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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
SAVANNAH DIVISION

M. Davis

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
v.)
)
OFER (SHIPS HOLDING) LTD,)
)
Defendant.)
)

CASE NO. CR408-103

O R D E R

Before the Court is the Government's Motion for Whistleblower Awards. (Doc. 17.) In this case, the Government alleged that the crew of the vessel M/V Marseille Star, who were acting within the scope of their employment for Defendant Ofer (Ships Holding) LTD, improperly disposed of oil waste accumulated in the vessel's engine room. On June 27, 2008, the Defendant corporation pleaded guilty to one count of Making False Statements, 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and one count of Failure to Maintain Oil Record Book in violation of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS), 33 U.S.C. § 1908(a). Defendant was assessed fines of \$500,000 and \$280,000, respectively, for these offenses.

Pursuant to APPS, the Court has discretion to authorize the payment of a whistleblower award of up to one half of the fine imposed under the APPS. 33 U.S.C.

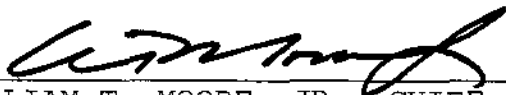
§ 1908(a). In this case, because a fine of \$280,000 was imposed for the APPS violation, the Court may award up to \$140,000.

Three crew members from the M/V Marseille Star provided information that assisted the Government in its investigation of the improper waste disposal. The Coast Guard would not have been able to detect the activities on board the vessel without assistance from these three individuals. A monetary award rewards the crew members for risking their employment and may provide an incentive for fellow crew members to alert inspectors and investigators of similar conduct on other ships in the future.

Accordingly, the Government's Motion is **GRANTED**. The amount of the awards corresponds to the level of cooperation provided by each crew member, and shall be granted as follows:

Rajesh Kamar Ramolu	\$126,000
Francisco Patubo	\$7,000
Edgardo Resurrección	\$7,000

SO ORDERED this 30th day of June, 2008.


WILLIAM T. MOORE, JR., CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA