



Operation Sovereign Borders

MEDIA STATEMENT

1 September 2014

Joint Agency Task Force monthly update: August 2014

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 1 August 2014 to 31 August 2014.

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

One hundred and eighty-nine illegal maritime arrivals were transferred to offshore processing centres—all to Nauru.

Forty-eight illegal maritime arrival transferees were voluntarily returned to their country of origin after electing to go home from an offshore processing centre—thirty-six Iranians, three Iraqis, two Egyptians, two Somalis, one Albanian, one Lebanese, one Sudanese, one Syrian, and one Indian.

Twenty-one illegal maritime arrival detainees were voluntarily removed—twelve Iranians, five Vietnamese, three Iraqis, and one Somali.

As at 31 August 2014, there was a total of 1084 people on Manus Island and 1233 people in Nauru.

As at 31 August 2014, of the 79 Refugee Status Interim Determinations completed at Manus Island, 41 were positive and 38 were negative. Of the 246 Refugee Status Determinations completed in Nauru, 194 were positive and 52 were negative.

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

On 12 August 2014, Mr Ali Youssef, an Australian male, was sentenced in the Downing Centre District Court, Sydney, to 3 years and 4 months of imprisonment, with a non-parole period of 1 year and 7 months. Mr Youssef was released on the basis of time served upon entering into a recognisance of \$100 to be of good behaviour for three years. The sentence relates to one count of supporting the offence of people smuggling contrary to s233D *Migration Act 1958*.

On 15 August 2014, Mr Safrudin Nurdin, an Indonesian male, was sentenced regarding one count of people smuggling contrary to s233A *Migration Act 1958*. Mr Nurdin was sentenced to time served and has been returned to Indonesia. The sentence relates to Mr Nurdin's involvement as a crew member of a suspected illegal entry vessel (SIEV) that capsized on 20 August 2013.

Media enquiries:

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