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THE SENATE

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TABLED  
UPPER

27 October 2015

Senator the Hon Stephen Parry  
President of the Senate  
Suite SG.40  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Received President's Office  
Hobart 1345 27/10/15  
JANUKE

Mr President

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE ARISING FROM PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE RECENT ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO THE  
CONDITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE REGIONAL PROCESSING CENTRE IN NAURU

I write to raise a matter of privilege under standing order 81 and ask that you grant precedence to a notice of motion referring the matter to the Senate Standing Committee of Privileges. It is my concern that potentially false or misleading evidence was supplied to the Select Committee by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and representatives from Wilson Security and Transfield Services.

The evidence in question was given during public hearings on 9 June and 20 July 2015 regarding a covert operation that saw multiple people spy on Senator Sarah Hanson-Young while she was on Nauru in December of 2013.

In summary, the Select Committee received the following evidence in relation to the spying;

- On 4 June 2015 the committee met and determined to accept and publish a submission from a former employee of Wilson Security. The submission alleged that Wilson Security organised a group from their Emergency Response Team to spy on Senator Sarah Hanson-Young throughout her visit to Nauru.
- At the committee's public hearing on 9 June 2015, Secretary of the department, Mr Michael Pezzullo, stated that his department had investigated the matter and found that one rogue Wilson employee instructed two other Wilson employees to monitor Senator Hanson-Young's car overnight while it was parked outside her hotel and that is the extent of the spying that took place.
- At the public hearing on 20 July 2015, Senator Scott Ludlam questioned the department, Wilson Security and Transfield Services in relation to these allegations. All parties denied the spying went any further than outlined by the department at the hearing on 9 June 2015.
- On 13 August 2015 on the 7.30 program, a number of former guards reported to Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) that:
  - (a) the surveillance of Senator Hanson-Young involved up to eight members of the Emergency Response Team;



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- (b) the surveillance continued for the full three days Senator Hanson-Young was in Nauru;
- (c) guards were ordered to photograph Senator Hanson-Young and make notes about who she met with; and
- (d) one guard witnessed shredding of all documents relating to surveillance operation, including photos and notes.

The Australian Greens understand from the ABC that its reports relied on the evidence of three former Wilson guards, none of whom gave evidence to the Select Committee. Transcripts from the 7.30 program, as well as the ABC AM radio program which includes related testimony, are attached.

- On 19 August 2015 the Committee received another submission which appeared to be from a former Wilson Security guard. That submission contradicted the evidence given by the department, Wilson Security and Transfield Services during the public hearings on 9 June and 20 July 2015. Specifically it said that approximately 6-8 ERT members conducted the spying and that the operation was authorised, sanctioned and fully supported by senior Wilson Security managers.

The evidence given to the committee by the department, Wilson Security and Transfield Services regarding the extent of the spying is at odds with the evidence of five separate Wilson Security guards with first-hand knowledge of these events, who have each separately approached this committee or the media, suggesting these organisations have misled the senate, either wilfully or as a result of inadequate investigations conducted by them into these matters.

I attach a copy of the two submissions referred to above and relevant parts of the transcript of the public hearings. I also attach the relevant 7.30 program transcript, as well as a related ABC AM radio transcript from 14 August 2015.

I am concerned that false or misleading evidence may have been given to the Select Committee and therefore propose the issue be considered by the Committee of Privileges.

I appreciate your consideration of this very serious matter.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Richard Di Natale  
Leader of the Australian Greens



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**Recent Allegations relating to Conditions and Circumstances at the Regional Processing Centre in Nauru**

To the committee secretariat,

I am a former employee for Transfield sub contractor Wilson security. I worked at the Nauru Offshore Processing Centre for just over one and a half years and I was employed in the Emergency Response Team for this time.

I have witnessed abuse of asylum seekers, corruption and cover-ups from Wilson security, the Nauruan Government and Nauruan locals (employed in the processing centre and in the community). Additionally I have witnessed discrimination, corrupt management and deceptive conduct from Wilson security. Below is an overview of subjects detailed in the following pages of my submission:

- Wilson security spying on Senator Sarah Hanson-Young while on Nauru
- Military imposters employed in supervisor roles within Wilson security
- Discrimination against Australian staff from Wilson management
- I have seen a video from before the 19<sup>th</sup> of July riots where three Wilson guards are planning to use unreasonable force and assault asylum seekers.
- Nauruan employees threatening refugees prior to being settled in the community.
- Nauruan employees using visa cancelations as leverage (which has taken a direct impact on reports not being written on Nauruan staff).
- Nauru government stating they will cancel the visa of anyone they believe to be in a relationship with a refugee that has been settled into the Nauru community.

During my employment on Nauru I have witnessed or became aware of the following:

- a. When Senator Sarah Hanson-Young visited Nauru, Wilson Security organised a team from ERT to spy on her while she was on Nauru. This included following her around the island while she was outside of the OPCs and setting up an observation post to watch her room at the Menen hotel. The briefing was given by ERT supervisor [redacted] in which he gave orders to spy on the senator. This briefing included her room number, vehicle registration and even using code name "Raven" over the radio to make reference to her.
- b. There are approximately five employees within Wilson security that are military imposters claiming to have served in the Australian defence force and have been found out to be fakes (This includes employees in supervisor and management positions). In the case of one individual, I have a copy of an email conversation between a work colleague and Willson HR. The individual claiming to have served admits he was never in the defence force, Wilson HR acknowledges this (and are aware it is a federal offence to impersonate military personnel), and yet he retains his employment and his position as supervisor at OPC03.

- c. There is vast discrimination against Australian employees by Wilson management on Nauru, who the majority of (if not all) are all New Zealanders. This is evident from recruitment to selecting workplace positions and finally who they wish to retain at the end of contracts. During recruitment for more staff in late 2013, the position advertised by Wilson security had stated a requirement of previous experience in the military, police or corrections. Someone I know applied to this position; having served in the Australian defence force his work experience matched the job requirements. However he was not selected and instead a cousin to one of the New Zealander supervisors was employed with no relevant work experience. The administration office at OPC01 (office for Wilson management and other favourable positions) is referred to by the majority of all Wilson employees as "Auckland castle". Additionally other references to this corruption and discrimination within Wilson are that if you want to get promoted you will need a passport with a silver fern. This is unfair, corrupt and extremely dangerous as people are employed and even given supervisor roles that are incapable of conducting their job. It is by sheer luck nothing has gone drastically wrong.
- d. Recently due to the decreasing number of asylum seekers within the centre, Wilson security notified all employees on Nauru in December 2014 they would be reducing the number of staff on Nauru. This was to coincide with the expiration of employment contracts in February 2015. In the emails received from Wilson security they stated the selection process to determine who will receive new contracts would be based on previous work performance. Despite these assurances Wilson security have instead based the selection of favouritism and refused to continue the employment of staff with immaculate performance reviews while offering employees with poor reviews and severe work problems new contracts. This is misleading and deceptive conduct by Wilson management and HR.
- e. I have seen a video from a camera worn by a Wilson security guard on 19 JULY 2013. The recording was before the riot started and was of three Wilson employees (including the employee wearing the camera) talking to each other at the recreation centre in OPC01. The male Wilson employee wearing the camera states if something happens "we go Charlie 2 and take c ... down", soon after one of the other Wilson employees states "If a cop tells you what to do you can do it. I don't understand Nauruan so I'm just gonna say he told me to do everything... I'm pretty sure he said s ... like that. I'm fairly confident he gave me that direction". From seeing this video it was obvious to me that these Wilson guards were planning to use unreasonable force and assault the asylum seekers even before the riot started.
- f. I have not witnessed this myself, however I know people who has observed and are willing to attest to Wilson Management shredding reports regarding use of force from 19JUL2013, concerns for safety and anything that will reflect badly on Wilson management or the processing centre.
- g. When located in OPC03, ERT were frequently tasked with maintaining observations on specific Nauruan employees suspected of trading contraband. We would also search through areas within the camp (such as the laundry facilities) and frequently find packets of

cigarettes stashed under or behind the washing machines. It was well suspected that Nauruan employees were bringing in contraband such as cigarettes and attempting to gain sexual favours from asylum seeker females. It was also known that Nauruans not employed at the centre would occasionally sneak up to the camp at night and hang outside the fence of the SAF (single adult female) area and look into tents or attempt to trade contraband for sexual favours. I have twice observed and questioned Nauruan locals loitering in the rocks outside the area of OPC03, in both occasions I received no response and they merely moved further away from the camp and into the rocks until out of sight.

- h. In the days leading up to the first RSD (refugee status determination) and following after, I have overheard Nauruans making threats to asylum seeker women inside OPC03, stating that "We'll find you outside" and most commonly "This is our island, our rules".
- i. On a date I cannot remember in June 2013, at approximately 0300 in the morning I received a phone call from a refugee living in the community after receiving a positive RSD. She sounded deeply distressed and told me her friend had just called her saying a Nauruan is trying to break into her room. The Nauruan male was known to the female refugee in the room he was attempting to enter. Eventually the male broke the door handle and left. I saw the broken door handle the following day while walking to the Anibare boat harbor. I am aware that there are frequently drunk Nauruan males entering the refugee accommodation sites in the community calling for females to come out of their rooms.
- j. There are huge problems between Nauruan employees and Expat employees. To this date, the Nauruan government has cancelled the visas of seven Wilson employees on Nauru (that I am currently aware of). These visa cancellations have been the result of disagreements at work, mistaken identity and an allegation of racism when the individual involved was not even on the island at the time of the alleged incident. One of the seven includes a Wilson security manager who had his visa cancelled after a disagreement with the Nauruan Ops manager for OPC03 (He did however have his visa reinstated). The Nauruan employees use this and will quite frequently make hints or even direct threats of cancelling visas so they can avoid work or repercussions for their actions at work. This has taken a direct impact on reporting incidents involving Nauruan employees and for many incidents people will turn a blind eye to for fear of losing their visa.
- k. A fellow employee who was on a bus asked the driver (A Nauruan employee) if she could turn the air conditioner down. The driver somehow took offence to this request and threatened to call her relatives up to camp to bash him and the other Wilson employee with him, then follow this up with getting their visas cancelled.
- l. I have heard a recording of ERT supervisor giving our team a start of shift briefing in which he states that if a local employee has a problem with you, they do not need to follow the chain of command, they can go straight to the Nauru government and cancel your visa or take matters into their own hands. Additionally during this recording he states that the Nauru government has stated that they will cancel the visa of anyone they believe to be in a relationship with a refugee that has been settled into the Nauru community.

m. I am aware of an incident when a male Wilson employee was at Jules bar on his day off and observed Nauruan males harassing and groping a female refugee. The female refugee sighted the Wilson guard and approached to begin a conversation (The Wilson guard immediately had every Nauruan at the bar staring at him). The two talked for approximately five minutes and went separate ways. The following day all the Nauruan security staff at OPC03 were asking expat Wilson guards for the name of the Wilson guard talking to the refugee at Jules last night. Approximately a week later, an allegation was made against this individual by a Nauruan, stating he had been dealing marijuana inside the camps. On the alleged date of this incident, the male was not even in Nauru. The individual was subsequently stood down from work and never returned to the island.

I strongly recommend the centre is shut down, the remaining asylum seekers be processed onshore and all the refugees that were released into the Nauruan community be brought to Australia.

I hope my submission provides some more insight into what is happening on Nauru.

Regards



Select Committee on the Recent Allegations relating to Conditions and Circumstances at the Regional Processing Centre in  
Nauru  
Submission 99

I would like to make a submission regarding recent allegations concerning events on Nauru, I would like to remain anonymous while doing so, however I believe this information should be made public.

1. In relation to the allegation that Sarah Hanson Young was spied on by Wilson security staff while in Nauru and the response from Wilson Security Management that it was the unauthorised actions of a single Emergency Response Team (ERT) Supervisor

This is incorrect as the management of Wilson Security on Nauru both authorised and sanctioned this operation. This operation involved approximately 6-8 ERT members and consisted of recording her every movement both in and out of the camps, they were also to report on whom she spoke with and if possible they were to ascertain what was said. Staff were requested to compile reports on her movements, contact with employees or Stakeholders. These reports and video surveillance footage were to be handed to the Intelligence unit for collation and dissemination.

Wilson management were very concerned about her agenda while in Nauru and believed Wilson Security could be shown in a negative light. Staff were strongly advised/warned by Wilson Management prior to her arrival to refrain from speaking with her about asylum seekers, centre operations and anything that could be detrimental to Wilson's reputation in the processing centres.

Wilson investigations manager and intelligence officer met with Sarah hanson -young with the sole purpose of extracting and recording information from her with regards to her agenda while on Nauru. As stated previously, Wilson Management were extremely concerned with her political leanings/ stance on asylum seekers and believed that she had the political clout to seriously tarnish or damage Wilson's reputation as the security provider at the processing centres.

The Emergency Response Team Supervisor who Wilson Security management said conducted unauthorised surveillance on Hanson Young appears to have been a scapegoat. Management authorised, sanctioned and fully supported surveillance on Sarah Hanson Young while she was in Nauru.

I have spoken with ERT members involved in this operation and they have stated that their primary role was to obtain information that could assist Wilson's with negating, refuting allegations made by Hanson Young with regards to the security role conducted by Wilson's at the processing centres. Their secondary role was to ensure her safety.

The Senate has been misled and misinformed by Wilson Security Executive Management that this was the action of a lone wolf operator, management were fully aware of this operation. A considerable amount of video surveillance footage was taken of Sarah Hanson Young, both inside and out of the processing centres by tasked Emergency Response Team members. This was then provided to the Wilson Security Intelligence unit for dissemination.

2. Another concerning matter involves a Wilson Security Client Service Officer in August 2014. made an assault complaint against an asylum seeker claimed had assaulted him at Regional Processing Centre 2. The matter was investigated and was charged with assault by the Nauru police force.

claimed that had struck him in the face. spent several weeks in custody as a result. He indicated that would be pleading not guilty to the assault allegation and the matter went to court in November 2014. and another Client Services Officer gave evidence to say that he had been assaulted while two Transfield Case

Managers gave evidence on behalf of [redacted] alleging that he did not assault [redacted].  
The Magistrate then reserved her decision until a later date.

A decision was made in January 2015 and [redacted] was found not guilty of assault.

In December 2014, information was received from a colleague of [redacted] that he had fabricated the entire incident and [redacted] had not assaulted him at all. An investigation was conducted into this and as a result, a voice recording was obtained of [redacted] stating that he "took a dive". [redacted] stated that he waited until [redacted] approached him and went to walk past him, before grabbing him [redacted] and wrestling him to the ground while making it look like the asylum seeker had assaulted him. [redacted] justifications for doing so was that he didn't like [redacted] and wanted him charged and ultimately receive a conviction for assault so he could never get to Australia. (Refugees with certain convictions are sometimes not permitted to travel to Australia.)

[redacted] had spent a total of four weeks in custody and had self harmed on three occasions as a result of this incident. After his fellow asylum seekers left Nauru and went to be processed in Australia, [redacted] attempted to hang himself. This undue stress and attempted suicide was a clear result of a negligence of Wilson Security.

[redacted] has made a false complaint, perverted the course of justice, assaulted an asylum seeker and committed perjury in the Nauruan court. Wilson Security management knew about this matter in December 2014, [redacted] remained in his position during this time until he was urgently removed from Nauru very recently by Wilson Security as the Nauru police force had been made aware of this matter. Wilsons Management were concerned should this matter be investigated by the Nauruan Police Force, the media would have also been made aware and ultimately it could reflect badly due to the inaction taken by Wilson Management. [redacted] is still employed by Wilson Security and Wilson Security management believe this matter will blow over with no further repercussions.

[redacted] was the unfortunate victim in this matter. He has spent time in custody as a result, he has also attempted self harm on three sperate occaslons, [redacted] however continues to retain his position and his actions appear to have been sanctioned by Wilson Security management who have known about this for a considerable time. Furthermore, management did not advise the department of Immigration or Transfield services about this incident at the time as per contractual requirements.

3. During my time in Nauru, I have been made aware that Wilson Security regularly checks both work and private emails of their employees. Wilson Security's Brisbane based operations have computer programs they use to collect information on employees and other service providers by accessing their social media sites, phones and emails. They cannot use this information in a legal capacity however they can use it to assist them in identifying/collecting information on staff and service providers they deem to be a problem/security risk. these computer programs used by Wilson Security in Brisbane also allows them to track the phones of their employees and other service providers and allows them to see what numbers/locations have been called by staff both in Nauru and Australia.

There is clearly a concern that Wilson's are a private security company not a government agency. How is it they have access to this? What do they do with this data?.



4. A female asylum seeker was sexually assaulted by a Nauruan local while attempting to catch a bus back to RPC 3. This unidentified male subjected the victim to a prolonged attack (several hours) and she was eventually found running down the road half-naked by an expat female who advised the police. The police eventually arrived after initially going to the wrong location. She was placed in the rear of the police vehicle and the police then stopped on the way back to the station to watch a fireworks display for 45 mins (with a distraught, half-naked, sexual assault victim).

Eventually after arriving back at the police station, the asylum seeker was interviewed and then taken to the hospital for treatment, her injuries (bruising and bite marks on her back/shoulder) were photographed by the doctor.

The Nauru police force initially denied the incident even occurred and believed that she had made the whole thing up. The police however eventually conceded that it did occur, but stated that it would have been a refugee that attacked her and not a local. The police also indicated that they would vigorously pursue this investigation. Local Nauruan staff were coached by members of the Nauruan government/police to state to the asylum seekers in the camps that it was a refugee and not a local that attacked her.

The Nauruan government was concerned that should it be insinuated that a local was responsible it would create negative connotations regarding the safety of asylum seekers/refugees on Nauru and perhaps be used as political leverage by those parties opposed to the processing centre.

To date nothing has been finalised, the victim is still in Nauru, the investigation has not progressed at all. There is no capability within the Nauru Police Force to interview or forensically examine the victims of a sexual/serious assault. Australian Federal Police are there to assist the Nauruan Police Force only in an advisory capacity. Unfortunately the Nauruan police force don't have the training, equipment, skill set or experience to deal with major investigations, they are a third world country with third world policing issues.

As more and more asylum seekers are released into the Nauruan community, there are also more incidents in which refugees are assaulted and attacked by Nauruan locals, I have spoken with CONNECT staff (External Refugee Resettlement agency based in Nauru) and I have been advised that refugees are being targeted and assaulted on a weekly basis by locals, some of these matters are reported to the Nauruan police force, however many are not for fear of retaliation by Nauruan locals or inaction by the Nauru Police.

It will only be a matter of time before there is another serious sexual assault on either a refugee or asylum seeker by a local/s and I also believe that the ingrained culture of the locals who believe asylum seekers/processing centres have ruined Nauru and have an inherent hatred of refugees and asylum seekers will result in a serious assault or perhaps the death of either an asylum seeker or refugee.

5. Nauru Offshore Processing centre is supposed to be a humanitarian environment, Wilson Security however runs it like it is a military operation. A very large majority of supervisors and staff are either ex New Zealand or Australian military personnel, their doctrines, procedures and methodology are all military based, this unfortunately does not translate well to an environment that should be focused on providing nurturing care, safety and security to asylum seekers. A one or two day course in cultural awareness run by Wilson Security is not going to change people's perceptions, especially those military personnel that have worked in overseas conflict zones such as Iraq or Afghanistan and have an ingrained or preconceived perceptions of people from these areas.

While working in Nauru, I quickly became disillusioned with the smoke and mirrors mentality of Wilson Management. Any attempt to address serious concerns, major issues or disturbing behaviour was immediately stifled by management and on more than one occasion I was directed by Management to alter, modify reports outlying these concerns so as to reflect Wilson Security in a more favourable light to external agencies.

6. I also have some major concerns about the Wilson Security Intelligence team on Nauru regarding the dismissal of save the children employees. Intelligence analyst [redacted] was responsible for authoring an intelligence report for the Minister of Immigration some time ago, together with Investigations Manager [redacted] were also responsible for ultimately identifying and ensuring that the sacked Save the children workers were removed from Nauru as they both believed that they all were coaching and assisting Asylum Seekers with protest activity. I can categorically state that [redacted] had no evidence whatsoever in relation to those staff coaching or assisting the Asylum seekers with protest activity. In fact [redacted] panicked after he realised that the intelligence report had been sent and attempted to solicit and cajole information from anyone that knew these Save the children workers that would show them in a negative light and therefore justify his report.

[redacted] has conducted an investigation to ascertain who the anonymous whistleblowers were that have provided submissions to the senate inquiry about information that is detrimental to Wilson Security and the security operation at the Processing Centres. If the results of this investigation established that these anonymous whistleblowers were current Wilson Security employees then once identified these employees were to be targeted and their employment terminated under the guise of substandard work performance.

I believe that [redacted] is committing a criminal offence, in that he has conducted an investigation attempting to identify these 'Whistleblowers' as the information submitted to the Senate is protected under the Whistleblower Protection Act and Federal legislation. In Australia a charge of "taking detrimental action in reprisal for a person making a public interest disclosure", could be considered a crime. The penalty for this is 2 years imprisonment and \$11000 fine.

7. Another area of major concern is the Wilson Security Behavioural unit, this is managed and staffed by inexperienced, unqualified Wilson employees, their role is a significant one however and they deal with all welfare issues relating to the asylum seekers, these can range from behavioural changes in the asylum seekers through to serious attempts at self-harm.

I believe they are unqualified to make decisions regarding the mental and physical welfare of the asylum seekers, none of the behavioural team have a mental health or welfare background, How can these people determine what is the best end result for the asylum seekers when they themselves have no experience or skill set to draw upon.

The majority of the asylum seekers had prior significant mental health issues before they arrived in Nauru, however the conditions at Nauru appeared to have exacerbated these issues and the resulting behaviour of these Asylum seekers is recorded, monitored and their welfare needs and requirements decided by manifestly inadequately trained Client Service Officers under the guise of Behavioural specialists/managers.

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Select Committee on the Recent Allegations relating to Conditions and Circumstances at the Regional Processing Centre in  
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Submission 99

Finally, I thank you for allowing me an opportunity to outlay my concerns and issues. Unfortunately the above matters are only the tip of the iceberg, I have no doubt that should a detailed and full investigation be conducted, many other concerning matters will be uncovered.

they talk to the various infrastructure that has been put in place over the last few months. And I am happy to source additional photographs if that would aid the committee; we can do that.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** I think that would be good. As you have seen, there is a range of evidence that we have had—that they are in tents with no hard standing; that there are substandard toilet facilities. If you could go through some of those, and if you have photos from the last 24 hours, I think that would be very instructive—so that we can see what the facilities are like now, and we can test some of the evidence.

**Mr Pezzullo:** Just to Senator Hanson-Young's point, we might be able to—through discussion with the centre management and subject to respecting privacy; obviously, we do not want to provide imagery of lived-in spaces because there will be personal items laid about but, if it is the committee's desire, we can arrange to get into a currently unused space inside a marquee. I am sure that we can get some imagery sorted out for the committee.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** Thank you. I think that would be very helpful for us to make some determination about that evidence. In relation to Senator Hanson-Young's question about being followed, Dr Young made some further allegations. I think you are aware of some of these allegations, but he said that it was more systemic than that, and there was a culture of—I do not think he used the word 'spying', but checking on and monitoring anybody from off-island. I am just wondering, have you got any further advice? Is this policy? What was the story?

**Mr Pezzullo:** I will deal with the specifics first and then perhaps, more broadly, go to this question of some kind of implied policy in this regard. Senator, when I saw those references to how your visit was handled, I myself asked questions, as you would expect me to, in terms of Wilson Security. I have seen the advice, which I think Wilson has now provided—and I stand to be corrected here—directly in response to the submission that came in to the committee. Wilson has provided its response. I have no reason at all to question that. They have indicated that on the occasion of your visit, Senator, someone within their company took it upon themselves—as I recall it, Mr Skill—to monitor your vehicle overnight, such as they thought was required in the circumstances. I do not know why they would have done that. I do not know whether this matter was discussed with you, Senator. Clearly, from your public comments, I suspect it was not. Wilson have otherwise dismissed those allegations and said that, in that case, the officer involved—the officer of their company—acted without authority and has been dealt with.

**CHAIR:** Did anybody ask him why he took that action?

**Mr Pezzullo:** I have got no idea why.

**CHAIR:** So have you not asked Wilsons whether they asked him?

**Mr Pezzullo:** No; we have been in dialogue—Chair, when you ask me, I think you are asking me personally—but I will ask Mr Skill, who has been discussing these matters with the company, and see if he has anything to add.

**Mr Skill:** I have spoken with Transfield, who are our key contractor, and they subcontract Wilson to provide this service for us. We have received assurances from Transfield and Wilson that the activities that were undertaken were not authorised—not official—and that the officer involved was disciplined as soon as it came to light at the morning handover, following the evening of monitoring Senator Hanson-Young's car.

**CHAIR:** Does that indicate that you have no control over your subcontractors down the line?

**Mr Pezzullo:** No, it does not.

**Mr Skill:** No, absolutely not.

**Mr Pezzullo:** In any large, complex organisation you have all sorts of people making decisions about all sorts of things. In my very lengthy experience—and I do not wish to in any way imply otherwise, but normally, if a person is the subject of protection, there is a dialogue with them.

**CHAIR:** You would be familiar with the legislation that senators can move unimpeded throughout the Commonwealth in their—

**Senator REYNOLDS:** We are in Nauru.

**Mr Pezzullo:** There is the question of both the privileges act—

**CHAIR:** We are in Nauru: I am asking you, did anybody ask the person who took the action of surveillance—or following, or spying—why he did it? You are all saying: 'We don't know. It was nothing to do with us.'

**Mr Pezzullo:** That is precisely not what the officer said. Mr Skill said that he has had a discussion with the prime contractor, Transfield, who has had a discussion with Wilson. They have advised us that the officer undertook that action without authority and has been disciplined.

**CHAIR:** Why did the officer take that action without authority?

**Mr Pezzullo:** Well, if the question from the committee is—we can ask it through the contractual chain—why did that officer—

**Senator KIM CARR:** The question goes broader than that, because the report we have here is that more than one officer is involved and it was more than just surveillance on a motor car. I am very concerned that there is accuracy in the evidence that is presented.

**Mr Pezzullo:** Indeed, and so am I. And that is why we have asked the question: what do you know of this matter? Transfield is our prime contractor. They have spoken to Wilson, their subordinate contractor, and they have said, 'Yes, we accept that on one occasion.' This is what Wilson has told us through—

**Senator HANSON-YOUNG:** This is different to the information Wilson has provided to us—

**Senator REYNOLDS:** Let the secretary finish, please.

**Mr Pezzullo:** I have read the response to submission No. 62 and they have conceded on one occasion a matter of discipline arose and they have undertaken discipline in relation to that officer. The chair has asked, 'Why did that particular employee undertake the actions that he took?' We could ask the question and we will see what we can come back with on notice.

**CHAIR:** I think the question needs to be asked why someone took it upon themselves to institute—

**Mr Pezzullo:** Quite, Chair, and I do not know. I do not wish to impugn the person in question at all. He might have had a brain explosion. He might have thought that he was operating under what was diligent action—

**Senator HANSON-YOUNG:** I want clarification. The Wilsons' response says:

Wilson Security is aware of individuals—

plural—

who attended the Menen Hotel at the same time as Senator Hanson-Young. We understand that their primary motivation was the security of the Senator.

This activity was not authorised by Wilson security, and is not a part of our scope of works in providing security at the Regional Processing Centre.

The matter was immediately investigated ... and the individuals—

plural—

involved were subject to disciplinary action for acting beyond their brief.

You keep referring to one person. Wilsons' response to me here, and to this committee, is that it was individuals. I would like clarification as to whether you have been told something different.

**Mr Pezzullo:** They have obviously dealt with all the persons associated with that and presumably there would have been someone who organised that activity. Mr Skill has some further information.

**Mr Skill:** I was speaking as an individual. There was a shift supervisor who arranged for your vehicle to be monitored overnight. That was the individual that I am advised was disciplined by Wilsons. If there was flow-on effect for more junior officers within Wilson then I have not been provided that information—

**Senator HANSON-YOUNG:** So that is not the person who is part of the people who came to my hotel? That is a separate incident?

**Mr Skill:** I do not have that information. I am advised by Wilsons, via Transfield, that nothing unusual in relation to provision of safety and security to visitors to the island was provided with the exception of this one incident where a shift supervisor authorised or requested—I would have to clarify the wording there—for your vehicle to be monitored overnight at the hotel for security purposes.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** I asked a question about seven minutes ago and I have not had the opportunity to hear the response from the department, so if I could continue. I am sure Senator Hanson-Young will have plenty of opportunities.

**Senator HANSON-YOUNG:** You did reference the—

**Senator REYNOLDS:** Yes, but I think there have been five questions in my time, and I would like the department to answer my question about any policy of monitoring, or security in a more general sense, from the department initially. That was my question to start with.

**Mr Pezzullo:** Sorry, Senator, I have lost the thread of that.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** That is all right. It is no wonder. We have had individual allegations raised. The question is: is there anything in terms of departmental policy, for Transfield or Wilson, to monitor if they have concerns about the security of people from off island? Is there any official policy or—

**Mr Pezzullo:** No.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** There is none at all?

**Mr Pezzullo:** In terms of the mandate that we exercise, it is to support the government of Nauru. The government of Nauru is responsible for the good order of the centre—

**Senator REYNOLDS:** And they are responsible for security—

**Mr Pezzullo:** We provide, through the contractual arrangement we have—as referred to several times—with Wilson Security, which is a contractual flow that comes through Transfield. We provide support services. As far as I am concerned, and to reassure the chair and others, there is absolutely no policy implied or otherwise that visiting Australian parliamentarians will be put under any form of scrutiny or surveillance or be monitored otherwise.

**Senator HANSON-YOUNG:** But it has happened.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** Thank you very much. I would like to move on to—

**Mr Pezzullo:** It did happen once, Wilson—I am sorry, Senator, but I cannot let the—

**Senator REYNOLDS:** I know you have got these interjections and it is a bit hard to know—

**Senator HANSON-YOUNG:** This is actually important because it has—

**Senator REYNOLDS:** Senator Hanson-Young will have an opportunity shortly to ask all her questions—

**CHAIR:** Senator Reynolds, the secretary made the point. It was not an interjection from this side. The secretary took that interjection and wanted to respond. Do you want to let the secretary respond or do we tell him not to?

**Senator REYNOLDS:** My point is that my colleagues keep interjecting and I would actually like to—

**CHAIR:** Interjections are disorderly and I ask everybody to desist.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** I asked this question at least 10 if not 12 minutes ago and I am still trying to work through the answer to my question of 10 minutes ago. As you well know, I have to leave, and there are continual interjections.

**CHAIR:** You have until five o'clock you told me and it is now half past four.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** If I could actually, please Chair, be allowed to at least go through my questions.

**CHAIR:** I am asking you whether you wish the secretary to complete his explanation.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** I would actually like him to answer my question, not the interjection.

**Mr Pezzullo:** My apologies, Senator, I will go to your question. Leaving aside the one incident, which involves, as you heard from Mr Skill, a shift supervisor taking it upon themselves to undertake certain actions, and clearly some subordinates complied with that direction, the supervisor, as Mr Skill has been advised, has been disciplined. I am not aware of any other case where a visiting parliamentarian or indeed any other dignitary has been dealt with in that way.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** It certainly would not be sanctioned by the department or encouraged.

**Mr Pezzullo:** Absolutely not.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** Okay. I would like to move on to other allegations from Dr Young today. He made some very serious allegations. Firstly, not all of the IHMS complaints to the department were addressed, were actioned or were reported back. Do you have a process of dealing with the allegations?

**Mr Pezzullo:** In this case Ms Briscoe might be supported by other officers. It is difficult to deal with some of these allegations because they tend to be generalised. The allegation that certain matters were not attended to by the department is abstract and general, so which allegations were not attended to? You need to know which date, which piece of IHMS advice was set aside, tampered with, or dealt with in a particular way according to Dr Young's perception of these matters. I am sure he absolutely believes in good faith in what he is saying. We are trying to reconcile that with the facts.

**Senator REYNOLDS:** In terms of any specific allegations, issues or incidents that have been passed through to the department, you are not aware of any that have not been action?

**Senator LUDLAM:** Can we go to the protocol. What happens when you are made aware of an impending visit by a high-profile individual? What protocols kick into place? Obviously, in this instance it is Senator Hanson-Young, but it could be anybody. It could be a journalist or a human rights advocate—take your pick.

**Mr White:** We have some pretty standard operating procedures, if you like, where we look at what the VIP may want to do. We put in arrangements to make sure that visits in and around the centre are managed appropriately. Often, when VIPs come to visit, the asylum seekers want to have some interaction.

**Senator LUDLAM:** What responsibility do you take for the conduct or for the welfare of the individuals when they are off site—when they are not at the centre that you are responsible for?

**Mr White:** When off the site, ordinarily, unless we were requested to do so, we would not have any responsibility. That would sit with the Nauruan police force.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Do you mean requested by the individual in question or requested by some other third-party?

**Mr White:** I think that if someone, for whatever reason, felt unsafe, then they would be working with the department to make arrangements for their security off the site.

**Senator LUDLAM:** With the incidence of Senator Hanson-Young's visit between 15-18 December 2013, when was Transfield first made aware that she was travelling to the island?

**Mr White:** I would not be able to tell you the exact date. There was also another visit at the time, with members of parliament, Julie Bishop and other senators—

**Senator LUDLAM:** Were those other visitors also surveilled by Wilson Security when they were off site?

**Mr White:** As I said, that is not part of our scope of work—

**Senator LUDLAM:** No. I am not sure why you brought it up. There is evidence that Senator Hanson-Young was surveilled while she was off site. That was nothing at all to do with the visit to the centre. I am wanting to know—just to go back in time, if I can, briefly—when was Transfield first made aware that she was travelling to the island?

**Mr White:** Again, I would not be able to give you an exact date. But, typically, it is a week or two prior to someone's visit that we would get something from the department to say that we have a visitor and that we need to prepare an itinerary and prepare arrangements for that visit.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Submitter No. 2 to this inquiry alleges a number of quite serious allegations—some of them which have been rebutted by Wilson Security and some of which have not. And a bit more detail has been provided. Submitter No. 2, who is anonymous, says:

Wilson Security organised a team from ERT—

That is the emergency response team—

to spy on her while she was on Nauru. This included following her around the island while she was outside of the OPCs and setting up an observation post to watch her room at the Menen hotel.

When were you first made aware of the allegations that those out-of-scope activities had occurred?

**Mrs Munnings:** I can take up the evidence at that point. I understand—and the evidence is—that at 7.40 am on 16 December 2013 Wilson reported the matter to Transfield, having been made aware of it by the individuals involved contemporaneously to that time.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Okay, 7.40 am coincides with the file note, which I am presuming that you have a copy of—by Ben Gilbert relating to the CSO, Jason Kahika. So, on your evidence, if it was around 7.40 on Monday, the 16th, Transfield was notified immediately the security manager was made aware of it. Does that sound consistent?

**Mrs Munnings:** Our evidence is that after Wilson were made aware of it they informed Transfield, correct.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Can you confirm for us that nobody from Transfield had any prior knowledge of those allegations—that you discovered those after, consistent with the file note?

**Mrs Munnings:** I can confirm that. It was not something that we sought. Our discussions with our subcontractor have determined that the individuals involved did have the safety and security of the senator in mind, and—

**Senator LUDLAM:** I do not want to go to the justification yet, so please spare me that. I want to know what happened and when, and so far we are doing quite well. So I am happy to just stick to the facts of what occurred.



Did any Transfield staff attend a security team briefing prior to the arrival of Senator Hanson-Young to the island?

**Mrs Munnings:** I do not have details in relation to the attendance at a briefing prior to the arrival.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Were you not expecting this issue to come up this morning?

**Mrs Munnings:** Of course, and we have done extensive performance management in relation to this issue, because it was outside of the scope of Wilson's services.

**Senator LUDLAM:** So you are not aware of whether there were any Transfield staff in attendance at briefings at which Senator Hanson-Young's visit was discussed prior to her arrival?

**Mrs Munnings:** I can confirm that there were no Transfield Services personnel at a briefing which discussed the incident at hand.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I am talking about prior to the arrival. You have said that the operations manager on the island is a Transfield employee. You have also said—or Mr White has indicated—that there are standard protocols that kick in when a VIP or a high-profile individual is scheduled to arrive. Did your ops manager just sit those meetings out?

**Mrs Munnings:** It would be usual for the operations manager to be in certain security meetings, but there was no Transfield Services employee present when an ERT supervisor gave an instruction to watch the car of Senator Hanson-Young.

**Senator LUDLAM:** That is really not the question that I am asking you, though.

**Mrs Munnings:** I am just providing the evidence that I am able to on the point.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Were any Transfield employees present at meetings prior to Senator Hanson-Young's arrival at which her itinerary or visit was discussed? That is the question that I am putting to you.

**Mrs Munnings:** We can confirm that on notice. It is the usual protocol that there would be Transfield staff at security meetings, but there was not a Transfield Services staff member present when the watching of the car of Senator Hanson-Young was instructed by the ERT supervisor.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Yes, that is also a question that I had not asked you. So you will confirm that for us. I would expect that, on notice, the answer would be: yes, either the operations manager or, if not, some other employee—you do not have to identify who, but just at what level they are employed by Transfield—was present at one or more meetings prior to the arrival. It would seem to me to be reasonably consistent with the practice, as you have described it, that somebody would have been in attendance at such a meeting.

**Mrs Munnings:** We can confirm who and when.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Okay. When did you first receive the file note? I am presuming that you are aware of the one that I am referring to; it was provided to us by Wilson on Friday, the 17th.

**Mrs Munnings:** I will ask my colleagues whether they know when specifically that file note came to us. I do not have an exact time as to when that file note was provided to Transfield. I assume that it is the date and time on the file note.

**Senator LUDLAM:** It is 16 December 2013 at 17:45.

**Mrs Munnings:** In order to be of most assistance I might ask Erin if she is able to provide any evidence on that point. Just to clarify your question for—

**Senator LUDLAM:** We are seeing the file note for the first time as of this Friday—in terms of the committee being provided with it on 17 July. When was Transfield first made aware of that?

**Mrs Munnings:** Erin, do you understand the question? Are you aware of when Transfield was first provided with the file note that the committee is referring to?

**Ms O'Sullivan:** I understand the question. We will need to take that question on notice to provide an answer to the committee with certainty.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Is it reasonable to assume that you have had it since December 2013 at some stage? The subject is 'Failure to follow directions and giving unlawful instructions'—a reasonably severe and serious incident. Would that have been provided to you reasonably shortly after the incident itself?

**Mrs Munnings:** We will provide confirmation of whether or not it was.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Are you confirming for us this morning that you do not believe that a member of the Australian Senate is a legitimate target for off-site surveillance?

**Mrs Munnings:** That is our evidence. Senators are allowed to move freely, as are other VIPs who attend the island. When they are outside the centre, they move freely around the community.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Is there anyone you would consider to be a legitimate target of off-site surveillance—for example, a high-profile journalist or somebody from Amnesty International who might be quite critical of your operations? That is the sort of services that Wilson provides.

**Mrs Munnings:** That is not within the scope of services that we have subcontracted to Wilson Security.

**Senator LUDLAM:** So unless the individual in question requests that kind of assistance for their own security there would be no circumstances under which they would be placed under that sort of surveillance?

**Mrs Munnings:** That is definitely our expectation of Wilson. Their scope does not include surveillance of any individual outside the centre and certainly not of the nature you are describing.

**Senator LUDLAM:** What's with the bird names—Project Swan, Project Cygnet and Project Duckling? Is that just part of the corporate culture?

**Mrs Munnings:** It is usual corporate practice to have codenames. They mean very little other than to protect the privacy of the project that is being discussed.

**Senator LUDLAM:** I am curious that Senator Hanson-Young was designated as 'Raven'. Is it part of the Transfield corporate culture as well to designate people or individual targets with codenames?

**Mrs Munnings:** That is not part of Transfield's culture. We have codenames for projects that have high levels of confidentiality. That is common across most organisations.

**Senator LUDLAM:** Yes, but there was a designated codename for an individual who was placed under surveillance.

**Mrs Munnings:** In relation to that, it was the decision of an individual who acted outside of his authority and disciplinary action was taken. Again, it was extremely regrettable and, on behalf of Transfield, I apologise that this occurred.

**Senator LUDLAM:** That is the first apology that has been tendered.

**Senator HANSON-YOUNG:** Why has it taken this long? If you knew, why wasn't I told while I was on the island that this had occurred? Why hadn't anybody bothered to tell me?

**Mrs Munnings:** The actions of the individuals were in the interests of your safety. We have received that assurance from Wilson as we undertook the performance management of our subcontractor. Disciplinary action—

**Senator LUDLAM:** We might get to the justification when we come to Wilson. There is a striking inconsistency given between submitter No. 62 and the evidence tendered by Wilson that makes it apparent that the surveillance activities went well beyond observing someone's car in a car park. There is also evidence that people outside the three individuals who are referenced both in the file note and in other material knew well before that what was to occur. I am trying to identify—and you are well aware that it is a very grave issue to give false or misleading evidence to a select committee—that categorically nobody from Transfield knew in advance that the senator was to be placed under any form of off-site surveillance.

**Mrs Munnings:** That is my evidence.

**Senator KIM CARR:** If Transfield does not regard itself as being contractually obliged to guarantee the security of detainees, who in your opinion is?

**Mrs Munnings:** I do not quite understand your question.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Who is responsible to guarantee the security of detainees on Nauru?

**Mrs Munnings:** As I said in my evidence, all the stakeholders work together—

**Senator KIM CARR:** I know that everything is going really swimmingly out there! There is \$1.2 billion for 20 months work and you are saying that that contract does not oblige you to guarantee the security of detainees. Who is responsible?

**Mrs Munnings:** I do not believe that was the evidence I gave. But what I can confirm is that the government—

**Senator KIM CARR:** Are you contractually obliged to guarantee the security of detainees?

**Mrs Munnings:** As I said in the evidence I gave to Senator Johnston, we are not contractually obliged to guarantee the welfare of the asylum seekers—

**Senator KIM CARR:** I said 'security'.

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## Spying and abuse described by Nauru detention centre's former staff

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Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Broadcast: 13/08/2015

**Reporter: Hayden Cooper and Lisa Main**

**Whistleblowers have defied the law to speak out about a culture of cover-ups and abuse at Nauru's immigration detention centre, and they challenge the evidence given by centre operators before parliament.**

### Transcript

LEIGH SALES, PRESENTER: Detention centre whistleblowers are defying the law to speak out about a culture of cover-ups and abuse on Nauru and challenge the evidence given by centre operators before Parliament.

A Senate inquiry into the Island is due to report within days.

Tonight, 7.30 can reveal the likely findings of the committee, including a demand for children to be removed from detention.

As Transfield and Wilson Security seek to renew their lucrative contract to run the detention centres, the conduct of their staff is under more scrutiny, not least over a covert operation to spy on an Australian senator and Wilson's attempt to play it down.

This report from Hayden Cooper.

HAYDEN COOPER, REPORTER: Inside the Nauru detention centre in the hours before the riot of July, 2013. This footage is from a camera worn by one of the Wilson security guards.

SECURITY GUARD: We've got the cops at Charlie 2.

SECURITY GUARD II: Yep.

SECURITY GUARD: If they do try to escape, the coppers want your team up there to give them a hand, arrest the f\*\*kers.

SECURITY GUARD II: Sweet as.

SECURITY GUARD: Alright.

HAYDEN COOPER: The guards are preparing to join Nauruan police at the camp's gate in an effort to contain the unrest.

SECURITY GUARD III: So if something happens, all the cops are on standby out at Charlie 2, man. If something happens and they all go out through here, then we go Charlie 2.

SECURITY GUARD IV: Yeah.

SECURITY GUARD III: Take (beep) down. The cops have asked ERT to assist.

SECURITY GUARD IV: So just grab 'em.

SECURITY GUARD III: We assist the cops in any way in as much capacity as - because you become an authorised officer.

SECURITY GUARD IV: Yeah, yeah, as soon as the cop tells you what to do, you can do it.

SECURITY GUARD III: Yeah.

SECURITY GUARD IV: Now I don't understand Nauruan, so I'm just gonna say he told me to do everything.

SECURITY GUARD V: I'm pretty sure he said shoot that guy. I'm fairly confident he gave me that order.

HAYDEN COOPER: This video has come to light because of more and more Australians who are prepared to defy the new Border Force Act and risk two years' jail by revealing what they experienced on Nauru - guards, social workers, doctors.

DAVID ISAACS, PEDIATRICIAN: If I see child abuse in Australia and I don't report it, I can get into enormous trouble. If I see child abuse on Nauru and I do report it, I might go to prison for two years.

NATASHA BLUCHER, SOCIAL WORKER: Australian people deserve to know what's being done in their name with their tax money. And - and they don't know.

HAYDEN COOPER: Tonight, 7.30 reveals a rare glimpse of life on Nauru, through photographs, videos filmed by asylum seekers and the testimony of those who worked there. A former Wilson Security guard who feels compelled to speak out.

Is this sort of abuse still going on, do you think?

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: I'd say definitely, yes.

HAYDEN COOPER: Paediatrician David Isaacs, a man still shocked by what he witnessed on Nauru during a visit last December.

DAVID ISAACS: I saw a six-year-old girl who tried to hang herself with a fence tie and had marks around her neck. I've never seen a child self-harm of that age before.

HAYDEN COOPER: And there with him was Sydney nurse Alanna Maycock.

ALANNA MAYCOCK, NURSE: David and I heard a report from a mother that we'd seen that she'd been raped there. She was offered more time in the showers for sexual favours.

DAVID ISAACS: After five days, I went home and had nightmares. I didn't expect that. I didn't expect to be so, um, traumatised by these people's trauma. These are people, ordinary people and we're treating them with, um - sorry. We're treating them with incredible cruelty.

HAYDEN COOPER: These serious allegations of rape, self-harm and abuse have dominated the Senate inquiry, and since, some have been referred to Nauruan police. But the responses of centre operators Transfield and Wilson Security are now being called into question. Both claim staff are trained to report abuse, including through a special hotline.

NAURU DETENTION CENTRE OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE: We have had this whistleblower hotline in place for a long time. It is actually on the backdrop of every person's screen at work.

HAYDEN COOPER: This former guard says otherwise.

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: I'd never heard of it. During my induction course when I first started work, they never mentioned it and the whole time I worked there, I never heard of it.

HAYDEN COOPER: No-one said there's a hotline you can call if you want to report abuse or anything like that?

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: Never.

HAYDEN COOPER: You never saw the whistleblower hotline advertised?

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: Never.

HAYDEN COOPER: Alcohol and drug use among guards and other staff on Nauru is a problem. This record of a Wilson Security management meeting obtained by 7.30 confirms the incidents of alcohol abuse.

Transfield told the inquiry that staff on Nauru are subject to random alcohol testing.

SARAH HANSON-YOUNG, GREENS SENATOR: Is it every day?

TRANSFIELD REPRESENTATIVE: Ah - yes, my understanding is every day, testing would occur.

HAYDEN COOPER: Can you describe for me what sort of alcohol testing was done on you while you worked at Nauru?

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: None, not once. The whole time that I worked there, I was never tested for alcohol and I'd never seen any alcohol testing.

HAYDEN COOPER: You never saw any random breath testing at all?

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: Not at all.

HAYDEN COOPER: But it's the evidence provided on so-called Operation Raven that several guards now dispute - the spying on Senator Sarah Hanson-Young during her visit to the island, an incident the Government dismissed.

TONY ABBOTT, PRIME MINISTER: I don't accept that characterisation. I believe she was being in fact looked after while she was there.

PETER DUTTON, IMMIGRATION MINISTER: My experience of Sarah Hanson-Young is that she gets most of the facts wrong most of the time.

HAYDEN COOPER: Wilson admitted the spying, but said it was limited in scope to one supervisor and two of his staff.

WILSON SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE: Senator, there was no reporting that came out of this that didn't inform any decision-making. It was the rogue actions of a misaligned individual.

HAYDEN COOPER: But several former guards have told 7.30 that in fact up to eight Wilson employees were involved.

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: What I was aware of or what I'd heard from other guys who were involved was that they were briefed on her room number, the vehicle and what time she was going to be in and out of the camp. They were also told to follow her and they were told to keep notes on who she was talking to around the island and in her room.

HAYDEN COOPER: So it was quite an extensive spying operation?

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: Yes.

HAYDEN COOPER: Do you have any doubts about that at all?

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: I have no doubts.

HAYDEN COOPER: Later when news spread, they panicked.

FORMER WILSON SECURITY GUARD: Basically, the individuals involved and the supervisor were called into the Wilson office. They were told to shred pages from their notebooks and any reports they had written up.

HAYDEN COOPER: It's not yet clear if the committee will refer this allegation to Australian Federal Police.

With the Senate inquiry drawing to a close, 7.30 understands it will make a number of key recommendations. These are likely to include a demand for children to be removed from detention, for the reporting of sexual abuse to be made mandatory and for the Immigration Department and Federal Police to conduct a full audit of all allegations. The committee may also recommend comprehensive drug and alcohol testing on Nauru and for the Immigration Ombudsman to review all complaints made against detention centre staff.

These photos obtained by 7.30 reveal the mouldy and ramshackle tents housing asylum seekers. 700 are held on Nauru at a cost per detainee of \$2,000 a day.

Natasha Blucher is another former staffer who won't stay quiet. She worked for Save the Children and wants the centre closed, but she's pragmatic.

NATASHA BLUCHER: You won't get an argument from me in relation to whether or not we need to stop the boats. We shouldn't have people getting on boats because they're desperate and drowning. Like, that argument does have merit. But you can't tell me that in a country that's developed and full of educated people, that we can't do it in a way that's not so brutal and doesn't cause so much harm to people.

HAYDEN COOPER: Dr David Isaacs believes he'll never return to Nauru because he won't be allowed back - the price of ignoring the Border Force Act and going public.

DAVID ISAACS: It's child abuse. Putting children in detention is child abuse. So, our Government is abusing children in our name.

LEIGH SALES: Hayden Cooper reporting.



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## Images

Spying and  
abuse  
described by  
Nauru



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## **AM with Michael Brissenden**

Monday to Saturday from 8:00 am on ABC Local Radio and 7:10 am on Radio National.

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# Greens call for investigation into claims of spying of senator on Nauru

Lisa Main reported this story on Friday, August 14, 2015 08:10:00

| [MP3 download](#)

**MICHAEL BRISSENDEN:** The Australian Greens have called for the Federal Police to investigate fresh claims about an operation to spy on a senator during her visit to Nauru.

Sarah Hanson-Young was given the codename Raven and watched and followed by Wilson Security guards when she went to Nauru in December 2013.

More guards have now come forward to verify the allegations and challenge the evidence given by Wilson Security to a parliamentary committee.

Lisa Main reports.

**LISA MAIN:** The allegation first emerged in June. Sarah Hanson-Young was the target of Operation Raven - a coordinated effort by Wilson security guards to spy and report on the Senator's trip to Nauru.

At the time, the Prime Minister and the Immigration Minister, Peter Dutton, dismissed the claim.

**PETER DUTTON:** My experience of Sarah Hanson-Young is that she gets most of the facts wrong most of the time. She makes these allegations which are completely unfounded, and I think Sarah Hanson-Young conducts herself in a way which frankly is an embarrassment to our country.

**LISA MAIN:** But Wilson admitted in the Senate committee that it did happen.

They said it was a rogue act by just three employees who watched the senator's hotel room from the car park.

But several former guards have told the ABC's 7.30 program, it was bigger than that - that up to eight Wilson staff were involved and it went for three days, the entirety of the Senator's visit.

**FORMER NAURU GUARD:** What I was aware of, or what I'd heard from other guys who were involved, was that they were briefed on her room number, the vehicle and what time she was going to be in and out of the camp.

They were also told to follow her, and they were told to keep notes on who she was talking to around the island and in her room.

**HAYDEN COOPER:** So it was quite an extensive spying operation?

**FORMER NAURU GUARD:** Yes.

LISA MAIN: Later, when news of the operation spread, the guards panicked.

FORMER NAURU GUARD: Basically, the individuals involved and the supervisor were called into the Wilson office, they were told to shred pages from their notebooks and any reports they'd written up.

RICHARD DI NATALE: Oh, this allegations are as serious as things get.

LISA MAIN: Greens leader, Richard Di Natale, says the committee should refer the allegations to the Australian Federal Police.

RICHARD DI NATALE: We have a member of the Australian Parliament being spied upon systematically over days by a number of people and then we have Wilson Security, the organisation, government-funded contractors, who were responsible for that apparently lying to a parliamentary committee about the extent of what went on.

I think nothing could be more serious than that. I think Minister Dutton firstly needs to give a complete account of why he dismissed these allegations.

I think he needs to ensure that there is a full police investigation. We also need to ensure that any further contract negotiations that are going on with Wilson Security are immediately put on hold, and I think that unless he takes those actions, then he needs to seriously consider his position as a minister of this Government.

LISA MAIN: The Senate inquiry is due to deliver its report within weeks.

AM understands the likely recommendations include a call for children to be removed from detention, and for the Immigration Department and Federal Police to conduct an audit of all abuse allegations.

MICHAEL BRISENDEN: Lisa Main reporting.

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