AMVER

Press Release

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AMVER TANKER RESCUES 162

NEW YORK –   162 Somali refugees, including a pregnant woman and 12 year old child, were rescued by the Amver participating tanker Overseas Primar, early Sunday in the Mediterranean.

Tradewinds reports the tanker, owned by the Overseas Shipholding Group of New York City, was directed by Maltese rescue authorities to the distress location. The tanker, on a trip from Israel to Nigeria, originally thought they would be assisting 18 people. Instead, the crew plucked 133 men, 28 women, and a young boy from the sinking 32 foot boat.

Rough weather has prevented the Marshall Island flagged tanker from docking in Malta. Instead, Maltese authorities have two boats alongside the tanker waiting to accept the refugees.

The Overseas Primar enrolled in the Amver system in 1988 and has earned 19 awards for participation in the global search and rescue scheme.

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. 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.

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