

Report of pirate attack:

1. Name of yacht: Not Given
2. Owner: Not Given
3. Nationality of vessel: Not Given
4. Registration number: Not Given
5. Location of attack: Laguna Grande, Venezuela
6. Time of attack: 12am, August 5 2005
7. This is to be a factual recitation of the events that occurred the early morning hours (a bit past midnight) on August 5, 2005. First of all, we do request prayers for the survival of CAPTAIN-VICTIM of VICTIM BOAT. CAPTAIN-VICTIM sustained eight deep machete slashes to his upper body and head.

We were awakened at approximately 12:20 a.m. by a VHF call from "BOAT A" who requested assistance for a "boat that was in the west bay who had been boarded, then motor-ed next to them, and a female voice requesting help and medical assistance". CAPTAIN B responded. Upon his arrival on VICTIM BOAT, it became apparent that emergency medical assistance was required and not first aid. XXX, his crew, attended to CAPTAIN-VICTIM and administered first aid for shock all the way to Cumana (2 hours). XXX saved his life.

John and Melodye, the blood was all over the cockpit as CAPTAIN-VICTIM had been slashed by three men with machetes -- yes, he first heard his dinghy (on davits but NOT locked) hit the water and ran to the cockpit. He was attacked by a man with a machete who then jumped in the water. At that point, CAPTAIN-VICTIM also jumped in the water after him and tried to get aboard his dinghy. He did remove the "kill switch" from his dinghy engine. The boarders had the proper "kill switch" with them and started the engine and took his dinghy away from his catamaran.

That is when he sustained the worst of his injuries as the men continually slashed at him to repel him away from the dinghy. CAPTAIN-VICTIM told CAPTAIN B that he thought they were using sticks (who in the heck would have thought differently)?

Not for publication. Because CAPTAIN-VICTIM was in shock, no general anesthetic was allowed. Thus, he was stitched up (who knows how many) without any anesthetic. The last that CAPTAIN C knew, he was finally given some pain relief and was going to talk with the police. XXX (single-hand lady to CAPTAIN-VICTIM's single-hand) also agreed to be interviewed and to cooperate with the press. Also, a previous member of the air/sea rescue contacted a friend in the Venezuelan equivalent of the FBI and also contacted a journalist friend who both agreed to go to the hospital to interview CAPTAIN-VICTIM. The American Embassy will be contacted but do not, at this time, have much influence.

The Cumanagotos Marina staff responded like champs. They got an ambulance

to the dock within five minutes. The security guard brought six other guards and the Guarda Coasta (with various sized shotguns) who assisted in getting an ambulance to Orient Clinic. It took eight men (including the Bomberos and Guard Costa to lift CAPTAIN-VICTIM off the boat onto the dock).

It was stated by a long-time resident that this is a "gang of five men from Cumana" that usually prey upon the fishermen. It was suggested that someone had placed an order for a Caribe

XXX and YYY of BOAT C searched each and every nook and cranny of Laguna Grande for the dinghy without any success. They also stopped in the village and requested anonymous return of the dinghy or engine. The village folks were appalled when told of the violence used upon a cruiser.

The injuries to CAPTAIN-VICTIM were life threatening. IF he does not have complications, hopefully he will be out of the hospital within a week and into physical therapy. Don't know what else to say except that we wish that this had not happened and pray for CAPTAIN-VICTIM's full recovery.

Some of you already know the details of this incident. The dinghy was found in a bay just east of Laguna Grande and was returned yesterday, minus the outboard. As of this morning (9 August) CAPTAIN-VICTIM has been released from hospital and is back on his boat. I have been told that the CDI is doing extensive interviews with Venezuelans and others along that stretch of coast and is working diligently to apprehend the culprits.

More details as they are made public.