



# MARITIME POLICE INTERNATIONAL

## ADMINISTRATION DIVISION [WWW.MARITIMEPOLICE.ORG](http://WWW.MARITIMEPOLICE.ORG)

**Date:** 15 APRIL 2009  
**Subject:** OPEN LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR  
**From:** MPI ADMINISTRATION  
**Caveats:** FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

Good day.

My name is Jeff Pierce. I am the Executive Director of MPI-Maritime Police International.

Everyone in the media is talking about piracy currently, particularly since the seizure and subsequent successful rescue of a US ship and her Captain resulting in the death of 3 pirates. The typical information being disseminated revolves around the 'No one knows what to do' mantra. I am writing you today to inform you that this is simply not the case.

While the shipping companies and crews claim they do not have any way to fight piracy, MPI has been presenting Counter Piracy options to the shipping and security sectors since 2007. While military and government officials claim they do not have any options, MPI has been talking to them quite frequently since mid 2008. In January 2009 we attended the Maritime Piracy Stakeholder's Meeting, hosted by the UN agency UNICRI, where we presented a thorough and detailed briefing packet on how to improve the current Counter Piracy capabilities, and how to provide the currently lacking components.

The shipping sector has refused to accept responsibility for their own safety and security, regardless of how low the associated cost. While piracy should not be taking place, it is a criminal activity that needs addressed-particularly the hostage situations; it is also a criminal activity that is known to be prevalent in certain regions. Reasonable people should take reasonable precautions when transiting dangerous waters. For example-If you knew you were likely going to get mugged if you went down a certain street late at night, would you go there alone? Would you go there at all? If you absolutely had to go there for your job, would you take some measures to protect yourself? Many mariners transiting the Gulf of Aden and East Africa Coast do not take reasonable precautions, and most are not taking any precautions that will effectively stop pirate attacks.

There are legal complications involved with all international enforcement and protection operations, and we have taken extensive measures to comply with all legalities when designing our programs. Despite the groundwork already being done, the legal hurdles already being cleared, and the danger being faced by our personnel instead of theirs, we have been unable to convince the relevant deciding parties to take any action to protect their assets.

Expenses are always an issue when addressing security matters. One option we proposed provided Anti Piracy escorts, including Emergency Response assets via air and sea. We offered to provide these services on a limited

basis to the shipping sector for \$10,000 per ship, per transit through the Gulf of Aden, to maintain the operation on station year round. When a single ship burns \$30,000 in fuel per day, and transit through the Suez Canal costs \$200,000 per transit, \$10,000 to protect your ship, crew and cargo seems like fairly inexpensive preventative measures to me. There was some interest, but none of the shipping companies were even willing to commit to that. They insisted on relying on the government for protection, even when the involved governments were admitting they could not protect everyone, and are still claiming they need 3 times the ships they have available.

We have spent years developing a program that will work, as well as one that will be affordable and operate fully within current United States Law Enforcement standards. Despite all of this, we have been unable to convince the shipping companies or governments that they need to take these additional measures to successfully counter the modern piracy threat. If you have additional questions or comments please feel free to contact me directly. Please do not share my contact information if you choose to use some of this information in an article. People can contact us through the website, [www.maritimepolice.org](http://www.maritimepolice.org).

Have a great day.

Maritime Police International

**JEFF PIERCE**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**MPI-MARITIME POLICE INTERNATIONAL**