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MSC/Circ.928  
31 July 1999

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

### Issued monthly - Acts reported during July 1999

1 In pursuance of the Maritime Safety Committee's instruction to the Secretariat to issue monthly reports of all incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships 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 a report on incident received between 30 June 1999 (MSC/Circ.925) and 31 July 1999.

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 1,510, an increase of 30 since 30 June 1999.

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 current year being MSC/Circ.899, MSC/Circ.902, MSC/Circ.904, MSC/Circ.906, MSC/Circ.923 and MSC/Circ.925.

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<sup>1</sup> The following definition of piracy is contained in article 101 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS):

“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).”



## ANNEX

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

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/Circ. 928 ANNEX Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	HANG FUNG Tanker Panama	06/01/99	off Lantau island (Hong Kong, China)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded from a boat that drew up alongside the ship under the pretext of checking smuggling and transferred gas oil to their boat and sailed to mainland territorial waters before Hong Kong, China Marine Police arrived	300 tonnes of gas oil stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB	Hong Kong, China Marine Police came on the scene
2	Name not reported Tanker Bahamas 6721	22/02/99	Pennington terminal (Nigeria)	While at anchor, several armed robbers boarded the ship wanting their demands to be met by the terminal operator as they thought the ship belonged to the terminal. The Master explained that the ship did not belong to the terminal and they left	-	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
3	Name not reported Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 14342	16/03/99	Guanta (Venezuela)	While at berth, four armed robbers boarded the ship	-	Third mate reported to the Police	-	ICC-IMB	Police came on board and searched in vain for robbers
4	NORASIA SHANGHAI Container ship Germany 42336 9113630	07/04/99	Colombo (Sri Lanka)	While at anchor, the watchman saw two men climbing onboard via the ship's side railings. The armed robbers opened containers and transferred cartons of cotton products into the boat and escaped when spotted by the crew. The crew raised the alarm	Two containers opened and cartons of cottons products stolen	Crew raised the alarm and directed the searchlights at the scene	-	ICC-IMB	Police boat arrived to provide security for ship

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5	GERDT OLDENDORFF Bulk carrier Malta 44114 9135913	10/04/99	01°15'.70N 104°09'.60E (Singapore)	While underway, an armed robbers' boat came alongside. The anti-piracy watch personnel discovered the boat and sounded the alarm. The boat left immediately	-	Crew sounded the general alarm	-	ICC-IMB	-
6	SIDRELA Bulk carrier Bahamas 22009 8316285	01/05/99 19:00 LT	05°22'.56S 109°37'.90E Java Sea	While sailing, the watch on the port quarter reported an unlit boat approaching the ship's side. The pirates threw a hook which engaged in the ship's rail. The two aft watchkeepers immediately ran to the bridge. Two boats, now with lights on, were sighted about 2 miles distant	None due to the response from the crew	Crew raised the general alarm and blew the whistle. All crew gathered on the bridge and locked the bridge doors from the inside. Course altered by about 90°	Yes, Coastal Authority informed	Bahamas	-
7	Name not reported Yacht Finland	04/05/99	Off North East Coast Somalia	While underway, armed pirates boarded the yacht and sailed into a port near Boosaaso, reportedly demanding ransom	-	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
8	ORIENTAL GAS Gas carrier-LPG Panama 3050 9128881	04/05/99	00°47'.00S 118°56'.00E Santan (Indonesia)	While underway, a wooden boat approached the ship from astern. The boat left when spotted by the crew	-	Crew shone searchlight on boat	-	ICC-IMB	-
9	SUNNY OCEAN Bulk carrier Panama 36074 9072197	04/05/99	Tg. Meranggas Bontang (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers attempted to board the ship	-	Crew prevented armed robbers from boarding ship	-	ICC-IMB	-

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10	ASIAN FRIENDSHIP General cargo ship Indonesia 4209 8021127	12/05/99	Haiphong (Viet Nam)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship	Three mooring ropes stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
11	AGIOS GERASSIMOS General cargo ship Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 8849 7006156	13/05/99	Chittagong (Bangladesh)	While at anchor, 15 armed robbers boarded the ship	Two mooring ropes stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
12	PACIFIC VENTURE Tanker Panama 54935 7049342	16/05/99	Balikpapan (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship	Mooring ropes stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
13	ARISBE Bulk carrier Bahamas 19602 8413473	19/05/99	Jakarta outer anchorage (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship and broke open the forecastle store	Spares missing	Crew chased away armed robbers	-	ICC-IMB	-
14	ALCESTIS Bulk carrier Bahamas 26103 8414441	19/05/99	Manila berth (Philippines)	While berthed, armed robbers boarded the ship unnoticed	One liferaft and Suez canal projector stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
15	GLORIA 1 Container ship Malta 17827	20/05/99	Belawan roads (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship, attempted to steal contents of containers and escaped	-	Crew spotted the armed robbers and raised the alarm	-	ICC-IMB	-

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16	JET TANKER Tanker Singapore 6535 7908914	24/05/99	02°52'.00N 107°59'.00E (Indonesia)	While underway, a boat closely followed the ship on the starboard side. Armed robbers attempted to board the ship	-	Crew raised the alarm	-	ICC-IMB	-
17	PAC BALI Container ship Liberia 2518 9180750	24/05/99	02°57'.00S 106°11'.00E Tg. Paku (Indonesia)	While underway, two speedboats followed the ship for an hour. Armed robbers attempted to board the ship but left when spotted by the crew	-	Crew raised alarm	-	ICC-IMB	-
18	PETRO FOREMOST Tanker Singapore 12633 9207273	26/05/99	01°15'.00N 103°25'.00E Singapore straits	While underway, two speedboats followed the ship closely and left when spotted by the crew	-	Third officer directed Aldis light on boat and rest of crew raised voices	-	ICC-IMB	-
19	SINAR TOBA Container ship Singapore 9923 8115605	27/05/99	02°49'.80S 107°17'.30E  (Indonesia)	While sailing, six armed robbers boarded the ship from a small speedboat armed with knives. They took the Master hostage and escaped in a small open craft	US\$18,000 stolen from the ship's safe, US\$5,000 robbed from the Master and valuables worth US\$3,000 stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
20	QUIXADA Chemical tanker Brazil 14697 7357543	28/05/99	03°56'.20N 098°46'.80E Belawan (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship	-	Crew chased the armed robbers away	-	ICC-IMB	-

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21	MEXICO 1 Ferry Mexico	30/05/99	Cozumel Island (Mexico)	While underway, ferrying 253 passengers from a holiday island, armed robbers with automatic weapons and hand grenades boarded the ferry. They stole cash from several passengers and an armoured truck. They threw two security guards off the ferry and beat up one of the crew. They also destroyed the ferry's communications equipment	Two security guards thrown overboard one of which drowned. One of the crew beaten. Cash stolen and communications equipment destroyed	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
22	DORTHE OLDENDORFF Bulk carrier Liberia 13690 9044023	31/05/99	Sandakan Sabah (Malaysia)	While berthed, armed robbers boarded the ship from a small boat	Ship's stores stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
23	Name not reported Container ship Antigua and Barbuda 12029	01/06/99	Santos (Brazil)	While at berth, ten armed robbers boarded the ship and opened a container. They loaded cartons into their speedboat and escaped	Cartons stolen from container	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
24	Name not reported	09/06/99	Benin River (Nigeria)	While underway, local tribesmen opened fire on the ship	Portholes damaged	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
25	Name not reported Supply ship	10/06/99	Lake Maracaibo (Venezuela)	While at anchor, robbers armed with pistols boarded the ship, overpowered one watchman and threatened the crew	Electrical equipment stolen. They stole electrical equipment including computers, stereos, radios, coffee makers, microwave ovens, etc	-	-	ICC-IMB	-

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26	MAYA Reefer Netherlands 2989 5230117	11/06/99 02:15	Tema anchorage 3 miles offshore (Ghana)	While at anchor the 2nd mate noted armed robbers. Some cargo was taken and thrown overboard to be picked up by a canoe	Undetermined number of cartons of frozen fish stolen	Crew inside and vigilant around accommodation, not provoking armed robbers, as unsure of their number and whether they were armed. After a while the crew blew the whistle scaring off the armed robbers who escaped	Yes, Tema port control through VHF channel 14	Netherlands	Patrol boat sent to ship to search surrounding waters. Directed to suspected radar target but no arrest attempted
27	NORDISLE Tanker Cyprus 57148 9150389	16/06/99	Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)	While loading oil at offshore terminal, armed robbers boarded the ship	Mooring ropes stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB	-
28	Name not reported Yacht Germany	24/06/99	100km SE of Northern town of Boosaaso Somalia	While underway from New Zealand to an island in the Indian Ocean, the yacht was attacked and hijacked by Somali pirates. They held the four members of crew as hostage, demanding a ransom	Ransom of US\$50,000 demanded	-	The German Diplomatic Mission in Djibouti mediating with the clan leaders for the release of the German hostages	ICC-IMB	-
29	GREAT HAPPY Bulk carrier Hong Kong, China 26094 9136474	01/07/99 02:30 LT	At Owendo anchorage (Gabon)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship and tried to remove mooring ropes from the forecastle	One life raft in the forecastle deck missing	Watchkeepers raised the alarm with the ship's whistle and general alarm	Yes, Port Control of Owendo and Note of Protest forwarded to Owendo Port Authorities by the ship's agent	Hong Kong, China	-

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30	PANDORA P Bulk carrier Panama 22076 8100870	07/07/99 04:20 LT	Anchorage Buenaventura (Colombia)	While at anchor, 5 armed robbers (3 with small guns, 2 with large knives) boarded the ship from a speedboat and left when spotted by the crew	-	Alert crew sounded the alarm and whistle	Yes, Coast Guard informed	BIMCO	-

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