

**SEAFARERS'
RIGHTS**

international centre for
advancing the legal
protection of seafarers

Protecting and Advancing Seafarers' Rights

**Presented by Deirdre Fitzpatrick
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Seafarers' Rights International (SRI)
15 June, 2012**

Shipping's Financial Abyss

Lloyd's List
TRANSPARENT MARKET | Long and painful recovery ahead

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HIGHLIGHTS: Denmark special report | Governments duty to protect seafarers | Welcomes introduction for risky business

Shipping is still mired in a global recession
Monday 05 September 2011, 17:08

FOLLOWING three weeks of turmoil on the world's stock markets an eerie calm has descended as investors try to reconcile the causes and effects of the market downturn. Shipping shares have been trading downwards since mid-June and will continue to decline in all sectors, so freight markets...

European bank shipping loans will continue to dwindle



Aggregate shipping portfolios of European banks because there are fewer banks able to engage tighter lending conditions. Dagfinn Lunde, mer director and head of shipping at DVB Bank told a handful of European banks actively undertaking one of those few. But it and most other active Eur in at least as much from loan repayments as th. He told Lloyd's List DVB had done about \$3bn o this year and expected to end the year haul business. But although it had expected to see it

Lloyds List, 22/09/2011

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As the World Economy Sinks, So Does Global Shipping

By JEFF ISRAELY | Wednesday, Dec 7, 2011

Come to where the culture can be touched...
Touch China App - Powered by China Daily

Monday, Oct 3, 2011

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HongKong Business

Global shipping faces a 'volatile' 2011: Sinotrans
By Oswald Chee (HK Edition)
Updated: 2011-09-12 09:43

Jim Davis reveals a view of shipping's financial abyss



Jim Davis, the veteran chairman of the ship industries Forum, has warned that a period of bankruptcies are now inevitable. Speak being awarded this year's Lifetime Achieve Global Awards, held in London on Tuesd now starting into a "debt abyss". "Consolidat afraid we are going to see some very un going to run out at these types of rates and blood on the carpet this time," he said. Ur IMF has been a consistent voice within the

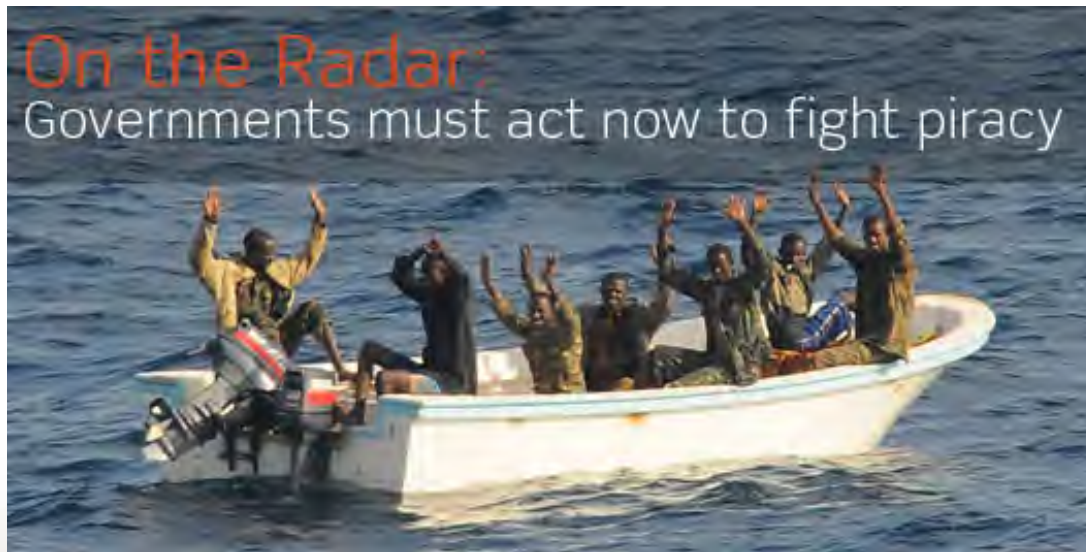
Lloyds List, 21/09/2011

The Scourge of Piracy



**197
seafarers
captured on
13 ships!**

**600
attacks in
2015!**

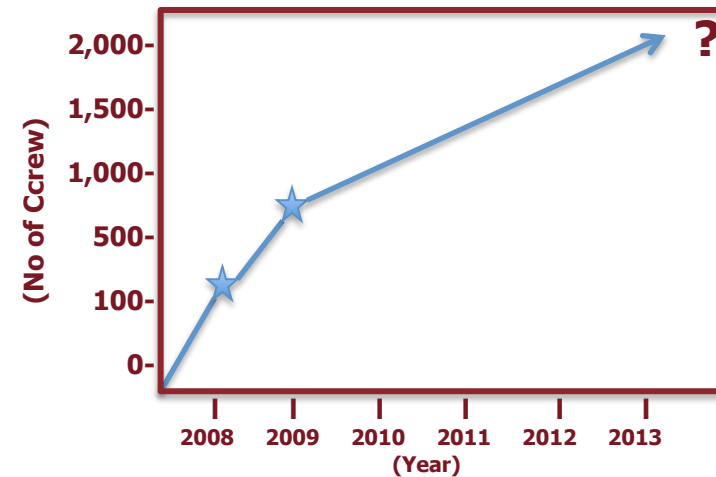


**445
attacks in
2010!**

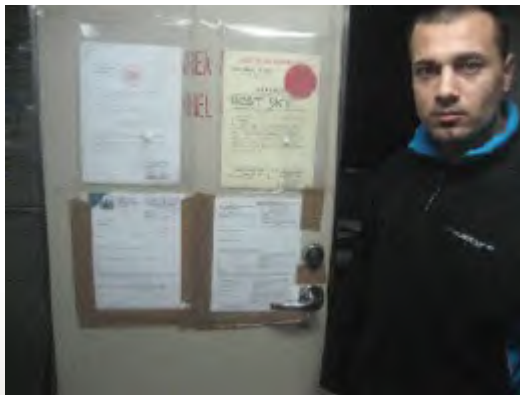
Abandonment of Seafarers



Cormorant (2009)



Most Sky (2010)



**147 crew
abandoned
in 2008!**

**647 crew
abandoned
in 2009!**

Criminalisation of Seafarers



Tanker owners 'horrified' by ruling on €3m bail
**Prestige master loses
human rights appeal**



Seafarers' Rights International (SRI)

- **Launched on World Maritime Day, September 23, 2010**
- **Pan-industry initiative to promote and advance legal rights of seafarers**
- **Forces of globalisation create lack of security**
- **SRI focus on research, education and training**
- **Funded by an initial grant from the ITF Seafarers' Trust**
- **Independent - embrace the views of all stakeholders**
- **Work guided by an Advisory Board**

Projects Underway at SRI

- **Seafarers' rights and the criminal law (criminalisation)**
- **Abandonment of seafarers**
- **Flag state responsibilities**

Fair Treatment – SRI Survey

- **Conducted February 2011 – February 2012**
- **3480 completed questionnaires in 8 languages returned from 68 different nationalities of seafarers**
- **8.27% of seafarers in the survey had faced criminal charges.**
- **Masters faced criminal charges most frequently**
- **Almost 24% of Masters who answered the survey had faced criminal charges**

Fair Treatment – SRI Survey - Experiences

- **44% of seafarers reported that they were bodily searched**
- **87% said that they did not have legal representation**
- **91% of seafarers who needed interpretation services said that they were not provided with interpretation services**
- **89% said that they did not have their legal rights explained to them**

Fair Treatment – SRI Survey - Perceptions

- **80% felt intimidated or threatened**
- **46% of seafarers said that they would be reluctant to cooperate fully and openly with casualty inquiries and accident investigations**
- **Overall 81% did not consider that they had received fair treatment**

Towards Fair Treatment

- **Practical Advice for Seafarers**
- **Promote Fair Treatment Guidelines**
- **Sensitise Governments and port officials to seafarers' issues**

Solutions for Abandonment of seafarers

- **Statistics – reliable statistics that reveal true extent of the problem**
- **Practical Advice for Seafarers**
- **Financial security and the MLC**

Other seafarers problems

"Compared to the improvements in construction, equipment and environmental ship standards much more remains to be done to address the human side of shipping, to prevent loss of life, injury, injustices and the inhumane treatment of seafarers. This is the dark side of the shipping industry where international effort has not been so evident...."

Seafarer Abuses

- **illegal and fraudulent recruitment practices**
- **the imposition of unlawful fees and burdensome employment condition**
- **the blacklisting of seafarers who assert their rights**
- **the exertion of pressure on seafarers and their dependents to sign away their rights to full compensation**
- **substandard living conditions and denial of appropriate medical care**
- **non-payment of wages**
- **delays in paying entitlements to families**
- **abandonment of seafarers at locations far from their homes**

Conclusion

- Seafarers should be treated like an asset not a commodity
- Governments must meet their responsibilities – and treat seafarers with respect
- Stop seafarers from being abandoned, criminalised or attacked – make them feel valued, empowered and trusted
- SRI – a valuable resource to match shipping interests and contribute to stakeholders wanting to protect seafarers

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Thank You

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