



Operation Sovereign Borders

MEDIA STATEMENT

9 May 2014

Operation Sovereign Borders—Joint Agency Task Force update

This statement provides an update on Operation Sovereign Borders (OSB) activities related to the off-water reception and processing of illegal maritime arrivals.

The reporting period is from 9.00am 2 May 2014 to 9.00am 9 May 2014.

During this reporting period there were no illegal maritime arrivals transferred to Australian Immigration authorities.

Eighteen illegal maritime arrivals were transferred to offshore processing centres—all to Nauru.

Nine illegal maritime arrival transferees were voluntarily returned to their country of origin after electing to go home from an offshore processing centre—eight to Iran and one to Iraq.

Three illegal maritime arrival detainees were voluntarily removed—two to Iran and one to Iraq.

As at 9.00am 9 May 2014, there was a total of 1265 people on Manus Island, 1179 people in Nauru and 1348 people in the Christmas Island facilities.

Sri Lankan authorities have recently arrested 44 people for alleged involvement in people smuggling activity. These arrests show the ongoing commitment of the Sri Lankan authorities to combat people smuggling.

On 2 May 2014, Safrudin Ansa was convicted of aggravated people smuggling on the basis of being a repeat offender contrary to section 233C *Migration Act 1958*. Ansa was remanded in custody until his sentencing hearing on 4 July 2014.

On 21 January 2013, the Border Protection Command intercepted a suspected illegal entry vessel (SIEV) near Christmas Island with 37 passengers and 2 Indonesian crew members

(including Ansa) on board. Ansa was identified as having previously arrived in Australia as the captain aboard a different SIEV in November 2011.

In October 2012, Ansa pleaded guilty to one charge of people smuggling contrary to section 233A *Migration Act 1958* and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, backdated to 1 November 2011. Ansa was released upon entering into a recognisance in the amount of \$500, to be of good behaviour for three years, and was deported.

Media enquiries:

All enquiries should be directed to Customs and Border Protection Media: (02) 6275 6793