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MSC.4/Circ.254
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during September 2017

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 30 September 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.

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 August 2017 being 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, MSC.4/Circ.248, MSC.4/Circ.249, MSC.4/Circ.250, MSC.4/Circ.251, MSC.4/Circ.252 and MSC.4/Circ.253.

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

IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	MGT 1 Product tanker Thailand 983 9019975	06/09/2017 21:00 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA 54 nm east off Kuala Dungun, Kuala Terengganu Malaysia 05° 08.37' N 104° 16.62' E	<p>While underway from Rayong port, Thailand to Andaman Sea, 13 pirates armed with knives and guns boarded the ship from two small speedboats. The pirates forced the crew members to switch off the AIS and transfer one million litres of diesel oil (out of 2.2 million litres contained in the tanker) to a mother ship. The crew activated the SSAS alarm.</p> <p>The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) Special Forces Team was deployed using an AW 139 helicopter to the last known location. The aircraft spotted the hijacked tanker with another unknown vessel alongside. At about 1500 hrs, the MMEA also received information from fishermen that a group of people climbing on board the product tanker. The MMEA's Special Task and Rescue Team (STAR) boarded the ship and apprehended 10 pirates who were on board the ship. The speedboat with three pirates managed to flee. The ship and the mother ship that was alongside were escorted safely by the authority towards Kuala Terengganu for further investigation. Initial investigation revealed that the mastermind was in Johor Bahru, and was arrested.</p>	Pirates took hostage all crew members and took over the tanker. One million litres of diesel oil of 2.2 million litres were transferred from the ship to the pirates mother ship.	SSAS activated	Yes Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) and Thai-MECC	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand)	<p>Upon receipt of the report, MMEA conducted continuous monitoring of the ship and dispatched two ships and a helicopter to the location of the incident.</p> <p>The MMEA's Special Task and Rescue Team (STAR) boarded the ship and apprehended 10 pirates who were on board the ship.</p> <p>MMEA escorted safely the ship and the mother ship towards Kuala Terengganu and conducted further investigation.</p>
2	SENNA 3 LPG tanker Thailand 3499 9179270	08/09/2017 03:10 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 52 nm east of Johor Bahru Malaysia 02° 03.55' N 104° 59.28' E	While underway, four pirates wearing masks, armed with swords, boarded the ship from a speedboat which had a white and dark blue hull and Yamaha outbound engine. While onboard the ship, the pirates tied the 2nd Officer and the AB at the wheel house. Thereafter, they cut the wires of the ship's VHF handset and Inmarsat C-mini. The pirates also took the personal effects belonging to the master, chief officers, chief engineer, and 2nd	Crew members personal items and ship's property stolen	The Master sent the distress signal by INMARSAT-C and email to Emergency Response Team (ERT).	Yes MARSEC Thailand, Vietnam MRCC, Singapore MRCC thru INMARSAT-C and ERT, MPA Singapore and Information Fusion Centre (IFC)	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Thailand)	Vietnam MRCC and Singapore MRCC acknowledged the distress signal and offered assistance to

* 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

Officer; and tied them and the other ship's officers in the navigation bridge and the master at the handrail on the ship's port side. The pirates fled using a speedboat. The Master was able to untie himself and proceed to the bridge to untie other crew members.

the ship.

The Indonesian Navy boarded and conducted the investigation.

IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	FORTIS AMALTHEA Bulk carrier Liberia 25955 9200342	08/09/2017 03:16 UTC	WEST AFRICA Conakry Anchorage Guinea 09° 21.96' N 013° 44.48' W	Seven robbers armed with knives and crowbars boarded the anchored ship. They stole Master's and ship's property and fled. All crew safe.	Master's and ship's property stolen	All non-essential crew members were locked inside the accommodation	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Investigating
2	ZHEN HUA 18 Heavy load carrier Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 28436 8026921	30/09/2017 04:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Approx. 10.18 nm northeast of Tanjung Berakit, Pulau Bintan Indonesia 01° 22.50' N 104° 40.20' E	While at anchor, three robbers armed with long knives boarded at the stern of the ship using hooks. The duty officer alerted the Master who raised the alarm. The crew was mustered and a search was conducted. The Master reported the incident to the Company Security Officer (CSO).	-	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was conducted. The master reported the incident to the CSO.	Yes Information Fusion Centre (IFC)	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (China)	-

IN PORT AREA

1	PETION Tanker Panama 41503 9295098	01/09/2017 03:15 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Puerto La Cruz Anchorage Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 14.30' N 064° 44.00' W	Five robbers in a small fishing boat armed with guns, knives and sticks boarded the anchored tanker. They assaulted the aft duty watchman, tied him up and took him hostage on board. When the watchman failed to report, the OOW sent another duty crew to investigate. The OOW was notified about the robbers and the alarm was raised. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers jumped overboard and fled in their boat. A search was carried out, the watchman was found with minor injuries and ship's stores had been stolen. Port control was informed through local agents.	The robbers assaulted the aft duty watchman and tied him up. Watchman had minor injuries and ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was conducted	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	NORGAS PAN LPG tanker Singapore 8331 9378266	02/09/2017 06:20 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Cartagena Inner Anchorage Colombia 10° 19.26' N 075° 32.20' W	Duty officer onboard the anchored tanker spotted a small boat approaching near the bow and asked the duty watch crew to investigate. Upon checking, the duty crew reported that the padlock to the forepeak store and paint locker had been broken and ship's stores and property stolen.	Padlock to the forepeak store and paint locker broken. Ship's stores and property stolen	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	ARETI. GR Bulk carrier Panama 34187 9789893	03/09/2017 01:45 LT	INDIAN OCEAN Chittagong Alpha Anchorage Bangladesh 22° 14.08' N 091° 44.53' E	Four robbers armed with long knives boarded the anchored ship during cargo operations. They broke the padlock to the store and stole eight pails of grease. The incident lasted for about 10 minutes. The watchmen and duty AB on routine rounds spotted the robbers on the forecandle and informed the bridge. The alarm was raised and crew alerted. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers fled. Port control and Coast Guard were informed.	Padlock to the store broken and 8 pails of grease stolen.	Alarm raised and crew alerted	Yes Port Control, Coast Guard and Information Fusion Centre (IFC)	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Bangladesh)	Bangladesh authority investigating the incident.

4	KYRIAKOULA Tanker Liberia 40680 9265720	07/09/2017 02:30 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Puerto La Cruz Anchorage Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 12.25' N 064° 47.54' W	Seven robbers armed with guns and knives boarded the anchored tanker. They attacked two watchman's and tied them up. When the watchman's did not report to the bridge, the OOW sent a crew to investigate. The Master was informed and the alarm was raised. Upon seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled with stolen ship's stores. Terminal authority notified.	The robbers attacked two watchman's and tied them up, one crew member injured and ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised and crew alerted	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
5	OCEAN AMAZING Bulk carrier Singapore 25967 9162942	12/09/2017 04:30 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, Kalimantan Indonesia 00° 13.30' S 117° 33.50' E	While at anchor, the bulk carrier started loading coal by a floating crane at 1830 hrs. One crew member was on standby at the port side gangway entrance and another assisting with cargo operation and de-ballasting. A security round was carried out at 0300 hrs. At about 0430 hrs, two duty ABs found that the skylight door at the forecastle of the ship was in open position and the D-ring bracket was broken. The crew had previously secured said skylight door with double padlocks and they made fast all butterfly nuts and lashed it from within. The ABs informed the duty officer and a search was conducted in the Boatswain store. Two coils of spare mooring rope were found missing. The crew reported incident to the flag State and agent. The agent made a police report.	D-ring bracket broken and two coils of spare mooring rope missing.	A search was carried out. The crew reported the incident to the flag State and agent. The agent made a police report.	Yes Police, Information Fusion Centre (IFC) & Flag State (Singapore)	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Singapore)	-
6	THOMAS MAERSK Container ship DIS (Denmark) 18859 9064267	15/09/2017 01:45 UTC	WEST AFRICA Conakry Anchorage Guinea 09° 24.22' N 013° 44.89' W	Approximately seven robbers armed with a guns, knives and iron bars boarded the anchored ship. They assaulted three crew members, stole ship's property and fled. Authority was informed.	Three crew members assaulted and ship's property stolen	-	Yes Local Authority	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Investigation are in progress
7	SBI ECHO Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 34835 9714692	19/09/2017 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Cam Pha Inner Anchorage Viet Nam 20° 54.30' N 107° 16.30' E	Robbers boarded the anchored ship unnoticed during cargo operations. Duty crew on routine rounds discovered that the padlock to the paint store was broken. It was reported that 650 litres of paint and crew personal belongings had been stolen. Incident reported to port authority through local agents.	The padlock to the ship's paint store broken, 650 litres of paint and crew personal belongings stolen.	Incident reported to port authority through local agents.	Yes Local Port Authority	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Viet Nam)	-
8	NAME WITHHELD Tanker Singapore 28539	20/09/2017 03:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Lagos Anchorage Nigeria 06° 19.00' N 003° 22.00' E	A robber boarded the anchored tanker. The duty crew spotted the robber and raised the alarm resulting in the robber fled empty handed. Incident reported to the local authority.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Nigerian Navy and MDAT-GOG	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

9	NAME WITHHELD Bulk carrier Bahamas 19972	22/09/2017 03:00 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Puerto Jose Anchorage Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 09.27' N 064° 47.63' W	Duty officer onboard the anchored ship raised the alarm when the duty AB did not respond to a call on the walkie talkie. The crew mustered and carried out a search for the duty AB who was found tied up on the forecastle. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the alerted crew the robbers were seen fled. Upon inspecting the boatswain store it was found large quantity of ship's stores had been stolen. Authority notified.	One duty AB taken hostage and tied up. Large quantity ship's stores stolen	Alarm raised, crew mustered and a search was carried out	Yes Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
10	BEBATIK Tanker Brunei Darussalam 48612 7121633	25/09/2017 22:06 LT	SOUTH CHINA SEA Bauan Anchorage, Batangas Philippines 13° 46.00' N 120° 58.00' E	While at anchor, the duty roving watch spotted an unidentified robber at the forecastle of the ship. He reported the incident to the OOW who sounded the ship's alarm. Upon hearing the alarm, the robber jumped into the water and fled away in a small boat with two other persons on board. A search was conducted, following which it was determined that 6 pcs fire hydrant brass caps and 4 pcs fire hydrant nozzles had been stolen.	6 pcs fire hydrant brass caps and 4 pcs fire hydrant nozzles stolen.	The duty watch reported the incident to the OOW. The Master mustered the crew and conducted inventory of the ship's equipment.	Yes Port Authority	ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines)	The Coast Guard Sub-Station Bauan and Port State Control Centre at Batangas boarded the ship and investigated the incident. The boarding team advised the master to exercise enhanced vigilant, adopt extra precautionary measures and report all incidents to the nearest Coast Guard units for immediate action.
11	SEAWAYS JOSEFA CAMEJO Oil tanker Marshall Islands 62385 9213301	29/09/2017 02:30 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Puerto La Cruz Anchorage Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 16.60' N 064° 42.30' W	Duty AB on board the anchored tanker spotted two robbers armed with knives on the poop deck and immediately informed the OOW. The alarm was raised, PA announcement was made and all crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm and seeing the crew alertness, the robbers fled without stealing anything. Incident reported to port authority and the local agents.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	Yes Port Control	Marshall Islands ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-

12 MS EAGLE
Container ship
Marshall Islands
28927
9314997

30/09/2017
23:15 LT

SOUTH CHINA SEA
Manila South Harbour
anchorage area
Philippines
14° 33.74' N
120° 55.06' E

While at anchor, the duty roving watch spotted three robbers climbing down the anchor chain of the ship. He ordered them to stop but the robbers immediately jumped into the water and fled in an unmarked motor banca. The crew was mustered. A search and inventory checked was conducted, following which it was determined that ten (10) gallons paint, one (1) new electric scaling machine, two (2) fireman Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA); and one (1) portable welding machine had been stolen.

The following items were stolen:
1) ten (10) gallons paint;
2) one (1) new electric scaling machine;
3) two (2) fireman Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA); and
4) one (1) portable welding machine.

The incident was reported to the ship agent who reported to the port authority.

Yes
Vessel Traffic Management Station (VTMS) in Manila and Philippines Coast Guard (PCG)

ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (Philippines), ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur

The PCG deployed floating assets and conducted maritime patrol.

MSC.4/Circ. 254
ANNEX I

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

IN PORT AREA

1	PRIME EXPRESS Product tanker Panama 28725 9459242	26/09/2017 02:30 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Port Au Prince Anchorage Haiti 18° 34.00' N 072° 24.00' W	Three robbers attempted to board the anchored tanker through the anchor chain hawse pipe. Duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm, the robbers fled empty handed.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
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MSC.4/Circ. 254
ANNEX II