

# INDIAN SEAFARERS FEDERATION (ISF)

**National Union of Seafarers of India,  
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**The Maritime Union of India  
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13<sup>th</sup> April, 2009

The President,  
I N S A  
Makers Towers "F", Cuffe Parade,  
**Colaba, Mumbai- 400 005.**

Dear Sir,

Sub: **High-Risk Area Bonus and Allowances**

The matter about the High-Risk Area bonus and allowances while transiting in the pirated infested areas of the Gulf of Aden has been referred to INSA in September 2008 and in April 2009. We find that there is no positive response from the Indian shipowners whereas the foreign shipowners (FOSMA) and (MASSA) had diligently implemented the said allowances. It is regretted that the Indian shipowners are sleeping over it.

At every national and international forum the role of the Indian seafarers is being projected as that of the Ambassadors of India, essential for the growth of Indian economy, for the role they play, serving on the high seas under volatile conditions. It is regretted to state that the Indian shipowners are tightfisted and stingy when it comes to giving allowances for this justified cause. It is also a matter of regret that while all the seafarers whether Russians, Philipinos etc. and also Indian seafarers on foreign flagships where there is an agreement of NUSI and MUI are receiving these allowances, Indian seafarers working on Indian flagships are deprived of the same. This is highly condemnable.

We advise the INSA once again to ask their memberlines to start immediately the High-Risk bonuses and allowances including arrears. Otherwise there will be large-scale agitation including an appeal to the Indian seafarers not to go in the pirate-infested areas of Somalia. Indian seafarers are proud of the fact that despite facing all adversities they have agreed to sail in the pirate infested areas of Somalia. This act of bravery should be complimented and the allowances including arrears should be sanctioned immediately.

Your immediate action in this matter will be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

(Abdulgani Y. Serang)  
General Secretary-cum-Treasurer  
National Union of Seafarers of India

Yours faithfully,

(S. S. Khan)  
General Secretary  
The Maritime Union of India