



**Committee:** Legal Committee

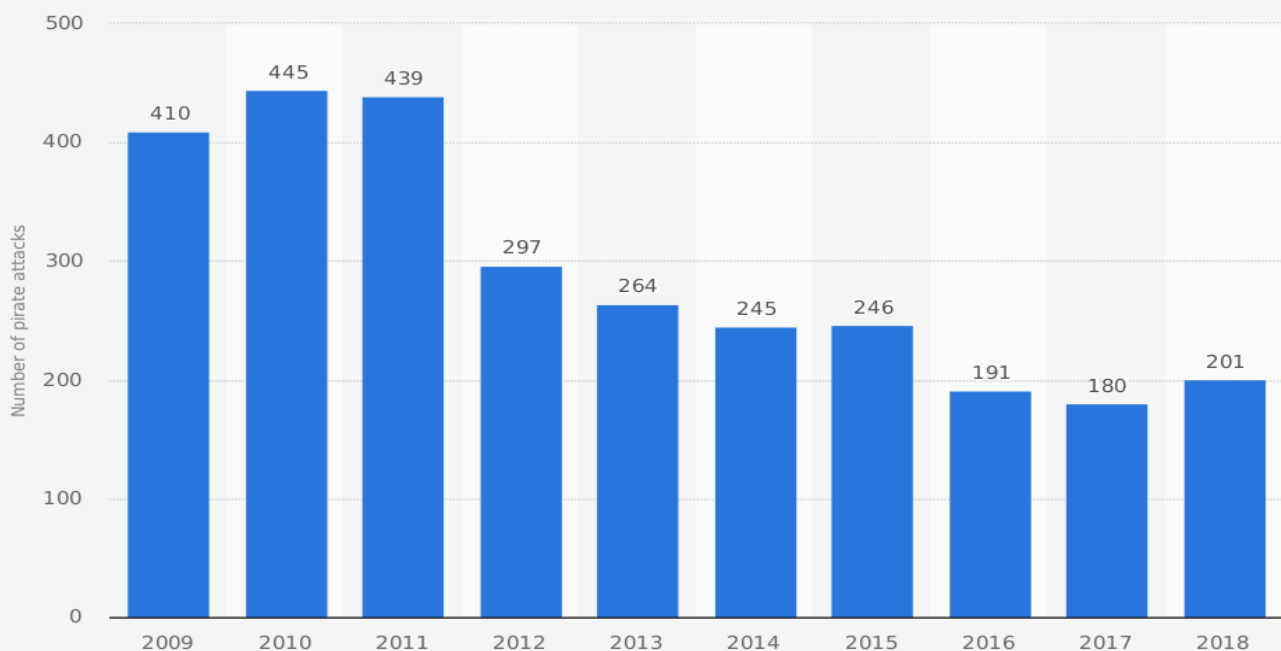
**Issue:** Taking measures to prevent piracy overseas

**Student Officer:** Çağlar Genç (Deputy Chair)

## Introduction to the Issue

Piracy is defined as the practice of attacking and robbing ships at sea. Piracy was most popular in the 500s, it still effects our world today. Many merchant ships have been boarded, looted and destroyed. Piracy is mostly associated with inhabitants Less Developed Countries (LDCs) which have a coastline to seas important to world wide trade. This problem has been mostly overlooked and there hasn't been a big movement to finally put an end to piracy since has been going on for centuries. Countries have lost millions paying the ransoms that the pirates desired in order to get their citizens home. Throughout the years, the ransoms have started to steadily increase with pirates recently requesting over 9.5 million dollars of the Samho Dream. Piracy has started to decrease over the years however between 2017 and 2018, there has been a dangerous increase. Even though piracy rates had been decreasing for a some time, 20 more events related to piracy occurred in 2018 than 2017.

**Number of pirate attacks against ships worldwide from 2009 to 2018**



Sources

Additional Information:



Piracy also has an important part in popular culture. Many hit movies and TV series have been released where piracy is glamorized, which leads people to overlook the problem. Other movies such as Captain Phillips tried to achieve the opposite by presenting what real life pirates are capable of.

## **Involved Countries & Organizations**

### **Somalia**

Somalia is recognized as the primary country where modern pirates originate from. As a country, Somalia has never been a country with a strong economy, leading it to become one of the poorest and dangerous countries in the world. It has also faced many civil wars with the most recent one taking place in 2000. The Somali Civil war caused a lot of chaos in Somalia. This led to a big economic downfall and many people lost their jobs. These people became tired of suffering and not being able to feed their families. As a solution, people saw piracy as a way to start a new life. Over the years, Somali pirates were able to successfully capture hundreds of ships. In 2010, they were able to board and capture 49 ships and take in over 1000 hostages. Many people from around the world were affected by Somali pirates, Indian merchants being one of the most affected. Since India is geographically close to Somalia, Somali pirates were able to capture many Indian ships travelling near Somalia. The Gulf of Aden connects the Indian ocean to the Red Sea which leads to the Mediterranean Sea. The Gulf flows near Somalia and is the most important place where Somali pirates operate. Luckily, the number of piracy relating to Somalia has diminished over the years with India and Russia staging a massive effort to finally solve the problem. However, recently new pirate attacks related to Somalia have been taking place. The future of Somali piracy is unclear.

### **India**

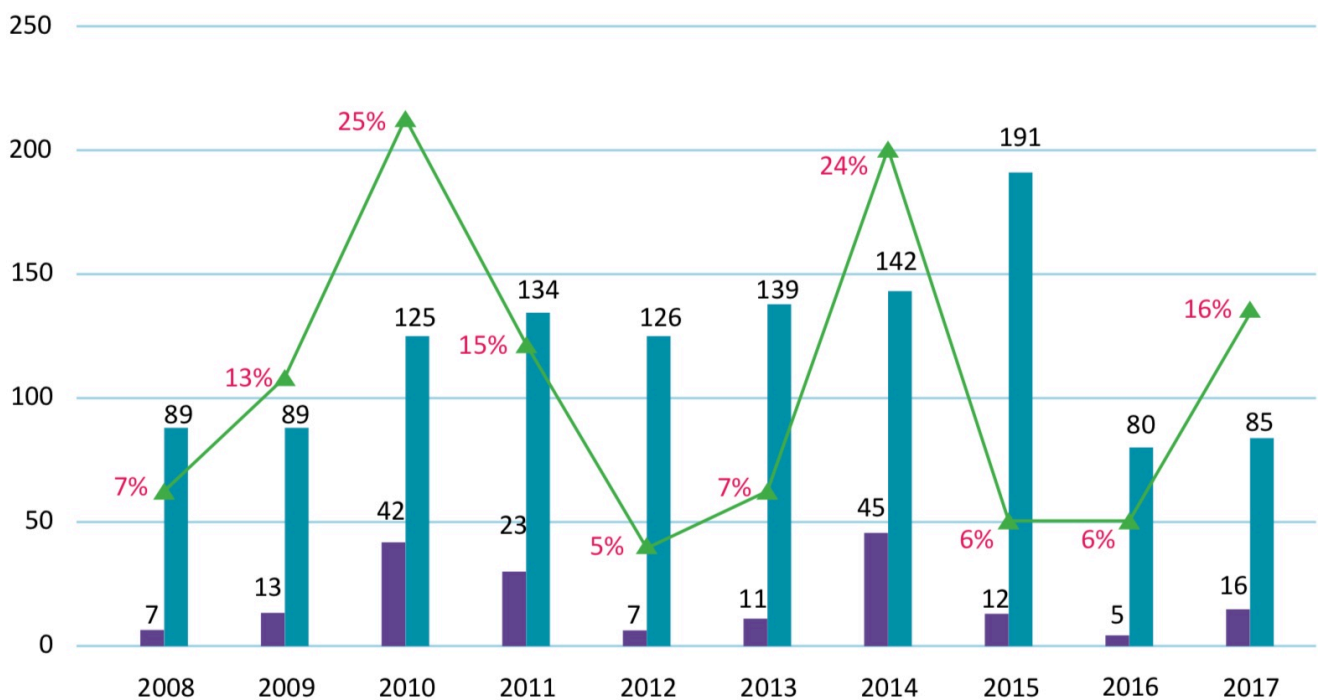
Due to their geographic location, India is forced to pass through the Gulf of Aden to make trade with Europe. As mentioned before, the Gulf Of Aden was/is the place where most of the Somali pirates operate which led to many Indian ships getting captured and Indians losing their lives. These factors led to India having a harsh policy on piracy and one of the biggest countries working to end piracy. Recently, the Indian Government has approved making maritime piracy a crime worthy of the death penalty. They have shown interest to work with other powerful countries in order to put an end to piracy. India worked



together with Russia to drastically end piracy around the Gulf of Aden and have negotiated with Japan to end piracy all together.

## Malaysia

Malaysia has coastlines to the South China Sea which is regarded as one of the most dangerous and controversial seas in the world. Malaysia isn't one of the countries responsible for the piracy present in the South China Sea but the opposite, as they have make the world more informed about the recent statistics about piracy in the South China Sea. The country of Malaysia is right next to the Straits of Malacca where maritime piracy has been increasing steadily. From 2016 to 2017, there has been a 16% rise in events related to maritime piracy. Over 85 cases of armed robbery on sea and 16 cases of piracy have been reported in 2017.



**Chart 1 – Piracy vs Armed Robbery Against Ships (2008-2017)**

● Piracy ● Armed Robbery ▲ Piracy (%)



## **Nigeria**

In 2018, it has been reported that the Gulf of Guinea was the place where the most amount of piracy took place with over 116 piracy which is 54 more than the second place on that list. These waters are considered to be Nigerian waters and similar to Asia, rates of piracy have been growing around the Gulf of Guinea. These waters are recognized as the most dangerous waters in the world due to the amount of maritime piracy. Similar to Somalia, the main reason behind piracy in the Gulf of Guinea is due to unemployment. Nigerian pirates usually get something around 500.000 euros for the ships they capture. The Nigerian navy is trying to combat the problem but the pirates still operate with little resistance.

## **Detailed Analysis of the Issue**

### **Economic effects**

Piracy seems like a problem of the past but it might be the future that resulted in the resurgence of piracy. As mentioned before, piracy is mostly seen in LEDCs. Acts of piracy are closely related to economic downfall. In Somalia, 43% of all people live under a dollar a day making them classified for absolute poverty. Lack of resources and basic human needs is the one of the main reasons why many people chose a life of piracy. An advisor to the President of Nigeria stated that the main reason being unemployment. “When these people see that there is nothing on the ground for them to benefit from... then they go to any means and disturb the economic activities that bring money into the nation” stated the advisor. Many countries have decided to increase security on their ships due to this threat. However, they missed the fact that if the economies of these countries were sufficient, most pirates wouldn’t have became pirates. Most pirates have an annual income between 30.000 dollars -100.000 dollars which is a lot for the countries they originate from. It’s estimated that there is an annual loss between 13 – 16 billion dollars due to piracy. It’s clear that pirates make a lot more money than they would have made as regular citizens of their respected countries. Many pirates use the black market to sell the goods they acquired after capturing. Black market plays an important role in the way the pirates operate. It’s where most pirates purchase their weaponry with some pirates using heavy-duty firepower non-available on the real market. The black market still functions well today and many attempts to get rid of it has failed.



## Environmental effects

Some pirates usually target ships carrying oil supplies. These ships are attacked with highly explosive grenades while the pirates desperately try to make a landing. If these grenades affect the interior of the ships, an environmental crisis might be upon the world. Barrels of oil would be poured into the ocean similar to what happened with the British Petrol leakage. The probability of something so horrible happening should definitely alarm major powers around the world. Piracy also effects the well being of some animals considering pirates sometimes target ships with valuable animals inside to sell them on the black market.

## Humanitarian effects

Apart from the economic and environmental downsides to piracy, there is also a big humanitarian crisis. Just in 2011, Somali pirates were able to take in over 1000 hostages. The pirates end up killing some of these hostages but the ones that survive have to deal with a lifetime dealing with mental issues. Most hostages who return home suffer Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Out of these 1000 hostages, only 35 were killed. There is life lost on the side of the pirates also. In 2011, 111 pirates were killed in action. Right now, there are over 149 hostages who have been help captive for over a year. This means that these people have lost contact with their loved ones and left to the care of pirates. It will be extremely difficult for these people to successfully return to society without any mental scars.

## List of Important Events

In events you mentioned in the previous section, as well as small but important ones you didn't get a chance to explain in detail. this section, summarize **the most important events** regarding the issue in **chronological order**. You can include the

Date (Day/Month/Year)	Event
2005.	After the Somali Civil war, Somali Piracy first erupts in Somalia



2009	The MCP and Counter Piracy Programme (CPP) are formed.
2010	Somali Pirates receive 9.5m dollars for the Samho Dream
2013	UN reports that Somali piracy has diminished to the point of non existence
2014	Piracy in the South China Sea increases by a record %24 percent

## Past Resolutions and Important Documents

- Resolution 2383, November 7, 2017 [http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_res\\_2383.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2383.pdf)
- Resolution 2077, 21 November 2012  
[http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_res\\_2077.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2077.pdf)
- Resolution 2125 (2013), 18 November 2013
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982
- Resolution 64/71, 4 December 2009

The first three resolutions mentioned were passed in the Security Council mostly focusing on the issue of Somali Piracy. Thankfully, most of these resolutions have resulted in Somali Piracy decreasing. UNCLOS was one of the first documents where the threat of maritime piracy was first recognized making it one of the most important documents regarding maritime piracy.



## Past Attempts to Solve the Issue

Most countries decided to increase the amount of naval presence they had on piracy filled regions. Even though this is a solution, it is a short term one. The naval forces are able to stop more ships from being captured however they have ignored the main reason behind piracy being economic downfall. There has also been negotiation with key countries where piracy originates from however that hasn't resulted in any sort of success.

## Possible Solutions

As mentioned many times before, most people become pirates in order to earn enough money to support themselves. Providing aid to countries where piracy mostly originates from might be a good solution. Apart from this, military solutions might be sufficient.

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