



PRESS RELEASE

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SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATION - AN UPDATE

The Syrian man detained by the RGP earlier today has now been questioned and it would appear that there was a different sequence of events to that described in the earlier Press Release.

When the man was found, early on Saturday morning near to GibDock he had with him a Ring Buoy from MV BBC RHEIDERLAND a ship which had left Algeciras Port on Friday evening.

The essential services then checked the shoreline and a Search and Rescue operation was launched at sea because it was thought that another man was still unaccounted for.

A check of MV BBC RHEIDERLAND proved that the ship was not missing any crewmen so it was assumed that the two men had been stowaways on that ship.

However, it can now be confirmed that the men were crewmen on MV RISING FALCON, a bulk carrier which had been anchored in BGTW until it left these waters at 0300 on Saturday. A check with RISING FALCON proved that they were missing two crewmen.

According to the rescued crewman, he and another Syrian national jumped

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from the ship with the intention of swimming to shore. The man saw the RHEIDERLAND Ring Buoy floating in the sea and clung to it until he reached the shoreline.

After being given a medical check at St Bernard's Hospital, he was given a police caution for his illegal entry into Gibraltar before joining another ship owned by the same company which is moored in Gibraltar harbour until it sails later today.

The operation to find the other crewman continued throughout Saturday morning. It has now been called off but the Port Authority and RGP are making extra marine patrols in the area.