



## **OBP STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF *FV PRANTALAY-12* HOSTAGES**

Colorado, USA – 27 February 2015: OBP welcomes the news of the release of the remaining four Thai crew members of the *FV Prantalay 12* on 25 February 2015, 1,774 days after being taken hostage by pirates off the coast of Somalia.

Originally taken on 18 April 2010, the Taiwanese-flagged fishing vessel was used by pirates as a mother ship before it eventually capsized in July 2011, when the remaining crewmembers were moved on shore. Of the 24 original crewmen, 6 succumbed to illness while in captivity. Another 14 hostages from Myanmar were released before the vessel's capsizing in May 2011.

The crew received medical and humanitarian support during almost 5 years in captivity. During this time, the UNODC Hostage Support Programme and various private donors were instrumental in providing the medical and humanitarian support that ultimately kept the crew alive until their release and served as the primary source of information to family members of the hostages.

"The crew of the *Prantalay 12* has spent the last five years in horrendous conditions," said OBP's Regional Manager, John Steed, who also heads the UNODC Hostage Support Programme and has been assisting with humanitarian and medical support for the hostages. "We hope to reunite these men with their families as soon as possible."

The October 2014 United Nations Security Council report states "The UNODC Hostage Support Programme, funded by the trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia as well as OBP, has provided medical support to the crews of the *FV Naham 3* and the *FV Prantalay 12*. The Programme secured proof-of-life calls for all the hostages from the *FV Prantalay 12* and delivered medicine and welfare items."

Twenty-six hostages from the *FV Naham 3* remain in pirate captivity in Somalia and the UNODC Hostage Support Programme continues to support these crew members and their families while attempting to secure their release.

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Oceans Beyond Piracy (OBP) is a project of One Earth Future Foundation (OEF). OEF is a private foundation located near Denver, Colorado in the United States, which is committed to multi-stakeholder initiatives to resolve issues related to conflict. OBP encourages close cooperation across the international maritime community to develop long-term, sustainable solutions to piracy. More information can be found at:

[www.oceansbeyondpiracy.org](http://www.oceansbeyondpiracy.org)