



Ref. T1/13.01

MSC/Circ.933
31 August 1999
Original: ENGLISH

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during August 1999

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 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 incidents received between 31 July 1999 (MSC/Circ.928) and 31 August 1999.

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 1,534, an increase of 24 since 31 July 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, MSC/Circ.925 and MSC/Circ.928.

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)."

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. 933 ANNEX Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	SIDRELA Bulk carrier Bahamas 22009 8316285	29/04/99	Bangka Strait (Indonesia)	While underway, armed robbers approached the ship in an unlit boat and threw a hook over the ship's rail. The crew searched the ship but found no-one	-	Crew spotted the armed robbers attempting to board and sounded the whistle. The ship's course was altered 90 degrees in order to see the armed robbers' boat. The crew searched the ship but found no-one	Yes, Marine Police notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
2	ZIM VENEZUELA III Container ship Netherlands Antilles 7167	02/05/99	Guanta (Venezuela)	While at berth, about 15 armed robbers boarded the ship	Contents from containers stolen	Local police informed	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
3	BETA I Bulk carrier Panama 23705 7404607	09/05/99	Cartagena (Colombia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship	One crew member assaulted. Heaving line stolen	-	Yes, Coast Guard notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Coast Guard arrived and boarded the ship
4	GALAXY I Tug Malaysia 95	05/06/99	Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia)	While at anchor, the tug had one security guard onboard. The next day the owners discovered the tug was missing	One person missing. Tug believed hijacked	-	Yes, Police notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	

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5	GALAXY II Barge Malaysia 1077	05/06/99	Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia)	While at anchor, the barge was moored in the anchorage and went missing along with the tug boat	Barge stolen	-	Yes, Police notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	
6	KAREN SACKFIELD Bulk carrier Bahamas 21030	23/06/99	Manila (Philippines)	While at anchor, armed robbers were spotted trying to steal from the forecastle store	-	Crew chased away the armed robbers	Yes, Port Authorities notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
7	Name not reported Tankship - not specified	25/06/99	Puerto La Cruz (Venezuela)	While at anchor, two armed robbers boarded the ship and were spotted by deck watch on patrol	Crew mustered	-	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
8	KIMOLIAN PRIDE Bulk carrier Cyprus 12844 8715821	02/07/99	Rio Haina (Dominican Republic)	While berthed, armed robbers boarded the ship	Ship's properties stolen	-	Yes, Port Control notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Police arrived too late
9	VEGA Refrigerated cargo carrier Lithuania 3172 8204078	11/07/99	Escravos River (Nigeria)	While underway, armed robbers ordered the ship to stop the engine. The Master refused and continued to proceed. The armed robbers opened fire with automatic weapons	Master injured and extensive damage to the ship sustained	-	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Army investigators boarded the ship and surveyed the damage
10	ALERT Bulk carrier Malta 7918	13/07/99	22°13'.00N 091°45'.00E (Bangladesh)	While at anchor, about ten armed robbers boarded the ship	Ship's property stolen	-	Yes, Port Control notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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11	PRINCESS SEIKO General dry cargo ship Panama 6641 9100504	13/07/99	Samarinda (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship	1 crew member assaulted and paint stolen	-	Yes, Port Control notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Police arrived and recovered all paint and chased away all small boats
12	KARIN CAT General dry cargo ship Denmark (DIS) 1501 8615576	13/07/99	Outer anchorage Chittagong (Bangladesh)	While at anchor, 3 canoes came alongside and about 30 armed robbers boarded the ship	Ship's properties stolen	Crew mustered	Yes, Port Control notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Navy patrol boat arrived at scene
13	ROSE Chemical tanker Malaysia 2611 9030759	16/07/99	Belawan (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship	770 litres of paint stolen	Vessels in the vicinity alerted	Yes, Pilot Station notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
14	Name not reported	19/07/99	Douala (Cameroon)	While berthed, about ten armed robbers boarded the ship	One crew member held at knifepoint. Large amounts of paint stolen	-	Yes, local authorities notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
15	KILCHEM OCEANIA Chemical tanker Bahamas 4497 8401846	20/07/99	Off Nigerian waters	While underway, pirates armed with guns boarded the ship	Two Russian crew members kidnapped. Ship's properties stolen and ship's equipment damaged	Ship's P&I representative negotiating the safe release of the two crew members	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
16	AMER DEEP General dry cargo ship Cyprus 13087 7628241	20/07/99	Manila, Berth 13 (Philippines)	While berthed, armed robbers boarded the ship	Ship's cash and crew's valuables worth US\$17,900 stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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17	BUNGA MELATI DUA Chemical tanker Malaysia 22254 9123659	20/07/99	03°55'.00N 098°46'.00E Belawan (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship from two wooden boats	Ship's properties stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
18	ENAM ENAM KADEPE Tankship - not specified Panama 14142 9176412	24/07/99	00°43'.00S 104°10'.00E (Indonesia)	While underway, four robbers armed with guns boarded the ship and two remained in the boat	3 crew members assaulted. Cash and ship's property stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
19	MCC VANTAGE Container ship Cyprus 5400 7422893	24/07/99	Belawan (Indonesia)	While at anchor, four robbers armed with knives boarded the ship	Deck watchman assaulted	Yes, Pilot station informed	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
20	NEWCO ENDURANCE Ferry Sri Lanka	25/07/99	Trincomalee (Sri Lanka)	While berthed, Sri Lankan armed robbers boarded the ferry and exploded a bomb	1 crew member killed. Ferry destroyed	-	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
21	GINGER Bulk carrier Panama 6123 7394230	28/07/99	Gelasa Straits (Indonesia)	While underway, four robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship	Master assaulted and wounded and three crew members taken hostage	Crew resisted the attackers	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
22	UNI-OBTAIN Container ship Panama 19698 8113865	29/07/99	Jakarta anchorage (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship	One crew member taken hostage. Engine spares stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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23	SC HORIZON Tankship - not specified Liberia 57082 9002245	30/07/99	Balikpapan (Indonesia)	While at anchor, armed robbers boarded the ship	600 litres of paint stolen	-	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
24	ALIM Tankship - not specified Malta 16935 7033836	02/08/99	Cochin (India)	While at anchor, robbers armed with knives boarded the ship	Mooring ropes stolen	-	Yes, Coast Guard and Pilot Station notified	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
25	FU YUNG SHAN (Correction to MSC/Circ.903, No.3) Tanker China 750	06/01/99	Off Lantau (Hong Kong, China)	"According to press reports, whilst anchored, armed persons in a speedboat boarded the ship and under the pretext of checking smuggling, they sailed the ship into a mainland port where she was detained. According to the Hong Kong, China, Marine Department , the ship was actually boarded in Chinese waters outside the waters of HKSAR. The ship was not actually anchored but steaming towards Sokos islands at that time. Subsequently, the crew reported that the ship had been detained at Nam Sha Pan Yu by the PRC customs. This was subsequently confirmed by PRC customs"	-	-	-	ICC-IMB (email dated 23/8/99)	-

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26	HANG FUNG (Correction to MSC/Circ.928, No.1) Tanker Panama	06/01/99	off Lantau (Hong Kong, China)	"According to press reports, whilst at anchor a boat came alongside and persons from the boat boarded the ship under the pretext of checking smuggling. They transferred 300 tons of gas oil to their boat and sailed into mainland territorial waters before Hong Kong, China, Marine Police arrived. According to Hong Kong, China, Marine Department the fuel barge was boarded by PRC customs officers near the boundary of HKSAR of Sokos islands. The incident was reported to Hong Kong, China, Police at 16:04 hrs on 6 January 1999. Two HKSAR Police fast patrol craft arrived at the scene at 16:09 hrs and the Police launch attended the scene at 16:12 hrs. On being advised by the HKSAR Police that they were operating near the HKSAR boundary, the four mainland customs officers left the fuel barge immediately. Enquiries by HKSAR Police have revealed that no fuel was stolen from the barge"		-	-	ICC-IMB (email dated 23/8/99)	
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