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### WNYers On Scene As Navy Rescues Iranians

A U.S. ship ended up rescuing 13 Iranian fishermen after their boat was attacked by pirates, and two local seamen were aboard that U.S. ship.

The missile destroyer U.S.S. Kidd responded to a distress call from the Iranian fishing boat the bottom.

About 40 days ago, the fishing boat was taken over by Somali pirates.

The US Navy boarded the ship, freed the Iranians, and took 15 pirates into custody.

The captain of the U.S.S. Kidd said the Iranians thanked the Americans for freeing them.

The two local seamen serving on a ship nearby were Kyle McCarthy and **Jason Walker**.

Both were aboard the aircraft carrier the U.S.S Stennis.

McCarthy grew up in Western New York and went to Griffith Institute High School down in Springville. Walker is from Grand Island. On Saturday 2 On Your Side talked to Walker's mother Margie.

"My sister-in-law called us and I got a couple of emails from family members asking if Jason was okay and you know what was going on, and I had no idea what they were talking about until after I got home from work and then I stated seeing all the news reports," said Walker.

She told us her son is an aircraft mechanic on the aircraft carrier. Her initial reaction was fear for his safety. There are reports that Iran's military chief has warned the U.S. that the Stennis and other ships specifically should not return to the Gulf region.

"I was flabbergasted. I was really afraid and at this time I'm still thinking well that isn't just it. There must be something else going on you know, but it was scary," said Walker.

As for the Walker family, Margie says this whole operation to rescue the fisherman from their captors is quite an irony.

"I hope this sends a message to Iran that we're not such bad guys. You know we're actually looking out for their best interest too," said Walker.

Kyle McCarthy's parent's, Leo and Ann McCarthy emailed us a statement saying, "After hearing that they were able to rescue an Iranian fishing crew from pirates and nobody got hurt, we were relieved."

They also said of their son, "I'm sure he's okay, and probably considers this whole thing to be just another day on the job. We are very proud of him and he loves what he does.