

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Question No. 98

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2012:

- a) (Referring to article: Asylum seekers cling to sinking boat in rough seas off Indonesia, the Australian, 13.4.12 by Ben Packham) How many times has Ian Rintoul, members of the Refugee Action Coalition or the Australian United Hazara Association, contacted the Australian Federal Police providing intelligence on suspected illegal boat arrivals or people smuggling operations?
- b) Since August 2008 has the AFP or DIAC investigated Mr Rintoul for possible links to people smugglers or asylum seekers in Indonesia prior to their arrival in Australia on illegal boats?
- c) Has the AFP investigated whether Mr Rintoul might be involved in encouraging or aiding and abetting asylum seekers to make dangerous boat journeys?
- d) Has the AFP investigated how Mr Rintoul's telephone number has apparently been given to those on board people smuggling boats?
- e) Is the AFP aware whether or not Mr Rintoul is in contact with asylum seekers on illegal boats before they board boats and while on board boats either before interception by Australian authorities or afterwards?
- f) Has the AFP investigated the possibility that Mr Rintoul receives payment from people smugglers and or asylum seekers for his assistance with asylum seekers arriving by illegal boat from Indonesia?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) The AFP does not confirm or deny who provides information to police.
- b) The AFP does not confirm or deny who it is, or is not investigating.
- c) The AFP does not confirm or deny who it is, or is not investigating.
- d) The AFP does not confirm or deny who it is, or is not investigating.
- e) Consistent with long-standing practice, the AFP does not comment on matters of intelligence.
- f) The AFP does not confirm or deny who it is, or is not investigating.