

SABATINO PIZZOLANTE

Circular for P & I Clubs

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Correspondents for:

British Marine Mutual P&I Insurance Association Limited, Through Transport Club (TT Club), International Transport Intermediaries Club (ITIC), The Charterers Mutual Assurance Association Limited, Dragon P&I, Assuranceforeningen SKULD, InterCoastal P&I Club.

Stowaways Figures at the port of Puerto Cabello released by the Port Authority

Security department of Puerto Cabello Port Authority (IPAPC) has recently released figures related to stowaways at this port for year 1999 and mid-2000.

Thus, the department in charge of security in this port disclosed that for 1999, a number of 42 stowaways were detained, 31 of these persons were found on board and 11 ashore within the port area. Of this number, 35 were Colombians while the rest were found to be Dominicans, Africans and Brazilians. Regarding the mid-2000 figures, the Security department revealed that there is a trend towards the increase of this number since just during the first six months of this year, the number of stowaways reached 31 persons compared to the 13 found in the same period for year 1999.

The chief of the Security department announced that they have been able to dismantle an organisation that used the port of Puerto Cabello as boarding point for Colombians; the *modus operandi* was to introduce the stowaways with forged port passes making them appear as dockworkers. Besides, the Port Authority's Security department is working in co-ordination with the local immigration office and other security bodies, to identify similar organisations and to strengthen the measures aiming to prevent an easy access to the port area.

In view of the above, at this port as well as any other Venezuelan port, carriers are strongly advised to implement the standard preventive measures to tackle the stowaways problems as recommended by the Clubs, particularly, to carry out a systematic search of the whole ship before leaving port, and to request from ship agents the use of reliable security companies or personnel to watch the gangways and sides of the ship to prevent stowaways from coming onboard.

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

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