



The P&I Correspondent in Venezuela

Caracas, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2014

## **Venepandi's Circular - 005 – Threats to security within Venezuelan territory**

**Given the current violent crime situation in Venezuela which reached this week the highest pike with the murder of miss Venezuela 2004 and her Irish husband, we kindly invite club's and members to take a look on this circular and its content in order to ensure safety of crew members and personal coming to the country for business.**

We encourage club's and members to check on the US department of state following links that gives advice to citizens coming to Venezuela for vacation or business to protect their safety in consideration of the current situation with statistics that have shown that only in 2013 around 24 thousand murderers took place only due criminal violence:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_6222.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_6222.html)

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1059.html#safety](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1059.html#safety)

Examples of this regrettable situation can be seen with the murder last Monday with the murderer of miss Venezuela 2004 Monica Spear, her husband from Ireland Mr. Thomas Berry and were their 5 year old child was shot in the leg for resisting robbery near to the port of Puerto Cabello were they were on vacation due the recent holidays. In addition, we had a case last year in which a Philippine Master was murderer for resisting robbery after he disembarked at Punto Fijo for buying pants.

In addition to the above, we would like to warn out clubs and members about a worrying increase last days of attempt for smuggling illegal substances for which we would recommend to instruct Master to increase the security measures on board when calling at Venezuelan ports.

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