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MEDIA RELEASE

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NZ activist in custody aboard Shonan Maru No. 2

The Captain of the Shonan Maru No.2, a vessel in the Japanese Antarctic Research Program (JARPA II), gave notice today to the skipper of the former Ady Gil, Mr Peter Bethune, a New Zealand national, that in line with the Japanese Mariners Act he was taking necessary measures and restrained Mr Bethune.

Mr Bethune illegally boarded the Shonan Maru No.2 at 09:00JST February 15 after using a knife to cut the vessel's protection net. At that time, Mr Bethune cut his left thumb and has since received medical treatment from the Japanese crew. The Ady Gil skipper told the crew that, after boarding the Shonan Maru No.2, he had thrown the knife into the sea.

Mr Bethune is being held in custody on board the Shonan Maru No. 2. Besides the protective net tearing there is no damage to the Japanese vessel nor are there any injuries to the crew.

Photographs of the incidents in the Antarctic can be seen at:

<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea-img.htm>

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