

ПРОФЕСІЙНА СПІЛКА РОБІТНИКІВ
МОРСЬКОГО ТРАНСПОРТУ УКРАЇНИ

MARINE TRANSPORT WORKERS'
TRADE UNION OF UKRAINE



№01-160 from 05 August 2026

Subject: Urgent Appeal Concerning the Escalating Attacks on Civilian Shipping, Seafarers and Ukrainian Ports

To: International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

Attn: Mr. Stephen Cotton, General Secretary of the ITF

Dear Mr. Stephen Cotton,

On behalf of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine (MTWTU), we wish to express our profound concern regarding the continuing deterioration of the security situation affecting civilian shipping, seafarers, maritime pilots, port workers and port infrastructure operating in and around Ukrainian territorial waters and the Black Sea maritime corridor.

Despite repeated calls from the international community to respect international law and ensure the protection of civilians, recent weeks have witnessed a further escalation in attacks against merchant vessels, civilian ports and maritime infrastructure. These attacks have resulted in deaths, serious injuries, missing seafarers, destruction of port facilities, disruption of international shipping and growing risks for all maritime personnel engaged in legitimate commercial activities.

According to official information released by the Ministry for Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine, July 2026 alone saw 67 attacks on port infrastructure, 35 attacks on civilian merchant vessels while in port and 22 attacks on vessels operating through the Ukrainian maritime corridor. During the first days of August, additional attacks on ports, civilian vessels and ships navigating the corridor were officially recorded, confirming that the security situation continues to deteriorate rather than stabilise.

The attacks are no longer isolated incidents. They represent an alarming and sustained pattern directed against civilian maritime activity. Merchant vessels carrying grain, foodstuffs, fertilisers, containers and other commercial cargoes have been struck while entering or leaving Ukrainian ports, navigating the Black Sea or lying alongside berths. Maritime pilots, rescue personnel and port workers have also been placed at increasing risk while carrying out their professional duties.

Several recent incidents have demonstrated the gravity of the situation. Merchant vessels including ATLAS BEY, GOLDEN LEO and AGN RAGNAR, together with other civilian vessels operating in and around Ukrainian ports, have suffered attacks resulting in fatalities, serious injuries and missing seafarers of various nationalities. Rescue operations have repeatedly been



+380482 42 99 01
+380482 42 99 02

65062, м.Одеса,
Аркадійське плато, 5-Б,
приміщення 1

mtwtu.org.ua
office@mtwtu.org.ua

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conducted under continuing missile and drone threats, exposing both emergency responders and civilian crews to further danger. A detailed chronology of verified incidents is attached as Annex I.

The consequences extend well beyond the immediate human tragedy. According to Ukrainian authorities, the intensified attacks have significantly disrupted commercial shipping, reduced vessel calls to Ukrainian ports, increased transport costs, forced cargo to alternative routes with substantially lower capacity and created additional pressure on global supply chains and food security. More than 90 per cent of Ukraine's agricultural exports traditionally depend on the ports of Greater Odesa, making the continued functioning of the maritime corridor a matter of international importance.

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine is particularly concerned that civilian seafarers continue to perform their professional duties under conditions that expose them to unacceptable levels of risk. Merchant seafarers are not participants in armed conflict. They transport cargo essential for international trade, energy security and global food security. Every attack against civilian vessels, ports or maritime personnel undermines not only the safety and welfare of seafarers but also confidence in international maritime transport and the long-established principles of safe navigation and freedom of navigation.

The MTWTU also notes with serious concern that the recent escalation is no longer confined to Ukrainian territorial waters. Recent attacks against civilian merchant vessels elsewhere in the Black Sea demonstrate that commercial shipping, irrespective of flag, destination or the nationality of its crew, is becoming increasingly exposed to the risks arising from the ongoing armed conflict. This reinforces the urgent need for coordinated international efforts aimed at safeguarding civilian navigation and protecting seafarers throughout the Black Sea region.

We therefore respectfully call upon the International Labour Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Transport Workers' Federation, within their respective mandates, to intensify coordinated efforts aimed at strengthening the protection of civilian seafarers, merchant vessels and maritime infrastructure.

In particular, we respectfully request consideration of the following:

1. Continue to publicly condemn attacks against civilian merchant vessels, seafarers, maritime pilots, port workers and port infrastructure.
2. Raise the issue at the highest appropriate international forums and encourage coordinated international action aimed at improving the protection of civilian maritime personnel and navigation.
3. Engage governments, flag States, port States, shipowners, employers' organisations, trade unions and other relevant stakeholders in identifying practical measures to reduce risks to civilian shipping operating in conflict-affected areas.
4. Support initiatives aimed at strengthening maritime safety, emergency response, search and rescue capabilities, and the protection of civilian crews operating in high-risk waters.
5. Continue monitoring and documenting attacks against civilian shipping and maritime personnel, ensuring that verified information is made available to the international maritime community.



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6. Promote continued dialogue among all relevant parties with the objective of preserving freedom of navigation, protecting maritime workers and preventing any further deterioration of the humanitarian and security situation affecting international shipping.

The continuing escalation demonstrates that expressions of concern alone have not been sufficient to prevent further attacks against civilian shipping. Every additional incident increases the risk of further loss of life, disruption of international trade and weakening of confidence in maritime transport. We therefore respectfully urge your organisations to make full use of their respective mandates, influence and international standing to promote effective measures that will enhance the protection of civilian maritime personnel, preserve the safety of international navigation and contribute to preventing any further deterioration of the situation.

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine remains ready to provide any additional verified information and to cooperate with your organisations in any initiatives aimed at protecting civilian seafarers and promoting safe, secure and resilient maritime transport.

We would be grateful for your urgent consideration of this appeal and for information on any measures that your organisations may consider taking, within your respective mandates, in response to the recent escalation.

Yours faithfully,

Oleg Grygoriuk

Chairman of the MTWTU



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+380482 42 99 02

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приміщення 1

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**Chronology of Verified Attacks on Civilian Merchant Vessels, Maritime Personnel and Port Infrastructure
in and around Ukrainian Territorial Waters
(July–August 2026)**

The chronology below includes representative verified attacks on civilian merchant vessels and maritime personnel. It is not an exhaustive list of every strike against Ukrainian port infrastructure during the reporting period.

Date	Vessel / IMO	Flag	Location	Nature of incident	Crew / Casualties	Remarks
08.07.2026	Civilian merchant vessel (name not publicly confirmed)	LBR	Odesa Port	Missile/drone attack while alongside	Casualties among port workers and crew reported	One of the first attacks in the July escalation.
13.07.2026	AIDA (IMO 8917192)	TGO	Odesa	Missile strike during cargo operations	Multiple fatalities and injuries among crew and shore personnel: 5 fatalities (3 foreign crew + 2 additional victims found during firefighting) and 10 injured reported by Odesa authorities	Commercial vessel loading fertiliser.
14.07.2026	ATLAS BEY (IMO 8302404)	TNZ	Odesa Anchorage	UAV / missile attack	Azerbaijani Master killed	General cargo vessel; Turkish-owned according to Azerbaijani MFA.
09.07.2026	GOLDEN LEO (IMO 9181833)	GNB	Departing Chornomorsk via Ukrainian maritime corridor	Missile strike	9 crew members and Ukrainian pilot killed; survivors rescued	Carrying grain; subsequently sank on 26 Jul 2026 after sustaining severe damage.
22.07.2026	GOLDEN ROSE (IMO 8801620)	KNA	Odesa Anchorage	Drone strike; fire aboard	Crew evacuated; no confirmed fatalities	Vessel survived after emergency response.
25.07.2026	AGN RAGNAR (IMO 9148104)	PLU	Black Sea, off Odesa	UAV attack	Two Indian seafarers remain missing; several crew rescued	Investigation and diplomatic efforts continue.
28.07.2026	Merchant vessel (name withheld by Ukrainian authorities)	LBR	Approaches to Odesa	Third attack on same vessel while at anchorage	No crew on board; no casualties	Demonstrates repeated targeting of the same civilian ship
03.08.2026	Civilian tug (name not released)*		Ukrainian territorial waters	Drone strike; fire	No casualties	Crew rescued by Ukrainian Maritime Guard; fire extinguished.
03.08.2026	Several civilian merchant vessels*		Odesa & Danube ports	Missile/drone attacks	Seven injuries officially confirmed by Ministry	Names withheld pending assessment.
04.08.2026	Not publicly identified*		Mykolaiv, Odesa & Chornomorsk (reported)	Reported strikes against vessels and port facilities	No independently verified information on civilian crew casualties	As of the date of this report, Ukrainian authorities have not confirmed the identities of the vessels or any civilian maritime casualties

* The identities of several civilian merchant vessels attacked during the reporting period have not been officially disclosed by the competent Ukrainian authorities for operational and security reasons. MTWTU has intentionally refrained from identifying such vessels from unofficial sources in order to ensure the factual accuracy and credibility of this submission.