



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORT & CASE STUDY

- Defending Maritime Human Rights -

# Breach of Seafarers Human Rights & their Abandonment

MT IBA IMO 9438200 – Hamriyah Free Zone

Crew Evidence and Impact Statements

Initial HRAS Report: 13 July 2017



***“We are not being paid for last 6 months... now captain and company is threatening to all crew, that crew have to face consequences... Our life and career is in danger... The men need to be repatriated.”***

### Disclaimer

The content and facts within this investigative report and case study has been freely obtained from voluntarily personal testimony that has been checked, as best as is reasonably possible, by Human Rights at Sea (“the charity”) both at the time of writing, and before publishing. The reporting is ongoing and maybe updated. All quotes, pictures and diagrams have been acknowledged where able and any omissions, or factual inaccuracies may be immediately alerted by writing to: [enquiries@humanrightsatsea.org](mailto:enquiries@humanrightsatsea.org). Any opinions, perspectives and comments are those of the charity. This report may contain graphic images, and which are viewed at the sole discretion of the reader. The charity does not accept any liability, whatsoever, howsoever asserted, in any jurisdiction. The charity always works in good faith as an independent maritime human rights defender, following our founding principle that ‘human rights apply at sea as equally as they do on land’ and based on core values of transparency, clarity and accountability.



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORT & CASE STUDY

- Defending Maritime Human Rights -

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
VESSEL INFORMATION	3
THE CURRENT SITUATION	3
STAKEHOLDERS	4
ISSUES RAISED BY THE CREW	4
<b>SAFETY ONBOARD THE MT IBA</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>DENIED ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FOOD AND WATER</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>NON-PAYMENT OF WAGES AND DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY ON BOARD</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>THREATS MADE AGAINST THE CREW</b>	<b>5</b>
ANNEX 1 – MESSAGE FROM FIRST OFFICER [REDACTED]	6
ANNEX 2 – CREW SKIN CONDITION IMAGE ONE	7
ANNEX 3 – CREW SKIN CONDITION TWO	8
ANNEX 4 – CREW SKIN CONDITION THREE	9



## HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

# INVESTIGATIVE REPORT & CASE STUDY

- Defending Maritime Human Rights -

## INTRODUCTION

---

[Facts are correct at time of writing based on submitted evidence and testimony.]

- The crew of the MT IBA are currently stranded on an unsafe vessel, anchored off the coast of UAE. The MT IBA is an oil products tanker owned by Alco Shipping Services LLC.
- **The crew of the MT IBA (“the crew”) have had their basic human rights breached, with a deprivation of liberty, lack of protection for their health and bodily integrity, lack of protection for their right to life, and lack of family life due to their enforced retention on the MT IBA.**
- In addition, for the last six months the crew have been denied **access to medical treatment**, further aggravating their suffering onboard.

## VESSEL INFORMATION

---

**Vessel Name:** MT IBA

**IMO Number:** 9438200

**Flag:** UAE

**Owner:** Alco Shipping Services LLC

**Vessel location:** In port at Hamriyah Free Zone, UAE

**Crew:**

- Nine Indian crew
- Three Pakistani crew
- One Sri Lankan crew
- One Myanmarian crew

## THE CURRENT SITUATION

---

- The crew of the MT IBA have been left in a vessel made dangerous by **insufficient personal safety equipment**.
- Despite repeated requests for signoff their correspondence has been ignored, and their **wages not paid for 6 months**.
- Several members of the crew are suffering from undiagnosed skin conditions (see annexes 2 – 4) but **for 5 months have been denied access to medical treatment**.
- In addition, the crew has repeatedly been left without access to fresh food and water a situation only remedied by the intervention of the Indian Consulate in Dubai.



## HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

# INVESTIGATIVE REPORT & CASE STUDY

- Defending Maritime Human Rights -

## STAKEHOLDERS

---

- **Owners.** The MT IBA belongs to Alco Shipping Services LLC. The crew have been in contact with the company attempting to organise their signoff, access to medical facilities and food. At the time of writing the crew have yet to receive a response.
- **Diplomatic.** The crew have been in contact with the Indian Consulate in Dubai. The crew also claim that since the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July their food has been provided by the Consulate, not Alco Shipping, though this has not yet been confirmed.
- **Welfare.** Advocacy and investigative support has been supplied by Human Rights at Sea and Justice Upheld. The crew have also raised their concerns with the Federal Transport Authority, and are currently awaiting a response.

## ISSUES RAISED BY THE CREW

---

**NB:** The issues highlighted in this section have been raised by the crew. They require further corroboration and should be weighted accordingly. HRAS has no reason to consider testimonies are not factually correct.

### Safety onboard the MT IBA

- The crew of the MT IBA complain that their safety has been compromised by the provision of **unfit Personal Protective equipment**. The **fire extinguishers onboard are empty**, and the **life boat's hydraulic system is leaking and unable to be tested**.
- The crew have raised these issues with Alco Shipping, who allegedly responded that fire extinguishers were unnecessary while the vessel was transporting inflammable cargo, despite the vessel continuing to transport crude oil.

### Denied access to medical treatment

- Several crew members have been **suffering from undiagnosed skin conditions** since February 2017, see Annexes 2 – 4.
- Despite raising this issue with Alco Shipping, the crew have been **denied access to medical treatment**. Instead, Alco shipping have required a payment of \$250 to ferry each afflicted crew member to shore, a far larger sum than the crew can afford. This requirement has been exacerbated by Alco Shipping's non-payment of wages (see below).

### Food and water

- The crew have **repeatedly been left without fresh food or fresh water**, most recently from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of July.
- While Alco Shipping eventually delivered fresh water, **food had to be provided by the Indian Consulate in Dubai**.



## HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

### INVESTIGATIVE REPORT & CASE STUDY

- Defending Maritime Human Rights -

#### Non-payment of wages and deprivation of liberty on board

- The **crew's passports were removed on their sign-on date, and have not been returned despite repeated signoff requests.** The crew are anxious to be repatriated as soon as possible.
- In addition, the **crew have been without pay for the past 6 months.** All of their correspondence with the company on these points has been ignored.

#### Threats made against the crew

- The crew allege that after raising the safety concerns with Alco Shipping, they have been **repeatedly threatened with criminal proceedings** should they report their concerns to a local authority.
- They further allege **threats of false criminal accusations**, as well as threats against the careers of the crew members in an apparent attempt to prevent the concerns of the crew coming to light.



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORT & CASE STUDY

- Defending Maritime Human Rights -

### **ANNEX 1 – MESSAGE FROM FIRST OFFICER** [REDACTED]

---

**NB:** This statement has been reproduced word-for-word and without corrections. Original statements are held by Human Rights at Sea.

“We are crew of M.T. IBA, IMO NO. 9438200, belongs to Alco shipping services. Now vessel is docked at Hamriyah berth no. 1.

We are not being paid for last 6 months, and now we requested to company for pending salary then they ask for sign off letter from all crew and we submitted as per company order and then pay for one month and we again ask for pending salary. Now captain and company is threatening to all crew, that crew have to face consequences.

That can be they don't pay our salary, or they can write anything in our important documents like CDC. They have done these things to do many crew before. So this is our humble request to you that please publish this to higher authorities. So that we can be saved from bad consequences.

Our life and career is in danger. We are 14 crew onboard and only Capt. Is with the company. We are 9 Indians, 2 Pakistanis, 1 Sri Lankan, and 1 Myanmar crew any present facing problem. The men need to be repatriated.”



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORT & CASE STUDY

- Defending Maritime Human Rights -

### **ANNEX 2 – CREW SKIN CONDITION IMAGE ONE**

---





HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORT & CASE STUDY

- Defending Maritime Human Rights -

### **ANNEX 3 – CREW SKIN CONDITION TWO**

---







HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

## INVESTIGATIVE REPORT & CASE STUDY

- Defending Maritime Human Rights -

### **ANNEX 4 – CREW SKIN CONDITION THREE**

---



Supported by:



TRANSPARENCY | CLARITY | ACCOUNTABILITY



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

Human Rights at Sea | Langstone Technology Park | Langstone Road  
HAVANT | PO9 1SA | United Kingdom

[www.humanrightsatsea.org](http://www.humanrightsatsea.org) | © Human Rights at Sea 2017. All Rights Reserved