

# Indian fishermen detained in Iran still await release

Harpreet Kaur/DTNN  
reporter@dt.bh

Despite orders from Iranian courts, the 30-odd Indian fishermen, who were detained by Iranian cost guards in October 2016, were not as yet released by the Iran port officials, reports said yesterday.

They are still languishing in their seized boats, moored somewhere in the port vicinity, said the reports.

According to Justin Anthony, President of International Fishermen Development Trust (INFIDET), who was making the follow up negotiations for the release, the fishermen are still not given permission for their return albeit the orders have been issued on 14 March 2017 to each one of them in hand by the sponsor in the presence of the port administrator.

Anthony said that he had spoken to one of the detained fishermen, George, on 20 March 2017, and, according to him, they were told they could return after five days from 14 March.

Time was lost in the delay in paying penalty to the authorities. But it has been confirmed that the court issued release orders after completing that formality by



The fishermen waiting for their release from Iran port

the sponsors, said Anthony.

Each time the fishermen raised questions to the port officials, the answer was contained in just one word—"soon", said Anthony.

Anthony said, "They have been contacting the Indian Embassy in Iran to let them know the plight of the fishermen. The detained men have not been given food and water to sustain their life."

"They were held under strict surveillance of the armed forces. Even to attend nature's call, they were taken to the toilet one by one," he said quoting reports from Iran.

However, on further enquiry, it was reported that somebody had approached them and handed Rs 8000 for procuring medicines and food, he said.

Not only the fishermen are worried but their families are also growing anxious, as the release is getting inordinately delayed.

According to latest reports, Iranian officials are waiting for the ongoing holidays to pass. Once the holidays are over officials will release the fishermen, the reports said.

There were 15 men in three boats that set sail from Bahrain

in October 2016—all Indian expats. They were Kiruba, George, Jacob, Anto and Ravi in Al Shumal; Varghese, Claudin, Sagar, Sreejith and John Kennady in Daynat Mariam; and Rajesh Kumar,



WhatsApp image of the court release order

Saleth Raja, Seenu, Vincent and Prasanth in Mughalaf.

The men in Al Shumal and Dayanat Mariam were put into jail and later returned to boats. Their passports and mobile phones, which were first seized, were released after 30 days, Anthony said, adding that they have been totally denied of the minimum living conditions they required in spite of the negotiations being

made to Indian Embassy and Iranian authorities.

Another group of 15 men which set sail from Dubai, has Balamurugan from Ramnad district in Tamil Nadu.

According to him, their sponsor rarely visited them, and he did not know if the penalty has been paid for them, although they had been taken to court several times.

## New Isa primary school set to open



Minister of Education on an inspection visit to the school

Manama

The new Isa Town School for Boys is all set to open for the new academic year 2017-18.

Education Minister Dr Majid Al Nuaimi announced the inauguration as he visited Isa

Town School for Boys, where he met the administrative staff.

He was briefed on preparations being undertaken by the authorities to raze down the old building by the end of this school year.

## 25pc progress in Muqaba sewerage network

Manama

The Sanitary Engineering Planning and Projects Director of the Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, Nazha Abu Hindi said that the Ministry has achieved 25 per cent progress in Muqaba Sewerage Network Project, which is hoped to serve 140 houses in the area.

According to Abu Hindi, the project comprises extension of 670m long main connections, 860m long sub-connections, construction of 160 inspection chambers and connecting 140 houses to the network in Block 517 in Muqaba.

The BD831,814 project was earlier awarded to Abdul Karim Al Jahrami Contracting.

FAILED YOUR 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>  
AND EMBARRASSED?

**DON'T BE!**

NIOS is your  
opportunity to  
pass 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>.



Call us:  
17822157, 39270637, 33865307

GLOBAL INSTITUTE  
FOR MANAGEMENT SCIENCE