



Press Release

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AMVER SHIP SAVES REFUGEES

NEW YORK – The Amver participating bulk ship SKS Trinity rescued nine Algerian refugees from their capsized boat off the coast of Spain on June 17th. Despite the dramatic rescue, one refugee died after the rescue.

According to Captain Vladimir Bugrimov, master of the Norwegian flagged ship, crew sighted a small wooden boat with 10 people aboard. Within minutes of finding the men their boat capsized. With winds at 20 to 25 knots and seas of 8 feet, Captain Bugrimov knew time was of the essence.

Captain Bugrimov immediately sounded the man overboard alarm and crew began heaving flotation devices into the water. He broadcast the man overboard to all ships in the vicinity, notified local search and rescue authorities and had the crew launch the rescue boat.

As the crewmen of the Trinity were rescuing the refugees, search and rescue authorities on shore were coordinating their response. A rescue helicopter was launched and the Cartagena search and rescue vessel Salvamar Mimosa raced to assist.

The survivors were taken aboard the Trinity and given first aid, clothing, food, water and transferred to the rescue vessel Salvamar Mimosa for transport to shore.

The SKS Trinity, an Amver participant since February 1999, earned its 10 year participation award in 2008 and continues to actively report to the Amver system.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center.

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Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,500 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

Photo of refugees prior to rescue:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/3672650912/>

Photo of rescue operations:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/3672650978/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/3671842495/>

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Photo credit: Crew of the M/V SKS Trinity

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