleet, Germany, Maritime Affairs Headquarters, Yemen, MRCC Gris Nez, MARLO, Bahrain and UK MTO, Dubai	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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IN PORT AREA

1	NEW CENTURY Oil Tanker Marshall Islands 41994 9298272	19/11/2005 20:00 LT	SOUTH AMERICA (C) 10°19'.00N 075°32'.00W Cartagena Bay (Colombia)	Four robbers boarded the ship from forecastle, while at anchor. Duty watchmen raised alarm. Robbers broke padlocks of forward locker and stole ship's stores together with safety equipment and escaped. Coast Guard and port authorities were notified and both came onboard within 30 minutes to investigate	Ship's stores and safety equipment stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Coast Guard, port authorities and the Maritime authorities, Colombia	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Coast Guard and port authorities came onboard within 30 minutes to investigate
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NOTE: SOUTH AMERICA: (A) - Atlantic; (C) - Caribbean; (P) - Pacific

No	Ship's name Type of ship Flag Gross tonnage IMO No.	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. 78 ANNEX 1 Page 2
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IN PORT AREA

2	NAME WITHHELD Bulk carrier Turkey 10513	20/11/2005 03:45 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Umm Qasr Anchorage, Off No. 2 Buoy (Iraq)	Five armed robbers boarded the ship from starboard quarter, while at anchor. They took two duty crew on deck hostage and went to the bridge where they held 2/O and two seamen at gunpoint. They went to the Master's cabin and stole Master's property and cash from ship's safe. They then proceeded to C/O's cabin, stole cash and escaped in their speed boat. Master and crew received serious injuries. Crew contacted coalition forces who provided medical assistance. Injured crew are recovering onboard	Crew members held hostage and injured; Master and crew's property and cash stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. United Kingdom MRCC, Coalition forces, CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, Intelligent Watch, CTF 150, 150-N2, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer and MARLO, Bahrain	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Coalition forces provided medical assistance
3	BERLIAN EKUATOR Gas carrier-LPG Panama 22209 9265548	20/11/2005 06:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Bontang Anchorage (Indonesia)	Robbers boarded the ship, while at anchor. They stole two liferafts and escaped. There were numerous small fishing crafts in the vicinity	Liferafts stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. SAR, Jakarta	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
4	AMSTEL TRADER Container ship Netherlands 6704 9264776	24/11/2005	SOUTH CHINA SEA 20°38'.10N 106°52'.60E Haiphong Anchorage (Viet Nam)	Robbers boarded the ship, while at anchor and escaped with ship's stores. Port authorities informed	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Port authorities and the Maritime Security Information Centre, Viet Nam	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
5	KOTA RANCAK Container ship Singapore 9678 9296298	30/11/2005 07:10 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 06°00'.60S 106°54'.00E Tanjung Priok Anchorage (Indonesia)	Robbers boarded the ship and entered accommodation, while at anchor. They stole safety equipment and escaped. Master tried to contact port control but received no response	Safety equipment stolen	Raised alarm and mustered crew	Yes. SAR, Jakarta and Navy Headquarters, Indonesia	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	No response from port control and pilot station

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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	SEABULK TREASURE ISLAND Tug Liberia 1128 7505542	03/09/2005 04:00 LT	WEST AFRICA Total Jetty, Douala (Cameroon)	Three robbers armed with knives and spears boarded tug, while at anchor. They confronted duty A/B and bosun and escaped with ship's property	Ship's property stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Port authorities, Douala	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	MEDEA K Bulk carrier Panama 9529 7632553	24/10/2005 04:30 LT	WEST AFRICA Lagos Anchorage, 15 NM from port (Nigeria)	Ten robbers armed with knives boarded the ship at stern from a speedboat during heavy rain, while at anchor. They threatened duty A/B and escaped with ship's stores. Port control responded after three hours and asked Master to contact agents	Ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised	Yes. Port control and Nigerian Police	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Port control advised Master to contact agents
3	ALEXANDRA I Bulk carrier Panama 35886 9086942	19/11/2005 22:00 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN 29°43'.40N 048°37'.50E Umm Qasr Anchorage, Off No. 5 Buoy (Iraq)	Three robbers armed with machine guns and pistols boarded the ship at bridge deck, while at anchor. They took 2/O hostage and forced him to take them to Master's cabin. They threatened Master with machine guns and stole ship's cash and Master's personal property. They then assaulted 2/O and stole his cash and property. Master and 2/O sustained injuries. The robbers damaged all the radio equipment, took the 2/O to fore-castle and then escaped in a waiting speedboat. Master activated SSAS and notified RCC Australia. Later, a naval ship in the area came to provide assistance	Master and one crew member injured; ship's cash and personal belongings stolen	Raised alarm and activated SSAS	Yes. RCC Australia, CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer, Intelligent Watch, CTF 150, 150-N2, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer, Alindien, CINC Fleet, Germany, MRCC Gris Nez, Maritime Affairs HQ, Yemen, UK MTO, Dubai and MARLO, Bahrain	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	A naval ship provided assistance

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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 ^o	Ship's name Type of ship Flag Gross tonnage IMO No.	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. 78 ANNEX 2 Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	SEABOURN SPIRIT Passenger ship Bahamas 9975 8807997	05/11/2005 03:25 UTC	EAST AFRICA 02°59'.00N 048°01'.00E 70NM from East Coast Somalia	Six heavily armed pirates in two boats chased the ship, while underway. They fired rocket launchers and machine guns causing damage to ship's side. Master took evasive manoeuvres and sailed away from the coast. Pirates aborted the attempt and fled. One crew member sustained injuries to his hand	One crew member injured and ship's side damaged	Raised alarm and activated SSAS alert	Yes. CUSNC-Bahrain Fleet Watch Officer (FWO), CUSNC-Intelligent Watch (IW), CTF 150, CTF 150-N2, Fleet Constabulary Operations Officer (FCOO) and MARLO, Bahrain	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	MAKRAN General cargo ship Pakistan 16199 7602235	08/11/2005 09:00 LT	EAST AFRICA 01°38'.60N 053°58'.70E 390NM Off Eastern Somali Coast	A craft was spotted drifting at 15NM, while underway. Master altered course and increased speed. The craft followed and launched a boat to chase the ship. It continued pursuit until 10:30 LT before giving up and the ship resumed her course	-	Raised alarm; Master altered course and increased speed	CUSNC-Bahrain FWO, CUSNC-IW, CTF 150, CTF 150-N2, FCOO, Alindien, CINC Fleet, Germany, Maritime Affairs HQ (MAH), Yemen, MRCC Gris Nez, MARLO Bahrain and UK MTO, Dubai	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	GREAT MORNING Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 17679 9282780	05/11/2005 13:00 UTC	EAST AFRICA 04°26'.30N 054°14'.60E East Coast of Somalia (Somalia)	A craft was spotted drifting at 16NM, while underway. When the ship came closer, the craft suddenly increased speed and chased the ship. Master took evasive manoeuvres, increased speed and moved away from the coast. The craft continued the chase until 1400 UTC before moving away. The craft had one derrick and Master suspects this may be a mother ship to launch speedboats to attack ships	-	Raised alarm; Master took evasive manoeuvres and increased speed	Yes. CUSNC-Bahrain FWO, CUSNC-IW, CTF 150, CTF 150-N2, FCOO and MARLO Bahrain	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

2	MSC SELIN Ro-ro-cargo ship Panama 22131 7822548	06/11/2005 06:48 UTC	EAST AFRICA 02°29'.30N 048°28'.20E East Coast of Somalia (Somalia)	Robbers armed with rocket launchers and machine guns opened fire on the ship, while underway. Master took evasive manoeuvres and increased speed to maximum. Pirates' boat fell behind and ceased firing. Bridge windows were damaged by gun fire	Bridge windows damaged	Raised alarm; Master took evasive manoeuvres and increased speed	Yes. CUSNC-Bahrain FWO, CUSNC-IW, CTF 150, CTF 150-N2, FCOO and MARLO Bahrain	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
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