

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.

Security raises concern in Port of Guanta and Puerto Cabello

Port of Guanta, located in the eastern part of Venezuela, has become a dangerous port for vessels either berthed in the port facilities or even anchored in the peaceful Pozuelos Bay, awaiting for free berth at that port.

Following the m.v. "Tropic Quest" incident last August, when anchored vessel was boarded by 4 robbers who managed to break in some containers, and injure a crew member with a hand-made gun (locally called chopo), the Anzoátegui Shipping Association and the Venezuelan Shipping Association have complained before the relevant authorities. In the last months, there has been a significant number of reported cases of vessels attacked by small boats manned by armed men with long knives and even guns who threatened vessel's crews, usually taking way cargo with them. The authorities argue that the existence of fishing villages close to the port of Guanta may contribute to the problem, but other claim that the causes for these attacks is the lack of proper surveillance by the coast guard and national guard, as well as the inefficient security systems implemented at this port.

Port of Puerto Cabello is also confronting security problems, although these incidents occur mainly when vessels are berthed. As a matter of fact, in the last months there have been reported cases of vessels and crew members robbed within the port area.

In view of the above, during calls at these two ports, Members are strongly advised to use reliable security companies that may be supplied by their ship agents to watch access to the vessel, and while anchored, to post crew members to watch overnight.

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

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