

"SARNIA NEWS" CIRCULAR

(Ref: 308/16/GP)

TO ALL SHIPOWNER CLIENTS

10TH February 2017

Re: *IMPORTANT NOTICE*** - Hijacking of BBC CARIBBEAN off the Niger Delta**

Please find below a new **ALERT** from Gray Page, a specialist maritime consulting group, which provides important information regarding the hijacking of the vessel BBC CARIBBEAN off the Niger Delta, and the subsequent kidnapping of the majority of the vessel's crew, which is highly relevant for all ship owners' whose trading warranty within their insurance terms includes this area.

We would suggest this information is distributed to the relevant personnel, as well as being sent to the Master(s)/Chief Officers(s) of your vessel(s) if relevant.

NOTE:

If a vessel is outside of the agreed trading warranty, underwriters have the right to decline any claims that may arise. It is therefore imperative that owners check their trading warranty when negotiating a fixture and if the vessel will be trading outside of the agreed trading area, please inform Sarnia Marine immediately, so we may **request** your underwriter to provide an extension for the intended voyage, noting that ***underwriters must approve this request prior to the voyage taking place.***

With Kind regards,

Loss Prevention Team

From: noreply=graypage.com@www.graypage.com
[<mailto:noreply=graypage.com@www.graypage.com>] **On Behalf Of** Gray Page: Global Alerts
Sent: 09 February 2017 15:10
To: Sarnia
Subject: A new alert from Gray Page

Russian officials confirm hijacking of BBC CARIBBEAN off the Niger Delta.

Background

Russian officials have confirmed that the Antigua & Barbuda-flagged general cargo vessel BBC CARIBBEAN was hijacked at around 0700 hours on Sunday 5th February 2017 and the majority of its crew kidnapped.

The vessel was sailing in ballast from Douala, Cameroon to Lome, Togo when it was approached and boarded by men from a skiff/speed boat. The incident lasted for approximately 10 hours, during which time most of the crew were taken off the vessel.

The vessel was making way again at around 1800 hours the same day on a Westerly heading.

Assessment and Analysis

The BBC CARIBBEAN was one of three vessels to have been targetted in security incidents off the Niger Delta in the last 5 days. The other two vessels were tankers that were calling locally for cargo operations and in both cases the Nigerian Navy intervened succesfully to repel the attackers. Bulk carriers and general cargo vessels have been the targets of attacks before and this incident demonstrates that no vessel type is immune from criminal interest.

The number of crew that were taken hostage from the vessel is an interesting development. Although reports differ – some say that 8 crew were taken and others 11 – it is an uncommonly large number of crew that have been taken hostage. Previous cases have invloved 2 or 3 crewmen.

[Go to Threat Picture](#)

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