



**MEDIA RELEASE**

14 February 2010

**Animal Planet compels whale saving delusion**

Japan's Antarctic whale research (JARPA II) mother ship Nisshin Maru was subject at about 12:00JST today to yet another butyric acid, paint and gas-bomb projectile attack by the anti-whaling ships Bob Barker and Steve Irwin. Further, the Bob Barker fired repeatedly an illegal high-power laser photonic disruptor against the Japanese crew.

The photonic disruptor fired by the Bob Barker can cause flash-blindness and could cause more permanent damage to the human eye including retinal burns.

The Dutch and Togolese ships have been following the Nisshin Maru since February 6 and 8 respectively. At about 12:00JST February 14 the Steve Irwin and the Bob Barker launched their rubber boats and started firing a launch device to shoot numerous butyric acid, paint and smoke bomb projectiles against the Nisshin Maru. In addition, the Bob Barker repeatedly fired an illegal high-powered laser weapon aiming at the Japanese crew.

The Steve Irwin helicopter took off and was hovering over the scene so that an Animal Planet (Discovery Channel) television crew onboard could film the attack.

The attack was still continuing at 1700JST. However so far there are no reported injuries to the crew or damage to the Nisshin Maru the escalation and maliciousness of the Sea Shepherd attack is evident as, solely for television purposes, their activists are now aiming their butyric acid projectiles directly at Japanese sailors who are working on deck.

Once again, the Institute of Cetacean Research strongly condemns the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society dangerous and violent actions carried out in contempt of the International Whaling Commission consensus criticism and demand for self-restraint and against Japan's whale research vessels and crews who are conducting perfectly legal research activities in the Antarctic

The Institute of Cetacean Research urges again the Netherlands, the Steve Irwin's flag state, Australia, the de facto home port country to the Steve Irwin, the Togolese Republic, the Bob Barker's flag state, and all other related countries to take every means available to prevent the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society illegal and violent actions and strongly requests that these countries observe their international obligations and deal with the Sea Shepherd in a strict and objective manner.

Photographs and video of the incidents in the Antarctic can be seen at:  
<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea.htm>

**ENDS**