

HOSTAGE SUPPORT  
PARTNERSHIP

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With close cooperation and  
support from



Winners 2015 for Countering Piracy

# Hostage Support Programme

- Set up “The Forgotten Hostages Programme” with support by SRSO Somalia under his “Good Offices mandate” with support from CGPCS Trust Fund. Partnered with UNODC and OBP. Eventually became independent charity/partnership as negotiations became more complex partnered with HFW, Compass Risk and Tillingbourne International
- Objective 1: Monitor and Track all Hostages in Somalia (Pirate Victims and other hostages)
- Objective 2: Provide support in captivity (families now provided by ISWAN)
- Objective 3: Facilitate Release
- Objective 4: Assist with repatriation to home country



# Release of the Siraj Crew.

- The FV Siraj, an Iranian fishing vessel with an original crew of 19, which was hijacked by Somali pirates on 25 March 2015.
- HSP conducted negotiations on behalf of the Iranian families with support from the Iranian Govt for the remaining crew
- The Captain was released in late 2019 on ill health grounds
- The remaining three Iranian hostages, who were held for 1,975 days by Somali pirates, were released in August and are back in Tehran.



# This the end of a decade of pain and suffering by seafarers and a success story that began with help from CGPCS. Total as at today 175 Hostages released

- In **mid-November 2012**, the HSP provided advice to the Government of Seychelles on the repatriation of two Seychellois fishermen after a year of captivity in Somalia.
- In **late November 2012**, the HSP provided humanitarian support to 19 hostages, whose release was secured by the Royal Netherlands Navy from a vessel captured by Somali pirates. The HSP provided direct support with the Associate Hostage Release and Repatriation Officer, deploying to Dar Es Salaam in support of the Royal Netherlands Navy and the embassies of the hostages' home States.
- In late **December 2012**, the HSP coordinated the repatriation of the remaining 22 seafarers from Ghana, India, Pakistan, Philippines, Sudan and Yemen who were held hostage on board the MV Iceberg-1 for more than 1,000 days. For those States that did not have the resources to recover hostages, the HSP chartered a UN Humanitarian Air Support aircraft and two flew to Bosaso to collect the hostages.
- On **10 January 2013**, one Sri Lankan and two Syrian hostages from the MV Orna were recovered from Mogadishu by the HSP. The Sri Lankan seafarer was flown to Nairobi on a United Nations aircraft, while the two Syrians boarded commercial flights to Beirut. On 12 January 2013, three remaining Syrian hostages were released in Adado, and were flown to Beirut for onward repatriation.
- During the second week of **March 2013** the MV Smyrni and the MV Royal Grace were released with a total crew of 47 seafarers. The HSP coordinated with EUNAVFOR to monitor the release and was on stand-by in case the crew needed assistance with their repatriation.
- In **August and September 2013**, the HSP facilitated medical support, including two visits by a doctor, to seafarers from the MV Albedo. This was the first time medical aid had been delivered to a crew in captivity.
- In **July 2014**, the HSP helped secure the release and safe repatriation of 11 hostages from the MV Albedo, together with another 3 Kenyan hostages held in Somalia.
- In **July 2014** the HSP facilitated the delivery of medical assistance and a support package of welfare items to four Thai hostages from the Prantalay 12, who are still in captivity and then negotiated their subsequent release (see below)
- In **September 2014**, a German-US journalist was freed after nearly three years in captivity. The HSP provided advice and technical support to the parties involved in facilitating his release and communicated with the hostage's family throughout.
- In **February 2015** the 4 crew of the Prantalay 12 were released to the HSP after lengthy negotiations and flown to Nairobi and then to Thailand.
- In **August 2015** 34 crew of the FV Al Amal were saved by the PMPF from falling into pirates hands and recovered by the HSP on behalf of the Kenyan and Indonesian government.
- In **Late 2016** 26 crew from the FV Naham 3 following lengthy negotiations
- In **Oct 2019** 1 crew from FV Siraj
- In **August 2020** last 3 crew from FV Siraj.

**Whilst there may be a happy ending....**



## **Even after release the pain goes on....**

“They molested us so much. They tied up the captain, dragged him on the floor, the bosun and chief officer were beaten, and a lot of others were beaten.....The chief officer (Dhiraj Tiwari) was being beaten so badly, he was being stabbed with a knife, and then he went missing. We never found him.”...MV Iceberg Hostage

**And for some families there is no closure....**



# WHILST THIS MAY BE THE END OF THE PIRACY HOSTAGE CASES – THERE ARE STILL HOSTAGES IN SOMALIA THAT NEED

- 2 Kenyan Engineers kidnapped in Mogadishu in 2015 believed to be held by Al Shabaab near the Port of Haradheere
- 1 German Nurse working for ICRC and kidnapped in Mogadishu and held in Central Somalia with links to the Pirate Kingpin Garfanje
- 2 Cuban Doctors kidnapped in Kenya on the border and held by Al Shabaab in south Somalia

See some of our recent work at: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/video-on-demand/negotiators/pirate-hijack-11982608>