

## **"SARNIA NEWS" CIRCULAR**

(Ref: 267/15/GP)

TO ALL SHIPOWNER CLIENTS

15<sup>TH</sup> April 2015

**Re: VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE – YEMEN BANS MERCHANT VESSELS FROM ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS.**

Please find below information received from Grey Page advising that following an announcement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 13.4.15, Yemen formally banned navigation in its territorial waters due to the current unrest, with Saudi-led naval forces policing the ban. Limited access for essential trade may be granted but only with permission from both the Yemeni government and the Saudi-led coalition and following inspection.

**It is strongly recommended that trading to Yemen is completely avoided and please ensure this important information is distributed to the relevant personnel, as well as being sent to the Master(s)/Chief Officers(s) of your vessel(s).**

Best regards

Loss Prevention Team

**From:** Gray Page: Global Alerts [<mailto:noreply@graypage.com>]

**Sent:** 14 April 2015 18:14

**To:** Amgad Wanis

**Subject:** A new alert from Gray Page

## **Yemen bans merchant vessels from its territorial waters**

### **Background**

Report Date - 14 April 2015. According to an announcement by Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13th April 2015, Yemen formally banned navigation in its territorial waters due to the unrest currently taking place in the country. The Yemeni Government has reportedly given the Saudi-led coalition naval forces authority to police the ban. We understand that some vessels will be allowed in to the country if they are conducting essential trade, but these vessels will require the permission of both the Yemeni Government and Saudi-led coalition. They will also face an inspection before they are allowed into port.

### **Assessment and Analysis**

Fighting between the Yemeni Government and Houthi rebels has escalated substantially in recent weeks, forcing the closure of Aden's port. Our local contacts have reported that a number of commercial shipping vessels have already been blocked from entering Yemeni ports, so vessel operators intending to trade in the region should make regular assessments of the situation.

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