

# GLOBALPANDI

## *Circular for P&I Clubs*

DATE: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Correspondents for:**

**Britannia, British Marine, Carina, Charterers P&I Club, China P&I Club, GARD, ITIC, Korea P&I Club, Navigators, Nordisk Defence Club (Through Sabatino Pizzolante), Lodestar Marine, North of England P&I Club, Raets Club, Shipowners P&I Club, Skuld, The Standard P&I Club, Steamship Mutual, The American Club, The London P&I Club, West of England and Through Transport Club (TTC)**

### *Venezuela's updated political developments*

By way of update on our most recent Circular for P&I Clubs dated 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 related to Venezuela's current political developments, here are the most relevant issues to understand the current situation and so our advice to Clubs and their Members.

The protests which started in early of April have continued and grew to become increasingly more violent, with hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans protesting daily through these months to this date. The death toll from nearly four months of anti-government protests climbed to at least 113 on Friday according to figures by the Chief Prosecutor, as Venezuela's opposition called on backers to defy a protest ban ahead of a vote to launch a rewrite of the Constitution. President Maduro has ordered the creation of a new body, known as a constituent assembly, which would rule above all other government branches for a period of time in which it would also rewrite the Constitution. The opposition describes the vote as a power grab that would lay the groundwork for a dictatorship.

This week Venezuela's opposition has called on citizens to join a civic strike for 48 hours, few days before the intended vote for the Constituent Assembly, while at the same time the United States announced sanctions on a new list of 13 senior Venezuelan officials threatening with stronger and swift economic actions if President Nicolas Maduro proceeds with plans. In addition the State Department on Thursday ordered family members of American government employees working at the United States

Embassy in Caracas to leave the country and gave the employees the option to join them before the controversial vote. Avianca, a major Colombian carrier, said Thursday it was ending flights immediately, moving forward a suspension originally announced for mid-August, and US airline Delta is also expected to suspend services from September.

Despite the above difficult situation it must be said that the maritime field hasn't been affected so far, since most ports and marine terminals are state-owned or managed by the government, commercial ports like Puerto Cabello are also state-owned entities, under control of single authorities in the person of military officials, being that the main reason by which they are still working normally, as a matter of fact the main port areas like Puerto Cabello, La Guaira, Amuay or Jose have not been affected much by the protests. Nevertheless, it is fair to say that the protests are disrupting communications and traveling in some places, as well as affecting the safe transportation of cargo.

As a general advice, it is highly recommended that seafarers take the necessary security steps, remaining on board at all times if possible. Close contact with agents and local correspondents is also advisable, to monitor and update the situation in a particular port or marine terminal.

**Should you need any assistance or further information regarding the topic stated above, please feel free to contact:**

**GLOBALPANDI, S.A.**

**Phones & Fax: +58-242-3618159/3614453**

**+58-412-4210545/4210546**

**E-mail: [mail@globalpandi.com](mailto:mail@globalpandi.com)**

**Webpage: [www.globalpandi.com](http://www.globalpandi.com)**

**AOH:**

**Mr. José Alfredo Sabatino Pizzolante / +58-412-4210036**

**Mr. Oswaldo Guerreiro / +58-412-4445715**

**Ms. Geraldine Orozco / +58-412-4300480**