



International
Chamber of Shipping

Shaping the Future of Shipping

Walsingham House
35 Seething Lane
London
EC3N 4AH

Tel +44 20 7090 1460

info@ics-shipping.org | ics-shipping.org

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PRESS RELEASE: ICS urges governments to act after UN report highlights countries denying seafarers urgent medical care.

Action Required: International Chamber of Shipping invites you to take note of the press release calling on governments to ensure access to medical care for seafarers, after reports continue to emerge of crews being refused urgent treatment at ports during the pandemic.

The International Chamber of Shipping has called on governments around the world to ensure access to medical care for seafarers, after it emerged that crews continue to be refused urgent treatment at ports during the pandemic.

Governments, many of whom are yet to recognise seafarers as key workers despite encouragement to do so by the UN, have relied on broad ranging 'force majeure' defences to deny seafarers medical treatment. Citing 'force majeure', governments have bypassed fundamental standards on seafarer wellbeing, such as those contained in the Maritime Labour Convention. However, the ILO found that given that almost two years had passed since the beginning of the pandemic, "...'force majeure' should not be regarded as a valid reason to deprive seafarers of their rights."

The full release can be found in **Annex A**.

For any further information contact the undersigned on tanya.blake@ics-shipping.org

[COMMUNICATIONS\(22\)12 - Annex A - ICS urges governments to act after UN report highlights countries denying seafarers urgent medical care](#)

Tanya Blake
Communications Manager