



Ref. T1/13.01

MSC/Circ.968  
31 May 2000

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

### **Issued monthly - Acts reported during May 2000**

1 In pursuance of the Maritime Safety Committee's instruction to the Secretariat to issue monthly reports of all incidents of piracy<sup>1</sup> 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 reports on incidents received between 28 April 2000 (MSC/Circ.945) and 31 May 2000.

2 The total number of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships so far reported to the Organization is 1,760, an increase of 2 since 28 April 2000.

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.940, MSC/Circ.941, MSC/Circ.943 and MSC/Circ.945 .

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<sup>1</sup> "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. 968 ANNEX Page 1
									Action by the coastal State
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	CAPITAINE FEARN General cargo ship Vanuatu 3119 7819826	13/02/00 03:00 LT	09°25'.00S 159°58'.50E Honiara Roads (Solomon Islands)	Armed robbers boarded the ship	All the container seals in one container bay were broken, one container was opened and two vehicles on deck were broken into. Crew's personal effects, ship's equipment and cargo stolen	Mate on watch spotted the pirates while doing his rounds	Yes, Local Police informed	Vanuatu	Investigation by Local Police
2	ARCTIC DAWN Refrigerated cargo ship Bahamas 9755 8217611	01/05/00 00:03 LT	Guayaquil Anchorage, 4.5 nm off Data Sea Buoy (Ecuador)	Five robbers armed with guns and knives boarded the ship while at anchor and escaped using two blue open boats	Crew held at gunpoint in their accommodation quarters. Locks on 3 doors of no.2 and 3 deck houses broken open. Assorted paints, paint thinner, standard slings, cool carriers, one life buoy with self igniting light and line and one fire hose stolen	The deck security tried to stop the armed robbers from boarding the ship but were fired at and locked themselves in their accommodation quarters. Ship's whistle continuously sounded	Yes, Emergency Stations immediately called and Data Pilot Station contacted on VHF	BIMCO	-

\*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