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MSC/Circ.937
30 November 1999

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during November 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 October 1999 (MSC/Circ.934) and 30 November 1999.

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 1,587, an increase of 10 since 31 October 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, MSC/Circ.928, MSC/Circ.933, MSC/Circ.934 and MSC/Circ.936.

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**

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/Circ. 937 ANNEX Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	SANTA BAHARI General dry cargo ship Belize 4882 7310715	04/01/99	Cigading (Indonesia)	A gang of armed robbers attacked the ship	Part of the ship's cargo of rice stolen	-	-	ICS	-
2	Name not reported Tug United States	19/01/99	Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)	Ten armed robbers boarded the ship	Electronic equipment and cash stolen	-	-	ICS	-
3	SEABULK COMMAND Tug Marshall Islands 500 7128863	09/03/99	Alongside at Chittagong (Bangladesh)	Robbers armed with knives boarded the ship	Mooring ropes and other items stolen	-	-	ICS	-
4	AL BADIYAH Tanker Kuwait 26356 8619443	31/05/99 03:45 LT	Chittagong (Bangladesh)	Four robbers armed with knives were seen boarding the ship	Emergency towing equipment and buoy stolen	Alarm raised	Chittagong Port Control informed and letter of protest issued	ICS	-
5	SIAM CHANCHAI Tanker Thailand	08/06/99 15:00 LT	02°20'.00N 104°15'.00E Tioman Island (Malaysia)	Twelve robbers armed with pistols and knives approached the ship while underway from two speed boats, boarded and subdued the Captain and crew	All 15 crew, except one were released	-	-	Thailand	The Thai Embassy in China informed the shipowners that the Chinese authorities had arrested a tanker named OMY II, suspected to be the hijacked Siam Chanchai. After investigation, the tanker was returned to the owners and the crew were released

*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

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. 937 ANNEX Page 2
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	SADYBA Yacht Poland POL 1180	19/09/99	Off the North coast of Somalia	Reported missing	-	-	Yes, Notice to Mariners issued	UNDP	-
7	UNICORN 1 Fishing vessel Nigeria 137	13/10/99 09:46 UTC	(Nigeria)	Nigerian armed robbers hijacked the ship	-	-	Nigerian authorities were asked for assistance	United States	-
8	Name not reported Passenger ship	16/10/99	Off Buenaventura (Colombia)	Four armed robbers hijacked the ship while underway, taking it to a beach where 13 male Colombian nationals were held hostage for ransom while the Captain, women and children were released	One crewmember killed in an attempted hijacking of another boat	-	-	United States	-
9	ALONDRA RAINBOW General dry cargo ship Panama 7762	22/10/99	Strait of Malacca	Ten pirates armed with pistols, knives and swords boarded the ship while underway from speedboats. They hijacked the ship and the crew was set adrift	The ship and its cargo of 7,000 tons of aluminium ingots remained missing for 23 days	-	-	United States	The Indian Navy and Coast Guard detected a similar ship called MEGA RAMA south- east of Kanyakumari, India. The ship, which was confirmed to be the ALONDRA RAINBOW, was boarded and taken to Mumbai under escort and the pirates were arrested
10	Name not reported Unknown Cyprus	26/10/99 03:00 LT	Ravenna (Italy)	Armed robbers stole cash from the cabins of the Master, Chief Mate and Chief Engineer undetected while the ship was berthed	Cash of US\$3,150.00 stolen	-	-	United States	-

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