

CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW

Seminar

CIL

24 April 2013, Wednesday, 4.00PM – 5.30PM

NUS Bukit Timah Campus, Block B, Level 3, Seminar Room 3.

Evidence Control and Crew Support in the Post Release Phase of Hijackings in the Horn of Africa: *SOME PRACTICAL ISSUES*

SPEAKER

Karsten von HOESSLIN

Managing Director
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Karsten von Hoesslin is the Managing Director of BridgeWing Solutions GmbH, a consultancy specializing in crisis response and extractions specifically in frontier regions and hostile environments. Karsten is trained as a remote environment and tactical medic as well as in post-traumatic stress reduction facilitation techniques and psychological first aid. He is also trained in hostage negotiation, behavioural profiling, and crime scene investigation. Previously, Karsten was a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for International Law examining maritime crimes and boundary issues in South East Asia. Karsten has assisted in forensic evidence collection and profiling in previous cases, however, his most recent operation involved the largest piracy hijacking case to date whereby he coordinated the marine component of the post-release and safe recovery of the vessel and its crew.

INTRODUCTION

Somali hijackings have been at the forefront of maritime security dialogue for over five years. The evolution of hijacking methodologies has become increasingly more complex as both negotiation tactics and the demand for increased ransoms have changed dramatically since 2007. The increased captivity periods have sparked a new series of challenges for shipowners that are often overlooked during the post-release phase, and which inherently are the most important.

Simultaneously, the evolution in the nature of negotiations namely from the pirate side has also changed the forensic landscape on board hijacked vessels, making evidence control for purposes of potential criminal prosecutions all the more necessary. This, however, must be balanced carefully with the duty of care and preserving the physical and psychological well being of the crew, which must be priority.

This presentation shall draw on operational experiences highlighting the significance of the post-release phase and how forensics, evidence control, and psychological first aid techniques are imperative in increasing the well being of the crew while securing key evidence in potential piracy trials. This presentation will mostly focus on a framework devised by the speaker on enhancing both immediate medical care and psychological first aid techniques combined with forensic evidence control, preservation and collection on board.

FREE ADMISSION Please register your interest to attend by emailing Ms Jocelyn Cruz at cilcmjm@nus.edu.sg

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW (CIL)

The Centre for International Law (CIL) is based at the Bukit Timah campus of the National University of Singapore. CIL's mission is to enable Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region to play a more significant role in the promotion and development of international law and policy. The Centre's aim is to become the region's intellectual hub and thought leader for research on and teaching of international law and policy. The Director of CIL is Associate Professor Robert C Beckman and the Deputy Director is Dr Navin Raj. For more information, please visit the CIL website at <http://www.cil.nus.edu.sg> or email: cil.info@nus.edu.sg Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore, Bukit Timah Campus, Block B, # 02-01, 469 Bukit Timah Road, Singapore 259756 [Map](#)