



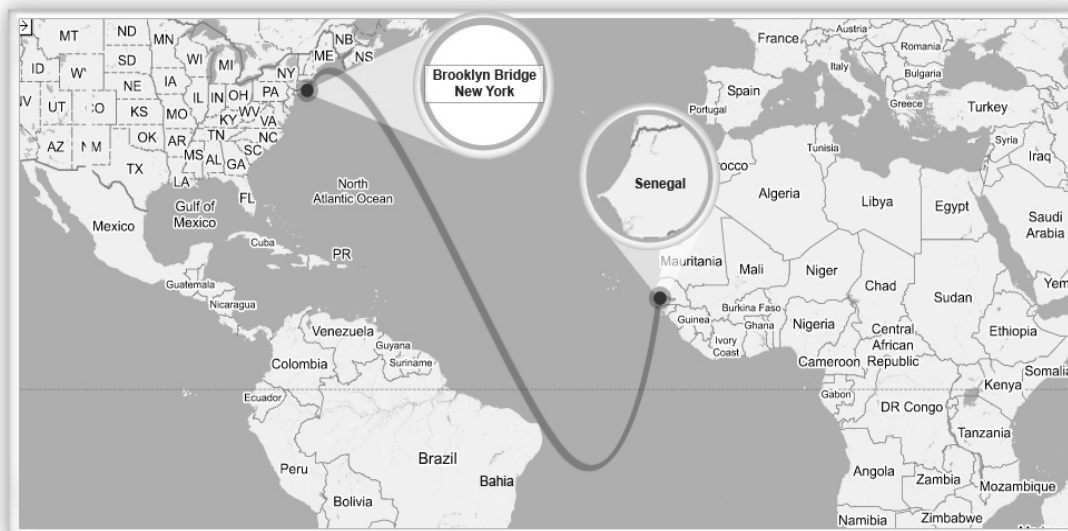
OT AFRICA LINE PRESS RELEASE

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OTAL Sponsors Trans-Atlantic Marathon Rowing Attempt



Victor Mooney is preparing for the journey of his life! The African-American rower aims to retrace the route taken by slave ships from Goree Island, Senegal (West Africa) to New York City, an 8,000 mile test of endurance. It will take two to three months to cross the Atlantic towards Bahia, Brazil, and from there, another five months to ply north through the Caribbean and up along the eastern coast of the United States to New York.



OT Africa Line (OTAL) has endorsed this colossal attempt by shipping Victor's custom made, 24 foot long boat, '*John Paul the Great*', from the UK to Dakar, Senegal. The vessel was shipped onboard OTAL's container vessel, MV Julie from Felixstowe. The vessel is due to arrive in Dakar on 2nd April.

According to OTAL's marketing manager, Rachel Bennett, the line is delighted to assist:

“The goal of Victor's voyage is two-fold: The first is to retrace the route of the slave ships and raise awareness about a time in history when millions suffered the horrors of slavery and secondly to raise awareness about the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.”

“The Brooklyn-based rower will depart from the “Door of No Return” at the Goree Island house which is said to have been one of countless West African departure points for slaves headed across the Atlantic. An estimated 20 million Africans passed through this port between the mid 1500's and the mid 1800's.”

“Victor, a communications officer at the College of Advanced Technology in New York City, has spent years rowing the waters around New York out of a lifelong love for the sport. Now, after losing loved ones to AIDS, he is eager to raise awareness - and money - for the cause. “

Initially Victor will undertake a test row along the Gambia river [Gambia] to Goree Island [Senegal] in April.

Victor plans to travel in a custom made boat stocked with military rations and equipped with a satellite phone and an Internet link so others can follow along online. Another larger support boat will trail behind to videotape the voyage, but will not provide any aid unless there is an emergency. For more information on Victor's journey, visit the web site (www.goreechallenge.com)

The project has been supported by the United Nations [UN], World Health Organisation [WHO] and the Gambia, Senegalese and American Governments.

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to 26.6 million of the between 34 million and 46 million people worldwide living with HIV, according to U.N. figures.



Victor pictured with his boat ' John Paul the Great'

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Notes to editors:

OTAL is one of the largest and longest established operators serving the trades to, from and within West Africa (Morocco-Angola). Established in 1975, the company operates a fleet of multipurpose ro-ro and container vessels. OTAL is a subsidiary of CMA-CGM.

OTAL operates a range of transport services complementing its regular liner operations. These include West African terminal operations and liner agency services, customs clearance, cargo consolidation, shipping, storage and warehousing, project logistics and trucking. The company delivers cargo throughout West Africa including the inland destinations such as Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali and Niger.

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