

THE MARITIME PIRACY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PROGRAMME

Dr Peter M SWIFT

Chairman

Steering Group Chairman of MHPR, London, GB

Introduction

The Maritime Piracy Humanitarian Response Programme (“MHPRP”) is a pan-industry alliance of ship owners, managers, manning agents, insurers, maritime unions, professional and welfare associations working together with governmental organisations with one aim, namely -:

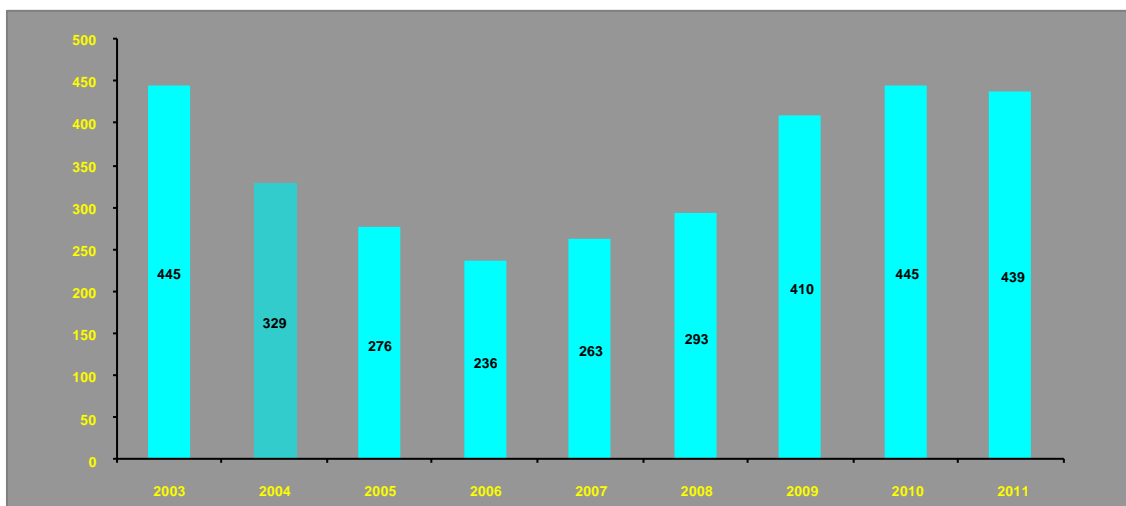
“to assist seafarers and their families with the humanitarian aspects of a traumatic incident caused by a piracy attack, armed robbery or being taken hostage”.

This charitable, non-political, programme was formally launched in 2011 and funded initially by the ITF Seafarers Trust and the TK Foundation.

Background

Since 2003 more than 3,000 ships and nearly 80,000 crew members have been subject to serious attacks by pirates and armed robbers. These have taken place in the South China Sea, Malacca Straits and Caribbean and more recently have intensified further off the Somali Coast into the Indian Ocean and off the West African Coast in the Gulf of Guinea. [See figure 1].

Fig. 1: Total number of piracy/armed robbery attacks since 2003



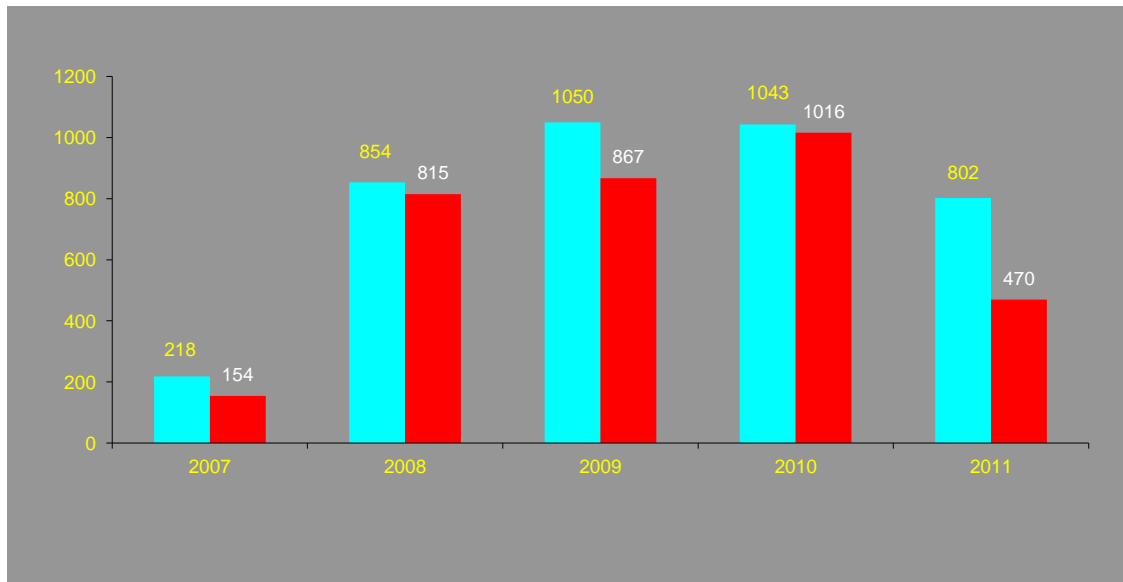
Source: IMB

In the period 2007-2011, with increased pirate activity off Somalia 3,322 seafarers have been held hostage out of a total of 3,967 worldwide. [See figure 2].

The spread of the nationalities of the crews held hostage (2008-2012) [Appendix 1] illustrates the international impact of piracy and why the concerns and anxieties of transiting piracy-infested waters are shared by all seafarers and families. Out of the world's 1.2 million seafarers, it is estimated that at any one time about 8% of them are sailing towards or in such seas.

Fig. 2: Number of Seafarers held Hostage

Light blue/left: Worldwide. Red/right: Somalia



Source: IMB

Based on first hand feedback, MPHRP's Trauma Consultants have estimated that of those held hostage 14% of seafarers have needed or do/will need some intervention and 3% have needed or will need medical intervention. However, add to this figure the many more that have experienced unsuccessful attacks and those who are affected by the fears and worries of sailing in high risk areas together with the large numbers of family members affected and it shows the enormous level of concern and the need for appropriate humanitarian responses.

Programme and Structure

It was against the background above that the MPHRP was established in late 2010 and formally launched in London in September 2011.

In 2012 MPHRP was established as a (not-for-profit) Private Limited (by Guarantee) Company in England and Wales, [Company no 8062962]. It is governed by a Board of Directors and is supported and advised by a Programme Steering Group made up of representatives of the programme partners and observers, [Appendix 2]. The Programme is staffed and managed by a small international team based in Europe with regional representation in India, the Philippines and Ukraine, [Appendix 3].

Work of the MPHRP

To date, the work of the MPHRP has included:

Good Practice Guides

which have been developed for **Shipping Companies and Manning Agents** for the Humanitarian Support of **Seafarers and their Families** through the three phases of a piracy incident from pre-deployment, during the crisis and post release / post incident (<http://www.mphrp.org/MPHRP-Good-Practice-Guide.pdf>), and

in a similar manner for **Welfare Responders** [i.e. seafarer welfare associations] - for both those with effectively little pre-training and those already better trained,

Training Guides

including **pre-departure piracy awareness training guides** for crew and officers, covering piracy overview, protection measures, coping in a hostage situation, family briefing and more, and

“**train the trainer**” courses for the pre-departure training guides and for the welfare responder guide in conjunction with ICMA and ICSW,

Support Networks

building networks providing **primary care** (trained first-responders with appropriate skills, e.g. welfare associations) and accredited **secondary / professional aftercare** (medical, psycho-social, other),

Database of Responders

developing a data base of marine and non-marine organisations potentially able to provide a **response to seafarers' and family needs**,

24 Hour Piracy Helpline

which is an International, multilingual and toll-free **referral service for seafarers and seafarers' families** affected by piracy,

Website (www.mphrp.org)

established to **highlight and promote awareness of the humanitarian aspects of Maritime Piracy** and the work of MPHRP,

Direct Support to Seafarers and Families

including through the regional representative offices, where local voluntary groups have also been established to **support seafarers and families and to**

liaise with local, regional and national governments and others within the maritime communities.

Courses and Workshops

including delivering “**Prevention is Better than Cure**” interactive workshops in partnership with the NATO Shipping Centre, EUNAVFOR, MSCHOA, OCIMF, ISF and IMB, developing a “**Response to Piracy**” module that can be inserted into company training courses, and assisting companies on care after an event.

This work has been based on extensive fact-finding and feedback from those who have experienced piracy and armed robbery incidents, the open sharing of good practices among the Programme’s partners and the expanded services and support provided by the welfare associations.

The work of **MPHRP** is widely **recognised** within the **international maritime community** as well as within the **Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia**, (CGPCS), established by the UN, and in the **IMO**, with its guides and other products referred to extensively and its support services appreciated by seafarers and families alike.

Future Work

The MPHRP plans to continue to build on its work of the past two years to provide a 'continuum of care' and support to all seafarers and families affected by piracy and to cooperate with like-minded agencies, organisations and welfare providers.

If you can help, would like more information or to contact anyone in the programme please email: response@mphrp.org .

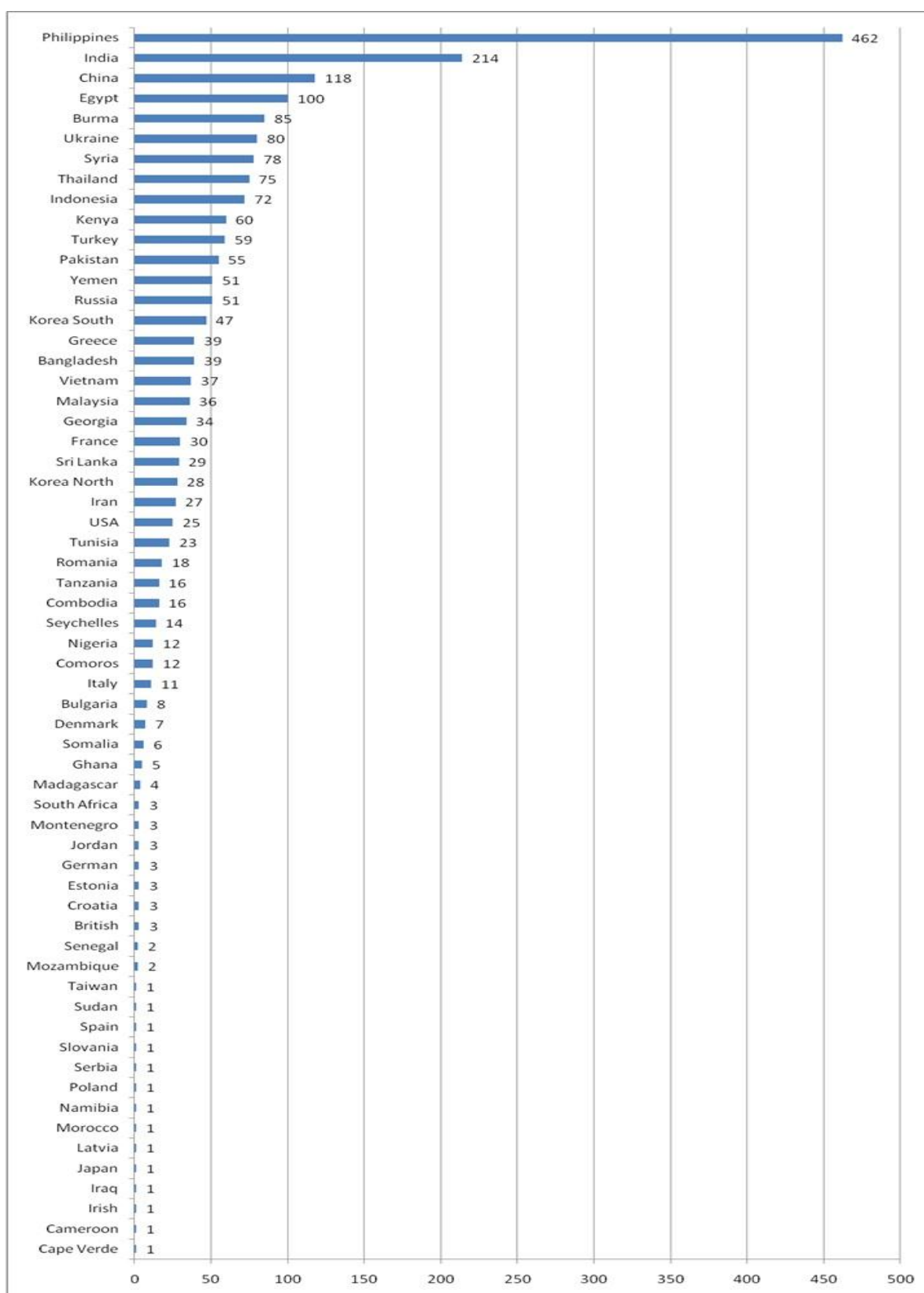


Acknowledgement

MPHRP wishes to acknowledge the tremendous assistance and support that is provided by many of the Programme's partners and enables it to undertake its vital work.



Appendix 1: Nationalities of Crew held



Source: IMB

Appendix 2: Partners

The MPHRP partner and observer organisations are:

- Asian Shipowners Forum (Pending)
- BIMCO (The Baltic and International Maritime Council)
- EUNAVFOR (European Naval Force – Horn of Africa)
- IACAS International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains
- ICMA (International Christian Maritime Association)
- ICSW (International Committee on Seafarers Welfare)
- IGP&I (International Group of P&I Clubs)
- IFSMA (International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations)
- ILO (International Labour Organisation)
- IMB (International Maritime Bureau)
- IMEC (International Maritime Employers' Committee)
- IMHA (International Maritime Health Association)
- IMO (International Maritime Organisation)
- Intercargo (International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners)
- InterManager (International Ship Managers' Association)
- INTERTANKO (International Association of Independent Tanker Owners)
- IPTA (International Parcel Tankers Association)
- ISF (International Shipping Federation)
- ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation)
- ITF Seafarers Trust,
- IUMI (International Union of Marine Insurance)
- Master Mariners Association
- NATO Shipping Centre
- Nautical Institute
- Nautilus International
- OCIMF (Oil Companies International Marine Forum)
- SIGTTO (Society of International Gas Tankers & Terminal Operators Ltd)
- TK Foundation
- WISTA (Women's International Shipping and Trading Association)

Appendix 3: MPHRP staffing and contact details

The Programme is staffed and managed assisted by the following:

Programme Director: Mr Roy Paul

Assistant Programme Director: Mr Toon van de Sande

Programme Manager: Mr Alexander J Wallace

Regional Director – South Asia region: Mr Chirag Bahri

Regional Director – CISB region: Mr Alexander Dimitrevich

Regional Director – South East Asia region: Mr Rancho de Guia Villavicencio of SEACOM.

Psychosocial and other advisers: International as required

website: www.mprhrp.org

e-mail: response@mprhrp.org

telephone: 00800 7323 2737