



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SHIPMASTERS' ASSOCIATIONS

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Press Release - 20 May 2000

IFSMA Assembly Resolution

The Unjustified Jailing of Shipmasters

THE 26TH IFSMA ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING EXAMINED recent cases where Shipmasters have been jailed for a variety of alleged offences IFSMA deplors the way in which Coastal States have pursued their prosecutions without due regard to Human Rights and International Law,

BELIEVES that Shipmasters are entitled to know the alleged offence with which they are charged in writing in a language which they understand and to be provided with legal representation,

CONSIDERS that no Shipmaster should ever be put in jail without a fair trial and no Shipmaster should be detained in jail while awaiting trial for a civil offence.

CONSIDERS FURTHER that there is an urgent need to convene an International Conference covering the penal jurisdiction of shipping and Shipmasters in the context of International Conventions.

Note for Editors: This Press Release reflects also the opinions of the 9th International Command Seminar, held at Trinity House on 17th and 18th May 2000, where the major topic "Why we must work to Decriminalise the Shipmaster" was strongly supported.

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