The Captain and His Pirate

Andy Wolff
Andy's first feature documentary ‘On the Other Side of Life’ had its US premiere in 2010 at the SXSW film festival. It won main feature awards at the Milan and Camden International Film Festivals. **THE CAPTAIN AND HIS PIRATE** was released in 2013. It won four awards at international film festivals in Leipzig, Saarbruecken, Munich and Brussels. It was nominated among the eight best feature documentaries in Europe for the Doc Alliance award which was presented during the Cannes Film Festival 2013.

Alan Cole
Alan Cole joined the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in May 2009, initially to run its programme to support piracy trials and investigations in East Africa. He now heads a team of 50 staff in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania and across Somalia addressing maritime crime, people trafficking, migrant smuggling, narcotics trafficking, wildlife crime and piracy. The team also delivers a substantial prison programme across Somalia.

Marcus Houben
Dr Marcus HOUBEN works in the External Action Service of the European Union. He is the Head of the Support Team for the EU 2014 Chairmanship of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. Prior to this, Marcus was responsible for the planning of the EU’s first regional maritime capacity building mission in the Horn of Africa and the subsequent activation of the EU Operations Centre. He is also a member of the core team working on the implementation of the EU’s maritime Security Strategy.

Carlos Jimenez
Carlos Jimenez is a Desk Officer at the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels. Mr. Jimenez started his career at the United Nations in 1984 and has since worked at UN offices in New York, Madrid and Geneva. He studied journalism at the School of Communications of American University in Washington and was a correspondent at EFE, Spanish News Agency.

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Counter-piracy initiatives

The UNODC Maritime Crime Programme (MCP) assists states in strengthening their capacity to combat maritime crime. The programme was formed as the Counter Piracy Programme in 2009, and later expanded both thematically and geographically to the Maritime Crime Programme. The Programme played a central role in the establishment of a regional ‘piracy prosecution model’, including coordination between international naval fleets that apprehended alleged pirates on the high seas and States in the Indian Ocean region, which received them for prosecution.

In the counter-piracy realm, the MCP has provided coordination and leadership at the strategic and regional levels, sustained capacity-building assistance to prosecuting States, and direct assistance to piracy trials. The assistance provided to these States has included training of Judges, prosecutors, prison staff, police and coast guard officers; building of courthouses and prison facilities; providing equipment and material for law enforcement agencies; and criminal justice legislative reform.

As part of this criminal justice response to piracy, the MCP established its Piracy Prisoner Transfer Programme, which transfers consenting convicted pirates from prosecuting states back to their home country to serve their sentences.

The MCP also recognises that a truly sustainable solution to combating piracy requires addressing its root causes, and building Somali maritime law enforcement institutions. The MCP has implemented a number of maritime and criminal justice capacity-building initiatives in Somalia. This is laying the foundations for a long-term vision which would see piracy and other organized crime addressed domestically by Somali authorities.

Helping victims of maritime crime has also been a component of the MCP’s work. The MCP Hostage Support Programme has led international efforts to support piracy hostages and their families.

Today, the MCP’s activities include ongoing counter-piracy and maritime capacity-building in the Horn of Africa and Indian Ocean regions and new programming have commenced in 2014 to address the emerging threat of maritime crimes in West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea.