

International Cruise Victims



International Cruise Victims (ICV) is an international organization with members throughout the world, currently represented by over 20 countries. Under the ICV International News Section, many stories will be found in the original language. Google can be used to translate many of these articles into English or whatever you use.



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Ship fire raises safety and legal issues

(SAMMAMISH, WASHINGTON) January 21, 2013--The International Cruise Victims Association, Inc. (ICV) a not-for-profit corporation formed by victims and families of victims of cruise ship crime is a unique organization. Just seven short years ago, four families joined together to form a small group of victims of cruise ships to start International Cruise Victims Association (ICV). At that time, ICV was a lone voice into the many issues of concern regarding the Cruise Ship Industry.

Drip by Drip, public awareness of this industry and the way they do business has increased from few being aware of the problems to broader world-wide public knowledge as the result of international major media stories. The events during the week ending February 17th have brought even more attention to these major problems. No longer is ICV the lone voice but others have joined this effort to expose and reform an industry currently out of control.

For instance, why does this industry flag their ships in foreign countries? Take a guess. The laws in these countries are lax and provide little meaningful regulatory control over ships. Why do cruise lines incorporate in overseas countries? If you guessed lower or minimal taxes, go to the head of the class! Most major newspapers and televisions networks have covered these issues.

On February 17, 2013 [Brian Williams, NBC Nightly News](#), discussed lack of consumer legal protections on cruise ships. The Arizona Republic on February 16, 2013 also ran a major article in the front page of their Business Section titled "[Ship fire raises safety issues.](#)" Kendall Carver, representing the views of ICV, appeared on these shows sharing ICV concerns about these serious issues.

Judge Jeannine on Fox News did an interesting and comprehensive view in her piece title "[Justice Sandwich](#)" that is worth viewing.

On February 1st Mark Brimble and Kendall Carver testified at a government hearing in Brisbane, Australia. This is a significant step forward to place laws in effect in Australia.



We were extremely pleased to have Michael O'Connell join our cause at this hearing. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the World Society of Victimology and was most helpful

In later testimony given by CLIA, they took the position for Australia not to take any action to pass laws similar to the United States by ICV. This is because the cruise lines work with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) so there is no need for to take action separately. **THAT IS THE VERY METHOD THAT HAS ALLOWED THE CRUISE LINES TO FLAG THEIR SHIPS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES WHERE NO ACTION IS TAKEN WITH MOST RULES BEING OPTIONAL WITH NO PENELITIES.** Clearly, that is why they want this approach since it allows them to keep doing what they are doing.

As can be seen, ICV is no longer the only voice stating that the way cruise ships have structured themselves is self-serving. At the March 1st hearing the Chairman Rockefeller of the Commerce Committee indicated the following:

"A unique and complex set of international rules governs the operations of the ship and the safety of passengers. I believe that these rules work to protect the companies rather than their passengers."

Clearly the world is figuring out that it is time for a change.

Kendall Carver, Chairman

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