



NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR SMALL SCALE FISHWORKERS

Memo no. NPSSFW/Conv.-19/23

July 3, 2023

Sri Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
Hon'ble Minister in Charge of External Affairs,
Government of India.

Sub: Request for immediate intervention to release Indian fishers arrested in Iran.

Respected Sir,

This is to bring to your urgent attention that 11 fishermen from Mampalli in Anchuthengu, district Thiruvananthapuram of Kerala including Sajugeorge (54) at Nedyavilakam in Mampalli, Arogyaraj (43) at Olavilakam, Dixon, L (46) at Pudu Sanalpurayat, Denny Sanpoulos (48) at Nedyavilakam and Stanley Washington (44) at Kayakkarakulangara west, have been jailed in Iran for unauthorised entry into the Iranian waters on a United Arab Emirate (UAE) fishing boat (Regn. No. J F 40 UAE).

It is a regular practice that fishers from Kerala go to the UAE on fishing visa and they fish in UAE coastal waters on fishing boats registered in UAE as vessel crew fish workers. On June 18th Sunday evening the above-mentioned fishers went for fishing and got arrested by the Iranian navy allegedly for crossing into the Iranian waters.

This may be mentioned here that according to the Sections 2 & 3 of Article 73 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) –

“2. Arrested vessels and their crews shall be promptly released upon the posting of reasonable bond or other security.

3. Coastal State penalties for violations of fisheries laws and regulations in the exclusive economic zone may not include imprisonment, in the absence of agreements to the contrary by the States concerned, or any other form of corporal punishment.”

National Platform for Small Scale Fish Workers (NPSSFW) requests you to immediately contact the fishers arrested in Iran and inform their families regarding their whereabouts. We further request you to take immediate steps to get the arrested fishers released.

In anticipation of a favourable and prompt response from your end,

Yours sincerely,

Pradip Chatterjee,
National Convener,
NPSSFW

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National Council Member, NPSSFW
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