



HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

MISSING SEAFARERS & FISHERS REPORTING PROGRAMME

Family Impact Statement

Koval Oleg Igorevich goes missing from M/V Maria G (Maltese Flag) 100 nautical miles from the Azores

“Our two children, a son of 9 years and a baby of 4 months are waiting for their father”.



Image 1: Oleg Koval with his wife Maryna Koval Victorovna and their two children.





HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

The Oleg Koval Family Impact Statement is provided by Mrs. Maryna Koval Victorovna, wife of the 35 year old Ukranian seafarer Mr. Oleg Koval, who went missing on from the M/V Maria G (IMO: 9358369, MMSI: 248203000, Malta Flagged) on the 18th of December 2017. The M/V Maria G bulk carrier belongs to Parakou Shipping Limited based in Hong Kong.



Image 2: Oleg and his nine year old son.

My husband Oleg Koval, an oiler working for M/V “Maria G” flying the Maltese Flag disappeared on-board the vessel on the 18th of December 2017. Oleg was recruited by the “Epsilon Maritime





HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

Services” a recruiting company based in Odessa, Ukraine, as an oiler for the «Maria G».



I was informed on his disappearance by the recruiting agency, a day after, on the 19th of December 2017 at 11:23. The agency called me and reported the

loss of my husband on board “Maria G”. She was sailing in the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean at the estimated time of the incident about 100 miles from the Azores Islands, roughly 200 km away from Corvo island (Portugal).

According to the information I have in my disposal, the vessel informed about the missing crew one day later, after having returned back to the estimated locus of the incident for SAR operations. In more detail, my husband did not show up on the morning watch. They looked for him on board the vessel for about 6 hours and a distress signal was sent out. The vessel returned to the original position of the alleged disappearance and following a short search and rescue





HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

operation, - in which 5-6 ships and a plane were involved-, the ship continued its journey along the route to the Mediterranean Sea.

On Christmas day, 25th of December, the vessel arrived at the port of Gibraltar. Representatives from the insurance company boarded the vessel for investigation. Five crew-members were asked to give statements.

After that, I received a report in which I was informed that the full investigation of the incident would be conducted in Turkey, at the port of Mercin. Upon arrival at the port, the Turkish authorities rejected to make any investigation on board. This information was provided by the insurance company agent. The recruitment agency and the ship-owner company have given me to date the minimum information. Any official information from the Ukrainian Consulate in Turkey has not been provided until now either.

There is no certainty that my husband is not on the vessel. Nobody saw what happened. It remains a hope that it could be picked up by fishing vessels because it happened in the radius of the countries of the coast of Morocco, Casablanca, the Canary Islands, Portugal, the Azores. There is always a lot of traffic from the ships in that area. He could have been picked up by another vessel or maybe he is injured and he does not remember who he is.





HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

It is now more than a month since I was made aware of his disappearance. I am desperate in finding my husband. I appeal to any one who has information and to any organization that could help me. Our two children, a son of 9 years old and a baby of 3 months are waiting for their father to return. The Ukrainian government has not performed any action in helping finding my husband.

I have asked hundreds of people, sent dozens inquiries to different offices, consulates, police, to the recruiting agency and to



the ship-owner, but to no avail. I have had no support from the ship-owner company or the recruiting agency. My husband disappeared in international waters.

Where is he and what has happened? I believe that he might be still alive. I want him to come back home.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Mrs. Maryna Koval.

ENDS.





HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

DISCLAIMER

The content and detail within this Missing Seafarer and Fishers Reporting Programme Case Study and Family Impact Statement (FIS) has been provided to Human Rights at Sea by Mrs. Marina Koval Victorovna, wife of Ukrainian seafarer, Mr. Oleg Koval, with express permission to reproduce and publish in support of the ongoing case filed with the Programme in 2017. The contents of the submitted text have been checked as best as is possible for accuracy and authenticity by the authors at the time of writing. Human Rights at Sea is not liable in anyway, whatsoever, in any jurisdiction, for the contents of this case study which has been translated and published in good faith following investigation by the Charity. All text and picture sources have been acknowledged where able. Any omissions or factual inaccuracies should be immediately alerted by writing to: enquiries@humanrightsea.org. The opinions, perspectives and comments are solely those of the author.

HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

Human Rights at Sea is a Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1161673. The organisation has been independently developed for the benefit of the international community for matters and issues concerning human rights in the maritime environment. Its aim is to explicitly raise awareness, implementation and accountability of human rights provisions throughout the maritime environment, especially where they are currently absent, ignored or being abused. enquiries@humanrightsatsea.org | www.humanrightsatsea.org

MISSING SEAFARERS & FISHERS REPORTING PROGRAMME

The aim of the Missing Seafarers & Fishers Reporting Programme, through the use of the Missing Seafarers Register, is to build an accurate international database of the status of seafarers and fishermen missing at sea on a global basis. enquiries@missingseafarers.org | www.missingseafarers.org

