

International Commission on Shipping

Rio de Janeiro

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Target Rogue Manning Agencies

The operations of world wide terrorism are being facilitated by governments turning a blind eye to the obsessive secrecy surrounding sub standard shipping activities Mr Morris told the International Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea meeting in Rio de Janeiro today.

There are long established and sophisticated processes used by operators of sub standard shipping, and in the illegal unreported international fishing sector, for the secret movement of crew members, money, false documents and false crew qualification certificates that are well known to governments of labour supplying nations he said.

Mr Morris stressed that the rogue manning agencies, shipping companies and financial houses involved in these activities must be targeted in the drive against terrorism.

Current initiatives by the United States, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to identify the operational controllers of ships and to authenticate the identity of seafarers could have major additional benefits he said.

Properly managed, the initiatives could see the elimination of substandard shipping and the rackets in false qualification certificates, the elimination of the infamous practice of blacklisting of seafarers and much of the exploitation of seafarers Mr Morris said.

Referring to welfare support organisations for visiting seafarers he said the Organisations provided invaluable support services to international shipping he said.

The real beneficiaries of these services are the shipowners and the cargo owners. They should provide a significant funding to the welfare organisations, a number of which are clergy based.

Those that do not are in effect preying on the goodwill and generosity of local charity workers who work hard to raise money to fund their services to seafarers Mr Morris said.

The full text of Mr Morris's speech is displayed on the ICONS web site www.icons.org.au

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