

**St. Kitts & Nevis  
International Ship  
Registry**

*Flying the flag of the  
Federation worldwide.*



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**Maritime Circular to Maritime Registrars, Ship-owners, Masters, Managers & Operators of St. Kitts & Nevis Ships, Classification Societies, Recognised Organisations, Recognised Security Organisations, Surveyors of Ships & Flag State Inspectors to this Administration, Seafarers & IMO Member States**

**Maritime Circular No: MC/47/12**

**DATE: 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012**

**PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING ON ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST SEAFARERS.**

This Maritime Circular contains the procedure to be adopted and instructions to be followed by the Owners/Managers involved when a SKANReg ship and its crew are affected in an incident of piracy or armed robbery or other act of violence.

Since 1981 the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) is acting as a focal point in the fight against all types of maritime fraud, malpractice and piracy. International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted resolution A 504 (XII) (9) on 20 November 1981, among other things it urges all governments, interests and organizations to exchange information and provide appropriate co-operation with the IMB.

The St Kitts and Nevis Government has, in June 2012 signed the declaration "Condemning Acts of Violence Against Seafarers". The aim of this declaration is to better document the violence faced by seafarers, and affirms our government commitment to supply information following acts of piracy or armed robbery to the International Maritime Bureau. The declaration recognises that the increased use of violence against ship's crew during acts of piracy and armed robbery is largely underreported and that this information would be of value to the maritime community in the fight against piracy. International Maritime Bureau (IMB) has undertaken to collect this information and affirms that the information collected will be appropriately shared and that no reference to crew names or vessels will be made.

The attached questionnaires are prepared to provide general information for caring and studying seafarers following a piracy and armed robbery incident.

Owners/managers of SKANReg Ship involved in such incidents are requested to complete the questionnaire and send to SKANReg through their local Maritime registrar, so that can pass them to IMB.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important matter and If you have any questions about this Maritime Circular, please contact us.

Yours truly,  
Nigel E Smith  
International Registrar of Shipping and Seamen





## **Annex-Report of Acts of Violence Against Seafarers**

The ICC - International Maritime Bureau (IMB) was established in 1981 to act as a focal point in the fight against all types of maritime fraud, malpractice and piracy. The United Nations (UN) International Maritime Organization (IMO) in its resolution A 504 (XII) (9) adopted on 20 November 1981, has among other things urged all governments, interests and organizations to exchange information and provide appropriate co-operation with the IMB. The IMB also has an observer status with the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO – INTERPOL).

St Kitts and Nevis have signed the declaration condemning acts of violence against seafarers on 3 August 2011. The declaration recognises that the increased use of violence against ships crews during acts of piracy and armed robbery is largely underreported and that this information would be of value to the maritime community in the fight against piracy. The flag states also note that the International Maritime Bureau of the International Chamber of Commerce (IMB) has undertaken to collect this information and affirms that the information collected by themselves or the IMB will be appropriately shared and that no reference to crew names or vessels will be made.

It is recognized that there are a number of questions required to be answered. However most of these questions require a simple Yes or No answer and there are only a few which may require more detail.

Vessel Name:

Type of vessel:

Date of hijack:

Date of release:

**Please note no names or identifications of crew or vessel will be revealed at any time.**  
**While answering the questions please give rank and nationality of the crew involved as well as the length of time and number of times the abuse was carried out.**  
**Please provide and photographs taken before, during or after the incident.**  
**Finally if you feel there is additional information available please share as this will help raise awareness among fellow seafarers**

### **SECTION 1**

#### **A. Crew and Nationalities:**

- A.1. what were the number and nationalities of the crew on-board your vessel at the time of the hijacking
- A.2. Were any of the crew females. what rank
- A.3. were there any super numeries (wives / children) on board – if yes what was the treatment
- A.4. were different nationalities of the crew treated differently – if yes please explain the difference
- A.5. were different crew of different religions treated differently – if yes please explain the difference
- A.6. were there any security teams on-board – if yes please specify if armed or unarmed
- A.7. were these teams treated differently to the crew – if yes please explain the difference

#### **B. Food and Water:**

- B.1. was the crew given adequate food and water during captivity
- B.2. was the food for the crew prepared by the ship cook in the ship galley using ship stores
- B.3. what was the hygiene in the galley. did pirates allow the galley and utensils to be cleaned
- B.4. was fresh water or salt water used to clean galley and utensils
- B.5. where was the crew made to eat meals
- B.6. did the pirates eat the same food as the crew
- B.7. were meal times fixed - if yes please give times - if no please state frequency of meals
- B.8. did this frequency become less as the length of the negotiations increased
- B.9. were the food stores and freshwater on-board sufficient for the duration of negotiations
- B.10. if not please indicate what type of food including quality and quantity was supplied to the crew
- B.11. did the quality and the quantity of food supplied decrease as the length of negotiations increased
- B.12. if yes please indicate after how long in the negotiations was this supply decreased
- B.13. was crew kept without food and water – please specify number of days and which crew

**SECTION 2**

- C. **Physical / psychological abuse of crew by the pirates**
- C.1. **General**
- C.1.1. was the crew physically abused  or psychologically abused
- C.1.2. which crew (rank) were physically / psychologically abused
- C.1.3. how often was this done
- C.2. **Physical abuse - slapping / punching / kicking**
- C.2.1. was the crew slapped / punched / kicked
- C.2.2. which crew (rank) were slapped / punched / kicked
- C.2.3. how often was this done
- C.2.4. why and when was this done
- C.2.5. was crew injured because of being slapped / punched / kicked. please specify type of injury
- C.3. **Physical abuse - use of sticks, rods, wires, rifle butts, any other items (please specify)**
- C.3.1. was the crew threatened by any of above
- C.3.2. was the crew hit with any of above
- C.3.3. which crew (rank) were hit with sticks, rods, wires, any other items
- C.3.4. how often was this done
- C.3.5. why and when was this done
- C.3.6. was crew injured because of being hit by above items. please specify type of injury
- C.4. **Physical abuse - extreme violence to crew**  
*(Torture –is defined by the International Criminal Court as “the intentional infliction of severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, upon a person in the custody or under the control of the accused”)*
- Did the pirates use any extreme physical abuse on the crew e.g.
- C.4.1. tying hands and legs and putting in isolation – please specify length of time
- C.4.2. standing / sitting in the sun with clothes  or without clothes
- C.4.3. if yes please specify crew involved for how long and how many times was this done
- C.4.4. standing / sitting in the freezer with clothes  or without clothes
- C.4.5. if yes please specify crew involved for how long and how many times was this done
- C.4.6. tying to ship masts or ship rails and hit  or not hit
- C.4.7. if hit please specify crew involved, what was used to hit, for how long and how many times
- C.4.8. hung overboard and immersed in the sea
- C.4.9. please specify which part of body immersed, how long, how many times and crew involved
- C.4.10. electric shock given to any part of the body – please specify crew involved
- C.4.11. which part of the body was the electric shock was given, for how long and how often
- C.4.12. any part of the body tied to give extreme pain – please give details
- C.4.13. any other violence or torture not included above – please specify
- C.5. **Death or injury resulting in death of crew during the incident – if yes please give rank and nationality**
- C.5.1. was any crew killed or injured who later died during the hijack process either by direct or indirect firing by pirates or naval forces or security teams – please give details
- C.5.2. did any crew die during the period of captivity – if so how and why -
- C.5.3. did any crew die because of maltreatment / poor health during captivity
- C.5.4. did any crew die after being released but because of maltreatment / poor health as a result of the captivity / attack
- C.5.5. any other reasons not covered above



C.6. Psychological abuse – if yes please specify rank and nationality of crew involved

- C.6.1. was crew made to kneel and guns fired near their heads like execution
- C.6.2. when was this done
- C.6.3. how often was this done
- C.6.4. was crew taken away (isolated) and the rest of the crew informed that he was killed
- C.6.5. was crew stripped of all clothes in front of the remaining crew and  hit  not hit
- C.6.6. if any psychological abuse done on one crew were the remaining crew made to watch
- C.6.7. was crew made to change rank and responsibility e.g. cadet to Master - please specify
- C.6.8. was any crew taken ashore or to another ship during the negotiations
- C.6.9. if yes please give details
- C.6.10. did the pirates tell the crew that they were still hostage because their office and their family did not care for them and did not want them released
- C.6.11. any other reasons not covered above

D. Increase / decrease in the physical / psychological abuse to the crew

Reference to points "C" above on physical / psychological abuse to the crew

D.1. What factors caused an increase in the physical / psychological abuse to the crew

- D.1.1. was it when there was slow or no progress in negotiations
- D.1.2. was it if some crew disobeyed pirate commands - please specify
- D.1.3. was it if crew fought among themselves or had disagreements
- D.1.4. were the crew who disobeyed only abused / punished or was it other crew as well
- D.1.5. was it when stores and freshwater on-board reduced and the pirates had to re-supply
- D.1.6. was it when FO & DO decreased (what level)
- D.1.7. was it when negotiators came on-board to call the owners
- D.1.8. was it during the changeover of the pirate watches
- D.1.9. was it when another vessel was released
- D.1.10. was it more during the day or during the night
- D.1.11. was it when pirates were arrested by navies after attacking same nationality as crew
- D.1.12. any other factors / reasons not covered above

D.2. What factors caused a decrease in the physical violence to the crew

- D.2.1. was it when negotiations progress was good
- D.2.2. was it once crew started obeying
- D.2.3. were any concessions / preference in treatment given to the crew who obeyed – please specify
- D.2.4. any other factors not covered above

E. Isolation of crew

- E.1. was any crew isolated from the rest of the crew
- E.2. how long was this crew kept isolated
- E.3. were the rest of the crew informed about the condition of the isolated crew
- E.4. was the isolated crew given food and water and how often
- E.5. was the isolated crew slapped or hit or any other physical or psychological abuse done – please specify

F. Vessel used as mother ship

- F.1. was the vessel used as a mother ship by the Somali pirates
- F.2. was the entire crew on the vessel during the mother ship operations
- F.3. if not which crew were left behind and where were they kept
- F.4. under what conditions the crew were kept on-board the vessel during the mother ship operations
- F.5. was the crew threatened to carry out certain acts against their will - chase or board other vessels etc.
- F.6. was the crew physically / psychologically abused if they refused to obey
- F.7. if yes which crew involved and what was done
- F.8. were the crew given sufficient food and water – what was frequency
- F.9. any other information



## SECTION 3

### G. Living and hygiene conditions

- G.1. where were all the crew made to spend most of the time during the day
- G.2. where were the crew allowed (forced) to sleep at night
- G.3. was this place changed during the period of captivity – please specify
- G.4. were the officers allowed to carry out normal bridge and engine watches
- G.5. if normal watches were allowed for officers what was the rest of the crew doing
- G.6. were crew allowed to walk on deck or get physical exercise or do routine ship work
- G.7. what was the condition of the accommodation and cabins
- G.8. did the pirates allow the crew to clean the accommodation and cabins
- G.9. did pirates allow crew to wash their clothes. was fresh water or salt water used
- G.10. were the crew allowed to shower
- G.11. if yes how often were they allowed to shower
- G.12. how much time was given to each crew
- G.13. was privacy given during shower time
- G.14. any other factors not covered above

### H. Sanitary conditions

- H.1. what was the state of the toilets and other sanitary facilities on-board the ship
- H.2. were the crew allowed to use the toilets as required
- H.3. if not was there a particular time that crew could use toilet only
- H.4. how many times a day were the crew allowed to use the toilets
- H.5. was there sufficient fresh water to clean / flush the toilets
- H.6. if not was there a facility to clean / flush the toilets with salt water
- H.7. were the crew forced to clean the toilets without using any water
- H.8. any other factors not covered above

### I. Survival techniques of crew – (please give as much detail as possible as this will help others)

- I.1. what steps did each crew take to survive during the captivity
- I.2. how did each crew deal with the pirates
- I.3. what did each crew do to pass time
- I.4. what did each crew do to keep mentally alert
- I.5. what did each crew do to keep physically alert
- I.6. what was the physical condition of the crew upon release
- I.7. what was the mental condition of the crew upon release
- I.8. did any of the crew feel sympathetic towards the Somali pirate or did the pirate ask the crew to join them