



<b>Date:</b>	<b>20/May/2026</b>
<b>Attention:</b>	To whom it may concern
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>BMSR Press Statement – Reported Seizure by Iranian Forces of Vessel JIN LI (ex-OCEAN KOI), IMO 9255933</b>

The Barbados Maritime Ship Registry (BMSR) notes the recent media reports concerning the alleged seizure by Iranian naval forces of the vessel JIN LI (formerly OCEAN KOI), IMO 9255933, which has been reported by certain media outlets and AIS-based commercial platforms as Barbados-flagged.

The BMSR confirms that the vessel was provisionally registered with the Barbados flag on 21 February 2025. However, during the registration process, serious concerns were identified regarding documentation submitted by the vessel's managers and owners, rendering the vessel no longer acceptable to the registry. Permanent registration was never completed, and, accordingly, no permanent Certificate of Registry (COR) was ever issued under the Barbados Merchant Shipping Act. As a direct consequence, no final CSR (Continuous Synopsis Record) entry nor Deletion Certificate were issued or required. The vessel was therefore formally removed from the Barbados provisional register on 24 September 2025.

Accordingly, the IMO GISIS and S&P databases, which are the authoritative international reference systems for flag State status, have recorded the vessel's flag as "unknown" since that date. However, BMSR notes that commercial AIS-based platforms, including Marine Traffic, rely primarily on AIS transmissions and commercially sourced data from vessels and operators and do not constitute official evidence of registry status. Such platforms may continue to display historical or inaccurate flag information and, therefore, continue to report the vessel as Barbadian.

As the vessel was not registered under the Barbados flag at the date of the reported seizure, BMSR has no jurisdiction, no standing to intervene, and no ability to verify the operational circumstances surrounding the incident or the welfare and nationality of the crew on board. No information regarding the crew is available to BMSR. BMSR equally cannot confirm or deny any alleged unlawful activity on the part of the vessel's operators.

BMSR also wishes to place this incident in its broader international context. The use of fraudulent documentation and the false or unlawful representation of flag State identity by shadow fleet operators is a rapidly growing global challenge.

According to IMO data, between April 2025 and April 2026, 529 vessels were recorded as falsely flying the flag of an IMO member State, affecting nearly 40 flag States without their knowledge or consent.

Until very recently, there was no international framework specifically addressing fraudulent ship registration practices. BMSR therefore welcomes the IMO Legal Committee's approval, at its 113th session held in London from 13 to 17 April 2026, of the first-ever international guidelines on ship registration transparency and due diligence.

The BMSR operates one of the most rigorous sanctions compliance frameworks among international ship registries. BMSR is the only registry to have published a dedicated, publicly available Maritime Circular setting out in full the specific measures applied to sanctioned vessels, including the imposition of significant financial penalties for non-compliance: [MC 052025 – BMSR Measures for Sanctioned Vessels](#).



# Barbados Maritime Ship Registry



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The removal of the JIN LI from the Barbados provisional register in September 2025 was consistent with BMSR's established policy and its zero-tolerance approach to vessels that fail its integrity and documentation standards. BMSR remains fully committed to protecting the integrity and international standing of the Barbados flag.



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