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MSC.4/Circ.261
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REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly – Acts reported during March 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 31 March 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."

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 March 2018 being, 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), MSC.4/Circ.259 and MSC.4/Circ.260.

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	SCOT MUNCHEN Product tanker Malta 5145 9255816	06/03/2018 10:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 21nm SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria Nigeria 04° 05.00' N 006° 57.00' E	Pirates, armed with guns, boarded the tanker approaching the Bonny Fairway Buoy. Alarm raised, SSAS activated and all crew mustered in the citadel. Nigerian Navy notified and patrol boats were immediately deployed to assist the tanker. As all crew were secure in the citadel, the pirates were unable to take any hostages. They damaged some navigation and communication equipment and escaped. Later, the Master and crew emerged from the citadel and took back control of their tanker and sailed to a safe port. All crew safe.	Pirates boarded the tanker, damaged some navigation and communication equipment.	Alarm raised, SSAS activated and all crew mustered in the citadel.	Yes PRC relayed a message to the Nigerian Navy HQ.	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur.	Nigerian Navy immediately deployed patrol boats to assist the tanker.
2	MSC MARIA General cargo ship Panama 8721 9067544	16/03/2018 08:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 36nm SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria Nigeria 03° 57.00' N 006° 42.50' E	Armed pirates attacked and boarded a ship while underway. Alarm raised and all crew retreated into the citadel. The shipowners contacted the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre and requested assistance. The IMB PRC immediately informed the Nigerian Navy, who dispatched patrol boats to assist the ship. The IMB PRC liaised with the shipowners and the Nigerian Navy regarding the incident. Naval personnel boarded the ship. No pirates were found on board. The crew emerged from the citadel and sailed the ship to a safe port under naval escort.		Alarm raised and crew mustered in the citadel.	Yes PRC relayed a message to the Nigerian Navy HQ.	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Nigerian Navy dispatched patrol boats to assist the ship.
3	DONG-A KRIOS Product tanker Panama 28160 9694191	16/03/2018 22:40 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 13.55NM SSE of Lagos, Nigeria Nigeria 06° 17.80' N 003° 25.10' E	Armed guards on board an anchored tanker noticed three unauthorised persons on board the vessel and fired a warning shot. One person managed to escape in a small boat while the remaining two were captured and handed over to Nigerian Navy.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered.	Yes Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur.	Nigerian Navy arrested the robbers.
4	LURONYUANYU Fishing vessel	22/03/2018 10:00 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 30nm SSE of Badagry, Nigeria Nigeria 06° 01.00' N 003° 12.00' E	Pirates in a speed boat hijacked a fishing boat and forced it to sail into Benin waters. They kidnapped two crew members before releasing the fishing boat.	Pirates hijacked the fishing boat. Two crew members were kidnapped	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur.	The Nigerian Navy are investigating the incident.
5	NAME WITHHELD Tanker Liberia 29335	22/03/2018 21:29 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 53NM SW of Bonny Island, Nigeria Nigeria 03° 35.00' N 006° 44.00' E	Pirates in a small speed boat chased and fired upon a tanker while underway. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The armed guards on board returned fire resulting in the pirates aborting the attack. All crew safe.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered.	Yes Nigerian Navy	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

6	MARINE 711 Fishing vessel Ghana 464	26/03/2018 17:20 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 27nm South of Anloga, Ghana Ghana 05° 20.00' N 000° 51.40' E	Armed pirates attacked and hijacked the fishing vessel underway. The Owners of the fishing vessel reported the incident to the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre (PRC) who immediately contacted and liaised with the Ghana Navy Ops Centre. As the fishing vessel moved from Ghanaian waters into Togo and Benin waters, the PRC continually updated the respective naval authorities. Naval boats were deployed by the respective navies within their waters to look for the fishing vessel. On 28 March 2018, the owners confirmed that the fishing vessel had been released and was sailing to a safe port. All navies were informed accordingly.	Three crew members were reported missing.	N/A	Yes Ghana Navy, Togo Navy, Benin Navy, Nigerian Navy	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Authorities deployed their naval vessels to search for the fishing vessel.
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IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

1	ALERCE N Bulk carrier Chile 17979 9250323	03/03/2018 15:45 UTC	INDIAN OCEAN Tanjung Priok Anchorage, Jakarta, Indonesia Indonesia 06° 02.90' S 106° 53.40' E	Duty Motorman on board an anchored ship noticed two robbers on the aft deck and raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped in a waiting boat. Following a search of the ship, nothing was reported stolen.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered.	Yes Port Control. PRC relayed message to Bakamla, Indonesian Marine Police HQ and Indonesian Navy HQ.	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP via Focal Point (Singapore).	-
2	ECO SPLENDOR Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 23749 9659189	15/03/2018 05:30 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (P) Callao Anchorage, Peru. Peru 12° 01.80' S 077° 11.20' W	Four robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored ship. Alarm raised and crew mustered. The robbers escaped with some of the ship's stores. A search was carried out and the incident was reported to the local agents.	Ship's stores were stolen.	Alarm raised, crew mustered.	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
3	ISLEMAN General cargo ship Panama 4579 8814902	22/03/2018 01:15 UTC	WEST AFRICA Around 7.5NM SE of Cotonou, Benin Benin 06° 15.40' N 002° 30.50' E	Eight persons in a small boat, armed with guns and knives boarded an anchored reefer ship. They demanded that the crew start the main engine and set sail. As the engines were unable to start, they stole the crew's and ship's property and left the vessel. Incident reported to Benin Navy which dispatched a naval vessel to investigate.	Stole ship's stores and crew's property.	-	Yes Cotonou Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	Benin Navy dispatched patrol boat to assist the ship.

IN PORT AREA

1	LA SOLOGNAIS Bulk carrier Malta 24725 9733258	07/03/2018 21:10 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Muara Berau Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 00° 15.10' S 117° 37.70' E	Unnoticed, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier, stole two mooring ropes and escaped. The theft was noticed during routine rounds.	The ship's stores were stolen.	-	No	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	-
2	GH RICH WALL Bulk carrier Marshall Islands 36291 9735804	20/03/2018 15:30	SOUTH CHINA SEA Taboneo Anchorage, Indonesia Indonesia 03° 42.60' S 114° 28.20' E	Approximately six robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier. Duty crew noticed the robbers and informed the OOW. Alarm raised, crew mustered and port control notified. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty-handed.	-	Alarm raised and crew mustered.	Yes Taboneo Port Control	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur.	Indonesian Marine Police dispatched a patrol boat.

3 SILVER POINT Product tanker Malta 29717 9510462	24/03/2018 01:42 UTC	SOUTH AMERICA (C) Puerto La Cruz Anchorage, Venezuela Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) 10° 17.00' N 064° 42.50' W	Robbers armed with guns boarded an anchored Ship's property stolen. Alarm raised and crew mustered. Yes Port Authority. ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur The Coast Guard later dispatched a vessel to search the anchorage waters around the tanker. After conducting a search, the forecandle store padlock was reported broken and ship's property stolen. Port Control notified via VHF Ch. 16/13. The Coast Guard later dispatched a vessel to search the anchorage waters around the tanker.	Ship's property stolen.	Alarm raised and crew mustered.	Yes	Port Authority.	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur	The Coast Guard later dispatched a vessel to search the anchorage waters around the tanker.
4 CAPTAIN VANGELIS L Bulk carrier Liberia 88420 9450868	27/03/2018 23:20 UTC	SOUTH CHINA SEA Muara Berau Anchorage, Samarinda, Indonesia Indonesia 00° 16.50' S 117° 41.50' E	Four robbers in a small boat approached an anchored ship. Two robbers boarded while another two were waiting in the boat. Duty crew on routine rounds noticed the robbers and immediately raised the alarm. Seeing the alerted crew, the robbers escaped empty-handed.	-	Alarm raised and ship's horn sounded.	Yes	Incident relayed to local agents	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur.	-

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ANNEX

ANNEX II
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Member States or international organizations in consultative status

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IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS

1	SWISS PRESTIGE Hong Kong, China	06/04/2018 02:30	SOUTH CHINA SEA South China Sea China 17° 15.70' N 111° 16.30' E	While sailing, a small ship, Hong Lrut with two persons on board approached the catamaran at high speed (approximately 15 knots) within 200 nm and turned parallel to Swiss Prestige. The catamaran made a "mayday" distress call via VHF Channel 16 and increased her speed to 8 knots. The suspect ship moved away from the catamaran but continued on a parallel course. A cruise liner, Diamond Princess responded to the mayday call and moved to the location. Swiss Prestige informed Diamond Princess that Falmouth MRCC had been notified. The suspect ship began to move away and depart from the area shortly afterwards. Swiss Prestige cancelled its mayday call and moved towards Johor, Malaysia.	-	Master made a "mayday" distress call and communicated with Diamond Princess who responded to the mayday call.	Yes Falmouth MRCC, United Kingdom (UK)	ICC-IMB Piracy Reporting Centre Kuala Lumpur, ReCAAP ISC via ReCAAP Focal Point (UK).	-
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ANNEX II