



Port Welfare Committee Report

Southeast Texas Waterways Advisory Committee

July 25, 2019

On June 2, 2019, the committee was contacted by the ITF regarding a ship, the NILAFUR SULPHUR, which was at Anchorage. The crew was at least one month behind in their pay and allotments. There was also an issue with poor drinking water. We contacted Byron Inagaki with the Coast Guard whose team took care of the water issues. We worked with the ITF and by June 14, all back wages had been paid. This was a successful partnership of many entities.

On June 18 the committee was contacted by a seafarer onboard a ship off the coast of Turkey. The Seafarer has been to the Port Arthur International Seafarer's Center several times over the last seven years and is a friend on Facebook. He contacted the center to let representatives know that his ship has been without a charter since April, and not only was the crew waiting offshore for another job, they had not been paid since April. He went on to say that five ships in his fleet were all awaiting jobs, and had not been paid since April.

Apparently the company was Rome-based PB Tankers, which filed for court protection in Italy under the bankruptcy law, following the action taken by the US Office of Foreign Assets Control, to add the company and six tankers to the current sanctions list in relation to trade with Venezuela.

We were able to get the Seafarer in contact with our ITF Inspector who then linked him to the ITF in Italy.

Sadly, the issue is still be worked through, but we were very honored to know that seafarers who have visited our area, know that they can get help in Port Arthur, even when they are on the other side of the world.

That's what we want our entire waterway to be known for!