

Cases of Detention and Imprisonments

Alexandra N. Couvadelli

Team Leader Claims London/Senior Lawyer



Recent developments

- HEROIC IDUN 2022
- STENA IMPERO 2019
- GALAXY LEADER 2024
- TRUE CONFIDENCE 2024
- ST. NICHOLAS 2024



Detention West Africa

HEROIC IDUN

- Taken by Equatorial Guinea 12 August 2022
- Released by Nigeria 27 May 2023

Issues:

- Effect on crew
- Insurance Implications/War Risk
- Breach of UNCLOS/ITLOS action



Detention Straits of Hormuz

STENA IMPERO

- Taken by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy 19 July 2019
- Crew released 4 September 2019
- Ship released 27 September 2019

Issues

Legal implications under International Law

- Allegations of “*act of state piracy*”
- Breach of UNCLOS
- Insurance coverage/challenges



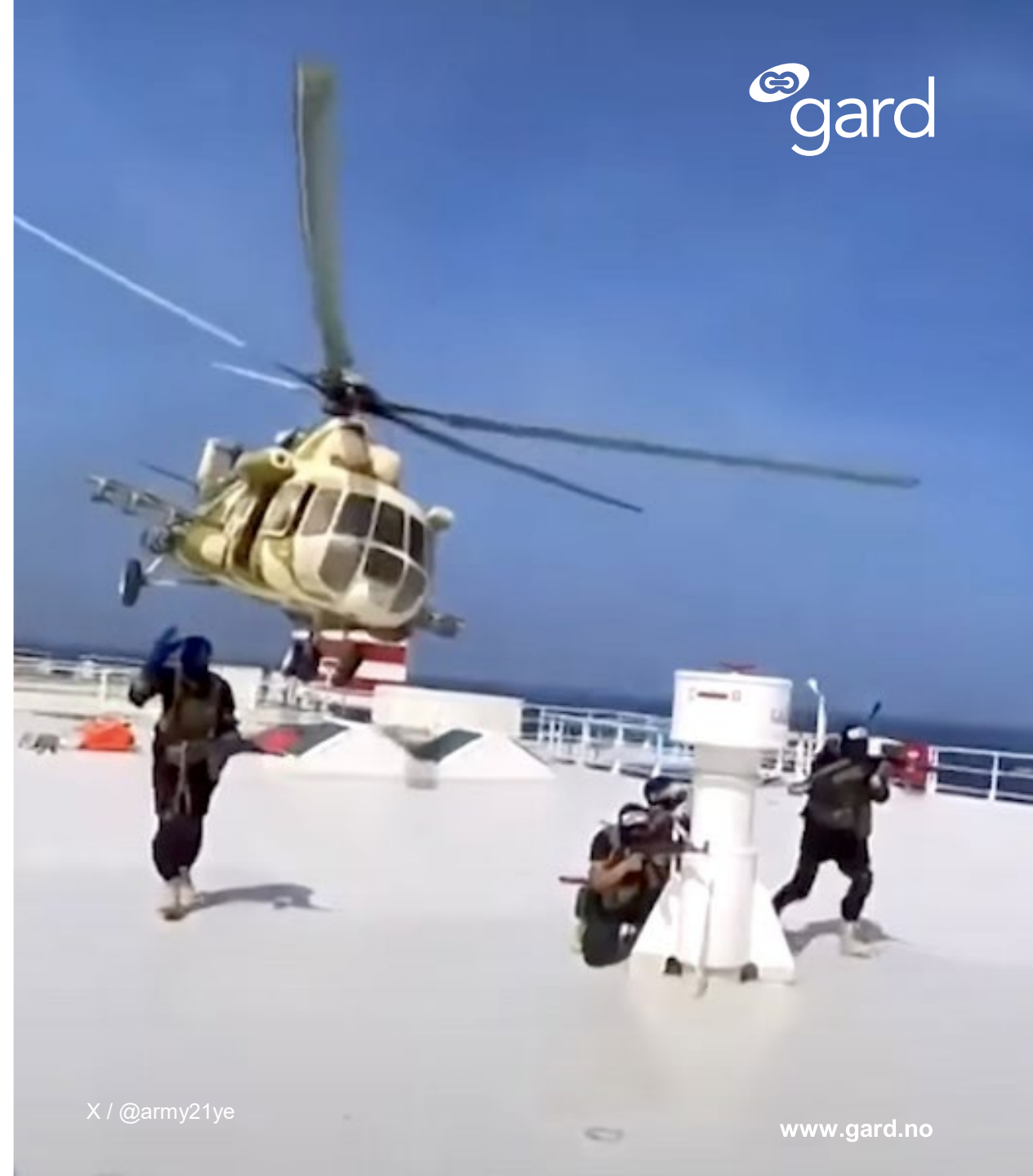
Detention Red Sea

GALAXY LEADER

- Taken by Houthis /Yemen 19 November 2023
- Crew released 22 January 2025

Issues:

- Effect on crew
- Insurance implications/War Risks
- Breach of UNCLOS?
- Challenges in Legal Enforcement



Detention Red Sea

TRUE CONFIDENCE

- Hit by missiles 6 March 2024
- 3 Members of the crew were killed and 4 injured
- Ship/Abandoned

Issues

- War Risk Insurance
- Breach of UNCLOS?
- Challenges in legal enforcement



Source: U.S. Central Command

Detentions Red Sea

ST NICHOLAS (ex name Suez Rajan)

- OFAC's allegation re cargo being of Iranian origin
- Cargo delivered to US's custody
- Ship detained by Iranian Government/January 2024
- Crew released March 2024
- Cargo released July 2024
- Ship remains in Iran

Issues:

- Crew
- Insurance implications/War Risks
- Breach of UNCLOS.





Heroic Idun owner to pay Nigeria \$15m to end nine-month detention

Public apology to navy to secure release of VLCC

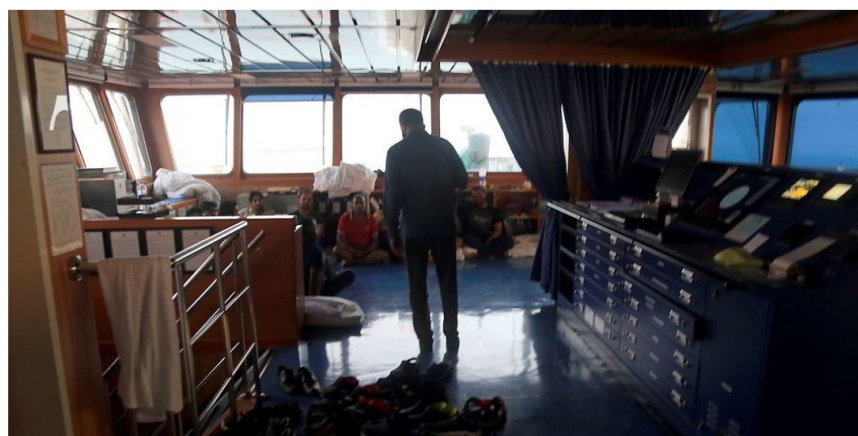
12 May 2023 14:27 GMT UPDATED 16 May 2023 13:57 GMT

By **Paul Peachey** in **London**

The owner of a VLCC has apologised for embarrassing the Nigerian navy and agreed to pay \$15m to secure the release of the ship and crew.



Houthi 'horror story': Owner of hijacked car carrier hopes seafarer suffering



Iran strikes in Strait of Hormuz as Middle East tanker tensions explode

Stena and Norbulk vessels captured in latest Middle East shipping drama

19 July 2019 18:29 GMT UPDATED 24 July 2019 12:57 GMT

By **Matt Coyne**, **Michael Juliano**, **Andy Pierce** and **Gary Dixon**



Ship adrift after being struck by Houthi missile assigned salvage tug for rescue

The True Confidence has been left drifting in the Gulf of Aden

Conclusion



- Adherence with existing Convention (UNCLOS,MLC)/Legal Reform Advocacy
- Marine Insurance considerations/Market Response
- Industry Collaboration on protocols that address the protection of commercial shipping in **gray-zone conflict environments**