

International Cruise Victims



International Cruise Victims (ICV) is an international organization with members throughout the world, currently represented by over 20 countries. Under the ICV International News Section, many stories will be found in the original language. Google can be used to translate many of these articles into English or whatever you use.

4th Anniversary of the Costa Concordia Accident **Are cruise ships safer?**

Four years ago today the Ananias family was on the Costa Concordia cruise ship which nearly sank off the coast of Italy. Now members of ICV, they had at the time, been on over 65 cruises and considered themselves to be seasoned cruisers.

That night was the beginning of two back to back cruises for them in the Mediterranean. Tragically, they almost died four times during the disaster that unfolded that night, and were among the last people to leave the sinking ship. Whereas they are thankful for surviving that awful nightmare; they do not want to forget the 32 people that died a horrible, frightening death and those who suffer to this day from the effects of the accident.



After that treacherous disaster, the Ananias family thought that the cruise lines would step up and truly make safety a number one



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priority instead of just PR utterances of their concern for safety. The family has tried to give a voice to those who died by speaking out on media outlets, interviews with the National Transportation Safety Board, joining ICV, speaking to the Coast Guard and members of Congress. They hoped the Costa Concordia accident would stand as a warning that there is a great need to advocate for change in the way the cruise industry operates. After four years though they tell us, “We can say with certainty that has not happened. The cruise lines continue to work against all that we are doing to promote safety on cruise ships.”

You may ask why? The Ananias family believes that the only reasonable answer is found in money and profit. “I feel that the cruise lines are an unregulated industry that cannot and will not regulate themselves. Some may say that CLIA (Cruise Line International Association) and the IMO (International Maritime Organization) regulate the industry, but they are more like what I would call a “paper tiger.” This industry needs oversight in the form of a regulatory agency (somewhat like the airlines) to establish strict rules with consequences in place to be sure those rules are followed,” Georgia Ananias claims.

The sad fact is that people on cruises continue to get hurt, sexually assaulted, sick, and die on cruise ships. Take a moment to go to our [ICV website](#) and read for yourself the many disturbing stories of events that happen on cruise ships.

To get cruise lines to put safety as their highest priority means we as vacationers, every one of us, need to advocate for change. We need an international movement calling for reform of the cruise ship industry. Will you join us?

The Ananias family has written a book, *SOS Spirit of Survival*, about their experience before, during and after one of the worst cruise ship disasters in recent times.

The book puts a glaring spotlight on the cruise line industry. It is the hope of the Ananias family as well as all of us at ICV, that someday, perhaps, we might feel safe enough to travel on cruises again, but until drastic changes are made, we will remain on land. What about you?

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