

If any guilty acts are committed by any person that could be regarded as “piracy” under customary international law, Iranian courts could convict offenders, under article 653 of “Islamic Punishment Act” which provides that any person who commits brigandage in ways and highways, whatsoever, if he/she couldn’t be regarded as “*mohareb*”, is liable to imprisonment from 3 to 15 years.

Of course in relation to “piracy”, offender’s acts, as the case may be, could be convicted under articles 185 and 683 of Islamic Punishment Act, too.

These articles are as follows :

Article 683: “Any kind of plunderage and wasting of goods, articles, foods and products violently done by a group consisting of more than 3 persons, if they could not be regarded as “*mohareb*”, are liable to imprisonment from 2 to 5 years.

Article 185: Any person who commits armed robbery and brigandage and endangers the security of people or ways by weapon and causes fear and terror, is regarded as “*mohareb*”.

It should be mentioned that “*moharebeh*” in accordance with “*Sharia Law*” is resorting to arms in order to frighten people; and “*mohareb*” is a person convicted of “*moharebeh*”. The punishment of “*moharebeh*” is “exile” or “death penalty”.