

Shipping mourns first deaths from Red Sea crisis

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Indian Navy

Top officials from across the shipping industry have expressed their feelings about the first loss of lives from the five-month old Red Sea shipping crisis.

The Houthis fired a missile yesterday at the [True Confidence](#), a 13-year-old, 50,448 dwt bulk carrier, which struck near the stern of the vessel. Three crew – a Vietnamese and two Filipinos – died, and two more were severely injured and are in hospital.

The Indian navy assisted in rescuing the crew who had abandoned the ship, as well in dousing the blaze on the Barbados-flagged ship, which had recently been sold by Oaktree to Greek interests. Its links to American interests – as highlighted by the Houthis yesterday – came to an end last month.

How can murdering these innocent seafarers possibly be justified?

True Confidence was on passage from China to Jeddah and Aqaba with a cargo of steel products and trucks.

The vessel is owned by True Confidence Shipping and operated by Third January Maritime of Piraeus. The vessel is drifting well away from land and salvage arrangements are being made.

International Maritime Organization secretary-general Arsenio Dominguez said it was “deeply saddening” to follow the “horrific” reports of the casualties on the *True Confidence*.

“Innocent seafarers should never become collateral victims,” Dominguez said, while calling for collective action to fortify the safety of those who serve at sea.

“International trade depends on international shipping and international shipping cannot go on without seafarers,” Dominguez stressed.

Stephen Cotton, general secretary of the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF), a seafarers union, called for urgent action to protect its members.

“We have consistently warned the international community and the maritime industry about the escalating risks faced by seafarers in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea. Today ... we see those warnings tragically confirmed,” Cotton said.

Commenting on social media, Budd Darr, executive vice president at Mediterranean Shipping Co (MC), responsible for maritime policy and government affairs at the world’s largest container line, hit out at the Houthis.

“It is hard to see in any context how murdering these innocent seafarers in the Gulf of Aden could possibly be justified,” Darr wrote.

"We will call on governments around the world to join us in bringing to a halt these appalling attacks," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said yesterday.



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[#IndianNavy](#)'s swift response to Maritime Incident in [#GulfofAden](#).

Barbados Flagged Bulk Carrier MV [#TrueConfidence](#) reported on fire after a drone/missile hit on [#06Mar](#), approx 54 nm South West of Aden, resulting in critical injuries to crew, forcing them to abandon ship.... [Show more](#)



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