



JOINT STATEMENT of the
JOINT MANNING GROUP (JMG), and the
ASSOCIATED MARINE OFFICERS' AND SEAFARERS' UNION OF THE PHILIPPINES (AMOSUP-PTGWO-ITF)
05 February 2010, Manila, Philippines

On the M.V. "Beluga Nomination" piracy incident

The officers and representatives of five national organizations belonging to the Joint Manning Group (JMG) and the Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP-PTGWO-ITF) express deep concern over the piracy incident involving the international cargo vessel *M.V. Beluga Nomination* that already claimed the life of a Filipino Seafarer.

M.V. Beluga Nomination was attacked in the afternoon of 22 January 2011 by a fast craft with an unknown number of pirates. Four days later, an element of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) in the area attempted to rescue the vessel's crew, during which one pirate was killed.

The pirates, in retaliation, shot and killed a Filipino crew member. During the incident, two crew members, one of whom is a Filipino, managed to escape. The other two, one Filipino and one East European, are still missing and are now the subject of continuing search and rescue operation.

Seven out of 12 crew members remain hostages. Of the seven, four are Filipinos and three are East Europeans. Negotiations for the early release of the vessel and the hostages are ongoing between the pirates and the shipowners.

We denounce this attack and the killing with indignation, and encourage others to do so if only to inform the global maritime community and the Filipino people that this atrocity is outrageous. We are one with the government in rightfully condemning the pirates' lawless behavior and their senseless disregard for human life.

International piracy is a threat to global shipping and the industry is dealing with it to the best of its abilities and capabilities through tripartite consultation, international cooperation, implementation of most practical and preventive measures, and best management practices (BMP).

Among and within the industry, we comply strictly with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) - Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) mandatory anti-piracy training program for all Filipino seafarers prior to joining their vessels. In cooperation with the Maritime Training Council (MTC), we continue to review and update the anti piracy training module in response to the changing needs of the times.

We are equally concerned with the seafarers and their families who are affected by piracy incidents. We continue to cooperate with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration in providing medical assistance and post-trauma counseling.

More importantly, we join the government in its urgent call for more effective, unified and comprehensive actions of competent UN bodies and other international organizations in the global shipping community to address and end the piracy problem. -end-