



The P&I Correspondent in Venezuela

Caracas, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016

## **Venepandi's Circular - 025 – Robbery on board anchored vessels increasing at Puerto la Cruz Bay**

**Recently we've registered a new increase of cases of robbery and pilferage on board anchored vessels overnight with persons armed with guns and rifles.**

At Puerto La cruz, port of Jose and Guanta Bay anchor designated areas, we've recorded an increase of cases of robbery and pilferage on board anchored vessels. These recent incidents happens exclusively overnight with small boats (mostly like fishing boats) approaching vessels. The armed robbers get on board by climbing the anchor chain armed with guns and even larger rifles and granades showing even the will to kidnap an entire ship if notice is given to the authorities. Most of the items they mainly look for are electronic devices and money in cash. However, there is a risk associated with drug trafficking as the crew may find it har to determine is any bag or similar was leaved on board. The people that get on board in order to conduct a robbery or pilferage are usually under the the effect of narcotics and may be willing to hurt or kill any crewmember who reject with their request for which is advised, in case of robbery on board, to provide full cooperation in order to preserve the crew members phisical integrity.

It's reccomended to all vessels and crews to increase the patrolling on board during staying at anchor (that some times exceeds 10 days) and in case is possible, to hire private security that could stay on board during the ship's time at anchor and that could assure that none unidentified parties approach any vessel and to ensure the authorities and coast guard attend before any incident takes place.

Should you have any question about this or any other matter, please don't hesitate on contacting us.

**Carlos Carrasco  
Operations Manager**

**Francisco Villanova  
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