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Press Release

Sub: Release & Repatriation of 14 Indians from Yemen to India.

The Ministry of External Affairs shares a happy news that with sustained efforts, persuasions and negotiations by our Mission in Djibouti, they were finally able to secure the release of 14 Indians on 28th November 2020 from Sana'a authority in Yemen. Out of 14 Indians, 5 are from Maharashtra, 3 are from Tamil Nadu, 2 are from Kerala and one each is from Karnataka, Goa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. It is reported that they were treated humanely by Sana'a authority.

2. These 14 Indians were taken into custody by the Sana'a authority on 14th February 2020 after one of their vessels '*Danah*' sank near Al Salif Port in Hodeida region, which is controlled by Sana'a authority. They were working for an Omani Company *Island Bridge Trading & Transport Shipping Company LLC*. The Yemeni security agencies detained and investigated them for entering Yemen illegally. Apart from 14 Indians, they also detained and investigated other nationalities i.e. (i) an Egyptian Captain and (ii) 5 Bangladeshis. We understand that they have also been released.

3. The Government of India had closed down its Embassy in Sana'a in April 2015 due to adverse security situation but retained some local staff for functional reasons. Our Mission in Djibouti, in coordination with its local staff in Sana'a, pursued the case relentlessly through telephone, written communications and informal meetings with concerned officials in Sana'a for their release.

4. On 3 June 2020, the authorities had indicated that they may release the 14 Indians, but unfortunately that was postponed. Similarly, they had given indications and assurances for their release on other occasions too, but could not fulfil their promises. The ongoing disturbances in Yemen and the Covid-19 pandemic have also significantly slowed down the decision making in the matter.

5. The Embassy's Sana'a office have made arrangements for their boarding and lodging in Sana'a till 02/12/2020. After getting Exit Visas from Sana'a on 02 December 2020, the 14 Indians were transferred to Aden safely accompanied by an Embassy official. The Mission has made arrangements for their boarding, lodging, Covid-19 test, and Exist Visas in Aden.

6. They have travelled by Felix Airways flight FO0401 leaving Aden at 12.45 PM on 5th December 2020 reaching Dubai at 6:30 PM. They have left Dubai by Air India Express flight IX 1250 on 06 December at 09.15 AM and reached Mumbai around 4.30 PM. The Ministry is making arrangement for COVID-19 test for them

in Mumbai. They have also been provided some cash allowance for internal travel and meals from Mumbai to their respective home towns without any difficulty.

7. The following are the details of the 14 Indians who have been released and repatriated to India:-

.N.	Name	State
1	Mohanraj Thanigachalam	Tamil Nadu
2	William Nicamden	Tamil Nadu
3	Ahmed Abdul Gafur Wakankar	Maharashtra
4	Fairoz Nasruddin Zhari	Maharashtra
5	Sandip Balu Lohar	Maharashtra
6	Nilesh Dhanaji Lohar	Karnataka
7	Hiron SK	West Bengal
8	Dawood Mahmood Jivrak	Maharashtra
9	Chetan Hari Chandra Gawas	Goa
10	Tanmay Rajendra Mane	Maharashtra
11	Sanjeev Kumar	Uttar Pradesh
12	Maniraj Mariyappan	Tamil Nadu
13	Praveen Thammakarantavida	Kerala
14	Abdul Vahab Musthaba	Kerala

Dated: 06 December 2020