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MSC/Circ.938
31 December 1999

REPORTS ON ACTS OF PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS

Issued monthly - Acts reported during December 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 30 November 1999 (MSC/Circ.937) and 31 December 1999.

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 1,621, an increase of 34 since 30 November 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, MSC/Circ.936 and MSC/Circ.937.

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°	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. 938 ANNEX Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	AMAN BINTULU Gas carrier - LNG Malaysia 16399 9016492	20/04/99	Bintulu Port (Malaysia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor	Ship's stores stolen	-	Yes, port control and PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Patrol boat arrived
2	PUTERI FIRUS Gas carrier - LNG Malaysia 86205 9030840	20/04/99	Bintulu Port (Malaysia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor	Ship's stores stolen	-	Yes, port control and PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Patrol boat arrived
3	JASMINE ACE Ro-ro-cargo ship Panama 8081 9167502	27/04/99	Bintulu Port (Malaysia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor	Ship's stores stolen	-	Yes, port control and PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Patrol boat arrived
4	CORRELATION (CORRECTION TO MSC/CIRC.936 N°19) Yacht France	11/09/99	Off the coast of Somalia (Somalia)	Armed robbers boarded the yacht while underway	One British crew member shot dead	-	-	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	An investigation is being carried out by the flag authority
5	ASPIDOFOROS Bulk carrier Bahamas 21030 8018015	25/09/99 00:00 UTC	26°30'.00N 056°35'.00E Hormuz Strait	Two boats with four pirates in each boat followed the ship while underway	-	Alarm sounded, all crew alerted and fire hoses on standby. Ship started sailing in a zigzag fashion	Yes, Port Authorities and Dubai and Fujairah Coast Guard informed	BIMCO	-
6	TOPAZ Bulk carrier Singapore 11036 7709526	03/10/99	Samarinda (Indonesia)	Armed robbers posing as stevedores boarded the ship	A large number of slings were stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7	YRIA Bulk carrier Greece 15639 7641061	06/10/99	Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)	A gang of armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor despite the fact that local watchmen had been hired. The armed robbers held the watchmen and crew at bay, broke the padlocks on the hatch covers and stole ship's equipment. The same gang returned and attempted a second attack	Bags of rice, ropes and other ship's equipment stolen	Crew repelled second attack	-	BIMCO	-
8	CRYSTAL BULKER Bulk carrier Philippines 18302 9116280	07/10/99	Tanjung Priok (Indonesia)	Robbers armed with guns boarded the ship while at anchor and threatened the crew who were taken hostage until they left the ship	Large amounts of ship's stores stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
9	TINKER BELL Bulk carrier Panama 14743 9122899	13/10/99	Belawan (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor and tried to open the forecandle manhole	-	Alert crew switched on deck lights	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
10	L. STAR Tanker Panama 4509	17/10/99	Belawan (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor and attempted to steal from the forecandle store	-	Alert crew deterred the armed robbers	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
11	LAKE GEORGE General dry cargo ship Marshall Islands 2038 8001048	17/10/99	Belawan (Indonesia)	Two small boats came alongside the ship while at anchor and armed robbers boarded	-	Alert crew deterred the armed robbers	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
12	BUNGA MAS TIGA Container ship Malaysia 7998 9003161	20/10/99	Tg. Priok (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor and entered the engine room. They were spotted by the duty oiler who informed the bridge	-	Alarm raised	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
13	OLYMPIC GALAXY Bulk carrier Panama 35417 8021804	20/10/99	Tanjung Priok (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship from stern while at anchor	-	Anti-piracy watch raised the alarm	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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14	HUDSON GRACHT General dry cargo ship Netherlands 4281 8103389	20/10/99 02:00	Anchorage Port-au-Prince (Haiti)	During the night a small boat with 3 armed robbers came alongside the ship. One of the armed robbers climbed up the anchor chain and reached the forecandle as the watch was changing. Two of the watchmen went to look and after having shackles thrown at them fled to their accommodation. The crew warned the second mate who was also on watch and saw the armed robbers get away	-	Watch doubled and close contact kept via portable VHF's	-	BIMCO	-
15	INTERMAC 401 Barge Panama 1678	21/10/99	Batam Island (Indonesia)	The barge went missing while at anchor	Barge stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
16	BROADGATE Bulk carrier Panama 20986 8213847	22/10/99 09:00 LT	Chittagong Anchorage (Bangladesh)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor. They stole a rope and escaped after the crew was alerted	1 mooring rope stolen	Crew alerted and watch intensified	Yes, port authorities informed	BIMCO	-
17	CHEMBULK TRADER Chemical tanker Liberia 12758 8014203	23/10/99	Belawan (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor, broke open the forecandle store and threw ship's stores overboard into their boat	Ship's stores stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
18	JARU BHUM Container ship Singapore 8571 8214528	24/10/99	Penang (Malaysia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor and stole cargo from containers	Ship's cargo stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	Police patrol boat arrived
19	MARINE EXPRESS Bulk carrier Turkey 21044 8005898	25/10/99	Belawan (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship via cable chain while at anchor	Alarm raised	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
20	ZENO Bulk carrier Greece 23381 8005599	25/10/99	02°58'.00S 107°17'.00E (Indonesia)	Robbers armed with long knives boarded the ship while underway. When the alarm was raised, the armed robbers escaped	Two crew members taken hostage. Crew's belongings stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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21	ASSETS ENERGY General dry cargo ship Singapore 4746 8025032	27/10/99	02°55'.00S 107°17'.00E Gelasa Straits (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while underway	Crew's belongings stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
22	PERFORMANCE 9 Tanker Singapore 2100	28/10/99	Lepria Straits (Indonesia)	Robbers armed with knives boarded the ship while underway, tied up the third officer, AB and OS on duty and took them as hostage to the Master's cabin	Cash and crew's belongings stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
23	SINAR SUMBA General dry cargo ship Singapore 7873 8209614	29/10/99	Gelasa Straits (Indonesia)	Robbers armed with guns boarded the ship while underway and entered the bridge	The Master and second officer were taken hostage. Cash and crew's belongings stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
24	RAMFORM CHALLENGER Supply ship Norway 9209 9141455	30/10/99	Makasar Straits (Indonesia)	A fishing boat came alongside the ship's stern while underway. One armed robber boarded the ship	-	Crew mustered and chased away the armed robber	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
25	APPOLLO Fishing vessel Malaysia	30/10/99	Teluk Bahang (Malaysia)	Armed robbers boarded and stole the vessel while fishing	Three crew members were thrown overboard and had to swim for more than four hours to reach Langkawi	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
26	LEVIN Livestock carrier Singapore 4643 8103755	03/11/99	Panjang (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor, entered the engine room and tied up the duty engineer. When the telephone alarm was triggered by a call from the wheelhouse, the armed robbers escaped	Engine spares stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
27	ASEAN CHEMISTRY Tanker Panama 3866 9168336	10/11/99 14:00 UTC	03°01'.00S 107°19'.00E (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while underway	Chief Engineer and Captain handcuffed. Cash and personal valuables stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
28	SUN RAY Tanker Malta 38626 7379072	10/11/99 04:00 LT	Durian Straits (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while underway	Master tied up. Ship's equipment stolen	-	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-

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29	ARTEMIS Container ship Panama 7565 9037240	13/11/99 03:55 LT	Penang (Malaysia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor, removed cargo from the containers and threw them into the water. They escaped when spotted by the crew	-	-	Yes, port control and PRC relayed message to SAR and Marine Police HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
30	SEA BIRD General dry cargo ship Denmark (DIS) 3273 8913930	30/11/99	Chittagong (Bangladesh)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while at anchor and tried to break open the forecandle store	-	Crew deterred the armed robbers	Yes, PRC relayed message to Coast Guard	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
31	ERKAN METE Bulk carrier Turkey 12668 7527461	02/12/99	Tanjung Priok (Indonesia)	Armed robbers attempted to board the ship while at anchor	-	Crew deterred the armed robbers	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
32	RUBY INDAH Bulk carrier Singapore 43217 9172416	02/12/99	Gelasa Straits (Indonesia)	An unidentified boat came very close to the ship's stern while underway. When alarm and deck lighting were activated, the armed robbers' boat turned away	-	Alarm raised and deck lighting turned on	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
33	SEA BIRD General dry cargo ship Denmark (DIS) 3273 8913930	02/12/99	Chittagong (Bangladesh)	Armed robbers on a boat threw stones at the ship's crew while at anchor to frighten them	-	Crew mustered on deck to prevent the armed robbers from boarding	Yes, PRC relayed message to Coast Guard and contacted the Port Control	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
34	DRAGON TEKONG General dry cargo ship Indonesia 7367 7411923	03/12/99	Gelasa Straits (Indonesia)	Armed robbers boarded the ship while underway	-	Crew resisted and armed robbers left	Yes, PRC relayed message to SAR, Marine Police HQ and Navy HQ	ICC-IMB PRC Kuala Lumpur	-
35	LOUISE Product tanker Liberia 19925 8706820	06/12/99 20:35 UTC	09°09'.00N 014°04'.00W Gulf of Guinea	An unidentified boat with about 15 robbers armed with mounted guns and rifles approached the ship while 18 miles off the port of Conakry. As there was no response to the crew's query as to what their intention was the ship started the engines and moved away. The armed robbers then started firing for about 30 minutes, targeting the bridge, radio room and accommodation	A few of the crew were in shock. Ship suffered extensive damage to accommodation, bridge, radio room and some damage to the hull	Alarm raised and contingency plan activated. All crew assembled in one designated public place and accommodation sealed	Yes, reported to Port Control on channel 16 and alerts sent on DSC VHF, MF/HF, Sat A and Sat C	BIMCO	-

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