

20 February 2023

For the attention of His Excellency António Guterres

United Nations Secretary General
United Nations Headquarters
E 46th St & 1st Ave
New York 10017
United States of America

Joint open letter on seafarers still trapped in Ukraine

Re: Shipping industry call for help to evacuate the 300+ seafarers still trapped in Ukraine ports

Your Excellency Secretary-General Guterres,

As we approach one year since the start of the war in Ukraine, the co-signatories of this letter write to you to highlight the 331 seafarers still trapped on vessels in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov. We call on the United Nations, and on your diplomatic influence, to address this matter urgently and evacuate all remaining seafarers and ships.

Our seafarers are the heart of our industry and cannot be forgotten. For 12 months now they have been caught up in a crisis far beyond their control. Simply doing their jobs cannot come at the expense of their lives.

We recognise and celebrate the United Nations, and your leadership, for the Black Sea Grain Initiative that the UN successfully brokered with Türkiye between Ukraine and Russia. This has allowed safe passage of critical grain and fertiliser shipments from Ukraine to populations most in need, and curbed food prices from spiralling out of control. We are committed to supporting the continued success of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, however this cannot come at the expense of innocent seafarers' lives. Action must be taken now.

Without our seafarers, movement of the vital grain shipments out of Ukrainian ports would not have been possible. While there are challenges to evacuating seafarers and their ships, it must nonetheless be a top priority. Otherwise, we risk the lives of our seafarers, and this is unacceptable.

Yours faithfully,

Please kindly see below the full list of signatories to the letter.

Bahamas Shipowners Association
Mr. John Adams, Chairman



BIMCO
Mr. David Loosley, Secretary General & CEO



CONFITARMA – ITALIAN SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
Mr. Mario Mattioli, President of Italian Shipowners' Association



Cyprus Shipping Chamber
Mr. Thomas A. Kazakos, Director General



Daiichi Chuo Kisen Kaisha
Mr. Masaharu Kurosawa, Representative Director, President Executive Officer,



Danish Shipping
Anne H. Steffensen, Director General and CEO



DanishShipping

European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA)
Mr. Sotiris Raptis, Secretary General



FONASBA
Mr. Jonathan C. Williams FICS, General Manager



IINO KAIUN KAISHA, LTD. (IINO LINES)
Mr. Hiromi Tosha, President and Representative Director



INTERCARGO
Dr. Kostas G. Gkonis, CEO



InterManager
Capt. Kuba Szymanski, Secretary General



International Chamber of Shipping
Mr. Emanuele Grimaldi, Chairman



International Christian Maritime Association (ICMA)
Mr. Jason Zuidema, General Secretary



International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations (IFSMA)
Mr. Jim Scorer, Secretary General



International Maritime Employers' Council Ltd. (IMEC)
Mr. Francesco Gargiulo, Chief Executive Officer



International Maritime Health Association (IMHA)
Dr. Robert Verbist, President



International Parcel Tankers Association (IPTA)
Mr. Mike Beviss, General Manager



International Union of Marine Insurance (IUMI)
Mr. Lars Lange – Secretary General



INTERTANKO
Dr Phillip Belcher, Marine Director



Japanese Shipowners' Association
Mr. Junichiro Ikeda, President



Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha, Ltd. ("K" LINE)

Mr. Yukikazu Myochin, Representative Director,
President and Chief Executive Officer



Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.

Mr. Takeshi Hashimoto, Representative
Director, President, Chief Executive Officer



Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK Line)

Mr. Hitoshi Nagasawa, President,
Representative Director, President and Chief
Executive Officer



Sailors' Society

Ms. Sara Baade, CEO



Seafarers Hospital Society

Ms. Sandra Welch, CEO



Stella Maris

Mr. Martin Foley, Chief Executive Officer



Synergy Denmark A/S

Mr. Tommy Thomassen (COO)



The Mission to Seafarers

Mr. Andrew Wright, Secretary General



Caring for seafarers
around the world

The Seafarers' Charity
Ms. Deborah Layde, Chief Executive



UK Chamber of Shipping
Ms. Sarah Treseder, CEO



UNION OF GREEK SHIPOWNERS
Ms. Melina Travlos, President



Verband Deutscher Reeder (VDR)
Dr. Gaby Bornheim, President
Dr. Martin Kröger, CEO



CC: His Excellency Kitack Lim
Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
United Kingdom

CC: His Excellency Gilbert F. Hounbo
Director-General of the International Labour Organization
4 route des Morillons
CH-1211
Genève 22
Switzerland

International Chamber of Shipping
7th Floor
Walsingham House
35 Seething Lane
London EC3N 4AH
Tel: +44 (0)20 7090 1460