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P & I CLUB CORRESPONDENTS

Dakar on 24/03/2020

Dear Sirs,

Please be informed that the Senegalese Authorities have taken the decision on 20th March 2020 to suspend air travels into and out of the country. This measure is part of the action plan against the COVID 19 pandemic.

Similar decisions have been taken by the nearby countries of The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde.

All four countries have also decided to prohibit calls of cruise ships and passenger vessels in their respective ports. Disembarkation of stowaways and crewmembers are no longer authorized either. The only exception for crewmembers concerns duly justified emergency cases.

Stowaways-searches should therefore be reinforced prior to leaving any port of call. We would recommend that Masters are extremely vigilant to avoid embarkation of stowaways. Considering the current global context, boarding of stowaways must be avoided by all possible means. Otherwise, these individuals will become a burden extremely difficult to be relieved of.

Kindly note that Dakar Port Authority has also suspended STS operations off Dakar and now prohibits foreign fishing vessels operating beyond Senegalese waters to call at any of the local ports.

Besides, please be informed that the state of emergency has been imposed in Senegal for 12 days with a curfew from 20.00 Lt to 06.00 Lt. It will be applicable starting from today 24th March.

There is no indication yet on whether exemptions will be granted for certain activities including night time discharge operations of vessels. We shall revert should there be more specific measures concerning ships' operations.

Best regards

Ngagne FAYE
TCI AFRICA DAKAR