

GLOBALPANDI

Circular for P & I Clubs

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Correspondents for:

Britannia, British Marine, Carina, Charterers P&I Club, China P&I Club, GARD, ITIC, Korea P&I Club, Navigators, Nordisk Defence Club (Through Sabatino Pizzolante), Lodestar Marine, North of England P&I Club, Raets Club, Shipowners P&I Club, Skuld, The Standard P&I Club, Steamship Mutual, The American Club, The London P&I Club, West of England and Through Transport Club (TTC)

Crewmembers' security in Venezuela

Few weeks ago, during his transit from the international terminal to the national terminal of the Simon Bolivar airport in Maiquetia, an Egyptian seafarer due to embark on an off-shore base at the east of the Venezuelan coast was killed after resisting an attempt of robbery. From the assessment of this sad occurrence, we can draw out the following recommendations for the Members/Clubs:

- Avoid sending seafarers with large quantities of foreign currency destined to usage of the vessel, since the presence of this might attract unwanted attention.
- If the transit from the international to the national terminal at Maiquetia airport is needed (for an internal flight), seafarers must go through the internal tunnel that connects both terminals, which is designed for such end, and not step outside of the buildings if possible, even if they are accompanied.
- If road transportation is required, this must be coordinated by the shipping agency, using their company's vehicles or appointing reliable taxi line's units for such end.
- Moreover, it is very important to request for the seafarers to be accompanied by a representative of the shipping agency after their arrival to the airport. As customary, they should be provided with an escort from the immigration office, however this has been proved to be insufficient.

Among other general advice we usually provide in matters of security, it is worth mentioning that we recommend seafarers to avoid going ashore and exiting the terminal or port, especially during the evenings. If this is required, the seafarers should try to remain always in groups, with minimal exposure of their personal goods (Like smartphones and tablets) or of foreign currency, and if possible to be accompanied by a representative of the shipping agency. Additionally, seafarers are strongly advised not to take taxis on the streets, using only those provided by the agency.

As it might be inferred, a close and thorough planning with the shipping agency to guarantee the timely transportation of the crewmembers, their moves within the ports and cities as well as raising awareness among the crewmembers travelling to Venezuela, are the best way to ensure their safety while ashore, for which shipping agents and Correspondents should be contacted if needed.

Should you need any assistance or further information regarding the topic stated above, please feel free to contact:

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