

REPUBLIC



OF CYPRUS

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS**

Circular No. 17/2002

TEN 1/5

TEN 1/75

10 July 2002

To all Owners,
Managers and Representatives
of vessels flying the Cyprus flag

Subject: Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in the Territorial Waters of Somalia

Further to my Circulars dated 06/08/92, 23/09/93 and 10/02/95 in respect of piracy against ships, I wish to inform you about the latest incident of piracy and armed robbery which took place in June 2002, against a ship flying the Cyprus flag, that was on an innocent passage through the territorial waters of Somalia.

A gang of 13 armed men boarded the vessel while she had temporarily dropped anchor close to somalian coasts due to an engine problem, forced the master to hand over all the money in notes on board and captured the crew. The vessel was released approximately 3 weeks later, following payment of ransom.

Therefore, I would like to draw your attention on the matter and advise you to avoid passage close to the coast line of Somalia and if possible to avoid passage closer than 20 miles off the somalian coast. (Furthermore please note that Somalia claims a territorial sea of 200 nautical miles)

Recalling my circular dated 06/08/1992, in order to enable the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to participate effectively in various forms of international co-operation for the prevention and suppression of piracy at sea, you are, once again, requested to report promptly to this Department any incident of piracy or attempt to commit such an act, suffered by a Cyprus Vessel.

The Owners and Managers of ships under the Cyprus flag are urged to cooperate with us towards this end.

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

CC: Acting Permanent Secretary ,Ministry of Communications and Works
Permanent Secretary ,Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
Diplomatic Mission and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
Cyprus Shipping Council
Association of Cypriot Shipowners (Sea Rovers) Ltd
Union of Cypriot Shipowners
PEO Trade Union
SEK Trade Union
Cyprus Bar Association

CPL/CPL