

Maritime security: piracy and maritime terrorism. New threats, new perspectives

Brussels, 12th March, 2008

Prof. Silvia Ciotti Galletti

What are we talking about?

- *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 subparagraph a) or b).*

United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982; art. 101

The consequences

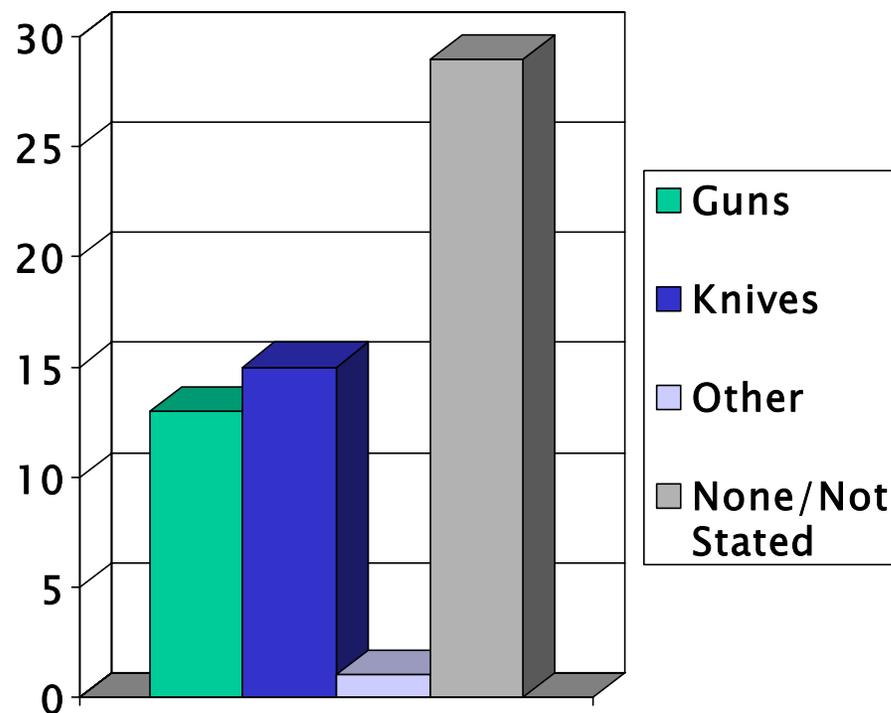
- the above mentioned illegal acts of violence or detention, or the acts of depredation, have to be committed for *private ends*, such profit; this should keep outside the field of piracy actions committed with political (i.e. terrorism) or war purposes, and similar;
- these illegal acts of violence or detention, or the acts of depredation, have to be committed *on the high seas or in a place outside the jurisdiction of any State* → **armed robbery**

The IMB definition

- Used for statistical purposes
- Defines piracy *and* armed robbery
- (ICC International Maritime Bureau, *Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships, Annual Report, 1st January – 31st December 2007* , p.1)
- *An act of boarding or attempting to board any ship with the apparent intent to commit theft or any other crime and with the apparent intent or capability to use force in the furtherance of that act.*

What we know... and what we don't!

- Weapons used by attackers
- Source: IMO Reports on Acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships, October/December 2007
- 69 reported acts; 11 were alleged attempted attacks

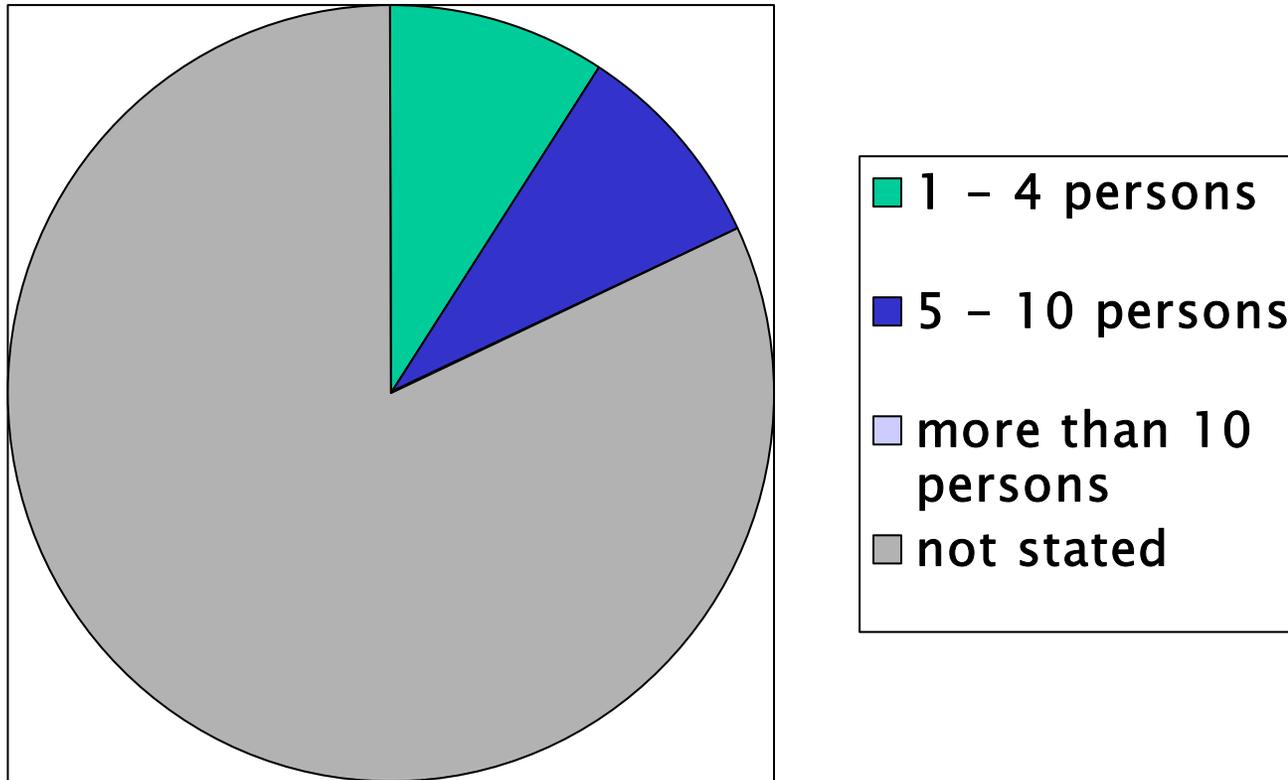


Something 's missing...

Weapons used by attackers			
Guns		13	
Knives		15	
Other		1	
None/Not stated		29	
Total			58
Attacks		58	
Attempted attacks		11	
Total			69

Source: IMO, 2007 Fourth quarterly report

Number of persons involved in the attack



Source: IMO, 2007 Fourth quarterly report

Factors enhancing piracy

- legal and jurisdictional weakness;
- favourable geography;
- conflict and disorder;
- under – funded law enforcement and inadequate security in general;
- permissive political environments;
- cultural acceptability;
- promise of reward.

- Murphy M. N. (2007), *Contemporary piracy and maritime terrorism*, New Your, Routledge, p.13

Maritime terrorism

- The beginning....:
- 1985 – *Achille Lauro*, attacked by the Abu Abbas terrorist organisation in the Mediterranean; an American hostage was killed and thrown overboard
- And the new strategies:
- October 2000 – the USS Cole was attacked by Al Qaida terrorists in the Aden harbour; seventeen sailors died, 39 were injured

Factors enhancing maritime terrorism

- legal and jurisdictional weakness;
- geographical necessity;
- inadequate security;
- secure base areas;
- maritime tradition;
- Charismatic and effective leadership;
- State support.

- Murphy M. N. (2007), *Contemporary piracy and maritime terrorism*, New York, Routledge, p.46

Common problems

- Connection among terrorist groups, criminal organisations and pirates
- Lack of reliable data and statistics
- Lack of common standard procedures and protocol
- Global risks for the State economies, private and public companies, the crews, the environment

Some proposals

- Control the information about the crew, the ships and do on (i.e. cash on board)
- Lower insurance costs and incentives for security systems on board
- Psychological support for the attacked crews (post traumatic stress disorder)
- Training for the crews
- Adequate number of members of the crew
- Vessels speed (moving faster...)
- Common “guards” in risky areas (i.e. Strait of Malacca)
- Regular meetings/events

THANK YOU!

criminology@eurocrime.it

info@eurocrime.it