



PRESS RELEASE

Rescue of 08 Indians From Drowned Ship in Gulf of Aden

The Mission received information on 21 June 2019 through Bollore Africa Logistics in Djibouti regarding news of the sinking of a Wooden Dhow namely AWATIF in the Gulf of Aden (GoA) carrying 9 Indians on board. The Japanese Navy in the area picked up the distress call signals from the Dhow. The Japanese Navy Helicopter along with NYK Eagle spoke to the crew of the Dhow and found it was a genuine distress call from them to save from sinking vessel. They also established that all crew members were Indian.

The Japanese Navy called a Japanese Vessel NYK Eagle which was in the area to come near the Dhow to rescue the crew members. They made valiant efforts and they were able to save 08 of the nine Indian crew. 06 Indians crew were rescued by NYK Eagle Japanese ship and 02 Indian crew rescued by Japanese Navy Aircraft on late evening of 20 June 2019. The Indians saved were (1) Sabir Abas Gandhar; (2) Abdul Musa Emunsoa; (3) Osman Adam Gajan; (4) Imran Jusab Bhagad; (5) Razak Ismail Gandhar; (6) Amin Ganibhai Gandhar; (7) Mamadsalim Daud Kakal; and (8) Ahamadrza Bhokal. Unfortunately, Shri Aamad Jaku Bhagad could not be located and is reported missing.

2. The Japanese Navy directed the NYK Eagle to take a detour and proceed to Djibouti (the closest Port). AWATIF Dhow was sailing from Bosaso Port in Somalia for Dubai Port. NYK Vessel handed over the

Indians to the Djibouti Coast Guards who handed them over to the Embassy of India in Djibouti in the evening of 22/06/2019

3. After establishing their Indian identity, the Embassy immediately arranged the Indian nationals to call their families back in India to reassure them that they are safe and being looked after by the Indian Embassy. The Embassy arranged boarding and lodging for the distressed Indians in a local motel. The Embassy reported the matter to the Ministry of External Affairs, and meanwhile started processing temporary travel documents for them. After making all arrangements, the Embassy booked their air tickets up to Mumbai on 30th June 2019 and also handed over US\$ 30/- to each Indian national to support travel from Mumbai to their native towns in Gujarat. The Embassy incurred all expenditure for their (i) boarding/lodging; (ii) air ticket; (iii) additional travel expenditure; (iv) issue of temporary travel documents; and (v) making transport arrangements.

4. The Ambassador conveyed to them collectively that the Embassy is a home away from home for all Indian nationals and that the Embassy would provide all necessary assistance to the Indians in distress. They all conveyed their deep gratitude to the Embassy of India and the Government of India for rescuing and repatriating them at the earliest. Besides the financial assistance provided, the Indian nationals also acknowledged and appreciated the kind reception and humanitarian support provided by the Indian Embassy and its officials.

Place : Djibouti

Date : 01st July 2019