

Kingdom condemns Iranian detention of British oil tanker

Foreign Ministry urges Iran to stop its threats to maritime navigation

● The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated the Kingdom of Bahrain's solidarity with the friendly United Kingdom.

● The UK has branded Iran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf as a "hostile act".

Manama

Bahrain yesterday strongly condemned Iran's detention of a British oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement, the Foreign Ministry called on Iran to cease its recurring hostile activities and to release Stena Impero immediately.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterated the Kingdom of Bahrain's solidarity with the friendly United Kingdom against all that threatens its interests and supports what protects its rights.

The ministry also stressed the need for Iran to halt its irresponsible acts and to stop its continuous threats to maritime navigation.

It further called on the international community to take all the necessary actions to confront Iran and make it comply with the international maritime safety laws and treaties in order to establish international peace



The British oil tanker Stena Impero.

and security.

The UK has branded Iran's seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker in the Gulf as a "hostile act" on Saturday, rejecting Tehran's explanation that it had seized the vessel because it had been involved in an accident.

Iran's revolutionary guard released footage of the Stena Impero being boarded. As several speedboats sped alongside the vast vessel, an Iranian helicopter hovered over the ship's deck and several men in balaclavas carrying automatic weapons rappelled down a rope.

The video showed Iranian

troops using the same method of boarding the vessel as British Royal Marines used to seize the Grace 1 tanker on July 4. British authorities stopped the tanker, loaded with 2.1 million barrels of light fuel oil on suspicion of breaching European sanctions on Syria.

The Stena Impero was captured on Friday evening, a day after Gibraltar's Supreme Court said it would extend by 30 days the detention of an Iranian tanker seized two weeks ago.

British Defence Secretary Penny Mordaunt called the incident a "hostile act". Foreign

Secretary Jeremy Hunt said he had expressed "extreme disappointment" at the incident just a week after Iran said it wanted to deescalate the situation in the region during a phone call to his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Mr Hunt said the action was "totally and utterly unacceptable" and a "clear contravention of international law".

"We need to see the illegal seizing of a British-flagged vessel reversed, we need that ship released, and we continue to be very concerned about the safety and welfare of the 23 crew

members."

He said the Iranian view that the seizure was simply "tit-for-tat" could not be further from the truth.

"Just spoke to...Zarif and expressed extreme disappointment that having assured me last Saturday Iran wanted to de-escalate situation, they have behaved in the opposite way," Mr Hunt tweeted on Saturday.

"It raises very serious questions about the security of British shipping and indeed international shipping in the Straits of Hormuz," he later said via a foreign office statement.

Bahrain's strides highlighted at major forum
Manama

Bahrain Institute for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (DE-RASAT) Board of Trustees' Chairman Dr Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa took part as a keynote speaker in the The South-South Global Thinkers: the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Co-operation.

The event was held on the sidelines of the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in the city of New York.

Addressing the event, he called for a sound academic dialogue to achieve intellectual communication between researchers and thinkers in the Southern countries to support development issues and partnership in building the partner.

He highlighted Bahrain's achievements and gains, stressing the landmark success of the reform project led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa in all fields to ensure citizens services in a safe and prosperous environment.

He underlined Bahrain's success in building a constitutional, political, legal, security, economic, social and media system to bolster citizens' welfare and investment in human beings, being a top national priority in line with the 2030 Bahrain Economic Vision.

He outlined Bahrain's impressive steps over the past two decades to promote reforms and democratic development, people's participation, protect rights and liberties with legal guarantees and vested state institutions, incorporating sustainable development goals in the economic strategy.

'Safe Access' workshop held for 28 volunteers

TDI | Manama

The Bahraini Red Crescent Society, in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), organised a training workshop titled "Safe Access".

It was attended by Vice-President of the Association, Ali Mohammad Murad and Board Member Hassan Ali Gomaa, the Secretary General of the Society Dr Abdullah Fawzi Amin and Director General Mubarak Khalifa.

They honored the volunteers of the association, who participated in the workshop for their commitment to attend and the ability to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of relief and humanitarian work.

The two-day course was organised in co-ordination with the First Aid Committees and the Disaster Team of the Society, with the attendance of 28 volunteers from the Bahrain Red Crescent Society.

Dr Amin pointed out the importance of the workshop in the field of access to security in accordance with the standards of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which aims to connect and provide assistance to those affected in conflict areas.

In a speech during the workshop, Dr Ameen stressed the keen-



The participants at the workshop with BRCS officials.

28

volunteers from the Bahrain Red Crescent Society attended the workshop.

ness of the Bahrain Red Crescent Society to select the best trainers in this field to make the best use of the participants in the workshop, adding that the participants have completed previous training programmes in various fields of humanitarian and relief work.

He expressed the need for such workshops as they are of great importance to the Bahraini Red

Crescent volunteers, as they allow some participants to switch from trainee to certified trainer, in addition to creating job opportunities.

Dr Amin highlighted the basic programmes adopted in the field of relief and humanitarian work, provided by the association in co-operation with the International Federation, and includes seven programmes, five of which are basic and two optional: disaster management programme, first aid programme, international humanitarian law programme, psychosocial support programme, project management and sphere standards.

The workshop also encompassed areas including water supply, sanitation and hygiene, food security, shelter and human settlements as well as health work.

Charity auction to be held at Brave London event

TDI | Manama

A charity auction will be one of the highlights of BRAVE 24: London, a mixed martial arts event set to connect the sport to the highest level of dignitaries around the world, organisers said in a statement issued.

"The once-in-a-lifetime, exclusive experience will take place at the Copper Box Arena, on July 25, and will be a luxurious, invite-only show to more than 300 celebrities, influencers, politicians, and businessmen.

"And the top personalities in attendance will have the chance to bid on exclusive items, with all the proceeds going to the Royal British Legion, a charity which provides financial, social and emotional support to veterans of the British Armed Forces (Royal Navy, British Army, and Royal Air Force) and their families and dependants.

"It is the largest Armed Forces Charity in Great Britain, with 235,000 members, 110,000 volunteers and a set network of other charities and partners."

"When we have the world coming together, we're going to make sure that MMA is not only a sport to be developed, to be empowered. We also think of what MMA can give back to the community," said Brave CF President



A poster of the event.

Mohammed Shahid.

"We always have a charity aspect to every event we host. But this is going to be one of the biggest things we've done at BRAVE Combat Federation. The auction is fully focused on how much mixed martial arts can contribute to the community. And this is one of the most important aspects of BRAVE CF.

"The auction will take place between the preliminary and main cards, giving a chance for the VIP

attendees to bid on exclusive items that will be announced in the coming days," he added.

The charity aspect of the event is just one of the things that will set BRAVE 24: London apart from all other events and elevate MMA to a higher standard, as the hundreds of VIP personalities attending will also enjoy musical numbers and will have a chance to meet and connect with CEOs of major companies, as well as celebrities and influencers.