



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Sea and Coastal Search for Stowaways**

An extensive sea and coastal search was carried out by Gibraltar maritime search and rescue assets in the early hours of Saturday morning, coordinated by the Port Authority, for a person believed to be a stowaway who had jumped from a vessel which left Algeciras on Friday night.

Maritime assets from the Port Authority, Royal Gibraltar Police and Gibraltar Defence Police were tasked to search the area off the southern entrance to the harbour just after midnight following the discovery by the RGP Marine Section of a man in the water close to a ship's life ring just off the South Mole.

The man, a foreign national, believed to be Syrian, suffering from shock, hyperthermia, and scraped hands claimed that he was a crew member from a ship and that another man had been with him in the water. However, there appeared to be no sign of this other person in the vicinity. The rescued man was then taken to St Bernard's hospital for treatment and further questioning. A full-scale sea and coastal search was then immediately initiated for the second man with assets from the Port Authority, RGP, GDP and RN Gib Squadron on the South Mole and the surrounding areas.

The life ring found near the rescued man bore the ship's name 'BBC Rheiderland'. The vessel had sailed from Algeciras on Friday night bound for Denmark. Her previous port was Haifa in Israel. Enquiries with the vessel suggest that the two individuals were not crew members and were possibly stowaways. The search for the second man is continuing, in coordination with neighbouring authorities.